



Sonoma County Genealogical Society Newsletter

SCGS

June 2004

President's Message

by Evelyn Ross

While I might not remember what happened yesterday, I do remember two years ago when I was asked to be President of the Society. Before accepting the nomination, I asked out-going president Audrey Herman how demanding the job would be. Her comment was "Oh, it's the easiest job I've ever had, all you have to do is make sure we have a place for meetings." Well, guess what? Audrey was right!

Everyone I've worked with over the last two years has been so kind and supporting, and willing to do more than their share. There have been times when I've someone to do what I considered an awkward assignment and they've always accepted enthusiastically. You are a great bunch of people to be associated with, and I appreciate you so much. Even though my responsibilities to the Society will diminish, I looked forward to continuing sharing research with all of you.

This is such a tremendous work! Do you remember how limited research sources were 25-30 years ago? The amateur genealogist really had to work at getting information. Letter writing was a tedious task, then once sent off it seemed like months before a reply arrived, often briefly stating "Sorry, never heard of these people." Or, "We didn't start keeping vital records until a year after your ancestor died."

Now it seems there's almost too much information available and we need sources to help us locate sources. One of my favorite things will always be the great sense of anticipation when you load a

roll of microfilm onto the reader and begin to turn the crank. Second to that is the emotional tug that comes when finding a family on an old census schedule and knowing the person writing down that information actually saw my ancestor face-to-face. Hopefully, these will be experiences we will continue to share.

As the new Treasurer goes off to be bonded. I'm off to prepare a sequel to my "Finding Your Female Ancestors" presentation. I think I'll call it "Finding the Father of the Bride". Have a good productive summer and thank you all again for the past two years.

Searcher and Newsletter Editors Sought

For the past six months we have been looking for someone to take on the responsibility of editing *The Sonoma Searcher* that's issued three times a year and is dedicated to stories and events in the lives of early Sonoma County residents.

We regret to announce that until a new editor is found it is necessary to suspend publication of *the Searcher*. Evelyn Ross

The June edition of the Society newsletter will be the last one that I will publish. Do to my husband's ill health, I have to cut down on my activities and tend to matters at home. I will be happy to work with the new editor for a couple of months until s/he feels comfortable with the job and to share my templates, photos and graphics.

If you think you might be interested and want more information, feel free to call me at 763-6317. Janet Mobley



End of the Year Meeting: June 26th

The last meeting of the year will be held at the Badger Road LDS church at noon.

It will be brown bag lunch and the Board will provide the cake.

People are encouraged to display or talk about some of their discoveries in their research or other items of interest.

Installation of officers will occur at this meeting.

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

Next Meeting: A Time Out For Us

by Fawn Hill

The SCGS Annual "End of a Great Year" meeting will be held.

Saturday, June 26, 2004. Time: 12:00 NOON to 3:00 (notice the time change from our other meetings)

Location: LDS Church - 5301 Badger Road, Santa Rosa (Take Highway 12 East to Calistoga Road and at Badger go left about 1 ½ blocks.

It is a Brown Bag Luncheon and Cake & Punch will be served by the Board

For the *Exchange* table bring multiple copies of your favorite potluck recipe and include your Name and Phone number.

Seminar Kudos

by Lois Nemmo

Thanks for many hours of planning, fellowship and fun. This year's Committee was: Janice Chamberlain; Jim Cochran (helpers were Annie Conley, Audrey Herman, Lorel Kopke and Claire Miller); Carmen Finley, Muriel Morrow (helpers were Pearl Tucker and Lenora Williams); Virginia Murphree; Ray Owen (helpers were Maggi Andrews, Maxine Baker and Nina Lowell); Audrey Phillips and Evelyn Ross. Although not officially a member of the Committee, Cathy Stevenson is always ready and willing to do the flyers and programs for us. Many thanks to all! By the time one Seminar is over, this group is already planning the next one. We know that the 2005 Seminar will be at Luther Burbank, and the speaker will be Sandra Luebking.

Mark Your Calendars!

This year's outstanding and personable speaker, Elizabeth Shown Mills, saved the day for us. She rose above, and actually made light of, our major problems of a poor sound system in the morning and a non-functioning air conditioner in the afternoon. LBC has assured us that the air now works and, thanks to our many complaints (thank you, Carmen, for the evaluation sheets), the sound system will have a thorough maintenance check. See you in 2005!

2005 Officers will be installed so come and get acquainted. Ask how you can help this coming year. Thank the out-going officers for all their hard work this past year. Meet the project volunteers coordinated by Carmen Finley.

The Hi-Lite of the event will be a "Round Table Discussion" led by our very own research experts!!! Bring your research questions and problems and get solutions.

If you have questions call Fawn Hill at 544-2380 or e-mail, fawnhill@sonic.net. They may be from any level of research: Beginning, Intermediate or Advanced.

There will be a *Display Table*. Bring Family Histories, Photographs, Research Tips, Success Stories, Books of your family history, Unique Pedigree charts, Ancestral Memorabilia and other items of interest to display and share. The building will be open ½ hour early.

There will be a "Freebies Table" so bring your unused books and CD's to exchange and go away with new found treasures.

Each person will receive a name tag with a *Lucky Number* for a chance to win a truly *Out-Standing* door prize.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity. See you there on the 26th!

Special Interest Groups



British Group For information, phone Susan Simons at 527-7191.



German Group Meets at 10am on the first Saturday of the odd-numbered months except for July. Contact Jim Cochran at: cougars@sonic.net



Computer Interest Group If you would like to be notified of the CIG meetings, please e-mail Maggi at mandr21020@aol.com.



Italian Interest Group For more information e-mail Ines: inesw@comcast.net



Family History Writing Group Contact Evelyn at 539-0926 or eross930@aol.com

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How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy

by George G. Morgan. Review by Janet Mobley

The Osborne web site tells us:

“Anyone interested in discovering their family genealogy should carry a copy of this book everywhere. Written by internationally recognized expert, George G. Morgan, this book is an irreplaceable resource for beginner to expert knowledge gatherers. Not only does Morgan explain how to get the search started—creating a family tree, locating and evaluating documents, selecting the appropriate hardware and software for the search—he goes steps further and dedicates an entire section to research methods and strategies where he discusses, among other topics, getting past ‘dead ends,’ and organizing possible research travel.”

I think it is in the introduction that Mr. Morgan suggests that you don't sit down and try to read from page one through the entire book of nearly 500 pages, and I didn't. This is the same philosophy that Robin Williams suggests in using her computer books and it is certainly a valid one. However, I did go through the nine-page table of contents to get an idea of how the book was organized.

The author begins with the basics: Start with yourself and work backwards. Talk to all of your older relatives. And don't wait until you are middle aged, or older, to start your family history. It is never too late but so much easier if you are young and have older relatives to interview. He suggests you start by going through your home and finding baby books, vital records, military records, school records employment records, letters, diaries and so on. Many of these things are items that would not have occurred to me. I don't think I want copies of my report cards in my genealogy book! But scanning yearbooks might be a good idea.

Mr. Morgan gives dozens of Web sites for finding genealogical information and also for maps and historical references. Those are two areas that I find fascinating. Also the parts on immigration are very interesting. When I think that traveling by airplane to Europe can take 13 hours, it seems like nothing compared to what some of our ancestors lived through traveling by ship—and little ships at that—from Europe to this country.

Mr. Morgan gives the URLs of many sites where one can download maps to pinpoint your ancestors' places of origin. Locating ancestors by way of the Internet is thoroughly discussed and the resources the author gives make it possible to do extensive researching from the comfort of your home. But then he tells us how to make a very successful genealogical research trip: how to determine the scope of your trip, what to take and how to develop a research plan.

This is a book that will become your genealogy guide, bible and all around helper. I highly recommend it.

Author Bio from the Web site:

GEORGE G. MORGAN (Odessa, FL) is an internationally recognized expert in the field of genealogy and a widely published author of books, magazines, and journal articles.

McGraw Hill/Osborne
\$24.99

Welcome New Members

Brenk, Marilyn of Cloverdale, CA
White, Roger and Jill of Santa Rosa, CA
Ratto, Mary of Ukiah, CA
Adams, Linda, of Petaluma, CA
Dennison, Kathleen of Santa Rosa, CA



Queries

Sally J Staley asks: Is anyone in the Society researching the Briones, Capucetti, Clark, Lauff, Nott, Pedrotti, Pronini, Strain?

Please contact me at the following email:
smotorhomer@sbcglobal.net

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Coming Events

National Archives Workshops

June 18, 9am to 1pm with Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist

Military - Part 1, Revolutionary War to Civil War, July 16, 9am to 1pm with Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist

Military - Part 2, Spanish American to Viet-Nam, August 20, with Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist

Sabine Schleichert will speak in Oakland-On June 12, The California Genealogical Society in Oakland is presenting a German Seminar with Sabine Schleichert of Munich, Germany. She will talk about record locations in Germany, and remote German research. More information at www.calgensoc.org, or Ph. 510-663-1358

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at noon.