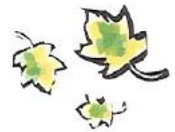




San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society



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Celebrating 25 Years!

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXV No. 4 October - 2009



THIS MONTH – October 20, 2009
" Scandinavian Research "
Presented by: Mel Stephensen



Mel begins with a review of the geography and history of Scandinavia. He then describes the purposes of the Scandinavian genealogical records and their accessibility, as well as the role of the State Church in creating these records. Some naming customs will be addressed, along with the study of the languages and handwriting of these records. He will review the parish, census, probate and civil records, as well. Mel will then introduce us to online Scandinavian records, followed by a practice trial of reading some parish registers from all three countries: Norway, Sweden, and Denmark .

Mel was born in Ogden, Utah, but was a product of the California schools--completing grades 1-12 in Merced, California and graduating from California State University, San Francisco. Further, he retired after 33 years of teaching high school Biology and Ornamental Horticulture. He had the honor to become the first park naturalist at Donner Memorial State Park from 1957-1959 and much later learned an ancestor had been a member of the rescue party! Mel, with his wife, Elizabeth, have four children, 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Mel began volunteering with the Sacramento LDS Family History Center in 1964; he and his wife served as co-directors until 2006. Mel first served as a Missionary for the LDS Church in Western Canada before marriage. He received training in Scandinavian Research from Brigham Young University and while serving with Elizabeth as an LDS Missionary in Denmark, in 1990-1992, he had the opportunity to work in the archives in Copenhagen. He is currently a missionary with the World Wide Family Search Support of the LDS Church. (Thanks to L-AGS Publicity Flyer, Aug. 12, 2008, & Mel Stephensen)

September Meeting

**"Holm Family Cookbook: A Culinary Tale of Danish Tradition and
Western Lore in the Golden State of California"**
Speakers: The Holm Family Reporter: Lee Schlenker

Our speakers this past month were four delightful ladies all descendants of the Danish family "Holm" who came to settle in the Livermore Valley in the 1860s. We were privileged to hear their ancestor's stories, to view their unique cookbook which was a joint effort by all

the descendants and to see some of the wonderful artwork done by "Tilli" Calhoun. The cookbook was a labor of love taking 8 years to complete.

Carl Holm immigrated for Denmark to California in 1869 at the age of 19 years with a dream of owning his very own land. He ►



The Holm Family Presenters: Nancy Mueller, Patsy Neely, Wendy Howe, and Tilli Calhoun

worked extremely hard saving his money, married Ida, bought a chunk of land in Livermore, built their home (named Fair View) and raised their eight children. The farm was located on the now-known corner of Isabel Ave. and Stanley Blvd. Fair View was quite a substantial farm with palm trees, walnuts trees, a barn for the cows (dairy), a barn for the horses, a barn for the milk processing, long barn for the plows and farm equipment, plus another house for the Aunts who lived off to one side of Fair View. The Holms raised pigs, chickens, had a huge vegetable garden - they were known for their red onions. Dick, the youngest son of Carl and Ida along with his brother, Leslie, purchased land on Mines Rd. in Livermore and established the Circle H Ranch. These brothers farmed and ranched both parcels of land. Dick married Ione Teeter, had five children, and were active in their community. Ione was a great cook and would bring large quantities of food out to locations where her husband and his crew would be hard at work. She was also known to entertain her family, nine grand children and their families (or anyone who just dropped by) on Sundays. There was always plenty of food.

This Holm family supported the 1892 Dannevang #7 Lodge (for the men) and the 1905 Danebod #16 Lodge (for women) and was instrumental in creating the Dania Hall Grand Lodge in 1911. While at a lodge meeting in San Francisco in 1906 there was an earthquake and it took them three days to finally get back to their home in the Livermore Valley.

The family has been active in the Livermore Rodeo when it started to support the Red Cross in 1918. They have kept up the support ever since. Tilli Calhoun has been their Grand Marshal for the rodeo parade before. And many of these Holm descendants have participated in the Alameda County Fair.

The cookbook was a culmination of five generations of cooking. In this book there is a breakdown of what was becoming available generation by generation. Ida was the first generation to use only fresh ingredients in her cooking (1870's to 1900's). But then came the start of "manufactured" foods. By the second generation (1915) there were now refrigerators and cooking really starts to change. About 1928 and beyond, the third generation gets more changes in foods. The fourth generation (60's to 70's) experience faster foods and the microwave oven. The fifth generation, in the 90's, had Starbucks, energy drinks, farmers markets were more available.

The Holm Danish cookbook contains not only great family recipes that have been tested and re-tested (the men got to test-taste the rattlesnake dish!) so they are accurate and exacting in their ingredients, but it contains short stories of the farm life, the people, experiences as well as family pictures along side recipes. It contains the family lineage in the back. One story Ida told was back in the 1860's things were very bad and in order to generate money they would collect the clean bones of the slaughtered animals, drive them to San Francisco to sell to the button makers. ►

A little about our four speakers: Merilyn "Tilli" Holm Calhoun along with her twin, Frank, are the oldest children of Dick and Ione Holm. She was her grandmothers shadow in the kitchen. She has been an active member in Livermore Heritage Guild, Livermore Art Association, Livermore Cultural Arts Council. She has three daughters and two grand daughters. And she and her husband Wayne enjoy entertaining at their "Party Barn" in the Livermore Hills. Nancy Calhoun Mueller and her husband Bob live near the Circle H Ranch in Livermore. She works at the Bankhead Performing Arts Theater as marketing manager. Inspiration for the family cookbook came from her involvement in publishing of the Livermore Valley Wine Growers cookbook. She is also entertainment coordinator at Tilli and Wayne's "Party Barn." Wendy Neely Howe is the "5 ingredient" cook and creates the family Spritz Cookie recipe perfectly. She works in design, display and packaging. Wendy and her husband, Warren, prepare for extended family gatherings in their home which is Dick and Ione Holm's final home in the Livermore Hills. Patsy Holm Neely the youngest of Dick and Ione's five children spends summers in the pastry department at Wente Vineyards as well as the wine department at the Alameda County Fair. She's an active member in the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club and the Alameda County Cattlewomen association. Wendy is the "Martha Stewart" of the family paying attention to detail in both recipes and presentation of the dish.

Their recipe book started out with just taking collected recipe cards to Kinko's to run off just for the family members. But it got bigger and bigger and required help from an editor at Wente in editing. They chose a designer to help make decisions. They had to test, test and test those recipes. And after eight years of testing and editing - and the family never disagreed - the book came to fruition.

There's more information on their website: www.holmfamilycookbook.com

Their mantra: Some eat to live, we live to eat!



President's Message

Halloween has become one of America's favorite holidays. Last year Americans spent more than \$3 billion on Halloween candy, costumes, pumpkins and decorations. Millions of children (and adults!) look forward to this happy event.

But it hasn't always been so. Once upon a time, Halloween was a night to be feared, when the dead walked the earth.

History traces Halloween back to the ancient religion of the Celts. The Celtic people were very conscious of the spiritual world and had their own ideas of how they could gain access to it - such as by helping their over 300 gods to defeat their enemies in battle, or by imitating the gods in showing cleverness and cunning. Their two main feasts were Beltane at the beginning of summer (May 1), and Samhain at the end of summer (Nov. 1). They believed Samhain was a time when the division between the two worlds became very thin, when hostile supernatural forces were active and ghosts and spirits were free to wander as they wished. The Celtic priests who carried out the rituals in the open air were called Druids, members of pagan orders in Britain, Ireland and Gaul, who generally performed their rituals by offering sacrifices, usually of animals, but sometimes of humans, in order to placate the gods; ensuring that the sun would return after the winter; and frightening away evil spirits. To the Celts, the bonfire represented the sun and was used to aid the Druid in his fight with dark powers. The term bonfire comes from the words "bone fire," literally meaning the bones of sacrificed animals, sometimes human, were piled in a field with timber and set ablaze. All fires except those of the Druids were extinguished on Samhain and householders were levied a fee to relight their holy fire which burned at their altars. During the Festival of Samhain, fires would be lit which would burn all through the winter and sacrifices would be offered to the gods on the fires. This practice of burning humans was stopped around 1600, and an effigy was sometimes burned instead. Samhain was the supreme night of demonic jubilation. Spirits of the dead would rise out of their graves ►



and wander the countryside, trying to return to the homes where they formerly lived. Frightened villagers tried to appease these wandering spirits by offering them gifts of fruit and nuts. This is the origin of our present day "trick-or-treat." They began the tradition of placing plates of the finest food and bits of treats that the household had to offer on their doorsteps, as gifts, to appease the hunger of the ghostly wanderers. If not placated, villagers feared that the spirits would kill their flocks or destroy their property. The problem was... if the souls of dead loved ones could return that night, so could anything else, human or not, nice or not-so-nice. The only thing the superstitious people knew to do to protect themselves on such an occasion was to masquerade as one of the demonic hoard, and hopefully blend in unnoticed among them. Wearing masks and other disguises and blackening the face with soot were originally ways of hiding oneself from the spirits of the dead who might be roaming around. This is the origin of Halloween masquerading as devils, imps, ogres, and other demonic creatures. Trick or Treat has been thought to have come from a European custom called "souling". Beggars would go from village to village begging for "soul cakes" made out of square pieces of bread with currants. The more soul cakes the beggars would receive, the more prayers they would promise to say on behalf of the dead relatives of the donors. At the time, it was believed that the dead remained in limbo for a time after death, and that prayer, even by strangers could guarantee a soul's passage to heaven. In many parts of Britain and Ireland this night used to be known as 'Mischief Night', which meant that people were free to go around the village playing pranks and getting up to any kind of mischief without fear of being punished. Many of the different customs were taken to the United States by Irish and Scottish immigrants in the nineteenth century, and they developed into 'trick or treat'. When Christianity spread to parts of Europe, instead of trying to abolish these pagan customs, people tried to introduce ideas which reflected a more Christian world-view. Halloween has since become a confusing mixture of traditions and practices from pagan cultures and Christian tradition. The Romans observed the holiday of Feralia, intended to give rest and peace to the departed. Participants made sacrifices in honor of the dead,

offered up prayers for them, and made oblations to them. The festival was celebrated on February 21, the end of the Roman year. In the 7th century, Pope Boniface IV introduced All Saints' Day to replace the pagan festival of the dead. It was observed on May 13. In 834, Gregory III moved All Saint's Day from May 13 to Nov. 1 and for Christians, this became an opportunity for remembering before God all the saints who had died and all the dead in the Christian community. Oct. 31 thus became All Hallows' Eve ('hallow' means 'saint'). Sadly, though, many of the customs survived and were blended in with Christianity.

Halloween arrived in North America with the early colonists. However, because of the Puritan influence in New England, it was mostly confined to the Scots-Irish of the Southern Colonies.

Colonial Halloweens were celebrated as Harvest Festivals, with lots of eating and drinking, music, dancing, ghost stories and fortune telling. (All of these were things that were disapproved of in Puritan New England.) Some more of our modern Halloween symbols were introduced at this time, as traditions were blended with Native American harvest festivals. Corn stalks and pumpkins - unknown in Europe before the discovery of North America - became part of Halloween imagery.

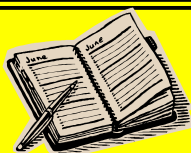
But Halloween really arrived in America with the massive Irish immigration of the 1840s. The Irish brought their Celtic Halloween traditions with them and wove them into the fabric of American society.

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John Retzer has worked as a professional journalist, photographer, editor, public relations professional and golf coach. He currently teaches economics, political science and history. In his "spare time" he runs several websites and blogs, including Top Halloween Links at www.thingsinthebasement.com and Golf Blogger at <http://www.golfblogger.com>

This article is derived from his lectures on the History of Halloween. ■





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

October 2009

- 6 Tuesday – 10:00 am.** A Board Meeting was held at the home of Janet Broderick in Danville.
- 20 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

November 2009

- 3 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** A Board Meeting will be held at the home of Gail Roche Van Wye in Orinda.
- 17 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



THE MASTER GENEALOGIST INTEREST GROUP

This is a genealogy software users group for PC's with their focus on the use of The Master Genealogist. This group will meet October 20th at the home of Barbara Johnson in Danville after the General meeting, about 12:30 pm. Plan to bring your bag lunch. Barbara Johnson will be the interim contact person for the group. Contact Barbara by Phone 837-2153 or e-mail bcj616@earthlink.net



GENEALOGY COMPUTER SOFTWARE USERS GROUP

This is a genealogy software users group for PC's. They will meet Wednesday October 21 at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. They plan to have future meetings on the

third Wednesday of the month at this FHC. Gail Roche Van Wye is the contact person for the group. Phone 253-1096 or e-mail gailrvw@aol.com.



MacGen – MACINTOSH GENE- A L O G Y G R O U P

This group specializes in uses of the Macintosh by Genealogists. Meet Mac Genealogy enthusiasts from all over Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. On **Saturday, October 24th (4th Saturday-of-the-month) from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm** they will hold their monthly meeting. They meet at the Oakland Regional LDS Family History Center off Lincoln Ave. The group will be discussing how to enter source citations in **Reunion**. They will cover briefly the variety of source record types, and then focus on these items:

- How Reunion stores sources and citations
- How to add, delete and modify source entries
- How to cite a source
- How to click/drag citations easily
- Source numbering
- How citations look in Reunion screens and reports
- Printing source detail

The MacGen Group will also have a free form workshop on **Wed. October 14th at 7:30 pm.**, at the same Oakland Regional FHC. Please refer to the MacGen web site at <http://www.macgen.org>. Bill George is the contact person for this group. Phone: (510) 538-2449 or e-mail: williamcgeorge@Gmail.com. Organizers of the MacGen group are Bill George, Ed Mason, and Rich Peterson.



GERMAN – The German Group is scheduled to meet Wednesday, Oc- tober 28th at the home of Marilyn

Tanner in Moraga. They typically meet on the fourth Wednesday. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Helen Odegard. Helen ►

Odegard is the contact person for this group. For more information, please contact her at 932-6796 or e-mail shodegard@aol.com.



IRISH – This special interest group will meet October 14th (the second Wednesday) at 10:00 am. at the home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. They are also scheduled to meet on November 11. Patty Erickson is the contact person for the group. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail: russpat@comcast.net



SOUTHERN – The Southern Interest Group will meet at 10 am on October 8th and November 12th (the Second Thursday of the month) at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. 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.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

8 & 10 October Thursday & Saturday
10:30 am *Federal & State Census*

15 & 17 October Thursday & Saturday
10:30 am *Vital Records & 1752 calendar change.*

In celebration of October Family History Month, the Oakland Regional Family History Center (ORFHC) and the California Genealogical Society (CGS) are offering an encore [Beginning Genealogy Research Series](#). Classes will be taught on Thursdays at the ORFHC and repeated on Saturdays, at the CGS Library. Enrolled students may attend classes in either or both facilities. Pre-registration is necessary to insure adequate handouts, though drop-ins will be welcome on a space available basis. Register by telephone (510) 531-3905 or for further details go to <http://www.oaklandfhc.org/>.

- 10 October Saturday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm** Family History Day at the California State Archives building, 1020 "O" Street in Sacramento. Family History Day provides the public with an opportunity to learn family history research tips and techniques from experienced genealogy researchers and archivists.
- 13 October Tuesday 7:30 pm** The Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society will have one of its regular meetings at Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. The Speaker will be Susan Johnston. She is a L-AGs member and teaches genealogical classes at Los Positas College. "Assumption Is the Mother of All Screw-ups" will be the title of her presentation. She will illustrate typical assumptions that many researchers make, and point out how they can get your results off track. She outlines ideas and techniques that can be used to help prevent erroneous assumptions from creating big problems.
- 14 October Wednesday 10 am** The East Bay Genealogical Society will meet at the History Room of the Oakland Public Library, 125 – 14th Street in Oakland. The History Room Librarian will orient them to genealogical research capabilities at the Oakland Public Library.
- 17 October Saturday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm** The Concord Family History Center will sponsor its annual fall seminar at 3700 Concord Blvd. in Concord. Six class periods will begin at 9:15 am. There is a \$25 registration fee. It cannot be guaranteed that you get a syllabus if you register after October 1. No refunds after October 1. Bring your own lunch, only snacks and drinks will be provided. Watch for registration forms at your FHC.
- 23 October Friday 9 am to 3:45 pm** The California Genealogical Society is sponsoring an all day seminar and lunch. Michael J. LeClerc ►

and Christopher Child from New England Historic Genealogical Society will present several talks, including Researching Your New England Ancestors Online, Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 and more. The seminar will be held at the Wedgewood Wedding & Banquet Center at Metrolinks Golf Course, 10051 Doolittle Drive, in Oakland. Capping off the day from 6 to 9 pm will be a dinner and presentation entitled, The Lighter Side of Genealogy by Brenton Simons, Ryan Woods, and Jane Lindsey. The registration fee for the day seminar only is \$40 if you register before the end of September. For further details and other week-end activities, view the flier for full event details at <http://calgensoc.org/images/stories/cgs-nehgs-flier-2009.pdf>.

- 24 **October Saturday 9 am to 3 p.m.** The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will host an all day seminar in San Mateo. Four lectures will be given by Karen Clifford, AG at the First Presbyterian Church. The registration fee is \$28 for a non-member if you register prior to October 16. The church is located at 25th and Hacienda Avenues near Hwy 92 and El Camino Real. Visit www.smcgs.org for further details.
- 5 **November Thursday 1 pm** The Genealogy Society of Vallejo-Benicia will hold its regular meeting at 734 Marin Street in Vallejo. The speaker will be Helen Lachauer, DS from the DAR.
- 28 **November Saturday** The Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society will host a seminar featuring Susan Goss Johnston and a representative from Ancestry.com. More information will be available in the future.



EDUCATION

MEMBER EDUCATION for OCTOBER

 **October 13 – Tuesday 10am** at the Family History Center, Alamo: **"Finding Your Way Around the Family History Center."** Janet Broderick will introduce the resources at the Family History Center in Alamo. For members interested in the class who didn't sign up at the September meeting, contact Janet Broderick at the FHC. There may be an open spot for this class or your name can be put on a "wait list" for a future class.

 **October 15 – Thursday 10am** at the Family History Center, Alamo: A second session of **"Exploring Ideas for Publishing."** This is a follow-up of the class of September 17. If you are interested in a return session (or would like to join the class), please contact Frances Lloyd at 837-9382.

 **October 21 – Wednesday 1pm** at the Family History Center, Alamo: **"Scandinavian Research Group"** - This group will meet each Wednesday beginning Oct 21 and last as long as there is interest. Linda Bailey will briefly introduce a different type of record or resource each week and help with individual research afterward. There will be a sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 20th or contact Linda Bailey.

German Group Celebrates Oktoberfest

The German Group enjoyed their annual Oktoberfest luncheon Sept. 30th at the home of Carol Huvane.

We had our usual German menu of brats, German potato salad, red cabbage, applesauce, homemade rye bread and German beer, and bee hive cake for desert.

Everyone agrees it gets better every year.

SRVGS ANNIVERSARY-25 YEARS!

By: Patty Erickson

How rewarding to think back 25 years and visualize a small fledgling Society under the leadership of Jean Blackmur, our founding mother, blossoming and growing into a well functioning 160 some member Society.

We are even a 21st century Society with a web page, email newsletters plus an email information hot line. For our newer members, this is probably expected; however, to our Charter Members and older members, this was not the norm. We began the Society with typewriters and only one member having a computer! We did our research with non-indexed census records, books, microfilm, microfiche and snail mail. We eagerly awaited the mailman, hoping for a new piece of genealogic information. We think we did a pretty good job, too!

Our Society began when 15 to 20 budding genealogists came to the Danville Veteran's Hall to attend genealogy classes offered by Bette Kot. Some members of this class were Jean Blackmur, Dorothy Stanton, Marilyn Fullam, Mary Ella Parrott, Ginnie Rei, Mary Lou Victor, and Katie Horton. Some members remember Bette telling the class that all they needed was a binder and dividers. Now, how many binders and rooms are housing your genealogy today?

The members of this class formed the core of those 25 people attending our first meeting on January 15, 1985 at the old Danville Library. Our meeting room was on the second floor, reached by an outside wooden stairway. Soon, "all those stairs" was loudly heard. Also, the room was uncomfortable on warm days. I think the librarians also felt we were too loud.

Those complaints did not slow down our progress. Marilyn Fullam volunteered to be both our Historian and Newsletter Editor. The first few newsletters were typed on her son's typewriter and were one page in length. They were mailed in a hand addressed envelope. Marian Marquart volunteered to keep track of our ever changing membership list. Sharon Krider did publicity. Jim Dotson and Anne Mould drafted our

By-Laws and by April, 1985 they were in good order.

In May, 1985 our first slate of Officers was presented and installed:

- President- Jean Blackmur
- First Vice President- Dorothy Stanton (Programs)
- Second Vice President- Sharon Krider (Membership)
- Third Vice President- Marilyn Fullam (Newsletter)
- Recording Secretary- Katie Horton
- Corresponding Secretary- Mary Ella Parrott
- Treasurer- Cliff Gant.

Are you a Charter Member? Yes, if you paid your dues by June 1, 1985; and 52 people were officially Charter members.

In September, 1985 our meeting was the first meeting at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. The large room dwarfed our small group, but we had no steps and plenty of parking. We sometimes competed with the church run daycare center and with church repairs--such as new roof. While at St. Timothy's, we went to genealogy classes taught by Bette Kot, both Beginning and Intermediate. We searched for a Logo, and began our Tape Library, with Fred Potter as Tape Librarian.

By May, 1986 our Newsletter logo was chosen and David Gant was the winner out of four entrants. Also, Win Kynnett began his many years of taping our programs. In June 1986, we began our second year with President Patty Erickson. Our "freebie basket" also began this year. It was indeed a basket- large but carryable. A light load of material, as we were not yet collectors!

Toward the end of 1986, St. Timothy's announced they were going to require all groups meeting at their church to be insured. Our society had no insurance and no funds to acquire such insurance. Now the search began for a new meeting place, with no insurance required.

To be continued....

October is National Family History Month

It was estimated in 2001, that 80 million Americans were searching for information on their ancestors. They were interested in discovering their heritage and learning more about what life was like for generations before them. They became interested in preserving their family information and memories for future generations. And due to this surge in family history, genealogy became the second most popular hobby in America!

By 2003, the United States Senate recognized the massive popularity in the tracing of one's roots, and officially designated October as National Family History Month. By unanimously passing Senate resolution #175, they urged Americans to set aside time "to encourage family history research, education, and the sharing of knowledge."

President George W. Bush wrote in his Proclamation in support of Family History Month, "Lessons in family lineage are often lessons in courage, endurance, and love. While tracing our roots can be challenging, the rewards can be great - affirming pride in our history and keeping us mindful of the sacrifices of our forebears."

As Family History Month approaches, the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society is looking forward to celebrating the year of their 25th Anniversary; and they are spreading the word that with the Internet, new software applications and a genealogy society in your own backyard, discovering your family tree is easier than ever!

San Ramon Genealogical Society was a brainchild of Jean Blackmur, who in 1984 had envisioned a genealogy group which could meet monthly during the *daytime* rather than in the evening as most Valley societies did. Notices were posted and in January of 1985, twenty-five very interested people gathered at the old Danville Library. By that February, a one-page newsletter was created with a plan to hold morning meetings on the third Tuesday of each month (excluding August and December). In May, the meeting record showed a charter membership of fifty-two persons, an approved constitution, and bylaws with dues for membership. The San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society was formed.

As it grew in size the Society moved ►

www.srvgensoc.org

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President:	Barbara Dittig	925-648-9364
	e-mail: president@srvgensoc.org	
1st V.P.	Ileen Peterson	510-651-7728
2nd V.P. Program:		
	Sherri Hedman	925-275-8123
3rd V.P. Membership:		
	Ed Mason	925-838-7848
Recording Secretary:		
	Lisa Cooke	925-831-8537
Corresponding Secretary:		
	Kathy Javdani	925-736-5464
Treasurer:	Gail Roche Van Wye	925-253-1096
Parliamentarian:		
	Virginia Rood	925-937-8659

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator:	Bob Venter	925-454-9919
	e-mail: rjventer@comcast.net	
Calendar Coordinator:		
	Vern Segelke	925-838-8570
	e-mail: 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 the Coordinator.

INDIVIDUAL HELP

Do you need individual help in overcoming a "brick wall" in your research? Go to the SRVGS web site at: <http://srvgensoc.org/>, click on RESOURCES, then click on INDIVIDUAL HELP FOR SRVGS MEMBERS.

Want to help someone who is having research problems in your area of knowledge? Call Harry Baggett at 925.837.7960 to have your name added to the SRVGS Individual Help list.

Harry Baggett trvrlr@sbcglobal.net

(continued from page 9) from the old Danville Library to St. Timothy's Social Hall, to the Danville Women's Club, and to the Guardian Rehabilitation Hospital. It has now found a home at the Danville Family History Center in Alamo using their meeting rooms. The Society has continued to grow over these past 25 years, and with so many "looking for dead people" (as the saying goes) the number has grown to 160 plus members.

The San Ramon Genealogical Society is a non-profit group relying solely on membership dues which enables it to produce a monthly newsletter and provide interesting guest speakers to the group each month. There is a quick 15 minute "mini-education" during the meeting which gives a view of who found what and where, or coverage of a trip recently which resulted in the discovery of some interesting, new facts. The Society also has "special interest groups" which meet to research, and aide other members in researching, same areas of interest. (German, Irish, Scandinavian, English, computer/computer programs, etc).

Think you have to be retired to research your family tree? Think you have to spend endless hours in an archive or library? Think again! *Anyone* interested in finding their "roots" is welcome to attend the SRVGS monthly meetings which are held at 10:00 AM, on the third Tuesday of each month (except August and December) at the Danville Family History Center, Stone Valley and Smith Roads, Alamo.

Although the big celebration of the SRVGS 25th Anniversary will take place in May 2010, they will be commemorating the anniversary throughout the club year with various activities. To kick off the club year and encourage all to celebrate Family History Month, you are invited to get in on the fun Saturday, October 10, 2009 at the Danville Certified Farmers' Market from 9 a.m. until 1p.m. Visit the San Ramon Valley Genealogy Society table to learn more about discovering the roots of your own family tree. Then follow up with a visit to the Society web site at: <http://srvgensoc.org>

By: Lee Schlenker, Sandra K. Burns, and Lisa Louise Cooke

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL