

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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

President: Shirley Terry
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 IX No. 1

JUNE 1993

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 15, 1993

● PROGRAM: ADVENTURES OF A GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHER

KATHY BEALS has been the Research Director for the California Genealogical Library in San Francisco since 1989. She will be sharing some of the experiences she has enjoyed in that volunteer position.

Kathy was born and raised in Ventura, CA, received her BA in Anthropology and an Elementary School Teaching Credential from UC Berkeley. Her varied career has included teaching, raising three children, real estate & bookkeeping.

In September 1987, upon sending the last child to college, Kathy became totally preoccupied with researching her ancestry. This led to her research position with CGS library where she has worked on hundreds of projects helping with SF Bay Area and California research. The research projects done by Kathy and other volunteers brings in about \$4,000 annually to CGS treasury. She has done several extraction and indexing projects including *INDEX to SAN FRANCISCO MARRIAGE RETURNS 1850-1858*. Regularly she writes a column for *THE NUGGET*. She has also published in *HERITAGE QUEST* and the *NEW HAMPSHIRE GENEALOGICAL RECORD*.

From Sandy Aberer and Bette Kot, Program

● LAST MONTH

by Sandy Kimball

When East Bay genealogist Bill West spoke before the Society on May 18, he shared his discovery that "serendipity" can sometimes play a part in tracking down elusive ancestors.

Using Horace Walpole's description of serendipity, "the act of making lucky, accidental discoveries," the speaker traced several examples where unexpected sources had paid off for him.

In the first, West used his job as an information specialist searching patents to discover

information about his grandfather. The search not only revealed that the senior West had patented his invention of a trolley pulley, but told where he had resided in a period between censuses. "The 5.2 million patents record is a substantial data base," Mr. West pointed out. The Sunnyvale Library serves as a Patent Information Clearing House, where searchers can check for their own ancestors.

"Browsing" for successful genealogical information turned up a second example of serendipity for the speaker. While browsing at Sutro

Library he ran across an article on the Townsend family, to whom he is related by marriage. The accidental discovery enabled the genealogist to go back another generation in his family's history.

The third case involving serendipitous results involved a search for a possible uncle that a census record pointed to. While he's never been able to find this relative, the search uncovered several unexpected results. He found his grandmother's death certificate and discovered she was being cared for by a daughter in a [continued on page 2 WEST]



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE

- * 8 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p.3]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting at Cong Beth Emek, 1866 College Av, Livermore (510-447-9386)
- * 9 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p.3]; 10AM East Bay GS Meeting at the Mormon Center, Oakland. Virginia Wakeman, "Holdings of the Napa GS Library".
- 10 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Richard Boucher: "The French Influence on America."
- * 15 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 12:30PM ROOTS III Interest Group [see p.3].
- 17 - Thursday 1-3PM Mt. Diablo GS, Civic Bank of Commerce Community Room, 1940 Tice Valley Blvd, WC. "Shoeboxes to Showcases" by Jane Casebolt.
- 18 - Friday 9AM to 1PM National Archives workshop "Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records" by Rose Mary Kennedy, 1000 Commodore Dr, San Bruno. Cost \$10 in advance or \$12 at door. For more information call Rose Mary at 415/876-9009.
- * 22 - Tuesday SRVGS Library Trip [see p.5]
- 26 - Saturday 10AM-noon PAF Users Group at Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord; 11AM to 4PM Benicia Historical Society's "Historic Home Tour: Voices of the Past." Tax-deductible tickets are \$12 if purchased by June 15, \$15 on Tour Day. Tickets may be purchased by mail no later than June 15th. Send check to Benicia Historical Soc, PO Box 773, Benicia, CA 94510. (707/745-1855)

JULY

- * 6 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- 8 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Concord. Program will be "Huguenots" or "Sons of the American Revolution" [to be announced]
- * 14 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p.3]
- * 20 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting. Speaker Tudi Baskay, member of the National Association of Professional Organizers, will help us with the mountains of records our research creates; 12:30PM ROOTS III Interest Group.

NATIONAL EVENTS

July 16-17 - The American Records Association is sponsoring the 13th Annual Conference on Civil War Genealogy at the Ramada Inn South, Grandview, MO. For registration information write to AFRA, PO Box 15505, Kansas City, MO 64105.

September 9-10 - The second annual Mid-West Electronic Genealogy Convention GENECON '93 will be held at the Sheraton Inn in Cedar Rapids, IA. The focus is on the use of computers in genealogical research, publishing and communications. Advance registration (by July 15) is \$50. After July 15, \$65. Registration includes Thurs and Fri lunches and Thurs night banquet. For information contact: Cedar Rapids Area Convention Center, PO Box 5339, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-5339 or call 800/735-5557.

See May Newsletter for more national events in July and August.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Shirley Terry 829-7787
 Vice-Pres.: Carol Glover 829-7207
 Membership: Ed O'Donnell 837-8858
 P.O. Box 366
 Diablo, CA 94528-0366
 Annual Dues: Individual \$15
 Family \$20
 Membership year: June 1 to May 31
 NEWSLETTER
 Editor: Dorothy Stanton
 501 El Capitan Drive
 Danville, CA 94526-4923
 (510) 820-3757
 Mailing: Barbara Dittig 735-9610
 Lucy Carver 837-3146
 The Newsletter is published each month except August and December.

- [WEST continued from page 1]
 different county at the time of death. The family Bible also came to light during this search, adding much genealogical information and pushing his search back another two generations.

This research also led him to the conclusion that the reason he could never find another uncle, Franz Swinger, was because the latter had changed his name to Frank. Sure enough, the hunch paid off, "Franz" was found and another family member provided a whole packet of information on the man's family.

Mr. West summed up his remarks with his "Genealogical Aphorisms:"

1. Follow your leads and hunches.
2. Browse a bit.
3. Beware of the obvious--be suspicious of what you know.
4. "Walk the neighborhood." Learn how people lived, who were friends and neighbors.
5. Use available tools.
6. Play the name game--names are not cast in concrete.
7. Learn from your mistakes.
8. Loosen up. Be bold. Be imaginative. Have no preconceived notions. The worst case scenario here is that you could end up researching someone else's family.

By following these points, perhaps serendipity will play a part in your genealogical research.

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

CALIFORNIA - Meets with the Irish Group [see below].

IRISH - Meets 10AM each second Wednesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: June 9 & July 14.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: June 30 at Jane Steiner's, 1010 Hunsaker Dr, Lafayette. Contact Jane Steiner 283-0867.

ROOTS III - Meets 12:30-2:30PM on Tuesdays following the general meeting at the Danville Women's Club House. Bring a bag lunch. Contact Cindy Wheeler 743-1322.

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meeting: June 8 at Dorothy Stanton's, 501 El Capitan Dr, Danville (820-3757). Next meeting: September 14 at Barb Irwin's, 1400 Canyonwood Ct. #8, Rossmoor (939-8522). Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - If you're interested in a group on English, Scottish, & Welsh research, contact Ron Skilton 254-6989.

ATTENTION INTEREST GROUP CHAIRPERSONS: PLEASE REPORT PROGRAMS & CHANGES TO WENDY HABER MEHL 829-8339

RESEARCH HELPS

FROM SRVGS MEMBERS

- DIANE ANDERSON reports that her husband has a CD-ROM disk of MARRIAGE RECORDS. It lists close to 800,000 marriages in Illinois (20 counties), Indiana (51 counties), Kentucky (68 counties), Ohio (39 counties and Tennessee (46 counties). Most are 1800-1890. The records are indexed. You can contact Diane (837-3048) to set a time to view the disk or to borrow it, if you have a CD-ROM reader.
- JANE STEINER received a mailing on a source of help with PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER Vital Statistics: ACCESSIBLE ARCHIVES, INC, 697 Sugartown Rd, Malvern, PA 19355 will search a database of 19th century vital records from the counties surrounding Philadelphia for 1-9 surnames at \$15 each, 10 or above for \$10 each. They will search the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, published in Philadelphia (by Ben Franklin), from 1728 to 1750 for \$10 for each surname. You will receive full text of all references found.
- FRANCES LLOYD received information about the OREGON-CALIFORNIA

TRAILS ASSOCIATION, 524 South Osage St, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519 (816/252-2276): The OCTA is dedicated to the preservation, appreciation and enjoyment of all the Trans-Mississippi 19th century migration trails west. Membership helps preserve the heritage of the migrations through research and site development. Members receive quarterly *Overland Journal and News from the Plains*.

OCTA is sponsors a program called COED--Census of Overland Emigrant Documents. Volunteers have begun to survey the estimated 3000 emigrant documents related to overland journeys. As surveys are completed, the information is being entered into a computer database. The COED will include bibliographic information, information about the emigrant's journey (departure and arrival, routes taken, and places mentioned), and all names mentioned in the document (with place of origin, gender, party they traveled with). This roster of names will also designate all births, deaths, graves, marriages, and registered names. The project

is in its early stages; it will be many years before COED is complete, however the database may be open to the public for inquiries before all documents are surveyed. COED would like to have any information about emigrant documents in private possession and possibly unknown to researchers. Contact Kathy Roubal, COED National Coordinator at 111 East Maple St., PO Box 1019, Independence MO 64051-0519.

● VITAL RECORDS

- COLORADO - The new address to obtain birth & death certificates is Colorado Dept of Health, Division of Vital Records, Glendale Office, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80222 (303/692-2200. Copies are \$12 for the record or search of record.
- NEW JERSEY - The Bureau of Vital Statistics has suspended indefinitely the processing of all genealogy requests due to budget restrictions. The New Jersey State Archives has the original vital records for the state for the period May 1848 to May 1878. The Archives continues to search these records by mail for a fee of \$4 per record. The Archives has

microfilm: marriage records, June 1878 to 1940, death records, June 1878 to 1940, and birth records June 1878 to 1923. You may contact the Archives at 609/292-6260 to determine their current holdings. These microfilmed records are open for research at the Archives Tuesday through Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM; however, the Archives cannot search them by mail. If you are unable to visit the Archives, you may wish to use the services of a professional genealogist. Write and request that a list be mailed to you.

[From a letter dated 6 April 1993 received by the editor of Santa Clara Hist & Gen Soc]

- OHIO - In September 1992 the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that "Any citizen seeking any public record must now appear in person or by agent to secure such recourse." This means that mailed requests for information, even with enclosed payment, will not be granted. Legislation has been introduced to change the law and overcome the strict construction imposed by the Court.

[From Sacramento German GS Jan-Mar 93 & SoCA Searcher XXX:1]

● CEMETERIES

- MISSOURI - To locate cemeteries in MO counties, use county plat books which can be found in the courthouse or library. US Geologic Survey maps may also be found in the courthouse to help locate a cemetery, church, watercourse, etc. County road maps help determine roads, lanes, and highways. About 1940 many were published by the MO School of Mines in Rolla. [CSGA N/L Feb 93]
- NEW ENGLAND - If you have ancestors buried in cemeteries in Maine, New Hampshire,

Vermont and Rhode Island, you may wish to contact the following cemetery associations:

MAINE Old Cemetery Soc c/o Clyde G. Berry, PO Box 971, Bangor, ME 04401;
NEW HAMPSHIRE Old Graveyard Assoc c/o Louise Tallman, Records Clerk, PO Box 364, Rye Beach, NH 03871
Southern RHODE ISLAND Old Cemetery Assoc c/o M. Michelle Clapham, PO Box 1205, Westerly, RI 02891
VERMONT Old Cemetery Assoc c/o Arthur Hyde, Rt 1, Bradford, VT 05033.

- OKLAHOMA - The Oklahoma Genealogical Research Group offers several services of interest. If you provide them with a surname, they will check county cemetery records in their possession and those available in the state capital and send you all the recorded information available on the surname of your choice. They will also do a current telephone directory surname search of everyone in OK and give you their name, address, and phone number. The fee is \$14 per surname for the cemetery search and \$12 per surname for the telephone directory search. The organization has a quarterly newsletter as well as other services. For details, contact: OGRG, PO Box 171, Stigler, OK 74462.

- SOUTH DAKOTA - Cemetery records copied from tombstones primarily in the southern half of the state are on microfilm and available through interlibrary loan. For more information contact the SD Historical Archives, 800 Governor's Dr, Pierre, SD 57501.
- WISCONSIN - The Wisconsin Old Cemetery Society will assist you in locating an old cemetery in the state. Write to 3500 South 92nd St, Milwaukee, WI 53228.
[CSGA N/L Jan & Apr 1993]

● CANADIAN WAR GRAVES

The Canadian Commonwealth War Graves Commission was established in May of 1917 to mark and maintain the graves of the members of the forces of the Commonwealth who died in the two world wars, to build and maintain memorials to the dead whose graves are unknown, and to keep records and registers. The partner governments are Australia, Britain, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa. The records and registers contain information that can help with family history research. Write to: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Canadian Agency, 284 Wellington; Ottawa, Ont K1A 0P4 or phone 613/992-3224.

[Alberta Fam Histories Soc Summer 1991
via Chgo GS Nov 91]

● THE UNITED STATES AFTER THE REVOLUTION

What did the US look like in the 1790's just after the Revolutionary War? EARLY AMERICAN REPRINTS, PO BOX 8642, Mesa AZ 85214-8642 has reproductions of antique maps originally published in 1796. Measuring 13" to 17" by 22", each map shows details of cities, towns, and other named places; rivers, creeks, lakes and other physical features; major roads and paths, forts, courthouses, taverns and even some family homes by name. Complete set of 17 maps (original 13 states plus Kentucky, Maine District, Tennessee and Vermont, & a map of the US showing all of the territory east of the Mississippi River) sells for \$49.50; individual maps are \$5 (5 or more, \$4.50; 10 or more \$4 each); Index, \$9.95. For maps, add 10% S&H (min. \$1, max. \$10); index add \$1.55 S&H.

- [MORE RESEARCH HELPS on p.6]



LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● JUNE LIBRARY TRIP

The June library trip will be to the Contra Costa Library in Pleasant Hill on Tuesday, June 29. Members will meet to carpool at 9AM either in back of Luckys on Diablo Road in Danville or at Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. Please call Cindy Wheeler at 743-1322 to add your name to the list or to cancel.

● NATIONAL ARCHIVES

- KANSAS CITY, MO - Naturalization proceedings from about 1848 to 1895 for Kansas, western Missouri and northern Oklahoma are indexed and housed at the Kansas City Branch, National Archives, 2312 Bannister Rd, Kansas City, MO 64121. [Victoria Co TX GS Fall 92 via CSGA N/L Feb 1993]

● SAN BRUNO - REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORDS

- MO859 MISC NUMBERED RECORDS (THE MANUSCRIPT FILE) IN THE WAR DEPT COLLECTION OF RW RECORDS, 1775-1790'S
- MO804 RW PENSION AND BOUNTY-LAND WARRANT APPLICATION FILES
- MO246 RW ROLLS
- MO860 GENERAL INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF RW SOLDIERS
- MO880 COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF AMERICAN NAVAL PERSONNEL AND MEMBERS OF THE DEPT OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL & THE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF MILITARY STORES WHO SERVED DURING THE RW
- MO881 COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN THE AMERICAN ARMY DURING THE RW
- MO879 INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF AMERICAN NAVAL PERSONNEL WHO SERVED DURING THE RW
- MO847 SPECIAL INDEX TO NUMBERED RECORDS IN THE WAR DEPT COLLECTION OF RW RECORDS

REMINDER: Many RW soldiers served with State Militias. Their records may be found in the State Archives of the state where they served.

● UCB LIBRARY

Don't forget the University Library as a source of help. UC Berkeley is a Depository for US Government Records. Example: In 1986, a commission did a study on famine in the UKRAINE in 1932-33; it contains information on individuals, families and places. "MELVYL" shows it at the UCB Law Library (call no. KE4924.U54) [L. Scott NNY-BBS via CCCGS May 93]

Another example: Two Canadian Guides: *Checklist of Parish Registers, 3rd Edition* from Public Archives of Canada. (bilingual guide to microfilms of parish registers including English-speaking, non-Catholic parishes) Call # CD3648 .A1 PI in UCB Main Library. In the UCB Law Library #BQV101.5.C37 G85 *Guide Sommaire des archives des dioceses Catholiques au Canada*. (Bilingual listing of diocesan archives of Canada. [Sue Budlong, NNY-BBS via CCCGS N/L Jan 93].

● BE SURE TO CHECK SUMMER HOURS BEFORE YOU GO: 510/643-9999

● ILLINOIS

STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY - Construction and renovation work is presently underway at the library in Springfield. During the construction period most of the ISHL book, manuscript, and Lincoln collection materials will be relocated to the Howlett Building. The ISHL will maintain regular hours with some changes regarding patron service. The work is expected to be completed by Sept 1993. The

good news is that many items, especially county genealogical materials which had been shelved in the closed stack area, have already been moved to the to the Reading Room shelves for your convenience.

[Chicago GS N/L May 93]

- NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, plagued by budget deficits, suspended all service in February 1993, closing its library and museum and canceling future public programs. Eight institutions, including the NY Public Library, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian have approached the Society about taking over parts of the collection which contains some 3 million books, manuscripts, vintage maps, photographs and architectural drawings. [American Libraries, Mar 93 via CCCGS N/L Jun 93]

● SOUTH CAROLINA

The SC Dept of Archives & History announces that the Combined Alphabetical Index (Computer Output Microfilm usually known as COM) is now available for purchase at \$25/reel. A detailed listing of the contents is available from Ms. Carrie Bassett, SC Dept of Archives & History, PO Box 11669, Columbia, SC 29211 (803/734-8590). In many instances it might be less expensive to order an entire reel of this index than to order print-outs of pages for a particular surname at \$.35/page plus mailing. One then need not worry about listing variant spellings, as the purchaser could check them easily enough (provided that the variants begin with the same letter and are on the same reel) [SC Magazine of Ancestral Research, Summer 1992 via SCH&GS N/L Feb 1993]

- The May 1993 Santa Clara Hist & Gen Soc Newsletter lists the following book added to the Society's Genealogy Collection at the Santa Clara Public Library: *A Guide to the Manuscript Collection of the South Carolina Library* by Allen H. Stokes Jr. Call # GS 975.7 S7 26 1.

- CANADA - The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, (PO Box 6000, Fredericton, NB, Canada E3B 5H1) has published *An Index to Irish Immigrants in the New Brunswick Census of 1851*, Peter M. Toner, editor. It names over 21,000 immigrants, gives date of arrival and county and civil parish of residence, and traces one-third of them to the county of birth in Ireland. [FGS FORUM]

- The Joint Archives of HOLLAND is a repository that specializes in the migration of Dutch to America, especially the later migration of Dutch to the Midwest beginning in 1847. This history research center includes manuscript and archival records, some information on Dutch in the US census and passenger ship information, and other materials on Dutch ethnicity. The Joint Archives is the union of the archival collections of the Holland Historical Trust (Netherlands Museum), Hope College, and Western Theological Seminary and is located on the ground floor of the Van Wylen library, 10th and College in Holland, MI. Requests for information can be addressed to Larry J. Wagenaar, the Joint Archives of Holland, Hope College Campus, Holland, MI 49423. Limited research (maximum of two hours) will be conducted by the archives' staff at \$5 per half hour. Please include a SASE with your inquiry.

[FGS FORUM]

• MORE RESEARCH HELPS FROM HERE & THERE

- FELLOWSHIP OF BRETHREN GENEALOGISTS is for those who have an interest in Dunker/Brethren/Mennonite Roots. Membership is \$8/year. Send to Fellowship of Brethren Genealogists, 1551 Dundee Av, Elgin IL 60120. [From Joe Bosserman, NGC Mar 93 NNY-BBS via CCCGS N/L May 1993]

- NEW YORK FOUNDLING HOME - The home that sent children on the Orphan trains in the late 1850's has opened its records to adult adoptees. Write NY Foundling Hospital Record Information Office, 1175 Third Av, NY, NY 10021 or Orphan Train Society of America, Rt 4, Box 565, Springdale AR 72764 CCCGS N/L June 91]

- MORE MAPS - Thode Translations, RR7, Box 306-cat, Kern Rd, Marietta, OH 45750-9437, has black & white pre-WWII maps in a scale of 1:100,000. Send SASE for a catalog.

- NORTH CAROLINA MAPS - County maps which contain information going back to as early as the 1600's and identify churches & cemeteries are available from Lucy Stout, 1209 Hill St, Greensboro, NC 27408. A large pamphlet/index comes with each map. Cost varies but is generally between \$15 & \$30.

[Jack Williams on NNY-BBS via CCCGS N/L June 93]

- ENGLAND PRO - "A Visit to the Public Record Office" is the name of an article by Joanna Hosteny (Mary Jo's niece) in the April 1993 issue of the Chicago GS Newsletter. If you would like to read it, see the editor or Mary Jo.

• WAS YOUR RW SOLDIER BRITISH?

The aforementioned article cites a book which provided the most help in locating the record of an ancestor who was in the British Army, regiment unknown. The book by John M. Kitzmiller II *In Search of Forlorn Hope* Manuscript Publishing Fdtn, Salt Lake City, 1988 is divided into sections by time periods and then by area, lists the regiments located there. Once a limited number of regiments are identified, muster rolls can be searched.

• BLACK DUTCH

If you have a tradition of "Black Dutch" ancestry in your family, contact Datarace Systems, PO Box 1587, Stephenville, TX 76401 or call 817/965-6979. The term is variously described as referring Spanish-Dutch, Black Forest origin, or an intermingling of French, Indian or ??? An in-depth study of families claiming Black Dutch descent is being undertaken to further clarify these traditions.

[CSGA N/L Apr 1993]

• COMPUTER MODEMS

ADDENDUM - The local Bulletin Board Service mentioned at the May meeting is NNY-BBS ("No-Name-Yet") at 510/827-5714. The October 1992 SRVGS N/L listed some of the echo areas.

• GENEALOGY CLASSES

BETTE KOT will be teaching two series of classes July 12 - August 16 at Lafayette Community Center at 500 Saint Mary's Rd, Lafayette (284-5050). From 10AM-noon "Local Libraries & Their Uses". Trips are on the schedule. From 1-3PM Intermediate Genealogy is offered. Senior fee: \$15 + \$3 donation to the Center; Non-Seniors \$45.



GOTTSCHEE ALIVE!

by Kate Prunte



[SRVGS Member Kate Prunte, now living in Sonora, attended a wonderful "reunion" last year -- not of a family but of a geographic heritage. Thanks, Kate, for the reminder that genealogy is more than lists of names and dates on a chart.]

As many of you members know, my grandfather, whom I never knew, came from a place called *Gottschee* (pronounced Goat SHAY). It was a German settlement begun in the 1300s and as a culture, obliterated after WWII. A smallish area, roughly 330 square miles, it gradually became surrounded by the Slavs. In 1918, it was ceded to the new kingdom of Yugoslavia. This government began the systematic suffocation of the community by outlawing German books, teachers, and public discourse. In 1941, Hitler made them citizens of Germany and, because he had given their area to Italy, moved the Gottscheers near the Austrian border into homes of Slavs, who went to live in the homes of the Gottscheers because they were more comfortable with the Italians. Of course, this last was a lie. The Slavs were put in German concentration camps. At the end of the war, being German citizens, they were ousted from their traditional homeland by Tito. Many of the smaller cities had been burned, cemeteries desecrated. An estimated 75% of the citizens came to the US, others are in Austria and Germany. A few remained.

I had learned most of the above from papers, articles and correspondence with people who came from there, but I had never met anyone. This past June, I joined a small Gottscheer Western Reunion in Salt Lake and had the chance to meet four people who were born there. Most of them in the late thirties. Two sisters told how their mother cleaned the house from top to bottom at Christmas time, only to bring in all the farm implements to be blessed on Christmas morning. I heard about the new year's loaf that was shared by the entire household, including the stock. I learned the marriage custom: when the eldest son married, the farm was immediately given to him and the new wife. She shared in the inheritance, thereby making her, as part

owner, work harder to keep everything in good repair. Many young widows never remarried in order to hold onto this property. I heard the dialect spoken -- barely intelligible even to me. And I met a man who looked like grandfather, back from the grave. To our knowledge, we are not related, but it sure is spooky and I'm sure I spent most of one afternoon staring at him.

Each of us who attended this reunion came with some things the families had somehow hung onto. These were shared with the rest of us. Each of us had some pieces of information, these too were shared and all of us became more knowledgeable. Each of us had a talent and shared with the group. I was one of four who could read German, and helped those who were unable, to translate birth and marriage information at the Family History Center. I was the only one who could figure out the Latin in these records and another lady could master the French (for a very brief time, Napoleon had control of Gottschee).

At the end of our three day session, we were resolved to somehow make this place known in the history of Europe. To survive 630 years in the face of marauding Turks, plagues, over-population, looting, the rise and fall of political freedoms, all the while being surrounded by the Slavs, but never engulfed by them, was indeed one remarkable feat. But to have this history unknown, unpublished, and therefore, forgotten with this the last generation of Gottscheers seemed worse than all of the plagues together.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: As you travel and do research this summer, please write a paragraph or two for the Newsletter about any unique resource, a special technique or insight that will help someone else in their family history research.]

● TAPES ADDED TO TAPE LIBRARY MAY 1993

- C-114 CHECKING AMERICAN SOURCES - HOW TO KNOW WHERE IN IRELAND
Carol Burdick
- C-115 IRISH GENEALOGY PRE-1864 Carol Burdick
- C-116 NEW DISCOVERIES IN IRISH GEN.SOURCES Carol Burdick
- C-117 PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS Dr. Louis Marks
- C-118 NEW YORK CITY RECORDS Dr. Louis Marks
- C-119 ENGLAND PROBATE RECORDS David Gardner
- C-120 GEN.SOURCES IN THE CA STATE ARCHIVES 1982 Joseph Samons

● NEW COMMERCIAL TAPES RECEIVED

Available June Meeting

- C-121 COUNTY MAPS: HOW TO GET THEM AND HOW TO USE THEM
RP NGS 92 by Desmond Allen
- C-122 WHAT ALL SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TRACING SCOTTISH ANCESTORS
RP NGS 92 Paul F. Smart
- C-123 IRELAND 1700-1800: DISCOVERING SOURCES
RP NGS 92 Paul Gorry
- C-124 FINDING YOUR NINETEENTH-CENTURY GERMAN IMMIGRANT
RP NGS 92 by Wm.Schoeffler
- C-125 COMPILING AND PUBLISHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY
RP NGS 92 by Brian E. Michaels
- C-126 CREATING A FAMILY OR SURNAME PERIODICAL
RP NGS 92 by Craig Roberts Scott
- C-127 FROM SAFE TO YOUR SHELF: MASSACHUSETTS VITAL RECORDS
RP NGS 92 by Jay M. Holbrook
- C-128 GENETIC TOOLS FOR GENEALOGISTS
RP NGS 92 Thomas H. Roderick
- C-129 SOCIETY STRATEGIES FOR PRESIDENTS AND VICE-PRESIDENTS
RP FGS 92 Marsha Hoffman Rising
- C-130 SCANDINAVIAN RESEARCH SOURCES & METHODOLOGY
RP FGS 92 Ruth Ellen Maness



SRVGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

● SRVGS COMMITTEES FOR 1993-4

Alliance Representative FRANCES LLOYD
Book Reviews MARY JO HOSTENY
Cassette Library

FRANK & NANCY WILLIAMS
Education BETTE KOT
Freebies JO BOLENBAKER
Friends of the Archives Representative
FRANCES LLOYD

Genealogy Forms DOTTIE RICHARDSON
Historian BARBARA JOHNSON
Hospitality CHARLOTTE THOMPSON,
BARNEY RUBIN, JANE SINGLETON,
SHEILA FASS

Library Trips MARY JO HOSTENY and
SHARON BRECHTEL
Newsletter Editor DOROTHY STANTON
Newsletter Printing FRANCES LLOYD
Newsletter Mailing BARBARA DITTIG and
LUCY CARVER

Program Taping WIN KYNETT
Program Reporters JANE STEINER, SANDY
KIMBALL, and CHRISTINE SCOTT
Publicity DAVE & PENNY BROWNE
Special Interest Groups

Coordinator WENDY HABERMEHL
One-day Groups CAROL GLOVER
Special Projects PATTY ERICKSON

● TAPE LIBRARY

Shirley Terry received the new tapes purchased recently with the "donations" from borrowers [see previous page]. She added them our Tape Library before turning it over to the new Librarians, Frank and Nancy Williams. The tapes will be available at the June meeting.

Tapes added to the library in May (#C114-20) were "rescued" by SRVGS member Ardith Steger from FHL discards during their recent move. Most were talks given at various classes and seminars. These have been previewed by members. Some were not added because of audio quality, etc.

Two tapes were reassigned numbers of lost tapes:

- C-31 INTRODUCTION TO QUAKER RECORDS/GENEALOGY Ernest W. Henderson
- C-81 OHIO RESEARCH (includes info on Ft. Wayne Library in IN) Barbara M. Dalby

● WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:
HUMPHREY, MARJORIE, 2900 Stone Valley Rd, Danville 94526 (837-4323)

- [More MEMBERSHIP NEWS on last page.]

TO BE SURE YOUR NAME IS IN THE 1993-4 DIRECTORY -- GET YOUR DUES IN ON TIME! [See below]

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! DUES ARE PAYABLE JUNE 1st, DELINQUENT JULY 1st!
SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____
Street City Zip Code (9 digits)

Please list 2 surnames being researched (for Individual Membership) or 4 names (for family membership) to be listed in our Directory's Surname Index.

- (1) _____ Locale & yrs _____
(2) _____ Locale & yrs _____
(3) _____ Locale & yrs _____
(4) _____ Locale & yrs _____

Individual Membership \$15.00 _____ Family Membership \$20.00 _____

Please send this form and your check, made payable to SRVGS, to:
ED O'DONNELL, PO BOX 366, DIABLO, CA 94528-0366



MEMBERSHIP NEWS [Continued] CONGRATULATIONS!

To IRMA DOTSON on the publication of her new book: *OUR McGINNIS FAMILY*. She had the very able and experienced assistance of husband JIM DOTSON in type-setting and publication. The Publishing Group had the pleasure of a report and preview on May 26. Congratulations to both, not only on getting research results in print, but in doing it in such a high-quality way!

● THE SKELPIES DID IT!

From the Clan Gregor Society comes the suggestion that when errors appear in newsletters, it's probably the work of the "Skelpies" -- a marine animal-like form that traditionally caused trouble for the Scots. So you can blame the Skelpies (and the editor's Scots ancestry) for calling SHARON CLAY "Virginia" in the May Newsletter and for somehow causing the "1992" to appear in the date of the April 1993 Newsletter. Frances Lloyd says that's how the pages 77 & 78 got reversed last month too!

● TO ALL DADS

From a Father's Day card my husband received from our daughter:

"There must be something to this heredity stuff. I get my charm, intelligence and good looks from you. You get your gray hairs from me!"



REMINDER: TO RECEIVE THE
JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER, BE SURE
TO PAY YOUR DUES!



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



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