

"Also, See

Page 5 for

Information on our Spring Seminar!"

# **SCGS Newsletter**



**MAY 2019** 

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 5

## "Breaking Brick Walls" Meeting—Saturday, May 18th

The Sonoma County Genealogical Society, Family History Center and the Oakmont Genealogy Club are proud to announce the return of our Annual Brick Wall Meeting. At the meeting we will:

- ⇒ Choose examples from the audience.
- ⇒ Collaborate on goals and what has been done so far.
- ⇒ With the help of our moderator, Kurt Boldt, create an outline to achieve the goal.
- Then the audience will do the research during the meeting using their own electronic devices and personal subscriptions to genealogical based websites or free websites.

⇒ We will attempt three different brick walls. The first will be a close, domestic ancestor. The second will "Cross the Pond" and the third will use DNA to solve a brick wall.

We hope to learn new methods of identifying problems and their solutions, explore new subscription or free genealogical

websites available, and how to collaborate with fellow genealogists.

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Bring your preferred electronic device and a notepad. This is a fast paced, collaborative session that is free flowing. Bring a friend. This session is very well attended and a great way to learn about genealogy and meet new people. See you there.

Meeting Time: Noon

**Location:** Santa Rosa Finley Center

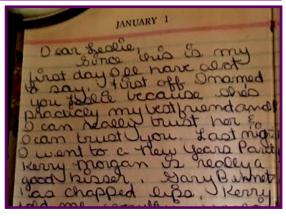
Cypress Room

2060 West College Ave. Santa Rosa, CA

### Your Secrets Are Safe With Me: Diaries & Journals

#### By Cindy Brennan

While going through my old cedar chest to search for a Halloween Costume, I came across two small diaries from my childhood. I was surprised to see that one started when I was only 9 years old and the other spanned my Junior High Years. I just about came unglued with laughter and tears as I read them. I was also a tad bit horrified to think someone might open up the one from Junior High and read, amongst other things, the excerpt regarding my first kiss with Kerry Morgan and also Gary Bennett's chapped lips, during a rousing game of Spin the Bottle!



For a variety of reasons, many of our ancestors kept diaries and journals. Although not always the case, diaries were often used to record thoughts and feelings and journals might document events or happenings. Both diaries and journals give us an intimate lens into life during a certain time, in a geographic area, and during local or national historical events. The fact that they often cover daily

(Continued on page 6)



### Special Interest Groups

**GERMAN GROUP:** The next meeting of the German Interest Group of the Sonoma County Genealogical Society will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2019, beginning at 10 am at the LDS Church, 1725 Peterson Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Go through the Family History Center door on the south side of the building and proceed to the back hallway where we will be in one of the meeting rooms. We will be hav-

ing a general discussion and help session on topics of interest to the members present. Contact Jim Cochran, 526-7331, <a href="mailto:cougars@sonic.net">cougars@sonic.net</a>, for more information or you have questions. Guten Abend.

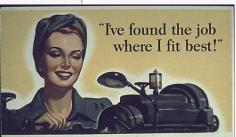
FAMILY HISTORY WRITER'S GROUP:

The Writer's Group will meet on May 7th at 10:00 a.m. in the Family History Center Library.

THE GENEALOGICAL EVIDENCE, DOCUMENTATION & WRITING GROUP — The Genealogical Evidence, Documentation and Writing Special Interest Group is most likely not meeting in May, but check our website Calendar to confirm. If you are interested in this project, or want more info on the group, please contact Maggi Andrews.

**DNA GROUP:** In April, we had a good discussion

of Y-DNA and some of the ways to use it to help answer a genealogical question. Next up for May (the Mother's Day month) will be Chapter 4 "Genealogical Applications for mtDNA," If you want more info on the group, please contact Maggi Andrews. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21st at 1:00 p.m. at the Family History Center.



FIND YOUR WAR JOB
In Industry – Agriculture – Business

MEXICAN GENEALOGY GROUP: The Mexican Genealogy Group will meet on Saturday, June 1st at the Family History Center at 10:00 a.m. Contact Laura Gonzalez at <a href="mailto:mexisq@sonic.net">mexsig@sonic.net</a> for more information.

**SCGS BOARD**—The Board will meet on May 14th at 9:30

a.m. at the Family History Center. All society members are welcome. We have an opening for our Recording Secretary position if anyone is interested. Also, check out the <u>Board & Committee Members</u> page on our website.

All Special Interest Groups are held at The Family
History Center on 1725 Peterson Lane
in Santa Rosa

# Welcome New Members

Name	Surnames Being Researched
Cindy Graber - lives in Sebastopol	Dunbar and Chamberlin

#### **SGCS Vision and Mission**

Vision: ALL families connected

Mission: The purpose of this Society is to educate the general public and members of the Society in genealogical research, and, to preserve, collect, compile, publish and disseminate genealogical data and family history.



### What's Happening at SCGS and Beyond?

### Sonoma County Genealogical Society—Board of Directors Election

At our Monthly Meeting on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Finley Center, members of the Sonoma County Genealogical Society will vote on the slate of candidates for the 2019-2020 SCGS Board of Directors. The slate of candidates that members will be voting on is presented below.

♦ President:
 ♦ 1<sup>st</sup> VP Programs:
 ♦ 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership:
 ♦ 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Publicity
 Steve Lovejoy
 Pat Carhart
 Helen Young
 Susan Hester

Treasurer: Susanne Skabelund
 Corresponding Secretary: Kurt Boldt

Corresponding Secretary: Ruit Boldt
 Recording Secretary: No candidate

Directors at Large: Maggi Andrews, Kathy Payne, Ray Owen, and Ray Johnson

No candidate has been identified for the Recording Secretary, an important position on the Board, even after an extensive search by our Nominating committee. If you think you could fill this position and would like to help the SCGS Board of Directors run the SCGS, please contact our current president, Steve Lovejoy, <a href="mailto:sonoma.pres@gmail.com">sonoma.pres@gmail.com</a>.





#### Saturday, October 12

Angie Bush, Master Genealogist with Ancestry ProGenealogists presents

#### Four Amazing Genealogy Sessions in One Day!

Angle Bush combines years of experience in biotech with a passion for genealogical research to solve seemingly impossible cases.

At our 2019 fall seminar, she will share four presentations on how you can combine DNA evidence and traditional genealogy to unlock mysteries within your family tree. Beginners to experts in DNA analysis and genealogy will benefit.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ANGIE BUSH INTERNATIONALLY-KNOWN GENEALOGY EDUCATOR

FOUR PRESENTATIONS 9:00 AM TO 3:30 PM

PLEASANT HILL SENIOR CENTER 233 GREGORY LANE, PLEASANT HILL, CA

### **New Books at the Library**

Election

Submitted by Moria Gardner

A Directory of British Peerages: from the Earliest
Times to the Present Day
compiled by Francis L.
Leeson – ANNEX R
929.72 LEESON



- □ Drake's Bay: Unraveling California's Great Maritime Mystery by Brian T. Kelleher – ANNEX R 979.462 KELLEHER
- The Narrative History of Union County, South Carolina by Allan D. Charles, Ph.D. ANNEX R 975.741 CHARLES
- ☐ Tidewater Virginia Families: the Families of Bell, Binford, Bonner...by Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis ANNEX R 929.37551 DAVIS
- Tidewater Virginia Families:Generations Beyond by Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis ANNEX R 929.37551 DAVIS
- Without Indenture: Index to White Slave Children in Colonial Court Records by Richard Hayes Phillips ANNEX R 929.375 PHILLIPS



### **GENEA-Notes**

## **Google Translate Tools**

If you don't already have Google Translate on your Smart Phone, it is time to download the Free App. In addition to what Google Translate has been best known for, which is typing in a word or sentence and letting it translate into more than 100 languages, the offerings have been expanded. You

- 1. Talk into your phone in English (or another language) and then the phone will speak that sentence into the desired language. You can put the phone on conversation mode so you can actually go back and forth with someone in another language.
- 2. You can take a photo of text from another language and your phone can translate that back to English.
- 3. You can also do real-time text translation by holding your phone (or tablet) up to the text and moving it across the text. It will translate as you

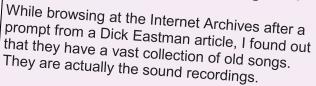
I remember the days of having to buy the Berlitz Guides for every country I went to. This is truly amazing. For more information on using these features, CLICK HERE.

# Google Translate

# Random Fun Records

I always check the new record sets on Ancestry. This one was so different and fun it deserves a mention. It is the <u>US Baseball Questionnaires from</u> 1945-2005. These are surveys answered by professional baseball players. There are some unique questions including their most interesting or humorous experience, and it was really fun to pick my favorite players and find out a little more about them! Play Ball!

# **Internet Archives Audio Streaming**



You can check them out and search at <u>Old Songs</u> How about this 1905 version of, "On the Banks of the Rhine with a Stein!"



## **New at the National Archives**

I subscribed to the National Archives Catalog and get notice of new digitized records. A couple that were of interest included Indian Treaties—the actual images Eva Braun's Photo Albums—very intriguing of her time with Adolph Hitler and more.

You can click here to Subscribe to the Catalog for free.



### My Heritage's AutoClusters

**AutoClusters** is a new genetic genealogy tool that groups together DNA Matches who likely descend from common ancestors in a compelling visual chart. This easy-to-use feature helps you explore your DNA Matches more efficiently in groups, rather than as numerous individuals, and offers new insights into branches of your family tree.

**Generate Yours Now** 





## Annual Spring Seminar

Spring Seminar - 2019







Sonoma County Genealogical Society Presents: 
~Michael D. Lacopo~

Saturday, May 4th, 2019 - 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

PERSON AUDITORIUM AT THE FINLEY CENTER 2060 WEST COLLEGE AVENUE AT STONY POINT ROAD SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

PRE-REGISTRATION: \$35 SCGS MEMBERS

\$45 NON-MEMBERS

\$55 ADMISSION AT THE DOOR

To pay with credit card, <a href="CLICK HERE">CLICK HERE</a>

For More Information or To Register Online: http://www.scgsonline.org/



#### Scheduled Lectures

- ⇒ "She Came From Nowhere..." Using Social History in Your Research
- ⇒ Magnificent, Magical, Mesmerizing Manuscript Collections!
- ⇒ Estate Files: Are You Getting the Most Out of Them?
- ⇒ "I am Poor, Obscure, Plain, and Little" Researching the Invisible Ancestors

Dr. Michael D. Lacopo is a retired small-animal veterinarian born and raised in northern Indiana. He takes a scientific approach to his research as he does to his profession. Researching since 1980, he has lectured internationally and written for numerous periodicals and journals. A self-described "all-American mutt," his research skills cover a broad range.

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## Your Secrets Are Safe With Me: Diaries & Journals

(Continued from page 1)

life is incredible in that you actually can step into a person's shoes to experience a day in their life. This may be the only existing record of you family's personal life. While we cannot travel back 100 years in time, a diary can help surround us with the first hand, cherished details of their days.

Some diaries were written with the intent of always remaining private and some were meant to be shared. If you are lucky enough to find one, you may not be able to tell what the person's wishes were around privacy, so tread lightly.

In America's earliest roots, most diaries were kept by men. They mostly consisted of planting schedules for farms, tracking weather patterns or documenting family finances. Then in the 1700's women's diaries began to pop up. The cool thing about diaries is that even if it wasn't your ancestor, you can read someone's perspective about that time in history. For example, Quaker women were encouraged to keep journals in the 1700's. This one from Sally Wister

Nothing scarcely lowers a man in my opinion more than talking of eating, what they love and what they hate. Lee and Warring were proficients in this science. Enough of them!

December 5th, Sixth Day.1

Oh, gracious! Debby, I am all alive with fear. The English have come out to attack (as we imagine) our army. They are on Chestnut Hill, our army three (below) offers a teenager's view of her home outside of Philadelphia, as the Continental Soldiers were all around there in 1777.

In the 1800's, women dominated the keeping of

diaries, especially during the Civil War and other times of war, anxiety and separation from their families. Eventually, diaries became more of a teenage passion in the 1900's. Both sexes kept diaries in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but eventually, it was mostly young women.

As you will see, diaries may come in all shapes and sizes. Let's explore some resources and examples and hopefully pique your interest in this unique genealogy source!

Other People's Diaries: You may not be lucky enough

to stumble across a diary for one of your family members, but there are millions of diaries out there waiting to be read. They can make a nice substitute if you are looking for social history in a certain timeframe, socioeconomic grouping, ethnical group or geographic area. You may feel that you are being a little sneaky or putting your nose where it doesn't belong, but that can also be part of the slightly sinful fun!

A nice starting resource is American Diaries: An Annotated Bibliography of Published American Diaries Written Prior to the Year 1861 available online at the Internet Archive. It lists thousands of diaries, in chronological order, where they were published and a little description on each. There is a helpful index in the back to search for a surname. You will see that in many cases diaries overlap into several categories. For example, the diary could be personal, but it was written by someone who served in the same place during WWI that your ancestor did. That might be of great interest to you.

CRESSWELL, Nicholas (1750-1804) of Edale, Derbyshire, Eng.

Travel journal, 1774-1777; voyage to Virginia; travel in Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York; unsuccessful attempt to settle, unsuccessful trading trip along Ohio; misadventures in the Revolution; vigorous abuse of Revolutionaries and propaganda; some good observations on places and people by a disillusioned young Englishman; a very good diary.

The Journal of Nicholas Cresswell, 1774-1777 (New York, 1924) 287 pp. Summary with extracts in National Review (London) XC (1927) 122-132; selection in Mark Van Doren, An Autobiography of America (New York, 1929) 108-121.

Cyndi's List offers a good number of resources. Personal and Family Diaries can be found <u>HERE</u>. A good example of one that could be of broad interest is the transcribed diary of <u>Michael Freidrich Radke</u>, who left Prussia in 1848 to come to America. (I especially appreciated his daily account of the ship coming over). Many of us had similar stories with our German ancestors.

Google Books should not be left out when searching for diaries and journals. When I searched on both <u>Diary</u> and <u>Diaries</u>, I came up with a huge number. Using some filters from the tool bar (next page) such as only looking for Free books and restricting the date range (Any time), I could narrow it down. Also Google Books is very

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## Your Secrets Are Safe With Me: Diaries & Journals

(Continued from page 6)



friendly to normal search terms that you put in quotes, such as "Chicago" "Pullman". Or, if you need to exclude a word from your search, you can use the minus sign. Let's say you are searching for an ancestor with a surname Lincoln and want to exclude Abraham Lincoln from the search. You can type in Lincoln -Abraham (using the minus sign) to exclude the former President.

If you find a diary (or any Google Book for that matter) it can be daunting to go through all of the pages. Using the little Grid Button at the top of the book, you can have Google display thumbprints of the pages. This is particularly helpful if you are looking for photos or maps or something that would stand out when displayed this way.

Famous People: This can be a fun read. DiaryIndex.com has a large index to diaries and a number from famous people. Some are online and some reference where you can find them. I like that they are well organized by last name. A few links were broken but still a good spot to check out.

Let's stop here and mention a resource that should never be overlooked. The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) or nicknamed "nuck-muck" is a true treasure from our Library of Congress. NUCMC compiles holdings from repositories all over the USA. With an easy search, you can

find diaries from across the land. I like to use the Advanced Search from the Home page. You can add multiple search terms to narrow down your goal. I plugged in "Diary" and "Willett" and one hit is reflect-

ed below.

Click MORE on this record and you may or may not get the entire document, but in my case there was an entire

Elbert Decatur (E.D.) Willett was born in 1828 in Tennessee where he attended Washington College, Jonesboro, Tenn. and then graduated from Emory and Henry College, Abingdon, Va. in 1852. He read law in Tenn. and in 1854 moved to Carrollton, Pickens Co., Ala. where he taught school and later entered a legal partnership. In 1856 he married Candace Mentora Bostick.

Mentora Bostick.
In 1861 Willett entered the Confederate Army as captain of Company B, also known as Pickens Planters, 40th Alabama Infantry Regiment, and remained there until he was promoted to major in 1864. The 40th Alabama saw action at Vicksburg (Miss.), Chattanooga (Tenn.), and Atlanta (Ga.). After the war Willett joined a law partnership which lasted

narrative on what it contained.

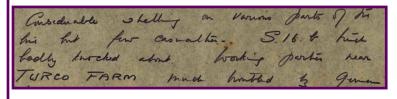
<u>Military Diaries</u> are quite common. <u>Cyndi's List</u> has a very respectable collection of links to lots of resources for all wars including the Viet Nam Conflict.

One from a young Pennsylvania man serving in the Mexican -American War in 1846 intrigued me. Diaries have a way of helping us reflect on what else we may want to know about that person or the time in which they lived.

Ancestry.com has a good collection of <u>WWI Diaries</u> from persons serving in France, Belgium and Germany. There are thousands of pages to

search and they are well organized by Regiment and Division. It was fascinating to read through their accounts of daily life while serving in the war. You also may be lucky enough to run into one within





your family. My Great Uncle served in France and Germany in WWI and through all of his time there, he

kept a diary. My Aunt lovingly transcribed it and included his pictures from his time overseas. His daily account of life in the trenches, with constant attacks by Germany was sometimes so hard to read.

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**Query Results** 

Records 1 through 2 of 2 returned.

Author: Willett, Elbert Decatur, 1828-1890. Title: Pickens Planters' diary, 1862-1864.

More on this record

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## Your Secrets Are Safe With Me: Diaries & Journals

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(Above) They struggled for food, buried their friends and yet, had to keep pressing

Wednesday October 23 Huns sent over 6 shells between 9:30 and 10 P.M. but not a one of them went off, that was lucky as they hit pretty close to our trench. The Aeroplanes came over too later but they didn't do any bombing or shooting. Some of the Artillery boys took one of the shells apart that didn't go off and there was a note in it saying, we are doing all we can to help you, so the Germans must have American prisoners making ammunition. On road working this morning. Sun shining nice and it's quite warm.

might find! A Pinterest search for Diaries can also

on. Once the war ended, he was part of the occupation army that stayed on in Coblenz, Germany at the

Ehrenbreitsetin Castle. At that point, something unexpected showed up in his diary. The Meder Family had befriended him and he often visited and dined with them. His diary entries transitioned from his stories of being a soldier to more and more entries about a young woman in the Meder family, named Maria. As the days went on, it was obvious he had fallen in love with her. I couldn't get enough! The many letters back and forth to her when he got home (that my Aunt had included in the diary) were all in German and spanned several years. I speak no German but that didn't stop me. I painstakingly translated (using Google Translate) the best I could. I got the gist of the letters but was sad that they never saw each other again once he returned home.

E-bay is a unique place to check out for Old Diaries



both military and other. I searched the site and got many hits. Some of interest included this 1949 Diary from

a voung woman who worked as a Car Hop at a

AUGUST 10

local Drive-In. It was so cool as it had lots of photos (left) as well as pages from her diary. (below) Wouldn't it be fun to discover that was



your family member? Other intriguing ones included a 1929 Diary from New York City, a Civil War Diary and one from a soldier in WWII memorializing the surrender of the Japanese. You just never know what you

bare some fruitful results.

Travel Diaries and Journals can provide us with the only perspective that may be available on our ancestors as they moved from place to place. Some of the most common are the

> Overland Diaries of those brave pioneer ancestors who literally walked for 4 to 6 months, over 2000 miles.

Overland Diaries, which is a compilation from many sources was interesting.

Again, there were many broken links but you may be able to search some titles from other resources.

A number of diaries can also be found at the Oregon Pioneer's Site. Organized by year, you can select the year that most closely matches your ancestor's trip. Next, Brigham Young University offers, "Trails of Hope 1846-1869: Overland Diaries and Letters" a very well organized site that lets you browse the entire diary or look for topics, such as – children, diseases, and religion.

Another nice collection from the Library of Congress is the California First Person Narratives, which is California focused but gives wonderful and colorful diary accounts of those pioneers and early birds who

settled in the Golden State.

The last in this category I'd like to touch on are travel journals. Did you ever go somewhere and keep a small journal of your experiences? I sure did. Can you imagine my surprise

when visiting my parents a few weeks ago when I

saw a stack of these journals (written by my Mom, Dad, my Brother and me) throughout the last 50+ years. (left) Time to look back through all of



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## Your Secrets Are Safe With Me: Diaries & Journals

(Continued from page 8) those old documents!

<u>Diaries from Your Family</u>: Some of you have already been blessed to uncover diaries from your own family. They may be originals or tran-

		200	10000	Dr. Burkley
9:30a				The President watched the arrival of Pope Paul VI on television
9:330	ALCOHOLD POR	2000	+	Secretary Towler
	7000000000	70230		The President then dressed and went into the living room when he met
Woodillag	-	755	-	designers, Geoffrey Beene and Donald Brooks, along w/ Rita Wohlman of as 101 for
arrane	est the			Joseph Magnin Co. who had assembled many garments for the President to select
ann	Hand	6	0	some clothes for Lynda Bird to use at her year at the Univ of Texas this year,
		7500		The President selected several garments, including two for Luci and one
	100000000	10000	1000	for Mrs. Johnson, Billing to be handled through Jake Jacobsen, and fittings to
				be arranged later in the week. In the room were Mrs. Lloyd Hand, Mrs. Valent
		7	1	wmy mf , yb - Mrs, Johnson in and out - Luci modeled her two garments.
10:50a	11:20a		1000	The President met w/ Mrs. Nelson "Happy" Rockefeller in the dining room of
	7		THE ST	the suite Mrs. Johnson attended also

scribed. Either way, absorbing the words written by someone who shares your DNA can open your world and emotions to a true piece of your history. It doesn't hurt to ask your relatives if they have any diaries. You can also try contacting the local historical society or library to see if a diary exists for anyone you are related to.

As usual, <u>FamilySearch.org</u> is a treasure trove of documents. I searched in both the <u>Catalog</u> and the <u>Books</u> using the Keyword Diary and then Surnames of my ancestors. I had a quick hit on a diary from my Coffin ancestry. It offered some exquisite information on their Quaker background and the daily thoughts and struggles of Elisha Coffin during the 1860's. Through marriage, children, keeping his faith, and more it was a truly intimate glimpse into his life. He covered politics of the day, cholera outbreaks and the daily weather.

The Internet Archive also proved to be a good resource. Sometimes the publications are online and in some cases you can check out the book right online. (It is a quick sign-up and free). I found a unique and very personal collection of women's diaries in a book called, A Day at a Time: The Diary Literature of American Women from 1764 to the Present. I used the quick check out process and was captured by the stories contained. This excerpt from the 1800's was from a woman who embarked on a whaling boat with

September 1st: I have not felt as well to day. They carried my little one to the picture room this afternoon and had Its picture taken. It looks like It some bot not so much as I wish It did. Had to pay five dollars but I do not begreidge the money for It is all I can ever have of my little one. It was put in the coffin this forenoon, a little white satin casket. They do not make their coffins here as they do at home but it was a pretty one, the nicest we could get. At four o clock this

her husband who was the ship's captain.

Another nice launching point for collections of diaries is at <u>Historical Diaries and Journals Online</u>. This is a compilation of 16 collections including African American Odyssey, which includes some very poignant diaries of enslaved individuals.

I just love the <u>Digital Public Library of America</u>. A keyword search "diary" brings more than 17,000 results from 300 contributing institutions. Many are online. You can narrow your search easily and target your desired keywords. It is here that I found a cool, rather unique form of a diary. Did you know our recent <u>Presidents have kept daily diaries</u>? I loved this one (top of page) from President Johnson where he met with clothing designers to order things for his daughter and the First Lady. Looks like the taxpayers might have sported the bill for that!

University Libraries may contain diaries in their Special Collections. I went back to my own college and searched their special collections and found some super interesting diaries from Henrietta McGuffey, whose Father created the McGuffey reader. She grew up on the college campus and certainly didn't filter what she wrote. (As evidenced below by the entry from 1857 about her neighbor's

Francishung Navember.
Saturday 28th
Ment to Mors Sithersons to get some things and of
my trunk This way of living at one house and baring
your clother at another to anything but pleasant look
along walk with Indien. Par Her Tratter to a unhappy
aid I had to the to the south of the
wife her husband treat his as if he could not bear the
light of ther. Sunda 29 th

awful husband). Also, keep in mind that University and College Libraries don't just have holdings that

(Continued on page 10)

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### Your Secrets Are Safe With Me: Diaries & Journals



(Continued from page 9)

are local.

Unusual Diary
Sources: Before you
give up on finding
your own family diaries, here are two
unusual resources
for diary-like entries
I uncovered. One is

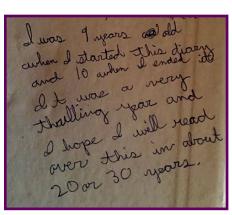
that my Mom has kept diary entries on her desk calendar for decades. I didn't even realize this until I saw the stack of old calendars on her bookcase. When I opened one up, I was so surprised to see her entries for each day. It included treasures such as Mom and Dad's health each day, visits from family, phone calls, foods they had eaten and just daily life! I would have



never thought to look there. The second was when I went through old cookbooks from my Grandma. Written in the margins, and back pages were notes about weather, what she made to eat, advice on raising children and some other peeks into her day. Paper was not always plentiful, especially in a

small farming town, so, keep in mind that you may not always be searching for a formal diary or journal. Look for those hidden gems.

Sometimes we can only learn about our family or their lives from their written words or stories that are



passed down. Diaries are a beautiful way to open up that more personal side of someone's life. As I looked back at the first page of my diary from when I was 9 years old I saw that it said, "I hope I will read over this in about 20 or 30 years." To take a walk in my

"little girl life" for a few hours, was a true gift.

**Happy Searching!** 

### 1852 Sonoma County Census

### **HENRY WILLIAM HOOK By Sandra Wilkins**

HENRY WILLIAM HOOK was born in England on October 31, 1831. On July 29, 1850, Henry Hook arrived in New York from London on the ship "American Eagle." He was age 19 years, six months and a carpenter by trade. After traveling to Sonoma County, CA in 1852, he returned to New York. On May 25, 1858, he married ANN JOHN-SON at the United Methodist Church in Long Island, New York. Ann was a native of New York, born on August 16, 1839. In 1860 the couple lived in New York City, Ward 19, New York, with one child. THEODORE, born in 1859, while Henry worked as a carriage driver. Henry registered for the Civil War Draft in Maple Creek, Wisconsin on July 1, 1863. He was described as married, born in England, and not naturalized. A second child. LILLY, was born in Wisconsin in 1865. Before 1868, the family moved to a farm in Walton, LaBette County, Kansas. There two more children were born: HENRY P., in 1868 and GEORGE W., in 1872. By 1880, Henry and family decided to return to California, where he farmed 121 acres in Yount, Napa County. The San Francisco Voter Registration lists Henry as working as a carpenter in that city in the years 1888 through 1892. He and his sons, Henry P, and George W. were listed in the 1894 Santa Clara County, CA voter registration. Henry was again employed as a carpenter in the city of Palo Alto. Henry died on June 9, 1895, probably in Santa Clara County. He was buried in Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, Colma, San Mateo County, CA. After the death of Henry, Ann moved to Los Angeles County to live with her daughter Lilly, who had married Albert Tunison. In 1920, she resided as a lodger in the city of Los Angeles at age 81. She died there on May 17, 1928 at age 88. She was buried next to Henry in Cypress Lawn Memorial Cemetery.

Sources: US Census of California, New York, Kansas

New York Immigration Records New York Marriage Records Civil War Registration Records Non-Population US Census California Death Index

Cemetery Records at Find a Grave