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## Sonoma County Genealogical Society March 2007 Newsletter

### *President's Letter*

By Audrey Herman, March 2007

We have a new publisher for the *Searcher*, Karen Gould. You should find copies of the Spring 2005 issue in your mail box soon. Yes, I do mean 2005, not 2007. We are two years behind in publication of the *Searcher*, but with Karen's help hope to catch up and get back on schedule. If you have submitted any articles for the *Searcher*, and you have not seen them in print, please resubmit those articles to Karen [gouldk@pacbell.net](mailto:gouldk@pacbell.net).

For the 2006 issues we would like to have family stories about the 1906 earthquake. If your family lived in the Bay Area at that time, we would like to have that story. Send these also to Karen.

Articles on any other topics are always gratefully accepted. If you have something already written or any ideas for topics you would like to see in the *Searcher* let me know.

We are also still looking for genealogy or history books to sell at the Seminar in April. Bring your outdated or no longer needed genealogy books to a meeting, take into the Annex, or we can arrange a pick up for a large collection. Contact me [audreyrae@comcast.net](mailto:audreyrae@comcast.net) to arrange a pickup

*March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Meeting*

*1:00-3:00  
"Personal  
History  
Productions"*

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*Speakers:*

*Andi Reese  
Brady and  
Susan Milstein*

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*Finley  
Community  
Center 2060  
W. College  
Avenue  
Santa Rosa*

**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

Volume 17, Number 3

## *March 24, 2007 Meeting: Personal History Productions: Andi Reese Brady and Susan Milstein*

Andi Reese Brady and Susan Milstein are personal historians who help people record their life stories and publish them in beautiful heirloom-quality books that can be handed down from generation to generation.

Andi and Susan's clients are typically people whose parents are getting older and who are worried about missing the opportunity to record family stories. Other clients are people who have tried to write their own memoirs but who need professional help with writing, editing and production.

Andi holds a master's degree in English from Brigham Young University, teaches English at the university level, and has worked for many years in the publishing industry. She most recently was a senior project editor at a division of Random House.

Susan is an award-winning journalist who worked as a reporter for daily newspapers, including the *Atlanta Journal*, the *Dallas Times Herald*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from Duke University.

Andi and Susan own Personal History Productions, a custom-publishing company based in Santa Rosa.

### *Book Review*

By Audrey Herman

Sykes, Brian. *Saxons, Vikings, and Celts: the genetic roots of Britain and Ireland*. Norton, 2006. \$26.95  
ISBN 978-0-393-06268-7 Library call number 576

I saw this book in an ad and thought it would be a fun book to read. I had read previously his book *The Seven Daughters of Eve*. Using DNA that book showed how almost all European women are descended from one of seven women.

This book is even more fascinating. It is part history, part archeology, and part genetics. Through DNA research he shows how each successive wave of conquerors was absorbed into the existing population.

The original inhabitants were of Celtic origin and probably walked over from mainland Europe when Britain and Ireland were connected by land to Europe. These people are known to us as Picts. The Celts coming to Ireland arrived later and probably by sea. The Angles, the Saxons, and the Viking invaders did not bring women with them and would kill the native men and marry their women. Thus the female line in Britain is almost always Celtic and the male line is Saxon or Viking. The exception is some Viking settlers in northern England brought women with them.

Although my English grandfather was blond and blue eyed, his father in pictures appears almost Italian looking. I imagined descent from a Roman soldier. It seems the Roman legions in Britain were from Germany or Gaul, therefore they were Saxons or Celts. Guess I will have to settle for a Celt contributing to his coloring. The Romans also brought slaves with them from sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East adding a little exotic mix to British ancestry.

The Normans, who were the last group to invade Britain, are of Viking and Celt descent

Some parts of the book get extremely technical, but the major portion is quite readable and most interesting. I never knew the Romans brought elephants to Britain. If you have any English ancestry you will want to read this book.

## *Special Interest Groups*

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**British Interest Group:** Information not available.



**German Interest Group:** The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2007. The meeting will begin at 10 am at the home of Lorel Kapke, 17003 Park Ave., Aqua Caliente, CA, phone 996-8880. Contact Jim Cochran, 526-7331, for more information.



**Italian Interest Group:** The next meeting will be on March 15, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Ines Williams. For more information, e-mail Ines at [inesw@comcast.net](mailto:inesw@comcast.net)



**Computer Interest Group:** Information not available.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Lisa **Pierce** of Sebastopol and Margaret **Dunton** of Santa Rosa.

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These are copies of actual correspondence received by the Family History Department.

Submitted by Carmen Finley

1. Our 2nd great-grandfather was found dead crossing the plains in the library.
2. He and his daughter are listed as not being born.
3. I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family.
4. Will you send me a list of all the Dripps in your library?
5. My Grandfather died at the age of 3.
6. We are sending you 5 children in a separate envelope.
7. Documentation: Family Bible in possession of Aunt Merle until the tornado hit Topeka, Kansas. Now only the Good Lord knows where it is.
8. The wife of #22 could not be found. Somebody suggested that she might have been stillborn-- what do you think?
9. I am mailing you my aunt and uncle and 3 of their children.
10. Enclosed please find my Grandmother. I have worked on her for 30 years without success. Now see what you can do!
11. I have a hard time finding myself in London. If I were there I was very small and cannot be found.
12. This family had 7 nephews that I am unable to find. If you know who they are, please add them to the list.
13. We lost our Grandmother, will you please send us a copy?
14. Will you please send me the name of my first wife? I have forgotten her name.
15. A 14-year-old boy wrote: "I do not want you to do my research for me. Will you please send me all of the material on the Welch line in the U.S., England and Scotland countries? I will do the research."
16. I would like to know how many descendants I really have?

## **Officers**

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### *Website:*

<http://www.scgs.org>

*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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Dues:           \$25 per year individual or family (one household)  
                  \$30 contributing (\$5 to book fund)  
                  \$200 lifetime

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