

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 305
Diablo, CA 94528-8308

President:

Barbara Johnson

Coord. Editor: Sharon Clay

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.

3rd Tues. Of the Month

(Except August & December)

Alamo LDS Church

Stone Valley & Smith Roads - Alamo

Vol. ~~XIV~~ No. 7

February 2000 page 132

THIS MONTH - FEBRUARY 15, 2000

Don Allen, a member of the SRV Genealogical Society, is a retired Exploration Geologist of Chevron Overseas Petroleum Co. who in the last two years (actually he says it was less than two years), has compiled 400 YEARS OF FAMILY HISTORY. He is preparing to publish this family history and will share with us how he managed to do this in such a short length of time. His family history has involved the states of Virginia, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Texas. He has used methods that many of us have ignored or are not aware of, with great success. His excitement over the methods he has used is very spirited, and he hopes others will find his methods as successful as he has to break down those "brick walls and deadends". Don't miss this opportunity to find out these research secrets that are readily available.

LAST MONTH- January 18, 2000

by Barbara Dyer

"SOLVING" THE PROBLEM ON-SITE IN 25 HOURS OR LESS

Speaker: Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG

Nationally renown Christine Rose was her usual energetic, enthusiastic, organized and informative self. She presented her topic to the largest audience at the SRVGS monthly meeting in many months and they were not disappointed.

She began by stating that in spite of the vast resources available in the Family History Library, other libraries and archives and even the Internet, there are still records and documents never filmed that can only be viewed on-site. It is possible through these on-site visits that break throughs can occur that would not have occurred otherwise.

Christine then proceeded, step by step, following her four page handout, to describe the procedure she uses for on-site visits. **One must begin** at home, before the trip to the site, **by preparing a data sheet** containing brief notes which summarize

what you know and what you want to learn on your trip. This eliminates the need to carry voluminous records. "**Scour**" (a term she used frequently) **the material you have**, including the Census records, so that you can determine where to look and in what sequence. This preparation is a key to saving time on-site.

She went on then to describe her procedures for the on-site research. The courthouse is where she recommends starting, **doing a surname search in Land, Estate, Civil, Tax and Vital Records.**

Once these records have been thoroughly searched, spend time before leaving the Courthouse to read what you have found. Look for clues, scour every bit of information about the family to discover relationships even if they do not specifically state relationships.

(Continued on page 3)

SRVGS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2000

- 1 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at Carol Thompson's home 308 Hartford Road, Danville. Phone: 820-4103. An officers workshop scheduled afterward.
- 15 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting at LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east. The scheduled speaker is Don Allen. His subject: "Home Run - 400 years of Research".
- 16 Thursday - 10:00 a.m. Member Education Class - Subject: Area Libraries, Archives and Societies. Class will be at the home of Frances Lloyd, 210 Town and Country Drive, Danville. To be presented by Mary Jo Hosteny. Phone: 932-2244.
- 22 Tuesday - 9:30 a.m. Library Trip to the California Genealogical (CGS) Library, 16th and Telegraph (Latham Office Bldg.) Phone (510) 663-1358. There will be a \$3 user fee for non-members. They are normally closed on this day.



MARCH 2000

- 7 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting.
- 21 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting
- 28 Tuesday - 9:30 a.m. Library Trip to Sutro

SRVGS Special Interest Groups

GERMAN - Meets 10 a.m. Feb 23 (4th Wednesday) at home of Helen Odegard, 1408 Entrada Verde Place in Alamo. Phone 932-6796. March meeting to be at the Schweitzer's home.

IRISH & CALIFORNIA - Meets Feb. 9 and March 8 (2nd Wednesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at home of Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Phone 925-229-0889.

PORTUGUESE - Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month after the general meeting. Bring a bag lunch. Contact Millie Freitas, phone 837-2483.

SOUTHERN - Meets Feb. 8th and March 14 (2nd Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. Suzanne Johnston to host the Feb. 8 meeting at her home in Danville. Ph. 838-8682.

PUBLISHING: a future meeting will be scheduled as interested persons express a need.

MAC COMPUTER USERS - Formerly met third Wednesday of month. Future meeting to be announced.

Formerly ROOTS software users - For those learning to use Ultimate Family Tree - Usually meets after the general meeting on 3rd Tuesday of month. Changes to be announced at the general meeting.

INTERNET - Interested users communicate via e-mail. Members should contact Robert da Roza at vrदारोza@ix.netcom.com to be added to the list.

NOTE: Newsletter coordinator Sharon Clay's e-mail address is incorrect in the roster. Correct address is:
sharoncl@ix.netcom.com

(Christine Rose, Speaker, cont. from page 1)
She stressed the need to include collaterals and neighbors in the analysis. **Go back to take a final look at shelves in the courthouse** that could help. Search every index. Then before leaving the courthouse, ask for highway and topographic maps that will help you locate churches, cemeteries, secondary roads and landmarks.

Next go to the local Genealogical/Historical Society where there may be collections, manuscripts, newspapers, directories and public records that have been saved. Photocopy as much as you can, abstract those items that cannot be copied.

Lastly, make on-site visits to cemeteries and property once held by the family. Talk to as many people as you can along the way; most are very helpful and often lead to other contacts you could never have known.

Through on-site research, study your notes, analyze, filter your findings over and over. Glean clues. "The strategy of a surname search is highly successful". Christine demonstrated two of her successes with case studies.

Newsletter Editorial Team

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Mailing:

Barbara Dittig 648-9364
Lucy Carver 837-3146

Deadline to put information in newsletter is the last Thursday of the month.

SRVGS Home Page is:

<http://www.ancestry.com/societyhall/pages/sochall-503>

Other Calendar Events

FEBRUARY

8th - Tuesday 7:30 p.m. *Livermore Amador Genealogical Society (LAGS)* meets at Beth Emek, corner of College and south M St., Livermore.

10th - Thursday 7:30 p.m. *Contra Costa County Genealogical Society*, meets in the Community room of the new Concord Police station, 1350 Gallindo Ave.

18th - Friday 1 to 3 p.m. *Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society* meets at the Civic Bank of Commerce, 1940 Tice Valley Road. Walnut Creek.

24th Thursday 7:30 p.m. LAGS computer interest group meets at Sonoma School 543 Sonoma St., Livermore.

MARCH

25th: Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Concord. CCCo. Society sponsors "Taking your Genealogy on Vacation"

25th Saturday "The Civil War" presented by Grace M. Hackwell. Sponsored by Tuolumne Co. GS. Meet in Sonoma. Must pre-register. E-mail Kate Prunte - thegenie@inreach.com

April 1st Saturday. Sacramento German Genealogical Society presents "A day with John Colletta". Meets at La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. Phone: Maxine Anderson (916) 489-7872. E-mail: sacgergensoc@hotmail.com

April 15th, Saturday: Sonoma Co. Genealogical Society sponsors an all day seminar by Curt B. Witcher of Allen County, Indiana Library. Meets in Santa Rosa, Hwy 101 at River Road. Phone: Nancy Flack (707) 538-8216, e-mail: LoisNim@aol.com

April 28-29, Friday and Saturday Pleasanton Annual CGS Fair. Stay tuned for more details.

SRVGS Treasurer's Report:

by Nancy Alexander

FUND BALANCES:	as of 1/31/00
General Fund Balance:	2,574.94
Hospitality Fund Balance:	30.78
Publications Fund Balance	913.79
Special Projects Fund Balance:	200.00
N.A.R.A. Fund Balance:	1.00
Tape Library Fund Balance:	91.14
Library Fund: Prior Year Gifts	
And Donations Balance:	306.04
Current Year donations Bal:	256.00
OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE:	\$4,373.69

Local History Questions:

When did the passenger trains stop running through Danville?

Answer: The train route was abandoned in 1978. The ties and rails were removed by the fall of 1979.

Officers of the SRVGS

Pres: Barbara Johnson 837-2152
 e-mail: BJohnson@peoplepc.com
 Vice Pres. Barbara Dyer 820-9738
 e-mail: bdyergen@aol.com
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 Corres. Sec. Carol Thompson 820-4103
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 Membership: Diana Hancock 820-1424
 address: 512 Zephyr Circle,
 Danville 94526-4923
 e-mail: Rensing512@aol.com
 Treasurer: Nancy Alexander 820-1593
 e-mail: lxnancy@aol.com

Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00

Family \$20.00

Membership year: June 1 - May 30th

Presidents Message- February, 2000

Our January Program was an excellent beginning to our year 2000 programs, I was so pleased with the great turnout that we had. More than 70 members were present to hear Christine Rose speak on "Solving the Problem on Site in 25 Hours or Less". Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a report on her very informative and well presented program.



As was reported in the November newsletter, Jean Hunt has had to resign as Newsletter Editor. I want to thank her for her year and a half in that demanding job. Our new Newsletter Editor is Sharon Clay. Verne Segelke will be helping with the Calendar and Special Interest Group Listings. Suzanne Johnston and Pat Isom will help with articles. **Thank you all for volunteering!** We still need someone to take over a Web-site section and others to help with Book Reviews and Program Reporting.

This month we will be forming our Nominating Committee. It will consist of two members from the Board of Directors and one member from the membership. Any volunteers? The Nominating Committee will be calling members to fill offices beginning after the General Meeting. We will need to fill the offices of 3rd vice president, Membership, 2nd Vice president, Program, and 1st Vice President who stands in for the President in his/her absence and hopefully is willing to assume the office of President the following year. Other offices may or may not need to be filled, as our present officers are eligible to hold office a second year. Please consider giving your time and talents to keep our association running smoothly.

Barbara Johnson

It's on the Internet

Finding your ancestors may be as easy as linking in to research and documentation that has already been done, or that is available on the "Net." There are so many sites today and more coming every day that it is impossible to keep up. However, there are many "linking" sites that can help us find just that special site that has the information you need. OR, perhaps you will find someone who will help you with research in a distant location. OR, even better, maybe you will find a relative who has the information you need. So, we continue to publish web-sites that might be helpful. Some of those found recently are the following:

Searchable North Dakota Naturalization Records Index.

This is a cooperative project of the Institute for Regional Studies, NDSU Libraries and State Historical Society of North Dakota. From here you can link to the history of North Dakota's Naturalization Records', types of records and how to order photocopies. Try:

<http://www.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu/database/naturalrec.html>.

Colonial Chesapeake and Williamsburg history:

The John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library has unveiled a greatly expanded section on the Colonial Williamsburg website. (<http://www.history.org>), offering individuals interested in the Colonial Chesapeake, the opportunity to search the library's vast collections. New features include PATRIOT, the Rockefeller Library's online catalog listing the 68,000 titles in the Library, and guides to manuscript, microfilm, selected photograph and other research collections, such as the Shirley Plantation Collection of over 18,000 manuscript items.

"We have electronically opened the doors to our major collections by addition finding aids and the Library catalog to the World Wide Web", says Public Services Librarian Juleigh Clark. Of special interest is an index to the several hundred research reports written at Colonial Williamsburg over the last sixty years.

For more information about the library and it's collections, via regular mail, contact:

Juleigh Muirhead Clark, Public Services Librarian, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia 23815-1776

Regional Lists and how to subscribe:

Most of us have found the major links to the state or county we are researching. But, there are chat groups and genealogical societies that may have rather obscure web addresses that are hard to find. Just go to this website, and click on the state you are researching and then keep going from there. Some of these are very specific to parts of a specific state, or a county. Check it OUT!!!

[Http://www.rootsweb.com/~maillist/us/index](http://www.rootsweb.com/~maillist/us/index).

MORE "NET" CONNECTIONS**Cemetery Links:**

<http://www.josephculligan.com/cemeteries.html>

This site includes links to cemeteries in London, Canada, Arlington National, Nova Scotia, Family Cemeteries, many U.S. States, Africa, Asia, Australia, and many, many more. Some of these are searchable including the Pleasanton/Dublin and Livermore cemeteries. It is a very large data base. Includes addresses and locations. Also links to the "funeral homes" websites.

Searchable Canadian Lists

The national Archives of Canada has an Online Searchable Index of emigrants to Canada. Try <http://www.archives.ca/>

British Columbia has a fully searchable online index for Marriages/death and births. You can even search using a woman's maiden name.

<http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/textual/governmt/vstats/v events.htm> (watch those spaces).

Then there are Dominion Land Records and Military records that are searchable.

<http://www.archives.ca/>

Other British Columbia searches:

Or <http://aabc.bc.ca/aabc/archweb.html>.

Was your relative a Railroad worker?

Start with Cyndi's List for a page of railroad resources for genealogists. And then check out <http://rrb.gov/geneal.html> for information about researching people who were railroad workers after 1936. They won't provide information or about still living relatives. The fee for searching is \$16 for each employee on whom records are requested. Requests for genealogical information should be sent directly to:

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
office of Public Affairs
844 North rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092.

Generally, the board requires at least 30-60 days to reply.

**Subscribe to FGS Forum
You're Entitled to a Discount!**

This society is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, a confederation of more than 525 societies in the United States and Canada. One benefit to you is that you are entitled to a subscription to its quarterly magazine, *Forum* at the discounted price of only \$11 per year.

Each issue of the magazine contains articles designed to advance your knowledge of genealogical research. Previous issues have covered areas such as cemetery and courthouse research, the IGI, research in specific states, etc. A typical issue is 40 pages.

Forum has the most complete "Calendar of Events" of any genealogical magazine. A typical issue shows as many as 50 different seminars and lectures being held throughout the United States. A handy "Calendar of Events by State" allows you to easily pinpoint which events are in your area.

The column "State Reporting", lists many activities of various genealogical societies and other groups that might advance your research. The "Record Access" column describes the status of accessibility of information by state. Other regular columns appear for family associations, ethnic/international, book reviews and new briefs. If work of a particular society is unusually significant, their efforts appear on the "Society Spotlight" column.

Subscribe now! Send \$11.00 to FGS Forum; P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940.

Welcome New Members:

Katherine M. Portoni
1930 Basalt Court
Walnut Creek 94595

Norma K. Gessel
10038 S. Remembrance Lane
South Jordan, UT 84095
(801) 446-6530

**FRENCH CANADIAN COLONIES
IN AMERICA**

The San Mateo Co. Genealogical Society is sponsoring a spring seminar by Marielle Bourgeois on March 18th from 9-4 PM. She will consider French Canadian Colonies in Acadia and 2 other locations in "America". Location: First Presbyterian Church, Hacienda & West 25th in San Mateo. Preregistration (by March 10th) Non-members \$20, Members \$17, or at the door \$23. Contact person is Carol Ann Turner (650) 321-7160.

**SUSAN SWINDELL LEADS
BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASSES**

The Genealogy Society of Vallejo is offering a 5-class series in beginning genealogy at the Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum Auditorium. The class is scheduled for Thursdays Feb. 17th, 24th, March 2nd, 16th and 23rd, from 10:15 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members of the GSV. Payment will be taken at the door. Location of the Auditorium is 734 Marin Street, Vallejo. For addition information, call 707-642-0924, or 707-745-8830.

**TAPES IN OUR AUDIO TAPE LIBRARY
BY CHRISTINE ROSE**

C-184 BOUNTY LAND RECORDS; Neglected Treasures (RP-FGS 96, F-85)

C-61 FEDERAL LAND; The Marvelous Records it Generates (FP-HGS, F148)

M-30 h GENEALOGY FROM A DISTANCE
2/91

C-171 PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE:
When CAN it be used? (RP-FGS 96, S-140)

And in our holdings at the Danville Library, you will find: **The Complete Idiots Guide to Genealogy**, by Christine Rose and Kay Germain Ingalls. Alpha Books/Simon & Schuster Macmillan co., New York, NY, 1997 R929.1 ROSE

**These tapes might also help you prepare for
your courthouse search:**

C-26 AMERICAN COURT RECORDS (HQ 011)
by Arlene Eakle

C-47 rh THE BATTLE OF THE BURNED
COURTHOUSE by Elizabeth Shown Mills
(TrSPM-90)

C- 52 rh HOW TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE
COURTHOUSE RESEARCH by Marsha
Hoffman Rising (TrBIL-49)

There are lots more, check your handbook.

**Check the following audio tapes in our library for
information on organizing your materials:**

M-53 It's Time to Organize by Tudi Baskey

M-69 Organizing Your Material & Documentation
10/96, by Bette Kot.

C-161 Organization & Management of Genealogy
Materials W/O Computers
(TrFTW F-7) by Bill R. Linder

C-161 Indexing for Genealogists: Is there More Than
One right Way? By Patricia L. Hatcher
(RP-NGS 97, S-174)

What Makes a Good Genealogist:

by Charlotte Scoble

A good genealogist.....

Always works backward in time, from the known to the unknown

Interviews family members to learn what they may know about a given family

Searches his/her home and relatives homes for documents or heirlooms which may give clues as to where to begin research.

Is skeptical of "family legends"

Is open minded when dealing with unflattering information relating to an ancestor

Documents his/her work.

Keeps a research journal and a correspondence log.

Is helpful when asked to share research with others.

Uses atlases, county histories and social histories in an effort to better understand the everyday life and motivations of their ancestors.

Is more concerned with accuracy than extending their pedigree back to the Stone Age. It is always better to have documented three generations well than ten generations poorly.

Avoids the "shotgun approach" to family history and fully understands the importance of place and time when dealing with a particular surname.

Understands that a computer is just one of the many tools a genealogist uses. One must understand genealogical methodology first, before plunging into the world of computer genealogy.

Is an eternal optimist!!

from the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society Newsletter of September 1999.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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