

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 X No. 1

JUNE 1994

PROGRAM: JUNE 21, 1994

BOOKS -- THE "TRIED & TRUE" and THE NEW

BETTE KOT & FRANCES LLOYD will present a review of some basic references for genealogical research, as well as some new books on the shelves. They'll give some hints for using books "in tandem" (using & comparing several books on the same subject) and discuss some publishers specializing in geographic or special interests.

LAST MONTH by Christine Scott

Judy Svoboda, past President of Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society and Head of Library Consultants for the Santa Clara City Library's Genealogical Room, talked to us about "hidden" resources available to genealogists. She distributed a handout entitled "Successful Library Searching". In her presentation she concentrated on "browsing" through the rest of the library - the general collections, reference collections and the children's section.

Although the government document collection is a good resource, it is difficult to use. Guide books in the library are very helpful. Also found when browsing are Museum directories, volumes about subject collections, and local

histories. Always read the introduction and the footnotes of an resource used.

Referring to the Dewey Decimal System which is outlined on the second page of the handout - "Classifications for 'Directed' Browsing" - Judy Svoboda talked about ethnic groups, migrations, public land records, and social programs and services.

In the area of transportation resources she gave examples of materials about railroads and passenger ships. To be helpful in writing a book about the family, Sears catalogs are a valuable tool. In addition are books including information about holidays, anniversaries, and marriage ceremonies. Directories of United States cemeteries and funeral directors (including cemeteries no longer in business) contribute to the genealogist's success.

More examples of resources are atlases, gazeteers, books of place names and their derivations, fire insurance maps, historical geographies, newspapers and diaries which are available to the browser. Judy encouraged the audience to draw a time line to associate their families with the important time periods in history.

Although Judy's samples were found in the Santa Clara Library, she emphasized that most libraries will yield similar "hidden" treasures if we look at them through the eyes of a family historian.

VITAL RECORDS
ALERT!
See message on page 8.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE

- * 14 - TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group [see p.3]; 7:30pm Livermore-Amador Valley GS meeting at Cong. Beth Emek, 1866 College Av, Livermore. Call Felicia Ziomek 847-9260.
- * 15 - WEDNESDAY 10am Irish Interest Group [see p.3]
- * 21 - TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting; 12:30pm ROOTS Users' Group [see p.3]
- 25 - SATURDAY 10am-noon PAF Users' Group, Concord Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd; Benicia Historical Society will hold its 1994 heritage tour "Voices of the Past". Included are four private residences, a country inn, St Paul's Church, and the 1860's Commandant's Residence. For more information call 707/745-1822.
- * 27 - MONDAY SRVGS Library Trip [see p.6]; 1:30pm United Kingdom Interest Group [p.3]

JULY

- 2 - SATURDAY 10am-noon CCCo GS Computer Interest Group at CCC Water Dist Bldg, 1331 Concord Av, Concord. Topic: Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. Speaker: Dr. Scott Bergman.
- * 5 - TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- * 12 - TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group; 7:30pm Livermore-Amador Valley GS
- * 13 - WEDNESDAY 10am Irish Interest Group
- 14 - THURSDAY 7:30pm CCCo GS Meeting, Concord City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr; Marston Watson on "Keeping Genealogy Alive".
- 15 - FRIDAY 9am-noon National Archives Workshop in San Bruno: "Beginning Genealogy." Register in advance to guarantee a place in the class (there must be at least 10 in class). Cost: \$12.00 in advance. \$15. at the door. Contact: Rose Mary Kennedy 415/876-9009.
- * 19 - TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting, Eunice Reeser will give a presentation on the Orphan Train Society

PLANNING AHEAD - LOCAL EVENTS

- SEPTEMBER 3-4 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 Concord Bible Church, 4975 Concord Blvd, Concord. Speakers: James W. Warren and Paula Stuart Warren. Contact Stan Roberti, PO Box 910, Concord CA 94522-0910.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Carol Glover 829-7207
 Vice-Pres.: Manny Lindner 837-4444
 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

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The Newsletter is published each month except August and December.

NATIONAL EVENTS

JULY 15-16 American Family Records Assoc. 14th Annual Conference, "Across the Wide Atlantic - British Settlement in North America" at the Holiday Inn South, Kansas City, MO. Write: American Family Records Assoc., PO Box 15505, Kansas City MO.

AUGUST 4-6 - Great Lakes Conference, sponsored by the IL, IN, MI, Mn, OH, Ontario and WI Genealogical Societies. To be held in Ft Wayne, IN at the Grand Wayne Center. For program and reservation info send SASE to Great Lakes Conference, Genealogy Dept ACPL, PO Box 2270, Ft Wayne IN 46802.

SEPTEMBER 24 The Immigrant Genealogical Society presents German Genealogy Day 1994 with Annette Burgert, who specializes in locating the ancestral villages of the colonial Pennsylvania Germans. She will speak on European Roots of German Immigrants. At St. David's Episcopal Church, 11605 Magnolia Blvd, North Hollywood CA. \$22 at door; \$6/lunch.

OCTOBER 12-15 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in Richmond VA. Registration packet from FGS. Attn: 1994 Conference in Richmond, PO Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385.

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

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

GERMAN - Meets after regular meeting at Barbara Johnson's (837-2153)

IRISH - Meets 10AM each second Wednesday of the month at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). Next meetings: June 15 and July 13. No meeting in August. Starting in September the group will meet on the second Thursday of each month at Patty Erickson's.

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 12:30 on Tuesdays following the general meeting at the Danville Women's Club House (\$3/fee for rent). Contact Sandy Kimball (945-0277).

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meetings: June 14 at Charlotte Thompson's, 1091 Via Roble, Lafayette (284-5328); July 12 at Nancy Alexander's, 50 St Mark's Ct, Danville (820-1593). Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - England, Scotland, & Wales. Next meeting: June 27 1:30pm at Dotti Richardson's, 24 Prado Way, Lafayette (284-4566). Contact Ron Skilton 254-6989.

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

RESEARCH INFORMATION

FROM SRVGS MEMBERS

FROM DIANA HANCOCK, our "correspondent abroad" in Saudi Arabia (Diana also belongs to the Dhahran Genealogical Society which is compiling information on the Dhahran Cemetery):

● DHAHRAN GS PERFORMS SERVICE TO HISTORY WORLDWIDE - Americans first came to work for Aramco in the 1930's. Over the next 60 years thousands of US Citizens have been employed and lived in Saudi Arabia. In the early years it took employees 6 months to arrive in Arabia by ship. If a person employed in Arabia died, he was buried in the cemetery on the Aramco compound because they were not able to ship the deceased home. In the 1980's people were given the choice of burial in Arabia or burial in their country of origin. In the 1990's they are only allowed to be shipped home and no more burials are taking place in the Aramco cemetery.

The Dhahran Genealogical Society have taken the job of recording every burial in the

Aramco cemetery. This job was completed this year after almost three years of work in the cemetery and mortuary.

When this work was completed the society were to submit the work to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Hard working genealogists are never satisfied, so the society is now copying every obituary from the Sun and Flare (an early weekly newspaper) and The Arabian Sun (the later Aramco weekly). When this work is complete, it will be submitted to Salt Lake for all future generations.

For people not familiar with working foreign assignments: The work assignment in Arabia is to train the Saudis; the Saudis hope to have all expatriates out of the country in years to come. When all the expatriates leave the country, the cemetery and all American records will be lost, if it were not for the Dhahran Genealogical Society.

[Diana's letter mentions one set of obituaries she is putting into the computer: in April 1964 a plane went down trying to land at the Dhahran Airport in a wind/sand storm

and all aboard died, men, women and children--entire families. She also enclosed some copies of the excellent Dhahran GS newsletter--we'll post them at the June meeting. We hope to have Diana back home for good by the end of the year.]

● MARY & JOHN CLEARING HOUSE - This organization has been studying for ten years the English ancestries and descendants of the passengers of the ship, MARY & JOHN, which sailed to New England in 1630. Three years ago they broadened their studies to search for all of the people (3,000 to 4,000) who came from the West Country of England (counties of Dorset, Somerset, Devon & Cornwall), to New England by 1643. They have searchers in England and all over the US. Their new ancestral discoveries have been printed in twenty volumes. The organization also operates Family Society Tours, Ltd which conducts genealogical tours to England.

In September of 1993, the Mary & John Clearing House

sponsored a World-wide Mary & John & West Country Conference in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, which had nearly 400 attendees, 50 of whom came all the way from California. A limited quantity of the conference booklets (50 pages) is now available for \$20 plus \$1.50 postage. The booklets are filled with new material on the early Puritans who came from the West Country of England. Send to Mary & John Clearing House, 5602 305th St, Toledo OH 43611.

A second conference is being planned to be held in San Francisco in 1995.

The group also publishes and distributes a FREE NEWSLETTER to 4000 readers twice a year. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, send \$2 in postage stamps and you will be kept informed on the Conference in 1995.

● MORE FREE HELP

If you are interested in receiving The Family Tree, a bimonthly publication, write and ask to be put on the mailing list. There is no subscription charge for the paper -- although postage contributions are greatly appreciated and encouraged. Write Editor: The Family Tree, The Odom Library PO Box 1110, Moultrie GA 31776-1110. While the primary emphasis of the newspaper is Scottish research, it features columns on Hispanic, Jewish genealogy, as well as news from around the US and other countries of genealogical interest.

A COMPUTER CRASH caused about 200 new subscriber names and addresses to be lost -- some were address changes and corrections. Some were salvaged. The information lost was received between January 20 and February 18, 1994. If you think your

request may have been among those lost, write again.

RAILROADS - Are you interested in railroads? Write The Family Tree published by the Odom Library, PO 1110, Moultrie GA 31776-1110. Send an SASE for a list of historical societies that specialize in various lines and companies.

● AROUND THE STATES

- **LOUISIANA - ACADIAN MEMORIAL PROJECT.** This memorial project is dedicated to the flight of the Acadians from Nova Scotia to Louisiana more than 200 years ago. There will be a first floor open pavilion from the street to the bayou which will feature a mural and the "Wall of Names." The second floor will house offices, a computer room, and a conference area. Anyone having an interest in this project may get more information by contacting The Acadian Memorial, c/o City of St Martinville, PO Box 379, Dept AM, St. Martinville LA 70582. [reported in Chicago GS N/L Sept 93]

- **MISSOURI** - From Northeast Missouri State University comes word of a television film, The Dream Spinner, which dramatizes the saga of German immigration into Missouri and other Midwest states in the 19th century. It relates the story of Gottfried Duden, who was influential in encouraging Germans to come to the Midwest and is filmed on location in the "Missouri Rhineland." The VHS cassette is offered for sale for \$40. For more information write to: Dr. James Paulding; Fine Arts; Northeast Missouri State University; Kirksville MO 63501.

- **OKLAHOMA** - The Oklahoma Genealogical Research Group offers the following research services:

Cemetery Search - \$14/each surname. This is a search of all available cemetery records in the state of OK and includes DOB & DOD as well as location.

Telephone Directory Search - \$12/surname. This is a computer assisted CD-ROM search of all public directories.

Queries - will publish all queries for \$1 each per issue (\$4/year). Limit entries to 40 word or less. Quarterly Newsletter subscription is \$10/yr.

Order forms for the above services are available by writing OGRG, PO Box 171, Stigler OK 74462 (918/967-2722). Please enclose SASE.

● AROUND THE WORLD

- **GERMAN-INTERNEES SOUGHT.** Germans, including Americans of German ancestry, were interned during World War II. Professor Stephen Fox (Dept. of History, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA 95521) wishes to interview those of German ancestry who were detained, relocated, excluded or interned during WWII. If you know persons who had such experiences, write or call Prof. Fox (707/839-1919) [Odom Fam Tree Apr/May 1994 p88]
- **GERMAN PHONEBOOKS** - The Immigrant Genealogical Society has purchased the February 1994 phone CDs for United Germany. These include millions of phones installed since the "Fall of the Wall," including former East Germany. IGS volunteers will count how many times one surname appears on one of the three disks and provide a list of

up to 25 names and addresses for that surname plus send you a German-English letter.

They cannot search by the name of a state, but you may specify a village, city or general area which they can match with present postal codes. They can also look for one person's name in all Germany. Each search is for the reasonable fee of \$7.00.

IGS will provide a free flier describing the various searches they can do; send a SASE to: Immigrant Genealogical Society, PO Box 7369, Burbank CA 91510.

● GENERAL INFORMATION

● JUNE = WEDDINGS

JUNE calls to mind weddings & brides. More than 10 percent of this year's expected 2.4 million weddings will take place in June, says US News & World Report June 6, 1994. The month's popularity among brides and grooms dates back to ancient Rome's worship of Juno, the patroness of women and protector of marriages.

Actually, in present-day America, more weddings occur in August. And our ancestors whose lives were geared to the growing seasons of crops, avoided the summer months.

[see the following]

● VIRGINIA WEDDINGS

During the period following the Civil War, the marriage rate in Pittsylvania County, Virginia shot up, finally reaching a point in the 1870s where 10 couples per day were tying the knot.

The favorite month for exchanging vows was December. Since many of the couples came from farm families, the least popular month for matrimony was July. After the harvest was in, the marriage rate rose sharply beginning in

September and peaking at Christmas time.

From 1862-1875 some 2,650 couples exchanged vows in the county, the oldest being 80 and the youngest 13. The greatest gap in age saw an 80-year-old man taking a 17-year-old bride.

[Bulletin of VA-NC Piedmont GS Vol XII No.3 1990]

● MARRIAGE ALLEGATIONS

In response to a question on this topic, George French sent the following quote to the I&UK_GENE echo. Please note that I&UK_GENE is a FidoNet area for discussing matters relevant to genealogical research in the British Isles.

"A visit to the clergyman issuing the [Marriage] license resulted in three separate documents. An allegation (or affidavit) was sworn out, normally by the groom, to the effect that there was no lawful impediment to the marriage. By the 17th century, these were on printed forms, with spaces for the relevant details including names, ages, marital conditions, residence and occupations of the parties wishing to marry, the name of the church where the marriage was to take place and sometimes even the name of the clergyman who was to perform the ceremony. Secondly there was the marriage bond, ... Finally, there was the marriage license itself...." "...Allegations were no longer required after Marriage Act of 1823."

The quote is from *The Family Tree Detective* by Colin D. Rogers.

[From CCCoGS N/L May 1994 p.39]

● LEGAL AGE

A chart showing ages for various legal actions appears in *The SOURCE A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, edited by Arlene Eakle & Johni

Cerny, on page 186 in the section on American Court Records by Arlene Eakle. It is based in part on a legal treatise on family law published in 1862.

The legal age to marry was 14 (male) and 12 (female). However, parental consent was required in most states until age 21 (male) and 18 (female). Exceptions: age 18 (m) and 14 (f) in Mississippi, Ohio, Indiana; age 18 (m) and 15 (f) in Minnesota; age 17 (m) and 14 (f) in Illinois; age 16 (m) and 14 (f) in Iowa. The marriage is valid without parental consent, but the officiator could be fined. Annulment or divorce was the only way to void the marriage.

A married child was not subject to the control of parents and could remarry on the death of a spouse without consent if underage.

● EXASPERATED WITH NUMBERS?

"Why would anyone want to use a numbering system that tells the reader nothing about a person's relative place in the family except that he or she is the 264th person the author chose to discuss?" asks Richard Pence in the Jan/Feb and Mar/Apr 1994 NGS Newsletters. He became exasperated with trying to follow a line backward through the standard Register/Record numbering systems in genealogies. The articles discuss the widely-used systems and suggests that it may be time for a change to something more compatible with computer numbering and logic -- a system which can be followed both forward and backward without involved explanations.

Heresy? What do you think?

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● JUNE LIBRARY TRIP MONDAY, June 27, 1994

The June library trip will be to the Solano County Genealogical Society Library at 620 Main Street in Vacaville on MONDAY, June 27 (Please note change of day!!). Members will meet to carpool at 9:00 a.m. in back of Lucky's on Diablo Road in Danville. A sign-up sheet will be circulated during our monthly meeting. If you don't attend the meeting but wish to go on the library trip, please call Mary Jo Hosteny (932-2244) to add your name. Call her also if your name is on the list and you can't make it. This keeps people from waiting unnecessarily for you to arrive.

This library has many reference books and county histories in addition to Solano County records. They also have indexes to pension files for Indian Wars, War of 1812, Civil War, etc. and a microfiche file of California deaths.

We will have a list of library trips for the coming year in the next newsletter. I will probably schedule two trips to the National Archives in San Bruno and two trips to the Sutro Library. A list of the area libraries appears in your directory/handbook. Let me know your desires on the smaller libraries. [From Millie Freitas, Library Trip Chairman 837-2483.]

● DANVILLE FHC

THURSDAY HOURS at the local Family History Center at Stone Valley and Smith Roads have been changed to be consistent with Monday hours. The FHC is now open on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm. Mary Jo Hosteny cautions

"USE IT OR LOSE IT!" The FHC must have a certain amount of patronage to continue in existence or to expand. It is a great convenience to be able to consult the FamilySearch program locally. If you have been hesitant to use the CD-ROMs on computer, here's your chance to give it a try and have SRVGS members help you with getting started. Mary Jo is there on Mondays and Ardith Steger on Thursdays. The Salt Lake catalog is on microfiche also. Right now there is no time restriction as long as no one else is waiting. [EDITOR'S note: If you haven't checked the new edition of FamilySearch, be sure to do so; you may save yourself many hours of work. Last year my Jehosaphat Ladd was not listed. This year I found him and his spouse (complete with maiden name!) on the IGI and the Ancestral File listed a researcher who gave this information and his father's name as well! -- subject to verification, of course.]

● CALIFORNIA

- BERKELEY UC LIBRARY CHANGES - Library Administration recently made official the name change of the former "Main Library" to "Doe Library." The other two major library building names are "Moffitt Library" and the "Doe Stacks".

Following is the Master Calendar for the entire DOE-MOFFITT PROJECT of construction and relocation:
March 1994 - For security purposes, only the south entrance of Doe Library will be used for entrance and exit.
May-June 1994 The Author/Title catalog in Doe

Library will be removed.
April-December 1994 Various library departments and offices will be relocated.

Starting in JULY, the Main Stack Collection will be moved to the new Doe Stacks (North Addition to Doe). The move will take approximately two months and is expected to be completed by the end of August. This means that, at times, various sections of the Main Stack Collection will be inaccessible.

The Doe Stacks will be occupied in the following phases over the summer of 1994: July, West floors will be occupied; August, East floors will be occupied; September, top floor, stack portal, and circulation desk will be opened for service. WORD TO THE WISE: If you plan to use any of the UCB library collections, call ahead (510/643-9999) to be sure you will have access.

- CHICO - The Meriam Library at Cal State. Chico has a special collections unit which acquires, preserves and makes available important records related to the history and development of the area around Chico and the 12 county Northeastern California region. The collection includes thousands of photographs which are indexed. For more information contact: Special Collections, Meriam Library, CA State Univ Chico, Chico CA 95929-0295 (916/898-5710).
- SACRAMENTO - The Genealogical Association of Sacramento moved its library collection to the fourth floor of the Sacramento Central Library at 828 I st. Hours: Sunday 1-5pm, and Tues-Sat 11am-6pm.

● FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY NEWS

- The FHL, 35 N. West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150 is publishing a new series of genealogical word lists. Available are lists for Dutch, Swedish, Norwegian, German, Latin, Spanish, French and Portuguese languages. The lists include about 900 words that you are likely to find in genealogical sources and their English translations. They are free with long SASE. [Odom Fam Tree Apr/May 94]

- **PLANNING A VISIT TO SALT LAKE? REMINDER -** The FHL's growing collection of microfilmed records and limited storage space has made it necessary to store some of its films at other locations. In the past this applied only to countries outside North America, the British Isles, and northern Europe. This growth now requires that some films from most European countries be stored at other locations, including some films that used to be stored at the library. If a researcher needs a film not stored at the library, it can usually be delivered within one or two hours. Some films, however, may require three to five working days. Currently only European films are stored off-site. Films from other places may be moved off-site within the next few years.

If you plan to use European films while you are at the Family History Library, before going to Salt Lake City do the following:

Check the FHL Catalog to see if the library has the records you need. Copies of the catalog are available at all FHC's.

If the library has the records and the record type is listed on the chart, the film should be available for immediate use at

the library.

If the library has the records you need but the record type is not listed on the chart, please write to the library and specify the exact film numbers you will need and the date of your visit. Write at least four weeks before you come. Library staff will make every effort to have those films available for you.

The address is International Reference Unit, Family History Library, 35 North West Temple Street, Salt Lake City UT 84150. [CSGA N/L Jan 94]

- **NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY -** Last year, reports indicated that the Society Library was closing for lack of funds and its collections would be housed elsewhere. SRVGS member Peggy Dearman recently received a letter from the NY Public Library stating that the Historical Society Library has not closed but is now open Monday-Saturday 10am to 5pm. It is the Museum that is closed. To obtain information about the library collections write: The New-York Historical Society Library, 170 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024-5194 (212/873-3400)

- **PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES & LIBRARY -** At the Archives: records of specific genealogical interest include passenger lists, primarily of German and Swiss arrivals at the port of Philadelphia, 1727-1773; oaths of allegiance 1777-1790; septennial census returns, 1779-1863; naturalization records of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Eastern District 1794-1868; Western District 1812-1867 and Southern District, 1815-1829; and records relating to military service. Available on microfilm are certain

records of 58 counties, including wills, deeds, slave registers, and tax lists.

The Pennsylvania State Archives is located at the corner of Third and Forster Streets in Harrisburg. Mailing address: Pennsylvania State Archives, PO Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026, telephone (717) 783-3281.

If you have a computer with a modem you may be able to reach LUIS, the State Library of Pennsylvania's online catalog. For complete instructions write to the State Library at Pennsylvania Department of Education, State Library of Pennsylvania, Library Services Division, Box 1601, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1601 and request the publication "Dial Access to LUIS". [From brochure entitled THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES via Chicago GS N/L Apr 94]

● YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH HISTORY

is the title of a special issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly (Vol. 82 No. 2, June 1994), launching the NGS Family Health Historian Program. This issue is an introduction to the subject.

Writers with expertise in both genealogy and genetics provide advice and ideas on various topics: conducting family interviews to record the most-reliable health data; little-known record sources available through the National Archives and the Family History Library; a genetics resource guide; and an update on the mitrilineal project by Dr. Roderick.

A limited number of extra copies is available at \$11 (postpaid). Write National Genealogical Society, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington VA 22207-2399.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VITAL RECORDS SECURITY ACT OF 1995

Legislation has been proposed in the California State Assembly which, if passed, will make confidential all birth, marriage, death and divorce records. This means unless you are that person, their parent (has to be named on the record), spouse, child or grandchild with legal proof of relationship or legal guardian with proof, you will not get the record or even be allowed to view it. Births would be confidential for 100 years and the others for 50 years. All records or indices copied to ensure public access would have to be returned to the appropriate county or the State Registrar.

It appears that this legislation is being proposed to keep illegal aliens and those with other legal problems from establishing new identities using the records of others as proof of identity.

If this bill passes, it will severely limit genealogical research. There are 21 pages to this bill which covers just about anything having to do with the handling of these documents. Not all aspects of it pertain to the family historian, but the proposed bureaucratic red tape would be a nightmare for everyone concerned. A few other aspects of this bill include 1. allow State Registrar to authorize use of vital records for statistical or research purposes; 2. deny you access to the record even when you meet the above requirements if you cannot provide the Registrar with name, place of event, date, and (for births) mother's maiden name and father if listed; 3. person with official custody of a record and who releases it is guilty of a crime punishable by a fine of \$5,000-10,000 or a year in jail. Adoptee's access to information on their records, such as medical information, would also be restricted.

No matter which way I held these pages was it clear to me what the cost of these documents would be and what agencies would eventually get this fee.

This legislation (AB 3170) was proposed by Assemblywoman Grace Napolitano. It passed out of the Ways and Means Committee and came up for vote in the Assembly June 2. It was defeated by only a very small margin. On June 3 Napolitano was allowed more time to make minor revisions. On June 8 a group of genealogists met with the Assemblywoman to express their concerns but it is not known what was effected. At this time (June 9), it would appear that the bill may not be resubmitted to the Assembly but the entire 21 pages will be attached as an addendum to a bill already passed along to the Senate Health Committee. The Senate has until July 7 to pass the bill (number unknown at this writing).

It is very important that every one of you call your state senator immediately and let him know you are against any legislation that would make vital records and/or their indices private. Even if you are not doing research in California, don't forget the likely possibility of other states jumping on the same bandwagon. It won't be long before a state you do research in will refuse you access to their records.

CAROL GLOVER

The State Senator for the 7th District is Dan Boatwright - 689-1973.

State Assemblyman for the 15th District is Richard Rainey - 933-9196.

Check the front pages of your phone directory for other districts and for numbers of their Sacramento offices.

SRVGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

1994-95 COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Alliance Representative FRANCES LLOYD
 Book Reviews Chair MARY JO HOSTENY
 Cassette Library JACK JOHNSON
 Education MARY JO HOSTENY
 Freebies JO BOLENBAKER
 Friends of the Archives Rep
 FRANCES LLOYD
 Genealogy Forms DOTTIE RICHARDSON
 Historian NANCY ALEXANDER
 Hospitality SHEILA FASS,
 JANE SINGLETON &
 CHARLOTTE THOMPSON
 Library Trips MILLIE FREITAS
 Newsletter Editor DOROTHY STANTON
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 Newsletter Mailing BARBARA DITTIG,
 LUCY CARVER & JEANETTE MOSES
 Program Taping WIN KYNETT
 Program Reporters SANDY KIMBALL,
 CHRISTINE SCOTT, JANE STEINER
 & BETTY VAIL
 Publicity LINDA HYDE
 Special Interest Groups
 Coordinator WENDY HABERMEHL

VOLUNTEER URGENTLY NEEDED - President CAROL GLOVER hopes to hear from a volunteer willing to serve as Hospitality Committee Chairman. We need someone in the Danville area who can bring the coffee pots, etc., each month, open the Club House and get set-up started. Call Carol (829-7207) before the June meeting -- or THERE WILL BE NO REFRESHMENTS at the meeting! SRVGS applauds Barney Rubin for filling this job so ably this past year.

FAMILY RECORD EXTRACTION PROGRAM

The SRVGS will again be participating in the LDS Church Family Record Extraction Program. The purpose of these extractions is to computerize US civil death and church burial records. They will become part of the FamilySearch computer files. Our work will be part of a project assigned to the Danville Stake. We will be working with New York City Death records for the year 1904.

The SRVGS coordinator (to be announced) will act as liaison with the Danville LDS Stake, disperse all materials and deliver the finished project.

[Continued last page: see EXTRACTIONS]



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

1994-1995 MEMBERSHIP
 SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____
 Street City Zip Code (9 digits)

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

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

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

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

[EXTRACTIONS continued]

There are various methods of extraction. The most basic is simply to copy the information by hand onto a printed form. Usually two volunteers will do the same set of records independently and these two copies will be compared with the original by a third person and the most correct or corrected copy will be the one submitted. Records can also be directly entered into an IBM compatible computer using special LDS software. At press time it was unclear as to system requirements such as hard disk space.

A training seminar will be conducted by LDS program administrators. A sign-up sheet will be available at the June general meeting. Call Carol Glover at 829-7207 for more information.

WHY GENEALOGY?

Question in "Ask Marilyn" by Marilyn Vos Savant in Parade Magazine 20 June 1993 [Marilyn is listed in Guinness Book of World Records Hall of Fame for "Highest IQ"]:

A reader tells of how his hobby of researching his family history has changed his life. "Although I'm a college graduate, I always disliked reading. Now I seek out local libraries when I travel. Also, I've learned about political history, civil proceedings, religious history, geography, land transactions, economics, and a smattering of Spanish, German and Latin--and all because of genealogy."

He asks, "Is researching one's ancestry as whole-some, intellectually stimulating and rewarding as I believe it to be; or, as my kids would say, have I "slipped into senility"?"

Marilyn replies: "You have my wholehearted endorsement, Bob, and your letter itself is the best statement of why. And it's interesting to note that the thrill actually comes from the learning experience as you place yourself in another's shoes and in another time. It has nothing to do with genes. After all, you're not nearly so thrilled to learn everything about the relatives who live in your hometown today, are you?"

[Contributed by Marilyn Fullam]

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FIRST CLASS MAIL