



Future Programs

Sonoma County Genealogical Society Monthly Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 27th

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

General Meeting at 12:30, Speaker begins at 1:00

Featured Speaker: Sandra Harris of the California State Library
“Come and gain hints and clues to effectively organize your research at the California State Library.”

The Pathway To Publish a Book

An interview with Carmen Finley by Cindy Brennan

From my vantage point today at the Armstrong Woods Visitor’s Center, I am surrounded by hundreds of redwood trees, some more than 1400 years old and up to 350 feet tall. The wonder and the magic of this beautiful park never fades. It is no wonder that the incredible plan that Colonel James B. Armstrong embarked upon to save these trees created the spark that led SCGS members Carmen Finley and Doris Dickenson, to write a wonderful book about this multi-faceted man, *Colonel James B. Armstrong, His Family and His Legacy*.



Carmen and her friend Doris, who is a trail docent and volunteer at Armstrong Woods, were working on some more extensive handouts about Col. Armstrong and his family to be given out at the Visitor’s Center. Their interest in the Colonel and his family deepened as they did their research, and when they made e-mail contact with a woman who possessed the Armstrong Family Bible, they took the plunge and drafted a prospectus for their book. The Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, a volunteer organiza-
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Annual Trip to Salt Lake City

Our annual Salt Lake City trip will be held from May 2nd to May 8th, 2010. The cost for single and double rooms is \$82 per night. Triple and quad rooms \$89 per night. (Add 12.761% tax to above, subject to change).

For more information and To reserve a room contact Audrey Herman audreyrae@comcast.net Deadline to reserve a room is March 30th, 2010.

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Special Interest Groups

GERMAN: The next meeting of the German Interest Group will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010. It will begin at 10 AM at the home of Spence Burton, 313 Smith Drive, Petaluma, phone (707) 763-9082. For more information about the German Group, email Jim Cochran at cougars@sonic.net. **Guten Abend**

COMPUTER: The Computer Interest Group usually meets on the 3rd Saturday of the odd numbered months at 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 of the British-Irish group will be Thursday, March 4, at 1:30 P.M. We will meet in the Annex.



The Pathway To Publish a Book

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tion promoting education, preservation, and restoration of the natural and cultural resources of Russian River District State Parks, were delighted with the idea and agreed to sponsor them to get it published.

The book took almost five years from start to finish. It involved extensive research, writing, following up on leads, hunting for photos, and then getting permission to use what they found. Answering one question often led to more questions. Carmen and Doris were no strangers to publishing, and in fact, they had worked on more than 20 previous projects for SCGS books. Carmen had also self-published books on various family lines, beginning in the mid-1980s. When they were about eighty percent done with this book, they found out that unlike their former publisher, who required camera-ready hard copy, this one required the document to be in Microsoft Word. Unfortunately, they had put everything into Word Perfect, and the tedious process to convert one to the other, thanks to help from the Stewards, was very cumbersome, but produced the desired results.

“Meeting several interesting people during the writing process added immeasurably to the richness that we were able to include in the book,” shares Carmen. They located an elderly Guerneville resident who had original paintings of Lizzie and Kate Armstrong (the Colonel’s daughters). This generous person allowed the use of copies of these pictures for the book.

Meeting Roy Farrington Jones, great-grandson of Parson Jones, through a visit he made to the park, proved to be fortuitous. “He shared his history and photos with us, and gave freely of his time to help us,” Carmen states. It was through the information that they gained about the overlap between the Armstrong and Jones families that they decided a second book would follow the first one!



“Now that we are researching the second book, *Parson Jones: the Life and Times of Reverend William Ladd Jones*,” says Carmen, “I recently found out that my dentist of 25 years is also a descendent of Parson Jones!”

Carmen adds, “The effort to write and publish the book was well worth it! Beside the fact that our first book has been well received, we have had the opportunity to give several Power Point presentations and have been interviewed by a local radio show.”

Other Society Happenings...

Sonoma County Historical Society news notes by Jeremy Nichols, President

Lewis and Clark Family Member Buried in Santa Rosa

A relative of 'Corps of Discovery' member George Drouillard has been discovered buried in Santa Rosa's Odd Fellows Cemetery. VanLeer Kirkman Drouillard, born January 4, 1867 in Nashville, Tennessee, was the great-grandson of Pierre Drouillard and Susan Miller. This man was hired by Meriwether Lewis as a civilian interpreter to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Also an expert hunter and woodsman, Drouillard was usually referred to in the journals as "Drewyer" by that master of misspelling, Captain Lewis.

VanLeer Kirkman Drouillard was murdered on March 9, 1911 in a tent on the Pacific shore between Timber Cove and Fort Ross. At first unidentified, the body was found on March 19th and brought to Santa Rosa for autopsy and coroner's inquest. The murderer, Louis C. Chisholm, was captured in San Francisco and brought to Santa Rosa. He at first called his victim "John D. Powell" and pleaded self-defense but the prosecutor was able to show that the victim had been shot in the back of the head. Tried and convicted, Chisholm was sentenced to life in Folsom Prison in July 1911 and only then confessed that the murdered man was Drouillard, an old friend. Chisholm had taken out a \$2,000 life insurance policy on Drouillard with the intention of collecting it himself. This murder case was the talk of the town for many days and received nationwide publicity. Although most "John Doe" cases were buried in the county cemetery, the Northcutt family took pity and had Drouillard's body buried in their family plot on the southern edge of the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, adjacent to what was then the Fulkerson Cemetery, now part of Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery. The grave was marked with a small upright tombstone that will be a century old next year.



1877 Atlas Sale Continues

The Sonoma County Historical Society has decided to continue the successful holiday sale of the 1877 Sonoma County Atlas. Packed with historical and genealogical information, the atlas is priced at \$50 plus \$4.50 tax and \$6.00 shipping. Buyers may also pick up their atlas from Tony or Katherine at the Sonoma County Library Annex and save the shipping cost.

Historical Society to have Silent Auction at Annual Meeting March 20

A silent auction of historical artifacts and other treasures will be held at the annual luncheon of the Sonoma County Historical Society on Saturday, March 20, 2010. Items donated so far include a free overnight visit to a hotel/spa in Sonoma and a champagne cellar tour with tasting and two bottles of champagne to take home. Speaking on "Changes I Have Seen" will be Sonoma County native Harry Lapham. The luncheon will be held at Legends Restaurant at the Bennett Valley Golf and Country Club. Cost is \$35 per person with a choice of three entrees. Awards for historical accomplishments will be presented and an election of officers for 2010 will be held. For details call Marjorie Torliatt at 707-545-7507.



Annual Historical Walk Planned for June 5th

Jeff Tobes will lead a 20-mile historical walk through southern Sonoma County on Saturday, June 5, 2010. The walk will commence in Petaluma and wind through the countryside to end in Tomales. Details and application forms will be posted on the historical society's web site, <http://www.sonomacountyhistory.org/>.

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.