

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305

Diablo, CA 94528-8308

President: Marilyn Tanner

Coord. Editor: Dorothy Baker

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.

3rd Tuesdays of the Month

(Except August & December)

Alamo LDS Church

Stone Valley & Smith Rds - Alamo

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol ~~XXIX~~ No. 1 June - 2004

THIS MONTH - June 15, 2004

Accessing The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)
and The PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)

If you've always wondered what NUCMC and PERSI stood for now is your chance to find out how these two resources can forward your ancestor search. *Pam Dallas*, fresh from the National Genealogical Society's Conference in Sacramento, will explain how NUCMC and PERSI can be an invaluable research tool.

This will be a 90 minute presentation.

Pamela Dallas is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and has served on the board of several societies. This year she is serving as Deputy Local Host Arrangements Chair for the National Genealogical Society's Conference in the States, Sacramento 2004. Pamela has been invited to present two lectures at the 2004 NGS national conference and she has appeared on local television talk shows and radio shows discussing genealogy. She has also written and appeared on several genealogy instructional videos aired on local TV.

MAY MEETING

"Louisiana Family History"

Speaker: Sue Sieverson

Reported by Ileen Peterson

Our Speaker for the May meeting was Sue Sieverson, who grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in Microbiology. Sue is a family Counselor for the Moraga Ward, with an emphasis on youth.

Sue prefaced her talk with the comment that, although Louisiana is now a small state, it and sixteen other states were part of the Louisiana Purchase. The rich and diverse peoples and complex history of Colonial Louisiana impact about a third of the United States. Historical documents in English, Spanish and French are scattered among the states, as well as archives in Quebec, France, Spain, Cuba, Santo Domingo, English and other places. Thus, a review of Louisiana's history can be helpful

for many genealogists.

History

Louisiana was first discovered by Hernando de Soto in 1541 on a Spanish expedition seeking gold. The French explorer Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, who traveled down the Mississippi River in 1682, claimed the entire river valley for France. He named it Louisiana in honor of his King Louis XIV.

The first French settlement was in 1714 and France was in control until it ceded the territory to Spain 1762. Spain ceded in back to France in 1800, but continued in control until 1803. The United States purchased the Louisiana Territory in 1803 for \$15 million. Civil divisions called parishes [counties] were created. Baton Rouge was made the state capitol in 1849. Louisiana seceded from the Union at

the start of the Civil War and was readmitted in 1868. Louisiana continues to follow the Napoleonic Code, affecting marriages, land ownership and other matters of interest.

Immigration and Culture - The Mississippi River was the main highway of the Louisiana Territory and New Orleans was the main port of entry. Passenger lists are difficult to research because they are not extensively indexed. Immigrants came in waves: Acadians, originally from France, came in 1755, black and Indian slaves to work the plantations, English after 1803, Irish during the Potato Famine, as well as other Europeans in the late 1800s. The term Creole applies to anyone who is a descendent of early Louisiana settlers with mixed French, Spanish and sometimes black or Indian heritage.

Primary Records - The Roman Catholic Church dominated the territory until 1803. The Catholic Archdiocese under French rule was Quebec; under Spanish rule it was Havana. Both the French and the Spanish kept excellent records, so baptisms can be found back to 1729 and marriages beginning 1720. The Spanish king decreed that all marriages in Spanish territories were to be performed and recorded by the Catholic Church. The decree applied to both Catholics and non-Catholics, resulting in detailed records about the individuals involved, their parents and place of residence or nativity.

Civil registration of births and deaths began in 1914 in the State of Louisiana. Marriages were recorded by each parish [county], not statewide. Some early marriages were recorded with notarial records or traveling ministers. Divorces were granted by the state legislature until 1846, when they were turned over to the district courts. "Common Law Marriages" occurred frequently, especially among the French.

Secondary Records

Several colonial, local and military censuses were taken between 1699 and 1805. 1810 was the first Louisiana state federal census to present.

Probate records, sometimes called succession records, were kept by local civil parish [county] probate courts until 1845, then by the district court clerks. A wide variety of court records exist, notably

notarial records kept in New Orleans from about 1730 to 1910. These records are in French, Spanish or English, depending upon their date of entry, and most have not been translated. They contain detailed genealogical information such as marriage contracts, probate records, deeds, emancipations, etc.

Land and Property

Land in the Louisiana Territory was served by river transportation, so it was often designated by waterway frontage in arpents. Both the French and Spanish kept early land records, which generally have not been translated. When the Louisiana Territory was ceded to the United States, the landowners registered private claims to verify their ownership. This ownership was granted directly through the U.S. Congress. Unclaimed land became public domain and was sold to private owners or homesteaded. Land tract books arranged by ranges and townships are at the State Land Office in Baton Rouge or at the Bureau of Land Management. Since statehood, Louisiana transfers of land between private owners have been recorded by the local clerk of court in each parish [county].

Military Records

Early French and Spanish records are available. Soldiers were encouraged to colonize the new territory and incentives included land, equipment and even prospective brides brought over from prisons and streets of Paris or early military families.

Many soldiers came to Louisiana after the Revolutionary war to claim land grants. Louisiana provided 77,000 Confederate soldiers and 5,000 Union soldiers during the Civil War. The records for Union soldiers are more complete, but Confederate records are supplemented by the surviving 1890 Louisiana census index of Civil War veterans or their widows and a special 1911 census of Confederate veterans or their widows.

Sue emphasized that there is a wealth of genealogical information available in the former Louisiana Territory but, because of the several languages involved, one must search for Jacques, Santiago, Dieque, as well as James. She also provided a handout with an extensive bibliography and many web citations.

SRVGS Membership Application

2004-2005

*Please Return by
July 30th*

it's time to renew your membership and pay your annual dues which support our educational programs, and provide knowledge to find our ancestors. Please fill out this form and send it with your check made payable to SRVGS to P.O. Box 305, Diablo, CA 94528-8308

NAME: Mr./Miss/Ms./Mrs. _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

\$ _____ Dues: [] \$15 Single [] \$20 Family

\$ _____ Donation for Library resources, additions, if desired.

\$ _____ Donation for National Archives Records Admin. (NARA) Records
microfilming project (\$1.00 suggested)

\$ _____ \$2.50 added please, if you desire a handbook/directory sent to your address
and **cannot pick one up at the meeting.**

\$ _____ Total amount of check

[] Please - Check here if you **DO NOT** wish a Handbook/Directory, so we won't print unneeded copies.

SRVGS "Surname/Country Searcher" (File)

We (SRVGS) would like to reinstate our surname/country file. We have over 100 members who are searching records for various surnames and in various countries. I am sure we are crossing paths and not knowing it. We might be researching the same area as someone else and thus we can help each other through this **Surname Searcher**. Please complete the following form to help us get started setting up this file (return with your membership) This is how the file will work.

The **Surname Searcher** will be divided into three sections. The first is an alphabetical list of the surnames submitted by members. The second section lists the location of the surname by country, state or province, County and time period. The third section is the membership of the SRVGS by a membership number system.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Member</u>
Eggers	Germany	Hamburg		1834-1868	B-2

Your Name _____

Surname _____ Area _____ Time Period _____

Surname _____ Area _____ Time Period _____

Surname _____ Area _____ Time Period _____

(Use back of paper to submit more names)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**SRVGS CALENDAR JUNE 2004****1 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting**

will be at the home of Fran Lloyd on Town and Country Drive in Danville. This will be a joint Board Meeting of the newly elected board members, outgoing board members, supporting SRVGS staff and other members.

15 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. General Meeting
will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles.

22 Tuesday – 8:30 a.m. The Library Trip
will be to the California State Library, Calif. History Room, 900 "N" Street, Sacramento, Tel. (916)654-0176 and the California State Archives, 1020 "O" Street, Tel. (916)653-7715 (Gen. Info). The Library and the Archives are one block apart.

Helpful websites: CALIF. STATE LIBRARY -

www.library.ca.gov/html/genealogy.cfm and

CALIF. STATE ARCHIVES -

www.ss.ca.gov/archivesabout.htm

SACRAMENTO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY -

www.rootsweb.com/~carcsgs/MainPages/library.html

The Sacramento Genealogical Society has its library collection available in the Archives building.

Please note the extra early departure time from behind Albertson's in Danville and from the Orinda location. Carpools will meet BEHIND Albertson's off Diablo Road in Danville and leave promptly. Sign-up can be made at our general meeting or call the Library Trip Coordinator, Louise Ford by 5:00 pm the day before the trip to either add or delete your name. Her phone number is (925) 376-4587.

JULY 2004**6 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting**

will be at the home of Patty Erickson at 10 Ridge Place, Pleasant Hill 925-229-0889

20 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. General Meeting

will be at the LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road. Becky Westenrider will be a co-speaker. The topic of

this presentation will be: "Turning Your Lifetime Collection of Photos into a Family Treasure Book."

27 Tuesday 9:00 am The Library Trip

will be to the new Santa Clara Central Library, 2635 Homestead Road.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups

JUNE - 2004

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - They are scheduled to meet Tuesday, June 15th after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m.. They will meet at the home of Bruce Garner, 216 Midland Way in Danville. His phone no. is 837-9285. Bring a bag lunch. This is a genealogy software users group for PC's and will focus on the use of Master Genealogist.

GERMAN - A home group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 23rd (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Margaret Koenig, 1545 Rancho View Drive in Lafayette. Phone (925) 934-3830 or e-mail mmmbkoenig@comcast.net.

Please 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 FranSchw@pacbell.net

Members will also be carpooling to Oakland on June 12th to listen to Sabine Scheichert. This group will NOT meet during July and August.

IRISH - Their meeting date will be June 9, (second Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place in Pleasant Hill. Phone (925) 229-0889 or e-mail russpat@comcast.net

SOUTHERN - Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 8th at Suzanne Johnston's - 145 Gil Blas Rd., Danville. 838-8682. They usually meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. The contact person is Dorothy Stanton, Phone 820-3757 or email dpstant@hotmail.com.

New persons interested in attending should contact Dorothy Stanton for information.

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

12 June, 2004 Saturday From 8:30 am till 2:30 pm, the California Genealogical Society is sponsoring a German Genealogy Seminar featuring Sabine Schleichert from Munich. The fee for non-members will be \$ 25. The location will be at Preservation Park off I 980 at 13th Street in Oakland. For further info, visit their web site at www.calgensoc.org, and click on special events.

8-14 August, 2004 The California Genealogical Society is sponsoring a 6 day research tour to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN. For further details and info, visit their web site at www.calgensoc.org.

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Marilynn Tanner 925-376-6733
Email: jtanner@nothingbut.net.net

1st V. P.

Patty Erickson 925-229-0889
Email: russpat@netvista.net

2nd V.P. Program:

Pat Denton	Ed Mason	Sandra Burns
735-8419	838-7848	648-4653

3rd V.P. Membership:

Dorothy Humpal 735-3310
Email: DLHumpal@aol.com

Recording Secretary:

Helen Odegar 932-6796

Corresponding Secretary:

Mary Tom 376-2756

Treasure: Bob Dougherty 556-3302

Parliamentarian:

Virginia Rood 937-8659

President's Message - May 2004

by Virginia Rood

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since becoming your President last May.

Our officers and committee chairmen have had a busy and productive year in providing the society with opportunities and information to help us further our genealogy quest.

Many of this year's officers and chairmen served for the first time, and I believe they as well as those who have served before did an outstanding job in accomplishing all they were asked to do. I can't thank you officers and chairmen enough for giving your time and talent to keep the society running smoothly.

In addition I want to thank all the members who have attended meetings, groups, classes and trips for being attentive and supportive. Without your attendance as well as your bringing new members to the society we would not continue to grow.

As I've mentioned before genealogy is a wonderful way to connect with family both near and far. I just want to tell you about a very special "break through" that happened to me a month or so ago, which illustrates why we should never give up. I have been in touch with a person in Texas via the telephone and Internet for several years, as she has been hoping to prove that one of her ancestors is related to my great grandfather. (I know she has been working harder than I on this line). Recently she succeeded in finding a list of names through a Czech site on the Internet, which connected her with a "cousin" for me. Our great grandfathers were brothers. As a result this new cousin has sent me our lineage taken from the Archives back to 1730 as well as pictures of family members and the ancestral home in the Czech Republic. Incidentally my friend in Texas still has not been able to make her connection.

In summary the lesson from this example is to not give up, but continue to be patient and keep working on all possibilities. You never know when you will receive that important gift, and this is what makes all our work worthwhile.

Ask Genie

Looking for information on my grandfather, **John Jarius Green**. What I do know: He was a dentist in Michigan and left home disheartened about spending his wife's inheritance on a toothpaste factory that was before its time, supposedly going to California. No record of him in CA. There is a large gap until his death in 1928. How do I find more on John Green?

Mary Wright

Answer:

First it was suggested that Mary create a "time line" compiling all the data that she had and then work to fill in the gaps. This is what she has found to date. From the American Dental Assoc. (at Frances Lloyd's suggestion) found that he graduated from Univ. of Michigan, College of Dentistry in 1890. Polk's Dentistry Register, 1900,02,04,06. His dental office listed in 1904 & 1906 along with Green Chemical Co. No further information until he died in 1928.

Found:

1910 Census - John J. Green, age 42, Jackson

Michigan Correctional Institution

1920 Census - he was a lodger in NYC, age 52

On the Internet (Google), "Jackson, MI Correctional Institutions" was a Directory of the Prison Librarians.

For the State Prison of So., Michigan, 4000 Cooper St., Jackson, MI 49201, Librarian, Glen Vos - VosGlenn@michigan.gov; Ass.t. Librarian, James Lucky. Hopefully they can point you in the right direction.

Further suggestions: 1900 Census Records, Court Records, Jackson, MI (FHC catalog).

Happy Hunting!

Genie, aka Barbara Dittig bdittig@comcast.net

"Dear Genie"

Genie aka Barbara Dittig

Have you hit that "Brick Wall" and don't know how to get around it???? Ask "Dear Genie" to help you. She can gaze into her *Crystal Ball* and find the answer to your question. It is amazing how she can solve the most difficult problems so easily. Send an email to: Bdittig@comcast.net (Subject line - "SRVGS "Genie")

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHT - JUNE

San Mateo County Genealogical Society Library at 25 Tower Road in San Mateo has grown from a modest start "to more than 4800 titles providing genealogical and historical information on all areas of the United States and many foreign countries." You will find not only books, but "periodicals, maps, pamphlets, microfilm, microfiche and CDs." Their very informative website, www.smcgs.org/library.html, also includes directions on how to get to their Library. It is open Wednesdays through Saturdays 1 - 4 pm, (and the first Saturday each month from 10-4), but it is best to call ahead to confirm volunteer assistance. (650)572-2929.

For members without computers, librarians or volunteers at any public library can be of assistance in the use of their computers to view websites mentioned in the Library Highlight articles and any other websites you need to research.

Danville Historical Society

The Danville Historical society would really like our help. They give tours of the Alamo Cemetery upon request. To make the tour interesting they go beyond the dates on the tombstones and have stories to tell about these local pioneers. Currently they have about eighteen that have been researched. They would like to have a few more.

Are there any of our members who would like to do some general genealogy outside their families? I don't look at this as a full fledged research but more as looking for basic facts plus some human interest. I would think the research material would be found locally.

Please call me if you are interested. Marilyn Tanner Jtanner@nothingbutnet.net or 925-376-6733

Ancestry Quick Tip

- 2/4/2004 From Judy Howe

Create a Census Spreadsheet

Before starting census research, you might find it helpful to create a spreadsheet to keep track of which ancestors you have found on which census. On my spreadsheet, there is a column on the left for names, and a row with each census year listed across the top. When I find someone in a census, I make an "X" in the box that corresponds to their name and that census year. Then I know not to look for these ancestors in that particular census again.

I kept the same surnames together by starting with my father, then his father, then his paternal grandfather, then his paternal grandfather's father. Next I listed my mother and the preceding ancestors with the same surname. Then I listed my paternal grandmother and her antecedents with the same surname. Then my paternal grandmother's mother and family were listed, and so on. I draw lines in the left margin to connect the spouses. I only listed those individuals who were alive in 1790 and later, since the first census was in 1790. Listing the names in this way makes it easier to remember who the married couples are, and who their children are. Any method could be used to organize the list, but the point is to get organized from the beginning of your census research. A method of recording the information you have can save you from looking through printouts and files over and over again.

NEWLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Dorothy Baker 925-427-4883

DJBDorothy@cs.com

Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 828-8570

Vmseg3@greaterbaynet.com

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.

Online WWII Memorial

The WWII Registry, found on

<http://wwiimemorial.com>, consists not only of the names of those that served in the military, but also those that served on the home front, in jobs like "Rosie the Riveter." Many of the names have been submitted by supporters of the Memorial. However, the registry also includes the National Archives list of those killed in the service in WWII, the names of those buried in American Battle Monuments Commission's overseas WWII cemeteries, and the names of those listed on the ABMC Tablets of the Missing. And the beauty of this is that the Registry of Remembrance is online and free!

As a charter member I entered information for my brother, who was a B-29 Airplane Commander, and who never returned. In checking his name on this new database, I found my entry, two of the three government entries, one by my aunt, and one entered by my ex-sister-in-law. The great thing about the latter was that she had moved on with her life and did not keep in touch with the family, so it was a blessing to find her present married name.

The government never informed the family as to what happened to my brother and his crew. This became my intro into research and genealogy. Fifty-three years after the event, and fifty years after the government had found answers, our family was finally able to have more closure. I have wanted to share with the surviving family members of my brother's crew.

If your WWII service person was in the Army Air Corps, another extremely useful website to use in conjunction with the one mentioned above is

www.armyairforces.com.

Nancy Reynolds

ADN Editor's Note: For more WWII home front information, also see the Rosie the Riveter Trust website at www.rosietheriveter.org.

Family Newsletters

— Juliana Smith

Over the holidays, I received many Quick Tips discussing the merits of including newsletters in Christmas cards, but often we may be too busy during the holiday season, and we don't always get a chance to do a family newsletter in time for the holidays. That's okay! Newsletters can be done any time during the year, and most family members would probably love any form of communication from you. Where I live in the Midwest, most people are now hunkering down for the deep winter months. Putting together a family newsletter can be a fun activity for this cold time of year when we are stuck indoors.

There are no rules for creating a family newsletter. Your schedule can determine when they will go out, and the content will most likely depend on your audience. If you are writing a newsletter for close family members, you may want to take a more personal approach and include personal memories and information. If you want to reach a wider audience, like a family or surname association, or distant cousins also researching your family lines, you may want to focus more on research, including recent finds, queries, and pedigree information.

Here are some hints to help you on your way:

- Have fun with the appearance and contents. You can decide what to include and how you want it to look. If you want to change the appearance from newsletter to newsletter, that's fine, too. When you enjoy putting it together, you will most likely continue the tradition and your family members will love receiving it, regardless of what you decide on.

- Get the family involved. Ask for family members to submit "news items" or stories from the past. If they don't feel comfortable or don't have time to write something, play the reporter and write their story for them.

- If you are short on current news items (or even if you aren't), you can include old photos (of people and/or places), memories, family stories, traditions, recipes, maps, and a family tree. By including family history items, you may stir the interest of other family members and soon you may be getting help with your research!

- If you prefer an electronic newsletter, a free MyFamily.com site (<http://www.myfamily.com>) may be just the thing for you. Photos can be posted in the album, stories in the family history section, new findings in the news section, GEDCOMs posted in online family tree software, family recipes in the recipe file, and you can even scan in documents and add them to the file cabinet. Other members can have instant access to your newest findings and the privacy of your MyFamily.com site will allow you to post personal information if you choose. If you have a large family, this option will also save money that would be spent on printing and postage.

- Today's computers and printers can do a lot of the work for you. Your word processing program may have a template in it that you can use for your newsletter. (If you have Microsoft Word, you can click on "File," then "New" to look at the templates available.) If you don't have a scanner, there are many places that can take your photos or negatives and put them in electronic form for you so that you can insert them in your newsletter. Paper copies of the newsletter can be put together to create a family memory book that can be treasured for generations to come.

- For a fun family history, ancestors can be plotted in a timeline format that also includes historical events that may have impacted the your family in one way or another. There are a number of "Today in History" sites that can also help in this aspect.

- If your newsletter is for a family association or surname interest group, it probably won't contain as much personal information for privacy reasons. In this case, you may be able to post it in a more public forum where you can get a better response. You can let people know about it on the message boards at FamilyHistory.com (<http://www.familyhistory.com>) or even post your whole newsletter online. Just be sure to protect the privacy of all living persons. Family newsletters can be fun to create, and can be used to record your family's history for generations to come. Don't you wish your ancestors had done one?



MY HERO

As I ponder the love that I saw in his eyes,
A Godly love, given without compromise....
I recall many times that he stood by my side,
And prodded me on with great vigor and pride.
His voice ever confident, firm and yet fair,
Always speaking with patience, tenderness and care.
The power and might of his hands was so sure,
I knew there was nothing we couldn't endure.
It's true, a few others provided insight,
Yet, he laid the foundation that kept me upright.
He's the grandest of men to have lived on this earth,
Although he's not royal by stature or birth.
He's a man of great dignity, honor and strength.
His merits are noble, and of admirable length.
He's far greater than all other men that I know,
He's my Dad, he's my mentor, my friend and hero.

Poem by Debbie Hinton Young



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FIRST CLASS