

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. 10 May - 2005

THIS MONTH - May 17, 1005

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society's Twenty Anniversary
1985 -2005

This May, the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society will be 20 years old. To celebrate, we will review a bit of our 20 year history. Thanks to excellent news letter editors, dedicated historians, and modern day technology we can share this history with you. We would like to acknowledge our members who have put their genealogical histories in print, our charter members, and all of our past presidents. We are proud of our society and proud to share its history with each of you. Come join us for this celebration.

Mini-Education: Ed Mason will show his 20 minute DVD, *Finding Cousins*. This topic might be just what you are looking for to help you break through that brick wall, find pictures of great-grandparents or uncover family history that you thought was lost for eternity.

APRIL MEETING

"Roles of Women in the Revolutionary War"

Speaker: Linda Garrett

Reported by: Frank Williams

Our speaker stepped in on short notice when The planned speaker, Rose Mary Kennedy, took ill. **Linda Garrett**, with the use of any interesting bottle Collection, introduced us to the active roles many American women played in the Revolutionary War. The bottles were the "Official Daughters of the American Revolution Colonial Bottle Collection." Each one pictured a heroine that risked her life to help the American cause. Eight of the thirteen total bottles were shown but 16 heroines were mentioned.

The first bottle shown featured Milly Barrett of Concord, who set up a cartridge factory when no men were available to do it. It became the patriot's main military supply depot.

The second was the famous "Mollie Pitcher" (Mary Ludwig Hays) who carried water to her

husband's cannon at the Battle Of Monmouth until he was killed. She then led his crew until the battle ended.

The third bottle honored "Captain" Mollie Corbett (Margaret Corbin) who, when her husband was killed at Fort Washington, took command of this company. Later that day she was badly wounded.

The fourth heroine was Deborah Sampson, who dressed as a man in order to fight for freedom. She was wounded near Tarrytown, New York.

The fifth was a group of 17 women friends in Philadelphia called the "Daughters of Liberty", who, made shirts and candles for the troops.

The sixth were Maria Morris and Eleanor Custis (stepdaughter to George Washington) who made shirts and candles for the troops.

The seventh were Eliza Pinckney and Mary Knight, who organized groups of their friends to become farmers - thus freeing additional men as soldiers.

The eighth was Lucy Knox, who stayed with her soldier husband through the entire war.

The ninth was Mary Aldridge Draper, who baked and cooked for the troops in their campaigns along the Boston Post Road.

The tenth was Sarah Gooder, who took over her husband's printing business and printed war leaflets. She continued the business and was asked to print the first copy of the Declaration of Independence.

The eleventh were Martha Washington, Betsey Hagen, and Sarah Fowler, who gave medical care to the soldiers.

The twelfth was Lydia Darragh, who spied on British soldiers quartered in her house, and at great risk, got the information to our troops.

The thirteenth was "the young Paul Revere" Sybil Ludington, who at age 16 rode to knock on doors to warn of a British attack at Danbury, CT.

The fourteenth was Elizabeth Burgin, who rescued escapees from British prison ships. She was awarded a pension by Congress for her bravery.

The fifteenth (name not given) living in Chester County, PA smuggled moldy bread out of a prison ship and gave it to General Washington. He contacted British General Howe who secured better conditions on the ships.

The sixteenth was Patience Wright, a sculptress of wax figures, who went to London and questioned her patrons about British troop movements. She would then send messages hidden in her wax sculptures back to America. She also helped captured American sailors to escape.

Mini Education Section Before Speaker

Louis Ford spoke to the group about the holding of the Contra Costa County Library - 1750 Oak Park Blvd. in Pleasant Hill and the Pleasanton Library at 400 Old Bernal Ave. More information (time, days, etc) can be found in our

Handbook on Page 14 and 16.

Linda Bailey spoke to us about the LDS Family History Center in Alamo (where we meet). There are computers for your use. You can also order microfilm from Salt Lake Genealogical Library. Free access to Ancestry.com is available. More information can be found in our Handbook on Page 15. Their website (excellent I might add) also noted there.

Both "talks" were very informative.

GENEALOGIST STEW

Take 1 Curious Beginner
Add 1 Age Discrepancy
1 Unreadable Microfiche
1 Census Record written in
"disappearing ink"

Fold in 1 ton of correspondence

Simmer while waiting answers

Bake in frustration for several month (years)

Serve to relatives with pride of completion
of a job well done!

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: LHumpal@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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SRVGS CALENDAR MAY 2005

3 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting
was held at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek.

17 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.

24 Tuesday - 9:30 a.m. The Library Trip
will be to the Oakland Family History Center on Lincoln Avenue off Warren Avenue (Hwy 13). Their phone no. is (510) 531-3905.

Carpools meet BEHIND Albertson's on Diablo Rd., in Danville and leave promptly. 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.

JUNE 2005

7 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting
will be at the home of Patty Erickson 10 Ridge Place Pleasant Hill 925-229-0889. This will be a joint Board Meeting of the newly elected board members, outgoing board members, supporting SRVGS staff and other members.

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

28 Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. The Library Trip
will be to the Sutro State Library, 480 Winston Drive in San Francisco.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups: MAY/JUNE 2005

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP (The Master Genealogist) - This group will not meet during the month of May. 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 earman@pacbell.net.

GERMAN – A home group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 25 (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Sue Hanck, 3616 Sugarberry Lane in Walnut Creek. If you need directions, e-mail jhanck@astound.net or phone 933-9505. Please let the hostess know if you do not plan to attend. 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 May 11 and June 8 (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 – There will NOT be a meeting this June because many of the members are expected to be away. The July meeting will be on July 12. We will meet at Linda Sada's - 1120 Mustang, Danville. 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 March 21 a message was sent to an updated list of interested users at their current email addresses.

Ed Mason is the coordinator for an additional 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. 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

9 June Thursday 7:30 pm

The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold one of their regular meetings at 3700 Concord Blvd in Concord. Preservation of Documents and Holdings of the Martinez Historical Society will be topics of presentations at this meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marilyn Tanner

The purpose of a genealogy society should be to offer useable information to its members so that they may produce as accurate a family history as possible. To this goal the Board and I have tried very hard to comply.

We have streamlined the meetings to get in mini-education spots each month; a little help in small doses. When we can get members to share their heirlooms, its been an interesting interlude.

The Program committee has worked hard to find interesting, informative speakers each month. It's always fun to have our own members participate.

Our library trips are certainly a marvelous form of education. They are numerous and well planned. The carpool system opens up the "ask Genie" type of help coming and going to our destination.

Mary Jane's writing class was the highlight of the year, I think. Forty members took advantage of her Saturday class.

Our finances are in good hands. We're even making a little interest on our backup funds.

Membership is on the rise. We'll soon have a new place to pickup our badges and when we leave -- we can toss them in a basket. Maybe now I can quit wearing my badge home.

The Bulletin Board is always well stocked with notices of many possibilities for further education through conferences, seminars and trips.

We have been very well fed all year. There are always free magazines and newsletters to take home and cassettes to borrow which enables one to learn something on the way home.

Our Newsletter is always informative. Not only of our Society but what others are doing plus often a bit of interesting history. And how about the staff that staples and stamps the Newsletter to get it to us!

There are many more people who make the Society run smoothly but you are seldom aware of their contribution. I want to thank them, the Board members, committee heads and special interest coordinators.

This will be my last President's Message. I have enjoyed being your president. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the Society this past fiscal year.

Marilynn Tanner

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

Deadling to put information in the Newsletter is the Last Thursday of the month.

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

1985 SRVGS LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE YEARS 2005

Currently Active Charter Members

Diane C. Anderson	Jacquie Baggett	Jean W. Blackmur	Ellen Brown
Patty Erickson	Marilyn Fullam	Diana R. Hancock	Virginia Rei
	Dorothy Stanton	Barbara Johnson	

Past Presidents

Jean W. Blackmur	1985-1986	Carol Glover	1994-1995
Patty Erickson	1986-1987	Millie Freitas	1995-1996
Loretta Vranesh	1987-1988	Millie Freitas	1996-1997
Marilyn Fulam	1988-1989	Shirley Terry	1997-1998
Barbara (Bea) O'Rand	1989-1990	Dorothy Stanton	1998-1999
Barbara (Bea) O'Rand	1990-1991	Victoria Da Rosa/	
Frances Lloyd	1991-1992	Barbara Johnson	1999-2000
Frances Lloyd	1992-1993	Barbara Dyer	2000-2001
Shirley Terry/		Frances Lloyd	2001-2002
Carol Glover	1994-1995	Barbara Dittig	2002-2003
		Virginia Rood	2003-2004

First Meeting Of the SRVGS

January 15, 1985

The meeting was held at the Danville Library. Jean Blackmur welcomed twenty five people who met to discuss plans for organizing a genealogy society. Those present completed questionnaires which were designed to help the group become acquainted with each other's level of experience, interests and offers to help.

Half responded that they were new to genealogy, whereas the other half represented those with modest to considerable experience. All express a desire to meet regularly to learn more about genealogy, to exchange information, to join with others in visits to genealogical libraries, and hopefully, to find others with some commonly shared ancestors, resources, and geographic locations.

Jean explained that the group will meet at 10:30 am on the third Tuesday of the month (though possibly not in the summer). The group will function under the leadership of a Steering Committee until by laws can be adopted and officers elected later in the Spring.

Marian Marquardt volunteered to prepare a membership list, along with surnames being searched, for distribution at meetings.

Marilyn Fullam offered to serve as Secretary-Historian. She will take minutes of our meetings and send out a monthly newsletter.

Diane Anderson offered to explore and assist with copying.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) documents our past with its nearly 1.5 million cubic feet of records. Only a fraction of these records have been micro formed for research and preservation. This leaves millions of priceless and fragile documents that need our immediate attention.

The following are complete Projects of the Stern NARA Gift Fund

- * Microfiche of Street Indexes to the 39 larger cities for the 1910 census.

- * Galveston Passenger Arrival Records, 1896-1948

- * Canadian Border Crossings (1895-1954) indexes

- * Index and War of 1812 Prisoners of War Records.

- * 1920 Census Enumeration Districts.

- * Burial Registers for Posts, Camps, and Stations, 1768-1921 (Records of the Quartermaster General)

- * Card Records of Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, ca1879-1903 (Records of the Quartermaster General)

- * Registers of Applications for the Release of Impressed Seamen, 1793-1802, and Related Indexes (Records of the Department of State)

- * Proofs of Citizenship Used to Apply for Seaman's Protection Certificates for the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana, ca1800-1905

- * Record of Appointment of Substitute Clerks in First and Second-Class Post Offices, 1885-1903

- * Index and Registers of Substitute Mail Carriers in First and Second-Class Post Offices, 1885-1903

- * Record Cards of Carriers Separated from the Postal Service, 1863-1899

Never Assume! by Gayle Wayland

My dad, only knowing bits and pieces about his family, has always said that he was Scottish, Irish, and English, so that's what I thought until I got started with my family history research. I've gone as far back as the 1780s and 1840s in the various lines, and almost all Dad's ancestors are English, the Scottish name turns out not to be in our direct line, and the ones he thought were Irish turn out to be German. The moral is: Never assume anything in your research! *Ancestry*

MAPS AND RELATED RESOURCES FHS - Linda Bailey's Reports

For help in finding your ancestor's home, try one of these resources at the DFHC.

AniMap CD: Just about every USA researcher deals with the problem of finding an old town that has long-since disappeared from the map. Or, you have a known location but it was not in the same county 100 or 200 years ago. AniMap Plus has solutions to these problems.

The AniMap CD will display over 2,300 maps to show the changing county boundaries for each of the 48 adjacent United States for every year since colonial times. Maps of the full U.S. are also included showing all the changes in state and territorial boundaries from 1776 to the present.

The SiteFinder contains listings for more than 799,000 places in the United States. Each listing gives the name of the place, the county where it is (or was) located, and includes latitude-longitude coordinates. Included in the listings are: Cities & towns, Railroad Stations, Trading Posts, Farms & Ranches, Plantations, Ruins, Country Schools, Mining Camps, Ghost Towns, cemeteries ... and more.

UK Parish Locator: This software has a database that contains about 15,000 parishes in England, Wales and Scotland. It can locate an individual parish, all parishes within a given county or all parishes within a given radius of the indicated parish. It covers parishes in existence from the 1500s to about 1837.

Misc. Map File: Feel free to also peruse our file drawer of miscellaneous maps.

Hope to see you soon. Open: M, W, Th 10:00 – 4:00; Tu 7:00 – 9:00

A Thought to think about! Marcel Proust

"We must never be afraid to go too far, for success lies just beyond."

Thought for Today Confucius

"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I'll remember. Involve me and I'll understand."

Slate of Officers

2005-2006

The Nominating Committee would like to present the following people who have volunteered to lead the SRVGS for the 2005-2006 year. There are several positions still open - Vice President, Library Trip Coordinator, Education Coordinator and Cassette Librarian. Please "step forward" and volunteer your talent. YOUR Society needs YOU. Call Patty today - 229-0889. Nominations may be submitted for these area. Elections will be held at our next meeting - May 17th.

President: Patty Erickson

1st Vice President: Not Filled

2nd Vice President (programs): Sandra Burns,
Bob Dougherty, Marilynn Tanner

3rd Vice President (membership): Ileen Peterson,
Recording Secretary: Helen Odegard,

Corresponding Secretary: Mary Tom,
reasurer: Ed Mason,

Parliamentarian: Virginia Rood.

SRVGS Membership Application

It is time to renew your membership in our SRVGS Society. You will find a separate sheet dedicated to the application and also to the "Surname And Locality Searcher" Project.

Please complete both and return to the address provide on the form.

A word about the "Surname And Locality Searcher" Project. Last year you were asked to submit the surnames and localities you were researching. That information has been compiled in a list to be used by the members to help them further their personal research by enabling each of you to seek out others with related information and matching interests. Both parties can benefit.

In completing the "Surname/Locality" form, **PLEASE** be sure to **print clearly** all entries. If you have more than three names, you may use the back of

the form. When submitting your state, county and/or country, please be more specific. Example: Do not submit just "California" instead "California/Contra Costa County" or "California/Danville."

A sample copy of the "Surname And Locality Searcher" project will be on display at the May and June General Meetings.

Organizing Favorite Websites

I just finished reading my new *Ancestry Daily News* - Ancestry Quick Tip 1/25/2005 Archive. I do something similar to keep my favorite websites handy, but as a retired librarian, my instinct was to use 3x5 cards in a file, so that I could sort the cards anyway I wanted. Since I research in several countries, and assist with workshops for those areas, I sort by location (Norway, Sweden, etc.), and then alphabetically. Using library rules for filing works fine.

In order to find a certain kind of website easily, I use a marker to color a short bit on the top edge of the card. For instance, if it is for a dictionary, lexicon, or translation, I use a red marker. For maps, and other geographic locators, a blue marker, and so forth. Other subjects that I highlight in this way are obituaries, cemetery, funeral topics, genealogical forms, programs, systems, emigration and passenger lists, bulletin boards and newsletters that I need to check frequently, and also travel and cultural sites. Websites that don't fit into my foreign categories are kept in a separate shoebox, by subject and then alphabetically. I find this system very useful for me, since I also like to keep some notes on the reverse of the cards. By dating my last check of a site, I know how far back in the archives I must look, etc. Keeping track of your findings at each site prevents you from covering the same territory again and again.

Ancestry Quick Tip by Midge Waters 01/28/2005

CORRECTION

Dennis Morrissey's correct address is
3014 Ascot Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583

Timeline For San Ramon Genealogical Society

1985 to 2005

1946-1989	The Cold War from before birth until age 4
1985	Birth of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society
1952-2003	Reign of Queen Elizabeth II (Windsor) from before birth until age 18
1981-1988	Ronald Reagan president of US from before birth until age 3
1986	Halley's Comet at age 1
1986	Shuttle Challenger explodes at age 1
1986	Chernobyl power plant melts down at age 1
1989	Breakup of the Soviet Union at age 4
1989	Fall of Berlin Wall at age 4
1989-1992	George Bush president of US from age 4 to 7
1990	World Wide Web at age 5
1991	Iraq attacks Kuwait, US Attacks Iraq at age 6
1993-2000	William Clinton president of US from age 8 to 15
1995	Terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City at age 10
1996	DVD video recordings at age 11
2001-2005	George W. Bush president of US from age 16 to 20
2001	World Trade Center destroyed by terrorists Sep 11th at age 16
2004	Water verified present on mars by Odyssey lander at age 19
2005	San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society celebrates 20 th Anniversary

**San Ramon Valley
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FIRST CLASS MAIL