

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. 2

JULY/AUGUST 1993

● NEXT MEETING: JULY 20, 1993
PROGRAM: IT'S "TIME TO ORGANIZE"
SPEAKER: TUDI BASKAY

Is clutter getting underfoot? Are you losing productivity? Tudi Baskay will present ideas geared to the genealogist in her July talk to SRVGS. She is a member of the National Association of Professional Organizers. Her talk will inspire some new techniques and systems that help with the piles of information that seem intrinsic to genealogists.

Here are some ideas she thinks are very important:

- * that getting rid of the stress caused by disorganization is as important as the increased efficiency and productivity that organization brings;
 - * that an individual organizing plan should be developed to suit each person's personality and work habits;
 - * and that no one system is right for everyone.
- This talk will be useful to all researchers!

Sandy Aberer & Bette Kot, Program

● LAST MONTH

by Jane Steiner

KATHY BEALS, Research Director at the California Genealogical Society, gave a most interesting and entertaining talk about some of the research she has done for clients.

Early on in researching her own genealogy, she learned that her grandmother's birth certificate contained four factual errors about her grandmother's parents. Thus she is skeptical of what clients tell her until she has substantiated it with facts.

She had some very good visual aids for the audience.

When the spelling of a name was important, she had made a large version (about 11x17) to hold up for the audience to read easily. She had also enlarged her grandmother's birth certificate for the audience's benefit. This was so helpful, other speakers should adopt it. The research examples she told about were fascinating; be sure to borrow the tape of the meeting to hear them.

Kathy had some suggestions for letters sent to professional researchers: 1) Type or print it; 2) Include an SASE, but also include your return address on the letter; 3) Ask about one family only; tell what you

know and the sources of your information. Include as much specific data as possible. Never send just a person's name without dates and location(s). 4) Keep the letter to 1-2 pages with the backup information to 2-3 pages. Some people send far too much information.

She felt people get the best results when they give her "free rein" and tell her to find out as much as possible about their family. Of course, she needs to know what they have already searched.

Kathy has answered more than 1,000 letters in her four years doing research for CGS which

● [LAST MONTH cont'd on page 17]



JULY

- * 14 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p.13]
- 15 - Thursday 1-3PM Mt Diablo GS Civic Bank of Commerce Community Room, 1940 Tice Valley Blvd, WC. Speaker: Bill Dickinson "Ancestors and Numbers."
- * 20 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 12:30PM ROOTS Group. DEMONSTRATION of ROOTS IV by Ed Turpin of Commsoft. [see p.13]
- * 28 - Wednesday 10AM Publishing Interest Group [see p.13]
- 31 - Saturday 10AM-noon PAF Users Group at Fam Hist Cntr, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord.

AUGUST

NO SRVGS MEETING IN AUGUST - NO AUGUST NEWSLETTER

- 11 - Wednesday 9AM East Bay GS Meeting at Oakland Mormon Center. Program: a speaker from the Oakland FHL will tell how to do German Research using the resources of the library.
- 12 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Speaker Robert Westby, CC Co Records Manager will explain the procedures used in cataloging county records and how we will benefit as genealogists.
- * 25 - Wednesday 10AM Publishing Interest Group [see p.13]

SEPTEMBER

- * 7 - Tuesday 10am SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- 8 - Wednesday 9AM East Bay GS Meeting at Oakland Mormon Center. Paul Hawking will discuss German Migration to the US in the 19th century.
- * 14 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p.13]
- * 15 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p.13]
- * 21 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting: Ellen Deuel from Modesto will speak on "The Importance of joining a Heritage Society".

CONFERENCES - NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

- AUGUST 4-6 BYU 1993 Genealogy & Family History Seminar. Call 801-378-4853 or write Conferences & Workshops, 136 Harman Bldg, Provo UT 84602.
- AUGUST 5-7 Federation of Genealogical Societies & Missouri State Gen Assoc. Conference, St. Louis MO, "Gateway to the Past". For info write FGS Business Office, PO Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-4735. A complete list of programs is published in *FORUM* Summer 1993. The 1994 FGS Conference will be October 12-15 in Richmond VA.
- SEPTEMBER 23-24 Windsor CT: 1630 Worldwide Mary & John Conference. Contact Don Bergquist, Family Society Tours Ltd, 24 Murray St, Norwalk, CT 06851 (203) 227-8103
- SEPTEMBER 24-26 Wilsonville OR "Family Trails", co-hosted by the Milwaukie GS and Clackamas Co FHS for Genealogical Council or OR. Part of the national Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial Celebration with emphasis on genealogical topics. Contact Karen Hubbard, Mailwaukie Family Seekers, c/o Ledding Library, 10660 SE 21st Av, Milwaukie, OR 97222
- SEPTEMBER 30 to OCTOBER 3 Annual Conference of California Historical Society at the Doubletree Hotel in Pasadena. To receive registration materials, send name, address and phone number to: California Historical Society, 2099 Pacific Av, San Francisco CA 94109, Attn: Annual Conference.

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.

IRISH CONGRESSES

September 17-23, 1993 - The Ulster Historical Fdn third genealogical conference "Discovering That Elusive Irish Ancestor, The Practical Approach." Half the time will be spent in Northern Ireland, then the conference moves to Dublin in order to allow visits to major repositories in Dublin and in Ulster. For more information contact: Mr. John A. Walsh, Ulster Historical Foundation, 12 College Square East, Belfast BT1 6DD, Northern Ireland.
 September 22-29 1994 The Second Irish Genealogical Congress will be held at

Trinity College, Dublin. The Congress Committee is preparing for publication a selection of the lectures given at the First Congress. The book should be available by summer and will cost approximately 8 IR pounds. For more information on both the Congress and the book, contact: IGC Committee, c/o Genealogical Office, 2 Kildare St, Dublin 2

SCHWEITZER SEMINAR

October 23 Stanislaus Co GS will host a seminar by Dr. George Schweitzer at Modesto Center Plaza. For more info write the Society at PO Box 4735, Modesto, CA 95452.

● 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: July 14 & September 15.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday 10AM. Next meetings: July 29 at Shirley Terry's and August 25 at Bea O'Rand's. The August meeting will include an afternoon TOUR of TAURUS BINDERY in Berkeley. Contact Jane Steiner 283-0867.

ROOTS III - Meets 12:30PM on Tuesdays following the general meeting at the Danville Women's Club House. In July ED TURPIN of COMMSOFT will demonstrate the soon-to-be-released ROOTS IV. Non-RUG members are welcome to attend; COMMSOFT will be offering special upgrade prices to owners of other genealogical software. Contact: Sandy Kimball (283-8677)

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM second Tuesday of month. No summer meeting. Next meeting: Sept 14 at Barbara Irwin's 1400 Canyonwood Ct #8, Rossmoor (939-8522). Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - If you are interested in research in England, Scotland, & Wales, contact Ron Skilton 254-6989. A time and place for first meeting will be announced in September.

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

● RESEARCH INFORMATION

● TIPS FROM MEMBERS

FROM LUCY CARVER & EUNICE REESER - Lucy brought friend Eunice Reeser to our June meeting. Eunice (now a SRVGS member) belongs to the Orphan Train Heritage Society because her mother was an orphan who rode the train out of NY. She reports that the new name and address for the organization is Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, 4912 Trout Farm Rd, Springdale, AR 72762; mailing address is PO Box 496, Johnson, AR 72741-0496; Tel. (501) 756-2780; Fax #(501) 756-0769. Their quarterly publication is CROSSROADS. The editor, as well as founder and director, of OTHSA is Mary Ellen Johnson.

● PIONEERS O PIONEERS!

One method of getting your ancestry on record is to register your early settler for one of the pioneer certificates offered by historical and genealogical societies in various areas. The names and applications are often published, microfilmed and made available to other researchers.

● ILLINOIS - The Chicago Genealogical Society issues COOK COUNTY PIONEER Certificates to direct descendants of early residents of Cook Co and Chicago. Applicants need not live in Cook Co but must be directly related to someone who settled in the area before the Chicago Fire, 9 Oct 1871. Write Chicago Genealogical Society, Pioneer Certificate, PO Box 1160, Chicago IL 60690-1160 for further information. [Chgo GS N/L Jan 93] PRAIRIE PIONEER Certificates are issued by the Illinois State Gen Soc to direct descendants of early settlers of IL. A gold seal with a ribbon on the certificate is awarded to those directly descended from an ancestor who settled in IL prior to statehood (3 Dec 1818); a gold seal is given for ancestors who settled between 1819 and 1850; and a stamped seal marks an ancestor who settled between 1851 and 1880. Cost is \$5. Instructions available from Ron Nichols, RR #1-Tr 17, Toledo, IL 62468.

● MINNESOTA - The National Society, First Families of Minnesota is for those who are

descendants of MN residents prior to statehood (May 1858). For more information, write to Arthur L. Finnell, CGRS, 3917 Heritage Hills Dr #104, Bloomington, MN 55437.

● OREGON - To commemorate the sesquicentennial of the migration, the Oregon Trail Project is issuing special certificates to anyone whose ancestors came west via the Oregon Trail between 1811 and 1911. For an application, write: Oregon Trail Project, 4620 Overland Rd, #206, Boise, ID 83705. [From SMC GS Nov 92 via CSGA N/L Jan 93]

● FIRST FAMILIES OF TENNESSEE - In honor of Tennessee's Bicentennial in 1996, the East TN Historical Society is sponsoring a heritage program titled "First Families of Tennessee" to identify and recognize all descendants of the first residents of the state of TN. The applicant must be able to prove direct descent from an ancestor who settled in TN prior to June 1, 1796. Qualified applicants will receive a handsome certificate featuring the applicant's name and the

name of the applicant's ancestor. The information furnished by applicants will be placed in the McClung Historical Collection. There, as a resource for other researchers and genealogists, it will serve as a valuable addition to the history of Tennessee and a source of information for future generations. For more information or an application form, contact the East Tennessee Historical Soc, 500 West Church Av, Knoxville, TN 37902 or call 615/544-5732.

The Society announces that former President GEORGE BUSH recently became a member of FFT on the record of his great-great-grandfather, Jonathan Wear, who fought at King's Mountain and settled in Blount Co in the 1790's.

- **WISCONSIN** - The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society issues Pioneer Certificates to people with ancestors who settled in Wisconsin before 1850. In order to qualify, interested persons must be able to prove their ancestors' residency by one official record, such as a census, a county history, birth, death or land record. Applications can be obtained by sending a SASE to the society at PO Box 5106, Madison, WI 53705-0106.

[OK GS Qlly, 1993 via Chgo GS May 93]

- **UTAH** - Certificates are issued to direct descendants of early Utah settlers in one of two categories: **FOUNDING PIONEER** for settlement in Utah between July 1847 and 9 Sept 1850; **TERRITORIAL PIONEER** for settlement between 9 Sept 1850 and 4 Jan 1896. Documented evidence must accompany the application. Cost is \$10. UGA is abstracting the applications and publishes some of them in their newsletter. Write UT Genealogical Association, PO Box 1144, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. [FORUM 4:3]

● HELP WANTED

- **LONDON JEWS** - The Jewish West End Project has been formed to gather information, memories and memorabilia in order to provide a history of the background and everyday life of the Jewish community in London's West End from the late 1800's until recent times. The objectives are to hold a Major Exhibition, which will open in May or June of 1994, and to assemble a permanent collection of material within the Museum, and to produce a written account of the findings as an authentic record of life in the Jewish West End. The area defined as the "West End" lies within the boundaries of Euston Rd - Grays Inn Rd - Theobalds Rd - New Oxford St - Shaftesbury Av - Cambridge Circus - Charing Cross Rd - Leicester Sq - Regents St - Oxford St - Marble Arch and Gloucester Pl.

The Research Committee is chaired by Mrs. Sally Fiber, 8 New Farm Ln, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1HD, England. She would like to hear from anyone interested in contributing ANY family history information that can be used in the exhibit. She is particularly interested in tracing all former Jewish West Enders who attended the Jews Westminster Free School, the West Central Boys Club (Fitzroy Sq) and the West Central Girls Club. [From David Abrahams, President, Livermore-Amador GS 737 El Caminito, Livermore, CA 94550. David would be pleased to hear from anyone who has materials to send to this project; his father's grandparents lived in this community after leaving Russia in the 1880s.]

- **DELAWARE FAMILIES PROJECT** - To document persons who were resident in Delaware from 1787 through 1800, send verified data to Delaware Families Project for

publication. For prescribed format, send SASE to: Delaware Families Project, 505 Market St Mall, Wilmington, DE 19801. [From FGS FORUM Summer 1993]



● PRESIDENTIAL PEDIGREE -

The New England Historical & Genealogical Society, which traditionally does a pedigree for each new president, is asking for help on the family lines of William Jefferson BLYTHE IV (President Bill Clinton) -- which doesn't surprise anyone who has done research on Southern families!

A six generation ancestor table is published in the Dec 1992 issue of NEHGS NEXUS (Vol IX #6) -- the result of extensive research in Salt Lake City by a team of NEHGS genealogists, including David Dearborn and contributions by other genealogists around the country. The new president has ancestral ties to all the Confederate states, plus Kentucky & Scots-Irish Pennsylvania. Moreover, 3 gt-gt-grandparents are said, on census records, to be natives of Ireland. [No wonder they need help!]

Fairly rare surnames include SNELGROVE and SPRADLEY; more common ones include ADAMS, HOWARD, LOCKHART, MALONE, RUSSELL, and WILSON. Since only one or two lines have been traced to immigrants, "speculation about pre-American nationalities is premature," notes Mr. Dearborn. The names sound English, Scottish, Scots-Irish, Irish, or (in the case of BAUM) German -- a typically Southern ancestry.

[Editor's note: The family table will be posted at our July meeting.]

NOTES ON NAME CHANGES

President Clinton is the second president who changed his name by taking a stepfather's surname; the first was Gerald R. Ford, Jr. Genealogists, who spend much of their time tracing names, find name changes the biggest obstacle to following family lines (next to burned records, that is). Following are a few gleanings on the subject:

- From an article by SYDNEY J. HARRIS, Field Newspapers (via Douglas Co KS GS):

Pondering the history of name changes, he offers the suggestion that in the Middle Ages, when surnames first came into vogue, many of the names were derogatory: "The Bald," "The Lame," "The One-Eyed," etc. Then, as they climbed the social ladder they added prefixes ("De" or "Von"), sometimes even when they were not entitled to them, as in the case of Beethoven.

In the New World, Mr. Harris notes, immigrants changed their names to blend with the ethnic majority [see below]. Paul Revere's father, changed his name from "Rivoire," upon arriving from France. Much earlier, the explorer Giovanni Caboto, changed his name in middle age to John Cabot, when he moved from Venice to London and discovered Newfoundland for the British.

- From an article by RAY ORROCK in SRV Herald 22 Apr '93, he cites a letter from a Dick McKay of San Leandro: "I was born Richard James Braan, pronounced "bran." In school I was called "Bran Muffin," "Bran Flake," etc. After 29 years of spelling it, I took my mother's maiden name". . . under a California civil statute which allows one alias -- as long as there's no attempt to deceive.

"If you wish" he says, "you may introduce yourself thusly: 'Hello; I'm BROWN, spelled S-M-I-T-H, pronounced 'JONES'."

After much fruitless search, some of us are ready to believe that is just what our ancestors did!

● ANGLICIZED SURNAMES

Many of our ancestors wanted to "fit in" when they reached America so they changed or shortened their surnames to a more familiar English-American version. SMITH may be a shortened form of GOLD-SMITH OR SMITHWICH, or from the German SCHMIDT, the Scandinavian SMED, French LEFEVRE, Italian FERRARO, or Russian KUZNETZVO.

[Editor's Note: Don't forget GOWEN, Gaelic for Smith]

JOHNSON and JACKSON are common American surnames and mean "son of John". The Danish would be JENSEN, JANSEN, or HANSEN. In Ireland it would be McSHANE or MacEOIN, Swedish JONSSON, or JOHANSON, Dutch JANSON, Hungarian JANOSFI, Russian IVANOV, and Polish JANOXICZ. [Gen Soc of Sarasota FL via SMC GS N/L Mar 92]

Some names changed because of the way they were pronounced.

● HOW DO YOU SPELL...?

Whenever you wonder how names come to have such varying spellings, think about how pronunciation differs from a standard spelling of the name. For example: FEATHERSTONEHAUGH pronounced in England "FANSHAW; CHOLMONDELEY pronounced "CHUMLY;" MAINWARING pronounced mostly in England as "MANNERING;"

WEMYSS in Scotland is pronounced "WEEMS;" STRACHAN as "STRAWN;" LABUSCHAGNE pronounced in So Africa as "LABUSHANE" or "LABU-SKACH-NEE" ("ch" like German guttural)

It is easy to see why a family member might just change the spelling to more closely approximate pronunciation, or how some "official" might enter the name the way it was said, never coming close to the proper spelling.

[CCCGS N/L Aug 92 adapted from Mike Fisher IGC Jan'92]

Editor: My favorite is TALIAFERRO pronounced (in the South, at least) "TOLLIVER." Sometimes the middles of names were "swallowed" so that names appear interchangeably in records: e.g., ROBINSON/ROBERTSON; SOUTHERLAND/SUNDERLAND.

● AND then there are the SMITHS:

[From an exchange on The TIMES BBS, Albany NY between a Katherin (Smith?) McArthur and a Col. Sessions]

"If Col. Sessions will look up his ancient history he will find that anybody who was anybody in the olden time was named SMITH. As time went on and on, occasionally one of the SMITH clan would steal a sheep or commit some other crime, and promptly a meeting of the leaders of the clan was called and his name immediately was changed to Session, Kelly, Morrow, McNeal, Chase, Nichols, etc. Those of us who have not, as yet, sinned and are still pure are still named SMITH. Now the truth is out!"

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

NO SRVGS LIBRARY TRIP
IN JULY OR AUGUST● NATIONAL ARCHIVES● THINK YOU HAVE A
STORAGE PROBLEM?

"There are 100 billion pieces of paper in storage that the US government has to deal with. If laid end to end, the paper would wrap around the Earth 986 times. Federal records centers around the country have a capacity to store 18.5 million cubic feet of documents and they now hold almost 17 million cubic feet, so space is running out." according to Dave Kuehl of the Nat'l Archives. The National Archives ends up keeping and preserving only 3 percent of all the paperwork produced by US government agencies and still, space is at a premium.

[From article in Chicago Tribune Magazine Section, Nov 24, 1991 by reporter Anne Keegan.]

- ON THE MOVE - The National Archives building at College Park MD, known as Archives II, will open for research in 1994. Preparations are underway to move more than one million cubic feet of records from facilities in Suitland MD, Alexandria VA, and the National Archives Building in Washington DC.

Archives II will augment, not replace, the National Archives Building (Archives I) in Washington. Both Buildings will operate as archival facilities with different emphases. Archives I will continue to serve as the principal location for public programs and genealogical research. Films, lectures, and workshops will continue to be offered to the public downtown with supplementary programs offered to the university community and public at College Park.

Records remaining in Archives I will include those relating to genealogy, selected series of American Indian records, military records prior to WWII, Maritime records, the courts, the Congress and the Great Depression and New Deal Agencies.

The Genealogical Records Cluster will include Post Office, Bureau of Land Management, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Selective Service System, Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, and the Patent and Trademark Office.

Archives II will house military records from WWII to the present, state department and foreign relations records and special media records. Microfilm copies of textual records will be located with the original records.

This complex move of records and 600 staff members will cause some inconveniences during the moving period of December 1993 - December 1995. For further information, call the Public Affairs Office of the Archives at 202/501-5525.

[NGS N/L 18:5 and 19:3]

- NEW ARCHIVIST - Archivist of the US Don W. Wilson resigned on 31 March 1993 to become executive director of the George Bush Center for Presidential Studies at Texas A&M Univ. Dr. Trudy Huskamp Peterson, assistant archivist, will serve as acting archivist until a new one has been appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. Organizations in the fields of history, archival management, libraries, and genealogy, among others, are closely monitoring the nomination process for a new archivist. [NGS N/L May/June 93 & FGS FORUM Summer 93]

● LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

- SUMMER HOURS - The seven reading rooms of the Library of Congress will close on Sundays for the summer beginning on 30 May. The 7 include the Law Library and the Main, Newspaper and Current Periodical, Science, Microform, and Local History & Genealogy reading rooms. On 12 September, Sunday hours of 1-5PM will resume. Monday through Saturday hours remain the same. For further information on the hours of all Library reading rooms, call the recorded message at (202) 707-6400.

- WARNING: Librarian of Congress James H. Billington warned a congressional committee that cutbacks in locally financed public libraries puts Americans "in serious danger of eroding a unique legacy laboriously created by our forebears" even as public demands for modern library services increase and two-thirds of all Americans use a library in the course of a year.

The new electronic age makes the nation's 15,000 public libraries "more, rather than less, important to the progress of the United States in the 21st Century." Electronic information "will vastly supplement not destroy the book", Mr. Billington testified in April. The public library has a role not only in preserving the paper record but also in serving as local distributor for many information services. Linked by new technology to one another, to university libraries, and to the Library of Congress, these local libraries, "unpublicized yet deeply cherished and heavily used in thousands of communities" can play a vital role in the coming Age of Information.

[From NGS N/L May/June 1993]

● ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES

Nearly 500,000 marriages have been entered into the mainframe database being developed by the ISGS and the IL State Archives. About 75 IL counties (of 102) are now represented, although data entry is far from complete for many counties. State Archives staff will search the most recent release of the Marriage Records Microfiche for specified marriages and send photocopies of pages from the listing if the names are found. Please limit requests to two marriages per letter. There is a charge for copies of \$.50/page. Do not send money; a billing statement will be sent with the copies. Send requests to Illinois State Archives, Archives Building, Springfield, IL 62756 [ISGS N/L Mar/Apr 93 via Chgo GS N/L June 93]

● KENTUCKY ARCHIVES -

Beginning March 1, 1993, KY Dept for Libraries & Archives' Research Room and Archives Center has increased minimum charge for photocopies requested by mail and telephone. Minimum fee is raised to \$3.00 to cover cost of mailing and handling. 300 Coffee Tree Rd, PO Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602-0537 (502/875-7000) [from Watauga Assoc. Bulletin May 93 contrib by Nancy Williams]

● TEXAS LIBRARY - The

Genealogical Collection of the Texas State Library has indexes to TX births and deaths from 1903 to 1976. The index for 1903-1909 is an alphabetical list; 1910-1976 are separate lists for each year. The staff will search the entries in the indexes for 5 names or years and make copies upon written request. The charge is .15/pg (minimum of \$1.00). Do not send advance payment. Copies of birth & death certificates can be obtained by sending the

index information plus \$7.50/copy to Bureau of Vital Statistics, 1100 W 49th St, Austin, TX 78756.

● LOS ANGELES PUBLIC

LIBRARY - The announced dates for the LA Library closing to move to the new library site are: May 29 to October 3.

● IRELAND - If you plan a trip to Dublin to do research at the National Library later in the year, it would be wise to check with the Library before traveling. The Library usually closes in November for inventory but this year it's possible that the Library may be closed for an extended period before that for roof repair.

[IRISH ROOTS #1 1993]

* * * * *

● RECORDS PRESERVATION & ACCESS

The National Genealogical (NGS) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) have agreed to a combined effort to address the issues of records preservation and access. Working together, and with other genealogical societies, this cooperative venture will advise the genealogical community on how to ensure proper access to vital records, affect legislation, and support strong records preservation policies and practices. NGS and FGS encourage societies and individuals to participate in this effort. Those with information or suggestions concerning current records access or preservation issues are encouraged to write to the Federation of Genealogical Societies, Records Preservation and Access Committee, PO Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385, or to the committee chairman, James W. Warren, 1869 Laurel Av, St. Paul, MN 55104-5938. [NGS N/L 19:2 1993]

● BOOK REVIEWS

by Mary Jo Hosteny

● HOW TO CLIMB YOUR FAMILY TREE by Harriet Stryker-Rodda. Gen Pub Co, 1977, soft cover, 144 pp.

In this handy little book, the author shows beginners how to find clues in family keepsakes and memorabilia, and introduces them to the varied sources of information including county records, census and immigration records, military and church records - to grave-stones, wills and mortgages. You will learn how to trace your roots beyond the oceans to their country of origin, and search for the answers to "Where do I come from? Where did my ancestors live, how did they support themselves, and what traits or talents did I inherit from them?" Unraveling your own family history makes for exciting detective work. This book is simply laid out and should be of help to the rank beginner.

● WELSH TRACT OF PENNSYLVANIA, *The Early Settlers, extracted from the Welsh Settlement of Pennsylvania*, by Charles Browning. Family Line Pub, 1990, soft cover, 296pp

This little book would be of interest to anyone descended from the early Welsh settlers in PA who were given their grant by William Penn as a refuge from persecution in Wales. It covers the latter part of the 17th century and the first half of the 18th, and is complete with a good index.

[Available from Genealogical

Resources: Frances Lloyd 837-9382 or Bette Kot 707/554-4814]

● [LAST MONTH cont'd]

is limited to California; many of the letters are from out of state. The charges are \$12/hr for CGS members and \$15/hr for non-members. She loves researching and I'm sure she gives clients more than their money's worth.

● TAPE LIBRARY

From FRANK WILLIAMS, Tape Librarian:

A review of cassette tapes in our library shows we have some very good ones which have not been checked out for several years. Before removing these to make room for new tapes, let's give them a chance to be known and used. Remember, if you check tapes out at the July meeting, you get an extra month free of cost since we do not meet in August.

● UNDERUSED TAPES OF CLUB SPEAKERS

- M-1 TRACING LOST PERSONS John Ferris
- M-3 GENEALOGY, THE ROADMAP TO HISTORY Phillip Breck
- M-4 PREPARING FOR A GENEALOGY TRIP Bette Kot
- M-5 TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS John Roake
- M-6 PRESERVATION TECHNIQUES Ann Doss
- M-11 THE FAMILY ARCHIVES Mary Ellen Jones
- M-14 COLLECTING DEAD RELATIVES Laverne S. Moore
- M-15 TOMBSTONES Mary Ellen Jones
- M-17 PERSONALITIES OF THE CIVIL WAR Robert Moog
- M-22 SOURCES & EVIDENCE Lindsay Reeks
- M-23 IRISH SETTLERS in the SAN RAMON VALLEY Joseph King
- M-24 KEEP YOUR RESEARCH FROM BECOMING LANDFILL Marilyn Fullam
- M-28 SHARE AN ANCESTOR - SOLVE A PROBLEM (panel 11/90)

● UNDERUSED COMMERCIAL TAPES

- C-2 HISTORICAL SITE DOCUMENTATION Elizabeth S. Mills
- C-7 PREPARING GENEALOGY FOR PUBLICATION David C. Dearborn
- C-13 TWENTIETH CENTURY RESEARCH David C. Dearborn
- C-36 MGMT OF GENEALOGICAL MATERIAL W/O COMPUTERS Bill Linder
- C-48 VETERANS RECORDS James D. Walker
- C-49 MILITARY RECORDS James D. Walker
- C-54 RESEARCH IN ALABAMA Mary Bess Paluzzi
- C-63 POLISH RESEARCH Edward Peckwas
- C-66 CADASTROLS & CASTLES: CZECH-BOHEM. RESEARCH John Marvin
- C-82 SOURCES FOR GEN. RESEARCH IN POLAND Daniel Schlyter
- C-98 DEVELOPING FAM. ASSNS - PUBL. A FAM. MAGAZINE Mary M. Harter

● NEW TAPES FROM 1993 NGS CONFERENCE

The following tapes were purchased at the National Genealogical Society Conference in Baltimore by Shirley Siems Terry who took \$80 of SRVGS tape monies for such purpose. She couldn't resist a "good deal" so made a donation of \$9 in order to buy a total of 12. The handouts for these talks will be added to our Tape Books. Shirley reports she did not buy the two tapes promised as neither got good marks from those who attended the sessions.

- C-131 FINDING FATHERS: BRIDGING THE GENERATION GAP Elizabeth Shown Mills
- C-132 HOW DID THEY DIE? LOCATING DEATH RECORDS AND CREATING MEDICAL FILES
Marsha Hoffman Rising
- C-133 NEW JERSEY RESEARCH IN THE COLLECTIONS OF RUTGERS UNIV Janet T. Riemer
- C-134 GOING SOUTH: MARYLAND, DELAWARE & PENNSYLVANIA TO SOUTH CAROLINA
Brent Holcomb
- C-135 VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA'S "MOTHER" COUNTRY Helen F.M. Leary
- C-136 PENNSYLVANIA LAND RECORDS: AN OVERVIEW Jonathan R. Stayer
- C-137 GENEALOGICAL GOLDMINE: THE RECORDS OF OLD SETTLERS' ORGANIZATIONS IN
THE MIDWEST Paula Stuart Warren
- C-138 CIRCUMVENTING BLOCKED LINES: STRATEGIES FOR THOSE LINES YOU'VE GIVEN
UP ON Sandra Hargreaves Luecking
- C-139 COUNTY & LOCAL JUDICIAL RECORDS IN KENTUCKY Frank Levstik
- C-140 OLD WAR & WAR OF 1812 RECORDS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES Marie Varrelman
Melchiori
- C-141 NEW RESOURCES FOR EASTERN & CENTRAL EUROPEAN RESEARCH Gary Mokotoff
- C-142 THE CRITICAL CONNECTION: LINKING GENERATIONS BETWEEN 1850 AND COLONI-
AL PERIOD Marsha Hoffman Rising

● TAPE REVIEWS

● C-81 "OHIO RESEARCH"

Speaker: Barbara M. Dalby

Reviewed by Sandy Kimball

This is a good recording with a good overall view of Ohio research, but not as definitive as the original C-81 by Frank Levstik.* Ms Dalby did offer good suggestions for where and how to find records and where to send for them. The original title was "Ohio and Indiana Research," but she ran out of time before getting to Indiana. She did include a brief explanation of the Ft. Wayne Library in Indiana.

* Ohio researchers are lucky that Sandy took very thorough notes on the lost tape, "Finding Your Way Through Ohio Genealogy" by Frank Levstik. The information is in our tape books which can be checked out and photocopied. The lost tape was replaced by C-113 "Tracing Families - Western Reserve in Ohio Back to Connecticut" by Kip Sperry. [Shirley Terry]

● C-118 NEW YORK CITY RECORDS, PT 2

Speaker: Dr. Louis S. Marks

Reviewed by Jane Steiner

San Ramon GS only has a "Part 2" tape of this talk given at a seminar sponsored by *Genealogists International*. So if your ancestor lived in Richmond or the Bronx, you're out of luck because those must have been on the "Part 1" tape. But if your ancestors were in Queens, Long Island, Brooklyn or Manhattan, this tape is a MUST!

Dr. Marks is just full of information on what records are available for what dates, where they can be found, and he gives the full addresses, even telling where the building is located in case you go in person. So don't listen to this while you're walking or riding in a car. You'll need a pencil and lots of paper.

He evidently is writing the addresses on a chalk board as he gives them in a loud, clear voice. This makes it easy to copy them without repeatedly rewinding and playing sections of the tape over.

He says the secret to research in New York is to know what you want. But if you go there, the clerks are not going to teach you how to use the system. They are all overworked.

If you can't get Dr. Marks to do your New York City research, this tape is the next best thing. Thought there is some interference toward the end, I highly recommend it.



SRVGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

● SRVGS BUDGET FOR 1993-94

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$1,950
Tape donations	100
Miscellaneous	312
hospitality	50
forms	12
Roots 3 rent	250
Total =	2,362

OUTGO

Rent for soc mtgs	500
Postage for newsletter	400
Newsletter duplication	500
Speakers (10 @ \$40)	400
Tape purchases	100
CA Alliance Mbrship	20
Diablo PO Box rent	7
Officer expenses	30
Mbr Directory printing	120
Miscellaneous	10
Roots 3 clubhouse rent	250
Contingency Reserve	25

2,362

Adopted by Executive Board 6 April 1993 for fiscal year 1 June 1993 - 30 May 1994

● JOB DESCRIPTIONS

President Shirley Terry requests all last year's Board & Committee Members to please get your updated job descriptions to her as soon as possible.

● HERITAGE QUEST

As presented at the June meeting, members have an opportunity, not only to try a new periodical, but to earn money for SRVGS. For every new Heritage Quest Magazine subscription, the Society will receive \$5. Each subscription includes six issue and three free queries for \$28. Just send/give your check made out to Heritage Quest to Cindy Wheeler, 266 Montego Dr, Danville 94526, by August 1st. Any questions can be directed to Cindy at 743-1322.