

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305

Diablo, CA 94528-8308

President: Marilyn Tanner

Coord. Editor: Dorothy Baker

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.

3rd Tuesdays of the Month

(Except August & December)

Alamo LDS Church

Stone Valley & Smith Rds - Alamo

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXIX No. 8 March - 2005

THIS MONTH - March 15th, 2005

"SRVGS Members Discoveries"

Alpha Quincy, Dorothy Baker and Ed Mason will be our presenters this month. Each will give a 20 minute talk on their research and findings.

Our first presenter is **Alpha Quincy**. Bio: Retired school teacher and school administrator, Retired president of the Contra Costa County Board of Education, and Retired president of the county teachers association.

Her topic: "I've been compiling the "stories" of my direct ancestors, as most of us have been doing. These stories have come down through the family in one way or another, and just had to be written. But it was my search for story verification that was often a story in itself!"

Our second presenter is **Dorothy Baker**. Bio: Member of SRVGS since 1996. Born and raised in San Francisco. Mom of two sons, former elementary school teacher and a retailer with Hallmark for 25 years. Started her genealogy quest in 1982 with her oldest son's class assignment of creating a Family Tree. Soon after that a second cousin in Germany wrote to all the "Eggers" (her maiden name) in the San Francisco telephone book asking if they were related. They were..... AND her genealogical journey began. Served on the Program Committee and now as Coordinator Editor of the Newsletter.

Her Topic: "Finding my maternal Grandfather's Germany birth place."

Our third presenter is **Ed Mason**: Bio: Brought up in Cambridge, MA. BSE in aeronautical engineering, Princeton University, 1955. Met wife, Margaret, at Sikorsky Aircraft. Married in 1958. MBA Harvard in 1959. National Sales Manager, stereo company 1961-68. Moved to California in 1968 and started a manufacturer's representative business selling consumer electronic products. Shifted to Computers starting in 1980. Have three children and eight grandchildren, all living in Alamo and Danville. Two sons now own and run the business. Started in Genealogy in 1981 when eldest son uncovered Mason great-grandfather in 1981 in Michigan. Joined L-AGS in 1999, SRVGS in 2002.

His Topic: "Having fun finding live cousins who can provide answers and so much more. Learn some techniques for finding cousins. See how they can provide you with never-before-seen pictures of great grandparents, help you break through brick walls - and become fast friends."

FEBRUARY MEETING

"Bob Dougherty, Current Technology and Trip to Montana"

Last month our speaker was our very own member and current Treasurer, Bob Dougherty. He presented us with his extensive biography along with handouts including website addresses. He retired

from Sandia in 1994 after 36 years of engineering design and development.

It was his wife, Margaret, also a former member of SRVGS, who got him interested in genealogy before

succumbing to a respiratory ailment in 2001. She was in search of Bob's relative with the possibility that he might be related to Cardinal Dennis Dougherty of Philadelphia. Bob and Margaret would take many trips in search of their family trees including a trip to Ireland.

This trip to Montana was to find the "old homestead," talk with an Aunt in Montana who also was interested in genealogy and substantiate with documentation. Bob gave us a synopsis on each of the digital technologies he would be using on his trip to Montana and pointed out how so many electronic "gadgets" have gotten better and more refined. Bob has the wear-with-all to use each and every one of them in the pursuit of his roots! He first did his home research using Macintosh Genealogy Program - Reunion-8 (which is a specially written program), and using informative books (The Battle for Butte), "War of the Copper Kings" from A & E History Channel, the Godfrey Memorial Library, Bureau of Land Management (Land Office Records), The Homestead Act, on-line newspaper archives, and aerial photography maps. All of these for gathering information before this trip. He also made sure the hotels in which they stayed had wide-band access for use of his equipment.

He and his son then started their trip (in a hybrid car) taking with them a cell phone, a digital notebook, a scanner, a digital camera (with a USB port), digital voice recorder, an iPod (needed music when there is no available reception on the road), a card reader, a printer, a USB Flash Memory and used GPS. Their trip took them through Missoula, Butte, Helena, Great Falls and on up into Havre where Bob had gone to high school and where the old homestead was located.

The history of Montana is much like the history of California in that folks left California after the gold run died out, moved to Montana and started placer mining for gold which turned to mining for silver and then mining for copper. Butte, Montana is near the site of the great Anaconda Mine, a huge copper mine. They estimate that there were 10,000 miles of mining tunnels running through this

Berkeley Pit. The pit is now a large "lake" which is some 4,000 feet deep and 5,400 feet across the water surface. Bob's father owned the last house next to the Berkeley Pit. He had pictures of this house - the "before" and took pictures of the "after" the additions.

They traveled to Our Lady of the Rockies, a large white statue in the Rocky Mountains which a man created as a memorial to his deceased wife. It was assembled and placed in the Rockies piece by piece by helicopter. Inside this statue are memorials to many other people. Bob's parents names are on a plaque there also.

Then, on to Helena and into Great Falls (named for the five huge falls there) visiting the Lewis and Clark Expedition display. In Great Falls they visited with his Aunt and for three days they discussed relatives. Bob used his digital recorder to "get it on tape" and the digital camera. He received and exchanged pictures of relatives and scanned them. Their quest took them to the newspaper to look up obituary information, then to the library, the college library, the title company (to look up land data), the mortuary for records, the graveyard, and the courthouse. Bob was able to do a patent search and find the original land record details. He used GPS to define the homestead map and locate the corner of the old homestead and was able to stand on that corner while in Havre (just south of the town). There was not much left in the area. Only one of the community's foundation remained, but it was a lovely vista of rolling green grass. They were able to talk with some farmers in the area and got some insight into how life is now just south of Havre. They drove back to Great Falls. Then home again. It was a good trip!

Bob says, "I haven't found all the leaves on this family tree, but some of the leaves aren't falling off."

"You'll never plow a field by turning it over in your mind."
~ Irish Proverb ~

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**SRVGS CALENDAR MARCH 2005**

1 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting
was held at the home of Dorothy Humpal in Danville
666 Paradise Valley Court

15 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. General Meeting
will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road
at Smith Road, in Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take
Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles.

22 Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. The Library Trip
will be to the National Archives, 1000 Commodore
Dr., in San Bruno. Phone 650-238-3501. For details
of their holdings please view their website at
www.archives.gov/facilities/ca/san_francisco.html.

As with all the libraries we visit, the head librarian is
notified of our group's visit and is prepared to be of
assistance. The Pacific Region Branch in San Bruno
has microfilm of U. S. Census Records, 1790-1930
(excluding 1890), various military service records,
and early pension and bounty land warrant
applications. They now have seven computers
available with Heritage Quest and Ancestry.com. If
you plan to do research in original records, call ahead
for instructions and how to obtain a researcher's ID
card.

*Carpools meet BEHIND Albertson's on Diablo Rd.,
in Danville and leave promptly at 9:00 am. Please
sign up at the general meeting or call the Library
Trip Coordinator, Louise Ford at (925)376-4587 by
5:00 pm day before trip to add your name to the list
or cancel if necessary.*

**29 Tuesday 10:00 am to noon DIGITAL
CAMERA WORKSHOP** Bob Dougherty's home
11606 Amarillo Court, Dublin 925-556-3302

APRIL 2005

5 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. - The Board Meeting
will be at the home of Marilyn Tanner in Moraga
40 Warfield Drive 376-6733

19 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. The General Meeting
will be held at the LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley
Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

26 Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. The Library Trip
will be to the Sutro State Library in San Francisco.

**SRVGS Special Interest Groups:
MARCH/APRIL 2005**

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP (The Master
Genealogist) - They will meet Tuesday, March 15
after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m. at the
home of Dorothy Stanton, 501 El Capitan Drive in
Danville. Her phone number is (925) 820-3757.

