

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-8308
President Barbara Dittig
Coord. Editor: Sharon Clay
Meetings: 10:00AM
3rd Tues. of the Month
(Except August & December)
Alamo LDS Church
Stone Valley & Smith Rds Alamo

Vol. XVII No. 4

October 2002

THIS MONTH - OCTOBER 15, 2002 WHAT IS IN A NAME - By Virginia Kysh

How do you find the right child among a group of births of a similar surname? If you know there is a naming tradition in that family it may be a lot easier. Virginia Kysh will speak to us about the practice of naming children after family members and how that tradition can help you pin down the correct family or child that you are researching.

Virginia graduated from BYU, majoring in Elementary Education and minoring in Library Science. She has served in the Antioch Family History Center for many years training staff and teaching classes at the center. She spoke to us in March on "Timelines".

LAST MONTH - September 17, 2002 Photography As a Tool in Genealogy Speaker -Ron Willis, Notes by Jean Hunt

Knowledge of photographic techniques is an important tool in genealogical research. Each step in the evolution of photography (some overlapping) was predominate for only a short span of time. According to Ron Willis, by determining the type of photographic technique used to make your old family photos, it is possible to date with reasonable accuracy, when the originals were created.

Daguerreotype (1839-1870 approximately)

The decorated case resembled a double frame. The photo image is on a silver clad copper sheet which is attached to a sheet of glass by a foil-like brass decorative frame. This sealed packet was then force fit into a special wood case and was often padded with velvet or silk. Often, the silver image tarnishes with silver sulfide in the same way as silverware. They were costly at \$5.00 originally. That was more than a week's wages for some people.

Ambrotype (1854 to end of Civil War)

This is a thin negative image on glass made to appear as a positive by showing it against a

black background. It is similar to daguerreotype in assembly of parts. Outer protective case, backing of black paper, cloth or metal. There is an on-glass image, emulsion to the front and black varnish on the back. Brass die cut frame, border of thin brass to the edge wrap the frame, glass and backing.

It was common for the ambrotype to be hand colored. Light tints of rouged cheeks or lips suggested a person of substance. Metal objects such as buttons, watch chains, pendants, brooches and rings were often painted in gold. Displaying one's photo in the home suggested self-importance but if it appeared to be painted it was then politically correct and could be properly displayed.

The ambrotype disadvantage was a very slow exposure time - 20 sec. Compared to 2 sec. For the daguerreotype and the glass being very fragile couldn't travel or be carried in a locket like a daguerreotype could. The good thing was it could be profitable at about 25 cents per image. [continued on next page]

[Photography As A Tool In Genealogy- continued]
Tintype (1856-WWII)

This seems to be the common man's answer to the expensive images that preceded it. It was called "the penny picture that elected a president" as it sold for a penny or less and which Lincoln passed out from the back of the train as he went through the Midwest for the Lincoln-Douglas debates. Over its lifetime the average cost rose to about 10 to 25 cents for an image about the size of a playing card. Its advantages were that they were light and less costly to make, the camera was lighter and easier to handle and they didn't shatter as glass images did. They also could be colored or tinted. Paper holders became popular as well as the card photos, then in vogue. The photographers covered the tintype with a quick varnish to protect the photograph.

In Ron Willis's handout he has five pages alone describing the many types of tintypes and how to identify each of them. He describes how to date them, identify their period such as civil War period, Brown Period, Gem Period, Carnival Period and Postmortems.

Another Tintype - **The Cabinet Card (approx. 1866-1906)** was a card stock product nearly four times the size of previous photographs on card stock. This new size exposed flaws that had not previously been noticed on the smaller pictures and gave rise to a new skill of photo retouching which gave vent to arguments between true imagers and retouchers. Mr. Willis provides a dating chart giving dates and for each describing cardboard weight, color, appearance of image, borders, corners and mount sizes.

Another way to date a photo was the revenue Stamps placed on its back side. The Revenue Stamp was an effort by Congress to fund the Civil War. Among the number of taxes levied was an 1864 Act which provided that sellers of photographs, ambrotypes, daguerreotypes, or any sun pictures, according to the following schedule, exempting photos too small for the stamp to be affixed. Less than 25 cents 2 cents stamps (blue/orange) 25-50 cents 3 cent stamps (green) 50 cents to one dollar 5 cents stamps (red). More than one dollar 5 cents for each additional dollar or fraction thereof. Stamps were applied from Aug. 1, 1864 to Aug. 1, 1866. Blue "playing

card stamps" are known to have been used in the summer of 1866 as other stamps were unavailable as the levy came to an end. The stamp was to be canceled in the original act requiring that the seller cancel the stamp by initialing and dating it in ink. The rarest of these stamps is the red "playing card" and most common is the orange 2 cent "playing card". Values for all of these stamps appear in the Scott's "Specialized Catalog of U.S. Stamps". **The Stereograph (1849-1925)** "Parlor Travel". Both educational and entertaining. The stereograph is an almost identical side by side image of a single scene, viewed simultaneously through an optical device held to the eyes like a pair of binoculars and which creates the illusion of depth perception. Price - only a few pennies.

Wet Plate Print (approximately 1853-1902)

Wet Plate Print was the photograph that "opened the west". Wet Plate photographers helped to open the American West by taking their cameras out of the studio and on location assignments by survey teams of the U.S. government of geological expeditions etc. The giant spaces of the West demanded the giant cameras and the work of these photographers helped to convince Congress to enact legislation establishing many of the major national parks, monuments and preserves.

Displaying & Care

Since proper displaying and storing of pictures is important to all of us, the balance of the lecture dealt with the do's and don'ts of photographic care. He discussed what to look for when purchasing archival materials for storing and displaying; what types of paper to use for your prints, and their effective life.

Do try and pick up Mr. Willis's lecture handout. He was an effective speaker with a well presented display of slides as well as hands on photos both in the battered stages of age and the lovely preserved state of now.

Newsletter Editorial Team:

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

Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 838-8570 e-mail: vmseg3@greaterbaynet.com

Special Contributor: Pat Isom 820-2660

Mailing: Lucy Carver 837-3146

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

President's Message October 2002

from Barbara Dittig

When engaging in a casual conversation regarding your genealogy research, how many times have you heard this? - Oh, my family genealogy has been done! There's nothing more that I can do!! "Really!?" you say, "that's quite an accomplishment".

Those of us who are really into this wonderful world of "finding your roots" know that that just isn't possible.

After attending Frances Lloyd's 1st class on "Getting Started with your Genealogy Research", I realized that it is indeed possible to teach "an old dog" new tricks. I first started gathering family information 23 years ago and have accumulated a fair amount of material that is stacked here and there, filed away in folders, notebooks, and boxes with the idea of someday getting it organized. It seems like I sometimes spend half my time looking for a particular document, a piece of paper with a very important item that I put somewhere so I'd be sure to find it!

From Francie's class I learned the importance of documenting, organizing and preserving your genealogy research. This is not only a marvelous introduction for beginners, but also a very needed refresher course for all of us. There's always something new to learn. I hope that you'll all take advantage of the many opportunities your society has to offer. Take a moment to check out the tape library, attend a Special Interest Group meeting, join the group for one of the library trips, attend a class/workshop and visit the Family History Center right here at the LDS church in Alamo.

I wish to commend those who have put together this exceptional education program for you, our members.

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU"

SRVGS wishes to express its gratitude to BARBARA IRWIN and PEGGY FRAZIER for the generous donation of a large number of books. They will be added to our SRVGS Library Collection at the Danville Library. A list will be published in a future newsletter.

SRVGS BOARD REPORTSFrom **MEMBERSHIP** Chair JOHN LEMAK**DIRECTORY ADDITIONS**

- Harriette Henrickson 1253 Summit Road Lafayette CA 94549 (925) 935-6280 hhen35@aol.com
- Jean Hunt 2173 Myrtle Beach Lane Danville CA 94526 (925) 552-6564 jhunt88961@aol.com
- Patricia Martin 941 Maricaibo Place San Ramon CA 94583 (925) 838-9096 yellowleymartin@hotmail.com
- Robert Venter 372 Call of the Wild Way Livermore, CA 94550-8629 (925) 454-9919 rjventer@att.net
- Margaret Williams 2210 Gladwin Drive Walnut Creek CA 94596-6333 (925) 939-0289 patewill@aol.com

DIRECTORY CHANGES:

- Jane Nowicki Email Address Change nowicki@astound.net
- Vern Segelke Email Address Change vmseg3@greaterbaynet.com

TREASURER'S REPORT**FINANCIAL REPORT - SEPT. 2002**

Beginning Balance:	\$7,290.27
Income - Sept.	\$ 173.50
Expenses - Sept	-975.43

YTD Report:

General Fund	3,895.95
Cassette Library	96.16
Directory Mailing	52.50
Hospitality	150.78
Library	922.28
NARA	97.00
Publication	773.67
Special Projects	500.00
Current Balance:	\$6,488.34

submitted by **Marilynn Tanner**

SRVGS CALENDAR OCTOBER 2002

1 Tuesday— 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at the home of President, Barbara Dittig on Jacaranda Drive in Danville.

3 Thursday — 10:00 a.m. Member Education Class—"Getting Started with Your Genealogy – Part II" This presentation is the second of the series by Frances Lloyd at her home, 210 Town and Country Drive, in Danville. Her phone number is 837-9382.

8 Tuesday — 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - Member Education Class, "Getting Around the Family History Center." Pat Isom and the Family History Center staff will present this.

15 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 & 1/5 miles.

22 Tuesday — 9:00 a.m. The Library trip will be to Sutro, Calif. State Library. The address is 480 Winston Drive, and the phone no. is (415) 731-4477. The online Calif. State Library Catalog includes Sutro;

www.lib.state.ca.us Carpools will meet behind Albertson's, off Diablo Road in Danville. Departures are always prompt. If you wish to join the group or sign up for the trip and wish to cancel, please call Louise Ford, the Library Trip Coordinator.

We welcome **Louise Ford** as the Library Trip Coordinator. Her phone number is (925) 376-4587.

NOVEMBER 2002

5 Tuesday — 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at the home of President, Barbara Dittig on Jacaranda Drive in Danville

19 Tuesday — 10:00 a.m. General Meeting at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road.

21 Thursday — 10:00 a.m. Member Education Class, "Accessing the Federal Census, prior to 1930." This will be presented

by Millie Freitas at her home, 607 Diablo Road in Danville. Please sign up at the general meeting and ask Millie how to get to her home. Note that this presentation precedes a library trip to the National Archives.

Dec. 4 Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. Library trip to the National Archives in San Bruno.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NOV.

LIBRARY TRIP WILL BE WED. Dec. 4.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GERMAN - Members of this group will be carpooling to Sacramento on **Tuesday October 22** to attend the general meeting of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society from 1 p.m. to 3p.m.... The speaker will be Roger Minert. The topic will be "Marriage in Germany : A look at Practices from 1500 to 1900." Their meeting location is St. Mark's Church, on Lusk drive at St Mark's Way. If you are planning on going and are not already assigned to a carpool group, please call Fran Schweitzer (925) 935 -5744 or e-mail. FranSchw@pacbell.net

There will also be a meeting of group members on **Wednesday October 23** (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.. This meeting will be at the home of Margaret Koenig, 1545 Rancho View Drive in Lafayette. Let the hostess know if you do not plan to attend. Phone (925) 934-3830, or e-mail MMBKoenig@aol.com

On **Wednesday November 27**, the group will meet at the home of Helen Odegard.

IRISH. - Their meeting dates will be **October 9 and November 13**, (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

SOUTHERN - This group will meet **October 8 and November 12**, (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

INTERNET – Interested users communicate via e-mail. The coordinator is Jack Johnson, 837-2153 or jacknj@earthlink.net

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - They will meet **Tuesday, October 15th** after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m.. They will meet at the home of Peggy Dearman, 749 Morninghome Rd., in Danville. Bring a bag lunch. This is a genealogy software users group for PC's and will focus on the use of The Master Genealogist. Peggy Dearman is the contact person for the group, 837-1621 or dearman@pacbell.net

The following is a list of Special Interest Groups that are currently inactive. The name and phone number of the group contact person is also listed:

MAC Computer Users – Barbara Dittig, phone 648-9364 or e-mail bdittig@aol.com

NEW ENGLAND – Barbara Dyer, phone 820-9738 or e-mail bdyergen@aol.com

PORTUGUESE – Millie Freitas, phone 837-2483.

SCANDINAVIA – Marilyn Tanner, phone 376-6733 or e-mail jtanner@nothingbutnet.net
Those persons interested in Scandinavian research do not meet as a group. They form e-mail groups for each country.

PUBLISHING – Dorothy Stanton, phone 820-3757 or e-mail dpstant@hotmai.com
If you are interested in organizing your material into a format for publishing, printing or distribution, you may contact this group.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS:

12 October, Saturday The Concord Family History Center will sponsor an all day fall seminar at 3700 Concord Blvd, in Concord. The time is 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.. Plan on bringing a bag lunch. For more information, call Jackie (925) 827-4729.

12 October, Saturday The Monterey County Genealogical Society will sponsor an all day conference at the Monterey County Courthouse, 1200 Aguajito Road in Monterey. The feature speaker will be Karen Clifford, AG. Classes from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.. \$ 40 registration after October 4. This includes a Box Lunch. www.mocogenso.org

19 October, Saturday The California Genealogical Society will present a fall

program featuring Gordon L. Remington, FASG, FUGA, at the James Irvine Conference Center, 353 Ogawa Plaza, in Oakland. The time is 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.. Fees are \$ 30. To register, call CGS (510) 663-1596. The program includes Lectures, book signing, and silent auction. Private consultations will be available on Sunday Oct. 20 for a fee of \$ 20 each.

22 October Tuesday The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will hold a general meeting at the Methodist Church on Lusk Drive at St. Mark's Way in Sacramento from 1 p.m. to 3p.m.. Roger Minert will speak about Marriage in Germany : A look at Practices from 1500 to 1900. E-mail Mborger548@aol.com

26 October, Saturday The San Mateo County Genealogical Society (www.smcgs.org) will sponsor a seminar featuring Jana Black of Marin County. The time is 9 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.. Fees are \$ 23. \$ 7 buffet lunch will be available. The location will be the First Presbyterian Church, West 25th Ave. & Hacienda in San Mateo. Topics include Publish on the Internet, Scanning and Digital Cameras.

26 October, Saturday The Solano County Genealogical Society will hold a general meetings at the Fairfield Senior Center, 1200 Civic Center Drive, in Fairfield. At 11 A.M., the speaker is scheduled to be Barbara Leak. Her topic will be Getting Organized, A Genealogists Greatest Challenge. <http://www.scgsinc.org> for further information.

26 October Saturday The Sonoma County Genealogical Society will sponsor a Family History Fair at the LDS Church, 1726 Peterson Lane in Santa Rosa. It is free, includes 16 classes, bring a lunch. www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/prelim.htm

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY NEWS

by Pat Isom, Alamo FHC

This year we have been able to make a number of improvements to the FHC. We have acquired two additional microfilm readers and an additional room so we should be able to accomodate all who have films to read without waiting.

We have a subscription to Ancestry.com and Kindred Connections. It is possible to

access all of the US Census films online with the Ancestry subscription.

We have also acquired a "Microfilm ScanPro". This machine will digitize the microfilm image so the image can be manipulated and put on a disc, CD, or printed on paper.

How to Reach the Board Members:

President: Barbara Dittig	648-9364
	e-mail: bdittig@aol.com
1st Vice President Barbara Johnson	837-2153
2nd Vice President (Program)	
Bob Kay	945-7426
Carol Thompson	820-4103
Frank Williams	283-6135
3rd Vice President (Membership)	
John LeMak	932-3957
Recording Secretary, Virginia Rood	937-8659
Treasurer: Marilyn Tanner	376-6733
Parliamentarian: Frances Lloyd	837-9382

For others, please see your handbook and the calendar in each newsletter.

AUDIOTAPE REVIEW

by Betty Vail, SRVGS Tape Librarian

**C-254 NO GREAT DEPRESSION HERE:
THE WEALTH OF THE 1930 CENSUS**
(Add this tape to your handbook)

Kathleen W. Hinckley, a professional genealogist, and Constance Potter, a genealogical specialist at the National Archives, spoke at the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference in Ontario, CA. They pointed out that this census gives a snapshot of the country at a particular time - five months after the stock market crash and just before the Great Depression when the average age expectancy was 59 and the average home cost about \$4000.00. The speakers point out some questions that were new in this census and give tips on how to access the information.

The recording is very clear, but the speakers do refer to material on the overhead which, of course, is not available to the listener and do answer questions without first repeating them. I found the handout as helpful as the tape. I was particularly intrigued by the Iowan whose

home straddled two counties. His bed was placed so that his head was in one county and his feet in the other, "The enumerator, puzzled, thumbed through his rule book until he read that heads shall be counted in their usual place of abode." The farmer was officially listed in the county in which his head rested.

* * * * *

CENSUS HELPS ON THE INTERNET:

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

The Morse "Obtaining EDs for the 1930 Census in One Step" site
<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/>
has 235+ cities on the site, and soon should have all cities over 45,000 in population in 1930. Site has all streets that have populations within each ED and for most cities all streets within each census district; NARA shows only the boundary streets.

IN MEMORIAM

From Brewster MA, we received word of the death of MARY ELLA PARROTT on September 12. Mary Ella was a Charter Member of SRVGS and was active until she and her husband Gene retired to Cape Cod. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Gene and their family.

CALIFORNIA RECORDS ACCESS

SB1614 and SB247 have been signed into law by Gov. Davis and will take effect in 2003. Both deal with records access and the prevention of identity theft.

SB1614 restricts the information that is publicly available on birth and death indices. It restricts the sale of computer discs containing birth and death data by the State and posting data on the Internet.

The Bill requires the state to provide three separate sets of indices:

1. comprehensive and continuous birth and death indices available only to governmental agencies; this index will be kept confidential and exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

2. non-comprehensive birth and death indices available to the public. Birth indices will contain: first, middle and last name, gender, date and place of birth. Death indices will contain: first, middle and last name, gender, date and place of birth, place of death, date of death and father's last name.

3. non-comprehensive birth and death indices for law enforcement or the prevention of fraud. The same information will be included as in the non-comprehensive indices above, however the mother's maiden name will be included. Social Security numbers will be included in the death indices. These indices will be available to financial institutions and consumer credit reporting agencies and those entities providing information services for purposes of law enforcement or preventing fraud, officers of the court for the sole purpose of verifying a death, and to persons or entities acting on their behalf, or on a court order.

The bill extends the definition of fraud and increases penalties. The bill is not retroactive and the wording does not restrict those indices sold in the past if certain conditions are met.

To review full details, see the California Legislature on line at www.leginfo.ca.gov. See also the Mercury News Web site at <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/4150012.htm>

HISTORY: The original version of this bill severely hampered access and virtually locked up information. It was opposed by the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), the Genealogical Society of Utah, Ancestry.com and the California State Genealogical Alliance (CSGA), among others. When the bill was modified to allow restricted access both online and off, all except CSGA withdrew opposition. CSGA's concern was that the removal of the mother's maiden name would hamper adoption researchers.

COMMENT: Dick Eastman in his Online Genealogy Newsletter 7:39 for Sept 30, 2002, points out that maiden names are available in many places, not just state records. He suggests that any bank or financial institution that uses the mother's maiden name as an

identifier has an incompetent security system and needs to design better systems that do not rely on publicly available information. "Our institutions need to fix the real problem instead of 'throwing the baby out with the bath water.'"

SB247 takes effect July 1, 2003. It provides that the State Registrar, local registrar, or county recorder may provide a certified copy of a birth or death record to an authorized person, [defined as a child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner of the registrant; an attorney representing the registrant or the registrant's estate, or any person or agency empowered by statute or appointed by a court to act on behalf of the registrant or the registrant's estate; funeral directors who orders certified copies of a death certificate on behalf of any individual as specified and sworn under penalty of perjury that the requester is an authorized person.]. Requesters must comply with identification requirements.

If a requester does not meet the requirements of an authorized person, this bill would require the State Registrar, local registrar, or county recorder to issue the birth or death record with a perforated type stating "INFORMATIONAL, NOT A VALID DOCUMENT TO ESTABLISH IDENTITY." This bill requires that each certified copy of a birth or death record contain information uniform throughout the state and be printed on security paper, maintained under secure conditions. A \$2 increase in the fee would pay for the security measures (reduced to \$1 in 2006). This bill would require the State Registrar to appoint a vital records protection advisory committee to, among other things, study and make recommendations to protect individual privacy, inhibit identity theft, and prevent fraud involving birth and death certificates while still preserving access to those seeking it for legitimate purposes.

HISTORY This bill was not opposed by genealogical organizations.

FGS has launched a new Records Preservation and Access site to keep genealogists informed See <http://www.fgs.org/fgs-records.htm>

OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

WAYS TO CELEBRATE:

1. Prepare meals your ancestors might have eaten. The **Food Timeline** is a website aimed at students in social studies classes but adults can enjoy it also. Read about menus throughout history.

<http://www.gti.net/mocolib1/kid/food.html>

2. Be sure your family knows the story of **family treasures**. In Ancestry Digest 9/12/02 Marilyn Larson suggests photographing each item, writing about its source and significance. Put the pictures and stories in acid-free sheet protectors in a 3-ring binder.

3. Be a **good ancestor**. Make it easy for your descendants to find your census records. Record where your family lived in each of the census years.

4. **Learn something new** about research. See Rootsweb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees. Lesson 12 is "Creating Worthwhile Genealogies for our Families and Descendants"

<http://rwguide.rootsweb.com/lesson12.htm>

5. Share your **family stories** with the next generation. SRVGS Member **Suzanne Johnston** gave each of her grandchildren (boys & girls) a doll dressed as an ancestor. With it she gave a story written about his/her life (like the American Girl books). She put in pictures, laminated the pages and spiral bound them. They were shared in school as "favorite books" by two. Recently, her 10-year old granddaughter asked "What ancestor am I getting this year, Grandma?"

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL