



# SAN JOAQUIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 690243 Stockton, CA 95269-0243

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sjgs/index.htm>

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 31

No. 1

JAN / FEB 2010

5 issues a year

## BOARD FOR 2010

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## MEETINGS

**BOARD: Jan. 4, 2010**

**7 p.m.**

Virginia Kranz home

**GENERAL MEETING:**

**January 28, 2010**

**Annual Dinner**

**UJ's Restaurant**

**7628 Pacific Avenue**

**Stockton**

**6:00 PM - Dinner**

**7:00 PM - Program**

**BOARD:**

**February 1, 2010**

**7 p.m.**

Virginia Kranz home



## ANNUAL DINNER MEETING & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

**THURSDAY - JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>**

**UJ's Restaurant**

**7628 Pacific Avenue, Stockton**

**6:00 PM**

\$20.00 Inclusive for choice of Roast Beef, Lemon Chicken or Salmon. Includes: salad, baked potato, bread, dessert, coffee or tea. Deadline for reservations by check is January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Send to Barry Wood, 1910 S Church St., Lodi, CA 95240.

Our speaker for the evening will be Evelyn Prouty, a life-long resident of French Camp who has written histories of the area. In the 1820s, when California was a province of Mexico and Stockton founder Charles M. Weber was just a teenager in Germany, European settlers made homes along the banks of the narrow slough in what is now French Camp. They first arrived with the Hudson Bay Company, trapping beavers to cover the heads of European men. The trappers eventually moved on, but the Gold Rush and Weber's settlement of Stockton brought more families who came to call French Camp home. "It was here before Sutter's Fort," says Mrs. Prouty. We will hear more about the history of French Camp and its people.



## **PONDERINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Happy New Year to all our Fellow Genealogists.

Christmas came, was thoroughly enjoyed with the family, and now it is on to the new year and all those resolutions that didn't get finished last year, hopefully will get a second chance this year. My office, such as it is, needs a good sweeping out, then maybe I won't have to sidestep every time I enter. Scrapbook albums from Mom, Auntie, and me have to be shelved, magazines (I am a horrible pack rat) need to be distributed to others to read and enjoy, and become more green by using less paper to stack everywhere, etc., etc.

We have a good winter and spring lineup with The History of French Camp; The Archives of the San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum; and another Cemetery Walk with Del McComb about the Women of Stockton.

Come share with us, build with us, and make this society bigger and better. We need your new ideas and leadership. When you send in your dues, check off some of those little square boxes and share your knowledge.

Marilyn Rauzi, President

## **WELCOME BACK!**

We'd like to welcome back member Charlie Silva

## **IN MEMORANDUM**

Kay Vargas, wife of the late Hal Vargas of Lodi. They both were very active members of the society in the past. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Vargas family.

## **COMING UP IN MARCH**

Scheduled for the SJGS meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> will be Leigh Johnson, Archivist at the San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum. Leigh will tell us all about the archives and what resources are available to research our family histories.





## GENEALOGY BLOGS WORTH READING



The following books will be taken out of circulation during their transfer to the Chavez library.

### **AnceStories: The Stories of My Ancestors**

<http://ancestories1.blogspot.com/>

### **Genea-Musings**

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

### **Shades of the Departed**

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

### **DearMYRTLE's Genealogy Blog**

<http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/>

### **The Armchair Genealogist**

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

### **The Educated Genealogist**

<http://www.sherifenley.blogspot.com>

### **Western Kentucky Genealogy Blog**

<http://wkygenealogy.blogspot.com/>

### **BeNotForgot**

<http://benotforgot.blogspot.com/>

### **Little Bytes of Life**

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

### **Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter**

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/)

Ireland Genealogy and Family History

Marriages and Deaths from the Maryland Gazette 1727-1839

Tracing Irish Ancestors - County Tipperary

Tracing Irish Ancestors - County Tyrone

Surry County, Virginia Deed and Estate Accounts 1734-1755

Wills and Administrations of Surry County, Virginia 1671-1750

Louisiana Soldiers in the War of 1812

Official State Atlas of Kansas

Sons of Confederate Veterans 1896

Abstract of Early Kentucky Wills and Inventories

Kentucky Genealogical Records and Abstracts, Vol I & Vol II

Military Records, Pension Applications, Heirs at Law and Civil War Records Fauquier County, Virginia

The Tax Man Cometh, Fauquier County, VA

Bourbon County, KY Memorial Deed Book

Parish Register of St. Peter's New Kent County, Virginia

Tennessee Genealogical Records

Families of Southeastern Georgia

Fauquier County, Virginia Guardian Bonds 1759-1871

Shawnee County Cemeteries, Kansas, Vol II

Echoes of Vanished Time



## Stockton Rural Cemetery Walk with Delmar McComb

By Karen Ramos

(Continued from the last issue of the newsletter)



*Entrance to Stockton Rural Cemetery*

South of marker 18 on the east side of the road is a large crypt bearing the name Shurtleff. George Augustus Shurtleff [1820-1902] served on the original 1852 school board and served as the Superintendent of the Stockton Insane Asylum. He was noted for his humane treatment of the mentally ill in a time when they received deplorable treatment elsewhere. The Shurtleff crypt stands at the south end of a row of similarly large crypts.

An angel tops the Sperry crypt. The edifice is the final resting place of Austin Sperry [1819-1881], famous for the Sperry flour mill on the Stockton Channel. Flour first came from Napa but then came from local growers. The Waterfront Warehouse is one of the last Sperry buildings still standing downtown. Sperry used the "pure as the drifted snow" slogan for his flour.

Also in this row is a crypt for Thomas K Hook [1816-1888], who crossed the plains in 1849. Like many people on the wagon trains, Hook developed cholera and was abandoned by his party. Men from another wagon train following close behind looked into Hook's wagon. Though weak Hook made the Odd Fellow's distress sign. Luckily for him, at least one of the men who found him was a fellow LOOF member, and the party brought him on to California. Hook became both county Sheriff and an early Mayor of Stockton.



*Holt Vault*

On the west side of the road further on is the Holt crypt. Benjamin Holt [1849-1920] and his brothers came to Stockton in 1853. The wheel works they first founded is still operating today. Holt was the inventor of much agricultural machinery, but he is most famous for the caterpillar tractor that worked so effectively in the Delta loam. The tractor is said to have gotten its name when an employee said it looked like a caterpillar, and the name stuck. In World War I the British built an armed frame over the caterpillar tread, creating the first tank. Supposedly, the tank got its name when Winston Churchill tried to hide the purpose of the new vehicle, saying it was a water tank, and the "tank" part stuck.

Mr. McComb stopped to discuss the different emblems used on veterans graves through the years. Uniform white marble headstones of the United States government mark the graves of veterans who served from the Mexican War and up through the Korean War. The graves are usually engraved with a cross, the name and rank of the deceased, and the war in which he participated. James Thompson, a civil war veteran, has one kind. A shield of the same size as the cross was used after World War I.



Many Stocktonians wanted to serve in the Civil War. They formed the 3rd Regiment of California Volunteers, hoping to serve the Union in the South. Instead they were sent to Utah to keep an eye on the Mormons and to keep the southern route to California open. The Union needed California's gold and supplies. Stockton had a very active GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) organization for many years. They held many parades and social events.

Henry Barnhart [1830-1897] came to California in 1859 and settle in the Woodbridge area. By the end of the 1880s he was a big land owner. He spent \$100,000 of his own money to drain Delta swamp land for development.



*Barnhart Vault*

The Wagner family vault is next to the Brack crypt. This is the Wagner Tannery family [Charles Wagner [1837-1917].. The tannery occupied a large area east of El Dorado at Oak Street. Today, Mr. D's Pizza is in the brick engine house, and the Beacon Storage Company building is also a remnent of the large Wagner tanning business. Glenn Kennedy, long-time secretary of the Cemetery and local historian, said he was born on the noon whistle from the tannery. The smell of the place was supposedly quite awful.



*Wagner Vault*

Next are the Douglass and Wilhoit crypts. General David F. Douglass [1821-1872] developed Douglass Tract in the Delta. He attended the California Constitutional Convention in 1849-50 and was the first U.S. Senator from this area. He submitted the bill to the California State Legislature to request California's admission to the United States.



*Wilhoit Vault*



Daniel Rothenbush [1835-1906] founded the El Dorado Brewery and Wine Manufactory in 1853 that brewed beer for 100 years. The brewing company and its big copper pots were just west of the old Sears Roebuck building. In 1889 the company's Valley Brew Beer won blue ribbons at the World' Fair in Paris.



*Rothenbush Vault*

Near marker F is the L.U. Shippee monument. Lodowick U. Shippee [1835-1896] came from Rhode Island in 1856. He became a large landowner. He had 53,000 head of sheep in Butte County and owned another 20,000 acres in Merced County. Shippee served as Mayor of Stockton and was one of the original founders of the Bank of Stockton in 1857. He also bred fine horses.

The Cemetery Office was built in 1913 after a fire destroyed the original office. At that time the cemetery had two wooden, octagonal water tank-houses. The Cemetery office occupied the ground floor of one of these buildings. The two buildings stood just twenty-five feet from the engine house. Apparently, the engine house caught fire. Nate Strong, the Cemetery manager, got a call to come open the grounds for the fire crew. He grabbed a garden hose and climbed up on the water tower over the office to try to save it. Unfortunately, the ladder caught fire, and Nate had to jump for his life, leaving him injured and burned.

The office did burn, but the cemetery records were in the office safe. After the safe cooled for several days it was opened to reveal undamaged records. Unfortunately, the original survey maps of the cemetery didn't fit in the safe; so they were destroyed in the fire.

South of the office is the family plot of Dr. Asa Clark [1824-1912]. Dr. Clark came to California to practice medicine in 1849. In 1861 he was appoint assistant physician at the Stockton State Insane Asylum. In 1871 he started his own asylum in Woodbridge. In 1877 the facility was transferred to Stockton as the Pacific Insane Asylum. Dr. Clark built his own asylum where Edison High School is now located.

The monument to the Eureka Fire Company is crowned by a fire helmet. Among the men buried in this plot is W.W. Lee [1819-1877], who was not an official fireman but who ran to every fire to help out anyway. Lee was born in Maryland, came to Stockton in 1852 and set up shop as a barber. In this position he came into contact with many leading Stocktonians. He was held in high esteem by everyone. When he died the Eureka Fire Department arranged his funeral and used its fire horses to draw the hearse. An overflow crowd attended the funeral at the African Episcopal Church. As he was an honorary member of the Eureka Engine Company, they took care of the funeral expenses and buried him in their cemetery plot.

Near the chain link fence on the east side of the cemetery is a row of graves that just happens to include Stockton's most well-known Confederate sympathizers: David Terry, John B. Douglas, and Judge Creamer. David Terry was the only one who actually enlisted in the Confederate army.

A large angel graces the monument to John McMullen [1820-1868]. Until recently the monument stood alone. Now modern, flat markers have edged up to the old grave. McMullen came to California on hearing of the







## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL EVENTS

**Tuesday - January 12, 2010 - 1:00 PM**

Senior Wing of Maidu Center at 1550 Maidu Dr., Roseville

Patricia "Pat" Johnson - "Research In The Center For Sacramento History"

**Roseville Genealogical Society** - <http://www.rgsca.org/index.shtml>

**Wednesday - January 13, 2010 - 7:00 PM**

Sylvan Community Clubhouse, 6921 Sylvan Road, Citrus Heights

Lynne Roberts on Land Records

**Sacramento Genealogical Society** - <http://www.rootcellar.org/>

**Sunday - January 17, 2010 - 10:00 AM**

Albert Einstein Residence Center, 1935 Wright St, Sacramento

Joann Weiser - Everyone has a story to tell

**Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento** -

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-sacramento/>

**Tuesday - January 26, 2010 - 1:00 PM**

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Lusk Drive & St. Mark's Way, Sacramento, CA.

Jim Rader - "Genetic Genealogy: DNA as a Key to Your Ancestors"

**Sacramento German Genealogy Society** - <http://www.sacgergensoc.org/>

**Wednesday - January 20, 2010 - 7:30 PM**

Transfiguration Episcopal Church, 3900 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo

Sue Allen - "Connecting the Past & the Future: Getting your children and grandchildren interested in Family History"

**San Mateo County Genealogical Society** - <http://www.smcgs.org>

2010 Workshop Schedule at **National Archives Pacific Region in San**

**Bruno** - All workshops are on Fridays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and are taught by Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogist Specialist at NARA.

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** - Census Records Research



# San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum

## Introduction to Genealogy

A series of four informative sessions that will help you get started  
researching your family history

Every third Thursday morning  
beginning

JANUARY 21, 2010 ~ 9:00 a.m.

Multipurpose Room in the Erickson Building  
at the SJC Historical Museum, Lodi

January 21st - Organizing family photos

February 18th - Using internet resources

March 18th - Using other resources, possible field trip

April 15th - Using our museum resources, guest speaker  
librarian & archivist, Leigh Johnsen

class fee \$40.00

includes all four sessions, extra materials required

REGISTER TODAY:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment must be enclosed to guarantee a space in class. Make checks payable to SJC Historical Society or may phone in credit card information or may register and pay in person at the Museum office.

QUESTIONS: call museum office 209-331-2055 or 953-3460

MAIL TO: SJC HISTORICAL MUSEUM, ATTN: ROBIN WOOD, P.O. BOX 30, LODI, CA 95241-0030



New Publication of the

## **San Joaquin Genealogical Society**

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**Miscellaneous Records San Joaquin County, California** **\$ 18.00**

**Volume II** – Taken from County Court Records and Newspapers.

Early land claims, homesteads, tax sales, etc. spanning the years 1850 to 1900

Soft cover, 130 pages.

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PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING:

**Check payable to: San Joaquin Genealogical Society**







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**March 19<sup>th</sup>** - Census Records Research

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** - Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** - Military Part I - Revolutionary War to Civil War

**June 18<sup>th</sup>** - Military Part II - Spanish American to Viet Nam

**July 16<sup>th</sup>** - Federal Land Records

**July 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Freedmen Bureau Records

**August 13<sup>th</sup>** - Preserving Your History