



SCGS

Sonoma County Genealogical Society June 2006 Newsletter

June Meeting

By Lorel Kapke and Lois Nimmo, May 2006

The June meeting is at the LDS Church at 5301 Badger Road, Santa Rosa.

The meeting is from 12:00-3:00. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

There will be a panel of experts to answer your difficult genealogy questions, and next year's officers will be announced and installed.

This is a great opportunity to become better acquainted with fellow members. Bring projects or 'Family Treasures' for 'Show & Tell' or display, and any extra books, notebooks or supplies no longer needed, for swapping or giving away.

Directions: Take highway 12 east to Calistoga Rd., turn left, go north for about a mile, then left onto Badger Road. The church is on the right, in the 2nd block.



*June 24th
Meeting*

*End of the Year
Luncheon*

*12 noon to 3
p.m.*

*.L.D.S. Church
5301 Badger
Road, Santa
Rosa*

*Please bring a
bag lunch. Soft
drinks and cake
will be provided.*

*Look to the
left for more
information
and directions
to the luncheon
location.*

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

Volume 16, Number 6

Meeting Change

By Audrey Herman, May 2006

Beginning in September we will no longer meet at the Junior College. Our new meeting place will be the Willow Room at the Finley Center. Parking is free. Tony will continue to do his program at noon. We are able to bring our lunch. Coffee and tea will be available. If you prefer a different beverage, you may bring your own. The new venue, besides offering free parking, will give us a better chance to meet and socialize with fellow Genealogical Society members. Hope to see many of you there.

Other News to Note:

October is Family History Month. We will be doing a two part program on Saturday October 28. Half of the day will be at the LDS Church on Badger Road where there will be a choice of 6-8 speakers offered in two sessions. The other half of the day will be at the Rincon Valley Library where Tony Hoskins will discuss what is available at the Annex and on Heritage Quest, and a speaker from the Family History Library will discuss the new additions to Familysearch.org and Ancestry.

Bring your lunch and eat at the Church, the park, or the Library. Further details on the program to be announced.

Job Opportunity

We are looking for someone to prepare the Newsletter and the Searcher for mailing and to take them to the Post Office. Very few issues of the Newsletter are being mailed and the Searcher comes out only 3 times a year. If you are interested in taking on this task for the Society please let me know at audreyrae@comcast.net.

2006-2007 SCGS Board President

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In Memoriam

Betty Wendell passed away recently. She lived in Las Vegas and was a member since 1997.

Research on Emigrants

Submitted By Jim Chocran, May 2006

Attached is information that I recently received from an IL message board that I belong to. It may be of interest to our membership:

This is an excellent post by DJ Weber about emigrants to this country for when you are doing research on your ancestors.

Remember, this is about emigrants and NOT colonists. Their ships went to whatever colony they were going to.

When you think of emigrants arriving at North American ports you need to think of the historical times of their arrivals.

First, we may need to know from which port our ancestors left Europe. Prior to 1783 as a result of British Maritime laws governing its North American colonies, no ships legally might arrive in North America unless their port of departure was in Britain, usually Hull, London, Bristol or Liverpool.

In addition, considering that within the British Empire of that time, Philadelphia was the second (or third) largest town after London (depending on which historical source you find, either Calcutta or Philadelphia was number two or number three but there is no consistency in records as to which was in which position), the port of Philadelphia was an early important port of arrival. English port to English port!

For Colonial times, therefore, think PHILADELPHIA, BOSTON and NEW YORK.

After 1783 ships could leave from most any European port, from LeHavre, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Emden, Bremen (and later Bremerhaven) and dozens of other sea ports eastward to Stettin and Danzig as well as numerous Scandanavian and Mediterranean ports. While this time period is later than the era when the European Hansa was of high importance, many of those ports were still quite active and only the ability to receive a cargo was necessary for the ship to return to North America with a return cargo of emigrants. You may think Hamburg was a vital European port and it was but not one of the early-time European ports.

This era also increased the potential of North American ports. New York grew while Boston and Philadelphia became less of importance. By the middle 1800s, you would have had New York, Baltimore and New Orleans as the major ports of arrival. New Orleans was very important prior to the American War of the Rebellion as its shipments to Europe were loads of cotton and the then, empty ships had ample space for return emigrant cargo.

Now, think NEW YORK, BALTIMORE and NEW ORLEANS.

There were many smaller ports, particularly if for some reason the ship from Europe stopped in the West Indies first. Galveston and Charleston are noted for smaller arrivals. Often it was cheaper to arrive through Halifax.

The cost of emigration was a particular problem. Did the emigrant pay his passage, was the passage paid by his town (many towns "weeded out" financial distressed families during times of crop failures, heavy taxes, famine and other almost-regular European disasters) or perhaps handled by an agent for a North American activity? Each of these might be a reason for using certain ports in Europe and in North America.

We might think of a trip up the Rhine as the logical method of transportation to a sea port but just from the Alsace area on north, there were over thirty toll locations on the river. It was costly enough that many southwestern Germans, Swiss and others walked, barged, horse-backed their way across France to LeHavre

as that route could be cheaper to reach a sea port and a ship headed for North America. This route, as a result of the American War from 1861 to 1865 became less of value.

If you have a very early 1800s arrival or a 1700s arrival, think PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK or maybe BOSTON.

If you have a 1900s arrival, think NEW YORK.

If you have an 1800s arrival, think NEW YORK, BALTIMORE or NEW ORLEANS.

Many smaller ships which were not direct from Europe disembarked their passengers at most any port along the shores of eastern United States and Canada. These came from the West Indies, from Cuba and from South America, normally. Any port is possible.

Remember that long after the area of the Louisiana Purchase lands, its animals were trapped, and its lands were occupied by French Canadians. Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, the Dakotas and other of those eventual states were all areas where the lands were native to those who had migrated westward from French Canada. There was no border. In many towns, those French Canadians were the original settlers. Records for Canadian emigrants of the eastern provinces were not recorded until the 1900s.

The true question should be of what nationality were your ancestors, what might be their logical ports for a ship from Europe to the Americas and during what time period did they emigrate? Then keep in mind that if they did emigrate normally and legally during a time period for which there would have been records, many of those Manifests bit the dust through fire, water damage, rat gnawings, deterioration and every excuse which can be identified by NARA before its predecessor activity started to microfilm those Manifests. Many records do not exist.

If you want to go on to migratory routes through the United States, the Mississippi river and its tributaries (Tennessee, Ohio, Missouri and all the rest) were excellent routes from New Orleans. From New York for the Erie Canal, by 1823 navigation was possible from Genesee River to Albany and Lake Champlain and on October 26, 1825, the first complete passage was recorded.

From Philadelphia and Baltimore, the National Road (Cumberland Road/National Pike) actual construction started in 1815.

By 1818 the road had reached Wheeling, Virginia (West Virginia).

By 1833 the road had reached Columbus, Ohio.

By 1841 the road had reached Vandalia, Illinois.

From the Archives of Genealogy Jack

By Ray Owens

Dear Jack:

I need a suggestion. I have three rather elderly and quite reticent relatives who know much about family history, but provide little information. They aren't unfriendly, but when I ask if they recall anything about a particular person or family, they just reply they recall nothing important. I know they have a wealth of information, but I can't get it out of them. Any suggestions?

Weary of Trying

Dear Weary:

It appears your efforts have floundered for a couple of reasons. First, you've apparently not established a connection between the lives of these three family members and the greater scope of the family history. Thus, they plead ignorance of other relatives. It is suggested you first focus on their lives and experiences. It is further suggested you refine your questioning technique. Change from asking, "Do you recall anything about Uncle Bill?" to "What do you recall about Uncle Bill?" The first question permits a "yes" or "no" answer. The second question encourages a narrative answer. Follow up with additional questions using basic interrogatives: who, what, when, where, why and how. For instance, when I arrived home three hours late, I anticipated spouse Jill's interrogation, so I reset my watch to three hours earlier and claimed it must have stopped running. Of course, even cunning defenses sometimes fail!

Genealogy Jack

Special Interest Groups



British Interest Group The next meeting will be at Tuesday, June 13, 2006 at Audrey Herman's home. The meeting will begin at 1:30p.m. For more information call Audrey Herman at 539-4031



German Interest Group The next meeting will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2006. As it will be our first meeting of the 2006-2007 year, we will be organizing the group for the next year. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. at a location to be determined later in the summer. For more details, call Jim Cochran: 526-7331.



Italian Interest Group The next meeting will be in September 2006. For information e-mail Ines Williams at inesw@comcast.net.



Computer Interest Group For more information, contact Maggi Andrews at 538-1775.

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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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