

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. 4 October - 2005

THIS MONTH - October 18, 2005

"Finding those Missing Heirs"

David R. Owens will be our guest speaker this month. Mr. Owens has a law practice in Walnut Creek that specializes in representing heirs throughout the world who have inheritances in Northern California estates of which they are unaware. He works with an international heir finding company who identifies and locates unknown or missing heirs, contracts with those heirs, and then refers them to him to establish entitlement in the courts. Over an eleven year period he has worked on hundreds of estates representing thousands of heirs.

Mr. Owens was born in Albany, California, graduated from El Cerrito High School, Stanford University, and Harvard law School. He served for two years as the director of the Concord Family History Center for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He is married to Georgia Garff Owens, a former KRON television broadcaster. They live in Walnut Creek where they raised six children, have four grandchildren and are expecting two.

September Meeting

"Military Service Records on Microfilm at the National Archives and Records Administration"

Speaker: Rose Mary Kennedy

Reported by: Lee Schlenker

At our last meeting in September Rose Mary Kennedy from the National Archives and Records Administration in San Bruno gave her talk on how to go about find military records and pension records from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War and some of the pitfalls along with the great finds!

The National Archives retains only 2% of the paper generated by the Federal Government and only stores it for 7 years. NARA in San Bruno has 7 computers for your use with Ancestry.com on them. They also have the forms which you may need to fill out for requesting Military Records or Pension files.

The more information you have on an ancestor prior to your search - such as their given name, the date from which they enlisted, the war in which they fought and the date, the branch, their rank and/or

regiment - the better. The first place to start your search would be the U.S. Census. The 1790 to 1840 Census has a listing for male head of household: but by 1820 the ages were listed for the males within the household. This gave a quick check of who might be eligible for military draft if a war should occur. Usually the age for the draft was 18 to 16 years. And by 1860 the occupation of the males was listed so that the government could use that person in their given capacity during a war (i.e. cooper smith or blacksmith).

Revolutionary War Index to Pensions is on microfilm #860 at NARA. When looking for Pension Records there are more pitfalls than just searching for Military Records. If you petition Washington, D.C. for Pension Records you need proof of who you are in relationship to your ancestor. And you may or may not get the entire file from Washington because you are dealing with "clerks" and whatever their whim is at that

time they read your request. Some may copy and send you the entire file with pages and pages of information; others may send you only a one sheet record which they deem as important. Rose Mary says to be persistent and write again filling out the form again. You just may hit on someone who will do the whole file that second time. Remember that the person you are searching for within the Pension Index had to show a need for a pension. There should be a pension application with the reasons listed as to why they wanted a pension. Even widows have to "give blood" to prove their need to draw their husband's pension. (A letter from the priest or minister who married them; relatives who were witnesses; proof of birth, etc.) In some cases, shown by Rose Mary, a husband who didn't particularly like his wife would fail to put her down under "spouse" and this made it very hard for her to collect his pension after his death. She had one applicant whose ancestor re-enlisted time and time again whenever a war broke out which it made it a little hard to follow the trail and still did not list his wife on the forms. Pensions were usually requested when the petitioner showed a need for the funds. Therefore, his was older and the dates are of a later time - still under the same person's name, just a later date. But if you can find a pension petition they are usually full of information of that ancestor. Rose Mary showed us a pension record of one of her ancestors where the name "Kennedy" was spelled differently - "Kenneday" - so watch for misspelled last names and make sure the information does sound right to you.

Microfilm #848 at NARA is the War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815-1858. The War of 1812 was fought between New York and Canada on the Plains of Abraham. Many men received compensation for their war efforts by receiving chunks of land within the United States rather than actual monies. So remember to check Bounty Land Warrants.

During the Civil War many men volunteered and some went from California east to fight for the cause they believed in. And most Civil War veterans did not serve in the Regular Army. Microfilm #T288 (1861-1934) at NARA is the General Index to

Pension Files Civil War - Union. There are multiple microfilm for Civil War - Confederate as well as Burial Registers for Military Posts, Camps, & Stations (1768-1921).

Remember the 1890 Census was destroyed but there is a widows and children's special schedule. Minutemen information will usually be found within the state that they served. The word "invalid" has two meanings: Invalid as in weak or sickly/or invalid as in not valid. Make sure you are understand which one it is when you see it! Some new microfilm: #M1784 - the Index to Pension Applications of Remarried Widows Before 1861; #M1785 - the Index to Pension Applications of Remarried Widows after the Civil War.

Rose Mary Kennedy is ready and willing to help any of us who come to NARA in San Bruno for a visit and research. She also gave us a handout covering the microfilm numbers for the Revolutionary War to World War II with a brief description of what each film covers. If you missed this meeting, try to obtain the list from a member who did attend.

NARA - Pacific Region E-mail:

sanbruno.archives@nara.gov Phone: 650-238-3501. Open weekdays 7:30 to 4:00 p.m. Closed weekends and Federal holidays.

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President:

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2nd V.P. Program:

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Recording Secretary: Helen Odegard 925-932-6796

Corresponding Secretary:

	Mary Tom	925-376-2756
Treasurer:	Ed Mason	925-838-7848
Parliamentarian:	Virginia Rood	925-937-8659

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR OCTOBER 2005

4 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting was held at the home of Helen Odegard in Alamo.

18 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.

25 Tuesday- 9:00 a.m. The Library Trip is scheduled to be to the Sutro State Library in San Francisco. Phone (415) 731-4477 It is located behind the Stonestown Shopping Center. They have one of the largest genealogical collections west of Salt Lake City.

Carpools meet BEHIND Albertson's on Diablo Rd., in Danville and leave promptly at 9:00 am. 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 NOVEMBER 2005

1 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting is currently scheduled to be held at the home of Ed Mason in Alamo.

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

No library trip is scheduled for November. Are members interested in having library trips in the future? A coordinator is needed as well as a showing of interest.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups OCT/NOV 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 will meet Tuesday October 18 after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m. at the home of

Jack and Barbara Johnson in Danville. Bring a bag lunch.

GERMAN – This group regularly has a meeting at someone's home on the fourth Wednesday. On October 26, they will gather at the home of Robert and Fran Schweitzer in Walnut Creek. For further details, 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 October 12 and November 9 (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail russpat@comcast.net for further information.

SOUTHERN – This group will meet October 11 and November 8 (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m.. The October 11 meeting will be held at the home of Suzanne Johnston in Danville. The November 8 meeting will be held at the home of Dorothy Humpal in Danville. Members of the group will receive directions via email.

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.

INTERNET INTEREST GROUP VIA EMAIL – Interested members communicate and receive email 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 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.

NEWS VIA EMAIL -

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. He keeps an email address list of

members. He will distribute messages a minimum of once a month. Members wishing to share news may send it to Ed. If it is deemed appropriate, it will be distributed. 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

11 October Tuesday 7:30 pm

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold one of their regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Chuck Knuthson will give a presentation about Research Facilities in the Golden State.

Future presentations at their meetings will be as follows:

8 November Frank Geasa Research at the Pleasanton Library

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. For further information, call Jackie Hein, (925) 827-4729.

15 October Saturday 8:30 am to 4pm
The California State Archives, The Sacramento Genealogical Society & The Historical Council of Sacramento Valley will sponsor a "Family History Day" at The California State Archives. 1020 'O' Street in Sacramento. There will be classes, demonstrations, exhibitors, and the Root Cellar's library will be open. Admission is free.

18 October Tuesday 7 pm to 9
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. Her presentation will explore the question of what is accepted as evidence.

Danville Family History Center News

Does anyone else out there feel overwhelmed at times trying to keep current with all there is to absorb each week regarding genealogy? I know I do. With Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, SRVGS's newsletter and emails, LAGS news, Ancestry's online product updates, TAG journals, notices for upcoming seminars, special interest group meetings, newsgroups, message boards, mailing lists ... the list goes on and on; so I am going to make this month's "news" from the Danville Family History Center simple:

"Come see and experience what is new at the library." In fact, even if you are a frequent visitor to the center, ask a staff member to show you some of the recent changes or ask for an explanation of a resource that you haven't used before. If you are a bit shy about asking for help, come when some of our very own SRVGS members are there. They are Chuck Rodekohr, Dorothy Stanton, Pat Isom, Barbara and Jack Johnson, Harry Baggett, Mike Fiorenza, Ron Frye, Gary Barton and Claudia Mortensen. We appreciate their hours of service to the library!

Linda Bailey
DFHC Director

Recently Overheard

"Please trace my genealogy back to Noah, and do you know when the Flood passenger lists will be on-line?"

"Back up my hard drive? How do I put it in reverse?"

"There's smoke coming from the back of my monitor. Do you think there's a fire in Salt Lake?"

President's Message

By Patty Erickson

I would like to introduce you (or reintroduce you) to our John Kopcie Memorial Tape Library. If you carefully read your Handbook, you will be aware of the large number of tapes that are available to you. In fact, there are 6 drawers full of tapes.

These tapes have a "C" or "M" before the number. C is a Conference tape from one of the well known Genealogical conferences throughout the country. M is a meeting tape which was recorded during one of our membership meetings. A symbol after the number denotes printed material accompanies the tape.

These tapes cover a broad spectrum of topics regionally throughout our country and many parts of Europe. They cover naturalization and immigration, how to find the women in your family, and specifics of finding the right man in your family by places, events, land records, and military records.

These tapes have knowledgeable speakers who present their material well. We have some tapes that have never been checked out, and others with only 2 or 3 uses. Maybe we need a drawer for seldom used tapes?

We would like to see our tape library more actively used by our members. In case you do not have a tape player, we have 2 tape players that are available for your use. They are easy to use, have good sound quality, and only require 2 double A batteries. We are always open to suggestions for better use, check out and return of the tapes. The easier it is to use, the more you will use the tape library.

Do not forget our newest addition! Bob Dougherty has CDs of Mary Jane DeRoss' first presentation to our group and also CDs of her workshop. They are excellent.

The internet might seem more fun than listening to a tape, but some good old fashioned factual foundation material never hurts.

Patty Erickson

NEW MEMBERS

Michael Blackford
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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.

Continuing Education

By Marilyn King

Our member education classes for OCTOBER are underway. Frances Lloyd graciously volunteered at the September meeting to teach a two session class on "How To Get Organized". The classes were immediately filled by the members in attendance.

Also in OCTOBER, Harry Baggett will be teaching a Family Research Class. "Using Computers for Genealogy" at the San Ramon Valley Center of Diablo Valley College, 3150 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon. The dates and times for this class are Mondays and Wednesdays, Oct 24th to Nov 2nd From 9:00 until 1:15 pm. The fee is less than \$20 for California residents. This is a great opportunity to research your family lines using Ancestry. Com - the family database resources and government records - "FREE". No previous computer experience is Necessary. For more information on this class, please call The Center at (925) 868-1822 or e-mail

Dr. Harry Baggett at hbaggett@srvc.net. Additional information is listed at <http://srvc.net/genealogy>.

OCTOBER is FAMILY HISTORY MONTH And the California Genealogical Society (CGS) has several events planned. FREE LECTURES will be held at the library and are open to members and non-members. Classes will be from 10:30 am to 12 noon on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Each Wednesday will be a repeat of the previous Saturday that featured a different and interesting topic. Go to www.Calgensoc.org and click onto "schedule of events" for more information. The address and directions to CGS are listed in our Handbook.

The ANNUAL FALL SEMINAR of the Concord/ Walnut Family History center and Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will be held on OCTOBER 15th at 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord. Check our September Newsletter for details. The September 30th deadline has been extended and limited space is available. Call Jackie Hein at (925) 827-4729 for further information.

Mary Jane De Ross will return to the Alamo Family History Center for a LIFE STORY WRITING WORKSHOP on Saturday, November 5th from 9 am

Until 12:00 noon. She will also be available to answer questions following the workshop. The session will be held in a classroom in the right foyer ("B" side of the building). Be sure to bring writing materials with you. Mary Jane has asked that we send a writing sample (paragraph or story) to her by October 20th. Her address is: 725 Oregon Street, Weed, CA 96094 or email

Please refer to the September newsletter for further information. Many of you have expressed an interest in the class. I will need to hear from EVERYONE who is planning to attend ASAP as space is limited for the workshop. Please e-mail me at:

Marmal@comcast.net or call (925) 376-1103

Thank you, Marilyn King, Education Coordinator

Ten Free Things to Do on Ancestry.com

by Anastasia Sutherland Tyler

Just about everyone loves free things, be it free food, free concert tickets, or free samples. So, without further ado, here are ten things you can do for free on Ancestry.com.

1. **Search Two Census Indexes** Ancestry.com offers two census indexes for free searching: the 1880 U.S. Federal Census and the 1881 England, Wales, Isle of Man, and Channel Islands Census. The 1880 U.S. Federal Census is an every-name index and the last census available census for the 1800s.

The 1881 census every-name index includes enumerations for England, Wales, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands.

