



SCGS

Sonoma County Genealogical Society January 2005 Newsletter

President's Message

By Tony Hoskins



Happy New Year!

I would like to wish each and every one of you a 2005 replete with blessings of all kinds.

And, especially, may your genealogical research truly prosper!

To ensure that it does, I'd like to suggest a Genealogical New Year's Resolution.

•In 2005, break down "brick walls" – you know which ones I mean!

Start fresh. Stop beating a dead horse. Don't keep trying things/methods again and again that have lead nowhere. Brick walls are battered down most frequently when we force ourselves to mentally (and maybe literally, too) sweep the desk clear of everything we've done on these lines in the past. When you have accomplished or at least visualized this, you should then, brick by brick, assemble only the pieces of evidence you know are factual. Often, our brick walls are created by us, and built unnecessarily fortress thick and seemingly impermeable, by continuing to pile layer upon layer of speculation, false leads, irrelevant data, and paper confusion on a research project.

And, come visit us in the Sonoma County History and Genealogy Library, 3rd and E Streets, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. 707/545-0831, ext. 562. hoskins@sonoma.lib.ca.us.

We will be glad to work one-on-one with you to get the bulldozers moving on those dratted brick walls. Let us help you reduce them to rubble in '05!

Introduce yourself to the new improved HeritageQuest Online. Do you know the fine points of this marvelous subscription, available to you though your Sonoma County Library card (www.sonomalibrary.org)? Perhaps you've used it for some time now for census, or for the digitized books. But, did you know, even for census years not yet indexed and listed "up front" on the HQ page, other census years (like 1850, 1880) are actually there, rather hidden, and can be uncovered by using the "Browse" function? And, really exciting news is the recent addition to the HQ package of digitized American Revolutionary War pensions. Check them out, they're a huge benefit and are endlessly fascinating and useful.

Again, Happy Hunting in 2005!

*January 22
Meeting:*

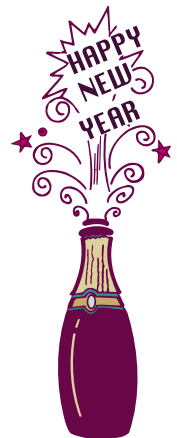
*Westward
Migration
Along the
Trails*

*Speaker: Jana
Black*

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

*Lark Hall
Santa Rosa
Junior College*

*See page two of
this newsletter
or the scgs web
site for more
details.*



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

The Sonoma County Genealogical Society is a Nonprofit Organization which Encourages Interest in Genealogy and Family History

January Meeting: Westward migration along the trails

By Audrey Herman, December 2004

Even before the Revolutionary War people had begun to move westward following rivers, Indian trails, or newly blazed trails. Crossing the Mississippi River they continued west following the Oregon Trail, the California Trail, and other trails. The books listed below contain descriptions of these trails as our ancestors may have seen them.

Cordes, Kathleen, *America's National Historic Trails*, University of Oklahoma Press, 1999
917.30492 Santa Rosa, Northwest, Cloverdale, Fort Bragg, Guerneville, Petaluma, Rohnert Park

Dary, David, *The Santa Fe Trail*, Knopf, 2000
978, Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, Rohnert Park, Sebastopol

Dollarhide, William, *Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1815*. AGLL, 1997
929.378 Annex

Kelly, Charles, *Salt Lake Trails: A History of the Hastings Cutoff and Other Early Trails which Crossed the Great Salt Desert Seeking a Shorter Road to California*, Western Printing Co., 1930
79.4, Santa Rosa, Lakeport

Lewis, Marcus, *The Development Of Early Emigrant Trails in the United States, East of the Mississippi*, National Genealogical Society, 1972
929.3, Fort Bragg

McLynn, Frank, *Wagons West: The Epic Story of America's Overland Trails*, Grove Press, 2003
978.02, Santa Rosa, Northwest, Healdsburg, Lakeport, Petaluma, Rincon Valley, Rohnert Park, Sebastopol, Sonoma, Ukiah

Thompson, John, *America's Historic Trails*, National Geographic Society, 2001
917.304, Willits

Waitley, Douglas, *Roads Of Destiny: The Trails that Shaped a Nation*, Luce, 1970
973, Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Ukiah

Sonoma County SPURR Family Mystery

By Jeremy Nichols, December 2004

One of the persons I discovered while researching my history of the Sonoma County Farm and Hospital was Nora SPURR. Born about 1857 (the records are contradictory), this poor girl spent her entire adult life at the county's "poor farm" (homeless shelter). The problem I have is in determining her family. I am appealing to the readers of this newsletter for any leads they might have.

Nora SPURR of Healdsburg came to the county farm on 1 September 1878. She was listed as "idiotic," which, insensitive as

it seems today, was how people who were mentally disabled were described. Perhaps because Nora got along at the farm, she was not sent to the "Home for the Care and Training of Feeble Minded Children" (today's Sonoma Developmental Center) when it opened in 1891. Instead, Nora stayed on the farm until her death on 20 December 1928. She was buried in the cemetery there on the farm (today's Chanate Historic Cemetery); unfortunately, the location of her grave is unknown.

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What's New at the Library

By Maggi Andrews, December 2004

- 282.794 S *40th Anniversary of St. Eugene's Cathedral*, 1990 Parish Album
- 287.6 T *Striving Side by Side in Sonoma / 1850-2000 / Sonoma United Methodist Church*
by Tuller
- 367.9794 B *Bohemian Club / History, Officers and Committees, Former Officers...*
- 373.224 S *Santa Rosa High School / Re-union Classes of 1937-38*
- 373.224 S *Santa Rosa High School / Class of 1938 / 50 Year Reunion*
- 628.54 C *The Awful Offal of Sebastopol; by Cummings*
- 636.5 C *Prize List and Rules for the Annual Exhibition of the California State Poultry Association, to be held at Petaluma ... 1894*
- 636.5 S *Rules and Regulations ... Sonoma County Poultry and Pet Stock Association ... Competition ... 1891*
- 811.08 L *The Laureate / Twentieth Anniversary Edition / June 1950 [literary magazine of the Laurean Club of Santa Rosa High School]*
- 929.1 K *From Generation to Generation / How to Trace your Jewish Genealogy and Family History; by Kurzwell*
- 929.3 D *Scots-Dutch Links in Europe and America 1575-1825; by Dobson*
- 929.10899 M *Sephardic Genealogy / Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and their World; by Malka*
- 929.10899 M *Where Once We Walked / A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust; by Mokotoff and Sack*
- 929.2 A *The Asti Family Cemetery with Asti Family Genealogy; by Nichols*
- 929.2 H *Holliday Ranch Graves; by Nichols*
- 929.2 L *Recollection of Our Early Years; by Maggiora*

Continued from page 2

None of the records available to me today seem to connect Nora to any of the SPURR families living back then. The most prominent was Daniel Francis SPURR of Kentucky, an attorney who lived in Healdsburg and later moved to Mendocino County, where he died in 1902 at the age of 82. Was Nora's relationship hidden to spare the family from embarrassment?

One of the mysteries involving the family is the 1870 census, with five separately

enumerated SPURR children (Rose, age 12; James, age 10; Allen H, age 9; Jas. C., age 7; Sarah, age 4), each with a different Sonoma County family. Were these SPURR children placed with foster families after the death of their parents? Was Nora also a member of this family? Why are there no probate court (adoption) records of those children? Why is Nora SPURR not listed anywhere in either the 1860 or 1870 censuses? Please help!

Sonoma County Genealogical Society

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Coming Events

January 22, 2005: "Westward migration along the trails" presented by Jan Black.

February 26: Many people at the September meeting asked to have a presentation of genealogical internet sites. Tony Hoskins will speak on the topic of online genealogical research.

March 26: Genealogy and DNA will be presented by James Rader

April: Spring Seminar

May 28: Ray Owen will discuss investigative techniques for genealogy

Several members have expressed an interest in having a program discussing how to get started in genealogical research in other countries. The best way to do this would be a panel of experts in various countries. In order to put together a panel, I need to know in which countries people are interested. Please send an e-mail message to me at AudreyRae@earthlink.net listing the countries you would like to have represented, and I will try to put something together for a future meeting.

Special Interest Groups



British Group For information about future meetings, contact Susan Simons at 527-7191.



German Group 10 AM on Saturday, 8 January 2005 at the home of Lois Nimmo, 308 Pythian Road, Santa Rosa, CA, phone 537-1684. We will be having a general help session and discussion on topics of interest to those present. For information contact Jim Cochran at 526-7331 or cougars@sonic.net



Italian Interest Group The Italian Interest Group will be meeting January 15, 2005. For current information please contact Ines Williams at inesw@comcast.net



Computer Interest Group For information, or if you would like to be notified of future meetings, E-mail Maggie Andrews at mandr21020@aol.com



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