

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY

Vol. XVII No. 10



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

May 2003

THIS MONTH -MAY 20, 2003

The Really Basic German Family History

Shirley Reimer has edited and published the 48 page *Der Blumenbaum Journal* which has won several state and national awards. It is read in 46 states and three foreign countries. Her overall goal in speaking to groups interested in German family history is to encourage attendees to: (1) examine the cultural and historical basis of their ancestors' lives in order to obtain clues to genealogical problems; (2) look into the many resources available for finding their ancestors' often elusive places of origin in Germany; and (3) understand the everyday lives of forming hypotheses for research.

LAST MEETING - April 15, 2003

Italian Research

Speaker - Jerry Goggiel - Notes by Jean Hunt

Jerry Goggiel's presentation on Italian research brought out many members and a pleasant number of guests interested in learning the intricacies of researching in Italy. Hopefully, our guests were pleased with what they found out about the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society as well.

Although Jerry learned to speak Italian, it isn't necessary. You should familiarize yourself with genealogical terms used in the Catholic Church and Civil records. You can purchase the small help pamphlets published by the Family History Library. Jerry researched and found some information in records copied by the Mormon Church but was more successful and happier by visiting his families ancestral home.

For those who won't be going to Italy, he lists in his handout a number in Internet web sites related to Italian Genealogy. A group to contact for on-going Italian names which have been researched would be POINTE International headquarters, Box 14966, Dept. PHP, Las Vegas, NV 89144-4966.

Also listed in his handout were bibliographies:

- a) Italian-American Family History
- b) A Genealogist's guide To Discovering Your Italian Ancestors
- (c) Italian Genealogical Records
- (d) Finding Italian Roots
- (e) They Came in Ships (an excellent book on searching

passenger lists.)

In 1870 New Orleans was a major immigration port for Italians. Of the web sites he listed www.ellislandrecords.org is a good place to start.

Also on the handout are some Italian genealogical terms that will help you identify words to look for. You can probably get a copy from our tape librarian Betty Vail or by e-mailing Jerry Goggiel at gociao@peoplepc.com or ask a member who attended the meeting to make a copy for you.

Jerry felt the records he obtained in Italy were the best and those giving the most information were the Civil Records. Using slides he familiarized us with the country of Italy and its many (50) regions which are the equivalent of U.S. states. He further broke down the regions by provinces (103) equivalent to counties. Comunes are equivalent to small towns, villages and hamlets. Only in Tuscany is there a Regional Archiva. Every other Region has an archive at the Provincial level. Generally, the Provincial Archive (*Archivio di Stato*) has duplicate records from the Comunes (*Archivio di Comunali*). However, fires and floods have often destroyed records from one or the other. The major town in a Province has the same name as the Province. For the most part the comunes are where the vital records of birth, marriage and death are kept. The Parish Archives are kept in the town churches. Most of

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the parish records are in Latin and may give the man's full name and only the first name of the wife.

Other records to use are the Certificate of Residency which would list everyone living in one house and this could create quite a family list showing heads of household and their children. Possibly the married children and their families would be there too. Grandparents were often among the occupants. Most of these records have not been filmed by the FHL so you must send for records from the town archives for a fee. Do ask for extracts rather than abstractions. Often the city clerks would write in additional family information in the margins.

Women's family lines are easier to follow in Italy as they always kept their maiden surnames. To show she is married her name is states, e.g.: "Mary Smith in Jones", meaning Mary Smith is married to a man named Jones. In Italian documents, the surname is stated before the Christian name. The woman's Christian names on documents can throw you a bit because she will have about four or five Christian names and she might use a different grouping on different documents.

Other documents to look at are military registrations and censuses. By 1870 Italy had conscription laws and young men had to register at age 20. Italian law does not allow censuses to be viewed for the first one hundred years so you can only look at those from 1903 and before.

Here in the USA do look at immigration and passenger lists.

All in all, it was a very interesting and informative presentation.

SRVGS CALENDAR MAY 2003

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

20 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.

22 Thursday - 10:00 a.m. Member Education Class presented by Pat Isom. The subject will be "Land Records and Genealogical Research." The class will be held at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. Plan to sign-up at the general meeting and then attend on Thursday morning.

27 Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. Library trip to the Napa Genealogical Library, 1701 Menlo Ave., in Napa. There will be a small non-member user fee. Carpools will meet behind Albertson's, off Diablo Road in Danville. Departures are prompt. Please sign up at the general meeting. However, if you wish to join the group or wish to cancel, please call Louise Ford, (925) 376-4587. The NVGS web address is: <http://members.napanet.net/%7Envgs/>. The Napa Valley Genealogical & Biographical Society may be new to some of you. Our group's last visit there was two years ago. It is located in beautiful Napa Valley. A quote from their brochure: "The library houses one of the finest family research and American history collections in Northern California. The collection covers the entire U.S. and many foreign countries." New acquisitions include books on Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, among others

June 2003

2 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. There will be a joint Board Meeting at the home of Jack and Barbara Johnson, 616 Camino Amigo in Danville. The newly elected board members, outgoing board members, SRVGS staff and other members will meet.

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

24 Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. The Library trip will be to the California State Library; Calif. Room at 900 "N" Street in Sacramento and one block away is the Calif. State Archives at 1020 "O" Street. The Sacramento Genealogical Society has its Library collection available in the State Archives building.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: MAY/JUNE - 2003

INTERNET - Interested users communicate via e-mail. They do not hold regular meetings. The coordinator is Jack Johnson. Phone 837-2153 or e-mail, jackmj@earthlink.net. Member Internet users may join this group by sending an e-mail request to jackmj@earthlink.net. Please use "SRVGS Internet user" as a subject heading.

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COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - They will meet Tuesday, May 20th after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m.. They will meet at the home of Peggy Dearman, 749 Morninghome Road in Danville. Please bring your lunch. This is a genealogy software users group for PC's and the focus is on the use of Master Genealogist. Peggy Dearman is also the contact person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail dearman@pacbell.net.

GERMAN - The German group will meet on Wednesday May 28th (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.. This meeting will be at the home of Margaret Koenig. Members of the group are asked to be sure to call the host (Margaret 934-3830) or Fran Schweitzer if you are unable to attend. Thanks for the courtesy. Margaret's address is :1545 Rancho View Drive Lafayette. If you need directions please call her. Any member of the society is welcome. The group coordinator is Fran Schweitzer (925) 935-5744 or e-mail FranSchw@pacbell.net.

IRISH. - Their meeting dates will be May 14 and June 11, (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 May 13 and June 10, (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.

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

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.

The Diablo Valley Mac Users Group will meet 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, May 28 at 3333 Vincent Road in Pleasant Hill. This is a Genealogy interest group that meets regularly on the fourth Wednesday of each month. For further information, phone (925) 938-4544.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

10 May Saturday The California Genealogical Society will sponsor a seminar about the use of scanners and digital cameras. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Nile Hall at Preservation Park, 668 -13th St. in Oakland. For more information visit: www.calgensoc.org.

14 May Wednesday At 7:30 p.m., The San Mateo Co Genealogical Society will hold its general meeting at Belmont Central School, 525 Middle Road in Belmont, off El Camino. The presentation topic will be basics of Civil War Records, Blue and Gray, intermediate and advanced research.

15 May Thursday At 7 p.m., The Santa Clara Co Historical and Genealogical Society will hold its member meeting at 3345 Lochinvar, in Santa Clara. Grace Schmitt will talk about "How Forms Can Help". It is open to the public.

16 May Friday A workshop will be held at the National Archives in San Bruno. Rose Mary Kennedy will present "Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records". \$15 is payable in advance. Phone (650) 876-9009 to reserve a space.

20 June Friday A workshop will be held at the National Archives in San Bruno. "Military Records, Revolutionary War- Civil War" will be presented by Rose Mary Kennedy. \$15 is payable in advance. Phone (650) 876-9009 to reserve a space.

19 June Thursday At 7 p.m., The Santa Clara Co Historical and Genealogical Society will hold its member meeting at 3345 Lochinvar, in Santa Clara. Debbie Shields will talk about "Genealogy Software". It is open to the public.

28 June Saturday The Santa Clara Co Historical and Genealogical Society will sponsor a beginners seminar from 1 to 4 p.m. at 3345 Lochinvar, in Santa Clara. Presentations will be made about Using the Internet and Census. Sign up sheets will be at the genealogy room of the Santa Clara City Library at this address (phone (408) 615-2986. It will be open to the public and free.

26 July Saturday Cyndi Howell will be a guest speaker at the Pennington Research Association conference to be held in San Rafael. \$35 registration fee. Visit www.penningtonresearch.org, or e-mail genepenn1@attbi.com

Newsletter Team

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Deadline to put information in the newsletter is the last
Thursday of the month.. Members are encouraged to
submit articles for the newsletter by mail or e-mail.

Membership Update:

New Member:

Julie C. Barnard
209 Augustine Dr
Martinez, CA 94553
925-370-9571 email: juliecbarnard@yahoo.com

The following is a change of address:

Delores A. Huckabone
713-450 Jeter Road
Janesville, CA 96114
530-257-7742 email: deloresh@myway.com

Presidents Message by Barbara Dittig

It has indeed been my pleasure to serve as your president this past year and let me assure those who choose to follow that the pluses outweigh the minuses. I felt so fortunate to have such an outstanding group of board members and committee chairmen. These members who mostly work behind the scenes are the ones that keep our organization running smoothly. My hat is off to each and every one of them!

This year's officers: 1st VP, Barbara Johnson;
2nd VP, Bob Kay, Carol Thompson, Frank Williams;
3rd VP, John Lemak; Recording Secretary, Virginia Rood; Corresponding Secretary, Audrey Morgan;
Treasurer, Marilynn Tanner; Parliamentarian, Frances Lloyd. Committee Chairmen: Alliance Rep. & BAGC, Susan Swindell; Auditor, Jack Carver; Cassette Library, Betty Vail; FHC Liaison, Pat Isom; FHS Delegate, Dorothy Stanton; Freebie Basket, Don Gotthold;
General Education Classes, Helen Odegard & Vern Segelke; Historian, Carol Glover; Hospitality, Peggy Gierke, Sue Hanck & Ginnie Meyer; Library Trip Coordinator, Louise Ford; Library Book Collection, Jack Johnson, Frances Lloyd, Ed O'Donnell & Dorothy

Stanton; Newsletter Editor, Sharon Clay; Newsletter Publication & Distribution, Lucy Carver; Newsletter Program Reporters, Lee Schlenker, Jean Hunt, Betty Vail & Frank Williams; Newsletter Calendar, Vern Segelke; Publicity, Ed O'Donnell. Special Interest Group Chairmen, German, Fran Schweitzer; Irish, Patty Erickson; Publishing & Southern States Research, Dorothy Stanton; TMG Program, Peggy Dearman & Internet Research, Jack Johnson. A special thank you to our FHC volunteers, Pat Isom, Ron Fry, Susanne Johnston & Jeannette Holmes who are so helpful in assisting in our library research.

This year's education program has been outstanding and very well attended as well as our library and archive trips. Our speakers have all been excellent and our newsletter is always full of informative topics. These programs are what makes our organization outstanding. The one minus that I feel obligated to bring up at this time is the "Passing of the Clipboard" maneuver. We're going to continue to work on this until we get it right!

Best wishes to the new board members and committee chairmen. Have a great year!

Internet Connections

From Dorothy Stanton:

Posted on the Cook Co IL List (I like the obitlinkspace). The obit search engine that gets under-used is at <http://www.obitcentral.com/obitsearch/obit-grabbag.htm> especially the "Obituary Search #2". I've been getting obits from many researchers over the last several years and now have about 85,000 online.

GenLookups.com
<http://www.genlookups.com>
Obituary Links Page
<http://www.obitlinkspace.com>
Obituary Central
<http://www.obitcentral.com>
Surname Search Utility

Here is a convenient site for accessing Mail Lists:

If you would like to know what genealogical lists Rootsweb has, go to John Fuller's site located at

http://www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail.html

If you would like to visit the archived messages for any Rootsweb List you may go to <http://archiver.rootsweb.com> and type in the name of the list and from there you can search by date.

More on Italian Archives

From: Nancy Alexander

From: Kallia Hatzigianni <hatzikal@OTENET.GR>

31 March 2003

Dear Colleagues,

Due to budgetary problems, within the next few weeks, all the Italian Archives might have to close and interrupt conservation and safe keeping activities as well as activities related to the national archival heritage (private and public).

All those who wish to support the document protesting these closures, can send an email to the State Archives of Florence (asfi@archiviodistato.firenze.it) and to the Tuscan Archival Service (archivistica.firenze@tin.it). If these cuts go through, within a few months, all our institutional activities, including the public services we offer, will become paralyzed. If the situation is not immediately remedied, then the closure of the archival institutes will be inevitable.

National Archives on the Internet

Computer Genealogy Interest Group

Associated Press Release

Researchers and genealogists and the plain curious can use the Internet to check more than 50 million historical records at the National Archives, from the Civil War to family immigration. The records on the new database system represent a small fraction of the archives electronic holdings. They were selected because of their analytical nature and deal with statistical information that can easily be looked up based on specific dates, names, dates, organizations, cities and states.

<http://www.archives.gov/aad/>

Foreign Language Help

* Estimado Senhor... Writing Letters to Foreign Countries

Writing a request for genealogical information to another country can be a daunting challenge, especially if you don't know the language. But hold on, help is available online! Sample letters in Czech and Slovak, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish can be found at FamilySearch Internet. Even when you know the language, the form letters and tips available at Family Search are helpful for anyone who wants to write an effective letter that has the best chance of being answered.

Writing the Letter

The letter-writing guides at FamilySearch Internet will

give you all the guidance you need to compose a letter in the native language while observing proper rules of protocol and etiquette. Here you will find help for writing to churches; civil registration offices; archives; and genealogical societies. There is also guidance on how to address envelopes; help with foreign postal codes; and how to send return postage and money. Go to: <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/Redirect/Translation.asp> to reach the Letter-writing Guide at FamilySearch Internet.

Translating the Reply

When you receive a reply, it will probably need translation. Translation help is available online at AltaVista Babel Fish: <http://babelfish.altavista.com/>. The Babel Fish translator allows you to translate short passages of text or entire Web sites among more than a dozen pair of languages. Click the Help link if you need addition guidance when using Bable Fish. SYSTRAN information and translation technologies also has an online language translator. <http://www.systransoft.com/>.

Help with Organizing Your Files

Color-coding keeps ancestral lines straight and promotes good organization

A system developed by Mary E.V. Hill, A.G., is taught at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Adding color-coding to your organizational system helps keep your ancestral lines straight and promotes effective genealogy research.

Color-code your pedigree by the lineages of your four grandparents. All the ancestors of one grandparent will be organized under the same color:

Grandfather's lineage on your father's side: BLUE
Grandmother's lineage on your father's side: GREEN
Grandfather's lineage on your mother's side: RED
Grandmother's lineage on your mother's side: YELLOW

Get colored file folders and colored labels for plain file folders. Then file all information that you have on your grandfather's lineage on your father's side in the blue folders. On your pedigree charts circle the ancestors of that grandfather in blue. Code documents pertaining to that family with blue dots.

Then do the same with red folders, red labels and red dots with the lineage of your grandfather on your mother's side. And with yellow for the grandmother on your mother's side. Use green for the grandmother's family on your father's side. **It really helps a lot.**

NEWS FROM THE CASSETTE LIBRARIAN AND BOOK NEWS

Don't forget to check our Cassette Library for these additional resources on Italian Research

- C-218 Sources & Strategies for Italian American Research by Jayare Roberts (FSLC-110)
- C-228 From Italy to America: Starting Your Italian-American Research by Sharon D. Carmack

If German Research is where you are - we have 16 tapes on German Research. Some of these are:

- C-88 Resolving Common and Unusual German Research Problems by Larry O. Jensen with handouts.
- C-154 Tracing The Origins Of Your 18th Century German Ancestors by Henry Z. Jones, Jr.. Also with handouts.
- C-225 Tricks of the Trade - Things You Really Need to Know to Track Down Germans, by Dorothy A. Boyd-Rush.

See page 26 of your handbook for more German References.

From the Library Book Collection

See page 16 of your handbook for some of our book references for Italian and German research housed at the Danville Library, including:

R929.1072 Finding Italian Roots by John Philip COLLETTA, Colletta, PhD.

R 929.40943 Spelling Variations in German
MINERT Names Solving Family History Problems Through Applications of German and English Phonetics by Roger P. Minert, Ph.D., A.G. GRT Pub. 2000.

R 929.343 Descriptive Catalog of German
MATYAS Research Materials at the Family History Center - published 1999 by the Sacramento German Genealogy Society.

Try this one by this months speaker

R 929.2 The German Research Companion
REIMER Lorelei Press. Rev. Edition 2000.

This is just a start - check your handbook for more.

BUDGET - SRVGS - 2003-2004 Fiscal Year

Submitted by Marilyn Tanner - Treasurer - 2002-2003.

General Fund:	\$2871.07
Estimated Dues Income	\$2470.00
Expenses:	Proposed Budget:
Box Rental	30.00
Facility Rental	00.00
Liability insurance	350.00
Monthly Program Costs	500.00
Newsletter: Printing	640.00
Postage	690.00
Officer Expenses	20.00
Publicity	40.00
Society Memberships:	
CA Conf/Historical Soc.	50.00
CA State Gen. Alliance	20.00
Fed/Gen Societies	45.00
Nat'l Gen. Soc.	40.00
Year Book	335.00
Miscellaneous	30.00
Total Budgeted Amounts for	
June 1, 2003 to May 31, 2004	\$2790.00
Reserves (General Fund)	\$2531.00

Sad News

We were saddened to learn last week of the death of one of our most valuable members. **Someone Else.** Someone Else's passing creates a vacancy that will be hard to fill. Else has been with us for many years and every one of those years Someone Else did far more than a normal person's share of the work.

Whatever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. Whenever there was a job to do, one name was on everyone's list. "Someone Else will do it." It was common knowledge that Someone Else was always the one that the organization relied upon to support a particular project. Everyone just assumed that Someone Else would provide what was needed. Someone Else was a wonderful person - sometimes appearing superhuman, but a person can only do so much.

Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? WHO is going to do the things that Someone Else did? When you have a chance to participate in the Association's activities, REMEMBER - we cannot depend on Someone Else any more."

Seattle Sounders Booster Club "The Crossing Shot" July 1982.

**WE STILL NEED A NEWSLETTER
COORDINATOR - AND SOMEONE ELSE IS NO
LONGER AVAILABLE, please volunteer**

DID YOU KNOW - New Laws

The Sequoia Genealogical Society, Inc.,
Vol. 30, No. 1, March 2003.

Since January 1, 2003 some new laws have taken effect that effect our research. Before then, you could access a death certificate for information about where the decedent lived, the date of death, whatever to find an obituary, if necessary. But, now because of the threat of identity theft, these records dated after 1905 have been restricted to "authorized people". The list of "authorized people" include the following, according to the manager of the local clerk's office:

- (1) the registrant or a parent or legal guardian of the registrant
- (2) A party entitled to receive the record as a result of a court order, or an attorney or license adoption agency seeking the birth record.
- (3) A member of a law enforcement agency or a representative of another governmental agency, as provided by law, who is conducting official business.
- (4) A child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner of the registrant.
- (5) An attorney representing the registrant or the registrant's estate, or any person or agency empowered by statute appointed by a court to act on behalf of the registrant or the registrant's Estate.

- (6) Any funeral director who orders certified copies of a death certificate on behalf of any individual specified above.

If you need to confirm a date, place or cemetery for an obituary, you must pay the \$13.00 for that certificate. Also, the birth certificates cost that much. The marriage certificates are now \$15.00. That certificate would be passed on to the patron requesting that information. However, that patron must be informed beforehand what the problem is and what the solution is. If you go into the local clerk's office, you may have a form to sign, that under penalty of perjury, you are one of the above named persons that can receive this information; the local manager knows your purpose for needing these documents and has agreed that you have no plans for illegal use of them. Beginning July 1, the form will need to be notarized as an additional requirement.

It is regretful that things have come to this, but other states have also instituted these precautions for the identity theft problems. It may go further than researching for our ancestors. Many parents wanting birth certificates for kindergartners, and people needing certificates for passport applications may be frustrated that it takes a lot to get a document. So, start early to get these documents. For further clarification check with your county clerk.

Contra Costa Library Information

The Pleasant Hill Library contains the Heritage Collection of Genealogical References. The library staff has asked that announcements be made concerning books formerly in the Vault and the locked area of the mezzanine. Quite a few have been moved to unmarked shelves outside the door from the Periodical room and down the corridor to the right. This material is mostly Californiana - county and town histories, photos, etc. Also, in Section 917.8 are more Western books including a set of 15 volumes of Far Westward & Rockies. These have lists of wagon trains, hand carts, etc. all of the above can be checked out.

★ The Library invites all to visit the "Q and A Cafe" on the Contra Costa County Website at www.ccclib.org. Click on Q & A Cafe. This project is a collaboration between the Contra Costa Library and the Golden Gateway Network (including the LA County Library. Follow the directions and ask your questions for a response from a real librarian! Open 7 days a week, 2 to 9 p.m.

More Pleasant Hill Library Info

Genealogical Gems in the Reference Department

Most of the following pertain to Contra Costa County: City Directories for Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, old phone books, maps, early local newspapers. Other papers are Contra Costa Times, Wall Street Journal, San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, New York Times.

The vault holds Richmond Sanborn Maps, early Contra Costa County death indexes and cemetery records, church records, Great Registers, indexes, biographical information, early county photos, land records, California county history books, some now out of print.

You may access vault materials by checking the list on the bulletin board, checking the card file under California Vault or using the Library Catalog and making a request at the information desk in the lobby.

The library now has all of the California US Census for 1920, and the 1930 rolls for Contra Costa County.

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