

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. 7

FEBRUARY 1994

PROGRAM: FEBRUARY 15, 1994

* SHOWTIME starring Members of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society *
Our meeting for February will feature members who will Show and Tell--or just Tell--of research FINDS! The stories can tell of the joy of finding an elusive ancestor, or disappointment because the search was not fruitful, or you have found out that someone you had in your ancestor chart was the wrong person. Learning comes from this process for all of us. Some members have already signed up to be on the program, but others of you should call if you would like to participate.

--Frances Becker, Program

LAST MONTH by Sandy Kimball WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE--AND STILL "RED" ALL OVER?

Perusing a century-old newspaper from your ancestor's hometown can be the answer to a host of genealogical search problems. So said Margery Bell when she spoke before the Society's January meeting.

The trick in gleaning vital records and other tidbits about your family's past is understanding how old-time papers were set up, she explained. "The earliest papers are not too helpful," she explained, as they tended to concentrate on international and national news. But, beginning around the Civil War, many small town weeklies sprang up. Their reason for existence was to publish what passed for local news--in reality "gossip."

It is this "gossip" that can answer so many genealogical questions as no other source can. Obituaries in the 1860s, for instance, often contained enormous amounts of information about the deceased, his family and his parents. "You'll find birth dates and places, relationships and family history in these columns," Ms. Bell said.

Even if a family moves away, the paper in their former town may still reprint an obituary. She further explained that newspaper coverage didn't stick just to county lines or even state borders and urged researchers to look for papers in adjoining counties and states.

In addition to big city dailies and hometown weeklies, the speaker pointed out, was the existence of a variety of specialized papers that flourished in the 19th century.

These include foreign language, religious and railroad employee periodicals.

In a handout which accompanied Ms. Bell's talk, a two-page Annotated Bibliography of Newspaper Sources was distributed to Society members. These sources list the existence of old newspapers and the depositories where they may be found. The FHL has filmed many of these sources, and the best of these in Ms. Bell's opinion--"American Newspapers, 1821-1936" by Winifred Gregory--is available at both Concord and Oakland Family History Centers.

* * * * *

- Reserve MARCH 26 for an all-day FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR co-sponsored by SRVGS and the Danville LDS Stake on Old Orchard Rd. [see page 59 for details]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- * 8 - TUESDAY 10AM Southern Interest Group [see p.55]; 7:30PM Livermore-Amador GS Meeting at Cong. Beth Emek, 1866 College Av, Livermore. Program features copying of old photos. For info call Beverly Ales 846-5297.
- * 9 - WEDNESDAY 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p.55]; 10AM East Bay GS Meeting, Oakland.
- 10 - THURSDAY 9AM-12noon National Archives Workshop [see p.57 for more]; 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Program: Tom Crews from the CCC Historical Society will talk about the Pony Express with its terminus in SF, and his genealogical research on one of the riders.
- * 15 - TUESDAY 10AM SRVGS Meeting; 12:30 ROOTS Users Group, German Interest Group
- * 22 - TUESDAY Library Trip [see p.57]
- 26 - SATURDAY 8:30AM-4PM Lloyd Bockstruck Seminar "Genealogical Problem Solving" sponsored by GS of Stanislaus Co at Modesto Centre Plaza, Ash-Magnolia Rm, 1000 K St, Modesto. Contact Don Wilson, 209/869-3966. Topics will differ from May 7 Seminar in Danville [see attached flyer for May 7].
- 26 - SATURDAY 10AM PAF Users' Group meets at Concord FHC, 3700 Concord Blvd.

MARCH

- * 1 - TUESDAY 10AM SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.
- * 8 - TUESDAY 10AM Southern Interest Group; 7:30PM LAGS Meeting [see Feb 8]
- * 9 - WEDNESDAY 10AM Irish Interest Group [see p.55]
- 10 - THURSDAY 7:30PM Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr Concord. Program: Muriel James "The Agony and the Ecstasy."
- * 15 - TUESDAY 10AM SRVGS Meeting: "What to do with Conflicting Evidence," by Bea Hicks.
- 19 - SATURDAY California Mini-reunion of Orphan Train Heritage Soc of America in Sacramento. For information contact Eunice Reeser 934-7107.
- * 26 - SATURDAY 9AM - 3PM [Register 8:30AM] Family History Seminar sponsored by the Danville LDS Stake and SRVGS [see below]

PLANNING AHEAD

- April 15 & 16 - Ninth Annual CGS Family History Fair, at The Fashion Center, 699 Eighth St (near Brannan), SF. Information on classes will be in March SRVGS Newsletter.
- April 23 - Sacramento German GS Seminar "Solving Your German Research Problems" with Larry Jensen at Northminster Presb Church, 3235 Pope Av, Sacramento. For info: Ralph Ruff 707/448-5565.
- May 7 - LLOYD D. BOCKSTRUCK SEMINAR sponsored by SRVGS & CCCGS at Danville Theater.

OFFICERS to Contact

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HISTORY NOTES

- GEORGE WASHINGTON: MEDICAL MARTYR
 On December 13th, 1799, George Washington summoned his doctor after coming down with a sore throat. His doctor bled him four times, injected him with poisonous mercury, gave him more mercury by mouth, then blistered his throat with a compound of vinegar and dead bugs. After enduring this torturous treatment for a single day, the Father of Our Country begged his doctor to leave him alone and let him die in peace --which he did, at 10PM on December 14.

[via Solano Co GS The Root Digger W92.]

● ADVICE FROM LINCOLN

A woman once wrote Abraham Lincoln asking for a bit of advice and his signature so that she might have it for a keepsake. She did not include a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE).

Lincoln replied, "When asking strangers for a favor, it is customary to send postage. There's your advice and here is my signature - A. Lincoln." [from Hemet-San Jacinto GS via Odom Family Tree]



SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

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

GERMAN - Meets at 12:30 following the general meeting at Barbara Johnson's, 616 Camino Amigo, Danville (837-2153). Bring a bag lunch.

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

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: March 30 at Bea O'Rand's, 16 Ashford Ct, Alamo. Contact Jane Steiner, 283-0867, if you have a publishing project you would like help with.

ROOTS USERS - Meets 12:30PM on Tuesdays following the general meeting at the Danville Women's Club House. Contact: Sandy Kimball (945-0277).

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meetings: March 8 at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Place, Pleasant Hill (229-0889); April 12 at Nancy Williams'. Contact: Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - Research in England, Scotland & Wales. Next meetings: 1:30PM Monday, March 21 at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl, PH; 1:30PM Monday April 25 at Maryhelen Ewing's, 1033 Upper Happy Valley, Lafayette. Contact: Ron Skilton 254-6989.

ATTENTION INTEREST GROUP CHAIRPERSONS: PLEASE REPORT PROGRAMS & CHANGES TO WENDY HABERMEHL 735-0737

* * * RESEARCH INFORMATION * * *

● TIPS FROM MEMBERS

From ALICE WADE and PAT MARTIN: Lost someone? A database called MetroNet has a "National Look-up 900 Service," which you can access by telephone. MetroNet contains 92 million residential listings and 10 million business listings in the US plus 3 million households, 385,00 businesses in Ontario & Quebec, Canada. It is compiled from mailing lists, post office change-of-address cards, property information, in addition to telephone directories -- more than is available on PhoneDisc USA, the best of the CD-ROM programs. You can now locate people with unlisted numbers, just by asking MetroNet's operator to type their names into a computer. You'll get name and address only, no phone. The information is constantly updated (three-month lag time). You can even look your party up by name, address or even telephone number, giving you access to a nationwide cross-directory. The average charge is about \$3 for the first minute and \$2/min thereafter (average is \$5), charges billed

to your phone. You can also subscribe to a National Look-Up Service at \$20 which gives you special rates for multiple services. For more information, call 1-800-228-4571, Ext 4660. [Alice found the information in a Contra Costa Times newspaper column by Fay Faron of Rat Dog Dick Detective Agency in SF. Pat received a brochure from MetroNet -- we'll post it at the next meeting].

● MILITARY INFORMATION

● CIVIL WAR BOY SOLDIERS

Taken from the Government records, the following figures reflect the total enlistment and ages of Northern soldiers during the Civil War:

10 yrs old - 25
11 yrs old - 34
12 yrs old - 225
13 yrs old - 380
14 yrs old - 1,602
15 yrs old - 104,987 (3.5%)
16 yrs old - 231,051 (8%)
17 yrs old - 884,981 (28%)
18 yrs - 1,158,434 (38.5%)
19 - 22 yrs 617,511 (20.5%)
22 to 44 - 52,696
45 and above - 0

The 15 to 18 year olds made up 78% of the total enlisted force. The 10 to 12 year olds were drummer boys.

[Paradise GS via Solano Co GS Jn/JI '92]

● CIVIL WAR'S

LAST GREAT TRAGEDY

On April 27, 1865 the Sultana, a 260-foot wooden-hulled steamboat exploded near Memphis, killing more than 1,800 men. The men, mostly Union soldiers on their way home from Confederate prison camps, died from the explosion or from drowning. On board were 2,400 passengers--six times the ship's legal capacity. Most had been imprisoned at Andersonville and Cahaba. Among the ship's manifest were 791 from Ohio, 501 from Tennessee, 459 from Indiana, 310 from Michigan and 194 from Kentucky. "THE SULTANA TRAGEDY" by Jerry O. Potter is a well-documented account of the event.

● ANDERSONVILLE

Anyone with an interest in this Civil War prison should examine Andersonville primary documentation. Congress

conducted postwar hearings on the treatment of prisoners in Andersonville in 1869. Many former prisoners (hundreds) testified and many more are referred to in testimony (abstract in Congressional Serial Set vol. 1391). Many more former prisoners testified at the war crimes trial of Henry Wirz (abstract at 40th Congress, 2nd Session, 1866).

[from Brian Braun NGC, Apr 1993 via CCCGS N/L Jan 94]

● CALIFORNIA RECORDS

- **LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLERK MOVES** - The County Clerk's office is open for business at 12400 E. Imperial Highway, Norwalk, CA 90650. The Los Angeles Hall of Records, housing 150 million records of real estate transactions, birth (before 1905 and 1964 to present), marriages (1852 to present), deaths (1877 to present), voter registrations, election documents, business filings, moved to Norwalk in June and July of 1993.

New hours: 8:30AM to 4:30PM Mon-Fri, except holidays. Cost of Certified copies: Birth \$15; Marriage \$12; Death \$8. There is a 24-hour line for recorded information: 310/462-2137.

[SoCal GS via CCCGS N/L Jan 94 and CSGA N/L Nov 93]

- **SOLANO COUNTY PUBLICATION** - An alphabetical index of over 3200 names of property owners and township lists found in the 1878 map done by Thompson & West has been published by Nancy Morebeck, 409 Dennis Dr, Vacaville CA 95688. The book also includes the set of maps so the property can be located and neighbors, schools, etc., can be found. "Index to Property Owners & Township

Lists of Historical Atlas Map of Solano Co CA" (107 pp, softbound) is available from the author for \$18.00 + \$1.30 CA res tax + \$1.50 p/h.

- **CALIFORNIA DIRECTORIES**. City, county, multi-County, business, and ethnic directories, 1807-present are available from Library Microfilms, a division of Bay Microfilm, 1115 East Arques Av, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. A total of over 1000 directories were microfilmed and can be purchased for \$45 per individual directory roll. For more information and a catalog, call Jan Hawley a 1-800/359-FILM. The company, dedicated to preserving the heritage of the Pacific Coast, has the largest collection of newspapers on film of the Western states.

● U.S. RESEARCH

- **LAND RECORDS** - Original land patents issued by the US government dating from 1788-1905 are now being automated by the US Bureau of Land Management. States completed include: Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, and Michigan. Now ready to go onto the retrieval system are: Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, and Wisconsin. States to follow include: Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Missouri.

State land office records are scanned into a computerized data base and then placed on a retrieval system. You can visit the bureau's Virginia office, use this system to access data on completed states shown above and print a land patent copy for \$1/minute computer time and .13 for each document copy. For bureau staff to complete this process for you, write (enclosing all pertinent names, dates, locations and legal land descriptions):

Eastern States Office, Bureau of Land Management, 7450 Boston Blvd, Springfield VA 22153. You will receive a letter detailing what is available and the charge for completed copies.

[NGS N/L Nov/Dec 93]

- **ILLINOIS** - A good source of information on coal miners in Illinois is the Annual Illinois Coal Report. These are hard bound book full of statistical information, including detailed accident and death reports of the workers. Information such as date of accident, name of worker, age, residence, marriage status, number of dependents, type of injury and total work days lost. Each yearly report lists as many as 1000 miners killed or injured. Indexed, each book contains up to 6000 names in each report. The Spring Valley, IL Public Library has a large collection of these reports. They do not have 1899, 1900-1904, 1914, and 1915. The Bureau Co GS is interested in obtaining these years; contact them if you have a source: PO Box 10166, Rockford, IL 61131-0166.

[Odom Fam Tree Dec 93/Jan 94]

● GENETICS & GENEALOGY SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF THE MELUNGEONS -

A research project is underway by the Gowen Research Foundation to establish the origin of the dark-skinned Melungeons, who greeted the first colonists to venture across the Appalachian Mountains. Melungeons married into many branches of the Gowen families whose records the Foundation seeks to preserve.

Melungeons, while having dark skins, also had straight black hair, aquiline features and blue eyes. They lived in what is now eastern

[Continued on PAGE 60]

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● **FEBRUARY LIBRARY TRIP FROM MARY JO HOSTENY:**

The library trip in February will be to the National Archives in San Bruno. Members will meet at 8AM in the parking lot back of Lucky's on Diablo Road in Danville on Tuesday February 22nd. The Archives has the complete censuses and Soundexes from 1790-1920, a growing number of state and military records, limited area passenger lists and immigration records. Those wishing to leave from points north of Walnut Creek, please call Mary Jo Hosteny at 932-2244 for arrangements.

● **NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

● **WORKSHOPS at SAN BRUNO**

February 10 Thursday, 9AM to 12 noon, "Preserving Historic Materials" by Jane Freeman

March 11 Friday 9AM-1PM "Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records"

April 22 Friday 10AM-12 noon "Basic Part II - Beyond the Census: correlating other resources and research aids available in Archives."

May 6 Friday 9AM -12 noon (limited enrollment) "California Indian Records," a hands-on workshop.

May 20 Friday 9AM-12noon "Military Records, Part I: an overview of types of available records and how to access information." Includes all services plus a segment on Merchant Marine research.

June 3, Friday, 9AM-12noon (limited enrollment) "Military Records, Part II: how to interpret and what to do with what you got from Part I." Where to go for more. A hands-on workshop.

Register in advance to guarantee a place in class (must have

a minimum of 10). Cost: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Contact: Rose Mary Kennedy 415/876-9009.

● **FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY**

- **LOCAL FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS** received in December copies of the new 1993 CD-ROM edition of the International Genealogical Index and the Ancestral File. With over 13 million more names than the 1992 microfiche edition, the IGI is the largest ever. And the new CD-ROM compression system requires FEWER CD disks. This is also true of the AF collection.

This means, writes Karen Clifford in the California State Genealogical Alliance Newsletter (Feb 94), that you spend less time changing disks. Also, if you are able to visit Salt Lake, their networking system requires no disk changing at all. The new IGI also provides more instruction on documentation symbols used.

Most Family History Centers now have Personal Ancestral File (PAF) and TempleReady (70% of temple submissions prior to 1970 and 98% between 1970 and Feb 1993). This means that the family records and research conducted by members of the LDS church which had not been automated, is now in the system.

- **RESEARCH OUTLINES** - Now available in the Family History Centers are Research Outlines for Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Wales, and US Military Records. The outlines describe research methodology and major resources for each topic. [CCCGS N/L Feb 94]
- **ST. PETERSBURG RECORDS UPDATE** - The films from the Protestant Archives in St. Petersburg are arriving in Salt

Lake City in the cataloging department of the FHL. The downside of this is that each film includes many different parishes collected as the data came into the archive, so it is filmed by year, rather than being separated by place. It is a very time-consuming challenge for the cataloging department. The best projection is that they will be ready for circulation in 1995. Please do not call or write the FHL, as that will only slow the work. You will be informed when the films are available. [From Gwen Pritzkau, Salt Lake City via CSGA N/L Feb 94]

- **FHL FROM HOME COMPUTER?** - The Family History Library may soon be available from your home computer, says Compuserve Magazine (Jan 1994). FamilySearch, the computer-based search system is being pilot tested in selected homes throughout the US. The number of participants is limited, and all who are given access must provide data on their experiences and pay a fee for licensing the software and data. The system offers the Family Group Records Collection--more than 8 million pages of family information, plus the 1920 US Census and Soundex on microfilm.

If you are interested in participating in the FamilySearch home use test, send a written inquiry to FamilySearch Support Unit, 50 E. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150. Explain how and who you wish to use Family Search in your home.

For additional information, including minimum hardware requirements, consult (on Compuserve) the file NEWS51.FHL in Library 10, "Other Archives," of the Genealogy Forum (GO ROOTS).

● CONTRA COSTA COUNTY INTERLIBRARY LOANS -

For interlibrary loans there is now a \$5 prepaid nonrefundable fee to initiate this service. The loaning library may charge additional fees, according to a policy notice from CCC Library. They also advise: "outside libraries rarely loan books that are less than 2 years old. Audiovisual materials cannot be borrowed from outside the CCC library system."

[Contributed by Priscilla Dietrich]

EDITOR'S NOTE: A phone query brought this clarification: census films from National Archives can still be borrowed, also any film or fiche which Sutro circulates; loans from NA & Sutro are subject to the \$5 fee.

● L.A. COUNTY LIBRARIES

A total of 39 (out of 87) of the Co of Los Angeles Public Libraries sustained some level of damage as a result of the January 17th earthquake. Four libraries (San Fernando, Newhall, Valencia and La Crescenta) will remain closed pending safety inspections. For information re schedules and service call Margaret Wong 310/940-8409.

The LA City Central Library is open, but schedules may vary. For recorded updates call 213/228-7000. The Burbank Public Library is closed until further notice as is the Glendale Public Library. [from Gerald Maginnity & Albert Milo on Internet 19 Jan 1994 via CCCGS N/L Feb 94]

● OTHER STATES

● NORTH CAROLINA

QUAKERS - Guildford College, Greensboro, NC is the repository for the surviving records of monthly meetings of the Religious Society of Friends associated with North Carolina Yearly Meeting

and included NC, SC, GA and parts of TN and VA. These records begin with the minutes of Perquimans Monthly meeting dated 1680. The collection is open to the public on-site Tues-Fri 9AM-noon and 2-5PM. Call in advance to be sure the library will be open: 919/316-2264.

[Odom Fam Tree De93/Ja94]

- MARYLAND - The Maryland Historical Society and the George Peabody Library of the Johns Hopkins University have signed an agreement to transfer custody of 5,000 books from the Peabody's genealogical reference collection to the Historical Society. The items include guides, bibliographies, family histories, patriotic society publications, journals and a vertical file collection of originals and microforms. The transfer will begin 20 Aug 1993. The material will not be available until the end of 1994. [NGS N/L 19:3 via CCCGS N/L Aug 93]

● GERMANY

BERLIN DOCUMENT

CENTER - In an agreement signed October 18, the US government on 1 July 1994 will turn over administration of the Berlin Document Center to the German government. This center houses about 30 million National Socialist documents from the Nazi era of 1933-1945. The documents include lists of members of the Nazi party, storm troopers, S.S. teachers, medical groups, Race & Resettlement Dept.

A Bavarian was ordered to destroy these documents at the end of WWII but failed to do so. They were discovered by a US soldier in a Munich paper mill in April 1945. Additional documents were rescued from a salt mine near Berchtesgaden. The have been stored by the US in a bunker in Berlin.

The US-German agreement allows the US to microfilm all the records before turning them over to the Federal Archive in Koblenz, who already hold the records of the former German Reich from 1919 to 1935 and other government records up to 1949. After July 1 the new records will be open to the public according to each country's regulations [Immigrant GS N/L Jan 1994 via CSGA N/L Feb 94]

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● TAPE REVIEW

- C-73 "CIVIL WAR RE-SEARCH: MORE THAN PENSIONS (UNION & CONFEDERATE)"
Speaker: Marie V. Melchiori

Review by Marilyn Fullam

When Ms. Melchiori began listing the other Civil War records at the National Archives, I was amazed. She not only tells of sources other than the familiar pension and service records but also gives the record group numbers under which these records are filed. A tape well worth listening to and learning from.

Editor's addendum:

The speaker advises on how to "use the system" of the National Archives to locate information on your Civil War soldier. Many of Ms. Melchiori's clients are Civil War buffs who have a piece of CW memorabilia, have identified the soldier to whom it belonged and want to know about his service and background. Often, this was a soldier who did not live to apply for a pension. She tells how, and what records she uses, to "flesh out" this soldier so he becomes more than just a name.



FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR

MARCH 26, 1994

Sponsored by
DANVILLE LDS &
SAN RAMON VALLEY GS

The seminar will be held at the Danville Stake Center, 655 Old Orchard Rd, Danville (Take 680 to Sycamore East exit to Old Orchard Rd.)

Registration is \$8/person at the door (8:30AM); \$5/person pre-registered (until Mar 15).

Bring a sack lunch; fruit punch and muffins will be provided.

The Keynote speaker will be MARGE BELL, a specialist at the Oakland Family History Center [SRVGS speaker in January]. She will report on the latest developments from the Family History Center in Salt Lake City.

Classes are 9AM to 3PM.
CLASSES 9:30AM-3PM:

1. ENGLAND/WALES by Joyce Buckland, who has researched this area for many years. She also writes a Newsletter, "The English Researcher." This is a 3-hr class to be followed by one hour for questions.
2. GERMANY by Cathy Ryan, from the Oakland FHC. She will share her expertise on German research through handouts, lecture, and a video she has produced.
3. IRELAND by Alice Boyd, from Pleasant Hill Library, who has spent time in Ireland and years in Irish research.
4. SURVEY OF US MILITARY RECORDS by Marion Hill. He will show how

military records of the Colonial Wars and the Civil War provide one of our best resources.

5. BAY AREA LIBRARY RESOURCES by Mary Jo Hosteny, SRVGS Library Chairman.

6. GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS by Marge Bell.

7. CENSUS, PROBATE & LAND RECORDS -

8. RESEARCH ORGANIZATION -

9. ADVANCED RESEARCH
The above 3 classes will be taught by Steve Hill, who has extensive experience in these areas as well as in computers.

10. VIDEO & ORAL TAPING OF FAMILY HISTORY by Bob Larsen, who has been involved with the oral history project at Bancroft Library.

11. WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY by Barbara Evans from Concord FHC, who will share her BYU training in this subject.

12. PUBLISHING YOUR RESULTS by Jane Steiner & Dorothy Stanton of SRVGS Publishing Group.

13. DOCUMENTING YOUR ANCESTORS by Julia Purdie of CCCGS. She will help you determine if an ancestor is yours.

14. PRESERVING YOUR PICTURES & DOCUMENTS by Julia Purdie. A 2-hour class; bring your photos and documents for help in keeping them in good condition.

15. FAMILY SEARCH by Garth Ludwig of Pleasanton FHC. He will use a computer connected to an overhead

projector to demonstrate the most effective use of the FamilySearch program.

16. PAF - PERSONAL ANCESTRAL FILE - Several staff members will have computers available to demonstrate the use of this program. Available each hour of the day.

• SRVGS NEWS

- WELCOME to new members: DREW, Leland & Barbara, 855 Terra California Dr #4, Walnut Creek 94595-3005 (932-6530). Researching: VANBEBER in PA, VA MO & TN; DREW in VT, IN & IA.
- DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS:
Correct phone numbers for HABERMEHL, Wendy 735-0737
IRWIN, Barbara 939-8522
Change name & address for: BRAKER, Wanda to Wanda Braker GIBSON, 4021 Terra Granada 1-B E-10, Walnut Creek CA 94595 (510/938-2570)
- NEWS FROM MEMBERS
CONGRATULATIONS to Shirley Terry who writes from Maryland with news of a first grandchild, Zachary Ryan Washburn. Shirley would like anyone going to Houston for the NGS Conference to contact her (in Louisiana).
- EDITOR'S MESSAGE: The information on the Matrilineal Study from Dr. Thomas Roderick will be available at the February meeting -- as will additional copies of the Newsletter Index for '92-'93.

REGISTRATION FORM - MARCH 26 SEMINAR

Pre-registration \$5.00 per person (until March 15th). Make checks payable to Danville Stake.
Mail to Evelyn Bentley, 55 Provo Lane, Danville CA 94526.

NAME, address and phone: _____

To help allocate classroom space, please circle five classes for each family member who plans to attend.

Name: _____ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Name: _____ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Questions: call 838-9618 Evelyn Bentley; 932-1944 Helen Houssian

[MELUNGEONS cont'd from page 56]

Tennessee where it adjoins Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina. There are various theories as to their origin.

[From the Immigrant Gen Soc N/L Feb 1993
via CSGA N/L Feb 93]

● **A PERSONAL QUEST: Who are the Melungeons?**

Dr. Brent Kennedy discovered his Melungeon heritage when, at age 43, he was suddenly incapacitated by an obscure disease: sarcoidosis, an autoimmune affliction. The illness is believed to be genetically based; 80 percent of its victims are of African or Arabic descent, according to the Mayo Clinic. From his family, Kennedy learned that ancestors had suffered from sarcoidosis or its symptoms back into the 1860's in southwest Virginia.

Dr. Kennedy's study of the origins of the Melungeons may not only solve his own

mystery but coupled with archaeological discoveries on the South Carolina coast, could rewrite the history of the South. Based on his own family research back to the 1690's, Kennedy's theory is that the Melungeons were Portuguese Berbers ("Melungeon" is from an old Portuguese-Moorish word that meant "white person") who arrived in the 1580's and made their way to NC, VA and TN intermarrying with the American Indians, Scotch-Irish and English. Generally considered mixed-race outcasts, they kept to themselves in Appalachian outposts.

At the time he began his study, Dr. Kennedy did not know of the Univ of SC archaeologists' discovery of a settlement, believed to be Santa Elena, predating Jamestown by 40 years. His published study interested two Univ of

TN scholars, an anthropologist and a historian, and a research committee was formed.

Some results of his work: a documentary is being filmed; a gene frequency analysis of Melungeon genetic data showed a link to peoples from Spain and Portugal, Morocco, Libya, Iraq, the Canary Islands and parts of So. Italy. The next step is an updated genetic study, with data from both Melungeons and people from the areas of Portugal and Spain that were home to the Santa Elena soldiers. Knowledge gained may lead to new historical, as well as medical, studies and a better understanding of those who identify themselves as Melungeons and their 100,000 descendants living today.

[Abstracted from NC GS News JI/Au 93
and an article by Chris Wohlwend in the
Houston Chronicle -- see CCCGS N/L Jan
94 for complete article]

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