

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

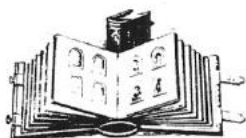
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305

President: Frances Lloyd
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 VIII No. 1

June 1992



NEXT MEETING: JUNE 16, 1992

● PROGRAM: CLUES FROM OLD PHOTOGRAPHS
FOR THE FAMILY RESEARCHER



Our June meeting promises to be very helpful to your research efforts. Mr. JIM TACKITT is a well-respected genealogist with a strong background in photography. He will be presenting many ideas on research clues from old photographs. His hand-outs will provide you with take-home reminders that will add new insights to your stash of family pictures. He will bring lots of old photos for our education and enlightenment.

Mr. Tackitt has taught photography in the Mt. Diablo School District since 1966 -- in addition to teaching drafting and graphics/computer design. Since 1964 he has published a quarterly magazine for the Tackett Family. He has been a Certified Genealogical Record Searcher since 1968 and maintains many professional memberships throughout the nation. His areas of specialization include archival quality printmaking; Virginia and Kentucky records; and early US maps that he now has available for sale. Don't miss his visit to SRVGS; he is a valuable local (Concord) resource that you will enjoy meeting!

--- Sandy Aberer & Bette Kot, Program

● LAST MONTH

by Sandy Kimball

TREASURES YOU'LL FIND AT THE CCC RECORDER'S OFFICE -- If you're researching in Contra Costa County, checking out the records in the County Recorder's office can be considerably easier than trying to glean that same information from the State Recorder's office. That was the prime message Barbara Chambers, Assistant Contra Costa County Recorder, brought to the Society as its regular membership meeting on May 19.

She explained that because of cutbacks at the State level, even she has trouble getting phone calls through to Sacramento. "They discourage browsing and are difficult to work

with," Ms. Chambers declared. Part of the ban on browsing is due to the fact that a number of records are considered confidential--i.e. fetal deaths and illegitimate births and some adoptions.

The good news she brought the Society is that her office and she personally are more than willing to be helpful. "We encourage browsing, but we ask you to remember that we are production-minded and don't have time for much research help. But," she added, "most of our office people appreciate history and understand your desire to see our records."

She suggested that researchers at the Recorder's office ask for the supervisor or

[Continued on last page of newsletter]



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE

- 10 - Wednesday East Bay GS Meeting features a panel on Computers & Genealogy.
- 11 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Program: "Czechoslovakian Research" by Kathryn Dankowski or Rita Derbas.
- * 16 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting
- * 17 - Wednesday 10AM German & Irish Interest Groups [see p.3]
- 18 - Thursday 1PM Mt. Diablo GS Meeting HomeFed, Rossmore Shopping Ctr, 1938 Tice Valley Blvd, WC Topic: "Populating Virginia" by Max Coppage.
- 19 - Friday Genealogy Classes start [see p.3]
- 20 - Saturday - 9AM-4PM Gen Soc of Stanislaus County Seminar. Speaker: Arlene Eakle "Case of the Missing Ancestor", "The Appalachian Triangle", "Tracing the Ladies". Modesto Center Plaza, 1000 K St, Modesto; \$17 payable to Gen Soc of Stanislaus Co, P.O. Box 4735 Modesto CA 95352-4735. For more info: Don Wilson 209/869-3966.
- * 23 - Tuesday SRVGS Library Trip [see p. 5]
- * 24 - Wednesday 10AM Publishing Interest Group [see p. 3]
- 27 - Saturday 10AM PAffers United meets at Concord LDS Church, 3700 Concord Blvd, (933-6555)

JULY

- * 7 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- 8 - Wednesday 10AM EBGs at Mormon Center, 4780 Lincoln Av, Oakland.
- 9 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, 1950 Parkside Dr Concord. Topic: John McConnell, expert on Scottish heraldry and history. For info contact Sue Swindell (510/372-6996) or Barbara Edkin (510/625-0601)
- * 14 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p. 3]
- * 21 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting "Shoebox to Showcase: Creating Heirloom Quality Photo Albums" by Tina Mraz.
- 25 - Saturday 8AM-4PM Mission Oaks Gen. Club Midsummer Seminar: Jimmy Parker from Salt Lake City will speak on Gen. Problem Solving, US Church, Probate & Military Records. At Mission Oaks Rec & Park Community Ctr, 4701 Gibbons Dr, Carmichael. Before 15 July: \$15; mail to Mission Oaks Gen. Club, PO Box 16, Carmichael 95609.



