

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)
Golden State Rehabilitation
Hospital
7777 Norris Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA

1996

Vol. XII No. 3

September 1996

THIS MONTH

Mary Lynn Archibald, an experienced teacher and columnist, will speak on Telling Our Stories. She will give tips on interviewing, gathering information, and putting it in the proper historical and political perspective.

LAST MONTH

Reported by Jane Steiner

The July meeting featured three Society members.

Alice Tiso explained the *Members' Personal Holdings* which she and Ardith Steger have compiled from offerings of the SRVGS membership. This pamphlet lists the books, periodicals, CD-ROMS, and videos that members have and are willing to loan to other members or in which they are willing to look up information. But this is more than a single listing; it is the basis for friendship among those who have ancestors in the same locations or of the same surname.

The project was planned as a means for members to help each other, and the exchanges are not to involve any cost. This publication is available at any meeting for \$1.00.

Bette Kot told about some of the books that she and Shirley Thomson have published. *Missouri Cemetery Inscriptions* and *California Cemetery Inscriptions* list cemeteries in those states and tell in what publications you can find the inscriptions on the grave-stones each cemetery. They are available at several Bay Area genealogical libraries. Bette and Shirley are

currently working on similar books for New York and Pennsylvania.

They have also published two small manuals on some of the holdings of Sutro Library, 480 Winston Dr., San Francisco. *Massachusetts Vital Records* at Sutro Library gives specific details on that state's vital records in books, microfilms and microfiche. *City Directories* at Sutro Library lists all the city directories at Sutro, whether on paper, film or fiche, with their call numbers. The card catalogue doesn't contain all the titles of the filmed directories. Many city directories contain regions and small towns surrounding the city of the title on the cover. Bette and Shirley listed all the towns from the title pages, not just those on the cover.

Sutro also has microfiche of very early city directories from the holdings of The American Antiquarian Society in Massachusetts. Among them is the first city directory published in 1662 in New York. These fiche contain 90% of all the city directories produced in the country between 1789 and 1860, and they are not in the card
(Continued on page 21.)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

SRVGS EVENTS

- 16 MONDAY - 1:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. Member Class, What to Expect at a Family History Center. See p. 24.
- 17 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. First SRVGS meeting at the Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. See map on p. 22.
- 24 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m. Library Trip to LDS Library, Oakland.

OTHER EVENTS

- 10 TUESDAY - 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador Gen. Soc., Congregation Beth Emek, College Ave. and South "M" Street, Livermore. Jane Lindsey on Laughter is Genealogy. (510) 447-9386.
- 12 THURSDAY - 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa County Gen. Soc., LDS Church, 3700 Concord Blvd. Bill Miller, a member of Diablo Buckskinners, on Black Powder Shooting.
- 20 FRIDAY - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The National Archives Workshop. See p. 24.
- 21 SATURDAY - Livermore-Amador Gen. Soc. Annual Seminar. LDS Church, 950 Mocho St., Livermore. See p. 24.
- 28 SATURDAY - 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Contra Costa Co. Gen. Seminar p. 24.



OCTOBER

SRVGS EVENTS

- 1 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Board meeting at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. EVERYONE WELCOME.
- 15 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Bette Kot on Organization & Documentation.
- 22 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m. Library Trip to Calif. State Library, Sacramento. See p. 23.
- 29 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Member Workshop on organization and documentation. See p. 23.

OTHER EVENTS

- 5&12 SATURDAY - 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. class by Mary Lynn Archibald. See p. 21.
- 8 TUESDAY - 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador Gen. Soc. Congregation Beth Emek, College Ave. & South "M" St., Livermore. Sharon Smith from VENEX on the Restoration of Photos Using Computers. Call (510) 447-9386.
- 10 THURSDAY - 7:30 p.m., Contra Costa County Gen. Soc., LDS Church, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord. Mary Ellen Ellison Jones on Tombstones Readings & Interpretations.
- 12 SATURDAY - 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Copncord Family History one-day seminar, Digging for You Roots. See p. 24.
- 19 SATURDAY - 1:00-5:00 p.m. W. Wesley Johnston on Dad's War. See p. 21.
- 26 SATURDAY - 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Paul Smart on Family History Research in the British Isles. See p. 21.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Millie Freitas 837-2483
 Vice-Pres.: Irma Dotson 820-8344
 Membership: 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 94949
 Mailing: Barbara Dittig 648-9364
 Lucy Carver: 837-3146
 The newsletter is published each month except August and December.

TRIPS TO SALT LAKE CITY

Frances Becker, a member of SRVGS, will be leading two trips to Salt Lake City. The first will be from Sunday, November 10 through Saturday, November 16. The group will travel with Southwest Airlines and stay at the Howard Johnson Hotel. An experienced tour guide, Frances provides a mixture of research and relaxation.

The cost of the tour is \$485.00, double occupancy. A deposit of \$200.00 must be made by September 23. For more information contact Frances Becker at (510) 934-4962.

The second trip will be from February 9th to the 15th.

SAN DIEGO HISTORY FAIR San Diego

Gen. Soc.'s 50th Anniversary Celebration and First Annual Family History Fair September 21- 22 at the Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio South, Mission Valley. For info call (619) 588-0065 or write San Diego GS, 1050 Pioneer Way S #E., El Cajon, CA 92020-1943.

MONTEREY CONFERENCE The Monterey

County Gen. Soc.-Central California Genealogical Conference at the Monterey Beach Hotel will feature Marsha Hoffman Rising as keynote speaker. \$45.00 non-members; \$40.00 members. Call Thomas Taft (408) 759-8466.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GERMAN - Will meet at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 26 at Shirley Terry's, 301 Almond Ct. San Ramon (829-1433).

SOUTHERN - Will meet at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 10 at Nancy Alexander's, 50 St. Mark Ct., Danville (820-1593)

IRISH - Will meet 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. Needs a new chairman.

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, October 3 at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, to discuss MO & IA.

(MEETING Continued from page 21.)

catalogue.

Frances Lloyd shared several of the many books she stocks in her business, **GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**. They included books for summer reading, basic books for getting started, a book to get your grandchildren interested in genealogy, guides to research in various locations, and several good general reference books. She also reviewed migration maps, atlases, and specialized books such as *A Manual for Writers* by Kate Turabian and the *Oxford Dictionary of Law*.

Frances also handles some CD-ROM disks dealing with genealogy. One contains many of the reference books she mentioned. She will order any book that she doesn't have in stock.

Everyone received copies of her latest catalogue as well as copies of Sue Swindell's catalogue of forms, genealogical tools and research aids. She is a dealer for "The Skeleton Closet," but wasn't able to attend the meeting.



BOOK REVIEW

Families Writing by Peter R. Stillman contains a wealth of family writing activities to help your family record special moments, share stories, preserve family memorabilia, work through crises, and develop family ties. The last chapter, "More Reasons to Write", has many suggestions of activities that will help entertain children or grandchildren on a rainy day.

This is one of the books stocked by **GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**.

DAD'S WAR

Saturday, October 19, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Heather Farms Park, 301 N San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek, W. Wesley Johnson will present a workshop on Finding and Telling Your Father's World War II Story.

The cost for the seminar is \$60.00, plus a \$20.00 materials fee. For more information, contact Wes at (510) 943-5858 to register or via e-mail at dadswar@aol.com

or at 231 Market Place #11, San Ramon, Ca 94583, or see the Dad's War page at: <http://members.aol.com/dadswar>



SEMINAR 96

October 26, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at 875 Quince Ave., Santa Clara, Paul Smart will discuss Family History Research in the British Isles: England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Smart is the Supervisor of the British Section of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and a Fellow in the Society of Genealogists (London), and author of numerous articles and lecture outlines.

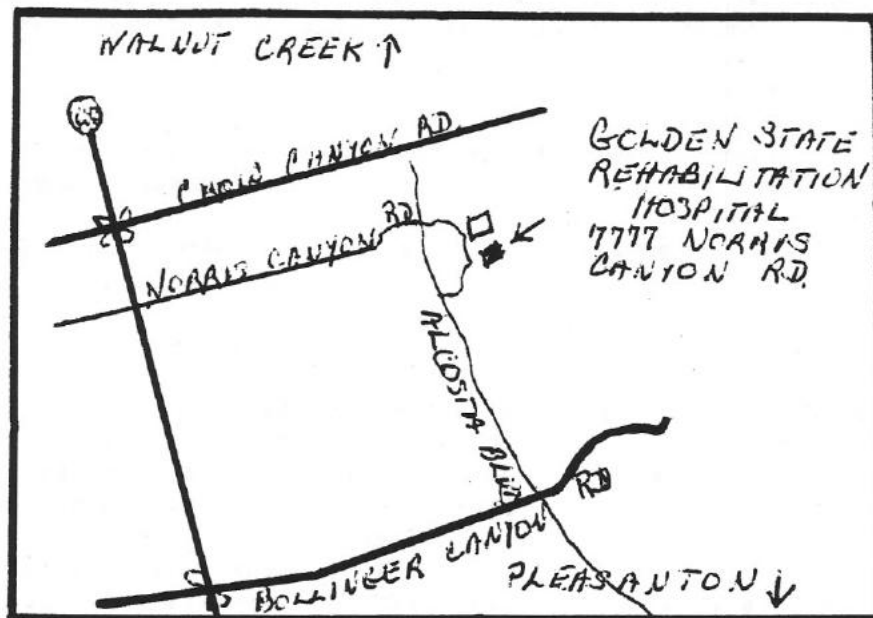
The seminar is sponsored by the Santa Clara Family History Center. For more information call (408) 241-1449.

PLEASANT HILL RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT CLASSES

October 5th and 12th from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Mary Lynn Archibald will teach a class called Telling Our Stories: Writing the Family History, Autobiography or Personal Memoir at the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District, 320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill. For more information call (510) 676-5200.

SRVGS NEWS

OUR NEW HOME



From the North Take 680 South, Exit Crow Canyon Road, turn left (east). Go to Alcosta Blvd., turn right. At Norris Canyon Road, take the first turn left and follow the signs up the hill.

From the South Take 680 North. Exit Bollinger Canyon Rd., turn right (east). Go to Alcosta Blvd., turn left. At Norris Canyon Rd., Turn turn right and follow the signs up the hill.

THE GOLDEN STATE REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

Perched on top of a hill overlooking San Ramon, the Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital offers a variety of out-patient programs. Its professional staff evaluates senior citizens' conditions and develops effective plans to help them stay strong and live life as independently as possible; it offers physical and occupational therapy to those recovering from an injury or chemical dependency; and it has a program for managing chronic pain.

The hospital has offered us a large, attractive room in which to hold our meetings. We are lucky to have this new home.

SRVGS, in return, will offer instruction in beginning genealogy to interested patients. This is a chance for us to share our enthusiasm for a rewarding and absorbing hobby. Several of our members have already volunteered to share their love of genealogy with small groups of patients. They are Millie Freitas, Shirley Terry and Verne Segelke. If you would like to join them in this effort, call Millie Freitas (837-2483).

NEW MEMBERS



BARBARA L. CULBERTSON, 145 Enchanted Way, San Ramon, CA 94593 (552-0503) is researching Ledward in VT, NY, MI — from 18th century, and Loomis in CT from 18th century.

BARBARA DAVIS, 318 Verona Ave., Danville, CA 94526 (837-4985) is researching Purviance in IL from 1848 and Durwoody in IA from 1840.

SUSAN KAUFMAN 3065 Rohrer Dr., Lafayette, CA 94549 (284-9335).

GEORGE & LUCY MALTBY, 6542 #8 Cotton Wood Cir., Dublin 94568-3728 (829-7278).

PATRICIA (BETTY) SMAYDA, 19 Blade Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94595 (933-9871) is researching Kennedy in NV, CA and Scotland from 1830 to 1900.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

JOYCE M MORSE, 2792 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon CA 94583-1946 (806-9320).

SRVGS NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer in spite of the heat! Ready to buckle down and get back to genealogy business at our new meeting place?

A sad note, charter member Josephine Adams passed away on August 14, 1996. There were no services here as she was buried in Eugene, Oregon. A card of sympathy from the society was sent to her son Denis Adams at her Danville address. I want to thank the "Telephone Tree" members for being so willing to call their assigned members and to the three, Frances Lloyd, Patty Erickson and Cindy Wheeler, for taking over for the three Telephone Tree members I couldn't reach. The procedure worked well, but . . . please be careful out there!

Board meeting highlights. The agreement with the Danville Library for space for a genealogical collection is still being negotiated. The 1996-97 budget was approved. Some funds from the hospitality, publishing, and special project funds are being transferred into the newly established library book fund. Education classes for members will begin this month. We will be offering small Introduction to Genealogy classes at the Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital for patients and staff.

The Family History Center extraction project will continue under new direction as Ardith Stegner, after many years of dedication, has asked to be relieved of this duty. If anyone would like to direct this program, speak up!

We are moving to our new location this month. You will find a map and directions on page 22. There will be signs and balloons to direct you. You will love our new accommodations!!

— Millie Freitas

NEWSLETTER AWARD

"Branching Out" Dambroder-Siems Family Newsletter edited by Shirley Siems Terry won an Honorable Mention award in the 1995 Newsletter Competition. (National Genealogical Society Newsletter, May/June 1996.)

THE LIBRARY BOOK FUND

The Board has established a library fund to which some members have already contributed. Although any amount would be appreciated, Millie has suggested a donation of \$25.00. If you would like to join the effort, make a check out to SRVGS, mark it "book fund", and send or give it to Jack Johnson.

SEPTEMBER LIBRARY TRIP

This month we will be visiting the LDS Library, 4780 Lincoln Ave. in Oakland. Departure times are 9:00 a.m. from the rear parking lot of the Danville Lucky Market on Diablo Road and from the upper parking lot of the Orchard Nursery in Lafayette.

HELP WANTED

Ron Skilton has retired as head of the United Kingdom special interest group. Anyone interested in assuming the chairmanship of this group should contact Millie Freitas (837-2483). If you are interested in researching in the United Kingdom, be sure to read the description of the one-day Santa Clara seminar by Paul Smart who is very well qualified to lecture in this area. See page 21.

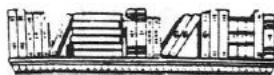
ANCESTORS

Ancestors, a ten-part series illustrating the impact that connecting with our ancestors has on individuals and families, is scheduled for release in January 1997. Help to ensure that the series is shown on local stations. Don't forget to write or call your local PBS station. KQED, 2601 Mariposa St., San Francisco, CA 94110-1400 (415) 553-2100; KTEH, 100 Skyport Dr., San Jose, CA 95110, (408) 437-5454.

CONDOLENCES

The Society extends its sympathy to the family of John Arrol who passed away in his sleep Saturday, August 31. Those of you who were at the Society's tenth anniversary meeting will remember the presentation about publishing his impressive book on his Scottish ancestry.





ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA, PUBLIC LIBRARY

Response to the mention of this library (July meeting) seemed to indicate that not many of our members have heard what a treasure trove it is and of the services it offers the genealogical community. The following information is excerpted in part from an article in the National Genealogical Society Newsletter, March/April 1996 by Curt B. Witcher. Mr. Witcher is Manager of the Historical Genealogy Department of the Library as well as president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. More detailed information can be found in the article (p.36-39).

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

The Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, is second only to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City in the size of its genealogical collection. The major focus, according to Mr. Witcher, is North America, with great efforts being made to acquire important primary source documents on microfilm and all significant secondary source materials for U.S. states and the provinces of Canada. There are significant record groups for the British Isles and a number of countries in western Europe.

The collection contains more than 220,000 printed volumes and 253,000 items of microfilm and microfiche. Online access to the library's catalog can be gained by a modem call to 219-424-1330 or via the library's Internet Homepage at <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us> and then choosing the catalog option. To reach the Historical Genealogy Department homepage directly add /departments/genealogy.html to the library's URL/Internet address.

More than 40,000 volumes are of compiled genealogies, ranging from brief typescripts to multi-volume works. In addition, nearly 5000 genealogies on microfiche are included in the collection, as well as many family newsletters. The department solicits unpublished compiled family data by offering return of the original manuscript plus an additional complimentary copy of any work an individual permits the staff to copy for inclusion in the collection.

The department holds the largest English-language genealogy and local history periodical collection in the world -- more than 4200 current subscriptions and more than 5100 titles. The information contained in them can be accessed through PERSI [see below] -- just one example of the ways the collection is made available to genealogists. Librarians experienced in genealogi-

cal research are always on duty to answer your questions. Personal computers are welcome as well as other items which may assist in productive research -- a very user friendly atmosphere.

The library is located at 900 Webster St., P.O. Box 2270, Ft. Wayne IN 46801 (Tel:219-424-7241). Hours are: M-Th 9-9; F-S 9-6; Sunday 1-6 except summer.

PERSI

Periodical Source Index)

The acronym PERSI stands for a useful source which can save hours of searching through unindexed periodicals. Genealogists and historical researchers can thank the staff at the Allen County Public Library Foundation and the Genealogy Department at the same library (Ft. Wayne, Indiana) for this valuable tool.

The Periodical Source Index is a comprehensive Place, Subject, and Surname index to current and past genealogical and local history articles in 1,700 English- and French-language periodicals received at the Ft. Wayne library. It provides access to more than 500,000 articles.

The index is available in book form at Sutro Library. Microfiche copies can be found at local LDS Family History Centers: retrospective 1847-1985 (FHL fiche #6016862); annual indexes 1986 and later (FHL fiche #6016864).

To obtain photocopies from the periodicals, send a letter to the library describing the articles you want copied, providing the full entry from PERSI and the name of the journal. You may request a reasonable number of articles in each letter, generally no more than five to eight. You'll be billed a \$3.00 fee for each letter plus \$.20 per page copied. You need not send money with your order. You should not make requests by telephone or fax.

Address: Allen County Public Library, P.O. Box 2270, Ft. Wayne, IN 46801

BACK TO CLASS

It's that time of year to head back to school—or at least to classes. We are lucky to live in the Bay Area with such a variety of resources. Here are some of the opportunities for both beginners and experienced genealogists.

SRVGS MEMBER CLASSES

The SEPTEMBER class, What to Expect at a Family History Center, will be held Monday, September 16, in two sections. At 1:30 p.m. the class will meet at Verne Segelke's, 1121 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Verne will explain what to expect from the IGI and the Ancestral File. The class will regroup at the family History Center, Stone Valley Road at Smith Road. At 3:00 p.m. Peg Frazier and staff will introduce us to the Family History Center. Class size will be limited. Please make a reservation by calling Verne at 838-8570. A repeat class can be scheduled.

The OCTOBER class, a hands-on workshop on organization and documentation, led by Fran Lloyd, will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 29th, 210 Town & Country, Danville.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES WORKSHOP

Friday, September 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the National Archives, 100 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, CA 94006, will hold a workshop on Passenger Arrivals and Nationalization Records. \$15.00 if preregistered or \$20.00 at the door. Contact Rose Mary Kennedy (415) 876-9009.

LDS-LIVERMORE AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR

Saturday September 21, 1996, the LDS churches of Livermore and Pleasanton and the Livermore Amador Genealogical Society are sponsoring a one-day seminar from 8:30 a.m.-4:50 p.m. at the LDS Church, 950 Mocho St., Livermore. Classes for beginners as well as advanced genealogists include: Using the Internet and the World Wide Web, Using Bulletin Boards, Computer Programs, Civil War Research, German Research, Portuguese Research, etc. Some classes have limited enrollment. Preregister before September 12 and lunch is included. For information call Jolene

Abrahams (510) 447-3497, or Dean Lee (510) 447-3497, or write to:
Livermore Amador Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 901
Livermore, CA 94550

CONTRA COSTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ONE DAY SEMINAR

Saturday, September 28, 1996 (note the new date), at the Concord Bible Church, 4975 Concord Blvd., Concord, the Contra Costa Genealogical Society is sponsoring a seminar featuring Shelia Eglit Benedict on Learn to Love Maps, County Histories, and City Directories (9:00-10:15); The Importance of Collateral Research (10:45-12:00); Certificates, Obits, and Probates: What the Dead Can Tell You (12:45-2:00); and Collection, Recording and Evaluating Your Research (2:30-3:45). There will be a Silent Auction, Door Prizes and time to browse the vendors.

Preregistration \$15 for members, \$17 for non-members, \$20 at the door. Send a check, payable to the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, prior to 14 September 1996 to CCCGS - Seminar, PO Box 910, Concord 94522-0910.

DIGGING FOR YOUR ROOTS

Saturday, October 12, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the LDS Church, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord, the LDS churches of Concord and Walnut Creek and the Walnut Creek Family History Center are sponsoring an all-day seminar for beginners and experts. Karen Clifford is the keynote speaker. The program includes many popular speakers. Among them are Don Maker, John Movius, Carol Harless, Shirley Call, and Margery Bell who will cover a wide range of subjects.

The \$10.00 preregistration deadline is October 1; at-door registration is \$15.00. For information call Jackie Hein (510) 827-4729 or write her at 2129 No. 6th St., Concord, CA 94519.



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

CORRECTIONS

Census microfilm may be ordered from the Family History Library. It is in the (fiche) catalog under UNITED STATES - CENSUS. All the states and counties are listed immediately below that heading. However, if you look under STATE NAME - CENSUS, you will find listed all the film numbers of any census for that state: Federal through 1920 plus State censuses (e.g. 1855 NY, 1818 IL, etc.) The catalog also gives film numbers of both filmings of the 1860 and 1870 Federal census. The later filming was more legible in most cases but in the interval between filmings there was some deterioration of the originals, so you might try both if you have trouble reading one. In some cases (e.g. New York), the FHL has the State copy of the Federal Census. It's worth checking for any notation by the census taker that might not have been transcribed to the Federal copy.

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The correct address for the US Social Security Death Index Online (July/August Newsletter):

<http://www.infobase.com/ssdi/query01.htm>

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If you spot a contextual error, please call it to the attention of one of the editors. This could become our longest column!

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

THE EVOLUTION OF AUTHORITY



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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