

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. 4

OCTOBER 1994

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 18, 1994

PROGRAM: FAMILY VIDEO PORTRAITS

Videotaping offers a special and unique way of preserving the story of our lives and our family's history. GENE THOMAS will demonstrate the video portraits he produces under the name of "LIFESPAN - Family Video Portraits" and show how this medium can be used to bridge generations. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could see one of your ancestors in a videotaped interview, talking about their life experiences and family memories in a way that showed their own unique spirit and personality?

Mr. Thomas, who received a Master of Fine Arts degree in Film and Television from Temple University, brings to his work a background as an award-winning photographer as well as a producer and director of television documentaries, commercials and specials for Public Broadcasting and corporate clients.

LAST MONTH

by Betty Vail

I ONLY PUT GOSPEL IN MY COMPUTER

With wit and wisdom Margery Bell, the Oakland Stake Family History Specialist for the LDS Church, reviewed techniques for making the most of research methods and for keeping genealogical files in order. Knowing that this information would be quite basic, Margery gave experienced genealogists permission to leave--but only if their files were in order. No one left.

"Finding out what you already know in your family is the first step in genealogy," she said. Contact everyone in the family, but "don't believe anything they say." Every piece of information must be documented. The second step is to find out what other people have done in the same area. Then you must validate their information with original research.

"Look at people as a whole family unit," Margery said. One generation gives clues to the next. Keeping records of a complete family will help you avoid running into brick walls.

Begin your research with an end in mind. Some people are interested in pursuing just one branch of the family; some want to record the

descendants of a particular couple. "Most of us want to start with us and to know where we came from."

Pointing out that organization is the key to good genealogical research, Margery shared her method for keeping track of information. She keeps a file for every family surname, starting with a family group sheet. "Be very careful to make a firm, solid connection before adding a new name. I only put gospel in my computer." Each file also contains a plan that helps her focus on exactly what she needs to know and suggestions of where she might find the information, a correspondence log, and research logs -- family and home sources, military records and records of counties in which the family has lived. In responding to questions from the audience, Margery stressed that no matter which method you use to file information, the most important thing is to be consistent.

Using a Family Group Record, Margery demonstrated how she began with a family survey and then filled in missing information by consulting the censuses, vital records of both counties and states, church and cemetery records, obituaries and funeral homes, as well as land and tax

[see BELL on last page]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

● OCTOBER

- * 11 TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group [see p.29]; 7:30pm Livermore-Amador Valley GS, Cong Beth Emek, 1866 College Av, Livermore "Research Using Newspapers" by Margery Bell
- * 13 THURSDAY 10am Irish Interest Group [see p.29]; 7:30pm Contra Costa Co GS meeting at Concord City Council Chambers, Parkside Drive. "The Orphan Trains" by Eunice Reeser.
- * 18 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting; 12:30pm ROOTS Users' Group [see p.29].
- 20 THURSDAY 1-3pm Mt Diablo GS, Civic Bank of Comm, 1940 Tice Vly Blvd, WC: "Researching Your Family in Antioch and Contra Costa Co Records" by Joe McFarlan; 7:30pm Livermore-Amador Vly GS Computer Interest Group [see p.36]
- 21 FRIDAY 9am to 12:30pm National Archives Workshop on Chinese Immigration Records. Cost: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Contact: Rose Mary Kennedy 415/876-9009.
- 21-22 FRIDAY & SATURDAY - NEHGS IN WALNUT CREEK [see below]
- * 24 MONDAY 1:30pm UK Interest Group [see p.29].
- * 25 TUESDAY SRVGS Library Trip [see p.31]
- 29 - SATURDAY 10am Paffers United at Concord FHC, 3700 Concord Av; 8:30am-4pm MARSHA HOFFMAN RISING Seminar in Modesto [see below]

● NOVEMBER

- * 1 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- 4 FRIDAY 9AM to 12noon National Archives Workshop at San Bruno: Military Records Part I.
- 5-6 SAT-SUN Concord Civil War Reenactment at Naval Weapons Station, Concord. Public battles and encampment. Coordinator Laurie Rogers, 510/825-5483.
- * 8 TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group [see p.29]; 7:30pm Livermore-Amador Valley GS, Cong Beth Emek, 1866 College Av, Livermore; David Abraham reports on his "English Research Trip"
- * 10 THURSDAY 10am Irish Interest Group; 7:30pm CCCGS meeting speaker is Robert Westby of the County Recorder's Office.
- 12 SATURDAY 9am-3:30pm San Mateo Co GS HANK Z. JONES, Jr Seminar [see below]; Marin Co GS All-day Seminar. Christine Rose will present four talks on various topics. Cost is \$30 for pre-reg (before 11/5); \$35 at the door. For info: 415/892-6676.
- * 15 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting: Ron Bremer on "The Wonderful World of Genealogy."
- 17 THURSDAY 7:30 L-AGS Computer Interest Group [see p.36]

● COMING EVENTSOFFICERS 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.

- OCTOBER 21-22 - 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. Two-day admission (without luncheons) is \$95. Saturday only (w/lunch) \$65; Friday dinner (speaker David C. Dearborn) \$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.

- OCTOBER 29 - MARSHA HOFFMAN RISING Seminar sponsored by the GS of Stanislaus Co at the Modesto Ctr Plaza, 1000 "K" St, Modesto. Registration \$20. Four lectures will be followed by a question and answer period on researchers' problems. Contact Don Wilson (209/869-3966) or write GS of Stanislaus Co, PO Box 4735, Modesto 95352.

- NOVEMBER 13 San Mateo Co GS hosts a Seminar by HANK Z. JONES, Jr. at Ampex Cafeteria, 401 Broadway, Redwood City, CA. Topics: "When the Sources are Wrong;" "Tracing the Origins of Early 18th Century Palatine Emigrants;" "I Don't Chase Dead Germans - They Chase Me!" [see EVENTS on last page]

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 10.

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 (Official Commsoft's ROOTS III & IV Users' Group) - 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: October 11 at Barbara Irwin's, 1400 Canyonwood Ct, WC Rossmoor (939-8522); 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: October 24 at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl, Pleasant Hill (229-0889). Contact Ron Skilton 254-6989 for more information.

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

RESEARCH INFORMATION

• RECORDS ACCESS

[Be sure to read the articles on California records legislation and National Archives records on page 33-35 of this newsletter]

• AROUND THE US

• KANSAS - QUAKER MARRIAGES

No courthouse marriage record does not mean that a marriage did not take place. An early (1867 to present) law exempted Quakers (Society of Friends) from obtaining a marriage licence as long as the marriage took place according to the rules of the church. Other states may have similar laws exempting Quakers from civil registration. [From an article by Clione Bieher in the fGS Forum, Fall 94 p. 15 reprinted from an earlier article published by the Cherokee Co Kansas Genealogical-Historical Society, address 100 S. Tennessee, PO Box 33, Columbus, KS 66725-0033]

- OREGON - The Oregon Historic Cemeteries Association has designed an All-Name Database to promote information gathering and sharing throughout Oregon. The Database is a clearinghouse for cemetery/burial information. It will document the condition of cemeteries and the monuments found in them. A third purpose is to promote the work of societies and persons involved in the preservation of cemeteries. As transcription from a cemetery is finished, the data will be added to the database. The address is OHCA, PO Box 15169, Portland OR 97215.

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• TENNESSEE - VITAL RECORDS

As of 30 June 1994, Death Certificates for 1944-1994 are available from: Division of Vital Records, TN Dept. of Health and Environment, C3-324 Cordell Hull Bldg, Nashville TN 37247. The cost is \$5 each. Ask for form PH-1663. It is necessary to state relationship to the individual and the reason for the request. Current telephone number is 615/741-1763.

Earlier Death Certificates for 1914-1943 are sometimes available from the Tennessee State Library & Archives, Public Services Section, 403 Seventh Ave North, Nashville TN 37243. No charge except for copying. Amount determined with each request. Current phone number 615/741-2764. Be sure to send SASE with request. [Mid-W TN GS Jul 94]

EDITOR'S NOTE: The earlier Death Certificates also are available on loan from the FHL.

- VERMONT The public library in Pittsfield, MA (yes MA!) has on microfilm a complete set of town filed vital records for all of Vermont. The records are listed alphabetically by the name of each person, regardless of where he or she lived in Vermont. [Hayward Area GS Nov/Dec 93 via SMGS Oct 94]

• VIRGINIA - DISNEY UPDATE

Walt Disney is abandoning plans to build a theme park near the Manassas Civil War battlefield site in Virginia. Critics argued that the \$650 million park and adjacent developments would pollute the area and detract from true historic sites only a few miles away.

● AROUND THE WORLD

● **CORNWALL** - For anyone with Cornish ancestry, consider the Cornwall Family History Society. US residents can send a personal check for \$24.50 in US funds along with a membership application or request for membership to Mr & Mrs Gartley, 1206 Pecksniff Rd, Wilmington DE 19808 [from Tom Gross Gen_EUR Oct 93 via NNY-BBS via CCGS N/L Oct 94]

● **GERMANY** The Immigrant Genealogical Society has the new 1994 United Germany Phonebooks on 3 CDs. If you know the village from which your German immigrant came, they will search for one surname in one village and surrounding area. If you do not know the place, specify one disk (North/East, West/Middle, or South) and a surname. For \$7 they will send you up to 25 names & addresses and a German-English letter. Send to IGS PO Box 7369, Burbank CA 91510. If you'd like a free flier describing other helpful searches, send a SASE.

● IRELAND

BOOK OFFER - Dwight A. Radford and Kyle J. Betit, co-editors of the excellent journal "The Irish At Home and Abroad" have published a 75-page guide entitled Ireland: A Genealogical Guide for North Americans. It contains a detailed overview of Irish record sources and how they can be obtained from Ireland. A special "Archives and Libraries" chapter details collections of Irish records to be found in North America and how to access them. Microfilm numbers from the FHL are also given. Available in December, the pre-publication price is \$12.95 (plus \$2 p/h). After November 15 the price will be \$14.95 (+ \$2). Order from THE IRISH At Home and Abroad, PO Box 521806, Salt Lake City UT 84152-1806.

CORK SOCIETY FORMS - A Family History society has been set up in County Cork. Further information on the Cork Genealogical Society may be obtained from Declan Chalmers, 59 Church View, Ballincollig, County Cork; phone 021 872828. [From Irish Roots No 2 1994]

CORK BOOK - Joseph A. King of Walnut Creek has published a new book entitled Ireland to North America: emigrants from West Cork. It is the first of a planned 4-volume "Irish History and Emigration" series in preparation for the 150th anniversary in 1995 of the advent of the Great Famine. The book is available from K&K Publications, Box 564, Lafayette CA 94549 for \$13.95 (+\$2 p/h).

● **NEW ZEALAND** - Certificates of births, deaths and marriage can be obtained from The Registrar General, Registrar General's Office, Levin House, Private bag, Lower Hutt, New Zealand. The current fee for each 'long form' certificate is NZ\$15.00 plus NZ\$1.50 for postage. Searches of the Registers for each name or entry: NZ\$3.00 per year searched. U.S. dollars can not be accepted. Payment must be in N.Z. dollars by draft or money order but not currency [see below]. When applying for certificates the following particulars should be given:

BIRTH Certificate - full name of child, place and date of birth, parents' full names including mother's maiden name.

MARRIAGE Certificate - Place and date of marriage, full names of both parties to the marriage including wife's maiden name.

DEATH Certificate - Full name of deceased, place and date of death.

[Information received by Jack Johnson from the New Zealand Consulate General, 12400 Wilshire Blvd Suite 1150, Los Angeles CA 90025 (310/207-1605)]

● **EDITOR'S NOTE: FOREIGN CURRENCY**

Ruesch International Financial Services can supply bank drafts for the current rate of exchange plus \$2.00. To order a draft, call 1-800/424-2923. They will tell you the current rate, you send them a check and the bank draft will be mailed to you made out to the person or agency you designate. Their address in Washington is 1350 Eye St, NW, Tenth Floor, Washington DC 20005. [The English Researcher Feb 94]
The number and address in Los Angeles: 1-800/696-7900; 1875 Century Park East, Suite 1450, Los Angeles CA 90067.

● COMPUTER CORNER

SRVGS has received mailings on the following computer program:

- **GEN-BOOK** - If you have PAF-IBM and WordPerfect, this program will help you generate a book directly from your PAF files in text form for Ancestors or Descendants, using a variety of numbering systems and creating an index and table of contents--features contained within such programs as ROOTS III or IV, etc. It also works with Word for Windows. Available for \$59.95 from Clement Custom Programming, 2105 Country Lane, Auburn CA 95603. Brochures will be available at the October SRVGS meeting.
- **DOLLARHIDE MOVES** - The Dollarhide Systems of Bellingham, WA was purchased by the AGLL of Bountiful UT. Bill Dollarhide is now the Director of Publications for AGLL. All telephone orders for Dollarhide products should be directed to AGLL at 801/298-5446.
[see COMPUTERS on last page of Newsletter]

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● OCTOBER LIBRARY TRIP
FROM MILLIE FREITAS (837-2483):

On October 25, we will go to the California Room at the California State Library in Sacramento. This section of the State Library has been relocated to 900 N Street on the second floor, right behind the State Library building we have visited in the past. As far as I know at this time, they will be open from 8:00 to 5:00 weekdays. Opening day is October 11 so will have definite information to give you at our October 18 meeting.

We will carpool in the back of Lucky's on Diablo Road in Danville at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday October 25. Those living north of Danville may call Mary Jo Hosteny (932-2244) for an alternate carpool site.

We are happy to report that eleven members carpooled to Sutro Library in September.

● FHL OPEN HOUSE - YOU ARE INVITED

On SUNDAY, 30 OCTOBER 1994, an Open House will be held at the Family History Library at the LDS Chapel on Stone Valley Road (west of Monte Vista HS). The public is invited to attend the Open House from 4 to 7pm. A dedication service will follow at 7-7:30pm.

Another room and appreciably more resource material have been added for your research pleasure. Please invite your family and friends.

The schedule of hours will be expanded as well. Additional volunteers will be welcomed. For further information, call Mary Jo Hosteny (932-2244), Ardith Steger (837-4306) or Helga Cochrane, Supervisor (820-5730). [From Ardith Steger]

UPDATE from Mary Jo Hosteny: Beginning October 31 the hours of the above FHC will be Monday 10am-5pm; Tuesday 6-9pm; Thursday 1-5pm and 6-9pm. The Center must be open at least 20 hours to qualify for a second computer. The FHC now has 2 microfilm readers and 2 microfiche readers and can order films and fiche from Salt Lake.

MORE FHL NEWS:

The Family History Library last fall added significant collections of statewide vital records or vital record indexes. These are available through family history centers. Look in the catalog under [STATE] VITAL RECORDS or [STATE]-VITAL RECORDS -INDEXES.

● UC BERKELEY

CONTRA COSTA MAPS - Paper conservators have finished the delicate job of restoring the historic Contra Costa survey maps from the 1850s discovered last year in a vault at the Central Library in Pleasant Hill. They have now encased the brittle pages in sturdy see-through polyester film to prevent further deterioration and to allow them to be safely examined. Beginning Friday, Sept 30, scholars and other researchers can handle and use them for insight and information on the county's history.

They were unveiled at a Conference of California Historical Societies in Walnut Creek by Nancy Harris, who headed the restoration and preservation project at UC-B's Bancroft Library. The 31 sheets have been filmed and organized in a blue-covered volume which will wind up at the Contra Costa County Historical Society's Pleasant Hill center and be available by appointment.

The center's archivist, Mary-Ellen Jones will study the survey with help from a UCB map librarian and perhaps the Library of Congress. "I'm positive," said Jones, "that it's going to become a primary source of information on the beginnings of the county."

The maps, drawn between 1850 and 1856 by county surveyors for landowners, typically are simple sketches of property lines and include measurements and landmarks. In ornate script accompanying the drawings, the surveyors wrote technical explanations of the measurements. Several pages contain lists of names -- presumably property owners -- and their towns, description of their real estate and the properties' value. The surveys include Sunol and Livermore, now in Alameda County but once part of Contra Costa. [From an article by Andy Jokelson in the Contra Costa Times, Sept 28, 1994]

● CGS LIBRARY

Jane Steiner reports that the California GS Library will be open November 24 and 26, as well as on December 21, 22, 28 & 29. On the first Saturday of the month, the library is free to all patrons; the fee is \$5 for non-members on other days.

● NATIONAL ARCHIVES

SAN BRUNO - Frances Lloyd reports that the Archives has run out of money and will not be open on Saturdays until further notice. Future Saturday hours will depend on the amount of funding in the new budget and the number of volunteers.

- SRVGS member NANCY ALEXANDER took the following notes at a DAR Lineage Workshop in September. The information concerns National Archives records which you may not find in the drawers at San Bruno; you may have to ask the Archivist for some of the films.

M1062 "Correspondence of the War Department Relating to Indian Affairs, Military Pensions and Fortification 1791-1797." Go to page 526 for a listing by state of people wounded in the Revolutionary War.

M162 "The Revolutionary War Prize Cases. Records of Courts of Appeals in the Cases of Capture 1776-1789." Prize means the capture of ships, mostly British ships. These records are the testimony of witnesses who saw the capture, participated in the capture, or were on board ships during the capture of ships during the Revolutionary War.

M859 "Miscellaneous Numbered Records (The Manuscript File in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records 1775-1790)." This microfilm contains about 35,000 records, photographs, book and manuscripts pertaining to the Revolutionary War. See Roll M847 for index.

M847 This roll contains a "specific index" to the miscellaneous numbered records in the manuscript collection. It consists of three types of cards, arranged in alphabetical order, to the photographs, books, and manuscripts of the miscellaneous numbered records. The photographs and books are found only in Washington DC, but the manuscripts have all been placed on microfilm. When you find a manuscript of interest, copy down all identifying information, including a file reference number. The Archivist can find the appropriate film.

• INDIANA MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS -

Looking for information about south-central Indiana? Consider the Grace Marks Collection held by the Manuscripts Department of the Lilly Library, Indiana University. The Marks Papers are a rich resource for researching the history of south-central Indiana.

The collection consists of voluminous notes, correspondence, newspaper clippings, hand-drawn maps, and photographs compiled by Grace Marks of Salem, IN. Sometime around the 1930s to 1950s, Marks planned to write a book about the history of roads in south-central Indiana. Materials pertaining to Brown, Clark,

Crawford, Dubois, Floy, Harrison, Jefferson, Lawrence, Orange, Perry, Ripley, Scott and Washington counties total 6,942 items. She organized her material according to the names of counties, townships, villages, towns, cemeteries, churches, roads, and some general topics.

She not only assembled information about the natural environment and geography, but she also gathered data about the people, particularly the early settlers who lived along the roads. She interviewed people living along the roads she was documenting as well as consulting printed sources. For those interested in family histories, the lineage of many pioneers is minutely itemized accompanied with vivid, colorful stories handed down concerning family adventures during the time Indiana was settled.

Of special interest is her file of approximately 3000 index cards filled with information concerning a particular location or family, often accompanied by a photograph. From alongside the roads she was researching, Grace Marks would photograph the people who lived there, their homes, cabins, stores, mills, and shops. Even the pioneer relics that the families had cherished were preserved in photographs.

For more information, contact the Manuscripts Department of the Lilly Library, Indiana University, located in Bloomington IN.

[SIA Newsletter No 17 1992 via Chicago GS N/L Feb 94]



BOOK REVIEW

by Mary Jo Hosteny

- **BERMUDA SETTLERS OF THE 17TH CENTURY**, by Julia E. Mercer. Published by Genealogical Publishing Co, Baltimore 1982 & 1992. Hard cover 276 pp.

This little book was compiled by GPC from genealogical notes originally published in "Tyler's Quarterly" between 1942 and 1947. It consists of abstracts of the earliest known records of Bermuda settlers and forms a supplement to John Camden Hotten's "Original Lists of Persons of Quality" - the classic source book on 17th century British immigration to the colonies. It contains an excellent index and is available from Genealogical Resources (837-9382).

SRVGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

1994-95 BUDGET

The following Budget was presented by Treasurer Virginia Rood and adopted by the Executive Board.

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$2,250
Tape Donations	100
Miscellaneous	
Roots Group	250
Hospitality	0
Seminar	150
Subtotal	<u>2,750</u>

EXPENSES

Rent (10x\$50)	\$ 500
Newsletter Postage	500
Newsletter Printing	500
Speaker (10@ \$40)	400
Tapes	100
Society memberships	20
P.O. Box	7
Officer expenses	60
Mbr Directory	140
Misc (checks)	15
Roots Group rent	250
Contingency Reserve	<u>100</u>
Subtotal	<u>\$2,592</u>
Reserve additions	158

NEW MEMBERS

Please add the following names to your membership directory:

HANNAGAN, BETTY 257 Castle Glen Dr, Walnut Creek 94596 (510/932-2267). Researching HANNAGAN, Maine; RICHARDSON.

McCROSSIN, DIANA 2610 College Av, Berkeley 94704 (510/845-4592). Researching McCROSSIN, Oregon; STUART, Ireland, Idaho.

THANK YOU!

President Carol Glover is pleased to report that we now have a Hospitality Chairperson. CAROL HUVANE will take over this job at the November meeting. Thank you, Carol, from all of us -- especially those who have missed their cup of coffee!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FORMS - Dottie Richardson is now a resident of Grass Valley so we need a volunteer who will take over the job of Genealogy Forms Chairperson. This consists of making available at each meeting the collection of forms and maps, and research helps. Contact Carol if you can help with this.

MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE - Carol also needs some input for putting together a new membership brochure. If you can help with this, meet with Carol after the board meeting in November.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SRVGS member JOHN ARROL announces that, following ten years of research, he has published a genealogical book entitled, THE ARROL, ARROLL AND ARRELL FAMILIES. The book is a comprehensive study of those families bearing these surnames, as well as variant spellings, e.g. Erroll, Harel. It includes the genealogy of many families dating to the early 1600's in the southeastern part of Loch Lomond in Dumbartonshire, Scotland, as well as Arrell families who trace their heritage to Northern Ireland. A partial overview of the name in Quebec and France is included as an adjunct. In its entirety, it documents the genealogy of approximately 3,500 individuals. The book is a handsome 800-page, 7"x9" volume, case-bound in simulated leather and contains 32 pages of photos. It is available for \$42.50 plus \$4 shipping from John at Arrol House Publishers, 2427 Alamo Glen Dr, Danville 94526.

John says that, at the same time, he published a soft covered smaller book called, ARROL BIOGRAPHIES. This book contains the biographies of fifty-six Arrols. At the October meeting, we'll post the photo and promotional material he sent us, including a photo of an Arrol-Johnston automobile, of which 6000 were produced in Scotland between 1895 and 1931.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

FGS REPORT - From the Federation of Genealogical Societies' Fall 1994 FORUM:

A legislative alert has been sounded throughout California as genealogists confront a threat to vital records open access. Statewide monitoring has centered around the activities of two Assemblywomen, Grace F. Napolitano (Dist 58 Norwalk) and Margaret E Snyder (Dist 25 Modesto) in promoting Assembly Bill 3170. The May 27 1994 version of AB3170 would make

birth certificates confidential for 100 years; marriage and death records for 50 years. A provision in the bill would require all records depositories that store and maintain vital records to return those records to the local county recorder or the State Registrar.

Although the bill twice failed to pass the Assembly, Assemblywoman Napolitano told a group of genealogists that she intends to attach AB3170 to a bill originating in the California Senate or reintroduce it in the next legislative session (January).

This increases the burden on the grassroots watchdog movement because the target is elusive: no bill numbers, no definite date, no identifiable sponsors to contact. Instead, California genealogists are letting legislators know, through telephone, letters and petitions, how record closure would impact genealogy. Public and genealogical libraries and Family History Centers are being marshaled as allies.

- **CSGA REPORT - WENDY ELLIOTT**, President of California State Genealogical Alliance, writes in the September Newsletter:

As we go to press, a Bill to OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS has passed the Senate 38-0 and sent to the Assembly. Aug 8, 1994 Committee passed 9 to 6. Read second time. Amended. Re-referred to Ways and Means Committee. SB 95 The California Public Records Act generally provides that the public records of any state or local agency are open to inspection during office hours unless specifically exempted or the public interest would be better served by not making the record public. Current law provides that any person may request a copy of a public record from any state or local agency upon payment of a fee covering the cost of duplication. This expands "Public Records" definition to include computer-held information; requires public records open to public inspection/copying at ALL times during office hours and in ALL forms of compilation used by the respective agency and that copies of all computerized data must be made available in ANY form of information-storage media used by the agency. Requires public agencies to ensure that systems used to collect and hold public records are designed to ensure ease of public access, and provide a copy of all computer programs necessary to process

the records if the agency cannot produce copies of public records in a standard format; requires the agency to identify the basis for nondisclosure of a record; reorganizes and recodifies disclosure exemptions; and allows an agency to adopt requirements to provide faster, more efficient or greater access to records than specified in the bill.

• OTHER ENDANGERED RECORDS

- **RAILROAD RETIREMENT PENSION FILES** - The Federation of Genealogical Societies in cooperation with the Michigan Genealogy Council is spear-heading an initiative to have the National Archives and Records Administration change the retention schedule for the Railroad Retirement Board pension papers.

Currently, the majority of these records are destroyed 35 years after the payment of the last claim. After a number of failed attempts at opening a discussion with the Office of Records Management at the National Archives, FGS President Curt Witcher alerted genealogists to the danger posed by having the pension papers destroyed [see "Your Records Your Choice" in the Summer issue of the FGS Forum.]

In response, Acting Archivist of the US, Dr. Trudy Peterson expressed a willingness to discuss the retention of these records at the FGS conference (Oct 13-16) in Richmond VA.

Probably, it is too late to write a letter to Dr. Peterson c/o Mr Witcher in support of the retention of the records (unless you can find a way to FAX it to the Marriott Hotel in Richmond) but you might want to write thanking Dr. Peterson for her willingness to discuss the matter and to encourage her and her staff to work to retain the records which contain valuable genealogical & historical material not microfilmed before being destroyed. Letters can be sent to Dr. Trudy Peterson, Acting Archivist/National Archives and Records Administration c/o Ms Kim S. Harrison, Michigan Genealogical Council, 55832 Pontiac Trail Ct, New Hudson, MI 48165-9703.

- The National Archives needs to hear when retention schedules ought to be reviewed and revised. Write to Director, Office of Records Management, NARA, Eighth and Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20408. If you know of other records in danger, notify the Records Preservation and

Access Committee at the FGS Office, PO Box 3385, Salt Lake City UT 84110-3385 or call 801/254-2785.

- **CONFEDERATE RECORDS** - In the March/April 1993 issue of the Confederate Veteran magazine, there was a reprinted editorial from John Perry, editor of the Confederated Gazette. He detailed how we will soon lose over 5,700 cubic feet of Confederate Archive Records which include muster rolls, payrolls, hospital records, prison records and governmental correspondence.

These historic and genealogically important records are currently stacked in cardboard boxes in the non-climate controlled area of the National Archives. Dr. Miscall Meir, a National Archives spokesman, admitted they are "going to seed" rapidly. The documents are not slated to be housed in the new building under construction at College Park, Maryland, either, so their future is uncertain. Mr. Perry asked that readers write to Senators and congressmen to urge their assistance in helping to preserve these records. [From The Bulletin, 3/94 via CSGA N/L 10/94]

• NGS ETHICS COMMITTEE UPDATE

In response to a growing concern over unethical genealogical publications circulating through the United States, the NGS council voted at its June 1993 Meeting to institute an Ethics committee with a charge of identifying and publicizing potential and actual genealogical scams.

During 1993, over 50 genealogical community members wrote NGS to inquire or complain about materials they had received promoting *surname books*. At least three companies are currently selling publications that consist of little more than lists of names and addresses of individuals with the same surnames. The committee welcomes the reactions of those who have ordered and read any of these books or who have opinions about the promotions themselves. They will continue to investigate and analyze all materials and will issue a progress report on its finding and recommendations. You may write NGS Ethics Committee, 4527 17th St. N., Arlington VA 22207-2399 [Pomona Valley GS May 94 via CSGA N/L June 94]

• A NEW SURNAME BOOK

The following by Herb Caen, appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle Feb 16, 1994:

Roger Macmillan of Orinda added a guest apartment to his house and wanted its phone to be listed in the directory as "Guest Room." Pacific Bell said "uh-uh," so he invented a name, "Guest Ruhm," which made it. Soon afterward, through the miracle of computerized junk, he got a letter headed "The Guests Since the Civil War, Patrick Guest, Director," informing Roger that "our new book, 'The Guests Since the Civil War' is finally complete - and YOU, Ruhm Guest, are listed in it!" Full marks for enterprise, I guess.

[via Solano Co GS Apr 94]

• WHAT'S IN A NAME?

- An entry from the diary of The Rev. Benjamin Arsty, vicar of East Dereham: 25 December 1866. Married a young parishioner of the name Mahershallalashbaz TUCK. He accounted for the possession of so extraordinary a name thus: his father wished to call him by the shortest name in the Bible, and for that purpose selected Uz. But, the clergyman making some demur, the father said, "Well if he cannot have the shortest name he shall have the longest".

The Norfolk Ancestor, Journal of the Norfolk & Norwich Genealogical Society, Kirby House, 38B St. Giles St., Norwich, NR2 1LL

• TRANSCRIPTION PROBLEMS

A researcher was reading the Amesbury, MA town records for 1690-1715 and ran into several problems. The first was when they encountered Left Foot Watren. It took meeting another Left: Left John Jones to realize that this meant Lieutenant. The combination of the title of Left and the first name of Foot confused them. Next they encountered aturnes and sarvaars. By only reading the many lines of text told them that they were meeting attorneys and surveyors. So have your creativity ready to say these words and interpret them.

[Stanislaus Researcher May 94 vis CSGA June 94]

- **NICKNAMES** - Mary was/is sometimes May, Molly, Polly, Mamie, May, Maisie or Minnie; Ann might be Nannie, Nan or Nancy; Margaret - Mollie, Maisie, Daisy, Greta, Meta, Mitzie, Madge, Midge, Peggy, Meg or Maggie; Martha could be Patsy, Patty, Mattie, or Pat. The Clarke-Oconee Gen Soc, Athens, GA has a more complete list if you wish to write them at PO Box 6403, Athens GA 30604-6403.

- [BELL continued from page 27]
records. She stressed the importance of probate records which often provide the married names of female children.

Her last advice was to check with local genealogical societies. "I always join the local society. Look how much you've learned from each other today."

- [EVENTS continued from page 28]

Mr. Jones became interested in Palatine Immigrants while a senior at Stanford. He has written several books on the subject while pursuing a 20-year career as an actor. He has appeared in many Disney films and on television.

Registration (before 7 Nov) \$18; at the door (8:15am) \$22. Send to SMCGS, PO Box 5083, San Mateo CA 94402-0083. For further information, phone Doris M. Newbery (415/591-1797)

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- [COMPUTER continued from page 30]

L-AGS COMPUTER GROUP

The Livermore-Amador Valley GS has started a Computer Interest Group which meets at 7:30pm each third Thursday at the LDS Church, 905 Mocho St, Livermore.

On OCTOBER 10 the Topics are: Software Help, Tricks & Shortcuts with PAF-Mac, PAF-IBM, Brother's Keeper, Family Tree Maker and others.

On NOVEMBER 17 the topic is: INTERNET, how to access it with or without a modem or computer of your own and how it can help you do your genealogy.

Non-members are welcome. For more information contact Doug Mumma, 510/447-5164.

- THE TROUBLE with opportunity is that it always comes disguised as hard work.

[From CSGA N/L June 94]

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