



Sonoma County Genealogical Society Newsletter



February, 2002

Volume 11, Number 5

President's Message

by Audrey Herman, audreyrae@earthlink.net

While indexing the 1890 Daily Republican I found this article which I thought might interest you. It appeared on page 1, 18 April, 1890. Dr. Talmadge is a Methodist minister from New York City. His sermons appear in some subsequent issues of the paper. The only Talmadge listed in the 1890 city directory for Santa Rosa was Samuel Talmadge, occupation capitalist. This article is for those of us with a long line of dull, respectable ancestors who wish we could find a disreputable ancestor to make the family tree more interesting.



General Meeting

**February, 23rd
1pm—3pm
Lark Hall,
Room 2009
S.R.J.C.**

**Speaker:
Jana
Black**

**“Bound
and
Determined”**

Your Surname

Dr. Talmadge, speaking recently of the value of a good name, aptly said: “It is not your given name that you received at the christening you injure, but the family name that is at your mercy. All who bear that name are before God and men, bound to keep it from damage. All the generations of the past and all the generations to come charge you to protect its honor and fidelity. There is no doubt that a young man has a tremendous incentive to make the most of himself, and keep his name unsullied when he bears an honorable surname. The accumulative effect of several generations who have kept the common family name blameless upon him who for the time being bears it, ought to be a great stimulus to right action. This survival of good traits from generation to generation produces a kind of hereditary gentility, which ought to make it easier for each successive possessor of the family name to uphold its honor. This is the great argument for the orders of hereditary nobility where such exist. In England the family possessions, houses, and lands, plate and titles of distinction descend from age to age with the family name. It is claimed that this system steadies the empire, by tying a choice race to the soil by strong local associations. We do not discuss that point now. We speak of the nobility of nature found everywhere, as

truly in a Republic as in a Kingdom. The necessity of keeping spotless one’s family name, ungraced though it may be by any title, and honored for a hundred years by nothing more than modest merit, makes a stable body of citizens in any land. If we have received the family name without blemish from the former generations, it is a high duty to give it to those who follow us untarnished. If it was not entirely spotless when we received it at birth, it ought to be our ambition to give it a luster which shall date from us. There is nothing offensive in pride of ancestry. On the contrary, it is very stimulating to set before a young man or young woman a line of pro-

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Visit Our Web Site at: <http://www.scgs.org>

February Program

*Jana Black—
Program Chair
and Webmaster
for Marin
Genealogical
Society*

*Topic: "Bound &
Determined; the
Indentured
Servant
Odyssey"
Circumstances
and
environments
our forefathers
faced in
choosing to
immigrate this
way.*

genitors who have always been respectable, if not great, and let him understand that it is his calling to emulate the best virtues or the best talent that have grown on the family tree. There is no harm in this. Many families, with nothing else of which they can boast, take great pride in the strain of goodness which they can trace in their genealogy. They can go back many generations and find no place in the long line where they wish to draw the veil. This is healthful for the young, an excellent moral tonic all through life. The only bequest which the most of us can leave to children is a good name, and this may easily be of more value to them than the patrimony which has fallen into the lap of John Waldorf Astor. We are only trustees for the time being of our family name. It may survive us for a thousand years. We should pass it down at least as good as we found it."

Jo's Mailbox: Civil War

by Jo Russell, from Rick
Ellis' Ellis List

The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies

If you are researching the Civil War period, you need to check out this site.

Author: United States. War Dept.

Title: The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies Other Title: Official records of the Union and Confederate armies Publisher: Govt. Print. Off.

Place of Publication: Washington

<<http://moa.cit.cornell.edu/moa/browse.monographs/waro.html>>

Wanted/ Needed

Proofreaders

for SCGS
projects

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or
544-2072

Your Newsletter

by Janet Mobley, editor

The Newsletter represents the whole organization and needs input from members. Please send items of interest to me at: janmobley@mac.com

Coming Events

March 2, 2002

The Genealogical Association of Sacramento and the Sacramento Public Library Workshop at 828 'I' Street, featuring Beginning, Intermediate, Census and Internet Genealogy. Additional classes 23 and 30 and April 6. Details to follow.

March 9, 2002

Family History Day at the Archives, 1020 'O' Street, 10AM to 4:30 pm sponsored by Root Cellars and the Gen. & Historical Council of Sacramento Valley and the CA State Archives. Research, resources, computer demonstrations, preservation techniques, genealogy and historical mini-classes. Free admission. Details to follow.

May 11, 2002

Root Cellars and Sacramento Genealogical Society presents Sandra Luebking at the Spring Seminar. Details TBA.

August 7-10, 2002

FGS Annual Conference hosted by the CSGA, Ontario Convention Center. <http://www.fgs.org/frfjj>.

May 25 - June 2, 2002

What is better than doing genealogy? Doing genealogy while on a Cruise to Alaska!! Help the California Genealogical Society raise money for our library! Join CGS members and friends for seven days cruising the inside passage of Alaska. Nationally known genealogists Patricia Law Hatcher CG FASG and Henry Z "Hank" Jones FASG will provide some very interesting lectures while friends and non-participating spouses enjoy the many activities aboard the STAR PRINCESS. There are many cabin levels to chose from and there are opportunities to add on land packages after you disembark. Booking with All Cruise Travel for this cruise is \$150 less per person than if you booked it on your own!! For more specific information about the cruise please visit www.allcruise.com or call All Cruise Travel at (800) 227-8473. Ask for Bill Knight. Questions about genealogy only call CGS 510 663-1356 and ask for Jane Lindsey, Event Chairman or e-mail CGS and Jane will get back to you. library@calgensoc.org

Seminars

Sonoma County Genealogical Society

SCGS Seminar is 23 March.

All details can be viewed at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/hansen.html>
See yellow insert in the January Newsletter.

• San Mateo

Following is the information for the San Mateo County Seminar March 16. If you would like the information in a .doc file to include in your newsletters, send an e-mail to Joan Hanson at custsvc@pacific-am.com and she will send it to you.

Christine Rose Seminar

March 16th, 2002 Sponsored by the San Mateo County Genealogical Society

Where: First Presbyterian Church, Geneva Hall

Time: 9 AM to 4 PM

Lunch: 1 hour break West 25th Avenue & Hacienda

Cost: \$18 members San Mateo California
\$21 non-members (See directions on back)

\$21 at the door

\$ 7 bag lunch

Topics:

Solving the problem on-site in 25 hours or less.

Using little known and neglected sources: A potpourri.

The evidence conflicts: What shall I do?

Making the Most of Clues (Avoid the crooked path.)

Speaker Information: Christine Rose is a Certified Genealogist, a Certified Genealogical Lecturer, and Fellow, American Society of Genealogists. She is a full-time professional with forty years of experience, traveling extensively for clients, working in over 500 courthouses and state and regional repositories as well as the National Archives in Washington D.C. She was recipient of the 1987 Donald Lines Jacobus award for two genealogies and elected Fellow, American Society of Genealogists in 1988. She has extensive lecturing experience and we are honored to have her as our feature speaker for 2002.

Please copy and return with your check to reserve a seat at this seminar:

Christine Rose Seminar

March 16th, 2002

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone No: _____ Daytime _____

Evening _____

E-mail: _____

Cost: \$18 Member \$21 Non Member \$21 at the door

Box lunch available for additional \$7

Please make your check payable to: SMCGS and mail to SMCGS , PO Box 5083, San Mateo CA 94401-0083 no later than March 8th.

• Marin County Genealogical Society

The Society is in the process of planning an April 7th Seminar at the Marin Art and Garden Center featuring British Research Expert, Joyce Buckland from 10 AM to 3:30 PM. Joyce will cover topics as:

How to begin, English Civil Registration, books, etc. English Census Records and Probate records Parish Registers and Non-conformist Records, Marriage Indexes Poor Law Records and Military Records

Sonoma Co. Gen. Society

James L. Hansen, FASG, reference librarian and genealogical specialist at the Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin covering:

The Draper Manuscripts Getting Around the Lost 1890 Census Genealogy in Alphabetical Order. What to Do When you Hit a Brick Wall

California Genealogical Society

Seminar for March 9th (further info to follow)

Sonoma County Genealogical Society

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by the
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Dues
\$20 per year individual or family (one household)
\$25 contributing (\$5 to book fund)
\$200 lifetime

Interest Group Meetings

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Beginners Group

For information about the Beginner's Group, contact Virginia Murphree, phone 542-5429 or e-mail <bumblebee299@netzero.net>.



British Group

No meeting in February. For information about the British Group contact Susan Simons, phone 527-7191 or e-mail <Suesimons@aol.com>.



German Group

The next meeting will be on Saturday, 2 March 2002, at 10 AM, phone 823-1993. The principle topic of discussion will be on German Research at the Family History Library. For information about the German Group, contact Jim Cochran, phone 526-7331, or e-mail <cougars@sonic.net>



Irish Group:

Meets on second Tuesdays at 1:30 pm For information about the Irish Group, call Myrtle Keefe 539-4840



Jewish and Eastern European Group

No meetings until Fall. Contact Suzanne S. Waxman, phone 538-4378



New York Group

Inactive. No meetings scheduled For information call Karen Steelman 538-3970 or e-mail <steelman@sonic.net>



Southern States Group

Temporarily inactive. No meetings scheduled. For information call Keith Bouldin, 887-7287 or e-mail <dukenrat@sonic.net>



Computer Group:

The Computer Interest Group will not meet this month (February) but will meet again on the 16th of March, 2002. Call Betty Young for information, at 829-2388 or e-mail to punkywhy@pacbell.net



Mac Computer Group

No meeting in February For information about the Mac Group contact phone 538-3970 or e-mail <steelman@sonic.net>



Italian Interest Group

Ines Williams would like to organize an Italian interest group. If you are searching you Italian heritage and would like to share information with others doing Italian research contact Ines Williams. <inesw@mindspring.com>



New at the Library

by Maggi Andrews

929.2 ____ The Wickersham Family in America; by Wickersham

929.2 ____ Pioneer Life of the Emigh Family ... 1880 ; by Emigh

929.373 ____ Locating Union & Confederate Records

929.3775 ____ East Prussians from Russia; by Anuta

929.8 ____ Handbook of Heraldry ... Rules for the Appointment of Liveries &c; by Cussans

Eastman Report

by Richard Eastman

Because of a lawsuit, Cobell v. Norton, genealogists are being denied access to the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management Web site. This site contains (or did contain) hundreds of thousands of records related to homestead claims and land sales. The site has been very popular amongst genealogists looking for records of ancestors in the western states. The site is offline today with no planned date for its return.

It seems that U.S. District Judge Royce has threatened yet again to hold Secretary of Interior Gale Norton in contempt as he ordered her department to "immediately" disconnect from the Internet every single computer, server, and system that has access to individual Indian trust data. The problems and lawsuit arose from the government's extremely long delays in paying for oil royalties and grazing leases. The records were housed in a computer infrastructure that was so weak that a court-appointed investigator and his team of security experts were able to break in and repeatedly access, modify and even create data—all without raising a response from the government.

Judge Royce ordered Secretary Norton to "immediately" disconnect from the Internet every single computer, server, and system that has access to individual Indian trust data. The Secretary of Interior did just that. If you try to access the Bureau of Land Management sites, you simply get an error message saying, "Not available." You can read more about this ongoing issue at several news sites. One with a lot of details is the admittedly biased Indian Trust site at: <http://www.indiantrust.org/clips.cfm>

My thanks to Judy Swett for letting me know about the BLM online access problems.

About the author: Dick Eastman is the forum manager of the three Genealogy Forums on CompuServe. He also is the author of "YOUR ROOTS: Total Genealogy Planning On Your Computer" published by Ziff-Davis Press. He can be reached at: richard@eastman.net. Due to the volume of e-mail received, he is unable to answer every e-mail message received.

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The method of subscribing and unsubscribing changed recently. The easiest method to subscribe or unsubscribe is via the Web. Go to:

<http://www.rootsforum.com>

If you prefer to subscribe by e-mail, send e-mail to: newsletter-subscribe@eastman.biglist.com.

To unsubscribe via e-mail, send a message to: newsletter-unsubscribe@eastman.biglist.com.

~~~~~  
Jo Russell posted that she found more details at this link <<http://www.zdnet.com/zdnn/stories/news/0,4586,5100521,00.html>>



### **Sonoma County Seminar Prize!**

Jo Russell has convinced the Great Western Plaza in Salt Lake City (motel next door to LDS library), to pony up a three-night stay that we can raffle off at our seminar.

## **Married to an Alien**

by Michael John Neill (Printed with permission)

**T**he “confusing” census entry is viewable at: <http://www.rootdig.com/census/verikios1920.html>. I must admit the census entry confused me. The wife was a native of the state of New York State and was listed in the 1920 census as an unnaturalized alien. There is an “x” in the box for her year of immigration to the United States.

All other records clearly indicated the individual in question, Mary Verikios, had been born in New York State. While looking at other individuals on the same census page, I noted that a female neighbor born in Wisconsin was also listed as an alien with no date of naturalization or immigration. The commonality was that both ladies were married to men who were immigrant aliens. This connection warranted further study. It turned out that for these two ladies (and thousands of others), their choice of a husband impacted their citizenship.

The problem centers around the history of women in regard to naturalization.

The census entries for both women indicate they were probably married around 1910. I learned that under the law in effect at that time, both women would have lost their citizenship upon their marriage to an alien. To further compound the problem, courts during this era and for some time before frequently held that women derived their citizenship status from that of their husband. There were exceptions (single women filing homestead claims were sometimes naturalized whether they were a widow or had never been married).

The history of naturalization in the United States is somewhat complex. The complexity is aggravated for women by the fact that the laws regarding naturalization and females were ambiguous, especially before 1907. For a significant portion of American history, a woman’s citizenship status was derived from the status of her husband. In many cases immigrant women were naturalized “by default” upon their marriage to a citizen or upon their foreign-born husband obtaining citizenship. This derivative type of citizenship is the reason there are few naturalization records for immigrant women for most of American history. For those who were “naturalized by marriage” there generally is no mention of them in any records before 27 September 1906,

when Congress standardized the naturalization process and required names of spouse and children on naturalization paperwork. Also, until women received the right to vote, there was little reason for many to bother with the expense and procedure of naturalization. However, there are occasionally naturalization records for women in the 1880s, 1890s and later. Many of the children “naturalized by default” via their father’s naturalization, but not listed specifically, later went through the naturalization process themselves.

To reduce confusion, here is a brief chronology relevant to the problem at hand:

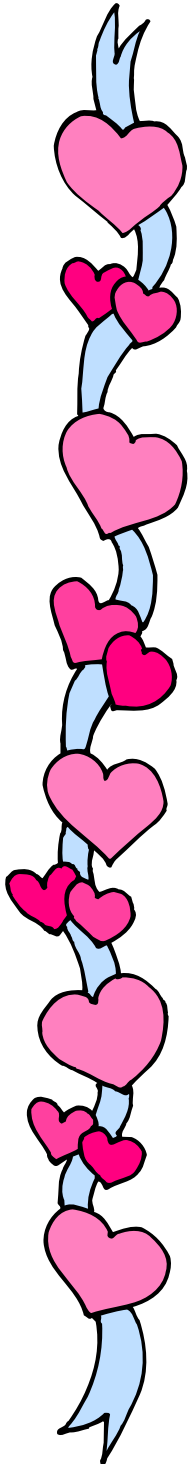
### **1906**

The Basic Naturalization Act was passed on 27 September 1906, which standardized the naturalization process throughout the United States. Records after this date are more consistent than those before. No longer could just any court perform a naturalization.

### **1907**

On 2 March 1907 an act was passed wherein a wife’s citizenship status was determined by the status of her husband. Here is where the confusion begins to get worse. For women who immigrated after this act (and before later changes were enacted), there was no real change from before (unless their husband was already a U.S. citizen). However, it was different for U.S.-born citizen females who married an alien after this date. These women would lose their citizenship status upon marriage to an alien. Many of these women would later become citizens again upon their husband’s naturalization. Women who married men who were ra-

*Continued on page 7*



cially ineligible to naturalize lost their ability to revert back to their pre-marriage citizenship status.

### 1922

On 22 September 1922, Congress passed the Married Women's Act, also known as the Cable Act. Now the citizenship status of a woman and a man were separate. This law gave each woman her own citizenship status. This act was partially drawn in response to issues regarding women's citizenship that occurred after women were given the right to vote. From this date, no marriage to an alien has taken citizenship from any U.S.-born woman. Females who had lost their citizenship status via marriage to an alien could initiate their own naturalization proceedings.

### 1936

This act effected U.S. citizen women whose marriage to an alien between the acts of 1907 and 1922 had caused them to lose their citizenship status. These women, if the marriage to the alien had ended in death or divorce, could regain their citizenship by filing an application with the local naturalization court and taking an oath of allegiance. Those women still married to their husband were not covered under the act and these individuals would have to go through the complete naturalization process.

### 1940

In 1940, Congress allowed all women who lost their citizenship status between 1907 and 1922 to repatriate by filling an application with the local naturalization court and taking an oath. The complete naturalization process was no longer necessary for any woman whose marriage between 1907 and 1922 caused her to lose her citizenship status.

### How Does This Impact Marie?

Here's where it gets a little confusing. Marie's husband, Peter Verikios, was naturalized in 1934. Marie and Peter divorced in 1940. Marie subsequently married another U.S. citizen a few years

later. None of these events made a difference in Marie's status after she married Peter, for they all took place after the Cable Act of 1922, which separated a woman's citizenship status from that of her husband. Her marriage to Peter between 1907 and 1922 was the "problem" in regards to her citizenship status.

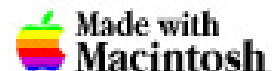
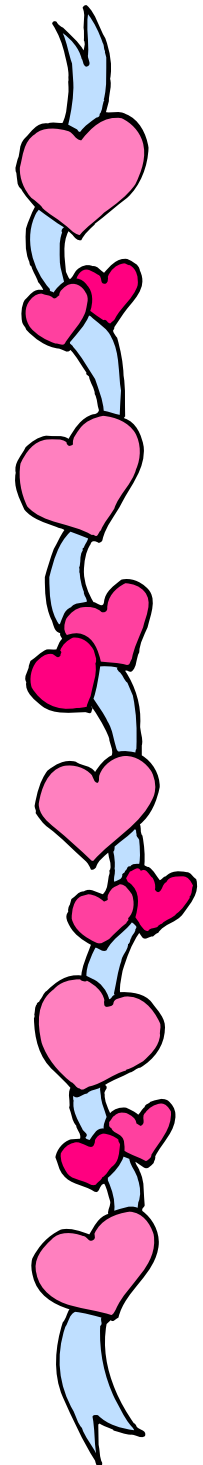
### Where Should I Go?

It might be worth looking into possible records whereby Marie regained her citizenship status. Given the confusion that surrounded the citizenship status of women, there might be no record at all. In this case, since Marie's origins in New York State are somewhat foggy, accessing the records may shed some light on her life before she came to the Chicago area. That one little "X" in the 1920 census really gave me a history lesson.

### Sources:

Smith, Marian L., "Any woman who is now or may hereafter be married . . ." *Women and Naturalization, ca. 1802-1840*, National Archives and Records Administration Web Site: (<http://www.nara.gov/publications/prologue/natural1.html>), originally published in 'Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration,' Summer 1998, vol. 30, no. 2  
Szucs, Loretto D., "They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins," Salt Lake City, Utah, Ancestry, Inc., 1998. <http://shops.ancestry.com/product.asp?productid=1028> (Editor's Note: "They Became Americans" is today's product special, on sale for \$15.95.)

Michael John Neill, is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, Illinois, and is also on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois. Michael is the Web columnist for the FGS FORUM and is on the editorial board of the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly. He conducts seminars and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical and computer topics and contributes to several genealogical publications, including Ancestry and Genealogical Computing. You can e-mail him at: <mailto:mneill@asc.csc.cc.il.us> or visit his website at: <http://www.rootdig.com/>, but he regrets that he is unable to assist with personal research.  
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**Board Meeting  
February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

The Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am in Room 17 of the Santa Rosa Senior Center, 704 Bennett Valley Rd. Santa Rosa. Society members are welcome to attend.

**General Meeting  
February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1pm—3pm  
Lark Hall, Room 2009  
S.R.J.C.**

**There is now a \$2.00  
parking fee at the college.**

**Sonoma County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 2273  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0273**

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