

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305

Diablo, CA 9452/8-8308

President: Patty Erickson

Coord. Editor: Dorothy Baker

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.

3rd Tuesday of the Month

(Except August & December)

Alamo LDS Church

Stone Valley & Smith Rds.-Alamo

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXI No. 3 September - 2005

THIS MONTH - ~~August 16, 2005~~ *September 20, 2005*

"Military Service Records Research, From The Revolutionary War To The Civil War".

Rose Mary Kennedy, from the National Archives and Records Administration in San Bruno will be joining us this month, to speak on "Military Service Records in the National Archives - Pacific Region". Her talk will cover the time period from the Revolutionary War to the Civic War.

Rose Mary Kennedy was born in California and is a first generation American whose parents came from Ireland. She was graduated from the College of Notre dame, Belmont with a B.A. in English and History. She has an Elementary Teaching Credential from the College of Notre Dame. After several years of teaching, she entered into governmental service in 1979, and worked at the Federal Record Center. In 1981, she became a permanent staff member of the National Archives Pacific Region. Currently, she is the Reference Coordinator, and Volunteer Coordinator. She teaches many of the workshops that are offered at the National Archives, and is often a guest speaker representing the National Archives.

JULY MEETING

"The Palatine Movement - From Germany to Settlements in America"

Speaker: Gail Roche Van Wye Reporter: Jean Hunt

Gail Roche Van Wye comes to us with excellent credentials. Gail provided us with two pass outs: a resources page and a map showing the location of notable German settlements which included Swiss, Salzburger, Moravians and all German sects in the thirteen colonies, circa 1775.

The Palatines were a mixture of Germans and Swiss Huguenots who lived in the many dutchies and Royal principalities along the lower Rhine Valley. For thirty years they suffered the vicious wars between the Holy Roman Empire of France which espoused Catholicism and Protestant Lutherans and Reformationist all seeking to rule these rich areas of the Rhine Valley. The People suffered greatly from constant religious oppression, conscription of their men into

the armies, constant poverty and heavy taxation. It was no wonder that these oppressed people were open to the *Company* people who came among them urging settlement in other countries. Their immigration began in the early 1700's and never stopped.

There were millions who chose to immigrate. First came the men using the Redemptory System which is where they would agree that if the *Company* paid for their passage; they would work four to seven years upon reaching their destination then they would be free to go about their own business. Women and children followed later and did the same.

During the English Restoration King William of Orange who was of Dutch descendant and Queen Mary, a German Protestant, felt obligated to help these

fleeing protestant's. The King Georges' who followed also desired to do the same. They all had ulterior motives. England had emerged as a naval power and needed places to provide naval supplies such as masts, tar and turpentine for their navies. Establishing a settlement in New York along the Hudson River would answer the problem. In 1710 they brought 847 Palatine families, 3000 people to two camps up the river. They sent naval personnel to set up the camps military style and teach the people to prepare masts, make turpentine etc. These Palatines were farmers and unused to the kind of work required of them and the hardships that ensued and soon the project failed.

The British had also expected these people to act as buffers between the Indians and the French to the west and the colonies to the east. It had also become apparent that the British expected these Palatines to comply to an open end contract. Due to the rigors of camp life many died. In disgust many took up farming in close by valleys and many deserted going south to Pennsylvania where they had heard of Penn's settlement.

And still they came. They were the greatest migration of non English speaking people to come to the colonies. They came from experimental Palatine settlements in Holland and Ireland. They came from Bremen and Rotterdam. They arrived in New York, Baltimore and later New Orleans and ports in Texas. They came seeking asylum and opportunity.

The Appalachian Mountains were the great barrier to the west and after 1720 the coastal lands had been settled so the immigrants headed west then south. The Philadelphia Great Wagon Road provided access to the south along with the many large rivers that started in the mountains and flowed south. They migrated as groups and settled as groups. Some even migrated north again for personal reasons.

There was a period when the migration stopped during the French Indian war and began again after the Revolutionary war. In 1842, 250,000 German's came to the United States with only 8,000 going to Philadelphia. The new railroads built between 1840 through 1850 took people west into the middle of the country. Immigration stopped during

the Civil War due to the embargos on foreign ships. More Germans from the eastern parts and Prussia started immigrating.

Thirty thousand German Hessian's fought in the Revolutionary war and only 7,000 returned to Germany, the rest settling in the United States around Lancaster and Lebanon Counties in Pennsylvania..

Large numbers of German families were still coming to the United States up to the great depression. They mainly settled in or near German speaking settlements. This lasted until entry into World War I when it became unpopular to speak German and many were discriminated against. Since then these settlements have broken away from the old ways such as speaking Pennsylvania Dutch (a form of the low German spoken in the 1700's.) and have moved into the American mainstream to the loss of quaint colloquialism.

Thought from Dale Carnegie

Flaming enthusiasm backed by horse sense and persistence, is the quality that most frequently makes for success.

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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Treasurer: Ed Mason 925-838-7848

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2005

6 Tuesday- 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting was held at the home of Bob Dougherty in Dublin.

20 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.

27 Tuesday- 9:00 a.m. The Library Trip will be to the National Archives in San Bruno. Phone 650-238-3501. For details of their holdings and links to other research tools, please view their redesigned website at

www.archives.gov/facilities/ca/san_francisco.html

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 several computers available with Heritage Quest and Ancestry Library Edition. 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 9:00am. Please sign up at the general meeting. We currently need someone to be the Library Trip Coordinator. Please contact Patty Erickson if you could help out.

SRVGS CALENDAR OCTOBER 2005

4 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. The October Board Meeting is currently scheduled to be held at the home of Helen Odegard.

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

25 Tuesday 9:00 a.m. The Library Trip is scheduled to be to the Sutro State Library in San Francisco. We currently need someone to be the Library Trip Coordinator. Please contact Patty Erickson if you could help out.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups: September/ October 2005

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP (The Master Genealogist) - This is a genealogy software users group for PC's with their 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.

This group is scheduled to meet Tuesday September 20 after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m. at the home of Peggy Dearman on Morninghome Road in Danville. Bring a bag lunch.

GERMAN - This group regularly has a meeting at someone's home on the fourth Wednesday. On September 28, an Oktoberfest is planned to open the season for this German Interest Group. They will gather at the home of Carol Huvane in Walnut Creek. For further details please contact Fran Schweitzer. The contact person for the group is Fran Schweitzer (925) 935 -5744 or e-mail

FranSchw@pacbell.net

IRISH - This special interest group will meet September 14 and October 12 (the 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.

SOUTHERN - This group will meet September 13 and October 11 (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m.. The September 13 meeting will be held at the Westcliffe Homeowner's Clubhouse, 411 Westcliffe Circle in Walnut Creek. Please contact Dorothy Stanton if you need directions.

The October 11 meeting will be held at the home of Suzanne Johnston, 145 Gil Blas Road in 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.

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

13 September Tuesday 7:30 pm

The *Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society* will hold one of their regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Linda Garrett will give a presentation about Tombstones..

Future presentations at their meetings will be as follows:

11 October Chuck Knuthson Research Facilities in the Golden State

8 November Frank Geasa Research at the Pleasanton Library

17 September Saturday 9 am to 4 pm

The *Napa Valley Genealogical Society* will sponsor a fall seminar. Program speakers will include Norma Keating and Cath Trindle. The California State Genealogical Alliance will hold its annual meeting at noon. This will be held at the Napa Senior Activity Center, 1500 Jefferson Street in Napa. The

registration fee at the door will be \$ 30. For further information visit their web site at

www.napanet.net/~nvgbs or e-mail Sandra Hoover: nvgbs@napanet.net

20 September Tuesday At 7 pm,
the *Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society* will hold its regular member meeting at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. Mary Boyle will demonstrate the use of 2 popular web sites, Heritage Quest Online and Ancestry Library Edition.

13 October Thursday 7 pm
The *Contra Costa County Genealogical Society* will hold one of their regular meetings at the Shadelands Ranch Museum in Concord.

15 October Saturday
The *Concord/Walnut Creek Family History Center & Contra Costa Genealogical Society* will sponsor their annual fall seminar at 3700 Concord Blvd. in Concord. There will be 6 class periods and a dozen class rooms. A \$17 donation is requested for registration prior to September 30. For further information, call Jackie Hein, (925) 827-4729.

18 October Tuesday At 7 pm,
the *Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society* will hold its regular member meeting at the Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. "Sorting Through the Evidence" will be presented by Pamela Erickson, genealogy instructor for the Metropolitan Adult Education Program.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Dorothy Baker 925-427-4883
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Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 925-828-8570
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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.

President's Message

By Patty Erickson

Summer is over, strange weather and all. After a free August, September always seems like a new beginning for our society. This is an excellent time to renew interest in the advantages our society offers.

Monthly meetings with good speakers. Our program people work very diligently to keep our meetings varied and interesting. Your input can be very beneficial to keeping these programs worthwhile and appreciated.

Special interest groups are an excellent means of sharing information and meeting new people. If you have interest in starting a new group, please remember a few things. The volunteer leader of a group doesn't have all the answers. You come together to share and explore. Be a consistent member of the group; don't show up when you feel like it. Be aware of the meeting dates of established interest groups.

Cassette library is an excellent source of information on topics of many countries and special areas of our country. Check your handbook for cassette topics and their numbers.

Library trips are a marvelous way to visit bay area genealogical libraries by car pooling and having friendly chats along the way. I personally believe our library trips are waning due to increased traffic and our older bodies not being as brave as we once were. The trips are still planned and we will see how they are attended this year.

Education classes are for your special needs. We have followed your survey answers and attempted to set up classes along those lines. We also try to keep you aware of several of the area adult education classes pertaining to genealogy. I would like to resume our 10 to 20 minute education sessions at our general meetings this year. Please let me know if you would like to share an interesting or educational few minutes with us.

The Newsletter keeps us up to date on our society meeting dates and information on classes or meetings by other societies. There are always

interesting and educational articles to benefit all. Please feel free to contribute articles you find elsewhere or provide personal experiences that are helpful in our research.

The Freebie table shares our used materials. You might find a useful article or reference tidbit that opens new paths for you.

The Danville library has our Society's collection of books and materials. Please check your handbook for the numbers on the books before going as they are not all kept in the same section.

The Alamo Stake Library cannot be forgotten. Drop by and take advantage of all they offer. The personnel there are most helpful.

There you are! If this is not enough to offer each of you, please do speak up and let us know how we can further help you. (No, we will not do your research for you!)

Patty Erickson, President

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Save this date -

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5.

Mary Jane De Ross will present a "Life Story Writing Workshop" at the LDS Church in Alamo from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This will be a follow up presentation and also a chance for those who missed the March session to experience a very unique opportunity.

If you would like to hear the CD of Mary Jane that Bob Dougherty prepared, you may contact him at (925) 556-3302.

Mary Jane has asked us to submit a writing sample in order that we will get the "most" from her next class. You may send a paragraph or whole story by mail to: Mary Jane de Ross 725 Oregon Street, Weed, CA 96094 or e-mail: mjstoriellavita@hotmail.com.

For further information please contact Marilyn King, Education Coordinator (925) 376-1193 or marmal@comcast.net

**LDS - /Family History Center - Alamo
Update by Ron Frye**

During the month of August, Ron Frye has been very busy at the Danville Family History Center. He is very excited to report about some new developments at the FHC. The following is his report.

1.) We have had four new (to us) computers donated by a law firm (via Joe Herrmann) that run at 1.5 GHz or greater. By the time the FHC re-opens, they, and our other computers, will each have 512 MBytes of memory, which I am donating. (There is one exception... the computer in the office.) I have gotten all of these units up and running, starting with a clean Windows 2000 installation, then loading all of our family history programs. I think you will be very pleased with the increase in speed. As a side note, the law firm updates their computers every year or so, and the head of that organization, a former LDS Bishop, was very pleased to learn that their computers were going to our family history center! (We may be seeing more of these units in the future.) As of now, six of our eight computers run at 1.5 GHz or faster!

2.) Bob Stephen, one of the Tuesday evening staff, donated a large format color inkjet printer to our facility. THIS IS A TREMENDOUS ASSET! "Why?", you may ask. Because now, when you print a census image or other image to this printer, the output will automatically be magnified and printed on 11" x 17" paper! I've printed out a couple of full census images, and they are fully readable. They look great! (This printer uses the same black ink cartridge as our other, smaller inkjet printer. Only the color cartridge is different.) Remember, all three of our printers are accessible from any computer! The days of unreadable, full census images on 8 1/2" x 11" paper are gone!

3.) If you'll remember, Computer 5, the one closest to the door to our facility, was no longer able to run Family Search. With its replacement by one of the faster, donated units, we can once again run Family Search at this station. Please remember that Family Search is an old, DOS program. If you want printouts from this program, it can only be

done from Computer 3 (the unit next to the laser printer).

4.) There is a slight change in the "look and feel" of open folders and programs on all computers.

5.) I have beefed up security on all computers. Penetration into our network from the World Wide Web will be very difficult, if not impossible. Also, unauthorized access to the computers locally will be met with frustration.

6.) Linda Bailey has done some reorganization of our bookshelves. They look great, and the 3-ring binder Research Guides are now all on the lower shelves for easy access.

7.) There are a couple of new genealogy programs that I have installed on our computers that you should check out. They are found in the "Family History Programs" folder on the desktop. (I am writing this from home, and cannot remember their names.)

8.) All of our computer monitors are now 17".

9.) If I recall correctly, we now have CD Burners on four of our eight computers. The same program for burning CDs has been installed on all of these four computers, so you'll only need to learn one program. It's really simple now...

a.) Place a blank CD in the CD drive.

b.) Click once on the blue CD icon in the system tray (lower right-hand corner of the screen.) A larger CD icon will then pop up.

c.) Drag the file you want to copy onto the larger CD icon. Voila! You're done!

10.) All mice have been replaced with units that now have a scroll wheel. This makes it very easy to scroll down long web pages, or the long pages in any other program.

We have been blessed. Life is good. Enjoy.

Sincerely,
Ronald W. Frye
Danville FHC
Computer Specialist

More FHC News

Ron Frye, Danville FHC Computer Specialist, reporting:

I have some more exiting news for you concerning our little Danville FHC. We have been collaborating with the Oakland FHC on sharing our holdings databases. I am pleased to announce that this is, for the most part, ready to go. We can now search and view their electronic card catalog, and they can now search and view ours. Yes, we now have an electronic card catalog of our holdings. It is still incomplete (our holdings of microfilms and microfiche), but we're working on it. I believe most of our books have been cataloged, thanks to Linda Bailey.

We are the "guinea pigs" in a pilot project. If this proves to be successful, other local libraries may also join in on the project, further enhancing each other's capabilities. Isn't this computer age just marvelous?

You will note a new, purple, shortcut icon on our computer desktops... "Athena (Card Catalog)". It has been set up to search our Danville FHC card catalog as the default. If you'd like to search the Oakland FHC card catalog, be sure to click on the "Advanced Search Options" tab at the bottom of the Athena search window. There, you can select which library you'd like to search, or both at the same time, if you wish.

Though Athena has been installed on just one computer, I have enabled access to it from all eight of our networked computers. More than one person can access the database at a time. I am not sure at this time how many can access it at the same time, but for now, I know that at least two can.

Please become familiar with the use of this electronic card catalog, as it may become useful to some future patrons. If you don't feel comfortable learning the program on your own, I'd be happy to come in on your shift to "show you the ropes". Just give me a call at 828-4845. Linda Bailey is also familiar with the program and I'm sure would be willing to help train you on its use.

All computers are up and operational. I think you'll be pleased with the increase in speed, ease of use, and other capabilities. Enjoy!

Not-So-Secret Garden

Used to be, if you wanted to find ancestors who immigrated through Castle Garden--New York's primary emigrant landing depot from 1855 to 1890--you had to crank through reels of unindexed microfilm or buy a subscription to Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>). Now you can go to <http://castlegarden.org> and search a free online database of New York passenger lists from 1830 through 1913.

The Battery Conservancy <http://www.thebattery.org>), an organization to restore Manhattan's Battery Park, launched the 10 million-name database Monday. Besides Castle Garden immigrants, says Conservancy program associate David Bromwich, it includes passengers who were dropped off at the Battery before Castle Garden opened and 2,000 Ellis Island immigrants who aren't in the database at <http://www.ellisland.org>. (Ellis Island opened in 1892.) CastleGarden.org transcription project leader Ira Glazier expects to add 2 million more immigrants to the site's compilation.

CastleGarden.org's free Quick Search lets you look for a first and last name and arrival date range. You can narrow your results by choosing a place of origin, occupation and ship. The search returns only exact matches, so you'll need to try spelling variations on your ancestor's name. If you're not sure of the first name, leave that field blank to see everyone with the surname you're looking for. Results show name, occupation, age, sex, arrival and ship's name. Webmasters hope to enhance the database with Soundex searching—which would catch similar-sounding surnames—and images of the original passenger lists.

For \$45, you can submit an Advanced Search request, which lets you select variables for sex, age, ship, port of departure, country of origin, occupation and destination—without specifying a name. Although the site recommends this search for scholars and genealogists, the Quick Search will do in most cases. If you're prepared to pay, it might be a better value to buy a \$79.95 subscription to Ancestry.com's US Immigration Collection, which includes images from microfilm of the original passenger manifests.

Follow the site's Timeline link for a trip through Castle Garden's illustrious history starting as a military fort called the Southwest Battery. It was reincarnated as a prestigious performing arts venue, the immigrant processing station and an aquarium before being designated a national monument bearing its 1817 name, Castle Clinton. For more ways to find Castle Garden passengers, see the August 2005 Family Tree Magazine.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

School records are often overlooked by genealogists and may include accounts, district reports, enumerations, censuses, enrollment cards, pupils' annual records, and school board minutes. Some records are known by other names, such as the "Scholastic Family Census" or the "Scholastic Annual

Reports and Census." Some records contain statistics only and are of less value genealogically. In some localities, reform school records were kept, sometimes known as inmate case records. Most school records in America date from the early-nineteenth century, but not all school records have survived. When found, early school records can serve as a substitute to federal and state census records and missing or incomplete vital records. This is especially true in states where school records have been kept before 1850.

A number of school records have been microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah and can be found in the Family History Library Catalog by state or county and then under the subject heading "Schools."

Early school records can often be found in state and local historical societies, courthouses, state archives, and local libraries. Some have been published, such as alumni registers and yearbooks.

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