Bring a bag lunch. This is a genealogy software
users group for PC's and does focus on the use of The
Master Genealogist. Peggy Dearman is the contact
person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail
dearman@pacbell.net. They will also meet Tuesday,
April 19 after the general meeting at Peggy Dear-
man's home, 749 Morninghome Road in Danville.

GERMAN – A home group meeting is scheduled
for Wednesday March 23 (the fourth Wednesday) at
10:00 a.m., at the home of Margarete Koenig at 1545
Rancho View Drive in Lafayette. Please let the
hostess know if you do not plan to attend or if you
need directions. For further details, the contact
person for the group is Fran Schweitzer (925) 935 –
5744 or e-mail FranSchw@pacbell.net

IRISH – Their meeting dates will be March 9 and
April 13, (second Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m. at the
home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place in Pleasant
Hill. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail
russpat@comcast.net for further information. Patty
Erickson is also the contact person for the group.

SOUTHERN – They will meet on March 8 (the
second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at the
home of Suzanne Johnston, 145 Gil Blas Road in
Danville. They will also meet on April 12 at the
home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place in Pleasant
Hill. Phone (925) 229-0889 The contact person is
Dorothy Stanton, Phone 820-3757 or email
dpstant@hotmail.com.

New persons interested in attending should contact
Dorothy Stanton for information.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION/INTERNET –

Some interested members may wish to continue communicating and receiving messages via the network established by Jack Johnson, group coordinator. This group does not otherwise get together for meetings on a regular basis. Their purpose is to more to alert it's participants to useful genealogical sites on the Web. Receiving a message from someone in this group allows a group member to communicate with all group members by saving a message and sending a reply to ALL. Member Internet/e-mail users may join this group by sending an email request to jackmj@earthlink.net. Please use "SRVGS Internet User" as a subject line. On February 11 a message was sent to an updated list of interested users at their current email addresses.

Ed Mason is the coordinator for an additional new method to improve the timeliness and frequency of communication by emails. The purpose of this general email is simply a way to extend our group communication ability beyond the monthly newsletter. This will be done a minimum of once a month. Members will always have the option to Opt-Out if they do not wish to receive these messages. Notify Ed Mason at: edmason@sbcglobal.net

1. If your email address does not appear in Handbook, and you wish to receive these messages.

2. If your email address does appear in the handbook and you do not wish to receive these notices.

3. If you have some information that you would like to make available to the membership.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

16 April Saturday 8:30 am to 3:45 pm

The Sacramento Genealogical Society – Root Cellar, will sponsor an all day seminar featuring Dr. George Schweitzer. It will be held at Rusch Park, 7801 Auburn Blvd. in Citrus Heights. \$ 24 charge if you pre-register. Lunch can be added for \$6. After April 1st, the cost will be \$ 32, excluding lunch, as long as space is available. No refunds. Topics will

include "Indexes via the web", "US federal and state land grants", and "Ways to find another generation". Phone Sammie Hudgens at (916) 481-4930 or Billie Helms at (916) 991-5971.

16 April Saturday 9 am to 4 pm

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will sponsor an all day seminar featuring Bob Trapp, John Gleed and Dr. Inge Harding-Barlow. It will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in San Mateo. \$ 8 if you pre-register or \$ 13 at the door. Lunch can be added for \$7. Talks will pertain to UK and US research.

23 April Saturday The Sonoma

County Genealogical Society will sponsor an all day seminar at The Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa featuring Sandra Luebking. For further details go to:

www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/luebking.htm. A pre-registration fee of \$ 22 can be sent to Registrar, Audrey Phillips, 96 Eastside Circle, Petaluma, CA 94954; or phone (707) 763-4492 for further details.

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS**President:**

Marilynn Tanner 925-376-6733
Email: jtanner@nothingbutnet.net

1st V.P.

Patty Erickson 925-229-0889
Email: russpat@netvista.net

2nd V.P. Program:

Pat Denton	Ed Mason	Sandra Burns
735-8419	838-7848	648-4653

3rd V.P. Membership:

Dorothy Humpal 925-735-3310
Email: DLHumpal@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Helen Odegard 925-932-6796

Corresponding Secretary:

	Mary Tom	925-376-2756
Treasurer:	Bob Dougherty	925-556-3302
Parliamentarian:	Virginia Rood	925-937-8659

"A good beginning is half the work"
~ An Irish Proverb ~

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**By Marilynn Tanner**

We are so fortunate to have access to many fine libraries in our Bay Area. Sutro's in San Francisco and the National Archives in San Bruno are priceless repositories for our use for free. The Family History Centers are so helpful and so near that it's almost like being in Salt Lake. Other smaller libraries are useful; however, they contain primarily California research material, though I have yet to be in any library that does not have books on all 50 states.

Each year at least nine library trips are planned. Car pools are formed to get our researchers there quickly and at minimum expense to all. Yet, the number of members who take advantage of these field trips is so small that it has been considered, at times, not to bother having them.

I guess what I'm asking is "Why are these trips so poorly attended?" I don't think it's entirely the internet that's made the difference because we, unfortunately, have had a history of poor attendance.

Do we go too often to libraries that are really mediocre for our needs? And I will admit that many smaller libraries may not provide a whole day's worth of research.

I think we should give serious consideration to have these trips every other month. This would eliminate going to the smaller libraries but would get us to the libraries best attended.

I do have another possible thought on this matter which might work quite well. You have a library you would like to go to but would like a friend(s) to go with you? You check this library out on the net for times/days of operation, then you put your request onto Ed Mason's e-mail network and wait for how many interested members would want to join you. If you can't drive but would like a special trip, I'm sure that would work as well.

Our Society was organized 20 years ago. So much

has changed in our research world since then. Maybe we need to rethink how we offer this research opportunity to our members. I would very much like to hear from you on how you feel about our library trips so the Board can make some educated solutions on this problem.

Marilynn Tanner

CONTINUING EDUCATION

This month on Tuesday, March 29th, Bob Dougherty of SRVGS is offering a two-hour session in his home entitled "DIGITAL CAMERA" WORKSHOP. Bob's excellent description follows: "Your computer is anxious to help you store and organize your valuable genealogical information. It will accept inputs from many sources: a leader being a digital camera. If you are using, or thinking about using a digital camera in your research, you are welcome to attend a workshop at 10 am to noon, March 29, at the home of Bob Dougherty. Basic information on the use of the camera, getting it's output into the computer and dealing with the files that are generated will be addressed"

Please sign up at the meeting for this session.

Have you as members taken any of the many classes currently being offered in the various adult ed programs? If so, it would be helpful to hear a brief critique or comment about these opportunities right after the business portion of our general meeting. Just let our president, Marilynn, know you'd like to offer some information.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Dorothy Baker 925-427-4883

Email: DJBDorothy@cs.com

Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 925-828-8570

Email: Vmseg3@greaterbaynet.com

Mailing: Lucy Carver 925-837-3146

Deadline to put information in the Newsletter is the last Thursday of the month.

Members are encourage to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or email to Coordinator.

**Recently Cataloged SRVGS Book
At the Danville Library**

1. **Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents.** By Roger P. Minert, Ph.D, A.G. GRT Publications, Woods Cross, Utah. 2001
R 929.1 MINERT
2. **Lands of the German Empire and Before.** By Wendy K. Uncapher. Published by Origens, Janesville, WI 53546. 2000
R 943.083 UNCAPHER
3. **Genealogical Source Handbook.** By George K. Schweitzer, Ph.D., Sc.D. 1980
R 929.1 SCHWEITZER
4. **Kentucky Obituaries, 1787 – 1854.** Compiled by G. Glenn Clift. Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD. 1979
R 929.3769 CLIFT
5. **Kentucky Marriage Records, from the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society.** Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD. 1983
R 929.3769 KENTUCKY
6. **Albemarle Parish Register of Surry and Sussex Counties, Virginia.** By John Bennett Boddie. Clearfield Company by The Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD 1989
R 929.3755 BODDIE
7. **Amherst County, Virginia: Marriage Bonds, 1763-1899.** Compiled by William Montgomery Sweeny. Clearfield Company by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD 1991
R 929.3755 SWEENEY
8. **The Quit Rents of Virginia, 1704.** Compiled by Annie Laurie Wright Smith. Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD 1980
R 929.3755 SMITH
9. **Pennsylvania Line.** Compiled by William L. Iscrupe and Shirley G.M. Iscrupe. Southwest Pennsylvania Genealogical Services. 1990
R 929.3748 PENNSYLVANIA
10. **Virginia County Records, Volume II: Virginia Colonial Militia, 1651-1776.** Edited by William Armsrton Crozier. Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD. 1973
R 975.502 CROZIER
11. **Virginia Revolutionary Warrants.** Compiled by Samuel M. Wilson. Clearfield Company by the Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD. 1967
R 929.374 WILSON

**Danville Family History Center
By Linda Bailey, Director**

Over the next few months I will introduce you to the Danville Family History Center resources. There are a wide range of materials covering the needs of "first timers" as well as experienced researchers.

This month I have compiled a list of popular research aids at the center:

Internet Resources

1. ancestry.com - full subscription access
2. genealogy.com - access to selected databases
 - (a) Genealogy Library (new databases include New Hampshire Marriage Index, 1672-1900 and Vermont Marriage Index, 1760-1933)
 - (b) International & Passenger Records (new databases include Canadian Immigration, 1748-1928 and Pennsylvania Naturalizations, 1740-1773)
 - (c) US Federal Census (new databases include 1920 Kansas Index and 1920 Oklahoma Index)
 - (d) World Family Tree Collection (currently up to Vol. 158)

Computerized Databases

1. Ancestry.com CD collection
2. Automated Archive CD collection
3. Family Tree Maker's Census Indexes (1607 through 1880)
4. Family Tree Maker's Family Archives
5. Pedigree Resource File CD collection
6. Vital records collections (including North America, British Isles, Mexico, and Western Europe)

A more complete inventory (as well as our current operating hours) can be reviewed at our website:
www.geocities.com/dsfhc@sbcglobal.net

Next month's column will feature our books & periodicals collection.

"The seeking for one thing will find another"
~ An Irish Proverb ~

WELCOME

We have a new member and an old-time renewal:

Lloyd Ramsey (New Member)
135 Mattos Court
Danville, CA 94506

Mary Jo Hosteny (Oldie, but Goodie)
11 Norlyn Drive
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-4260

Note an E-mail address change.

Sherri Hedman: 2_vikings@comcast.net

St. Patrick's Day

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost didn't get the job of bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity. His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing

monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity. His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated. Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston.

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Also available on the Web at www.wilstar.com

Irish Proverb

*May those who love us love us
And those who don't love us
May God turn their hearts,
And if He doesn't turn their hearts,
May He turn their ankles,
So we'll know them by their limping.*

3/17/2003 - [Archive](#)

IRISH QUOTATIONS.

"St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time -- a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic."

~~By Adrienne Cook.~~

"Ireland is rich in literature that understands a soul's yearnings, and dancing that understands a happy heart."

~~By Margaret Jackson.~~

"Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar, and fat."

~~By Alex Levine.~~

"Maybe it's bred in the bone, but the sound of pipes is a little bit of heaven to some of us."

~~By Nancy O'Keefe.~~

"In Ireland the inevitable never happens and the unexpected constantly occurs."

~~By Sir John Pentland Mahaffy.~~

"There is no language like the Irish for soothing and quieting."

~~By John Millington Synge.~~

San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
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Diablo, CA 94528-0305

FIRST CLASS MAIL