

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. 7

FEBRUARY 1995

PROGRAM: FEBRUARY 21, 1995

Dr. PAUL F. C. MUELLER will speak on GERMAN RESEARCH. He has spent 20 years tracing his German speaking ancestors in Eastern Germany and Poland. He is the former President of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society. Currently he is a mentor and contributor to *Der Blumenbaum*, a quarterly publication of the Society.

Dr. Mueller was born in Schenectady, New York. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Stanford University and a Ph.D. at the University of Washington.

Jeanette Moses, Program

LAST MONTH

Report by Christine Scott

Leland Meitzler presented The Heritage Quest Road Show, an all-day workshop, sponsored by the Heritage Quest Magazine and American Genealogical Lending Library. Mr. Meitzler and his wife live in a motor home and travel all over the United States on business and pleasure.

The morning program was "Genealogy on Site" or "On the Road Again." Mr. Meitzler made a list of recommendations about how to do genealogy -- not necessarily the way he does his own genealogy because of the way he lives and travels.

1. Process the information you collected on your last trip.
2. Be sure to know what information you are missing.
3. Lay out your material by area.
4. Obtain good maps. Stop at the Visitor Center when entering a state.
5. Note the hours of repositories you plan to visit.
6. Make appointments ahead with museum type facilities.

Supplies needed for your trip:

1. 8-1/2x11: pads of paper, pens and pencils, small post-it note pads, and blank family group sheets.

2. Some basic guide books such as *Genealogist's Address Book* by Elizabeth Bentley, *Handy Book or Funeral Home Directory* pocket edition*, Area Guides and "Doing Research in ...", and Collection Guides such as *Library of Congress* and *The Archives*. *This can be purchased from Nomis Publications; PO Box 5122; Youngstown, OH 44514 for \$35 for the pocket size. Also you can call 1-800-321-7479 using Visa/MasterCards. Be sure to mention Heritage Quest or it will cost \$40. [Ed. note: Large libraries, e.g. Pleasant Hill, have copies in the reference section if you're interested in just one area.]

3. For identification use library cards and genealogical society membership cards.

4. Fanny pack with coins and dollar bills. Safer than purses.

5. Portable copier for home use -- invaluable especially when visiting cousins. You can copy for them material you have brought with you, and in exchange, copy material they've collected.

6. Cemetery kit - chalk, shaving cream, hand squeegee, 4-ft. rebar for probing.

7. 35-mm single lens reflex camera with close-up lenses, black/white and color film.

8. Notebook computer with a CD-ROM drive.

9. Microfilm reader.

[LAST MONTH continued on page 65]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR**FEBRUARY**● **SRVGS EVENTS**

- * 14 TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group [see p.59]
- * 16 THURSDAY 10am Irish Interest Group [see p.59]
- * 21 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting; 12:30pm ROOTS IV Users' Group; German Interest Group. [see p.59]
- * 28 TUESDAY SRVGS Library Trip [see p. 62]

● **OTHER EVENTS**

- 11 SATURDAY, 10am 1:00pm Nat'l Archives Volunteer Training. Call 415/876-9009.
- 18 SATURDAY GS of Stanislaus Co workshop in Turlock by J. Carlyle Parker, "Getting Ready to Go to Salt Lake City." (209/869-3966)
- 25 SATURDAY 10am-noon PAFers United (PAF Users Group), Concord FHC, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord
- 25 SATURDAY 1pm Santa Rosa Jr College, Lark Hall Rm 2009. Sonoma Co GS presents Christine Rose. Topic is "Too Young for the Rev War and Too Old for the Civil War -- Neglected Treasures." For more info call 707/538-1775.

**MARCH**● **SRVGS EVENTS**

- * 7 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- * 14 TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group
- * 16 THURSDAY 10am Irish Interest Group
- * 21 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting: Christine Rose "Bounty Land Warrants"

● **OTHER EVENTS**

- 9 THURSDAY 7:30pm Contra Costa Co GS, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord.
Lynnet Kiehl: How she researched her book about ancestors taken captive by Indians in 1704.
- 10 FRIDAY 9am-9pm National Archives Workshop, 1000 Commodore Dr, San Bruno 94066:
"Beginning Genealogy." Register in advance to guarantee a place in the class. Cost: \$12 in advance; \$15 at door. Contact Rose Mary Kennedy 415/876-9009.
- 11 SATURDAY DVC classes: 9am-noon "Create a Family History Book", 1-4pm "Produce an Oral History." Instructor: journalist Kris Delaplane Conti at Diablo Valley College, Rm LA 210.
Fee \$25/each class to Community Services Program, DVC, 321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill 94523. For info call Dan Silvia 685-1230, ext 437.

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.

● **MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS**

10-11 - FRIDAY &
 SATURDAY California Genea-
 logical Society FAMILY
 HISTORY FAIR "Following
 Paper Trails Across the Conti-
 nent" at Fashion Center, 8th &
 Townsend, San Francisco. Pre-
 Reg non-members \$15/one
 day, \$25/two days. At door
 \$18/\$28. CGS, PO Box
 77105, SF 94107-0105.
 [Brochures available at SRVGS
 Meeting]

18 SATURDAY Sonoma Co
 GS & LDS Family History
 Dept sponsor a seminar "THE
 FAMILY and the LAW in
 AMERICAN HISTORY" by
 George Ryscamp, J.D., A.G.,

Asst Prof of History at BYU.
 At LDS Church, 1725 Peterson
 Lane, Santa Rosa. Pre-reg \$10
 (indiv); \$15 (married couple),
 \$12 each at the door 8:00am.
 Send to: Carmen J. Finley,
 4820 Rockridge Lane, Santa
 Rosa CA 95404 (707/544-
 2072). Topics: 8:30-11am
 "Our English Inheritance:
 Fundamental Concepts of Law,"
 "They Came for Land: Land
 Records and Ownership Sys-
 tems;" 11:30am-2pm "Justice
 for All: American Courts and
 Records," "The Family Inheri-
 tance: Laws, Wills and
 Probate." Exhibits & vendor
 displays.

[MORE EVENTS on page 64]

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

GERMAN - Meets every other month after regular meeting at Barbara Johnson's (837-2153). Next meetings: February 21 & April 18.

IRISH - Meets 10AM each second or third (announced) THURSDAY of the month at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl, Pleasant Hill (229-0889). Next meetings: February 16 & March 16.

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 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: February 14 at Dorothy Stanton's; March 14 at Bea O'Rand's; April 11 at Nancy Williams'. Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - Research in England, Scotland, & Wales. No meetings scheduled. Contact Ron Skilton 254-6989.

PLEASE REPORT PROGRAMS & CHANGES TO WENDY HABERMEHL 735-0737

RESEARCH INFORMATION

FROM SRVGS MEMBERS

● FROM J.D. STURGEON:

WAR OF THE REBELLION Official Records of The Union and Confederate Armies

By an act approved 23 JUN 1874, Congress made an appropriation "to enable the Secretary of War to begin the publication of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, both of the Union and Confederate Armies," and directed him "to have copied for the Public Printer all reports, letters, telegrams, and general orders not heretofore copied or printed, and properly arranged in chronological order."

Thus began the process that we as genealogists today are the major beneficiaries. This major task ended with the production of 120 volumes. Each volume is individually indexed, however there is a general index for the entire works.

All of the correspondence are reflected in their entire text. Any individual person or location that is mentioned is indexed. In many instances this would include names of killed and/or wounded. Battle reports, authored by field commanders, are particularly noteworthy for containing individual names.

Series I (Vol. 1-53), Chronological order of events.

Series II (Vol. 1-8), Prisoners of war.

Series III (Vol. 105), Union special events.

Series IV (Vol. 1-3) Confederate special events.

I am the proud owner of a complete set of these books. I am willing to share them with any SRVGS member that may have an interest in them. Certain restrictions will

apply to insure the preservation of this collection.

If you have the name of a specific individual, regiment, or geographical location that you are researching you may be very pleasantly surprised at what you may find.

[Contact Jerry at 855-9932]

- **MILLIE FREITAS & ALICE TISO** purchased a copy of Ron Bremer's Compendium of Historical Sources. They are willing to loan it for a week to any interested member. Call Millie (837-2483) or Alice (735-8172) for terms.

● FROM DOROTHY STANTON:

PHOTOS FOUND at a Garage Sale: 6 pages from a Family Portrait Album. Most are from 1880's; one, "Rev. J.M. Boal" is dated 1867. Family names listed are: "Lib & Dick CAMPBELL & 2 sons" (Long Beach CA is mentioned on back); McGAW-SMYTH; PEEBLES; BRADBEER; BOAL, BERRY, LOSEE, MOCHER. Personal details are on the back of each photo. Photographers' locations visible: Picton; Rock Island, IL; Wooster, Ohio; Kingston, Ontario; Coburg, Ontario. If you have any suggestions for contacting present descendants, please let me know (510/820-3757). I'll be happy to send them the photos.

● CIVIL WAR RESEARCH

- **SOUTHERN UNIONIST CLAIMS** - An article in Heritage Quest #46 (Jul/Aug 93) by Robert S. Davis, Jr. deals with claims made to the US Government by Southern supporters of the Union for property destroyed or seized by Union forces during the Civil War. The author, who has written several books on

historical research, manages to reduce to one page the instructions for accessing these valuable, but often difficult to find, documents. The records often contain detailed personal information on the claimants and their families.

[from CSGA N/L Jan 94]

● **CONFEDERATE SETTLERS IN BRAZIL** -

After Lincoln's assassination, the Federal government cracked down hard on ex-Confederates, depriving them of citizenship rights. At the time there was much propaganda in the South inducing Americans to come to Brazil. Brazilian emperor Dom Pedro II, wanting to develop a cotton industry, offered good land at 22 cents an acre.

As many as 20,000 Southerner emigrated to Brazil. About 30% eventually returned to the U.S. One group, led by Col. William Norris (a state Senator from AL), prospered on prime farming land. They settled in Sao Paulo state near the town of Santa Barbara and founded the town of Americana Brazil, where many of their descendants still live today. If you're missing a branch of your Southern family, you might want to check there. [From an article by Edward I. Oliver in St. Charles Co MO GS J1/Au/Se 93 via CSGA N/L Oct 94]

● **CALIFORNIA CW BURIALS** - Genealogist Sheila Benedict is attempting to compile a book, list or pamphlet of Civil War Veterans, Union and Confederate, buried in CA. She needs cemetery data from county and/or city genealogical/historical societies or any one else who may have records. Please send data or information if you know where these might be obtained to Sheila at PO Box 335, Nuevo CA 92567-0335; 909/928-9875; FAX 909/928-0220 [CSGA N/L Oct 94]

● **MISSOURI LAND RECORDS** - While searching Missouri records during the 1860's-1875, if you find a woman selling property, don't assume she is a widow. It could be she was acting as head of the family due to her husband's loss of civil rights because of his service on behalf of the South or his sympathies for the Southern cause. [Odom Library Family Tree Aug/Sep 94]

● **CW DESCENDANTS' SOCIETIES**

Sons of the Union Veterans of the CW - Box 24, Federal Bldg. Gettysburg PA 17325.
Daughters of Union Veterans of the CW 1861-65 is the oldest women's hereditary society of the US. Write: 503 S. Walnut St, Springfield IL 62704.

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the US was founded in 1885 by CW Veterans.

Membership is open to male descendants of commissioned officers of the Union Forces 1861-65, and to descendants of an officer's brother or sister. Its War Library and Museum contains more than 11,000 volumes concerning CW history. Write: 1805 Pine St, Philadelphia PA 19103. A branch organization, Dames of the Loyal Legion of the US can be reached at the same address.

Sons of Confederate Veterans was formed in 1896 by sons of servicemen. Write: Box 5164, Hattiesburg MS 39401.

United Daughters of the Confederacy was organized in 1894 for women descendants of men and women who served the cause of the Confederate States of America with military service, civil service, civil service or material aid. Its general headquarters in Richmond VA maintains a 2,500-volume library. Write: Memorial Bldg, 328 North Blvd, Richmond VA 23220.

[From a genealogy column by Georgia Dent in Orange Co Register 27 Oct 1993 via CSGA N/L Nov 94]

● **"GERMANY" in 1920**

(The Ever-changing Face of Europe)
BOUNDARY CHANGES DUE TO WWI - In order to compare the distribution of the foreign-born population in 1920 with that of preceding censuses, the Census Bureau told enumerators to "ask the name of the province or city, when a person reported himself or his parents as having been born in Germany, Austria, or Russia, or any other country whose boundaries were affected by the war..."

Changes affecting just Germany were listed as **AUSTRIA** - annexation of territory from Hungary; detachments of territory to Czechoslovakia, Poland (Galicia), Jugoslavia, Rumania (Bukowina), and Italy (Trentino region, Gorizia, Isrian peninsula, and Trieste); detachment of Fiume.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA - Created from territory formerly included in Austria-Hungary.
GERMANY - detachments of territory to France (Alsace-Lorraine), Belgium (Eupen & Malmadey), Poland (West Prussia and Posen), and Denmark (Northern Schleswig); Saar Basin (governed by League of Nations); Danzig (free city)

POLAND - Restored to its original status as an independent country by reuniting Austrian Poland (Galicia), German Poland (West Prussia and Posen), and Russian Poland.

RUSSIA - detachments of territory to Poland and Rumania (Bessarabia) and detachment of Lithuania.

In view of the fact that "Dutch" often meant "Deutsch" (German), the following may be a timely subject:

● NGSQ "BLACK DUTCH" PROJECT

One of the mysteries of American genealogy is the ethnic identification of a group found in many family traditions: the "Black Dutch." Dr. Virginia Easley DeMarce's study of legendary tri-racial isolate groups of the Upper South (NGS Quarterly March 92 & Mar 93) showed how ethnic myth can be demystified by sound genealogical research. Family historians are now applying the same principle to the "Black Dutch" tradition.

The National Genealogical Society is launching a Black Dutch Project and invites contributions from all engaged in *primary-source research* on lines alleged to be Black Dutch. The following guidelines have been set for submissions:

- * For the ancestor traditionally identified as Black Dutch, please provide (1) The details of any traditional account offered by the family to explain this person's ethnicity. (2) An Ahnentafel table for that ancestor, including pertinent dates and places for each generation. (3) Any *primary-source* documentation that has been accumulated *relative to the ethnicity* of this ancestor or any of his/her progenitors.

- * Contributions should include a self-addressed postcard by which the project director can acknowledge receipt.

- * Materials cannot be returned. An original copy or an only copy of a document should not be posted.

All submitted material will become part of the data base to be deposited in the NGS Library, unless a participant requests destruction of his or her donation. [Note: staff cannot do research or analyze individual problems]

The analysis and results of the study will be reported in the *Quarterly*. Submitted materials should be addressed to (Mrs) GeLee Corley Hendrix, 3 Acorn Court, Greenville SC 29609. [NGS Quarterly 82:4 Dec 94]

● PUBLICATIONS FROM SOCIETIES

SOLANO CO GS (CA) is publishing an index to church records in its newsletter. Currently, it is printing the baptismal and death records of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Benicia. Anyone interested in the actual page from the church register can send the page number, ancestor's name, name of the church in which the event was recorded, and \$1.00/entry and a SASE to Church Registers, c/o Solano Co Genealogical Society, PO Box 2494, Fairfield CA 94533.

PENNSYLVANIA - From the Gen Soc of Pennsylvania: Volunteers have completed indexing of the Philadelphia *Public Ledger* newspaper. Volumes covering the earlier years have been offered for sale previously but this is the first time the entire collection has been made available. Included are the years prior to Philadelphia civil registration which began 1 July 1860. *Pennsylvania Will Abstracts*, available for eight counties, are indexed to include every name mentioned. Counties are Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, and Philadelphia County. Each county has multiple volumes. A new publication is *A Genealogist's Guide to Pennsylvania Records*, an alphabetical county-by-county listing of genealogical research materials originally published in over 17 issues of the *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* [FGS FORUM Winter 1994]

● BOOKSTORE BROWSING

Rainy days are good for browsing in bookstores. In case the season isn't over yet, here are some area bookstores where you might make some "finds" in family-history related books.

BAY BOOKS - One store is at 1669 Willow Pass Road, Concord; the other recently opened at Crow Canyon, 2415 San Ramon Valley Blvd #3 (near NY Fabrics). Look at the Americana section. At the Concord store, I found a genealogy of *Jacob Clark of Abbeville SC* which contained a section on my Whitley family; in San Ramon I found an old history of North Carolina. [Dorothy Stanton]

CALIFORNIA COLLECTIBLES, 3503 Alhambra Av in Martinez, specializes in books about California or by Californians. Among the 10,000 volumes on hand: a collection of California road maps from the 1920s; early Mark Twain & John Muir; early Mexican authors; books on Westward expansion. [SRV Times Feb 27, 1994]

ROSKIE & WALLACE BOOKS, 14595 E. 14th St, San Leandro CA 94578; 510/483-4163. (Take #580 toward Oakland to E. 14th) Many of the books are purchased from estate sales; some real genealogical treasures can sometimes be found. [Nancy Alexander]

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● LIBRARY TRIP

SUTRO LIBRARY in San Francisco, one of our favorite libraries, is our destination on Tuesday, February 28, 1995. We will meet to carpool at 9:00 a.m. in back of Lucky's on Diablo Road in Danville. Those living North of Danville may call Mary Jo Hosteny (932-2244) for an alternate meeting place in Lafayette.

Check your Handbook for details about Sutro Library and its resources. Also, we have a tape of Bette Kot's talk on Sutro. Check it out through our tape library.

Remember, members who wish to make the trip may call Mary Jo or me if they wish to make the Sutro Library trip and can't make the meeting to sign up for it.

Millie Freitas, 837-2483

[Editor's Note: Sutro emphasizes family history materials for states and areas outside of California. However, the New Arrivals List, 4th series #24, listed some new California items: Northern California Marriage Index 1850-60; Coroner's Inquest Book No. 1, Marin County 1856-1910; and the 1900 and 1910 census index for Stanislaus County. Check local libraries for the Sutro Catalog and more New Arrivals.]

- UC BERKELEY LIBRARY - Our January trip and tour was canceled but, in case you plan your own visit, here's more on the new subterranean facility:

The underground repository, designed to be earthquake safe, spreads over 143,000 sq ft on four floors, to a depth of 60 feet. The new stacks will hold 52 miles of books and are accessible from either Moffit or Doe Library. The underground rooms feature skylights and custom-made furniture. It is the first library to feature full electrical outlets, data ports, and task lights. There are 450 study tables and carrels which accommodate modems, lap-top computers, and hook-ups with library databases.

[East Bay GS N/L Nov/Dec 94]

● NATIONAL ARCHIVES

- RAILROAD RECORDS UPDATE - Curt B. Witcher, President of the Federation of Genealogical Societies reports that a meeting took place between representatives of the genealogical community and those of

the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) staff concerning the retention of Railroad Retirement Board Pension Files. There were some positive results as well as information that came from the meetings:

* A stop-order has been placed on the further destruction of Railroad Retirement Board Pension Papers.

* A new review will be undertaken to determine an appropriate retention schedule in light of the value of the records to genealogists, historians, demographers, family health historians and ethnologists.

* The NARA will consider expanding the review to include other federal records which may have significant amounts of personal, identifying data.

* The NARA will seek expanded opportunities for soliciting input from the genealogical community during the formulation process for new federal records retention schedules.

[FGS FORUM Winter 1994]

- CONFEDERATE RECORDS UPDATE - A letter from the NARA replying to press reports that the Confederate Archive Records being stored in the National Archives were deteriorating rapidly, says in part: "The National Archives is very concerned about all the Civil War records and works hard to take good care of them...the cost of preservation is high and the quantity of records is very large...press accounts about the condition of the Civil War records leave the wrong impression that the records are stored in poor environments. The CW records are housed in accordance with the basic standards of the archives for the storage of all historical records. They are kept in stack areas of the NA Building in Washington DC and the temperatures and humidity levels in these stacks are regulated to set a proper storage environment... the NA recently conducted a pilot project to train unpaid volunteers to perform basic preservation for CW records. There were 20 persons in the first group of volunteers. The pilot project was successful and we have now increased the size of the CW Volunteer Conservation Corps to approximately 50 volunteers working on preservation of CW records. The volunteers currently are working on the Union service records..."

[Reported in CSGA N/L Feb 95. A 2-page Factsheet was included with the letter, detailing

NA Civil War Records, their use for genealogists and preservation methods. If you want a copy of the Factsheet, contact SRVGS Editor]

- **US ARMY COURTS MARTIAL** - In the Stanislaus Researcher, Martha Wilson reports on Series M1523 *Proceedings of U.S. Army Courts-Martial and Military Commissions of Union soldiers executed by U.S. Military Authorities 1861-1866*. The eight rolls of microfilm contain the proceedings concerning 468 soldiers serving in either U.S. Colored Troops, U.S. Regular Army, U.S. Volunteers, U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps or in volunteer organizations raised from New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, California, Maine, Vermont, New Mexico, Arkansas, West Virginia, Rhode Island, Colorado, Delaware, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin.

The proceedings are arranged alphabetically by name of defendant with cross-references to aliases. The directives establishing the court give the names of officers chosen to serve on the court and its judge advocate, the defendant's name and unit, the place and date of the proceedings, the specifications directed against the defendant, his plea and a verbatim transcript of the proceedings including the finding of the court and review.

The beginning of roll 1 lists each soldier, his rank, State or Territory from which he served, and his organization, nature of the offense, sentence and execution. The list, compiled in 1885 by the Adjutant General, includes 267 soldiers but trial proceedings for only 234 were filmed in this series.

Film series M1523 is located in File cabinet 48, drawer 5, in the Pacific Sierra Region National Archives at San Bruno.

[via CSGA N/L Nov 94]

• CLARIFICATION OF MOVE -

The National Archives has received a number of letters asking what records are being moved to Archives II from the Regional Archives. NO records in the Regional Archives will be moved to Archives II. In the process of getting records move-ready, some series of records were moved to regional archives; but the opposite has not (and will not) occurred.

Most of the genealogical records and microfilm

will stay in the downtown Washington building. The census and other genealogical microfilm will remain in Archives I (the downtown Washington building) and a textual cluster of records will be in that building. The cluster includes records of the Bureau of Land Management, Post Office, veterans military service and pension records, passport records, Immigration and Naturalizations Service, Selective Service System, War Relocation Authority, Accounting Officers of the Dept of Treasury and the Patent and Trademark Office. There will be occasions when genealogists will want to use records at Archives II, but most of their research resources are centralized in the downtown building.

• AROUND THE USA & WORLD

- **ILLINOIS GERMANS** - The records of the German (Aid) Society of Chicago (Deutsche Gesellschaft) consist of more than 10,000 applications for assistance and case histories from the period 1883-1910. Applications include the applicants name, address, age, family relationships, occupation, length of time in the US, and place of origin. Some applications from clients of the SWISS Benevolent Soc of Chicago, which did not have its own quarters, are included. These records are housed at the U of Illinois at Chicago, University Library, Special Collections, Room 3-330, 801 S. Morgan, Chicago IL 60607. The collection is open to the general public from Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:45pm. There is no fee to use the collection. PLEASE NOTE: the library staff is unable to respond to mail inquiries and cannot do research. You must go yourself or hire someone to search through the applications, which are not indexed. [from Helen Boyden, "Chicago Immigrant Aid Applications," *The German Connection* 18:4 qtlly of the Ger Res Assoc via FGS FORUM 6:4 Win 94]

- **ILLINOIS & MISSOURI CIVIL WAR RECORDS** - A collection of Civil War records for Illinois companies that served from Missouri and Arkansas has been transferred from the Missouri State Archives to the Illinois State Archives. The collection includes muster rolls and payrolls for the years 1862-65. They will be filed under the office of the Illinois Adjutant General. (IL State Archives, Springfield IL 62756). [FGS FORUM Winter 94]

- **GERMANY - Return of Former Prussian State Archives from Merseburg to Berlin Begins** [From an article in The Week in Germany dated April 16, 1993]

The first shipment of materials from the Prussian Cultural Heritage Secret State Archive, which consists of files and documents of the former Prussian state and which was kept in part in Merseburg (Saxony-Anhalt) after World War II, arrived in Berlin on Tuesday (April 13, 1993). The undertaking is aimed to undo the division of the holdings as a consequence of WWII and the division of Germany, said Werner Knopp, the president of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation. A converted granary will serve as temporary storage for the documents over the next few years. It will take 100 truck-loads to transport the materials to Berlin and the complete move will take about a year.

The archives, one of the largest document collections in Germany, were housed in the Dahlem section of Berlin in 1924. In 1943, some of the materials were stored in potassium and salt mines in Saxony-Anhalt; in 1948, after examination by the Soviet occupying forces, they were given to the then-regional government of Saxony-Anhalt. In the German Democratic Republic, the Prussian archive was under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior; it was available, with some restrictions, for research.

The oldest of the documents and written materials date back to the twelfth century; the most recent are from 1945. Original samples of the Prussian kings' handwriting were preserved, as were state treaties, construction plans, property deeds and patents. Despite the fact that the archives kept the "secret" in its title, it is open to researchers. [from Chicago GS N/L May 1994]

● COMPUTER CORNER

● PLOTTING DEEDS:

FOR IBM (DOS 3.2 or higher) DeedMapper - For mapping old deeds, surveys, grants and claims. "Type in the deed text; it's automatically plotted." Reconstruct entire neighborhoods. Drag and drop plots with mouse onto computer maps of your research area. Make printouts at any scale. Needs 1.2M or 1.44M floppy, VGA graphics card. Send \$99 to: Direct Line Software, 71 Neshobe Rd, Newton MA 02168 (tel: 617/527-9566)

FOR MACs - The Farmer's Plotter: Metes, Bounds or Rect. Survey. Needs 2Meg RAM; sys 6.0.8 or 7.x Send \$29.95 to Older Kids & Co, 8547 E. Arapahoe Rd, #J-144, Greenwood Village CO 80112.

- **SILICON VALLEY PAF USERS GROUP** announces the 1995 Edition of the *PAF Documentation Guidelines* by Jan Unter -- a 5x8" booklet for \$2.95 each (postpaid). Send to Silicon Valley PAF Users Group, 4417 Pitch Pine Ct, San Jose CA 95136 [408/578-4619. Some elements of these guidelines are in Appendix G of the new PAF 2.31 users manual. [Editor's note: the guidelines are detailed examples of how to word documentaion for all types of records; useful for everyone, regardless of what software you use -- or if you use none.]

● [MORE EVENTS continued]

NATIONAL

APRIL 7-8 SALT LAKE CITY UT - UT Gen Assoc Seminar at the Airport Hilton Hotel:

"Utah: Genealogy Crossroads of the World."

Contact June Calder 801/240-2091 or George Jordan 801/240-1009.

APRIL 8 KANSAS CITY MO - Marie Melchiorri presents 3 lectures on records in the Nat'l Archives pertaining to the War of the Rebellion." Contact Heart of America GS & Library c/o KC Public Library, 311 East 12th St, Kansas City MO 64106-2412.

MAY

MAY 3-6 1995 SAN DIEGO - NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Conference in the States: "A Place to Explore." To be held at the Town & Country Hotel & Convention Center. For more information, contact NGS, 4527 17th St North, Arlington VA 22207-2399. (703/525-0052). Brochures at SRVGS meeting. MAY 19-21 SOC OF HISPANIC HISTORICAL AND ANCESTRAL RESEARCH 11th Annual Buscando Nuestras Raices Conference, "Using Hispanic Genealogical Data to Enhance US History." If you would like to be involved in any capacity, contact: Lillian 714/847-5082.

JUNE

JUNE 17 BRIDGETON MO - St. Louis GS Genealogical Fair. Contact Fred Harris 314/842-0350.

JUNE 22-25 DENVER CO - 1995 Palatines to America National Conference. Contact Sandy Carter-Duff 303/777-1391.

SRVGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

• WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

Please add to your directory:

FEUERHELM, Charlot Ann, 7825 Crow Canyon Rd, Castro Valley 94552 (881-1404). Researching WILHELM, Germany; COLEN, Germany & San Francisco.

MACLAY, Marilyn V., 426 Blackstone Ct, Walnut Creek 94598 (937-2399). Researching: SAGE, NYC; VALTER, NYC & NJ.

STEINKRAUS, Faith, 8422 Rhoda, Dublin 94568 (833-0126). Researching: McCULLECH, NY 1800s; WEBSTER, NY 1800s.

STURGEON, Jerrod D., 650 Glasgow Cir, Danville 94526 (855-9932). Researching: STURGEON, Ireland & USA; BEARD, USA; WALLIEN, USA.

• Directory Changes

New address:

McNAMARA, Mary, 991 Pioneer Rd, Pebble Beach 93953-2718.

Correct address:

ENFANTINO, Suzanne B. Mailing address: PO Box 24903, San Jose 95154-4903. Residence: 26 Timber Cove Dr, Campbell 95008-4128 (408/866-6305).

• EXTRACTION PROGRAM

A hearty THANK YOU to those members who have been assisting in the Danville Stake LDS Home Name Extraction Program! You have been diligent and have produced quality work. The largest portion of the work has progressed to the computer entry stage. We have urgent need for more computer users. If you could find 3 or more hours a week to help in this project -- making more genealogical information available to more people on the Ancestral File -- please call Ardith Steger, 837-4306.

• ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

President Carol Glover is hoping to contact all SRVGS Charter Members to invite to the 10th Anniversary Luncheon in May. Can anyone help locate the following:

Joan FRAYNER, Leslie J. FULTON, Helen HANEY, Barbara HOLMES, Shirley HOLMES, Katie HORTON, Aleta JOHNSON, Jean MANNINGER, and Eula SALE.

• SRVGS AUTHOR

An interesting article by member SHIRLEY TERRY appeared in the National Genealogical Society Newsletter's Computer Interest Digest (Nov-Dec 1994). It was titled "Family History Found in Christmas Letters." We'll post a copy on our bulletin board at the February meeting.

• [LAST MONTH continued]

"HOW TO FIND COUSINS"

Report by Jane Steiner

In Leland Meitzler's afternoon lecture he outlined various steps to take to locate *living* relatives.

A. Check the area's libraries' local history area for a surname file; also vertical files.

B. Work forward from your great-great-grandparents' brothers and sisters.

1. Use major census indexes.

a. AIS (Accelerated Indexing Systems) has compiled census indexes on microfiche at the LDS Library.

b. Soundexes of 1880 (family had to have a child under 10), 1900 (only CA KS MO and TX west of the Mississippi) and 1920. AGLL (American Genealogical Lending Library) is in the process of reproducing all their indexes onto compact disks (CDs). The census indexes through 1840, most of 1850 and '60, and many 1870s have been put on CDs. Do a search on CDs using "wild cards" (substituting asterisks for some letters). Leland changes Meitzler to M**tzler when he searches on a computer. You'll be able to find all spellings.

c. Family Tree Maker (by Banner Blue Software) has just acquired Automated Archives and now has a *master* index.

2. The IGI is a great master index even though it may have many errors. Now it is included in the LDS *FAMILY SEARCH* on CDs. You can do a "parent search" with a surname. It will list all the parents alphabetically by first name, so you have all the families of that name grouped together.

C. Check for the *first* land deed (in Grantee Index) of a family when they moved into an area. It often tells where they came from. Also check the *last* land transaction if they moved on, unless they sold out before they left.

D. Check church records. Many churches transferred memberships by letter which may be in the records of some churches.

[see last page]

E. Check pension files; these tell where they lived when they applied for the pension.

F. Check soldiers' homes. Twenty-two states have them, and they are listed in *U.S. Military Records* by Nagels. If an ancestor was in one of these homes, his children will be listed in the records.

G. Check to see if the post office has an old *Forwarding Address Book* which were used before the yellow stickers that are used today came into being. People often moved to areas of the same occupation as their previous home; e.g., mining, timber, farming, fishing.

H. Obituaries are wonderful; they usually give the names and towns of the survivors. Look where the *family* lived--not necessarily where the person died.

I. Dept. of Motor Vehicle Records are still available in about half the states. If you have just a name and birth date, you can normally find the address. DMV records are still available in AL, AK, CO, CT, FL, ID, IN, KS, ME, MD (only in person), MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NH, NY, NC, OH, OR, RI, SC, SD, and TN. It is more difficult in VT, WA and WV; don't mention you are a genealogist! (See Heritage Quest #50 for more on this subject.)

J. Check a telephone disk first if you know somebody probably lives in a certain state.

PRO-PHONE SELECT is on four disks because it includes a reverse directory. Some are on two disks, and some are not complete. They are made up of more than phone books--public utility records and other sources are also used. Available at EGGHEAD Software. Be sure to get the optional business disks with it.

K. Check the Social Security Death Index next. It does not cover everybody. If there was no living dependent under 21 or over 60 who wanted to apply, there was no S.S. death benefit, and they won't be listed.

L. Probate records; especially if intestate, are good sources. The Probate Court is supposed to find all the children and/or blood relatives. The County Court House in the county of the "usual place of residence" holds them and has a Probate Index. You may find guardian records and conservatorship records in a probate index. Many have been filmed and are available in Salt Lake City. Mail should be addressed to the Clerk of the District Court normally, but check in the *Red Book* or *The Handybook* for the location of probate records.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL