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. 3 September – 2006

THIS MONTH – September 19, 2006
"San Ramon Valley, Alamo, Danville, San Ramon"

Beverly Lane is an elected Director of the East Bay Regional Park District and has an extensive record of public service. She is currently curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, with a special interest in supporting the 200 museum volunteers. She, her husband, Jim and family moved to Danville in 1973. She was Mayor of Danville three times, in 1984, 1988 and 1992.

A historian educated at Occidental College in Los Angeles, she helped organize the Museum of the San Ramon Valley (now housed in Danville's Southern Pacific Depot). She is a lecturer and an organizer of local history exhibits. Currently she is writing a column for the Danville Weekly titled "Presenting the Past". She has also served on the Eugene O'Neill Foundation Board and written about O'Neill.

Beverly's new book, written with photograph/artist Ralph Cozine, is a photo history of the valley and includes over 200 photographs with captions. It is called "San Ramon Valley, Alamo, Danville, San Ramon" and is available at the museum and local bookstores. The Museum current exhibit is, "The One Room School", features the six historic grammar school districts in the San Ramon Valley.

JULY MEETING
"The Stories of My Ancestors" – A Gift of Our History"
Speaker: Barbara Samper Reporter: Jean Hunt

Having fellow S.R.V.G.S. member Barbara Samper share the experiences of putting together her book, was an inspiration for all of us who are going to do that too. Many years ago, before her father died she asked him to write down all he could remember of their family information and over the year during her wide travels and raising a family she gathered more information, enlarging her family historical and genealogical knowledge wherever she lived whether it was in the United States, Spain, Brazil, Puerto Rico and finally back to California where she is a fourth generation Californian. During these years she had joined genealogical societies and lineage organizations like the Mayflower Society and had come to the realization that she wanted to write the stories of her ancestors. Not just any story but one that would honor her ancestors by presenting their stories to future generations as real living, breathing people, not just dates and lists.

Barbara bought the book "Print Publish Preserve, A Self-Publishing Guide for Family Historians" published by the S.R.V.G.S. which she felt helped her get started doing what she had wanted to for so long. Following the guidelines of the *Guide* she decided to make her family genealogy a story of her ancestors in history. So throughout the book she fleshes out her participants with the stories of the places, times and events in which they existed.

The *Guide* helped her make other decisions necessary in putting together a book. It helped in the writing, organization, contents, printing choices, publishing and finally selling of the product. Because of her research knowledge and use of a computer and the internet, she became aware of an

online site that was a great help in simplifying her choices and helping her to publish her book. It's called Lulu.com or http://www.lulu.com and it appears to be very user friendly.

Barbara regaled us with many fascinating family historical stories from her book and some serendipitous events that we all wish would happen to us. Because of the many ancestral characters who willingly wrote down their personal histories she was able to find and meet distant relatives who shared their discoveries and writings with Barbara. They gave her permission to use their writings. Barbara acknowledges this in her book.

Barbara was a very interesting guest and kept us fascinated throughout by her story. I am so happy that she shared her story, and her process for getting it into a book form with us.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR
SEPTEMBER - 2006

5 Tuesday – 10:00 am. The Board Meeting was held at the home of Carol Huvane.

19 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.

SRVGS CALENDAR
OCTOBER - 2006

3 Tuesday – 10:00 am. The Board Meeting is to be held at the home of Dorothy Baker.

17 Tuesday – 10:00 am. General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. The speaker at this meeting is scheduled to be Marston Watson. His topic will be "Keeping our Genealogy Alive".

SRVGS Special Interest Groups
SEPTEMBER 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 . The September meeting will be Tuesday September 19,after the general meeting at about 12:30 pm. at the home of Dorothy Stanton in Danville. Bring a bag lunch.

GERMAN – This group usually has a meeting at the home of a member on the fourth Wednesday at 10 am. Fran Schweitzer is the contact person for the group. Phone 935–5744 or e-mail franschw@pacbell.net
On Sept. 27th the German Group will meet at the home of Carol Huvane for their annual Oktoberfest meal. Please contact Fran Schweitzer for further details or to let it be known that you do not plan to attend.

IRISH – This special interest group will meet September 13 (the second Wednesday) 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 meet (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 am. On September 12, they plan to meet at the home of Suzanne Johnston in Danville. Members of the group usually receive necessary 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 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

15 September Friday 9 am

"Federal Land Records" will be the subject of a workshop at the National Archives in San Bruno. The instructor will be Rose Mary Kennedy. The cost will be $ 15. For more information, send an e-mail to: rosemary.kennedy@nara.gov

21 October Saturday 8 am to 4 pm

The 13th annual fall seminar will be hosted by the LDS Family History Center , 3700 Concord Boulevard in Concord. The registration is a $ 25 for the seminar and syllabus if you are registered by September 30. There will be 6 class periods in about 10 class rooms. For more information call Jackie Hein 925-827-4729.

28 October Saturday 9am till 4 pm

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will sponsor a fall Seminar at the Presbyterian Church, 25th and Hacienda Avenues in San Mateo. 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. The advanced registration fee will be $24. A lunch will be available for $8. Visit www.smcgs.org for more information

EDUCATION

Classes that will be held at Acalanes Adult Center - 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard, Walnut Creek, CA 94595
925-280-3989 Ext. 8001

GENEALOGY 06-5920
Class is for beginning to intermediate level students.
Sept 6- Nov 15
Wed. 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Computer Room A
Pre register, Fee: $20. for seniors

GENEALOGY SEMINAR 06-5921
Class discussion to solve individual research problems.
Wed 10:00 to noon
Computer Room A
Pre register, Fee: $20. for seniors

MASTER GENEALOGIST PROGRAM 06-5922
This is a basic course that will introduce students to an excellent Genealogy Software Program for keeping track of names, dates, events, places, photos, documents, and videos
Wed 3 - 5 p.m.
Computer Room A
Pre register, Fee: $20. for seniors. (class limit 22)

Register in person or by mail. Call (925) 280-3980 ext. 8001 for further information. You may also wish to contact the Rossmoor Computer Club at (925) 280-3984 located at the same location. They are offering various computer classes and seminars this fall.

Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family: Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. **Jane Howard**

President's Message
By *Patty Erickson*

August is the month of no meeting; a nice break at the end of the summer. Hopefully, you are enjoying the month to relax, travel, solve a genealogical problem, read a good book, tend the garden, complete a home project, or just thoroughly enjoy life.

I would like to share some helpful articles I have recently found in genealogical magazines. The first is found in the July/August 2006 issue of "*Genealogical Helper*". William Dollarhide has written an excellent article on "State Censuses and Substitutes: A Selective List for All 50 States". For instance, Iowa has wonderful state censuses. Several of my families are from Iowa. These have been most informative and helpful in my family research.

If you are a subscriber to Family Chronicles magazine, you are aware of their newest publication "Internet Genealogy". If it is on the internet, it will likely be in this magazine. It also has good information on how to get started.

Within SRVGS: Last month we discussed the possibility of library bus trips. In rethinking this, I feel that roughly 10 members are interested in attending such trips, and renting a bus and driver is not cost effective.

Tape rentals: for those who did not attend the July meeting--please be a responsible tape renter. Please return your rented tapes at the next meeting as you will be charged $1.00 for each month they are out. A few have been out up to 5 months. Consider that someone else might be waiting for that tape to be returned.

Program Committee: Please remember Sandra Burns asks that you let the committee know what you want in programs. This is the hardest working committee within our society, trying exceedingly hard to please our members. They gratefully accept suggestions not only on subject matter, but on individual speakers. Let the Program committee hear from you (and also some praise for good speakers would be appreciated!) Our Program Committee members are Bob Dougherty and Kathy Javdani.

Family Tree Magazine August - 2006
Massachusetts Research Guide - Page 37
Alaska Research Guide - Page 41

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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

1st V.P.
Barbara Dittig 925-648-9364

2nd V.P. Program:
Bob Doughtery 925-556-3302
Kathy Javdani 925-736-5464

3rd V.P. Membership:
Ileen Peterson 510-651-7728
Email: ileenpeterson@comcast.net

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

Why I do Family History Research

THE CHOSEN

We are the chosen. In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.

Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: Tell our story. So, we do. In finding them, we somehow find ourselves.

How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors, "You have a wonderful family: you would be proud of us." How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why do I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family. It goes to deep pride that the fathers fought and some died to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us.

It is of equal pride and love that our mothers struggled to give us birth, without them we could not exist, and so we love each one, as far back as we can reach. That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do.

With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are they and they are the sum of who we are. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take my place in the long line of family storytellers.

That is why I do my family genealogy. And that is what calls those young and old to step up and restore the memory or greet those whom we have never known before.

Google Books

After searching Ancestry.com and all of the other family history websites for ancestors and hitting a brick wall on some of them, I tried Google. Google offers a book search section (http://books.google.com/) where you can type in a name or place and find all kinds of information on a family member or the history of a town. You have to register with the site but it is well worth the time and effort. Some of the books are full view, meaning that the whole book can be viewed. Others have limited views or snippet views. You can find out where to purchase a particular book if you wish. There are many town histories available and even family histories. I have found my great-grandfather in one of the town histories.

Quick Tips - Ancestry - Kathy Bishop

"***DEAR ANCESTOR***"

Your tombstone stands among the rest,
Neglected and alone.
The name and dates are chiseled out
On polished marble stone.
It reaches out to all who care,
It is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist;
You died and I was born.
Yet each of us are cells of you,
In flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse,
Entirely not our own.
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled so long ago,
Spreads to those who would have loved you so.
I wonder if some how you knew,
That I'd find the spot, and visit you.

(Author Unknown)

Genealogy Online

OurTimeLines.com
<our timelines.com>
Geared to genealogists wanting to add a little historical context to their research, this nifty site generates color-coded timelines for your ancestors' lifetimes. Choose from historical events, natural disasters, technological advances and more

Obituaries.com
http://obituaries.com/Obits.asp
Looking for the obituary of a person who recently died? This website lists newspapers for the United States and Canada. If the person died recently (usually within the past 30 days), you can view the entire obituary. Use the search engine and imput a name which is somewhat unusual. May not list entire obituary but may list the person's name, age, date of death, and name of newspaper. You may be able to order a copy of the obituary. Use Google to find newspaper.

Digital Library of Georgia
dlg.galileo.usg.edu
Explore Georgia's history and culture as found in digitized books, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers and other materials. Content ranges from 50,000 aerial photos and databases of historical books to Southeastern American Indian documents (1730 to 1842) and three newspapers (the Cherokee Phoenix, Dublin Post and Colored Tribune).

Kentucky Historical Society
history.ky.gov
Click on Research, then on Research Databases to access the society's compilation of Kentucky cemetery records, which includes nearly 200,000 gravestone records from 3,000-plus cemeteries.

Louisiana State Archives: Confederate Pension Applications Index Database
www.sec.state.la.us/archives/gen/cpa-index.htm
Look for your Louisiana Confederates in this index of more than 49,000 names included in pension applications submitted to the state's Board of Pension Commissioners.

Michigan Cemetery Sources
michigancemeteries.libraryofmichigan.org
Search this Web directory of 3,700 Michigan cemeteries, then click the links to find transcriptions in books, microfilms and online.

North Dakota State University Institute for Regional Studies
www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/ndirs/bio&genealogy
If you have pioneer ancestors who braved the Upper Midwest prairies, this is the place to start looking for them. Among the databases here are the 1885 Dakota Territory census, naturalization records and an index to more than 59,000 names in obituaries published in the Fargo Forum newspaper.

St. Louis Naturalization Cards Index
stlgs.org/natsearch.aspx
The St. Louis Genealogical Society has posted 93,000
index cards to city court naturalizations between 1816 and 1906, when the federal government took over the citizenship process. Transcriptions of the cards give the person's country of origin, date and court of naturalization and names of witnesses. Check the user-friendly What Do I Do Next? page to learn how to find microfilm of the original cards and records.

The State of Wisconsin Collection
digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/WI
You'll find digitized books, manuscripts, sound recordings, photographs, maps and other resources in this online library. Materials include public documents, local histories, land survey records, and photos and maps of Milwaukee neighborhoods beginning in 1885.

West Virginia Memory Project
www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory
This site from the state archives includes a timeline, state documents, old photos, militia records, a periodical search and even a celebration of the Mountaineer State's historical highway markers.

Heirlooms we don't have in our family.
But stories we've got.
Rose Cherin

School Records as a Genealogical Source

In 1872, teachers in Dodge City, Kansas were supposed to obey these rules: "Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity, and honesty. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly." The rules for teachers are a little less strict today.

January and September are often thought of as "back to school" months. Since family historians are always searching for records in which to locate their ancestors and learn more details about them, this column will discuss school records as a genealogical source.

School records are often overlooked by genealogists and may include accounts, enumerations, district reports, 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. Native American school records and census reports have also been kept. 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. The records show the name of the head of the household (usually the father) or the name of the guardian, the name of school-age children, their gender, and each child's age. Nicknames of students are sometimes used. Also, the signature of the parent or guardian is shown. Some records show the occupation of the parent or guardian and the person's nationality. Students' grades are sometimes recorded. Teachers' names and names of school board members are shown in many of these records.

Some school records may also be found on the Internet. These include class lists, biographies of students and teachers, yearbooks, lists of graduates (often by year of graduation), school history, and school registers. One of the first places to look for American school records on the Internet is to search

the US GenWeb Project.

Texas is one example of a state where scholastic family census records have been kept. These records show the full name of the student, his or her birth date and age, the name of the county in which the family resides, parents' names, the student's length of time living in the school district, his or her nationality and post office address, and the name of the census trustee.

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.

School records are also sometimes published in genealogical and historical periodicals. Yearbooks, annuals, and alumni directories are available and may be found in school libraries, state and local historical societies, and public libraries. School newspapers may have been preserved in school libraries or on microfilm.

Finally, you may also be able to make contact with classmates from your high school or from another school. Classmates.com is one example of a school Web site established with the purpose of getting old high school classmates together, but there are others. All of these tools can help you find additional records to complete the search for your ancestors' information.

For Further Reference

- Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet: Schools
- Establishing a School Archives
- Morgan, George G. "A Primer in School Records." "Along Those Lines . . ." 23 June 2000.
- Smith, Juliana. "Back to School—School Records, That Is." *Ancestry Daily News*, 13 September 1999.
- Szucs, Loretto Dennis. "Education Records: Insights to Souls." *Ancestry* Magazine, January/February 1995, Vol.13, No. 1.
- Warren, Paula Stuart. "The Three Rs: Reading, 'Riting, and Research in School Records." 1999 FGS Conference (tape available from AudioTapes.com).

Kip Sperry is an associate professor of family history at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.
" Kip's Tips" - 1/9/2001 - **Archive**

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Web Sites

American School Directory
<www.asd.com>

DistantCousin.com Alumin Lists
<distantcousin.com/yearbooks>

I Dream of Genealogy School Records
<www.idreamof.com/school.html>

USGen Web Project
www.usgenweb.com:
click on you ancestral state and county

Cyndi's List: Schools
www.cyndislist.com/schools.htm

"River out of Eden" All organisms that have ever lived . . . can look back at their ancestors and make the following proud claim: Not a single one of our ancestors died in infancy. . . Not a single one of our ancestors was felled by an enemy, or by a virus, or by a misjudged footstep on a cliff edge, before bringing at least one child into the world. Thousands of our ancestors' contemporaries failed in all these respects, but not a single solitary one of our ancestors failed in any of them. Richard Dawkins,

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.

You're Beyond Help When:

* Your genealogical magazine, your income tax refund and Playboy arrive together in the mail, and you open the genealogical magazine first.
* Your long distance phone bill is more than your mortgage.
* Your house hasn't been redecorated in years, but your travel agent has added a wing to his office in your name.
* You go to a Disney movie and wonder about Mickey's ancestors.
* Even your pajamas have a magnifying glass in the pocket.
* U.S. Postal service has been able to reduce its deficit by 2% thanks to your support.
* Your children have to make an appointment to talk to you
* Your life is organized around LDS Library hours.
* You don't see anything wrong with the above statements.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

OCUPSYSHUN – CENCUS TAKER

OCUPSYSHUN - Cencus Taker: "I am a cencus taker for the city of Bufflow. Our City has groan vry fast in recent years and now in 1865, it has become a hard and time comsuming job to count all the peephil. There are not meny that can do this werk, as it is nesessarle to have an ejucashun, wich a lot of pursons still do not have. Anuther atribeart needed for this job is good spelling, for meny of the peephil to be counted can hardle speak inglish, let alon spell their nanes!!!!"

(from Jackson Co. GS N?L Mar 89 via The Root Digger Qtly Winter 89)