

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 VII No. 6

January 1992

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 21, 1992

PROGRAM: SCANDINAVIAN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

January's speaker is GEORGE ANDERSON, a member of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. His experience is in Norway and Denmark -- but this carries over into Swedish research as well, since the history, language and records are very similar. He has had no experience with Finnish research.

Mr. Anderson was educated as a physicist. He worked for Sandia Lab and retired in 1983. He and his wife have been working on genealogy since 1973. They have been to Scandinavia six times and are co-authors of three books on Scandinavia.

From Sandy Aberer & Priscilla Dietrich, Program

LAST MONTH by Ardith Steger

Many people dismiss Geography with school graduation. Not genealogists -- and not John Heilbronner! In his November presentation "Changes in Geography Affect Genealogy", he described his early fascination for geography, which has become a lifelong interest.

His career in the shoe business entailed international travel which made many parts of the world "come alive". Now, his second career dovetails perfectly with John's interest and experience with geography. He and his wife own the specialty shop Maps Unlimited, located at 1005 Crow Canyon Place #138, San Ramon.

Historical events which change boundary lines, names of countries, and method & location of records complicate tracing ancestors. When world politics are as fast-changing as we've observed in recent year, map-makers have

difficulty keeping a supply of updated maps in stock. Genealogists need assistance tracing moves of families. Get acquainted with John Heilbronner!

[Frances Lloyd was the lucky (and deserving) winner of the map which the Heilbronners generously donated.]

FUTURE PROGRAMS

The speaker in February will be Clyde James from Sutro Library. Be thinking of topics you would like to have covered in his talk. At the January meeting, Sandy Aberer, will pass around a paper for you to write down any questions you may have about Sutro or the State Library system. She will forward them to Mr. James.

The March 17 meeting will feature (appropriately) the members of SRVGS Irish Interest Group sharing their expertise and experiences on research of Irish ancestry.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

● JANUARY

- * 14 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p. 39]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS meeting, Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Av, Livermore. Program: Dave Abraham "Reading Other People's Mail".
- * 15 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group; 10AM German Interest Group; 1PM California Interest Group [see p.39]
- * 21 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; Payment of \$200 due on Gen. Research Tour to Salt Lake [see February 23]
- * 22 - Wednesday 10AM Publishing Interest Group [see p. 39]
- * 27 - Monday - SRVGS Library Trip [see p. 41]

● FEBRUARY

- 1 - Saturday 8AM-3:50PM NSDAR & LDS FHC Seminar on Gen Research, in Seaside. [see p. 39]
- * 4 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME! 10AM ROOTS III Beginners' Interest Group [see p. 39]; 1PM ROOTS III Continuing Group.
- * 11 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p. 39]; 7:30 LAGS Meeting [see Jan 14] Program: Mike McLaughlin on "Catholic Records".
- 12 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS Meeting, Mormon Center, 4780 Lincoln Av, Oakland. Program: Ron Willis of Willis Photo Lab on photo restoration and interpreting old photographs.
- 13 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Program: Cathi Ryan, consultant at Oakland FHC, on basic German research in the US before "crossing the waters".
- * 18 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p. 39]
- * 19 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group; 10AM German Interest Group; 1PM California Interest Group.
- 23 to March 1 Genealogical Research Tour to Salt Lake City. Cost: \$480 includes round trip air, 7 nights at Howard Johnson's. Call Frances Becker at 510/93404962 or 510/837-8742.
- 29 - Saturday 9AM-3PM Marin Co GS German Seminar: Lecture by Henry Z. Jones, "I Don't Chase Dead Germans; They Chase Me!", at Novato United Methodist Church, 1473 S. Novato Blvd, Novato. For info call Jerry Lynn Smith 415/897-3476.

● PLANNING AHEAD

- March 2, 1992 Southern CA GS 23rd Annual Jamboree at Exhibition Bldg, The Pasadena Center, 300 E. Green St, Pasadena. For info: So CA GS, 122 S. San Fernando Blvd, P.O. Box 4377, Burbank 91503. 818/843-7247
- March 27 - 28 Friday Noon-8PM and Saturday 9AM-4PM California Genealogical Society's 7th Annual Family History Fair, St. Mary's Conference Center, SF. Brochures available at SRVGS meeting.
- April 29 - May 2 1992 National Genealogical Society Conference in Jacksonville, FL, celebrating the 500th Anniversary of Columbus' Discovery of America and will include the Second International Congress on Family History. For conference brochures, send name & address to 1992 NGS Conference, 4527 Seventeenth St, North, Arlington VA 22207-2399.

OFFICERS to Contact

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 Vice-Pres.: Mary McNamara 837-7767
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Annual Dues: \$12.50; \$18 (family)
 NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter is published every month except August & December.

● SRVGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dues are now \$6.25 for new members from January to May 1992.

● WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

NORMA GESSELL, 220 Clydesdale,
 Danville, CA 94526.
 EVELYN McCAULEY, 11129 Green
 Rd, Wilton, CA 95693.

● CONDOLENCES:

The membership wishes to express its sincere condolences to BOB SINGLETON for the death of his mother in October; to ALICE WADE for the death of her grandson just before Christmas.

[More Membership News on page 42]

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

- CALIFORNIA** - Those interested in California research will meet for the first time at 1PM January 15 at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct, San Ramon (839-7207). Contact Carol about future meetings.
- GERMAN** - The group will meet 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10AM at Shirley Terry's, 301 Almond Ct., San Ramon (829-7787). Next meeting: January 15. Call Shirley to confirm.
- IRISH** - Meets 10AM each third Wednesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: January 15 and Feb 19.
- PUBLISHING** - Meets on the fourth Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: January 23 at Bea O'Rand's, 16 Ashford Ct, Alamo (837-1760). Contact Jane Steiner 283-0867.
- ROOTS III** - Continuing group meets 1:00PM on first and third Tuesdays. There will be no meeting on January 21. The next meeting will be February 4 at Shirley Thomson's, 1062 Via Baja, Lafayette (284-2995). Beginning group meets first Tuesday at 10AM at Cindy Wheeler's, 266 Montego Dr., Danville (743-1322).
- SOUTHERN** - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. First meeting: January 14 at Dorothy Stanton's. Next meeting: February 11 at Bea O'Rand's, 16 Ashford Ct, Alamo (837-1760). Contact: Dorothy Stanton 820-3757.

RESEARCH HELPS● TIPS FROM SRVGS MEMBERS● **FROM LARRY BURNETT:** CA VITAL RECORDS

"I think there may be an misunderstanding regarding California Vital Records (N/L Vol. VII, #5, p.31).

It used to be possible to make an appointment and go to the office in Sacramento and actually look at the original certificate. The cost was the same as if you had ordered the certificate. Later the state office would send you a certified copy. That service is no longer available.

Still remaining is the mail service wherein you mail a request for a birth, death, or marriage with the appropriate fee and the state returns the certified certificate to you, if found. This appears to still take about six weeks. If one knows the county, it is sometimes quicker to write directly to the county.

The state will do a ten year search if one doesn't have the exact date of the event.

The phone number for the Office of the State Registrar is 916/445-2684."

[Enclosed forms show fees for certified copies of Marriage and Birth Records: \$12; for Death Record: \$8. If no record is found, the fee will be retained for searching and no refund will be made.]

Editor's note: A CCCGS N/L item advises that "in CA you must ask for a photo-copy of the certificate of birth, which contains complete information. Otherwise you will be sent a computer-generated certified abstract which does not include the city of birth, mother's complete name or the father's name. The genealogically useless abstract, good for

most official purposes, is available in about two weeks, the more useful photo-copy of the original record, requires 6-8 weeks. Cost is the same."

- **FROM MILLIE FREITAS** The Commodore Sloat Chapter of NSDAR in conjunction with the Monterrey area LDS Family History Center is sponsoring a one-day genealogical seminar at the FHC, Noche Buena and Plumas Streets, Seaside. The keynote address is by Dr. Wayne Rosenoff "World Changes Affecting Genealogy". Classes include Irish, Scottish, German, Finnish-Swedish, Danish, Portuguese (Beginning, Intermediate & Advanced), Census, DAR & Military Research. Cost: \$20 includes lunch. [Millie will have a copy of the Seminar Schedule and plans to go. Contact her, 837-2483, if you are interested in attending with her.]

● TRACING THE UNUSUAL VITALS

[This is a copy of the article Frances Becker, Education, quoted at our November meeting]

If one of your ancestors was born or died on a train, plane, or boat, there are certain regulations that have evolved over the past 70-80 years that you need to know to find their records.

To guarantee that a death certificate is filed and to prevent multiple filings for the same person, a certificate for anyone dying on a plane or train crossing the continental US is filed in the county where the first stop was made by the conveyance. Birth certificates, on the other hand, are filed in the county where the mother and child disembark from the plane or train -- even though several stops have been made along the way.

However, during the late 19th century when trains were beginning to replace wagon train transportation, most of the stops were in states or territories where there were no filing requirements for vital statistics. This means you may not be able to find birth certificates for ancestors born aboard a train during this period.

Rules for filing when a death or birth occurs on the high seas -- whether in a plane or on a ship -- the filing place is based on the direction in which the craft was headed at the time of the event. If the craft was outbound or docked at a foreign port, send to the US Dept of State, Washington, DC 10520 for your ancestor's records. If the craft was inbound and the port of entry was in the USA, the vitals may be found in the city where the craft landed in the US. If the craft was of US registry, write the US Coast Guard Facility at the port of entry for your ancestor's date.

[From Guthrie Co IA GS, Oct 1990]

● MORE ON VITAL RECORDS

- KANSAS - The Kansas Legislature has passed a bill opening the state's vital records. Now records made prior to July 1, 1911, which are held by city, town, or county clerks can be searched. Birth and death records after 1911, marriage records after May 1, 1913, and divorces granted after July 1951 can be obtained by writing the State Dept. of Health & Environment, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Topeka KS 66620. [Santa Clara Co H&GS N/L Sept 91]
- ILLINOIS - Official policy stated in a letter dated 30 August 1991 by Michael Fish, Director, Div of Vital Records: Birth certificates will be issued only to (1) the person named on the records if 18 years old, (2) a person named on the record, and (3) the legal representative of the person or parents named on the record, with proper documentation. Marriage records are made available on request. However, applications for marriage licenses issued since 1968 contain information considered private and personal. Therefore, these types of records are made available to only the parties to the marriage, or by court order." Death Records: "a certified copy of a certificate shall be issued upon written request for a certified copy by the person, or his duly authorized agent, having a personal or property right interest in the record". Requests for death records, therefore, are "evaluated on a case by case basis." [Chicago GS N/L Nov 1991]
- OHIO - The new address for the Auditor of the

State of Ohio is: State Land Office, PO Box 1140, Columbus, OH 43266-0040. The office will check their index for original land records for location of records, volume, page, and legal description of that land. They need a name, approximate time period, county and township to do this. Send a SASE, no fee. [Clark Co NV GS Oct 91]

● CHANGING JURISDICTIONS

● BORN IN VIRGINIA?

From 1728 to 1863, a person born or living in Virginia could have been in

Any part of Illinois from 1781 to Statehood in 1818.

Any part of Indiana from 1787 to Statehood in 1816.

Any part of Kentucky from 1775 to Statehood in 1792.

Any part of Maryland from 1775 to Statehood in 1792.

Any part of North Carolina from 1728 to 1779.

Any part of Ohio from 1778 to Statehood in 1803.

Any part of Pennsylvania from 1752 to 1786.

Any part of Tennessee from 1760 to 1803.

Any part of West Virginia from 1769 to possibly as late as 1863.

[from South Carolina Herald N/L Spring 1989 via CCCGS N/L]

● WHEN IS ILLINOIS NOT ILLINOIS?

If your searches lead you to early-day "Illinois" ancestors, which is a common description in many deeds stemming from the 1787 Northwest Ordinance which included land that became the states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

By 1799 this Northwest Territory had been divided into two -- one still called the Northwest Territory (including Ohio and a part of Michigan) and the other part termed the Indiana Territory. This second territory included what is now the rest of Michigan and all of Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

In 1802, in another switch in the territory, Ohio was set apart, and the Indiana Territory included the same states plus all of Michigan. In 1805, the Michigan land was set apart. Then, in 1809, Indiana received its current boundaries and the remainder of this land became the Illinois Territory.

The end result of this hewing and hacking of the frontier is that early Illinois records may be found in Indiana Territory documents.

If you're researching here, you might want to order a copy of Robert M. Taylor, Jr.'s *Northwest Ordinance 1787: A Bicentennial Handbook*, available to \$6.50 from the Indiana Historical Soc., 315 West Ohio St., Indianapolis, IN 46120.

[State Coll PA CCGS N/L Nov '89 via CCCGS N/L]

► MORE ON CHANGING JURISDICTIONS ON PAGE 42



LIBRARIES & BOOKS

● JANUARY LIBRARY TRIP

FROM MARY JO HOSTENY:

MONDAY! MONDAY! The library trip for January will be to the Mayflower Library at 405 14th St in Oakland on Monday, January 27th. Members will meet in the parking lot behind Lucky's on Diablo Rd in Danville at 9AM to carpool.

The Mayflower Library has not only a large selection of books on Massachusetts but also on New England in general. The East Bay GS library collection is housed here also.

Any members living north of Danville wishing to carpool, please call Mary Jo Hosteny at 932-2244.

● FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

- CHANGES AT SALT LAKE: To allow for the addition of 150 more microfilm readers on the 2nd floor of the library, all books from the US/Canada Reference Unit were moved to the Main Floor; the LDS Reference microfilm has been moved to the 2nd floor.
- ANCESTRAL FILE - The update of Ancestral File [announced in Nov-Dec SRVGS Newsletter] now available at Oakland and Concord FHC contains 9.6 million names -- a 43 percent expansion over the previous edition. In addition, there are two new features, one for compiling and printing descendancy charts and another for making corrections to the database.

Users can access the descendancy chart feature by pressing one of the function keys of the computer and view up to five generations of an ancestor's descendants (if the names are in the file). Descendancy charts take time, however, so you need to plan your computer time appropriately. For example, in compiling a descendancy chart for Horace Ephraim Roberts and his 1,890 descendants, AF needed 42 minutes to compile the information, three minutes to prepare it for printing and 30 minutes to print all 37 pages of the chart. Most charts, however, will not be so long.

The corrections feature allows users to correct information that is inaccurate or incomplete. The corrected records are then saved to a computer diskette and submitted to the Family History Dept. The changes will then appear on future editions of Ancestral File. Only the most recent changes will appear on the AF screen. Also, AF lists each

person who makes corrections and the reason or sources for the corrections in the file's History of Changes section. Corrections can only be made using Ancestral File at a FamilySearch computer in the FHL or a family history center. Personal Ancestral File can be used to submit new information to Ancestral File.

Ancestral File is a component of FamilySearch, a set of computer tools available at the library in Salt Lake and at local family history centers (e.g., Oakland & Concord). Besides Ancestral File, FamilySearch includes the Library Catalog, the International Genealogical Index, the Social Security Death Index and the Military Death Index. [Abstracted from "Church News", Nov 9, 1991, contributed by Ardith Steger]

● LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

● INTERLIBRARY LOAN -

Much of the genealogy and US local history collection is unique and so widely used by researchers at LC that traditionally it has been noncirculating on interlibrary loan. If an item has only a few pages, and contains no special format material such as large genealogical charts, etc. Loan Division attempts to provide a gratis photocopy (sometimes, even a genealogical chart can be photocopied, albeit in 11x17 sections which the patron would have to assemble). Genealogies that already exist on microfilm will usually be available for ILL, although there has never existed a sure-fire way of knowing in advance which titles are on film and which are not. . . LC's Local History and Genealogy Reading Room announced recently a useful guideline for borrowers. All U.S. genealogies (class CS 71) published from 1876-1900 have now been microfilmed. Nearly all of this group should now be available on interlibrary loan.

[Quoted from ILL Notes & Views Vol 1 #3, p. 3-4 via Chicago GS Nov 91]

● STATE ARCHIVES -

- COLORADO - From the Nov 1991 issue of The Searcher: ". . .the Governor has suggested abolishing the State Archives and said he is ready to take a match to them. The Joint Budget Committee called for a 75% reduction of their budget leaving only two on staff. Please write the Joint Budget Committee,

Colorado State Capitol, 100 E. Colfax Av, Denver, CO 80203 to express your concern if you have an interest in Colorado research -- if you are concerned with research anywhere -- if you are concerned about people with limited mentality playing with matches."

MASSACHUSETTS - Middlesex probate records (1648-1871) have been moved to the MA State Archives [CCCGS N/L Feb 91]

● HOW SAFE ARE YOUR RECORDS?

The heartfelt sympathy of all genealogists goes to members of East Bay GS and others who lost records in the October Fire. The Nov-Dec 1991 issue of Genealogical Helper contained an appeal from Gerald Forman of Berkeley asking those with whom he had shared his research (with complete documentation) to send him copies to replace his lost files. His loss included not only all his personal possessions but also his entire genealogy collection including priceless photos and documents. Although he had everything on computer, unfortunately he did not have a copy of the disks in a safety deposit box. There is a lesson to be learned by all of us from these heartbreaking losses.

● MEMBERSHIP NEWS continued

- NOMINATING COMMITTEE: At the January 1992 SRVGS Board Meeting, President Frances Lloyd announced the appointment of the 1992 Nominating Committee members: PATTY ERICKSON, BETTE KOT, and BEA O'RAND.
- NEWSLETTER INDEX - More copies of the 4-page index to the 1990-1991 Newsletter will be available at the January meeting. If you would like a copy by mail, please send a SASE to the editor.

● REDBOOK REVISED

FROM GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES (FRANCES LLOYD & BETTE KOT): The 2nd edition of the REDBOOK is scheduled to be available 1 Jan 1992. If you have a copy of the 1st edition, the 2nd edition is available to you at \$20 plus the title page from your 1st edition. Loose leaf errata pages are available free of charge; just give us your name & address.

The price for a new, nonreplacement copy will be \$39.95. We will be happy to obtain a copy of the new 2nd edition for you. As always, we will save you the cost of postage, in the case of the REDBOOK, \$3.50, --considerably more than the \$1.32 tax we must charge.

● NEW BOOK BY SRVGS MEMBER!

Congratulations to IRMA DOTSON on the publication of her new book, *SAN RAMON BRANCH LINE OF THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC*, 300 pages of San Ramon Valley railroad history. The book, published by the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, is the culmination of eleven years of research and work. Irma used her genealogy expertise to research the background of many of the early residents who brought the railroad line to the valley, as well as Henry Brevard Davidson, a Confederate Brigadier General, who became the first station agent at the Danville Depot. It's a handsome book, beautifully illustrated with 126 black and white historical photographs, sells for \$50 + tax; proceeds benefit the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

➤ [MORE ON JURISDICTIONS: ITEM BELOW WAS SUBMITTED BY ANN GREEN TOWNES TO MIDDLE TENNESSEE GS Fall 1991] ➤

A LOUISIANA LAWYER RENDERS A TITLE OPINION

The Defense Plant Corporation making a routine investigation of the titles to a proposed plant site in Louisiana, received title proof as far back as 1803. A legal adviser was not satisfied with this and wrote for evidence as to prior title. He received the following reply from a Louisiana attorney.

Gentlemen:

I note your comment upon the fact that the record of title sent you as applying to the lands under consideration dates only from the year 1803 and your request for the extension of the records prior to that date.

Please be advised that the government of the United States acquired the territory, including the tract to which your inquiry applies, by purchase from the government of France who acquired title by conquest from the government of Spain; the government of Spain acquired title by discovery by one Christopher Columbus, a resident of Genoa, Italy, traveler and explorer, who by agreement concerning the acquisition of title to any lands discovered traveled and explored under the sponsorship and patronage of her Majesty, the Queen of Spain. And the Queen of Spain had verified her agreement and received sanction of her title by consent of the Pope, a resident of Rome, Italy, and ex-officio representative and vice-regent of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was the son and heir apparent of the Almighty God from whom He received His authority and the Almighty God made Louisiana.

I trust this complies with your request.



BOOK REVIEW

by Don Gotthold

- **THE STORY of the PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS** by William Beidelman. Express Book Print, Easton, PA 1898. Hard cover, 254 pp, Out of Print.

This classic was published in the last century and has been out of print for a while. Since undoubtedly the majority of the population of German ancestry in the United States, at least those whose ancestors came in the 18th or early 19th centuries, did come from the Rhineland by way of Pennsylvania, the book is probably relevant to the majority of persons in this country seeking their German roots. The book is available in the University of California, Berkeley Library, where I obtained a copy for inspection.

The book is best described by its own Dedication and Preface:

DEDICATED

"To the descendants of those Germans who many generations ago were exiled from their homes in the the beautiful valleys of the Rhine and Neckar in South Germany on account of fierce religious, and still fiercer political persecution."

PREFATORY NOTE

This book has been suggested to the author, by reason of several visits made by him among the people of the Upper Rhine country in South Germany, whence emigrated the ancestors of the Pennsylvania Germans. Much that the reader will find herein contained is familiar history; but it is believed that there are some Pennsylvania Germans who may find some things in this unpretentious volume concerning their ancestors and their history, with which they may not be altogether familiar. It is for them that this book has been primarily written.

There are not many people who do not share in the sentiment, which unites one to the history of his race, his kinsmen, and the home of his fathers. This sentiment is rooted deep in the affections of most if not of all people, but with the Germans it is preeminent.

The Pennsylvania Germans, whose ancestors were exiled from their homes in the beautiful valleys of the Rhine and Neckar, by fierce religious, and still fiercer political persecution, are yet after the lapse of many generations bound by invisible ties to the land which has been consecrated and made hallowed, by the same blood which courses in their veins.

The aim of the author has not been to tell anything especially new, but rather to bring together in concise form, an account of the origin, history, and dialect of the Pennsylvania Germans; the causes which led their ancestors to emigrate to the province

of Pennsylvania, together with other information identified with their story. . .

Certain magazine and newspaper writers are responsible for much misinformation, which prevails among certain people concerning the Pennsylvania Germans, -- especially with regard to their dialect. Not many years ago an article appeared in the 'Atlantic Monthly', wherein it was asserted that 'Pennsylvania Dutch' was not German, 'nor did they expect you to call it so,'. The same author afterward perpetuated this misinformation by embodying it in a book. It is scarcely necessary to contradict such manifest error; if it were necessary to do so, the examples of the Pfälzisch dialect contained in this volume, and their comparison with Pennsylvania German will refute conclusively all such erroneous contention.

In this volume the Pennsylvania Germans are spoken of as Germans, because that is the only designation which is justified by reason of their race, their history, and their speech.

Easton, Pa., 1898

THE AUTHOR

The specific topics covered in the book are laid out in a table of Contents. The chapter headings are as follows:

I. INTRODUCTORY - Earliest known German Tribes. Their contact with the Romans, Franks, Goths, Saxons and Alemanni; II. THE PALATINATE (German Pfalz); III. THE DEVASTATION OF THE PALATINATE; IV. THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA; V. GERMAN EMIGRATION TO PENNSYLVANIA; VI. GERMAN EMIGRATION TO OTHER AMERICAN COLONIES. - Palatines settle in Ireland; VII. THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS IN HISTORY. - In the Revolution; IX. SCHOOLS, CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS SECTS; XII SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS; XIII. LIFE IN PENNSYLVANIA IN THE EARLY DAYS OF ITS SETTLEMENT. - Courts and the administration of Justice. - Early Legislation.

A number of appendices are included which contain great quantities of interesting and unusual information. The titles of these are: APPENDIX A. EXAMPLES OF PFÄLZISCH, SOUTH GERMAN AND PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN DIALECTS; B. VOCABULARY; C. BRIEF PERSONAL SKETCHES OF ENGLISH, GERMAN, AND PALATINE RULERS FROM 1682 TO 1770, The Period of the Great Exodus of German Palatines to Pennsylvania; D. A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF ALL THE REIGNING PRINCES OF THE PALATINATE; E. GLOSSARY.

The author of this book certainly speaks from a different point of view than that of the present-day Bay Area Californians. In 19th Century Pennsylvania, the German community was very large and largely isolated from the majority population. They still spoke their original Rhineland German language in fairly pure form, had their own schools, churches, newspapers and unique social life. The non-German majority did not know or speak their language and generally ignored them as

if they did not exist or, based on the lack of communication, assumed that they were not very intelligent or creative. At the time this book was published, there was certainly a need for one of their own community to tell about themselves in English to the English-speaking majority.

In the Preface to this volume, the author suggests that there might be some things in the book with which Pennsylvania Germans were not altogether familiar. In the case of this reviewer, the material is more likely to be totally unknown and unsuspected, and was probably so also to the general reader at the beginning of the 20th Century. Not knowing that Pennsylvania Dutch were almost exclusively German made guessing their origin rather obscure, and the existence of dozens of independent German states made German history in general rather obscure, so the historical connection of Pennsylvania Germans was very well hidden. For me, this totally unfamiliar information made fascinating reading. Since many experts place the proportion of U.S. citizens with German ancestors at between 1/3 and 1/2, this should be also of great interest to the general public.

P.S. Since I did find this volume of such special interest, I made a copy of the whole book, which is available for viewing by interested parties. [D.G.]

► LOCAL CLASSES

- CREATING QUALITY PHOTO ALBUMS - January 28, 7-9PM at San Ramon Valley HS. Fee \$19 + \$3 lab fee. Class by Tina Mraz offered by SRV Community Services, teaches about photo preservation and how to create beautiful photo-memory albums using safe materials. Call 837-8235 for more information.
- INTERMEDIATE GENEALOGY by Bette Kot - starts January 13 2-4PM at Lafayette Senior Service Center. Fees \$5 (seniors) or \$45 (non-seniors). For info 935-0170.
- PAF CLASSES by Julia Purdie at Concord Family History Center (Call 686-1766 on Tues or Wed). Learn to use Personal Ancestral File genealogy software. Beginner: 7-8PM, Wednesdays Jan. 8 thru Feb. 12; Intermediate, 8:15-9:30PM same dates. A second session of six weeks will follow for Intermediate and Advanced. A \$5 donation to cover handout material is asked for each 6-wk class series.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL