



SCGS Sonoma County Genealogical Society Newsletter



January 2003

President's Message

by Evelyn Ross

Do not forget if it's good idea or a bad idea to set goals at the beginning of a new year. The argument, of course, is you should be striving to accomplish small goals all through the year rather than make one huge resolution when the annual odometer turns another notch.

However, it might be the ideal time, when it's cold and rainy outside, to be cozy inside and review your family's history. Are there gaps, brickwalls, or unanswered questions that need attention? After a close scrutiny of your research you could resolve to try a new approach. Because genealogy has become such a popular pastime in the last decade new products, methods, and resources have almost rewritten the old ways.

One area I've resolved to become more familiar with is the PERiodical Source Index (PERSI) from the Genealogical Department of the Allen County Public Library and the Library Foundation of Allen County, Indiana. For you it could be taking advantage of all that's available on the Internet. Some may discover the wealth of help and information at local sites, namely libraries, museums, and Family History Centers. If you are really brave you may think about pulling off a humdinger of a family reunion.

Despite new technology and resources two things remain constant. First, begin with what you know and work backwards, creating research questions



Meeting:
Jan. 25th

Bette Kot,
Author,
Researcher,
and
Teacher

"From Piles
to Files:
The Art of
Paper
Management"

Santa Rosa
J.C.
Room 2009
Lark Hall
1-3pm

as you go. Second, the deep satisfaction that results when you pull your family a little closer together.

Regardless of your choice of a resolution, I wish you well with your endeavors. Happy New Year and happy hunting.

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

From Piles to Files: The Art of Paper Management

by Fawn Hill

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It has been quite some time since we have had the pleasure of hearing Bette Gorrell Kot speak to us at an Educational meeting of the SCGS. We are very fortunate to have her come to Santa Rosa, so keep the meeting date on your calendar—Saturday, January 25th, 2003, 1:00pm, SRJC Campus, Room 2009.

Bette is a multi-talented Genealogist who gives lectures, teaches classes and writes books on a variety of subjects related to the field. Her involvement with research began in 1978 and at present she serves as Librarian for the California Genealogical Society, a collection in Oakland California, located at 1611 Telegraph Ave. Suite 100. I found great directions to the library by visiting the web site at www.calgensoc.org/cgs/directions.htm. and even printed myself a map.

She is a super organizer who works well with researchers at any level,

Newsletter Online

by Janet Mobley, Editor

How many of you know that you can download the newsletter from the web site? Raise your hands up high. I don't see many hands. Too bad, as you can get it online before the mail carrier gets the paper version to your door. What? You don't know how to download it?

Go to the web site at <http://www.scgs.org>, scroll down to the bottom of the page and select "Click Here" for the current issue or any of the back issues of the past year.

You will need to have the free program, Adobe Acrobat Reader, on your computer. It is probably there already as it comes with many programs. But if you don't have it, the link to it is at the bottom of the same page of the web site.

beginners to advanced, in terms of managing materials and documenting records and information. Her classes and lectures include – 'finding your way around libraries', 'planning a trip to the Salt Lake Library and other places', 'writing a family history', and more. Her several books include one co-authored by Shirley Thomson entitled, "City Directories at Sutro Library: How to Use Them in Research."

This event should be an 'every member in attendance' affair. Don't let this excellent opportunity pass you by.

The newsletters are compressed and are about 200-400k. If you have a 56k modem, they will download in a few seconds. You can print out the newsletter in color or set your printer to black ink if you want or you can read it online.

Give it a try.

Newsletter Published Monthly (with the exception of July, August and December) by the Sonoma County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 2273
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0273

Dues: \$20 per year individual or family (one house-hold), \$25 contributing, (\$5 to book fund), \$200 lifetime.



History of Census-Taking

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2002 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. (Vol. 7 No. 24 - June 17, 2002)

Since 1790, when U.S. marshals traveled on horseback over rutted backwoods trails to enumerate the residents of a new nation, a census of population has been taken every 10 years. Now the Census Bureau has released a report that traces the evolution of the population census from 1790 to 2000..

The report, "Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses from 1790 to 2000," contains images or descriptions of the questionnaires used in each census, along with the instructions given to census-takers on how to fill out the form. Also included is a synopsis of how each census was conducted and information about its historical significance. On its cover is a reproduction of a Norman Rockwell painting of a census enumerator at work, which appeared on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post in 1940.

The publication tracks the development of the census from a relatively primitive exercise in 1790 to the highly sophisticated operation that took place in 2000. In 1790, marshals counted 3.9 million U.S. residents. Householders were asked a variety of questions to count the population and assess the new nation's industrial and military capacity.

This excellent 140-page publication is a great resource for those doing census-related research, including genealogists attempting to learn more about their ancestors and historians and demographers looking for a snapshot of life in America at a given point in the nation's history. It is intended to assist census data users in interpreting the responses they find on census forms as well as the summary statistical tables.

"Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses from 1790 to 2000" is available online in Adobe Acrobat's PDF format. With Acrobat Reader installed, you can view the book on your computer screen and optionally print either individual pages or the entire report.

If not already installed on your system, you may obtain the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software for Windows, Macintosh or Linux at: <<http://www.adobe.com>>.

You may view Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses from 1790 to 2000 at: <<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/pol02-ma.pdf>> <<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/pol02-ma.pdf>> <<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/pol02-ma.pdf>>.

Answers to Scottish Questions

It took six months of testing, but the National Library of Scotland now offers the *Ask A Librarian* service. To take advantage of the library's helpful new online feature, go to <<http://www.nls.uk/info/readingrooms/askalibrarian.html>> and complete the form. Librarians will answer your e-mail or forward your query to a library that houses the proper resources to help you. It may take time for you to receive a response, but you can track your question's progress on the "Check your Questions and Answers" page, which requires you to create a password. Learn more about the resources available at the National Library of Scotland at <<http://www.nls.uk/digitallibrary/index.html>>.

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SCL Historical Photos Online

by Tony Hoskins

Go to library website:

www.sonomalibrary.org

Double click on "Library Catalog"

On the next screen look for (and double click on) "Web Catalog"

Next screen will say "Web Pac". Just below this, double click on "Library Catalog"

Next screen at "choose an index to search" it will say "main words in title" This is a pull-down menu, pull down to "main words in subject". Enter subject, for instance "Fourth Street". Double click on "search"

Next screen will show entries under these "main words in subject". In this example, click on the first one (which reads "Fourth Street (Santa Rosa, Calif.) 138 [items]")

The next screen will describe the individual items and (if a picture) the word "picture". Choose one and double click.

The next screen may or may not show a URL (or Internet address) following the word "MEDIA"

If there is a URL after the word MEDIA, double click on it and the photograph will appear (the lack of anything under the heading MEDIA means the picture is not viewable online).

To order copies of photographs you will need to provide library staff with the call number. The cost to reproduce a photograph varies depending on the size, \$11 for a 5 x 7 and \$17 for an 8 x 10.

Searching for photos can be confusing, so we encourage a visit to the History and Genealogy Library located adjacent to the main library in Santa Rosa at Third and E Streets. Librarians Tony Hoskins and Katherine Rinehart will be happy to provide assistance. Library hours are 10-6 Wednesday thru Saturday and the phone number is (707) 545-0831 ext. 562. We can also be reached by email at either:

krinehart@sonoma.lib.ca.us

or

hoskins@sonoma.lib.ca.us



Photo #7986, Northwestern Pacific Depot, Healdsburg 1910.

Book Review

by Audrey Herman

Pillars of the past: at rest at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park

by Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett. Cypress Lawn Heritage Foundation, 1370 El Camino Real, Colma, CA 94014, \$22 includes sales tax and shipping.

A history of Cypress Lawn Cemetery and biographical sketches of some of the people interred there. Of the approximately 300,000 buried at Cypress Lawn only about 400 are included in this book. They were selected for inclusion because their names are well known, their monuments are unique, or because their story adds to the history of the San Francisco Bay area. Photographs of some of the people and their monuments are included in this book. Each entry gives the location of the grave. A map of the cemetery is included. A very interesting little book.

Needed: Searcher Back Issues

We have been getting requests from libraries for back issues of the Searcher. The Society does not have complete back files and could use all old issues of the Searcher to fill these requests. If you have any old issues you would like to give away, please bring them to a Society meeting and give them to Audrey Herman, or leave them for her in the Annex.

From Jo's Mailbox

by Jo Russell

This is not new to many researchers, however, it may be new to some freshman researchers. Good tips are always worth sharing. This FHC is certainly considerate by making the colored paper available to their patrons.

I found some colored binder jackets, which are great. The ones I prefer are designed for use in 3-ring binders and have full height sides to secure letter size documents. When I am having difficulty reading a film, I place one of the jackets from my binder on the viewer surfaces. (There are four colors to try).

I purchased a colored transparent sheet, which I use when reading the paper photo copies from film.

Ancestry Quick Tip:

Colored Paper and Microfilm

Our Family History Center keeps several sheets of colored paper available to be used with the microfilm readers. If the background is "murky," try putting a piece of colored paper on the viewing surface. The paper filters out the murkiness and enhances the images.

Surprisingly, this often works very well. Light gray and light blue seem to work best, but other colors to try would be bright pink and bright yellow. You never know what might work with your particular microfilm so don't be afraid to experiment.

I have started including a few sheets of colored paper in my notebook when I visit libraries, archives, etc. to be used for this purpose. There is nothing worse than having a microfilm that you can't read!

Good luck!

Beth Manchester

SCGS Projects Report

by Carmen J. Finley

Militia Records

Militia Lists of Sonoma County, California, 1846-1900 is now being advertised in Heritage Catalog. It is priced at a pre-publication cost of \$39.20.

1930 School Census

Proofing continues on this project. Still a long way to go.

School Attendance Records

Proofing is about 50% complete on this project.

Vital Data in Newspapers

We are in need of volunteers for this project.

Sonoma Searcher Index

Proof of catalog listing was received 1 October. The listing is scheduled to appear in the December catalog of Heritage.

Online Indexes

We now have fourteen indexes online. Our SCGS web page and SCGenWeb list all of them. The Library Annex has not been able to list the last four as yet.

Worthwhile Web Sites from Family Tree Magazine

* Minnesota Historical Society Death Certificate Index

Search a broadened index of Minnesota death certificates, now covering 1908 to 1996.

<http://people.mnhs.org/dci/Search.cfm>

* Genealogy and Family History for Children Get your junior genealogists started with these fun family history activities.

<http://www.genwriters.com/children.html>

* Soldiers of the First World War Personnel files from the Canadian Expeditionary Force are a great source of genealogical data.

http://www.archives.ca/02/020106_e.html

Oops, My Mistake!

by Janet Mobley

Somehow I missed thanking the searcher volunteers in the October newsletter. We owe a lot to these hard working people. Please accept my apology.

Sonoma Searcher Editorial Board Volunteers
Claire Miller, Editor,
Marya Myers, Jeanne Overcashier, Margaret Phinney and Barbara Schefer

New in the Library

by Maggi Andrews

- 728.3 H Heritage Homes of Petaluma, 2002 Home Tour
929.1 U.S. Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives
- 929.2 H The Hoffman Family, its ancestors and descendants; by Hoffman
- 929.2 B Thomas Barnes; Hartford, Connecticut; 14 Generations 1615-2001; vol. 1-2; by Barnes
- 929.3747 J The Palatine Families of New York...who arrived ... in 1710; by Jones
- 929.3747 J More Palatine Families; Some Immigrants to the Middle Colonies ...; by Jones
- 929.3752 P A Collection of Maryland Church Records; by Peden
- 929.3752 P Quaker Records of Northern Maryland, 1716-1800; by Peden
- 929.3752 B British Roots of Maryland Families; by Barnes
- 929.3752 D Directory of Maryland Church Records
- 929.3755 V Will and Estate Records in the Virginia State Library, a Guide; by Vogt
- 929.3755 A A Guide to Episcopal Church Records in Virginia; by Axelson
- 929.3755 D Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia, 1634-1895; by Doran
- 929.3755 G Twelve Virginia Counties, Where the Western Migration Began; by Gwathmey
- 929.3757 G Early Pee Dee Settlers, part 1-2; by Gregg
- 929.3758 A Families of Southeastern Georgia; by Averitt
- 929.3768 C Historic Sumner County, Tennessee with Genealogies of the Bledsoe, Cage and Douglass Families; by Cisco
- 929.419 S Berreyesa - The Rape of the Mexican Land Grant; by Salonites
- 979.466 A Album of Oakland, California; 1893

Online Reminders

by Janet Mobley

Before the November meeting, I sent out email reminders of the meeting to those of you who have given us your email addresses. Annie Conley, 2nd VP in charge of membership, sent me the list which included 155 addresses. Of those 155, 30 bounced back! This tells me that either some mailboxes were full or members have changed their email addresses and have not told Annie of the change.

Please make sure your mailboxes are cleaned out frequently and if you have changed your addresses, please let Annie know at: anniec@sonic.net.

Newsletter Delivery

by Janet Mobley, Editor

I have been told that some members did not get their October newsletter until after the Oct. meeting! They didn't get to the workshop or some went to Lark Hall instead of to the LDS church as they did not have the information that was in the newsletter.

When the Board met on Nov. 12th most of the Board members had not received their November issues yet. I got mine in the mail on Sat. the 9th and so did Web Master, Spence Burton. We live in Petaluma and most of you live in Santa Rosa. There may be a problem with the delivery service in Santa Rosa.

With all the political mailers of the recent election ; the holiday mail of catalogs, Christmas cards and the days the post offices have been closed: we can expect the mail to be delayed.

There is no way we can get the newsletter out any earlier; as we mail it out about the end of the month, after the Board meeting, for the next meeting. We need to complain to the local offices if the Post Office cannot get the mail to us any sooner.

We have just learned that our Web Master, Spence Burton, has a position with the Post Office that allows him to "bird dog" the mailing. He will make sure that the newsletter goes through the system in a timely fashion.

In the meantime, you can get your newsletter online by the 10th of each month, and mark your calendars with the fourth Sat. of the month so you will remember the meeting dates.

*Evelyn says,
"We need you! Be a volunteer"*

SCGS Mailing List

Sign up today

The SCGS mailing list is up and ready to start with your subscriptions (April 4th, 1999). Remember, we will all be learning how to use this tool. Be courteous and patient.

The purpose of this mailing list is to provide a communications bridge to members of the Sonoma County Genealogical Society for news and announcements. Use it to announce program times and places, changes to schedules and any pertinent news about SCGS or about Society members. Use this also as a bulletin for newly found or updated websites of general interest (a new site on Civil War pensions would be of interest to all; but a site on Flannagan family pensions would only interest a few and should not be announced on this List). HOWEVER, since it would be news about a member, this would be a GREAT place to announce your own new web site, don't forget to also email the SCGS Webmaster with your new webpage address! We would all like to see your efforts!

This is not a research tool for specific families. Please conduct that on other mailing lists or directly with other individuals.

Remember, that a lot of the members are online a lot and receive dozens if not hundreds of emails a day and that this list should be limited to the business at hand. Jokes, recipes and holiday greetings are a distraction to a lot of online users. There are lists for that sort of thing.

Religious and political comments are strictly forbidden.

1. How to subscribe. Send the a message that contains (in the body of the message) the command "subscribe" to

SCGS-L-request@rootsweb.com
and no additional text.

2. How to unsubscribe. Send a message that contains (in the body of the message) the command "unsubscribe" to

SCGS-L-request@rootsweb.com
and no additional text.

3. If you are interested in the Digest mode, use the same instructions above except send them to

SCGS-D-request@rootsweb.com

For further information or assistance you can contact:

Fred (Woody) Hendrick
woodlyn@zapcom.net
fredrick@woodlyn.net



Special Interest Groups



British Group

The British Group will meet on Thursday, January 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Muriel Morrow, 2331 Greenbriar Way. Topic will include update on British resources at the Family History Center, in preparation for our meeting there the following month.

Members are also encouraged to bring research questions and items to share.

For information, call Susan Simons, 527-7191 or e-mail to: suesimons@aol.com.



German Group

Saturday, 4 January 2003, at 10 AM at the home of Jim Cochran, 1658 Tarkenton Court, Santa Rosa, phone 526-7331. Karl Sala will be giving a presentation on German Gazetteers.

Saturday, 1 March 2003, at 10 AM. The location of this meeting has not been determined.

For information about the German Group, contact Jim Cochran at telephone 526-7331, or by e-mail at <cougars@sonic.net>.



Irish Group:

For information about the Irish Group call Myrtle Keefe at 539-0840.



Jewish and Eastern European Group

Inactive. Contact Suzanne S. Waxman, phone 538-4378.



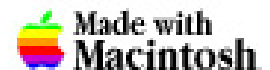
Computer Group

January 18th 2003, 1:30 pm, at the Family History Center. For information, call Susan Simons, 527-7191 or e-mail to: suesimons@aol.com.



Italian Interest Group

The Italian Interest Group will meet on Jan. 18th at 10AM at the home of Ines Williams. Come join us. For more information please e-mail: inesw@attbi.com



Coming Events

The San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society announces its annual seminar "Family History in the New Millennium: Research Techniques and Digitization" featuring our keynote speaker, Hank Z. Jones, along with Richard Wilson and several other excellent speakers. Planned for February 1, 2003 from 8:30 to 4:30, our all day seminar will include something for every level of genealogist from beginner to the more advanced researcher. For more details and a mail-in registration form, see the society web site at: <http://www.slonet.org/~slogen/seminar3.html>. Plan to join us here on the beautiful California central coast.



Notice: The presentation by Margaret Ingram scheduled for May has been canceled.

Sonoma County
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Non-Profit Mail

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| NON-PROFIT ORG US POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 425 Santa Rosa, CA |
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General Meeting

January 25th

Bette Kot,
Author, Researcher, and
Teacher

"From Piles to Files: The Art of Paper
Management"

Santa Rosa J. C.
Room 2009
Lark Hall 1-3pm.