



SCGS

Sonoma County Genealogical Society Newsletter



November 2002



Meeting:
Nov. 23rd
Dating,
Restoring
and
Preserving
Old Photos

Ron Willis,
Photo
Expert

Let Us Give Thanks

Santa Rosa
J.C.
Lark Hall
1-3pm

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

President's Message

by Evelyn Ross



In researching my family's history over the years, I've uncovered some amazing things. A 52-page pension file for my Revolutionary War grandfather. An hilarious story about my 2nd great-grandfather and a coonskin. And what I consider one of the most important finds, an old photo album with each picture carefully identified, with the exception of "Robert Shields and his last wife' !?!

The album was probably put together and labeled by my 3rd great-grandmother, Elizabeth Eggers Shields. It includes at least three generations of the Eggers/ Shields families, beginning with my 4th great-grandmother, Lydia Dollar Eggers Tatum, who was born July 1805 and died October 1872.

I'm convinced of the importance of preserving AND labeling family photos. The following poem published in a recent on-line genealogy newsletter echoes my thoughts:

Strangers in a Box

Come, look with me inside this drawer,
In this box I've so often seen,
At the pictures, black and white,
Faces proud, still, serene.

I wish I knew the people,
These strangers in the box,
Their names and all their memories
Are lost among my socks.

I wonder what their lives were like.
How did they spend their days?
What about their special times?
I'll never know their ways.

If only someone had taken time
To tell who, what, where, when,
These faces of my heritage
Would come to life again.

Could this become the fate
Of the pictures we take today?
The faces and the memories
Someday to be tossed away?

Make time to save your pictures,
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,
Or someday you and yours could be
The strangers in the box.

Pamela A. Harazim. All Rights Reserved.



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Maintaining Photographic Heritage

by Fawn Hill

Ron Willis, the speaker for our General meeting on Saturday, November 23rd, is a professional of long standing. This year he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his business in archival quality, photo restoration. It was begun by Ron's father (Harvey B. Willis), in the early 1950's, in Palo Alto and Ron says he grew up at the Photo Lab located a block away from his home.



Photography has been his passion since his youth. Although initially their work included restoration of hand colored copies he now works with black and white photos only.

Ron apprenticed in the business during his growing up years and became a partner in 1972 after graduating from San Jose State University with a degree in Business Management. He has an extensive background in lecturing, dating old photographs and using photography as a genealogical research tool. This includes making archival copies that will last for generations. His audiences include many of the genealogical societies and related organizations from throughout a large area of California; North Bay area, the Peninsula, North Peninsula and Central California area. He has recently been invited to speak at the California Genealogical Society's History Faire. On a

commercial basis the business has done projects for Hoover Institute's Archives at Stanford University, Palo Alto Historical Society, the Anchorage Historical Society, Sunset Magazine and Howard Brodie (the WWII war photographer) to name a few.

Ron's dedication to archival work; helping families maintain and share their photographic heritage as well as preserving family collections for generations to come is a rarity in this age of modern, quick, photo finishing and color printing. We are fortunate indeed to have him bring his expertise to Santa Rosa. He has invited members to bring along old photos. He will look them over and offer opinions and recommendations at the close of the lecture. This is another "not to be missed" educational opportunity for all society members and friends.

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Special Interest Groups



British Group

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



German Group

Contact: Jim Cochran, phone 526-7331, or e-mail cougars@sonic.net.



Irish Group

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



Jewish and Eastern European Group

Contact Suzanne S. Waxman, phone 538-4378



Computer Group

The next meeting will be at the Family History Center on Peterson Lane on Nov. 16th. For information call Susan Simons at 527-7191 or e-mail: suesimons@aol.com



Italian Interest Group

The Italian Interest Group will meet on November 16th at 10AM at the home of Ines Williams. Come join us. For more information please e-mail: inesw@attbi.com

SCGS Projects Progress Report

by Carmen J. Finley



1930 School Census

Proofing continues on this project. Still a long way to go.

Early School Attendance Records

Proofing is about 40% complete on this project.

Militia Records

Proof of catalog listing was sent on 20 September. This means this publication will probably appear in the October or November issue of Heritage catalog.

Sonoma Searcher Index

Proof of catalog listing was received 1 October. The listing is scheduled to appear in the December catalog of Heritage.

Cemeteries of Sonoma County

A publishing agreement for Jeremy Nichols' book on cemeteries has been received from Heritage. It should appear in a coming catalog.

Online Indexes

We now have fourteen indexes online. Our SCGS web page and SCGenWeb list all of them. Library Annex has not been able to list the last four as yet. As has been the pattern, the most popular site is the DAR Cemetery that has been visited by more than 400 persons this month. Visitations to other sites vary around 100 per month.

Online Indexes/SCGS Webpage	Visitors as of 5 Oct. 2002	Visitors as of 6 Sept. 2002	Placed Online	Linked to
1890 Census Sonoma County, California (Reconstructed)	9,266	9,062	15 Aug. 1999	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
1890 Great Register of Voters, Sonoma County, California	4,240	4,101	21 Apr. 2000	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
Early Sonoma County, California, Land Grants, 1846-1850	3,966	3,790	6 July 2000	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
Naturalization Records In Sonoma County, California: vol. I, 1841-1906	2,742	2,634	2 Jan. 2001	SCGS, Annex SCGenWeb, NapaGenWeb
Naturalization Records In Sonoma County, California: v ol. II, 1906-1930	1,521	1,412	12 July 2001	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
SCGS Webpage	20,362	19,514	31 May 2000	Annex, SCGenWeb, CAGenWeb
Sonoma County, California Death Records, 1873-1905	8,941	8,693	29 Apr. 2000	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
Sonoma County, California, Cemetery Records, 1846-1921	15,459	15,064	15 Aug. 1999	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
Vital Data in Newspapers - vol. 1(counter reset in Dec.-Jan.- 1,532 in Oct.)	1,332	1,223	16 Oct. 2000	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
Vital Data in Newspapers - vol. 2	1,671	1,579	7 Mar. 2001	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
Vital Data in Newspapers - vol. 3	2,326	2,166	14 July 2001	SCGS, Annex, SCGenWeb
Vital Data in Newspapers - vol. 4	274	202	12 Aug. 2002	
Militia Records	889	790	25 Feb. 2002	SCGS, CAGenWeb
Sonoma Searcher Index	322	220	5 June 2002	SCGS, CAGenWeb
Judgments (court records of debts)	530	423	22 July 2002	SCGS, CAGenWeb
Spring Seminar Sharon D. Carmack	380	267	26 June 2002	SCGS +

Congratulations to Lois Nimmo

Presented by Jo Russell

Dear Lois:

As Director of California State Genealogical Alliance is my pleasure to present you this Award of Merit. Recognizing your contributions to Sonoma County Genealogical Society and your community a member of your society nominated you for this award

Lois has, for the past four years, chaired the Sonoma County Genealogical Society annual spring seminar. She holds periodic meetings and keeps track of what each of the committee members are doing. The seminar regularly draws from 200 to 260 persons, many of them coming from out of county plus a small contingent from Nevada. SCGS seminars have provided the society with funds to support other activities that do not support themselves.

I join Sonoma County Genealogical Society and California State Genealogical Alliance in thanking you for your many contributions to the genealogical community. Congratulations for this well deserved recognition.

Jo Russell,

Director North Bay Region, California State Genealogical Alliance

Description of CSGA Awards

Award of OF Merit: Presented to an individual or organization, not necessarily a member society, in recognition of meritorious service or distinguished work in genealogy and family history. Each year several are given.

Certificate of Appreciation: Presented to an individual or organization in gratitude for duty performed in an exemplary and outstanding manner. Each year several can be awarded.

President's Citation: Presented to an individual or organization whose contributions or service to CSGA or the genealogy community are singled out for recognition by the CSGA President.

Director's Award: Presented to an individual or organization by the recommendation of a regional director, in recognition of exceptional contributions to the field of genealogy and family history. An extra-mile effort to promote good will and improve services. Must be a member of CSGA.

Founders Award: Presented to the founding individuals who have established a genealogy society in the state of California.

Publication Award: Nomination for this award may come from individual societies to honor society editors for work on California society publications.



Family History Month Proclamation Presented to Society



Cath Trindle, Treasurer/Registrar, California State Genealogical Alliance; Barbara Edkin, 1st Vice President, California State Genealogical Alliance; Senator Wesley Chesbro, D-Arcata, California Senate District 2; Evelyn Ross, President, Sonoma County Genealogical Society; Jo Russell, Member at Large, Sonoma County Genealogical Society/ Director North Bay Region, California State Genealogical Alliance.

Newsletter Published Monthly (with the exception of July, August and December)

by the Sonoma County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 2273

Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0273

Dues:

\$20 per year individual or family (one house-hold)

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

\$200 lifetime



Expert Advice: Gathering Family Photo Stories

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Jo's Notes

by Jo Russell

Heritage Quest Online is a possible research tool for those using libraries.

I have not yet had opportunity to use this research tool, but I did find this URL:

<http://www.heritagequestonline.com/index>

Use the link "Read more about this collection," for information.

Those who have had the opportunity to access the databases seem to be very impressed. I am looking forward to the opportunity to check this one out.



Talking with relatives is a necessary part of any family research, but it becomes more important when photographs are involved. By showing the images to family members, you may discover the names and the stories behind the photographs.

In some cases, the older members of a family will remember stories, while in others, the younger relatives will be the most helpful. You may want to show the image you are trying to date and interpret to more than one relative. Everyone remembers an event differently. An elderly relative may remember all the names of the people in the portrait and may also tell you a story about the day the picture was taken.

One relative talked about what it had been like to travel to the city to sit for a family portrait. She recalled that she had never seen a tin ceiling before and couldn't take her eyes away from it. Her story explained why she was looking up in the family portrait. She could provide a date for the image, but the story she told about it enriched the family history.

When showing a photograph to relatives, prepare a list of questions prior to your visit. And let the details in the image lead to other avenues of enquiry. A friend showed her much older siblings a box of family photographs in order to find out when and where they were taken. All the images were taken before she was born, so she was unfamiliar with the events and the people. During the course of the interview, the siblings began using nicknames for each other that they had used as children. The younger sibling was amazed. She was unaware

of these nicknames, her siblings explained, because they had used them only to communicate between themselves. Her siblings shared with her the origins of those nicknames and why they used them. A whole new understanding of her immediate family was uncovered in one afternoon by looking at family photographs.—Excerpted from "Uncovering Your Ancestry through

Family Photographs" by Maureen Taylor, \$18.99.

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http://www.familytreemagazine.com/subscribe_mag.html.

D.A.R. to Host WW II Survivor of Doolittle's Raiders



Lt. Col. Frank Kappeler will talk about the famous raid by Jimmy Doolittle's Raiders over Tokyo, the story behind the movie, "30 Seconds Over Tokyo"

Navigator Frank is one of the 21 survivors of the original 80 Raiders. He will talk at the Veteran's Memorial building, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa on November 18th at 1:30pm.

The public is invited to the talk and the reception following.

Reservations must be made by Nov. 8th by calling 539-4590 or 545-0817.

Cost: \$10

New at the Library

by Maggi Andrews

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 929.3 | Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 2003 supplement; by Filby | A new periodical subscription The American Genealogist quarterly, located with the other periodicals in the center shelves (below the "New Books") |
| 929.3744 M | Records of the Court of Assistants of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay 1630-1692; vol. 1-3 | NOW AVAILABLE for purchase at the Sonoma County Library Annex |
| 929.3744 W | Massachusetts Civil List for the Colonial and Provincial Periods, 1630-1774 [list of civil officers]; by Whitmore | The Chosen Spot Sonoma County's Rich History in Agriculture & Timber. |
| 929.3746 J | History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield; Vol. 1-2 | Produced by Anthony Hoskins, Katherine Johnson, Denise Kruse, Virginia McLaren; 113 pages of photographs spanning over 100 years, from 1874-1989, with explanatory text. (\$7.50) |
| 929.3746 J | Families of Ancient New Haven, vol. I - VIII | What a wonderful look at the lives of those who helped to shape the area we now call home. |
| 929.3748 H | Pennsylvania Births Lancaster County 1723-1777; by Humphrey * donated by Audrey Herman and SCGS | Speaking of Photographs—did you know that the Annex has cataloged over 28,000 photographs. Their new photocopy machine makes quite good copies, or you can pay to have a negative made. You can also search the library catalog to see what is available. If you have access to the World Wide Web, either at home or at the Annex, you can even view about 18,000 of the photographs that have been digitized, and even print a copy on your own printer! |
| 929.3752 C | Settlers of Maryland 1679-1783; by Q Coldham | From your Web browser, if you want to look at the Sonoma County Library home page, type in : < http://www.sonoma.lib.ca.us/ >. Just remember that you will need to use the Web catalog to take advantage of graphical capabilities. |
| 929.3752 D | Maryland and Virginia Colonials; vol I-II; by Doliant | For a more direct route to the web-based catalog, type in : < http://webpac.sonoma.lib.ca.us/public.html > |
| 929.3755 W | Virginia Gleanings in England; by Withington | Click on "Library Catalog". |
| 929.3755 C | Old King William Homes and Families; by Clarke | Change "Choose an Index to Search" to "Main Words in Subject". |
| 929.3778 C | Cass County Missouri Families | Type in something you are looking for....for example, Humboldt... the 5th item listed is Humboldt Street ... double click & the 5 titles will be shown in summary. |
| 929.3788 C | Colorado 1870 Census Index | As it happens, all these are the "Format" of "picture"... double click again & the details are shown. In the section Copy Details, the Call Number will allow the librarian to find the photograph in the Annex's collection. If the Media line shows a WWW address, a single click will bring the image up on your screen. And there are thousands of these waiting to be discovered! |
| 929.379478 F | Historic San Leandro, California; by Freeman | |
| 929.43 G | Germans to America; vol 25; Jan 1871-Sep 1871 | |
| 929.43 G | Germans to America; vol 30; Jun 1873-Nov 1873 | |
| 979.415 L | Mendocino County Remembered, an Oral History; by Levene | |
| 979.438 L | The Life & Times of La Porte ... | |
| 979.469 M | Illustrated History of San Mateo County | |
| 979.469 S | Peninsula Community Book / San Mateo County; by Stanger | |

More New Stuff !!!!

In the Microfilm cabinet :

California Death Index 1905-1939 (the years 1940-1985 are on microfiche)

and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Sonoma County town, from the late 1800s to the mid-1900s, as well as for most other California towns C - Z (Clements - Zamora).

Coming Events

November 8-10, 2002 - Millbrae, CA

The Italian Folk Art Federation of America will be holding their 2002 Conference in Millbrae at the Clarion Hotel, 401 E. Millbrae Avenue, Millbrae. There will be a genealogy session to learn how to research Italian roots, providing forms and letters in English and Italian. Dance workshops will be offered twice to allow participants the opportunity to attend other activities which include the IFAFA Choir and demonstration of folk instruments. Cost is \$125 for registration after October 4, 2002. For more information, contact Jackie Capurro, (408) 274-3764 or <viva_ifafa@hotmail.com>. The web site for the IFAFA is <www.italian-american.com/ifafa <<http://www.italian-american.com/ifafa>> >.

General Meeting

November 23rd

Santa Rosa J. C.

Lark Hall

1-3pm

Sonoma County Genealogical Society
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