

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528

Editor: Dorothy Stanton

Meetings: 10 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of month
(except August & December)
Danville Women's Club House
242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue
Danville, CA 94526

Volume VI No. 8

March 1991

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 19, 1991

PROGRAM: "VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE"

This month we draw on our own members for a varied program. They will share their experience and expertise with us on the following topics:

BILL ALLEN - "Land Grants"

PEGGY FRAZIER - "Using the Computers at LDS Family
History Centers"

BETTY KOT & FRANCES LLOYD - "Genealogy Book Reviews"

[Patricia Monteath, Program]

LAST MONTH

by Ardith Steger

Have you wondered how to get started with, or how to improve your success with RESEARCH FROM A DISTANCE? Our February speaker, Christine Rose, a Certified Genealogist from San Jose has many helpful suggestions for you. Her entire topic was "Successful Research from a Distance: More Effective Mail Search, and How to Hire a Professional." Her presentation was clear and concise.

A few of the hi-lites regarding research by mail are:

Be clear on exactly what you need.

Keep your letter to one question, or type.

Enclose payment or offer to pay promptly, and a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE)

Write a brief, to-the-point letter.

Expect a wait of 2-3 weeks for a reply.

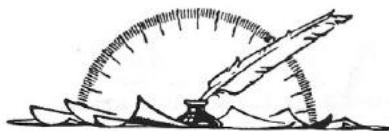
[LAST MONTH cont'd on page 58]

IN MEMORIAM

On Tuesday, February 26, 1991 The San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society lost BETTY ANGELL, its Publicity chairman. For the past year she had worked to promote attendance and interest in the activities of the society.

She attended the February Board meeting as usual and spoke of her pleasure in working on publicity in the coming year. She wanted to encourage others to take the first steps toward getting started on their family lines. By the end of the month Betty was gone: a victim of cancer.

The SRVGS mourns her loss and extends sympathy and love to her family. We shall miss her, but we are thankful we knew her and she chose to work with us. She set a wonderful example for all of us.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH

- 9 - Saturday 10AM Bay Area ROOTS User's Group at Sheila Fass' 24 Via Barcelona, Moraga (376-1304); 11AM CGS Computer Interest Group, 300 Brannan, SF, "SESAME" by Howard Nurse; 1:30PM CGS Meeting
- * 12 - Tuesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p. 57]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS, Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave, Livermore. "Eastern European Germans - their history and migrations" by Arthur E. Flegel. (447-9386 or 846-4265)
- 13 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS, Mormon Center, 4870 Lincoln Av, Oakland.
- 14 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, Concord City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr., Concord. "Irish Immigrants in SRV" by Joseph King (hand-out on Irish research).
- 16 - Saturday All-day "Workshop on Families" Santa Clara HGS, Whole family research, newsletters, reunions, etc.; All-day "Ancestor Safari" with Dr. Geo Schweitzer, Sacramento City College Student Center. 916/428-2245; Friends of the Archives "Black Studies Workshop" by Wendy Elliott at LDS FHC 975 Sneath Ln, San Bruno, 876-9009 for info and reservations.
- * 19 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Monthly Meeting; 1PM ROOTS III Group [see p. 57]
- * 25 - Monday 9AM SRVGS Library Trip to Solano Co. GS, Vacaville [see p.61]
- * 27 - Wednesday 10AM Publishing Interest Group [see p. 57]
- * 28 - Thursday 10AM German Interest Group [see p. 57]
- 30 - Saturday 10AM PAFers United (PAF Users Group), FHC 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord

APRIL

- * 2 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME! 10AM ROOTS III Beginners' Group; 1PM ROOTS III Continuing Group [see p.57]
- * 9 - Tuesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p. 57]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS, Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. Marilyn Graham: "My Recent Genealogy Trip to Denmark".
- 10 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS Meeting, Mormon Center, Oakland
- 11 - Thursday 7:30PM CCCGS Meeting
- * 16 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting, Speaker: Ron Bremer, author of *The Compendium of Historical Sources*. 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group
- 19 & 20 Friday & Saturday 6th Annual CGS Genealogical Fair, St. Mary's Cathedral, SF.
- 20 - Saturday All-day Workshop, joint-sponsors: LAGS & Livermore LDS; 1:30PM San Mateo Co GS presents "Elegance of Yesteryear" (1850-1950) at Veterans Memorial Sr. Center Bldg, 1455 Madison Ave, Redwood City; reservations \$10 or \$8/group of 4. Send to SMC GS, P.O. Box 5083, San Mateo 94402. \$12 at door.

[Some calendar items extracted from "Friends of the Archives" CONSOLIDATED GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR received via Peggy Frazier's MODEM]

► DUES NOW TO JUNE: \$6.25

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Barbara O'Rand 837-1760
 Vice-Pres.: Frances Lloyd 837-9382
 Membership: Carol Glover 829-7207
 333 Goshen Ct.
 San Ramon, CA 94583

Annual Dues: \$12.50; \$18 (family)
 NEWSLETTER

Editor: Dorothy Stanton
 501 El Capitan Drive
 Danville, CA 94526
 820-3757

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 735-9610

The Newsletter is published each
 month except August & December

[LAST MONTH cont'd from page 55]

Ms. Rose's suggestions for finding and contacting a professional researcher are detailed and helpful. If you missed the meeting and would like the 3-page hand-out, please contact Ardith Steger, 837-4306.

Thanks to Winston Kynett, the tape of this presentation is available through Shirley Terry at each meeting. The combination of the hand-out and listening to the tape are next best to being at the meeting (but you missed Kate's goodies and everyone's company!)

* * * * *

► **APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**
 News and articles should reach the editor by **MARCH 29.**



SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

GERMAN - Meets Thursday, March 28 10AM at Shirley Terry's, 301 Almond Ct., San Ramon (829-7787).

IRISH - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207).
Next meetings: March 12 and April 9.

PUBLISHING - Meets 10AM fourth Wednesday of each month. Next meeting: March 27 at Jane Steiner's, 1010 Hunsaker Canyon Rd. Lafayette (283-00867) Contact Marilyn Fullam (828-1873) for future meetings.

ROOTS III - Meets 1:00PM first and third Tuesday at Sandy Aberer's, 110 El Nido Ct., Diablo (837-8271). Next meeting: March 19 and April 2. BEGINNERS will meet at Sandy's 10AM April 2 if enough people show their interest.

SOUTHERN - No meeting in March. Next meeting: call Frances Lloyd 837-9382.

RESEARCH HELPS

TIPS FROM SRVGS MEMBERS

► FROM MILLIE FREITAS:

"Researching Portuguese Ancestors"

There is not a whole lot available on Portugal or the Azore Islands in the way of maps, research materials, or support groups, for those of us who have Portuguese ancestors. There are only two of us in the SRVGS researching Portuguese ancestors, that I know of. By chance, in writing to the Merced Genealogy Society regarding the death of a great uncle, one of the members there sent me a registration form the Commodore Sloat Chapter of the NSDAR's Seminar Feb. 2, 1991 in Seaside, CA which offered two one-hour sessions on research in Portugal, the Azore Islands and Hawaii, conducted by Rosemarie Capodicci, a volunteer at the FHC in Seaside.

"Getting Started in Portugal" included a review of the research aids available in the FHC and Salt Lake City, the Portuguese societies and libraries, helpful books and magazine articles on the Portuguese AND, most of all, an hour spent on how to decipher the difficult pages from the vital records the LDS Church has filmed. The writing is very small, with curliques and abbreviations, the sentences are close together and the ink bleeds through the other side! "Impossible! Forget it!", I said when I first ordered one from Salt Lake. With her excellent guidance I shall now give them another try!

Thirty six one-hour sessions were offered at the seminar covering many other interest areas: New England, Germans from Russia, Census Research, Canadian Research, Irish Research, Beginning German, Preserving Memorabilia, to mention a few.

The next seminar is planned for February 1, 1992. Possibly you will want to get on their mailing list: Commodore Sloat Chapter NSDAR, 1109 Hilby Ave., Seaside, CA 93955.

The Portuguese session may become a support group to meet every 6-8 weeks to meet in Los Banos or thereabouts.

► ALSO FROM MILLIE: If you need any help with family research in the libraries and historical museums of Crow Wing County, Minnesota, she has found a very reliable and knowledgeable researcher: Mrs. Lucille L. Kirkeby, 2103 Graydon Ave., Brainerd, MN 56401. Contact Millie for further details.

► FROM FRANCES LLOYD: CA PIONEER ROSTER

The Native Daughters of the Golden West has created a PIONEER ROSTER. The registration includes those who were born in or came to California up to and including the year 1869. The biographical sheets include such information as name, vitals, education, occupation, children and source of the information. The source may be an individual or a local Parlor (chapter).

The NDGW Pioneer Roster is a project to create and preserve permanent records of CA pioneers. I found a copy of the roster at Sutro. This led me to Allene Kirschman, State Chairman of the Pioneer Roster & NDGW Archives Committee. She copied the information requested on a form and kindly sent it to me. She also sent a blank form so that copies could be made for an update or additional pioneers.

If you have people who qualify for this roster, why not check it out and/or add your own information sheet. NDGW, 543 Baker St., San Francisco, CA 94117-1405.
[Contact Frances if you would like a copy of the form.]

► QUERY: Researching KIVES in Budapest, Hungary. Contact Marilyn Fullam, 6933 Prince Drive, Dublin, CA 94568.

MORE RESEARCH HELPS -- NEAR & FAR**► CALIFORNIA VITALS**

In June 1990 the CA Office of State Registrar (vital statistics) in Sacramento moved [see *SRVGS N/L Sept. 1990*] to 304 "S" St., P.O. Box 730241, Sacramento 94244-0241. The following is a clarification of the "walk-in" hour between 8 and 9AM, which is strictly on a "First come, first served" basis:

You may now obtain only one certificate in the 20 minute period you are allotted; only one person at a time is permitted in the viewing room. Consequently, this means that only 3 people can utilize the walk-in period between 8 and 9AM. To be assured of obtaining one of the three slots, it is necessary to arrive by 7:30AM and wait for the office to open.

The remainder of the day is available to the public by appointment only. Many days are booked solid for a week or more ahead. Appointments of 1 to 2 hours are available to the public from 9AM to 12noon, and from 1 to 4PM. The State Registrar's office is closed on Saturday, Sunday and all legal State holidays.

If you have the State File Number for the marriage or death certificate you may view a copy of the actual certificate, extract its information, and have a certified copy mailed to you. The cost of this is the actual cost of the certificate. [As of Oct. 1, 1990: death cert/\$8, birth & marriage cert/\$12.] If you do not have the State File Number you may not view the certificate, but may order the certificate to be mailed. If you do not know the exact date of birth, death, or marriage you may request for a search to be conducted in 10-year increments at the regular certificate fee.

You are not allowed to view birth certificates. They may be ordered, and will be mailed to you in 2 to 4 weeks. However, you are permitted to view the BIRTH INDEX microfiche which is currently for the years 1956 to 1984. CA vital records are available to anyone requesting information.

[From CALIFORNIA RESEARCH NEWS Vol 1 No 1, October 1990. The NEWS is published and furnished free of charge by Mary I. Sims and Dorothy L. Williams, Professional Researchers in Sacramento. Address of the NEWS: P.O. Box 9575, Sacramento, CA 95823-0575]

► **SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE** Wendy Elliott, in the CA State Gen. Alliance N/L March 1991 asks you to share your experiences with access to CA vital records [Frances Becker is our CSCA Rep]

► TIPS ON ADDRESSING LETTERS

In general, typed letters will reach the addressee in a large city one day earlier than hand-written envelopes. The optical scanner will read the address in the reverse order from bottom to top, starting with zip code, then state, then city, with street address or box number just above, on the next to the last line. If there is an "Attn" at the bottom left of the envelope, it will be kicked out by the scanner and wait until a human eye can sort it. If the box number is where all mail should be sent, then put it after the street address and just before city, state and zip. Use your zip + 4 whenever possible; mail may reach you a day sooner since it pinpoints your location within your city more precisely than just the five digit zip. If you do not know what your zip + 4 is, look at your telephone bill address. [From Santa Maria Valley CA GS, Spr/Sum 1988 via Paradise GS Qtly Fall '89]
EDITOR'S NOTE: My card on P.O. regulations says to put an "ATTN" line first above the rest of the address. Type or print with black ink.

► FROM FGS FORUM WINTER 1990:

CONNECTICUT: In July 1990 the Freedom of Information Commission of the State of CT ruled that Connecticut marriage and death certificates are NOT exempt from public disclosure and that it would constitute a violation of the CT General Statutes for any registrar of vital statistics either to dishonor a request to inspect or copy death or marriage certificates, or to discourage a requester from asserting his or her right to such records. Registrars (town clerks) and all personnel of the VR Section or the CT State Dept. of Health Services have been apprised of this ruling.

TEXAS: The Texas State Library is offering microfilm sets of the indexes to the Texas birth records, 1903-76. The microfilm is a page-for-page copy of the indexes available in book form in the Genealogy Collection at the Texas State Library. Each entry gives the last and first name of the child, the county and date of birth and the Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics certificate number. The 16mm, 2.5 mil silver negative microfilm is \$14 per ree. A contents list is available from Records Management Division, Microfilming Dept., Texas State Library, P.O. Box 12927, Austin, TX 78711.



NOTES ON IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION

ELLIS ISLAND

MUSEUM Ellis Island was the first stop for more than 17 million immigrants who came through New York Harbor between 1892 and 1954. The newly-restored Ellis Island Immigration Museum opened in September 1990. One of the highlights is the American Immigrant Wall of Honor where about 200,000 immigrant families are inscribed on 951-foot-long wall. A \$100 donation to the restoration project will get your ancestor's name on the Centennial Edition of the wall, to be finished by 1992. For information, call (212) 883-1986 or write to the Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box Liberty, New York, NY 10117.

PASSENGER LISTS The records of immigrants who passed through Ellis Island are preserved in the National Archives. Unless you know the name of the ship and the date of arrival, it is almost impossible to trace the immigrant. The Ellis Island Restoration Commission is working to make those passenger lists available on computer so that any name will be immediately available. Work on transcribing the lists is in progress with 1992 set as the goal for completion. Anyone visiting Ellis Island will be able to find their family by using the computers. It is also considered possible that the computer tapes will be made available to other locations throughout America. Progress depends on money available to forward the work. Donations are therefore urgently needed, and should be sent to:

Ellis Island Restoration Commission
Federal Hall
26 Wall Street
New York, NY 10005

Donations are tax deductible.

[From P. William Filby & Dr. Ira A. Glazier via CSGA N/L March 1989]

BOSTON IMMIGRANT MEMORIAL

A former quarantine hospital on Deer Island about four miles from Boston Harbor is planned as the site of a memorial to about 4,100 early immigrants buried in unmarked graves. Most were famine-weakened Irish who died there. "They symbolize all immigrants that have come to America", said Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn. Residents of Boston, home to more Irish-Americans per capita than any other U.S. city, are sponsoring the memorial to be finished by 1995, the 150th anniversary year of the potato famine. Besides the Celtic cross on the

island, a statue near Fanueil Hall will be erected as part of the city's "Great Hunger Memorial Project," the nation's first memorial to Irish famine victims -- and victims of hunger around the world.

[From SRV TIMES 7/7/90]

NATURALIZATION LAWS

The first federal naturalization law, March 26, 1790, required a two-year residence in the US and one year in the state. The individual had to be of good character and was required to make an oath to support the Constitution. The first act was repealed and replaced by an act of January 29, 1795, which required a declaration of intention to be filed three years before admission as a citizen, residence of five years in the US and one in the state where naturalized, an oath of allegiance, good moral character, renunciation of any title of nobility, and the forswearing of allegiance to the reigning foreign sovereign. While they have been amended and added to, these laws became the naturalization code of the centuries to follow.

If you are trying to trace a progenitor's origin of birth through naturalization papers, remember that prior to Sept 27, 1906, it was possible for a person to become naturalized by any federal, state or local court in the country. Prior to 1928, wives and children automatically became citizens when their husband or father did. Until 1924 American Indians were not considered citizens but were "wards of the government." Soldiers, after honorable discharge, were granted citizenship without formal petition.

If you believe citizenship was conferred after Sept., 1906 (when Congress created the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization to standardize the system), but do not know when and where it took place, write to the main office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20536. Use form G-641 which is available from any INS office. The INS has two files: 1) The Declaration of Intention, and 2) The Final Papers (which consist of a "Petition, Oath of Allegiance, and Certificate of Naturalization.") The data on these documents will vary widely so it is wise to get all four.

[Extracted from article by Marilyn Bailiff King in N/L of Antelope Valley GS Vol 12 No 3]

- **NATURALIZATION - WOMEN** Don't be surprised if you find a female ancestor going through the procedures to become a naturalized citizen even though your records show she was born in this country. She could have lost birthright citizenship through marriage in the period of 1907 into 1922. An act of Congress in 1907 declared a woman automatically lost her citizenship if she married an immigrant not yet a citizen. To regain her citizenship, she had to go through the naturalization process. Congress changed the law in 1922.

[From WNVGS Vol. 16 via SMCQS Nov 1990]

- **MORE ON WOMEN & CITIZENSHIP** Researchers using naturalization records will find relatively few early entries for women. From 1855 until the passage of the Married Woman's Act in 1922, citizenship was automatically conferred on the wife of any male citizen. Since then, women have been required to be naturalized in their own right.

WISCONSIN Users of naturalization records should be aware that in Wisconsin, particularly in the nineteenth century, many more people filed Declarations of Intention than filed Petitions, probably because the Wisconsin Constitution granted the right to vote to anyone who had filed a Declaration. The state constitution was amended, effective December 1, 1908 to require full citizenship in order to vote. [Both above items from *The Live Oak* Mar/Apr 1990 EBGs N/L Research Aids for Wisconsin]

- **A Critique: FAMINE & GERMAN IMMIGRANTS BOOKS**

Genealogists who have used or plan to use Glazier and Tepper's 7-volume *The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York, 1846-1851* or Glazier and Filby's 10-volume *Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, 1850-1855* should be sure to read the article "Feast or Famine: Problems in the Genealogical Use of *The Famine Immigrants* and *Germans to America*" by Gordon L. Remington in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 78 No. 2 June 1990.

Mr. Remington points out that, although the titles suggest that all passengers fitting the categories will be in the books, there are many omissions that are not spelled out in the introductions to the books.

The Famine Immigrants lists include ships from Irish ports and names designated "Irish" from other ports. However, many Irish emigrants leaving from London, Scotland and Bristol or those whose citizenship was desig-

nated "Great Britain" (even when surnames are clearly Irish) were omitted from the lists.

The introduction to *Germans to America* explicitly states that only those lists which "contain a minimum of 80 percent German surnames" are included in the books. Thus a ship carrying 75% German passengers would not be in the book. Also Germans who traveled first to England would be on ships with predominantly British passengers and so are generally not included.

The German books have a broader scope in that they cover arrivals at Baltimore and New Orleans as well as New York; Philadelphia and Boston are covered to a lesser degree. The article points out, however, that the choice of the dates 1850 through 1855 leaves undindexed the three years (1847, 1848 and 1849) between the Nat'l Archives' index and the beginning of *Germans to America*. Also, it fails to cover the years 1848 (continental revolutions) and 1846 (potato crop failure in Germany) when there was heavy emigration.

Mr. Remington's article goes into much detail in analyzing the data presented in both sets of books and contrasts them with Zimmerman and Wolfert's work in *German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound from Bremen to New York*. His suggestions will help the genealogist evaluate the books and use them effectively.



BOOK REVIEW

by Mary Jo Hosteny

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS by James C. Neagles. Ancestry, Salt Lake City, 1990. Hard cover, 381 pp. \$38.56.

This is an incredibly complete guide to genealogical material of all kinds, available in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, not only in their Local History and Genealogical Reading Room, but also in all their other divisions and reading rooms.

Readers are told of the general history of the Library of Congress and how to use its resources, its catalogs, and its published and unpublished material available. Chapters 3 through 8 list resources relative to published genealogies, local histories, censuses, directories, maps, newspapers, periodicals, land ownership records, military service records, and lists of immigrants from both English and non-English countries. Chapters 9 through 15 cite works about specific geographical regions

[BOOK REVIEW continued on page 61]



LIBRARY INFORMATION

MARCH LIBRARY TRIP

The March library trip will be to the Solano County Genealogical Society library at 620 Main St. in Vacaville, on MONDAY March 25th (NOTE CHANGE). Members will meet at 9AM back of Lucky's on Diablo Rd. in Danville. Members living in Walnut Creek or farther north will meet in the parking lot back of the Bank of America in Sun Valley (next to Capwell's covered garage, corner of Willow Pass Rd. and Freeway 680) at 9AM.

Take the Davis St. exit in Vacaville and proceed west through Vacaville to Main St., turn right, and the former Town Hall/Fire Dept./Jail building is right around the corner. There is ample parking on the street (2-hr) or behind the building (4-hr). The library is on the 2nd floor and open from 10-2 on Monday & Saturday.

Solano County has not only genealogical resources for its own county, but a surprisingly generous selection of books, pamphlets etc. on the rest of the country, a major proportion of them on the state of California; a microfiche file on CA deaths, indexes to the Pension Files for the Indian Wars, the War of 1812, and the Pensioners of 1840, references on the Civil War, Sons of the American Revolution, etc. Who knows what secrets you may find here!

[From MARY JO HOSTENY]

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DID YOUR ANCESTOR IMMIGRATE THROUGH CANADA 1895-1954? The mis-named "Entries through St. Albans, VT"

About three years ago the National Archives accessioned "new" passenger arrival records on microfilm from the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service). These were not "new", they had been misnamed, misfiled, and overlooked for many years.

Only recently was it realized that included in these films were the records of ALL immigrants crossing the Canadian border 1895-1954 through Montreal, Quebec, and "District 1".

By 1924, District 1 included all of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, and Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Why were these important records mis-named "Entries at St Albans"?

District 1 headquarters (and its records)

were moved to St Albans, VT. It was merely the **COLLECTION POINT** for all the records. Unfortunately, these important records for all Canadian crossings became erroneously labeled "Entries through St. Albans". The records were filmed there in St. Albans in the 1950. In 1986, the INS gave them to the National Archives.

They consist of 5 series of records in 5 microfilm publications:

M-1461, Index (soundex) to Canadian Border Entries through St. Albans, VT District, 1895-1924; the index is composed of the individual card manifests (Form 528) arranged according to the soundex code.

M-1462, Arranged alphabetically, this is a separate index to arrivals in small ports in Vermont 1895-1924.

M-1463 The Index (Soundex) to Entries into the St. Albans District through Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Ports 1924-1954.

M-1464 MANIFEST OF PASSENGERS Arriving in the St. Albans District through Canadian Pacific Ports, 1895-1954, provides the traditional passenger lists on U.S. Immigration forms as well as monthly lists of names of aliens crossing the border ON TRAINS. These monthly lists are arranged by month, thereunder alphabetically by name of port, thereunder by railway.

M-1465 A separate smaller publication of manifests of passengers arriving through Canadian Pacific ports 1929-1949.

[from the May-June 1987 issue of the Fed of Gen Soc N/L via San Mateo Co Gen Soc June 1989. San Mateo notes that the cost of having these immigration films duplicated and films distributed to some of the Nat'l Archives Field Branches was about \$9000. This was paid for by donations of individuals and societies.]

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[BOOK REVIEW continued from page 59]

and states of the United States. These works include biographies, accounts of early settlers; state, county and town records; and indexes to periodicals published by state or local genealogical societies and historical societies.

Along with the National Archives and the Family History Library at Salt Lake City, the Library of Congress is one of the three foremost genealogical research centers in this country. Strongly recommended.

FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS: USING THE SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX

The following article appeared in Vance Parker's INTERNATIONAL PAF USERS' GROUP Newsletter Vol.2, No.4 and was reprinted in Paffers United PAF User Group's W/L in January 1991 by Julia Purdie, who added some comments.

FAMILY SEARCH UPDATE by Mary Lynn S. Parker: Jayare Roberts of the LDS Family History Department contacted me about several matters pertaining to FamilySearch. First, there is news that a new version of Ancestral File will be out soon. Second, the newest addition to FamilySearch is the Social Security Death Index. This is the index to deaths reported to the Social Security and includes 1.5 million names from 1937 to 1962 and 38 million names from 1962 to 1988. The information in this file can now be downloaded to disk as a GEDCOM file. The following formatted GEDCOM file entry was printed from a downloaded file (when I "downloaded" my stuff it was with a pencil; takes about as long to download the file as to write the information out- name, dates, locales, SS number - Julia):

```

12      Individual
      Name:      Ada/HADAWAY
      Birth:
      Date:      3 MAR 1898
      Place:      Mississippi
      Death:
      Date:      FEB 1987
      Place:      Mississippi
      Note:      Social Security Number: 587-24-8528
      Note:      Death Residence Localities
      Note:      Zip Code: 38863
      Note:      Pontotoc, Pontotoc, Mississippi
  
```

Further information can be requested from the Social Security Administration by using a letter similar to the one shown below:

S. S. Administration
ATTN:
Freedom of Information Officer
4W8 Annex Bldg.
6401 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21235

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request a microprint (photocopy) of SS5 for:

587-24-8528
Ada Hatheway
Born: 3 Mar. 1898, Mississippi
Death: Feb. 1987, Mississippi
Death residence localities: Zip Code 38863, Pontotoc, Pontotoc, Mississippi

Information obtained from the Social Security Death Index - 1988 Edition, Version 1.00

I understand that you will bill me for this service.

Your name
Your address

We sent for an actual copy of form SS5 and received a copy which included the person's name, birth date and place, parents names and place social security card was obtained. It did not include the spouse's name. We were informed that there would be no charge for this one time request (NOTE: Barbara Edkin received information without being billed. The help screen on the computer file makes a big deal out of having to pay- has the whole fee schedule- Julia) A list of service charges was included with the information received from the Social Security Administration. These include a \$7 charge for form SS5 if a Social Security number is included and a \$16 charge if it is not known. For \$15, a copy of the claim file can be obtained. It is our understanding that these charges will be billed. We are interested in hearing from IPAFUG members on their experience with obtaining information from the Social Security Administration.

This new file is a real bonus for those searching for a lost relative who have lived in this century. A friend of mine, on learning of the index, went to it and within three minutes found the death date and place of an uncle who had been lost to the family for many years. She now has the hope of being able to find other family members who may be living in the area where he died.

TAPE REVIEWSTape #C-12 - "RESEARCHING IRISH ANCESTRY IN NEW YORK"

Tape Speaker: B. Ann Moorhouse

Tape Reviewer: Marilyn Fullam

This is a reading - not a talk - therefore it is rather dull listening, yet is worth the time for it is full of information about researching your Irish in New York City.

She covers state census, naturalizations, Catholic Church records, depositories of vital records, newspapers, burial records, cemeteries, and city directories. Ms. Moorhouse also has good tips on finding the exact townland or parish once you get some clues to where in Ireland your Irish are from.

Tape #C-23 - "WRITING AND SHARING FAMILY HISTORY"

Tape Speaker: Arlene Eakle, Ph.D

Tape Reviewer: Shirley Terry

This is an excellent tape with dozens of ideas for things to look for while researching family history looking toward publishing.

She mentions sources to obtain pictures

and articles on topics that relate to your ancestors - thing to include in your family history to better understand what these people did with their lives and make it more interesting reading.

Because she does not address the actual mechanics of writing or publishing, she recommends two good book which give that information. One that is very extensive, but harder to understand, is "How to Publish and Market Your Family History" by Carl Boyer III. She says that he wrote this after writing a family history and really gets into the "nitty-gritty" of how he did it. The second recommendation is easier to read, but not quite as good, according to Mrs. Eakle. It is "Write it Right" by Donald Barnes & Richard Lackey and published by Polyanthos in New Orleans.

NEW TAPES

Listed below are the titles of new audio-tapes purchased by our Tape Committee for the SRVGS JOHN KOPCIE MEMORIAL TAPE COLLECTION. The purchases were made possible by donations from our members when the tapes are borrowed.

NEW TAPES RECEIVED

- C-70 GATEWAY TO THE WEST: OHIO SOURCES AND MIGRATION PATTERNS
 DCA 59, Kip Sperry
- C-71 EVIDENCE VS. PROOF: GUIDELINES FOR GENEALOGICAL PROOF
 SPM 97, Wm. H. Schoeffler
- C-72 NATURALIZATION RECORDS AND PASSENGER LISTS
 SPM 88, Loretta Dennis Szucs
- C-73 CIVIL WAR RESEARCH: MORE THAN PENSIONS (UNION & CONF.)
 SPM 77, Marie Varrelman Melchiori
- C-74 USING THE PUBLISHED PA ARCHIVES FOR GEN. RESEARCH
 DCA 113, Jonathan R. Stayer
- C-75 CONNECTICUT RESEARCH: MYTHS AND REALITIES
 DCA 122, Thomas Jay Kemp
- C-76 RESEARCH IN THE OLD NORTHWEST TERRITORY
 SPM 65, Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck
- C-77 LOW BRIDGE, EVERYBODY DOWN: MIGRATION ALONG THE ERIE CANAL
 DCA 83, Roger D. Joslin
- C-78 FEDERAL AND STATE RECORDS OF THE WAR OF 1812
 DCA 48, Stuart L. Butler
- C-79 INTRO. TO THE HOLDINGS & SERVICES OF THE VA STATE ARCHIVES
 DCA 11, Conley I. Edwards

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Names, addresses and surnames being searched are listed below for members who are new to SRVGS since November 1990. Please add them to your 1990-91 Membership Handbook.

BUSK, Nan - 17752 Meekland Ave., Hayward,
94541 (278-7092)

DEPRIESTER, Margaret - 142 Selborne, Moraga
94556 (376-3197) GOUDREAU, Canada; ABBOTT,
Ireland

ELKINS, Jana - 1547 Palos Verdes #157, Walnut
Creek 94596 (935-5152)

EWING, Mary Helen - 1033 Upper Happy Valley
Rd., Lafayette 94549 (283-1304) DUNBAR, CT NY
MI; BLAKESLEE, CT MI.

HUSEBY, Patricia A. - 1129 San Ramon Valley
Blvd., Danville 94526 (838-9912) THOMPSON, IN;
WERT, New Orleans.

MORGAN, Aileen R. - 750 Camino Ricardo, Moraga
94556 (376-1842) ROGERS, S.E. PA; MONTGOMERY,
S.E. PA.

ODONNELL, Ed P. - 1862 El Nido (P.O. Box 366),
Diablo 94528 (837-8858)

RICHARDSON, Dorothy - 24 Prado Way, Lafayette
94549 (283-4566) MARTIN, OH; WOOD, England
(Cheshire Co)

TEMPLETON, Patricia - 137 Montana Dr., Dan-
ville 94526 (837-5058) ROGERS, MO; MARTIN, MO.

THOMSON, Shirley - 1062 Via Baja, Lafayette
94549 (284-2995) HARRIS, OH; SINER, IN.

WILLIAMS, Fred - 516 McBride Dr., Lafayette
94549 (283-6165)

Be sure to get acquainted at our next meeting!



SAN RAMON VALLEY
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