



Sonoma County Genealogical Society Newsletter



scgs

April 2003

President's Message

by Evelyn Ross

Hopefully by the time you read this you're income for 2002 has been accurately calculated, expenses and deductions identified, receipts and records neatly organized and all is filed away in a safe place where, Heaven forbid, you can find things quickly should you have to prove to the IRS that trip to every cemetery in Ireland really was a medical expense.

Now with that annual exercise out of the way you can once again turn to family history research and pickup right where you left off. Can you put your hands on any name, date, or place in 15 seconds? Has all that stuff multiplied, moved itself to another shelf, file drawer, or stack while your back was turned? You are not alone!

It seems organizing genealogy is a never-ending challenge. The trick is to find a system that works for you and stick with it. If you are just beginning your family research the task will be easy. If you've been at this project for a few years things could be a little more complicated. I'm somewhere in between, and what seems to be working for me began with a color coding idea presented by Mary E.V. Hill from the Family History Library in Salt Lake. Then I added a bit from here and a piece from there (see list at the end of this article). Maybe I can't find a specific piece of

information in 15 seconds, but 15 minutes is reasonable compared to the 15 days it would have taken a few years ago.

Whether it's by color, numbers, or alphabet I encourage you to find a system that's a fit for you and easy for others to figure out what you've done.

One more important step – get your research onto a computer, then back-up your files and store them in a safe place away from your home. Put them in a bank safe deposit box or give them to a family member.

Now, don't you feel better?

Bibliography

Mary E.V. Hill, www.familyrootsorganizer.com 123 Genealogy.

Organizing Your Family History Search, Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. Betterway Books. 1999.

Genealogy, the Internet, and Your Genealogy Computer Program, Karen Clifford. Genealogical Publishing, Inc. 2001.



April 26th
Meeting:

Nancy
Morebeck,
Author,
Teacher and
Lecturer
"Locating
Union and
Confederate
Records"

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

Speaker News

Officers

President
Evelyn Ross
539-0926
eross930@aol.com

1st Vice President
Fawn Hill
544-2380
fawnhill@compuserve.com

2nd Vice President
Annie Conley
431-2253
anniec@sonic.net

3rd Vice President
Tony Hoskins
thoskins48@hotmail.com

Recording Sec.
Audrey Herman
539-4031
audreyrae@earthlink.net

Corresponding Sec.
Audrey Phillips
763-4492
phillips@sun.net

Treasurer
Janice Chamberlain
542-5862
janicec@sonic.net

Rep.-at-Large
Muriel Morrow
539-4727
squid@sonic.net

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

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

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

by Fawn Hill

Nancy Morebeck, Author, Teacher & Lecturer

“Locating Union and Confederate Records”
Nancy has lived in Vacaville for the past 31 years. She has been researching her ancestry for over 20 years. Since 1992 she has taught beginning courses through the local Genealogical Society, at community centers, museums and archives as well as her local Junior college.

Nancy speaks often, at seminars, on the subject of Civil War Draft and Military

Records Research, a topic about which she has published two books. This year she serves as President of the Solano County Genealogical Society. Her published works include an index to that county’s ‘property owners and township lists of historical atlas maps’ and an index to ‘northern California marriages – 1850-1860.



From Jo Russell's Mailbox

by Jo Russell

From Lauren Boyd
<confido@ix.netcom.com>

Dear Listers:

I just received word that Burkes has just added the first draft of their Free A-Z guide at

<http://www.burkes-peerage.net/sites/common/sitepages/reindex.asp>

This is a *free* resource which will be expanded over time, but aims to help people find information, definitions and links on a host of terms related to British history, society and tradition.

I have taken a peek and found it to be useful and informative.

Check with your local library to see if they have subscribed to the Burkes site. This may afford you another way to view more in depth information that requires a password. If your library has not signed up for this subscription, and if you feel it would be useful to the genealogists and historians in your neck of the woods, you might ask them to look into it. The advantage to their getting the online

subscription for their patrons is that it does not take up any shelf space. In my county, shelf space is an issue.

Ancestry Questions

Many of us have had questions about what is posted on Ancestry.com.

Juliana Smith addressed some of those questions in “Ancestry Daily News”, 10 March 2003. I copied the link which I believe will connect you to the library where the Daily News and other Ancestry sponsored newsletters are archived. Hope this answers some of your questions.

If you do miss a newsletter, there is an online version of most articles available in the Ancestry.com Library.

<<http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles/dailynews.asp>>



*Evelyn says,
“We need you! Be a
volunteer”*

The 2003 FGS Conference

Press Release

"Countdown to Discovery: A World of Hidden Treasures"

Getting ready to blast off on 3-6 September 2003 in Orlando, Florida!! Hosted by the Florida State Genealogical Society, this conference will be held at the famous Renaissance Orlando Resort at SeaWorld. Over 175 lectures will be featured on such entertaining and educational topics as Charting a Course to the Old World (British Isles & Europe), Exploration in the New World (United States & Canada), Riches

in the First Colony (Focus on Florida), Diverse Voyagers (Ethnic & Religious Research), Tools for Successful Navigation (Skills & Strategies), A Wealth of Hidden Treasures (Records Research), and JustmOver the Horizon (Technology & the Internet)! Tuesday, September 2, features an all-day workshop for Librarians Serving Genealogists, and Wednesday, September 3, will include the FGS Society Management Conference and the APG Professional Management Conference. Many exhibitors will also be on hand to offer their exciting products and services!

Conference attendees will enjoy the comfort and convenience of combining their conference classes, dining experience, and lodgings all within the luxurious Renaissance Hotel. Extra large sleeping rooms will accommodate up to four people at the same low price, complete with data ports and many other special accessories in every room.

In addition, this conference offers a perfect opportunity for you to combine a perfect get-away vacation with your family before or after the conference!! Orlando is the #1 travel destination in the world, and many of these tourist attractions are just

minutes away from the Conference site! Visit Walt Disney World, which includes the Magic Kingdom, EPCOT, Animal Kingdom, and Disney-MGM Studios, as well as Universal Studios, SeaWorld, Kennedy Space Center, Bok Singing Tower, and many, many other wonderful places!

For details, visit the FGS web site at <www.fgs.org> or email them at

<fgs-office@fgs.org>. You can also subscribe to the conference e-zine at:

<<http://www.fgs.org/2003conf/conf-ezine.htm>>.

Condolences

Bill Murray, long time member of Sonoma County Genealogical Society, passed away on 8 March 2003. Bill had served in many volunteer capacities, and for many years was leader of the Irish special interest group. He had also served as president and as the vice president for program. He was 80 years old. His wife Frances, also a member, survives him as well as a son and daughter.



Sonoma County Genealogical Society

Website:
<http://www.scgs.org>
Webmaster
Spence F. Burton
Webmaster@scgs.org

Newsletter Editor
Janet Mobley
(707) 763-6317
janmobley@mac.com

Ass't. Editor
Carol Tisnado
CarolTis@aol.com

Final Proof Reader
Karen Hendricks
kchen@humboldt1.com

Searcher Editor
Claire Miller
539-2858
kermill@aol.com

Library Coordinator
Audrey Herman
539-4031
audreyrae@earthlink.net

Registrar
George Margeson
528-4614
margesong@cs.com

Publications Sales
Janice Chamberlain
542-5862
janicec@sonic.net

Publications Exchange
Virginia Murphree
542-5429
bumblebee299
@netzero.net

Seminar
Lois Nimmo
537-1684
loisnim@aol.com

SCGS Projects Progress Report: March 2003

by Carmen J. Finley

SCGS Projects Progress Report, March 2003

Pueblo de Sonoma Court Records: Expedientes 1841-1849
Twenty-one documents originally written in Spanish have been translated and abstracted by Camelia O'Connor and will soon be ready for limited distribution. Final corrections are being made and one diagram is still to be added.

Sonoma County Historical Records Commission

A page has been added to the Sonoma County Government web site. It includes a link to SCGS and to our Early Sonoma County Land Grants.

1930 School Census

Proofing has been completed and the data are being checked for consistency.

School Attendance Records

Proofing is about 95% complete on this project.

Vital Data in Newspapers

We are nearing completion of entering and proofing volume V, 1891-1895. Abstracting and entering information for volume VI, 1896-1900 continues.

Online Indexes

We now have fourteen indexes online. Our SCGS web page and SCGenWeb list all of them. The Library Annex has not been able to list the last four as yet.



A New Genealogy Scam?

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2003 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.RootsForum.com>.

The 3 March 2003 version of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter -Standard Edition

Rumors are flying around that claim a new scam is underway. Reportedly, a certain Web site is offering introductory 5-day free trials to access a "genealogical search library and reference books." The site assures that the "5 Day Trial is 100 % Free for the First 5 Days. Cancel before [the] end of trial and nothing will ever be billed." After five days, the charge is to be \$59.99.

The hapless buyer enters credit card information into the Web site and is then given access to the site. Sadly, the site is simply a collection of links that point to many free genealogy sites. In other words, it isn't worth two cents

With this realization, the buyer sends an e-mail to cancel the subscription before the fifth day. However, the e-mail address that was displayed as the cancellation address is invalid, and the e-mail bounces

back to the duped subscriber. On the sixth day the con artists charge \$59.99 to the credit card.

Here is the problem: all the rumors floating around state that "someone" was charged. No names seem to be mentioned. I'd like to substantiate rumors. If definitive proof is available, the scam artist can be shut down. However, this requires more than an e-mail stating that "somebody" was bilked.

A message section on this newsletter's Discussion Board is open for discussion about this topic. If you have any knowledge of the scam operation in question, please post a message on the newsletter's Discussion Board.

New at the Library

by Maggi Andrews

- 917.3 C The Columbia Gazetteer of North America
- 912. C The Columbia Gazetteer of the World (3 volumes)
- 317.9418 S 2002 Economic and Demographic Profile of Sonoma County

2003 Research Trip to Salt Lake City

Research your family roots in the Family History Library



Stay at

Best Western Salt Lake Plaza

4 May to 11 May

Cost: \$660.00 single occupancy
\$340.00 per person double occu-

There will be a one hour seminar at the hotel Sunday evening or early Monday morning. Based on preferences expressed by previous groups this class will be "Getting the Most Out of U. S. Research in Salt Lake City". George Ott or another member of the Heritage Consulting staff will conduct this class. The class will discuss locating various materials in the library and offer tips to make your research more successful.

If the group is interested in a second class the cost is \$100.00 per class. There are five additional topics listed. Past groups have elected to devote their time to research and attend one or more of the "Brown Bag" sessions in the Discovery Shop located in the shopping mall across from the Temple. The schedule of the noon sessions will be presented during the free lecture. Individuals may choose any topic of interest and attend that session at a nominal fee.

Mail registration to: Jo Russell, 4344 Brookshire Circle, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Full Payment due no later than 17 April. Make checks payable to Leola J. Russell.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Name of roommate if applicable _____

Questions??? Contact: Jo Russell (707) 528-1127 E-mail: ljrussell@earthlink.net

This and That

From an Internet Friend

Good Advice

A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your check book they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address.° If you do not have a

PO Box use your work address.

Never have your SS# printed on your checks (DUH!)—you can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel.

Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad.

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards, etc. Unfortunately I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.

File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important: (I never even thought to do this).

Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done.

There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are:

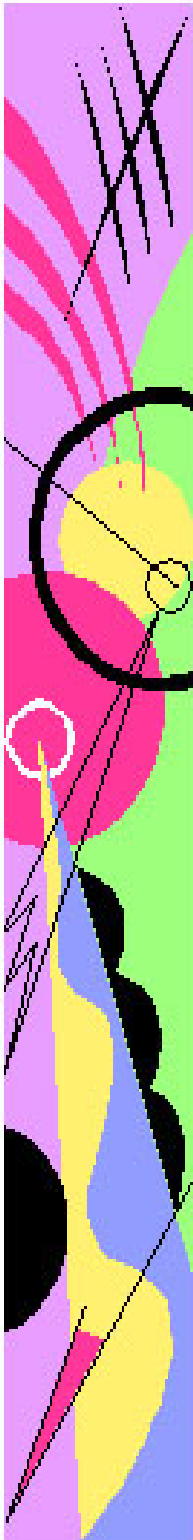
Equifax: 1-800-525-6285 Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289 Social Security Administration

(fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

We pass along jokes on the internet; we pass along just about everything.

Pass this information along. It could really help someone you care about.



Special Interest Groups



British Group

For information, call Susan Simons, 527-7191 or e-mail to: suesimons@aol.com.



German Group

The next meeting of the German Interest Group will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, 3 May 2003, at the home of Bob Overcashier, 4755 Granada Drive,

Santa Rosa. Bob can be reached at 538-3505. For information about the

German Group, contact Jim Cochran at telephone 526-7331, or by e-mail at [<cougars@sonic.net>](mailto:cougars@sonic.net).

For information about the German Group, contact Jim Cochran at telephone 526-7331, or by e-mail at [<cougars@sonic.net>](mailto:cougars@sonic.net).



Irish Group:

For information about the Irish Group call Myrtle Keefe at 539-0840, or



Jewish and Eastern European Group

No meetings in scheduled. Contact Suzanne S. Waxman, phone 538-4378



Computer Group

The next meeting will be at the Family History Center on Peterson Lane. For information, call Susan Simons, 527-7191 or e-mail to: suesimons@aol.com.



Italian Interest Group

The Italian Interest group will meet on May 17th at the home of Ines Williams. For more information e-mail me at inesw@attbi.com Come join us.

Seminar a Big Success

by Lois Nimmo

Thanks to the Seminar Committee

Once again we can be proud of our Seminar Committee. These dedicated, competent representative of our Society just get better and better, and I personally thank each one of them for the time and effort they give.

Janice Chamberlain, Treasurer

Carmen Finley, Speaker Liaison & Internet Publicity

Tony Hoskins, Publicity

Virginia Murphree, Exhibitors

Ray Owen, Registration

Audrey Phillips, Registrar & Secretary

Evelyn Ross, President of Society

Helen Strickley, Raffles

And a special thanks to Cathy Stevenson, who at the last minute stepped in to help with the Seminar program; Annie Conley who took over the table selling our speaker's books; and Jo Russell, who constantly publicizes our Seminar.

These people give endlessly of their time and talents, and we give them many thanks!



Speaker Sharon DeBartolo Carmack and
SCGS President Evelyn Ross

(Editor's Note: From an attendees point of view, I thought it was a very interesting and worthwhile seminar. Sharon was a delightful and humorous speaker with lots of tips and information, the facility was ample and the lunch was more than enough and very tasty. Everything went smoothly so what more could we want?)

Coming Soon

A special dedication ceremony for the Tracy Historical Museum will be held next Sunday, March 30 from 1-4pm at 1141 Adam Street in Tracy.

The building that houses the museum was built in 1936 and originally served as Tracy's post office. The Tracy Area Genealogical Society (TAGS) has its library and research room upstairs in this building and welcomes all CSGA members and their families and friends to come to Tracy to share in the festivities. There will be music, refreshments, antique cars and tours of the building. We'd love to see you there!

Northern Arizona Genealogical Society
Spring Seminar Saturday, May 03, 2003
www.rootsweb.com/~aznags

The 2003 Spring Seminar features:

Jana Sloan Broglin, member NGS, FGS, APG, Speakers Guild, First Families of Ohio, Society of Civil War Families of Ohio, The Fulton Chapter, OGS and the Indiana Genealogical Society.

Location: American Lutheran Church 1085 Scott Drive, Prescott, AZ

Doors Open 8:00 AM ~ Program starts 9:00AM ~ Program ends 4:00 PM

Sonoma County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 2273
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0273

General Meeting

*April 26th Meeting:
Nancy Morebeck, Author,
Teacher and Lecturer
"Locating Union and
Confederate Records"*

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P.O. Box 2273

Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0273

Dues:

\$20 per year individual or family (one household)

\$25 contributing (\$5 to book fund)

\$200 lifetime

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