



Sonoma County Genealogical Society Newsletter

February 2004

President's Message

by Evelyn Ross

Have you ever wanted or had the need for a mentor? Someone to be at your side talking you through an unfamiliar process. With my computer there are three or four people I rely on to lead me through such confusing mazes as bar graphs, defragging, and e-mail attachments. Installing software is a frightening thought and now when technology is ready to move on...I'm steeling my nerves to attempt a Power Point presentation.

Are you aware of some inexpensive treasures that can serve as silent little mentors to help you through your genealogy mazes? They're called Research Outlines, published by the Family History Library in Salt Lake.

There's a general outline for the U.S. that introduces you to basic research strategies and teaches terminology. It includes an alphabetical list of federal and nationwide sources for records, describing their contents, uses and accessibility.

For more specific research, there are outlines for each of the 50 states, and several countries and regions of the world. There are some new full color editions that actually include pictures of original records, so you can become familiar with what the records contain and how to read them.

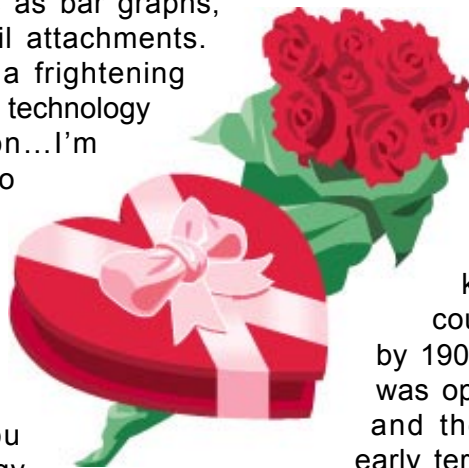
It's amazing what's in these booklets. For the states they list addresses of libraries and archives as well as state



historical and genealogical societies. Just a quick look through the outline for Michigan shows a time line for the state. Did you know all of Michigan's 83 counties had been settled by 1900? Their first land office was opened in Detroit in 1818 and there are more than 20 early territorial censuses (1827, 1837, and 1847 have been indexed and published).

I've focused on U.S. Research Outlines, but there are several available for Western and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Canada and it's 10 Provinces. As well as ethnic groups like Jewish Genealogy and African/American studies. Each one gives you not only the *sources you should be using* but also, if they are available through the library, they include the FHL film numbers.

The cost of these helpful little mentors is just a dollar or two. The slick newer editions cost a bit more. They're available at local Family History Centers, or you can order them on-line at www.familysearch.org.



February
28th
Meeting:

Virginia
Kysh:
Cleaning
Up Your
Data Base

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

Cleaning Up Your Database

by Fawn Hill

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Native Californians are consistent. At least those we've had as guest speakers for our educational programs. When I ask them what they enjoy most about getting out and giving lectures and presentations, almost always the answer is, "meeting and making friends among other genealogists." So it is with Virginia Kysh who grew up in Calaveras County, a fourth generation Californian. She will be our speaker on February 28th at the SCGS Educational meeting which is as usual to be held at 1:00pm in Room 1004, Lark Hall, Santa Rosa JC. Although she admits her family always comes first, the wide circle of friends she has made throughout the world of genealogical researchers runs a close second.

On the subject of family she will jokingly tell you she, "Married her husband for his genealogy and not, as he thinks, for his money." Of their five children, three are still in school, one each at UC Berkeley, UC Davis and the local Junior College. Two others are married, giving her that much sought after title of *mother-in-law* which pleases her greatly.

Her interest in genealogy began over 30 years ago. At first her focus was on researching her own family. Then in order to help her mother with one of their difficult lines she took a class at the local JC and has been 'hooked' ever since. She has continued taking classes, including Spanish and Computer Science, and has devoted countless hours as a volunteer helping others learn. She has served in the history centers and historical and genealogical societies in Livermore, Hayward, San Ramon, and Contra Costa. She served as training director at the Family History Centers in Modesto as well as Antioch where at present she is Technical Support Director. Also she is the main taxi driver for folks who come and go to the local repositories; Sutro and National Archives at San Bruno. For her it is not a job but a 'passion.'

It's hard to imagine her taking classes with such a varied and impressive educational background that includes a BS in Elementary Education, a Minor in Library Science, and past experience working at Stanislaus College Library as well as at Brigham Young University Library and Bindery. For her, the essence of it all is to have a desire to learn and share her knowledge.

500 Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems.

Audrey Herman audreyrae@earthlink.net:

Family Chronicle magazine, 2003.

ISBN: 0-9731303-1-8 \$25.00

A blurb on the jacket says "this collection of 500 brickwall solutions shows how genealogists and family historians have found ways around their research problems, using the latest technology, or tried and true research techniques, combined with logic and perseverance, to overcome their genealogy brickwalls.' They should have added serendipity, or plain dumb luck.

There are 500 different stories on how a person solved his particular problem. Many are stories of blindly sending out letters and having an unknown

cousin reply, or persevering for years on a problem only to discover that an ancestor spelled the name differently, or Grandpa was known by his middle name, but the records are under his first name. Joining a local genealogical society, or asking a librarian are some other methods used. Researching an uncommon name and having ancestors live in a small town also helps.

I found no suggestions to help me research Nielsen in Copenhagen, or William Smith in Birmingham, England, I doubt you will find a solution to your brickwall problems either, but if you want a little light reading this book is for you. None of the stories are more than a few paragraphs.

Sonoma County Sites to Research

Sent by Carmen Finley

Online Indexes

- 1890 Great Register of Voters, Sonoma County, California:

http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/gr_intro.htm

- Sonoma County, California Death Records, 1873-1905:

Second Edition:

<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/dr.htm>

- Sonoma County, California Cemetery Records, 1846-1921:

http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/dar/index_intro.htm

1890 Census, Sonoma County, California, Reconstructed:

http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/census/census_intro.htm

Naturalization Records of Sonoma County, California, 1841-1906:

<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/nat.htm>

Naturalization Records of Sonoma County, California, 1906-1930:

<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/nat2.htm>

Vital Data in Newspapers of Sonoma County, California, Volume I: 1855-1875:

<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/news.htm>

Vital Data in Newspapers of Sonoma County, California, Volume II: 1875-1880:

<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/news2.htm>

Vital Data in Newspapers of Sonoma County, California, Volume III: 1880-1885:

<http://rootsweb.com/~cascgs/news3.htm>

Data Online

Early Sonoma County, California Land Grants, 1841-1850:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/intro.htm>

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.

Special Interest Groups



British Group

Email to: suesimons@aol.com, or call Susan Simons at 527-2580.

Next British Group meeting will be Thursday, February 19th, 1:30 p.m. at the home of Susan Simons, 459 Nikki Drive, Santa Rosa. Several members of the group will share information from various chapters of the new guide to British internet research, "The Genealogists' Internet." For further information or directions, call Susan 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

Meeting next on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2004 at 2 P.M., at the Santa Rosa Family History Center on Peterson Lane. Contact Maggie Andrews at 538-1775.



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 next meeting of the Writing Group will be the 1st Saturday in February at 1 p.m. at the Annex. For information contact, Cheryl Doran Girard, 707-865.1181. Contact: Cheryl Doran Girard (fymom@sonic.net) 865-1181 for further information.

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Coming Events

This is to announce our Irish Research Trip to Dublin in 2004. The dates are 28th March - 3rd April 2004. Nora Hickey, noted Irish historian and genealogist from Kinsale, will be the research director and personal consultant. Don-Em Travel Center of San Francisco (1-800-453-6636) is recommended by the organizers of this research week. There are many activities in and around Dublin for non-researching companions. Contact Sally Warren at 415- 435-1038 or www.saw33@msn.com for a brochure and registration form.

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 City Fund Raising Research Trip

This trip is being offered by the San Mateo County Genealogical Society. It will be from Sunday, Feb. 22nd to Sunday, Feb. 29th. For information see the SMC GS website or contact Sarah Coston, SMGS at (650) 345-7692.

Writers Alert

Sent by Lauren Boyd <confido@ix.netcom.com>

Do you have a genealogy tale to tell? Crank up those word processors because here's your chance to enter the "Genealogy Research Story" category of ISFHWE's (International Society of Family History Writers and Editors) writing contest. This annual contest offers small cash awards in four categories for family history writers, including one for want-to-be-writers, for original articles, and two for published writers.

Deadline is March 6. Details, rules, and entry forms can be found at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cgc/2004contest.htm>

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Meeting:

*Virginia Kysh:
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Room 2004
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