

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. 10

MAY 1994

PROGRAM: MAY 17, 1994

THE REST OF THE LIBRARY

What are you missing in your library when you don't go beyond the Genealogy Collection? JUDY SVOBODA will help us discover some of the often overlooked "hidden" resources available for genealogists.

Our speaker is a past President of the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society. She is Head of Library Consultants for the Santa Clara City Library's Genealogy Room. Judy has just returned from speaking at the Washington State Genealogical Society in Vancouver, Washington.

Frances Becker, Program

LAST MONTH

by Jane Steiner

When Jolene Abrahams was a little girl, her mother told her that she was adopted. Jolene said, "That's nice," then asked if she could go out and play.

Not until she was almost 47 did she begin to wonder if she looked like her birth mother. After her adoptive mother died, Jolene was cleaning out her house and found her own birth certificate--from Tucson, Arizona. She knew the information might be false, but it gave her a place to look.

At the Tucson court house she learned that the birth records and death records were closed, but the marriage records were available. She learned that her birth mother was married 11 months after she had been born.

The Tucson phone book had

two listings for the married name. She then contacted a rabbi and asked him to call to learn which one had been married on the date she gave him. He later told her which one was correct.

Her birth mother was willing to meet her and the rabbi took her there. She said she felt very comfortable with her mother, but her husband and the rabbi were basket cases!

She learned that she had two aunts living in Tucson and two uncles in California--one who lives in Livermore where Jolene lives. She had known him for 25 years! The other uncle lives in San Rafael. Some of her siblings also live in northern California. Jolene has a continuing good relationship with her mother, sees her frequently in either California or Arizona.

Her search for her father was not as successful. Through some incredible circumstances she eventually located him, but the present wife will not allow her to talk to him. Since he is 83 or 84 now, she has decided not to pursue him further.

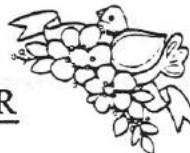
Her message to the audience is that an adoptee's decision whether to search or not to search for birth parents is an extremely personal decision. Others should not interfere or try to change it.

She told of a registry for adoptees. Both parties--the birth mothers and adopted children--may put their names in and the registry makes the connection. It is the International Soundex Reunion Registry (USRR), PO Box 2312, Carson City, NV 89702.

[SEE p82 FOR MORE ON ADOPTIONS]



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



MAY

- * 10 - TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group [see p.81]; 7:30pm Livermore-Amador Valley GS meeting at Cong Beth Emek, 1866 College Av, Livermore. Call Felicia Ziomek 847-9260.
- * 11 - WEDNESDAY 10am SRVGS Irish Interest Group [see p.81]; 10am East Bay GS meets at Mormon Center, Oakland. Speaker: Rick Sherman on Kentucky Research
- 12 - THURSDAY 7:30pm Contra Costa Co GS meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Alice Boyd will speak on Irish research.
- 14 - SATURDAY GS of Stanislaus presents Jayare Roberts, Senior Specialist of the Extraction Support and Family Search Support Teams at the Family History Department in Salt Lake City. Topics for the seminar: Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestor 1820-1950; Cemeteries; Using Lineage Society Records; Research in the Old Northwest (OH, IN, IL). Place: Modesto Center Plaza, Pistache/Ginkgo Rm, 1000 "K" St, Modesto. Contact Linda Johnson 209/522-8244) or Don Wilson (209/869-3966)
- * 17 - TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting; 12:30pm ROOTS Users' Group [see p.81]
- * 19 - THURSDAY 1-3pm SRVGS Basic Genealogy Class (1st of 7) begins if enough people have signed up. Call Bette Kot 707/554-4814.
- 20 - FRIDAY 9am-12noon National Archives, San Bruno - 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. Contact Rose Mary Kennedy 415/876-9009.
- 21 - SATURDAY 9am-1pm Open House at Danville Southern Pacific Depot (future home of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley), 355 Railroad Av. Also open on May 30.
- 21 & 22 - Southern California GS 25th Annual Jamboree, Exhibition Bldg, Pasadena Center. For info write c/o P.O Box 4377, Burbank CA 91503; (818) 843-7247.
- * 24 - TUESDAY SRVGS Library Trip [see p.83]

JUNE

- 3 - FRIDAY 9am-12noon National Archives Workshop, 1000 Commodore Dr, San Bruno. 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 (limited enrollment) Call 415/876-9009.
- * 7 - TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- 9 - THURSDAY 7:30pm CCCGS meeting (see above); Elaine Null of Pittsburg will speak about being appointed her family's "historian."
- * 14 - TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group [see p.81]; 7:30pm Livermore-Amador Valley GS meeting (see above).
- * 15 - WEDNESDAY 10am Irish Interest Group [see p.81]
- * 21 - TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting - Speaker to be announced.

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.

PONY EXPRESS RE-RUN

The National Pony Express Association is planning a commemorative re-run of the original Pony Express Trail. It will start June 3 in Sacramento CA and terminate in St Joseph MO on June 17. Relays are approximately five miles each, with rider and horse covering the distance in about thirty minutes. Commemorative letters are available in advance for \$5, like the original mail of 1860. For more information write National Pony Express Assoc. California Division, PO Box 236, Pollock Pines, CA 95726.

PLANNING AHEAD

SEPTEMBER - Labor Day Weekend - The Caledonian Club of SF will hold their annual Highland Gathering & Games at the Alameda Co Fairgrounds in Pleasanton (instead of Santa Rosa) to coincide with the 124th Anniversary of the games. For info call 415/267-0558.

OCTOBER 17 - Contra Costa GS Seminar at Willows Theater, Concord. Speakers: James W. Warren and Paula Stuart Warren.

[MORE EVENTS ON LAST PAGE]

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

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

GERMAN - Meets May 17 after the general meeting at Barbara Johnson's, 616 Camino Amigo (837-2153). Bring your lunch. Next meeting will be in September.

IRISH - Meets 10AM each second Wednesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: May 11 & June 15.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday 10AM. Next meeting: to be announced. Contact Jane Steiner (283-0867) if you need help with a publishing project.

ROOTS USERS (Commsoft's ROOTS III & IV) - Meets 12:30pm on Tuesdays following the general meeting at the Danville Women's Club House (\$3 fee for rent).

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meetings: May 10 at Peggy Dearman's (837-1621); June 14 at Charlotte Thompson's, 1091 Via Roble, Lafayette (284-5328).

UNITED KINGDOM - Research in England, Scotland, & Wales. Next meeting: May 23 1:30pm at Muriel James', 725 St Mary's Rd, Lafayette (283-2352). Contact Ron Skilton 254-6989.

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

RESEARCH INFORMATION

TIPS FROM MEMBERS

- FROM PAM DALLAS: Here are some hints for your genealogical correspondence [source not listed]:

- 1) Request one or two items at a time.
- 2) When writing to a relative, send handwritten correspondence.
- 3) When writing to an official office or agency, type correspondence.
- 4) When enclosing SASE write in large script, using most of the envelope and use envelope from Post Office with embossed stamp.
- 5) When requesting family information, send two family group sheets; one for them to keep and one for them to fill in any blanks they have information on and return to you. Hi-lite areas (blanks) you are most interested in.
- 6) Always send a thank you reply.
- 7) When requesting information from county courthouses request document and all related documents.
- 8) When writing to county, state and local agencies, ask the fee for the copies you are requesting and the research fee.
- 9) When requesting information, write your request on the

top half of the stationery page. Halfway down type: "REPLY". Leave the bottom half of the page blank for the reply.

- FROM DOROTHY STANTON: At the Danville FHC, PRISCILLA DIETRICH mentioned that she wasn't sure what spellings to look for when searching for an ancestor's records. Evelyn Bentley suggested that she check the IGI in the country of supposed origin to see what alternative spellings were listed.

When I checked for "STANTON" in Ireland (on fiche), I found not only the expected "STAUNTON" but these surprising alternatives: EVELLY, FALLAS, FALLEY, FALVEY, FALWAY, FIELD, FILAY, FOLEY, FOULUE, LEVALLY, MCEVALLY, MCFEELY, O'FALLEY, OFEEHILY, PILLY, POLLY, ST FIELD, STAUGHTON, STUDDEN, STUNDON, VAGHELY, VALLY, VILLY!

• VITAL RECORDS

- PENNSYLVANIA - The city of Philadelphia has a new fee schedule: Philadelphia City Archives Vital Records - birth and death certificates, \$9.00 per certificate and/or for each three-month period searched;

marriage registration, same charges and time period. For further information contact the Vital Records Department of the City of Philadelphia.

[GS of PA via Chicago GS Feb 94]

The Register of Wills of the City of Philadelphia is charging genealogists doing client work and title searchers for the first three copies of wills and/or administrations viewed. No charge is made to lawyers and persons doing their own research. Researchers who do medical surveys (through death certificate research) for families with genetic-related diseases must also pay to view the first three records. The Gen Soc of PA has gone on record as opposing this discriminatory policy [From Penn in Hand 19:3 via FGS Forum Winter 93]

• HELP WANTED

- MAINE BIBLE RECORDS - Bible records pertaining to Maine families or Bibles found in Maine are sought for publication in a single volume of Maine Genealogist. Include from the title page the name of the bible, the date, and publisher and publisher's address. Copy information from the family record pages verbatim without editing. Identify the writer, if possible, and

indicate if entries have been made over a period of time. Copy any names of bible owners or any background of ownership, if known. Include photocopies of obituaries or newspaper clipping tucked within the pages. Submissions are sought for publication in a non-profit venture. Submit to T.H. Roderick, 4 Seely Rd, Bar Harbor, ME 04609. [Maine GS Aug '93 via FGS Forum Spr '94]

- **TEXAS HELP WANTED** - If you have an ancestor who entered the US through the Port of Indianola TX, the Victoria Co Historical Commission asks you to share this information with them. They have begun a project to compile a computer database of immigrants who arrived through this Texas port. From the landing of Prince Solm's German settlers on the beach in December 1844, until the destructive hurricane of 1886, thousands of German, Polish, English, French, Irish, and others stepped ashore here to begin a new life. For information and to obtain an entry form, send a SASE to: Victoria Co Historical Commission, Patsy Hand, 417 Cottonwood St, Victoria TX 77904 [N.Orange Co GS Feb 94 via CSGA N/L Mar 94]

● GLEANINGS: ADOPTIONS

- **ADOPTION ODDS** - The likelihood that you or one or more of your ancestors were adopted is 46.56 percent for 5 generations. In the sixth generation, the likelihood become 72.01 percent, in the seventh 92.30 percent, and in the eighth, 99.53 percent.

[From "Adoption Secrecy Laws Threaten Death of Genealogy" by Brice M. Clagett in NGS N/L Sept/Oct 1990]

- **ADOPTION & GENEALOGY** The New England Historic Genealogical Society has taken

the lead in making known to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws some concerns of the genealogical community. NEHGS has made the following recommendations:

1. The new uniform law should contain provisions for the maximum amount of access to adoption records by adopted children and their families.
2. Every birth certificate issued following an adoption should bear a notation such as "revised" or "amended," in order to warn researchers that the certificate may not be biologically accurate.
3. Original (biologically accurate) birth certificates and sealed adoption files should be made publicly available after the passage of an appropriate period of time, when any legitimate need for privacy has been removed by the deaths of the persons concerned.

[Brice M. Clagett in NGS N/L Sept/Oct 1990 - see article for full exposition of the above recommendations]

- **IN RE** - This term means "in regards to" something, in some cases regarding adoption. You can often find adoptions listed in record books in any counties where divorce and probate records are filed. The courts are very clever and instead of putting adoptions in under the letter "A", they place them under "I". In these record books, usually open to the public, they are indexed alphabetically. The first rule is NEVER say you are looking up an adoption, say divorce or probate. Then turn to the "I" index and find "IN RE". Under this category you will find petitions to change name, petitions to adopt, etc.

[From Rock Co. WI GS Jan '87 via Paradise GS Apr 91]

- **IOWA** - Iowa adoption records prior to 1941 are now available. You must know the

exact adoption date from the county recorder. Write to the presiding judge of the county court, state of adoptee and adoptive parents, date of the adoption and state that the record is in the county recorder's office -- request a court order to open the file.

[LAGS Roots Tracer Winter 91-92]

● STATE HELPS

- **ARKANSAS** - The Arkansas Genealogical Society has compiled a 47-page booklet which lists printed material about the state and services for researchers. The directory includes information about genealogical societies, historical societies, state and county maps, courthouse addresses, county information, libraries, periodicals and book of interest. To order a copy send check for \$5.00 to the society at PO Box 908, Hot Springs, AR 71902-0908. [AR Family Historian Jun 92 via SMC GS May 94]
- **INDIANA** - The Indiana GS, PO Box 10504, Fort Wayne IN 46852 has compiled a directory of sources available to researchers. Included are lists of genealogical columnists, WPA indexes to births, deaths, and marriages in the Allen Co Public Library, speakers, Indiana County Historians, historical societies, genealogical societies, public libraries and Indiana GS researchers. The directory is available for \$6.50 from the above. [Hoosier Genealogist Jun 93 via Chicago GS Feb 94]

● CEMETERIES

- **OHIO** - A newly created Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Committee will review and respond to complaints about cemeteries that are not family cemeteries and have not had burials within the past 25 years. One case now pending is that of a church cemetery purchased by a private individual when the church

dissolved. Now the landowner will not allow descendants of the people buried there to visit the cemetery. [Ohio GS N/L Oct 93 via FGS Forum Spr 94]

- **VIRGINIA - MYSTERY UNION SOLDIER** - A Union Army soldier, Jerome Pierce, killed in the battle of Spottsylvania Courthouse, was buried in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery. By coincidence this was the same cemetery where the 2nd-gt grandfather of Alice Heflin Abernathy of 1000 Littlepage St, Fredericksburg VA 22401, was the caretaker. Ms Abernathy tells of a letter received by her ancestor from the family of Jerome Pierce, asking the caretaker to find the grave. The family then sent \$100 and asked that the grave be decorated once a year on their behalf. In 1994 will be the 130th year since the death of Jerome Pierce and the 121st time that Ms Abernathy's family has placed a wreath at his grave. The original \$100 is still in a bank account and provides enough interest to pay for the flowers each spring.

All that is known about Jerome Pierce is that he was a 31 year old mechanic from Orange, Massachusetts, who joined the 36th Infantry of the Union Army in 1862. Ms Abernathy has searched for more than ten years for the descendants of the Pierce family to tell them about her ancestor's promise and to learn more about the man whose grave she has decorated all of her life. [Odom Family Tree De93/Ja94]

- **WAR BURIALS** - To find which national cemetery an ancestor was buried in during or after the Civil War, write: Director of the National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration, 818 Vermont

Avenue, NW Washington DC 20420. Send date of death and information from a death certificate. The NCS has a card catalog for most soldiers buried in national cemeteries and others under Federal jurisdiction.

- **For info about CARE OF CEMETERIES AND GRAVESTONES.** Send a SASE to Charles H. Sumner, Sumner Family Association, 62 Sandbury Dr, Pittsford, NY 14534-2636; 716/334-2989 [Chas Sumner, 6 Aug 92 via NNY-BBS]
- **SEXTONS RECORDS** - A good tip to remember when searching for death and burial records was given by a member of the Santa Cruz Co GS. She found on a trip to Ohio that the Sexton's records in the county in which she was researching were at the local funeral home. [SMCGS Apr 94]
- **OLD CEMETERIES** - When trying to locate an old cemetery, go to the county assessor's office. They have plat maps which may well help you find what you are looking for. [Stevelyn Vinbigler, NGC Apr 93 via NNY-BBS via CCCGS May 94]

● CIVIL WAR

- **OLDEST CONFEDERATE** - The oldest Civil War soldier probably was John B. Salling of the Army of CSA and last accepted survivor of the US Civil War. He died in Kingsport, TN on 16 March 1959, aged 113 yrs 1 day. [Guinness Book of World Records, 1976 via Holston Past Finder Dec 91]
- **CW INDEXING** - Since the director of the National Park Service, Roger Kennedy, entered the name "E.F. Jemison" into the computer, hundreds of volunteers have keyed in over 15,000 names in the

Federation of Genealogical Societies' Names Index Project. [This is the index which will be available in National Park CW Battlefield sites.] If you would like information on joining this massive (over 3.5 million names) indexing project, write Civil War Soldiers System, FGS, PO Box 3385, Salt Lake City UT 84110-3385 or call Civil War Trust (1-202/326-8420) or National Parks Service (1-202/343-4415)

- **CIVIL WAR BATTLE NAMES** The North and South each had different names for the same battle. The North named battles after water in the area (lakes, creeks, bays, etc.), while the South named them after land. For example, Shiloh Meeting House and Pittsburg Landing were the same battle. Likewise, Sharpsburg (a town) and Antietam (a creek), or Manassas (a town) and Bull Run (a creek) refer to the same battle. [OGS Sum 92 via CSGA N/L Jan 93]
- **CIVIL WAR REENACTMENTS** - Public Battles and Encampment:
May 28-30 Kelley Park, San Jose
July 16-17 Skyline Park, Napa
August 13-14 Watsonville
November 5-6 Naval Weapons Station, Concord.

● **GERMAN RELATIVES?**

There will be several thousand Germans coming to America to locate their unknown relatives. Meetings will be arranged between the visitors and the American descendants of German immigrants who share the same names. The German Delegation will be in Hayward CA in mid-September. Interested people should write to Staedte-Bruecke/City Bridges, PO Box 760, 444-22054, Hamburg, Germany.

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● MAY LIBRARY TRIP

The SRVGS library trip for May will be to the Santa Clara Public Library at 2635 Homestead Rd, Santa Clara. Members will meet for carpooling in the parking lot in back of Lucky's on Diablo Rd in Danville on Tuesday, May 24th, at 9 a.m. Those wishing to leave from points north please call Mary Jo Hosteny at 932-2244.

The Santa Clara Library has an excellent genealogy room, with a large collection of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, with emphasis on California plus an array of information about EVERY STATE AND MANY FOREIGN COUNTRIES. There are census films and microfiche collections; the library is well worth a trip to see what jewels it may hold for you. [See April SRVGS newsletter for more details.]

● FHL

● DANVILLE FHC

HOURS CHANGE - Due to lack of use on Saturday, the Family History Center at the Alamo Stake, Stone Valley & Smith Rds, will be open instead on Thursday 10am to 1pm starting May 12. The Monday hours are 1-4pm.

Presently, the library has available a computer & printer for FamilySearch (the IGI & Ancestral File) on CD-ROM. The Family History Library Catalog (books & films) for Salt Lake is available on microfiche.

Coming: another computer, 2 film readers, additional tables, chairs, bookcases, etc.

Hours and services will be enlarged as patronage increases. If you'd like to be able to order film from Salt Lake in the near future, demonstrate

your interest by using the library now. (see below)

Mary Jo Hosteny and Ardith Steger are still the only volunteers -- more are needed.

● USING THE IGI

The International Genealogical Index lists over 2 million names of persons now deceased, with brief genealogical details (births, christenings, marriages). It is created primarily to assist LDS members to identify ancestors and to verify temple ordinance completion.

To use the index, it is helpful to know the origins of the IGI entries as indicated by the Batch Number prefixes.

The most valuable for genealogists are the records entered from Vital Records. They have the prefix C, E, J, K, M (except M17 or M18) P, 725, 744, 745, 754. These records don't have a submitter but are taken directly from micro-filmed or published vital records of towns, counties, and churches. A Parish and Vital Records List (on microfiche), provides a description of all records extracted.

The rest of the entries are categorized as Patron-submitted Records, Deceased Members of LDS Church, and Miscellaneous.

For a complete explanation of the records and their uses, see the articles by Elizabeth L. Nichols "International Genealogical Index (IGI), 1993 Edition--Part I" and "Part II" published in the FGS Forum Winter 1993 and Spring 1994. Explanations are available at the Family History Centers.

● IGI "COUNTRY UNKNOWN"

The "country unknown" section of the IGI 1992 (on microfiche) contain 738,097 entries on 54 microfiche that

date back to 1844. The entries have place names that the computer did not recognize due to the name being written in incorrect order, misplaced comma, or unusual abbreviations. Before searching the "country unknown" section, search the microfiche for the country where the person was born or married. If you do not find the name, try the general section for that country (ex: United States, State Unknown) Then try the "country unknown" section.

[Solano Co GS Oct 93]

● ANCESTRAL FILE

If you would like to know who else is researching your family, check your names on the Ancestral File part of FamilySearch. These records are submitted by researchers around the country. Be aware that you may find conflicting and inaccurate information, but you will usually find the name and address of the submitter. Instructions are available at the FHCs for submitting your data and for making corrections. **FILMING IN KANSAS** - The Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) is filming records of genealogical interest in Kansas. They started several years ago in the southeast corner.

Taking one tier of counties at a time, they went north to the state line then started south again on the next tier. They have finished in some of the more populated counties in the northeast section of the state.

● HERITAGE COLLECTION

Don't forget about one excellent local resource: the Heritage Collection at the Central Library, 1750 Oak Park Blvd in Pleasant Hill. This accumulation of over 1000 genealogical source books is the

handiwork of several organizations in the county: the DAR, CCCGS and other genealogical and historical organizations, and many individuals. It is housed and administered by the County Library System.

New acquisitions are added continually. New titles are listed in the CCCGS newsletter (posted on the bulletin board at our monthly meeting). Half of the newest list is on page 42 of the May issue; the rest will be in the June newsletter.

The Collection is available during Central Library hours: noon to 8pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; 10am to 6pm Wednesday, Friday & Saturday.

[CCCGS N/L May 94]

● EARLY RECORDS FOUND

The Central Library vault in Pleasant Hill recently yielded up an early surveyor's log-book. It contains original surveys of property belonging to Contra Costa's settlers dating back to 1850 when California became a state. Preliminary inspection showed surveys from Pinole to Sunol and Livermore, once part of Contra Costa.

The book was found last year by Daniel Hirsh, a library specialist in history. He was checking the vault for valuable materials that needed to be passed along to someone else, when he discovered the bundle wrapped in brown paper. It is thought that it might have been donated around 1954.

The book with its disintegrating pages was turned over to the Contra Costa Historical Society. The Society has contacted experts at Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley for an inspection and estimate of what it will take to preserve the records. [SRV Times 7-11-93]

● CA STATE ARCHIVES

A letter from Joyce Buckland, Director of the California State Archives Foundation urges genealogists and family historians to support Senate Bill 1503. The letter says, in part, "While the new California State Archives building is being built and running ahead of schedule, the museum will be essentially an empty shell. Some funding has been provided to develop the museum, but there is NO funding to operate or staff the museum. Senate Bill 1503 will enable the Secretary of State's Office to retain and use funds collected through public-private partnerships to support the Museum and Archives."

Consider writing a letter of support to Senator Alquist, California State Senate, PO Box 942848, Sacramento CA 94248-0001. [CSGA N/L May 94.] A Fact Sheet about the Bill will be posted at the May meeting.



BOOK REVIEWS

by Mary Jo Hosteny

- *THE A-Z GUIDE TO TRACING ANCESTORS IN BRITAIN*, by Pauline Saul and F.C. Markwell. 4th ed. Genealogical Publishing Co., 1991. Soft cover, 256 pp.

You will find this a very practical little reference book whose aim is to point you for help in your research. The emphasis is on sources of information in book form or indexes to which you can refer, and articles in journals. Hence, the book is organized alphabetically into definitions of terms used in genealogy, some of them abstruse and peculiar to England. Under "Prisoners of War," e.g., you would find source of information for each and every war

going back to the Revolutionary War. I would think this a very useful little book for English ancestors. (Available from Genealogical Resources)

● *SHROPSHIRE, A MEMOIR OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE*, by Ellis Peters and Roy Morgan. Pub. Mysterious Press, New York, 1993. Hard cover, 168 pp.

For those genealogists with ancestors from Shropshire, England, this is a delightful pictorial history of that shire written by a preeminent author, Edith Pargeter, internationally known under the pen name of Ellis Peters as the writer of the Brother Cadfael mysteries. All of Ellis Peters' 19 chronicles of 12th century life in Shropshire are true to history, and perhaps it is natural she should have chosen to write a pictorial history of the shire in which she was born and has lived all her life. Shropshire is Ellis Peters country -- England's hauntingly beautiful border shire that is the glorious real world of her medieval mysteries.

Together with Roy Morgan's 55 color photographs, she takes us on a guided tour of this land of market towns and picturesque villages, ruined castles and Benedictine abbeys, Norman churches, and the moors that huddle beneath their rocky crags and ancient hills.

Roy Morgan's pictures capture the magical charm of Britain's most unspoiled region, just as the warm and loving commentary of Ellis Peters shares with us her own life and memories. She is the perfect guide to the castles, cottages, and rolling hills that are so quintessentially England. Highly recommended, and available in the Contra Costa County library system.



SRVGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society is ending its ninth year. I've only been a member for eight years, but it seems like only yesterday.

The year 1993-94 has been our busiest ever. The highlight has to have been our Publishing Interest Group's new book "Print, Publish, Preserve." The 'first edition' of 250 copies is almost sold out and another run has been ordered. Jane Steiner and Dorothy Stanton have made several presentations including talks to the California Genealogical Society's Family History Fair and the LDS Church Danville Stake Seminar. Not only do we now have a tidy sum added to our Special Projects Fund, but it has also afforded us the opportunity to make the SRVGS and its activities better known.

We've had some outstanding speakers this year. Margery Bell's talk on newspapers left us wanting to hear more! Our own members gave a program on their recent genealogical breakthroughs that spurred many of us in our own research. None of us will ever forget the meeting when our speaker failed to show. Program chairperson France Becker pulled out her 'contingency plan' and reprised a DAR talk on her favorite ancestor.

Attendance on our monthly library trips, coordinated by Mary Jo Hosteny, has been astounding. Formerly, unless the trip was to Sutro Library, we were lucky to fill one car. Now it's not unusual to have eight or nine members go along.

The tape library is getting so large and heavy the person in charge is going to get the job strictly based on his/her ability to tote the cases! As you know, when you borrow a tape, the \$1 "donation" goes toward buying new ones. Soon we will be ordering over \$100 in new selections. Frank and Nancy Williams made some great improvements dividing our collection into two cases and replacing the cumbersome list of titles with several more manageable booklets. Dottie Richardson came up with a very clever presentation for our genealogical forms for sale. Some members never knew we offered this service. The freebie basket has grown to be known now as the "freebie table."

Our newsletter is one of the best monthly publications I've seen. Editor Dorothy Stanton spends many hours each month working to keep us up to date with everything going on in the genealogy world. Many society publications inform their readers of things they saw right here first!

A lot of work has gone into the planning of the Lloyd Bockstruck Seminar of May 7. This was a joint effort by SRVGS and the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society. I hope all of you were able to attend.

The Board of Directors and our Committee Chairpersons have spent many hours providing genealogical leadership and entertainment for us. Many thanks to everyone who participated this year and made our society great. Stick around, we're only nine years old and just getting started.

CAROL GLOVER



SLATE OF OFFICERS for 1994-95

The Nominating Committee announces the following slate of officers to be voted on and installed at the May meeting.

President	CAROL GLOVER
1st Vice President	MANNY LINDNER
2nd V-P (Program)	JEANETTE MOSES
3rd V-P (Membership)	ED O'DONNELL
Recording Secretary	BARBARA JOHNSON
Corresponding Sec'y	PRISCILLA DIETRICH
Treasurer	VIRGINIA ROOD
Parliamentarian	FRANCES LLOYD

TAPE SURVEY

At our May meeting, Tape Collection Librarian FRANK WILLIAMS will be circulating a questionnaire to get your requests for subject matter for new tape purchases. If there is a subject area that we have not covered or a speaker that you feel is exceptional, let us know. Most of our tapes are from talks at various national conferences, so Frances Becker, who will be attending the NGS Conference in Houston has volunteered to purchase some tapes for us--they are cheaper and we're saved postage costs. If you have access to the NGS Conference schedule, let us know your preferences.

JUNE BOARD MEETING

The Board meeting on June 7 will be a joint meeting of the 1993-94 Board members and the new Board. At this time all job descriptions should be updated and made ready to pass on to the new job-holder.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

EMERSON, Maria W., 4160 Wilson Ln, Concord 94521 (687-3907). Researching: WILLIAMS in Alabama; TUFFEY in Vermont. GOODMAN, Cherri, 217 Canyon Creek Ct, San Ramon 94583 (837-8204). Researching: THURMAN in Texas & Kentucky; SPEARS in Texas. MAHNKEN, Mary Jane Milne, 7 Fairway Pl, Pleasant Hill 94526 (798-2041). Researching: GILLENWATERS in Tennessee; SMITH in Illinois. MIMNAUGHT, Marcia, 4061 Greenacre Rd, Castro Valley 94546 (537-9365). Researching: MIMNAUGHT in Minnesota & Ireland; ADAMY in Pennsylvania & Holland. TAYLOR, Lois Boswell, 30 Boulevard Ct, Walnut Creek 94595 (944-4739). Researching: BOSWELL, North Carolina & Ohio; BRILL in Ohio.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! DUES ARE PAYABLE JUNE 1st, DELINQUENT JULY 1st!

1994-1995 MEMBERSHIP
SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

[illegible]

ADDRESS		
Street	City	Zip Code (9 digits)

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

(1)	Locale & yrs
-----	--------------

(2) Locale & yrs

(3) Locale & yrs

(4) Locale & yrs

Individual Membership \$15.00 Family Membership \$20.00

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

NATIONAL EVENTS

- JUNE 1-4 Houston TX NGS 1994 Conference, "Exploring a Nation of Immigrants."
JUNE 12-17 Birmingham AL Samford Univ Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. Write: Dr. Joan Mitchell, IGHR, Samford University Library, Birmingham AL 35229. Also see "July International" below.
JUNE 16-18 Morgantown WV: National Conference of the Palatines to America. All persons who are researching German-speaking ancestry are welcome. Write PalAm, Capital University, Box 101P, Columbus, OH 43209-2394, or call 614/236-8281.
JULY 11-15 Washington DC: National Institute on Genealogical Research, a week-long course open to experienced researchers (genealogists, archivists, historians, librarians). Contact NIGR, PO Box 14274, Washington DC 20044-4274.
JULY 29-30 Farmington CT: New England Historic Genealogical Soc Summer Conference at Farmington Marriott. Write NEHGS, Education Dept, 101 Newbury St, Boston MA 02116.
AUGUST 4-6 Fort Wayne IN: Great Lakes Conference. Write Genealogy Department, Allen County Public Library, P.O. Box 2270, Ft Wayne, IN 46801-2270.

INTERNATIONAL

- JUNE 13-17 Kinsale, County Cork Ireland: Cork Family History Genealogical Summer School. Write Cork Family History, Church Square, Kinsale, County Cork Ireland or FAX 011-353-21-774206.
JULY 4-27 Great Britain: a strenuous study/research trip offered as Course VII of Samford University's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. The tour will be led by David Rencher, who is accredited in Irish research. Contact Joan Kirchman Mitchell, Dir, SU-IGHR, Samford University Library, Birmingham AL 35229; 205/870-2780.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL