

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 305
Diablo, CA. 94528-8308
President: Virginia Rood
Coord. Editor: Dorothy Baker
Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tues. Of the Month
(Except August & December)
Alamo LDS Church
Stone Valley & Smith Rds - Alamo

Vol. XVIII No. 3

October 2003

THIS MONTH – OCTOBER 21, 2003

“A MAN MAY WORK FROM SUN TO SUN...”

Alison K. Douglas of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will be our guest speaker in October. This lecture will be a survey of what our male ancestors “did for a living”. It will cover how we can discover our ancestors’ occupations; what those callings might have meant in the social context of the time; an overview of how technological changes led to changes in occupations from the Colonial era to the early 20th century and a bit on how labor conditions changed with them.

LAST MONTH

Mortuary Records and the Information Contained Therein

Speaker: Sonya Gividen

Notes by Lee Schlenker

In September Sonya Gividen, Funeral Director of Callaghan Mortuary and Livermore Crematory, was our guest speaker. This mortuary has been in existence since 1906. She has had grief counseling from a Hospice worker and learned so much from her experience. She was an excellent speaker and on a far different topic, I think, than many of us are used to hearing about.

Ms. Gividen gave us a number of forms which are used in her job as Director. All these forms can give a relative some excellent information regarding the deceased. With the new privacy act in affect many of these following forms that you would like to look at require you to bring a notarized proof that you are the next of kin before gaining access to them at the mortuary.

Her first emphasis was on the fact that at a time of emotional stress you may not remember all accurate details of that person’s life which are to be reported on the death certificate. Ms Gividen started with a “Funeral Arrangement Worksheet.” Within this form are the vital statistics about this person: name, age, date of death, place and date of birth; place of death,

time and cause’ marital status, employment status, veteran information, and then the informant’s name, address, phone, and relationship. This is a wealth of information for a relative looking for specific info on their family. She made a great suggestion: fill out a “Funeral Arrangement Work-sheet” when you are of sound mind and don’t wait until it’s too late and you have forgotten your own life’s details! This form is kept on file at the mortuary (and most mortuaries will do this for you) until time that it is needed. When you or a relative has to make the arrangements the details are there. They don’t have to rack their brain trying to think of a correct date or place while under stress and none of your statistics are going to get mixed up or entered incorrectly.

The second form was the “Interment Application Worksheet – San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery” which is the only local Veteran’s Cemetery open to veterans. (All other local National Cemeteries are full.) This, to, can be a wealth of information. It contains legal next of kin (NOK) info, decedent’s info, Veteran’s info (including his/her service #, VA claim #, highest rank held, the branch of the service,

active duty dates, MIA/POW, discharged date, awards, marital status, and surviving adult dependent children.

The third form was the "Application and Permit for Disposition of Human Remains." This accompanies the death certificate and contains other information regarding the deceased. If the burial is to be in another city/county or out-of-state, this disposition form becomes a transit permit. If the burial is out-of-the-country these two forms must go to the local consulate of that country first.

The fourth form was the "Certificate of Death" compilation which contains a 128 lines to be completed including personal data and residence, informant, spouse/parent info, funeral director, place of birth, cause of death, physician's certification, and the coroner's section. There is also apart which asks for any aliases. This is important especially if the deceased was a writer, poet or a wrestler who used a different name in their profession. Lines 101 through 122 may not be available to you if you do not have that notarized affidavit that you are the next of kin. If any information on the death certificate is incorrect you must fill out an affidavit to amend the record making the death certificate a two page usable death certificate until it's finalized. The left side of the sheet will list the incorrect info and the right side will list the correct info. The family will get a copy of this, but it will take up to 11 months to a-mend and record it. For a certified copy you will have to contact the recorder's office for the amended death certificate. If there is an error in the physician's "cause of death" you must catch it within 48 hours. If your relative was under Hospice care that adds another layer to the coroner's office information box.

The fifth form was the "Application for Authorized Certified Copy of a Death Record" and is broken down into four boxes: 1) death certificate info and # of copies, 2) applicant info, 3) who you are, 4) your sworn signature and date. This is a new form required as of July, 2003. Again you will need that notarized affidavit as to legal next of kin. This goes for any one person who is representing the deceased in any matter (lawyers, paralegals, law enforcement, anyone seeking info.

There were questions and answers as we went

along on this entire talk. One great point brought out was that there is a *Yellow Book* which all mortuaries receive periodically containing the names and addresses of all mortuaries across the U.S. If you should know the city of burial but can't find the actual mortuary, many mortuaries know what happened to that old facility and exactly where their records have gone. Most mortuaries are very helpful. The *Yellow Book* can cost up to \$35.00, but often times they are glad to give it away at the end of the year, if you ask.

Ms. Gividen says to utilize mortuary records - They are such a wealth of information

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President:

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3rd V.P. Program:

Bob Venter Pat Denton Pat Levy
735-8419 938-3301

Recording Secretary: Mary Wright

Corresponding Secretary:

Sherri Hedman 275- 8123

Treasurer: Bob Dougherty 556-3302

Parliamentarian: Barbara Ditting 648-9364

Family History Center

2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo, CA

Hours: Monday, Wed., Thurs. 10a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Phone: 925-552-5920

Website:

<http://www.geocities.com/dsfho@sbeglobal.net>

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

The syllabus for 2003 FGS Conference is available for sale through FGS. Visit the FGS Web site at: <https://www.fgs.org> and click on the link on the main page. Limited quantities for this year's, as well as syllabi from 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002 Conferences. Members of FGS enjoy a discount. [SRVGS is a member society]. For audiotapes of most of the presentations for this & previous years visit: <http://www.audiotapes.com>

SRVGS CALENDAR

OCTOBER - 2003

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 & 1/2 miles.

28 **Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. The Library Trip**
The Library Trip will be to the National Archives, 1000 Commodore Dr., in San Bruno. Phone (650) 876-9009. View their website at "National Archives, Pacific Region" for details of their holdings (www.nara.gov).

The Pacific Region Branch in San Bruno has microfilm of U. S. Census Records, 1790-1930 (excluding 1890), various military service records, and early pension and bounty land warrant applications. For viewing archival holdings of regional records of Northern California, call ahead for instructions about how to obtain a researcher's ID card. Carpools meet BEHIND Albertson's, on Diablo Road in Danville and leave promptly at 9:00 am. Please sign up at the general meeting or call the Library Trip Coordinator, Louise Ford (925)376-4587 to add your name to the list or cancel if you need to.

29 **Wednesday 10:00 a.m. A Member Education.** The class will be presented by Fran Lloyd at her home. The topic will be "Getting Started With Your Genealogy." It will be presented in 2 sessions. Beginners, intermediate researchers and members who would like a refresher, are welcome. Please sign up at the general meeting or phone Fran at 837-9382, then join the class at 210 Town and Country Drive in Danville. Part II will be presented one week later.

NOVEMBER - 2003

4 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting** is to be held at the home of Frances Lloyd, 210 Town and Country Drive, Danville

5 **Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Part II of a Member Education Class** will be presented by Fran Lloyd at her home. The topic will be "Getting Started With Your Genealogy." Beginners, Intermediate researchers and members who would like a refresher, are welcome. Please sign up at the October general meeting or phone Fran at 837-9382, then join the class at 210 Town and Country Drive in Danville

5 **Wednesday 1:00 p.m. Interested members** that have yet to print and copy their findings for distribution, will meet at the home of Fran Lloyd, 210 Town and Country Drive in Danville. If you are getting ready to put your genealogical findings in a format to share, then bring a sample of what you have thus far and let's encourage each other to stay on a timeline.

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

22 **SATURDAY 9:00 am The Library Trip** will be to the California Genealogical Society, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland. Phone 1-510-663-1358.

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

October - November 2003

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - They will meet Tuesday, October 21 after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m.. The meeting will be at the home of Peggy Dearman, 749 Morninghome Road, in Danville. Bring a bag lunch.

This is a genealogy software users group focusing on the use of The Master Genealogist. The contact person for the group is Peggy Dearman, (925) 837-1621 or email dearman@pacbell.net.

GERMAN - A home group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22nd. (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Bob and Fran Schweitzer, 2493 Lariat Lane, Walnut Creek. Please let them know if you are unable to attend or need directions. New members: Please feel free to contact Fran regarding information about the group. (German - Continued on Page 4)

GERMAN - Continued

Fran Schweitzer (925) 935-5744 or email
FranSchw@pacbell.net.

The Sacramento German Meeting is Tuesday Oct. 28th. Roger Minert is the speaker and his topic is "Asking for Help, Then Getting Your Money's Worth from Professional Researchers". If you interested in going it's time to form carpools, so Please let Fran know if you are interested in going and/or could drive.

IRISH - Their meeting dates will be October 8 and November 12 (second Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place in Pleasant Hill. Phone (925) 229-0889 or email russpat@netvista.net

SOUTHERN - This group will meet October 14 (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 email dpstant@hotmail.com. This group is also scheduled to meet November 11.

INTERNET - Interested SRVGS members that are also Internet users communicate via e-mail. The coordinator is Jack Johnson. Phone 837-2153 or email jackmj@earthlink. Member Internet users may join this group by sending an email request. Please use "SRVGS Internet User" as a subject line.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

8 October Wednesday At 7:30 p.m.
at Belmont Central Middle School, 525 Middle Road in Belmont, Peter Dolgenos will speak about "Using Sutro Library to the Maximum". This is the October general meeting of the San Mateo County Genealogical Society. Peter has been a reference librarian at Sutro for 2 years. Phone (650) 572-2929 or visit their web page at www.smegs.org

11 October Saturday 8 am to 4:30 pm
An annual all day fall seminar will be sponsored by the Concord & Walnut Creek LDS stakes. Over 30 varied classes in many classrooms. Bring a lunch, drinks provided. It will be held at the LDS Church, 3700 Clayton Road in Concord near Farm Bureau Road. For additional information (925) 827-4729.

16 October Thursday 7 p.m.

Annette Hulse will speak about "Researching the New England Historic and Genealogical Society". This presentation will be at the general meeting of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society. They meet at the Central Library, 3345 Lochinvar Avenue in Santa Clara.

17-19 October Friday, Saturday and Sunday

The San Francisco Bay Region of the California State Genealogical Alliance will host a "California Conference" at the Crown Plaza in Foster City, CA. http://users.lmi.net/catch/ca_conf

The main conference will be held on Saturday. Subjects will include California records, record preservation and research methodology. On Friday and Sunday there will be guided field trips and indoor workshops on photo preservation, cemetery research (includes and afternoon field trip), organizing a research project and hands on preservation techniques. NARA will be opened on Sunday for Conference attendees

18 October Saturday - The Stockton California Family History Center announces a Family History Faire. This is a FREE to the public show. Get help on starting your family history. Visit many information booths, see Grandma's Attic, computer related genealogy, journals, news - papers, old pictures, poetry, quilts, scrapbooking, software, spinning, and tatting. Explore the royal genealogies database. For more information contact: stocktonfh@yahoo.com

1 November Saturday 9 am to 4 p.m.

Hank Jones will present a seminar at First Presbyterian Church, 25th Avenue and Hacienda in San Mateo. The theme is "Follow Your Intuition as Well as Your Intellect in Genealogical Searches". Attendance will be limited to the first 120 applicants. Fee is \$30 for non-members of SMC GS. Mail checks to San Mateo Genealogical Society, 773C Loma Verde Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303. E-mail questions to john.s.gleed@worldnet.att.net

8 November Saturday 8:30 a.m. till 3:50 p.m.

L-AGS and LDS Livermore will co-sponsor an all day seminar at the LDS church, 950 Mocho Street in Livermore. \$ 18 suggested donation if you
(Continued on Page 5)

(L-AGA & LDS Seminar Continued)

pre-register before October 25. Mail your check to:
L-AGS, 5624 San Luis Court, Pleasanton, CA
94566. For information 447-9386 or 443-2729.

24 April, 2004 Saturday

At Rohnert Park, CA: Elizabeth Shown Mills will hold all-day seminar in Sonoma County, California, sponsored by the Sonoma County Genealogical Society. Details are available at:
www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/mills.htm.

OKTOBERFEST

Most Oktoberfests in the United State try to emulate, even in a small way, or for at least to cash in on the name, of the most famous Oktoberfest in the world. The Munich Oktoberfest is the largest German "Volksfest" (folk festival) and the only one bearing the name "Oktoberfest" which functions somewhat like a trademark. It promises the world's biggest good-time affair, attended by millions of thirsty souls from all over the globe, and takes place on the "Theresienwiese" with its giant beer tents, where buxom beer maidens serve the precious brew by the liter in large steins, where thirty-piece Bavarian bands rock the thick air, and where there's no end to singing "them old time drinking songs."

The first Oktoberfest was actually part of a marriage celebration when, in October of 1810, Bavarian King Max Joseph gave a big time wedding for Crown Prince Ludwig, later to become King Ludwig I, with the Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. It culminated with a series of horse races and gave rise to the tradition of the October festival, and in the following year, became an annual affair commemorating this grand wedding forevermore. The Oktoberfest we know today, evolved over time and incorporated a number of different traditions.

In the 18th century, horse races, once so popular, were disappearing. Franz Baumgartner, corporal of the national garde, horse lover and owner of a good race horse himself, thought of a way to revive the Races. Why not make horse races a part of the marriage celebration! The story goes that one Major Andra Dall'Armi was designated to lead a

delegation of officers of the Guard to suggest it to the King. King Max Joseph was delighted.

Five days after the royal wedding, on October 17, a festival including the horse races, was held on the meadow in front of the Sendlinger Tor, one of Munich many gates. The royal family, the royal court and the city magistrate were present and the citizens of Munich were invited to attend. The festival was such a success that it was decided to repeat the horse races in the following year. The race grounds were named "Theresienwiese" in honor of the crown princess. With this began that part of the Oktoberfest tradition - the present day location - referred to as "d'Wies'n" (the meadow). In 1811 a big agricultural fair was added to the races and by 1818 the first performers and beer pub owners participated. Though the horse races were removed in 1938, many other traditions survived, which made the "Oktoberfest" not only a tourist attraction, but also a door to learning something about the German region of Bavaria and its people.

The Oktoberfest is now celebrated in September, because the chilly Bavarian October winds blowing from the Alps, can surprise with an early cold and snow. The 16-day Fest always starts on a Saturday in September and ends on the 1st Sunday of October. Over time certain rituals evolved which are followed from year to year.

More than 7,000 people participate in a four-mile long parade. At noon, the mayor will tap the first keg of beer in the "Schottenhamel" tent which is the oldest private tent at "Oktoberfest". He will declare, "o'zapft is!" (The keg is tapped) Munich's six major breweries, brewers of the Oktoberfest Marzen beers are represented in seven festive halls and usually have live music throughout the day and evening. There is dancing and plenty of sideshows, booths and rides.

Hungry - you can try "Brathendl" (grilled chicken) or "a Munchner Weisse," veal sausage, trout and ell grilled outdoors on long sticks and sausages galore.

REMEMBER

To return your membership questionnaire by mail or bring to the October 21st meeting! Thanks...

President's Message - October

By Virginia Rood

This month I'm writing about the benefits of lineage societies in pursuing our genealogy research. Whether you choose to pursue membership or use their resources much can be gained. These organizations often have extensive genealogical materials and many have their own libraries, which are open to the public. Here are some examples of these libraries: The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and the Mayflower Society Library.

The DAR and Colonial Dames library's are in Washington, DC. The DAR has a catalog online at <http://www.dar.org>. The SAR library is in Louisville, KY. Its catalog is online at <http://sar.library.net>. Locally, the Mayflower Society Library is in Oakland, which you can easily visit.

The DAR has lineage applications on file, and you can order record copies if you are looking for an ancestor who may have served in the Revolutionary War. The Patriot Index will lead you to these applications which is online at <http://www.dar.org>. An ongoing project that the DAR is working on is a national indexing of the Genealogy Records Committee records (GRC), which is an every name index from the states. These are various genealogical records that have been submitted by DAR chapters. Frances Lloyd is working on this project. You can access what has already been indexed at <http://www.dar.org> by going to the library site. If you find a name, you can contact the DAR for a copy of the page and source.

Recently I found a form on the Mayflower website, <http://www.mayflower.org>, that you can fill out with what you think is your lineage and submit it to the state society to determine if you have an acceptable line. Volunteers will check your work and advise you if it is okay to submit an application.

Often you find possibilities in surprising places. A few weeks ago at the Scottish Games in

Pleasanton I found that the clan booths are a source to investigate. I have a Campbell line, and I found several handouts that have genealogy possibilities.

Therefore, these are some examples that I know of to take advantage of lineage societies without actually becoming a member. On the other hand, if you choose to join one of these organizations and submit your lineage, it is a good way to validate your research.

CGS ANNUAL SALT LAKE CITY RESEARCH TOUR

The CGS 4th Annual tour to Salt Lake City will take place March 28th to April 4, 2004. Experienced Genealogists, Betty Kot and Jane Lindsey will volunteer their time to assist you. CGS members Cost \$655. Non-members add \$35. For more Information contact CGS (510) 663-1358. If you plan to go and need a roommate? Call Dorothy Baker 925-427-4883 or e-mail DJBDorothy@cs.com

NEW MEMBER

Pat Strong
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(925) 935-6775
e-mail: patdstrong@aol.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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Special Contributor: Pat Isom 820-2660
Mailing: Lucy Carver 837-3146
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.

OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

For the third year in a row, the U.S. Senate has unanimously approved legislation to designate October as "Family History Month." This is a huge day for the more than 80 million Americans who believe to be actively searching for more information about their ancestors. Genealogy is now the second most popular hobby next to gardening.

This explosion of interest in family history is due, in part, to the advent of the Internet. It is estimated that more than two million separate Web sites are devoted to genealogy. Here are some ways you can celebrate Family History Month with your family.

1) **Get Started Tracing Your Family Tree**

Attend our Member Education Class "Getting Started with Your Genealogy" on Wednesday, October 28th

2) **Create a Family Cookbook**

Contact your parents, grandparents, and other relatives and ask them to send you a few of their favorite family recipes. Have them include a story about each dish, where or who it was handed down from, why it is a family favorite, and when it was traditionally eaten (Christmas, family reunions, etc.) Whether you create a full-blown family cookbook, or just make copies for family and friends, this is a gift to be cherished.

3) **Record Family Stories**

Record family stories on audiotape or write them in a special journal

4) **Uncover Your Family Health History**

This can be helpful and beneficial to you, your family and future generations.

5) **Scrapbook Your Family History**

6) **Take a Trip Back in Time**

Grab a map, and hop in the car for a family adventure! Visit sites of importance to your family - the old family homestead, the house where you were born, the country from which your ancestors migrated, the hillside where you played as a child, or the cemetery where great-grandpa is buried. If none of these locations is near to home, then consider a trip to a historical museum, etc.

7) **Play Detective**

Most children will learn to appreciate their family history if you turn it into a detective game. Start your children or grandchildren on a lifelong journey of discovery by introducing them to genealogy through games, family history and heritage projects.

8) **Craft a Heritage Gift**

From picture frame Christmas ornaments to heritage quilts, your family history makes a great gift! Home-made gifts are often inexpensive but are favorites with the recipients and making them is often more fun than giving them.

9) **A Year of Family Pictures**

Family photo calendars make wonderful gifts and are easy and inexpensive to create using your computer or with the help of your local copy shop. It can be a current family calendar or you can create a calendar that commemorates your ancestors with old photos and your ancestor's birthdays, marriage dates, etc. Hallmark also has a "Family Tree" with photo frames which would make an excellent Christmas gift.

10) **Start a Family Web Site**

A digital scrapbook and meeting spot, a family web allows you and your kids to share family photos, favorite recipes, funny stories and even your family tree research. Design one yourself or get help with the many online services that can help you.

NEW ENGLAND RESEARCHERS

The California Mayflower Society Library may help you find an elusive New Englander ancestor. The Library is open Mondays, 9-4: & Wednesdays, 9-noon. It is staffed by volunteers willing to help. Best of all, it is easily accessible by BART; exit the 12th Street Station (City Center) and walk only one block to 405- 14th St. The library is on the basement level. Telephone 510-451-9599 if you wish to speak to a volunteer during the open hours, or visit www.mayflowersociety.com. If you drive, there is a parking garage directly across the street.

*Louis Ford, our Library Coordinator, will highlight each month a library that may be beneficial in your research but will not be included in our group trip schedule. They are good ones to look into - just small and specialized.

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

FIRST CLASS

WANTED
Historian for SRVGS

The Historian shall maintain the Scrapbook of photographs, etc, that portray the history of our Society and its members.

Duties are:

- 1) Take photos of Speakers and other Society activities and place in Society Scrapbook
- 2) Collect newspaper articles about the Society and our members for the Scrapbook.
- 3) Insert a copy of each Newsletter in the Scrapbook
- 4) The current Scrapbook should be available at each General Meeting.
- 5) We also want to create "memorial" pages for deceased members.

IF you are interested in this position, please
Contact Marilyn Tanner, VP. 925-376-6733
Or e-mail: Jtanner@nothingbutnet.com