

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. 2

JULY/AUGUST 1994

PROGRAM: JULY 19, 1994

WE ARE A PART OF HISTORY: THE ORPHAN TRAINS

SRVGS member EUNICE REESER is the daughter of an orphan train rider and a charter member of the Orphan Train Heritage Society in America (OTHSa). Her presentation will include a documentary film on the history of the orphan trains

LAST MONTH

by Jane Steiner

FRANCES LLOYD and BETTE KOT gave some timely tips as well as an enthusiastic review of some books that should interest genealogists.

Frances recommended buying the four indexes on censuses from the National Archives so that you can do your preparation at home and start right in on a film reader when you get there. She also suggested making a printout from a microfiche that has a lot of information in which you are interested. It is usually easier to work from a printed page than from a viewer.

She recommended Richard Lackey's *Cite Your Sources* which is one of the few that tells you how to do a census footnote; it also helps you to be consistent. Val Greenwood's *Researchers' Guide to American Genealogy* is one of the best guides available.

The 3-volume D.A.R. shelf list of the D.A.R. Library and the Index to the D.A.R. magazines (1892-1950) are other valuable resources. A D.A.R. member reported that a surname index for all D.A.R. books is now in progress.

Frances also pointed out the *County Courthouse Book*, *Confederate Research*, and *Genealogy Vocabulary*.

Bette recommended Carol Wilsey Bell's *OHIO: Guide to Genealogical Sources* as an example of a first-class book of its type. Also, an excellent periodical, *Gateway to the West*, which was published from 1967-1978, now has been reprinted in two volumes by the same title. It covers 76 of the 88 counties in Ohio, and is indexed in PERSI.

PERSI (PERiodical Source Index) is a very useful index that covers genealogical periodicals from 1847-1992, divided into locality and surname. It lists state, county, type of record and which periodical,

using a 4-letter code. It also has some Bible entries. It is a hard-cover, multi-volume index and is available at Sutro Library.

Another index she liked was GPAI (Genealogical Periodical Annual Index), though it is more limited than PERSI. East Bay Genealogical Society has recently published an *Alameda County Research Guide* for those doing research there. For newcomers to genealogy she recommended Harriet Stryker-Rodda's *How to Climb Your Family Tree*.

They both mentioned various research books on individual states, regions, church groups, land records, and specific time periods. They said that the reprints of old books often have better indexes than the originals.

Many of these books are available at some of the area genealogical libraries or can be purchased from GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES at 510/837-9382 (Frances).



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



★ JULY

- * 12 - TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group [see p.13]; 7:30pm Livermore-Amador Valley GS
- * 13 - WEDNESDAY 10am Irish Interest Group [see p.13]
- 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; 12:30pm ROOTS Users' Group [see p.13]
- * 26 - TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Program Committee at Bea O'Rand's, 16 Ashford Ct, Alamo. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME or call Jeanette Moses (837-4480) with any program suggestions; 1pm Sacramento German GS Meeting at Northminster Presb Church, 3235 Pope Av, Sacramento (961/753-3206): "Immigration and Emigration Resources" by LaRayne Green.

★ AUGUST ***NO MEETING & NO NEWSLETTER IN AUGUST***

- 6 SATURDAY 9am-2pm Photo Session at SCGS Library, 620 E. Main St, Vacaville, sponsored by Solano Co GS to benefit the society. Bring your photographs and a SASE. The photos are returned immediately after your session. A new 3.5"x5" photo and negative will be sent to you. The cost is \$4.00/photo. Photographer: Donna Van Lone, whose specialty is genealogical photographs.
- 11 THURSDAY 7:30pm CCCo GS Meeting, Concord City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr. Rick Sherman: Research Adventures in Bluegrass KY, Boston MA, & Tidewater VA.
- 12 FRIDAY 9AM to 1PM National Archives Workshop in San Bruno: "Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records"; \$15 at door. Contact Rose Mary Kennedy 415/876-9009.
- 23 TUESDAY Sacramento German GS Afternoon Workshop by Ernest Thode of Marietta Ohio; \$10 for non-members. Call 916/753-3206 for more information.

★ SEPTEMBER

- 3-4 Labor Day Weekend - Annual Highland Gathering & Games at the Alameda Co Fairgrounds in Pleasanton (instead of Santa Rosa). For info call 415/267-0558.
- * 6 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. All members welcome!
- 8 THURSDAY 7:30pm CCCo GS Meeting, Concord City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr. "Researching Black Genealogy."

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
 Editor: Dorothy Stanton
 501 El Capitan Drive
 Danville, CA 94526-4923
 (510) 820-3757
 Mailing: Barbara Dittig 735-9610
 Lucy Carver 837-3146
 Jeanette Moses 837-4480
 The Newsletter is published each month except August and December.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17

Contra Costa Co GS presents an all-day Seminar featuring James W. Warren and Paula Stuart Warren at the Concord Bible Church, 4975 Concord Blvd Concord. Contact Stan Roberti, PO Box 910, Concord CA 94522-0910.

SALT LAKE TRIPS

Frances Becker has scheduled trips to the Salt Lake City Family History Library for OCTOBER 9-16, 1994 (Napa GS); OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 6, 1994 (EBGS); FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 5, 1995. Call her (934-4962) for more information about costs and reservations.

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 2

The Genealogical Council of OREGON 3rd Annual Conference "Expanding Your Horizons" at The Riverhouse, Bend OR. Cost \$95 Contact GCO Seminar, PO Box 15169, Portland OR 97215.

OCTOBER 12-15 FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE

"On to Richmond" will be hosted by Virginia GS. For more information and to receive a registration packet & program brochure send request to: 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 - No meeting is scheduled for the rest of the year. For information contact Barbara Johnson (837-2153).

IRISH - Meets 10AM July 13 at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). No meeting in August. Starting with Thursday, September 15th the group will meet each month at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl, Pleasant Hill (229-0889).

PUBLISHING - Contact Jane Steiner 283-0867 if you need help with a publishing project. Meetings will be scheduled as needed.

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). This group is an official Users' Group; Bob Heacox receives (and interprets) Commsoft's Bulletins.

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meeting: July 12 at Nancy Alexander's, 50 St Mark's Ct, Danville (820-1593) and September 13 at Peggy Dearman's, 749 Morninghome Rd, Danville (837-1621). Please bring or send surname updates for the database being compiled by Barbara Irwin. Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - Research in England, Scotland, & Wales. Next meeting: September 26 at Bea O'Rand's. Contact Ron Skilton 254-6989.

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

RESEARCH INFORMATION

• CALIFORNIA SAR

The California Society of The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) is seeking to expand its membership. Currently the National organization consists of 25,000 active male descendants of those Patriots who, during the American Revolution, "rendered unwavering loyal service to the cause of winning our freedom from England." The Thomas Jefferson Chapter covers Alameda & Contra Costa Counties. For more information and an application, contact the Registrar, LeBron Preston (935-3515).

• REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOURCES

- RECORDS DISCOVERY - Craig Scott, a Certified Genealogical Record Searcher who specializes in military records, has found 105 boxes of pension records relating to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Seminole War. He says archivists have known about the records, but they

were used infrequently because it took two different and inadequate indexes in order to locate a specific record. He cautions that some of the files contain nothing more than a final record of payment while others contain detailed letters from the pensioner, his widow or children. The approximately 10,000 file abstracts are being published in a box-by-box listing of each file with pensioner name, account number and the location of the pension office involved by the American Genealogy Magazine starting with the March-April issue. Send \$22.50/yr to American Genealogy Magazine, Datatrace Systems, PO Box 1587, Stephenville TX 76401.

[The Genealogist May 1994 via CSGA N/L June 94]

- THE PENSION ROLL of 1835, a recently republished 4-volume set, is the most complete index of Revolutionary pensions published. The material was compiled by the War Dept from lists of pensioners (60,700 soldiers in all)

who had been enrolled under all previous acts of Congress, as well as from replacement records for the lists of pensioners destroyed by fires in 1801 and in 1814.

Sutro Library has the older 1968 version of this set of books. It was difficult to use because it lacked an index. You had to know from which state your ancestor served to find him. The new reprinting has a 252-page every name index.

- PIERCE'S REGISTER is a complete roster of the men who served in the Continental Army (except for men from South Carolina). The book contains about 93,000 names. There are no militia men in this book -- only Continental Army. If your ancestor served in the regular army in the American Revolution, but didn't live long enough to get a pension, look for him in Pierce's Register.

[Excerpts on above 2 books from an article by Helen Graves in San Mateo Co GS N/L June 1994 p.99. SMC GS library has the books on their shelves.]

- **GENEALOGICAL ABSTRACTS of REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION FILES** by Virgil D. White, published by The National Historical Publishing Company, Waynesboro TN, is a 4-volume set of 5266 pages which has attempted to abstract everything of genealogical value for each pension file from National Archives Series M804 and M805. The claimants are arranged in alphabetical order but, in addition, Volume IV contains an index of every name (399,096) mentioned within the files. It's possible that your ancestor's pension file is missing but he might have been a witness for another claimant. A fantastic resource!

[Editor's Note: These books are on the shelves in Salt Lake. Does anyone know of a local source? A list of Mr White's books will be posted at the July meeting.]

- **WHY NO REVOLUTIONARY WAR MINI-SERIES?**

Replying to a question about why there is so much more interest in the Civil War than in the Revolutionary War, Joel Achenbach commented in his column "Why Things Are" that the RW is a victim of its own myth; we see it in such black & white terms that we have not allowed any interesting hues. We were right and the British wrong and no other opinions need apply.

We forget that there was another side to the story. About half a million Americans in those days were in favor of the other side. The Revolutionary War was in many ways a civil war. The conflict was not just army against army but family against family, cousin against cousin.

After the war, many loyalists left for Canada. The ones that

stayed in the US had to keep their mouths shut. Loyalists couldn't mythologize their own roles in the war. Children grew up unaware that their parents had fought for the crown. The myth of the Revolution thus grew as a one-sided battle of brave Americans versus tyrannical Britons.

Another factor makes the Civil War the greater conflict in American history: more blood makes more drama, says Mr. Achenbach. Only a few thousand Americans died during the entire Revolutionary War. There were years when hardly anything happened. [SRV TIMES Apr 17, 1994]

- **HESSIAN SOLDIERS** - The Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, named after one Hessian soldier who fought for the British in the Revolutionary War, is dedicated to collecting and preserving information about all Germans who assisted in the Revolutionary War. Many of those mercenaries remained after the war and married American women. They have a library collection at the Gratz Historical Society, Gratz, PA 17030

[Immigrant GS N/L Feb 93 via Chicago GS N/L June 94]

- **WHO WERE THE HESSIANS?** The term "Hessian" is often used incorrectly to refer to all of Britain's German auxiliary troops. Six states of the old Holy Roman Empire allied themselves with Britain: Hessen-Kassel, Hessen-Hanau, Ansbach-Bayreuth, Brunswick (Braunschweig), Anhalt, and Waldeck. The greater proportion of the soldiers were in the forces of Hessen-Kassel and Hessen-Hanau, hence the popular reference to "Hessians."

[From Pitfalls in Genealogical Research by Milton Rubicam, publ by Ancestry; see pp 14-16 for sources and how to prove your "Hessian" soldier.]

- **SUMMER = REUNIONS**

"The largest German family reunion in Texas" convened at a convention center in Belton TX in June. More than 1,200 members of the 14,000-strong Hoelscher-Buxkemper clan were expected for their twenty-first gathering.

Your family might not be as large but here are some ideas of how to plan & handle your own reunion:

The family has a 21-member board of directors with six on the reunion committee to plan the biennial gathering. They published a 600-page history "The Hoelscher Family of Texas," in 1979. The family circulates a 10- to 20-page newsletter each reunion year.

The Hoelscher family history started with Anton and Mary Katherine Hoelscher, who immigrated to Texas in 1846 from Westphalia, Prussia.

[Article by Justin Bachman in Ft Worth Star via SRV Times June 26, 1994]

REUNIONS magazine is available from PO Box 11727, Milwaukee WI 53211-0727.

- **FAMILIES OF BOMBER CREWS SOUGHT**

August 5, 1944 was the day the war came to Laurel NE. On that day two B-17 bombers collided in the skies just to the east, killing 17 servicemen. Laurel residents have erected a memorial to honor those who died in the collision. Eight of the 17 families of the bombers' crews have not been located:

Cpl GEORGE BRADA, Cleveland; Pfc PAUL BERUMIN, Tucson AZ; Cpl RICHARD DAVIS, Oakland CA; 2nd Lt KENNETH DEWEY, Grosse Pointe MI; Pfc JACK INCE, Salt Lake City; Cpl WALTER JACQUES, Pawtucket RI; Flight Officer WM KAVNER, Brooklyn NY; 2nd Lt JOSEPH MEAD, Danbury CT; 2nd Lt ARCHIE MORAN, Chicago; Pfc DEAN STILL, San Diego CA; and Pfc WILBERT UTTER, Prescott WA. Contact Gene Twiford, Rt 2 Box 334, Laurel NE 68745.

[Odom Fam Tree Aug/Sep 93]

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

- **THERE WILL BE NO SRVGS LIBRARY TRIP** in July or August. A schedule of trips for the 1994-95 year will be published in September by Library Chairperson MILLIE FREITAS.

- **NATIONAL ARCHIVES,** SAN BRUNO will continue to be open on the first Saturday of each month (except holiday weekends) reports Archives Rep Frances Lloyd. A training session for new volunteers is planned for September.

- **FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY**

- **SCOTTISH OPR ADDENDA**

The FHL in cooperation with the Office of the Registrar General for Scotland announced the Nov 1993 publication and distribution of a three-microfiche set of Addenda Indexes to be used in conjunction with 1990 edition of indexes to the Old Parochial Registers of Scotland. They should now be available in local Family History Centers.

The 3 fiche containing some 31,000 Birth and Marriage entries not included in the 1990 edition OPR, are to be used in conjunction with the earlier edition. These additional record entries have been gleaned variously from Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) register sources, newly recovered entries in original parish microfilms, and corrected or previously missed records reported by users of the 1990 Indexes.

The three Addenda Index fiche carry FHL Call No. 6025610, parts 0001 through 0003, thus providing for them to be inserted at the front of the 1990 OPR sets.

Since the addenda went to press, the FHL learned that

baptism registers for 1711-1744 and marriage 1711-1718 of Inverkeithing and Rosyth United Parishes, County File, long since classed as lost are to be found in the custody of the Scottish Record Office, Court of Sessions Productions.

These are not known to be on microfilm. For details and access to the records see List and Index Society Special Series, Vol 23, Reference CS 96, published 1987, London. Copies of this publication are available at the FHL, Salt Lake [Call No. Brit Q area 942 B4pro spec ser vol 23].

Unfortunately, none of these records of this parish are included in the Indexes to the OPR nor in the Addenda. [From

News of the Family History Library via Gen. Helper May-June 1994]

- The Family History Library Catalog and the IGI on Microfiche may be purchased from the Family History Department, 50 E North Temple St, Salt Lake City UT 84150.

You may order all or part; the cost of each fiche is \$.15; the entire US locality contains 225 fiche and costs only \$33.00. [CSGA N/L June 94]

- **VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES: A TREASURE IN TROUBLE**

Concerned Archives users, investigating the current and future status of the institution, found a troubling scenario. Virginians (and those with VA roots) may find their documentary heritage in irreversible jeopardy by 2007, the Commonwealth's 400th Anniversary. The VA-NC Piedmont GS of Danville VA [Piedmont Lineages Jan-Feb 1994] reports the following:

Although the title is Virginia State Library and Archives,

it is in reality two institutions with separate and unequal status under the direction of the State Librarian -- the Archives and the State Library. For the past two years the Archives has received only 11% of the entire 2.3 million dollar budget with more of the same projected. A mere \$7000 was allotted in the last budget for continued conservation and restoration of original documents. There is no conservation specialist.

The Archives presently requires 57,000 cu ft of storage space; it will be allotted 27,000 in the new VSLA building. Press releases state "two stack floors" will be used for storing archival materials. In fact 1/2 of one floor will be devoted to archival storage.

There are enormous archival holdings that include county court records, solicited by the Archives from the county court clerks, that have not been inventoried, preserved, or made available to the public. They continue to be inaccessible to those persons who have legitimate research interest in them. Worse yet, there are no plans to inventory or preserve these records. As unprocessed records they are destined to be stored off-site at a warehouse. These include, but are not limited to, county loose papers and original volumes, tax records, original state papers, military records, land records, etc.

What can be done? Since the legislature and the governor allocate the funds and set policy, voters must let them know that they want funding for preservation and they want all manuscript records to remain in one place and accessible. If you know Virginians

or belong to historical and genealogical societies in that state, urge their support of the Archives.

• LIBRARY ETIQUETTE FOR GENEALOGISTS

No one likes to be around unmannerly people...unfortunately, genealogists have acquired the uncouth label. Many librarians detest those they call "genealogy buffs" - and rightly so. No one likes thieves and destroyers of property.

There are those who rip out half a page of a city directory instead of hand copying a three line entry. The "family historians" wreak havoc with precious book and documents. "It is often the nice patrons who steal books and periodicals," said a Georgia librarian.

Visitors to most archives must now show identification to a security officer. [TIP: If you visit an out-of-state library or archive, it helps to have a card showing membership in a genealogical society in that state. In fact, some require it!]

Many repositories do not allow notebooks with covers, brief cases or bags to be taken into the repository, because of theft and property destruction. These problems threaten to slam the door on what we need most -- access to records.

Many librarians have a dim view of genealogists/family historians, who are often newcomers to the field and the high standard of scholarly research and etiquette.

* Talk to the library staff to learn the library rules. Ask about the sources available and how to access them. You show your ignorance when you refuse to ask for help.

* Work quietly and alone. Restrict your conversation to areas outside of the research area. NEVER mark or remove

pages from any book or periodical. If a library requests that you do not reshelve books -- don't.

* Keep all your notes and books on the work table. Write your notes on your own paper and not on the margins or text of books.

* When using microfilms, pay attention to the library rules as to how many rolls of film you are permitted to take. In any event, never have more than one film out of its box at one time. [CSGA N/L Jan 94]

If you think the above is an exaggeration of the problem, read on!

• NORTH CAROLINA ARCHIVES SECURITY

The North Carolina Genealogical Society is supporting a bill before the state senate to reinstate law enforcement officers for the protection of the invaluable and irreplaceable historical documents on file at the NC State Archives.

In explaining the situation to its members, their Newsletter noted that not all patron removal involved criminal intent. In one past case, before the assignment of security officers, it was found by chance that a lady patron had taken some original marriage bonds to her home in Texas. When she was contacted and asked to return these bonds, she concurred, but claimed she had always been allowed to take such documents from county courthouses IF they involved "her family's ancestors."

Other cases were not so innocent! A graduate student from Wake Forest University was detained by staff after original Archives documents were found concealed in his clothes. It was eventually learned that he had been purloining Archives' documents

over a period of time in order to market them to dealers in New York and Pennsylvania. Most of these stolen papers are believed to have been recovered and returned to NC by the State Bureau of Investigation -- a costly endeavor.

The newsletter notes that security of public records was almost a non-priority in the early nineteenth century and there was no law on the books that made it a crime to set fire to public records in a courthouse. It was not until 1830 that this situation changed when a citizen employed another to set fire to the Hertford County courthouse to destroy evidence against him in an upcoming trial.

[NCGS News Spring 1994]

• UC BERKELEY WARNING

To protect the copies they have, the Environmental Design Library sports a warning borrowed from a library in Barcelona: *"For him that stealeth a book from this library, let it change to a Serpent in his hand and rend him. Let Book-worms gnaw his entrails and let the flames of hell consume him for ever and aye."* [California Monthly UCB June 94 p52]

* * * * *

• BOOK REVIEW

by Mary Jo Hosteny
NICKNAMES, PAST AND PRESENT, by Christine Rose. A list of nicknames for given names used in the past and present time. Publ. Rose Family Assn., San Jose CA 1987. Soft cover, 29 pp.

This little booklet is a useful compilation of common nicknames for given names, both male and female. Some are unusual, others foregone, but the booklet may be useful, nevertheless. For example, did you know "Patsy" could be a nickname for "Martha"?

NEW TAPES

The following audio tapes were added to our tape collection from speakers at the 1994 National Genealogical Society Conference in the States. Tape Librarian Jack Johnson announces that they are available now for members to borrow. Don't forget your "donation" of \$1 per month which finances future purchases.

- C-143 HOW TO FIND THAT IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR IN SO. CAROLINA Brent H. Holcomb
- C-144 VIRGINIA LAND RECORDS, DEEDS, PATENTS & PROBATE RECORDS Mary M. Bell
- C-145 IN & OUT OF HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE: VIRGINIANS AS COLONIAL SOLDIERS & REVOLUTIONARIES Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck
- C-146 HIDDEN CLUES AND PITFALLS IN YOUR ANCESTOR'S LAND RECORDS Eliz. S. Mills
- C-147 SSSHH! GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE LAW LIBRARY Helen F.M. Leary
- C-148 HUGH MONTGOMERY: TWO MEN OF THE SAME NAME OR ONE MAN WITH A FAST HORSE Jo White Linn
- C-149 WHEN THE SOURCES ARE WRONG Henry Z. Jones, Jr.
- C-150 COMPUTER BBS SYSTEMS AS A RESEARCH TOOL - BEGINNERS Donald K. Wilson
- C-151 FINDING ORIGINS & BIRTH FAMILIES: METHODS THAT WORK Elizabeth Shown Mills
- C-152 USING HOMESTEAD RECORDS IN FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH Desmond Walls Allen
- C-153 THE CARIBBEAN: GATEWAY TO THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST Peter E. Carr
- C-154 TRACING THE ORIGINS OF YOUR 18th CENTURY GERMAN ANCESTORS H. Z. Jones
- C-155 GENEALOGICAL DATABASES: CD-ROM STAND ALONE ADVICE FOR BEGINNERS Nick Vine Hall.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

BRUGGEMAN, Glory
1978 Rancho Verde West,
Danville 94526 (735-3644)
Researching: BRUGGEMAN,
Iowa; HASTINGS, Oklaho-
ma

HOUVANE, Carol
4589 Walnut Blvd, Walnut
Creek 94596 (947-5669)

- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Contact ARDITH
STEGER (837-4306) if you
are interested in helping
with the Records Extraction
Program. The first group
of volunteers met recently
for a short training session.
Another will be scheduled as
needed.

President Carol Glover
still is waiting to hear from
a member who lives locally
to be in charge of opening
the Club House each month
and starting the set-up for
the Hospitality Committee.

- DANVILLE FHC
THANKS to CLAUDIA
MORTENSEN for joining
ARDITH STEGER as a
volunteer on Thursdays at
the Danville FHC. MARY
JO HOSTENY volunteers on
Mondays.

- PROGRAM COMMITTEE
JEANETTE MOSES, in
charge of programs for the
1994-95 year will meet
with the Program Committee
10am on July 26 at Bea
O'Rand's, 18 Ashford Ct,
Alamo. If you have any
suggestions or preferences
for what you would like in
the way of programs at our
monthly meetings, please
contact Jeanette (837-4480).

FORMER SRVGS member
CLIFFORD GANT an-
nounces a new quarterly
newsletter on the Gant(t)
family of America, called
"Ganttrees." It will supple-
ment Cliff's book on John
Gant ca 1713-1783 of VA
and NC published last year.
Contact Ben Gantt, 12319
Perthshire, Houston TX
77024.

- CALIFORNIA RECORDS
ACCESS UPDATE

Assemblywoman Grace
Napolitano intends to
pursue getting legislation
passed to restrict access to
vital records in California
Although the bill is
thought to be "dead" for
now, it would be reintro-
duced in mid-September.
At that time, she may be
planning to split the bill
into 3 separate bills to
enhance chances of passage.

Write your state legisla-
tors. Tell them now and
again when the bills are
reintroduced that you object
to any attempt to limit your
constitutional rights of
access to public records.

PLEASE CALL, WRITE,
or FAX YOUR STATE
ASSEMBLY and SENATE
PERSONS to VOTE
AGAINST any bill which
LIMITS ACCESS to vital
records whenever or however
it is introduced in the state
legislature.



HAVE A SAFE &
HAPPY SUMMER!

Y'ALL COME - AUGUST 13, 1994

About 1910, eighteen-year old Leonora Whitaker journeyed across the Smokies to teach at a Presbyterian mission school in a remote mountain community of Cocke County, Tennessee.

The story of Leonora's stay at Ebenezer Mission in Morgan Gap was brought to life in 1967 by her daughter Catherine Wood Marshall in the best-selling novel and now TV series, "Christy."

One of the children on whose life the mission had a lasting impact was Opal Corn Myers (later known in the community as "Miss Opal"). The missionaries had arranged for the exceptionally bright student to go away to college.

Unlike many others, she went back to her community in the mountains to teach school there.

Her son, Larry "L. Conn" Myers, now owns the land where the mission house once stood. He continues a tradition started by his mother and hosts an annual reunion in Morgan Gap.

This year, in celebration of the popular TV series, he is extending an open invitation to folks far and near to join him and the other residents of Morgan Gap for a day of visiting, dinner on the ground, and mountain singing.

So, on August 13, you're all invited to "follow the French Broad River from Newport to Del Rio and

from there take the dirt road that winds deep into the heart of the Old Fifteenth District. From here, bear to the right where an even smaller, more twisting road cuts through the blue mountains, past happy streams and glossy mountain laurel thickets (rhododendron to you outsiders) to emerge into Morgan Gap."

Bring a covered dish, and "y'all come."

[From

Cherel B. Henderson in E. TN Historical Society "Newline" Spring 1994]

"Christy", renewed as a midseason replacement, is filmed on a 400-acre farm near Townsend, TN in the region known as Cades Cove.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL