

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94526

Editor: Dorothy Stanton

Meetings: 10 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of month
(except August & December)
Danville Women's Club House
242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue

Volume V No. 5

Barbara O'Rand, President

November/December 1989

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 21, 1989

PROGRAM: SHARE AN ANCESTOR

Five members of SRVGS will "share an ancestor" with us.
A diversity of topics will be presented:

- **WHO'S researching a Catholic cardinal's life for clues to verify rumors that he belongs on the family tree?
- **WHAT a discovery: a great-grandmother, the heroine of Anya Seton's Winthrop Woman.
- **HOW many paths must one travel to find documentary evidence that a grandfather was truly born?
- **THEN there's the ancestor who founded a famous boys' school in Massachusetts; and, lastly,
- **WHEN the long search for "granny's ashes" has a happy ending!

LAST MONTH

Dr. Jane Cassedy, retired psychologist and criminologist, gave us the benefit of her experience in researching land records at our meeting on October 17. In case the "earth-shaking" events later in the day put her interesting talk out of your mind, you have the very helpful hand-outs to refer to and refresh your memory!

Dr. Cassedy pointed out that land records can be viewed on microfilm at branch libraries of the LDS Family History Center, & at

State Archives. Or you can visit the County Clerk's office in the county of residence and search the Grantor-Grantee index. Land records are a rich source of information on family origin, occupation, relationships & status.

REMINDER

There will be NO MEETING, NO NEWSLETTER and NO LIBRARY TRIP in December.
The next meeting will be January 16.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Nov. 13 Monday, 9:30 to noon. Friends of the Nat'l Archives Workshop: "Researching Philadelphia from California" by Jane Adams Clarke of Philadelphia, editor of PENN IN HAND, the newsletter of the Gen. Soc. of PA. Held at the Nat'l Archives at San Bruno. Fee \$5. Make checks payable to SMCOS and mail to P.O. Box 5083, San Mateo CA 94402. Or call the Archives (415) 876-9009. Proceeds benefit the Archives.
- Nov. 14 Tuesday, 9:30 to noon. Nat'l Archives workshop: "Non-Federal Land Records" by Jane Cassidy. Bring your protractors; you will learn how to figure out metes and bounds! At Nat'l Archives San Bruno. Fee \$5. [see above]
- * Nov. 14 10 a.m. Irish Interest Group. [see p. 29]
- * Nov. 14 1:00 p.m. Southern Interest Group [see p. 29]
- Nov. 14 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador GS meeting at Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave. (at "M"), Livermore. Members will share "Methods of Locating Elusive Ancestors."
- Nov. 15 Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. A "Beginning Genealogy Class for Seniors and Others" will be taught by Jim Dennis, C.G. at the Pleasant Hill Adult Center next to Central Library. The cost is \$6.00 plus a \$3.00 lab fee for five two-hour sessions. Contact Jim Dennis 932-4423.
- Nov. 16 Thursday, 1-3 p.m., Meeting of Mt. Diablo GS at Home Federal Sav & Loan Mtg. Rm. 1928 Tice Valley Blvd. Walnut Creek. Speaker: WC Branch Head Librarian Anna Partridge on "Using a Public Library."
- * Nov. 21 Tuesday, 10 a.m., SRVGS monthly meeting.
- * Nov. 28 Tuesday, 8 a.m. SRVGS Library Trip to Mayflower Soc. & East Bay GS Library in Oakland. Contact Martha Banner 828-1824.

DECEMBER

- * Dec. 14 German Interest Group & German Class [see p. 29]

JANUARY

- * Jan. 2 Tuesday, 10 a.m., SRVGS Board Meeting, 210 Town & Country Dr., Danv. All members welcome.
- * Jan. 9 Tuesday, 10 a.m. Irish Interest Group. Contact Carol Glover for info.
- * Jan. 9 Tuesday, 1 p.m. Southern Interest Group. Contact Fran Lloyd.
- * Jan. 9 Thursday, 10 a.m. German Interest Group. Contact Kate Pruenete, 838-9873.
- Jan. 9 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador GS meeting. See Nov.14.
- Jan. 11 Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa Co. GS meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr., Concord.



MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

CARLA CALL, 36 Kemline Ct., Alamo 94507, 838-5527. Researching BURMESTER, Germany & ROWBERRY, England.

MARY JO HOSTENY, 2004 Reliez Valley Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549, 932-2244. Researching HOSTENY, Bohemia; CULLENOR, Ireland; CALLINAN, Wales, Ireland.

A WARM WELCOME TO BOTH!

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Barbara O'Rand 837-1760
 Vice-Pres.: Frances Lloyd 837-9382
 Membership: Carol Glover 820-7207
 333 Goshen Ct.
 San Ramon, CA 94583
 Annual Dues: \$12.50; \$15 (family)

NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter is published each month except August & December

★ SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS ★

★ IRISH INTEREST GROUP

The Irish Interest Group will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, November 14, 10 a.m., at the home of Carol Glover, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon. The program will feature member Joyce Gunderson who just returned from a trip to Ireland. She attended a one-week seminar in Dublin led by Dr. James Ryan, well-known Irish Genealogist and author of Irish Records. Call Carol at 820-7207 for more information. Next meeting January 9.

★ SOUTHERN INTEREST GROUP

The Southern Interest Group will meet Nov. 14 at 1:00 p.m. at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Dr., Danville. The group will proceed from there to the Livermore-Amador GS Library, which has a small but useful collection of material for research in southern states' records. Call Frances, 837-9382 for more information. Next meeting January 9.

★ ROOTS III

There will be no meeting of the ROOTS III Computer Interest Group in November; our mentor, Bob Heacox, is traveling. The group will resume on January 17 at 1 p.m., when Bob will demonstrate the use of a modem. Meeting place will be announced at the next SRVGS meeting or call Mary Ella Parrott, 837-9677, after Nov. 21.

★ ROOTS III BEGINNERS?

Are you just starting to use the ROOTS III genealogy software? Or do you plan to buy it in the near future? Bob Heacox is willing to help a new crop of beginners get started. If you're interested, call Dorothy Stanton, 820-3757.

★ GERMAN INTEREST GROUP

The group meets every second Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at Kate Prunte's, 91 Madera Ct., Danville. The Interest group will decide on Nov. 9 about meeting in December. Kate will continue the "German for Genealogists" classes on Dec. 14 at 1:00 p.m.

GERMAN cont'd.

The afternoon class is one of a three-part class that can be joined at any time. In December, the class will be learning how to read German death records. In January, Kate will start the "German for Genealogists" series (baptismal, marriage & death records) again. The fee is \$10 for the three classes. Call 838-9873 for more information.

Kate reports that the LDS Family History Center in Salt Lake is preparing a video film on German ancestry. Kate has a copy of the script and will make the information in it available to the Group and the class.

★ PUBLISHING

The Publishing Interest Group meets next on January 24, 10 a.m., at Carol Glover's.

★ NEW INTEREST GROUPS

Patty Erickson, Interest Groups Coordinator, is exploring the possibility of having some one-day meetings in special research areas, for example: Scandinavia, Canada, California etc. Be thinking of your research areas of interest. Patty will ask for suggestions at the November meeting.

★ The NEW ENGLAND and ENGLISH Research Interest Groups will resume in January.

★★★

SCOTTISH TIES?

A recent newspaper article about the Scottish heritage of Pleasanton resident, Arvey McFarland announced that he would like to start a Tri-Valley Scottish Society. McFarland is the Northern California chairman of the Clan McFarland Society. He noticed a number of Scottish names on the gravestones in the valley cemetery where he goes to practice his bagpipes. A Scottish society in the Valley would emphasize preservation of the culture of Scottish forebears. For information, call Arvey McFarland at 846-7120.

[SRV Times Oct.1, 1989]



LIBRARIES: INFORMATION & UPDATES

► OAKLAND FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

The FHC will be closed Nov. 21 thru 25 and Dec. 19 thru Jan. 2.

The Salt Lake Family History Library has some new acquisitions that will be available to the branch libraries. Some significant records groups listed in the July/August 1989 News of the FHL include

- * 745,000 passport applications 1795-1918
- * 2,250,000 soundex cards for Canadian border crossings 1895-1924
- * 1,750 films of naturalizations 1906 - 1940s
- * 7,400 films of Confederate service records
- * general probate indexes to all English courts 1812 - 1957
- * Scottish probate indexes 1876 - 1935
- * Welsh probate indexes 1858 - 1935
- * British civil registration indexes of births/marr./deaths 1837 - 1980
- * Numerous Catholic Ch. records 1780 - 1880
- * 2,300 films of pre-1920 New Bruns. & Nova Scotia probate records
- * notarial records 1780s - 1860s from Quebec Prov. Archives

Other items in the News:

--The 1880 U.S. census index project continues, which will completely index this census.
 --There is a special project of extracting pre-1895 marriage records with primary work done in FL, HA, IL, KY, MD, ME, MA, MI, MS, MO, NJ, OH and TN.

--In 1988 the FHL acquired records from 94 county courthouses in the following states: AL, CA, CT, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, LA, MA, NY, PA, RI, TX and WI.

BE SURE TO CHECK THE NEW EDITION OF THE LIBRARY CATALOG TO SEE WHAT'S NEW. Also, you can write to the FHL to see if they have done "your" county yet or if it is scheduled for filming.

--In 1988 the FHL acquired 1840 microfiche published by University Microfilms Int'l (UMI), including 500 titles for the state of NY, which brings the total number of microfiche purchased from UMI (publishers of genealogies, periodicals & local histories) to 19,500. NOTE: These 19,500 fiche may only be viewed at the FHL in Salt Lake; they do not circulate. ALSO, the microfilmed pre-1875 Canadian Catholic church records do not circulate. [San Mateo Co. GS N/L Oct. 89]

► U.C. BERKELEY

Barbara Hill and Dorothy Koenig of the U.C.B. Library are attempting to form a genealogical interest group at Berkeley. An organizational meeting was planned for Sun., Nov. 5. This could be a great opportunity to learn more about the Doe and other libraries on campus. For more info call Barbara Hill, (415) 642-3651. [East Bay GS N/L Nov-Dec 89]

► STATE ARCHIVES

Senate Bill 638 which provides for a new, climate-controlled California State Archives Building in Sacramento has been passed by the State Legislature and signed by Gov. Deukmajian. Congratulations to genealogists who urged support of the bill.

► SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco Public Library has been declared unsafe because of earthquake damage and is closed. The SF historian is working out of the West Portal branch library.

► CGS LIBRARY

The library of the California Genealogical Society in San Francisco is undamaged and open during its usual hours. See SRVGS Handbook or call (415) 777-9936.

► STANFORD

Stanford University's Government Documents room in the Green Library holds all 70 indexed volumes of the War of the Rebellion, a compilation of the official records of both Union and Confederate forces. Hours for Gov. Doc. Dept at 8-10 Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 on Fri., 1-5 on Sat. & Sun. Green Library 723-1811.

[San Mateo Co. GS N/L Oct.'89]

► MORE ON SCOTS

The St. Andrew's Society of S.F. maintains a library at 41 Sutter St., S.F. (415)391-8652. [St. Andrew's Soc. N/L June 1989]

► PENNSYLVANIA

The PA State Archives is closed for asbestos removal and renovations and will re-open in mid-January (or later). If you plan to visit early next spring, better contact them first to see when they will be open: Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108. [SMCGS N/L Oct 89]



REVIEWS

By Delores Huckabone



The Archives: A Guide to the National Archives Field Branches, by Loretta Dennis Szucs & Sandra Hargreaves Luebking. Ancestry Publishing, c1988.

This book is a guide to our nation's memory held by the National Archives Records Administration (NARA) of the United States government. In the introduction of The Archives we are told the history and reasons behind the forming of the National Archives. They explain to us that these are federal records only and are primary sources of information only in rare instances; within the archival holdings, we will find state records that will bear the same unique distinction. The book is then arranged in three sections. The First Section contains a chapter about each of the 11 field branches of the National Archives in alphabetical order. Each chapter includes days and times of operation, address and phone number, and general holdings pertinent to that particular regional branch, as well as what we can expect of that branch in way of research help.

In the 2nd section the reader will learn about both the textual and microfilm holdings common to each regional branch. These include the Records of District Courts of the U.S., the Confederate District Courts, naturalization records, Bureau of Indian Affairs records and Bureau of Land Management records for that region. They will also have Federal Population Records (Census Records), Revolutionary War and Military Service Records and the authors include an 11-page list of microfilm available at all branches.

In the 3rd section the reader learns the names of all the record groups followed by the record group number for identification purposes when inquiring about a particular record. Within each description of the record group will be its history, its purpose and what information the researcher may expect to find.

As a serious genealogist you will find this book extremely helpful in your research.

[Hard cover, 350 pp., 9x12 \$35.95 through Genealogical Resources. Call Frances Lloyd at 837-9382 for further information. I have not yet checked with local libraries for availability of this complete reference book but will try to do so by next meeting.



Generations: An American Family, by John Egerton, Simon & Shuster, Inc., c1983. Available also at the new San Ramon Library; call letters 929.20973 Eger. Also available at Sutro (CT274 L3 E38).

Egerton tells us the story of Burnam and Addie Ledford, their progenitors and their descendants; it is a true story of the Ledford family of Kentucky, how they came to be there and what has happened to them since. Egerton searched for months trying to find the perfect couple for his purpose of tracing middle class America. He found 101-year-old Burnam and 93-year-old Addie, and they told him the story of 9 generations spanning 250 years. They were a healthy couple with remarkable memories, married the day after the Wright brothers flew their first successful flight at Kitty Hawk. The author tells us the Ledford story in a warm and sensitive way as he spends the next 5 years with them. As he proceeds with their story he writes about the interviews and the resulting mountains of tapes and about the tracing of records to verify the memories of these two people. He even interviews the succeeding generations giving us a short biography of each of their nine children, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren. In the process of writing his book he develops a loving friendship with Burnam and Addie and shares with us their philosophy of life and includes Burnam's vision of heaven. Egerton also gives us a historical insight of the effect coal mining had on this area of the Cumberland Mountains of Kentucky.

[cont'd on the next page]

[Generations cont'd]

There are some times in the book when the author repeats himself. And I must admit I was little miffed when the story ended with the death of husband Burnam and I was left to wonder whatever happened to his wife Addie. Like a child, I would have liked more illustrations to help me picture the geography of the area and the likeness of the persons written about. The book is not indexed and I found myself hunting back through it a time or two to catch up on a person or a detail. All in all I enjoyed learning about this unique centenarian couple and found myself thinking of them for days afterward.



EDITOR'S NOTE: A HOLIDAY "WISH LIST"

The above book is one of my favorites (I found it at Central Library, P.H. in hard cover, which may have had more photos). It's on the list of books I'd like Santa to bring me this year.

On the theory that most genealogists have such a list, I polled the SRVGS board at the last meeting. Here are some of the books on their lists:

- *Ancestry's new Red Book
- *Applied Genealogy by Eugene A. Stratton
- *Historical Atlas
- *The Archives pub. by Ancestry
- *How to Find Your Family Roots by Beard
- *"books on Kentucky"
- *Personal Property Tax, Berkeley Co., VA
- *A List of Computer Software related to genealogical research.
- *Research Directory - current edition
- *Irish Records by James Ryan
- *Genealogical Dictionary by Hughes

I, for one plan to help Santa along by posting my list and Genealogical Resources' phone number!

Of course, Carol Glover expressed every genealogist's real wish: "a genealogy that takes my family back at least 6 generations -- any line will do; I'm not fussy!"

*** FROM HERE & THERE ***

* BANK DRAFTS IN STERLING

Joyce Buckland, English research specialist who spoke at the Contra Costa Gen. Soc. meeting in October, recommended the following as the least expensive way of sending money to Britain:

Call RUESCH INTERNATIONAL

1-800-424-2923

Tell them the amount you want to send. They will give you the current rate of exchange and lock in the amount at that time. Their charge is only \$2.00 in addition to that amount (banks are usually \$5 to \$8). You mail them a check; they will mail you the draft made out to the firm or person you designate.

Their address is Ruesch International, 1140 - 19th Street NW, Washington DC, 20036.

* MILITARY HISTORY

The Military History Institute collects, preserves, and provides to researchers source materials of American military history. The Institute holds more than one million cataloged items relating to the role of the military in the development of the US. Inquiries concerning the holdings of the Institute and use of its facilities should be sent to: US Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5008. Tel. (707) 245-3611. [Contributed by Marilyn Fullam]

- * NY BIRTH RECORDS: Contact the Local History & Genealogy Division of the NY Public Library, which has copies of the birth records list. Ask for Births Reported City of New York, 1888-- The names are arranged alphabetically. The list for 1888-1897 is shown by month, and after that, by borough. The library also has volumes covering deaths, stillbirths and marriages. [San Joaquin GS N/L Sep-Oct 89 via CCCGS N/L]



MORE ON GENEALOGY???

If you would like to see more genealogy-related columns on the order of those written by Joan Hamblin, which appeared in the SRV Times recently, let her editors know. Call Jake or Denis 837-4267 and tell them about your interest.

ALAMEDA COUNTY VITAL RECORDS

By Carol Glover

There is no single repository for vital records in Alameda County. Finding a particular record can be like looking for a needle in a haystack. Even consulting references like The Handybook for Genealogists will not lead you to all of them. Alameda County was created in 1853 from Contra Costa and Santa Clara Counties so records prior to that date will have to be checked in Martinez and San Jose.

All marriage records from 1853 to the present are in the Recorder's office, County Court House, 1225 Fallon St. Oakland, CA 94612.

All divorce records are in the County Clerk's Office at the same address.

All probates and civil court records are also in the County Clerk's Office.

Birth records (indexed) from 1870-1905 for the city of Oakland and the Temescal district only, are in the Oakland History Room of the Oakland Public Library, 125 14th St. Oakland, CA 94612. Birth records that exist for the rest of the county for 1870-1905 are in the Recorder's Office. Birth records for 1905-1919 are at the Alameda County Department of Health, 499 5th St. Oakland, CA 94607. Birth records from 1920-1981 are in the Recorder's Office. Those from 1982 to the present are at the Department of Health. Records for the city of Berkeley from 1890 should also be checked at the Department of Public Health, 2180 Milvia St., Berkeley Ca 94704.

Death records from 1870-1905 for the city of Oakland only, are in the Oakland History Room. Death records for the rest of the county are in the Recorder's Office. Death records from 1905-1919 are at the Department of Health. Records from 1920-1981 are in the Recorder's Office. Those from 1982 to the present are at the Department of Health. Berkeley records from 1890 are at the Department of Public Health.

There is an index of all deaths in the state of California from 1905-1986. Marriages are indexed from 1953. These indexes are in the State Library, Sacramento. Locally, you can use the death index from 1905-1939 at the Contra Costa County Recorder's Office, 738 Las Juntas, Martinez; 1950-1986 are at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal, Pleasanton.

At the Oakland Family History Center, a microfilm (on indefinite loan) has the County Clerk records of non-Oakland Alameda County deaths of persons buried in Oakland, but who did not die in Oakland.

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SAN FRANCISCO CHURCH RECORDS

Local history buffs are invited to join the Archives of the San Francisco Archdiocese. The archives one of the most important historical repositories for Catholic and California history in the state, according to archivist Jeffrey Burns. It maintains significant record collections from the Mission era to the present. Considerable documenta-

tion and activities in what became the Oakland Diocese in 1962 is also preserved. A \$10 annual fee entitles members to a twice yearly newsletter, social events and opportunities to help. Information and membership forms are available from the Chancery Archives, P.O. Box 1799, Colma, CA 94014 or call (415)994-5211. [Livermore-Amador Valley GS ROOTS TRACER]



WHERE ARE THE PORTS OF COWES AND DEAL?

The seaport Deal is located on the east coast of Kent, England, at the north entrance into the Strait of Dover. The Strait of Dover is a narrow channel 21 miles wide with an average depth of less than 100 feet. It separates England and France and connects the North Sea with the English Channel. Deal has a natural harbour referred to as the Downs. Henry VII built three castles in Deal in 1539. In 1682, William Penn sailed from Deal on his first voyage to America.

Two seaports in the English Channel (which separates France and England) are named East Cowes and West Cowes. They are separated by the river Medina. Today, the major seaport of Southampton lies between the two towns. The Mayflower sailed from Southampton. Henry VII built Cowes Castle in 1540 for coastal defence. During World War II, Cowes was heavily bombed because of its ship building and munition works.

The waters of the north Sea and the Atlantic Ocean meet in the English Channel. The currents of the two seas and frequent windstorms cause the waters of the English Channel to be very turbulent at times. When the rough waters detained the ships leaving Rotterdam, they would wait it out in the ports of Deal and Cowes. Also, supplies were taken on at both ports.

Thus, "...from Rotterdam last from Cowes" or "...from Rotterdam last from Deal" would mean ships originating first at Rotterdam had spent some time in the ports of Cowes or Deal either to take on supplies or to "wait out" the rough water of the English Channel. [From Middle TN GS Qtly., Fall 1988]



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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