

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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

President

Barbara Johnson

Coord. Editor: Sharon Clay

Meetings: 10:00AM

3rd Tues. of the Month

(Except August &

December

Alamo LDS Church

Stone Valley & Smith

Roads - Alamo

Vol. XIV No. 8

April 2000 Page 149

THIS MONTH - APRIL 18, 2000

USING LAND & PROPERTY RECORDS

PAT ISOM, SRVGS member and Director of the Family History Center in Alamo is our speaker this month. In researching her family history, she has had to teach herself to use land and property records. She suggests there are **five good reasons you should learn how to use land and property records**: (1) They are almost all totally indexed. (2) They are the most accurate of the records (3) They are the surest proof of descent in early records (4) Prior to 1850, 85-90% of all white males were land holders (5) The greatest number of records in the Family History Library are land records.

LAST MONTH - March 21, 2000

by Frank Williams, Program Reporter

WHAT IS PERSI

Speaker: Sue Swindell

Our March speaker was SRVGS member Sue Swindell, a recognized speaker and teacher of genealogy. Although handicapped almost immediately by a non-performing computer, she was able to deliver the important facts through her knowledge of the subject, and an excellent 6-page handout which included many examples.

Her topic was PERSI, and she began by explaining that this is an acronym for "Periodical Source Index"; and that it is a comprehensive subject index for American and Canadian genealogical and local history articles and periodicals written since 1800 in English or Canadian French. Some earlier literature from the 1700's is also included. PERSI was created by the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN (probably the second largest source of genealogical printed

material in the U.S.) The PERSI database contains more than a million references to articles from about 5,000 periodicals; all contained on a CD which has been widely distributed to genealogical Libraries and is available from Ancestry and other sources.

The Index shows article titles only, indexed by locality, surname, and/or research method. Most searches are begun by looking for a given subject. Surname searches are about specific people or families: Locality searches pertain to a specific region in the U.S. or Canada. You can filter your search by state, province, or county; however, you cannot make "wildcard" searches where you are unsure of the spelling of a name. You can also search by "Research Methods" for "how to" articles on the use of different genealogical sources such as biographies or census tables.

When your search finds an article you want to review, you can tag it with a marker. When you finish all your searching you can print the listing out along with any other listings you tagged. Since the Allen Library has copies of every article in PERSI, you can proceed to fill out an order blank to get a copy. Or, by hypertext in the listing you can view and print out a record showing all other libraries which hold the same periodical to see if you can look at it near your home.

If you want to order from Allen County Library, there is a form which allows you to order up to 6 articles for a flat \$7.50 charge, plus 20 cents for each printed page.

* * * * *

PROGRAM POSTSCRIPTS:

Tape Librarian Barbara Dyer suggests that members consult **Tape C-168.** "Using **Genealogical Periodicals**" by Henry B. Hoff for more about PERSI.

Pat Isom reminds members that you can look at PERSI in the microfiche collection at the Family History Centers..

REMEMBER: By parking in the rear parking lot, you have direct access with no stairs to climb!

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Barbara Dittig 648-9864
Lucy Carver 837-3146

Deadline to put information in newsletter is the last Thursday of the Month

President's Message-April, 2000

As I write this during the last week of March, our nominating committee has not been able to find members willing to fill two very important offices. These are 1st vice president, who hopefully is willing to be President in the following year, and 2nd vice president who is in charge of our Programs for the year. For an organization which has 190+ members, this is very discouraging.

Many of our members are retired, including my husband and me, and we all enjoy having time to travel and work on our genealogy research, but if we want an effective Genealogical Society, we do need to share the work! If everyone does his or her part, the Society runs smoothly and doesn't take a great deal of time. Board members, and past board and committee members fill in for each other so that being involved doesn't mean being unable to travel. The Program Chairman has the option of having a planning meeting during the summer, which is very helpful in getting ideas for programs. Also, two or three people can share the Program job.

There are advantages to being on the Board; working together, you meet knowledgeable people, make new friends, and become more aware of what is going on in the genealogical community.

I hope some of you will think again about taking an office for this coming year. Call Barbara Dyer or me and offer to help!

Barbara Johnson



APRIL 9-15 is National Volunteer Week
Celebrate by volunteering at SRVGS!

SRVGS BOARD REPORTS

AUDREY MORGAN, Acting
Membership Chair reports the following
member address change:

Frances Grotefend
P.O. Box 109
Alsea, OR.97324

TREASURER'S REPORT

FUND BALANCES (03/31/00)

General Fund Balance	2,330.26
Hospitality Fund Balance:	30.78
Publications Fund Balance:	948.79
Special Projects Fund Balance	200.00
N.A.R.A. Fund Balance:	3.00
Tape Library Fund Balance:	10.14
Library Fund:	
Prior Year Gifts & Donations Bal.:	263.54
Current Year Donations Bal.:	265.00
OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE	4,151.51

NANCY ALEXANDER

BARBARA DYER Tape Cassette
Librarian asks that members think about
what new tapes they would like her to
order. She will be taking an interest
inventory at the meeting.

HELP WANTED! SRVGS will have a
booth at the CGS Fair (see pages 152 &
155). If you plan to be at the Fair, please
sign up for an hour or two to help man the
booth. Call Barbara Johnson (837-2153)
or sign up at the April General Meeting.

SRVGS CALENDAR APRIL 2000

- 4 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** Board Meeting
at Barbara Johnson's home,
616 Camino Amigo, Danville. Phone
837-2153. **All members welcome.**
- 18 **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 Pat Isom.

- 20 **Thursday - 10:00 a.m.** Member
Education Class - Subject: "Using
Probate Records in Genealogical
Research." Class will be presented by
Dorothy Stanton at her home, 501 El
Capitan Drive in Danville. Phone
820-3757 or dpstant@hotmail.com
- 25 **Tuesday - 9:00 a.m.** Library Trip to
California State Library and Archives,
900 N St. & 1020 -O St., Sacramento.
Carpools will meet behind Albertson's
off Diablo Road in Danville.

MAY

- 2 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** Board Meeting
at Carol Thompson's. **All members
are welcome.**
- 16 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** General
Meeting - Speaker: Marge Bell
"Probate Records"
- 18 **Thursday** Member Education
Class
- 23 **Tuesday - 9:00 a.m.** Library Trip to
National Archives in San Bruno

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GERMAN - Meets 10 a.m. April 26 (fourth
Wednesday) at the home of Fran &
Bob Schweitzer, 2493 Lariat Lane in
Walnut Creek. Phone 935-5744
orrbtschw@pacbell.net

IRISH - Meets April 12 & May 10 (second
Wednesday of month) at 10:00 a.m. at
home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge
Place in Pleasant Hill. Phone (925)
229-0889

PORTUGUESE - Meets third Tuesday of
month after the general meeting.
Bring a bag lunch. April 18 meeting
will be at the home of Millie Freitas,
607 Diablo Road in Danville. phone
837-2483

SOUTHERN - Meets April 11 (second
Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at

the home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place in Pleasant Hill. Phone (925)229-0889. The May 9 meeting will be at the home of Peggy Dearman.

PUBLISHING - Meetings will be scheduled as interested persons express a need. Contact Jane Steiner 283-0867

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

ROOTS/UFT software users - For those learning to use Ultimate Family Tree - Meets after the general meeting on third Tuesday of month. Future meetings will be announced at the general meeting.

INTERNET - Interested users communicate via e-mail. To be added to the list, members should contact Robert daRoza, vrदारोza@ix.netcom.com

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS:

April 6, Thursday 1 to 3 p.m., Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, meets at the Civic Bank of Commerce, 1940 Tice Valley Road, Walnut Creek. E-mail Don Joost at bjdon@silcon.com. They will be hosting a series of 6 classes by Bette Kot.

April 10 - Monday 1:30-3:30 p.m. Bette Kot's Intermediate Genealogy Classes at Walnut Creek Sr. Center; Beginning Class starts **April 13**. 935-0170.

April 11, Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Livermore Amador Genealogical Society (LAGS), meets at Beth Emek, corner of College and South M St., Livermore. L-AGS speaker Anne Homan will speak about her planned book on the Morgan Territory Road. More details about this program should be available about April 1st on the L-AGS website (www.L-AGS.org). If you have further questions, contact Jon Bryan at 447-9407 or gailvb@aol.com.

April 13, Thursday 7:30 p.m., Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, meets in the Community Room of the new Concord Police station, 1350 Galindo Ave. Speaker: Clara Maltoni from the Immigration & Naturalization Service.

April 15 Saturday 9 a.m. to 4p.m. Sonoma Co. Genealogical Society sponsors a **Seminar by Curt B. Witcher** of Allen County, Indiana Ft. Wayne Library. Meets in Santa Rosa, Hwy 101 at River Rd. \$20 at the door. phone: Nancy Flack (707) 538-8216, e-mail LoisNim@aol.com

April 27, Thursday 7:30 p.m. LAGS Computer interest group meets at Sonoma School, 543 Sonoma St., Livermore.

April 28-29 Friday noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Pleasanton, annual **CGS FAIR**., (see page 155) Brochures will be available at the SRVGS General Meeting in April

National Archives Workshops: \$15 each, 9 a.m. to 1p.m. in San Bruno. To register, contact Rose Mary Kennedy (650) 876-9009.

May 12 Military Part I-Pre-revolution to War of 1812

June 16 Military Part II-Civil War to WWII

May 6, Saturday. Root Cellar Seminar in Sacramento featuring Cyndi Howells. Contact Billie Helms, (916) 991-5971 or Sammie Hudgens (916)481-4930, SAMIHUD@aol.com.

May 31-June Providence RI National Genealogical Society Annual Conference in the States, "New England Bridge to America," hosted by New England Regional Genealogical Conference. Info: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

July 20-22 Ft. Wayne IN - National

Conference sponsored by the Allen County Public Library and its Foundation. Info: e-mail to Cwitcher@acpl.lib.in.us with "Millennium Conference: in the subject field and your name and address in the message field. Or send a post card with your name and address to : "Millennium Conference," c/o Historical Genealogy Dept, Allen County Public Library, PO Box 2270, Ft. Wayne, IN 46801-2270.

September 6-9 - Salt Lake City UT

Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference hosted by the Utah Genealogical Association, Salt Palace Convention Center. For info: FGS toll-free 888-FGS-1500, Fax 512-336-2732, or E-mail: fgs-office@fgs.org Web Site: <http://www.fgs.org/~fgs> or <http://www.infouga.org>

CALIFORNIA'S HISTORIC CEMETERIES

The following is from Iris Carter Jones, the legislative analyst for the California State Genealogical Alliance

CALL FOR SUPPORT

In my March 4, 2000 Legislative Report, I mentioned Assemblyman Anthony Pescetti's new bill **AB1779** which will establish the California Historic Cemetery Commission with specified membership and prescribed duties relating to historic cemeteries. There have been numerous newspaper articles lately, including the San Francisco Chronicle, the Sacramento Bee, the California Historian [the Conference of California Historical Societies' newsletter] and the News Co-ordinator [Council newsletter] on the deplorable conditions found statewide with our pioneer cemeteries. Through the efforts of the California Historic Cemetery Alliance, Assemblyman Pescetti has offered AB1779 in a effort to prevent the ongoing neglected, vandalism, and the destruction brought about through development, of these historic cemeteries.

This legislation will develop a commission of seven unpaid members who shall hold office for four years, with three appointed by the Governor, two by the Senate Committee on Rules, two by the Speaker of the Assembly. Appointments shall come from a list of nominations provided by local historical societies and volunteer groups involved in the restoration and maintenance of historic cemeteries. They must have knowledge and background in cemetery maintenance and restoration or background in service to a local historical society. The commission members will include a representative from a military veterans organization, clergy, and public cemetery district, and a least one member shall be as follows:

- * a resident of northern California, bordered on the south by the counties of Marin, Napa, Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Amador and Alpine;
- * a resident of central California, bordered on the south by the counties of Ventura, Kern, and Inyo;
- * a resident of southern California.

No member shall serve who owns or is employed by a private cemetery or corporation of private cemeteries.

The Commission's duties include resolving issues of jurisdiction and establishing responsibility for the care of these cemeteries; create and maintain a state registry of historic cemeteries [make it available on the Internet], provide guidance and support for local organizations for restoration, preservation and the protection of these cemeteries; make recommendations to the Legislature regarding projects and funding to protect, preserve, and restore historic cemeteries; strengthen, and enforce existing laws regarding historic cemeteries; create a historical landmark program for historic cemeteries.

In a conversation with Steven McCarthy of Assemblyman Pescetti's office, he said that there have been several changes in the original wording, such as 'Pioneer' was changed to 'Historic,' and the time line '1901' was changed to '1931.' But their goals are the same. They are not only looking for our support, but are open to suggestions. The bill is based on

models in Oregon and Texas, and calls for the creation of the Commission to be charged with the preservation, maintenance and protection of the hundreds of old cemeteries which will be lost to posterity if something constructive is not done. No one knows better the genealogists and historians what is happening with our historic cemeteries.

Assemblymembers Bates, Cox, Cunneen, McClintock, Oller, and Zettel, and Senator Ortiz have signed on as co-authors. The bill will be heard Tuesday, March 28, 2000 before the Assembly Consumer Protection, Government Efficiency, Economic Development Committee.

Both the Conference of California Historical Societies and the Genealogical and Historical Council of the Sacramento Valley call on you to join us in supporting AB1779. Societies and individuals are asked to write, fax, phone or Email your message of support to the office of assemblyman Anthony Pescetti, State Capitol, Room 2130, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-319-2010; fax 916-319-2110; Email: anothony.pescetti@asm.ca.gov.

--Iris Carter Jones, ijones@ns.net

CENSUS FACTS

April 1 was census day. Did you send in your filled out census form? And did you make a copy of it? Your descendants will be able to see the government copy in 72 years.

For privacy reasons, there is a seventy-two-year restriction on access to U.S. censuses. The 1930 census and all existing Soundex indexes will become available on April 1, 2002. Unfortunately, much of this census is un-indexed, and this may make searching difficult, but in many cases, the information available will make it well worth the search.

Details are available at the National Archives site at:
<http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html>

IT'S ON THE INTERNET

CENSUS RECORDS AT USGENWEB.NET

As part of its ongoing project to post census records online, USGenWeb in partnership with Rootsweb.com advises genealogists of its new CENSUS IMAGES ONLINE

The following are a sample of census images now online in the USGenWeb Archives:
http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/cen_img.htm

ARKANSAS

1880 Carroll County
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ar/carroll/census/1880>

GEORGIA

1860 Crawford County
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ga/crawford/census/1860>

INDIANA

1860, 1870, 1880 Benton County
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/in/benton/census/1860>
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/in/benton/census/1870>
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/in/benton/census/1880>

1860 Jefferson County

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/in/jefferson/census/1860>

KANSAS

1870 Cloud County
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ks/cloud/census/1870>

NORTH CAROLINA

1910 Hertford County
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/nc/hertford/census/1910>

GENEALOGY BULLETIN featuring writers Bill Dollarhide, Cyndi Howells & Donna Potter Phillips is now free online at
www.GenealogyBulletin.com

To read the current issue of Dick Eastman's Genealogy Online Newsletter as well as back issues, see
<http://www.ancestry.com/learn/columns/eastman.htm>

The California Genealogical Society's Year 2000

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR



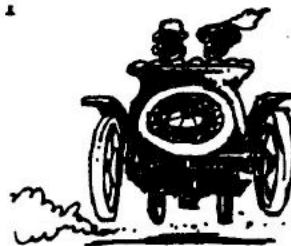
Come to Northern California's 15th Annual Genealogical Fair. Eminent, well known, exciting and interesting speakers providing over thirty classes and lectures for beginners and experienced researchers.

- *Find out how to trace your ancestors to countries across the ocean
- *Choose from a variety of classes on research techniques & sources
- *Find out more about how to do research on the internet & computer
- *Talk to genealogical & lineage societies to find out more

Featuring: Sandra Hargreaves Luecking, FUGA, Western Springs, Illinois, co-editor of *The Source: A Guide to Genealogical Research* and Editor-in-Chief of FGS FORUM magazine. She has taught at the Samford Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research in Alabama and at the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America, sponsored by Illinois State Genealogical Society and University of Illinois, Springfield. She will speak on Finding Females, Courting that Courthouse, and Land Records.

CGS members pre-reg: \$15 for 1 day; \$25 for 2 days
Non-members: \$20 for 1 day; \$30 for 2 days
At door: \$25 for 1 day; \$35 for 2 days
Exhibits only: \$10/day

Friday, April 28, 2000 - Noon to 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 29, 2000 - 9 a.m. to 5 P.m.
Alameda County Fairgrounds
Pleasanton, California



For more information, call CGS at 510-663-1358 (Thurs-Sat 9 to 4)

Web-site: <http://www.calgensoc.com>

e-mail: library@calgensoc.com

"POST-IT" BAN AT STATE LIBRARIES

The California State Library system has banned "Post-It Notes" because testing by the National Archives has shown that they can leave a residue which can damage books. Don't take them to the Library!

Moreover, the narrow ones sold in sets of five colors can pull the printed word right off the page. So, if you choose to use them in your personal books, be sure that the sticky part does not cover any ink.

[San Joaquin Gen Soc Nwsltr Jan-Feb 2000 via CSGA Nwsltr 18:3 March 2000]

**In God We Trust --
all others must show
sources!**

from Contra Costa Co. GS Newsletter

SAN RAMON VALLEY
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DIABLO, CA 94528-0305



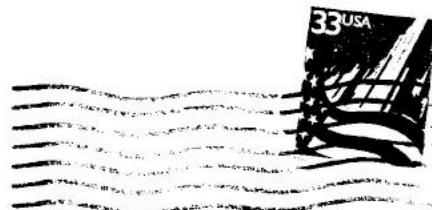
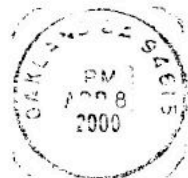
FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00
Family \$20.00

Membership year: June 1 - May 30th



Margaret Gierke
260 South Ave.
Alamo CA 94507

