



SCGS

Sonoma County Genealogical Society November 2006 Newsletter

Presidents Letter

By Audrey Herman, September 2006

Please remember that the program this month will be on the third Saturday instead of the fourth. We will meet at the Finley Center, Saturday, November 18. Tony will do his question and answer program at Noon and the regular meeting will follow at 1 P.M.

In your genealogical research, have you found grandparents who were married at an extremely young age, and you assumed there was a mistake with the dates? There may be no mistake as this article taken from the Press Democrat of 10 January 1906 shows:

"The colder the country the longer the interval between birth and legal marriage. Russia requires the man to be at least eighteen and the woman sixteen, but in Turkey, as soon as the happy pair can walk and are sufficiently intelligent to understand the religious ceremony they are pronounced husband and wife.

"Eight year old heads of families are by no means uncommon in the East Indies, and China is as liberal in its laws on the subject. In Greece, fourteen and twelve are the legal ages for man and woman, respectively, and the same obtains in Hungary, but only in the Catholic Church, the Protestant denominations requiring an additional two years.

"Austria, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland follow the Grecian custom, and the same is true in Spain, where the poverty of the country is attributed directly to the early marriages. In Russia, Saxony and England eighteen years is the limit for men, as it is in this country, although in Mexico and Latin America fourteen year old husbands are not uncommon."

*November 18th
Meeting*

12:00-1:00

*Tony Hoskins:
Q&A*

1:00-3:00

*"My Checkered
Life..."*

*Speaker Fern
Henry*

*Finley
Community
Center
2060 W College
Avenue
Santa Rosa*

Visit Our Web Site at www.scgs.org

The Sonoma County Genealogical Society is a nonprofit organization which encourages interest in Genealogy and Family History

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November 18, 2006 Meeting: *My Checkered Life: Luzena Stanley Wilson in Early California*

By Lorel Kapke, August 2006

Enjoy a historic stroll through 19th Century America with author Fern Henry as she introduces her highly-readable book, *My Checkered Life: Luzena Stanley Wilson in Early California*. Luzena was a gutsy pioneer who came to California in the Gold Rush and later wrote a memoir. Her stories take us through her family's dramatic ups and downs and follow their search for a stable life from Sacramento to Nevada City to Vacaville to San Francisco.

Reprinting Luzena's classic memoir as the basis for her book, Fern broadened the narrative scope by adding period engravings, rare photographs, and maps to her extensively researched new material. This diligent and creative historical detective work filled in the gaps in the tale of this memorable American woman and her family. Luzena is often cited and quoted in documentaries and anthologies about the West. (Luzena will be one of seven '49ers featured in an upcoming episode of PBS' American Experience in early 2007.) However, Fern is the first to fact-check Luzena's memoir and uncover fresh details, using both genealogical and historical research techniques.

Books will be available for purchase (and signing) in both hard and soft cover editions.

What's New at the Library

By Maggie Andrews, October 2006

- 363.69 K *Legacy—Portraits of 50 Bay Area Environmental Elders*, Kittle & Hart
- 385.5 C *Northwestern Pacific Railroad*, Codoni & Trimble
728. W *Signature Architects of the San Francisco Bay Area*, Weinstein
- 929.3755 D *Jamestowne Ancestors 1607-1699 / Commemoration of the 400th Anniversary of the Landing at Jamestowne 1607–2007*, Davis

Workshops

The Sonoma County Library is offering two workshops to help their patrons take advantage of the Internet :

Introduction to the Internet (Sat. 11/4/06 & Tues. 11/7/06: 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

This free workshop is for those interested in using the Internet but who have not yet learned how. We'll be covering how to access the Internet, how to use the homepage, and basic information so you can start surfing the Web. There will be time for questions. Prerequisite: General knowledge of using computer/mouse. Workshops do not cover e-mail.

Finding Books, Magazines, CDs, DVDs, & More (Tues. 11/14/06 & Sat. 11/18/06: 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

Check our online catalog to find books, magazines, CDs, DVDs and more from any place you have Internet access: home, school, work, or the library. We'll show you the main features of our Sonoma County Library home page and how to use it effectively. Our home page also links you to other fabulous features of interest. There will be time for questions.

Workshops are in the local History and Genealogy Annex, behind the Central Library. Sign-ups required at the Central Reference Desk or call 545-0831.

From the Archives of Genealogy Jack

By Ray Owens

Dear Jack,

I'm having a terrible time getting information from local libraries. I write and ask for everything they have on my family line but receive little more than general information. I can't travel to these places, and I'm certain more is recorded in the local sources. Any suggestions?

Whoa! You're asking for too much with too little specificity. While often production sources, libraries simply do not have the staff to do comprehensive research, and it's not their job to do so. It is suggested you do as much preliminary research as you can before requesting a specific item or two. Use the resources of the Family History Library, the inter-library loan system, newspaper microfilms and other sources to refine your question. Then be as specific as possible when contacting a local library. This will enhance the prospect of receiving meaningful data. Also, don't regale the librarian with your family history as it simply clutters the issue at hand. Be simple, direct and courteous. Lastly, a modest donation to the library is always appreciated.

Good luck!

Special Interest Groups



British Interest Group The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 14 at 1:30 P.M. at the home of Marie Nottingham, 4496 Sonoma Mountain Road.



German Interest Group The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2006. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. The meeting location has not been determined yet (as of 9-18-06). Call Jim Cochran at 526-7331 for more details.



Italian Interest Group There will be no meetings of the Italian Interest Group until after the first of the year. For more information, e-mail Ines Williams at inesw@comcast.net.



Computer Interest Group The next meeting may be on Saturday, November 25, 2006, 1 p.m., at the Sonoma County Library Annex located at Third & 'E' Streets in Santa Rosa. There is parking across the street (25 cents for 20 mins.) as well as parking on the street. November 25th is the Saturday after Thanksgiving, so there may not be enough interest. Please e-mail Maggi Andrews at mizgriz@sbcglobal.net if you want to get together.

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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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