DON'T FORGET: DUES ARE DUE BY JULY 1st!!!



AUGUST - SPECIAL EVENTS

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: Individual \$15
 Family \$20

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.

5-8 Brigham Young University "Annual Genealogy and Family History Seminar". For more information call: 801/378-4853 or write: Conferences and Workshops, 136 Harman Bldg, Provo, UT 84602

20-22 Annual FGS Conference in Phoenix, AZ: "New Horizons --A Conference in the Southwest" by the Federation of Genealogical Societies & Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board. For more information contact FGS/AzGAB Conference, P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT, 84110-3385 or call Betsy Gottsponer at 602/782-6887.

29 Pioneer Day, Pioneer Cemetery, 4795 Blum Rd. Pacheco, CA. A History Awareness Day at the 130+ years old cemetery to honor the early settlers of the Bay Area. "Pioneer Attire" is optional. For info contact John Verrico, 510/229-4961

● SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

- CALIFORNIA** - Meets 1PM on the third Wednesday at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). No regular June meeting because of a special Field Trip (call Carol for details)
- 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 meeting: June 17. Call Shirley to confirm.
- IRISH** - Meets 10AM each third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting: June 17 will be at Margaret Dougherty's, 7154 Kingston Pl, Dublin (833-1676)
- PUBLISHING** - Meets on the fourth Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: June 24 at Dorothy Stanton's, 501 El Capitan Dr Danville (820-3757). For other info contact Jane Steiner 283-0867.
- ROOTS III** - Meets 1:00PM on first and third Tuesdays. No meeting in June. In September, all groups may combine and meet at Danville Library.
- SOUTHERN** - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meeting: July 14 at Dottie Richardson's, 24 Prado Way, Lafayette (284-4566); topic, "Lower South" (FL, GA, AL, MS) Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

● RESEARCH NEWS & HELPS

● GENEALOGY CLASSES BEGIN

"Climb Your Family Tree!

Six Weeks of Personal, Practical Genealogy for Beginners" taught by Bette Kot starts June 19 through July 31. The time is 12:30-2:30 at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Dr, Danville. Fee: \$45. To be assured of a place send reservation and check to Bette G. Kot, 228 Sandy Neck Way, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707/554-4814)

Bette is also offering a six-week class in Intermediate Genealogy Part I which starts June 19-July 31, 10:00-12:00. The class location, fee & address for reservation is the same as above. More details on course descriptions will be posted at June SRVGS meeting.

Bette will also be teaching classes this summer at the Lafayette Community Center: Beginning Class starts 7 July; Intermediate starts 22 June; "Publishing Five Generations" starts 8 July. These are 6-week courses.

● CATTLE EARMARKS - GENEALOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE [mentioned by May Speaker]:

In days of old livestock were marked with various combinations of notches, slits, squares, and "half-pennies" which were cut in the edge of an animals' ear. Careful descriptions of the marks were recorded in a town book, together with the stockowner's name and date of registration. Finding the registration of a settler's earmark, therefore, is almost always definitive proof of his having been located in the area at a stated time.

When an earmark was transferred from one owner to another, or passed down from one generation to the other, the town clerk often made a note to that effect, giving the date of transfer and names of the old and new owners.

Since this occurred only when an original owner died, or possibly, sold his cattle to someone else, the records become of vital concern to the genealogist.

Check with the county clerk about the whereabouts of these records. Also, check for cattle brands. These were also recorded. [partially extracted from Nuggets from Paradise, Mar 91 via CSGA N/L July 91]

● BEWARE OF PRINTED GENEALOGIES

Evaluating evidence you come across can be tricky. It's very exciting to find a printed volume with all the facts and figures laid out for you, but what you read may not be what's right.

The noted attorney, Noel C. Stevenson, goes into quite a bit of detail in his well-respected book, *Genealogical Evidence: A Guide to the Standard of Proof Relating to Pedigrees, Ancestry, Heirship and Family History*. His advice could prove invaluable in helping you determine if you've found the right ancestor.

Here are some of the points he suggests you check for in a printed genealogy.

1. Compiler--If the compiler is not a recognized authority, "sources should be cited rigorously."
2. Arrangement of Data -- The numbering system should be a recognized method.
3. Completeness -- Full names, dates and places should be given. The compiler should also have deposited the papers pertaining to the researcher in an accessible library so you can check them.
4. Descent and Chronology -- Watch the number of years between generations, ages of people at marriages and ages of mothers giving birth.
5. Verification of facts -- Are references

cited and facts interpreted correctly? Does the information match what you already know?

6. Pre-American Ancestry. Use caution regarding the information on the immigrant ancestor's origin.

7. Study the Entire Book -- Read the preface or introduction to determine the research method. Be sure to check for "errata" and the index. Also be wary of "weasel" words like probably or may.

8. Check Book Reviews -- Look for reviews in genealogical journals by authorities who point up the inadequacies.

9. Date of Publication -- An older book may be a better source as the author may have actually interviewed people living at that time in the past.

[From Vandenburg GS N/L via CCCGS N/L 8/89]

● OUT-OF-PRINT BOOKS

Looking for an out-of-print book that may solve some of your thorniest genealogical problems? According to the June 1988 Central Pennsylvania News Letter, there is a company that schools use to track down replacements for lost or stolen library and reference materials that are no longer being published. It is BUCCANEER BOOKS, INC., P.O. Box 518, Laguna Beach, CA 92652, a source that might help you too. The best news is that unlike most such firms that charge a great deal to research specific titles, Buccaneer Books charges nothing for their service.

[Hi-Desert GS Aug 1989 via SMOGS July 91]

AAUW BOOK FINDERS, P.O. Box 8151, Corpus Christi, TX 78468 has access to the inventories of about 8,000 Antiquarian book dealers. Allow 100-120 days for the search process. There is no charge if they are unable to locate the book. [Manasota FL GS via CCCGS June 91]

● GENEALOGICAL PROJECTS REGISTRY

The National Genealogical Society and the Genealogical Society of Utah are undertaking a joint project -- the Genealogical Projects Registry. This Registry will be a database to aid coordination of genealogical projects in progress.

The Registry will include: current projects sponsored by genealogical historical, ethnic, and lineage societies; indexing, abstracting, and transcribing projects of various types of records. It will not include smaller projects, such as single-surname research. Registration will be accepted for projects done either manually or with a computer. The Registry will include only in-progress work.

The aim of the Registry is to avoid project duplication and to encourage project participation. For instance, anyone planning the compilation of an index to a particular group of records should check the Registry to see if someone else has already begun that project. Potential volunteers will be able to scan the Registry to see what help is needed.

A one-page form is available to register in this clearinghouse. Write Genealogical Society of Utah, 35 North West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150. (801/240-4758)

Registry results will be published in the NGS/CIG Digest and will be available on the NGS Bulletin Board System. It may also become available on paper or diskette from NGS headquarters for a nominal fee.

[From Ralph E. Jackson, NGS President and J. Richard Clarke, GSU President, Feb 1992]

● KIDNAPPED IN SCOTLAND?

[Shades of Robert Louis Stevenson!]

Helen Hinchliff, P.O. Box 97, Fulford Harbour, BC V0S 1C0, Canada is researching Aberdeen Scotland's "kidnapping era", a five-year period in the 1740's when children and adults were transported to the colonies of Maryland and Virginia. In 1740 Helen's ancestor, James Edwards, at age 13, was kidnapped from Aberdeen and sold as an indentured servant in what is now Fairfax Co, Virginia. Many Scottish children were kidnapped in the late seventeenth century and in the 1740s; they were sold in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Helen welcomes correspondence with readers whose families have a tradition of an ancestor having been kidnapped from Scotland.

[From NGS N/L Vol 17, No 6 1991]

● MILITARY RECORDS

REVOLUTIONARY WAR - If you don't see your Revolutionary War ancestor on Federal pension records, check the state, e.g. Virginia State pension records. That state offered a higher pension, so 465 former Revolutionary War soldiers and/or their widows chose to take the Virginia benefit. [CCCGS N/L Feb 91]

CONFEDERATE PRISONER RECORDS - Southern ancestors who might have been in the CW may be found in the records of Confederate soldiers at Fort Delaware Prison at Pea Patch Island, Delaware. Here are records of the 2,436 Confederate soldiers who died there. While the Andersonville prison is the best known prison, the death rate there was 9.5% compared to 12.5% at Ft. Delaware.

[Santa Clara H&GS N/L Oct 91]



LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● JUNE LIBRARY TRIP

The library trip on June 23 will be to SUTRO LIBRARY in San Francisco. Members wishing to carpool will meet in Danville behind the Lucky's on Diablo Rd at 9AM. Those living north of Danville may call Mary Jo Hosteny (932-2244) for an alternate meeting place.

● PORTUGUESE RESEARCH LIBRARIES

by Millie Freitas

For those who had Portuguese ancestors living in California in 1880, the Office of the Supreme Council of United (Unis) Portuguese of the State (Estado) of California, U.P.E.C., in San Leandro and its Joseph A. Freitas Library could prove to be a gold mine! -- IF your Portuguese joined the U.P.E.C.

Two things seemed to be a must for Portuguese immigrants: 1. becoming an American citizen and, 2. joining the U.P.E.C. The Uniao Portuguesa do Estado da California served as a "security blanket" for these mostly very young, adventurous non-English speaking people traveling thousands of miles to come to the "new country."

The Joseph A. Freitas Library has thousands of volumes covering the history of Portugal and the Azores, and their classics -- poetry, novels, books on navigation. Some are in English and some in Portuguese.

But the goldmine, you ask? Membership in U.P.E.C. for Portuguese men began in 1880 and the membership books are available for perusing. California was divided into councils so you need to know approximately where your ancestor lived (you may have to look through several council books to find him.) This gives you where he was born, where he lived, and his beneficiary.

If your Portuguese ancestor still belonged to this organization when he died, there are chronological death registers for the entire state, starting in 1880, that you can also peruse. The membership books and the death registers are the only genealogical information that would be useful in our family researches. The library is located at 1120 E. 14th St, San Leandro 94577 (510/483-7676)

● VALLEJO NAVAL AND HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 734 Marin St. Vallejo CA 94590

(707/643-0077). The library contains City Directories, Voting Registers, City Maps, etc. It is primarily Vallejo related, not just Naval. SRVGS member Joyce Gunderson has found this library very valuable in her Vallejo-area family research and feels others would be helped if they knew its focus.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks to Millie and Joyce for sharing their knowledge of these libraries. Perhaps others members know of special collections in this area. Please write them up for the newsletter so others can benefit from your knowledge.

● MORE on LOCAL LIBRARIES

- LAGS LIBRARY at PLEASANTON - Many SRVGS members have used the excellent LAGS library collection housed at the Pleasanton Library. The collection had its own shelves and a separate cataloging system. The number of books has been growing rapidly.

The Livermore-Amador Gen Soc board of directors and the Alameda Co library administration recently agreed to integrate the LAGS book collection into the Pleasanton reference collection. The LAGS books will be renumbered and listed in the county-wide catalog.

LAGS will continue to own and buy its own books, as will Pleasanton, but the purchases can be better coordinated to avoid duplication. [adapted from an article by George Anderson in "The Livermore Roots Tracer" Spr 92]

Sample of Recent Acquisitions:

Jackson County, IN Marriage Index from 1816 to 1920
by Carolyn Stultz

The Woodville Republican, Mississippi's oldest existing newspaper by O'Levia Neil Wilson Wiese. Woodville is in the southwestern corner of MS, just south of Natchez and the newspaper started in 1823. The book covers 1840-47 and is the second volume of genealogical abstracts; it has a 2000-name index. *Genealogist's Guide to East Central Wisconsin* by Victoria Wilson.

Three publications of the South Central PA Genealogical Society covering Family Bible Records; Abstract of unrecorded will of York Co PA 1749-1798; Abstracts and identifications of entries giving European origins in church records of South Central PA and adjacent areas. [most names are German]

- CHANCERY ARCHIVES - ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO - The Archives is now located at St.

Patrick's Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park CA 94025. The Archives is open daily from 10AM to 4PM, though it is always a good idea to call for an appointment.

Volunteers Still Needed - For those of you who would like to assist the Archives of the Archdiocese in some way, your help would be greatly appreciated. They are in particular need of typists and transcriptionists, but any assistance would be welcomed. Call 415/328-6502 or 994-5211.

[contributed by Marilyn Fullam]

- MARINER'S LIBRARY - Was your ancestor a Mariner on the Pacific Coast? If so, you might want to visit the J. Porter Shaw Library in Building E, Third Floor, Fort Mason, San Francisco (415/556-9870). The focus of the library is commercial sail and steam on the Pacific Coast up to 1940. The most significant resources are the library's non-book materials: oral histories, logs, photographs, and documents. This is one of four preeminent libraries of commercial maritime history in the US.

- WESTERN JEWISH HISTORY CENTER - The Judah Magnes Museum, an archival research library is located at 2911 Russell St, Berkeley, CA 94705 (510/549-6932/6956). It is open Mon-Thurs from noon to 4PM. On-premise research is free. Off-premise requests for non-commercial research is \$15 per hour after one free half hour. Appointments should be made.

The collection concentrates on contributions of Jews to the American West from the Gold Rush to the present. Collections of value to the genealogist include oral histories, family histories (including biographical clippings), 300 archival collections related to Jewish community and religious life in the West, 1400 titles on Western Jewish Americana, periodicals, congregation cemetery records, and a collection of newspapers extending from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.

[ZichronNote: XII:1 via CCCGS N/L May 92]

● AROUND THE COUNTRY

- NATIONAL ARCHIVES PUBLICATION:

The second edition of the "Immigrant and Passenger Arrivals" microfilm catalog has been expanded to include five additional ports of entry and more than 13,000 new listings. Records from the ports of Detroit, Galveston, San Francisco, Seattle, and St. Albans, VT are highlighted -- and the catalog features a complete roll list for each microfilm publica-

tion it describes. Send check for \$2 plus \$3 shipping to National Archives Trust Fund, Publication Services, iW-i National Archives, Washington, DC 20408. [CPAFUG BBS, DC 10/91 via CCCGS N/L]

- BALTIMORE CITY ARCHIVES - SHIP PASSENGER RECORDS - A notice (June 1991) from the Baltimore City Archives: "There is no comprehensive index to passengers arriving at the Port of Baltimore. However, the Archives has two sets of ship lists which are indexed. The index to the "City List" is a card file arranged alphabetically by surname. It includes approximately 30,000 names and covers the years 1833-1866. The "Federal Lists" are microfilm copies from the National Archives. The arrangement is by soundex code and covers the years 1820 to 1952. We would be glad to search these lists for you. However, because of the current fiscal crisis in Baltimore City and an unanticipated shortage in staff, the research division of the City Archives and Records Management office will be forced to increase fees. We are now imposing a fee of \$25.00 per hour or any part thereof plus \$1.00 per page for photocopying. If you would like us to search these indexes, please make your check payable to the Director of Finance for Baltimore City and send to this office. Please provide as much information as possible concerning the individual(s) being searched, including a first name in addition to the surname. A copy of your letter will remain on file." Address: Baltimore City Archives, 211 E. Pleasant St, Baltimore, MD 21202 [McHenry Co IL GS N/L June 91 via Chicago GS N/L]

- TEXAS SEAPORT MUSEUM - IMMIGRATION LISTS Galveston, TX is often overlooked as a port of entry for immigrants. However, thousands of German and Eastern European immigrants landed there from 1840-1920. The North German Lloyd's Line, sailing from Bremen, was the largest carrier. Volunteers at the Texas Seaport Museum in Galveston have entered information from passenger lists into a database. Many lists were destroyed in a 1900 hurricane. Information in approximately 150,000 entries includes names, country of origin, date of arrival, port of departure, and some miscellaneous notes. Genealogists can receive a printout from the database by mail for a fee of \$10.00 per name. Requests should be directed to: Texas Seaport Museum, 2016 Strand, Galveston Island, TX 77550 [IFS N/L: No.96 via CCCGS N/L May 92]



BOOK REVIEWS

by Mary Jo Hosteny

- **CITE YOUR SOURCES:** *A manual for documenting family histories and genealogical records.* by Richard S. Lackey, University Press of Mississippi, 1980 94 pp, soft cover, 4th printing 1990.

The purpose of this manual is to provide genealogists with a simple but academically acceptable guide to basic citations. The author goes through all types of citations, such as books, periodicals, newspapers, censuses, tax records, land records, oral interviews, etc. He cites several examples for each type of record, giving both correct and incorrect ways of reporting them. An invaluable little book for standardizing and accuracy in reporting of sources.

- **IN SEARCH OF YOUR EUROPEAN ROOTS:** *A complete guide to tracing your ancestors in every country in Europe* by Angus Baxter, Gen Pub Co, 1988, soft cover, 289 pp.

The amount of research that was needed in order to complete this book seems astronomical, as the author covers from Albania to the USSR. He starts each chapter with a brief but concise and fairly complete political history of each country, then goes on to describe the steps necessary to research in that country. Since the book was published in 1988, there have been many sweeping changes all across Europe, and in many countries the restrictions have already eased, due to changes in the political structure. This seems a good basic book for anyone researching their ancestors in Europe.

- **IN SEARCH OF YOUR BRITISH AND IRISH ROOTS:** *A complete guide to tracing your English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish ancestors*, by Angus Baxter, GPC, 1982, 1991, soft cover, 310pp.

A companion book to Mr. Baxter's European book, it is written in a very similar style, starting each section with a short political history of each country treated. This book also includes the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. Due to its date of publication, it makes no mention in its section on Ireland of the Family History Centers which are now in operation in both southern and northern Ireland. Still good basic information for a starting genealogist in these countries.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- **FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS:**

The library of Congress announces the publication *Genealogies Cataloged by the Library of Congress Since 1986*. The new publication picks up where the discontinued series edited by Marian Kaminkow left off in 1985.

There are several new features: Section I has more than 700 pages of detailed listings by family surname. The nearly 400 pages of Section II contain 10,170 family names and 22,614 cross references from variant forms of these names. Section III is a list of 3,564 family histories converted to microform and available for the first time.

The price is \$70. To order, contact Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service, Customer Service Section, Washington, DC 2054105017. You can pay by MasterCard or VISA, 1-800-255-3666

[EDITOR'S NOTE: See SRVGS Newsletter Vol 7 No 6 for information on interlibrary loan from the Library of Congress. ALSO, read this newsletter p. 3 on evaluating printed genealogies.]

- **MASSACHUSETTS STATE CENSUSES** - The 1855 and 1865 State Census records have been transcribed, indexed and published by Ann S. Lainhart, P.O. Box 1487, Boston MA 02117. They are available for Essex, Middlesex and Plymouth Counties by separate towns. The 1865 census for many of the towns gives specific town of birth. In the 1865 census of Charlestown some wards give specific county of birth for those born in Ireland. Send for price list (most range from \$4.20 to 19.20) and publication schedule.
[From NEHGS NEXUS Vol VIII, No 1]

- **FROM EAST BAY GS** - Just published is a volume containing excerpts from the early records of the Native Sons of the Golden West, Berkeley Parlor #210. It contains an alphabetical listing of over 650 names of members of NSGW (1900-1933), with birth date and place, occupation and for some entries a death date and burial place. Buy it at EBGS meetings or write EBGS, PO Box 20417, Oakland 94620-0417. The price is \$7 plus \$2 postage for mail orders.

- **SOLANO COUNTY, CA, 1870 CENSUS INDEX** - Contains 16,869 names (170 pages). Available for \$17 plus \$1.50 p&h from SCGS, Inc., PO Box 2494, Fairfield CA 94533.

- [LAST MONTH continued from p.1]
senior clerk who will know where the records are kept. "Many are in our warehouse, so we can't always get the document you want the same day." She also offered to conduct researchers on a personal tour of the office holdings if she has the time.
While there are restrictions on some vital records, land records as far back as 1849 are totally accessible, Ms. Chambers pointed out.
To illustrate the wide variety of documents available in the Contra Costa Recorder's office, the speaker brought along a number of intriguing examples. Among them were the Book of Marks and Brands, with some going back when California was still a territory, land patents and the Book of Wives' Property.
Current fees for county vital records are \$8.00 for death certificates and \$12.00 for marriage and birth records--all certified copies, the only type the state provides. A bill is pending in the Legislature to up the cost of birth and death certificates by \$3.00. "By law, we have to charge researchers making requests by mail even if we don't find the

record," according to the Assistant County Recorder.

Following is a list of Vital Records at the county level and their accessibility:

Official Records (real property) 1849-present;

Vital Records (birth, marriage, death)

1850-present -- assuming the certificate was recorded (in early years many were never reported).

Browsing - What information is available?

Marriage Index and Marriage film--open for inspection; Birth Index and Death Index--open for inspection; Birth Film and Death Film--closed--not open for inspection.

State Indices (fiche)

Birth, 1956-1990 all closed--not open for inspection; Marriage, 1960-1985 open for inspection; Death, 1940-1990 open for inspection.

* * * * *

- EDITOR'S NOTE: Don't forget about the Contra Costa History Center. Many records from the County Office can be found there. Sandy Kimball wrote an excellent article about the Center in our Newsletter (May 1990). If you are a new member and would like a copy, send me a SASE.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL