



Sonoma County Genealogical Society Newsletter



March, 2002

Volume 11, Number 6

President's Message

by Audrey Herman, audreyrae@earthlink.net

On Saturday, March 23, 2002, the Society will hold its 10th annual seminar. This year the speaker will be James Hansen, reference librarian at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. One of his topics will be the Draper Manuscripts. These are papers collected by Lyman Draper and left in his will to the Historical Society of Wisconsin.

The subject matter of these documents includes military history, biographies, and information on pioneer families of western Virginia, the Carolinas, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Alabama, the Ohio Valley, and the Mississippi Valley for the period 1740 to the War of 1812.

In the Annex is *A Guide to the Draper Manuscripts*, by Josephine Harper (R929.3) This is another of those wonderful Annex resources which no one uses. The book contains a description of the 491 volumes and a name index. Have you looked to see if your ancestor is here? There is no need to take a trip to Madison, Wisconsin to view these papers. They have all been microfilmed and are available in many libraries, including the Family History Center and Sutro.

Come to the Seminar to find out more about these manuscripts and how to use them effectively. Go to the Annex to see if your family is included.

Hope to see everyone Saturday, March 23rd.



Spring Seminar

**Jim Hansen,
FASG**

**Luther Burbank
Center
9 A.M.
to
4 P.M.**

Wanted/Needed

Proofreaders

for SCGS projects

**Contact Carmen Finley
finleyc@sonoma.edu
or
544-2072**

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

Coming Events



March 7, 14, 21, April 4, 11 - Sacramento, CA

The American River College Extension Program will be offering "An Introduction to Family History and Genealogy" (Class code #7002.101) on Thursday evenings. Meetings from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Fee is \$69. (+\$5. fee to instructor to cover handout materials). Instructor is Chick Knuthson (916-782-5704) or cknuthson@surewest.net. Register by mail to ARC Extension, American River College, 4700 College Oak Dr, Sacramento, CA 95841, or by phone to 916-484-8843. Be sure to include the class code.

March 9 - Sacramento, CA

The Family History Day at the State Archives, sponsored by the California State Archives, Root Cellars, and the Genealogical & Historical Council of Sacramento Valley. Time is 10 am - 4:30 pm. Research, resources, computer demonstrations, preservation techniques, genealogy and historical mini-classes. 1020 "O" Street. FREE admission

March 16 - San Mateo, CA

San Mateo County Genealogical Society seminar with Christine Rose.

March 23 - Santa Rosa, CA

Sonoma County Genealogical Society Spring Seminar

James L Hansen, FASG. Topics: Draper Manuscripts; Getting Around the 1890 Census; Genealogy in Alphabetical Order. Information see

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/hansen.html>

April 13 - Carmichael, CA

Sacramento German Genealogy Society

Annual seminar held at the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. Registration 8:00 am with program beginning at 9:00 am and concluding at 4:00 pm. Trudy Schenk, AG will present the following topics: Counties and Principalities of the 18th Century - a political map of Germany; "My Ancestor Came From Germany, That's All I Know" - highlights on research in Saxony and Thuringia; Research in Germany with emphasis on primary records. Additional information (including fee and lunch arrangements) to be posted at <http://www.sacgergensoc.org/>, or contact Chuck Knuthson at cknuthson@surewest.net.

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: jmobby@mac.com

New at the Library

by Maggi Andrews

979.418

Collection of Historical Materials; Sonoma County; by Richard N. Schellens

294.3

The Enmanji Buddhist Temple in Sebastopol; by Paul Sugiyama

The Collection of Historical Materials is a two volume set of photocopied notes containing snippets of information about seemingly all the towns in Sonoma County. Some of the notes are hand written transcriptions from old newspaper articles, city directories, and map descriptions. There also copies of some actual newspapers and some typewritten accounts. There does not seem to be an overall index but the towns are in alphabetical order, and actually it is fun just to read all the information available instead of zeroing in on something specific.

Condolences

To the family of Blossom Getty who died February 9th at her home in Rohnert Park. Blossom was a member of the Sonoma County Retired Teachers Association



Gravenstein Apple Users Group and the League of Women Voters as well as SCGS.

New Librarian for Annex

(We are fortunate to have a new Librarian at the Annex. Mr. Hoskins has a very impressive background in Library Science and in genealogical research. Ed.)

Tony Hoskins' interest in genealogy began very early in life. Growing up in a small town in northern Illinois, he had the good fortune to live in close proximity to three grandparents and two great grandparents. He often says longevity plays an under-appreciated role in genealogical success in that having lots of elderly relatives nearby during one's childhood ensures the transmission of genealogical lore. Two great grandmothers (one born in England and one in Wisconsin in the 1870s) lived near him until he was in his teens; and both his grandmothers lived into their 90s – till Tony was in his 40s. He knew them well and they gave him from an early age an immeasurable “leg-up” on his family's history.

His vivid awareness of his ancestors can be illustrated by a couple of stories. As a child, he remembers his great grandmother, Julia (Comstock) Maxwell (1872-1962) telling him of her memories of her own great grandfather, Levi Lyon (1793-1890), of Delhi, Delaware County, New York. He was apparently a hale and hearty old man in the late 1870s when he carried his little great granddaughter Julia on his shoulders to the Delaware County fair. Levi Lyon told Julia of his memories of his grandfather, Seth Lyon (born in 1740), who had served in the Connecticut forces during the American Revolution. Levi Lyon also spoke to young Julia of his mother, Priscilla (Redfield) Lyon (born in 1763), and of her descent from John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden, passengers to Plymouth on the *Mayflower* in 1620. And Julia told all this to Tony, her great grandson—who, fortunately, was paying attention!

Tony worked for eleven years at Chicago's Newberry Library, where he was the genealogy and local history librarian and a teacher and lecturer on genealogy and related topics. Tony has published many articles, a book, was a presenter in a genealogy video series, and has been featured in articles both in the United States and in England. In 1997, an article about his work was published in the London *Daily Telegraph* and he was interviewed on BBC.

After four years engaged in non-genealogical work in South Florida libraries, he is delighted to be “back in the saddle again” as Genealogy, Local History and Archives Librarian of the Sonoma County Library. He very much looks forward to getting to know us all.

Sonoma County Genealogical Society

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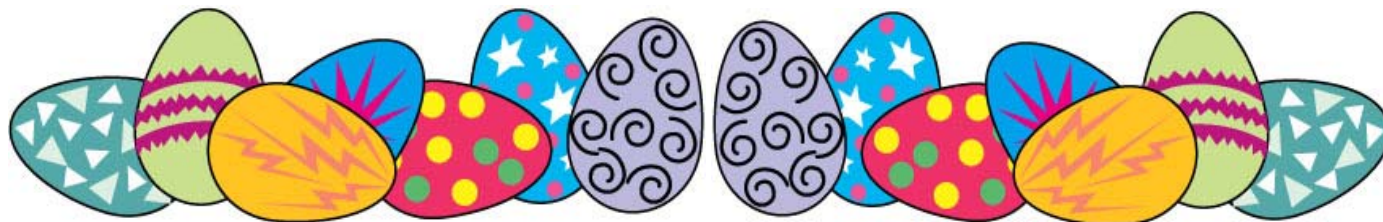
by the
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Dues
\$20 per year individual
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hold)
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book fund)
\$200 lifetime



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

The British Group will meet on Thursday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Muriel Morrow, 2331 Greenbriar Way, S.R. For directions call her at 539-4727. The subject will be the 1891 and 1901 censuses, now available electronically. <Suesimons@aol.com>.



German Group

The next meeting will be on Saturday, 2 March 2002, at 10 AM at the home of Dorothy Blake, 7245 Wilton Ave, Sebastopol, 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:

Next meeting Tuesday March 12, 2002 at the home of Helen Larson, 660 Craig Ave., Sonoma, phone 996-5140. For information about the Irish group contact Myrtle Keefe 539-0840



Jewish and Eastern European Group

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



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 meet Saturday, March 16, 2002. Our hostess will be Audrey Herman. We will meet in the Brush Creek Villa's Clubhouse at 836 Shady Oak Dr., S.R. We will have a question and answer period beginning at 1:00pm followed by the program at 1:30pm. The subjects of the program will be 1) "Super Tools", a new add-on program from Wholly Genes, which works directly with any of the genealogical software programs, to provide new research and reporting tools, timelines and charts. This will be presented by Susan Simons and Audrey Phillips. 2) "Timelines", another new add-on program which provides flexible user-controlled timelines to accompany your family history. Maggie Andrews will present this portion of our program. For further information call Betty Young, 829-2388 or e-mail punkywhy@pacbell.net



Mac Computer Group

The March 9th meeting will be held at 10AM at the home of Beth and Jim Maize, 4700 Bennett Valley Rd. Santa Rosa. For information about the Mac Group contact phone 538-3970 or e-mail <steelman@sonic.net>



Italian Interest Group

The Italian Interest Group is meeting on the third Saturday of the month. Next meeting will be on March 16th at the Family History Center, 1725 Peterson Lane, Santa Rosa, CA at 1:30 PM. For more information contact Ines Williams - E-mail address: inesw@mainspring.com



Volunteer Library Aides Program

by Fawn Hill

First Orientation Session in 2002

An enthusiastic group attended the Annex Library Aide Orientation on February 5th. They came with a strong commitment to learn what is available, how to find and use the genealogical and historical information, see the most recent additions and ultimately be prepared to volunteer at the Annex. Some participants may not have realized that volunteering at the library is a tradition of long standing within the membership of the Sonoma County Genealogical Society. It was one of the first activities sponsored under the direction of the organizing President, Dwight Curtis, in 1967. This was when the 'collection' was housed in one corner of the main library.

Audrey Hermann introduced the presenter, Sonoma County's new Annex Librarian, Tony Hoskins.

I'm certain I speak for all of us when I say we felt a surge of pride as he began with the comment that "the collection is impressive." It was a nice complement coming from a former Newberry librarian. He says plans are underway to rearrange the layout of materials, a change guaranteed to make the research process much easier and since he is expecting an increase in use of the facility he plans to add two new computers within one year's time.

Typically the orientation is conducted twice a year. Those available to volunteer as an aide on the Wednesday, 1:00–3:00 shift, should call me, Fawn Hill, at 544-2380 for an available date. For *first timers* I'll choose a Wednesday when an *old timer* is on duty so beginners may benefit from the mentoring program. The program was established about four years ago by the then Volunteer Coordinator, Lois Nimmo. It's a great way to get started.

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.

Online Indexes

1890 Great Register of Voters, Sonoma County, California

http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/gr_intro.htm
Sonoma County, California Death Records, 1873-1905 Second Edition

<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/dr.htm>
Sonoma County, California Cemetery Records, 1846-1921

http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/dar/index_intro.htm

1890 Census, Sonoma County, California, Reconstructed

http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/census/census_intro.htm

Naturalization Records of Sonoma County, California, 1841-1906

<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/nat.htm>
Naturalization Records of Sonoma County, California, 1906-1930

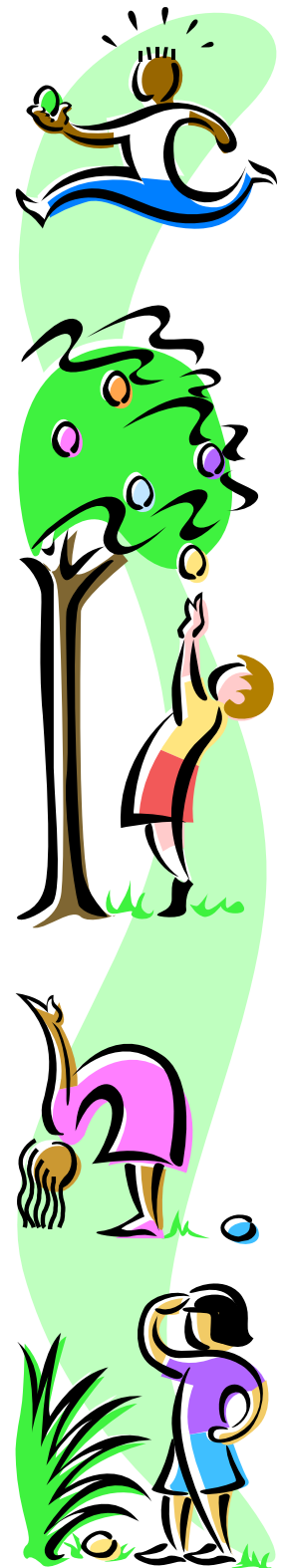
<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/nat2.htm>
Vital Data in Newspapers of Sonoma County, California, Volume I: 1855-1875

<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/news.htm>
Vital Data in Newspapers of Sonoma County, California, Volume II: 1875-1880

<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/news2.htm>
Vital Data in Newspapers of Sonoma County, California, Volume III: 1880-1885

<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/news3.htm>
Data Online Early Sonoma County, California Land Grants, 1841-1850

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/intro.htm>



Congratulations to Virginia Hershey

by Carmen J. Finley

Congratulations to Virginia Hershey for her newly acquired CGRSSM. That stands for Certified Genealogical Records Specialist. So what does that mean?

The Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG), that awarded this credential to Virginia, says their mission is “to foster public confidence in genealogy as a respected branch of history by promoting an attainable, uniform standard of competence and ethics among genealogical practitioners and by publicly recognizing persons who meet that standard.”

Beginning genealogists are often prone to accept anything in print or on the Internet as gospel and do not pay attention to documentation of the sources of their information. BCG says “don’t do that.” That is a big NO NO for any genealogist whether or not they are certified. Yet the Internet is rampant with undocumented misinformation and the same can be said for many printed genealogies and other printed materials!

Good genealogical research demands that you find and use original documents—or as near original as possible—that support your conclusions about your family. This can be done in a variety of ways. The person who becomes credentialed has demonstrated that he/ she knows how to do this.

BCG offers five different credentials in three research categories and two teaching categories.

CGRS SM	Certified Genealogical Records Specialist
CLS SM	Certified Lineage Specialist
CG SM	Certified Genealogist
CGL SM	Certified Genealogical Lecturer
CGI SM	Certified Genealogical Instructor

There are general requirements for all applicants. The applicant must:

1. Sign the Genealogist’s Code
2. Give a resumé of your background as follows:

Describe briefly your educational background,

Describe briefly your experiences in genealogical research,

List major genealogical, historical, or hereditary societies to which you belong

Identify non-English languages you read and/or write,

Discuss briefly your reasons for seeking certification, and

Discuss briefly the research facilities where you normally work.

3. Include samples of your publications.
4. Transcribe two historical documents provided by BCG and create a work plan for further research.
5. Select and cite two books, articles, finding aids, web sites, or other materials and discuss their merits and shortcomings.
6. Submit two research reports that meet specified criteria.

There are also additional requirements that are specific to each of the five certification categories.

Are YOU Chasing the Wrong Ancestor?

This writer, in her younger years, learned the hard way that a lot of time could be lost chasing the wrong ancestor. Based on information given me by a cousin, I was looking for a Clendenin ancestor. After about three years of searching and considerable \$\$\$, I discovered that branch of the family was not descended from a Clendenin, but from an Andrew Roy. However, there was a Clendenin connection in that Roy’s wife, who bore the daughter that was our ancestor, married Joseph Clendenin after Andrew Roy died.

Continued on page 7



The road to discovering one's ancestors is fraught with traps of many kinds, not the least of which is accepting someone else's word without documentation of the source. Even the documentation needs to be questioned and examined. Unacceptable sources of information include most electronic files, databases, web sites, family group sheets, letters from other researchers, lineage society applications, International Genealogical Index (IGI), and "tradition." However, these usually questionable sources may be used to lead one to the original source.

An original source, according to Mills, "is based on firsthand knowledge—be it oral or written. It is the testimony of a person relating events that he or she personally experienced or witnessed. It is an original document created by a party with firsthand knowledge of the information being recorded."¹ Everything else she classifies as a derivative source. Derivative sources can be further classified by their distance from the original source and include duplicates, transcripts, edited transcripts, abstracts, extracts, compendiums, histories, genealogies, expository essays, and traditions.

Every serious genealogist should have a copy of Mills' book. In addition to her discussion of original and derivative sources, she gives detailed guidelines for evaluating evidence to determine its reliability. She also gives detailed examples of citing both printed and Internet sources.

<http://www.bcgcertification.org/>

SCGS/newsleter/BCG article

(Footnotes)

¹Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing, 1977), 49.



Book Review

by Audrey Herman

Revolutionary War records index

Heritage Quest. \$19.95

This is a master index to the Revolutionary War pension and bounty land warrant application files reviewed in a previous issue of this newsletter. The index quickly tells you on which of the 898 CD's you ancestor is located. The original records have been scanned on the 898 CD's. A great source if you have a Revolutionary War ancestor.



2002 Workshop Schedule National Archives Pacific Region at San Bruno, CA

Thanks to Rose Mary Kennedy for providing this list!

All workshops will be held at the National Archives and Records Administration

Pacific Region (San Bruno) 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066.

To register and reserve a space contact: Rose Mary Kennedy 650-876-9009. Fees are \$15 for each workshop.

Preparing for the 1930 Census Records March 01, Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist

Preparing for the 1930 Census Records March 15, Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist

Preparing for the 1930 Census Records March 22, Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist

Census Research Including 1930 US Census Records April 19, Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist

Census Research Including 1930 US Census Records May 10, Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist

Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records May 17, Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist

Census Research Including 1930 US Census Records May 24, Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist
Military Part I - Revolutionary War to Civil War June 14, Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogist Specialist
Census Research Including 1930 US Census Records June 21, Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist
Military - Part II - Spanish American to Viet Nam July 19, Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist

**Board Meeting
March 12th, 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.

**Spring Seminar
March 23rd
Luther Burband Cent
9 A.M.-4 P.M.**

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



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