



Future Programs

Sonoma County Genealogical Society's Monthly Meeting and Program

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"Join us as we learn from two of our favorite genealogy experts, Virginia and Tony, as they take us through exciting information on PERSI and our own Library Annex."

Date: Saturday, February 18, 2012
Show and Tell: 12:00 Noon (**Note the new starting time**)
Meeting/Program begins at 1:00 p.m.
Featuring: **Virginia Hershey and Tony Hoskins**
Topics: Learn how to use PERSI as a way to find genealogical society newsletters and other periodicals, on-line. Also, learn more about our Library Annex and how to use this local treasure to enhance your research.

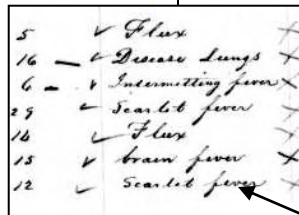
Location: The Finley Community Center
 2060 West College Avenue
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Finding Your History in the Midst of a Disaster

Did you ever wonder how our ancestors persevered and survived in the face of natural, manmade or financial disasters? If they encountered any of these, how did that change their lives and what records can we turn to in helping to understand the events that took place? When we think of a disaster, we usually consider an unexpected events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, fires or earthquakes.

(Check out a list of natural disasters at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_natural_disasters).

We should also consider health related disasters such as the flu pandemic in 1918. My grandfather was housed at Camp Sherman in Ohio at that time. We are fortunate on two accounts. One is that he chronicled the entire flu epidemic in the almost-daily, *love letters*, to my Grandma. Two, is that his bunker remained quarantined and none of them succumbed to the devastation that killed more than 1,200 people at his camp and 675,000 Americans. (Check out <http://1918.pandemicflu.gov/index.htm> for information on the Influenza Epidemic. Wikipedia also has a compiled list of epidemics at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_epidemics).



War, religious conflicts and other political situations also greatly affected our ancestors. In fact, these often represented the catalyst that caused our families to leave their country and come to America.

Progress and advancement was also responsible for many unintended disasters. The invention of trains, automobiles and airplanes has not been without consequence.

You can begin to search for your ancestors to see what challenges they may have encountered. Look for the cause of death to see if there are any clues. For example, if you find a death index, look at the entire page to see if there is any commonality in the deaths of the people. (See left. On this page from a Kentucky Death Index for 1858, there were 5 deaths from Scarlet Fever). Also, check to see if your ancestors all migrated to a new place at the same time as other family members. What was the year? What was going on in the place they left? Did they move in with relatives? If so, was that due to economics?

Once you have a timeline established, look at historical newspapers or town histories to see what

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Special Interest Groups



GERMAN: The next meeting of the German Interest Group will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2012. It will begin at 10 a.m. The meeting will be at the home of Lois Nimmo at 308 Pythian Rd., Santa Rosa. Let me know if you would like to host this meeting. Questions about the German Interest Group can be addressed to Jim Cochran at 526-7331 or cougars@sonic.net. **Guten Abend.**

the Sonoma County Library Annex located at Third & 'E' Streets in Santa Rosa. To be added to the e-mail reminder list or if you have questions, e-mail Maggi Andrews: mizgriz@sbcglobal.net
ITALIAN: Anyone who is interested in doing Italian research contact Ines Williams about future meetings – inesw@comcast.net – (707) 838-0760

BRITISH-IRISH:
 The next meeting for the British group will be announced at a later date. For information, contact: audreyrae@comcast.net.

COMPUTER: The Computer Interest Group meets at

Have You Ever Considered Serving on Our Board?

The term of office of the SCGS Board of Directors is one year, commencing July 1st of each year. Under the by-laws, a nominating committee of three selects the candidates, however, recommendations can be made from the general membership and the committee encourages and welcomes any and all such recommendations.

Service on the Board involves nine regular meetings a year and focuses on the fiscal standing of the organization, program objectives, current projects, membership, liaison with other genealogical associations and the general operation of the society.

The Board positions are President, First Vice-President (Programs), Second Vice-President (Membership), Third Vice-President (Communications), Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and three Members at Large. In particular, nominations are sought for President, Second Vice-President and Corresponding Secretary for 2012-13.

If you want to serve on the SCGS Board of 2012-13, or, which to nominate another member, please contact Ray Owen, Chairperson, Nominating Committee, at (707) 578-0243; 2323 Tucker Court, Santa Rosa, CA 95403-2374; or mi-laowen@yahoo.com. Please take this opportunity to make your voice heard in the operation and administration of your society.



Disasters, Continued

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was happening. (For some historical newspapers, see <http://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/Home>) If the town did not have a local newspaper, look in the closest large town for information. Often, newspapers printed a list of those who died during the year, at the end of the year. These were called Necrologies.

There are also a variety of websites that are devoted to disasters. For example GenDisasters (<http://www3.gendisasters.com>) is a free site where you can search for victims by name or look by location for disasters that occurred. The site ranges from local car accidents to monumental events such as the Titanic.

Don't forget to interview your living family members to see if they have any recollection of stories they may have been told or what their own experiences were. Many of us have relatives who were alive during WWII and have some amazing stories of those events. Sadly, disasters are a part of our lives. This is your chance to be able to share the story of how these *often tragic* events shaped the lives of your family today.

SCGS Meeting Dates

Sonoma County Genealogical Society's Upcoming Meetings and Programs

- February 18, 2012
- March 17, 2012
- April 21, 2012—Spring Seminar
- May 19, 2012
- June 16, 2012

All meetings, unless otherwise specified, are held on Saturdays at the Finley Center in Santa Rosa.
Regular monthly programs and meetings are free!

Who Do You Think You Are?

NBC announces line-up for new season of "Who Do You Think You Are?" which begins on Feb 3rd... Here's a URL



to read about it... <http://www.nbc.com/news/2012/01/06/nbc-announces-the-celebrities-tracing-their-family-trees-on-season-three-of-who-do-you-think-you-are/index.php>

From Ireland's freedom fighters to the American Revolutionary War, and from the African nation of Cameroon to Bulgaria, you will witness the fabric of humanity through everyone's place in history.

Websites and Techniques to Check Out

- Submitted by Spence Burton: Historic American Newspapers—Chronicling America (The Library of Congress) This contains lots of old Bay Area newspapers fully indexed. (Caution: the site can be very SLOW)
<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- The Encyclopedia of Genealogy—a service of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. The website can be found at: http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/. You can subscribe to a free daily newsletter while you are here. The link to the encyclopedia can be found on the right side of the Home Page.
- Just for fun. Pick one of the ancestors you are researching. Type in the first name, surname, state where they lived and the word genealogy in the Google Search Box and see what happens. Maybe nothing, but what if you do find something??



"Tracing Your Roots" Television Series

Fairfax Public Access has produced dozens of half hour television shows which are now available online. A list of the shows can be found at <http://tracingroots.nova.org/info.htm>. There are more than fifty genealogy-related topics covered and all you need to do is click on the "View Now" button next to the subject that piques your interest.

I scrolled down to the first show listed under "Recent Shows." I watched Dr. Stephen Morse explaining that the new 1940 Census due out in 2012 would not be indexed for months after its release. He said we can get around this by finding the proper Enumeration District (ED) for our family with his one step website.

Next I watched Cheryl D. Crosby speaking on the vast quantities of archival historical information now available on the Internet as "full text searchable" databases made possible by Accessible Archives.

These were just the first two shows in a long list. The topics are extremely varied. There seems to be something for everyone. What a great way to spend a cold winter day!

If you have any items of interest or historical photos that you would like to submit to the monthly newsletter, please e-mail Cindy Brennan at: newsletter@scgs.org

Items must be received by the 25th of the month to be included in the following month.

