



# Sonoma County Genealogical Society Newsletter

## November 2003

### President's Message

by Evelyn Ross

It's November already?! How can that be...I'm still writing June on my checks!

Even though it's come around a lot sooner than necessary, I love this time of year, when activities seemingly slow down and everything waits in quiet expectation for the first sound of raindrops. Maybe you can have a few evenings to enjoy a cozy fire and a good book before the Holiday crazies pounce on you.

Whether you're ready or not, the Holiday season will come. One way to eliminate some of the stress is to stick with traditions. Celebrating the season in the same way year after year can become automatic.

It's never too late to begin a tradition. Recall some of your favorite childhood memories and bring them back to share with your children and grandchildren. I remember sitting under my grandmother's dining room table playing checkers, or the simple card game "war" with my brother while the hustle and bustle of preparation was going on all around us. Keeping a few board games around for the bored is not a bad idea, and may be the start of a tradition for you.

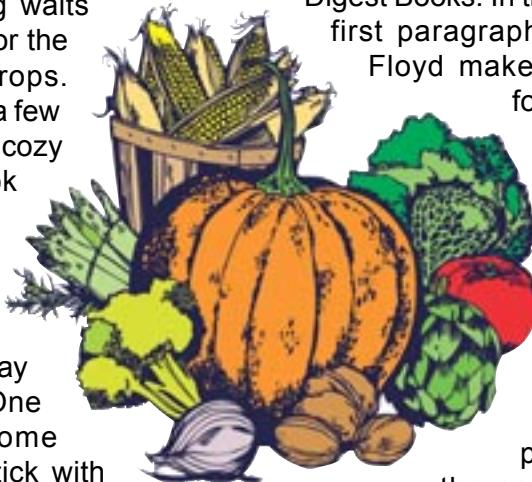
This time of year also seems to include, for better or worse, the traditional family

newsletter. I've recently come across *Creating Family Newsletters*, written by Elaine Floyd and distributed by Writer's Digest Books. In the very

first paragraph of her introduction, Floyd makes a strong argument for family newsletters by reminding readers that family and friends today are more widespread than when they used to live on the same block or in the same small town. And that a newsletter can bring people together in much the same way that sharing stories, hugs, and the humor of everyday association would.

The author provides helpful solutions to common problems that may drag down writing. The checklist of what to include in a newsletter is also very helpful. The book is full of clever ideas for articles, pictures, and formats. If you're thinking of writing a family newsletter, or have been doing so for years and are looking for some fresh ideas, this may well be the book you will want to curl up with next to that cozy fire.

Regardless of whether you're doing something new and different this year, or are sticking to the best loved family traditions, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy time.



November  
22<sup>nd</sup>  
Meeting:

"Urban  
Research:  
Finding the  
Needle in a  
Haystack"

by  
Evelyn  
Ross

Lark Hall,  
Room 2004  
SRJC

1:00pm

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

# Urban Research: Finding the Needle in a Haystack

by Fawn Hill



Those who find themselves searching for ancestors in large cities have a unique set of challenges. Any geographic area that is densely populated is likely to have two or more individuals,

with the same name, living in the same city or county, during the same time period. The more common the name the more likely duplication will be found. How then do we determine which one is our ancestor? Is there a set of research techniques that address this issue? The answer is 'yes.'

Evelyn Ross, President of Sonoma County Genealogical Society, will share her expertise on this subject at the **November 22, 2003 monthly general educational meeting to be held in room 2004 of Lark Hall, SRJC. We begin at 1:00pm and**

**notice the change from last year when we held our meetings in Room 2009.**

If you are not well acquainted with Evelyn, our SCGS President, you may not know that she has not only an excellent set of leadership skills, but an extensive background in the field of genealogical research and has a former career as a teacher and librarian. In addition to that she has almost daily contact with individuals and groups involved in learning the process necessary to find their ancestors. She has served six years as Assistant to the Director of the Santa Rosa Family History Center and I often say, "If she can't answer your question immediately just give her 20 or 30 minutes." She always seems to know 'where' to look for 'what' and is a patient, thorough teacher. I look forward to seeing all members attend this special event in November.

## Special Interest Groups



### British Group

The British Group will meet on Thursday, November 20 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Susan Simons, 459 Nikki Drive, Santa Rosa. (For directions, call her at 527-7191) The principle topic for discussion is; "The Parish Chest." E-mail to: [suesimons@aol.com](mailto:suesimons@aol.com).



### German Group

We meet at 10 am on the first Saturday of the odd-numbered months except for July. Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, 1 Nov. 2003 at the home of Helen Strickley, Bodega Bay, CA, phone 875-2580. We will be having a general help session and discussion on topics of interest to those present. For Information contact Jim Cochran at [cougars@sonic.net](mailto:cougars@sonic.net)



### Computer Interest Group

We will meet on Saturday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m. at the

LDS Family History Center on Peterson Lane. The meeting will include Q&A, and some hands-on practice on the computers with special emphasis on information learned at the Oct. 25th seminar. For further information contact Maggi Andrews at 538-1775. **Italian Interest Group**



We will meet at the home of Ines Williams after the holidays on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information e-mail; [inesw@comcast.net](mailto:inesw@comcast.net). Come join us.

### Family History Writing Group



Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month beginning 11/1/2003 at the Local History Annex of the Library at 1 p.m.

Contact: Cheryl Doran Girard ([fyrmom@sonic.net](mailto:fyrmom@sonic.net)) 865-1181 for further information.

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## What is a Certified Genealogist?

Carmen J. Finley

The Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) offers certification in three research categories including:

CGRS<sup>SM</sup> Certified Genealogical Records Specialist

CLS<sup>SM</sup> Certified Lineage Specialist

CG<sup>SM</sup> Certified Genealogist and two teaching categories:

CG<sup>SM</sup> Certified Genealogical Lecturer

CGI<sup>SM</sup> Certified Genealogical Instructor

All applicants go through a rigorous examination process that assures their competency in reading documents, critiquing published materials, and developing project reports. The CG<sup>SM</sup>,

in addition, must be able to develop a complex case study and prepare a compiled genealogy.

Researchers who wish to use the services of a certified person can be assured they are getting quality, but can also expect to pay for it. Rates vary from about \$25 to \$50 per hour. SCGS has two certified genealogists, Marya Myers and Carmen Finley. However, neither of them accept client work.

A directory of certified persons, by geographical area can be found at the BCG website at:

<http://www.bcgcertification.org/associates/index.php>



## Sonoma County Genealogical Society

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## What is an Accredited Genealogist?

by Evelyn Ross

To become an Accredited Genealogist (AG) applicants are expected to pass an 8 hour written examination as well as an oral interview conducted by genealogists familiar with the locality being tested.

Those interested in becoming accredited submit a four-generation pedigree, all dates of which must be earlier than 1875, or 1900 in U.S. regions formed later. The submission must include a written report of research findings, copies of original documents researched, and abstracts or transcripts organized as they would be presented in a client's report.

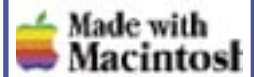
After the applicants pedigree project is accepted, an examination is given to test their ability to complete a similar pedigree under imposed time constraints. The examination tests the candidates understanding and knowledge of history,

paleography, document contents, record availability, and research techniques appropriate for the region of accreditation. Accreditation is for a 5 year period and is renewable.

The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen) is the non-profit organization that currently provides testing and accreditation for 4 geographical regions of the U.S. as well as 22 foreign regions.

If you are interested in learning more about this accreditation process, visit the Web site at [www.ICAPGen.org](http://www.ICAPGen.org)

The preceding information was condensed from a presentation given by Karen Clifford, AG.



## Coming Events

This is to announce our Irish Research Trip to Dublin in 2004. The dates are 28<sup>th</sup> March - 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2004. Nora Hickey, noted Irish historian and genealogist from Kinsale, will be the research director and personal consultant. Don-Em Travel Center of San Francisco (1-800-453-6636) is recommended by the organizers of this research week. There are many activities in and around Dublin for non-researching companions. Contact Sally Warren at 415- 435-1038 or [www.saw33@msn.com](http://www.saw33@msn.com) for a brochure and registration form.



*Do you have Pilgrim ancestors?*

Sonoma County  
Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 2273  
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*November  
22<sup>nd</sup>*

*Meeting:*

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