

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

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THIS MONTH -May 16, 2000 AMERICAN NEWSPAPER RESEARCH

MARGE BELL has about 28 years of genealogy experience. She was the director of the LDS Family History Center in Annandale, Virginia, and now works in the FHC library in Oakland. She has taught genealogy in the Fairfax, Virginia Adult Education program and often teaches at the CGS annual fair and at local genealogical societies. She is the author of "Line Upon Line - A Beginners' Guide to Genealogy" which is published by Ancestral Quest. She will speak on American Newspaper Research. The History of Newspapers: What and How to Research.

LAST MONTH-April 18, 2000 USING LAND AND PROPERTY RECORDS by Jane Steiner

Pat Isom, Director of the Family History Center at the LDS Church in Alamo, spoke on "Land Records in Genealogical Research." Her overhead transparencies were completely in sync with her superb handout which made it unnecessary to take notes. The most important things she wanted the audience to take away with them was that land records are important to genealogical research and that "you can do it!"

The story of America is the story of land. Before 1850 most (85-90%) white males owned land. Nearly every white male can be identified or traced through land records. Most of the wealth in the United States was tied up in land. Land records are the most accurate records as well. Errors were usually corrected, and if the records were destroyed, they were the first records to be recreated. They are almost totally indexed and can be researched quickly. They comprise the greatest number of records in the Family History Center. In the FHC catalog they are listed by states, then counties, then land records.

Land records are often the most detailed of early records. They often contain much more information than the census records names, dates, relationships, and locations. You can often prove descent by following the changes of ownership of a piece of property, and if there are two people with the same name, the land records are often the only way to distinguish one from the other.

The average person moved about six times in a lifetime. You can track their migration by locating the land records in each place.

After the Revolutionary War, land not owned by individuals or outside the boundaries of the states, reverted to the Federal Government as well as some lands acquired from foreign governments. However, the thirteen original states plus Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and West Virginia have state land grants rather than federal. Under the Federal Government, the land was organized and surveyed. The states had had an indiscriminate system of metes and bounds measured by poles and chains. After the federal surveys, much of the land was transferred to individuals through Military Bounty Grants, and Federal Land Grants. Once an individual owned a piece of property, sales were recorded in the individual counties as they are today.

She pointed out that the Bureau of Land Management has land patent documents (original deeds) of twelve states and are continuing to enter land records from other states. It is a huge project. Their web site is excellent:

<glorerecords.blm.gov>. At the web site, you can type in the last name, then the state and county. However, the original 13 Colonies and territories are found in local and state records. There are many other Internet sites where you can research land records. Just search the area where your ancestors live.

President's Message - May, 2000

It hardly seems possible that another SRVGS Year is almost over. We will elect the new Board of Directors at our May General Meeting, and they will take office in June.

On behalf of the SRVGS, I want to thank the Danville Stake of the LDS Church and especially, Pat Isom, for providing the meeting facilities for us this year. The facility is spacious, comfortable and very well equipped. Having the Family History Center open after meetings is a great advantage. Pat also deserves our thanks for her hard work in improving the FHC in so many ways.

This has been an enjoyable year for me as the Board has been great to work with. As Program Chair-man, Claudia Mortensen has put together excellent programs on a wide variety of topics; Diana Hancock and now Audrey Morgan have been dedicated in handling the Membership Chairman's job. Barbara Dyer as 1st Vice President, and Nancy Alexander as Treasurer have been attentive to their duties, as have Carol Thompson and Susan Hanck, as Corresponding and Recording Secretaries. I thank you all for being so understanding about my lack of preparation for the job of President.

I especially want to thank Dorothy Stanton, who as Parliamentarian and Acting President, kept the Society going during the interim last August and September. She has also been a great help to me during the year.

I also want to thank the committee chairmen. Verne Segelke as Library Trip Chairman, Millie Freitas, as Education Chairman, and Barbara Dyer as Cassette Tape Chairman who have all put in many hours to ensure that our members had a variety of learning opportunities this year.

We have been especially fortunate to have had Jean Hunt serve as Newsletter Editor until January of this year, and to have Sharon Clay willing to take on this very important job beginning last February. Thank you both for your time and dedication.

We must not forget our Newsletter Publication team, Barbara Dittig and Luck Carver. For many years, (five or more) they have stamped and mailed out our newsletters every month. Thank you Barbara and Lucy.

Others who help out monthly include Peggy Gierke and Carol Huvane, who do the refreshments, Ed O'Donnell who publicizes our meetings, Historian, Carol Glover takes photos and keeps up our History Books, Frank Williams who maintains the Freebie Basket and brings the items to each meeting and Carol Huvane who keeps track of the Special Interest Groups. Thank you all for your help.

Others who help out are Program Reporters: Jane Steiner, Frank Williams, Betty Vail and Fran. Schweitzer; the Library Committee: Jack Johnson, Dorothy Stanton, Frances Lloyd and Ed O'Donnell; Robert da Rosa as Bay Area Consortium delegate; Alliance Representative, Frances Lloyd; and FGS Delegate, Dorothy Stanton. Thank you all for being faithful helpers this year. It takes a lot of people to keep the organization running smoothly.

Do you see some familiar names repeated a time or two here? A number of members hold at least two jobs and quite a few are past Presidents.

So new members, consider becoming more involved. There are many ways to help out. SRVGS provides a great service to genealogists in our area.

Barbara Johnson, President

Newsletter Editorial Team

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Barbara Dittig 648-9364

Lucy Carver 837-3146

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

SRVGS CALENDAR

MAY 2000

- 2 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** Board Meeting at Carol Thompson's home, 308 Hartford Road, Danville. Phone 820-4103.
- 16 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 Marge Bell.
- 23 Tuesday - 9:00 a.m.** Library Trip to National Archives in San Bruno. Phone (540- 876-9009). Carpools will meet behind Albertson's on Diablo Road in Danville.

JUNE

- 6 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** Board Meeting. Meeting of the old and new board will be at Barbara and Jack Johnson's. A Salad Bar Pot Luck will follow meeting. Call Barb. on what to bring. 837-2153
- 20 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** General Meeting
- 22 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** Member education class at the home of Frances Lloyd in Danville.
- 27 Library Trip to the Oakland Family History Center**

SRVGS Special Interest Groups:

GERMAN - Meets 10 a.m. May 24 (fourth Wednesday) at the home of Margarete Koenig, 1545 Rancho View Drive in Lafayette. If anyone regularly attends, but cannot attend this time, please e-mail mmbkoenig@aol.com or phone 934-3830

IRISH & CALIF. - Meets May 10 & June 14 (second Wednesday of month) at 10:00 a.m. at home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place in Pleasant Hill. Phone (925) 229-0889

PENNSYLVANIA - May 8th 1:30 Barbara Johnson's 616 Camino Amigo, Danville, 837-2153

PORTUGUESE - Meets third Tuesday of month after the general meeting. Bring a bag lunch. May 16 meeting will be at the home of Millie Freitas, 607 Diablo Road in Danville. phone 837-2483

SOUTHERN - Meets May 9 (second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at LDS Family History Center, 2949 Stone Valley Road at Smith Road in Alamo.

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

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

Formerly ROOTS software users - For those learning to use Ultimate Family Tree. Has met 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. Members should contact Robert daRoza, vrdaroza@ix.netcom.com to be included.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS:

May 9 Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Livermore Amador Genealogical Society (LAGS), meets at Beth Emck, corner of College and South M St., Livermore.

May 11 Thursday 7:30 p.m., Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, meets in the Community Room of the new Concord Police station, 1350 Gallindo Ave.

May 25 Thursday 7:30 p.m. LAGS Computer interest group meets at Sonoma School, 543 Sonoma St., Livermore.

May 23 Tuesday Hayward area Genealogical Society meets in the meeting room at the San Lorenzo Library, 395 Paseo Grande, in San Lorenzo.

National Archives Workshops: \$15 each, 9 a.m. to 1 p.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

The Mount Diablo Genealogical Society is sponsoring classes by Bette Kot.

May 18 class # 4, 1:15 to 3 p.m.

June 1 class #5, 1:15 to 3 p.m.

June 15 class #6, 1:15 to 3 p.m.

For information possibly contact Don Joost at bjdon@silcon.com.

May 20, Saturday in Fresno at 103 S. Hughes Street, Annual meeting of the California State Genealogical Alliance. For more information contact Barbara Edkin at Aedkin@aol.com.

May 31 - June 3, the National Genealogical Society annual conference in Providence, RI. For more info: www.ngsgenealogy.org

July 20 - 22, the National Conference sponsored by the Allen County Public Library. For information, e-mail Cwither@acpl.lib.in.us.

Calendar - Continued

August 5, in San Diego, CA. The German Research Assn. Presents Hank Jones at the Joyce Beers Community Center on Vermont Street.

September 6 - 9, in Salt Lake City, UT. The Federation of Genealogical Societies annual conference. For information 1-888-FGS-1500 (toll free) or e-mail fgs-office@fgs.org.

September 23, in Auburn, CA. The Placer County Genealogical Society will host an all day Seminar. For information contact Pam Dallas at pbdallas@jps.net.

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY**81. The Compass, Volume I.** *Compiled*

by Lawrence B. Bangerter. The Everton Publishers, Inc., P. O. Box 368, Logan UT 84321. 1983.

R 929.373 BANGERTER

82. Genealogical & Local History Books in Print, 4th Edition, Volume 1.

Compiled by Netti Schreiner-Yantis. Genealogical Books in Print, 6818 Lois Drive, Springfield, VA 22150. 1985.

R 016.929 SCHREINER-YANTIS

83. Genealogical & Local History Books in Print, 4th Edition, Volume 2.

Compiled by Netti Schreiner-Yantis. Genealogical Books in Print, 6818 Lois Drive, Springfield, VA 22150. 1985.

R 016.929 SCHREINER-YANTIS

84. Genealogical & Local History Books in Print, 4th Edition, Volume 4.

Compiled by Netti Schreiner-Yantis. Genealogical Books in Print, 6818 Lois Drive, Springfield, VA 22150. 1985.

R 016.929 SCHREINER-YANTIS

85. Ship Passenger Lists, The South (1538-1825). *Edited and Indexed by Carl Boyer, 3rd.* Published by Carl Boyer, 3rd, P. O. Box 333, Newhall, CA 91322. 1979.

R 929.37301 BOYER

86. Ship Passenger Lists, National and New England (1600-1825). *Edited and Indexed by Carl Boyer, 3rd.* Published by Carl Boyer, 3rd, P. O. Box 333, Newhall, CA 91322. 1977.

R 929.37301 BOYER

87. Ship Passenger Lists, New York and New Jersey (1600-1825). *Edited and Indexed*

by Carl Boyer, 3rd. Published by Carl Boyer, 3rd, P. O. Box 333, Newhall, CA 91322. 1978.

R 929.37301 BOYER

88. Ship Passenger Lists, Pennsylvania and Delaware (1641-1825). *Edited and Indexed by Carl Boyer, 3rd.* Published by Carl Boyer, 3rd, P. O. Box 333, Newhall, CA 91322. 1980.

R 929.37301 BOYER

Compendium of Historical Sources: The How and Where of American Genealogy. *by Ronald A. Bremer.* Published by Progenitor Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 16422, Salt Lake City, UT 84116. Third Printing, 1985.

R 929.1072 BREMER

The following books are not catalogued yet
The German Research Companion. *by Shirley Reimer.* Lorelei Press, p.o. Box 221356, Sacramento, CA 95822-8356. Revised Edition, 2000.

Descriptive Catalog of German Research Materials at the Family History Center, 2745 Eastern Avenue, Sacramento, CA. Published by the Sacramento German Genealogy Society, 1999

Friedelsheim Mennonite Congregation Churchbook. *Compiled by Ellen Risser Farrell.* Masthof Press, Morgantown, PA 19543-9701. 1998

Genealogy Definitions

Genealogy: Hay stack full of needles; it's the threads I need

Research: What I'm doing, when I don't know what I'm doing.

BY-LAW CHANGE NEEDS VOTE

A proposed change in the By-Laws was presented at the January meeting, and needs to be voted upon by the membership at the May meeting.

The By-Laws change is as follows:

Article VIII, Part 1a., which presently reads as follows:

1. Nominating committee shall:

a. Consist of three members, one of whom should be a Board member, appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

The recommended change reads:

1. The Nominating committee shall:

a. Consist of **at least** three members, one of whom should be a Board member, appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following slate of officers is being presented to the membership of the SRVGS by the nominating committee: Barbara Dyer, Dorothy Stanton, Fran Schweitzer and Diana Hancock. These will be voted upon at the May meeting and will take office in June.

President: Barbara Dyer

1st Vice President:

2nd Vice President: Program Committee

Helen Odegaard Dorothy Baker

Christine Scott Clyde Walden

3rd Vice President: Membership Audrey Morgan

Corresponding Secretary: Carol Thompson

Recording Secretary: Susan Hanck

Treasurer: Nancy Alexander

Parliamentarian: Barbara Johnson

MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL APPLICATION 2000-2001

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 to: **Audrey Morgan 3607 Perada Drive, Walnut Creek 94598.**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP** _____

Email: _____ **PHONE:** _____

Dues: \$15 Single: _____ \$20 Family: _____

\$ _____ donation for Library resources additions, if desired

\$ _____ \$1.00 donation suggested for National Archives Record Administration (NARA) records microfilming project.

\$ _____ \$2.50 added, please, if you desire a handbook/directory sent to your address and cannot pick one up at a meeting.

_____ If you **DO NOT** wish a Handbook/Directory, please check here so we won't print unneeded copies.

\$ _____ **Total amount of check**

From the Tape Library:**Barb Dyer points out these tapes for further information on land records.****LAND RECORDS & TAX RECORDS**

C-20	MAKING COUNTY LAND RECORDS WORK FOR YOU (Tr SF0 S-b)	Gladys Muller
C-21 h	LAND RECORDS-THEIR EXTENSIVE USE FOR GENEALOGISTS (Tr ROS-18)	Scharlott Blevins
C-57 h*	UNDERSTANDING THE CONFUSING BUT INDISPENSABLE LAND RECORDS OF THE MD-ATLANTIC COLONIES	Peggy Jonner
M-72	AMERICAN COUNTY LAND RECORDS 3/97 —	Barbara Leak
C-I62	FAMILY DETECTIVE WORK IN LAND RECORDS (RP-FGS 92, T-14)	Marsha Hoffman Rising
C-I63	BEYOND THE JARGON, LAND RECORDS, What do They Really Mean (RP-NGS 95, S-168)	Larry L. Piatt
C-146	HIDDEN CLUES AND PITFALLS IN YOUR ANCESTOR'S LAND RECORDS (RP-NGS 94, W-12)	Elizabeth Shown Mills
C-I 52	USING HOMESTEAD RECORDS IN FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH (RP-NGS 94, F-I18)	Desmond Walls Allen
C- 153 d	PUBLIC DOMAIN HOMESTEAD RECORDS (RP-NGS 95, T-58)	Desmond Walls Allen
C-184	BOUNTY LAND RECORDS: Neglected Treasures (RP-FGS 96,F-85)	Christine Rose
C-61	FEDERAL LAND: The Marvelous Records it Generates (RP-NGS, F-148)	Christine Rose
M-4 I	RECORDS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE 5/92	Barbara Chambers
C-164	TAX RECORDS FOR GENEALOGY (RP-FGS 95, T-43)	Connie Lenzen

LAND RECORDS ON THE INTERNET

This link is for the Bureau of Land Management - Eastern States, <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>. You can research the claims by your ancestor.

The US Geological survey has a site that will find almost any feature/creek/city/etc.
<http://www.nmd.usgs.gov/www/gnis/gnisform.html>.

This link is a discussion of land records <http://www.ultranet.com/~deeds/landref.htm>

This is about the township and range system, but the map it has MAY only cover Wisconsin.
<http://www.outfitters.com/genealogy/land/twprangemap.html>

The Kamsack Region of the Saskatchewan Genweb Project, CANADA has a very interesting Year 1904 Map of Homesteaders and Pioneer Settlers of North Eastern Saskatchewan. It covers an area of thirty miles by thirty miles or 900 square miles of land.(50 kilometers by 50 kilometers or 2500 square kilometers). Towns included are: Preeceville, Ketchen , Hassan, Buchanan and Amsterdam, and Sturgis ,Saskatchewan, CANADA.....It is located at their website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cansk/Saskatchewan/>

CHANGES POSSIBLE AT NARA

The NARA proposal to revamp the system and fees for providing copies of Military Service Records, Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Files, and Pension Application Files has been published in the 25 April 2000 issue of the Federal Register. **Public comment is invited and should be directed to:**

NARA Regulation Comment Desk
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Fax: 301 713-7270

The comment period closes on 26 June 2000. **NARA prefers that you use either the postal address or fax number to submit our comments rather than e-mail**

A complete copy of the Federal Register notice is available from the NARA Web site at <http://www.nara.gov/nara/fees-pro.html>.

The proposed Reproduction Fee Schedule covers a number of items, but the Military Service Records, and the Pension and Bounty-Land Warrants are of the greatest concern to genealogists. NARA proposes three major changes:

1. The NATF Form 80 would be discontinued, to be replaced by two new forms: NATF Form 85 to request both Bounty-Land Warrant application files and Pension files (more than 75 years old), and NATF Form 86 to request Military Service Records (more than 75 years old).

2. For all three types of files, NARA would no longer send a selection of pages, but would send the complete file. This would eliminate the two-step process currently used and should be beneficial to most genealogists.

3. The fees for all three types of files would be raised. For Military Service Records the new fee would be \$17.00, regardless of the number of pages included in the file. For Bounty-land Warrants the fee would be \$17.25, again without regard to the number of pages. For Pension Files

the fee would be \$40.00, regardless of the number of pages.

Finally, the proposal would go into effect on 1 Sept. 2000, if approved.

Many genealogists may consider the proposed fees to be excessive. NARA specifically invites comment on the proposed fee schedule. The FGS/NGS

Records Preservation and Access Committee urges everyone who wants to comment to carefully read the full proposal before submitting comments. The

proposed fees are intended to cover the actual cost of locating, copying and mailing the records and are based on the average size of the files. NARA states that the average for Military Service Records and Bounty-land Applications is somewhere under 20 pages, while the average for full Pension Files is 105 pages.

The FGS/NGS Records Preservation and Access Committee will be looking at the NARA proposal carefully, and will submit comments as appropriate.

Individuals who would like to provide input to the Committee's evaluation are welcome to do so but are also encouraged to comment direct to NARA at the address given above. Comments for Committee consideration should be e-mailed to fgs-access@fgs.org, or mailed to Federation of Genealogical Societies, Attention: RPAC, PO Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940. In order for the Records Preservation and Access Committee to adequately evaluate such input it must be received by 26 May 2000. The deadline for comment to NARA, however, is still 26 June 2000.

Posting of this message to other mail lists is encouraged. A copy of this message will also be available on the Records Preservation and Access page of the FGS Web site <http://www.fgs.org/fgs-recordsnews.htm> and on the NGS Web site <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>

Jack Brissee
Chair, FGS/NGS Records Preservation and Access Committee

Linda Caldwell McCleary
member, FGS/NGS Records Preservation and Access Committee

ANCESTORS - The Sequel

Genealogy has become the 3rd most popular hobby in the United States and 2nd most popular topic on the Internet. More than 2 million web sites are currently devoted to family history, and this number increases daily.

The highly successful PBS series, Ancestors will be back in the fall with thirteen new episodes shot on location around the world. The new series responds to viewer's suggestions that the episodes include more "how-to" information about family history research.

Ancestors dives into historical documents such as military, cemetery and census records using individual families solving their own individual research problems. The program shows how the family historians uncovered poignant and engaging details in the records their ancestors created and how we can use records to find information about our own families.

Programs will cover the following subjects:

201 - Records at Risk - thousands of records are being destroyed every year. This program deals with the massive microfilming efforts of the National Archives, and the work of Steen Spielberg's survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

202 - Family Records

203 - Compiled Records

204 - Genealogy and Technology

205 - Vital Records

206 - Religious Records

207 - Cemetery Records

208 - Census Records

209 - Military Records

210 - Newspapers as Records

211 - Probate Records

212 - Immigration Records

213 - Writing a Family History

In addition to the television series, instructional material will also be available to help you research successfully and teach others how to improve their research skills. See: www.kbyu.org/ancestors/

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