

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. 8

MARCH 1995

PROGRAM: MARCH 21, 1995

CHRISTINE ROSE is a full-time professional genealogist with 35 years experience as a Certified Genealogist, Certified Genealogist Lecturer and Fellow, American Society Genealogists. She lectures at Samford Institute in Birmingham, Alabama and at the National Institute for Genealogical Research in Washington D.C. Compiler of several books, she has had articles published in national journals. These are just a few of her qualifications.

She will be speaking to us about BOUNTY LAND RECORDS. Everyone who has heard her speak says "She is GREAT!"

Jeanette Moses, Program

LAST MONTH INS & OUTS OF GERMAN RESEARCH

Report by Sandy Kimball

With a touch of humor and a wry wit, Dr. Paul F.C. Mueller took our members through some of the problems and a number of solutions involved in German research when he addressed the group last month.

A veteran German researcher --he's been tracing his German-speaking ancestors in East German and Poland for 10 years-- our speaker augmented his talk with several valuable handouts. These included maps of what is now Germany, German genealogical terms, suggested reading for beginning German research and steps for getting started.

He began by using his own name--Mueller--to introduce us to the problem of frequent name and place name changes. He found not only differences in surname spellings, but even in given names. His own ancestor, for instance, had a different given name listed at baptism, at marriage and at death.

A second major problem is lack of knowledge about the history of the area. Beginning in 1515 with Martin Luther, the schism between North and South Germany actually resulted in better records. This is because the Lutherans

began to keep track of all their converts so that they could prove they'd gained more converts than the Catholics. By proving they had the most converts, the Lutherans got to keep physical possession of the church.

During the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) terrible destruction resulted in obliteration of many records. So, Dr. Mueller explained, you may only be able to go back to this war for written records.

Before 1871, there was no German Empire --only a collection of city states and provinces, except for areas occupied by France. Consequently there are no civil records before this time. Earlier research must depend on church records.

A third problem to successful German Research is the lack of understanding of the language and inability to read German script.

Some of the solutions to these problems offered by Dr. Mueller included: 1. Understand German genealogical terms and learn to read some script. 2. Check with cousins and other relatives for information. Has anyone stayed in touch with relatives in the old country? 3. Follow up on family legends. They're usually 80% correct.

[LAST MONTH continued on last page]

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH



SRVGS EVENTS

- * 14 TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group [see p.69]
- * 16 THURSDAY 10am Irish Interest Group [see p.69]
- * 20 MONDAY 1:30pm UK Interest Group [see p.69]
- * 21 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting: Christine Rose "Bounty Land Warrants"; 12:30pm ROOTS IV User Group
- * 28 TUESDAY SRVGS Library Trip [see p.71]

OTHER EVENTS

- 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. To be held at LDS Church, 1725 Peterson Lane, Santa Rosa. Pre-reg \$10 (individual) \$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 Systems," 11:30am-2pm "Justice for All: American Courts and Records," "The Family Inheritance: Inheritance Laws, Wills and Probate." There will be exhibits & vendor displays (computer hardware/software, desktop publishing, photo restoration, etc.). Brown bag lunch suggested. Directions: From Highway 101 take the Guerneville Rd exit (at Coddington) and go West to Person Lane (2.3 miles), turn right to 1725 Peterson Lane.
- 22 WEDNESDAY 7:30pm Marin Co GS Meeting: Nora Hickey from County Cork, Ireland "Genealogical Sources in the USA for Irish Research." 1100 Las Gallinas, Terra Linda.
- 25 SATURDAY 10am-noon PAF Users' Group. Concord FHC, 3700 Concord Blvd.

APRIL



SRVGS EVENTS

- * 4 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- * 11 TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group
- * 13 THURSDAY 10am Irish Interest Group
- * 18 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting: John Hale Stutesman on Pennsylvania & Virginia Research

OTHER EVENTS

- 12 WEDNESDAY 10am at the Oakland Mormon Center 2780 Lincoln Av. Prof. Don Warren - "Portuguese Research."
- 13 THURSDAY 7:30pm Contra Costa Co GS, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Sheri Miller: "Travels in Hungary & Romania in Search of Family Roots."

OFFICERS to Contact

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 Annual Dues: Individual \$15
 Family \$20
 Membership year: June 1 to May 31

NEWSLETTER
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• COMING EVENTS

APRIL 8 & 9 PASADENA CA
 - Southern California GS's
 26th Annual JAMBOREE at the
 Exhibition Bldg, The Pasadena
 Center, 300 E. Green St,
 Pasadena.

APRIL 22 SACRAMENTO 9am
 -4:15pm Sacramento German
 GS German Empire Seminar.
 Larry Jensen, 4 lectures:
 Northwest, Southwest, North-
 east, Southeast Germany 1877-
 1912. At Northminster Presb.
 Church, 3235 Pope Av, Sacra-
 mento. Reg at door, \$25;
 pre-reg by 4/15, \$20. Call
 Charlotte Alexander, 916/483-
 4063, or send check to SGGS
 Seminar, 4641 Nickels Way,
 Sacramento 95864-3137.

APRIL 29 SANTA BARBARA
 Gen Soc conference 10-3.

Guest speaker Wendy Elliott.
 Contact Jan Cloud 805/965-
 7423.

MAY 3-6 1995 SAN DIEGO -
 National Genealogical Society
 Conference in the States: "A
 Place to Explore," at
 the Town & Country Hotel &
 Convention Ctr. Contact:
 NGS, 4527 17th St North,
 Arlington VA 22207-2399.
 (703/525-0052)

MAY 6-7 FALMOUTH MA -
 Cape Cod Genealogical Confer-
 ence. Seminars on SE Massachu-
 setts, Cape Cod, Martha's
 Vineyard and Nantucket,
 sponsored by Falmouth GS.

[MORE EVENTS on page 74]

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY GROUPS

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

GERMAN - Meets every other month after regular meeting at Barbara Johnson's (837-2153). Next meeting: 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: March 16, April 13, May 11.

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: March 14 at Bea O'Rand's, April 11 at Nancy Williams', May 9 at Patty Erickson's. Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - Research in England, Scotland, & Wales. Next meeting: March 20 at 1:30pm at Bea O'Rand's, 18 Ashford Ct, Alamo. Contact Ron Skilton 254-6989.

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

RESEARCH INFORMATION

● ARE YOUR RECORDS SAFE?

Recent news reports of earthquakes, floods, mudslides and fires should remind us all of the possibility of losing our family history records.

Maryellen Tobiasiewicz [Chgo GS Nov 94 p52] discovered the importance of storing old photos in safe places after a burst bathroom pipe overflowed into the adjoining bedrooms. If she had been away from home at the time, the damage could have been worse. She got to work the next weekend clearing the floors of ALL closets, putting photos on high shelves.

More Suggestions (gleaned from multiple sources): Store negatives, computer disk copies, manuscript pages and irreplaceable documents out of the home. Give copies to all interested relatives, contribute to Historical and genealogical societies, send your research results to the Family History Library, or to a library which maintains genealogical files in the area where your family lived.

[For example: SRVGS member Nancy Williams reports that she recently sent all the Musgrave records she has for ancestors who lived in the counties of Carter, Greene & Johnson, TN to the McClung Collection at the Knoxville Public Library.]

Are you storing your research on the computer? Rapidly changing technology may make your hardware and software obsolete and impossible for future generations to access. Keep upgrading but, also, be sure to keep a paper copy of your records--preferably acid-free paper!

*

● VITAL RECORDS

● MASSACHUSETTS - The Registry of Vital Records and Statistics has a new address (effective 27 Feb 1995): Second Floor, 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston MA 02210-2224. New phone #: 617/753-8600. Research hours MTThF 9am-noon, 2:30-4:30pm; Counter hours MTThF 8:45am-4:45pm. Closed Wednesday. Their fee schedule remains the same: for individuals performing their own research of vital records at the State Registry, \$3.00/hr. Cost per copy for b, m, or d records: in person, 10-yr search including one certified copy OR a statement of negative search (not on file), \$6.00; Additional copies at same time, \$6.00; Decorative Heirloom Certificates (b & m), \$25. By mail - a 10-yr search as above, \$11.00; additional copies ordered at the same time \$11.00; Heirloom Certificates, \$30.00; Mail orders w/expedited 2-day service, \$14.00; additional copies w/2-day service, \$14.00. By phone (Visa, MasterCard, Am Express, or Discover credit cards): Record \$19.00; Additional copies at same time \$14.00.

● OHIO - When applying for an Ohio death certificate from Ohio Div of Vital Statistics, PO Box 15098, Columbus OH 43215-0098 for deaths AFTER Jan 1, 1937 to present, if you request a statistical copy ONLY, you get a photocopy and the cost is \$1.10. If you want it certified with the state seal, the cost is \$7.00. For deaths after Dec 20, 1908 and before Jan 1, 1937, these records are now at the Ohio Historical Society, 1985 Velma Av, Columbus OH

43211-2497. The cost of certificates from them has recently been modified to \$3.00 for a copy from the microfilm and \$7.00 for a certified copy. [From Jeanne Workman NGC, Dec 93 via NNY-BBS via CCCGS N/L Mar 94]

- **ADOPTION HELP** - For adoption search and support group information consult *The Blue Book* from The Birthparent Connection. This book is a compendium of groups listed by state. In addition to names, addresses and phone number, codes indicate if the listing is of a support group only, support and search group, individual searcher and whether or not computer access is available. The book also lists state social service agencies and foreign groups. Copies are available from Birthparent Connection, Box 230643, Encinitas CA 92023-0643. The book is \$14.50 including shipping.

● U.S. & INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

- **MISSOURI - US Lands** - Prior to 1850s purchasers of US Lands were exempt from land tax for 5 years after purchase. If you find your ancestor on a MO tax list with livestock but no land, he may have purchased the land from the government within the preceding five years. If he is paying land taxes, he has probably been there longer than five years. [Ventura GS Qtrly Dec 1993 via CCCGS N/L Mar 94]

- **NEBRASKA State Genealogical Society** PO Box 5608, Lincoln NE 67505 offers *Nebraska--A Guide to Genealogical Research* (72 pages) for \$15.00. However there is a series of Research Guides for 93 counties. Each includes a brief history of the county, lists all towns and cities with a history of each, libraries, historical and genealogical societies, courthouses and records available, churches and location of records, cemeteries, mortuaries, newspapers, etc. The guides vary in number of pages and price. Write NSGS for details. [Chicago GS N/L 2/95]

- **HISPANIC RESEARCH** - If you did not attend the last Buscando Nuestras Raices conference in 1994, you may obtain a syllabus for \$7.50 by writing to SHHAR PRESS, 1422 Transite Av, San Diego CA 92154. Include \$1.50 for postage and handling for each book ordered.

- **OTTAWA FHS** - The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa has been formed to assist in the research and publishing of family histories of people with origins in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, whose ancestors migrated to North American and settled in

Canada. The Society newsletter, *Anglo-Celtic Roots* is published quarterly. For further information on this society, write to British Isles Family History; Society of Greater Ottawa; PO Box 38026; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; K2C 1N0. [The English Researcher Nov 1994]

- **IRISH MARRIAGE RECORDS** - Can't find a record of the marriage of your Irish ancestors or does the information appear to be wrong? Here's an explanation from Bird Sullivan of the Leitrim Heritage Centre:

Marriage customs of the early eighteenth century meant that brides were married in their own homes, not the church, and it was also usual that the majority of wedding ceremonies took place on the few days before and on Shrove Tuesday. Imagine the problems of register entry for the priest! He traveled the wintry countryside in his trap (if rich enough - and few were!), on horseback or even on foot, performed the ceremony, enjoyed the inevitable hospitality, and continued to the next house. He ended up with a pocketful of paper or a head full of names, and then he had to write his register with his quill pen by the aid of candlelight. Imagine his difficulty if he was not sure of the names - the bride, the groom and the two or three witnesses - and natural courtesy forbade that he insult the family by asking!

[From Heritage Quest #21 p.51]

● COMPUTER CORNER

More Software for PLOTTING DEEDS [see our February 1995 newsletter for 2 others]:

- **BLACK OAK MAPPER 6.0** (by Russ Holsclaw - System requirements: IBM-compatible pc; CGA, EGA, or VGA display; DOS 2.1 or above; 512 MB RAM; can work from floppy disk drive. Supports most dot-matrix and laser printers. MAPPER prints tract maps of property from the "metes and bounds" information keyed in from property descriptions found in deeds. With this new version, maps can be exported as PCX or TIFF files, then imported as graphics into word-processing packages. Multi-tract composites can also be created, so you can lay out an entire community or break up your ancestor's original grant into smaller tracts! Earlier versions have been distributed as "shareware," but genealogists can't go wrong by obtaining a registered copy. Available from various sources; Frontier Press (1-800/772-7559) lists it for \$24.95 (3.5" disk unless you specify otherwise).

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● SRVGS LIBRARY TRIP

MARCH 28, 1995

Santa Clara County Main Library housing the Santa Clara Genealogical Society Library is now reopened. This genealogical library is our target for Tuesday, March 28, 1995. Same drill - we will meet to carpool at 9:00 a.m. in back of Luckys on Diablo Road, Danville. Those living to the north may call Mary Jo Hosteny (932-2244) for an alternate meeting place in Lafayette.

The Santa Clara library's printed collection consists of approximately 5,000 volumes including: East Coast Colonial books; all volumes of Filby's Passenger & Immigration Lists; all 38 volumes of Glaziers and Filby's Germans to America; Volumes 1, 3 & 4 of Italians to America; Finding Ancestral Roots for Chinese in America; Index to Mexican War Pension Files; the list goes on and on!

There is also a large collection of film and fiche, including all the 1790 and 1800 censuses as well as California through 1880. Headstone inscriptions: over 60,000 from Oak Hill Cemetery and 18,000 from Mission City Cemetery have been recorded and filmed by the society.

Phone the library, 408/984-3096, for further information [or see below]. The library is located at 2638 Homestead Road, Santa Clara. -- Millie Freitas, Library Trip Chairman 827-2483.

- SANTA CLARA LIBRARY UPDATE - The February SCCHGS Newsletter and a recent mailing listed the following among the books just added to the collection:

Germans to America Vol 39 & 40

Genealogical Abstracts of the Rev War Files by Virgil D. White Vol 1-3 (Vol 4, the index, is kept at the main reference desk)

Indiana Source Book

The William Snow Family (Plymouth MA)

Portuguese Immigrants: the Portuguese Union of the State of CA

Vestry Book Bristol Parish VA 1720-1789

Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Charleston SC 1820-1829

Rhode Island 1777 Military Census

Parish Maps of Ireland: All Townlands in the

Four Ulster Counties of Armagh, Donegal,

Londonderry and Tyrone

Choctaw Indian Records

Logan County KY Deed Abstracts

Search for Passengers of the Mary & John Vol 22: West Country.

The Library recently subscribed to American Genealogy Magazine, which is running Lost Pension Records: An Inventory of Obscure Files from the Rev War, War of 1812, and Seminole War. SCCHGS also continues to add to its holdings of Italians to America, Our French-Canadian Ancestors; Cherokees by Blood, Periodical Source Index, Filby's Passenger and Immigration Lists Index. The library recently received funding to purchase microfilm of the "Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain States" from the Cox Library of County, State and Local Histories catalog. The collection (345 state, county, or local history books or documents on 84 reels of microfilm for 13 Western states) is now available for use.

● SANTA CLARA LIBRARY ONLINE CATALOG

The library's catalog may be accessed from any computer with a modem and communications software. The following are key points:
Terminal Settings: Emulation: VT100 or TV1925; Baud Rate: 9600 or less; Data Bits: 8; Stop Bits: 1; Parity: None; Duplex: Full
Telephone Number: 408/984-3271; 408/3272; 408/984-3273. There is an automatic rollover if the first and/or second line is busy. When connected, press the RETURN key once or twice. Select the proper emulation for your system by typing "V" for VT100 or "W" for TV1925.
To Logoff: Type "D" from the main menu screen. Be sure that your software uses a hang-up command to disconnect your modem from the line. [SCC Hist & Gen Soc Dec 94]

- BERKELEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY has recently moved to a new location: 1931 Center St, Berkeley 94704 (510/848-0181) Hours are Thurs, Fri, & Sat noon to 5pm. [EBGS Sep/Oct 94]
- SUTRO by BART - Ed O'Donnell reports that the best way to get to SUTRO Library from Danville is to take the Express bus to the Walnut Creek BART station. Go to the end of the line in Daley City, transfer to the #28 Bus to Stonestown -- 3 stops and you're there! His last trip from Sutro to home took just an hour and a quarter! And if you qualify for the Senior BART Fare, it's a real bargain.

● LDS FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

- DANVILLE FHC on Stone Valley & Smith Road - NEW HOURS: Monday and Thursday 11am-5pm; Tuesday & Thursday 6-9pm.

● PASSENGER ARRIVAL RECORDS INDEXING

The LDS Family History Department has begun a project to computerize passenger arrival records of all ports of the US. The initial effort will be the Port of NY (Ellis Island) starting in 1924 and working back in time. Information will be extracted about all aliens, US citizens (returning home from travel abroad), crew members and stowaways. Only genealogically relevant information, such as name, age sex, marital status, nationality and race, place of last residence, and some details on relatives, will be captured about each person. A work force of about 4000 volunteers on the project could complete the years 1897-1924 records in two or three years. [FGS FORUM Winter 94 from a report by Jayare Roberts of the FHD]

● NEW GERMAN ACQUISITIONS - Half a mil-

lion German pedigrees, mostly dating from 1650-1850, are now available on microfilm at the FHL. Many pedigrees are hundreds of pages long. The collection, titled *Die Ahnenstammkartei des deutschen Volkes* The German Pedigree Card Index, includes 638 index films (listed under FHL Catalog computer number 688651). This is a handwritten, phonetic index. It is on 2.7 million cards and arranged by the wife's married name. It also includes over 600 pedigree films (listed under FHL Catalog computer number 677728). A detailed introduction to the collection, written German, appears on microfilm #1,799,712 item 3. The FHL Catalog contains a briefer explanation in English.

- GERMANS IN RUSSIA - Also available are 135 new microfilms about Germans in Russia. The German Protestant Church (Evangelische Kirche) of Russia was organized into several consistories and headquartered in St Petersburg. The new microfilms contain 274 volumes of the consistories' church record transcripts stored at the Russian State Historical Archives. These records are from German settlements in Ingermanland (the area near St. Petersburg), the Black Sea, Bessarabia and the Crimea for the years 1833 to 1885. The films are listed in the Subject section of the FHL Catalog under Germans, Russia, Church Records and Registers. More information can be obtained from the Family History Library, 35 North West Temple St, Salt Lake City UT 84150. [Odom Fam Tree Feb/Mar 95]

● NATIONAL ARCHIVES

- WAR RECORDS - As part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of World War II, President Clinton signed an Executive Order on Nov 10, 1994 authorizing the NA to de-classify over 43 million pages of war records. The documents include nearly all the classified holdings dating before WWII and nearly 23 million pages from the postwar era to the Vietnam War, Naval operating forces, records of the headquarters of the USAF, and the Office of Strategic Services. All of these records, except for those protected by privacy laws, are now available at three sites only: The main National Archives Building in Washington DC; a second existing building in Suitland MD and a new building in College Park MD. No index is available now. [NARA The Record via Odom Lib Fam Tree Feb/Mar 95 & Chicago GS Mar 95]

- NARA ACQUISITIONS - Among the recent acquisitions and declassifications:

- * Records of the Judge Advocate General (Army) including general orders, circulars, and general courts-martial orders, 1860-1944, from headquarters and field units. Record group 153. Contact Military Reference 202/501-5385.

- * Records of the Securities and Exchange Commission including bankruptcy dockets, 1938-1979. Record Group 269. Contact the Suitland Reference Branch 301/763-7410.

- * Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State including Beirut Lebanon 1955-58, London 1956-58, Berlin 1945-1990, Record Group 84. Contact Suitland Reference Branch 301-763-7410.

- * Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General including prisoner of war information 1945-1953, Record Group 389. Contact Suitland Reference Branch 301/763-7410.

- * Records of the US Forces in Southeast Asia, 1950-1975, 5th Special Forces Group. Record Group 472. Contact Suitland Reference Branch 301/763-7410. [NARA The Record 1:2 via CCCGS N/L Feb 95]

- CHINESE - Over 18,500 Chinese immigration files at the National Archives--Northeast Region have been scanned and sorted to regroup and rearrange for easier access. Prior to a project sponsored to compile a database from these records, the files were arranged by case number only. An excellent article on these records was published in the latest edition of the National Archives publication, *The Record* 1:2 (Nov 94) pp5-6. It is entitled, "Chinese Immigration Database At the NA-Northeast Region" by Robert C. Morris.

● MORE on IMMIGRANTS

- **BALCH INSTITUTE** for Ethnic Studies in Philadelphia PA provides information about ethnicity and immigration history in America. The library and museum are open to the public. The collections are indexed by ethnic group, as well as by author, title and subject, 1200 linear feet of manuscripts and other materials including .pa photographs, posters, other graphics, phonograph and tape recordings, and sheet music. Balch Institute publications include bibliographies on ethnicity and immigration history for 25 ethnic groups in America. [Ancestry Nov/Dec 1994 p.8]
- **GREEK IMMIGRATION:** a 3-volume set entitled **GREEK IMMIGRANT PASSENGERS 1885-1910** by Mary Voultsos has been published by H & E Book Distributors PO Box 154, Worcester MA 01620. Vol I: a guide and alphabetical index of approx 15,000 Greeks who arrived at the ports of NY and Boston with the date and port of entry in the US, the name of the ship they sailed on, and for most Greek passengers, their destination. It also includes background information and verbatim texts on early Greek immigration researched at the National Archives and the Library of Congress. \$42.95 + \$3.50 p/h. Vol II Greek Immigrant Passengers, 1885-1910, lists the passenger ships researched with Greek passengers on board and cross-references the names listed in Vol I. \$32.95 + \$3.50 p&h. Vol III: Indexes the names of Greek passengers by destination as listed on passenger manifests. It cross-references the names in Vol I which show a city and/or state. \$29.95 plus \$3.50 p&h. Costs: Entire set is \$100.00 plus \$10.00 p&h. [Chicago GS N/L Sep 94]
- **IRISH EMIGRATION DATABASE** - The Emigration Database at the Ulster American Folk Park contains information on all aspects of Irish emigration to North America, including Canada, from the early 1700s to the 1900s. It consists of ships' passenger lists, emigrant letters, family papers and diaries of emigrants, shipping advertisements, newspaper reports, deaths and marriages of former emigrants, births of children of Irish parentage, government reports and statistics of Irish emigration to America and illustrated material showing ship types, ports, routes and maps, shipboard conditions and the cost of the voyage to America. To date some 8,000 documents have been transcribed and are available to researchers...The Emigration Database is hosted on Digital Micro VAX 3100/80.

Currently, public access facilities are available through terminals in the Folk Park's Library... If you would like further information on the Ulster American Folk Park's Emigration Database, please write to the Database Manager, Ulster American Folk Park, 2, Mellon Road, Omagh, County Tyrone BT78 5QY. Tel: 0662-243292; Fax 0662-242241. [IRISH ROOTS 1994 #3]

- **NEW YORK** - An unused source at the New York City Municipal Archives is the microfilm covering 10 volumes of records from 1859-1894 entitled *Bodies in Transit*. The purpose of the form was to aid in the prevention of communicable diseases. Any "body" arriving in Manhattan via ship, train or local ferry had to be registered. [Gen Unltd Soc, Inc via Odom Fam Tree Feb/Mar 95] **EDITOR'S NOTE:** If you have further knowledge of this item, please contact me.
- **TEXAS** - The Victoria Historical Commission has compiled a database of immigrants arriving at the port of Indianola TX. Between December 1884, when Prince Solm's German settlers landed there and the hurricane of 1886, thousands of Germans, Poles, French, and Irish came ashore at the port. More data: Patsy Hand, 417 Cottonwood St, Victoria TX 77904 [Chicago GS 9/94]

● BOOK REVIEW

IRELAND: A GENEALOGICAL GUIDE FOR NORTH AMERICANS by Dwight A. Radford and Kyle J. Betit. THE IRISH At Home & Abroad, PO Box 521806, Salt Lake City UT 84152-1806; 1995. 75 8-1/2x11 pp., softbound. \$14.95 plus \$2.00 s/h.

If you're researching Irish ancestry, you need all the help you can get. That's why I ordered this book even though I own a whole shelf of books on Irish research and subscribe to the excellent journal published by the authors. I didn't expect to find much new material, partly because I have the new FHL Research Outline on Ireland. However, I was very pleased to find several new (to me) sources and research strategies I hadn't thought of using.

Organized alphabetically, starting with Administrative Divisions and ending with Wills, the topics are covered with detailed information about what records are available, where you can find them (including FHL book and film numbers) and where you can look for more information. Some details are purposely omitted; the section on Irish Heritage Centres does not list them

but tells where you can get a continually updated list. The chapter on North American libraries and their holdings is especially helpful. And there are tips for your research trip to Ireland, as well as information on the repositories there.

Recommended as a great help for those just getting started with their Irish families, but also a very useful source for the more experienced researcher.

Dorothy Stanton

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Last spring genealogists statewide were brought to a rude awakening when they learned of AB3170 which would essentially close the State's Vital Records to the general public. In an effort to tighten regulations to stop fraudulent use of birth records, Grace F. Napolitano, presented this bill in the State Assembly. Sacramento was inundated with calls, fax, letters and petitions opposing this legislation. The bill did not pass, but only by a few votes.

In a June meeting with the Assemblywoman, she assured the Alliance representatives that she plans to present a new bill in the next session but would work with opposition people to find middle ground. In October 1994, Napolitano's Aide, David Lanier, assured CSGA that these problems could be overcome. On Dec. 5, he said a committee from the Health Dept is working on a draft which will cover provisions needed for uniform documents and procedures to streamline the department. There has been discussion of presenting two bills, one on procedure and other addressing fraudulent documents use. One suggestion under discussion is a dual form document: one indicating 'official use' and a second which would indicate for 'research purposes only.'

Other concerns are the wording of AB3170 requiring confidentiality and the closure of the indices.

CSGA and the Sacramento Gen Council have formed a 'Legislative Network' in Sacramento to monitor future legislation which could have adverse effects on researchers. [CSGA: Sacramento Valley Region Bulletin Winter 94]

UPDATE JANUARY 1995 - On Jan. 19, 1995 Assemblywoman Napolitano introduced Assembly Bill AB161, an act to amend Section 22430 of the Business and

Professions Code, and to add Sections 10125.6 and 10206 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to vital statistics. On Jan. 20, it was referred to the Committee on Health.

In contrast to last year's effort, AB606 appears to be aimed at making documents harder to duplicate illegally, rather than closing access to them. However, one provision which would authorize other unspecified security measures to be required if "deemed necessary by the State Registrar," may give the Registrar unlimited power.

As of February 16, the Bill remains in the Committee on Health and has not yet been heard. [Portion of report from Iris Carter Jones, Legislative Coordinator 2/16/95, CSGA N/L March 1995]

SRVGS will have copies of the wording of the bill and the complete report of the Legislative Coordinator posted at the March meeting. If you would like copies by mail, send a SASE to the SRVGS N/L Editor. The Alliance recommends contacting the members of the Assembly Committee on Health to indicate whether or not you approve of Bill AB161.

• [MORE EVENTS continued from p.68]

The society offers a Hist. & Gen. Atlas and Guide to Barnstable Co MA (Cape Cod). Send for brochures on the seminar and atlas to: Falmouth Gen Soc, PO Box 2107, Teaticket MA 02536 (508/775-0164).

MAY 12-13 KNOXVILLE TN East Tennessee Historical Society's 2-day workshop, "South-eastern Genealogy" A Tennessee Bicentennial Genealogical Extravaganza. Several nationally- and regionally-known speakers have been scheduled for a variety of topics, including military records, Tennessee land records, and computers in genealogy. Send SASE to ETHS, PO Box 1629, Knoxville TN 37901.

JUNE 25-29 WASHINGTON DC - Jewish Genealogy - 14th Summer Seminar. Contact JGSGW, PO Box 412, Vienna VA 22183-0412; Fax 301/530-3257.

INTERNATIONAL

MAY 6-7 1995 LONDON, England. The Soc of Genealogists will present their Family History Fair at the Royal Horticultural Society, New Hall and Conference Centre, Westminster, London. For details write 1995 Family History Fair Coordinator, Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Bldgs. Goswell Rd, London England EC1M 7BA.



SRVGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

Directory Additions:

BURROWS, Joyce - 720 Tamarack Dr, San Rafael 94903 (415/479-1421)

DYER, Barbara - 617 Camino Amigo, Danville 94526 (820-9738)

HUMPAL, Dorothy - 666 Paradise Valley Ct, Danville 94526 (735-3310)

KELLEJIAN, 235 Scotts Mill Ct, Danville 94526 (820-4110)

RICHARDSON, Dotti - 17761 Grizzly Bear Dr, Grass Valley 95949 (916/268-8703)

Directory Changes

TERRY, Shirley Siems - 1843 Tom Bolt Dr, El Paso TX 79936-4217. Shirley expects to be in El Paso for 6-9 months.

THOMSON, Shirley - 563 Monarch Ridge Dr, Walnut Creek 94596 (effective 3/15)

VICKERS, Phyllis T. - 19273 Lewallen Ct, Redding CA 96003.

From President Carol Glover:



TENTH ANNIVERSARY FOUNDER'S DAY MEETING

The San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society plans to celebrate its tenth anniversary in a big way. Plans are under way for the May 16 meeting that include a historical retrospective of the last ten years, member accomplishments, introduction of charter members, installation of new officers and lunch. On display will be books published by members, mementos from each year and, of course, our scrapbooks. Program chairperson, Jeanette Moses is coordinating the speakers. If you would like to tell of an accomplishment or if you have a brief anecdote you would like to share, call Jeanette at 837-4480.

Those wishing to stay for the luncheon that will be served after the meeting will need to make a reservation. At press time, the tentative menu was to be Quiche, Spinach Salad, Fresh Fruit and cake. Wine, coffee and Iced Tea will also be served. Use the enclosed form and send your check for \$3.00 to Carol Huvane, 4589 Walnut Boulevard, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. The deadline for reservations is May 1.

Yes! I will be at the 10th Anniversary Founder's Day
I have enclosed a check for \$3.00 for lunch (optional)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Please make check payable to SRVGS & return by May 1 to:
Carol Huvane, 4589 Walnut Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94596

[LAST MONTH continued from first page]

4. Church records often gave much information on baptismal and marriage certificates--important facts like the mother's maiden name. Some Lutheran churches in the U.S. even kept records of who took communion--a fact that helped enable our speaker to pinpoint the date his ancestor arrived in this country. 5. Check out any printed materials on a church's anniversary. Many names are included in these materials.

6. Brush up on German immigration patterns. 7. To find an immigrant's place of origin, look for "intent to naturalize," also known as first papers, together with passenger lists. To find the records you need, you must know the exact town, not a region such as Prussia.

8. Check the Family History Library catalog and the IGI for the kinds of records available for your locality. LDS may have filmed all the books for your church. Or that church may have refused permission to film any records.

9. Of utmost importance is to check the book "Meyers Orts-und-Verkehrslexikon" (microfilm #496,640 and #496,641) at the Family History Center. This volume shows if your town had a

Standesamt (for civil records) and a church (Evangelical, Lutheran or Catholic).

According to Dr. Mueller's helpful handout on "Steps in Beginning Your German Research," if your immigrant ancestor was born after 1876 (or 1798 west of the Rhine River), civil records are your starting point. If the ancestor was born before that time, you will need to search church records.

WORTH QUOTING:

"It is our duty to proceed from what is near to what is distant, from what is known to that which is less known, to gather traditions from those who have reported them, to correct them as much as possible and to leave the rest as it is, in order to make our work help anyone who seeks truth and loves wisdom." -- Ab'l-Rayhan Muhamad al-Biruni AD 973-1050

[From Bozarth Beacon Jan 1988 via Holston-Pastfinder 38-23]

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL