

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. ^{XX}~~XVIX~~ No. 3 September / 2004

THIS MONTH – September 21, 2004

“American Moves West: Nineteenth Century Westward Migration”

Chuck Knuthson is our speaker this month. He has been studying and conducting genealogical research for thirty years. For the past ten years he has instructed beginning genealogy classes in the community education departments of two Sacramento-area community colleges, and lectures locally, regionally, and nationally. A fourth generation Californian, Chuck is a retired police captain, having served for thirty-two years with the Roseville California Police Department. Chuck is president of the 1,400-member Sacramento German Genealogy Society, and is a member of numerous other genealogical and professional organizations. He is working toward certification as a professional genealogist.

Chuck Knuthson will discuss nineteenth century migration west, the possible reasons for the migration, the major overland trails and water routes to Oregon and California, and the types and location of records created. Whether the trek was made for gold, land, the threat of war, or the spirit of adventure, the expansion to the west significantly impacted this country.

JULY MEETING

Bringing Your Family History to Life

Preserving Photos and Creating a Heritage Album

Speakers: Professor Leticia Russell and Becky Westernrider

Reported by: Lee Schlenker

Professor Leticia Russell was our speaker for our July meeting. She teaches Latin Studies at Pacific Union College. She has her Master Degree in History, and classifies herself as an “amateur genealogist.”

Becky Westernrider came with the Professor. Becky is an avid Medieval History buff, a member of the Coventry Family History Society and the Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico. She brought with her many of her Creative Memories genealogy album creations containing many interesting ideas.

Creative Memories is a company created by two businesswomen from the mid-west in 1987 offer-

ing direct-to-the consumer photo-storage information, products and hands-on assistance. The company produces archival and acid-free albums, pages (buffered), sleeves, inks, and photo adhesives. “Buffered” means that the page will allow memorabilia containing acid to be neutralized or buffered so it won’t harm anything else in the album. Both the Professor and Ms. Westernrider are representatives of Creative Memories Company.

Professor Russell told us of how she interviewed her husband’s grandfather (Grandpa Russell) so often that it was tiresome for her husband at times. But she documented all kinds of information and found him to be very interesting. Upon his death the

rest of the family came to her for information and stories since she was the only one who had bothered to do documentation on Grandpa Russell's life.

Professor Russell questioned, "now that you have all this information on your ancestors, how can anyone enjoy it if you do not display it in a manner which can be passed on to those upcoming generations?" She encourages us to write that short story, incorporating dates and places; and perhaps, find a matching ancestor's picture from that same time or a newspaper article. This would be entered into an album page, complete whatever else you would like on that page and start to fill an album. All items which they represent are archival quality and acid-free, so originals may go into each album if you choose. This is definitely a step up from "scrap-booking". They call it "album creating".

Then, she went through some basic questions: (1) the way we store our genealogical data now may not be able to be read or interpreted much later on when technology has advanced and changed.

Pictures and photos are a mystery if there is nothing noted on the back. But if there is something there, how are you going to put that picture into an album without obliterating the notation? Write that information onto well chosen, interesting paper, place it next to the picture (in an interesting fashion) on a page, add extra enhancements (if you choose) and start creating an album. Your photos are a legacy - they tell a story. Also, photos should be stored at about 70 degrees (just like we humans like) and never stored in the garage, attic or cellar where temperatures can vary drastically. They need to be within your home in a temperate climate. (2) Hand-written letters are priceless. The older handwriting was so wonderful - why not show it in the album? It's safe to put in original letters, newspaper articles, or magazine articles because of the archival quality items.

Professor Russell brought to our attention some unsafe options that are lurking out there: don't use "pocket albums" for photos (there is a high acid content): don't use magnetic photo albums (with the sticky lines to attach the photos to) they suck color out of your photos and often they will stick for life to the page; don't use scotch tope, rubber cement or Elmer's glue because they are not archival safe. If you are unsure about a product being acid-free or archival safe, always ask before you buy it.

On a helpful note she suggested how to get old photos off of deteriorating album pages: use plain

dental floss and *gently* "saw" back and forth until the glue gives way. Also, there is a product called "Un Du" which is a photo-safe adhesive dissolver.

There was a brief question and answer period after. Some good ideas came forward:

- Kinko's has a Sony Photo machine for copying and enlarging old photos. Kodak also makes a flatbed scanner and can be found at Walgreen's.
- When copying old newspaper pictures/articles don't copy them in black ink, go with the color ink and you will get an older effect to your copy.
- Always keep original photos away from light and in an album: put the reproduction out for viewing on your tabletop, piano, etc.
- If you make your own reproductions, use archival quality photo paper.
- If you are looking for a old photo studio in a certain city use either the city directories or (on Google) some genealogical societies also have listings for old photographers studios.
- Try to use "pigment ink" for copying. It is fade-proof, water resistant.

Creative Memories: (800) 341-5275 or
www.creativememories.com

Or for consultation/assistance Leticia Russell, Unit Leader (707) 965-1463 or lrussell@puc.edu

Copyright Concerns / Photos

An article in Family Tree Magazine June/04 (Pg 71) pertained to a question from a reader stating she was not allowed to make a copy of her mother's photo at a kiosk without the written permission from the photographer (died/shop closed).

Maureen A Taylor responded this way, if you must "explain to the manager how you're using the photos and bring whatever proof you have that the photographer is unreachable."

Editor's note: According to copyright lawyer Joshua Kaufman, copying a photo for one's own genealogical purposes would probably be considered a fair use. Read more at: www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/feb01/copyright.html.

"Archival Mist"

A product helpful in preserving newspapers, death certificates, etc - neutralizes the acid in paper Archival Mist at Richards Craft, Alamo. \$16.00 Spray bottle - Marilyn got it for 25% off.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**SRVGS CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2004**

7 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting will be at the home of Helen Odegard 1408 Entrada Verde Place in Alamo. 925-932-6796 or Email s_hodie@pacbell.net

21 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

23 Thursday – 9 to Noon Scanning Clinic will be held at Bob Dougherty's house in Dublin 11606 Amarillo Court. 925-556-3302

24 Friday – 9 to Noon Scanning Clinic will be held at Bob Dougherty's house in Dublin 11606 Amarillo Court 925-556-3302

28 Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. The Library Trip will be to the National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive in San Bruno. Phone (650) 238-3501.

For detail of their holdings, search their web site at www.archives.gov/facilities/ca/sanfrancisco.html

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. They now have seven computers available with Heritage Quest and Ancestry Plus. If you plan to research for original records, call ahead for instructions about how to obtain a researcher's ID card.

Carpools meet behind Albertson's, off Diablo Rd. in Danville. Carpools leave promptly at 9:00 a.m. Sign-up can be made at our general meeting or call the Library Trip Coordinator, Louise Ford by 5:00pm the day before the trip to either add your name or cancel. Her phone number is (925) 376-4587

As with all the libraries we visit, the head librarian is notified of our group's visit and is prepared to be of assistance. At your time of sign-up, an excellent brochure of this facility, including a map, will be available.

28 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Member Education Class will be presented by Pat Isom at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. The topic will be "Introduction to The Family History Center (FHC) Catalog" See the article in this Newsletter on Page entitled "Continuing Education" for further information. You may also contact Carol Huvane, Member Education Coordinator if you

need additional information,
Phone 947-5669 or e-mail Tomcarhuvane@aol.com

OCTOBER 2004

5 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting will be at home of Carol Huvane 4589 Walnut Blvd. Walnut Creek 925-947-5669

19 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. General Meeting will be at the LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road.

25 Monday - 9:00 am The Library Trip is currently scheduled to the Sutro State Library in San Francisco. Phone (415) 731-4477

SRVGS Special Interest Groups:
September / October – 2004

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - They are scheduled to meet Tuesday, September 21 after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m.. They will meet at the home of Peggy Dearman, 749 Morninghome Road in Danville. 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, September 22 (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m., at the home of Carol Huvane, 4589 Walnut Blvd. in Walnut Creek. Please let the hostess know if you do not plan to attend or if you need directions. Carol's phone # is 925- 947-5669 For information about the group call Fran Schweitzer 935-5744 or e-mail FranSchw@pacbell.net

IRISH - Group meeting dates will be September 8 and October 13, (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 to verify these times.

SOUTHERN - They are scheduled to meet on September 14 (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Nancy Alexander, 50 St. Mark Court in Danville. Her phone no. is 820-1593. They are also scheduled to meet October 12 at the home of Dorothy Humpal, 666 Paradise Valley Court in Danville. Phone no. is 735-3310. 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

14 September, 2004 2nd Tuesday The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold its regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek's new location, 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton.

17-18 September, 2004 Friday-Saturday The Conference of Calif. Historical Societies will have a symposium in Fremont at the Newark/Fremont Hilton, 39900 Balentine Drive in Newark.

9 October, 2004 Saturday L-AGS is sponsoring a one day seminar featuring Leland Meitzler and Cath Trindle at the Radisson Hotel in Dublin. A \$25 pre-registration fee received prior to September 20 includes a buffet lunch.

For further details, visit their web site at www.l-ags.org/seminar04.html

14 October, 2004 2nd Thursday The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold its regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at LDS Church, 3700 Concord Blvd in Concord. More information on Page "Continuing Education".

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome.....

The following membership renewals came in too late to be included in the SRVGS Handbook/Directory

1. Delores Huckabone

713-450 Jeter Road

Janesville, CA 96114

Telephone: (530) 257-7742

E-mail: Deloresh@myway.com

2. Richard Long

3039 Lunada Lane

Alamo, CA 94507-1513

Telephone: (925) 831-8649

E-mail: Rlong11@sbcglobal.net

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Barbara Irwin: 1660 Oak Park Boulevard,
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-4422.

PROPOSED LIBRARY TRIP SCHEDULE

Sept. 2004-July 2005

1. **National Archives** Tel. 650-238-3501
Tues. Sept. 28, 2004*
1000 Commodore Dr.
San Bruno, CA 94006
2. **Sutro State Library** Tel. 415-731-4477
Mon. Oct. 25, 2004*
480 Winston Drive
San Francisco, CA 94132
3. **Oakland Family History Center** Tel. 510-531-3905
Tues. Jan. 25, 2005*
4766 Lincoln Avenue
Oakland, CA 94602
4. **Calif. Genealogical Society** Tel. 510-663-1358
Tues. Feb. 22, 2005**
Latham Building, Ste. 100
16th & Telegraph
Oakland, CA 94612
5. **National Archives** Tel. 650-238-3501
Tues. March 22, 2005*
1000 Commodore Dr.
San Bruno, CA
6. **Sutro State Library** Tel. 415-731-4477
Tues. April 26, 2005*
480 Winston Drive
San Francisco, CA 94126
7. **Oakland Family History Center** Tel. 510-531-3905
Tues., May 24, 2005**
4766 Lincoln Avenue
Oakland, CA 94602
8. **Napa Genealogical Society** Tel. 707-252-2252
Tues. June 28, 2005**
1701 Menlo Avenue
Napa, CA 94558
9. **Calif. State Library** (History Section (916-654-0176))
Tues. July 26, 2005**
900 "N" St., Sacramento, CA 95814 and
Calif. State Archives Tel. 916-653-7715
1020 "O" St., Sacramento, CA

NEWSLETTER 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 to Coordinator.*

President's Message – September, 2004*By Marilyn Tanner*

The lazy days of summer have passed and now it's back to genealogy meetings. While reflecting on my position as President I thought our meetings could use a bit of updating. I'd like to try a few changes. If they work - fine. If not we can always return to the status quo.

I would like to shorten the business meeting. Since most committee reports are written in the Newsletter, we should be able to dispense with repeating them again at the general meeting.

Passing the sign-up clipboard has always been a disrupting factor. I think if we placed these sign-up sheets on a table at the back of the room you could sign-up for your choice of activity before, at the break or after the meeting.

The Treasurer's report is always posted on the Bulletin Board as well as announcements for genealogy lectures, conferences and cruises. Take a few minutes to review the board.

If you check your Handbook before the meeting you can quickly pickup a cassette of your choice.

With the additional, all be it short time saved before our speakers presentation I hope we can fill that space with our members participating in the meetings with short talks on their heirlooms, research experiences, problem solving and short education reports.

If experience and knowledge are shared, I think our meetings can be more interesting and meaningful, hopefully further fulfilling our mission of genealogy education to our members.

Note of Interest from Nancy Alexander

I picked this item up on another e-mail address. What I was unaware that Allen County Library would take unpublished manuscripts, make a copy from their files, and return a bound copy and the original material. *Nancy Alexander*

The following is excerpted from the Allen County Fort Wayne (Indiana) Public Library's free Internet newsletter. This library is the second largest genealogical library in the United States

With a little more than one half of 2004 in the books, I want to take this opportunity to remind you of a long-standing service of the Allen County Public Library. For many decades, individuals who have not had a desire to officially publish their genealogical work have sent an unbound "master copy" to the Historical Genealogy Department. In exchange for the privilege of allowing us to make one photocopy for our collection, we provide the compiler of the work with one complementary, bound photocopy for his or her collection in addition to returning the original master.

It is a great way to make sure your work is preserved and available for future generations of researchers. In addition, having a copy at our library ensures your work is secure from any disaster that might, heaven forbid, befall your personal library. What to do with the extra copy? How about a "draft" book to pass around at the next family reunion for others to comment upon and update? Or a little surprise gift for the relative or family friend who really helped you out?

If you are interested in taking advantage of this service, just mail your unbound "master copy" to Steve Myers, Assistant Manager, Historical >Genealogy Department, P. O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270.

Include a note that simply reads, "Photocopy Exchange Program." You'll be glad you did--and we will certainly be glad you did!

HOW TO REACH THE BOARD MEMBERS**President:**

Marilynn Tanner 925-376-6733
Email: jtanner@nothingbutnet.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
Email: DLHumpal@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Helen Odegard 932-6796

Corresponding Secretary:

Mary Tom 376-2756

Treasurer: Bob Dougherty 556-3302

Parliamentarian: Virginia Rood 937-8659

CONTINUING EDUCATION--

The months of September and October abound in opportunities to pick up new skills and information relating to genealogy and genealogy using computers. In fact, October is designated as Family History Month and the *California Genealogical Society* (CGS, www.calgensoc.org) is offering library use on a free basis all during October to non-members. Different topics will be discussed each week in Saturday morning classes and on Thursday, Friday and Saturday focus groups and lectures are planned. (BART and a short walk offers easy access to this fine library in Oakland.)

Plan to take Pat Isom's class called an *"Introduction to the FHC Catalog"* on Tuesday, September 28th, 10 am, Alamo FHC. The class does not include computer instruction; it will involve all else that the FHC offers for research. Sign up at the SRVGS general meeting on September 21st, or call me after the meeting to attend if space allows. (925) 947 5669

Education reference was given last month re the Rossmoor Computer Club. Their fall schedule includes *"Introduction to Genealogy"* #416, a one afternoon seminar Tuesday, September 14. Call to sign up (925) 256 8537.

<http://www.rossmoorcomputerclub.com>

The San Ramon Valley Center, a satellite campus of Diablo Valley College, is again scheduling *"USING COMPUTERS FOR GENEALOGY"* CIS - 055N 9087. Harry Baggett will be the instructor, TU and TH, Oct 26 - Nov 4, 9 - 1:15 pm. A "bonus" is the use of a genealogy site one usually must pay to use. <http://www.srvs.net>

Coming up on Saturday, October 16th--*"Digging for Your Roots"*, an all day seminar will be presented by the Concord and Walnut Creek LDS Stakes and the FHC--33 class topics are listed. Pat Isom will present "Land Records". Frances Lloyd will teach "Courthouse Holdings" and "DAR--Acceptable Documentation" classes. A copy of the application for these classes to be held in Concord will be posted at the SRVGS meeting.

Again, you are invited to communicate your interests and needs re education to us. Perhaps a kind of "mentoring" system can be set up within our SRVGS group. Feed-back re this idea would be greatly appreciated. Carol Huvane tomcarhuvane@aol.com, (925) 947 5669

"Ask Genie"

Dear 'Genie'

This is a little different problem. Do you know anything about 'The Family News' out of Denver, CO? I have received a correspondence offering an 'International Vandepoel Family Yearbook' for 2004. Is this legitimate or just another group preying on eager genealogists? Hope you can help.

Thanks, Dorothy Van De Poel
jfdavan@comcast.net

Dear Dorothy,

These publications have been out there for many years and in my opinion are not worth the money spent. I once sent for a similar book for the "Dittig family of USA" What is was, was a compilation of names taken from phone books. They will have a "family crest" and other very general topics that might relate to your family line.

In the past notices have come out warning researchers to not be taken in with these publications.

Thanks for writing!

Genie (Barbara Dittig)
bdittig@comcast.net

Out of the Mouths of Babies

Five year old Tommy enter the living room carrying a large book. "What do you have there?", asked the Father. "Grandma Jones Photo album. I want to show you how I made it pretty", answered Tommy proudly. "What did you do?", queried the Father. "I colored all the black and white pictures with my crayons so they would look beautiful."

"If the Creek Don't Rise"

You may be surprised, but the expression "If the Creek don't rise..." has nothing to do with high water. According to Lloyd Bockstruck this arose from the migration of settlers from the eastern seaboard to the Mississippi Valley area. In the South, the Creek Indians were vigorous in defending their land from being taken by the white settlers. So, for the pioneers moving west into Alabama and Mississippi, there was always the possibility that the Creek might "rise up" against them.

Thus the expression arose. The pioneers would say that they would do something in the future "....if the Lord's willing and the Creek don't rise."

Lake Co. GS Nwsltr, XXI:3, p5

School Records as a Genealogical Source

— Kip Sperry Archive 1/9/2001

In 1872, teachers in Dodge City, Kansas were supposed to obey these rules: "Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity, and honesty. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly." The rules for teachers are a little less strict today.

January and September are often thought of as "back to school" months. Since family historians are always searching for records in which to locate their ancestors and learn more details about them, this column will discuss school records as a genealogical source.

School records are often overlooked by genealogists and may include accounts, enumerations, district reports, censuses, enrollment cards, pupils' annual records, and school board minutes. Some records are known by other names, such as the "Scholastic Family Census" or the "Scholastic Annual Reports and Census." Some records contain statistics only and are of less value genealogically. In some localities, reform school records were kept, sometimes known as inmate case records. Native American school records and census reports have also been kept. Most school records in America date from the early-nineteenth century, but not all school records have survived.

When found, early school records can serve as a substitute to federal and state census records and missing or incomplete vital records. This is especially true in states where school records have been kept before 1850. The records show the name of the head of the household (usually the father) or the name of the guardian, the name of school-age children, their gender, and each child's age. Nicknames of students are sometimes used. Also, the signature of the parent or guardian is shown. Some records show the occupation of the parent or guardian and the person's nationality. Students' grades are sometimes recorded. Teachers' names and names of school board members are shown in many of these records.

Some school records may also be found on the Internet. These include class lists, biographies of students and teachers, yearbooks, lists of graduates (often by year of graduation), school history, and school registers. One of the first places to look for

American school records on the Internet is to search the US GEN Web Project.

Texas is one example of a state where scholastic family census records have been kept. These records show the full name of the student, his or her birth date and age, the name of the county in which the family resides, parents' names, the student's length of time living in the school district, his or her nationality and post office address, and the name of the census trustee.

A number of school records have been micro-filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah and can be found in the Family History Library Catalog by state or county and then under the subject heading "Schools." Early school records can often be found in state and local historical societies, courthouses, state archives, and local libraries. Some have been published, such as alumni registers and yearbooks.

School records are also sometimes published in genealogical and historical periodicals. Yearbooks, annuals, and alumni directories are available and may be found in school libraries, state and local historical societies, and public libraries. School newspapers may have been preserved in school libraries or on microfilm.

Finally, you may also be able to make contact with classmates from your high school or from another school. Classmates.com is one example of a school Web site established with the purpose of getting old high school classmates together, but there are others. All of these tools can help you find additional records to complete the search for your ancestors' information.

For Further Reference

- Cyndi's list of Genealogy Sites on the Internet Schools
- Establishing a School Archives
- Morgan, George G. "A Primer in School Records." "Along Those Lines . . ." 23 June 2000.
- Smith, Juliana. "Back to School—School Records, That Is." *Ancestry Daily News*, 13 September 1999.
- Szucs, Loretto Dennis. "Education Records: Insights to Souls." *Ancestry Magazine*, January/February 1995, Vol.13, No. 1.

Kip Sperry is an associate professor of family history at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

*Words to Live by.....
For Genealogists, too!*

It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare,
It is because we do not dare that they are difficult. - Seneca

Do not go where the path may lead,
Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Take the first step in faith.
You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The men who try to do something and fail are infinitely better than
Those who try to do nothing and succeed. - Lloyd Jones

Only those who will risk going too far
can possibly find out how far one can go. - T.S. Eliot

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FIRST CLASS