

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 305

Diablo, CA 94528-8308

President: Frances Lloyd

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. 9

May 2002

THIS MONTH -MAY 21, 2002

This meeting will be "Insight Presentations" by five members of SRVGS. Bob Kay will tell us of his experience with "Family Reunions". Barbara Dittig will share with us what she has discovered with her "German Research". Frank Williams will discuss "New York Research". Sharon Clay has made many genealogical discoveries while "Searching Mother's Closet". Marilyn Tanner will discuss "Mississippi River Boats".

We can learn from other members and what they have found. Join us at our meeting and hear about the interesting research and discoveries from our other members.

LAST MEETING-April 16, 2002

What You Can Learn From Memorabilia

Speaker - Lynn Owens, Notes by Lee Schlenker

Mr. Lynn Owns, a very invigorating speaker, and his wife, Linda are avid Civil War memorabilia collectors. They travel to schools and try to arouse interest in students to their Civil War "roots" by presenting a Civil War person (in costume) who retells his own great grandfather's story (as close to the real thing as he can make it). He thinks that most people under the age of 40 don't know much American history and some history teachers aren't even sure of the dates of the Civil War. He feels students should know the sacrifices made during the Civil War and how important *this* war really was to our country. He calls himself the "Mr. Johnny Appleseed for American History".

He brought several items of their collection for display. He had flags, Bowie knives, tintype pictures, newspaper articles, books, medals, original clothes and other items.

Both he and his wife's great grandfathers fought in the Civil War, in fact they fought against each other. In his presentation, he told actual stories of these grandfathers as well as other family members. One story was of his wife's mother, who as a child, was told she was related to Mark Twain. One day at school, in show and tell, she shared that information. Being from so poor a background, all her peers just laughed at her. She became so embarrassed that from that point on she never told anyone anything again about relatives. Sometime later, Linda's great aunt sent an old letter from Elmira, N.Y. relating

information on a Mr. Samuel Clemens and his recent travels. This was the proof that they were related to THE "Mark Twain".

Rather than instructing us on the typical researching our "roots" within Civil War records, he made the War come alive with several Civil War personas to help illustrate how things were during that war and what the soldiers went through during that time. He attired himself in Civil War garments (vest and hat) and was in character - the stage was set. He told us the story of one Civil War skirmish at Franklin, Tennessee, where 8,500 men died in 5 hours of bloody fighting. Mentioning generals names made it come to life even more! He told, without reservation, of the blood and gore of men dying (even their horses) in battle - from the beginning to the end. It was very well done.

Mr. Owns ended his talk by changing his outfit to a "cowboy" vest, hat and gun belt and recited an old cowboy poem which was a conversation between a grandfather and grandson regarding how it was to be a cowboy. (The poem follows). This is an example of how we can pass on family history - verbally.

Mr. Owns was passionate about completing your own ancestor's "more *personal* history" - even if they were not in the Civil War. It is important to pass along the stories, either in writing or verbally. But the important thing is to PASS IT ON!!.

(Speaker Notes, Continued)

THE OLD COWBOY

The Old Cowboy wanted to take his grandson to a
Frontier Wild West Show
One kind of like a Round Up or an Old Fashioned Rodeo
He said, son, I think it's time that you should know
How we used to Cowboy years ago.

The days did pass and don't you know it wasn't long
before they'd go
To Colonel Wilson's Wild West Show

So in the truck the two jumped in
Both a-sporting a great big grin
Down the road they flew
Kicking up dust and some black birds too

It didn't take long you know
To get to town and find the show
The show must have lasted two hours or so then it was
over and time to go

As they headed back for home
The Old Cowboy said with a groan
Son, I ain't never seen nothing like we saw today
When I was riding the range and looking for a stray
Why if you saddled your horse so fancy that way
Hell son, he couldn't work and carry you all day

Those shiny guns we saw
Wouldn't last two seconds if you had to fast draw
And those fancy duds they wore
You couldn't buy those in a real cowboy store
Their boots were shining couldn't you see
That shine wouldn't last ten seconds
If you were a riding with me

Now when we get home son you come to me
Climb right up on my old crooked knee
And I'll tell you straight and I'll tell you true
What it was like to be a real Buckaroo".
Waddie "O" Lynn R. Owens, copyright 1997

Materials for information:

Company H by Sam Watkins

The Banner (the old GAR magazine)

Confederate Veterans Magazine

National Parks Across the U.S.

39 Volume Roster of Union Soldiers 1861-1865 by Janet Hewett16 Volume Roster of Confederate Soldiers 1861-1865 by Janet Hewett.

There was a good handout, listing the areas to search for
information at NARA (pick it up to photocopy if you rent the
tape.)

President's Message - May 2002 by Francie Lloyd

First of all, I must congratulate you on the tremendous
improvement in your "passing" skills! Not a clip board
was lost at the April meeting!

The hope of ownership of land brought many of our
ancestors to this county. It is just as important a
commodity today for as we all know, "they aren't making
it anymore" - except for places like Foster City.
Land records include the transfer of land; description of
land -size, shape, quality; and taxation. Following are
just a few things you might want to keep in mind while
exploring your ancestors' holdings.

Land was passed from government to person, association
or corporation to person etc. though not always as
smoothly as you passed the sign-up sheets. It takes paper
work, and for this we should all be grateful. In addition
to land tax records there are homesteads, warrants,
surveys, grants, patents, claims, deeds There are
federal land records, colonial and state land records, and
local land records. There are land entry books and land
entry papers. There are public-land states and non-
public-land states

The Grantor (seller, conveyor)-**Grantee** (buyer,
receiver) **Index** is a master index kept in the county
recorder's office in most courthouses.

A **Warrant** is a document issued at the local U.S. land
office to a buyer (warrantee) of public land authorizing a
survey to set boundaries on a prescribed tract of land to
which the warrantee is entitled. The warrant is exchanged
for a land certificate from the general land office at
Washington, D.C.. Information on the warrant includes
name of purchaser, date of issuance, and the number of
acres and/or description of the land. Bounty land,
awarded as a bonus for serving in the military, comes
under this category.

A **Land Grant** refers to both the land transferred from a
government to a private party and to the document con-
veying the transfer. This may also be called a **charter**.

A **Patent** is the document created when government
owned land is first sold to a private party. The land is
transferred from a government to a patentee.

A **claim** is a statement of ownership, title or rights in
public lands. The claimant is the private party or parties,

(President's Message, continued)

state or local government body, claiming title or rights in public lands.

Different types of deeds can tell possibly tell you about the grantor and grantee and their relationship.

Just a reminder of what we should all know and do - This afternoon I was in a bay area court house attempting to locate a marriage record. I had the name of the groom, probably of the bride, and an educated guess on the year. The clerk located the record on microfilm and produced a certified copy, all signed and embossed with the county seal. I stood at the counter, read the document, and then asked if there was a copy of the application. He very kindly explained that what I had was legal in any court of law etc. but that he would look. The second document he produced was a copy of the hand written application and contained the birthplaces and residences of both bride and groom, their signatures, all four parents' names, their birthplaces and places of residence. Had I written for the record, I would have received the first document and would have been happy. The second copy made me much happier.

I always request a copy of the application; however, I have a typed marriage record sent by a county clerk with the brides last name misspelled so that it became another name and one where the date of the marriage is prior to the date of birth listed for the groom! Second requests solved the problems. Please be careful and do watch those M's and N's.

References: Henry Campbell Black, M.A., *Black's Law Dictionary, abridged sixth edition* (West Publishing Co., St. Paul, MN: 1991);

Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargraves Lubking, *The Source, A Guidebook of American Genealogy* (Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Inc., 1997);

Alice Eichholz, ed., *Ancestry's Redbook, Rev. Ed.* (Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1992);

Suzanne Murray, ed., *American Genealogy: A Basic Course, Federal and State Land Records* (Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 1985).

UPDATE - RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

You can save yourself some time by sending along a check for \$21.00 when you request records from the Railroad Retirement Board (see last month's Newsletter). This fee is NOT refundable if they find no information or the records have been destroyed. It may take from 30 to 60 days for the research.

SRVGS CALENDAR MAY 2002

7 Tuesday- 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at the home of Frances Lloyd, 210 Town and Country Drive, in Danville.

21 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting at LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/3 miles. The program will consist of a panel of members.

28 Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. Departure Time for the Library Trip. The trip will be to the Santa Clara City Library at their temporary location, 3345 Lochinvar Avenue.. phone (408) 615-2900. Their genealogical holdings are quite extensive with over 6,000 books, periodicals, publications and CD-ROMS. It was well organized in its prior setting and we expect it to be the same here. A docent will be available to assist us that day. To obtain access to the library's complete book catalog, enter this address: www.library.ci.santa-clara.ca.us. More information will be given at our May 21st general meeting. Carpools will meet behind Albertson's, off Diablo Road in Danville. The Library Trip Coordinator is Michael Fiorenza, phone 820-8294. If you sign up for the trip and wish to cancel, please call Michael or e-mail mfiorenza@earthlink.net. You should also feel welcome to call him if you wish to add your name to the library trip roster.

JUNE 2002

4 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting. This is typically a joint Board Meeting of the outgoing and incoming officers and supporting members. Please listen for more information at the general meeting in May.

18 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road. The speaker will be Barbara Leak. The subject of her presentation will be; Homesteads and other Federal Land Records: In the Public Domain.

29 SATURDAY Library trip. Earlier in the year we were scheduled to go to the Libraries on the U.C. Berkeley campus. This Saturday trip will provide easier and closer parking and anyone with a handicap permit will be able to park next to the library "free". Entrance to the Doe stacks will be by permit which is given at the Circulation Desk to those who have a photo I.D. Bancroft stacks require a photo I.D. plus a second I.D. Further details to be announced at the general meeting and in next month's newsletter. The Library Trip Coordinator is Michael Fiorenza, phone 820-8294.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups: MAY-JUNE - 2002

GERMAN - Some members of this group will be carpooling to Sacramento on Tuesday May 28 to attend the general meeting of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society. The special speaker will be Barbel Johnson. The topic will be "Getting the Most From Resources of the Family History Library." Their meeting location is St. Mark's Church, on Lusk Drive at St Mark's Way. If you are planning on going, please call Fran Schweitzer (925) 935 -5744 or e-mail rbtschw@pacbell.net. Group members will also meet on Wednesday June 26 (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.. This meeting will be at the home of Helen Odegard. Please let the hostess know if you do not plan to attend group meetings in our homes.

IRISH & CALIF. - Their meeting dates will be May 8, and June 12 (second Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place in Pleasant Hill. Phone (925) 229-0889. Her e-mail address is russpat@netvista.net

PORTUGUESE -They sometimes meet on the third Tuesday of the month after the general meeting. The contact person is Millie Freitas, phone: 837-2483

SCANDINAVIA - Those persons interested in Scandinavian research do not meet as a group. They form e-mail groups for each country. The contact person is

Marilynn Tanner, phone 376-6733 or e-mail jtanner@nothingbutnet.net.

SOUTHERN - This group will meet May 14 and June 11, (Second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road, in Alamo. The contact person is Dorothy Stanton, Phone 820-3757 or e-mail dpstant@hotmail.com. Members of this group will no longer be contacted by phone.

PUBLISHING - A future meeting will be scheduled as interested persons express a need. The contact person is Dorothy Stanton, dpstant@hotmail.com. If you are interested in publishing, please plan to attend our July general meeting.

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

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - They will meet Tuesday, May 21st after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m. at the home of Dorothy Stanton at her home, 501 El Capitan Drive, in Danville. Bring a bag lunch. This is a genealogy software users group for PC's and will focus on the use of Master Genealogist. Peggy Dearman, 837-1621 or dearman@pacbell.net is the contact person for the group.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

11 May Saturday The Sacramento GS and Root Cellars will present their spring seminar featuring Sandra Luebking. Registration begins 8 a.m. at Woodcreek High, 2551 Woodcreek Oaks Blvd., in Roseville. Phone Sammie Hudgens at (916) 481-4930 or see further information posted on web site, <http://rootsweb.com/~carcsgs/Events.html>

14 May, Tuesday The Livermore Amador Genealogical Society (LAGS), meets 7:30 p.m. at Beth Emek, 1866 College at South M St., Livermore.

16 May, Thursday The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will meet 7 to 9 p.m. at the Santa Clara City Library, 3345 Lochinvar Ave.. Grace Schmitt will speak about "Forms, Forms, Forms."

17 May, Friday Rose Mary Kennedy at The

17 May, Friday Rose Mary Kennedy at The National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno; will present a workshop on "passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records". The time is 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.. Fees are \$15. To register and reserve a space, call (650) 876-9009.

21 May, Tuesday The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will meet at the Belmont Central School, 525 Middle Road at 7:30 p.m.. Judy Svoda will be the speaker.

25, 26, 27 May, Saturday, Sunday, Monday There will be Civil War Camps and battle reenactments at Ardenwood Farms Park in Fremont. The park is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission fees range from \$5.00 to \$7.50. Children under 4 are free.

7-10 August, Wednesday through Saturday The Federation of Genealogical Societies and Calif. State Genealogical Alliance will host an annual convention in Ontario, CA.

How to Reach the Board Members:

President: Frances Lloyd 837-9382
 1st Vice President: Barbara Dittig 648-9364
 e-mail: bdittig@aol.com

2nd Vice President: (Program)
 Louise Ford 376-4587
 Bob Kay 945-7426
 Vern Segelke 838-8570

3rd Vice President (Membership)
 Barbara & Jack Johnson 837-2153
 Recording Secretary: Virginia Rood 937-8659
 Corresponding Secretary: Audrey Morgan 939-9442
 Treasurer: Marilyn Tanner 376-6733
 Parliamentarian: Barbara Dyer 820-9738

For the people involved in Special Interest Groups and the other necessary duties of the operation of this organization, please see your handbook.

Newsletter Team:

Coordinator: Sharon Clay 462-4518
 sharoncl@ix.netcom.com
 Special Contributor: Pat Isom 820-2660
 Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 838-8570
 e-mail: V.M. SEG@att.net

Mailing:
 Barbara Dittig 648-9364
 Lucy Carver 837-3146
 Deadline to put information in the newsletter is the last Thursday of the month.

Treasurer's Report- April 2002

by Marilyn Tanner

Beginning Balance:	\$5401.83
Income:	\$ 34.00
Expenses:	166.44
Fund Balances:	
General Fund	4190.56
Hospitality Fund	150.76
Newsletter: Postage...ytd.	(639.05)
Printing...ytd.	(443.12)
Publications Fund	703.67
Society Memberships	(100.00)
Special Projects	500.00
NARA Income	99.00
Cassette Tape Library Fund	164.79
Library Fund	642.76
Current Total Balance	\$5269.39



TAPE LIBRARY INFO

By Betty Vail

SRVGS member Diane Anderson has contributed the following CD's to the LDS Family History Center in Alamo. This will make them available to all of our

members. If you use one, be sure to thank Diane.

Family Tree Maker Census Indexes for Colonial America 1607-1789.

FTM Index: U.S. Census Records for Selected States/Counties 1790-1880 (10 CD's)

FTM Family Finder Index: Vol. 1 A-E; Vol. 2 F-M; Vol. 3 N-Z

Automated Archives Social Security Death Benefit Records 1937-June 1992.

Automated Archives Master Name Index

Automated Archives Genealogical Research System

Automated Archives Louisiana Marriage Records.

Wonderful Tape By Sharon Clay

Do you have ancestors that migrated from New England to the Mid-West - particularly Ohio? Or that you have found in Ohio, but can't get them TO Ohio? Do you know how they got there? Do you think that the Western Reserve is a bank in San Francisco or the Connecticut

Land Company sold land within Connecticut? If so, YOU MUST check out the tape C-113, by Kip Sperry "Tracing Families from the Western Reserve in Ohio Back to Connecticut". Kip Sperry is a well known Ohio researcher and an associate at the FHL in Salt Lake City. On this tape he mentions MANY resources that you may not be aware of to locate your ancestors in the 10 northeastern counties in Ohio (the Western Reserve). He is very aware of which records can be found on film in Salt Lake (and therefore obtainable at the FHC in Alamo). If you have been researching ancestors from Ohio or other states in the midwest and think they came from New England, rent this tape. This is another tape that you shouldn't listen to in the car or on the treadmill, you will want to have a pencil and paper handy to make the best use of your time AND his suggestions.

EASIER ELLIS ISLAND RESEARCH

Some time after trying to find his ancestor in the Ellis Island Database, Stephen P. Morse developed a search form for his own use. This form enabled him to search the EIDB in more ways than were possible through the site itself. He told a couple of friends about his system and before he knew it, he was being interviewed by journalists from around the world, and more and more researchers were finding their way to his One-Step search form at: <http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/ellis/ellis.html>.

Try his website to find those illusive ancestors that you haven't been able to locate but just KNOW that they came through Ellis Island. All you need to know is the name and the approximate time they came through Ellis Island.

BLM SITE IS BACK ONLINE

From Ancestry Weekly Digest 30 March 2002

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation Web site is back up and running after a court order shut down Department of Interior sites back in early December.

The site contains two million Federal land title records for Eastern Public Land States, issued between 1820 and 1908 (with images of the patents available). Additional records issued between 1908 and the mid-1960s are also being added. Information contained in these records can be used to order more extensive records from the National Archives.

The BLM site is online at:

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS 2002-2003

President - Barbara Dittig

1st Vice President - Barbara Johnson

2nd Vice President - Bob McKay

(Program) Frank Williams

Carol Thompson

3rd Vice President - John Lemak

(Membership)

Recording Secretary - Virginia Rood

Corresponding Secretary - Audrey Morgan

Treasurer - Marilyn Tanner

Parliamentarian - Frances Lloyd

County Order Books

From Contra Costa County Genealogical Society

Vol. 16 No. 5, May 2001

Another source of genealogical research that is often overlooked. The name might be different in some counties, but they are primarily known as the County Clerk's order books - or order of business of the County Clerk. These are normally monthly minutes - like of a business meeting and in the olden days, contained a wealth of information. Some entries might include:

1. Land entries - sometimes no shown in other books.
 2. Citizenships or oaths of allegiances
 3. Patent applications
 - 4 - Road reports where a road is being laid out all the able-bodied men folk along the road are listed and required to help maintain.
 5. Military records - statements about pension applications, etc.
 6. Indentures to apprenticeship
 7. Indigent names or those with physical or mental handicaps who are being taken care of by other citizens and paid for same.
 8. County farms - a home maintained for the people of #7 above, often these have cemeteries.
 9. Applications for grist mills or stores and the surveying of the land around them to guarantee no neighbor will be hurt by the same.
 10. Will renunciations by widows
 - 11.. Deeds which for some reason aren't entered in the deed books.
 - 12 - Annual tax rates for the county on various types of land (first, second and third rate lands) - or carriages, alcohol, etc.
 13. Minister's and judges names - and other public officials - who have been recommended and bring in their oath of allegiance.
 14. Administrators and executors of wills.
- The list is endless and excellent source.

The article was posted by Sandi Gorin

<sgorin@glasgow-ky.com> on the So. Central KY list.

HANDBOOK ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Please add this sheet to your handbook.

Surname	Given Name	Address	Telephone/E-mail
Burns	Sandra K.	742 Liquid Amber Place Danville, CA 94506	(925) 648-4653 skbdesign@yahoo.com
Dougherty	Robert	11606 Amarillo Court Dublin, CA 94568-2216	(925) 556-3302 arsi@pobox.com
Gustafson	Judy	1925 Parkmont Drive Alamo, CA 94507	(925) 820-6092 Jujubeg@aol.com
Heller	Naomi	8561 Ardmore Place Dublin, CA 94568	(925) 829-5370
Jacoby	Laura J.	1159 River Rock Lane Danville, CA 94526	(925) 820-1129
Mason	Ed	90 St. Andrews Lane Alamo, CA 94507	(925) 838-7848 emason@intelmark.com
Meyer	Ginnie	15 Thune Moraga, CA 94556	(925) 376-3551 ginniemeyer@hotmail.com
Mills	Guinevere C.	c/o S. Fixmer 92380 Darcrest Court Castro Valley, CA 94546	(510) 886-6528

Continued on page 8

MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL APPLICATION 2002-2003

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

e-mail: _____ PHONE: _____

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

\$ _____ Donation for Library resources, additions, if desired.

\$ _____ Donation for National Archives Records Admin. (NARA) Records
microfilming project (\$1.00 suggested)

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

_____ Check here if you DO NOT wish a Handbook/Directory, so we won't print unneeded copies.

\$ _____ Total amount of check

(Additional Member List - Continued)

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Given Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone/e-mail</u>
Stevenson-Byers	Carole	551 Contada Circle Danville, CA 94526	(925) 837-1293 RESAVVY@hotmail.com
Tom	Mary C.	39 Ashbrook Place Moraga, CA 94556	(925) 376-2756 Procrastom@aol.com

OTHER CORRECTIONS

Della Vecchia	Ann	Box 227 Mountain Top, PA 18707	
Stack	Thomas E.	8101 Camino Media, Apt. 241 Bakersfield, CA 93311	(661) 664-0809 Murtom@msn.com
O'Donnell	Ed		OD4@aol.com
Nowicki	Jane		
Vail	Betty B.		bbvail@ix.netcom.com

San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA
94528-0305

First Class Mail