2. **Get Search Tips for Specific States** You can easily find out what's available on Ancestry.com for each U.S. state by going to "Search Records" tab, scrolling down to the U.S. map, and clicking on a specific state. You'll be given a list of what you can find on Ancestry.com for that state, plus tips for searching for other records in that state. (Note that accessing articles for the online versions of "The Source" and "Red Book" requires a U.S. Records collection subscription.) "

3. **Download the FTM Trial Version** You can

Download and install Family Tree Maker 2005 Starter Edition, a basic form of the most popular family tree program on the market. This starter version gives you full functionality to the program for fourteen days. After that you can buy a key code that keeps the full functionality unlocked, or, if you don't buy the key code, you can continue to use the basic tree editing. You can update to the full feature set at any time. Use this starter edition to see if moving to Family Tree Maker is right for you, or to begin building your family tree if you're new to family history.

4. Download Family History Forms and Logs

Ancestry.com provides many commonly used family history charts to help you extend your family tree.

The downloadable charts are:

- Ancestral Chart
- Family Group Sheet
- Research Calendar
- Correspondence Record
- Source Summary
- Research Extract
- U.S. Census Forms, 1790-1930 (Plus 1890 veterans schedule and 1850 and 1860 slave schedule)
- U.K. Census Forms, 1841-1901

5. Add Messages to Message Boards

Message boards are an easy way to connect with researchers around the world. Ancestry.com houses message boards that focus on surnames, locations, and other topics of interest, such as adoption and cemeteries. To access the message boards, click on the "Message Boards" tab from the Ancestry.com home page. Here you can search the message boards for specific content or browse the message board topics.

6. Register in the Research Registry The Research Registry is a way for you to connect with people working on the same surnames or families as you. Access the Research Registry through the Message Boards tab on Ancestry.com

(www.ancestry.com/share/). On the right side of the page you'll see a box titled Research Registry. From here you can search for others working on specific surnames or add your own research profiles so that others can find you. Note that if you are not an Ancestry.com subscriber or registered site user, you

will probably have to register your name and e-mail address in to access the Research Registry. This registration is free.

7. Find Facts about Surnames Knowing some basic facts about the surnames you are researching can help you know when and where to search for ancestors. Enter Family Facts--information about surname distribution across the United States in the 1840, 1880, and 1920 federal censuses, Civil War service by surname, occupations by surname, surname's place of origin, ports of departure by surname, and name origins (for both given names and surnames).

Accompanied these facts are fields of text titled "How is this helpful?" and "What do I do next?" that may help you find new research paths. Access Family Facts by clicking on the Learning Center tab, and then clicking on the link under the "Family Facts" heading, or by going to:

www.ancestry.com/learn/facts/default.aspx.

8. Find Answers in the Knowledge Base The knowledge base is a little-known treasure trove of information about Ancestry.com. In it you can search though answers to many questions asked by our members or e-mail your question to Ancestry.com support. Access the knowledge base by clicking on the "Help" link in the upper right corner of most pages on Ancestry.com.

9. Find Articles in the Library You read the *Ancestry Daily News* every day. You might even print it out and save it in your reference binder. But did you know that each *Ancestry Daily News*, each featured article, and each quick tip is archived in the Library on Ancestry.com? Did you also know that articles (minus graphics) from past issues of *Ancestry Magazine* and *Genealogical Computing* are posted in the Library as well?

To access these articles, click on the Learning Center tab. Use the "Search the Library" box to find articles on a specific subject or by your favorite author.

10. Learn More in the Learning Centers

Ancestry.com houses ten Learning Centers--areas on the website where you can learn about various family history topics. Each learning center focuses on a family history concept or an Ancestry.com record collection, including census, vital, immigration, and

ilitary records. These topic-focused areas allow you to easily basic information on each topic, search tips both on and offline, success stories from other researchers, and much more.

Access Learning Centers by clicking the "[Learning Center](#)" tab from the Ancestry.com home page. Then click on one of the titles listed under "Learn More About" on the right side of the page. ."

Anastasia Sutherland Tyler is an associate editor for MyFamily.com, Inc.

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Ancestry Daily News, 16 September 200

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Interesting "find" this summer? Tell us what and how you dug it up....

*Share it with us. Email me -
"Newsletter Team" - Page 5*

**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

A VALUABLE LESSON

Several of the courthouse records are completely destroyed as a result of Katrina. The catastrophe of Katrina has taught us all valuable lessons. One thing we can do for ourselves is scan all of our important documents, papers and pictures (copy driver's license, SS card, deeds, wills, vehicle titles and etc.). Burn EVERYTHING to CD's and put everything into CD cases. Give copies to different relatives, put a copy in a safe or safety deposit box. If you know someone who does not have a computer or scanner offer to do their documents. Although most people will never be in a hurricane there are other natural disasters such as a fire or tornado [or earthquake] which can occur.

Dorothy Stanton found this posted on RootsWeb: