

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. 3

SEPTEMBER 1994

● PROGRAM: SEPTEMBER 20, 1994

RESEARCH BASICS by MARGERY H. BELL

This month's topic is for more experienced researchers as well as those new to genealogical research. Our speaker has been working on her own genealogy for over twenty years with an emphasis on research in the North Eastern States. She served as director of the LDS Family History Center in Annandale, Virginia; taught Basic Genealogy for several years in the Fairfax County, Virginia Adult Education Program; and is currently serving as the Oakland Stake Family History Specialist for the LDS Church. She spoke to us on the topic of "Newspapers" last year and left us wanting to hear more!

--Jeanette Moses, Program

● LAST MONTH

by Sandy Kimball

SAGA OF THE ORPHAN TRAINS

One of the strangest journeys in America's history was the saga of the Orphan Trains. During this period, 1854 to 1929, an estimated 150,000 children needing homes were sent by train to live with families in the midwest and the west.

The story of this unusual effort to rescue children from the appalling conditions that many immigrants faced during the mid-19th century was the subject of our July meeting when SRVGS member Eunice Reeser addressed the group.

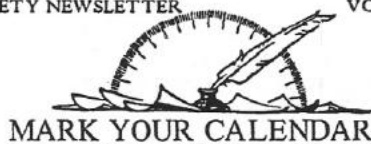
The daughter of an orphan train rider, Eunice introduced the Society to the efforts of Charles Loring Brace and friends to find new lives for the thousands of foreign-born children existing in the overcrowded, disease-plagued ghettos of New York City. Although he helped found the Children's Aid Society of New York in 1853 to combat the problem, Brace found he could not care for all the youngsters who needed aid. The result was his idea for the Orphan Trains -- trains that would transport kids from schools and institutions in the East to families in the west willing to adopt needy children.

Eunice first showed a film outlining the plight of these youngsters and explaining how the train system worked. The earliest trains were just box cars outfitted with seats. Flyers announcing a train's arrival were sent ahead, so that when the cars pulled into a "crossroads," families interested in "adopting" a child would have been preselected. If a child was not selected at the first stop, he went on to the next crossroads.

"The human side of the story," Eunice said, "was that the kids didn't know or understand where they were going. Each child was numbered and brought out on a stage." Prospective parents picked out the one they wanted, much like an auction, according to the speaker. "If they were not selected, they were left on the stage, weeping and alone," Eunice said.

Not all of the placements were satisfactory, despite the highminded efforts, the speaker told the society. A charter member of the Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, Inc., Eunice added to the presentation with a display of her mother's experiences as a rider. Titled "One Orphan's Story," the poster traced her mother's journey from New York City to Missouri, where she was adopted in January 1904.

[For addresses see ORPHAN TRAIN page 25]



SEPTEMBER

- * 13 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Southern Interest Group [see p.21]; 7:30pm Livermore-Amador Valley GS Cong Beth Emek, 1866 College Av, Livermore. Ross Hoblitzell from Livermore Mortuary will speak on "Researching through Death Certificates."
- 14 WEDNESDAY 10am East Bay GS Mormon Center 4780 Lincoln Av Oakland. Topic: Quaker Records by Eric Moon (Look for directions to temporary meeting place).
- * 15 THURSDAY 10am SRVGS Irish Interest Group [see p. 21]; 1-3pm Mt Diablo GS Civic Bank of Commerce Community Room, 1940 Tice Vly Blvd, Walnut Creek.
- 17 SATURDAY 8:30am to 4:30pm Contra Costa GS Seminar at Concord Bible Church, 4975 Concord Blvd, Concord. [see attached flyer]
- 19 MONDAY Genealogy Classes start [see p.22]
- * 20 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting; 12:30 ROOTS Users' Group [see p.21]
- 24 SATURDAY 10am PAF Users' Group at Concord Family Center, 3700 Concord Blvd.
- * 26 MONDAY 1pm UK Interest Group [see p.21]
- * 27 TUESDAY SRVGS Library Trip [see p.24]; 1pm Sacramento German GS: Annette K. Burgert "locating the European Village of Origin for your 18th c. German Families" 3:15pm workshop "18th c. German Immigration." Contact John Movius 916/753-3206.

OCTOBER

- * 4 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.
- 8 SATURDAY 8am-4pm Monterey Co GS Ancestor Roundup in Salinas [see below]
- * 11 TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group [see p.21]; 7:30pm Liv-Amador Vly GS Meeting, Cong Beth Emek, 1866 College Av, Livermore. "Research in Newspapers."
- 12-15 Federation of Genealogical Societies 1994 Conference in Richmond VA. [see Jul/Aug N/L]
- * 13 THURSDAY 10am Irish Interest Group [see p.21]; 7:30pm Contra Costa Co GS meeting. Speaker Eunice Reeser on the Orphan Trains. Contact Gene Snow (672-6366) for meeting place in case Concord City Council Chambers are still under renovation.
- * 18 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting "Videotaping Family History" Gene Thomas.
- 21 FRIDAY 9am to 12:30pm National Archives Workshop on Chinese Immigration Records. Register in advance; there must be at least 10 in class. Cost: \$12.00 in advance \$15. at the door. Contact: Rose Mary Kennedy 415/876-9009. 21-22 NEHGS in WC [see below]
- 30-NOVEMBER 6 EBGS Trip to Salt Lake City Family History Library. Contact Frances Becker (934-4962) for information about costs and reservations.

PLAN AHEAD

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.

- OCTOBER 8 8am-4pm Monterey Co GS Ancestor Roundup at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salinas, 1071 Pajaro St. Keynote speaker, Loretto Dennis Szucs on Chicago and big city research. Also Karen Clifford, Southern Research; John Movius, German & Eastern Europe; Anne Sanford, NY Sources; and John Whitaker, Automated Archives. Vendor booths. Reg: \$27.50 at door (\$25 if rec'd by Sep 26). Send registration to Ancestor Round Up MCGS, PO Box 8144, Salinas CA 93912-8144. Contact Anne Sanford 408/624-9131.

- OCTOBER 21-22 NEHGS IN WALNUT CREEK - The New England Historic GS will host a 2-day seminar in Walnut Creek at the WC Marriott, 2355 N. Main St. Seminar speakers include Roger D. Joslyn, Charles M. Hansen, Jerome E. Anderson, Marie E. Daly (Irish Research), David Dearborn (Friday Dinner speaker), & Gary Boyd Roberts. Flyer with details available at our Sept. meeting. Two-day admission (without luncheons) is \$80, paid by Oct 1. Saturday only (w/lunch) \$65; Friday dinner \$35. Consultation with Gary Boyd Roberts is \$20. Send checks (payable to NEHGS) to NEHGS Comes to Walnut Creek, Education Dept, NEHGS, 101 Newbury St, Boston MA 02116-3087.
 [For more see EVENTS p. 26]

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

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

GERMAN - Meets after regular meeting at Barbara Johnson's (837-2153). Next meeting: November 15 when the Johnsons will report on their trip to Germany.

IRISH - Note NEW DAY and NEW PLACE: Meets 10AM each second THURSDAY of the month at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl, Pleasant Hill (229-0889). Next meetings: September 14, October 13, November 20.

PUBLISHING - Meets on the last Wednesday 10AM when needed. If you would like help with a publishing project, contact Jane Steiner 283-0867.

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 meeting: Sept 13 at Peggy Dearman's; October 11 at Barbara Irwin's; Nov 8 at Nancy Williams'. Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - Research in England, Scotland, & Wales. Meets fourth Monday at 1:30pm.

Next meeting: Sept 26 at Bea O'Rand's. Contact Ron Skilton 254-6989.

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

RESEARCH INFORMATION

FROM SRVGS MEMBERS A NEW LENDING LIBRARY?

- FROM ALICE ROMERO: Automated Archives has published a HUGE number of records available on CD-ROM's (Compact Disks-Read Only Memory). The price of these disks has dropped considerably over the last two years; they now average about \$20 per disk. For example, the Social Security Death Index is \$35 for the 2 disks that contain 50 million entries. If you're interested in sharing resources, let's meet after the September regular meeting. Please bring a listing of your CDs and ideas on how to set up a lending library for our Society. Here's my list of CDs: Social Security Death Index; Master Name Index; Combined Land Records, 1700-1908, AR, FL, LA. Contact Alice Tiso Romero 735-8172.

- FROM JACK JOHNSON - The following information appeared in the UC Retirees newsletter: IRS ASSISTS in Locating Missing Persons If you need to locate a long-lost relative or are trying to distribute assets from an estate and can't locate the beneficiaries, the IRS can help!

The IRS will assist by forwarding mail sent for a "humane purpose" to an addressee. The IRS will not attempt to trace family trees, nor will it forward letters asking for money. No information pertaining to the addressee will be disclosed to the person or organization requesting the forwarding.

If an address is located, the mail will be delivered in an IRS envelope with the following information: the IRS is forwarding the letter in accordance with their current policy; no

information about the recipient has been provided; the IRS has no involvement in the matter aside from forwarding the letter; the decision about whether or not to respond is completely up to the recipient.

To use this service, you must submit a written request briefly explaining the need for locating the missing person, including a Social Security number for this person and a last known address, if one is available. Requests submitted without the Social Security number will not be processed. Contact the IRS District Disclosure Officer in your area for more information.

- FROM JANE STEINER: HISTORIANS VS. DISNEY, A NEW CIVIL WAR BATTLE
Jane attended the CA State Genealogical Alliance Regional Meeting recently and brought back some articles explaining concerns about the proposed new Disney theme park in Virginia close to the Manassas (Bull Run) Battlefield. Although the park is supported by many because of the jobs it would bring to the area, others are concerned about the impact of 30,000 daily visitors in 25,000 vehicles. Historians, such as Shelby Foote, are dismayed at the likely Disney trivialization and sentimentalization of the subject on the site of what is essentially a CW cemetery. We will post the articles at the next meeting. Sec'y of the Interior Bruce Babbitt is in charge of environmental impact studies. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan heads the Environment & Public Works Committee (Address: Rm 464, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510 (202/224-4451); also: 405 Lexington Av, Ste 4101, NY 10174.

● GENEALOGY CLASSES TO BEGIN

Bette Kot will teach two classes starting Monday, September 19 through November 14 at the Lafayette Senior Center, Manzanita Room, 500 St Mary's Rd, Lafayette. The class for Beginners is 10am-noon; Intermediate Genealogy meets 1-3pm. Register at the first class: \$13 for seniors; \$45 for non-seniors.

● US RESEARCH

- MASSACHUSETTS - The Registry of Vital Records and Statistics of MA has announced some price increases for obtaining vital records. The fee for requesting a certified vital record by mail is \$11, for expedited two-day service mail requests \$14, for decorative Heirloom certificates (birth & marriage) by mail is \$30. If you are researching vital records in person at the State Registry you will be charged a \$3/hour fee. To request vital records write: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, 150 Tremont St, Room B-3, Boston MA 02111 [No Central IL GS Mar 94 via Chgo GS N/L Jul/Aug 94]

- TENNESSEE - BIBLE RECORDS SOUGHT
If you have Bible or family records you would be willing to share with others, the Watauga Association of Genealogists is seeking submissions for a book to be published in honor of the upcoming Tennessee Bicentennial. The project will include all counties in the state. Records must have at least one TN connection either by birth, death or marriage. Send to WAG, PO Box 117, Johnson City, TN 37605-0117.

SCOTS-IRISH INFORMATION SOUGHT - Billy Kennedy, assistant editor of Northern Ireland's leading morning newspaper, is asking descendants of Tennessee's early Scots-Irish pioneers for help in research for a book he is writing. He is seeking to document the strong Scots-Irish connection with the Revolutionary War and with the settling of the State of Tennessee. Mr Kennedy hopes to have the research completed by mid-1995. Those willing to share information should write to Billy Kennedy, 49 Knockview Dr, Tandragee, Craigavon, Northern Ireland B62 2BH. Phone 0762-840769. Communications also can be relayed to him via Barbara Paker, Public Relations Manager, TN Dept of Tourist Development, PO Box 23170, Nashville TN 37202, or through John Rice Irwin, Museum of Appalachia, PO Box 318, Norris TN 37828. [Above two items from E.T.N Historical Soc Newsline Summer 94]

- VERMONT or NEW YORK? Anyone living in Gloucester Co or Cumberland Co NY in the 1770's was actually living in the present-day Vermont. Note: check Washington Co NY for the records. [Jackson Co (MI) GS N/L Jan-Feb 94 via CSGA N/L Sep 94]

● WCTU MEMBER IN THE FAMILY?

The white ceramic bow-shaped pins used by the Women's Christian Temperance Union are derived from women pinning a bit of white ribbon to their clothes as a sign of their support of the cause for temperance. A yellow ribbon similarly showed support for women's suffrage. Look at old photographs for such ribbons as well as in jewelry boxes. If you know that you are researching someone who belonged to the WCTU, there is a name index for the Society's magazine at the Society's headquarters. The part-time librarian will check the index. Please direct such inquiries to the Frances Willard Memorial Library, WCTU Headquarters, 1730 Chicago Av, Evanston, IL 60201-4585. [Chicago GS N/L Feb 94]

● AROUND THE WORLD

- GERMANY - NEW ADDRESS DEUTSCHE ZENTRALSTELLE - The Central Bureau for Genealogy in Leipzig, est. 1910, was the only genealogical organization allowed to continue in East Germany under the communists. West German genealogists formed a new society in Friedrichsdorf under the same name after the wall went up. The Deutsche Zentralstelle for Genealogie in Leipzig has a new address. They no longer receive mail at Georgi-Dimitroff Platz. The new address: Zentralstelle fur Genealogie, Kathe-Kollwitz-Strasse 82, D-04109 Leipzig, Germany. Call 341-401-1113. [Odom Fam Tree Apr/May 94]
- VIDEOTAPE AVAILABLE - The Western Pennsylvania GS has available a 58 minute VHS videotape on German Genealogy filmed on location in around Munich and Bavaria. Narrated in English, it will tell you about border changes and emigration from Germany. State and local archivists and librarians speak directly about their collections and what information you need to give them in order for them to help you. Church archives and their records are discussed. The video answers where to research in Germany and which archives and libraries can fill your specific needs. Cost is \$24.95 per copy and \$2 p/h for the first item and \$0.75 for each additional item on the same order. Send check to WPGS, 4338 Bigelow Blvd, Pittsburg PA 15213-2695. [SSGHS N/L Jul 94 via Chgo N/L Jul/Aug 94]

- GREECE - If you have Greek ancestry, you might be interested in a publication entitled *Tracing your Greek Ancestry*. It includes information on primary sources for Greek genealogical research, finding aids, biographical aids and sources and services in the US and in Greece. The publication is \$5 plus \$1.50 s/h from the Greek Family Heritage Committee, c/o Antonia Mattheou, 75-21 177th St, Flushing, NY 11366. [Odom Fam Tree Apr/May 94]
- POLAND Do you have relatives in Poland but cannot telephone them because you do not speak Polish? RODZINA has established a project whereby English speaking college students in Poland can set up a conference call with you and your relative and provide the translation link you need. You may contact RODZINA at 835 S. Lemon Av #213 E., Walnut CA 91789 or call (909/595-3440). Describe the type of service you need and the area of Poland you wish to contact and they will arrange a translator for you. [Lake Elsinore GS July 94 via CSGA N/L 9/94]
- WALES - If you are of Welsh ancestry, you may want to subscribe to *Y Drych*, a monthly publication covering Welsh activities in Gt Britain and North America. *Y Drych*, which means "The Mirror" is in English except for some captions and a one-page article in Welsh. It contains a calendar of Welsh activities, articles, etc. The May 1994 issue was 20 pages. Subscribe for \$17.50/yr from Y DRYCH, Box 8098, St Paul MN 55108 (612/642-1653 [Immigrant GS 8/94 via CSGA N/L 9/94]
- UKRAINE - Records in the Ukraine are now more readily available. For experienced help in this area, contact Rush Associates, Roy Rushka, 1455-C Holly Bush Dr, Fairborn, OH 45324. Call 513/429-1432
[Odom Fam Tree Apr/May 94]
- THE NEW EUROPE - Europe is now well into the first year of the European Union (now abbreviated to EU, formerly EEC and EC) which came into being in November 1993. The 340 million citizens have the right to live, work and vote in any Member State (Germany, France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, Greece, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Denmark). They can also offer themselves as candidates in local and European Parliament elections. And if a European citizen needs assistance in a Non-EU country he may go to any embassy of any Member State for diplomatic and consular help.
[Inside Ireland, Summer 94]

● COMPUTER GENEALOGY

- LOCAL BULLETIN BOARD - Doug Smith's NNY-BBS (No Name Yet BBS): 827-5714 use 8N1 Full duplex, speeds up to 14.4. GENSOFT is Message area 6. Charles Crookston has kindly shared Commsoft's Roots Users' Group Newsletters with the GENSOFT echo.
- COMMSOFT RUG monthly Newsletters (ROOTS III & IV) can be downloaded directly from COMMSOFT: 707/838-6373 1:161/5; also available on Prodigy: JJSR40A; GENie: H.NURSE; CompuServ: 73710,773.
- PAF 2.3: The CIG newsletter of the CCCGS (Aug 1994) published the following communication, dated 26 May 1994 from the LDS church's Family History Dept regarding problems in the new release: "Several minor defects were confirmed in Release 2.3. Accordingly, it was determined to remove the product from distribution center shelves until the defects can be corrected. In the meantime, owners of copies of Release 2.3 can continue to use it with confidence... Please be aware that the defects, while inconvenient, do not affect data. We encourage uses of Release 2.3 to continue to use the program as is with two exceptions: Users of the Research Data Filer (RDF) program should use the 2.2 version; users of Genealogical Information Exchange (GIE) who wish to submit names for LDS temple ordinances should use the Genealogical Data Communication (GEDCOM) option... The revised release should be ready in a few months." PAF help line: 801/240-2584.
- PAF for MACs: At a recent meeting of the Silicon Valley PAF Users Group, it was announced that a programmer was under contract to produce a new version of PAF for Macintosh "sometime soon."
- NOTE: The Silicon Valley PAF Users' Group, meets the 2nd Sat of each month at 9am, LDS church 875 Quince Av, Santa Clara (408/578-4618) has close to 500 at meetings; they split into groups for different interests and experience levels. It is more likely than others to fill the needs of everyone. They have mentors and an 800 number access to their bulletin board.
- The Pleasanton & Livermore libraries recently won grants to install INTERNET terminals for public use. George Anderson is the community rep for Pleasanton. His job is to find out who in Pleasanton could benefit from Internet access at the library and what kind of services they would require. Contact him at 846-4265.
[L-AGS Roots Tracer Summer 94]

● LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● 1994-1995 LIBRARY TRIP SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
Sep 27	Tuesday	Sutro Library	
Oct 25	Tuesday	CA State Library, Sacramento	
Nov 29	Tuesday	National Archives, San Bruno	
(This is one week later due to Thanksgiving)			
Dec		NO TRIP	
Jan 24	Tuesday	Berkeley - Bancroft and Doe Libraries	
Feb 28	Tuesday	Sutro Library	
Mar 28	Tuesday	Santa Clara County Central Library	
Apr 25	Tuesday	National Archives, San Bruno	
May 23	Tuesday	California State Library	
June 26	Monday	Mayflower Library and Solano Co GS Library	
July/August 1995		NO LIBRARY TRIPS	

As no one visited the scheduled Solano County Genealogical Society Library in June, we thought we would schedule it along with the Mayflower Library next June, giving you a planned choice. Any other suggestions for enhancing our library trips? Contact Millie Freitas, 837-2483.

● SEPTEMBER LIBRARY TRIP

We will go to Sutro Library, 480 Winston Dr, San Francisco. Members will meet to car-pool at 9:00 a.m. in back of Lucky's on Diablo Road in Danville, on Tuesday, September 27. Those leaving north of Danville may call Millie Freitas, 837-2483 for an alternate meeting place in Lafayette.

Check your handbook for details about Sutro Library and its resources. We usually take a brown bag lunch as there are no eating facilities close by.

● CALIFORNIA

- CONTRA COSTA Co - The Genealogy Exhibit on display in the Baldwin Room at the Central Library in Pleasant Hill was put together by the Mt. Diablo GS.

- SACRAMENTO - The California State Library is moving to a new building across the street. At this time only the California Room is closing Sept 6-Oct 10. If you are planning a visit you should call to verify reopening schedule (916/654-0176).

- GERMAN GEN SOC LIBRARY - The German GS of America Headquarters and Library's new address is 2125 Wright av, Suite C-9, La Verne CA 91750-5814. Hours are Wed and Sat from 1-5pm except for the 2nd Sat of March and November. The library has telephone books for all of German-speaking Europe: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Alsace & Lorraine. [GGS of A via CSGA N/L Sep 94]

● FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

- OAKLAND - Effective 5 July 1994 the FHC regretfully announced a new policy regarding what patrons may bring into the Center because of the large amount of theft this past year (over 200 rolls of microfilm, 79 sets and misc. fiche and a large number of books). They can no longer allow patrons to bring in brief cases, large cases, bags, backpacks, or large purses. The only items allowed are small note books, tablets or very small binders; bring and use pencils. Please leave large bags, etc. in your car, but lockers are available inside the Family History Center for purses. They point out that 90% of the materials are purchased with funds donated by the general public and LDS church members. There is no acquisition budget from the general church fund. When something is taken from the FHC, they do not have the funds to replace it. "The thief steals from each patron who enters the door to find family history."
- NEBRASKA - The FHL is now cataloging the long awaited Nebraska records. The Catalog will not indicate these films until the summer or fall catalog updates. For an update on what is currently available in the FHL on Nebraska, see pages 28-40 in the *Genealogical Journal*, Vol 22, 1994, No.1, the Utah Genealogical Association journal. [CSGA N/L Aug 94]

OBSERVED at the Scottish Games in Pleasanton on Labor Day weekend: A large map of Scotland. Below the southern border were the words "BAJA SCOTLAND."

● NATIONAL ARCHIVES LESSER USED SOURCES

[At a meeting of the Chicago Genealogical Society (Feb 1994), Mr. Martin Touhy of the NA-Great Lakes Region spoke on the lesser-used records available at the various National Archives branches. Notes of the talk by Grace A. Horner appeared in the April 1994 issue of the Chicago GS Newsletter (Vol 26, No. 8) and are reprinted in part because they apply to other Regional Archives as well, and may give you some ideas of how to use these records.]

Lesser-used records involve actual documents (not microfilm). Although every name indexes are not available, hints from your research could help you tap into sources like the federal court records. Branch archives would have US District and US Courts of Appeals records for the states they cover. Such records are indexed by the plaintiff and by defendant.

Examples of suits include violation of revenue laws, veterans failing to respond to the 1890 military census, liquor violation (women are often associated with this one), Food Administration rationing violation during World War II, and World's Fair lawsuits. Since 1898 bankruptcy has been handled at the US court level. The Great Lakes branch has this area's bankruptcy papers from 1898 to the 1940s indexed.

Admiralty court cases often involve steamboat companies and can therefore involve farms that would have used steamboats to transport produce. If a company was in interstate commerce, any suit against them would go to the US court levels. For instance, grain elevator fires often involved railroads, which were typically in interstate commerce. One example: a railroad accident involving an employee who was citizen of Iowa, working for the South Shore Railroad, who was killed in Indiana. That case was handled in the US court records. Be aware that in a wrongful death suit, the plaintiff would be the executor of the estate, not the deceased.

There are also Property Disposal Files. These involve industrial plants particularly from World War II and can involve maps and architectural drawings. Some involve military intelligence. Bureau of Investigation and FBI records are available. Some epidemics also produced federal records. Some selective service (draft) registrations for World War I and II are available. National government personnel records are at the St. Louis branch.

If you want to investigate the non-microfilm records, you should write first and describe what you are looking for, so that the staff can determine how they can be of help to you.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Check the book *ARCHIVES*, donated by SRVGS and on the reference shelf at the San Ramon Public Library, for holdings of various branches of the National Archives.]

● BOOK REVIEW by Mary Jo Hosteny

ANNALS AND ANTIQUITIES OF THE COUNTIES AND COUNTY FAMILIES OF WALES, by Thomas Nicholas. Orig. pub. 1872, London, England, reprinted 1991 by Genealogical Publishing Co. Hard cover, 2 vol. V. 1 = 516 pp, V. 2 = 432 pp. General index.

This is an extremely scholarly book of tremendous value to researchers of Welsh descent. It presents first a history of the counties of Wales, the derivation of their names, a physical description, their geology and mineralogy, and their history through the Roman, Saxon, Danish and Norman periods. The antiquities of each county, i.e., ancient monuments, castles and churches, are described. Old and extinct families are enumerated with a brief chronology of their various members and their relationship to the royal house of Tudor. Their High Sheriffs are listed, their Lord Lieutenants, and their Members of Parliament and Justices of the Peace. The major county families are described in detail. Volume 2 has a general index to both volumes.

[Available from Genealogical Resources 837-9382]

● [ORPHAN TRAIN continued from first page]

To inquire about an orphan train rider placed by the Children's Aid Society of New York City (CAS) write to Attn: Vic Remer, CAS - Office of Closed Records, 150 W 45th St, New York NY 10017.

The NY Foundling Asylum (Catholic), later called NY Foundling Hospital also placed children on the trains. Write: Department of Closed Records, NY Foundling Hospital, 590 Avenue of the Americas, NY NY 10011.

In Boston another institution, The Baldwin Place Mission and Home for Little Wanderers placed out children from 1865 to 1903.

For more information contact: Orphan Train Heritage Society of America Inc, PO Box 496, Johnson AR 72741-0496.

[EVENTS continued from page 20]

OCTOBER 23-29 SWEDISH RESEARCH TOUR A tour of the FHL in Salt Lake led by Dr. Nels William Olson, publisher and editor of the Swedish American Genealogist. There will be outstanding speakers and assistance from experts such as Mrs. Elizabeth Thorsall of Stockholm, Sweden. For info contact The Swenson Center, Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL 61201, (309/794-7204)

OCTOBER 29 8:30am-4pm MARSHA HOFFMAN RISING Seminar sponsored by the GS of Stanislaus Co at the Modesto Ctr Plaza, 1000 "K" St, Modesto. Registration \$20. Contact Don Wilson (209/869-3966) or write GS of Stanislaus Co, PO Box 4735, Modesto 95352-4735.

NOVEMBER 5-6 Concord Civil War Reenactment at Naval Weapons Station, Concord. Public battles and encampment. Coordinator Laurie Rogers, 510/825-5483.

NOVEMBER 12 SATURDAY 9am-3:30pm (Reg. 8:15am) **HANK Z. JONES Jr SEMINAR** sponsored by San Mateo Co GS at Ampex Cafeteria, 401 Broadway, Redwood City, CA. Topics: "When the Sources are Wrong," "Tracing the Origins of Early 18th Cent. Palatine Emigrants," "I Don't Chase Dead Germans - They Chase Me!" Registration before 7 Nov: \$18; \$22 at the door. Send registration to SMC GS, PO Box 5083, San Mateo CA 94402-0083. Deli lunch available or bring your own. For more info call Doris Newbery, 415/591-1797.

1995

JANUARY 14 - GS of Stanislaus will sponsor Helen F. M. Leary at the Modesto Center Plaza.

MAY 3-6 NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 1995 Conference in the States, San Diego CA, hosted by the San Diego GS.

JUNE 25-29 14th Annual Seminar on JEWISH GENEALOGY in Washington DC. Contact JGSGW, PO Box 412, Vienna VA 22183-0412.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL