



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Tree Tips

Researching the World

May 2011

Vol. 27, No. 5

Finding Tamsen Donner

The story of the ill-fated Donner Party has fascinated people for over 150 years. In the summer of 1846, a party of 87 pioneers departed Springfield, Illinois, for California. Early snows trapped them for over four months in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, killing almost half of the group and driving the survivors to extremes they never dared to imagine. Tamsen Donner, wife of George Donner, the party's leader, is known to have kept a diary of the journey, but unfortunately, it was lost over time.

In this presentation, Gabrielle Burton recreates Tamsen Donner's journal, focusing on the months when the latter was trapped in the mountains with her husband and five starving daughters. It is a story of hope, heroism and the enduring human spirit.

Gabrielle Burton has been the foremost authority on Tamsen Donner for over 30 years. In 1977, Gabrielle, along with her husband and five daughters, retraced the route of the Donner Party from Illinois to Donner



Pass. The trek resulted in *Searching for Tamsen Donner*, Gabrielle's first acclaimed book on the Donner Party's matriarch. Following ad-

ditional research, Gabrielle wrote *Impatient with Desire*, a novel in which she explores the subject of endurance directly in the voice of Tamsen Donner. Learn more about Ms. Burton at <http://gabrielleburton.com/>

Special Interest Groups will meet as usual from 9:30 at our usual meeting place at First Presbyterian Church at Constance & State. Contact Marie Sue Parsons at mariesue@parsonsyong.com with any questions.



Donner Party Memorial statue: erected in June 1918. Statue at Donner Memorial State Park; the top of the 22-foot (6.7 m) pedestal indicates how deep the snow was during the winter of 1846-1847.

Announcement: The Sahyun Library will be closed from May 21 through July 4 for final stages of construction.

- Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society Meeting
- Saturday, May 21
- 9:30 A.M. — Noon;
Program at 10:30 A.M.
- First Presbyterian Church
at 21 E. Constance at State
Street

There is ample free parking in the church's lot and the facility is handicapped accessible

Special Interest Groups

You are welcome to the open specialty groups (SIGS) that meet prior to the general meeting:

9:30 AM **Beginning Genealogy Group** meets under the leadership of Arlene Doty.

9:30 AM **DNA Group** is for those interested in DNA as a genealogical tool. Look for the DNA sign.

9:30 AM **German Ancestry Group** will meet this month under the leadership of Cari Thomas.

9:30 AM **Computer Genealogy Interest Group** meets under the leadership of Merna McClenathen.

10:00 AM **Coffee and Refreshments** will be served. Check out the Book-Nook with new publications and creative gift ideas.

Nominations 2011-2013

At the board meeting on April 15, 2010, the Board of Directors accepted the Nominations Committee slate of officers for office vacancies for 2011-2013. According to the Society's by-laws, that slate shall be published in Tree Tips one month before the vote is to be taken. The slate is: President-Elect Robert Bason; First VP-Programs Mariesue Parsons; and Recording Secretary Deborah Kaska.

From the President's Desk

Didn't we have a grand event on April 9th?! Not only did over 200 family history enthusiasts (over 60 from outside Santa Barbara) learn valuable research strategies and insights from our two experts, Dr. Roger P Minert and Lloyd Bockstruck, but we had fun, too! Approximately 70 SBCGS volunteers lent their time & talents to our Annual Seminar, which is a most impressive statistic! Thank you to all of you! Special appreciation to seminar co-chairs Cari Thomas, Diane Sylvester who worked so very hard for many months to make the SBCGS's "Two Experts: One Incredible Genealogy Seminar" live up to its name.

Have you filled out the SBCGS member Interest survey yet? Attendees at the April 16 General Meeting were given the opportunity to take the short survey via paper. If you were not at the meeting, you can let us know your research areas of interest from the e-mail invitation sent on April 28th, or by visiting our website at www.sbgen.org. Over 25% of our over 500 members have already given us your ideas & thoughts; we want to hear from all of you! The online survey deadline has been extended to Monday, May 16th. There are less than 15 questions; it should only take you 5 minutes to complete.

I peeked at the preliminary survey results and we are getting some really good information! I'm a bit surprised that PA, NY & NJ are pulling more "research interest" votes than New England states. But the Mid-west is doing quite well in the US, too. Globally, the British Isles is most popular right now...perhaps influenced from a recent royal nuptial? As for other genealogy research subjects, emigration & immigration help is a popular request, but land & court records are close behind. Help with preserving your photos and documents are also important. Don't see a selection that is pertinent to you? Well, there are

"other" boxes to write in your most pressing research need.

Your feedback is very important to the SBCGS. We'll soon have a very large, modern genealogical research library. What books and databases will we acquire? What classes and workshops will help you? How can we make your membership in SBCGS even more meaningful? Please tell us! Help us plan for the SBCGS future.

Mary E. Hall, President

News From the Booknook

I love maps! My most recent addition to my map collection was taken from a new book in the library *The History of Enfield, Connecticut*. On that map, I was able to locate the home place of several of my colonial ancestors in 1680.

Let me tell you about a few new additions to our sales shelves that will be of interest to map lovers and descendants of those who migrated across this country. If you heard Lloyd Bockstruck speak at our recent seminar, you learned how the Appalachian mountain chain affected – and slowed -- westward migration. Carrie Eldridge has published several books on the subject which include: *Southern Trails to the Mississippi*, *Trails West of the Mississippi*, *Appalachian Trails to the Ohio River*, *Northern Trails Westward from New England*. There is background history and detailed MAPS of these areas.

For German genealogists who did not attend the seminar, check out *German Maps & Facts for Genealogy and Lands of the German Empire and Before*. Timelines, maps, rulers, glossary.....

If you have ancestors who lived in Andover or Salem Massachusetts in 1692 you must have a *Witch Map!* These maps show the households in both towns, highlighting those involved in the witch mania.

Thank you, Arlene!

For many, many years, Arlene Doty has hosted the Beginning Genealogy table at our monthly General Meetings. She has recently let us know it's time to pass the baton. So, reluctantly, we are looking for a volunteer or 2 (or 3) to "man" the Beginning Genealogy table at our 3rd Saturday a month meetings.

As I'm sure Arlene will attest, working with others who are just starting their genealogical pursuits is a highly satisfying endeavor. You have the opportunity to experience that early elation of finding new kin and, also, the reward of starting new enthusiasts off on a good food. The other good news is that Arlene is willing to help train a few people who are willing to spend an hour once a month to help guide others. What an opportunity!

If you'd like to take advantage of this fun way to re-experience the job of those who are just getting started, and the reward of starting them off on a firm path, please contact Mary E Hall at mehall2@cox.net or Diane Nelson at dianeknelson@cox.net

B.Jo Dake, long-time member, is returning for a visit before she joins other members in the SBCGS society trip to SLC. She is planning on attending our May general meeting. B. Jo presented our library with a copy of her family history "Dake/Deake/Deak: From 17th C. Somerset England to 21st C. USA via Rhode Is., New York, Illinois, and Iowa." It will be added to our library.

My Andover map is my favorite! Shame on those folks.....

The library will be closed for a number of weeks, so this will be your last chance to stock up on summer genealogy reading. If you have a book you've been meaning to buy, let me know so I can bring it to our May meeting.

Kristin Ingalls

Membership

Welcome to our new members!

Individual:

Cynthia Linebarger
Santa Barbara, CA

Daniel Archuleta
Los Olivos, CA

Stephanie Allen
Lompoc, CA

Tim Putz
Santa Barbara, CA

Dan La Porte
Santa Barbara, CA

Family:

John & Kate Doordan
Santa Barbara, CA

Susan & Donald Heuchert
Santa Barbara, CA

Library Hours

- SBCGS Sahyun Library Hours
316 Castillo Street
Phone: 805-884-9909
Sunday: 1-4 PM
Tuesday: 10 AM-3 PM
Thursday: 10 AM-3 PM
Friday: 10 AM-3 PM
- LDS Library Hours
2107 Santa Barbara St.
Phone: 805-682-2092
Wednesday: 10 AM-6 PM
Thursday: 10 AM-6 PM
Friday: 9 AM-3 PM
Saturday: 9 AM-12 Noon

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In Memory

MADDUX, Catherine Louise (Cahill) passed away on March 17, 2011, at her home. She was born on January 16, 1928, in Cleveland, Ohio. She and her husband, George, married in 1958 and settled in San Gabriel, CA. The family relocated to Goleta in 1971.

Cathy was the founder of the SBCGS as she was the one who started a genealogy group in Goleta Newcomers. The first meeting was at her house and twenty-eight people showed up. At that meeting, they picked a name and elected officers. Fellow members remember

Half and Half Book Buy Program

New York City Court Records, 1760-1797, by Scott. Genealogical data taken from the Court Qtr. Sessions, for robbery, fraud, appointment of guardians, manumissions, and naturalizations. It names all participants, over 7500 persons! Several indexes & lists. Cost: \$18; 1/2 cost: \$9. Needed: \$9.00.

History for Genealogists: Using Chronological Time Lines to Find & Understand Your Ancestors, by Jacobson. So many timelines...so little time! Solve difficult problems, find lost women & other thorny issues. Cost: \$32; 1/2 cost: \$16. Needed: \$16.00.

The Illinois Gazette, Vol. II, 1824-1830, by Schmook. Murder & mayhem, marriages & deaths; probates & runaway slaves; lost & found; rewards; legal notices of all kinds. Fully indexed. Cost: \$40; 1/2 cost: \$20. Needed: \$20.00.

Mason Co, Kentucky, Wills & Estates, Bks. A-H, by Broglin. Over 40 years of court records of 18 "modern counties" from this parent county. Abstracted from KY State Archives & LDS films. Original spellings are used and there is an every name index to all 8 Will & Estates books! Cost: \$98; 1/2 cost: \$49. Needed: \$49.00.

Men & Women of Nebraska, Washington Co, by Carr, 1903. Contains an historical review of the county with a map of the county. Cameo portraits of 225 pioneers with date of arrival into the county & brief bio. Cost: \$34; 1/2 cost: \$17. Needed: \$17.00.

The Maine Family Index, 1900 to 1912, Vols. 11-14, by Gilman. Information taken from scarce church family censuses in ME & NH between 1900 & 1912. Vol. XI North Country Co., Aroostook, Piscataquis, Penobscott, Washington; XII West Hancock Co., Orrington, & Bucksport; XIII Down East Region, eleven towns including Mt. Desert & Northeast Harbor; XIV Four Cos. Region of Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Androscogin & Kennebec. Info includes wives' maiden names, occupations and childrens' names. Cost: 4 Vols. \$88; 1/2 cost: \$44. Needed: \$44.00.

Members pay 1/2 – Book Fund pays 1/2.

Please send contributions to:



SBCGS, c/o Louise Matz,
P.O. Box 6103, SB 93160



Suggestions welcomed!
Email: Lmgen2@cox.net

SPECIAL THANKS TO MEMBERS WHO MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 1/2 & 1/2 BOOK BUY PROGRAM!

John Shute Carell Jantzen
Christie Green Marianne Corradi
Dinah Mason Marie Sue Parsons

Bernice Joseph

how Cathy loved genealogy and encouraged those new members to write letters and send for information — this was the days before computers! Cathy was also the one who arranged for, and organized, the very first SBCGS seminar. She was able to get a representative from Everton Publishers to come and speak about the Genealogy Helper which was a well-known resource back then.

A donation to SBCGS, in memory of Catherine Maddux, was made by her son and Toyon Research Co.

Cool websites to help in your research:

Wonderful genealogy search engine: www.macavo.com

Virtual library of the history of modern Ireland:
www.dippam.ac.uk

The Irish Family History Foundation has added many records. They have several church records:
<http://rootsireland.ie>

Civil War Genealogy Toolkit by family Tree Magazine. It offers many links for your Civil War research:
www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Civil-War-Genealogy-toolkit

Ireland Genealogy Project Archives:
www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives

Jewish Genealogy Blog: tracingthetribe.blogspot.com

Did you know the American Red Cross will still help Holocaust survivors and other disaster victims try to locate their living family members? It is a free service. Contact your local Red Cross or Sharon Eames/International Services at the Santa Maria Red Cross: www.sbredcross.org

Irish Ancestry Blog: irishfamilyresearch.blogspot.com

Happy searching!!! Please email your favorite websites to Sharon Wilson at swilsons@cox.net so it can be included in the next Tree Tips.

Keep in Touch

SB County Genealogical Society Web Page: www.sbgen.org

SBCGS Blog: <http://sbcgs.blogspot.com/>

Library e-mail address: info@sbgen.org

Updates on Library Expansion: <http://sbcgsconstruction.blogspot.com/>

Calendar

Board Meeting: open to members

Friday, May 20, 8:30 a.m., at the Sahyun Library.

General Meeting Saturday, May 21, 9:30 - Noon, First Presbyterian Church, Constance at State

For Information, Call:

President: Mary Hall, 687-7403

Library Director: Kathie Morgan, 682-4456

Librarian Scheduling: Marsha Martin, 967-1146

Newsletter Address Corrections: Sue Ramsey, 967-1670

Book Buy: Louise Matz, 967-7353

Vice President, Membership: Sue Ramsey, 967-1670

Ancestors West: Dorothy Oksner, 684-3048,
ox@silcom.com

Adult Ed Genealogy Classes: Jan Cloud, 965-7423, Louise Matz, 967-7353, Cari Thomas, 964-5523

Sales Table: Kristin Ingalls, 682-3499

Vice President, Programs: Marie Sue Parsons, 964-9176

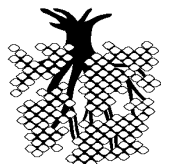
Tree Tips: fjordhest@cox.net; Deadline: 3rd Sat. of mon.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1303
Goleta, CA 93116-1303

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED





Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society Campaign May 2011

We have begun "Furnishing Our Dream" - and already you have responded to the call. We have raised over \$24,000 toward our \$150,000 goal.

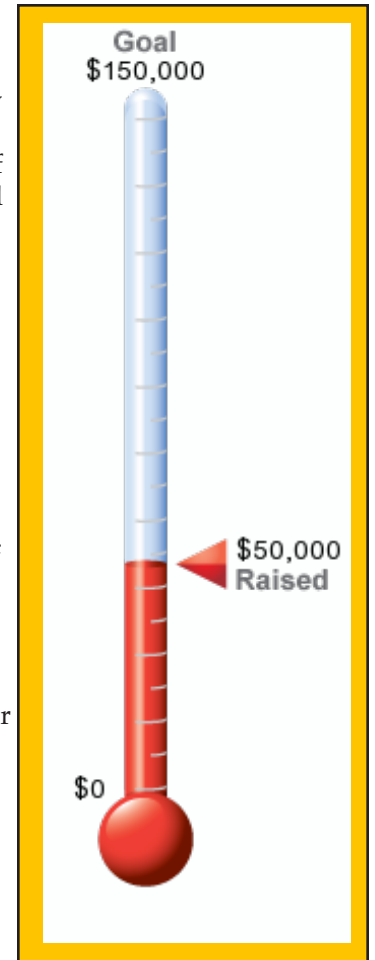
I will be including in my monthly status update those items that have been sponsored by members who want the opportunity to have either their name recognized or that of an ancestor. Earl and I are going to have the name of his father placed on a plaque for one of the chairs that will be used in the Class/Meeting Room. Adolph Earling Gebel was killed during WWII when Earl was only 18 months old. Obviously, Earl never knew his father and has only family photos of him, so this becomes a touching tribute to the man in the pictures.

You too will have the opportunity to name an item in our new library in memory of a military family member or an ancestor that has touched you in some way. IN MEMORY OF is the phrase we are going to use but you can pick your own wording such as, "IN DEDICATION OF," or "BASON'S BASIN," or "IN HONOR OF," or whatever you feel appropriate.

As promised, so far these are the items that have been claimed by society members: Michelle Woodhouse - A/V equipment for our Class/Meeting Room; Jean Pettitt - a row of bookshelves (7 in all); Marge & Jim Friestad - a book shelf; John Woodward - a drinking fountain; Chris Klukkert - refurbished Map Case and 1 oversized atlas case; Marie Sue Parsons - white board for the Class/Meeting Room; Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War - Library Table; Emily Aasted - a computer chair. Michol & Earl Gebel, Joan Jacobs, Mary & George Mamalakis, Dorothy Oksner, Sue Ramsey have all taken chairs for the Class/Meeting Room. Don't you want one?

Thanks to the following people for their generous donations to the Library Campaign for the month of April!

*Dorothy Oksner, Diane Sylvester,
Art Sylvester, Kathie Morgan,
Rosa Avolio, Marsha Deaderick,
Juliette Moore, William Lockwood,
and Jean Pettitt*



More information on the expansion can be found at: <http://sbcg-construction.blogspot.com/>