

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. 3

September 2000

THIS MONTH -September 19, 2000

COPYRIGHTS AND PUBLISHING -Speaker Bette Kot

Bette Kot, charter member of our society, CGS librarian, instructor, lecturer, author and a professional genealogist will speak about the importance of copyrights when compiling our information in preparing and publishing our own personal history. She will cover such issues as "public domain", Internet material, noting and permission of the author, "fair use", etc. This is a very important subject if you plan to publish your research.

LAST MEETING-August July 18, 2000

GENEALOGY ON THE INTERNET - with Karen Wetherell

by Jane Steiner

Karen Wetherell was here for a return engagement following her successful talk a year ago. This time she talked about communication on the Internet-- E-mail, downloading files, and GEDCOM.

Covering e-mail first, she assumes that you want it read and understood. Through your Internet Service Provider (ISP) you can usually choose your own e-mail program, though some use proprietary programs (e.g. AOL and Gateway.net).

Her suggestions for e-mail:

- 1) Use a meaningful subject line; and when replying to a message, if you change the topic, change the subject line.
- 2) In replies, you probably won't need the entire message you receive. Highlight the part you are NOT responding to and delete it. You can fill in your responses after each item for which you have a response.
- 3) With most mail software you may create a signature (Sig) file which will be appended to every message you send. Use a Sig to identify yourself; give your real name and perhaps the city of residence; include your e-mail address; you can include names or areas you are researching, but keep it short, 6 lines or less.
- 4) For attachments, NEVER send an attachment to a mailing list. Ask your correspondents what form they want an attachment in. Something sent in "Rich Text Format" (RTF) can be read by most word processing programs. Every mail program has a way to show that there is an attachment. The most common is a small paper clip.

You have the option to open an attachment or not by clicking on the filename. Rather than opening an attachment when you receive one, you should save it. Pay attention to file extensions--the three-letters at the end of a file name, separated by a dot. Make sure that Windows doesn't cover up the file extensions. A straight text file has a .txt extension. HTML stands for hypertext markup language. If a message was formatted using html, it is not always readable by all mail processors. Some servers are even beginning to block html-formatted messages because they may contain a virus.

Create a special folder for all your downloads. Then scan the files with your anti-virus software before opening them. Keep your anti-virus software up to date, and make sure it is set to scan ALL files--not just program files. Once viruses were only in program files, but now they can be in any file. And once when you received an attachment from a friend, it was okay. But now there are viruses that can attach to ALL the names in someone's address book without their knowledge.

5) Don't forward warnings about viruses! There are websites to check for virus hoaxes:

<<http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/CIACHoaxes.html>>

<http://www.genealogy.com/29_virus.html>

Continuation of Meeting notes for July 2000 Meeting

Next, Karen discussed the various types of files you are likely to download and how you deal with each of them (text, word processed, graphics, compressed files, executable file-programs)

1) Files with .pdf are Adobe Acrobat files (portable document format); .pdf files will look the same on any machine no matter what machine or program created them. However, you must have an "Acrobat Reader" to read them. It comes on most new computers, and Adobe gives it away on the Internet: <www.adobe.com>

2) COMPRESSED FILES have had the spaces squeezed out so that they take up much less space. Examples are ZIP files on PCs or "Stuffed" files on a Mac. The "uncompressor" file for PCs is WINZIP. The Mac uses Stuffit Expander which usually decompresses the files automatically when they are downloaded.

3) You can download program files which are executable files (.exe). Be careful! Double clicking automatically starts them running. One type of .exe file is an installer file. A double click will add that program to your computer. Learn what the various extensions mean. You can find out at this site: <www.whatis.com/ff.html>

GEDCOM is an acronym for GENEalogical Data COMmunications which was developed by the Family History Department of the LDS Church. It defines the structure for the transfer of genealogical data from one program to another. But there may be some difficulties in doing this.

GEDCOM files have the extension .ged. The file format is a straight text file; it can be read or written by virtually any computer or genealogy program. But a file imported by a genealogy program may not understand all the differences between the programs. It could be extremely helpful, but you need to have adequate computer skills before down-loading a GEDCOM file, and you need to understand your genealogy software.

Use the HELP section of your genealogy software, and understand what you are doing before you start. Some GEDCOMs will have errors because not all people are careful. It is difficult to determine the original compiler of a GEDCOM file. Always save these files as plain text. NEVER as html.

To look at a GEDCOM file, start your genealogy program, but don't bring in your family database. Then use the File menu to Open the downloaded file. You can also use a GEDCOM viewer. It will allow you to browse through a GEDCOM file. It is downloadable: <www.tsnssoftware.com>.

If you import it into your genealogy program, you may experience data loss because of differences between

programs. NEVER import a GEDCOM directly into your data base. You don't want any problems overwriting your work. Some of the problems you may encounter: incompatible character sets, the way a program handles notes, the way names or adoptions are handled, and special tags or events that aren't part of the GEDCOM standard. Many people prefer to add the GEDCOM information manually to their files rather than use automated merge.

To find GEDCOMs on line, try "Family Search." You can download one family at a time. Other good sites were listed in the handout. All say they make no guarantee. You take it "as is."

If you are planning to add your GEDCOM to a site, ask who is going to own it. Does the owner of the website own it? Will they produce CDs of your data? There are privacy considerations. Go to the site and read their statement.

Karen's excellent handout gave the addresses for all the sites she mentioned.

SRVGS September 2000 Treasurer Report
 by Nancy Alexander, Treasurer 2000-2001
Fund Balances: 8/31/00

General Fund	3881.61
Hospitality Fund	30.78
Publications Fund	937.83
Special Projects Fund	200.00
N.A.R.A. Fund	95.00
Cassette Tape Library Fund	33.85
Library Fund:	
Prior Year Gifts & Donations	203.80
Current Year Donations	276.00

Overall Total Balance: \$5658.87

Newsletter Editorial Team

Coordinator: Sharon Clay 462-4518
 sharoncl@ix.netcom.com

Special Contributors: Pat Isom 820-2660

Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 838-8570
 e-mail VSEG@Juno.com

Mailing:
 Barbara Dittig 648-9364
 Lucy Carver 837-3146

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

New Tapes Now Available In Our Tape Library

- C-221 A Guided Tour of Cyndi's List
by Cyndi Howells RP GenTech. 00-F-1
- C-222 Gateway to the West: Ohio Sources and Migration
Patterns - Kay Sperry RP MoreGen,DCA59
- C-223 Exploring the German "Character"
by John T. Humphrey RP NGS, T-88
- C-224 Tracking Pennsylvania Ancestors: Keys to Successful
Research by Kay Hamilton Freilich RP FGS, 99-F-91
- C-225 Tricks of the Trade: Things You Really Need To Know
To Track Down Germans by Dorothy A. Boyd-Rush RP NGS, S-190
- C-226 A Revealing Look At The Canadian Census Records by
Joy Reisinger RP FGS, 99-F-116
- C-227 From Italy to America: Starting Your Italian-American
Research by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack RP-FGS, 99-F-102
- C-228 The Methodist and Presbyterians in the Mid-Atlantic
Area by Marty Hiatt RP NGS, T-66
- C-229 Ancestors From Quebec - Now What?
By Joy Reisinger RP Wisc.State GenSoc
- C-230 United States Church Records: Mennonite and Amish by
Delbert L. Gratz
- C-231 Rural Pennsylvania Research, Especially in the Western
Counties by John Search Hanson
- C-232 German Church Records: The Expected and Unexpected
by Zella Weaver Mirick
- C-233 Basic French-Canadian Genealogical Research
by John P. Dulong

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE BY Barbara Dyer

While the nominating committee has long since completed it's responsibilities and chairpersons have been appointed to head committees, there is still a need for help to smooth out the operation of the Society:

(1) A person is needed to tape the speaker at each General meeting, to make a copy of the tape (one for the speaker and one for the Cassette Tape Library. Equipment is provided. This person would also help the Cassette Librarian before, during the break and after the meeting when needed. As an incentive to obtain a volunteer, we will offer the person a **free tape rental each month.**

(2) A person is needed to set up and maintain a Society shelf at the LDS Family History Center in Alamo. Pat Isom has generously agreed to provide the space but we must take it from there. The shelf would hold materials belonging to the SRVGS such as current genealogy subscriptions, quarterlies, journals, and newsletters that would later be passed along to the Freebie Basket, thus enabling all members and other visitors to the center to read them. Also located there would be several CD-ROMS that have been donated to the Society and are not presently being used.

(3) Volunteer docents are still needed to fill in the monthly calendar at the Danville Library. These persons provide assistance to those visitors needing help using the large

collection of Family Tree Maker CD's.

Each of these tasks would required only a few hours each month but would be of real assistance to the Society. And each has fringe benefits to the volunteer. You are in a position to use the SRVGS materials and the CDs when they are not being used by others. So, please, volunteer by leaving a voice mail message for me at 820-3221.

Library Trip Schedule

Sept. 26		Sutro Library
	415-731-4477	480 Winston Dr.
		San Francisco
October 24		National Archives
	650-876-9009	1000 Commodore Drive
		San Bruno
November 28		Oakland Family History Center
	510-531-3905	4766 Lincoln Ave.
		Oakland
January 23		California Genealogical Society
		Latham Office Bldg,
	510-663-1358	16 th and Telegraph
		Oakland

February 27, 2001		Pleasanton City Library
	925-462-3535	400 Old Bernal Ave.
		Pleasanton

March 27, 2001		Sutro Library
	415-731-4477	400 Winston Drive
		San Francisco

April 24, 2001		Napa Genealogy Library
	707-252-2262	1701 Menlo Ave.
		Napa

May 22, 2001		National Archives
	650-876-9009	1000 Commodore Drive
		San Bruno

June 26, 2001		California State Library
	916-654-0261	900 N. Street

		Sacramento CA
		and California Archives
	916-653-7715	1020 O Street
		Sacramento
July 24, 2001		UC North Regional Library Facility
	510-232-7767	So. 47 th & Mead
		Richmond, CA.

SRVGS CALENDAR- SEPT. 2000

- 5 - Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at home of Carol Thompson, 308 Hartford Road in Danville.
- 19 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.
- 21ST & 28TH Thursdays - 10:00 a.m. to noon. Member Education Class: "Getting Started in Genealogy: will be presented by Frances Lloyd at her home, 210 Town and Country Drive, in Danville. Phone 837-9382. Sign up at General Meeting.
- 26 Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. Library Trip to. Sutro Library, 480 Winston Dr., San Francisco. Carpools will meet behind Albertson's off Diablo Road in Danville. Note that the new Library Trip Coordinator is Michael Fiorenza. If you sign up for a trip and wish to cancel, please call him at 820-8294.
- 28 Thursday - 10:00 a.m. to noon. Getting Started in Genealogy II. (see above)

OCTOBER

- 3 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
- 3 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Genealogy on the Internet at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. Please sign up at the "September meeting."
- 17 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting
- 24 Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. Library Trip to the National Archives, San Bruno

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS:

- September 7, Thursday 1 to 3:30 p.m. Genealogy Society of Vallejo, meets at the Naval & Historical Museum. Carol Gebel, acquisitions librarian at the State Library, will feature quilts and genealogy. Garage sale on Sept. 9 and The Wilson House tour on Sept. 16, (1909 Craftsman style designed by Julia Morgan) 2 to 5 p.m., \$15 donation. For reservations call (707)-552-0175
- September 12, Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Livermore Amador Genealogical Society (LAGS), meets at Beth Emek, corner of College and South M St., Livermore. For information call Debbie Pizzato, (925) 606-7466
- September 14, Thursday 7:30 p.m., Contra Costa County Genealogical Society meets in the Community Room of the new Concord Police Station, 1350 Gallindo Ave. Ken Gaeta- "From Bottles to Mines"
- 19 Tuesday 7:30 p.m. San Mateo Co. Genealogical Society meets at 525 Middle Road (Belmont Central School), Belmont. For information call (650) 572-2929.
- 21 Thursday, 1-3:00 p.m. Mount Diablo Genealogical Society meets in the community room of the Civic

- Bank of Commerce, 1940 Tice Valley Rd. Walnut Creek. Round table & planning session. For information contact Don Joost at bjdon@silcon.com
- 23 Contra Costa Genealogical Society presents an all-day seminar, "Getting Started in Genealogy" at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. Presenters include Barbara Edkin, Susan Swindell, Bette Kot and Cat Nielsen. Lunch will be included. \$20 - members; \$25 - non members. For information e-mail Sue Swindell or call her at 925-372-6996.
- 28 Thursday 7:30 p.m. LAGS computer interest group meets at Livermore Adult Ed. Bldg., 543 Sonoma Ave. For information call Dick Finn, 447-9652.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups:

GERMAN - Meets 10 a.m. September 27 (fourth Wednesday) at the home of Carol Huvane, 89 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek. If anyone regularly attends, but cannot attend this meeting, please call her. 947-5669.

IRISH & CALIF. - Meets September 13 (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 - This is new group and will meet September 25 (fourth Monday) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Frances Lloyd, 210 Town & country, Danville. Phone 837-9382.

PORTUGUESE - Meets third Tuesday of month after the general meeting. Bring a bag lunch. Confirmation of the meeting will be announced at the general meeting.

SOUTHERN - Meets September 12 (second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Peggy Dearman, 749 Morninghome Road, in Danville. Phone 837-1621

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

COMPUTER USERS - Formerly met third Wednesday of month. Includes use of

INTERNET - Interested users communicate via e-mail. Members should contact Robert daRoza, vrदारोza@ix.netcom.com

ROOTS USERS GROUP: Includes Ultimate Family Tree and conversions to the Master Genealogist.

EDUCATION CLASSES 2000-2001

By Millie Freitas - Education Chairman

Genealogy On the Internet

Pat Isom and Ron Frye are offering classes in "Genealogy On the Internet" on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m., at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road, when the library is usually closed. These classes will continue as long as people sign up for them. The classes are limited to six students each day, and will be offered to genealogical society non-members when there is space. Sign up sheets will be circulated at the September 19 General meeting for the October 3, November 7, and December 5 classes. We hope that eventually one class will be set aside for dummies like myself who don't know where the "on" button is.

Other Classes, 2000-2001

Sept. 21 - Getting Started in Genealogy 1 - 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Sept. 28 - Getting Started in Genealogy 2 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Frances Lloyd's "getting started" class has been re-organized. It was felt that the full day seminar was too much to absorb all at once so we are going to try two morning classes. Her class is a must for beginners and as a refresher for veterans. Classes will include: Forms to use, where to start, documentation..... There is no end to her useful information. You need to sign up for both mornings.

October 3 - Genealogy on the Internet - FHC - Alamo - Sign up at September General Meeting

October 19 - Accessing the Federal Census 10:00 a.m. Millie Freitas - 607 Diablo Road, Danville 837-2483

How to get around the archives at San Bruno, how to code your surnames, how to use the readers - pre-knowledge saves time there.

November 7 - Genealogy On the Internet - FHC - Alamo - 10:00 a.m.

December 5 - Genealogy On the Internet - FHC - Alamo - 10:00 a.m.

January 2 - Genealogy On the Internet - FHC - Alamo - 10:00 a.m.

January 30 - Tuesday - Getting Around the History Center: Library Catalog, I.G.I. and Ancestral File 10:00 a.m.

Pat Isom, 820-2660, Family History Center, Stone Valley Road, Alamo

February 6 - Genealogy On the Internet - FHC - Alamo 10:00 a.m.

February 22 - Libraries, Archives, Societies - 10:00 a.m.

Mary Jo Hosteny, 932-2244, Frances Lloyd's home, 210 town & Country, Danville 837-9382

An intimate look at the libraries, archives and society holdings within driving distance. What to look for, where the best collections are located, equipment available, research services offered, loan availability, locations, etc.

March 6 - Genealogy On the Internet - FHC - Alamo - 10:00 a.m.

March 22 - Newspapers, City Directories, Voter Registration - 10:00 a.m. Carol Glover, 830-7207, 333 Goshen Court, San Ramon

From the front page headlines to the legal section on the back page, besides births, marriages and deaths, you will find crime, divorces, school news, forced land sales, searches for missing friends and relatives, society activities - no end of exciting information. Very valuable information in city directories and voter registration lists.

April 3 - Genealogy On the Internet - FHC - Alamo - 10:00 a.m.

April 19 - Probate Records 10:00 a.m. Dorothy Stanton, 820-3757, 501 El Capitan, Danville

Disposition of property, heirs, sometimes families in the "old country" were remembered; holdings in other counties or states, relatives previously unknown.

No classes have been scheduled for May 17, June 21 or July 19 at present. If a previous class is canceled, it may be rescheduled on one of these dates, or if a special need arises or a request is made, it may be scheduled on these dates. A special Tuesday may be designated for those who cannot attend on the first Tuesday.

Genealogical Standards - from the NGS Genealogical Standards Committee
Standards for Sharing Information with Others

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Conscious of the fact that sharing information or data with others, whether through speech, documents or electronic media, is essential to family history research and that it needs continuing support and encouragement, responsible family historians consistently ---

- ▶ respect the restrictions on sharing information that arise from the rights of another as an author, originator or compiler; as a living private person; or as a party to a mutual agreement.
- ▶ **observe meticulously the legal rights of copyright owners, copying or distributing any part of their works only with their permission, or to the limited extent specifically allowed under the law's "fair use" exceptions.**
- ▶ identify the sources for all ideas, information and data from others, and the form in which they were received, recognizing that the unattributed use of another's intellectual work is plagiarism.
- ▶ respect the authorship rights of senders of letters, electronic mail and data files, forwarding or disseminating them further only with the sender's permission.
- ▶ inform people who provide information about their families as to the ways it may be used, observing any conditions they impose and respect any reservations they may express regarding the use of particular items, require some evidence of consent before assuming that living people are agreeable to further sharing of information about themselves.
- ▶ convey personal identifying information about living people - like age, home address, occupation or activities - only in ways that those concerned have expressly agreed to.
- ▶ recognize that legal rights of privacy may limit the extent to which information from publicly available sources may be further used, disseminated or published.
- ▶ communicate no information to others that is known to be false, or without making reasonable efforts to determine its truth, particularly information that may be derogatory.
- ▶ are sensitive to the hurt that revelations of criminal, immoral, bizarre or irresponsible behavior may bring to family members.

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[Http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/about/content/committees/gene4_stan.html](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/about/content/committees/gene4_stan.html)

OFF THE INTERNET

FAMILY TREE FINDERS Friday - 18 February 2000

A Reader's Question: Where to Find Vital Records Online

Q: I was asked where to locate and find vital records, baptisms and obituaries. I'm also very interested in how to locate information from these areas also. Can you help me find a site where I can locate these?

A: While more and more information is finding its way out onto the Internet, there are still going to be some instances when it is necessary to return to records in their original format, or at least on microfilm. Vital records are often one of those areas. However, with that said there are a couple of places to begin your search online. While there are some indexes online, you will find yourself ordering vital records be mailed to you. Some of the different states now are allowing online ordering though, which is easier and sometimes quicker.

-- VitalCheck Network (<http://www.vitalcheck.com>)

-- Vital Records Information (<http://www.vitalrec.com/>)

To find records that may have been transcribed or indexes to vital records, you will want to begin your search by visiting the state and county pages of the USGenWeb project (<http://www.usgenweb.org/>).

Baptisms are a church record. Therefore you would have to hope that the church records have been transcribed by a local society. To find these online, usually means visiting the society pages or seeing what the GenWeb pages have been able to do. It is important to remember that these are usually volunteer programs, so what is available and how it is presented will vary from group to group.

Obituaries: Obituaries are one of the major record sources that are transcribed. Many of the USGenWeb pages include obituaries in their pages. There are also a few pages that you will want to check that have been compiling links to different obituary sites.

-- Free Obituaries Online

(http://www.king.igs.net/~bdmlhm/obit_links.html)

-- The Obituary Links Page

(<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Bluffs/7748/obit/obituary.htm>)

-- Obituary Links

(<http://www.familyworkings.com/links/obits.htm>)

Of course, when it is all said and done, there will be times when it is necessary to plan a visit to the Family History Center to order microfilmed vital records, church baptisms and obituary resources. Of course, with the FamilySearch.org site (<http://www.familysearch.org>) it is now possible to do some of your searching for what records to order before you get to the center. To find the Family History Library Catalog, you will need to select the Custom search tab on the front page of the FamilySearch site.

NOTE!: It is possible that the URLs have been forced to word wrap to the next line. Please verify this before contacting me.

All URLs in this newsletter have been verified.

(Editor's note: Since these websites were "clickable", and may not be accessible from entering the entire web address into your address line, try typing in the first part, up to the .com then click on the appropriate "links" from there.)

Rhonda R. McClure

rhondam@sodamail.com

If you know someone who is interested in genealogy, please forward this entire message to them!

To subscribe to Family Tree Finders, send a blank e-mail message to:
join-family-tree-finders@gt.sodamail.com

Subscribe to the Federation of Genealogical Societies magazine - the FGS Forum.

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BEFORE ELLIS ISLAND - WHAT?

Where were immigrants to America processed before Ellis Island was operational? (Believe it or not, it wasn't here when the pilgrims arrived!)

Castle Garden opened as an immigrant landing depot on August 3, 1855. During the next 34 years, over 8 million people entered the United States through Castle Garden, until it was closed on April 18, 1890.

Check out this website on <http://www.nps.gov/cagl/>.

Want Some Filler Info For Your Family History?

If you'd like to know what was going on during your ancestor's lifetime - other than in their own community, check out <http://www.ourtimelines.com>. Just type in your ancestor's name, birth and death years, and you get a personalized time line showing the events that took place during their lives, from 1000 AD to present.

Interest in Old Medical Terms?

Check out www.genrecords.com/library/disease.htm

Are you lost when you see those <http://> notes? Take the Genealogy on the Internet class. Find out what you are missing.

SAN RAMON VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
BOX 305
DIABLO, CA 94528-0305



FIRST CLASS MAIL