

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

Vol XX No 5 Nov-Dec 2004

THIS MONTH - November 16, 2004

"The Tri Valley Heritage Families Project"

What Valley pioneer lead the last wagon train over the Sierras in the murderous winter of 1846? What Valley family was killed in the most deadly U.S. avalanche? And what Valley cemetery was partially washed away in a flood?

Hopefully, these questions and others will be answered when **Dick Finn** will be the speaker at the November meeting. He will tell us about the Tri Valley Heritage Families Project which is a new project that The Tri-Valley History Council has embarked upon. Potentially this project will be of great benefit to all Valley history centers, genealogical groups, museums, libraries, historians, and other interested researchers.

Richard Finn retired after 37 years as manager of Intergrated Design Services and Engineering Information Management at Sandia National Laboratories/California. He has been an adjunct faculty member of Chabot and Las Positas Colleges since 1986, and served on four community college advisory committees as well as high school and Regional Occupational Program committees. He is a past president of the Alameda County 4H council, and a judge at local, county and state fairs since 1977. Dick is a past president of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society.

OCTOBER MEETING

"....But a Woman's Job is Never Done"

Speaker: Alison K. Douglas

Reported by: Jean Hunt

Once again Alison K. Douglas has been our speaker (see October 2003 "A Man May Work From Sun To Sun...") and she was every bit as interesting as she had been before.

This time Alison spoke on "But a Woman's Job Is Never Done". She covered the Colonial and early expansion periods of America as well as the Industrial Revolution.

Family economics depended on everyone working together to sustain the whole. Everyone had to help out from the eldest to the youngest member who was able to walk and fetch things.

In those early years boys and girls received normal educations. Boys usually quit around the fourth grade when they were old enough to help their

fathers with the out door work. Girls were more apt to finish grade school.

The norm was for young men to marry and establish a family early on. The woman gave status and kept and taught high moral standards to the family.

Her work was inside the home. Working outside of the home could cause the community to wonder as to her and her family's moral and social status.

What did she do? She had babies. A baby every two years as a rule, if there wasn't a baby reported in the federal census then something was wrong. A baby might have died. The husband may have gone to work or to the frontier looking for a new

homestead.

What the husband worked at, the wife learned to do too. If he was a farmer and on the side he made shoes, she learned how to do those things too. Often when the husband died the wife carried on the family business until the sons were able to take over when they grew up.

These families were made up of many children, elderly parents, spinster and bachelor relatives all living together and doing their part in supporting the families economic system.

Woman had few legal rights with the Dower being the exception to the rule. If a woman did have to go outside the home to work she was usually trained on the job and it was generally what she did anyway. They were cooks, scrub maids, lady's maids, nanny's and so on.

The 1850 census started listing what people did for a living and on rare occasions you might find a job other than housekeeper listed for a woman. Other places you might find women in business would be the many types of directories such as: city, county, company and firm. Also look at death certificates, obituaries, journals and diaries. In the twentieth century try the Social Security Records.

Cottage industries grew out of need for a cash crop and then changed because of war, expansion, invention, immigration and other conditions that demanded commodities. Soon factories were built to replace the cottage industries to supply these much needed goods for a growing population. The factories needed workers and women needed jobs.

The mores changed. Boarding houses for women, which had strict moral rules were built near the factories to accommodate young girls who would go there to earn cash money for dowries and to let them start nest eggs for their futures. There are famous cases where women disguised themselves as men and went to war as soldiers. Women also disguised themselves to enter other male professions.

In the early period of America when slavery and the indentured servant system existed, the two

were very much alike and at the end of an agreed time the slave or the indentured servant would be free. This accounted for the large free black population that existed in the colonies.

The attitude toward women working outside the home took hundred and hundreds of years to be accepted and in the last century has changed at lightening speed.

As a woman of the 21st. century I am never going back!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SRVGS CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2004

2 Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. The Board Meeting
will be at the home of Bob Dougherty in Dublin at 11606 Amarillo Court

16 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.

Library Trip

Due to Thanksgiving, there will NOT be a Library trip in November.

The next Library Trip is scheduled for Tuesday January. 25, 2005. The group will go to the Oakland Family History Center on Lincoln Avenue.

DECEMBER 2004

7 Tuesday – 10:00 - Noon Traditional Pre-Christmas Cookie Exchange Frances Lloyd's house - 210 Town & Country Drive, Danville
All member invited. Bring a dozen or two cookies to share (not mandatory)

NOTE: THERE WILL NOT BE A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DURING DECEMBER. NEITHER WILL THERE BE A LIBRARY TRIP, MEETINGS OF THE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, NOR MEMBER EDUCATION.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups**NOVEMBER/JANUARY- 2004-5**

NOTE: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS DO NOT MEET DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP (The Master Genealogist) - They plan to meet Tuesday, November 16, 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 THE MASTER GENEALOGIST. Peggy Dearman is the contact person for the group. Phone 837-1621 or e-mail dearman@pacbell.net

GERMAN - - An Oktober Fest is scheduled for Wednesday November 17 at 11:00 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. For further details, contact Fran Schweitzer (925) 935-5744 or e-mail FranSchw@pacbell.net

IRISH - The Irish Group will meet November 10, (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@comcast.net

SOUTHERN - They will meet on November 9, (the second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Suzanne Johnston, 145 Gil Blas Road in Danville. Her phone no. is 838-8682. 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

Note: They will also meet January 11, 2005 at the home of Dorothy Stanton, 501 El Capitan Drive in Danville.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION GROUP AND INTERNET-INTEREST GROUP

Our current methods of communicating with members include our Newsletter and our monthly meeting. Now we plan to improve both the timeliness and frequency of communication by sending emails

to the members. This will be done a minimum of once a month and more frequently when we have something to say. You will always have the option to Opt-Out if you do not want to receive these messages.

Ed Mason will be the coordinator for this effort.

Notify Ed at: edmason@sbcglobal.net

1. If your email address does not appear in the Handbook, and you wish to receive these notices.
2. If your email address does appear in the Handbook, and you do not wish to receive these notices.

Please let him know if you have some information that you would like to get out to the entire group.

We have an **Internet Interest Group** that communicates via email, rather than face-to-face. It is run by Jack Johnson and is not to be confused with the above effort. The Internet Interest Group swaps tips on Internet searching and other genealogical methods. If you are interested in being part of that group, reach Jack at: jackmj@earthlink.net.

Jack and Ed will both keep databases of the members' email addresses. In event of a change, you can notify either of them.

4 Tuesday January 2005 Board Meeting

Sandra Burns - 742 Liquid Amber Place, Danville

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS**11 November, 2004 (2nd Thursdays)**

The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold its regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at LDS Church, 3700 Concord Blvd in Concord.

13 November, 2004 Saturday

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society has invited Doris Newberry to speak about "Ideas for German Genealogy" at their November regular meeting. The meeting will be held at 10:30 am at the Peninsula Community Foundation, 1700 South El Camino Real in San Mateo. Please note that the door must be locked by 10:45 am.

An Irish Seminar by Nora M Hickey, Irish Genealogist will be held at the United Irish Cultural Centre, 2700 45th Avenue in San Francisco. For exact date and time, please contact Sally Warren at (415) 435-1038 or e-mail saw33@msn.com.

16 November, 2004 Tuesday The Santa Clara County HGS will meet at 7 pm at the new Santa Clara Central Park Library, 2635 Homestead Road. Dr. Ripan Mahli will speak about Understanding DNA Research for Genealogy.

March - 2005 An Irish Seminar by Nora M Hickey, Irish Genealogist will be held at the United Irish Cultural Centre, 2700 45th Avenue in San Francisco. For exact date and time, please contact Sally Warren at (415) 435-1038 or e-mail saw33@msn.com.

President's Message - Nov./Dec. 2004

By Marilynn Tanner

I'm a letter writer researcher. There are certainly many options for research today but I love to write letters and feel I've been quite successful.

I wrote the public library in Crookston, MN (county seat site) for an obituary for my grand-mother who died in 1887. What I received was a two column newspaper account of a tornado that whipped through the area creating death and destruction in its wake. My grand-mother and her fourteen year old son were both killed. Writing is not an impersonal way to research. The Sisters' who contracted to run the Crookston Public Library are very special people to me now.

I've had people in Vital Records go out of their way to accommodate my requests. Once I didn't send enough money but the lady called, said she would hold my request which she had found, until she received my additional funds. I think the funniest letter I received, with my information request enclosed, was an apology. She said my letter had fallen behind the desk and had only been found two years later when they rearranged the furniture in the office.

My most precious books for research are "The Source: A Guidebook To Genealogy" and the "Genealogists Address Book". Both are available at our space at the Danville Library if you don't own them. They have so much

wonderful, helpful information in them for letter writing research. It's nice to own them, especially the Source, since some information is quite unusual. You wouldn't think there was such a source! Call first for current fees.

I don't find much about my Minnesota farmer ancestors on the internet. There aren't many books out here on Red River Valley Historical Biographies. I do get lots of help when I write a letter. Perhaps it's pity. But it does make mail deliveries very special.

Welcome New Member

Joan London
33 Marques Court
Danville, CA 94526-3032
Tel: (925) 820-2730
E-mail: autumn3@sbcglobal.net

Jon & Gail Bryan
2639 Tahoe Drive
Livermore, CA 94550
Tel: (925) 447-9407
e-mail: GailVB@aol.com

Francis Wright
185 Alderwood Road
Walnut Creek, CA
Tel: 925-287-8254
E-mail: petiewright@comcast.net

Member on the Move!

Jean W. Blackmur
17044 Freshwind Circle
Jupiter, FL 33477

New Email Address

Pat Denton has a new Email address:
zsgigi@sbcglobal.net

Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!**Preserving Holiday Family Memories**

One year at Christmas time I identified five questions to ask family members. The questions related to favorite Christmas traditions, favorite ornament or decoration, most memorable gift, a humorous family Christmas story, and what tradition the family would like to see continue. Each question was written on a recipe card and a set of five cards was made for each member of the family with the request that responses be returned to me for a "special" project. I had a return rate of 85% (which for anyone completing surveys knows is exceptional, although of course the family was not as anonymous either!)

Probably a year passed as I processed exactly how I wanted to proceed, but ultimately a story was written incorporating all the responses each person had to the questions. In addition, I have often thought of the Christmas programs held at the two-room country grade school I attended and decided to write a story about those programs, including getting the old wooden stage out of the storage shed and hanging the wire for the blue velvet-like curtains, and the skits and singing, etc. We also had a Christmas program at the country church I attended which meant yet another story.

By the time I was finished, I had a little book of 60 pages (5 1/2 x 8 1/2), took it to a print shop and had copies made. The finishing touch was to scan a photograph our family has of our Mother's first Christmas from 1925 and that photograph became the focal point on the cover. Each member of the family received a copy.

I am the family historian and genealogist in our clan and the one who enjoys researching and writing. Because stories are so easily lost, I have decided it is my responsibility to help carry the family stories to the next generation.

Jim Cruthers Wisconsin Rapids, Wisc.

Ancestry Quick Tip 12/16/2003

Heritage Christmas

For Christmas this year, I decided to share our family heritage with my two grown sons. Their main ancestry lines are English, Irish, German, and Italian. I found glass Christmas ornaments representing each of these - a German cuckoo clock, an Irish shamrock, a snowman dressed like the guards at Buckingham palace, and a miniature Chianti bottle. With each, I'm going to explain a little about that branch of their family tree. To bring it all together, the last ornament will be a small airplane in red, white, and blue. Hopefully, they will grow to appreciate the significance of these ornaments, and at worst, they'll remember their nutty genealogy-crazy Mother.

Carol Horner-Iacona

Schertz, Texas

CASSETTE TAPE LIBRARY

November is a 2 for 1 month; ie., you pay for 1 month and get to keep the tape for 2 months since we have no meeting in December. Go thru the cassette tape list in your Handbook, bring your list to the November meeting and rent a tape for \$1.00.

Mary Wright

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

Mailynn 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 925-735-3310
Email: DLHumpal@aol.com

Recording Secretary: Helen Odegard 925-932-6796

Corresponding Secretary:

Mary Tom 925-376-2756

Treasurer: Bob Dougherty 925-556-3302

Parliamentarian: Virginia Rood 925-937-8659

"ODD AND ENDS"

Offer to do a Lookup. I recently bought a book on eBay thinking I might find my ancestors--no luck. However, I thought maybe someone would like me to do a lookup for them. The book is "Kentuckians in Missouri" and is basically an index of many who migrated from Kentucky to Missouri. If this fits your ancestor, I would be happy to look them up for you before I resell this on eBay.

Sue Hanck

email: jhanck@astound.net

Freebie: Helen Odegard found the "History of Roseau County Minnesota" at a garage sale. She Will give it to anyone researching that area. "It's a great book with history and pictures of people living in the area. Contact her at 925-932-6796 or E-mail: s_hodie@pacbell.net

Humor/Humour: Avoid This Bug at All Costs

The "Visitation of God" as a cause of death reminded me of the most common cause of death listed in a mortuary whose records I transcribed. Nearly half of the people died of the same thing -- "complications." To survive, simplify!

Thanks to: Mabel Phillips in Missouri

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Copyright Issue

Family Tree Magazine - December-2004 Issue has an interesting and informative article on copyright - "Hard Copy" Page 38. It also gives websites and list of books.

Try This Website

www.gencircles.com

From the creator of GenForum (now part of Genealogy.com, see Records Resources) and Family Tree Legends software, GenCircles aims to take the next step in pedigree databases. Its "SmartMatching" technology connects people in your family trees with the 85 million individuals submitted to the site's Global Tree.

Program Committee Wants You

For the March meeting, instead of an outside speaker, we would like to have 3 members make presentations, each lasting about 20 minutes. The idea is to tell us about an important genealogical breakthrough and how you did it. Your presentation needs to be:

1. Focused on methods, rather than your family
2. Accompanied with visuals or handouts interesting and instructive
3. Completed in 20 minutes or less

We have one, possibly two, slots left. If you are interested, please contact Ed Mason at: edmason@sbcglobal.net

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Coordinator: Dorothy Baker 925-427-4883

Email: DJBDorothy@cs.com

Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 925-828-8570

Email: Vmseg3@greaterbaynet.com

Mailing: Lucy Carver 925-837-3146

Deadline to put information in the Newsletter is the last Thursday of the month.

Member are encouraged to submit articles for the Newsletter by mail or e-mail to Coordinator.

"A Genealogist's Thanksgiving List"

by George G. Morgan: "Along Those Lines"

There are many, many things in life for which I am thankful, and not just at Thanksgiving or on other holiday occasions. The study of my family history has taken me to some fascinating places and put me in contact with some amazing, inspiring people. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I thought it would be fun to make a list of some of the things that we should be thankful about this Thanksgiving.

First of all, I am thankful for the courage of my ancestors who chose to come to America to make a life for themselves, their families, and for all their descendants.

I am thankful for all the people, institutions, and organizations that created records about my ancestors and family over the centuries so that there are documents for me to research. These priceless materials help place my ancestors into geographical and historical context, bringing these forebears to life.

I am thankful for the people and organizations that labeled the documents away and maintained them over all the decades and centuries that allow me to be able to access them.

I am thankful for the framers of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It was they who called for the taking of a decennial census so that I can locate my family members from 1790 to 1930—and to point me to other records!

I am thankful for the Social Security Administration for commissioning the development of the Soundex and Miracode systems that helped index the federal census records. I'm also thankful to the SSA for maintaining the SS-5 applications for us and for the creation of the SSDI.

I am thankful for the people and organizations who have microfilmed the U.S. federal census records, ships' passenger lists, immigration and naturalization documents, wills and probate documents, land and property records, and the millions of documents which we access without traveling to distant locations.

I am thankful for the Webmasters and technicians who create the websites, scan the

documents and photographic images, and generate the searchable databases that help us make connections to the records of our ancestors and family members.

I am thankful for the tireless volunteers who dedicate so much time to RootsWeb, the USGenWeb Project, WorldGenWeb Project, the Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild, and the hundreds of other individuals and groups who contribute to the Web sites where we can find such excellent information for our research. Their work in creating webpages, processing documents into HTML code, and transcribing documents is priceless.

I am thankful for the librarians and archivists who organize, preserve, catalog, and maintain the documents and publications that document our heritage. I am grateful for their knowledge, research know-how, patience, and dedication to serve genealogists, even when we don't know exactly what we're looking for.

I am thankful for courthouse clerks and vital records office employees whose knowledge of their records (and their locations on-site and off-site) helps us obtain copies of the documents important to our research.

I am thankful for the church officials, cemetery sextons, and cemetery administrators who maintain the graveyards and the records about them. I am thankful for the family packrats who saved so much "junk" so that I can still find clues to the addresses of my great-aunts and great-uncles and all the distant cousins. Thank you for NOT cleaning house!

I am thankful for family members who labeled the photographs that do have names and dates. (I just wish they'd convinced the others to do as good a job!)

I am thankful for the family members who share their stories and recollections, regardless of whether the information is always factual. From those stories, I can derive clues to search elsewhere and can gain a greater understanding about these "real people" in our family lines.

I am thankful for genealogical and historical

societies for all of their hard work, and for the people who give of their time serving as board members to make the societies greater. I appreciate the hard work of the societies in locating and preserving history, canvassing and documenting cemeteries, and in taking time to handle look-up requests.

I am thankful for my family and friends who "understand" that I am a rabid genealogist and who love me anyway.

It's Your Turn to Be Thankful. This month is Thanksgiving Day. It is a time for family and friends to come together in friendship and love, to share a holiday meal, to reminisce about the past and to plan for the future, all the while making new memories. I hope that throughout the day and evening you will take time to consider the many people and things about your family and your genealogy for which you are thankful. And while you're at it, why not let the people who give you so much know just how thankful you are for all they do? Past, present, and future are all linked together, and who knows this better than the family genealogist? I hope you will use this holiday season to count your blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving! George
11/26/2003 - [Archive](#)

Wishing You and Yours a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah

San Ramon Valley
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FIRST CLASS