

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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

President:

Barbara Dyer

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. XVI No. 1

June 2000

THIS MONTH -June 20, 2000

THE QUAKER AND LOYALIST DILEMMA IN NEW YORK DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Evelyn Bentley, retired from 27 years of teaching history at Chabot College, has been a Genealogy Consultant for ten years at the Family History Center in Oakland and Hyde Park. She has recently published the results of 15 years of research about the descendants of her Quaker ancestors. The dilemma of the pacifist Quakers during the Revolution is an untold story of American History. They were caught in the crossfire between the Rebels and the Loyalists because they did not believe in war or rebellion. There have been many books and films about both sides of the war, but little has been written about the Loyalist viewpoint during the Revolution or the problem of the Quakers.

LAST MONTH-May 16, 2000

American Newspaper Research

by Betty Vail

Marge Bell, author of *Line Upon Line - A Beginners Guide to Genealogy*, spoke about newspapers as a resource. She pointed out that, although newspapers have been published in this country since 1690, the earliest ones are not very valuable to genealogists since they focused on national and international events rather than local events. If a person wanted to find out what was going on in his village or town, he visited the local store or pub.

Although some legal notices appeared in the early papers, it wasn't until about the time of the Civil War that small town weeklies began to include local news. At that time "boiler plate" papers were popular. These were created from a large sheet of paper on one side of which the national news had already been printed. When the newspapers received these sheets, they printed items of local interest on the back.

Mrs. Bell stressed the importance of discovering which newspapers your ancestors read. Often they would subscribe to a paper in a neighboring state because it was published close to their home. Small town weeklies are rich in genealogical information such as detailed accounts of weddings, anniversaries and family reunions which often include lists of ancestors along with the names of

their wives and children. Obituaries are a valuable source of information. They usually contain a synopsis of a person's life, including the date of birth, the place of birth and the names of siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren, often with their current address. Obituaries may include notes about migration, military service, religious affiliation, and the name of the cemetery in which other family members may be buried.

Legal notices include estate sales, land transactions, as well as notices of probate and marriage licenses. Specialized newspapers can be helpful. Your ancestors may have read a foreign language, religious, Democratic or Republican paper.

Mrs. Bell reminded us that newspapers have no boundary lines. When people moved, they often sent notices of important family events to the paper in the town from which they came.

She provided an excellent handout on which she recommended several web sites. The United States Newspaper Program is a co-operative effort to locate, preserve and microfilm newspaper files considered

(Continued Page 2)

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

significant for research. Its web site is www.neh.gov/preservation/usup.html. The Online Computer Library Center is creating an on-line database of newspaper holdings. Its web site is www.oclc.org/union/usnp.htm.

The handout also included an annotated bibliography of newspaper sources. Mrs. Bell mentioned several which she considers of special value: American Newspapers, 1821-1936: A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada, by Winifred Gregory, shows the title and location of newspapers in North American libraries and other repositories. Newspapers in Microform, United States 1948-1972, published by the Catalog Publication Division Processing Department, U.S. Library of Congress, Washington D.C. 1937.

Mrs. Bell assured us that although searching newspapers can take a long time, it can be worth the effort.

SRVGS CALENDAR

JUNE 2000

- 6 **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** Joint Board Meeting of the outgoing and incoming officers and supporting members at home of Barbara and Jack Johnson in Danville. Phone 837-2153. Salad bar pot luck following the meeting.
- 20 **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 Evelyn Bentley.
- 22 **Thursday - 10:00 a.m.** Member Education Class - Subject: Documentation. Basic Genealogy and Documentation workshop will be presented by Frances Lloyd at her home, 210 Town and Country Drive, in Danville. Phone 837-9382. Sign up at the general meeting and plan to attend.
- 27 **Tuesday** Library Trip to the Oakland Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Ave. phone (510) 531-3905. Carpools will meet behind Albertson's off Diablo Road in Danville at 9:00 a.m..

JULY

- 6 **Thursday - 10:00 a.m.** Board Meeting at the home of the newly elected President, Barbara Dyer, 617 Camino Amigo in Danville. Phone 820-9738. All members are welcome. **Note Thursday meeting due to holiday**
- 18 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** General Meeting

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.

Newspaper notes: Your great grandfather's newspaper obituary states that he died leaving no issue of record.

- 25 **Tuesday - 9:00 a.m.** Library Trip to the Santa Clara City Library, 2635 Homestead Road

SRVGS Special Interest Groups:

GERMAN - Meets 10 a.m. June 28 (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. This group will not meet during July or August.

IRISH & CALIF. - Meets 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. This group will not meet during July or August.

PENNSYLVANIA - This is new group and will meet again Tuesday June 13, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Carol Thompson, 308 Hartford Road in Danville. Phone 820-4103 to confirm.

PORTUGUESE - Meets third Tuesday of month after the general meeting. Bring a bag lunch. June 20 meeting will be at the home of Millie Freitas, 607 Diablo Road in Danville. phone 837-2483. Confirmation of the meeting will be announced at the general meeting.

SOUTHERN - Meets June 13 (second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Suzanne Johnston, 145 Gil Blas Road, in Danville. Phone 838-8682. This group will not meet during July or August.

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

MAC COMPUTER USERS - Formerly met third Wednesday of month

Formerly ROOTS software users - For those learning to use Ultimate Family Tree -Formerly 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, vrदारोza@ix.netcom.com to be included.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

June 13, Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Livermore Amador Genealogical Society (LAGS), meets at Beth Emek, corner of College and South M St., Livermore. "Using Land and Property Records" will be presented by Pat Isom of SRVGS

June 8, Thursday 7:30 p.m., Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, meets in the Community Room of the new Concord Police station, 1350 Gallindo Ave.

June 14, Wednesday 10 a.m. East Bay Genealogical Society, meets at the Diamond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. Sally Stevens will report on her trip to Ireland.

June 15 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 the last of 6 classes by Bette Kot.

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

June 16 Military Part II-Civil War to WWII

June 22, Thursday 7:30 p.m. LAGS Computer interest group meets at Sonoma School, 543 Sonoma St., Livermore.

June 15 - 18 in Sacramento, the annual conference of Calif. Historical Societies. Write to Sacramento County Historical Society, P O Box 475, Folsom, CA 95763.

July 15, Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. San Mateo County Genealogical Society presents Grace-Marie Hackwell at the San Mateo Presbyterian Church. The topic is

the Civil War. Cost at the door is \$13. For further information, e-mail SMCGS@genealogy.org

July 20-22, the National Conference sponsored by the Allen County Public Library. It includes more than 90 lectures. For further information, e-mail Cwitcher@acpl.lib.in.us

September 6 - 9 in Salt Lake City, the Federation of Genealogical Societies annual conference. For further information phone (888) FGS-1500, e-mail fgsoffice@fgs.org or view their web page at www.fgs.org/~sdgs.

September 22 - 24 in Salt Lake City, FEEFHS (Federation of East European Family History Societies) will hold their 6th annual convention at the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel. View their web page at www.feefhs.org

TREASURER'S REPORT - MAY 2000

FUND BALANCES (5/31/00)

General Fund Balance	\$2,058.56
Hospitality Fund Balance	30.78
Publications Fund Balance	1,027.75
Special Projects Fund Balance	200.00
N.A.R.A. Fund Balance	5.00
Cassette Tape Library Fund Balance	112.89
Lib Fund Prior Year Gifts & Donations Bal.	0.00
Current Year Donations Balance	267.72
OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE	\$3,702.70

Respectfully submitted - Nancy Alexander

Officers of the SRVGS

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Walnut Creek, CA 94598	Phone: 939-9442

Presidents Message by Barbara Dyer .

As I begin the 2000-2001 term of office for President, I think of the many people who have held this and other Society positions. They started with a small group which has grown over the years into an active stimulating, productive organization. There are so many capable genealogists amongst the membership who share their time, talents and knowledge with us and with the larger genealogy community. How fortunate we are.

There are two new developments already under way that will contribute to our own and other's research. One is the formation of several new interest groups. At the May meeting Barbara Johnson made available the results of her special interest group (SIG) survey which showed strong support for a Pennsylvania SIG 16; an England, Wales, Scotland SIG 10; a Canadian/French Canadian SIG 8; a Scandinavian SIG 8; New York 7; New England 7; Midwest 6; and Italian 5. Anyone can start a SIG.

Using the list, get your SIG together, select a contact person, set date, time and place for meeting and reap the benefits. Let Carol Huvane, SIG coordinator, know your plans.

The second new development was announced by Jack Johnson at the May meeting of the Danville Library's acquisition of a computer designated solely for genealogy research. As part of the acquisition there are 270 CD-ROMs. Volunteers from our society, acting as docents will help visitors to the library use these CDs. Sign up to be a docent and reap more benefits.

The year ahead holds great promise for the Society in terms of expanded opportunities. I encourage you all to take advantage of growing resources that we have right here in our own back yard: the SIGs, the education classes offered monthly by this Society; the Danville Library and the research facilities at the Family History Center in Alamo.

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 made payable to SRVGS, to: ~~Audrey Morgan 3607 Perada Drive, Walnut Creek 94598.~~ *P.O. Box*

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

Proposed Budget 2000-2001 - SRVGS

Balance Forward General Fund	\$2,094.34
Dues Income (includes \$45 prepaid)	2845.00
Other Income	50.00
NARA Stern Fund (includes \$5 prepaid)	75.00
Total Income	2,970.00
Total General Fund	\$5,064.34

Expenses:

Facility Rental	0.00
Hospitality	0.00
Liability Insurance	330.00
Membership Expenses	400.00
Miscellaneous	50.00
Monthly Program costs	500.00
Newsletter	\$1,400.00
NARA Stern Fund	75.00
Officers Expenses	50.00
Post Office Box Rental	15.00
Publicity	50.00
Society Memberships	
Conf. Of CA Historical Societies	35.00
Federation of Genealogical Societies	45.00
CA State Genealogical Alliance	20.00
Total Expenses	\$2,970.00

<u>Net Income/Expenses</u>	\$2,094.34
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Restricted Funds

Cassette Tape Library	\$112.89
Library Fund	267.72
Publications	1,027.75
Special Projects	200.00
Total Restricted Funds	\$1,608.36

From our Tape Library:**Tapes on the subject of researching newspapers:**

- C-25 Using Newspapers (HQ 016) Arlene Eakle
M-56 Newspapers As Aid to Genealogical Research
11/94 by Marjorie Bell
C-38 The Draper Papers: Documents for Frontier
Genealogy (Tr SFO F-19(By J. Hansen
C-168 Using Genealogical Periodicals (RP-NGH97, F-
109) By Henry B. Hoff.

Family History Library News - Irish Census

Few census records exist in Ireland from before 1900. The 1901 census is the first complete census which covers the whole country. The 1901 census has been available in the FHL for years.

The library is now in the process of adding the 1911 Irish census to its collection. In addition to the information given in the 1901 census, the 1911 census shows the number of years a couple has been married, if both husband and wife are alive, and the number of children of the mother (living and deceased). Street indexes to the larger cities are being compiled for both censuses and will be available at a later date.

The catalog for the 1911 Irish census is complete for these counties: Antrim, Armagh, Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Down, Dublin, Fermanagh, Galway, Leitrim, Limerick, Londonderry, Longford, Louth, Tipperary, Tyrone, Waterford, Wicklow, Wexford, Westmeath. The films for the other counties are starting to come in but are incomplete.

Family History Library Catalog Available on CD

Pat Isom reports that a windows version of the FHL Catalog on compact disc will be available around the first of June. It can be purchased for home use for \$5.00. It operates with Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher. This version of the Family History Library Catalog is similar to the Internet version but provides additional search capabilities.

TAPES FOR UPCOMING SUBJECT

- C-111 The American Loyalists: Exiles or Refugees?
Three Geographical Areas: E. Quebec, Maritimes,
& Ontario (TrROC-06)
C-110 Did your Loyalist Ancestors Return to the United
States? (RP-NGS 97, S-189)
C-15 Introduction to Quaker Records/Genealogy
(TrOXF-49)

Danville Library Genealogy Reference Collection

The Danville Library has contacted the SRVGS Library Committee with the following information: The Library has acquired what will be a stand-alone computer system dedicated to genealogy. The system will be loaded with the Family Tree Maker computer program and supported with ALL of the genealogy reference CD's published by Broderbund (approximately 270 CD's, total, along with future updates). The system is projected for installation at the Danville Library in early June, and will be available to the public on a "sign up" basis.

The Library has asked the SRVGS if its members would be willing to serve as Docents in support of this resource. This resource and the request for docents was announced at the May General Meeting. Several of our members already have responded; if you are interested, please contact Jack Johnson at 837-2153 or e-mail to Jack at jackj9@idt.net. I'm sure that you'll find this to be a rewarding experience.

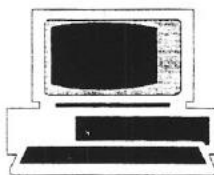
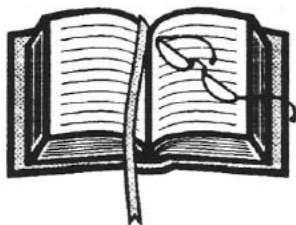
THE NARA STERN GIFT FUND - AN EXPLANATION

Have you ever wondered what the NARA gift fund is that you see on your membership application? There is a \$1.00 suggested donation for the records micro-filming project. But what exactly, is it for?

The National Archives and Records Administration houses nearly 1.5 million cubic feet of records documenting our past. Only a tiny fraction of these records have been preserved on microform, allowing researchers better access and preserving the original records from deterioration. There are still millions of priceless and fragile documents that need our attention - NOW!!

The Malcolm H. Stern NARA Gift fund, established in 1983 as the Genealogical Coordinating committee NARA Gift fund, is a nationally supported program to finance the creation of finding aids and the microfilming of valuable research materials now preserved in NARA in Washington D.C. These microform copies, produced without government funding, are then distributed to the 13 National Archives Regional Archives for use by researchers. These records are also available through any LDS Family History Center in the world.

There is a document waiting for your dollar, please donate today.

**Internet Connections**

Performing a thorough search on RootsWeb can be challenging, but rewarding. There are several reasons for this. First, RootsWeb is very, very large. There are literally more than

one million Web pages of content and hundreds of millions of names on RootsWeb. Secondly, RootsWeb actually consists of thousands of Web sites, databases and files that have accumulated in numerous different formats over more than 13 years and which continue to grow every day. Third, this accumulation was not planned. Hence, there is today no single place where you can search all of RootsWeb.

RootsWeb has many searchable parts, accessible through search engines. In addition there are many resources that are not searchable, but which must be browsed. You need to come back often, since many megabytes of new material are added daily to RootsWeb. These are just a few of the sites to start with on RootsWeb. But, you can check for yourself at : <http://searches.rootsweb.com>

GenConnect Message Boards

<http://genconnect.rootsweb.com/genbbs.cgi?search>
RootsWeb's 152,600+ message boards contain 1.3+million messages relating to surnames, locations, various document types and topics of genealogical interest.

Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild

<http://istg.rootsweb.com/>
Search 2,500+ ship arrival lists for your ancestors. You can also browse each thousand-ship volume of arrival lists by ship's name, port of departure, port of arrival, passenger surname and captain's name.

Meta Search

<http://resources.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/metasearch>
The ultimate search engine at RootsWeb. Search major databases and text files by surname or keywords.

California - Birth Index (1905-1995)

<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/ca/birth/search.cgi>

California-Death Index (1940-1997)

<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/ca/death/search.cgi>

Social Security Death Index

<http://ssdi.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi>
Search 63.6+ million death records in this database originating from the (Continued column 2, Page 7).

Comparing the FHL Catalog on CD & On the Internet by Rhonda R. McClure

The family History Library Catalog is now available on CD. The question that may come to your mind at this point though, is "Why?". The answer is additional features, not available online and a more recent update.

I sat down and opened the CD on one computer and launched the FHLC on FamilySearch.org on another. I began to compare the two versions. The main version of the CD catalog offers Place Search, Surname Search, Keyword Search and All Searches push buttons. The Keyword search is new. While FamilySearch.org offers a Keyword search, that search is only to the submitted websites and to the SourceGuide options at FamilySearch.org.

When selecting the All Searches push button, the CD version includes the following push button searches:

- Title Search (this is new) Author Search
- Film/Fiche Search Place Search
- Surname Search Call Number Search
- Keyword Search (this is new) Subject Search (also new)

The CD version also does not limit the results listings in the way that the Internet version does. While I can understand the limitations on the Internet to speed along access and the displaying of the results, the CD version is much quicker owing to the fact that you can see more of the results in a given screen. The CD version can show up to 40 hits per screen. When viewing a list of the film notes, there was another marked difference. The Internet version lists only 20 film notes per screen. The CD version can view well over 100 per screen. In searching, it appeared that the CD version was designed to show as many entries as possible.

The Family History Library Catalog on CD is available through the FamilySearch.org web site: (<http://www.familysearch.org>) for \$5.00. You can order this online by following these steps:

- (1) Select order History Resources
- (2) Select Software Products
- (3) Select Personal Ancestral File and Related Products

You will then see the Family History Library Catalog CD in the list of products displayed.

RootsWeb (Continued)

Social Security Administrations Death Index. Updated monthly. Also contains user created Post-Em notes that may connect you to other researchers.

RootsWeb Surname List (RSL)

<http://rsl.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/rsllsql.cgi>
Search 847,000+ surname entries by 184,000+ genealogists. Find genealogists working on the same surnames at the same place and time!

Obituary Daily Times

<http://obits.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/obit.cgi>
Search 4.3+ million published obituaries with thousands added daily

Town and County Database (USA)

<http://resources.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/townco.cgi>
Know the town and not the county? Search the names of all United States towns and cities and find out which county or state has potential matches.

USGenWeb Project -Archives

Numerous transcriptions, databases and books have been contributed to the archives and are indexed by state.

USGenWeb Archives National Search Engine

<http://searches.rootsweb.com/htdig/search.html/>

State Archives Search Engine

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ussearch.htm>

WorldConnect Project

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wggenweb/index.html>
Numerous transcriptions, databases and other resources have been contributed to the archives and indexed.

American World War I Civilian Draft Registrations

<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/ww1/draft/search.cgi>
On three designated registration days in 1917 and 1918, approximately 24-million civilian men born between 1872 and 1900 provided information for draft registration cards. More than 80% of these civilians received exemptions or deferrals, and they were thus never called for military service. Because many states did not have registration of births in the years 1872-1900, these cards can be considered delayed birth registration.

There's lots more. Check out RootsWeb

ANCESTORS - SEASON 2 - ON THE SCHEDULE

Carol Thompson reports that Ancestors-Part 2, has been purchased by several of the PBS stations in the area. The stations and the scheduled starting dates and times are listed here:

KCFM - August 6th - Sundays 4:30 PM

KTEH-54 - July 1st - Saturday 1:30 PM

KQED purchased the program but doesn't have it on their schedule at this time.

There are 13 programs in the entire series. It is not known whether the stations will broadcast all of the programs.

The new series responds to viewer's suggestions that the episodes include more "how-to" information about family history research. The series includes such experts as Curt Witcher, director of the National Genealogical Society; David Rencher, director of the Salt lake City Family History Library, Tony Burroughs, of the New England Historical Genealogy Society; and Cyndi Howells, Internet genealogy expert. Seasoned genealogist will gain as much from their tips as those who have an interest in family history but don't yet know where to begin.

GENEALOGY HUMOR

1. My family coat of arms ties at the back, is that normal?
2. My family tree is a few branches short. All help appreciated.
3. Shake your family tree and watch the nuts fall out.
4. I looked into my family tree and found that I was a sap.
5. I'm not stuck, I'm ancestrally challenged.
6. A family tree can wither if no one tends to its roots.
7. Any family tree produces some lemons, some nuts and a few bad apples.
8. I think my ancestors had several "Bad Heir" days.
9. Many a family tree needs pruning.
10. Shh! Be very, very quiet....I'm hunting forebears.
11. That's strange, half my ancestors are WOMEN.
12. Genealogists live in the past lane.
13. Genealogy: Chasing your own tale!
14. That's the problem with the gene pool: NO lifeguards.
15. I researched my family tree.. And apparently I don't exist.
16. Alright! Everybody out of the gene pool!
17. So many ancestors..... so little TIME!!



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