New Books at the Library

- *519 B Street, Petaluma, California* by Diana Painter. Describes historic and architectural significance of the circa 1885 one-story garage.—ANNEX R 728.98 FIVE HUNDRED by PAINTER
- *The Antient and Modern State of the Parish of Cramond* (Scotland) by John Philip Wood—ANNEX R 929.3134 WOOD
- *The Bordessa Dairy* by Sue Abbott—ANNEX R 637.1097 ABBOTT
- *California Blue Book, or State Roster* compiled by the Secretary of State, description based on 1899.—ANNEX R 310 CALIFORNIA
- *Centennial Celebration: November 30 – December 2, 1973* by the Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa, California—ANNEX R 282.794 CHURCH
- *Cityscapes: San Francisco and Its Buildings* by John King—ANNEX R 720.9794 KING
- *Death Notices from Kansas Territorial Newspapers, 1854-1861* compiled by Alberta Pantle, Kansas State Historical Society—ANNEX R 929.3781 PANTLE
- *Early Families of Herkimer County, New York: Descendants of the Burnetsfield Palatines* by William V. H. BParker—ANNEX R 929.3747 BARKER
- *Emigrants from Fellbach (Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany), 1735-1930* by Clifford Neal Smith—ANNEX R 929.343 SMITH
- *Emigrants from the Principality of Hessen-Hanau, Germany, 1741-1767* by Clifford Neal Smith—ANNEX R 929.343 SMITH
- *Fund Development Plan: January 2000* by the Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation—ANNEX R 333.78 SONOMA
- *Genealogical Data from the Monmouth Atlas, Warren County, Illinois, 1846-1855* compiled by Marsha Hoffman Rising—ANNEX R 929.3773 RISING
- *Historic Tales of East Contra Costa County* by Charles A. Bohakel—ANNEX R 929.463 BOHAKEL
- *The Indians of Contra Costa County, California: the Costanoan and Yokuts Indians* by Charles A. Bohakel—ANNEX R 970.4946 BOHAKEL
- *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Facsimile Reprint of Early Volumes* by the New England Historic Genealogical Society—ANNEX R 929.374 NEW ENGLAND
- *Newspaper Abstracts, Huron County, Ohio, 1822-1835* by Henry R. Timman—ANNEX R 929.3771 TIMMAN
- *Resolution No. 348: Resolution of Intention to Do Street Work: to improve Boyce St. by constructing cement sidewalks on said street from railway to Hudspeth St.; filed Sept. 5, 1916; adopted by the Council of the City of Santa Rosa.*—ANNEX RARE R 388.411 SANTA ROSA
 - *Salem County, New Jersey, Genealogical Data: Records pertaining to Persons Residing in Salem County Prior to 1800* by H. Stanley Craig—ANNEX R 929.3749 CRAIG
 - *Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery, 1854-2007: A Listing of Burials in Fulkerson, Moke, Rural, and Stanley Cemeteries, Now Known Collectively as Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery* by the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Preservation Foundation—ANNEX R 929.379148 SANTA ROSA
- *Sonoma State University: Memories and Historical Highlights, 1961-2011* by Barbara Biebusch, (et al.) - ANNEX R 378.794 SONOMA
- *Two Wheels North: Cycling the West Coast in 1909* by Evelyn McDaniel Gibb—ANNEX R 917.90431 GIBB
- *Update Newsletter* by the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum—ANNEX R 979.418 PETALUMA
- *World Atlas of Today* (War Edition) by C. S. Hammond and Company and the Santa Rosa Furniture Company, circa 1943—ANNEX RARE R 912 C. S. HAMMOND



The North Bay Legacy User Group

meets monthly on the first Saturday of each month.

Time: 1:00 - 3:00pm

Location: Charter Hall at Faith Lutheran Church
4930 Newanga Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA

Contact: helenwlk4fun@sbcglobal.net for directions, program information and all other questions

We welcome new and experienced Legacy users!

THE SONOMA COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY IS A
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH
ENCOURAGES INTEREST IN
GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY