



Sonoma County Genealogical Society Newsletter



May 2003

President's Message

by Evelyn Ross

OK... I'm not going to say "shame on you". If you were one of the many society members who didn't attend the Spring Seminar, with Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, you must have had a good reason for missing a very delightful and informative event.

One topic brought up in Sharon's first presentation was the close relationship between Genealogical Societies and Historical Societies. Where one is involved with preserving the records and histories of families, the other is interested in preserving the history and culture of the community those families lived in. Because of an invitation to speak at a meeting of the Rancho Bodega Historical Society the following week, I was especially interested in this concept. Here are just a few examples of how these two groups can and should work together.

One of our society board members, Ray Owen, was looking for information to go with a picture he had of two ancestors who had gone to Alaska in the late 1800's. A member of an Alaskan historical society was able to identify the location as Valdez, by recognizing the type of trees in the picture's background. When Ray contacted the Valdez Historical Society he got the documentation he needed to confirm his ancestors' involvement in the Alaskan Gold Rush.

No history of my grandmother Sarah Luella Dollar's family would be complete without the following story of her grandfather, Jesse G. Dollar, taken from a history of Canton Township, Fulton County, Illinois in the 1830's.

Brisk Business

Coon-skins were currency up to 1835, and values were frequently expressed in coon-skins. Whisky was one coon-skin per quart. Childs & Stillman were selling it at that price, and their store was a place of resort as a consequence. The counter of this store was a rude affair, and the front of it not closely jointed; indeed, there were interstices between the clapboard panels through which a coon-skin could be readily pulled. One day Jesse Dollar called for a quart of whiskey, and in payment handed over his coon-skin. The coon-skin was tossed under the counter, and the whisky drank among the crowd. Dollar had a ramrod in his hands with a wiping-screw on the end. This he slyly inserted into the fur, drew it out, and with it paid for the second quart, which was also passed through the admiring crowd. Dollar was liberal, generous, indeed prodigal, with his one coon-skin, making it pay for five quarts of whisky in almost that number of minutes. Childs & Stillman were pleased at their prosperous trade. The crowd was pleased at the joke, and Dollar was glorious.

I appreciate historical societies for helping me add color and life to my names, dates, and places.



May 24th
Meeting:

General
Education
Meeting,

David
Abrahams

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 13, Number 6

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*Evelyn says,
"We need you! Be a volunteer"*

From Jo Russell's Mailbox

by Jo Russell

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2003 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at:

<http://www.RootsForum.com>.

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Veterans' History Project

There are 19 million war veterans living in the United States today, but every day we lose 1,500 of them. Now is the time to collect their stories and experiences, while they are still among us. The Veterans History Project aims to do just that.

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress plans to collect and preserve audio and video-taped oral histories, along with documentary materials such as letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and home movies, of America's war veterans and those who served in support of them. The Veterans History Project covers World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars. It includes all participants in those wars; men and women, civilian and military. It documents the contributions of civilian volunteers, support staff, and war industry workers, as well as the experiences of military personnel from all ranks and all branches of service -- the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

New at the Library

by Maggi Andrews

728 G Discovering the History of Your House and Your Neighborhood; by Green

917.3 M A Field Guide to American Homes...in their historic and architectural contexts...; by McAlester



All Americans are encouraged to participate. By interviewing a veteran or war worker as part of the Veterans History Project, you honor those who served our nation. You also are participating in a national project initiated by Congress to promote public learning and to encourage discussion across the generations about our nation's wartime activities. Interviewers might be veterans comparing their experiences with fellow veterans who fought in previous wars or they may be students talking with veterans and home front supporters within their local communities as part of school projects. Or they may be grandsons and granddaughters coaxing grandparents to share their memories of America at war.

Condolences

To Eisal Brantley and family about Gene Brantley's death. He was a cheerfully involved member of our society, with special interests in Southern research and in western trails history, especially the



Speaker News: "20th Century Immigration"

by Fawn Hill (Interim VP)

Our speaker for the May 24th General Education Meeting, David Abrahams, had many members of his family come to America in the early part of the 20th century. He worked diligently to retrieve their immigration and naturalization documents and in so doing has gained a great set of research skills he's willing to share with others.

He will outline some of the immigration laws from the late 1800's to the present and will discuss and show samples of the various types of records available to the researcher. The list includes passenger manifests and their associated index cards, visas, and naturalization applications. And then he will explain the methods and procedures used to obtain them.

He comes to us with an impressive background as a very active leader in the field of genealogy and has participated in many seminars both as a speaker and organizer.

He is past president of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, a member of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. He is the former Regional Director for the California State Genealogical Alliance and has participated in the SF Bay Area Genealogical Consortium as well as maintaining membership in several other societies. This is an opportunity for all of us to get some great hands-on information about how to be successful in our research efforts. Do not let the chance pass you by. See you at the meeting.



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Dedicated Annex Volunteers Deserve Thanks

by Fawn Hill

Just saying "Thanks" is hardly enough for those dedicated members who show up on Wednesdays, from 1:00 to 3:00, rain or shine, year round, to meet, greet and help Library Annex visitors locate Genealogical information.

In fact it is the one, year-round activity of the society. Volunteers are only 'off duty' when the Annex closes for a holiday.

Last fall and this spring, both 'old' and 'new' members participated. Namely, Lois Nimmo, Audrey Herman, Winifred Swanson, Susan Simons, Claire Miller, Fran Kimball, Mary Ann Ciabattari and myself. In theory, with that many of us taking turns, each would sign up only once in every eight Wednesdays. But in fact, when one person misses a turn or two, as I did in December and January, others step in and do double duty which is greatly appreciated.

I recommend all members consider giving

it a try. It is a rewarding and worthwhile activity. Talk to those who work there and find out what motivates them. Orientation can be done on a one-to-one basis but traditionally a group orientation session is conducted each fall and sometimes in the spring also. The session, conducted by the librarian Tony Hoskins, is open to all interested society members, guests and library patrons.

Things change on a daily basis in today's world of genealogical research. Volunteering at the Annex is one great way to stay informed. For more information just e-mail or call Fawn Hill – 707 544-2380 fawnrhill@compuserve.com.

SCGS Projects Progress Report: April 2003

by Carmen J. Finley

1930 School Census

Final copy is now being prepared



School Attendance Records

Proofing is about 95% complete on this project.

Vital Data in Newspapers

We are nearing completion of entering and proofing volume V, 1891-1895. Abstracting and entering information for volume VI, 1896-1900 continues.

Online Indexes

We now have fourteen indexes online. Our SCGS web page and SCGenWeb list all of them. The Library Annex has not been able to list the last four as yet.

Online Indexes/SCGS Webpage Visitors as of 7 Mar. 2003 Visitors as of 5 Apr. 2003

Date Placed Online Linked to 1890 Census Sonoma County, California (Reconstructed) 10,701 10,955 15 Aug. 1999 SCGS, Annex;

SCGenWeb 1890 Great Register of Voters, Sonoma County, California 5,149 5,276 21 Apr. 2000 SCGS, Annex;

SCGenWeb Early Sonoma County, California, Land Grants, 1846-1850 4,983 5,195 6 July 2000 SCGS, Annex;

SCGenWeb Naturalization Records In Sonoma County, California: vol. I, 1841-1906 3,565 3,688 2 Jan. 2001 SCGS, Annex;

SCGenWeb, NapaGenWeb Naturalization Records In Sonoma County, California: vol. II, 1906-1930 2,083 2,162 12 July 2001 SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb SCGS Webpage 23,625 24,633 31 May 2000 Annex;

SCGenWeb, CAGenWeb Sonoma County, California Death Records, 1873-1905 10,496 19,748 29 Apr. 2000 SCGS, Annex;

SCGenWeb Sonoma County, California, Cemetery Records, 1846-1921 17,777 18,154 15 Aug. 1999 SCGS, Annex;

SCGenWeb Vital Data in Newspapers - vol. 1 (counter reset in Dec.-Jan.- 1,532 in Oct. 2,103 2,215 16 Oct. 2000 SCGS, Annex;

SCGenWeb Vital Data in Newspapers - vol. 2, 208 2,287 7 Mar. 2001 SCGS, Annex;

SCGenWeb Vital Data in Newspapers - vol. 3, 140 3,275 14 July 2001 SCGS, Annex;

SCGenWeb Vital Data in Newspapers - vol. 4, 776 851 12 Aug. 2002 Militia Records 1,431 1,515 25 Feb. 2002

SCGS, CAGenWeb Sonoma Searcher Index 819 900 5 June 2002

SCGS, CAGenWeb Judgments (court records of debts) 1,233 1,336 22 July 2002

SCGS, CAGenWeb



MyFamily.com, Inc. Acquires Genealogy.com

Press Releases

MyFamily.com, Inc. Acquires Genealogy.com, Expands Product Line, and Enters Long-Term Promotional Agreement with A&E Television Networks

PROVO, Utah, April 8 /PRNewswire/ MyFamily.com, Inc., a leading online subscription business and the leading network for connecting families, and A&E Television Networks (AETN) announced today that MyFamily has acquired Genealogy.com, producer of the award-winning family tree software, Family TreeMaker, and provider of extensive online genealogy resources. In addition, MyFamily will receive promotion on AETN television properties.

Genealogy.com joins the MyFamily network of websites—Ancestry.com, MyFamily.com, and RootsWeb.com—giving customers a full complement of Internet services focused on connecting families with their histories and one another. Combined, the network of websites receives over 10 million unique visitors each month and has more than one million paid subscriptions.

"We're excited to bring these two strong companies together to better serve consumers and the genealogy community," said Tom Stockham, President & CEO of MyFamily.com. "It's a great strategic fit and underscores an opportunity to serve the growing market for family history products. By providing customers with a broad set of tools to discover the information that makes their family history come to life, we help customers answer the questions, "Who am I?", "Where do I come from?" and "How am I connected?"

"AETN is excited to see these two important family history companies come together, increasing the positive experience of consumers embarking on family research," said Nick Davatzes, President & CEO, A&E Television Networks. "We believe this agreement makes good sense for the businesses and for the consumer. AETN looks forward to a long-term strategic partnership with MyFamily."

Genealogy.com will continue to offer its wide variety of products and services, including Family Tree Maker, and its dynamic roster of online subscription products. MyFamily will continue to improve upon the products and ser-

vices Genealogy.com currently offers, enhancing the family history research experience. In addition, Genealogy.com will continue to host GenForum message boards, a widely used free genealogy community resource, with more than six million messages posted.

MyFamily serves the fast-growing market of people with an interest in family history. As reported in a recent study, family history is one of the fastest-growing hobbies in the U.S., with over 60% of Americans interested in researching their family history. The addition of Genealogy.com's strong product line to MyFamily's network of websites, family tree software, databases on CD-ROM, message boards, books, and magazines, is a natural expansion, providing researchers valuable tools to quickly and easily explore their family history, saving them time and money.

About MyFamily.com, Inc.

MyFamily.com, Inc. is among the largest online subscription businesses, with over one million paid subscriptions. A next-generation media company, MyFamily is focused on connecting families with their histories and one another. The company provides both free and paid subscription services through its network of Internet properties, which include: Ancestry.com, Genealogy.com, RootsWeb.com, and MyFamily.com. The Company also publishes Family Tree Maker and Ancestry Family Tree software, Ancestry magazine, Genealogical Computing magazine, over 50 book titles, and numerous databases on CD-ROM.

About A&E Television Networks

A&E Television Networks is a joint venture of The Hearst Corporation, ABC, Inc. and NBC. AETN is an award-winning, international media company offering consumers a diverse communications environment ranging from television programming, magazine publishing, and web sites, to books, music CDs and home videos/DVDs, as well as supporting nationwide educational initiatives. A&E

Television Networks is comprised of A&E Network, The History Channel, The Biography Channel, History International, AETN International, AETN Consumer

Products, and Biography Magazine.

S O U R C E
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ormkevals@myfamilyinc.com



This and That

From an Internet Friend

HOW MANY RELATIVES DO YOU HAVE?

- Only
- 1 YOU
- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great grandparents
- 16 gg grandparents
- 32 ggg grandparents
- 64 gggg grandparents
- 128 ggggg grandparents
- 256 gggggg grandparents
- 512 ggggggg grandparents
- 1024 gggggggg grandparents
- 2048 ggggggggg grandparents
- 4096 gggggggggg grandparents
- 8192 ggggggggggg grandparents
- 16,384 gggggggggggg grandparents
- 32,768 ggggggggggggg grandparents
- 65,536 gggggggggggggg grandparents
- 131,072 ggggggggggggggg grandparents
- 262,144 gggggggggggggggg grandparents
- 524,288 gggggggggggggggg grandparents
- 1,048,576 ggggggggggggggggg grandparents
- 2,097,152 gggggggggggggggggg grandparents
- 4,194,304 gggggggggggggggggg grandparents



Important!

If you have moved, changed your phone number or your email address, please inform 2nd Vice president in charge of membership, Annie Conley.

You will get an email reminder of the meetings in your email inbox...that is, if we have your correct email address.

Special Interest Groups

Grandma's on the 'net again



British Group

The British Interest Group will meet on May 15, 1:30 p.m. at the home of George Margeson. We will share biographical sketches including "snappy"

openings and incorporating background material for our British ancestors.

For information, call Susan Simons, 527-7191 or e-mail to: suesimons@aol.com.



German Group

The next meeting of the German Interest Group will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, 3 May 2003, at the home of Bob Overcashier, 4755 Granada Drive, Santa Rosa. Bob can be reached at 538-3505. For information about the German Group, contact Jim Cochran at telephone 526-7331, or by e-mail at [<cougars@sonic.net>](mailto:cougars@sonic.net)



Irish Group:

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



Jewish and Eastern European Group

No meetings in scheduled. Contact Suzanne S. Waxman, phone 538-4378.



Computer Group

The Computer Interest Group will meet at the Family History Center on Petersin Lane, Saturday, May 17 at 1:30 p.m. Topics will be: Comparison between broadband and DSL connections; What are "blogs" and how do we use them? and "Working

between your PAF database and the internet".

For information, call Susan Simons, 527-7191 or e-mail to: suesimons@aol.com.



Italian Interest Group

The Italian Interest group will meet on May 17th at the home of Ines Williams. For more information e-mail me at inesw@attbi.com Come join us.

Grandma's on the net again, the kitchen's not her home.

She used to make us cherry pies, and call us on the phone

She would talk to us for hours; now she leaves us all alone.

We miss her homemade biscuits, and I'll make this little bet ,

If you want to contact Grandma, you'll have to surf the 'et.

Grandma's surfing on the net, you bet.

She is surfing on the net.

We've been calling her all morning, and we haven't got her yet.

She's on the E-mail network, with her electronic friends.

If you want to talk to grandma, you'll have to surf the 'net.

She's never surfed at Malibu, or caught a wave at Waikiki,

She's never seen a surfboard: hang ten doesn't mean a thing.

She's never met a beach-bum--Moon Doggie is just a pup.

But when she heads for her computer, you know the surf is up.

Grandma's getting older and her eyes are getting dim
Her random access memory, is half of what its been.

When Saint Peter comes to call some-day,
She'll say I can't go yet.

He'll have to wait for Grandma, cause she's surfing on the 'net.



It's Tradition

by Fawn Hill

The Board invites your program suggestions. Members are encouraged to help plan the content of future educational meetings. Each spring the membership is given this opportunity to share opinions and ideas for the coming year. We have had great success in the past by utilizing your input so keep up the good work. Help the board choose the best speakers, those with a message most beneficial to us. Now is your chance to let us know what you think. Have you seen or heard about a worthwhile and interesting subject. Do you know of a speaker with a unique story or 'how to' program who might be available for our schedule of educational meetings. Is there a topic that you want to learn more about? Let us know. Talk to any member of the board or call/e-mail me with your input and many thanks for all the ways you support your hard working leaders.

General Meeting

May 24th

General Education Meeting,

David Abrahams

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Dues:

\$20 per year individual or family (one household)

\$25 contributing (\$5 to book fund)

\$200 lifetime

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