



# SCGS

## Sonoma County Genealogical Society March 2006 Newsletter

### *Presidents Letter*

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By Tony Hoskins, March 2006

#### **Remembering Margaret “Marge” (McConnell) Stevenson (1918-2005)**

A long time member of the Sonoma County Genealogical Society – Margaret (McConnell) Stevenson – recently died. Her family very kindly donated hundreds of volumes of her genealogy collection to the Sonoma County History and Genealogy Library [the Annex]. In the entire history of the library, it has never received a donation of this size, magnitude and importance. We at the library are very grateful. This collection, used by so many of us, has been immeasurably improved and enhanced by the generosity of Marge Stevenson’s bequest.

Portions of her biographical notice will be of interest:

Margaret McConnell Stevenson passed away peacefully at home in Santa Rosa on May 10, 2005. She was 86. Marge was born May 27, 1918 in Healdsburg, CA to Fredrick and Gladys McConnell, an Alexander Valley pioneer family.

Marge attended the University of California, Berkeley. She became a registered nurse and when World War II broke out she joined the United States Navy Nurse Corps because, in her words,

“The Army was breathing down my neck.” Marge served as a Lieutenant. Among other postings, she was in charge of the orthopedic ward at Pearl Harbor.

In 1946, Marge married U.S. Navy Rear Admiral (Ret.) Harry C. “Steve” Stevenson, whom she had met at Pearl Harbor when he was a submarine skipper. In the early years of their marriage Margaret and Steve lived in London, England while Steve was Naval Attaché to the US Embassy. Later moving to the Philippines, Marge trained medical personnel and families and raised funds to care for polio patients. Her efforts brought the first iron lungs to the Philippines. When her daughter Marcia contracted polio, Marge applied a rigorous regime of treatments and physical therapy to arrest the progress of the disease and nursed Marcia to health.

After returning to Santa Rosa in 1959, Marge helped found the Community Hospital (now Sutter Hospital) Auxiliary. She served as the organization’s founding president and logged over 10,000 hours of volunteer service at Community Hospital. Marge had many and widespread interests, enjoying cooking, entertaining, playing cards and dancing.

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*April 22nd  
Meeting*

*2006 Spring  
Seminar*

*Presenting:  
Barbara Vines  
Little, CG*

*Luther  
Burbank Center  
for the Arts*

*9:00 a.m. to  
4:00 p.m*

*Please see page  
2 for 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

*Sonoma County Genealogical Society  
2006 Spring Seminar*

*Presenting nationally known lecturer and writer  
Barbara Vines Little, CG*

*Recreating Your Ancestor's Neighborhood  
Taxes: Milk Them For All They're Worth!  
Granny Possum's Pointers  
Land and Inheritance*

*Saturday, April 22, 2006  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Registration 8:00 a.m.)  
Luther Burbank Center for the Arts  
(soon to be Wells Fargo Center for the Arts)  
Harry A Merlo Theater  
Hwy 101 at River Road, Santa Rosa*

*Pre-registration \$20 SCGS members; \$25 non-members; admission at the door is \$30  
Visit the SCGS web site at [www.scgs.org](http://www.scgs.org) for more information*

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Marge was deeply patriotic, and was highly interested in history and genealogy. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sonoma County Museum, and the Luther Burbank Guild. Marge was an active member of the PEO Sisterhood and attended the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Rosa.

She was preceded in death by her husband Steve and her daughter Barbara. She is survived

by her son, Dr. Robert S. Stevenson and family; son Clinton F. Stevenson; her daughter Marcia McDonald and family; and seven great grandchildren.

The Sonoma County Genealogical Society and the Sonoma County History and Genealogy Library are immensely grateful to have had the privilege of knowing this accomplished and exemplary person – and are inexpressibly grateful for the generosity of her bequest.

## *Progress Report -- Conservation Work at the Chanate Historic Cemetery*

By Jeremy Nichols and John Dennison, February 2006

A total of 600 grave markers have now been found at the old cemetery. Many hundreds more remain to be found. At least three traditional tombstones are now known to have been at the cemetery, as another base has been found. Most people had only wooden headboards, since replaced with the "can of soup" numbered cement markers. It is hoped that the tombstones themselves will be found as the cemetery is gradually cleaned up. Researchers are at the cemetery every Wednesday afternoon between 1:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. If you wish, stop by and see their work.

## *Announcement -- Spring Clean 2006 at the Chanate Historic Cemetery*

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By Jeremy Nichols, February 2006

On Saturday, April 29, 2006, a combined city-county volunteer group plans to send as many as 100 workers to clean up the Chanate Historic Cemetery in Santa Rosa. Last year, 350 volunteers worked in parks, creeks, and streets. This year, Spring Clean is being extended to as many as 1000 volunteers and the Chanate Historic Cemetery will be one of the featured sites. Volunteers plan to meet at Howarth Park in Santa Rosa at 7:30 A.M. and will be sent out from there. Members of the Sonoma County Genealogical Society may participate or simply come and observe. To participate, you should report to Howarth Park (630 Summerfield Road) and be officially registered. To watch, simply come by the cemetery, behind the Sutter Family Health Clinic on Chanate Road, after 9:00 A.M. For more information call 707-543-3700.

Announcement information is taken from the city's "Adventure Guide" for 2006, which is on their web site <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/rp/pdf/ag/Spring2006Pgs21.pdf>. The Spring Clean announcement is on page 8 of the guide.

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## *What's New at the Library*

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By Maggie Andrews, March 2006

- 372.21 C The William H. Pepper Kindergarten : History of Sonoma County's Oldest Preschool – B. Confer
  
- 929.20974 N Spanish-Mexican Families of Early California- Vol. 3, Northrop
  
- 929.3411 M Birth Briefs of Aberdeen 1637-1705, McDonnell
  
- 929.3411 M Burgh of Paisley Poll Tax Roll 1695, McDonnell
  
- 929.371 O Ontario People : 1796-1803
  
- 929.371 P Palatine Mennonite Census Lists 1664-1793
  
- 929.373 R Rhineland Emigrants / Lists of German Settlers in Colonial America
  
- 929.373 S Loyalists of the American Revolution – Vol. I & II, Sabine
  
- 929.3748 E Early Pennsylvania Land Records – Vol. I & II, Egle
  
- 929.3748 J Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania – Vol. I, II, III, Jordan
  
- 929.375 S Special Presidential Pardons of Confederate Soldiers – Part 1 & 2, index
  
- 929.3769 I Texas Frontiersman 1839-1860, Ingmire
  
- 929.3756 E Cherokee Census / Cherokee, North Carolina / 1915-1922, Vol. I 1915-1916 & Vol. II 1917-1918
  
- 929.3789 C Origins of New Mexico Families / A Genealogy of the Spanish Colonial Period, Chavez

# *From the Archives of Genealogy Jack*

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By Ray Owens

Dear Jack,

After extensive efforts, I located a distant cousin on a maternal line which has “stumped” me for years. I telephoned her, explained we’re cousins and asked a series of questions, including if she had a family Bible with entries of births, marriages and deaths. At first, she seemed interested but quickly became evasive and concluded the call with a comment that she would get back to me. I haven’t heard anything in weeks. Any suggestions?

Dear Anxious,

It appears that your enthusiasm exceeded your judgment. Your cousin doesn’t know you from a bale of hay and, although initially receptive, after being subjected to an interrogation and inquiry about personal possessions, she obviously became defensive and skeptical of your intentions. Reminds me of the first time my spouse, Jill, who was raised in New York City, was told by a San Francisco waiter to “Enjoy.” She lashed out, “Yeah, what’s it to you!” A memorable moment. Anyway, it’s suggested that you write to your cousin, explain that in your excitement you unintentionally barraged her with questions and that you have realized the mistake. Frankly, an initial telephone call is best confined to an introduction, explanation and determination that the person would be receptive to a letter. In your letter, clearly explain the relationship and include family information which may be of interest. Offer to provide additional information and ask a limited number of questions. Don’t ask to borrow anything and offer to pay for copies. Be appreciative and share without restriction. Since your cousin was initially interested, I think you can establish a dialog. Lastly, let’s hope she wasn’t raised in New York City!

*Welcome New Members*




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EDWARDS, Donald: Researching BOGGS in CA 1846-1920; EDWARDS in NC, 1700-1900; BETHEA SC


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## *Special Interest Groups*

 **British Interest Group** There will be no meeting of the British group in April. May meeting time and place to be announced later. For information call Audrey at 539-4031.

 **German Interest Group** For more information, contact Jim Cochran at 526-7331.

**Italian Interest Group** The next meeting will be on 15 April 2006 at 10 a.m. at the home of Ines Williams. For more information e-mail Ines Williams at inesw@comcast.net. See you all then.

 **Computer Interest Group** The next meeting will be 18 March 2006, 1 p.m. at the Sonoma County Library Annex, Third & E Streets. There is parking across the street (25 cents for 20 mins.) as well as parking on the street. This will be an informal meeting with questions or something to share.



For more information, contact Maggi Andrews at 538-1775.

## Officers

President  
Tony Hoskins  
322-7192  
hoskins@sonoma.lib.ca.us

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Lorel Kapke  
996-9991  
lorelak@vom.com

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Annie Conley  
836-9833  
anniec@sonic.net

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
Muriel Morrow  
539-4727  
squid@sonic.net

Corresponding Secretary  
Evelyn Ross  
539-0926  
joneve@sbcglobal.net

Recording Secretary  
Audrey Phillips  
763-4492  
phillips96@comcast.net

Treasurer  
Lois Nimmo  
537-1684  
loisnim@sbcglobal.net

Representative-at-Large  
Jeremy Nichols  
585-6086  
jeremy@cds1.net

Representative-at-Large  
Jo Russell  
528-1127  
ljrussell@earthlink.net

Representative-at-Large  
Ray Owen  
578-0243  
raylowen@yahoo.com

Projects Committee  
Carmen Finley  
544-2072  
finleyc@sonoma.edu

Web site:  
<http://www.scgs.org>

Webmaster  
Spence Burton  
webmaster@scgs.org

Newsletter Editor  
Michelle Denham  
michelle@umbragraphics.com

Assistant Newsletter Editor  
TBA

Final Proof Reader  
Karen Hendricks

Searcher Editor  
Elva Zimmerman  
ELVAZIM@peoplepc.com

Exchange Coordinator  
Barbara Barnes  
433-1724

Book Purchases  
Audrey Herman  
539-4031  
audreyrae@comcast.net

Society Registrar  
George Margeson  
528-4614  
margesong@cs.com

Publications Sales  
Evelyn Ross  
539-0926  
joneve@sbcglobal.net

Library Liaison  
Tony Hoskins  
322-7192  
hoskins@sonoma.lib.ca.us

Seminar  
Lois Nimmo  
537-1684  
loisnim@sbcglobal.net

*Research Policy Statement:* SCGS will do limited research 'lookups' for a \$5.00 fee, which includes an SASE, postage & handling, and up to 5 pages copied. Additional charges will be made for research of more than one hour or more than 5 copied pages.

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\$25 per year individual or family (one household)

\$30 contributing (\$5 to book fund)

\$200 lifetime