



# Sonoma County Genealogical Society



Volume 11, Number 9

## Newsletter

May 2002

### President's Message

by Audrey Herman, [audreyrae@earthlink.net](mailto:audreyrae@earthlink.net)

#### We're Having a Picnic and Swap Meet

Saturday June 22 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.



**The Family History Library at Salt Lake City, Utah**

### Meeting May 25<sup>th</sup>

**May Speaker  
Karen Clifford**

**Monterey Family History Center Program"**

**Topic:  
"Sharing,  
a Good  
Way to  
Find  
Your  
Family  
History"**



**Lobby of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building**

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

# Expert Advice: Interviewing Techniques

by Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer

**H**ave pedigree charts and family group sheets in front of you when interviewing. They'll help you keep your ancestors straight (especially if several had the same or similar names), and you can check to see if dates and places that your informants suggest are plausible. Make notes on the appropriate person's sheet (but don't try to make formal entries at this time; these should be worksheets only!). When taking information over the phone, try to keep your notes legible and organized, and transcribe them immediately after the phone call while you can still interpret them. Call back with follow-up questions if you aren't sure about something you wrote.

**May Speaker**  
**Karen Clifford**  
**Monterey Family History Center**  
**Director; past president of Utah Genealogical Association; author of "The Complete Beginner's Guide to Genealogy, the Internet, and Your Genealogy Computer Program"**

**Topic:**  
**"Sharing, a Good Way to FIND Your Family History"**

When interviewing, don't overwhelm your informant with questions. Allow lots of time for Uncle Vern to answer, and don't make him feel pressured; if he does, he might try to come up with some answer—any answer, not necessarily the right answer—just to please you. Be sensitive: an older relative may become tired, and spending time thinking about loved ones who are now dead may bring back painful or overwhelming memories. Interviews should be kept to about an hour at a time.

When interviewing relatives by mail, don't send huge lists of questions. While you want to find out all the answers at once, remember that a letter with some news and two or three questions may stimulate them to reply. A letter with 54 questions may intimidate them so much that they'll just put it away unanswered.

Besides asking people what they know about the family, ask if they have any old family papers or photos. Has someone previously unknown to the family contacted a relative looking for genealogical information on the family? Even if the relative didn't answer the letter, she might have saved it.

—Excerpted from "Long-Distance Genealogy" by Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer, \$18.99. Reprinted here with permission from the publisher, Betterway Books. Available in bookstores or online at:

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/store/display.asp?id=70495>

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## Jo's Mailbox

by Jo Ellis Russell [ljrussell@earthlink.net](mailto:ljrussell@earthlink.net)

### Research links from my Irish Cousin

From: Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)

<http://proni.nics.gov.uk/>

National Archives of Ireland <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/>

Dublin City Archive <http://www.iol.ie/resource/dublincitylibrary/archives.htm>

Genealogical Society of Ireland <http://www.dunlaoghaire.com/genealogy/>

Irish Genealogical Society, Intl. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~irish/>

GENUKI: Ireland <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/>

The Irish Ancestral Research Association: TIARA <http://www.tiara.ie/>

Irish History on the Web <http://wwwvms.utexas.edu/~jdana/irehist.html>

Irish Literature, Mythology, Folklore, and Drama <http://www.luminarium.org/mythology/ireland/>

# Essay Contest

## FGS/CSGA Essay Contest

California's long history includes a unique and rich blend of cultures and nationalities. The FGS/CSGA conference in August 2002 will highlight and recognize this wonderful distinction. In an effort to identify the wealth of personal family stories, the FGS/CSGA planning committee is proud to announce the California: Goldmine of Diversity Family History Essay Contest. FGS and CSGA are inviting you to share a personal account of why your ethnic or national background matters to you as an individual. This is your opportunity to demonstrate pride in your family history and at the same time enjoy acknowledgment of your literary efforts. Your submissions will be judged by nationally recognized genealogists.

1. Deadline for submission is 1 June 2002.
2. Submissions should be 500 to 750 words in length, typed, double-spaced, in 12-point type using Courier font. There should be 1-inch margins left, right, top, and bottom.
3. Entries should include the following information: Name, Mailing Address, current e-mail address.
4. Submission 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.)
6. Winners and judges to be introduced at the CSGA Luncheon at the conference.

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 may be submitted to: Nancy M. Huebotter, FGS/CSGA Essay Contest Coordinator, via e-mail: nmhuebotter@earthlink.net or via U.S. Mail: 2634 Associated Road, Apt. #A110, Fullerton,

CA 92835

Sign up for the FGS/CSGA Conference in Ontario CA August 7-10 2002. Visit [www.FGS.org](http://www.FGS.org) for more information. Cath Madden Trindle, CGRS CSGA Treasurer Catht@aol.com

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## Civil War Information

Sent by Virginia Murphree

The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) is a computerized database containing basic facts about servicemen who served on both sides during the Civil War. The initial focus of the CWSS is the Names Index Project, a project to enter names and other basic information from 5.4 million soldier records in the National Archives. Other information will include: histories of regiments in both the Union and Confederate Armies, links to descriptions of 384 battles of the war, and other historical information. The CWSS is a cooperative effort by the Genealogical Society of Utah, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Park Service and several other public and private partners. Information on the data entry and post-audit review of batches will be found at [http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/system\\_overview.htm](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/system_overview.htm).

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## Sonoma County Genealogical Society

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Dues  
\$20 per year individual  
or family (one household)  
\$25 contributing (\$5 to book fund)  
\$200 lifetime

## Interest Group Meetings

### Officers

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### British Group

British Group does not meet in April.  
Next meeting -- Thursday, May 9, 1:30 p.m. at the home of George Margeson, 519 Coachlight Pl., SR. (528-4614 for directions) Topic: Probate records at the PRO and FHL. For information, call Susan Simons, 527-7191 or e-mail suesimons@aol.com.



### German Group

There has been a change in the location of the next German Interest Group meeting on 4 May 2002. It will be held at the home of Jim Cochran, 1658 Tarkenton Court, Santa Rosa. The main topic of discussion will center around recent trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Questions can be directed to Jim Cochran, 526-7331, or 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:

For information call Betty Young, 829-2388 or e-mail punkywhy@pacbell.net



### Mac Computer Group

The May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at 10AM at the home of Janet and Paul Mobley, 1558 Mauro Pietro Dr., Petaluma, CA. 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 is meeting on the third Saturday of the month. Next meeting is on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM at the home of Ines Williams, 292 Alden Court, Windsor, CA. For more information E-mail inesw@attbi.com

## Book Review

by Audrey Herman

### The Genealogist's Question and Answer Book

by Marcia Yannizze Melnyk.

Betterway Books, 2002.

ISBN 1-55870-590-2 \$18.95.

May be ordered from a local book store or the publisher at 1-800-221-6831

Each chapter of the book discusses a different type of record useful to genealogical research. There is an explanation of the type of information to be found in each record, the abbreviations that might be encountered, and a definition of terms used in the records. The chapter on military records has a list of all the wars with the dates. The census chapter has a chart showing which years of the census are available for each state. The chapter on use of the computer has a warning that the family trees found on line are secondary sources and not always accurate. There is also a chapter on how to document your sources. At the end of each chapter is an excellent reading list for further information on the subject. The book is easy to read and highly informative. It ought to be in the library of every beginning genealogist.

## Spring Library Annex Orientation

by Fawn Hill



New Library Aide Orientation will be held in the annex on TUESDAY, MAY 21st at 10:00 am and will be the last session until Fall. The orientation gives members the opportunity to keep abreast of additions and changes in the Annex collection

and to check out both old and new resources. There is usually free time, following the presentation, to do some browsing. If you're like me you will bring along that list you've been saving from recent newsletters, of a favorite "Book Review" or "What's New at the Library."

The librarian Tony Hoskins, who will be conducting the orientation, says that a second computer, donated to the Annex by the Genealogical Society, has been installed and is ready for use. Also a project is in progress to make the contents of the CD collection more accessible through a new kind of index that searches first by State and then by lists of the kinds of records available within each State.

To register - contact me, Fawn Hill - 544-2380 or fawnrhil@compuserve.com.

# By-Laws Revision

From Audrey Herman

This year the Sonoma County Genealogical Board has reviewed the job descriptions of the officers and the committee chairpersons. Changes were made to reflect what the people were actually doing. This has necessitated making some changes in the Society by-laws. Any changes in the by-laws must be approved by the membership at its annual meeting in May. Items in italics are to be deleted from the by-laws. Bold type items will be added. If you have any comments, or want clarification of any of these changes please contact me.

BY-LAW Changes to be voted on at the May 25 General Meeting

## Article IV Section 5 - 1st Vice-president

In the absence of the President, the 1st Vice-president shall preside at the meetings of the Society and the Board, and perform all of the duties of the President. The 1st Vice-president shall be the Program Committee Chairperson, *provide meeting arrangements for general and Board meetings, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors and the President*

## Article IV Section 9 - Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding secretary shall conduct such correspondence as authorized by the President, the 1st Vice-president when authorized to act in place of the President, and the Board of Directors. The Corresponding Secretary shall give required notices of meetings of the Society and the Board of Directors. *The Corresponding Secretary shall notify the Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the California State Genealogical Alliance, the Sonoma County library, Sonoma County heritage network, and other appropriate organizations of the names of the officers of the corporation.* The Corresponding Secretary shall also pick up and distribute mail from the Society post office box on a weekly basis.

## Article IV Section 10 - Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all receipts and disbursements. *The Treasurer shall be budget Committee Chairperson and shall prepare, with the assistance of each committee, an*

*annual budget for Board approval.* The Treasurer shall furnish monthly statements of the Society's financial and budget status at meetings of the Board of Directors *and Committee Chairpersons* and furnish a financial report at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall be bonded.

## Article IX Objectives

**The objectives of the Society shall be:**

- 1. To educate the general public and members of the Society in genealogical research.**
- 2. To contribute to and support genealogical libraries.**
- 3. To preserve, collect, compile, publish, and dis-**

## Seminar Review

by Lois Nimmo: LoisNim@aol.com

**H**ave you ever been surprised, more than pleased and excited all at the same time? I was when I entered Luther Burbank for our March Seminar. All I could think of was "WOW!"

Everything was set up and running smoothly. Knowing the capabilities and commitment of this Seminar Committee, this shouldn't have been a surprise to me. We all owe thanks to so many for yet another successful, fun and informative yearly Seminar. Janice Chamberlain balances the budget, pays the bills and mans the Society table at the Seminar. Carmen Finley is the contact person for our yearly speaker, as well as coordinating the many, many web site links (no easy job). Audrey Herman as President of the Society, attended planning meetings in an advisory capacity. Virginia Murphree works with vendors and exhibitors, as well as planning placement of tables and traffic flow. Fran Murray acted as a most competent secretary (kept this chairperson in line) until she had to drop out for health reasons. Audrey Phillips posted and tabulated reservations for seminar and lunches, as well as took over secretarial duties for Fran Murray. Donna Reed

stepped in as a new committee member and handled raffle items and ticket sales. Evelyn Ross worked with Cathy Stevenson with mailing out flyers and publicity. Cathy Stevenson designed the flyer and program, as well as submitting articles to the Press Democrat, other newspapers and agencies. Betty Young coordinated lunches with the caterer, and ran the concession which provided snacks and drinks. Ray Owen—out of alphabetical order on purpose—he not only took care of printing speaker and other information for our folders but, above and beyond his normal duties, stepped in and quietly made it seem like I was the "one and only chairperson" when I wasn't even there the month of March. From me to you, Ray, many, many thanks! Also appreciation for Pearl Tucker and Helen Strickley, who helped Betty Young with the drinks/snacks; and Maggie Andrews, George Margeson, Muriel Morrow and June Smith who helped Ray with the registrations.

# A Newbie's Trip to Salt Lake City

by Janet Mobley

**S**unday: Traveling these days isn't as much fun as it used to be. The hour and a half flight took over seven hours from my house to the very nice Best Western Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City. The Oakland Airport, where we arrived more than two hours before take-off was packed with people. But arriving at the beautiful non-crowded Utah airport and driving into the spotless city with spectacular modern buildings amid the fairy tale beauty of the Mormon Temple and its surrounding buildings at Temple Square more than made up for the beginning of the trip.



**George Ott,  
Master  
Genealogist**

The mountains were still snowy, the temperature is in 80s and the winds were gusting up to 50 miles an hour. After dinner there was an orientation meeting given by master genealogist, George Ott, which was attended by the members and guests of the Sonoma County Genealogical Society and two other groups; a total of about 40 people. The two or three other *newbies* seemed to be as overwhelmed as I was. We had hand outs showing the rearrangements that have been made to the huge four story Library.

Monday: I started my search for the birth date and place of my paternal great-great grandfather whose family emigrated from England to Ireland and then to Canada and then the U. S. I got nowhere (except dizzy) looking through one of the 509 microfilm readers for an hour and a half. Then I went to the Joseph Smith Memorial Building about a block away to find the book written about that family.

I admired the beautiful gardens of the Temple Square as I walked through on my way to the Smith building, formally the Hotel Utah where I had stayed with my parents many years ago while here on a visit. There were many beds of tulips and hyacinths which gave off a lovely perfume.

I found the book which was written about a man who I think was



**Computers galore!**

the brother of my missing ancestor. I used the copy machine to make copies of several pages and then back to the Library to see what else I can find.

Hurray! I found twenty new names in pedigrees charts by using the Family Search program on one of the 160 computers (all PC). Also, some updated information on ancestors I have in my *Reunion* program.

Back at the hotel, as I added the new information into *Reunion* on my new iBook I had the news on the TV. This area of Utah was experiencing a huge wind storm with gusts up to 60 miles and hour and temperatures falling to the 30s at about 5:30PM. There was snow expected the next day.

Tuesday: It was strange for this S.F. Bay Area gal to wake up to see snow covered roofs from my ninth floor hotel window. The streets just looked wet and the temperatures were supposed to rise but snow was forecast for most of the week. The winds died down, thankfully.



**The Lobby of the Library**

Continued on page 7

Wednesday: I decided to do some research on my husband's ancestors. I found his grandmother's name on the 1910 census. I'm waiting to see if the snow stops so I can walk around the corner to visit the Pioneers Museum. That museum and the museum in the Temple Square are beautifully set up. The exhibits and figures are very realistic. There are beautiful paintings adorning the walls.

Thursday: I went on a Temple Square tour in the morning between rainfalls. Two young Korean women led four of us to the buildings except for the inside of the Temple which is off limits to non-Mormons. We admired the outside of the Temple which took forty years to build and looks brand new. The Tabernacle where the choir sings, has a huge organ and recitals are given daily. Choir rehearsals are Thursday nights.

This afternoon I printed out a lot of pedigree sheets at the Library with many additional ancestors. It will take me hours to put them into *Reunion*. The other members of the Society were doing much more advanced work than I. They were looking up wills and probates, land records,



**Information Center on Second Floor**

census reports and other things that are way beyond me. Some of the people stayed until the 10PM closing time.

It was snowing lightly again and I stayed in my room to put a lot of information into my computer.

Friday: More searches for ancestors and another trip to the Museum and their shop to buy a CD of the choir.

Saturday, the last full day. I went to the noon organ recital in the Tabernacle. The building is the shape of a half of an egg, cut the long way. The acoustics are wonderful. The demonstration before the concert showed the tearing of a piece of paper and a pin being dropped onto a metal plate, clearly heard from my seat near the back of the 117 foot long room. The organ is huge and has a beautiful sound.

I still have pedigree charts with names to add when I get home but while here I added about 250 names bringing my total ancestors to 1,350; a mere drop in the bucket compared to the several thousand ancestors the other members of the Society have in their files.

That leaves me with a lot more work to be done. One last thing; the Best Western Plaza hotel where we stayed is very comfortable with large rooms and is right around the corner from the Library. The food was very good and inexpensive. It also has an Internet connection in the room if you take a laptop and there is no charge for local calls.



**This beautiful tapestry had threads of silver, white and colors with clear beads which looked like ice crystals.**

**SCGS Members**

- June & Don Wolf
- James Cochran
- John Palmer
- Audrey Herman
- Annie Conley
- Muriel Morrow
- Audrey Phillips
- Claire Miller
- Marya Myers
- Janet Mobley
- Jo Russell

**Napa Valley**

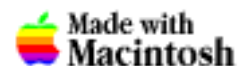
- Joyce Ridgeway
- Delores Akin
- JoAnne Wade

**Florida**

- Karen Gury

**Georgia**

- Melna Smith



## **Mark Your Calendar**

**The FGS/CSGA Conference, California 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>

## **General Meeting**

**May 25<sup>th</sup>**

**S.R.J.C**

**Lark Hall, Room 2009**

**1 P.M. - 3 P.M.**

***There is now a \$2.00  
parking fee at the college.***

**Sonoma County Genealogical Society  
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