



THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY NEWSLETTER

January - February 2014

The library of the Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County is located on the ground floor of the Santa Cruz Main Library: 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Phone: (831) 427-7707

President's Message



Happy New Year!

What an exciting year 2013 was for the GSSCC! I am proud to work along such a remarkable group of people. Highlights of 2013 include:

- Partnership with SCPL to renew the Fold3 library subscription for all library patrons
- Several Ancestry.com workshops at library branches
- Scanning of the Ellis File for future preservation
- Field trip to the Sutro State Library
- Huge donation of the War of Rebellion book collection to Friends of SCPL
- Renewal of the New England Historic and Genealogical Society online subscription
- Renewal of the computer subscription for Heritage Quest for all library patrons
- Hundreds of library volunteer staffing hours at the genealogy desk in our library
- Maintenance of the display case in the genealogy room
- A wonderful and well-attended Society Summer Social
- Acquisition of many additions to our library for the USA and worldwide
- Active updating of several periodical subscriptions at the library
- Cataloging all of those new library editions
- Updating our GSSCC Membership Handbook
- Answering genealogical queries for in- and out-of-state patrons
- Providing inter-library loan services for library patrons
- Hundreds of volunteer indexing hours

- Maintaining a Folks File database for thousands of Santa Cruz residents
- Providing nine wonderful speaker presentations at our general meetings
- Holding a handful of meet-and-greet luncheons in between general meetings
- Publishing an online database on our website of *Marriage Licenses for SC County*

This list goes on and on. There are no limits to what we can accomplish in the name of genealogical research!

Save the date - Wednesday, January 15, 2014 - when we are having another "Meet and Greet." Come join us for a casual meal while we listen to a presentation about "The De Anza Expedition" (see page 2).

Welcome to our newsletter editor, Rox Nicholson. Rox is new to the GSSCC this year and offered to step up to the plate and help out. Thank you, Laurie Reinhart, for all of the newsletters you have put together in the past until we could find a permanent replacement. Karen Theriot Reader continues to assist in editing all articles before they go to print, and she has a strong background as a librarian. An improper punctuation mark will not make it past Karen's desk. Now all we need is a newsletter name! Bill Patterson is kindly sponsoring the "Name Our Newsletter Contest" and the search is on. Please see page 8 for contest prize details.

Looking forward to 2014,

Janine Charlton

Genealogical Collection:
Genealogical Society's Mailing Address:
GSSCC Website:
Santa Cruz County GenWeb site

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www.cagenweb.com/santacruz

Thursday, February 6, 2014
Guest Speaker: John S. Gleed
Black Sheep in the Family

It is a rare family with No Black Sheep in the tree, and finding them can be a lot of fun in our hobby. John will use examples of five flocks of Black Sheep, and talk about the major roadblocks in hunting for yours: Disappearance and Name Change. Learn about a beautiful woman who was the evil mistress of her family, and find out how a street in San Francisco came to be named after a man using an alias. John Gleed was born in England and came with his family to California in early 1941. He graduated from UC- Berkeley and has been a patron server at the Menlo Park Family History Center.

Thursday, March 6, 2014
Guest Speaker: Sharon Hoyt, MLIS
Went West to Parts Unknown: Family Research in the Upper Midwest

The opening of the U.S. Northwest Territory encouraged migration to present-day states of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Learn about records and resources that can help you discover your family's path to the Midwest. This talk will cover migration routes, important record types, and research facilities in northern Midwest states, and is designed for all genealogist levels. Sharon Hoyt is a full-time genealogy researcher and owner of Meadow Oak Consulting. Her areas of interest include New England, New York, and the Midwest. In addition to her client research, she serves as a consultant to Ancestry.com.

Thursday, April 3, 2014
Guest Speaker: Martha Wallace
Onomastics – Using Naming Patterns in Genealogy

Onomastics (ɒnə'mæstɪks) *The study of the origins and forms of proper names.* Names were originally used to identify characteristics of a person. Over time some of those original meanings have been lost, many cultures developed patterns to further identify a person, and to carry on names within families. Knowing the naming patterns of a cultural or regional group can lead to breaking down brick walls. We will explore patronymics and matronymics in many languages and look at the naming patterns practiced by four different socio-religious groups in four areas of early American settlement.

May 18 - 25, 2014
Leader: Pamela Erickson
SALT LAKE CITY RESEARCH TRIP

Genealogy teacher Pamela Erickson will lead a research trip to Salt Lake City in May. Planning meetings are typically in February and March at Hillside Church, 545 Hillside Ave, San Jose, CA 95136 for those planning to go. More information will be available and posted on the GSSCC website in January.

Additions to Our Library

Unless otherwise noted, all materials have been chosen and purchased by the GSSCC Book Selection Committee

STATES

CALIFORNIA

(CALIF. 131) *California Central Coast Pioneer Families*, vol. I. Originally published in the Santa Maria Valley Genealogical Society & Library Quarterly, 1980-2003. By Barbara Bruce Cole. Donated by Lee Van Bergen.

(CALIF. 132) *California Central Coast Pioneer Families*, vol. II. [as above]

OHIO

(OHIO 85) *Troy: The Nineteenth Century*. By Thomas Bemis Wheeler. Published by the Troy [Ohio] Historical Society. Donor unknown.

FAMILY HISTORIES

(FAMILY HISTORY—ANDERSON) *Descendants of Olaf Andersson (Seastream, Björkholm, Wallerström, and Sigfridsson) and Nils Andersson, Anders Nilsson and Ola Larsson (Seastream, Nelson and Ostrum) as they were identified in Sweden in the 1700's.* By William Seastream Monlux. Donor unknown.

(FAMILY HISTORY—INNERST) *Introducing Our Ancestors.* By Lucille Innerst Nordgren. Donated by the author. .

(FAMILY HISTORY--MONLUX) *Descendants of William M. Monlux (1759-1837) and Margaret Drum Monlux (1758-1848).* By William Seastream Monlux. Donor unknown.

(FAMILY HISTORY--WILLARD) *A Memorial to Henry Augustus Willard and Sarah Bradley Willard.* By Henry Kellogg Willard. Donor unknown. [Spine cover title: Willard-Bradley Memoirs]

(FAMILY HISTORY--CASTRO) *The Castros of Branciforte: The Story of an Early Californian Family* By Marion Dale Pokriots [replaces a previous copy]

The Texas Johnsons Library Display

By Ken and Irene Simpkins

What started out to be a simple entry for the 2013 Santa Cruz County Fair theme (Cowboy Boots and Country Roots), evolved into a focus on genealogy, and an award-winning project we really got into. By combining woodworking with genealogy research skills, we tried to create an heirloom for our descendants.

Our expanded project is displayed in the Santa Cruz Library main branch Genealogy Room. We hope it will inspire you to dig out old pictures and family information to create a "family history corner" in your home. We used a technique of "floating" the pictures to add dimension in the Fair Project. We credit Bay Photo technicians Mike de Boer and Jennifer Brugman for their suggestions and patience while working on an ever-changing project. We especially appreciate the quality work. We encourage members to create something wonderful to pass on, and to share with Marion Pokriots for the display case.

Our research on the Johnson line began about 40 years ago, but hit a brick-wall with Ken's great-grandfather, Alfred W. Johnson. Alfred, "Alf", was 4 years old when his father was killed. The family then went in different directions, so Alf didn't have any stories to pass along to his children. About 2006 a request for information on the Johnson line was posted on **genforum.com**. Several months later a cousin, Chris Johnson, living in New Mexico, responded with lots of information on that line back to the mid-1700s. Later, through **ancestry.com**, we found more people working on this line, and many interesting stories. Most of the stories came from newspaper articles, obituaries, land records, etc., and from a nephew of Francis Johnson. This has been a fun project, and a lot of work, but the end result has been well worth it. We have a good spot to display the whole project in our home. We didn't expect to find information both so interesting in terms of family, but also in terms of the history of Texas and of the country during the 1800s.

Our early Texas Johnsons and other immigrants from the USA received land grants from Mexico, and later, from the Republic of Texas, mainly to put people out on the frontier. They were ranchers and drovers ("drover" was the early name for cowboys), Texas soldiers, and Texas Rangers. Many of them suffered hardships and tragic events on the frontier. The women were heroic survivors of a cruel existence. One story is about Matilda Johnson Friend: Scalped and with two arrows protruding from her torso and arm, she played dead and, when it was safe, managed to walk/crawl about three miles to report her family massacre (recorded as the *Legion Valley Massacre*). About a month after this horrible tragedy she gave birth to a baby girl. Matilda recovered and lived forty more years, into old age, and died in Wellington, Kansas. As we gathered information, we realized and better understood the difficulty of survival on the frontiers of westward expansion.

The Society Display Case includes:

- a photograph of our County Fair project, featuring an enlarged 1920 census as a background for four family pictures; and a five-generation Johnson Pedigree starting with Ken's grandfather, Richard Howard Johnson
- a chronology scroll of the life and death of Francis "Frank" Johnson - pioneer, soldier of the Texas Revolution, and victim of a Comanche ambush
- a history scroll with pictures of the Alamo and Alamo Fort (where Frank's brother Lewis Johnson died along with Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett). We sent a copy of our Alamo scroll to Martha Utterback at Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library for her to read. She wrote, "There are many stories, not all verified. At the time of the Texas Revolution, this area was a part of the Mexican state of Coahuila, not a territory of the United States. It is also inaccurate to call the men who declared independence 'Americans.' They were not all Americans, so it is best to call them Texians." She recommended looking at the Handbook of Texas online for all the facts: <http://www.tshaonline.org/search>

(Texas Johnsons – continued)

- A Texas state history scroll - from Mexican province, to independent Republic, to statehood in the USA. The Lone Star State flag is also featured
- A picture and information scroll of the famous Longhorn cattle, brought in by the Spanish in the 16th century
- Wood Art representations of a longhorn steer, horseshoes, Texas Star, and cowboy boot, all made by Ken

Ancestry Day In San Francisco

By Barb Mendenice

I attended my first California Genealogical Society & Library's **Ancestry Day, San Francisco**, held Saturday, November 9th, 2013, at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Hotel on The Embarcadero. This event sold out with more than 1,000 registrants! I also registered for a \$20 (inexpensive) 30-minute consultation with a genealogist during the seminar. I received a time and place for the consultation when I picked up my syllabus. The consultation slots went quickly, so if you didn't register for it when you registered for the seminar, you were out of luck!

I pre-registered, receiving the class syllabus and wrist band the evening before the event to avoid long lines. I did not wait in line more than 10 minutes, leaving time to find the oldest restaurant in San Francisco in which to have dinner. Most registrants spent the night at local hotels, which made it easy to start the event early on Saturday morning, and I highly recommend doing that. An evening in San Francisco brings adventure to the soul! I will leave my "adventure" out of this, but it included an elderly one-eyed man dressed in Alcatraz Psych Ward black-and-white striped prison garb.

The Hyatt's meeting hall was packed with earnest registrants. The cleverly hysterical guest speakers made the audience feel they were part of a one-on-one "lesson" throughout the seminar. Their encouragement and sharing of how to bust through brick walls

(dos and taboos) made the room quiet, and I swear I could hear pins drop when we weren't laughing! There was a lot of head-nodding as speakers spoke of trials and errors we have all been through in our search for the long lost! So much fun! So much learning! I had the best time. People galore from far and near.

What did I value most from the seminar? The encouragement: Never, ever, ever, ever....give up! I also received websites that would help me dig deeper in my research. And...it was fun to sit in a room with so many fun people.

Ancestry.com folks also attended the seminar and we were able to purchase DNA kits at a reduced rate. Thank goodness 23andMe was not representing this fun side to genealogy! The kits sold out immediately.

Would I go again? Wouldn't miss it!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We wish to welcome the following new members who have joined the GSSCC in the 2013-2014 membership year. We are happy to have you on board.

Mary Taylor Alaga	Joan I. Lowe
Jerome Deck	Renata Mcree
Sherrie L. Dewitt	Barbara Morton
R.A. Dumler	Roxanne Nicholson
Vicki Emery	Nels "Pete" Pearson
Robert Hagopian	Linda Pellett
Jonathan Hasl	Connie L. Rogers-Higbee
Catherine Hudson-Webb	Janet L. Rupp
Lilli Hunter	Ken Simpkins
Wendy Ledger	Mary Story

In Memoriam

.....
Francis Joseph Mullin
July 5, 1931 to December 9, 2013

A memorial service was held on Friday December 13, for GSSCC member and staffer Frank Mullin. Frank and his wife Sonya have been members of the GSSCC since 2003. He was also a member of the California Grey Bears & Scotts Valley Senior Center. Frank will be missed and our sympathies go out to Sonya and his entire family.

New Online Records: Marriage Licenses and Certificates of Marriage

By Lisa Robinson

Check out the new online database of marriage licenses and certificates of marriage at <http://scgensoc.org/on-line-documents-available-for-download>.

This database, compiled by Stanley D. Stevens and Barbara K. Clark, contains 4,370 documents pertaining to marriages performed throughout the county between 1851 and 1920 with a few records from 1923, 1924, 1934, and 1940. The database is not a complete record of all marriages; rather it is a record of marriage documents that, for some reason, were not returned to the married couple.



Barbara K. Clark and Stanley D. Stevens

In 2011, Carol Sutherland, Chief Deputy-Recorder, asked Stan Stevens and Marion Pokriots for their advice regarding newly discovered historical records at the County Recorder's Office. The records had been found in the County's warehouse. The documents needed conservation treatment and Stan recommended that an inventory be taken of the documents before such work was carried out.

Stan approached Barbara Clark in Shoppers Corner, Santa Cruz, to ask for her help in transcribing the newly discovered records. For about 5 to 6 hours each week for 112 weeks, Barbara and Stan worked at the Recorder's Office extracting data from the documents, and compiling a Filemaker Pro database of the information. Not only did they transcribe the information, they also researched the names, particularly to obtain the correct spelling. Where they could, they found information on the marriages in local newspapers, for which the indexes on the shelves at the Genealogical Society Library proved invaluable. Carol Sutherland and her staff provided wonderful support, including helping with Spanish to English translations.

Not only did the records contain marriage licenses, they also contained notes on little "scraps" of paper such as, "I give permission for my son/daughter to marry" written by the responsible adult. Often the records were kept at the place of marriage for months, sometimes years, before they found their way to the Recorder's Office, and many were not recorded at all in the County records, particularly during the Civil War period.

While working with the records, it seemed to Stan and Barbara that a large percentage of the couples were immigrants from the Azores. However, after the database had been compiled, Stan performed a statistical analysis of the data, which can be found on the GSSCC website under the link "Bride's-Groom's Nativity", and in fact only 0.5% of the individuals were from the islands.

Stan and Barbara are now volunteering their time in the archives at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History where they are working with 36 boxes of photographs, dated between the 1940s and 1970s from the Vi-Park [Viola Park] Studio and Camera Shop which was located on Walnut Avenue, Santa Cruz.

2013 Holiday Luncheon

The GSSCC Holiday Luncheon at the Crow's Nest was well attended thanks to Board member Howard Lowe who did all of the organization for the gala. Guests were delighted with a wonderful luncheon menu, Ken and Irene Simpkins announced their new addition to the GSSCC display case, Laura Cross shared an exciting genealogy story, and everyone was enchanted by the lovely singing voice of Chelsie Pellett who sang with the voice of an angel. Last, but not least, Bill Patterson announced sponsorship for a "Name Our Newsletter Contest" (see page 8 for details). Festivities included an optional gift exchange.



Photo by Linda Pellett



Photo by Linda Pellett



*Chelsie Pellett singing O Holy Night
Photo by Bill Patterson*



Photo by Bill Patterson



Photo by Linda Pellett



Photo by Linda Pellett



Photo by Linda Pellett



NAME OUR NEWSLETTER CONTEST

The Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County has published a newsletter for many decades, and it has always had the uninspiring name of...Newsletter.

It has done the job of informing members of upcoming events, and sharing some of their informative stories. It lists important information, has staff schedules and new acquisitions. However, the title lacks some of the inspirational element we would like it to convey.

Bill Patterson and others have proposed that together we search for a new name for our newsletter. Some suggestions have already been put forward, but he would like to have a contest for members to propose their own title, with the winner to be chosen by the Board of Directors at their February meeting. Bill has even offered a prize for the name chosen, which would be a book of the winner's choice.

So please email your proposal to Janine Charlton at ivclb@comcast.net, or mail it to the Society post office box number, or deliver it to a staffer at the Genealogy Library. Please include your name and contact information, and be thinking of a book title you would like to acquire.

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the twelfth day of Christmas
 My true love gave to me,
 Twelve tombstone photos,
 Eleven naturalization records,
 Ten DNA matches,
 Nine death records,
 Eight Family Search microfilms,
 Seven land deed,
 Six birth certs,
 FIVE PROBATE RECORDS!
 Four gabby cousins,
 Three GEDGOM files,
 Two family bibles,
 And a new branch in my Family tree...

Source: Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches blog

GENEALOGICAL STAFFING CALENDAR - JANUARY, 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>NEW YEARS DAY LIBRARY CLOSED</i>	2 10 SPELCE 1 GSCC MTG	3 10 LOWE 1	4 11 POKRIOTS
5 1 -	6 10 1 PARKER	7 10 CHARTON 1 ALLAND	8 10 LEDGER 1 EPPERSON	9 10 SPELCE 1 DROBAC	10 10 LOWE 1	11
12 1 -	13 10 SMITH 1 PARKER	14 10 ROBINSON 1 ALLAND	15 10 1 EPPERSON	16 10 SPELCE 1 DROBAC	17 10 LOWE 1	18 11 POKRIOTS
19 1 -	20 <i>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY LIBRARY CLOSED</i>	21 10 MCPHERSON 1	22 10 1 EPPERSON	23 10 1 CROSS	24 10 LOWE 1 EMMANUEL	25 11
26 1 -	27 10 SMITH 1 PARKER	28 10 ROBINSON 1 ALLAND	29 10 1 EPPERSON	30 10 SPELCE 1	31 10 LOWE 1 GREENWOOD	

GENEALOGICAL STAFFING CALENDAR - FEBRUARY, 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 11 POKRIOTS
2 1 -	3 10 DONOVAN 1 PARKER	4 10 CHARTON 1 ALLAND	5 10 LEDGER 1 EPPERSON	6 10 SPELCE 1 GSCC MTG	7 10 LOWE 1 GREENWOOD	8 11
9 1 -	10 10 SMITH 1 PARKER	11 10 ROBINSON 1 ALLAND	12 10 1 EPPERSON	13 10 SPELCE 1 DROBAC	14 10 LOWE 1	15 11 POKRIOTS
16 1 -	17 <i>PRESIDENTS' DAY LIBRARY CLOSED</i>	18 10 MCPHERSON 1	19 10 SHOOK 1 EPPERSON	20 10 SPELCE 1 DROBAC	21 10 LOWE 1 GREENWOOD	22 11
23 1 -	24 10 SMITH 1	25 10 ROBINSON 1 ALLAND	26 10 1 EPPERSON	27 10 SPELCE 1 CROSS	28 10 LOWE 1	

Do You Have Roots in Santa Cruz County?

If so, put our research team to work for you. We have access to area newspapers on microfilm, including the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, the *Surf* and the *Evening News*. We have local cemetery listings, large and small, plus county voter records and county vital statistics. We have city directories dating from the early 1900s. We have access to The GSSCC Folks File database which includes thousands of names of past Santa Cruz residents.

A modest charge of \$15 gets the ball rolling. It entitles you to an initial evaluation, and one hour of research time. Many requests can be answered in this time. If more time is required to complete the task or if new opportunities for further research are turned up, we will furnish a report outlining a research plan with an estimate of any additional cost.

Make your check payable to GSSCC and send it to Research Coordinator, GSSCC, P.O. Box 72, Santa Cruz, CA 95063-0072. Please include a SASE. Be sure to submit your name and address, email address if any, and as much detail about the subject as you can provide. All proceeds fund new acquisitions to our library.