



Sonoma County Genealogical Society Newsletter



Volume 11, Number 10

June 2002

President's Message

by Audrey Herman, audreyrae@earthlink.net

Come to a picnic and meet other members of the Society. In place of our usual meeting at the Junior College we will have a picnic in June. There will be no speeches, no talks, and no lectures. This will be a time to get better acquainted with your fellow genealogists. Something we do not have time to do at the monthly meetings. You can compare research notes and perhaps meet someone to whom you are related, or someone doing research in the same area you are researching.



This is also a time to clean out your closets, drawers, cabinets, offices, spare rooms, or wherever you keep your genealogical materials. Bring your no longer needed CDs, books, magazines, notebooks, paper, folders, etc. to the picnic and they will find a good home elsewhere. You may also find some treasure to fill up your now vacant spaces.

In the past the June meeting has been a time to honor the volunteers. In this, my last President's letter, I would like to thank all those who volunteered this year and have made our Society a success. The telephone callers, who remind us each month of the upcoming meeting, those who abstract material, do data entry, and proof read our publications, those who contribute to the Newsletter and The Searcher, those who make the Seminar such a success, and those who represent the Society at conferences and meetings contribute time and effort to make our Society great. We all owe them our gratitude and thanks. Their names will be listed in our September issue of the Newsletter.

Fun Time

Picnic and Swap Meet

Saturday June 22nd at 12 noon

Rincon Valley Community Park

5108 Badger Road

Parking closest to picnic site is on Rick Drive on the west side of the park.

Bring a salad to share (or bread, rolls, pickles, etc.) No glass containers permitted at picnic site.

We will have a barbecue for those who want to grill their own hamburgers, chicken, or hot dogs.

Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Spring house cleaning? Bring those no longer needed CDs, books, magazines, folders, notebooks, and other genealogy related items to sell, trade, or give away. Proceeds to go to the Society.

Legislative Report 5/20/02

Iris Carter Jones, Legislative Coordinator

I hate to be the bearer of sad tidings, but SB1614 has moved to the Suspense File and should come to a 'vote only' in the Appropriations Committee on Thursday. There will be no debate. If it passes, it will go as part of the Suspense File to the Floor of the Senate and will be voted on again with no debate, unless, there is a Senator willing to have it pulled it off for debate on the Floor. The chances of stopping it in the Senate are unlikely. From the Senate it will go to the Assembly where it must go through two committees as it has done in the Senate. Probably to the Judiciary and Appropriations committees.

Our next move is to follow it to learn for sure which committees it will be assigned to and start our letter campaign in the Assembly.

Maybe we will have better luck with our Assembly members than we have had with our Senators. I need to do some homework, there will be more to follow.

Meeting June 22nd

Picnic and Swap Meet

**Rincon
Valley
Community
Park
5108
Badger
Road
Santa
Rosa**



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

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Last Orientation Until Fall 2002

by Fawn Hill

These are exciting times to be involved in Genealogical Research. Due to the advancements in technology the world steadily becomes smaller and we gain easier access to more information with less effort. However, it didn't 'just happen.'

Here, in our county, one or two forward thinking leaders and librarians (who were also genealogists) saw the writing on the wall. The dream of having a separate collection, in Sonoma County, for our local history and world wide genealogical reference material was born. And it wasn't easy. In those early years, the late 1960s and early 1970s, 'genealogical research' had not yet gained respectability and there are still libraries in parts of the United States that prefer not to mention the term.

As we look back it is equally amazing that we had librarians who were also genealogists. Now however it seems to have become a tradition. With the recent hiring of Tony Hoskins as

Annex Librarian and County Library Archivist we are once again privileged to have a librarian who is also a genealogist with a back-ground in lecturing and teaching.

Recently added to the staff is his co-worker, Katherine Johnson, a California Historian. Tony says, "come on down and get acquainted."

Members of the Sonoma County Genealogical Society continue the practice begun years ago of volunteering as aides at the Annex. A member is there each week throughout the year, on Wednesdays, between 1:00 and 3:00. Twice a year orientation sessions, presented by the librarian, keep us updated. All members are encouraged to participate and the public is also invited. Attending at least one session will qualify a member for volunteering. There is no limit to the number of times you may repeat the sessions. Sign-ups are needed for July and August. To volunteer or for additional information call Fawn Hill—707 544-2380 or e-mail fawnrhill@compuserve.com.



Interest Group Meetings



British Group

British Group will have no meeting in June. Plan for a July meeting, possibly a picnic, is still tentative. For further information, please call Susan Simons, 527-7191.



German Group

The next meeting will be at 10 AM on Saturday, Sept . 7, 2002 at the home of Darlene Dobrovolny, 5 Charro Court, Santa Rosa. It will be our organizing meeting for 2002-2003. Contact Jim Cochran, 526-7331, e-mail <cougars@sonic.net>



Irish Group:

For information about the Irish Interest Group call Myrtle Keefe at 539-0840.



Jewish and Eastern European Group

No meetings until Fall. Contact Suzanne S. Waxman, phone 538-4378



PC. Computer Group:

Next meeting, July 20th. For information call Betty Young, 829-2388 or e-mail punkywhy@pacbell.net



Mac Computer Group

The June 13th meeting will be held at 10AM at the home of Beth and Jim Maize. For information about the Mac Group contact Karen Steelman at 538-3970 or by e-mail: steelman@sonic.net



Italian Interest Group

The Italian Interest Group will not meet gain until September. For more information E-mail inesw@attbi.com

Treasures Hiding in Supplemental Censuses

by Barbara Dosset, submitted to the Newsletter by Virginia Murphree

There are many records available to researchers today in the family hunting game. Many people have learned to locate city directories, state censuses, tax lists, territorial censuses, as well as courthouse records. The first step in Federal Census is locate an index to the population schedule, then the schedule itself.

The information is then extrapolated into the family information, and the search continues to the next population schedule. However, many people don't realize that along with the Federal Census taken every ten years, there were supplemental schedules created at the same time. Further, many of those particular records are readily available.

The government began taking extra information with the 1850 census and created these supplemental schedules: The Agricultural, Mortality, Industry/Manufacture, Defective, Delinquent, Dependent, Slave and Social Statistics Schedules. There are some early Manufacturing schedules in 1820 and 1832 and some continue even today. Now, that is a mouthful of schedules, and they can be overwhelming, but good research means that you collect all available records. I hope that you will add these to your research sources.

A simple method of collection that I have developed to gather my records is AIMS, DDD and SS. By following this pattern with each and every ancestor, you will create a fuller picture of the family and the community in which he lived. AIMS: Agriculture, Industry/Manufacture, Mortality and Slave Schedules!

The Agriculture schedule includes questions about the farmer, his lands, his crops, produce, animals and those things the family manufactured on the farm such as eggs, butter, and homemade goods, giving a good picture of the family at work and being self-sufficient.

For non-farmers, the Industry/Manufacture schedules come into play, allowing you to find the blacksmith, taylor, hatter—the businesses in the community, again helping to see how your family fits into what the neighborhood is doing.

The federal government asked about the deceased in four of the censuses—1850-1880, wanting to know who died the year prior to the census. This makes for a wonderful death certificate substitute. Questions included the name, age, sex, color, cause of death, occupation and month of death. It makes you wish everyone were on the Mortality schedule.

For 1850 & 1860, the government asked questions about slaves: the number of slaves, their ages, sex and color. Most schedules do not reflect the names of the slaves, but be sure to check, because some schedules do have the slave names. Another part of your ancestor's life!

DDD: In 1880, there was a new schedule called "Defective, Delinquent and Dependent" asking about people who were in poor houses or prisons, and about whether there were certain afflictions such as deaf-muteness, blindness, homelessness, insanity or indigence, which made these people dependent on others. Another "snapshot" of your ancestor's community.

Finally, one further schedule which doesn't show individuals, but rather the community, is the SS: Social Statistics schedule which shows the breakdown of the county by number of schools, churches, libraries, newspaper, paupers, and wages earned in the county. This could help you determine what existed in the community and send you searching for those records.

If you have some trouble locating all these schedules, pull the tax roll for the year in question, to be sure that you match information from all the sets of records available.

Source: Excerpted from DGS Newsletter, November 1999, Volume 23, page 203 via the NVGBS WinePress, July 2001, Volume 27, No. 7, page 6.

Sonoma County Genealogical Society

Newsletter
Published Monthly
(with the exception of July, August and December)
by the
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Dues
\$20 per year individual or family (one household)
\$25 contributing (\$5 to book fund)
\$200 lifetime

SCGS Projects Progress Report

by Carmen J. Finley

Cemeteries of Sonoma County, California:

A History and Guide

Jeremy Nichols is progressing with his efforts to give detailed information and road maps to Sonoma County Cemeteries. His current draft lists fifty-five cemeteries he has visited and for which he has prepared detailed maps and directions on how to get there. He also lists twenty-eight additional cemeteries named in our Index to Sonoma County (California) Cemetery Records, 1846-1921, 3rd edition. He dedicates it to Charles Schulz and includes a photo of his grave marker. He ends with the grave marker of Robert Ripley. Doris Dickenson has been helping him with the editing and the current version will soon be in her hands.

Index to Judgments

Debtors were taken to court to settle their debts beginning in 1852 in Sonoma County. Early records remaining in the office of the Sonoma County Recorder for the period 1852 to 1917 are preserved in large leather-bound books, currently kept in a locked case. The are well-preserved and include an index titled, "Transcript of Judgments," and four volumes, P, Q, R, and

S, of actual records titled, "Transcript, Judgment, Judgment Court," that contain the original hand written record. This index is a guide to those



records. The index will show name of debtor, creditor, book and page where recorded, and year filed. Because of the large size of the sheets and difficulty in reading from the two-sheet records, this project is being done in two phases. Lois Nimmo has completed phase one and has transcribed all names of creditors and debtors. Phase two, will add the remaining information and will be done by Doris Dickenson and Carmen Finley.

Index to Searcher

Final camera-ready copy is about 90% complete. We ran into a couple of problems that took longer than expected. Hopefully, it will be out the door before the next Board meeting.

1930 School Census

Work is progressing nicely. Coordinator, Annie Conley reports we are about 90% of the way through with data entry. Proofreading will be a horrendous job and while some has been done, much remains to be done. Annie hopes she can get people who are currently entering data to help with the proofreading.

Newspaper Index

We are nearing the end of data entry on vol-

Online Resources from Carmen

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

**Meeting
June 22nd**

**Last
meeting
of the
season.**

**Next
meeting
is in
September.**

Condolences

Didi (Frances) De Golia died in Santa Rosa on May 6, 2002.

Didi was a long time member of SCGS and a Board member, serving as Corresponding Secretary.

Condolences may be sent to Didi's husband of 54 years, Pershing De Golia, M.D.

Donations in Didi's name may be sent to the Green Music Center c/o the Santa Rosa Symphony, 50 Mark Springs Rd. Santa Rosa, CA 95403.



ume IV: 1886-1890 and moving into volume V: 1891-1895. We have not yet started on the preparation of final copy of volume IV.

School Enrollments

All data have been entered and we are awaiting proofreaders				
Online Indexes/SCGS Webpage	No. Visitors as of 10 May 2002	No. Visitors as of 4 Apr. 2002	Date Placed	Linked to Online
1890 Census Sonoma County, California (Reconstructed)	8,031	7,679	15 Aug. 1999	SCGS, Annex
1890 Great Register of Voters, Sonoma County, California	3,513	3,316	21 Apr. 2000	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
Early Sonoma County, California, Land Grants, 1846-1850	3,036	2,757	6 July 2000	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
Naturalization Records In Sonoma County, California: vol. I, 1841-1906 NapaGenWeb	2,141	1,992	2 Jan. 2001	SCGS, Annex SCGenWeb,
Naturalization Records In Sonoma County, California: vol. II, 1906-1930	1,062	941	12 July 2001	SCGS, Annex
SCGS Webpage	15,656	15,736	31 May 2000	Annex, SCGenWeb, CAGenWeb
Sonoma County, California Death Records, 1873-1905	7,462	6,986	29 Apr. 2000	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
Sonoma County, California, Cemetery Records, 1846-1921	13,150	12,429	15 Aug. 1999	SCGS, Annex
Vital Data in Newspapers - vol. 1 (counter reset in Dec.-Jan.- 1,532 in Oct.)	618 (reset)	433	16 Oct. 2000	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
Vital Data in Newspapers - vol. 2	1,130	992	7 Mar. 2001	SCGS, Annex
Vital Data in Newspapers - vol. 3	1,513	1,267	14 July 2001	SCGS, Annex
Militia Records	379	249	25 Feb. 2002	SCGS, CAGenWeb

From Jo's Mailbox

by Jo Russell

FGS/CSGA 2002 Conference

Essay Contest

Reminder:

1. Deadline for submissions is 1 June 2002.
2. Submissions should be 500 to 750 words in length, typed, double-spaced, in 12 point type using Courier font with 1-inch margins left, right, top, and bottom.
3. Entries should include the following information: Name, Mailing Address, current e-mail address.
4. Submissions must be the original work of the submitter, or include appropriate documentation.
5. Submission of an entry constitutes permission for FGS/CSGA to publish entry (if appropriate.)

1st Prize— Free registration to FGS/CSGA Conference in Ontario, CA (Registration will be reimbursed.)

2nd Prize— \$50 reimbursement for registration

3rd Prize— \$25 reimbursement for registration

Winners may substitute a one year CSGA membership or a one year Forum Subscription if they are unable to attend the conference.

All winning entries and as many submissions as possible may be printed in the CSGA Newsletter over the next year.

Entries can be submitted to:

Nancy M Huebotter, FGS/CSGA Essay Contest Coordinator

2634 Associated Road, Apt #A110

Fullerton, CA 92835

Email: nmhuebotter@earthlink.net

Contest Judges are: Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, Sandra Leubking, Melinda Kasuba, Kathleen Trevina and Norma Keating

FGS/CSGA 2002 Conference E-Zine

J. Mark Lowe, National Publicity Chair

FGS/CSGA Conference

7-10 August, 2002 in Ontario, California

Do you want to learn the latest about the FGS/CSGA 2002 Conference in Ontario, California?

Subscription Instructions

1. To join the list, send an e-mail message to: <FGS-CONF-L-request@rootsweb.com>.
2. The text of your message should read: "subscribe" (with no other text).
3. The subject line may be blank.
4. You will receive a confirmation e-mail message.

Volunteer for the FGS/CSGA Conference

Volunteers are needed to work in registration, information, room monitors, and other task. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact:

Marjorie Higgins, Volunteer Coordinator

P. O. Box 8443

Los Angeles, CA 90008-8443

Email: MHigg71503@aol.com

If you have a preference of task let her know, and I am sure she will be happy to hear from those of us who "I'll work where you need me." Look at the conference schedule and provide Marjorie with a list of the hours you are willing to work. Check the reimbursement handout for the number of hours needed to earn partial or full reimbursement of your conference registration fees.

I distributed "Reimbursement for Volunteers" along with other handouts at the meetings I have attended this month. I think this is the second time I have distributed this information.

Jo's Commentary

SB 1614 - Governor Davis Plan

I have not received an update on either of these issues. The last word I had was that we should continue to express our feelings on the closure of CA birth records (SB 1614) to our political representatives. If this moves through the State Senate the focus moves to the State Assembly. I copied this url from the Assembly Website <<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/defaulttext.asp>>. The State Senate url is <<http://www.sen.ca.gov/>>.

Our opinions about closing and limiting access to public records may differ, but I feel we should stand up and be counted. Like many of you I am concerned about identity theft, (it happened to one of my children), but I am also concerned about government action denying me or my descendants access to records essential to genealogical research.

A recent news article reported that Governor Davis has a plan to protect identity while allowing researchers access to the records. I am anxious to hear the details of that plan. Meanwhile, I have contacted my representatives and the members of the committee sending out the bill and will be sending message to my representative in the Assembly to remind them that as a genealogist I am concerned about this issue and hope that some method to protect our identity while allowing us some access the purpose of research.

I will continue to forward information to you and encourage you to express your opinions to your government representatives and perhaps to the public.



Nab the Living

by Michael John Neill

It is easy to spend hours on the Internet, hoping to find that elusive ancestor, hoping that somewhere, someone has converted that one vital clue to digital form.

It is easy to spend hours in the courthouse, hoping that somewhere an elusive relative has left some paper trail, a record or a case file that will bring our brick walls tumbling down.

It is easy to spend hours in libraries, hoping that a long-lost relative has already done our genealogy for us and published it in book form.

It is easy to spend hours in cemeteries, hoping that one of our relatives had the forethought to leave something on their tombstone other than the word “dead.”

The “dead” are the apparent focus of genealogy.

Sometimes in our rush to find information on the dead we tend to forget an excellent genealogical source: the living. This “source” is sometimes not easy to read, not easy to interpret, and not easy to access.

And yet the living are our most direct connection to our past. Living family members may hold information that is vital to our research, information that may be in no library, no courthouse, or no archive.

History books may tell us what life was like in the 1930s, but living family members can provide us with a unique perspective. No one likes to completely “generalize” their family history from information obtained in history books.

The human brain is the most fragile of information repositories. Thousands of these wonderful repositories cease to exist every day. Some of these deaths are unexpected and surprise us—the source is gone before we ever expected it would be. We wait to visit the “source” like it is a far-off courthouse or archives that will be standing forever. How many courthouses and libraries are destroyed on a regular basis?

Regardless of your age, there might be other family members who have information you do not. When I began my family history research, I had six ancestors and numerous aunts and uncles living. Some are not so fortunate.

Yet today, twenty some years later I have located more distant relatives than I ever thought possible—many of whom have some information on my family history.

Do you have cousins or more distant relatives? They might know more about the family than you. Even younger relatives might be aware of family details you know nothing about. Their parents might have known more about the family than your parents did. Their parents might have talked more about their family than your parents did.

One of my ancestors had over fifty grandchildren. For a long time the oldest grandchild had the only framed copy of a picture of the grandparents. This grandchild gave this picture not to one of their own children, but to the youngest child of their grandparents’ youngest child.

The passing of information or heirlooms might not have taken place in a linear fashion.

What will happen to these items when the family member dies? Do their children or grandchildren even know or care? The potential loss of these items is greater when the family member has no descendants and lives a distance from other family members (although having children living next door does not guarantee that they won’t just put your stuff out on the curb along with that nasty carpet from the basement).

Some of these family members might not be online and might not be accessible with the click of a mouse. Some might even have difficulty having a phone conversation or writing a letter. An on-site visit might be the only way to interview the relative. There are many genealogists who are “offline” just as there are many genealogy records that are “offline.”

There’s no guarantee the family member will talk with you or share what information they have, yet it still may be worth a chance. Your best resource may have hands and feet instead of brick and mortar. Don’t neglect it.

Michael John Neill, is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, Illinois, and is also on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois.

Michael is the Web columnist for the FGS FORUM and is on the editorial board of the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly. He conducts seminars and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical and computer topics and contributes to several genealogical publications, including Ancestry and Genealogical Computing. You can e-mail him at:

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Mark Your Calendar

Picnic & Swap Meet at Noon

June 22nd

Rincon Valley Community Park

5108 Badger Road, Santa Rosa

The FGS/CSGA Conference, CA 2002,

A Goldmine of Diversity

7 -10 August 2002 in Ontario, CA

Information for the FGS/CSGA 2002 Conference is now online at the FGS Website. You can check out all of the happenings each day:

<http://www.fgs.org/2002conf/conf-proghighlights.htm>

and even register online:

<http://www.fgs.org/2002conf/FGS-2002>



Happy Fathers Day

Sonoma County Genealogical Society

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