

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. 8

March 2004

THIS MONTH - March 16, 2004

"Passenger Arrival & Naturalization Records of the National Archives" (Pacific Region - San Francisco)

Rose Mary Kennedy will be the speaker at our March Meeting. She was born in California and is a first generation American whose parents were born in Ireland. Graduated from the College of Notre Dame, Belmont with a B. A., in English and History. Has an Elementary Teaching Credential, from the College of Notre Dame. After several years of teaching, entered into government service in 1979, working at the Federal Record Center. In 1981, became a permanent staff member of the National Archives Pacific Region. Currently, she is the Reference Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator. Teaches many of the workshops that are offered at the National Archives. Often is a guest speaker representing the National Archives.

Rose Mary Kennedy will be covering the following aspects of researching your immigrant ancestors: What you need to know to begin your research, The Five Great Ports, and DEFINITION OF TERMS: Baggage Lists, Captain's Lists, The Customs Passenger Lists, Immigration Passenger Lists.

Join us on March 16th and bring a friend.

FEBRUARY MEETING

"Treasures in a Trunk"

Speaker: Kathleen Castro

Reported by Lee Schlenker

Our speaker at the February meeting was Kathleen Castro who has spent thirty plus years researching her ancestry. She is a member of the New England Genealogy Historical Society (NEGHS), Contra Costa Genealogical Society, and the DAR. Ten of her research years were spent researching these Brower/Bogardus items left to her Mother in the trunk from a widowed cousin, Gertrude France, 1970. The cousin, having no children, had the good sense to ship this trunk on to Kathleen's mother in Iowa. The trunk contained a box of documents which in 1979 Kathleen's finally took

from her hall closet at home and brought it to work. There she could work through them in her spare time. She kept them in a huge safe in the office. That year one of the worst tornados hit the town. Many homes and buildings were destroyed. The tornado nearly ruined the business. But the safe still stood in place with the box and valuable documents still safely inside. The items in her mother's home hall closet where the box first resided were found miles away.

It truly was a trunk containing "treasures." It contained well over 500 items which Kathleen broke down into "heirloom" items and "documents." The

heirlooms consisted of a Crazy quilt dated 1886 with the name of D.J. France (great grandfather) embroidered on it, the Brower Will, personal effects from Kathleen's great grandparents (a piece of her wedding dress, wedding picture, calling cards for both, marriage license, a human hair watch fob, a handmade valentine cut-out with a poem written on it, a jabot from her dress, a beaded handbag, coin purse, common prayer book, reference books that were keepsakes); Civil War memorabilia (a diary, pictures, his bible, newspaper articles); plus numerous pictures - all labeled with names.

The documents (more than 500) had to be researched, categorized, and numbered. When Kathleen started this whole project, she was a novice genealogist and pedigree charts were not readily available so she created her own and comprised her own paper booklet of descendants charts. But she needed to find out why these small documents were saved for all those years. She first read each document to decipher it, asked herself if it pertained to her genealogy research and if it did then wrote it out in longhand to make it easier to type and/or enter into her computer. Many of the documents were correspondence between a Robert Pitcairn, who set himself up as the administrator of the Anneka Jans Estate (and who thought he had married into a fortune when he heard his wife was related to the Jans family of N.Y.) and people who knew of the Jans family and could give proof of how they acquired the 62 acres of prime Manhattan land that is now occupied by the Trinity Church (scams regarding this land are still going on today); letters to the government claiming compensation for Nicholas Brower aiding George Washington during the Revolutionary War by sending food; and claims to the Nicholas Brower Estate. But Pitcairn got no compensation for any of his claims.

Kathleen assigned the documents to a category; copied data onto a specific or general genealogical chart. She created a "package" for each document including the coding, a brief cover statement, the typed translation, the specific genealogical chart and the original (in a protective/archival covering).

Kathleen found information on many relatives here and there in old books regarding N.Y. history. She proved that many of the document items were true. And especially true was the fact she was related to Anneka Jans part of the Dutch family owning those 62 acres of land on which the Trinity Church still sits.

President's Message - March, 2004 **by Virginia Rood**

Are you "stuck" on an ancestor connection? Why not write to Genie?

Last month our Board discussed ways to assist members with problem solving. Out of the discussion it was decided to try to provide some help through a "Dear Genie" column to be printed in the newsletter. Hopefully this will provide some tips and new ideas by sharing our research experience. The column will require a member to write a brief description of a problem he or she is having and submit it to Barbara Dittig (648-9364), who has agreed to begin as our coordinator. Barbara will help you or will try to find someone in our society who can provide some kind of assistance to help you in working on the problem. We have all had numerous and different experiences with our genealogy, so it seems like we might have a lot of good possibilities within our group. Answers could be in a suggestion as to where to write or look such as a website on the Internet, a library, archive or a locality resource, even a specific book or a resource person to contact. I am sure there are numerous examples that could be listed, but the idea is to help people move forward with their research. Once some kind of solution or recommendation is made the member receiving the information will be asked to give Barbara a brief summary of the results, which will be used, along with the original question, in the "Dear Genie" column.

We would like to try this idea as another way to provide you with research tools as well as to stimulate ideas. I encourage you to think about participating in this process.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**SRVGS CALENDAR MARCH 2004**

2 **Tuesday- 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting**
will be at the home of Jack & Barbara Johnson, 616 Camino Amigo, in Danville (925)-837-2153.

16 **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.

23 **Tuesday 9:00 am The Library Trip** will be to the National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive in San Bruno. Phone (650) 238-3488 For detail of their holdings, search for their web site at "National Archives, Pacific Region," or go to www.nara.gov. Carpools will meet behind Albertson's, off Diablo Road in Danville. Departures are prompt. Please sign up at the general meeting. Please call the Library Trip Coordinator, Louise Ford, (925) 376-4587 by 5:00 pm the day before the trip to add your name or cancel if necessary.

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 on site, such as regional records of Northern Calif., call ahead for instructions about how to obtain a researcher's ID card.

30 **Tuesday 10:00 a.m. A Member Education**
class will be presented by Pat Isom at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The topic will be "Getting Around the Local Family History Center."

SRVGS CALENDAR APRIL 2004

6 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting**
will be held at the home of Fran Lloyd, 210 Town and Country Drive, in Danville.

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

The speaker will be Steve Morse. The topics of his presentation will be: 1. Using his web pages for Passengers Arriving at Ellis Island; 1892-1924, and 2. 1930 Census Records.

22 **Thursday - 10:00 a.m. Member Education**
class will be presented by Fran Lloyd at her home, 210 Town and Country Drive, in Danville. The topic will be "County Court House Records."

22 **Thursday - 1:00 p.m.** Members that are "Aspiring Printers" will plan to meet at the home of Fran Lloyd, 210 Town and Country Drive, in Danville. This member group has met a few times previously, the last time being in November. Any member that is interested in organizing their material for copying, should plan to attend. For additional information, call Fran Lloyd at 837-9382.

28 **Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. The Library Trip**
will be to Sutro State Library, 480 Winston Drive, in San Francisco. It is directly behind Stonestown Shopping Center. Tel. 415-731-4477; or visit their web site at - www.library.ca.gov

SRVGS Special Interest Groups
MARCH - 2004

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP They will meet Tuesday, March 16th after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m.. The meeting will be at the home of Dorothy Stanton, 501 El Capitan Drive in Danville. Her phone number is 820-3757. 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

GERMAN A home group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 24th (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Marilyn Tanner, 140 Warfield Drive in Moraga. Please phone her at 376-6733 to let the hostess know if you do not plan to attend or if you need directions. For other group information, contact Fran Schweitzer (925) 935 - 5744 or e-mail www.FranSchw@pacbell.net. The April meeting is scheduled to be at the home of Jack and Barbara Johnson.

IRISH - Their meeting date will be March 10 and April 14, (second Wednesday) at 10 a.m. at the home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place, Pleasant Hill. (925) 229-0889 or e-mail russpat@comcast.net

SOUTHERN – This group will meet March 9, (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.

OTHER CALENDAR EVENTS

9 March, 2004 Tuesday The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold its regular meeting, 7:30 pm at Beth Emek, 1866 College Avenue at M Street in Livermore. Mary Dillon will speak about "Personal Experiences in Civil War Research."

13 March, 2004 Saturday The 5th annual Family History Day will be held at the California State Archives, 1020 "O" Street in Sacramento. This is a free event and open to the public. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.. The event features an open house, displays by societies, and mini-classes on various subjects.

See: www.ss.ca.gov/archives/level3fmhistday.html

13 April 2004 Tuesday The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold its regular meeting, 7:30 pm at Beth Emek, 1866 College Avenue at M Street in Livermore. Judy Person will speak about "PERSI and Draper Manuscripts."

24 April, 2004 Saturday Elizabeth Shown Mills will hold all-day seminar in Sonoma County at Rohnert Park, CA. It will be sponsored by the Sonoma County Genealogical Society. Details are available at:

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

19-22 May, 2004 The National Genealogical Society will hold its annual national conference in Sacramento at the Sacramento Convention Center.

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHT

By Louise Ford, Library Coordinator

The BANCROFT LIBRARY (510)642-6481 - Reference Desk) on the campus of the University of California) is highly regarded for its historical collections. Learn what they have by calling their Reference Desk or by browsing their website: bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections.

The DOE/MOFFITT LIBRARIES (510)643-9999 also hold extensive historical, periodical, map, and newspaper collections. California researchers will find these libraries worth a look. The newspaper collection may be limited for some, so check the Periodical Room at (510)642-2975 or website www.lib.berkeley.edu/doemoff. (Collections) to learn what they have. A group trip is not planned for this year. A small carpool of your own would help defray the cost of the nearby garage parking (it is expensive).

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.net

2nd V.P. Program:

Bob Venter	Pat Denton	Pat Levy
454-9919	735-8419	938-3301

3rd V.P. Membership:

Dorothy Humpal 735-3310
E-mail: DLHumpal@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Mary Wright 287-8254

Corresponding Secretary:

Sherri Hedman 275- 8123

Treasurer: Bob Dougherty 556-3302

Parliamentarian: Barbara Ditting 648-9364

Dear Genie,

Tilla Torrison b. 1862 Norway, came to America in 1871 with her family. They lived in Wisconsin before moving to Fisher, Polk Co, MN in 1881 11 Nov 1883 Tilla m. Louis Knutson in the Fisher Lutheran Church. The church burned down in 1903, so no records there. I do have a copy of their marriage license. The notice in the newspaper states "Louis is well known in these parts and at present holds a lucrative post in Portland"

Tilla d. 27 May 1898 and is bur. in the family plot in Fisher. Her tombstone is not with the rest of the family, but at the foot of her brother's plot, which makes me think she may have been buried there after her brother's death in 1903.

How do I find information on Tilla and her husband from the time they were married (1883) until she died in 1898.

Marilyn Tanner

Dear Marilyn,

Since you haven't been able to find anything on Tilla and Louis in Fisher, MN or surrounding areas after they were married, chances are they went back to Portland where he was employed. You may find out more about Tilla by following a time line for Louis.

1870 Census OR (parents of Louis)

1880 Census

Tax records MN & OR

Land records in Multnomah Co., OR

Obituary for Tilla from Portland newspaper

1900 Census. Even though Tilla had died, finding Louis could lead you to possible children of this marriage. Did he remarry? If so, probably during those 2 years after her death. Men didn't stay single very long in those days.

Places to write in Portland:

Portland Branch Genealogical Society, 320 N.E. 20th St., Portland, OR 97232

Genealogical Forum of Portland, OR, Inc., Library Suite 320, Governor Bldg., 408 S.W. 2nd, Portland, OR 97204, publication "Bulletin"

Good luck and happy hunting!

Genie aka Barbara Dittig Bdittig@comcast.net

R. A. O. G. K.

Do you know what that stands for? If you don't, you are missing out on a great website that not only gives you free help but also allows you to help other genealogists that do not live in your area. At <<http://www.raogk.com>> you will find the place for Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness. We've all heard "Have a nice day today and pass it on." Well, that is what this web site does. And there is not a charge for time or services (only copies or postage). This site was started in 1999 by a couple from Lincoln, Nebraska. There are now 4,359 volunteers signed up that will get copies of obits, take pictures of headstones in cemeteries, go to local government offices and get copies of documents (birth, death, etc.) or do other research in their city or county. You only have to pay for copy costs, postage for mailing, or the charges for the official documents. You go on the site and go to the county and state you need research from. There you will find volunteers that you then email with your request. They will answer you back if they can help you and then you just wait for your treasures. They will tell you the costs, and you send it to them. It's easy.

Also, you can volunteer for where you are, and help others with research in your county and state. You are only asked to do one request a month, but of course you can do more if you want. I have found that if I am looking up obits, they don't take very long to do, so you might as well do more than one as long as you are down at the library.

For only being five years old, this website has done so much to further genealogy research. They won an award last year as one of the top genealogy sites in the world. You will see why if you visit.

From Poweshiek County Historical and Genealogical Society, PO Box 280, Montezuma, IA 50171; from Westward into Nebraska, Greater Omaha Genealogical Society.

Note: Check our website Homepage for Random Acts of Kindness

Information provide by Lucy Carver

Irish Ancestors on the Web

- Dick Eastman 3/13/2002 - Archive

St. Patrick's Day is always a great time to research your Irish ancestry. Fortunately, in 2002 a number of new Irish resources have appeared that were not available in previous years. One is *Irish Ancestors*, part of the Irish Times Web site. The Irish Times is a major newspaper in Dublin that operates an extensive online publishing site. Of particular interest to genealogists, the *Irish Ancestors* section of that Web site has several sections of genealogy information. Some of the information is available at no charge although several online databases are available only to subscribers. Free information on this site is as follows:

The free Surname Search allows you to enter your surname and then view the location where the families of that name lived in Ireland in the 1850s, how many births there were in the 1890s, brief and extended histories of the name, and more. The Surname Search will not give you information about individual families, however. The free Ancestor Search section will help you find resources available for your particular search. You enter as much information as you can about a particular ancestor, such as name, place of residence, year of departure from Ireland and other, similar data. The Web site will then give you a list of recommended sources of information to search, based upon the criteria you specified.

The free Irish placenames database can tell you where your ancestor's village is located. You can enter the town or village name, and the Web site will return a brief listing of the county, civil parish, and Poor Law Union for that location. If you pay a \$5 (U.S. funds) fee, you can also access an online version of Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Ireland of 1837. This dictionary shows all entries that are part of the relevant civil parish. This means, for example, if you have identified Drumconnick townland as part of Urney parish in County Cavan and wish to find out more about the area, Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Ireland will show you all entries in Urney parish. In this case, the entries would include Cavan town, Derryheen, Keadue, and Urney parish itself. As part

of the service you will also have access to the 1837 map of the relevant county, in .PDF format.

The free section of Irish Ancestors also has an excellent article, entitled *Irish Place Names and the Immigrant* written by Dwight A. Radford and Kyle J. Betit. This article was originally published in *The Irish At Home and Abroad* journal of Irish genealogy and heritage. It gives a lot of hints about finding places in Ireland where your ancestors lived.

Other sections of the free online service include a general overview of the records relevant to Irish family history research, a county-by-county listing of relevant records, resources for researching emigration from Ireland, contact addresses for all the bodies holding Irish records, a guide to starting research, links to other sites of interest, and articles on various aspect of Irish heritage and genealogy. Most of these are based on the second edition of John Grenham's book, *Tracing your Irish Ancestors*.

A number of online databases are available for a fee. You may purchase access "units" in advance. A query that returns information will cost a single unit. \$60 (in U.S. currency) buys thirty units. The databases available with these prepaid units include:

Passenger lists that can be searched by year and area of emigration; Occupational records - sources related to particular occupations; *The Irish Abroad* - published material; on Irish emigrants; Records relating to a particular location - church records, census records & substitutes, gravestone inscriptions, commercial directories, local histories, estate records, General Register Office records, and newspaper indexes and Records of the propertied classes - Wills, Deeds, Newspaper indices, the Genealogical Office

I looked at these subscription databases for a bit and found that they generally do not produce names. However, they are excellent pointers to the places where the names may be found. For instance, I did a search for passenger lists of vessels leaving Ireland in 1856 bound for North America. The database returned a list of passenger lists that have survived and told where they could be found. In many cases, the listing even included the film numbers of the reels of microfilm available.

Similarly, a search for tombstone inscriptions for St.

Peter's Cemetery on Duncan Street, Cork produced information that the inscriptions have been published in the *Journal of the Cork Historical & Archaeological Society* Volume 252, published in 1988, starting on page 252. That publication is available at the National Library of Ireland, Call Number Ir 794105 c 1. I suspect that other copies of the *Journal of the Cork Historical & Archaeological Society* can be found at other major genealogy libraries.

The *Irish Ancestors* section of Ireland.com is the work of John Grenham, a well-known Irish genealogy expert, author and lecturer.

To access the *Irish Ancestors* online Web site, go to: www.ireland.com/ancestors.

A Bite of Irish Humor

At the end of his sermon Father O'Brian turned to his listeners and said:

"Now, let me ask you. Which of you thinks truly he's bound for Paradise? Would you please stand?"

He was pleased to note that nearly all of his parishioners stood up.

"That's good," he exclaimed. "But now, let me ask you. Which of you thinks he is bound for Hell? Would you stand?"

After a few seconds, Jock Burke slowly got to his feet, and remained standing as the priest eyed him with sadness.

Afterwards, as the worshippers filed out, Father O'Brian pulled Jock aside and asked him, "Now, Jock, what is it that makes you fear you're bound for Hell?"

To which he responded, "O, Father, I have no fear for my own outcome, but I did feel sorry for you

Not Receiving Your Newsletter in

Excellent Condition.....

A few of our members have notified us that their SRVGS Newsletter is not arriving at their home in "good" condition. If you are having a problem with the mailing, please contact Lucy Carver.

Also if you changed your address or Email - contact Membership Chairman - Dorothy Humpal - 735-3310

Welcome to Our New Members

Jacque Baggett

P.O. Box 634

Diablo, CA 94528

925-837-7960

hbagggett@dvc.edu

Charter Member

George Field

142 St. Patricks Drive

Danville, CA 94526-5118

925-743-1776

And the Winner is.....

Louise Ford's name was pulled from the "hat" at the March Board Meeting to receive a FREE year's membership to SRVGS. She was among the 35 people who turned in their Questionnaires over the last several months. We wish to thank those people who turned them in. Your answers help the Program Committee, the Library chairman, and the Education Class chairman plan for the future.

Congratulations, Louise.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Dorothy Baker 925-427-4883

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 email to Coordinator.**

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

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

CLASSIC IRISH BLESSINGS!

"The Irish Blessing":

MAY THE ROAD RISE TO MEET YOU,
MAY THE WIND BE ALWAYS AT YOUR BACK
MAY THE SUN SHINE UPON YOUR FACE
THE RAINS FALL SOFT UPON YOUR FIELDS
AND, UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN,
MAY GOD HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND

*May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow,
And may trouble avoid you wherever you go.*

May the sun shine all day long,
Everything go right and nothing go wrong.
May those you love bring love back to you
And may all the wishes you wish come true!



San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
Box 305
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FIRST CLASS