

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305

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. 8

March 1992



NEXT MEETING: MARCH 17, 1992



PROGRAM: PURSUIITS OF SRVGS IRISH RESEARCH

PATTY ERICKSON, chair of the Irish Interest Group will introduce three of our members who will present a variety of practical hints on researching Irish families.

MARGARET DOUGHERTY will give some suggestions on "Starting Your Research" in this country through local and LDS sources.

MARILYN FULLAM will give an update on the county "Family Heritage Centers" throughout Ireland.

JOYCE GUNDERSON will recount her experiences with the "Trails and Trials of the Aran Isles" while researching her family there.

LAST MONTH

by Ruthella Gard-Pfeiffer

In 1913 the heirs of San Francisco philanthropist Adolph Sutro donated his library to the state of California with the stipulation that it remain in the city. The library, after many moves is now located on the grounds belonging to San Francisco State University.

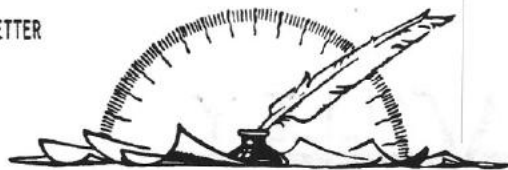
The Sutro collection boasts the largest individual collection in the west and actually is 2 libraries: a rare volumes collection (60% & non-circulating) and the one of interest to genealogists.

CLYDE JANES, Librarian and our February speaker, says that the 40% of the collection available to the public and of interest to genealogists emphasizes areas outside California. Computer access to the catalog is available through the MELVYL on-line system. The drawback to this access is that you must know the title, author or call number to locate materials. Better access is through Sutro's card catalogs which are broken down into Surname, Locality and Misc. (census, church,

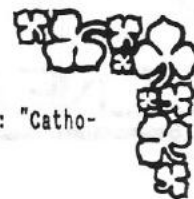
ethnic groups, ship passenger lists, military records, etc.) Books may be borrowed for a 5-week period through inter-library loan or in person from the library.

Budget cuts by the legislature in recent years and rising costs have placed a hardship on the library. The budget for acquiring new volumes is low and the library welcomes book contributions from its users. Because of shelf space and budget restrictions Sutro Library has chosen not to duplicate books. Therefore, because Sutro must make its collection available to the whole state, you may not be able to locate the book you want on the shelves. If you know the title or call number you may reserve the book for future use. Many titles--especially pre-1925 "brittle book"--are also available on microform at the library and may be copied from the film.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: In April, Wayne Korsinen will present "The Ghost of Nortonville". In May, Barbara Chambers from Contra Costa Co Clerk's office will speak on "County Records".



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



MARCH

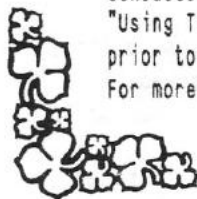
- * 12 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Topic: "Catholic Records" by Michael McLaughlin.
- * 17 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p.55]
- * 18 - Wednesday 10AM Irish & German Interest Groups; 1PM California Interest Group [see p.55]
- 23 - Monday 9AM SRVGS Library Trip [see p. 57]
- 25 - Wednesday 10AM Publishing Interest Group [see p.55]
- 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

- 4 - Saturday 8:30AM-4:30PM "How to Discover Your German Roots" by Sacramento German GS at Northminster Pres. Church, 3235 Pope Av, Sacramento. Send \$10 to Charlotte Alexander, 4641 Nickels Way, Sacramento 95864. 10AM-4PM Genealogy Workshop by CA Czechoslovak Club covering Czech/Bohemian, Moravian & Slovak research, at Cardon El Canto School, 615 Hobart Terrace, Santa Clara. \$5 for non-members. 415/479-8483
- * 7 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME! 10AM & 1PM ROOTS III.
- 8 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS Meeting at Mormon Center, Oakland.
- 9 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr., Concord. Speaker: Brian Mavrogeorge on "Updating the Soundex System".
- * 14 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting, Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Av, Livermore. Contact Harriet Anderson (846-4265) for program topics.
- * 15 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group; 1PM California Interest Group [see p. 55]
- * 21 - Tuesday 10 AM SRVGS Meeting; 1PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p. 55]

PLANNING AHEAD

- May 16 - Saturday One-day SEMINAR sponsored by Contra Costa Co GS at Presbyterian Conference Center across from Todos Santos park (center of town) in Concord. The speaker will be ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS, C.G., F.A.S.G., Editor of the Nat'l Gen Soc Quarterly. Topics: "Finding & Using Birth, Marriage & Death Records Prior to Vital Registration"; Sweet Potato Simon & White Potato Willie: How to Get More Out of Censuses Than You Ever Dreamed Possible"; "Hidden Clues and Pitfalls in Your Ancestor's Land Records"; "Using Tax Rolls to Prove Births, Deaths, Marriages, Parentage, and Origins". Fee for registration prior to May 1 will be \$15 for CCCGS members, \$17.50 for non-members; registration at the door, \$20. For more info contact Sue Swindell 372-6996 or Barbara Edkin 625-0601 (evenings).



