



Sonoma County Genealogical Society Newsletter

SCGS

March 2004

President's Message

by Evelyn Ross

Albert Einstein, for all his intellect, was not a genealogist. If he had been he would never have been quoted as saying "Imagination is more important than knowledge."

After the January issue of the newsletter was mailed out, I was surprised by the question from a few people, my own husband included, "Were those real people or did you just make them up?" Now I realize my mistake... **always** document and cite your sources. Thank you Elizabeth Shown Mills!

Sometimes it seems a lot of the genealogical information you find on the Internet is the product of someone's imagination. Here's another story that involves real people...

On several websites you can find the family of David Beebe and his wife Rebecca. With a little research you can find, in *Early Illinois Marriages*, evidence of the marriage of David Beebe and Rebecca Dupey on 4 Oct 1828 in Schuyler County. The 1850 Census for Schuyler County lists a Rebecca Beebe, aged 62, living with her daughter Melinda. Matching these two bits of information to the Family Group Record creates all kinds of havoc and discrepancies. The list of children doesn't include a daughter Melinda and also



shows David's youngest child Elijah was born 7 June 1815 in Switzerland County, Indiana.

Am I the only one in the world who checked *Early Court Records of Adams County, Illinois*, where David died 28 Oct 1832, and found the probate records for Rebecca Beebe Abbot and her husband John Abbot suing the estate of David and Mary Beebe, deceased, and their children for the property owned by David at the time of his death.

Oops, sorry! I'll climb down off my soap box long enough to encourage you to attend the Spring Seminar on April 24th (a registration form is enclosed with this newsletter). Elizabeth Shown Mills will be our speaker. Do you think she'll sign my copy of her book *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian?*

The names used in the story above are actual people, if any of you want complete documentation, I will be happy to share with you. Evelyn

March 27th
Meeting:

Ononyma-
tology:
*The Science
of Names*

Lark Hall,
Room 2004
SRJC

1:00pm



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

Ononymatology: The Science of Names

by Fawn Hill

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At our general educational meeting, on March 27, 2004, we will be honored to have as a speaker Dr. Donald MacRae Ph.D. Born and educated in Scotland, Switzerland, and the United States, he holds a Ph.D. in Etymology from the University of Edinburgh. He has given lectures, presentations and workshops on several different subjects including heraldry, genealogy, the origins of surnames and the history of Scottish Clans and Tartans.

For our meeting his chosen topic is "The Science of Names". He developed a strong interest, at an early age, in the Familial Sciences and became enthralled with languages and linguistics that served to be the basis of this field. The study of surnames and heraldry became the foundation for genealogy. Other studies include ethnology and ethnogenics, which pertains to the origins of race, language and ethnic groups. Also he has studied the complexities of Scottish Heraldry as an officer of the Heraldic Court of Scotland, that is, the history of the Clans of Scotland encompassing both Family and Clan Tartans.

Spring Seminar Soon!

April 24, Sonoma County Genealogical Society's 12th Annual Spring Seminar will be held at Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, featuring Elizabeth Shown Mills, nationally known lecturer and writer. More information at the society's website at www.scgs.org

Research Policy Statement

From now on, there will be a \$5.00 charge for limited lookups, which include the following: self addressed, stamped envelope, postage and handling and up to five copied pages. Additional charges will be made for research of more than one hour or more than five copied pages.

It is not surprising to learn he holds memberships in numerous prestigious societies such as here listed—the Royal Heraldry Society, Scotland; Name Society, Chicago; The American Name Society; Scottish Tartans Society, Scotland; and the International Congress of Heraldic Sciences, Geneva. He is a registered member of the American Genealogical Society, Washington, D.C., a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Edinburgh; and visiting lecturer of the Humanities Dept., University of Edinburgh. He has been, since 1968, the Director of the American Heraldic & Genealogical Institute in Sacramento California. My recommendation, to all members and friends, is circle the date of March 27th on your calendars and plan to attend this outstanding event.



One of several MacRae tartans found on this web site, Tartans of Scotland: <http://www.tartans.scotland.net/index.cfm>

Condolences

Nancy Ellen Barnard Hammitt 1929 to 2004.

Nancy passed away 28 January 2004. Our condolences go out to her children. She was always a cheerful and supportive member of the Society and will be sorely missed.

In her memory we are donating a book on Mayflower research to the Sonoma County Historical and Genealogical Library (Annex).



Drawing On the Past: Mapping Medieval England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales

by Chris Williams

Map-making is a much younger art than most people appreciate. European countries, for example, were not mapped until the 16th century. Yet the early history of any country can best be read in its original place-names and family names.

In the case of the countries that make up the British Isles these names are now found as surnames all over the English-speaking world. Using medieval records, the historical cartographer and genealogist, John Garnons Williams, has produced a fascinating series of fifty decorated hand-drawn maps that show these names as they were with their original spellings.

John's delightful maps, which come with a mass of historical information, are available in a large hand-coloured Limited Edition at \$75 and in two smaller editions for less than \$30. The maps can be seen on his web-site at <http://www.maps-maps-maps.com>. Do visit it.



Welcome New Members

Judy Keller Fox, Ernest Duck, Margaret Sommer, Chris and David King and George McKinney



Special Interest Groups

March 20, 2004, 2pm at the Santa Rosa Family History Center. The topic will be "Using Images in your Genealogical Data Base". If you would like to be notified of the CIG meetings, please e-mail Maggi at <mandr21020@aol.com>. If you are currently receiving e-mail notification, please confirm you would like to continue, as we are updating our list.



Italian Interest Group The next meeting of the Italian Interest Group will be on March 6th at the home of Ines Williams.

For more information e-mail me at: inesw@comcast.net



Family History Writing Group The writing group will meet on the first Saturday of the month (4/3 at the library annex. Please call Cheryl Doran Girard (707-865-1181) or email frymom@sonic.net for information.

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British Group The British Group will meet Thursday, March 18, 1:30 p.m. at the home of George Margeson.

We will continue our discussion of British Genealogy Internet Sites. For further info. phone Susan Simons at 527-7191.



German Group Meets at 10 am on the first Saturday of the odd-numbered months except for July.

The next meeting of the German Interest Group will be 10 AM on Saturday, 6 March 2004 at the home of Carol Tisnado, 1707 Rainier Ave., Petaluma, CA, phone 765-9968. We will be having a general help session and discussion on topics of interest to those present. For Information contact Jim Cochran at: cougars@sonic.net



Computer Interest Group The Computer Interest Group will meet

Coming Events

March 13 - Sacramento, CA

The 5th annual Family History Day at the California State Archives will be held at the California State Archives at 1020 "O" Street in Sacramento. This is a free event and is open to the public. The event features an open house, displays by genealogical and historical societies, and mini-classes on a variety of subjects, including beginning genealogy, what's available at local institutions, computer software and demonstrations, preservation techniques, and much more. See: http://www.ss.ca.gov/archives/level3_famhistday.html

NGS Annual Conference

Registration is now open for the NGS Annual Conference in the States. This year's conference will take place in Sacramento, California on 19-22 May 2004. You'll receive a substantial discount if you register before the "Early Bird" deadline on 22 March 2004. Check it out at <http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/registration.cfm>

Salt Lake Research Trip: May 2-9, 2004

Stay tuned for further information



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March 27th
Meeting:

Ononyma-
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The Science
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Lark Hall,
Room 2004
SRJC

1:00pm

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