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
Stone Valley & Smith Rds., Alamo

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Vol. XXII No. 11 May - 2007

THIS MONTH – May 15, 2007

"The California Genealogical Society Library: A Genealogical Treasure Trove"

New library location at 2201 Broadway

Colleen Huntley will be our speaker this month. She will tell us about the California Genealogical Society's new home at 2201 Broadway, at 22nd and Broadway, in Oakland. After entering on 22nd Street, visitors will find the library in the lower level.

Colleen Huntley is a longtime resident of Danville and a member of the publicity committee at the California Genealogical Society & Library of Oakland. She has been interested in genealogy for much of her life, but began pursuing it with zeal at the urging of her mother-in-law. She has been researching and documenting her husband's paternal side of the family, which descends from John Huntley of Lyme, Connecticut, as well as the Mayflower lines of Alden and Priest. Her own genealogy is French Canadian and Lithuanian.

Colleen was publicity chair for last year's CGS Family History Month in October. She is currently recruiting speakers for this fall's event.

In her other life, Colleen and her husband, Scott Huntley, have a technical writing business. They have lived in Danville for 15 years and have two daughters who do not yet share their parents enthusiasm for history and genealogy.

APRIL MEETING

"Preserving Family History - An Archivist's Perspective"
Speaker: Maxine Trost Reported by: Lee Schlenker

We had an excellent speaker this past meeting and if you missed her you really missed something teeming with knowledge for us all! Maxine Trost holds a Masters Degree in History and Archival Management from New York University, has worked as an archivist in New York, Wyoming, Massachusetts and is currently Laboratory Archivist at Lawrence Livermore National Lab.

She gave us a hand-out as a guideline for preservation. Common harmful materials are: tape, glue, acid, lignin (from tree sap), dyes, pigments, rubber bands, staples, paper clips. Her biggest bugaboo - *don't use sticky notes*, ink pens or magnetic scrapbooks. There are other alternatives out there.

Identify and date everything. Put when, where, who, what, why - but put all this information *on* the acid-free folder which holds these items. Lay letters flat since creases tend to tear with time. Using acid-free sleeves is a good idea and are also available for photos and slides. Remember: if you have something written or drawn in charcoal this acid-free sleeve has a static field to it and will pull the charcoal away from the paper. So, understand your medium.

Understand the support and the medium: all items are *on* something (paper, film, metal, disc) and all items are recorded *with* something (ink, charcoal, albumen, magnetic coating, graphite). A disc may not last forever with its components. The glue used for laminating discs doesn't last very long. One rule of

thumb should be if you have your information digitized then *change* operating systems, you will need to update your digitalized information on that new operating system because the new operating system may not be able to read your old system. You need to keep it current. Not all operating systems will read one another. You could get stuck if you don't upgrade information when changing systems. Then there's additional binding materials: glue, coatings, and sizing. Know what you are working with.

Use archival materials for storage. Read labels when purchasing! And know your supplier!! Some manufacturers use the word "archival" loosely when the object may not really be acid-free. Acid-free (or buffered) paper, acid-free storage boxes are available. Use *unbleached* muslin ribbon for tying up items (old letters or Bibles). If you aren't sure something is acid-free just sniff it. If you detect any kind of an odor it is not acid-free - it's emitting gases and will most likely ruin your item in time. *Don't ever sniff mold!* (There is a dry sponge made to buff off mold from things. Wear a mask when working with molds.) One way to alleviate some acid causing deterioration is by placing a buffered paper between the two items. This will help absorb toxins. To check if something contains acid, there is the Abbey pH pen which will alert you to acidity or alkaline when used. Yellow line means there is acid; purple line means it's alkaline (it's okay). Use pencil - a photo pencil is available - for writing on the back of photos. Always lay books flat; don't stand them up on their edges. It breaks down the binding. Don't encapsulate anything in plastic: the acid kicks back on itself and will deteriorate the item.

Keep light levels low; keep moisture and temperatures low and constant; mold is always toxic; bio-organism (you and me) are the most damaging to your materials. Avoid the attic, garage, or basement. Find a dark and well ventilated corner and keep the boxes shut .

Finally, do you have a disaster plan for your valuable papers? We all have a disaster plan for our person and family, but how about your priceless papers? Remember that "wet things" can be saved and dried out.

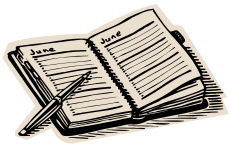
If you have questions for Maxine Trost she can be reached at: www.Trost5@llnl.gov

Two great catalogs for ordering archival materials:

1. Gaylord Bros. Archival
   P.O. Box 4901
   Syracuse, NY 13221-4901
   1-800-448-6l60
   www.gaylord.com
2. Light Impressions
   P. O. Box 787
   Brea, CA 92822-0787
   www.lightimpressionsdirect.com

Dry sponge: Gonzo Wonder Sponge (dry surfaces)
(They are in Canton, MA 0202l)
www.gonzocorp.com
Photo Pen: Prisma Color - non-photo blue
(from the above catalogs) By Sanford Co.

Acid-free storage boxes (various sizes):
The Container Store
Botelho Drive
(between California & Main)
Walnut Creek, CA



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR MAY – 2007

1 Tuesday– 10:00 am. The Board Meeting was held at the home of Kathy Javdani in Danville.

15 Tuesday – 10:00 am. The 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 will be Colleen Huntley – California Genealogical Society, New Location

SRVGS CALENDAR JUNE - 2007

5 Tuesday– 10:00 am. The Board Meeting will be held at the home of Vern Segelke in Danville, just off of Diablo Road and east of the 680 freeway.

19 Tuesday – 10:00 am. The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.
The speaker is scheduled to be Lisa Cook

SRVGS Special Interest Groups MAY - 2007

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. This group will meet Tuesday May 15th, after the general meeting at about 12:30 pm. at the home of Peggy Dearman in Danville. Bring a bag lunch. Peggy Dearman is the contact person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail pdearman@earthlink.net.

GERMAN – On Wednesday May 23rd (the fourth Wednesday) the German Group will meet at 10 am at the home of Robert and Fran Schweitzer . Fran Schweitzer is the contact person for the group; Phone 935–5744 or e-mail franschw@astound.net. 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 May 9th (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 May 8th (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 am. at the home of Dorothy Stanton in Danville. The June 12th meeting will be at the home of Peggy Dearman 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.

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. A reasonable number of members have chosen to receive their newsletter by email. The email edition even has added color. Ed 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

8 May Tuesday 7:30 pm
The Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society will have one of its regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. Barbara Leak will speak about "Searching for Soldier Ancestors".

9 May Wednesday 7:30 pm
The ***San Mateo Genealogy Society*** will have one of its regular meetings at the Peninsula Community Foundation, 1700 South El Camino in San Mateo near Hwy 92. Gayle Simons will speak about WWI Draft Registration Cards.

22 May Tuesday 1:00 pm
The ***Sacramento German Genealogical Society*** will have one of its regular meetings at St. Mark's Methodist Church, Lusk Drive and St. Mark's Way in Sacramento. Marion Wolfert will speak about Making the Most of Our Visits to Archives and Libraries.

9 June Saturday 10:30 am
The ***San Mateo Genealogy Society*** will have one of its regular meetings at the Peninsula Community Foundation, 1700 South El Camino in San Mateo near Hwy 92. Ron Filion will speak about Free Internet Genealogy Resources.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Dorothy Baker 925-952-9691
Email: DJDorothy@comcast.net
Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 925-828-8570
Email: v.m.seg3@sbcglobal.net
Mailing: Lucy Carver 925-837-3146

Deadline to put information in the Newsletter is the Last Thursday of the month.
Members are encourage to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or email to Coordinator.

President's Message
By Patty Erickson

We end our year 2006-2007 and begin a new year 2007-2008. As the outgoing President, my thanks go to our Board members and Chairpersons who responsibly and capably fulfilled their jobs this year. We all actively shared ideas, suggestions, and possibilities to further our Society.

We are sadly losing two of these persons. First, Education Chair Marilyn King, who has worked so well to set up classes and also keep us knowledgeable of worthwhile activities and classes in our area. Second, Bob Dougherty, our past Treasurer and now Co-Program Committee Chairperson for the last 2 years. Bob has been an outstanding member of our Board and we will miss his input and energy.

We are, however, welcoming two new members to our Board in June and two new Chairpersons. You will hear more about them next month.

Thank you for doing two surveys at two Membership meetings. Our goal is to help each of you by scheduling classes, speakers, and mini-educations to fit your needs and interests. we are always open to your suggestions; please do not wait for another survey.

Personally, for me, I have greatly enjoyed serving a President these last two years. As a Charter Member of this Society, I have watched its growth, changes of meeting places, welcomed new members, seen friends and members move away, and current members age gracefully. Many thanks to each of you for all your support and interest!

Best of luck to Ed Mason, our first gentleman President.

SRVGS New Members

* **Nancy Donovan**
* **Robert "Bob" Whitmer**
* **Jim Christie**

SRVGS Slate of Officers For 2007-2008

The Nominating Committee would like to present the following people who have volunteered to lead the SRVGS for the 2007-2008 year. Election will be held at our next meeting – May 15, 2007.

President	**Ed Mason**
1st Vice President	**Barbara Dittig**
2nd Vice President (Programs)	**Kathy Javdani** **Clarice Hart** **Lisa Cooke**
3rd Vice President	**Russ & Patty Erickson**
Recording Secretary	**Carol Huvane**
Corresponding Secretary	**Vern Segelke**
Treasurer	**Ileen Peterson**
Parliamentarian	**Virginia Rood**

A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.~ Tenneva Jordan

A mother understands what a child does not say. ~ Jewish proverb

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

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

NEWS FROM THE DANVILLE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

The Danville Family History Center enjoys a delightful and mutually beneficial relationship with the SRVGS. We are pleased to be able to host the society's monthly meetings at the LDS chapel and to keep the library open as much as possible for society members to utilize our materials and computers.

I wish we could still offer ancestry.com, but maybe an agreement will be reached allowing us to do so again. Keep your fingers crossed!

Under Bob Doughtery's and Ed Mason's tutelage, we also hope to be able to hold many more classes at the FHC similar to the recent 3 week class on Family Tree Maker taught by Ed. Please let us know what topics you would like for future classes.

On the reciprocal side, we at the FHC depend in no small measure on your expertise, knowledge and dependability in serving as staff at the library. You are terrific. I owe a big thanks to many of you, including Dorothy Stanton, Barbara Johnson, Jack Johnson, Mike Fiorenza, Harry Baggett, Peggy Dearman and Claudia Mortensen. These volunteers have been coming faithfully week after week (even year after year) allowing us to keep the FHC open 20 hours/week. But, even the hardiest and most committed workers need a break. If volunteering at the FHC is something you might consider, I'd love to hear from you – just give me a call at 314-1786 or drop by the FHC sometime and check us out.

Linda Bailey
Danville FHC Director

Alamo Family History Center
2949 Stone Valley Road
Alamo, California 94526
Phone: (925)552-5920
Hours open: M,W,Th, 10AM - 4 PM and Tuesdays, 7PM - 9PM

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother." **– Abraham Lincoln**

CONTINUING EDUCATION

If you were not able to attend the recent ORGANIZATION classes given by Frances Lloyd, there will be another opportunity this summer or fall. A waiting list has been started. We will need to hear from you as classes are small and tend to fill up quickly.

Another BEGINNERS session to be taught by Marge Bell will take place at the FAMILY HISTORY CENTER in OAKLAND on SATURDAY, MAY 12 at 2:00 p.m. You may call 510-531-3905 or visit their website at http://www.oaklandfhc.org for further information. Be sure to check the schedule for any upcoming classes.

Our society is on the threshold of offering many new and exciting programs. The recent surveys that were completed by our members helped to identify many needs and interests. In the future there will be more emphasis on technical related subjects such as: computer usage, backing up records, digital cameras, scanning slides and genealogy software.

In addition, there will be classes pertaining to land records, probate, wills etc. We will need members to share their knowledge by presenting one or more of these subjects.

Please call or e-mail me with your specific requests for classes and we will try to comply with your wishes.

Marilyn King
Education Coordinator
marmal@comcast.net
925-376-1193

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." **~ Thomas Alva Edison**

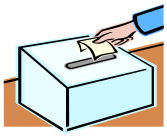
"The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one."
~ Mark Twain

TIPS FROM THE PROS

Copyright & Fair Use Guildlines

from George G. Morgan

One of the most misunderstood issues among researchers is that of copyright and fair use. Small portions of copyrighted materials may be copied or quoted so long as they are properly cited, giving credit to the owner/author. However, it is important that the owner of the copyright not be deprived of his or her intellectual property, or of any potential income from the copyrighted material's use. As an example, genealogical researchers should not be photocopying entire books or large portions of them, thereby depriving the author of potential income from the sale of a copy of the book. Stanford University's website about this topic can be found at fairuse.stanford.edu and provides a great deal of useful information. **Ancestry Daily News 4/21/2007**



Voter Registration Records

from George G. Morgan

Many counties and municipalities maintain their voter registration records for extended periods of time. While censuses were taken every ten years, a voter registration roll may provide verification in those years in between to help you confirm that your ancestor may have been in an area. It also is helpful to do a little preliminary research into the voting laws at the time. If your ancestor was on a voter roll and the voter residency requirement at the time was one year, that knowledge can verify that your ancestor was in a location for at least that long. By the same token, if a decennial census record shows your ancestor at a location and not on the voter roll, it could indicate that he may have been a new arrival and had not been there long enough to meet the residency requirement **Ancestry Daily News 4/8/2007 -**

Sources Off the Beaten Track

from Loretto Dennis Szucs

What more can you learn about your ancestors after you've milked all the usual sources? Census records and information sources that provide us with landmark life events such as births, marriages and deaths will always be critical to learning more about family members and others who have in influenced our past. However, because of habit or because we don't think beyond these commonly-used sources, we often overlook a wonderful array of "hidden sources."

Sometimes it helps to tickle the imagination by going through the genealogy pages of the National Archives, or to look through lists posted on the websites of your favorite state archives, the RootsWeb free pages, FamilySearch.org, or under the database descriptions at Ancestry.com.

There are lesser-known record sources for almost every letter of the alphabet. Did you know that there are incredible stories about the people who lived along the shoreline of any navigable waterway of the United States, including lakes, rivers and canals in the Admiralty Court records that can be found in the regional offices of the National Archives?

"Bodies in Transit" is another unusual set of records. In an effort to stem the spread of communicable diseases, local governments in many states required that bodies arriving in their jurisdiction be registered. Some have been microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah and can be found for a number of places in the U.S.

Think about where your ancestors or people of interest lived. What kinds of records would include them? Were they members of fraternal orders, were they included on tax lists, slave schedules, religious records, or alien registrations? Were they included in a necrology, a midwife's record, or a medical record? Were they involved in an accident that led to a court case? Did they leave any kind of a paper trail in court records?

The possibilities are almost endless. Start a list and let the search begin. 12/29/2006 - **Archive**

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Ancestry Daily News

Bragging Rights!

by Maureen Taylor

There are many ways to tell your family story. You can write a genealogy, create a DVD, or design a family website. But there are other options, too. You could make a quilt. These testaments to a women's skill with a needle are centuries old. Traditionally, bed coverings are collections of colorful cloth stitched together into a pattern. Each one is a valuable family treasure and artifact, yet some are more family history oriented than others.

Signature Quilts

Signature quilts feature names. They became popular in the mid-1800s when friends and relatives would make them as going away gifts for families moving away. Each block of fabric features a signature in stitching. Today, there are variations that include transferring historical signatures from documents or showing off your penmanship using permanent markers. If you want to learn more about creating one, follow the tips and instructions on Equilters.com.

Photo Quilts

Instead of handwriting, how about turning your quilt into a fabric photo album? Each block contains an image. All you need is a scan of a picture or document, some photo transfer paper, fabric for a quilt, and an iron. Photo transfer paper is readily available in fabric stores and art supply shops.

You design the decorative elements for each block, but photos are the centerpiece. Purchase the right paper for your printer and follow the directions exactly. Remember, you'll have to reverse the image for it to look correct once ironed onto the cloth.

Once you've printed the picture on the special paper, you'll need to use an iron to heat-transfer the image to the fabric. It only takes a few minutes. I advise buying extra fabric and paper just in case you make a mistake. Soon, you'll be ready to piece your quilt together an image at a time. Use the search feature on Equilters.com to see examples of photo quilts.

If you don't want to make one yourself, there are companies available that will create a quilt using photos that you supply. Search for **photo quilt** to get an idea for what kinds of quilts are available.

"Voice Quilts"

New to the market is a different type of quilt—-it's a collection of voices. Voice Quilt offers you a chance to record family history stories in a digital file.

You purchase a set number of minutes (the maximum is five hours), invite folks to participate either using the e-mail service offered on the site, by sending paper invitations yourself, or by phoning family with the details about the toll-free number and access code. Then let them do the talking. Each call can be a maximum of fifteen minutes.

Once complete, save the recording to a keepsake box (available from Voice Quilt), e-mail the file to participants, and download it to your computer. It's a great way to record the history of a photograph or a family story. Create one for a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary. It's as easy as dialing the phone and as comfortable as talking to an old friend.

What's Your Favorite Quilt?

As you've seen here, there is certainly more than one way to share family history. Try these three techniques to creatively express your genealogy, and you'll be able to brag about family without talking.

Maureen Taylor, is "The Photo Detective." She writes about family history and photography on her blog at www.photodetective.com.

Ancestry Daily News
3/25/2007

In the March Issue of *Better Home and Gardens* , an article was written about a lady in Minnesota that created a quilt telling the story of her grandmother, who at age 8 was sent away on an orphan train and essentially became another family's indentured servant. She gave it to her mother on her 75th birthday. She has since inspired other women to make biographical quilts.

Several of our members are avid quilters. Fran Schweitzer, Jane Steiner and Peggy Gierke do quilting. Do you have a quilt telling your family's history?

"What Mother Taught me……."

To Value A Job Well Done
"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
Time Travel
"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
Logic
"Because I said so, that's why."
Foresight
"Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."
Irony
"Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about."
Osmosis
"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
Stamina
"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
Weather
"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."
Hypocrisy
"If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"
Circle Of Life
"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."
Behavior Modification
"Stop acting like your father!"
Envy
"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
Anticipation
"Just wait until we get home."
Receiving
"You are going to get it when you get home!"
Medical Science
"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."
How To Become An Adult
"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."
Genetics
"You're just like your father."
Wisdom
"When you get to be my age, you'll understand."
Justice
"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you"

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

SRVGS Membership Application

2007-2008

It's time to renew your membership and pay your annual dues which support our educational programs, and provide knowledge to find our ancestors. Please fill out this form and send it with your check made payable to **SRVGS** to P.O. Box 305, Diablo CA 94528-8308 Thank you

NAME: Mr./Miss/Ms./Mrs. _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ Zip:_____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

$ _____Dues: [ ] $15.00 Single [ ] $20.00 Family
$ _____Donation for National Archives Records Admin. (NARA) Records Microfilming project ($1.00 suggested)
$ _____**$2.50** added, **please**, if you desire a handbook/directory mailed to your address and can't pick one up at the meeting.
$ _____**$2.00** if you would like a "second" handbook/directory

$ _____ **Total amount of check** **DEAD LINE FOR DUES IS JULY 31, 2007**

[ ] **Please** - Check here if you **DO NOT** wish a Handbook/Directory, so we won't print unneeded copies.

SRVGS "Surname and Locality Searcher"

We (SRVGS) have a surname/locality file. We have a number of members who are searching records for various surnames, states and countries. We are hoping this file would enable members searching in the same areas to share research information and techniques. Please complete the following form and return with your membership application.

How does it work? The file is divided into two sections. The first is an alphabetical list of our members with their personal code. The second section lists state and countries, plus surnames being researched.

Country	State	County	Surname	Dates	
Germany/Schiffeck			Eggers	1834-1868	(Sample)

Your Name _____ **PLEASE, PRINT**

Surname _____Area _____ Time Period _____

Surname _____Area _____ Time Period _____

Surname _____Area _____ Time Period _____

Surname _____Area_____ Time Period_____

(Please use back of form to submit additional names or second sheet)