SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-8308
President: Patty Erickson
Coord. Editor: Dorothy Baker
Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of the Month
(Except August & December)
Alamo LDS Church
Sun Valley & Smith Rds.-Alamo

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Vol. XXII No. 2 July – 2006

THIS MONTH – Juy 18, 2006
"The Stories of My Ancestors" – A Gift of Our History

Barbara Samper has spent the last eight years researching and writing a history book using her ancestors as the "cast of characters". She strongly believes that they would want to be remembered not by birth, death and marriage dates, but by their personal stories. Before her father died, she asked him to write all that he remembered about his childhood and his ancestry. That was the beginning of a very exciting project.

Whiile visiting ancestral graves, many stones could not be read, and a family mausoleum was destroyed by vandals. Her early California pioneer family, consisting of 13 members, were all buried in the same cemetery, and only a few sticks were left where it is believed they were interred. She realized that at little cost she could erect a monument that would outlast stone, and provide her children and descendants with something they could read in their homes at any time.

Barbara will share the many ways she was able to research and write her book. From the Epigraph, a creative Copyright idea, Tables of Content, Introduction, Family Chapters, and the Epilogue she will show how we do not have to be a Cambridge graduate to produce a book of this type. She will also introduce you to a place where you can have as few, or as many books inexpensively and professionally printed.

Barbara Samper is a 4h generation Californian, but left the country for 17 years, living over 3 years in Lima, Peru, where she gave birth to two sons. From there she lived in Spain for 5 1/2 years, then Puerto Rico, a year in Boston, and then 3 1/2 years in Brazil. She speaks fluent Spanish and was fluent in Portuguese. After her sons left for college she started her own business. At that time she convinced the publisher of 14 newspapers that he needed a weekly column by an outstanding writer --- her! When he hired her, thankfully he never asked about the experience of this "outstanding writer". Her writing basically consisted of writing reports for her teachers on "How I Spent My Summer Vacation". The column was a huge success. As a result, she was asked to speak at schools and clubs throughout the County. She has a collection of many letters from her readers. As a result of her successful business, she was asked to speak at conventions all over the US.

Barbara lives in Danville, CA and is a member of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society.

JUNE MEETING
"Raking the Ashes" – Genealogical Strategies for Pre-1906 San Francisco Research
Speaker: Nancy S. Perterson *Reported by: Lee Schlenker*

Nancy Peterson is a National Certified Genealogist and a member of the California Genealogical Society (CGS). CGS asked her if she would be interested in revising an earlier publication, which CGS had published. Her committee started with three people and eventually came down to just her in this revision search. After spending two years "dumpster diving" in search of San Francisco ancestors,

she has published this above entitled book.

This two years of digging and digging netted her a wealth of information on how to get around lost records created before 1906 and the loss of those records in the 1906 earthquake. Nancy was mainly interested in the stories behind the information rather than the actual birth/marriage/death records you normally would look for. It took her a month just to write about the cemeteries in her book.

By finding old stored Columbarium records at the CGS facility attic in Oakland she started her long search. She used Crematorium records as well as organizations - i.e. the Odd Fellows Records of Death (IOOF).

Her quest started by trying to locate her grandmother "Mabel H. Webber" who had died at the Christian Scientists home and to find out where she was finally resting. Nancy found her death notice which stated she was interred at Alta Mesa Cemetery, but then shipped to Bay Cities Cemetery Assn. She had searched in Portland, OR to see if her grandmother had been interred with her grandfather, but had no luck there. A Columbarium is for ashes only, it was located in Richmond, CA and the Odd Fellows had owned it but let it fall into disrepair. They sold it in the1930s to Bay Cities Cemetery Assn. When the Columbarium was sold notices went out to family members still living that the urns would be shipped to Colma, CA for a fee. Those who couldn't afford that fee for the urn shipment the urns stayed at the Columbarium in Richmond and were considered abandoned. So, in her search there Nancy found in a listing for another ancestor's name, Anna Runge, but no Mabel Webber. When Nancy finally had a chance open the vault at the Columbarium there was an urn marked with the Hendy name - the husband and the wife together - and next to that urn the urn of Mabel Hendy Webber.
Success! This Richmond Columbarium has since been refurbished into the lovely building it once was.

Another ancestors name she was hunting for was "Farley" an Irish ancestor who died before the Book of the Dead was started. The New England Historical Society had added some San Francisco death names to their Irish lists but had mixed the name Joseph with the name John Farley. Could this be her relative? The dates were correct. Showing in the CGS minutes was a 1917 manuscript donated to them stating that the Nathaniel Gray Mortuary files had been transcribed and there were four copies made. Only one original copy remains today. There is one in Salt Lake City contained in 9 books and these contain death records in alpha order from the 1850s. A trip to Salt Lake to research to find out some records were in S.F. So, Nancy and Jane Lindsey, president of CGS, went to the S.F. Public Library Historical Records to dig. They were let in by a man who closely resembled "Digger O'Dell" and found him to be a wealth of information. They found exactly what they were looking for! These were IOOF records, probate records, etc. But these records really needed to be filmed - they were on the original parchment paper and fragile. (They have been filmed now.) Anyway, there were five ledgers regarding the 1850s and the fact the Nathaniel Gray was the owner of Lone Mountain Cemetery which had been moved and re-interred at the Yerba Buena Cemetery. There was no North Beach Cemetery which Nancy thought she was looking for. But it was mentioned the Pioneer Society had a cemetery - Laurel Hill Cemetery. Another place to search - and finally the records of John Farley were located! Years of dumpster diving - it pays off.

Things to Remember: Church records may have survived because many were outside the devastation area of the quake. The priest at Grace Church (south of Market St.) grabbed his record books, threw them in a baby buggy and ran to safer ground. Military Records will be in Washington, DC. Federal Court, Appeals Court records will be in Sacramento. San Francisco Annual Municipal Coroners Records can be found in Oakland and Berkeley. Medical Examiners reports sent to archives may contain some info from 1903. The CA State Archives has ledgers of people who wanted to join the Pioneers Assn. of CA. Land records had to be reconstructed and in these can be found listed heirs as proof they own the land; even maiden names were included in these records.

Nancy's book should be a footprint for you searching out other ways to find ancestors in records other places around the U.S.

This book is available through CGS, 1611 Telegraph Ave. - Ste. 100, Oakland, CA 94612-2154 at $19.95 plus tax and shipping.

Ben Johnson, 1572-1637
Confound these ancestors . . . they've stolen our best ideas!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR
July - 2006

10 Monday– 10:00 am. The Board Meeting will have been held at the home of Bob Doughtery in Dublin.

18 Tuesday – 10:00 am. 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. The speaker for July will be Barbara Samper. She is a member of SRVGS and will be speaking about writing her book.

SRVGS CALENDAR
August - 2006

Our Society does NOT hold meetings during the month of August. (SRVGS Standing Rules) Enjoy the break and look forward to meeting again in September. A Board meeting will be scheduled on Tuesday September 5.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups
JULY - AUGUST 2006

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@earthlink.net . Please NOTE the **new e-mail address.**
This group will NOT meet during July and August. The September meeting will be at the home of Dorothy Stanton in Danville.

GERMAN – This group will not meet during July or August. This group usually has a meeting at someone's home on the fourth Wednesday of a month. Fran Schweitzer is the contact person for the group. Phone 935–5744 or e-mail franschw@pacbell.net.

IRISH – This group will NOT meet during July or August. This special interest group otherwise meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am. 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 NOT meet during July or August. Their next meeting will be 10am September 12 at the home of Suzanne Johnston in Danville. This is the second Tuesday of the month. Members of the group usually receive directions via email. The contact person is Dorothy Stanton, Phone 820-3757 or email dpstant@hotmail.com.

INTERNET INTEREST GROUP VIA EMAIL – Interested members communicate and receive email messages via the address 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 current 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

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

13 July Thursday 7 p.m.
The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will have one of its regular meetings at the Concord/Walnut Creek LDS Church, 3700 Concord Boulevard in Concord. Rick Lemyre and Marilyn Merry will make a presentation and set up an exhibit about the Civil War. He is editor of Brentwood Times (etc.!!!) and a Civil War enthusiast. She has a collection of letters and memorabilia from an ancestor who was in the Civil War.

18 July Tuesday 7 p.m.

The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will have one of its regular meetings at The Santa City Library, 2635 Homestead Road in Santa Clara. Kathleen Orlenko will speak about "Handling and Storing Our Heirlooms." Ms. Orlenko is an archives conservator.

21 July Friday 9 am until 1:00 pm

"Federal Land Records" will be the subject of a presentation by Rose Mary Kennedy at the National Archives (NARA) in San Bruno. The cost is $ 15. For details call (650) 238-3488.

28 October Saturday 9am till 4 pm

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will sponsor a fall Seminar. Subjects will include land records, migration from UK and Europe, migration from Virginia through Kentucky and Ohio westward. Nine speakers will include Pamela Dallas, Richard Ferman, John Gleed and Inge Harding-Barlow. Registration fee will be about $ 24. Visit www.smcgs.org for more details and watch for the September newsletter.

On the Lighter SiDE

INEVITABLE LAWS OF GENEALOGY: Your grandmother's maiden name for which you've searched for years was on an old letter in a box in the attic all the time !!!!

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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Recording Secretary: Carol Huvane 925-947-5669

Corresponding Secretary:
Sandra Burns 925-648-4653

Treasurer: Ed Mason 925-838-7848

Parliamentarian: Virginia Rood 925-937-8659

Sorry, No President's Report this Month.....

Record Management and Research Plan

Most genealogists have trouble fighting "paper chaos" and many of us fail to make efficient research plans. This tip helps a lot with both problems: Create a simple chart; it might be done with paper and pencil, or in a spreadsheet or database. First, create column headers for each type of document you hope to collect, e.g. birth, marriage, death, obit, burial, probate, etc. (You can easily add to these headers later, as you think of more document types.) Make the first column head "Name of Ancestor." The first row of actual data might show your father's name, and checkmarks for all of the original documents you have for him. Now, list each of your direct ancestors, or the family members you wish to study, down the first column. You are now ready to create a "log" of the documents you have in your collection. Get your materials together, and review your original source documents. (You will likely be amazed at the new clues you pick up by doing this! I like to keep these important papers in acid-free sheet protectors, and organize them in 3-ring notebooks, by record type. This makes using them VERY easy to use.) As you work, place a checkmark in the appropriate box on your chart. When you are done, you can quickly see what records you have--and what you still need to find.

Darlene C. Joyce, CG
St. Paul MN
Ancestry Daily News Archive

NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Deadline 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.

From the Danville Family History Center

By Linda Bailey

Just a reminder that the Danville Family History Center will be **closed** for the month of **August** to give our wonderful, hardworking staff members a well-deserved break. If any of you have ordered films that will either arrive or expire during the month, the library will extend them to give you the normal 30 days. If you can't bear to be without a FHC trip during August, may I suggest visiting the Oakland FHC.

You will be happy to learn that it now has its own website at **www.oaklandfhc.org .** Check for operating hours, driving directions, class schedules, and a summary of its holdings. *Soon to appear* on its website will be the Athena catalog which will give you access from your home to the catalogs not only of the Oakland FHC but eventually to those of all its satellite centers including: Antioch, Concord, Livermore, Pleasanton, Danville (us), Hayward, Fremont, San Francisco, and San Francisco West.

Also, a bit of news from Salt Lake City: A complete collection of maps and guides outlining pre-1858 English Probate Jurisdictions (EPJ) will be available online through FamilySearch.org. The probate records of England are among the best genealogical sources for direct evidence of relationships. They are also among the most neglected sources because of the many variations in jurisdictions which governed the probating of wills prior to 1858. The EPJ maps and guides provide a wealth of useful information. The EPJ maps and guides include tips, tables, and color maps. Starting with Cambridgeshire, Essex, Kent, and London, FamilySearch will release the entire collection of maps or guides over the course of the coming months.

Happy hunting,
Linda Bailey
FHC Director

Ha! Ha! Ha!

Leroy paid a Big fee to have his genealogy looked up. Now he has to pay a Bigger fee to have it hushed up.

May all your ancestors be like vegetables in the Fall ……. Turnips!

Census Tip

I was interested in Quick Tips with reference to the census. I have been searching for my great-grandfather's family in the 1901 census using all the usual methods but with no success. As they lived in Bournemouth, Hampshire (a large town even in those days) I felt sure they could not have been missed out. I had 'lost' a great-grandfather, a great-grandmother, and seven children.

Using the search at Ancestry.com, I typed in the first name of my grandma, Rosanna, and her date of birth, county, etc. but omitted her surname. None of the resulting entries remotely matched 'my' Rosanna, so I decided to try 'Thursa,' the unusual name of my great-aunt using the same criteria. Eureka!

One entry matched exactly--apart from the surname. I wanted TUFFIN; this was GRIFFIN. After nearly two years I have found the whole family. (Rosanna was actually listed as Rose, which explains the difficulty in finding her!)

Others might like to try this method if they have 'lost' relatives with an unusual Christian name yet know all the other details about them.

Good luck everyone with your research,

Sue -

AWJ Editor's Note: You can submit correct names using the Ancestry.com "Comments and Corrections" feature. Just go to the search results and select the correct entry. On that page, in the right hand box titled "Page Tools," click on "Comments and Corrections." One of the options on the page allows for user provided corrections or additions for a record, such as:

- Transcription Errors
- Birth or Maiden Names
- Nicknames
- Name Variations
- Incorrect Originals

For more information on this tool, see the article in the Ancestry.com Library on Comment and Corrections

REMINDER

SRVGS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
DEAD LINE FOR DUES
July 31, 2006

Celebrate Ancestral Occupations

On September 4th, 2006 (the first Monday in September), U.S. residents celebrate Labor Day. It is also celebrated in other countries on various days. To many it is just a day off work. But Labor Day was designated as a tribute to the social and economic achievements and contributions of workers.
As with many things historical, there are differences about the origins. In honor of Labor Day, we urge you to investigate and celebrate your ancestral occupations.

Some Important U.S. Labor Day Milestones

Before 1882: Parades honoring workers were held in cities around the world.

1882: First Labor Day parades are held in Providence, Rhode Island and New York City.

1887: Oregon is the first state to establish Labor Day as a holiday (first Saturday in June).

1887: Colorado. Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York observed Labor Day on the first Monday in September.

1894: Labor Day, the first Monday in September, becomes a U. S. federal holiday; Canada's similar legislation followed a month later.

What Was Your Ancestor's Occupation?

Ancestry Daily Newsletter - Archive
30 August 2005

Many of our ancestors changed jobs or held more than one job. Your farmer ancestor may have also been a teamster--using his horse and wagon to haul items for other people as a way to supplement the household finances. Women may have had an occupation before marriage. Depending upon the family's financial status, an occupation outside the home may have continued for the woman. Use these historical sources to help determine what your ancestor did for a living.

City Directories: Check each year as the occupation may change. The name of the employer may be listed; follow that up by checking the employer's listing and there may even be a display ad for that company.

County Histories: An ancestor's biography entry might tell about occupations and employers; for business owners there may be a short history of the business.

Estate Inventories: The listing of an ancestor's belongings might list tools, supplies, or contents of a business as clues to the occupation (perhaps a furniture maker, shoemaker, farmer, harness maker, or patent medicine distributor!).

Newspapers: Articles and advertisements may give a clue to an ancestor's occupation or the local news column might give you a lead. Obituaries are often helpful in this regard; it may be the granduncle's obituary that tells about the family blacksmith business.

Church Record: In a Scottish church record I found a christening record that gave my great-great-grandfather's occupation as jailer. At ScottishDocuments.com (http://www.scottishdocuments.com) a jailer is "one who keeps a jail or is responsible for the security of a jail." In the U.S., the 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses list him as a painter.

Vital Records: If marriage license applications exist for your ancestral areas they may list the groom's occupation. Once birth records became more standardized, there are usually spaces for the occupation of the mother and the father. Death records often asked for the deceased's occupation.

Meaning of the Name: Another great-great-grandfather was named Schleicher. I did some investigating and found that this meant "butcher" and by golly, that is what he was. The name became Americanized as Slaker when he came to Wisconsin.

Place of Residence: Was it a company town, such as for a steel mill, a mining company, or a lumber camp? Did they live in a sea or river port? These may be pointers to possible occupations.

Tradition: Does research show that most members of the ancestral family were saloonkeepers, farmers, or carpenters? This can help determine what the other family members may have done. Keep in mind they may have been involved in a related occupation. Did your ancestor in the marble business supply the marble for the relative who was a tombstone carver?

U.S. Census Clues

Beginning with the 1850 enumeration, the U.S. census included a column for occupation. The

1920 census asked, "trade, profession, or particular kind of work done; industry, business, or establishment in which at work; whether employer, salary or wage worker, or working on own account." Earlier, the 1840 census asked for the number of individuals involved in mining, agriculture, commerce, manufacturing and trade, navigation of the ocean, navigation of canals, lakes and rivers, learned professions and engineers--all clues to occupations within household members. Some state census schedules also designate occupation such as the 1895 Iowa and the 1884 and 1894 Michigan enumerations.

Family Stories May Have a Bit of Truth

If the story about your great-grandmother says she attended Normal School, this was where she went to learn to be a teacher, not to become normal! A grandaunt told me her father was a police chief. She was young when he died and remembered his uniform. Turns out he was a volunteer fire captain--that was the uniform! You may find a relative does not want to tell you the truth about an ancestor's occupation. Social status, even today, is overly important to some people and the family stories may reflect that. Does the story tell the great grandpa was a doctor when he really was a patent medicine salesperson?

More Assistance

To better understand what your ancestor's occupation really meant, read articles about occupations in historical and genealogical publications. For example, over the years, there have been several "Ancestry Daily News" columns related to occupations, such as Pat Hatcher's August 16 article on occupations related to shipbuilding. Books, periodicals, and hereditary organizations exist for some occupations such as clockmakers, railroad telegraphers, or tavern keepers. RootsWeb has discussion lists related to specific occupations. If you have found your relative in the Social Security Death Index, send for the social security application to find the name of the employer at the time of application. Directions for applying are listed at their site and others that have the SSDI.

Celebrate Your Ancestors

This Labor Day as you plan that picnic, barbecue, or just simply a day off work, remind yourself and your family about the importance of your ancestral occupations and how their hard work contributed to the country in which they lived. Share the story of what they did to eke out a living, how tough that life was, and maybe how that occupation was learned.

Some Additional Reading

U.S. Department of Labor
http://www.dol.gov/opa/aboutdol/laborday.htm
Cyndi's List: Occupations
http://www.cyndislist.com/occupatn.htm
Detroit News article:
http://info.detnews.com/history/story/index.cfm?id=150&category=business
Web site: Deciphering Occupation Codes appended to the 1930 census in one step:
http://stevemorse.org/census/ocodes.htm

Written by:
Paula Stuart-Warren, CGRS, is a professional genealogist, consultant, writer, and lecturer.

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Monumental Clue

After reading so many of your Quick Tips, I have decided to submit one that I had used so many years ago in researching my Cruzen families in Greene County, Ohio.

I was at a loss to locate the whereabouts of the siblings of my great-grandfather. While I was visiting the county seat of Xenia, I picked up the local telephone book and scanned the ads for the monument companies in that area. One particular company stated that they had been in business since 1867 and so I paid them a visit. It was here that I found a tombstone ordered for a brother and delivered to Lima, Ohio. Additional information was gleaned from this knowledge and I continue to use this idea.

Shirley A. Cruzen Stevens,
Dexter, Michigan

Words from Alex Haley

In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage--to know who we are and where we came from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness.

Even the Good Ol' Days had a few Problems

I REMEMBER……..

* When the phone company owned our phone and they came to our house to fix it.

* When my grandmother had a wringer washing machine in her one-bedroom house

* When Dad told a friend that if a man was making $1,000 a month he had a great salary.

* When my Mom hung all our clothes on the line to dry .

* When my family was considered unusual because my mom worked outside the home.

* When there were no area codes or zip codes, yet somehow everyone found us.

* When we shared a phone number, called "party line" with our neighbor.

* When the TV stations would sign off at midnight, leaving a test pattern until the early morning farm report.

* When gas cost 29 cents a gallon.

* When some people dug "gall out" shelters in their back yard in hopes of protecting themselves from nuclear holocaust during the Cold War.

* When I never drank the last bit of milk in the carton because that's where the wax settled.

* When we wore gloves, hats and dresses to San Francisco to go shopping.

* When no one I knew flew on airplanes.

* When we only had one car.

* When there were no seat belts in cars or car seats for babies and toddlers.

* When typewriters had a key for cents.