NEWSLETTER NOTES



OFFICERS to Contact

President: Frances Lloyd 837-9382
 Vice-Pres.: Mary McNamara 837-7767
 Membership: Mary Jo Hosteny 932-2244
 2004 Reliez Valley Rd.
 Lafayette, CA 94549-1804

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

Editor: Dorothy Stanton
 501 El Capitan Drive
 Danville, CA 94526-4923
 820-3757

Mailing: Barbara Dittig
 735-9610

The Newsletter is published every month except August & December.

APRIL: MARILYN FULLAM will be filling in as Editor of the Newsletter in April. Please get your articles and notices to Marilyn by the Board Meeting on April 7.

HELP WANTED: A volunteer to take notes of each month's speaker and do a short write-up of the talk for our "Last Month" column in the newsletter. Several volunteers can rotate the job if preferred. Contact the N/L editor.

MANY THANKS! to ARDITH STEGER who has authored the excellent program write-ups since Sept 1990. Her help lightened the load of the N/L editor and was much appreciated! Thanks also to Ruthella Gard-Pheiffer for notes on our February talk.

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

CALIFORNIA - Meets 1PM on the third Wednesday at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: March 18 & April 15.

GERMAN - The group will meet 10AM each 3rd Wednesday (only if it follows the general meeting) at Shirley Terry's, 301 Almond Ct., San Ramon (829-7787). Next meetings: March 18 & May 20. 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: March 18 & April 15.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the fourth Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: March 25 at Lee Lowry's, 1860 Tice Creek Dr., #1412, W.C. (939-3453). Contact Jane Steiner (283-0867) for future meetings.

ROOTS III - Continuing Group meets 1:00PM on first and third Tuesdays. The March 17 meeting will be at Shirley Terry's; for April 7, meet at Virginia Meadowcroft's (call first). Beginners' Group meets 10AM each first Tuesday. Contact Cindy Wheeler (743-1322). NEW BEGINNERS 10AM Thurs Mar 12 at Shirley Terry's.

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meetings: March 10, "Virginia", at Peggy Dearman's (837-1621) & April 14, "The Carolinas" at Maryhelen Ewing's (283-1304). Contact Bea O'Rand (837-1760) for information on future meetings and resource database [see below].

RESEARCH HELPS

● TIPS FROM SRVGS MEMBERS

- FROM MANNY LINDNER: To get a copy of a listing from the newly-discovered 1890 Chicago Voting Register (as described by Frances Becker at a recent meeting), you can call the Northeastern Illinois Univ Regional Archives (IRAD) at 1-312/794-6279. "James", an IRAD intern was very helpful in locating the listing and mailed a copy immediately. You will need to know the person's address in 1890. [Check the Chicago directories on microfiche at Sutro or at UC Berkeley's Doe Library Newspaper & Microform Room].

- FROM DOROTHY STANTON: After spending much time and energy trying to locate copies of a Chicago Irish neighborhood newspaper, I finally checked the source I should have consulted in the first place: the U.S. Library of Congress *Newspapers in Microform: 1948-1972*. I found it on the reference shelf at the LDS Family History Center in Oakland, but most libraries have it.

Don't be put off by the 1948 date (1941 in the supplements); that's the date the filming was done. Look up the state, county and/or city. The listings are by name of paper, dates published, and the location of microform copies.

I found not only the 1880's Irish papers (in the IL State Library) but discovered some Chicago French-Canadian papers I didn't know existed. And if I'd consulted *The Source* for the section on "Newspapers" in the first place, I'd have known where to look much sooner!

- FROM FRANCES BECKER: While in Salt Lake, Fran checked on the accessibility of Irish parish records marked "restricted" (e.g. those in county Limerick) at the Family History Library. She was told that if you bring a letter from the parish priest giving you his permission, you will be allowed to view the films of the records. It takes a couple of days to get the films from the vaults, so either write ahead or order them when you first arrive in Salt Lake. No one was willing to speculate on the probability of getting permission.

● SOUTHERN SOURCES?

Do you have source material for Southern states' research in your home library? The Southern Interest Group is compiling a database on the sources our members have in their own libraries, starting in March with the state of Virginia.

If you would be willing to let other members consult your books and periodicals, etc., give a listing (by states as below) to Bea O'Rand. The listing should include author, title, publisher & date, time/locale, and type of source.

In April the subject is North & South Carolina; in May, the Lower South (FL, GA, AL, MS & LA); in June, Kentucky & Tennessee; in July, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma & Texas.

● INDIANA ETHNIC HISTORY PROJECT

The Indiana Historical Society plans a 4-year (1990-94) exploring the ethnic character of Indiana's past and present population. The project directors would appreciate hearing

from anyone knowing of previously unpublished letters, diaries, documents, or photographs, bearing on the ethnic theme. The material will be used in a publication (1993), a traveling exhibition, and a conference in Indianapolis in early 1992. Before sending anything through the mails please call Robert M. Taylor or Connie McBirney at the society, 317/232-1876. [From IHS N/L Mar-Apr 1990]

● GERMAN BRETHREN

DER CHRISTLICHE BOTHAFTER - German Evangelical Assoc, later Ev United Brethren Church, which then merged with the United Methodist Church. Obits are available at Garrett Theological Seminary Library, 2121 Sheridan Rd, Evanston IL 60450. Obits for 1836-1879 are indexed. Inquiries may be sent to Dr David Koss, 114 Dundee Av, Barrington IL 60010. [From The Family Tree GS N/L June 1991, contributed by Win Kynett]

● MAPS OF OLD WEST

"A Window into the Past" - Vlad Shkurkin, a San Pablo resident, runs a mail order business that offers microfilm reels and prints of more than 12,000 fire-insurance maps, reports an article in San Ramon Valley Times (May 31, 1991). Starting in the 1880s, Sanborn Map and Publishing Co. employees painstakingly plotted each building in Western towns from Cheyenne WY to San Francisco. Contact Mr Shkurkin at 6025 Rose Arbor, San Pablo. 510/232-7742. [These microfilms are from the Library of Congress, where all the maps are stored.]



NOTES ON IRISH NAMES

● IRELAND'S MELTING POT

Ireland, which contributed heavily to the ethnic diversity of America, was itself a melting pot. The waves of "invasions" after St. Patrick (432 AD) contributed to its many (at least 4000) surnames.

NORSE (800): MacMahon, MacAuliff (son of Olaf), Doyle (Dark Stranger);

NORMANS (1169): Fitzgerald, Burke, Lacy, Power, Roche, Dillon, Wolfe;

ENGLISH SETTLERS ranging from 12th & 13th cent. to the Anglo-Catholics (Henry VIII &

later), intermarried & often became more Irish than the Irish. These names are difficult to distinguish from the Irish who Anglicized their names, e.g. Stanton and Fullam (Fulham)? CROMWELL'S SOLDIERS (1600's) also brought English names as well as from Scotland: MacDonald, MacSweeney, Shaw; from Wales: Rice, Walsh, Taaffe.

HUGUENOTS (1685): LaTouche, D'Olier, Lefanu; PALATINES (1709): Keski, Sparling, Switzer, Ruttle;

YORKSHIRE QUAKERS (18th cent.): Jacob, Perry, Goodbody, Bewley;

LATER SETTLERS FROM THE U.K. (17th & 18th cent.) in the Ulster Plantations brought Bell, Craig, Knox, Lockhart, Strong;

JEWISH REFUGEES (1880 on) from Lithuania and Russia: Briscoe (Lord Mayor of Dublin), Goldberg (Mayor of Cork), Good, Muschatt, and, of course, Bloom.

- IRISH PREFIXES - Ireland claims to be the first nation to introduce surnames. As clans or septs grew in number, prefixes were added to personal names. **Mac** before a personal name signifies "son of". **O** means "grandson of" or descendant. For daughters the prefix was **Ui**, while for her mother it was **Ban**, "wife of".

Many of these prefixes were dropped as a result of statutes in 1366 forbidding Irish fashion in dress, law, language or nomenclature. The ancient O Maolriains became Ryan; the MacGowans were translated to Smith; The MacMathghamhna slimmed to MacMahon, which later became Mohan and even Vaughan.

HINT: When searching indexes, surname, check for your Irish surname with prefixes of "Mac" and "O" and with no prefix at all. The variations seemed to be interchangeable within the same family.

- "WILD GEESE" - The term is applied to Irishmen who left their country to serve in the armies of other nations, most notably those of France and Spain. In 1691 after the defeat of James II, thousands fled, many settling in Europe. Their names began to be transformed. Today it might be difficult to recognize an O'Brien in "Hautebrion", a Kirwan as "Kerouan".

[Above 3 items partially abstracted from articles by Ida Grehan in "Inside Ireland" Spr & Autumn 1985. Her book *Irish Family Names. Highlights of 50 Family Histories* has been pub by Appletree Press, Belfast. A comprehensive book on Irish family history with her NY publisher was expected to be published in 1986]

More on the IRISH on p. 60



LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● MARCH LIBRARY TRIP

FROM MARY JO HOSTENY: **MONDAY! MONDAY! MONDAY!**
The March library trip will be to the Solano County Gen. Society Library at 620 Main St. in Vacaville, on MONDAY March 23 (NOTE CHANGE OF DAY). Members will meet at 9AM in back of Lucky's on Diablo Rd in Danville. Those living north of Danville, please call Mary Jo Hosteny (932-2244) for a meeting place & time.

Take the Davis St. exit in Vacaville and go west through vacaville to Main St., turn right, and the former Town Hall/Fire Dept/Jail building is right around the corner, with ample parking behind the building. The library is on the 2nd floor and open from 10-2 on Monday, and every 3rd Saturday.

Solano County has not only genealogical resources for its own county but a generous section of books, pamphlets etc. on the whole US; a microfiche file on CA deaths, indexes to the Pension Files for the Indian Wars, War of 1812, Civil War, Sons of the American Revolution, etc. Who knows what secrets you may find here -- it is well worth a trip!

● FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

- NEW ACQUISITIONS: "United States - Directories" - The FHL has purchased an extensive collection of city directories on microfilm from Research Publications for 1790 through 1935. The number of cities covered depends on time period: 1790-1860, 149 cities

1861-1901, 79 cities

1902-1935, 54 cities

Of the 50 largest cities in terms of 1910 population, the following are not included in the new 1902-1935 set of directories: Albany, Birmingham, Bridgeport, Chicago, Jersey City, Louisville, Oakland, Spokane, and Toledo. The FHL may already have acquired directories for these cities elsewhere. To find available city directories, search the catalog under UNITED STATES - DIRECTORIES or STATE - COUNTY - CITY - DIRECTORIES.

City directories are generally published annually and are arranged alphabetically (like a telephone book) by head of household. Directories do not always mention other family members. For example, the 1905 Lakeside City Directory of Chicago mentions only 688,000 of the city's 2,273,000 residents.

[From News of the Family History Library Winter 1991]

- NEW FILMING - CZECHOSLOVAKIA has given LDS permission to microfilm their vital records and Bulgaria is asking for the same service. [CCC GS N/L Jan 92]

● NATIONAL ARCHIVES

FROM ROSEMARY KENNEDY, PACIFIC-SIERRA REGION:
Announcing the Opening of the 1920 Census - [dated 1 Feb but rec'd too late to put into Feb N/L]

Monday March 2, 1991 at 8AM the National Archives will open to the public the microfilm of the 1920 federal population census. The opening culminates four years of work at a cost not including salaries, of more than \$1 million.

The 1920 census exists only on microfilm and consists of 2,076 rolls of population census schedules and 8,590 rolls of the Soundex index. Disposal of the original manuscript census schedules was authorized by Congress in 1953. Between 1938 and 1940 the WPA prepared 51 million Soundex index cards representing close to 107 million names.

In an unusual move, the Census Bureau chose January 1 as "census day." The Dept of Agriculture requested the date because the past year's farm and ranch work would be completed and farmers would have time to answer the census questions with 1919 data fresh in their minds. Later in the year they would be busy with crops or otherwise unavailable. Unfortunately, the weather was worse than usual; heavy snows delayed the work in the North and the South was subject to heavy rains. Influenza was raging and enumerators were hard to hire. Some districts took six months to canvas.

The 1920 census includes questions about mother tongue, year of naturalization, year of arrival in the US, and the naturalization status of every foreign-born person. Due to modifications in European boundaries resulting from WWI, individuals were not always certain to which nation their place of birth corresponded. Enumerators were instructed to report the province or city of persons declaring they or their parents were born in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia or Turkey.

The 1920 census showed that for the first time in US history, there were more people living in urban than rural areas.

- **HOURS at SAN BRUNO:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8AM - 4:15PM; Wednesday 8AM - 8:15PM
The second Saturday of March (14th), April (11th), May (9th) and June (13th) 8:30AM - 4:15PM -- If there is sufficient volunteer support!!

- **POLICY CHANGE FOR MICROFILM READERS:**

In anticipation of an exceptionally high number of researchers, the following policy will be implemented beginning March 2, 1992; Microfilm readers will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis in two-hour shifts starting at 8AM (8-10, 10-12, 12-2, 2-4). Researchers should arrive shortly before the beginning of their desired shift to ensure full time on the reader. People arriving in the middle of a shift may receive only the remaining time in the shift if any is available. Once the next shift has been seated, any extra readers will go to researchers who started in midshift. Researchers who have completed a shift will be able to sign up for another 2-hour shift as reader availability allows. With the exception of National Archives volunteers, there are no reservations available for microfilm readers.

- **VOLUNTEERS:** Two microfilm readers will be reserved each morning and afternoon for as many as four NA volunteers each day. Each volunteer will receive four hours of reader time in exchange for four hours of volunteer work in the microfilm research room. All volunteers must receive training from the NA-Pacific Sierra Region. Those interested should call Rose Mary Kennedy at 415/876-9009.

- **WORKSHOPS:** - Workshops on using the 1920 census will be held at the NA-Pacific Sierra Region (San Bruno) in the Spring. Dates and times will be announced.



- **MORE ON THE 1920 CENSUS**

The 1920 census enumerators were told to count every person in a household who was living on January 1, "census day". If a person had died after Jan 1, 1920, that person was to be included. If a child was born after 1 Jan, the census taker was not supposed to count the new infant.

The 1920 Schedules were micro-filmed in the 1940s and then the originals were destroyed. Unfortunately, the microfilm technology was in its infancy and there are many frames of film that are obscure and illegible due to poor exposure and lighting. New masters of the original film have been made by the Nat'l Archives and much effort has gone into enhancing the microfilm image when poor copies were found.

Only one official copy of each of the 1900-20 censuses was made -- unlike the earlier enumerations when state and county copies were made in addition to the Federal.

- **CENSUS DON'Ts**

1. Don't stop with the Soundex findings; go back to the original record.
2. Don't believe the census indexes to be either correct or complete.
3. Don't assume the spelling of the name is as you know it now.
4. Don't assume the relationship to the head of the household is accurate.
5. Don't assume the wife is the mother of any or all the children listed.
6. Don't assume the ages given provide birth year.
7. Don't forget to copy the information at the top of the page as well as all the data to the right of the occupation column.
8. Don't forget to copy all the entries for your surname in the county. And better look over the neighbors, too. Four Smiths in a row with a Jones in the middle could easily mean a married daughter and her family.
9. Don't think the records before 1850 can't help. They may only have one name listed, but at least you'll know how many to look for in the whole family.
10. Don't think census data gives all the answers.
11. Don't forget the 1880-plus records when you're stuck in the early 1800's. The census for 1880 and later gives the birth place of each person's parents.
12. Don't forget the 1890 veteran's census if your ancestor was in the military. Widows are also listed.
13. Don't forget about state census records. The fact that there are 13 "don'ts" is no coincidence; any one of the above could mean bad luck!

[Tri-State Trader, via Marin Co GS Nov 1990]



BOOK REVIEWS

by Mary Jo Hosteny

BRIEF REVIEWS OF BOOKS AT SOLANO CO GS LIBRARY

[Note: While these reviews represent books at the Solano Co GS Library, they may also be available in other genealogical libraries]

- NOTES AND QUERIES RELATING TO INTERIOR PENNSYLVANIA by W.H. Egle, 1896, GPC 1970. This includes biographical sketches, genealogical data, and lists of members of various military companies. INDEX to Egle's Notes and Queries published by GPC in 1970.
- INDEX TO INDIAN WARS PENSION FILES 1892-1926, V. 1-2 trans. by V.D. White, Nat'l Historical Publ. Co., Waynesboro, TN, 1987. This was taken from microfilm records at the National Archives, and includes claims for service in the Indian Campaigns between 1817-1898, in the Army, Navy and Marines.
- INDEX TO THE WAR OF 1812 PENSION FILES v1-3, transcribed by V.D. White, Nat'l Hist. Pub. Co, Waynesboro, TN 1989. From microfilm records at the Nat'l Archives for claims for service 1812-1815.
- U.S. CENSUS OF PENSIONERS OF 1840 by R.V. Jackson, Accelerated Indexing System Int'l (AIS), 1984
- GENEALOGICAL ATLAS OF IRELAND by Gardner, Harland and Smith, Deseret Book Co, 1964, 41 pp. A brief history of Ireland, genealogical records (as of 1964), maps of all counties and index to towns.

MORE REVIEWS

- A GUIDE TO TRACING YOUR DUBLIN ANCESTORS by James G. Ryan. Flyleaf Press, Dublin, Ireland, 1988. Soft cover, 96pp. A precise little book on the principles of family research, using census and census substitutes, church records, directories, newspapers, family histories, wills, grave-stones, archives, etc. A well written manual by the author of IRISH RECORDS. Recommended.

- A GUIDE TO IRISH CHURCHES AND GRAVEYARDS by Brian Mitchell. Gen Pub Co, 1990, hard cover, 253 pp.

The author attempts to identify the location of all churches and graveyards in every county of Ireland, the information taken from the pages of Griffith's Primary Valuation of Ireland, carried out between 1848 and 1864. Each church is identified by its denomination, townland or street address, and by its Ordinance Survey map number. Each townland is located within its civil parish and each parish listed alphabetically within its county. Recommended.

[The above two books are available, along with many other valuable resources, from Genealogical Resources. Call Frances Lloyd at 837-9382, or Bette Kot at (707) 554-4814.]

- MORE GERMAN BOOKS - There are now 22 volumes of the set entitled GERMANS TO AMERICA: LISTS OF PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT U.S. PORTS. These span the years 1850 through 1869 and are arranged chronologically by each ship's date of arrival. Passengers are identified by full name, age, sex, port of departure, port and date of arrival, and, when available, occupation, destination, and place of origin. A name index is provided at the end of each volume. [Chgo GS N/L Feb 1992]



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

GINNA DENUES, 211 Canyon Creek Ct., San Ramon, CA 94583-1807 (820-4683). Researching SMITH and CRAFT in PA 1700-1900.

BETTY VAIL, 824 Moraga Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549 (283-3596). Researching BEERS, CT before 1800; VAIL, MY before 1818.

PHYLLIS J. VICKERS, PO Box 363, Moraga, CA 94556 (376-7131). Researching SOARES, Sao Jorge, Azores-Portugal; SILVEIRA, PICO, Azores, Portugal - both in 1800's.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Call Patty Erickson (229-0889), Bea O'Rand (837-1760), or Bette Kot (707/554-4814) and volunteer to help in the 1992/3 membership year. We need a new Library Trip chair, etc.



THE IRISH IN AMERICA

IRISH IN WISCONSIN - The Greening of Wisconsin is the title of a program to record the Irish who immigrated there. Initial information has been gathered from the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and at Irish Fest. If you would like to have your Irish immigrant ancestors listed, order your forms from Jane Maher, 2476 Lefebvre Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213. Please include a SASE [Milwaukee Co GS Nov 91]

IRISH IN LOUISIANA - An estimated 3,000 to 30,000 Irish immigrants worked on the construction of the New Basin Canal from Lake Pontchartrain to New Orleans. The Irish Cultural Society in New Orleans has erected a Celtic Cross of stone from Kilkenny at the waterway's head to commemorate the Irish who died while digging the canal.



RECOMMENDED READINGS

Enjoy the flavor of contemporary Ireland in the following books:

- *Come Ye Back to Ireland* by Niall Williams & Christine Breen, Soho Press, 1987 (at Danville Library 914.193Williams).
- Whether or not you've ever dreamed of returning to the homeland of your ancestors and living there, you'll enjoy this young couple's real-life account of leaving NYC publishing jobs and going to live in the Co Clare cottage which had belonged to the wife's grandfather.
- *When Summer's in the Meadow* continues the story as they become more experienced farmers.
- In *The Pipes are Calling* they travel around Ireland (including a visit to the Aran Isles).
- *To School Through the Fields. An Irish Country Childhood* - by Alice Taylor, NY: St. Martin's Press, 1987 (941.5082) This book is referred to as "the biggest bestseller in Ireland's history"; it must have struck a responsive chord in many Irish hearts!
- At the March meeting, Margaret Doherty will have a hand-out of reference material for research in Ireland.

SAN RAMON VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
BOX 305
DIABLO, CA 94528-0305



FIRST CLASS MAIL