

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-0305

President: Millie Freitas
Editor: Betty Vail

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of month
(except August & December)
Danville Women's Club House
242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue
Danville, CA

Vol. XII No. 2

July/August 1996

THIS MONTH

AMONG OURSELVES will feature members of the Society — Alice Tiso will talk about our *Members' Personal Holdings*; Betty Kot will discuss her index to Sutro Library and her cemetery books; and Frances Lloyd will identify her ten favorite resource books and explain Sue Swindell's genealogical forms.



LAST MONTH

Reported by Fran & Bob Schweitzer



George John Curtis, author of *Tennessee Tears*, briefly summarized his book which tells the story of Brian Bubnes, a child who survived the largest black market baby selling scandal in American history. He described the orphanage; Brian's adoption, his abusive parents, his teenage rebellion, dyslexia, and polio; his bouts with drugs and alcohol which led to juvenile arrests; his education, three bad marriages and two children. Brian had experienced all of this by the time he was 34.

George Curtis then revealed that he was the Brian in the book, his autobiography.

If you watched *60 Minutes*, *Tonight's Inside Edition*, *T V Guide*, or saw the movie *Stolen Babies*, this scandal involving Georgia Tann, may seem familiar to you.

George explained how Tennessee state law and politics were changed to allow those in charge of a Memphis orphanage to take 5,000 babies and sell them all over the country. (2500 have been reunited with their birth families.)

Having a great interest in this

social issue, George found out that England has opened all adoption records. This has encouraged him to try to educate Americans on adoption issues.

George described his own genealogical search. He obtained his birth certificate, but only after the state determined that his mother was deceased and that his father could not be located. From his juvenile police records, he found the story of his mother and the reason that she gave up her baby. Since his father also had a police record, George was able to obtain his father's birth date, place of birth, and parents' names. Death records revealed that his mother was dead. A social security search located his father's current address. Finally, George described the meeting with his father.

George legally changed his name from Brian Bubnes to George John Curtis, and, with some providential help from above, he reformed and was able to write this book. His goal is to let people know that there are other issues

(Continued on page 11.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY

SRVGS EVENTS

- 12 - THURSDAY 10:00 a.m. Midwestern Special Interest Group. See page 11.
 - 16 - TUESDAY 10:00 a.m. general meeting at Danville Women's Club House, 242 N Linda Mesa Ave.
- NO LIBRARY TRIP THIS MONTH.

AUGUST

No SRVGS meeting or newsletter this month.

- 8 THURSDAY 7:30 p.m. LDS Church, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord. Contra Costa County Genealogical Society. A panel of experts will help you solve your research problems.
- 9 FRIDAY 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The National Archives, 1000 Commodore Dr., San Bruno, workshop on military records from the Civil War to WWII. \$15.00 in advance; \$20.00 at the door. Contact Rose Mary Kennedy (415) 876-9009 to make a reservation.
- 13 TUESDAY 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society meeting. Congregation Beth Emek, corner of College Ave. & South M. St., Livermore. For information call (510) 447-9386.
- 14 WEDNESDAY 10:00 a.m. East Bay Genealogical Society, Mormon Center, 4780 Lincoln Ave., Oakland. David Adams, former president of CGS will update information on researching in Pennsylvania.



SEPTEMBER

- 10 TUESDAY 7:30 P.M. L-LAGS Meeting. Congregation Beth Emek, corner of College Ave. & South Main St., Livermore. (510) 447-9386.
- 20 FRIDAY 9: a.m.-1 p.m. The National Archives, 1000 Commodore Dr., San Bruno, will present a workshop on Passenger Arrivals and Naturalization Records. \$15.00 in advance; \$20.00 at the door. Call Rose Mary Kennedy (415) 876-9009 to make a reservation.
- 21 SATURDAY 8:30 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society' annual seminar, a one-day program featuring many of the best genealogy instructors in the Bay Area. LDS Church, 950 Mocho, Livermore. \$10.00 per person. Call Jolene Abrahams (510) 447-9386 pr Dean Lee (510) 447-1437.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Millie Freitas 837-2483
 Vice-Pres.: Irma Dotson 820-8344
 Memberships: Diana Hancock 820-1424
 512 Zephyr Circle,
 Danville, CA 94526
 Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00
 Family: \$20.00
 Membership year: June 1 to May 31

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Betty Vail 283-3596
 824 Moraga Road
 Lafayette, CA 94549
 Mailings: Barbara Dittig 735-9610
 Lucy Carver: 837-3146
 The newsletter is published each month except August & December.

PLAN A LIBRARY TRIP

Since we do not have Society library trips in July and August, you might like to visit one of the following libraries that are not on our schedule for next year.

- The SOLANO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY is very proud of its new AIR CONDITIONER. The address and hours are in your handbook.



- The SAN MATEO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY is located on 25 Tower Road, San Mateo. It is open Wednesday and Saturday 1:00-4:00 p.m. Phone: (415) 377-4680.

The LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY library is housed in the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Road, Pleasanton. It is open Mon. & Tues. 1:00-8:00 p.m., Wed. & Thurs. 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Sat. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sun. 1:00-5:00 p.m. Phone: (510) 462-3535.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GERMAN - Will not meet until September.

SOUTHERN - Will not meet in July & August. Next meeting 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 10 at Nancy Alexander's, 50 St. Mark Court, Danville. (820-1593).

IRISH - Will not meet in July & August. Next meeting 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 11 at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill (229-0889).

CALIFORNIA - Will meet with the Irish Group.

MAC COMPUTER - No meetings until further notice.

UNITED KINGDOM - No meetings until further notice.

PUBLISHING - Meets when needed. If you would like help with a publishing project, contact Jane Steiner (283-0867).

ROOTS USERS - Official Comsoft ROOTS III/IV Users will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays following the general meeting at Ruth Pfeiffer's, 59 Mariposa Ct., Danville (837-5160).

MIDWESTERN - Will meet 10:00 a.m. Thursday, July 12 at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville to discuss MI and MN. Next meeting will be 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 5 at Frances' to discuss MO & IA.

(CURTIS Continued from page 9.)

an important part in an individual's life.

George Curtis' book is not yet in libraries, but you may purchase it directly from him for \$20.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and tax. Write: George Curtis, 1801 H Street, Suite B-5-268, Modesto, CA 95354

ADOPTION RESEARCH AGENCIES

Listed below are some agencies that help those seeking birth parents or the children who were adopted. The agencies offer various services and may charge a fee.

National Adoptive Search Registry, INC. (NASR), PO Box 2051, Great Neck NY 11022 (516) 466-4140.

Concerned United Birthparents (CUB). 200 Walker St. Des Moines, IA 50318 (800) 822-1777.

Adoptee Library Movement Association (ALMA) PO Box 727, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10101-2727 Phone: (212) 581-5168.

Adoptees and Birthparents In Search, PO Box 5551, West Columbia, SC 29171. Call Karen Connet (803) 796-4508.

International Soundex Reunion Registry, PO Box 2312, Carson City, NV 89111 (505) 293-3144.

There are also books that can guide the searcher as to the how and where of locating information. Search: *A Handbook for Adoptees and Birthparents* by Jayne Askin and Bob Oskam, Harper and Row, 1982. *Adoption Searchbook*, Tri-adoption Publications, 1985.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 3, March 1996.)

NATIONALIZATION PAPERS

Many immigrants filed their "first papers" of Declaration of Intent at the port where they entered the USA. Prior to 1890 this was on Castle Green Island. The records for this entry are at Bayonne, NJ, Federal Records Center.

Before September 20, 1890, you have to locate the court(s) nearest to where they settled to find their naturalization final papers. After September 20, 1906, to locate the court where naturalization papers were made out, the Immigration & Naturalization has an index that would tell you.

Write:

Immigration & Naturalization Service
425 "I" Street NW
Washington, DC 20536

After a statutory wait of usually 5 years, immigrants completed the naturalization process (final papers) by getting affidavits of neighbors, taking an oath of allegiance and filling in a final application. Not all immigrants filed for citizenship.

(SCGS Root Digger, April 1996.)

RAILROAD RECORDS

Contact the Minnesota Historical Society Research Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd., West, St. Paul, MN 55102. They have a list of microfilmed railroad records available through Interlibrary loan. They lend a maximum of 6 rolls per person for a period of 3 weeks. The loan fee is \$1.00 per title plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14 No. 2, February 1996.)





SRVGS NEWS

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

During this past year our members never knew just where they would be sitting at meetings . . . can you stand it ONE MORE TIME? It looks like we will be holding our general meetings at the Golden State Rehabilitation Center in San Ramon starting in September. The board was cautious about moving due to a "hold harmless clause" in the agreement with Center; however, we have found insurance that we can afford so it looks like a "done deal." Your president will not really feel comfortable until the insurance policy is in her hands!

We want to thank Claudia Mortensen for finding this beautiful facility for us. You will love it! So roomy and pleasant, pull down screen, paved parking lot, ramped entrance, stationary coffee urns in a spacious kitchen. . . all at no cost to us. Hard to believe, isn't it? What we save in rent we are paying for the insurance.

Where is it? Just past the San Ramon Regional Hospital at the end of Norris Canyon road (up on top of the hill) in San Ramon.

Thanks again, Claudia!

AND it looks like we will have space in the new Danville Library for a Genealogy Resource Center. Start thinking about how we can raise money to buy books to stock it, what books you own you would donate, what books you would be willing to give a donation for, or what books you might loan. Books and reference materials will be needed. Who wants to serve on the acquisition committee? Books and materials will be returned to the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society, or the donee when they are no longer of use in the Resource Center.

— Millie Freitas

Congratulation to Frances Lloyd and Sue Swindell. Frances has been named treasurer for the State Genealogical Alliance and Sue is the new director of Alliance news from our area.

NEW MEMBERS, ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

ABBOT, GEORGE, 5700 Verna Way, Clayton, CA 94517-1132 Phone: 672-2315. (Barbara's husband) joined the society.)

MALTBY, GEORGE & LUCY, 6542 B. Cottonwood, Dublin, CA 94568, Phone: 829-7278.

SUTFIN, JESS & LOIS, 1751 Airay Dr. Concord, CA 94519-1802. Phone: 689-5564.

ARMSTRONG, SUSANNE has a new phone: 930-5600

* * * * *

SRVGS LIBRARY TRIPS, SEPT. 1996 TO JUNE 1997

July	No library trip
Aug.	No library trip
Sep. 24	LDS Library, Oakland
Oct. 22	Calif. State Library
Nov. 26	National Archives
Dec.	No library trip
Jan. 28	Sutro Library
Feb. 25	Calif. Gen. Society,
Mar. 25	Santa Clara County Library
Apr. 21	Mayflower Society Library
May 27	National Archives
June 24	U.C. Bancroft and Doe

* * * * *

Don't forget to call or write your local PBS station to request that they show *Ancestors* this fall. KQUE, 2601 Mariposa Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-1400, Phone: (415) 553-2100. KTEH, 100 Skyport Drive, San Jose, CA, 9511. Phone: (408) 437-5454.

* * * * *

SRVGS has been asked to support the John Marsh Historic Trust, Inc. which was established September 21, 1994, to restore and preserve the once stunning stone house which will soon be in ruins if action is not taken. The Marsh, in Brentwood, sits on property which was once part of the Rancho Los Meganos, purchased in 1836 by John Marsh from Jose Noriega for hides and tallow valued at \$500.00. The Trust address is The History Center, 1700 Oak Park Blvd. Room C-5, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Phone: (510) 939-9180.



RESEARCHING IN CALIFORNIA

● THE CALIFORNIA LOCATOR:



A Directory of Public Records, by Laurie Nicklas, is organized by county and city. Each county includes addresses, phone numbers and FAX number (if available) and resource holding for the following: County recorder; libraries; licensed cemeteries; genealogical societies, nonlicensed cemeteries with the date established, type of ownership (private, fraternal). The book includes State and National resources within California and a map of all 58 counties and county seats. The book is \$24.99, postage and handling \$3.00. Order from Laurie Nicklas, 1320 Standiford, #4-300, Modesto, CA 95350.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 4, April 1996.)

● **BANCROFT RESOURCE:** In 1887 Hubert Howe Bancroft and/or his staff sent out questionnaires to people around the state who were pioneers. The original forms are on file in Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, catalogued in MELVYL by the name of the person who completed the questionnaire. Questions asked included birthplace, year and route of arrival, experiences in early California, date of marriage, names of wife and children, place of residence and business, brothers, sons, or other relatives who came to California in early times and what became of them. (SHCSS Newsletter, Vol. 14, Issue 3, March 1996.)

● **1852 SPECIAL CENSUS:** The 1852 special census was required by the California Constitution of 1849 and was not made in lieu of the 1850 census which did not record the residents of Contra Costa, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties. This index shows: age at time of census, sex, occupation, birthplace, and former residence. It is a very valuable part of Contra Costa Heritage. A copy may be found in the Genealogical Section of our county library and several of the LDS libraries.

— A. Maxim Coppage

● **SISKIYOU COUNTY:** The Genealogical Society of Siskiyou County (GSSC) is offering two books locating graves in several small cemeteries. Both were compiled by Donald L. Meamber, M.D. *Shasta Valley Cemetery District* (\$12.00) includes all identifiable graves in the 7 cemeteries — Foothill, St. Joseph's Mantague, Little Shasta, Gazelle, Gazelle/Foulke and Edged. *Evergreen Cemetery* (15.00) was published in 1990. The set of both books is \$25.00. To order send purchase plus shipping, to GSSC, PO Box 225, Yreka, CA 96097. CA residents please add 7.25% for tax. (CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 4, April 1996.)

● **LA NEWSPAPER COLLECTION:** The LA Public Library has a newspaper collection of the following papers: *Los Angeles Times* back to 1881, *New York Times* back to 1851, *Times of London* back to 1785, *San Francisco Chronicle* back to 1869, and *Chicago Tribune* back to 1849. (CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 3, March 1996.)

● **SOLANO COUNTY ARCHIVES:** The archives has a new address: 1745 Enterprise, Building 2, Suite A, Fairfield. Enter at the door marked: CENTRAL SERVICES-PURCHASING-RECORDS. (SCSS Root Digger, April 1996.)

● **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** State Vital Records by Iris Carter Jones, Legislative Coordinator.

AB161, the California Vital records bill, remains on the Assembly's inactive file. Due to "the game of musical chairs" at the Capital, nothing has been done recently regarding AB161. The bills heard on the floor of the Assembly at the first of the year were bills which had not previously left the Assembly. These had to be acted upon by the deadline of Feb. 1, 1996, to move on to the Senate. In fact, there has been no activity on any of the bills on our "watch list." I will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 4, April 1996.)



RESEARCHING IN THE USA

● **ALABAMA:** The Alabama Room of the Calhoun County Public Library in Anniston specializes in southern history and genealogy. Some projects of value to researchers are the photocopying of funeral home records culled from Calhoun and surrounding counties; the reproduction and cataloging of 35,000 glass negatives from the Russell Brothers Collection (local photographers, 1883-1943); and the cataloging of recently found Circuit Court Records for Benton County thought to have been burned during the Civil War. The Library's address is 108 East 10th Street, Anniston, AL 36201.

(CCGS Newsletter, Vol. 11, No. 6, June 1996.)



● **ARIZONA:** The staff of the Arizona State Archives (ASA) has produced a series of 4 brochures [of interest to genealogists] which are available free at Arizona local public libraries. The titles are: *The Arizona State Archives; Resources for Local History; The Arizona State Archives from past to present; Preserving Personal Papers and Photographs; and Preserving and Handling Photographic Images.*

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 4, April 1996.)

● **ILLINOIS:** In order to obtain a certified copy of a birth, marriage or death record from the McHenry County, Illinois, Clerk, you must produce a photo ID; or, if you are corresponding by mail, you must submit a photocopy of your driver's license which includes your picture. If you do not have a driver's license, photocopies of two documents of legal proof are required. Birth certificates may only be obtained by parents or the individual, if 18 years or older.

You will be required to fill out a form for each vital record prior to receiving the certified copy. The vital Record Indexes (birth, marriage, death) are no longer available to the general public. However, an official in the clerk's office will check the indexes for you upon request, if you

provide specific information. The required photo ID is not kept on file and must be submitted each time you request a document.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 6, June 1996.)

● **IDAHO:** The Idaho Genealogical Society announces publication of Vol. III of *Footprints Through Idaho*. It covers pioneer certificates numbered 1202-1799 involving 6,000 pioneers, descendants and applicants. It has a cumulative index including Vols. I and II. The cost is \$15, p/h included. Order from Idaho Genealogical Society, 4620 Overland Rd. #204, Boise, ID 83705-2867.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 4, April 1996.)

● **INDIANA:** Records of the Ft. Wayne Indiana land office, originating in 1823, have been put on computer at the Indiana State Archives. The data base will be available at the Archives or by mail, for a small fee. Contact the Indiana State Archives Commission of Public Records, 140 N. Senate Ave, Indianapolis, IN 42604.

(SNGS Newsletter, Vol. 14, Issue 2, February 1996.)

● **TENNESSEE:** A subject index and list of available back issues can be obtained from East Tennessee Roots, 1345 Oak Ridge Turnpike #318, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society, PO Box 4986, Maryville, TN 37802-4986 issues a valuable publication for those with genealogical roots in early East Tennessee.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 6, June 1996.)

● **OUT OF PRINT BOOK HELP:** The American Association of University Women Book Finders is a non-profit organization that will search an inventory of about 8,000 antiquarian book dealers for a specific title. The search usually takes about 100 to 120 days and is conducted at no charge. Write AAU Book Finders, PO Box 8151, Corpus Christi, TX 78468. Remember to submit all information with the source and dates whenever possible.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 3, March 1996.)





FOREIGN RESEARCH

- **FOREIGN GENEALOGY INTERNET:** If you are interested in foreign genealogy, check out the following sites:

"HOLLAND PAGE" The page contains a list of EUROPEAN genealogical archives, their addresses and services offered.
<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/paulvanV/>

GERMANS/GERMANY

German search engines, maps, WWW servers, place names, new city codes, and tourist info., etc.
<http://www.deltanet.com/users/gkemper/ger.html>

BRITAIN/IRELAND

Genealogy and family history resources in Ireland
<http://www.mayo-ireland.ie/roots.htm>

Scottish Genealogy Society Web Page

<http://www.taynet.co.uk/users/scotgensoc/>
(CCCGS Computer Interest Group, Issue 56, June 1996)

- **BRITISH 1881 CENSUS:** On the night of Sunday 3, April 1881, the entire population of England, Wales, and Scotland, as well as the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, paused for a collective portrait. Finding one family from among the millions of people was like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack. However, thanks to a recently completed indexing project, the name of a specific family member can be located in a matter of minutes. (1) Surname Index: an alphabetical listing of all surnames within each county by surname, forename and age. (2) Birthplace index: an alphabetical listing of all surnames by birthplace. (3) Census place index: an alphabetical listing of all surnames grouped by census place on 3 April 1881. (4) List of vessels or ships: an alphabetical listing of all vessels or ships with occupants. (5) List of Institutions: an alphabetical listing of all schools, jails, hotels, orphanages, barracks, and so on. The Concord/Walnut Creek FHC is receiving the last completed sections of this British 1881 census index of microfiche.

(CCCGS Society Newsletter, Vol. 11, No. 4, April 1996.)

- **HISPANIC GENEALOGY:** Norma Flores and Patsy Castro Ludwig, co-authors of *A Beginner's Guide to Hispanic Genealogy*, have joined with others to organize the Hispanic Genealogical Society of Santa Clara County. If you are interested, call (408) 486-6979 or write 2064-A Walsh Ave. Santa Clara, CA 95950. (SMCGS Newsletter, Vol. 14, Issue 2, February 1996.)

- **HUGUENOT SOCIETY:** The National Huguenot Society office and library are now located at 9033 Lyndale Ave., South, Suite 108, Bloomington, MN 55420. Contact Arthur Finnell at (612) 983-9749. (CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 4, April 1996.)

- **IRELAND:** All major sources of information about Leitrim County, Ireland, have now been collected in one place, the newly established Leitrim Heritage Centre, open Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may call them or write to them to discuss possible research and charges at:
Leitrim Heritage Centre
County Library, Ballinamore
County Leitrim
Ireland. Tel: (078) 44012.
(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 1, March 1996.)

- **PORTUGUESE RESEARCH:** Try the Freitas Library, UPEC Cultural Center, 1120 E. 14th St., San Leandro CA 94577. (510) 483-7676. Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
(CCC Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 10 No. 10, October 1995.)

- **RUSSIA:** In the early 1800's many Germans moved to Russia where homesteading was offered. Those same Germans fled to the U.S. for a better life. Two addresses that may help with your research: (1) American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 631 D Street, Lincoln NE 68512 (402) 474-3363 and (2) Bessarablen Area (Black Sea Area) Germans from Russia Heritage Society, 1008 E. Central Ave., Bismarck, ND 58501 (707) 223-6167.
(SMCGS Newsletter, Vol. 14, Issue 2, February 1996.)



MID-WEST LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES

Compiled by Dorothy Stanton

MISSOURI

- **MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY**, at Spring Street and Highway 24 in Independence MO (one block east of the Harry Truman Presidential Library), has completed a 12,000 sq.ft. addition for its Genealogy and Local History Dept. The library's major resources include a reference book collection of over 30,000 titles. The collection's emphasis is on Missouri and states east of Missouri--New England, Mid-Atlantic, Trans-Appalachian and the old South.

The microfilm collection (38,000 rolls) includes the complete Federal censuses 1790-1920, the Draper Manuscripts, Kentucky tax rolls, selected passenger lists, Missouri State Penitentiary records, many state and local records, papers of the St. Louis fur trade, and miscellaneous military and Indian records, plus a growing collection of state vital records and genealogies on microfiche. The Missouri State Genealogical Association has donated a sizable collection of genealogy and local history books.

Over 5000 titles are available to researchers nationwide on interlibrary loan. To learn more about this program or more about the collections, write: Mid-Continent Library, Genealogy and Local History Dept., 317 W. 24 Highway, Independence MO 64050; (816)252-0950. [from an article in FGS FORUM Spring 1996]

ILLINOIS

- **ICARIAN RECORDS** - The Icarians, a group of largely French-born immigrants, founded between 1848 and 1898 seven separate communal societies in the US, creating the nation's longest-lived communitarian experiment. Community sites were in Texas just north of Dallas (1848) and Nauvoo, Illinois (1849), and there were five colonies at sites in or near Corning IA, St Louis MO and San Francisco CA.

In 1977 a research center was established at Western Illinois University to gather together all of the extant materials written by, or dealing with the Icarian utopian communities. Recently, the Icarian collections of major research libraries have been given to the center in microfilm or copy: the 1600 item Cabot Collection of the Lovejoy Library of Southern IL University; the 1400 item Icarian Collection of the Iowa State Dept of History & Archives; the Icarian-Cabot Collection of the IL State Historical Library, Springfield; and the Icarian materials of the MO

State Historical Soc and the St. Louis Public Library. In addition a card file bibliography has been made up on Icarian holdings found in other repositories. For more information call the director at 309/298-1575. [From CSGA N/L March 94]

- **CHICAGO - RC RECORDS** - The Archdiocese of Chicago, Archives and Records Center, 5150 Northwest Hwy, Chicago 60630 (312/736-5150) has the following research policy: the Archives staff will do a limited amount of genealogical research from the sacramental registers of closed parishes which are held by the Archives in reply to mail requests only. There are no set fees, however, donations are encouraged to assist in the preservation of Archdiocesan records. If you do not send a donation, please send a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. No general index is available so search is book by book.

Genealogical copies of sacramental certificates from registers prior to 1916 are \$10.00 per copy. Copies to the person named on the certificate are \$5.00.

Types of records available: Sacramental Records for genealogical purposes prior to 31 Dec 1915 (closed to hands-on research). If for personal records, any time period will be searched. Pre-1916 records are available on microfilm for research at the Family History Libraries of the LDS Church. Only the records of some closed parishes (complete list available upon request) are held by the Archives. All open parishes keep their own records. The only exception to this are the Old St. Mary's and St. Elizabeth's whose earliest books are now at the Archives.

Orphanage Records. Access is restricted. Only the person in the record can request and receive information from sacramental, school and health records. No one else is entitled to this information, except with the written consent of the individual named in the records. The Archives is keeping a running list of people who would like to be notified if the record policy in this area is changed to allow genealogical research. School Records. The records for many closed Catholic schools are located at the Archives but access is restricted. Researchers are allowed only "Directory Information." This includes name and address, telephone number, birthdate, birthplace, major field of study, participation in school

activities, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, awards received, previous schools attended, the student's photograph, and the parish in which the students resided. Information is taken from the record at the time the student attended the school. Current information is not available. There is a \$5.00 fee per name for this service. [Chicago GS Quarterly, Winter 1995]

• **CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY**

ARCHIVES - Formed in 1991, the archives gives researchers better access to old Cook County records. Indexes to various records are at the archives office. Records available: **land, probate and adoption** records; most county land records are handled by the Recorder of Deeds, however, the archives has land registrations in the Torrance system; pre-1964 **divorce records** for both the Superior and Circuit courts are indexed. Other records include **probate** records for deceased estates from 1871-1967, **wills** filed from 1850-1993 may be available, as well as records on **minors and incompetents** from 1871-1976. They have **naturalizations** from 1871-1929. Pre-fire naturalizations burned, and in late 1929 they stopped doing naturalizations at the county level. They have a **soundex index of naturalizations** from the northern half of Illinois, southeast Wisconsin and northeast Indiana from 1840-1950 for local and federal courts. To contact the archives write Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Archives Department, Room 1113, Richard J. Daley Center, Chicago, IL 60601; (312)729-6601 or 629-7728. Excluding holidays they are open from 8:30-4:30 Mon.-Fri. Since many materials are off site, an appointment to visit is strongly recommended.

• **ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY** -

The Illinois State Historical Society has made arrangements with individual researchers, who, for a non-refundable fee, will attempt to locate an obituary, birth, or marriage announcement in Illinois newspapers, biographical sketch in county or state histories, and/or other family information in the libraries' printed collections. The researcher needs all the clues you can provide, such as name, place, date or approximate date.

Send request about one individual, a \$5 check made payable to the Illinois State Historical Society, and a SASE (legal size) to Illinois State Historical Library, Old State Capital, Springfield IL 62701. If information is found, you will receive up to five pages of xeroxed materi-

al. You will be notified if the search is not successful.

If you can provide the exact citation to an obituary (newspaper title, place of publication, date, page and column number), the Library staff will provide copies at twenty-five cents each (minimum \$1). Similarly, if you have the exact citation to material from a book or periodical (author, title, date of publication, and page number) the Library can provide copies at twenty cents per page (minimum \$1 plus p&h). [from Placer Trails, Nov 94 via Paradise GS].

For a free two-sided sheet providing information on Sources of Primary and Genealogical Records (one side has county courthouse addresses for each county and the other has addresses of importance and notes on each source), send a SASE to the Library. [Kith & Kin]

OHIO

- **GREAT LAKES RESEARCH CENTER** - If you have a relative involved in shipping on the Great Lakes, this might be a good resource. The institute is located in the Owens-Illinois Levis Development Park just off State Route 25 in Perrysburg Ohio. It is the nations' largest repository of materials pertaining to Great Lakes topics, saltwater shipping, the US Navy and Coast Guard and general maritime history.

The Institute houses (to name a portion of its holdings): an extensive collection of manuscripts and archival materials (from shipbuilders, maritime unions, ships' logs, etc.); approx 200,000 photos/images depicting vessels, people, and ports of the Great Lakes; approximately 15,000 vessel histories or genealogies which document a vessel from construction to final disposition. There are some records of ships' captains and other officers but very few of ordinary seamen unless they were involved in some type of disaster.

The collection is non-circulating but is open to the public Mon-Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm except holidays and university closings. The staff is available to answer specific research inquiries and to assist patrons conducting personal research. There is a research service available for more extensive research requests; the fee is \$10/hour. The Institute will make copies of its photographs, blueprints and will photocopy documents except where restricted. Write to the Institute at 12764 Levis Parkway, Perrysburg, OH 43551 (419/874-4355). [Northwestern Ohio GS Sept 93 via Chicago GS N/L Feb 94]



REVIEW

In *INTERNET SOURCE* Peggy Frazier suggests the U.S. geological survey site as a great place to locate "obscure" names and places found in old deeds, etc.

<http://www.gnat.net/~varg/capping.html>

She also accesses it through her "bookmarks of Netscape":

www-nad.usgs.gov

and also

www/gnats/gnats.fora.html

There are "find" directions and you can type in the name of item, mountain, run, creek, park etc. and up comes the location, county and the particular 7.5 minute USGS map on which it is located. Then you can pull up a part of the map on the screen and print it too.

The source is an index to ALL the 7.5 minute maps of the country. Peggy found it great help in finding a couple of "rune" in middle VA. She recommends not putting in the county for states like VA where the current county is certainly not the one for earlier times.

— Dorothy Stanton

U. S. SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX

The U.S. SSDI can be searched online on: <http://www.infobase.com/ssdi/query01.htm>

For genealogists doing 20th century research, this is a dream come true! Infobases, Inc., is making the valuable SSDI available on-line, free of charge and fully searchable (on all fields). With entries through October, 1995 the database includes individuals for whom a death benefit was made by the Social Security Administration. Data is still being added for on-line access, and so far includes surnames beginning with ABCEIJNOPQUVXYZ.

— Jack Johnson

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

SPELLBOUND

I have a spell checker.
It came with my PC;
It plainly marks four my revue
Mistakes I cannot see.
I've run this poem threw it,
I'm sure your please too no,
Its letter perfect in it's weigh.
My checker tolled me sew.

— From the Internet

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL