President’s Message
From Keith Sauers, Co-President

This year is wrapping up for Nevada County Genealogical Society. It has been a good year. Our organization continues to meet the genealogical needs of our community. We now have almost 100 members. We have held two meetings each month: our general evening meeting with program on the second Tuesday of the month, and the Study Group afternoon meeting on the fourth Tuesday. The annual Genealogical Seminar held in August had record attendance of almost 150 attendees. Our financial reserves are strong.

The successes this year are the result of many members volunteering to get all of the tasks done. I want to give a big THANK YOU to:

Donna Dugle Young for starting the Study Group a couple of years ago, and making it such a popular event. You put so much into your preparation. Your hand-outs were gems, and your students were appreciative. You will be missed by so many people. NCGS Founder Maria Brower will head the Study Group in 2012.

Ron Young for providing leadership for years. You are a past President. You shared the presidency with me this year when you knew I was taking on more than I could do. You have been our resident techie; teaching computer technology at the Seminar, and getting the digital issues of Kith & Kin distributed to the majority of our members.

Joan Bega for chairing this year’s Seminar. You pushed a very large group of volunteers to produce a professional quality seminar.

This year’s Board of Directors (Helen Martini, Ron Young, Eva Joy Ruben, Joan Bega, Maria Brower and me) for meeting every month to carry out the business of the Society, and to make those decisions which steered the Society in a healthy direction.

Our Incoming Society Officers (President Helen Martini, Vice-President Judith Scott, Secretary Hilary Steinmetz, and Treasurer Joan Bega). You each offered to do so much to keep NCGS going.

And, finally, all of the Committee Chairs who are listed on the back page of each Kith & Kin. You make everything work.

It has been a pleasure for me to represent NCGS. I am so pleased to look forward to working with the new Board as Past-President, and also to having time to write up my files of genealogical research.
The monthly meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Co-President Keith Sauers at the Helling Library Community Room.

Welcome: Peggy Lassing announced that we have one new member and one guest.

The minutes were approved as published in Kith & Kin.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Joan Bega reported:
A. Checking Account: Income of $123, expenses of $498.45 ($399.00 to purchase “The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635" - The Complete 7-volume Set to be placed in the Society’s collection at the LDS Library) giving a balance in the checking account of $1,475.96.
B. Savings Account: Interest of $.13 giving a balance of $1,007.39.
C. Certificate of Deposit: Regular Funds Interest of $.62 giving a balance of $1,282.60, Dedicated Funds (Building Fund) Interest $1.87 giving a balance of $3,775.32 giving a total balance for the CD of $5,057.92.
D. Total funds available to the NCGS on October 31, 2011: $7,541.27.

Old Business:
Board Meeting Report: Board of Directors met on November 1st at Perko’s. Issues discussed included:
A. Joan Bega reviewed the “Financial History of the Nevada County Genealogical Society’s Building Fund (as of 04 Oct 2011) which she passed out at the previous Board meeting.
She explained that the fund was established in February 1998. The purpose was to have funds available for a new building for the Society. At one time, there were discussions with the Nevada County Historical Society to occupy space in a building with them and we would need funds to purchase office equipment, etc. Currently the Historical Society is still hoping to build or acquire a building and we would be able to share some space, thus having a house for our library which is currently contained in the library of the Nevada County Family History Center in Nevada City. The balance in the account as of Oct. 4, 2011 was $3,775.32. It will also be included in the budget report each year. It was decided that we shall continue maintaining this fund and report it in the monthly statement. The funds are currently invested in a CD and the amount will be itemized.

B. The NCGS Study Group is finished for the year. Maria Brower has agreed to be the Education Chair next year. The Study Group will meet on the 4th Tuesday from March to October.

New Business:
Announcements:
1. Peggy Lassing: 96 members
2. Kith & Kin: Editor Eileen Phelps asked that members submit stories or items.
3. Holiday Party: Joan Bega announced that the Holiday party would be held in our regular meeting place at our regular time. It will be a potluck dinner & white elephant exchange. She passed around a sign-up sheet and asked that some people come at 6:00 pm to help set up and decorate.

B. Election of Officers:
1. Keith asked if anyone would volunteer to run for secretary. Hilary Steinmetz volunteered.
2. Keith presented the slate of officers for the next year:
   President: Helen Martini
   Vice-President: Judith Scott
   Secretary: Hilary Steinmetz
   Treasurer: Joan Bega
3. Keith asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.
4. Joan Bega moved and Eva Ruben seconded that the slate officers be elected by acclimation. The membership voted in favor unanimously.
5. The new officers will be installed at the January meeting according to the Bylaws.

C. Calendars:
1. The Society’s fund raiser this year - $3.00 each. Please buy one for yourself and some for your friends.

D. Genealogy Minute:
1. Donna Young spoke about the “Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library” and handed out a print-out about it.
2. Eva Lamm-Rubin spoke about her trip to Lewes, DE, and seeing the properties that belonged to members of the West & Burton families - ancestors of her husband.
E. Flyers on front table for publications and seminars:
Carol Siver, our representative to the Genealogical & Historical Council of Sacramento Valley, said the Council now has its own site on the internet - SacValleyGenes.net.

Meeting adjourned for a 15 minute social break. Refreshments & coffee were served by Sydney Hunt and Dolores Marvin.

Program: Linda Lucky, co-director of the Sacramento Regional Family History Center, gave a hand-out - “What’s New at Familysearch.org” and gave a power-point presentation on the subject.

Next General Meeting: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 - 6:30 pm. at our regular meeting place. The meeting will be our annual Holiday Potluck and White Elephant Exchange.

We love our members and visitors!
Be a Family History Santa

By Eileen Phelps

Sometimes what you need is a quick, cheap holiday party-favor item to order online. Or it may be that you’re looking for an idea for a really nice thank-you or hostess gift for a relative. Feeling Clueless? Google Genealogy Gift Ideas.

One of the top links that comes up is CafePress, http://www.cafepress.com. (Put genealogy in their search slot if you don’t come in through Google.) They have personalized gifts for many niche markets and genealogy is one of them. Everything from mugs to tote bags, baseball caps, magnets, pins and tee shirts. Especially seasonal are the inexpensive Christmas ornaments. It’s fun to go to this website from time to time and see what humorous mottos they’ve added to their line. Prices are reasonable, but not necessarily cheap enough for a fund-raiser item.

Or you can Google buy historic maps. Even Amazon.com has gotten into this market, with posters selling for as low as a penny up to real antiques at antique-store prices. They’ve even got a 2012 Antique Maps Wall Calendar with editions in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Dutch. You can also buy antique map gift wrapping paper, but it’s pricey (a 2’ x 8’ sheet is $9.99) and even at that price it’s nearly gone after Black Friday.

For a relative who is genealogically minded or who has agreed to host your next family reunion, consider the gift of a large wall chart, professionally printed with your names. You can get worldwide shipping or overnight delivery in the U.S. with Ancestry Graphics & Printing, http://www.ancestryprinting.com.

If you’re the only genealogist in the family, you will be more likely to want something that will pique your family’s interest in genealogy than a tee shirt that proclaims “Cemetery searching is a grave business.” In her article “Holiday Ideas for Genealogists” Kathleen Hinckley wrote “My parents were born in 1918, therefore they appear in the 1920 census as children. One of my Christmas gifts to them a few years ago was a photocopy of the census pages where they were listed. I expected them to enjoy seeing their names on the census report, but was surprised at their excitement in studying the rest of the page. Each of them recognized neighbors’ names and began reminiscing about their childhood. How I wish I’d had the foresight to have a tape recorder ready that day! And perhaps I should have photocopied a few extra pages from their neighborhood. That may be an idea you can incorporate into your gift plans.” (If your parents are gone, try this on your siblings or cousins, perhaps using the 1930 census.)
Tabletopics is a new family of games for ages 13 and up, designed to encourage conversation. They’re available at http://uncommongoods.com. The particular game most likely to interest genealogists is Grandparents’ Tabletopics, which is also available from Gold Violin at http://goldviolin.com. The price is the same at both places, $25 and the box contains 135 cards containing “fun questions about music, history, personal memories and more.”

If you were an elementary school teacher you probably made a number of card games to make memorizing important ideas more fun. These games worked best when they borrowed the format from card games whose rules were already well known, such as Old Maid, Authors, Lotto, Concentration, Go Fish, and so on. A game like this can be created with blank 3” x 5” file cards, but will be more special if printed on “real” playing cards. You can refresh your memory of the rules by going to Rules of Card Games at http://www.pagat.com/alpha.html, where you’ll find an alphabetical Index it would take you 12 pages to print out. Or you can Google kids card game rules to whittle things down.

Once you’ve found a game suited to the photos or other information you’re trying to pass on down, you can get the supplies you’ll need from PlainCards at http://www.plaincards.com. They have Bank playing cards with pattern backs in packs of 120 cards, 15 master sheets, 2 matching card boxes and an edger. What the master sheets are is 8.5” x 11” with 8 micro-perforated cards. The pattern side is glossy coated and the printing side is uncoated for easy printing. The edger smooths the edges of the cards after they’re separated, so they can be shuffled. There are also cards that are blank on both sides in Coatable and Matte finishes. Spray is available for coatable cards, recommended for inkjet printers. Faster shipping is available.

It doesn’t take a gift to start the memories coming. How about bringing some old photo albums to the family get-together? Or just bring out a box of old photos with no labels and a box of envelopes to sort them into? If you get one or two people going on this, you may soon find that the whole family gets into the act. Then the stories will fly! Better have a tape recorder or a video camera, or lots of pencils and paper, some sticky notes (for temporary use) and anything else that keeps track. May your holiday time this year add to the happy memories you talk about in future years!
Historic Weather

*Was it a dark and stormy night?*

You can add detail to your holiday memories by checking the internet. Was that special Christmas that you remember a white Christmas? Do you remember a particular Christmas blizzard but now you can’t remember what year that was? There is help online.

http://weatherpages.com/wxhistory.html
Advice and links are available here, along with a slot for putting in your date, which will take to you a site where you need to pay for information you can then access in a hurry.

http://weatherunderground.com
The Weather Underground is a free website. Scroll down on the left until you see the box History & Almanac. You can select from the date ranges offered, which will vary depending on the data the site has that it thinks is relevant. For example, Nevada City will only let you scroll down to 1996 but Grass Valley will let you go back to 1948. However, when you get the results you may notice that the locale has switched to Auburn, in Placer County. If you’re a local you will realize that Auburn’s weather is no indication of the weather in Grass Valley on the same day.

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/pa/climate_data.php offers a page of advice and a link to get you started on what they have to offer. They even provide a telephone number.

There are additional on-line resources, but some of the best will tend to be more local. Most highly recommended are the various local newspapers that have been digitized. There are websites for regional area data that has been posted from some weather stations. Google something line weather reports from past years to find some of these. You can also Google old newspapers online to find a resource that may be helpful.

USA Today has an FAQ with the question “How do I find information about weather early in the 20th century or in past centuries?” that has a couple of journal and book references of interest. (When he says “before the 1990’s” this is a typo. He means 1890’s.) This is found at: http://www.usatoday.com/weather/resources/askjack/wfaqpast.htm.

You can find yourself spending hours on this, but it’s great fun! 🎅

---

2012 Dues for NCGS

The rate for receiving your monthly newsletter by regular mail has changed for 2012. The new rate is $18.00 per year. The rate for receiving your newsletter electronically has not changed, it is still $10.00 per year.

You may send your dues for 2012 in now to either: NCGS, P.O. Box 176, Cedar Ridge CA 95924 or directly to Joan Bega, NCGS Treasurer, 21275 Clydesdale Rd., Grass Valley CA 5949-9587. 🎁

---

The FamilySearch (Family History) Center will close the last two weeks in December for Christmas and New Years. It will re-open on January 3, 2012.

The Doris Foley Historical Library will be open Christmas Eve from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. And New Year’s Eve from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Seventy Years Ago
Pearl Harbor and Your Family – Have You Written It Up Yet?

The Pearl Harbor Survivors are closing their organization down at the end of this year, because of a diminishing surviving membership. It was hard for many World War II vets to talk of their experiences. They were used to the censorship that existed over letters that they wrote home. They wanted to forget the carnage they saw. Everyone wanted to get over the war and to look to the future.

According to NPR news "family members say the survivors group gave their fathers and husbands a place where they could finally open up and begin to heal." Robert Bentley, son of a survivor, says, "My father never talked about it until he joined the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. We were in school. If we were studying World War II, you ask him a question about it, he said, 'read your history book.' That was the only answer we got."

You may not have a Pearl Harbor survivor in your family but your family was certainly affected. Will future generations of your family know how you felt about it? Have you ever talked with your family about where you were when you first heard about it?

Some of us undoubtedly did reminisce when 9-11 happened. It was one of those very few events that suddenly start a war, so it's natural to compare them. But did you use that occasion to record anything for posterity?

We didn't want to get involved in the war in Europe, in spite of what we knew about Hitler's atrocities. England pleaded for our help, but we were reluctant to fight Germany on the same side as the Russians. There was little to choose between them, as far as mass slaughter was concerned. Our attitude towards participation in international events was split along party lines, as it too often is. But when we were attacked without warning on our own territory, we were instantly galvanized on both hemispheres.

Fold3 has a gateway to its World War II records and claims it has largest collection of free on-line images of that war. Right now it is featuring its collections of World War II Diaries. It says “World War II War Diaries were compiled between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1945, by the U.S. Navy. They were identified by the Navy as ‘the principal means by which the day-to-day experience of the Navy is recorded for current study and future historical use.’”

The link to the World War II gateway is http://fold3.com/wwii/. The Family History/FamilySearch Center in Nevada City has a subscription to Fold3.

There is a seventieth anniversary commemoration in Hawaii. One link to it is http://pearlharbor70years.com/. If you are going to Hawaii this winter there may be additional things for you to see. Pearl Harbor and the memorial are perhaps the most visited tourist sites.

Perhaps you think you have little to say about Pearl Harbor, but imagine how you would feel if you could interview your great-grandfather or great-grandmother about the Civil War? If they were too young to be directly involved, their views would still be quite interesting, so imagine yourself being interviewed by one of your own great-grandchildren and take the time to put down your thoughts. You might watch a Pearl Harbor movie, such as “Tora! Tora! Tora!” or a documentary on Pearl Harbor Day to get you started.
The Last Word

Dick Eastman, at blog.eogn.com, on Nov 28 posted a link to Ancestry.com’s interview with Santa on YouTube.

Dick also said, “Warning: make sure your tongue is firmly planted in your cheek when watching this YouTube video at http://youtube.be/2VvNPah0BUL.” However, it seems that some genealogists don’t know what “Tongue in cheek” means, because the comments posted to his article immediately began to point out the “flaws” in his comments, such as that cavemen and dinosaurs did not exist on the earth at the same time and that polar bears and penguins are at opposite poles.

Nancy Sauers added her comment: “Thanks for the bit of amusement! Let’s enjoy and appreciate those attempting to entertain us, and save the criticism for proofreading our own genealogy work."

Way to go, Nancy!

If tongue in cheek humor isn’t your fancy, you can get to http://youtube.com and type genealogy in the search box and pick from many videos on the topic, including Genealogy Gem’s three-part instructions on making a genealogy Christmas wreath. There are serious topics on YouTube of all kinds. I’m enjoying the greater bandwidth I have in Albuquerque and I plan to watch many video sites, including Legacy webinars, and old episodes of Who Do You Think You Are, and all sorts of other genealogical goodies online.

Happy holidays, everyone! —Eileen Phelps

NCGS Website:
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cancgs

Webmaster
Susan Fivelstad, 530-265-2707
fivelstad@comcast.net

Meetings:
Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm, in the Community Room of the Madelyn Helling Library. Need a ride? Call us.

Committees & Chairs:
Audit:
Josie Vaughn, 530-273-4156
josiepvaughn@sbcglobal.net

Education:
Donna Dugle Young, 530-477-0192
ddugle@pacbell.net

Greeter:
Peggy Lassing, 530-272-3521
plassing@hotmail.com

Historian/Photographer:
Josie Vaughn, 530-273-4156
josiepvaughn@sbcglobal.net

Membership:
Peggy Lassing, 530-272-3521
plassing@hotmail.com

Newsletter:
Eileen Phelps 530-205-0183 (cell)
eileen.phelps@littlehillservices.net

Program:
Helen Martini, 530-273-0855
themartinis@sbcglobal.net

Publicity:
Melita Banducci, 530-272-8388
6baughns@gmail.com

Refreshments:
Sydney Hunt, 530-272-4190
freespirit5@sbcglobal.net

Dolores Marvin, 530-305-9641
dunsmoretoo@yahoo.com

Seminar:
Joan Bega, 530-346-8909
bega@dishmail.net