

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

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol XVIII No. 5 November/ December - 2003

THIS MONTH - November 18, 2003

Using DNA testing to augment traditional genealogy research

Mr. Mumma will focus on three areas. The first area will be to provide a brief background about the fundamentals of DNA testing. Then he will discuss the use of these principals as they can be applied to genealogical research. Finally, the results obtained from an actual project, the *Gatter* Surname project, will be shown and described. Time will be provided to discuss issues and questions unique to the members of the audience. *Biography:* Douglas Mumma received his BA in physics from the University of California in 1957. For 35 years he worked as an experimental physicist and administrator in nuclear weapons effects and high explosives research. Since his retirement, he has continued his interest in science and has become a peer in the use of DNA testing for genealogical research. His *MUMMA* Surname Project was the first privately funded project that was initiated over 3 years ago. The results of his ongoing research continues to be a benchmark and reference point in this new technology. He is also a joint researcher on the *GATTER* name project which examines the ancestry of his wife's maiden name.

LAST MONTH

"A Man May Work From Sun To Sun..."

Speaker: Alison K. Douglas Reported by Jean Hunt

Alison K. Douglas of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society presented us with an enlightening hour on what occupations our male ancestors may have followed in the early centuries of our nation.

Along the way she gives us a view of what the women and children might have done as their contribution to bolster the family income.

She speaks of the census as a good source although it wasn't until the 1850 U.S. Census that questions were asked as to what occupation each person did. In 1820 a special Manufacturing Census was done. During that period the main three

occupations the census takers were interested in were: Agriculture, Manufacturing and Commercial Enterprise.

Equally important as an excellent source of information were city directories. As early as the 1700's city directories were being published. Many times these included people living in the surrounding areas. Many directories carried ads for the local merchants. There are many types of directories. City Directories, County wide Directories, Company & Firm Directories and Business Directories. Sutro Library in San Francisco has one of the largest collections

of directories in the United States.

The early American families were mostly rural and boys generally received a formal education to about the fourth grade and girls were more likely to finish grade school. The boys left school to go to work on their families farms or in their families businesses.

The social goals of the time dictated that working hard and establishing your own family was the direction that most young men went in order to establish and earn a proper social status. The average age for a young man to wed being between twenty to twenty-five. It was felt that the young women brought to and set a high moral standard for the family.

In Colonial times 80 to 90% of the men were farmers. Many developing an accompanying trade such as blacksmithing, milling (grinding of grain) house building, furniture crafting, honey gathering and so fourth.

In coastal towns even the seafaring people had their bit of land to grow the produce they needed.

Cash money was a rare commodity but there were times when these folks needed to purchase commodities such as refined salt and sugar, gun powder, coffee, tea and whisky. To do that, they made extra items; be it food, clothing etc. to sell as a cash crop. Later these cottage items grew into the cottage industries that later grew into large manufacturing companies.

Immigration made a great change in the economy. Many immigrants were members of the old craft guilds of Europe. They brought with them many skills. The mother countries tried to discouraged their emigration with harsh laws. These artisans unfettered by the rigid laws of Europe; which were designed to limit the number of artist so as to keep prices high, took on their own apprentices, teaching their skills to more and more youngsters because of the rapid expansion of the colonies and the ever growing need for specialist.

Unusual in the Colonial System; our colonies had all the raw material they needed so that once they got the skilled workers, they started making their own special commodities. This led to trouble

down the line.

In the scheme of things the Colonists had other social levels such as the educators, usually men educated in Europe as Doctors of Divinity, Law, Medicine and other professions. It was these people that established our early learning institutions such as Yale, Harvard and the like. Before long the colonists did not have to send their sons back to Europe to receive a fine education.

There were also Gentlemen, fine fellows who were rich in land and property and did not stoop to manual labor or trade.

By 1731 the colonial population was doubling every 20 years. The Revolutionary War created even more change, opening up land to more people in the form of land warrants & grants. As people migrated to these frontiers more professions were needed to service them.

By now the country was rapidly growing, building canals, roads, charting rivers and exploring.

The invention of steam power to propel trains and boats creates more kinds of jobs.

By the 1800's there was another big spike in immigration. Much of it caused by crop failure and famine across Europe. The end of slavery was in sight. Different kinds of fuels were replacing wood and charcoal. Coal oil enhance steam power. Factories opened up requiring the agility and small sizes of women and children. Out of the Civil War came better forms of photography. Soon there was the Telegraph and electricity. All creating new kinds of jobs.

Agriculture machinery was motorized and it opened up the vast prairies. Refrigerated railroad cars were invented and the changes have not stopped since.

Our ancestors had no end of occupations to choose from and we have no end of places to look to find out what they did.

Thought for the Month

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is to always try just one more time.

Thomas Edison

Good Advise for genealogist

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SRVGS CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2003

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

18 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting** at LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road at Smith Rd, in Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles.

22 **SATURDAY 9:00 am The Library Trip** will be to the California Genealogical Society, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 100, in Oakland. Phone 1-510-663-1358.

The CGS library has a substantial collection of histories and reference books for practically every state, in addition to being a rich source for California researchers. The library has Internet access and subscribes to several for-pay data bases. Assistance by knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand. There will be a \$ 3 charge for non-members of CGS. View their web site at www.Calgensoc.org. A catalog of their holdings is included. There is a café in the building and a very small kitchen area for brown baggers. Please sign up at the general meeting. If you sign up for the trip and wish to cancel, please call the Library Trip Coordinator, Louise Ford, (925) 376-4587. Since this trip is scheduled for a Saturday, nearby parking facilities should not be as impacted. BART, however is the first choice of travel for many. CGS library is located between the 19th and 12th Street Stations. Carpools, if necessary, will meet behind Albertson's, off Diablo Road in Danville. Departures are prompt.

5 **Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. Member Education class** will be presented by Fran Lloyd at her home. The topic will be "Getting Started With Your Genealogy."

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 planning to put your genealogical findings in a format to share (print or publish), then **bring a sample of what you have** thus far.

SRVGS CALENDAR - DECEMBER 2003

2 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. COOKIE**

EXCHANGE - The annual San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society cookie exchange will be held at the home of Fran Lloyd, 210 Town and Country Drive in Danville.

Everyone Welcome Bring a dozen or two of your favorite cookies to share.

NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE A GENERAL MEETING DURING DECEMBER.

The Special Interest groups typically do not meet during December.

The next Library trip will be Tuesday, January 27, 2004.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups **NOVEMBER 2003**

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - They will meet Tuesday, November 18th after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m.. The meeting will be at Jack & Barbara Johnson's home, 616 Camino Amigo, in Danville (925)-837-2153. Bring a bag lunch. This is a genealogy software users group for PC's and will focus on the use of Master Genealogist. Peggy Dearman, 837-1621 or dearman@pacbell.net is the contact person for the group.

GERMAN - A home group Oktoberfest is scheduled for Wednesday November 19th at 10:30 a.m., at the home of Carol Huvane. Her address is 4589 Walnut Blvd., in Walnut Creek and her phone is 947-5669. If there are any remaining questions about food sign-ups for this October-Fest luncheon, please contact Carol or Fran. Please let the hostess or Fran and Robert Schweitzer know if you do not plan to attend. If you need direction please call the hostess. For other group information, contact Fran Schweitzer 925-935-5744 or e-mail FranSchw@pacbell.net.

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

SOUTHERN – This group will meet November 11, (Second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road, in Alamo. The contact person is Dorothy Stanton, Phone 820-3757 or email dpstant@hotmail.com.

INTERNET – Interested SRVGS members that are also Internet users communicate via e-mail. The coordinator is Jack Johnson. Phone 837-2153 or e-mail jackmj@earthlink.net.

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

11 **November, 2003 - Tuesday At 7:30 pm, the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**

will hold its regular meeting at Beth Emek, 1866 College Avenue at M Street in Livermore. Charles Huff will speak about Sanborn Maps. You may view their web site at: www.l-ag.s.org

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:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/mills.htm>

You may view their web site at: www.l-ag.s.org

*** Welcome to our ***

NEW MEMBER

Ileen Peterson
45153 Cougar Circle
Fremont, CA 94539
(510) 651-7728

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Dorothy Baker 437-4883
DJBDorothy@cs.com
Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 828-8570
Vmseg3@greaterbaynet.com
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.

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Virginia Rood 937-8659

E-mail: VSRood@aol.com

1st V.P. Marilyn Tanner 376-6733

E-mail: jtanner@nothingbut.net

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

QUESTIONNAIRE!

Have you returned your Questionnaire?????
If not, PLEASE do at the next meeting (or mail).

NOTE!

SRVGS is planning a special "Questionnaire Drawing" in the next several months. The prize will be a surprise - to be announced after the first of the year. The winner will be chosen from those who return their questionnaires.

Don't miss out! Return it NOW!

Lost Yours??? Pick one up at the next meeting or at your Special Interest Group meeting.

Christmas Wish List for a Genealogist

Dear Santa,

Don't bring me new dishes; I don't need a new kind of game. Genealogists have peculiar wishes; for Christmas I just want a surname.

A new washing machine would be great, but it's not the desire of my life. I've just found an ancestor's birth date; what I need now is the name of his wife.

My heart doesn't yearn for a ring that would put a real diamond to shame. What I want is a much cheaper thing: Please give me my ancestress Mary's last name.

Thanks, Santa

President's Message - November

By Virginia Rood

Before leaving on our trip to Ireland last month I did some reviewing of family lines that I haven't looked at for years, as I thought I remembered a bit of Irish some-where. I found one ancestor, William Hood, born in Donegal, 1772, but no other information for him. This gave me a reason to inquire about resources and how to begin a search while there. For many of you working with Irish genealogy this information is probably well known, but perhaps some of you are novices like me.

First of all I asked about genealogy research at the Tourist Information office in Dublin and was given a very nice booklet entitled "Tracing Your Ancestors in Ireland." It gives a good overview of Irish emigration and genealogical resources with useful addresses through out Ireland, names and addresses of members of the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland as well as the Genealogy Centres.

Ties to America are very important and are given quite a bit of attention I found. Two places that this was most apparent were the Heritage Centre at Cobh and the Ulster American Folk Park in Northern Ireland with its Centre for Migration Studies. At the Cobh Queenstown Story Exhibition there was a booth for a Genealogical Recordfinder Service. At the Ulster American Folk Park the Centre for Migration Studies has a reference and research library, which was one of the places I did a little searching. I was not successful in finding my ancestor on their data base, but it was surprising to see their many genealogy oriented books, especially for Pennsylvania where I was interested.

The other place I was able to visit was the Family History Research Centre for County Donegal, since Donegal is where my ancestor was born. This center at Ramelton provides quite an extensive research service for a fee. I chose to pay 15 Euros for a consultation, which is a 20-30 minute session with a researcher. She was able to give me historical background on the Scotch Irish people in Northern Ireland. She recommended a book entitled "The People With No Name", by Patrick Griffin.

She also recommended two other books. She also checked their data base but found nothing for my ancestor. Since I didn't know a lot of information about my ancestor, she suggested that I do more research at home and then communicate with her by email for further suggestions and research.

In the end it was interesting to learn about the resource centers that exist and about how much attention, helpfulness and organization is given to genealogy in Ireland. And approaching Irish genealogy as a beginner led to a lot information and a reason to pursue the search.

PLEASANT HILL LIBRARY

If you haven't visited the Genealogy Room at the Pleasant Hill Public Library, put it on your "to do" list. This Library houses the Heritage Collection of genealogical resources that have been donated to that Library's Genealogy Section; currently, 3000 titles and growing. The latest addition is the IOOF Crematory records of San Francisco. A new donation of books on Ireland will be shelved when they can be catalogued.

A visit to the Contra Costa Library web site www.ccclib.org (Programs & Services Section - Genealogy) shows the genealogy resources available in this library, besides the Heritage Collection. California researchers in particular should check with the librarian for the location of Census microfilm for California; also for the Calif. Death Index on microform, and for early Contra Costa information. The Genealogy Room is staffed on a limited basis by volunteers from local genealogical societies, including the DAR and Mayflower Society. However, there is nothing like a personal visit to see for yourself what useful resources we have in the Central Branch of the Contra Costa County Library, located at 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Telephone 925-646-6434.

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>

Search Tips:

Locating What You Need Using Search Engines

The key to family history research has always been in the location of records, and the location of ancestors in those records. When it comes to searching on the Web and in databases, as with traditional research, a little forethought and a good working knowledge of the tools at your disposal can greatly increase your chances of success.

Some Background - Some search engines gather listings by crawling or spidering websites. In other words, they send out a program that reads websites so that they can be catalogued by the search engine. Other search engines may get listings that are submitted to the site and catalogued by people. Metasearch engines will pull results from several other search engines. Still other engines may pull their listings using a combination of methods. The way the engine gathers the information can affect how it presents results. As a result, the same searches can produce different results in different search engines. However, there are some tips that can help you to get the most from whatever search engine you choose.

(in the examples below, I am setting off the search terms in single quotes. The quotes do not need to be included in your search.)

Use Specific Terms - If you were searching for a particular research facility, search for the name of the facility, rather than generic terms (e.g., 'Allen County Public Library' rather than just 'library'). When searching for a city or town, include the state name as well.

Add a Keyword - If a search is yielding too many results, unwanted sites can be excluded by adding a keyword or keywords. For example, if you were searching for genealogy sites related to the surname 'Dooner', rather than just searching on the surname, you might try searches for: 'Dooner genealogy', 'Dooner ancestry', 'Dooner descendants', 'Dooner family', or 'Dooner GEDCOM'. Search queries can be refined further by adding a location or date, such as a birth or death date.

Use Advanced Search Functions - Most search engines have advanced search forms that allow

users to specify how the terms being sought should appear in results or they may accept Boolean operators (and, not, or, and near) and "Search Engine Math (+ and -)". Some search engines support both.

The use of the word 'and' and the + sign can be used to specify that results should contain both/all of the terms somewhere on the page. In some cases, the use of these qualifiers is not necessary because the search engine settings may default to only returning results where all terms are included. The popular search engines, Google.com and Alta Vista, are two such search engines. For example, in Google, searches for 'Minnesota naturalizations', "Minnesota and naturalizations", or '+Minnesota +naturalizations' should all return the same results.

To search for an exact phrase, enclose the phrase in quotation marks (e.g. "Minnesota naturalization Records" will only return searches with the entire phrase listed exactly as it is.)

The use of not and the -sign are used to exclude a term. For example, if the above search for Minnesota naturalizations were returning too many pages for immigration lawyers, a way to eliminate those hits would be to search for 'Minnesota naturalizations not lawyer' or 'Minnesota naturalizations -lawyer'.

The use of the word 'or' would produce results that contain either of the terms. 'Minnesota or naturalizations', but not necessarily both. This can be a particularly useful operator when searching for variations of surnames. For example, a search of 'Dooner or Doner and genealogy', would return results that contain Dooner and genealogy, as well as Doner and genealogy.

The use of the word "near" in searches can be used to limit search results based on how near the search terms are in proximity to each other. The value of the proximity (i.e., within 10 or within 25) may vary from one search engine to the next, and some search engines will also allow 'followed by' or 'adj' (adjacent), which would require that one term immediately follow the other.

Watch Word Variations - Think of how terms are likely to be used on the site and use them in that

form. While most search engines are not case sensitive, they will not recognize variations of words. A search for 'Minnesota naturalization' (as in 'Minnesota naturalization records') will return a different set of results than Minnesota naturalizations. A search for 'Minnesota naturalization or naturalizations' would cover both sets.

Explore Features - In the intensely competitive search engine market, companies are constantly seeking to improve their services by offering expanded features. In addition to advanced search functions, other features include translation software, different types of searches (e.g., image, news, newsgroups, catalog, audio, or video searches, etc.), parental controls to weed out inappropriate sites, the ability to view cached sites, directories, and more.

Read the Help Page - Look for the Help section to make sure that you are using the correct operators and understand fully the functionality of that particular search engine. Learn what default settings it uses. Most help pages are clearly written and easy to understand, and by familiarizing yourself with how they work, you will greatly increase your chances of success.

Another good resource for learning about search engines is SearchEngineWatch.com. This site features tutorials and reviews of various search engines.

*Written by Juliana Smith - editor of the Ancestry Daily News
10/20/2003 Copyright 2000 My Family .com*

Personal Success / Search Engine

By Dorothy Baker

I thought I would share with you my success with Google Search Engine.

I was searching for any information relating to my maternal grandfather's birth place - Ringstedt, Germany. I entered in the Advance Search - 'Genealogy + Ringstedt + Germany'. A long list of sites appeared. One peaked my interest. I clicked on to it. It was a newsletter from a small town in England, West Farleigh, that was the "sister" or "twinning" city of Ringstedt. I emailed the editor of the paper and ask if she could put me in contact with anyone in Ringstedt who could write and speak

English. The editor replied that she would ask at church that Sunday. Several days later, she emailed me with the name and email address of the Vicar's son in Ringstedt.

To make a long story short - After several emails back and forth between yours truly and the Vicar's son, his father, the Vicar and the Vicar's secretary went through the Church records and found my Grandfather and his two sisters. The records were Faxed to me (in Germany). I now not only have my Grandfather's birth notice, his baptism, but his father and mother names (my Great grandparents) - birth dates and place, plus their parents names (my Great Great grandparents).

I also obtained a hard cover book from West Farleigh detailing the history of these small towns, Ringstedt (population - 900) and West Farleigh in both English and German plus colored pictures. The towns have been holding footballing tours between the two cities since 1988. The author relates the fun times had by the players over the years.

This was an unexpected find, but highly exciting. You never know what is around the corner or what a clip of "your finger" can do.

Prospective New Members?

If you know some one you think would like to become a member of SRVGS, bring them to our next meeting. We would also like to send them a complementary copy of our monthly newsletter. You can either give their name and address to our Membership Chairman, Dorothy Humpal at the meeting or call Lucy Carver (925) 837-3146 and ask her to send one to your friend.

A Note from our New Life Time Member

Dear S.R.V.G.S. Members,

I miss one meeting and you all talk about me--thankfully, the good must have outweighed the bad! My sincere thanks to our members for this honor. I will always owe the society as I have gained friends, knowledge, and had lots of fun--much more than I will ever give. Thanks again, Francie (Lloyd)



GIVE THANKS!

GENEALOGICAL BEATITUDES



Blessed are the great-grandfathers who saved embarkation and citizenship papers,
For they tell when they came.
Blessed are great-grandmothers who hoarded newspaper clippings and old letters,
For these tell the story of their time.
Blessed are all the grandfathers who filed every legal document,
For this provided the proof.
Blessed are the grandmothers who preserved family Bibles and diaries,
For this is our heritage.
Blessed are fathers who elect officials that answer letters of inquiry,
For to some they are the only link to the past.
Blessed are mothers who relate family tradition and legend to the family,
For one of her children will surely remember.
Blessed are relatives who fill in family sheets with extra data,
For to them we owe the family history.
Blessed is my family whose member strives for the preservation of records,
For theirs is a labor of love.

(Author Unknown) Contributed by Mary Jo Hosteny 11/1990

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

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

FIRST CLASS