

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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

President: Carol Glover
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. 5

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1993

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 16, 1993

● PROGRAM: MORTUARY & CEMETERY RECORDS

What can the genealogist find in the records of mortuaries and cemeteries? Mr. ALAN L. FISHER of the East Lawn Memorial Parks & Mortuaries of Sacramento will be our speaker. Mr. Fisher is the Bishop of an LDS Stake in our capital city. Being a genealogist himself, he understands our needs for these records.

-- From Frances Becker, Program

● LAST MONTH

by Christine Scott

The October meeting was presented by a panel of speakers from the SRVGS Publishing Interest Group, Barbara Johnson, Bea O'Rand, Jane Steiner, Dorothy Stanton, and Shirley Terry. The goal of the program was to encourage members to publish their genealogical material. Copies of books written by SRVGS members were on display.

After introductory words by Barbara Johnson, Bea O'Rand discussed the origin of the project of the group. Bea cited the warning words of Marilyn Fullam in a speech about research becoming land fill. The message is, "Get it in book form."

Jane Steiner, present chairman of the Publishing Interest Group and the moving force of the book Print, Publish, Preserve talked about the process of assembling and publishing

the book. SRVGS authors were asked to give a report of how they published their books. What did they do? These reports were compiled and are the basis for the book -- a self-publishing guide for family historians.

Jane discussed several possibilities for putting the material into printed form, ranging from working with a professional publisher, to printing it yourself on a copy machine. She also discussed and demonstrated various methods of binding the book.

Dorothy Stanton discussed several ways of illustrating your book with charts, maps, drawings, clip art, plus some methods used in reproducing photographs.

Other ways of getting your family story into print were described by Shirley Terry. She has done several family newsletters, contributed to genealogical society quarterlies,

professional magazines, centennial issues, published collections of family letters, and even a family recipe book.

Be sure to attend the November meeting to view and buy this valuable book - Print, Publish, Preserve.

● TO ORDER YOUR BOOK see the flier enclosed with this newsletter. Profits from the sale of the book will be donated to the SRVGS Special Projects Fund which funded the printing.

[Editor's Note: Buy extra copies for holiday gift-giving!]

The SRVGS Publishing Interest Group members who compiled and wrote Print, Publish, Preserve were Marilyn Fullam, Barbara Johnson, Bea O'Rand, Dorothy Stanton, Jane Steiner, and Shirley Terry. Jane did the computer formatting and printing.

[For more on Writing and Publishing see page 39.]



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



NOVEMBER

- * 9 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p.39]; 7:30 LAGS Meeting
- * 10 - Wednesday 10AM East Bay GS Meeting will be a Work Meeting at UCB Doe Library Newspaper Room. Barbara Hill will speak at the luncheon at the Women's Faculty Club. For info try Josef Schmitt (n/l editor) at 510/532-5947.
- 11 - Thursday 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Topic: "Starting & Managing a Family Newsletter" by Dorothy Koenig.
- 13-14 - Saturday & Sunday NAT'L CIVIL WAR ASS'N at Concord Naval Weapons Station. Public battles and encampment. Watch for newspaper announcements.
- * 16 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 12:30 ROOTS Interest Group [see p.39]
- 18 - Thursday 1-3PM Mt. Diablo GS, Civic Bank of Commerce Community Rm, 1940 Tice Vly Blvd, WC. Program: Don Milberger "New Developments in Computers."
- * 22 - Monday SRVGS Library Trip [see p.41]
- 27 - Saturday 10AM-noon PAF Users' Group Family History Ctr, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord.

DECEMBER

- * 7 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY & COOKIE EXCHANGE at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Drive, Danville. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- NO SRVGS MEETING AND NO NEWSLETTER IN DECEMBER *** HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

JANUARY 1994

- * 4 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's.
- * 11 - Tuesday 10AM Southern Interest Group Meeting [see p.39]
- * 12 - Wednesday 10AM Irish Interest Group Meeting [see p.39]
- * 18 - Tuesday 10AM SRVGS Meeting: Margery H. Bell will speak on Using Newspapers in Family History Research.

PLANNING AHEAD - LOCAL EVENTS

February 5 - Commodore Sloat Chapter DAR & Monterey FHC 10th Annual Seminar.

March 19 - California Mini-reunion of Orphan Train Heritage Society of America (OTHSA) in Sacramento.

April 15 & 16 - Ninth Annual CGS Family History Fair, 699 Eighth St, SF.

- ★ May 7 - SEMINAR sponsored by SRVGS and Contra Costa Co GS. The speaker will be LLOYD DEWITT BOCKSTRUCK, supervisor of the Dallas Public Library genealogy section and teacher of genealogy at Southern Methodist University. For 20 years he has served as lecturer and course coordinator at Samford University's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research.

OFFICERS TO CONTACT

President: Carol Glover 829-7207
 Vice-Pres.: Bea O'Rand 837-1760
 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.

NATIONAL EVENTS

- National Genealogical Society Conference June 1-4 1994 in Houston TX.
- Great Lakes Conference, August 4-6 1994 in Fort Wayne IN.
- Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, October 12-15 in Richmond VA.

PLAGUE ANNIVERSARY

NOVEMBER 1993 marks the 200th anniversary of the end of the Great Plague of Yellow Fever in Philadelphia, then our nation's capital. A deadly combination of circumstances -- heat, drought, and the arrival of 2000 refugees from the slave revolts in Santo

Domingo where the fever raged -- led to one of the great tragic episodes in the history of this land. Before the plague ran its course with the coming of winter frosts, at least 5000 were dead -- almost ten per cent of the population in three months' time. Based on exhaustive historical research, BRING OUT YOUR DEAD by J.H. Powell (Univ of PA Press, 1949 ; reprint Time-Life Books) describes in vivid detail [don't read it before dinner] the city, events and, in particular, the role of Dr. Benjamin Rush whose treatments did almost as much harm as good.

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

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

GERMAN - Meets 1PM November 16 (after general meeting) at Barbara Johnson's, 616 Camino Amigo, Danville -- a short distance from the Danville Women's Clubhouse.

IRISH - Meets 10AM each second Wednesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). No meeting in November. Next meeting: January 12, 1994.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: January 26. Contact Jane Steiner 283-0867.

ROOTS USERS' GROUP - Meets 1-3PM on Tuesdays following the general meeting at the Danville Women's Club House. Contact Sandy Kimball (283-8677).

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meetings: November 9 at Maryhelen Ewing's, 1033 Upper Happy Vly Rd, Lafayette (283-1304); January 11 at Charlotte Thompson's, 1091 Via Roble, Lafayette (284-5328). Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - (Research in England, Scotland, & Wales) Next meeting: 1:30PM Monday, February 1 at Ron Skilton's, 19 Martha Rd, Orinda (254-6989).

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

◀ RESEARCH INFORMATION ▶

TIPS FROM SRVGS MEMBERS

- FROM LUCY CARVER: JOIN LOCAL SOCIETIES - I joined the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society in PA in order to receive their magazines, newsletters and booklists.

One of their books entitled, History of the Engle Family in America 1754-1927, caught my eye as one of my Hershey ancestors had married a Barbara Engle both from Lancaster County. I sent for the book feeling sure "this was it." I was not wrong. Sure enough, there was Barbara Engle, 4th generation, married to my Jacob Hershey. It listed as well, their children, specifically Susan Hershey's marriage to Capt. William Reitzel. Susan and William were my father's grandparents. I had not intended to pursue the Engle line, but now I have it all the way back to the immigrant ancestor.

Anyone interested in joining this society can do so by sending \$25.00 to Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Rd, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.

[EDITOR'S NOTE] To add my own testimonial: I thought I had reached a "stone wall" with my Charles Brown who died

1824 in Maury Co TN. The \$10.00 I paid to join the county Historical Society gave me, through their past publications, not only Charles' birthplace in Carncastell Parish, County Antrim, Ireland ca 1765 but also his parents' and some grandparents.

The Genealogical Helper lists local genealogical and historical societies in its July/August issue each year.

- FROM CLIFF GANT, former member who contributed to our Publishing Survey, his advice about writing and publishing a book:
 1. Do it now.
 2. On the other hand, don't be in a hurry but take the time to do a good job.
 3. Don't worry about small differences in dates, especially when you're making assumptions based on partial information. And don't worry about a few typos; nobody is perfect.
 4. To keep cost reasonable, prepare camera-ready sheets on a computer. If you can't do it, get someone who can. Even if you do it, get as much help as you can to set your work up right. To produce a book the old-fashioned way by having someone type it, having a printer set up type, etc., will

cost at least three times the cost of preparing camera-ready sheets from your computer. As a matter of fact, you can buy a very nice computer, printer, etc. with the savings.

5. Spread copies of your book all over the place. Take a tax deduction on copies donated to the right places.

6. Don't promise to produce a revised edition.

7. But, keep collecting additional information and correcting the information in your book to answer questions that will arise. Maybe someone else will publish a revised edition!

8. It's a whole lot of fun and very satisfying.

● HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!
NGS WRITING CONTEST.
The Eighth Family History Writing Contest, sponsored by the National Genealogical Society, has a deadline of 28 February 1994. Entries may be submitted in one of two categories: Early American Families or Contemporary and Later-Immigrant Families. The contest winner will receive an expense-paid trip to the NGS Conference in the States in Houston, TX, 1-4 June. Previously published manuscripts are not eligible.

Rules are available from NGS Family History Writing Contest, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-3499. "Write Your Family History", which explains the NGS Quarterly numbering system and covers other specific content, format, and submission rules, is available from the same address for \$5.

● HELP WANTED

- OSTFRIESAN FAMILY HISTORY - "The Wind Mill", is a new quarterly newsletter featuring Ostfriesan Family History. The Editor seeks articles, art, photos, maps, historical documents, etc., particularly about Ostfriesans in America. Subscription costs \$12. For more information, send SASE to Helen Harvey, Editor, c/o Rainbow City Publications, PO Box 8447, Berkeley, CA 94707-8447..

- WWII EUROPE & AFRICA VETERANS - Pierre Salinger is looking for the names of 5 million men and women who fought in Europe and North Africa during World War II. Salinger is chairman of the "Wall of Liberty" Committee of the battle of Normandy Foundation, which plans to carve the names into a series of walls that will be built in Caen, Normandy, near the Allies' D-Day landing spot.

Because a fire in the veteran's record center in St. Louis destroyed so many records, veterans or their families are asked to submit names directly to the project. Application may be obtained by calling 800/WW2-VETS. [Via CCCGS N/L Nov 93]

- WOMEN IN THE MILITARY - A monument to record the history of women in the military will be erected at the main gate of the Arlington National Cemetery. The proposed memorial will be a high tech register where visitors can call

up the name of a veteran on the screen, see her photograph, read her biography and share the reminiscences of her military career. Contact: Women in Military Service Memorial, Dept 560, Washington DC 20042-0560. [ZichronNotes XXII:1 via CCCGS N/L 5/92]

● VITAL RECORDS

- MASSACHUSETTS - Archive Publishing, 57 Locust St, Oxford, MA 01540 has available a set of two microfiche (for \$12/set) titled "Bibliography of Massachusetts Vital Records 1628-1900" which list the vital records microfilmed by Jay Holbrook from the originals. The fiche set gives the birth, marriages, deaths and other miscellaneous town and city records that were available, tells you how many fiche and what they cover in each town. The cost of each fiche is \$6.00. [Chicago GS N/L Oct 93 citing a review in Rota-Gene Aug-Sept 93]

- NEW YORK CITY - The New York City Department of Health has turned over to the Municipal Archives birth certificates for 1898-1909 and death certificates from 1930-1948 for all five boroughs. The availability of these certificates to researchers (in person or by mail) is an unexpected but extremely welcome development. [from NYG&BN/L via Chicago GS N/L Oct 93]

OHIO - The Bureau of Vital Statistics has a new address: PO Box 15098, Columbus OH 43215 [Chicago GS N/L Oct 93]

● COMPUTER CORNER

- ROOTS IV - Commsoft is offering a competitive upgrade of the all-new ROOTS IV to users of other genealogy software for \$99 (plus shipping). The offer expires Dec 31, 1993. The program will include RootsWriter and GEDCOM in the same package. It can export using RTF (Rich

Text Format), store and retrieve photographs -- and (they promise) is much more "user-friendly!" System requirements for the Extended Version: MS-DOS with at least a 386SX microprocessor, 4 MB of RAM. The program requires 15MB of hard disk space plus approx 5 MB per 1,000 people. Contact Commsoft 800/327-6687 or order through Genealogical Resources 510/837-9382 (Frances Lloyd) or 707/554-4814 (Bette Kot).

- PAF - The Concord Family History Center has a folder containing the PAF REVIEW, comprehensive information about shareware and freeware utilities which work with and enhance the Personal Ancestral File program. This is a print-out of the file PAFRV932 which was downloaded from NNY-BBS. [CCCGS n/l Oct 93]

- GENDISK - The first issue of GenDisk Magazine is now available, according to a review by Carla Ridenour in NGS/CIG Digest (Jul/Aug 93). This bimonthly publication is "printed" on a 3-1/2" or 5-1/4" floppy disk and occupies approximately 360K space when installed on your hard drive. System requirements include: MS-DOS with 640K RAM and mouse. VGA or EGA monitor is recommended. GenDisk promises to be an excellent resource for computer genealogists. Editor Beverly DeLong Whitaker, of Kansas City MO has selected a wide variety of articles. Publication and distribution is through Daniel Hay of Advanced Resources.

Subscription: \$19.95/yr; a trial issue is available for \$5.00. Contact: Advanced Resources, 144 Parrish Square #144, Centerville, UT 84014 (801/773-3238).

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● **SRVGS LIBRARY TRIP FROM MARY JO HOSTENY:**
MONDAY! MONDAY! The library trip for November will be to the Solano County Genealogical Society Library in Vacaville. Members leaving from Danville will meet in the parking lot at the back of the Lucky Store on Diablo Rd at 8:30AM on MONDAY November 22nd. The SCGS Library has an excellent collection of reference books and county histories, a fine coverage of Solano Co itself, the California Death Index from 1940-1989, and California marriages for 1960-1985. There are over 70,000 entries in their card file.

Members wishing to leave from points north please call Mary Jo Hosteny (932-2244) to make other arrangements. [Editor's Note: See page 42 for some of the books Mary Jo found at the library]

● **LOCAL LIBRARIES**

Libraries have reduced hours due to budget cuts. Some area libraries' hours follow.

- **CONTRA COSTA CO Central Library, Pleasant Hill:**
 Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, noon-8PM; Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, 10AM-6PM.
 The Library hotline is 1-800-984-INFO (9AM-9PM, Mon-Thurs; 9AM-6PM Fri & Sat)

- **OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**
 The Oakland Main Library and the Newspaper Room are open Sunday 1-5PM; Monday, Tuesday, Saturday 10-5:30; Wednesday & Thursday noon-8PM; Friday noon to 5:30. The Oakland History Room is closed all day Monday and Saturdays until 1PM, otherwise the hours are the same as those of the Main Library.

[Above items from CCCGS N/L Nov 93]

- **NATIONAL ARCHIVES SAN BRUNO** - Frances Lloyd, SRVGS Archives Rep, reports that the archives will be open on the first Saturday of each month, beginning in November, only if enough volunteers are available. More help is needed for coming months. Call Rose Mary Kennedy 415/876-9009 to volunteer.

The Archives is beginning fund-raising to purchase microfilms of Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York 1820-1897.

Frances also reports that San Bruno has acquired the Galveston TX Passenger Lists.

● **STATE**

- **LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY** - The newly refurbished LA Public Library opened to the public on October 3. Hours are: Sunday 1-5PM; Mon & Thurs thru Sat 10-5:30; Tues & Wed noon to 8PM.

Entrance to the library facilities is on Hope and Flower Sts. The History/ Genealogy Section is located on lower level 4 (LL4). For up to the minute information, call 213/228-7000 [Orange Co GS N/L 27:10 via CCCGS N/L Nov 93]

● **NATIONAL NEWS**

- **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COMPUTER ACCESS TO LOC CATALOG** - The Library of Congress Information System (LOCIS) is now available to the general public on the Internet, a nonprofit collection of computer networks that links an estimated 20 million computer users in more than 100 countries. Previously, access had been available only to researchers at the Library, Library staff, congressional offices, and selected institutions and agencies.

LOCIS includes more than 15

million catalog records for books, microforms, music, audiovisuals, manuscripts, microcomputer software, serials, maps, name and subject references, and in-process items. It also contains citations to federal legislation (1973-), copyright registrations and legal documents (1978-), braille and recorded materials, selected foreign legislation (1976-) and foreign legal references (1989-), and a listing of 13,000 organizations that provide information, arranged by subject.

Access to Internet is provided through a variety of sources unrelated to the Library of Congress. These sources include computer centers in academic, business, and government organizations, library networks, commercial vendors and gateways, local entrepreneurs, electronic bulletin boards, and National Science Foundation regional networks. Although the Library of Congress charges no fees for access to its files, many Internet access providers do charge fees to connect to Internet.

Individuals and organizations that do not already have access to the Internet should contact their local library for further information or call the INTERNIC Information Services Referral Desk, (800) 444-4345 Mon-Fri 5AM-&PM (Pacific time) to request a list of Internet access providers.

[The host address for access to LOCIS is locis.loc.gov (140.147.254.3). The Library supports both 3270 and line mode for access to its files. Complete instructions for searching LOCIS will be available on the initial screens presented to users upon connecting to LOCIS. Except for national holidays, LOCIS will be available for searching at the following times (Eastern). Mon-Fri 6:30AM-9:30PM; Sat 8AM-5PM; and Sun 1PM-5PM.]

From NGS Newsletter 19:3

- **NATIONAL ARCHIVES - GREAT LAKES REGION** at 7358 S. Pulaski Rd, Chicago has purchased rolls 94 through 99 of **Records of Imperial Russian Consulates in the United States, 1866-1922** (Microfilm Publication M1486). The records on these rolls specifically relate to the Chicago Consulate between 1906 and 1920. [from Polish GS of America Bulletin Summer 1993 via Chicago GS N/L Oct 93]
- **INTERLIBRARY LOAN SOURCES** - A 33-page booklet *Interlibrary Loan Sources - A Guide for Librarians and Genealogists* compiled by Annette W. Curtis for Mid-Continent Public Library (1993) is available free by writing to: Mid-Continent Public Library, Genealogy and Local History Department, 15616 E. 24 Highway, Independence, MO 64050.
 ALSO, a catalog of the materials available for loan at Mid-Continent Public Library and at the Alexander Mitchell Public Library in Aberdeen, SD can be requested from the American Family Record Association, PO Box 15505, Kansas City, MO 64106. A \$5.00 fee is charged for postage and handling. Together they are 150 pages long. These two libraries are repositories for the association so a wide variety of genealogy related material is housed there. [from Martha L. Meyers, Gen Librarian at Mid-Continent Pub Library, at FGS Conference 1993 via Chicago GS N/L Oct 93]
- **FT. WAYNE, INDIANA** - The card catalog of the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana is now accessible from your home by modem. There are no access charges but you will be charged for a long distance phone call unless you are in Ft Wayne. You will need a

computer with a modem and communications software. The dial-up access number is 219/424-1330. Communications settings should be 1200 baud, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity, VT-100 emulation.

[New Brass Key, Oct-Nov 92 via NW MO GS Jul 93 contributed by Nancy Williams]

- **OHIO - KENT STATE UNIVERSITY** (Kent, Ohio) has available for research an extraordinary microfilm collection of **Southern Plantation Records**. The documents cover the following areas: from the early 1620s to 1865 in the states of Virginia, South Carolina, Maryland, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida and Tennessee. [Knox Co IL GS June 93 via Chicago GS N/L Oct 93]
- **AMA LIBRARY** - The American Medical Library maintains a library and an archives. Although the files are incomplete from 1878 to 1905, they are comprehensive from 1906 to 1969. The Deceased Physician Master file contains information on more than 350,000 physicians. There is a \$15 (in 1991) research fee per name, write AMA Library and Archives, PO Box 10623, Chicago, IL 60610. [Fresno GS, July 1991]



BOOK REVIEWS

by Mary Jo Hosteny

- **MAYFLOWER BIRTHS AND DEATHS**, by Susan E. Roser. From the files of George Ernest Bowman at the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, Vol. 2. GPC, 1992, soft cover, 548 pp.
 This is an exhaustive genealogy of the families of Stephen Hopkins, John Howland, Richard More, Degory Priest, Thomas Rogers, Henry Samson, George Soule, Miles Standish, Richard Warren, William White, and Edward Winslow. It ends with an excellent

cross-index of some 55 pages. Each family is followed by extensive footnotes. Would that we could all tie into such well-documented families! Available from Gen. Resources.

The following books are available at the Solano County Genealogical Society library, 620 Main St., Vacaville. They may be available in other libraries such as Sutro.

- **ABSTRACTS OF GRAVES OF REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOTS**, Vol 1-4, by Patricia Law Hatcher. Pioneer Heritage Press, Dallas TX, 1987, hard cover.
 These books list the graves of soldiers and patriots of the American Revolution, and were compiled originally by the DAR as part of their annual report to the Smithsonian Institute. From 1900-1974 they were published as a Senate Document, but in 1975 publication was taken over by the DAR and put out in separate volumes until 1978 when they began publishing them in the DAR magazine.
- **CALIFORNIA PIONEER REGISTER AND INDEX, 1542-1848**, including *Inhabitants of California, 1769-1800*, and *List of Pioneers, extracted from the History of California* by Hubert Howe Bancroft. Originally published 1884-1890

Inhabitants of California 1769-1800 list contains over 1700 names of male inhabitants of the province, selected from mission registers, company rosters, pueblo padrones, and from thousands of miscellaneous documents in the archives. *Pioneer Register & Index 1542-1848* contains biographical material, information regarding nationality, occupation, achievements, death, and family connections of each

subject, as well as date and manner of his coming to California, and his connection with public life. Subjects are listed alphabetically, but there is no general index.

- *COLONIAL FAMILIES OF THE SOUTHERN STATES OF AMERICA*, by Stella Pickett Hardy, 2nd ed., reprinted by GPC, 1991, hard cover, 643 pp.

This reference book traces in depth the family pedigree of 66 families of the old South from Adams to Wyatt, with an index of over 10,000 names. Treated are those Southern families whose forbears were established in the Colonies before the formation of the 13 original states. Each family is preceded by a brief overview of the family's background, country of origin, and arrival on these shores.

- *COLONIAL SOLDIERS OF THE SOUTH 1732-1774* by Murtie June Clark, GPC, 1983, hard cover, 1246 pp.

The American Colonies were organized into militia districts for defense in the absence of a regular army. When threatened, the colonists formed militia companies for temporary service. A portion of each trained band was required to march on short notice when an emergency arose, and came to be known as minutemen. These units developed into state regiments and became part of the regular army. Transcripts of most of the extant militia records from the southern colonies are presented in this book. The introduction gives a brief history of the formation of the various colonial militias.

- *GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY OF MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE*, by Sybil Noyes, Charles Libby and Walter Davis. GPC, reprinted 1979,

hard cover, 795 pp., originally published 1928-1939 in 5 volumes.

The contents of this valuable book are arranged the same as in Savage's Genealogical Dictionary of New England, except that each head of a family is given a paragraph and numbered. Under each surname the Heads of Families are arranged alphabetically, and readers are referred to the paragraph treating that person's parentage. There is no general index since the book itself is an index. An excellent reference book for this area.

- *DIRECTORY OF SCOTS BANISHED TO THE AMERICAN PLANTATIONS, 1650-1775*, by David Dobson. GPC, 1983, hard cover, 239 pp.

During the 17th and 18th centuries thousands of Scots immigrated to the British colonies. From 1650 to 1830, when it was declared illegal, banishment and transportation to the colonies was a traditional punishment for certain crimes such as rebellion, adultery, or forgery. At certain periods the addition of political prisoners turned the trickle into a torrent. In the aftermath of the Civil War, Cromwell transported thousands of Scottish soldiers as prisoners to Virginia, New England and the West Indies. This book is itself an index, so there is no general index.

- *THE COMPASS*, Vol 1, compiled by Lawrence B. Bangerter. Everton Publishers, Logan, UT, 1983.

This is a concise compilation of all vessels and sources listed with reference made of all their voyages and some dates of registration. It is designed to answer the questions "What vessel did my ancestor come over on?" and "Where did they come from or and where did

they arrive?" It lists the ships by name, origins or embarkation, destination, dates operated, etc. This book is a bibliography, and refers the searcher on to the appropriate manifest for location of his ancestor. It does not answer every genealogist's questions, but it may have that one source that will solve your problem.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

● NEW MEMBERS

HUGHES, Sue 2757 Canyon Creek Dr, San Ramon 94583

LONG, Richard 3039 Lunada Ln, Alamo 94507

SILEN, Ora, 1224 Singingwood Ct #2, Walnut Creek 94595 (935-0659). Researching HIGHT, WI, NJ; PALMER, CT.

- NEW ADDRESSES - Please make directory changes for

KIMBALL, Mary L. "Sandy", 3520 Rossmoor Parkway, Walnut Creek 94595

GOODHOLM, Kitty, 5581 So. Danube Court, Kearns, UT 84118

- ADD TO LIBRARY LIST:

CONCORD FAMILY HISTORY CENTER, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord (510/686-1766). Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday, 9AM to 9PM; Saturday 9AM to 1PM.

GLEANINGS: DEFINITIONS FOR GENEALOGISTS

AHNENTAFEL - A German word meaning Ancestor Chart. It is a listing of direct line ancestors using the same numbering system as pedigree charts. Number 1 on the chart can be anyone; the father is always double the number of the child, the mother is double + 1. Thus males are always even numbers; odd numbers are always female (#1 can be either). The advantage is that you can list more ancestors per page. Ancestors as yet unknown can be listed by number -- or not -- as you choose. [adapted from article by Shirley Terry in LAGS *Roots Tracer*.]

CHRISOM CHILD or BABE - Ruth Weld of CCCGS found this term while researching a CT family in 1630's. Her Oxford dictionary gave this explanation: a. A child in its chrisom cloth, an innocent babe. In obits, applied to a child that died during the first month, or that died unbaptized. b. Chrisom cloth or robe -- a white robe, put on a child at baptism, it was used as a shroud. [CCCGS N/L Oct 91]

H/F after a person's name Found in marriage and birth records, the letters stand for the term HANDFAST. It is basically a sign of the confirmation of a form of "uncanonical, private or even a probationary form of marriage". Handfasting was a form of announcing a union between a man and woman who wished to live together as husband and wife before receiving the blessing of the church. The couple would stand before a group of their peers, hold their clasped hands above their heads and state their intentions. The agreement was good for a year and a day, or until the preacher came to perform the rite of the church. If at the end of the specified time, each wished to go his own way, they could do so with no ties. No matter what happened, any child born of a Handfast was considered legitimate and would inherit.

[Abstracted from the Southern Genealogists Exchange Qtly, Vol 30 No 131, via Manasota FL GS N/L Oct 90] EDITOR'S NOTE: Has anyone come across this designation in their research? I'd like to know what ethnic group or time period & locale used this.

GENEALOGIST - . . . a full-time detective, a thorough historian, an inveterate snoop, and at the same time, a confirmed diplomat, a keen observer, a hardened skeptic, an apt biographer, a qualified linguist, a part-time lawyer combined with quite a lot of district attorney, a studious sociologist, and -- above all, an accurate reporter. [by Ethel Williams quoted in *Family Historian*]

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL