

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. 10

MAY 1995

NEXT MEETING: 10AM MAY 16, 1995
LUNCHEON: 12:30PM TO 2PM

TENTH ANNIVERSARY CHARTER DAY

The program this month will be presented by our own members. It will feature the formation of our group and some of the accomplishments of the 10 years. Several of our members will speak about their books and other special contributions. Come meet our Charter Members, Past Presidents, and Special Interest Groups. Books published by our members will be displayed and Genealogical Resources will have available some basic research books you can buy. Take time to get acquainted with our active and eager members.

-- Jeanette Moses, Program

LAST MONTH

Report by Christine Scott

John Hale Stutesman, author of four books, one on his family history, one on his Pennsylvania Dutch history and two on his Scotch-Irish history, spoke to the members on "Genealogical and Historical Research in Pennsylvania and Virginia."

Mr. Stutesman believes genealogy and history are sister arts. Many of the early histories were in reality genealogies of the early kings. His special interest is the colonial period and commented that he gets along better with his ancestors than with his relatives.

In order to understand your American ancestors in the British colonies of North America, you have to become familiar with the history of that period. For this purpose, he recommended three books. They are *THE MOUNTAIN OF NAMES* by Alex Schoumatoff, *THE PEOPLING OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA* by Bernard Bailyn, and *AMERICA AT 1750 -- A SOCIAL PORTRAIT* by Richard Hofstadter.

When the settlers first came to America there was a blanket of trees from the shore to the

Mississippi River -- a dangerous primeval wilderness. The first settlement in Virginia which did not survive, was made on a sandy island. Jamestown in 1607 was the second settlement made a generation before the Pilgrims arrived. The early settlers needed easy access to the sea going vessels and most of the traveling was done by water. This required a knowledge of the water courses. Ocean going ships could only go so far. In Virginia, it was Richmond, Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, and Albany in New York. In 1637 Sweden developed a community in Wilmington, Delaware and soon moved to the Philadelphia area. That was the first permanent settlement in the area now known as the state of Pennsylvania.

When the Swedes interfered with Dutch traders there was a fight in 1655 and the Dutch won. In 1664 the British beat the Dutch and took their colonies on the Hudson and the Delta. In 1681 Charles II granted the land in Pennsylvania to William Penn who was a Quaker. The county boundaries were constantly altered so that, even in researching ancestors who didn't move, several counties' records have to be checked. There

[LAST MONTH continued on page 92]

MARK YOUR CALENDARMAY 

SRVGS EVENTS

- * 9 TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group [see p.87]
- * 10 WEDNESDAY 10am Irish Interest Group [see p.87]
- * 16 TUESDAY 10am-2pm SRVGS Meeting: 10th Anniversary Founder's Day & Luncheon;
- * 30 TUESDAY SRVGS Library Trips [see p. 90].

OTHER EVENTS

- 10 WEDNESDAY 10am East Bay GS, Mormon Center 4780 Lincoln Av, Oakland. Laura Yamada, genetics counselor will speak on "Genetics."
- 11 THURSDAY 7:30pm Contra Costa Co GS Meeting City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr, Concord. Liz Rummel, gt-grdau of early Somersville & Black Diamond area residents, will share local genealogy and history, costumes, and county register books 1894-1898.
- 13 SATURDAY 9am-4pm (reg 8:30: \$15) at Modesto Centre Plaza, 1100 "K" Street - GS of Stanislaus Co Seminar "Land Records" by Wade Hone. Frances Lloyd has brochures for SRVGS members who want to attend. Or contact Don Wilson: 209/869-3966.
- 19 & 20 ONTARIO CANADA Seminar '95 features Ian Wilson Archivist of Ontario. Contact Seminar '95, 639 Grand Av West, Ste 101, Chatham Ontario N7L1C5.
- 20 SATURDAY - California Cornish Cousins will hold its 1995 gathering in VIRGINIA CITY NV on the Comstock Lode. For information about the gathering and membership: PO Box 782, Groveland CA 95321 (209/962-6095)
- 23 TUESDAY 1pm Sacramento German GS at Northminster Presb Church, 3235 Pope Av, Sacramento. Merriam Mann Moore: "Searching for Ancestors in Saxony, Turingen and Silesia."

JUNE 

SRVGS EVENTS

- * 6 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!
- * 13 TUESDAY 10am Southern Interest Group
- * 14 WEDNESDAY 10am Irish Interest Group
- * 20 TUESDAY 10am SRVGS Meeting: JOSEPH A. KING will speak on Irish Research and his new book about Emigrants from Ireland; 12:30pm ROOTS IV User Group; German Interest Group
- * 22 THURSDAY 9am SRVGS Macintosh Computer Group [see p.87]

OTHER EVENTS

- 8 THURSDAY 7:30pm Contra Costa Co GS Meeting, (see above). Bernard Freedman will speak about "Early Jewish Settlers in the Bay Area."
- 30 FRIDAY 9am-1pm National Archives Workshop, 1000 Commodore Dr, San Bruno 94066: "Passenger Arrivals and Naturalization Records." Register in advance to guarantee a place in the class. Cost: \$12 in advance; \$15 at door. Contact Rose Mary Kennedy 415/876-9009.

OFFICERS to Contact

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 Annual Dues: Individual \$15
 Family \$20
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 The Newsletter is published each month except August and December.

● TV SPECIAL

JUNE 7 WEDNESDAY 9pm
 [Check with local PBS station]
 Award-winning documentary-
 OUT OF IRELAND used genea-
 logical research to trace the
 story of an Irish emigrant.

● PLAN AHEAD

SEPTEMBER 2 & 3 PLEASANTON - 130th Annual Scottish Gathering & Games sponsored by SF Caledonian Club at the Alameda Fairgrounds.

SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 30 1-3pm Weekly CLASSES by BETTE KOT in Basics of Genealogy Research at Frances Lloyd's (\$45). Call Bette 707/554-4814.

● MORE EVENTS

JUNE 4-10 TORONTO - The Ontario GS, Toronto Branch's genealogy "Summer Camp" is for those researching ancestors who lived in what is now metropolitan Toronto from 1834-1918. Daily tutorials/libraries, archives and other resource centers. Write the society "Summer Camp," Box 518, Station K, Toronto, Ontario Canada M4P 2G9, or call 416/463-9103.
 JUNE 22-25 DENVER CO - 1995 Palatines to America National Conference. Registration packet from: Gene Schmeckpeper, 4665 S. Inca St, Englewood CO 80110-5603.

[MORE EVENTS on page 92]

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: June 20

IRISH - Meets 10AM each second or third (announced) WEDNESDAY [NOTE CHANGE] of the month at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl, Pleasant Hill (229-0889). Next meetings: May 10, June 14.

MAC COMPUTER GROUP - Next meeting: Thursday, June 22 at Manny Lindner's. Contact Barb Dittig (735-9610).

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. No meeting in May but group members will have a brief "conference" to discuss rental of meeting place. Contact Sandy Kimball (945-0277).

SOUTHERN - Meets 10AM each second Tuesday. Next meetings: May 9 at Patty Erickson's; June 14 at Barbara Irwin's; September 12 at Bea O'Rand's. No meetings in July or August. Contact Bea O'Rand 837-1760.

UNITED KINGDOM - Research in England, Scotland, & Wales. Contact Ron Skilton 254-6989.

PLEASE REPORT PROGRAMS & CHANGES TO WENDY HABERMEHL 735-0737

RESEARCH INFORMATION

TIPS FROM SRVGS MEMBERS

- FROM BEA O'RAND: TEXAS NEWSPAPER HELP - "Kinsearching" is a weekly genealogy column now in its 18th year of publication. It appears in Texas newspapers. The areas of circulation include 30 Texas counties, western Oklahoma, northeastern New Mexico and southwestern Kansas. Queries are free and may pertain to ancestors from anywhere in the world. Researchers may submit several queries at one time. Notices concerning family reunions and genealogical workshops are also welcomed. All correspondence should be sent to the editor: Marleta Childs, Box 6825, Lubbock TX 79493-6825. [Rockingham Co (NC) Hist Soc N/L Apr 95]

- FROM MARIAN BONWELL - The AMERICAN/SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN Heritage Society offers a map of the Schleswig-Holstein Hamburg-Bremen area (scale 1:250,000), which is the best I've seen because it includes on the back an index of towns and villages -- most maps in stores in the US do not have this feature. It is available for \$10.00 plus \$1.00 postage & handling from ASHHS Purchasing Dept., Box 313, Davenport IA 52805-0313.

The director & librarian of ASHHS, Scharlott Goettsch Blevins, has published a *GUIDE TO GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, GERMANY* containing over 200 pages of on history, emigration, types of records & repositories, maps, etc. It is available from the author, 2003 E. 12th St, Davenport IA 52803-3917, for \$29.95.

CALIFORNIA

- PIONEER CERTIFICATES - Did your pioneer ancestor arrive in Northern California before the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869? ROOT CELLAR, Sacramento Gen Soc, is collecting and preserving genealogical records and family histories which could include yours. They will send you a Parchment Certificate suitable for framing, inscribed with the name of your ancestor if you 1) complete a questionnaire and send it with a 4-5 gen pedigree chart; 2) send a family group sheet for each family to show your direct descent; 3) enclose a check payable to ROOT CELLAR, Sacramento Genealogical Society, for \$5. Mail SGS PO Box 265, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-0265. The data you furnish will be a valuable addition to the history of Northern California and a source of information to members of your family for years to come. Send a SASE if additional information or applications (one for each pioneer) is needed.
- LOOKING FOR SOMEONE? - California Vehicle Code Section 1808.21 states that all residence address information in the department's files is confidential. They do, however, offer a message forwarding service to assist those who are trying to locate someone. The non-refundable fee for this service is \$5. You must fill out a form and send money with the request. If the person you are trying to contact can be located in their records, the message will be

forwarded to them. The department reserves the right to review the message for content and to reject any message that, in the opinion of the department, appear to be contrary to the public interest. Rejected messages will be returned to the requester. [CSGA N/L Apr 95 contained a copy of the form. Contact SRVGS Editor if you want a copy. Or contact DMV, Office of Information Services, Public/Commercial OIS-MFS, PO Box 944247, Sacramento 94244-2470].

- **MILITARY LOCATOR**, 9700 Page Blvd, St. Louis MO 63132. For \$3.50, the agency will forward your sealed letter to anyone who is either still in the service or who is receiving benefits. Helpful information includes a Social Security number, service number, date of birth, date and place of service. [CGS N/L Apr 95]

• VITAL RECORDS

- **EXPEDITED CERTIFICATES** - If you want your vital records certificates fast, a commercial service, "VitalCheck Network," which speeds their acquisition may be the answer. It allows you to use your credit card to pay for certificates requested by phone or fax. Most states participate. A service charge (about \$4) is added to each order over and above the basic state fee, but the certificates are sent out quickly. For more information contact VitalCheck, 800/255-2414. Write: PO Box 411007, St. Louis MO 63141. [From Sequoia, Tulare CA, GS N/L via Odom Fam Tree Apr/May 95]

- **COLORADO Birth Records Project** has extracted information from thousands of delayed birth records. Although these were mostly filed in the 1920s and 1930s as proof of birth (needed to apply for Social Security) for people born before the state recorded births, there can be valuable early information. Many of the records include birth and death dates for parents; location of the parents' births; names of remarried mothers; names of siblings, aunts, grandmothers, neighbors, doctors, midwives or court officials. Volunteers of the CO GS have already indexed over 15,000 names from the certificates, but there are still more to do. Upon completion, the index will be available at the Colorado State Archives. CGS, PO Box 9218, Denver CO 80209-0218. [CO N/L Dec 94 via FGS Forum Spr 95]

OHIO - A recent Ohio Supreme Court decision ruled that copies of public records must be made available "at actual cost" without charge for labor or employee time. The decision also supports the position of open records advocates

that no charges are to be made for the inspection of public records. Efforts to strengthen Ohio's open records law will begin again in the next General Assembly. As before, requiring access to Ohio's public records by mail will be included in the objectives. For more information, write to: Ann Fenley, PO Box 14296, Dayton OH 45413-0296. [NGS N/L Mar/Apr 95]

• AROUND THE STATES

- **MISSOURI DEEDS CAUTION** - An earlier article [Feb 95] regarding the loss of civil rights following the Civil War stated that a deed bearing only a woman's signature might not mean she was a widow. Martha Rising in the FGS *FORUM* (Spring 1995) cautions: first, *never* assume that a woman signing a deed alone is a widow. She may be single, divorced, operating a business as a femme-sole, or she may be releasing dower separately from her husband's previously executed document. Second, the 1865 Missouri Constitution, known as the Drake Constitution, did remove the *voting rights* of those who had ever been in armed hostility to the US or "given aid, comfort, countenance, or support to persons engaged in such hostility." Also, Southern sympathizers were prohibited from practicing their professions or serving in civil positions, e.g., clergymen, lawyers, judges, teachers and corporation officers. However, the constitution did not interfere with property rights, nor the ability to buy or sell property. The Drake Constitution lasted just 10 years.

• MILITARY RECORDS

- **MILITARY CEMETERIES** - A book is available from US Gov't Printing Office which contains drawings of the 26 religious symbols that can be used on graves at Arlington National Cemetery. [From Chicago GS meeting report, Win 95]
- **REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES** - Since 1900, members of the NSDAR have located and reported the grave sites of patriots of the American Revolution, over 58,500 entries. There is now a consolidated, alphabetized listing of these entries published in 4 volumes by Pioneer Heritage Press, 8040 Claremont Dr, Dallas TX 75228. Each volume is \$25 (\$3 p/h for 1 vol., \$.50 for each add'l): Vol 1, A-D; Vol 2, E-K, Vol 3 L-R; Vol 4 S-Z.
- **MEXICAN WAR** - The Descendants of Mexican War Veterans will check the Mexican War Pension Index free of charge. Write DMWV National Office, 1114 Pacific, Richardson TX 75081 [From Odom Fam Tree Aug/Sep 94]. This group

is presently creating The Southwest Historical War Museum which should be open by 1996 for the sesquicentennial of the beginning of the Mexican War. [See also National Archives Records on page 91]

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- SOLANO County GS has reprinted the 1879 *HISTORY OF SOLANO COUNTY* by J.P. Munro Fraser. Published by Dr. James Stevenson and indexed by the SCGS, it is priced at \$34.95 (+\$3.50 p/h and CA sales tax of \$2.53) Order your numbered hardcover copy (566 pages) from SCGS, PO Box 2494, Fairfield CA 94533.
- CALIFORNIA GS has made available the 22-page Handout & Transcript (4 lectures) from the Joyce Buckland Seminar on English Research: Handout, \$10 (\$5 for CGS members); Transcript \$15 (\$10 members). Send check payable to CGS to PO Box 77105, San Francisco CA 94107 by May 30 to be shipped by June 15.
- *KIRBY KIN From the Sixteenth Century to the Present* by Tommye Q. Meyer is available from the author for \$45 (+ CA tax) at 9952 La Tuna Canyon Rd, Sun Valley CA 91352-2237. It traces 12 generations of Kirbys from George Kerby of Norfolk England and his grandson (b.1609) who emigrated to Virginia. The main line is in KY and Dade Co, MO. Extensive bibliography; index over 100 pages. (496 pp., hardbound)

BOOK REVIEWS

by Mary Jo Hosteny

[Continuation of review of books in the microfiche collection at the Danville Family History Center at Stone Valley & Smith Roads.]

- *CALIFORNIA PIONEER REGISTER AND INDEX, 1542-1848*, including inhabitants of California 1769-1800, and list of pioneers, extracted from *The History of California* by Hubert Howe Bancroft. Baltimore Reg Pub Co, 1964 392 pp. An extensive list of early California pioneers, including biographies and genealogical information. (5 fiche)
- *40,000 EARLY GEORGIA MARRIAGES*, by Joseph T. Maddox, Georgia, 1975. Lists of marriages from early records of 20 Georgia counties. A similar volume to
- *37,000 EARLY GEORGIA MARRIAGES* by the same author. Lists of marriages from the early 1700's to 1800's in early Georgia county records as transcribed in genealogical periodicals. Arranged alphabetically within 29 counties by the name of the groom. (9 fiche)

COMPUTER CORNER

- NNY-BBS (827-5714), the local computer bulletin board service run by Doug Smith, now has echo areas for the following Usenet news-groups: soc.genealogy.misc AREA 67; soc.genealogy.german AREA 68; soc.genealogy.computing AREA 69; soc.genealogy.methods AREA 70. These are some of the new groups which took the place of the old soc.roots. [CCCGS CIG Apr 95]
- REVISED BBS Phone Numbers - Allen County Public Library (Ft. Wayne IN) 219/424-7241. PAFinders BBS (San Jose) 408/246-1451 or 408/246-8967 (the 800 number is no longer operational). This BBS is run by the Silicon Valley PAF Users Group. According to Doug Mumma of the L-AGS Computer Interest Group, it has the best genealogy offering in the Bay Area even though you must join the Users' Group (\$15) to use the BBS, but you receive a monthly newsletter which is worth the cost. Since it's a long distance call, use an Off Line Reader to save phone costs. [The Livermore Roots Tracer Spr 95]
- CZECHitOut 1.0 is a computer software program to help you translate to and from Czech. For a copy, send a blank disk and SASE to Chris Mksanek, Box 63, Bedford Park IL 60499. It can be used on IBM PCs. A Mac version may be ready soon.

CD-ROM

- GEOGRAPHIC NAMES INFORMATION SYSTEM, Digital Gazetteer. US Dept of the Interior, US Geological Survey, National Mapping Division; 1994. Available from the publisher at 1-800-USA-MAPS. CD-ROM and user's manual. \$59.00.

The National Gen Soc calls this digital database gazetteer a "valuable reference tool--and a bargain as well." The GNIS is an effort to provide a national index to place-names, past and present. The names include not just towns, but also bridges, gullies, parks, and basins. It is only partially complete but contains over 2 million entries from over 10,000 sources.

It consists of three data bases: the National Geographic Names Data Base (the primary one), with the National Topographic Map Names Data Base and the Reference Data Base to be used as cross-references. Each supplies information about place-names in all fifty states, D.C., and the territories and "outlying areas" of the US. A phone inquiry can give you information on which states have been included in this pressing. A new edition is planned for late 1995. [See complete review by Elizabeth Shown Mills in NGS Qtrly 82:4 Dec 1994 p. 308]

LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

● MAY 23 SRVGS LIBRARY TRIPS

We are going to try something new this month and schedule two trips! Since not a large percentage of our membership is interested in the offerings of the California State Library, we are also scheduling your favorite Sutro Library. Be sure you sign up for the right one! PLEASE NOTE that the times of departure are different.

1. California State Library, California Room, 900 N Street, Sacramento, 916/654-0176. Meet to carpool back of Lucky's on Diablo Road in Danville at 8:00 a.m.

2. Sutro Library, 480 Winston Drive, San Francisco, 415/730-4477. Meet to carpool back of Lucky's on Diablo Road in Danville at 9:00 a.m.

Again, those wishing to leave from Lafayette may call Mary Jo Hosteny, 932-2244, for an alternate meeting place and time in Lafayette.

Millie Freitas, Library Trip Chairman

● LIBRARY ACCESS TO INTERNET

CENTRAL LIBRARY at Pleasant Hill provides public access to INTERNET through the InFoPeople project administered by the CA State Library. The project is supported through a grant of Library Services and Construction Act funds. The Internet workstation is available when the library is open. Reserve up to an hour a week in advance (you may stay longer if no one else is waiting). Phone 646-6434. Sign up when an Internet docent is available if you are unfamiliar with the Internet. You may bring your own formatted 3-1/2" IBM compatible double-sided high density disk or purchase disks sold by the Friends of the Library (at Circulation for \$3.00 each.) Or you may print up to 10 pages at no charge. Seven other libraries in the Contra Costa Co Library System have Internet workstations: Antioch, Concord, El Cerrito, Orinda, Pinole, San Ramon, and Walnut Creek.

INTERNET access is also available at Pleasanton Library (2 workstations) and Livermore (1 workstation). George Anderson (L-AGS) points out a few uses: you can search the catalogs of the Library of Congress, submit your genealogy questions to a discussion group, find out which parish records in Norway have been transcribed, or search for your surnames in vast archives.

● "WHO CARES ABOUT THOSE DUSTY OLD PAPERS ANYWAY?"

Curt B. Witcher, President of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, warns that further cuts in budgets at the federal level, though popular in the abstract, may seriously impact the agencies charged with preserving, maintaining, and providing access to the records which document our national heritage and our families' histories. The Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the National Endowment for the Humanities could easily become the "backs" upon which a significant portion of the federal budget is balanced. This comes at a time when these programs have already been hit with nearly devastating cuts.

Some members of Congress recommend eliminating the National Endowment for the Humanities completely. Before you cheer, remember that the NEH has supported programs of teaching, research, and preservation in the history field. Many NEH dollars have been spent on newspaper microfilming projects coast to coast. Numerous libraries and institutions where family historians are important patrons, have received matching grants from the NEH to establish endowments for the continued acquisition of historical and genealogical materials.

Future cuts are planned. The Congressional Joint Committee which has jurisdiction over the Library of Congress is slated for elimination. If this happens, who will speak for that agency when federal dollars are being divided in the coming months? The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (affiliated with the National Archives), which has made grants in every state for saving valuable historical records and developing programs to preserve historical documents and make them available to interested researchers, is facing budget reduction.

We need to make sure that balancing the federal budget does not mean planned obsolescence for those federal programs that are vital for our history and heritage. These programs are easy targets for lawmakers. Make sure your Congress person understands your real choice in these matters. [From "CONTRACT WITH AMERICA, It's Still Our Choice" FGS Forum Spring 1995]

● FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

Canada and the United States have ongoing microfilming. In 1994 over 18 million frames of microfilm were taken. A new Family History Library Catalog is out and should be at Family History Centers this summer. Every Canadian

census is now on microfilm in Salt Lake City through 1901. The 1901 census includes the exact birth date of every Canadian in that year.

The new IGI is being tested in Salt Lake City. It should have 40 to 50 million new names and is considered 99 percent complete on the LDS records. It should also be out this summer to Family History Centers.

Over 2,150 microfilms of US passport records from the National Archives and Dept of State are available now in the FHL and on interlibrary loan to local Family History Centers. [From CSGA N/L May 95 and News of the FHL]

- **ARMENIAN RECORDS** - While the former kingdom of Armenia is split between Turkey, Iran and Georgia, most Armenian localities in the FHL Catalog are for villages in Georgia. This is the only part of old Armenia where filming can currently occur. A camera crew is now filming Armenian church records in the region of Elizabetopol, west of Baku. [N/L of FEEFH Soc via FGS Forum Spr 95]

• NATIONAL ARCHIVES

- **MEXICAN WAR** - Did you have a male ancestor born around the 1820's? There is a good chance he was in the Mexican War. The Mexican War Records are a genealogical gold mine, especially if you have borderland or Texas ancestors. Texas provided the most volunteers during the Mexican War: 8,018. Missouri and Louisiana matched that number. Illinois had over 6000 volunteers, many of whom were Irish immigrants. Information can be found at the National Archives in different microfilm collections: 1) Register of Enlistments in the US Army 1798-1914 [M233 is available at San Bruno]. Roll 23 is specifically identifies as Mexican War Enlistments; 2) Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who served during the Mexican War (M616) is 41 alphabetical rolls giving the name of the state; 3) Index to Mexican War Pension Files -- in 1887 Congress approved an \$8 per month pension for the veterans or their widows: 14 rolls of microfilm (T317) alphabetical; 4) Old War Index to Pension Files, 1815-1926 is 7 rolls (T316); 5) Selected Pension Application Files Relating to the Mormon Battalion (T1196). Write Reference Services Branch (NNIR), National Archives and Records Service, 8th and Pennsylvania Av, NW, Washington DC 20408. [Compiled from articles in Council News of Gen & Hist Council of Sacramento Nov-Dec 94, Odom Lib Fam Tree Jun/Jul 94. An extended article by Steven Butler was published in The Genealogical Helper]

- **NA NEEDS HELP** - The July 12, 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Av, St Louis MO 63132, destroyed many military records. The Center officials have been working to create a reconstructed file for US Army and Air Force personnel who served during the period from WWI through 1963. If you have original documents concerning any military man in that time period whose records may have been destroyed, write to the above Center. Discharge papers, awards, official papers are all needed. [see next item]

- **WWII SERVICE RECORDS** - Records of WWII military service are located at the National Personnel Center, 9700 Page Av, St Louis MO 63132. A fire destroyed many records in the 1970's but certain periods are intact. There are also other records to prove service and a "certificate of service" is available. To request military service records (WWII) you need form 180 which can be obtained by call: Army, 314/538-4261; Navy, Marines & Coast Guard 314/538-4141. You will receive a recorded message and can leave an address to which NPRC will send form 180. [Odom Lib Fam Tree Apr/May 95]

• OTHER ARCHIVES

- **MILITARY Newspaper Repository:** The State Historical Society of Wisconsin is the self-appointed central depository of newspapers of the Air Force and other US Military services. The Collection started as a small bookcase in the Wisconsin governor's office in 1854 and has now grown to more than 2.8 million topics for the US. The Historical Society Library provides reference and information service by mail and by telephone. Write: James P. Danky, Newspaper and Periodicals, 816 State St, Madison WI 53706. Call (608/264-6598) [The Mesquite HGS Nov 94 via VA-NC Piedmont GS Feb 95]
- **BRITISH SOURCE** - The *BRITISH HUMANITIES INDEX (BHI)* is an inventory of articles appearing in newspapers and journals in Great Britain. Compiled by The Library Association in London, it began in 1962 and replaced the *SUBJECT INDEX TO PERIODICALS* which began in 1919, which in turn replaced the *ATHENAEUM SUBJECT INDEX* which began in 1915. It is updated annually and inventories articles from a variety of sources, including genealogical and historical periodicals.

The Family History Library subscribes to the BHI and microfilm copies can be viewed there. [From *IRELAND, A Genealogical Guide for North Americans* by Kyle J. Betit & Dwight A. Radford.]

● [LAST MONTH Continued from p.85]

are several books which can help in this area. One is Pennsylvania Genealogical Research by George K. Schweitzer, and the other is *THE HANDYBOOK FOR GENEALOGISTS* published by Everton.

The Germans who came to Pennsylvania indentured themselves for 3 to 7 years to obtain transportation to the new world. This was before the blacks were used as slaves. For those who were not British and had to swear allegiance to the English king, there might be records which have survived. An index to these records has been published. Be sure to look at all the records such as the Captains' Manifests. These indexes are in the Sutro Library and also CGS Library.

No Scotch Irish will be found in these records, but they can be found in the land records in Harrisburg. Included will be warrants which were created when the Penn Land Office authorized a survey of land. Old maps of that time period are still available. The patent followed these two records and confirmed the title. These papers are proof of a man's appearance in Pennsylvania.

In 1730 a treaty was signed with the Indians, and the Appalachian Mountains became the western boundary. In 1777 the settlers were driven east. After the American Revolutionary War the settlers surged again into the Ohio Valley and Kentucky. At the CGS Library can be found a set of volumes containing the Pennsylvania will extracts indexed by all names (executors, heirs and witnesses).

A helpful book in the study of ancestors from Virginia is another title by George K. Schweitzer, *VIRGINIA GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH*. The best references are the extracts of deeds and wills of various counties in Virginia and can be found at Sutro Library. Once the patents on land records were established, the warrants and the surveys were destroyed. They have been extracted and indexed from the early 1600s up to the 1740s in a three-volume set called *CAVALIERS AND PIONEERS*. The Virginia Genealogical Society has published more extracts of records. The magazine *VIRGINIA GENEALOGIST* is recommended reading.

Important to remember in the history of Virginia is that the first settlements were made along the river "highways" on both sides of the river. The difficulty of going to the court-houses across the river caused the reformation of counties and the creation of new ones. In the 1730's the interior or central part of the state began to be populated. Land records are very

valuable sources of research. Tax records are abundant for that time period. White males over 16 were subject to taxation but the women were not. The taxes included land taxes and personal property taxes. Pennsylvania was settled in a western movement and Virginia was settled up the rivers, into the central valleys and from the north by Germans and Scotch Irish into the Shenandoah Valley. Cash was at a premium and land was the source of wealth. Following the death of the land owner, land had to be sold to raise money for the heirs.

If you have to choose between going to Pennsylvania and Virginia, Mr. Stutesman suggests you try to go to the oldest area -- Virginia. There you will find the rich resources of the State Archives in Richmond, the "superb records" at the Virginia History Society also in Richmond, and the library collection at William and Mary in Williamsburg or at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

● MORE GENEALOGICAL EVENTS

[Continued from page 86]

JULY 23-30 CALGARY, ALBERTA Hist Soc of Germans from Russia. "Harvest of Memories" Write AHSGR Heritage Center, 631 D St, Lincoln NE 68503.

AUGUST 5-6 CLEVELAND OHIO - FEEFHS International Convention on East European Family History. Contact John Movius, FEEFHS, PO Box 4327, Davis CA 95617-4327.

SEPTEMBER 5-11 NORTHERN IRELAND - The Ulster Historical Foundation, Belfast, Northern Ireland, hosts its 5th family history conference, "Famine Forbears," in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great Hunger. This event will incorporate a major conference entitled "The Hungry Stream--Emigration from Ireland during the Great Famine," to be held 7-9 SEPTEMBER at the Ulster American Folk Park. Includes detailed introduction to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Write Shane McAteer at the foundation, 12 College Square East, Belfast, BT16DD, call (01232)332288, or fax (01232)239885.

SEPTEMBER 20-23 SEATTLE - Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference "From Sea to Shining Sea". Red Lion Hotel/ SEATAX. Contact FGS, PO Box 3385, Salt Lake City UT 84110-3385.

SRVGS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

At the May General Meeting, members will vote on the slate presented in April.

1995-96 SLATE

● OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President: MILLIE FREITAS
 1st Vice-President: IRMA DOTSON
 2nd Vice-President (Program):
 JEANETTE MOSES
 3rd Vice-President (Membership):
 DIANA HANCOCK
 Recording Secretary: BARBARA JOHNSON
 Corresponding Secretary:
 PRISCILLA DIETRICH
 Treasurer: JACK JOHNSON
 Parliamentarian: CAROL GLOVER

The following members have also agreed to serve the society:

● 1995-96 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Alliance Representative

FRANCES LLOYD
 Book Reviews MARY JO HOSTENY
 Education MARY JO HOSTENY
 Freebies JO BOLENBAKER
 Friends of the Archives Rep
 FRANCES LLOYD
 Historian NANCY ALEXANDER
 Hospitality CAROL HUVANE,
 SUE HUGHES &
 CHARLOTTE THOMPSON
 Library Trips MANNY LINDNER
 Newsletter Editor BETTY VAIL,
 DOROTHY STANTON
 Newsletter Mailing BARBARA DITTIG,
 LUCY CARVER
 Program Taping WIN KYNETT
 Program Reporters SANDY KIMBALL,
 CHRISTINE SCOTT, JANE STEINER

Publicity LINDA HYDE
 Special Interest Groups
 Coordinator WENDY HABERMEHL
 Tape Library JERRY STURGEON

● JUNE BOARD MEETING

June 6 will be a combined meeting of last year's and the new Board & Committee Chairs. At this time all job descriptions and materials will be turned over to the new 1995-96 Board.

● WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

- CABRAL, Muriel H., 1911 Weaver Lane, Walnut Creek 94598 (689-9954). Researching: FRAZIER, San Francisco 1870 to 1920; HARRISON, in MA, CT, CA 1850 to 1870.
- TATUM, Jo Anne, 643 Thornhill Rd, Danville (837-3533). Researching: MUNRO, Scotland 1800 to 1900; FINNIE, Virginia 1700 to 1756.
- MONDOT, R. M., 295 Love Lane, Danville.

● EDITOR'S MESSAGE

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to BETTY VAIL for agreeing to do the Newsletter for June and July. I'll be helping prepare for my daughter's wedding in August while she finishes law school and studies for the Bar Exam in July.

Betty may continue with the Newsletter in September if all goes well. I've enjoyed working on the Newsletter--I've learned a lot but, after six years (over 500 pages!), it's time I got back to my own research. Many thanks to all who encouraged and contributed -- especially to Mary Jo Hosteny for her Book Reviews and to the "Last Month" reporters: Sandy Kimball, Christine Scott, Jane Steiner and Betty Vail.

--Dorothy Stanton

- SEND MEMBERSHIP DUES before July 1 to be listed in the 1995-96 Membership Directory.

1995-1996 SRVGS MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Please list two surnames being researched to be listed in our Directory's Surname Index.

Surname _____ Locale _____ From _____ to _____
 Surname _____ Locale _____ From _____ to _____

Individual Membership \$15.00 _____ Family Membership \$20.00 _____
 ADD \$1.50 to have your Membership Directory mailed.

Please send this form and your check, made payable to SRVGS, to:

DIANA HANCOCK, 512 ZEPHYR CIRCLE, DANVILLE CA 94526-5237

SRVGS CHARTER MEMBERS

These are the 53 members at the start of our society 10 years ago (June 1985). Most of them are still members!

JOSEPHINE ADAMS, DIANE ANDERSON, JACQUE BAGGETT, MARGERY BECHTEL, FRANCES BECKER, JEAN BLACKMUR, MARY ELLEN BROWN, CLYDE & VERA BROWN, PATTY CONNETT, JIM & IRMA DOTSON, PATTY ERICKSON, RUTH FARRELL, JOAN FRAYNER, PEGGY FRAZIER, MARILYN FULLAM, LESLIE J. FULTON, CLIFFORD GANT, SUZANNE GUINEVERE, DIANA HANCOCK, HELEN HANEY, BARBARA HOLMES, SHIRLEY HOLMES, KATHLEEN HORTON, BARBARA IRWIN, MARGARET JENSEN, BARBARA JOHNSON, ALETA JOHNSON, LOWREY JONES, BETTE KOT, SHARON KRIDER, JEAN MANNINGER, MARIAN MARQUARDT, JULIA McLAUGHLIN, ARNOLD & LEE MEOLA, GUINEVERE MILLS, HARRY MOSES, ANNE & DICK MOULDS, MARY ELLA PARROTT, RUTH PHELPS, FRED POTTER, VIRGINIA REI, HELEN ROACH, EULA SALE, MARION SHREVE, BARBARA SMITH, DOROTHY STANTON, MARILOU VICTOR, JOHN & SUSAN WATSON.

HAPPY TENTH ANNIVERSARY TO SRVGS!

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



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