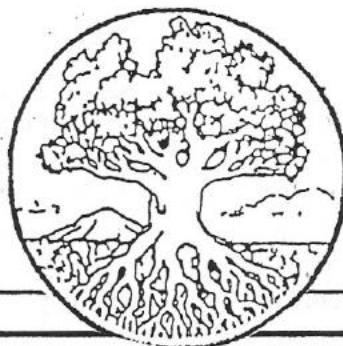


SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY

Vol. XVII No. 8



NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 305

Diablo, CA 94528-8308

President: Barbara Dittig

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

March 2003

THIS MONTH -MARCH 18, 2003

Organizing A Family Reunion

Our Speaker for the March 18th meeting will be Club Member Ed Mason. He will be describing how he organized a family reunion of over 150 people; and will be showing scenes from the detailed planning and the actual event. His talk and video will show the enthusiasm and cooperation he got from this large family.

Don't miss this chance to view what can be accomplished, given willing helpers and someone with considerable video and organizational skills. You will come away with ideas on how to plan your own family reunion and make it a success.

LAST MEETING - February 18, 2003

USING CEMETERIES AND GRAVESTONES AS GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

Speaker - Traci Parent - notes by Jean Hunt

Traci Parent whose qualifications to speak on this subject were so well documented in the February newsletter was extremely interesting.

Learning about the Black Diamond Regional Preserve in our very own East Bay Regional Park District gave us an instant itch to go and visit. Her slides of the area and the Rose Hill Cemetery were intriguing. Traci makes a point of asking groups she speaks to, if any of them have visited the area in the past and if so, did they take photos? It is from old photos given to the preservationist that have led to the documentation on the growth of the little mining towns in the area and of the Rose Hill Cemetery. If you have some, dig them out and mail them to Traci Parent at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve 5175 Somersville Rd., Antioch, CA 94509.

Cemeteries can be viewed as nature sanctuaries, or as quiet places to enjoy the flora and fauna. They reflect the stone carver's art and people's attitudes toward death. They tell of local disasters, epidemics and wars. They express ethnicity, occupations, origins and pastimes. They act as class rooms, teaching history, geography, mathematics, shapes and nature and man's ways of erosion and sometimes vandalism.

The symbols that we find on the tombstones are a joy to the genealogists and historians alike. The materials used

for the stones tell us in years, the age of the monument. The information carved upon it share the history of a person. The art carved upon it in symbolic shapes may tell us of membership in fraternal or patriotic organizations or a lamb might denote a baby or small child. Always be sure that you write or describe everything you can see, walking completely around the stone. Describe if it is mounted on a base or multiple bases, or what is the stone. Is it polished or rough. Is there a markers mark? Are there foot stones close by and what is carved on them. Foot stones refer to family members buried in the same family plot. What is the topography, is it enclosed by a fence and is that wood, metal or stones? Indicate the location of an inscription by noting the direction it faces cardinally.

When you are recording all this important information, do not change a thing. Not one spelling of one word. In the Rose Hill Cemetery there are a lot of Welsh people buried and often the Welsh spelling is used such as deid instead of died or the spelling of David as Dived. Don't assume information if you can't quite make out what it says. You can note that it may be this or that.

Cleaning of tombstones is easy to remember - use only water and a soft bristle brush and clean carefully from the top to the bottom. Use nothing else, no matter what you have heard!! Repairing a stone should be done

professionally otherwise worse damage can occur. Doing gravestone rubbings is popular but special care should be taken not to damage the stone. Art newsprint paper large enough to cover the entire area should be used as well as #2 pencils or artists charcoal which can be purchased from craft stores. If you are concerned about a family headstone which needs help you can contact Oregon Historical Cemeteries Assoc., Inc. PO Box 802 Boring, Oregon 97009 (503) 658-4255 or check their website at www.oregoncemeteries.org. Also, The Association for Gravestone Studies, 278 Main St., Suite 207, Greenfield, Mass. 01301 (413) 662-9735. Their website is www.gravestonestudies.org.

Traci gave us a number of handouts including a 6 page bibliography for cemetery related sources. In the near future she will be doing a lecture on "How To Do Oral Histories". You can get information about park activities by contacting East Bay Regional Park District at www.ebparks.org or Traci Parent, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve: 5157 Somersville Rd. Antioch, Calif. 94509 (925) 757-2620.

President's Message by Barbara Dittig

This past month has really flown by for me with two big computer projects (2-year roster for my Clipped Wings group and Mock Family newsletter both completed and in the mail.) It seems that my computer learning never ends and my skills are constantly being challenged. I had been pretty comfortable the past year, coasting along with my outdated computer. Then the new iMac lured me into giving up the old ways and jumping into a new learning process. OK, with a lot of help from my Mac friends, that eventually went fairly well, and I'm slowly getting used to this cute little machine that's so much smarter than I am. Now the latest is "High Speed Internet Access". I'm told everyone should have it.

I've had the same e-mail address since I first had a computer and have been pretty comfortable with it but, at the insistence of our children and computer friends, we researched our options, took a deep breathe and signed up. It's another learning experience and once I get the hang of it and get all of my e-mail friends entered into the new address book, I think I'm going to like it.

Now I'm looking forward to settling in to organizing my genealogy research schedule. When you're as far behind as I am, It's hard to know where to start. A wonderful aspect of genealogy research is that it's always

there waiting to be found and the avenues are boundless

Tidbit for the month: Have you lost a child that should have been included with the family in the census? Maybe they are away at school. From the North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal - an article "Boarders at Salem Academy in 1870. "Begun in 1772 as a girls school for the Moravian village of Salem (now within the city of Winston- Salem) in Forsyth County, the Salem Female Academy accepted boarding students after 1802 and became one of the leading schools of its kind in the south. The boarders that year included one hundred fifty-seven students, seventeen teachers, a matron and a sick nurse; all were white females. The names of those boarders were listed in alphabetical order with age and birthplace for each.

That's it for this month. Hope you are enjoying our beautiful California spring weather. See you at the March general meeting
Barbara Dittig

SRGVS - March-April Calendar

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

18 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 & 1/2 miles.

19 Wednesday - 1:30 p.m. Member Education Class. This will be a meeting for those members that would like to join the Internet Users Special Interest Group. This is primarily for the benefit of those members who use the Internet to search for genealogy information but do not now participate in the Internet Group and would like to be part of it. We currently have 43 members. They communicate only by e-mail. The coordinator is Jack Johnson. E-mail, jackmj@earthlink.net or phone 837-2153. Please sign up at the General Meeting and plan to attend at the home of Jack and Barbara Johnson, 616 Camino Amigo in Danville.

24 Monday - The Library trip will be to the Sutro State Library in San Francisco. 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 at 9:00 a.m.. If you sign up for the trip and wish to cancel or if you wish to join the group, please call Louise Ford, Library Trip Coordinator. Her phone no. is (925) 376-4587.

PLEASE NOTE: This library trip is on a Monday.

APRIL 2003

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

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

17 Thursday – 10:00 a.m. Member Education Class presented by Fran Lloyd. What percentage of your time at the National Archives has been spent looking for one type of record? Fran will let us know what other types of records are there and how to search for them. There are more than just census records. Plan to attend this class at 210 Town and Country Drive in Danville.

23 Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. The library trip will be to the National Archives in San Bruno. Please note that this is a Wednesday and that they are open evenings.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups: MARCH/APRIL - 2003

GERMAN – There will be a meeting of group members on Wednesday March 26 (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.. This meeting will be at the home of Fran and Robert Schweitzer, 2493 Lariat Lane in Walnut Creek. It would be appreciated if you let the hostess know if you plan to attend. For directions, phone Fran Schweitzer (925) 935-5744 or e-mail FranSchw@pacbell.net.

IRISH. – Their meeting dates will be March 12 and April 9, (second Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place in Pleasant Hill. Phone 229-0889. Her e-mail address is russpat@netvista.net

SOUTHERN – This group will meet March 11 and April 8, (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. They do not hold regular meetings. The coordinator is Jack Johnson. E-mail, jackmj@earthlink.net or phone 837-2153

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - They will meet Tuesday, March 18 after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m.. They will meet at the home of Jack and Barbara Johnson, 616 Camino Amigo 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 is the contact person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail, 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.

PUBLISHING – Dorothy Stanton, phone 820-3757 or e-mail dpstant@hotmail.com. If you are ready to organize your material into a format for publishing, printing or distribution, contact this group.

A group of interested members has met twice since last fall and will schedule another meeting in April or May. If you are interested in meeting with this group, watch for details or phone Fran Lloyd, 837-9382.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

15 March Saturday: The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will sponsor an all day seminar featuring Nora Hickey of County Cork, Ireland. The time is from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. at 1st Presbyterian Church, 25th & Hacienda in San Mateo. For further information e-mail CathT@aol.com

20 March Thursday The Internet and Computer Interest (Technology) Group of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Water District building, 1331 Concord Ave. This is their regular meeting time on the third Thursday of a month.

22 March Saturday The Sonoma County Genealogical Society will hold its 11th annual Spring Seminar featuring Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. It will be held at Sonoma State Univ. in Rohnert Park. The registration fee will be \$25 at the door. For further information go to www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/carmack.htm

5 April Saturday The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will hold its annual spring seminar at the La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road in Carmichael. The featured speaker will be Roger Minert. There is a \$35 fee. Call (916) 482-8511 or e-mail boisseree3@aol.com

12 April Saturday The Sacramento Genealogical Society (Root Cellar) will sponsor a seminar featuring Barbara Renick. www.rootsweb.com/~carcgs/rootcellar.html

19 April Saturday The Tuolumne County Genealogical Society will sponsor a seminar featuring George Schweitzer. Advance registration only by calling (209) 536-0574 or visit www.tcgsonline.org

FROM THE FHC by Pat Isom

One of the under-utilized resources of the Family History Center is the fiche collection. When a branch FHC is first established, Salt Lake sends out a basic fiche collection as part of the library. This includes many books on fiche, the Census Index on fiche, PERSI, the Library Catalog including the Subject Catalog and the IGI. The books on fiche are generally the three or four most commonly requested books on each state or county at the Salt Lake Library. Every state is included, as are most countries. So the FHC has a surprisingly large number of books, albeit on fiche.

In addition to this basic collection, as patrons of our own library have ordered fiche, we have added substantially to this collection. This part of the collection reflects specific areas of interest. We have a very large collection on the Isle of Man, a very large Scottish collection and the English collection has had major growth recently. We have quite a large number of fiche relating to the South. An example of this is the extracted records of the DAR of South Carolina. This collection of over 100 fiche contains the alphabetical listing of all the names extracted from the DAR records of South Carolina. It then lists the type of record (probate, church, etc.) the year, the FHC film number and the page number.

Any fiche that you might wish to order can be found in the Library Catalog. The cost is only 15 cents per fiche and they remain in the Danville FHC as part of the permanent collection. There is no time limit as on film, so this part of your research can be on your own timetable.

HANDY HINTS

from *Ancestry Daily News* 18 January 2003 (used with permission)

DATING FAMILY PHOTOS

While scanning old family pictures, I discovered a way of dating them that hadn't occurred to me until I had the ability to enlarge portions of the picture. If you can find a car with a license plate in the background, zoom in on the license plate. It will provide you with the approximate year the picture was taken. In my family, at least, people liked to pose in front of their cars and I have been able to discover many approximate dates for photos and series of photos in this fashion.

Melissa Humphrey

Georgetown, Kentucky

FAMILY HISTORY BOOKMARKS

Since I've begun tracing my genealogy (and been a mother), I have become interested in arts and crafts. One project I am planning to start soon is ancestor bookmarks. I will put a picture of an ancestor along with bookmark-sized facts about the individual (birth/death date and place, who they married, and a couple of small interesting tidbits). They can be made easily with a scanner and a word document. I can fit more than one bookmark on a page, and laminate them at a low cost. They'll make great gifts for those family members who are interested in the information I find while researching (and hopefully keep them looking for updates).

LaKesha Kimbrough

Seattle, Washington

DIGITAL COPIES OF OLD FAMILY PHOTOS

A digital camera can be used to reproduce old photographs, and offers better flexibility, portability, and resolution than most scanners. My camera has a zoom lens, a preview screen, and a "macro" mode for extreme close-ups, so photos can be laid flat and copied quickly without removing them from albums or frames. Snapshots as small as 2" x 3" are reproduced with remarkable fidelity.

While at home for the holidays, I photographed over a hundred old photos from a family album in about an hour. The photos were later downloaded to a computer with a CD burner, and copies of the collection are now available to the entire family.

Michael Jeziorski

Continued on Page 5)

(More Handy Hints)**DECIPHERING STREET NAMES**

Sometimes, it's hard to read the name of the street when perusing the census record in Ancestry's Images Online Viewer. The fact that the street name is often obscured, combined with the census taker's scrawl in the narrow column makes determining the name of the street a trying task. One way to deal with this is to go to a page in the census that has a nearby street whose name you can read. Then pull up a map program like Mapquest, and pull back as far as you can so you can see the streets all around that street. Hopefully, you will find a name of a street that looks like the one you are looking for.

In my case, what looked like "Sudden" became "Seddon" and "Odl?????" turned out to be "Idlewood". Of course, this only works if the street names haven't been changed and the houses haven't been re-numbered.

Lynn Coberger

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How to Reach the Board Members:

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

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

Membership Information

From John Lemak - Vice President in charge of Membership

Correction: Please correct Ron Frye's e-mail address:

Ronald W. Frye (Life Time Member)
 3263 Munras Place
 San Ramon, Ca 94583 (925) 828-4845
 email: ronfrye@lds.net (that's lds.net not ids.net)

The Fine Art of Snail Mail Requests

by Juliana Smith

When I was little, my mother started working on our family history. Much of our family history was delivered to her through the mail. With each new document, the father and grandparents she never knew came to life. I can remember her crying with joy on receiving a letter from an aunt she had never heard of or met.

That was back in the days before the Internet and computers. Now, the Internet and CD-ROMs bring us indexes, compiled genealogies, images of actual records and more right into our homes without the aid of the mailman. But there are still times where we need to turn to "snail mail," particularly those of us who live some distance from where our ancestors lived and died.

Most government agencies will not send records via e-mail. While some cemeteries and other institutions will accept requests via e-mail, many still will not. In addition, if you're like me, you may have several family members who are staunchly resisting the digital age and who amazingly still manage to function without a computer. (Shudder!)

Let's take a look at some things to keep in mind when turning to paper correspondence.

Visit the Website First

Even in cases where snail mail is necessary, the Internet can be a huge help. While many agencies or institutions will not fulfill requests via the Internet, many still maintain a website where you'll (hopefully) find contact information, current fees, restrictions, information required for a search, request forms, and sometimes even an index. In some cases, you may also be able to request the record online, and while you may still have to wait for the mailman to deliver it, you can save yourself a stamp.

If no website is available, you might want to phone to make sure you present your request in accordance with their specifications the first time. There's nothing more frustrating than waiting six weeks (or longer) to find out you submitted your request incorrectly and need to start over.

Format

If there is a form available, by all means, use it. If the repository created a form for it, chances are it is the preferred way to receive requests. With a form, the person responsible for searching for your ancestors will be able to locate the information he/she needs at a glance.

(Continued on page 6)

(Snail Mail - continued)

With a letter composed by you, it may take a bit more work to locate the necessary details and your request may mysteriously migrate to the bottom of the pile.

If there is no form, keep your request concise, including the required information. Be careful not to include excess information, though. While family stories are fascinating to us, to the clerk who is wading through a stack of requests, it just makes it more difficult to cull the information needed. It's also a good idea to put that information apart from the body of the letter so that it is easy to locate, like the following:

Name: Bozo D. Clown

Died: 01 January 1951

Location: Chicago, Cook County, IL

It goes without saying that the letter should be neat. They're not going to have much luck locating your ancestors if they can't read your request.

A polite, well-worded message has the best chance of success and don't forget the SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope). Patience will also be required, which is why they call it snail mail. Since we're used to the speed of the Internet you may be tempted to call and express the urgency of your request. This is probably not a good idea unless the request is taking an inordinate amount of time. With some agencies the average turnaround could be months.

If you're writing to a church, cemetery, private institution or government agency, your genealogy request is not their primary function so don't be surprised if finding great-grandpa's record is not at the top of their priority list. (In some cases a donation can get it re-prioritized.)

Let's Talk Money

That brings us to money. Do they want payment up front or will they bill you? When you're sending out your hard-earned money for a record, it's doubly important to check websites or phone them to ask the correct protocol. Do they charge for unsuccessful searches? In some cases, if they can't find the record you're looking for, they'll drop you a note telling you so - on the way to the bank to cash your check. This isn't always the case, and many times they'll return your money if something is amiss with your request, but when it comes to my money, I live by "better safe than sorry."

Keeping Track

A correspondence log is a must. Remember, we're dealing with slow correspondence in some cases and if your memory is like mine, a correspondence log may save you from sending a third request for great-grandma's birth record right before the first request comes back in the mail. It's also a good idea to keep a copy of the letter. If the correspondence is with a family member, he or she may think we're the loose twig on the family tree after the fifth letter asking for the same information. (Of course, they may think that anyway since we spend our spare time chasing dead people, and while that might be a little true, at least we can impress them with our organizational skills.)

Writing To Family

If you're seeking information from family, sharing something with them may help to ensure the success of your request. With today's technology, it can be easy to scan in a picture or document and print it off for them. (If they were alive for the 1930 or an earlier census, they might get a kick out receiving a copy.)

For a better chance of response, send a form with questions so the relative can just fill in the blanks. This may seem less intimidating to them than, "Tell me every thing you know about Grandpa Soandso" -followed by the dreaded blank page.

Sharing stories and information you've found can also stir memories and you may get back more than you'd hoped for - maybe even a family history partner.

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Gobbler Grabbed

From "The Lafayette Advertiser" (Lafayette, LA),
10 February 1894, page 5:

Some mischievous person or persons stole a fine turkey gobbler from widow T. Herbt last Monday night. Those who suffer losses of this kind fail to see the funny point said to belong to such doings and we will yet hear of some person engaged in this evil practice becoming the receptacle of a load of buck- shot. Of course, the buck-shot will be fired in "fun" only, even though the amateur thief could die from the effects.

Ancestry Daily News - February 15, 2003
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Illinois Research

by Karl Moore, Illinois State Archives

The Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, created by the Illinois State Archives and Illinois State Genealogical Society, has proven to be the most popular database in the State Archives web site:

(<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/marriage.html>.)

It is searched thousands of times each month by researchers from around the world. Judging from the feedback received by the State Archives, most researchers are having unprecedented success at finding the records for which they are searching.

There have been reports, nevertheless, of failed attempts to find marriages that should be in the database. As an Archives employee who has investigated many of these problems, I have found that most of these failed searches are caused by one of several problems, listed below with possible search strategies:

1. The researcher failed to check the list of marriage records entered to see if marriages for a particular county and date span have been entered. The marriage index is an ongoing project and not all counties' marriages have been entered or entered up to the target date of 1900. If you do not find a marriage that you think should be in the database, check the list on the following web page to see the status of data entry for that county: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/marrlst.html>.

2. The researcher entered too much information into the search criteria form. Search criteria may include the bride's full name, the groom's full name, and the county in which the marriage occurred. Our first impulse is to enter everything we know - or think we know - about the marriage. Many searches fail because a researcher enters a middle initial or name that was not included in the original marriage record. A search for "Jones, Robert T." will fail if the database has instead "Jones, Robert" or Jones, RT and will even fail if one puts a period after the "T" if it does not appear that way in the database.

Remember, when it comes to search strategies, less is often best. Search for every groom with surname of Jones marrying a bride with surname Smith if a search that includes given names fails (currently 83 marriages meet this criteria, if you're curious). I once found a marriage by searching for every groom beginning with C marrying a bride beginning with H in Sangamon County (283

marriages). If the list of marriages returned by this "fuzzy" search technique is too long, use your browser's Find command (under Edit on Internet Explorer's menu bar) to search the list by a given name, year or county.

3. Other searches fail when a marriage occurs in a county different from the county in which the bride or groom resided. Illinois law permits couples to marry in any county of their choice.

Remember, this is a statewide index and many genealogists are now finding marriages they could not previously locate because they had no clue where the event occurred. Unless you are searching for a very common name or have another good reason for restricting the search, leave the county field set at its default of STATEWIDE.

4. The other main reason for searches failing is the misspelling of a bride's or groom's name. In a world where every county clerk recording a marriage and every volunteer entering marriage records never made a mistake, researchers would be eternally blissful. But clerks did make mistakes when recording marriages and data entry volunteers have made mistakes transcribing 19th century handwriting and we as researchers have to cope with it. Anyone who has indexed old hand written records knows the difficulties involved.

Try the fuzzy search technique described above. It has allowed me to find many marriages with data entry errors. If you find errors in the statewide marriage index, report them to me by email at kmoore@ilsos.net or write by snail mail. Please cite your source of information and, if possible, send a copy of any document you have for evidence. We are attempting to verify all errors reported in the database. Although this is a slow process, many errors have already been corrected.

In the meantime, happy hunting.

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Newsletter Team

Coordinator: Sharon Clay	462-4518 sharoncl@ix.netcom.com
Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke	828-8570 vmseg3@greaterbaynet.com
Special Contributor: Pat Isom	820-2660
Mailing: Lucy Carver	837-3156
Deadline to put information in the newsletter is the last Thursday of the month.	

SAVE THE FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

The Florida State Genealogical Society, an umbrella organization of more than 80 societies in the state, strongly opposes Gov. Jeb Bush's budget proposal to dismantle the State Library of Florida and the State Archives and move the contents to other state departments. We feel that other departments, such as the Department of Environmental Protection are not qualified to oversee and preserve the historical and archival materials.

Genealogical researchers in Florida and elsewhere increasingly fear that Gov. Bush's proposal would:

1. Dismantle a popular and priceless library collection and a staff that has served and enriched our lives. The library's Florida Collection, which dates to the territorial days, with information dating to the 1590s can be found nowhere else in the world.
2. Breakup of the one-stop genealogical research complex that contains the State Library, State Archives and State Museum, all next to each other., will cause inconvenience for researchers, who need both the Library and Archives.
3. Increase the possibility that some of the priceless state treasures could be lost, discarded, mishandled, or shoved in a corner if they are moved by untrained or inexperienced staff.
4. Shut down the interlibrary loan system.
5. Curtail the ability to receive e-mail answers to our questions through the State Library's "Ask-a-Librarian" service. The staff responds to more than 2,000 citizens a month.
6. Severely restrict the access to the state materials if they are moved to other locations.
7. Threaten the State Archives' Florida Memory Project that makes available online many of the state's historical and genealogical records, including more than 90,000 photographs, pension application files, Spanish land grants, and Call and Brevard Family Papers.

We are asking for help of all genealogists, historians and researchers throughout the U.S. If this can happen in our state, it can happen in other states as well. Please write, email or fax the Florida legislators and the Governor.

E-mail the Governor: FL_governor@eog.state.fl.us or jeb.bush@myflorida.com

Official Internet site of the Florida Legislature: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us>

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

First Class Mail