

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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

Presidents: Millie Freitas
Editor: Betty Vail

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of month
(except August & December)
Golden State Rehabilitation
Hospital
7777 Morris Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA

Vol. XII No. 7

February 1997

THIS MONTH

Jim Tackitt, a retired photography computer graphics instructor (Mt. Diablo USD), and past president and editor for Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, will speak about the history of photographic processes, giving descriptions and samples of early processes. This will be followed by a discussion and handout on computer retouching. Members may bring old prints for technique or era identification or that might be of unique or general interest to the membership.

LAST MONTH

Reported by Fran and Bob Schweitzer

Christine Rose, a professional genealogist, spoke about PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE. She pointed out that genealogists are often faced with the necessity of proving a lineage by the use of records that individually do not establish a fact, but, when properly evaluated in their entirety, can often prove an ancestry beyond any reasonable doubt through a preponderance of evidence.

Mrs. Rose compared the definition of "preponderance of evidence," as found in *Black's Law Dictionary* which stresses the greater weight of evidence and Walter Lee Sheppard, Jr.'s definition which says that contemporary, primary evidence of a number of related matters all pointing in the same direction with no exceptions can be considered a preponderance of evidence.

Other subjects she discussed are analyzing the criteria; principles to consider; primary evidence versus direct evidence; and evaluation of documents. She used many interesting examples to illustrate problems that can arise when one is evaluating documents and discrepancies.

In general she covered additional sources of information:

• **Gravestones:** They are notoriously incorrect and many times erected long after death.

• **Bibles:** Be sure to check the date the bibles were published. Some families have transferred names to

current bibles and this is where errors occur. Also be aware of scripts and pen clarity; they may indicate a recent addition to the bible.

• **Census Records:** These records are not always accurate. You can depend on one fact for sure and that is that those people were in the area at the time of the census. Accuracy depends on who gave the information to the census recorder. It could have been an older parent, son or daughter, servant, etc. living in the home at that time. Information given may not have been clearly remembered or was purposely distorted.

• **Death Certificates:** They are not always reliable, especially when listing the parents' names. Remember that funerals are a time of stress and that the informant can forget and make errors. However, the date of death is generally accurate.

Mrs. Rose supplied a list of suggested additional reading on the subject. She is the author of five booklets that cover these subjects in detail. Write for a booklet list, prices, tax, handling charge, etc. at:

Christine Rose
1474 Montelegre Drive
San Jose, CA 95120-4831,



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

SRVGS EVENTS

- 4 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. All members welcome.
 18 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting, 7777 Morris Canyon Rd., San Ramon. JIM TACKITT on PHOTOGRAPHY - PAST AND PRESENT.
 25 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m. Trip to California Genealogical Society library, San Francisco.

OTHER EVENTS

- 11 TUESDAY - 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador Gen. Soc., Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. SHIRLEY TERRY on FAMILY NEWSLETTERS and PUBLISHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IN BITS AND PIECES.
 12 WEDNESDAY - 10:00 a.m. at the Mormon Center, 4780 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, East Bay Gen.Soc., BETTE KOT on HIRING A PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGIST.
 12 WEDNESDAY - 7:30 p.m. San Mateo Gen. Soc., Central School, Belmont. MARIAN SOSS on HISTORICAL SAMPLERS - A STITCH IN TIME.
 13 THURSDAY - 7:30 p.m. Community Meeting Room, Concord Police Station, 1350 Galindo St., Concord, Contra Costa Gen. Soc. "Show and Tell" meeting ANCESTORS ON THE MOVE.
 21-22 FRIDAY-SATURDAY - New England Historical & Gen. Soc. seminar. Guest speaker HENRY J JONES, author of several books on Palatine families in Ireland, Germany and New York. For information call Yolando Pardo at (617) 536-5748, Ex. 202.
 27 THURSDAY - 7:00 p.m. 1200 Civic Center Drive, Fairfield Senior Center, Fairfield. Solano Co. Gen. Soc. NANCY MOREBECK on CIVIL WAR DRAFT RECORDS.

MARCH



SRVGS EVENTS

- 4 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville. All members welcome.
 18 TUESDAY - 10:00 General Meeting, 7777 Morris Canyon Rd., San Ramon. MEMBERS SHARE WITH MEMBERS books they have published.
 25 TUESDAY - 9:00 a.m. Trip to Santa Clara Library.

OTHER EVENTS

- 1 SATURDAY - 2:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Lecture at Menlo Park Family History Center. Details below.
 15 SATURDAY - 2:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Lecture at Menlo Park Family History Center. Details below.
 22 SATURDAY - 2:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Lecture at Menlo Park Family History Center. Details below.
 27 THURSDAY - 7:00 p.m. 1200 Civic Center Dr., Fairfield Senior Center, Fairfield, Solano Co. Gen. Soc., ED BARTOSH on INTERNET AND GENEALOGY.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Millie Freitas 837-2483
 Vice Pres.: Irma Dotson 820-8344
 Memberships: Diana Hancock 820-1424
 512 Zephyr Cir.
 Danville, CA 94526-4925
 Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00
 Family \$20.00

NEWSLETTER

Editors: Betty Vail 283-3396
 824 Moraga Road
 Lafayette, CA 94549
 Mailings: Barbara Dittig 648-9364
 Lucy Carver 837-3146
 The newsletter is published each month except August and December.

MENLO PARK LECTURES

At the Family History Center,
 1105 Valpariso, Menlo Park, DR.
 INGE HARDING-BARLOW and JOHN SHELL-BEAR GLEEB will present three lectures in March. Each will be on Saturday from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and is free to the public.
 Call (415) 325-9711.

•Mar 1 London Records-Ancient & Modern. Second Subject: Occupations and Business Records.

•Mar 15 Records from 1400-1550 and the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Second Subject: Records from 1250-1400 and the Survey of King Edward I.

•Mar 22 1060-250 and Doomsday Book and sources for this Early

Period. Second Subject: British Archives in London and in the Country records.

LIBRARY TRIP TO ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, FORT WAYNE, IN
 The Sacramento Genealogical Society has planned a research trip to the Allen County Public Library april 13-20. Individuals arrange their own transportation through Delta or United. Hotel costs are \$510 for a single;\$270 for a double. Deadline for a reservation is March 12. For more information and travel tips, contact Leora Matranga at 2026 Forest Street, Sacramento, CA or call (916) 922-2133.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GERMAN - Will meet at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 27 at Barbara Johnson's, 616 Camino Amigo, Danville.
SOUTHERN - Will meet at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 11, at Frances Becker's, 3264 Eccelston Ave., Walnut Creek.
IRISH - Will meet at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 12, at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill.
CALIFORNIA - Will meet with the Irish group.
MAC COMPUTER - Will meet at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 26, at Manny Lindner's, 32 Corte Nogal, Danville.
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 at 283-0867.
ROOTS USERS - Official Comsoft ROOTS III/IV users will meet in room AB, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, Tuesday following the general meeting. You may eat your lunch in the room.
MIDWESTERN - Will meet at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 6, at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville to discuss IL & IA.
INTERNET USERS - Will meet at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, February 27. with George Anderson at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

WHO REALLY OWNS THAT LAND?

Excerpt from "Missouri Settlement Patterns - Who Came and Where Did They Come From," a talk by Marsha Hoffman Rising at the 1995 Federation of Genealogical Societies conference taped by Repeat Performance, #C182 in the San Ramon Valley Genealogical tape collection.

"A St. Louis attorney, representing a Missouri client, was informed by the Federal Housing Commission in Washington that the client could obtain a Federal loan if the title to the land was good and sufficient. The attorney ran an exhaustive title search taking the land from the present day all the way back to the beginning. He wrote up a rather voluminous title report that took the land back to 1803 and mailed the report to the Housing Commission in Washington, D. C. He received the following letter:

Dear Sir:

We received your letter today, your application for the loan for your client and abstract of title. Let us compliment you in the manner in which you have prepared and presented the application. The abstract clearly demonstrates that you are not without ample experience in this line. We have observed, however, that you have not claimed the title back before 1803. And before final approval can be accorded this application, it will be necessary that the title be claimed back before this year.

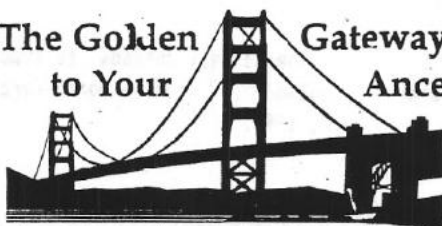
The attorney perused the letter in utter disgust, profaned profusely, called his secretary and dictated the following reply.

Your letter regarding titles in Case No. 198136 received. I note that you wish the title to extend further than presented. I was unaware that any educated man in the world failed to know that Missouri was purchased from France in 1803.

The title for the land was acquired by France from Spain in a secret treaty negotiated by Napoleon. The land came into possession of Spain by right of discovery made in 1492 by a Spanish-Portuguese sailor named Christopher Columbus. He had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by the reigning queen, Queen Isabella. Now the good Queen, being a careful and pious woman about titles, almost as careful I might add as the Federal Housing Association, took the precautions of securing the blessings of the Pope before she sold her jewels to help Columbus. Now the Pope, as you know, is an emissary of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and God, it is commonly accepted is the person who made the World. Therefore, I believe, it is safe to assume that he also made that part of the United States called Missouri; and I hope to Hell you're satisfied."

Family History Fair

"The Golden Gateway
to Your Ancestry"



12TH ANNUAL FAMILY HISTORY FAIR
 Features noted genealogist John Coletta
 Herbst Pavilion (Pier 2) Fort Mason
 Marina Blvd. & Buchanan St., San Francisco
 at door: \$25 one day/\$35 two days.
 For more information call:
 California Genealogical Society
 (415) 777-9936 (Wed., Thurs., and Sat.)



SRVGS NEWS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There has been a cutback in the hours the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road will be available for our use. The new schedule is printed on page 57. Society members feel that the addition of two hours on Sunday will not compensate for the loss of the daytime hours on Thursday. Having fewer hours will result in over attendance at other times, family orientated activities are planned for weekends and the heavy traffic and congestion through Walnut Creek to the Concord Family History Center and also into the Oakland facility are a few of the members' concerns.

If you wish to express your feelings on this matter, you might write to these two gentlemen from the Danville Stake:

• MR. KEITH HENRI

Director of the Danville Stake Family History Center

201 Elder Court

San Ramon, CA 94583

• MR. JACK BAXTER

Counselor to the Stake President

210 Duxbury Court

San Ramon, CA 94583

One of our members had difficulty in finding a parking place at our January meeting at the Golden State Rehab Center. We are growing by "leaps and bound" and our attendance at meetings gets larger and larger. Members should consider carpooling - check your directory for members living in your area.

The approved list of books for our Heritage Library has been ordered and some have been received. It is a beginning! Let's get those donations in!

The Nomination Committee for next year is being formed. We need one "member at large" to serve on the committee. Any takers? Start thinking about serving on the Board of Directors or on a committee and say "YES" when you are called!

The last of our series of in-house member education classes will be held on February 27 (see notice below). Your Board has approved continuing these classes and starting another series in March. Beginning Research in March, followed by Accessing the Census in April.

The Internet Group needs a leader. If you plan to be member of this group, give some thought to assuming a leadership role. - Millie Freitas

IN-HOUSE MEMBERSHIP CLASS - NOTE THE CORRECTION

The last of this series of membership classes will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 27, at Carol Glover's, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon (829-7207). This class will be on newspapers, city directories and voter registration.

NEW MEMBERS

JANET R. KOUPAL, 303 Menlo Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94598-3834, (510) 939-94523 is researching Arnes in MA from 1647 to present and Koupal in IL from 1856 to 1912. DONALD J. ALDINGER, 1973 Rancho Verde Circle East, Danville, CA 94526, (510) 735-8780 is researching Aldinger in Germany from 1850-1900 and Lallean in Germany from 1850-1900.

As of the Board Meeting February 4th, we had 192 members. Look for the happy faces on the new members' name tags and make them feel welcome.

LIBRARY TRIP

This month on Tuesday, February 25, we will be visiting The California Genealogical Society Library in San Francisco. The library isn't open on Tuesdays but our very own JANE STEINER will open it for us. There is a \$5.00 charge for each person up to 8 and a maximum of \$40.00. Departure time is 9:00 a.m. from the rear parking lot of the Danville Lucky Market on Diablo Road and the upper parking lot of the Orchard Nursery in Lafayette.

HELP WANTED

After ten years of dedicated service taping the Society meetings, WIN KYNETT has had to resign. We need a volunteer to take over this important job. If you would be willing to help, please talk to Millie and make sure she writes your name down!

WIN has contributed many items to The Lighter Side column. Here is a sample.

YOU know you're OVER THE HILL when. . .

1. You wake up with that awful "morning after feeling"...and you didn't do anything the night before.
2. You wonder why they started printing everything in smaller type.
3. Your eye doctor asks you to read the chart on the wall and you say, "What wall?"
4. Your pharmacist calls you by your first name.
5. Your back goes out more often than you do.
6. You realize that a postage stamp costs more than a movie did when you were growing up.

TAPE REPORT

VERNE SEGELKE reports that we checked out a record number of 20 tapes last month. He is video taping the Ancestry series for anyone who has missed an episode.

The Society extends its sympathy to BEA O'RAND whose husband MIKE died in North Carolina on Sunday, January 12, 1997.

GENEALOGY ON THE INTERNET

Here are some addresses to challenge the members of our new Internet Special Interest Group.



Genealogy in Europe

Paul Van Voorthuysen has compiled addresses and descriptions of the services offered by archives across Europe - the Netherlands, Germany, UK, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden - in on place:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/paulvanv/aboutgen.html>

He also has a Dutch surname list. He has a section for researching Dutch ancestors in the US.

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/paul-vanv/resusanc.html>

National Archives

The main genealogical information provided are the microfilm catalogs for census records; genealogical and biographical research; immigrant and passenger arrivals; and military service. The library holdings aren't available yet, but the library is working on converting their online public access catalog so it can be searched on the web.

<http://www.nara.gov>

National Archives of Canada

This URL will lead directly to their genealogical section. This includes a section for getting started in genealogy, and services to the public-visiting, microfilm loans, hiring a researcher, telephone in

quiries, written inquiries, and a free publication *Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada*, links to genealogical sources in Canada, addresses for genealogical societies and Provincial/Territorial archives. They have available online the Index to the 1871 census returns of Ontario.

<http://qqq.archives.ca/www/Genealogy.html>
(SCCHGS Newsletter, Vol. 42, Issue 1, January 1997.)

Switchboard is a World Wide Web online search tool for finding the telephone number of a person by entering the surname. The URL address is

<http://www2switchboard.com/bin/cgiqa.dll?>

(The question mark is part of the address.) Switchboard can use other information, if you have it, to narrow the search. In addition to the telephone number, the output also links the city and sometimes the address.

(The Livermore Roots Tracer, Vol. XVI, No. 1, January 1997.)

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S HOME PAGE:

L-AGS now has its own home page on the Internet, created by GEORGE ANDERSON and DOUG MUMMA for members and genealogical researchers throughout the world. The address or URL is

<http://www.california.com/~lags/lags.html>

(The Livermore Roots Tracer, Vol. XVI, No. 1, January 1997.)

HOW TO SEND A FAMILY HISTORY TO THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER IN SALT LAKE CITY

by Ardith Steger

Recently I had an inquiry from a new member regarding the procedure in sending family histories to the Family History Center in Salt Lake City. They should be sent to:

Family History Center
Acquisitions - Gifts
Third Floor
35 North West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84150.

Should you need to call, the number is 1-804-240-2331.

The following suggestions were mentioned:

- 1) Send a copy - not your original; copies are not returned.
- 2) Typed copies are preferred.
- 3) Use UPS or certified mail (green card)
- 4) Include a note of permission to have your history

microfilmed.

- 5) Include names of authors and/or compilers.

It is important to send a copy of your family history to Salt Lake.

- 1) Availability to others searching your line.
- 2) Safely in the event of fire, flood, etc.

If you have any questions, contact me at (510) 837-4306.

NEW HOURS AT THE DANVILLE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

Mon & Tues	11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Thurs	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sun	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. San Ramon Valley

MAPS -- VALUABLE GENEALOGICAL TOOLS



TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS: To obtain free map indexes and catalogs, and to order topographic maps available from the U S Geographical Survey contact: USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225. Be sure to indicate each state you are interested in. (CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 6, June 1996.)

NATIONAL ARCHIVE MAPS: The National Archives retains maps and aerial photographs of many towns. Give the town name and its location. Write to the National Archives, Attn: Robert Richardson, Cartographic Branch, Washington, D.C. 20408. (SMCGS Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 2, February 1997.)

LOCATING LOST TOWNS: If you can't locate your ancestor's town on a map, contact the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Established in 1890, the board is responsible for resolving place name discrepancies.

Their staff has an extensive library of literature, maps and the National Geographic Names Database which offer two million place names and locations for no charge.

The address is: Executive Secretary for Domestic Names, U.S. Board of Geological Survey, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 22092-0523. Call 800-USA-MAPS to learn about their National Digital Gazetteer, available on CD for \$57.00. (CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 10, 1996.)

MAP RESEARCH: The Rand McNally Map Company has an archivist on staff who will help locate towns that no longer appear on most maps, according to a note in the Henry Co., IL newspaper. The address is: Phil Forester, P O Box 7600, Chicago, IL 60680. Include a SASE. (CSGA Vol. 14, No. 4, April 1996.)

WISCONSIN: PLAT MAPS--from 1833 to 1866. First in Cincinnati then Daybook, draftsmen created plat maps for just about every mapping attempt at a local level.

These beautifully hand-drawn maps can be found at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin Archives. Many maps contain such detail and show the locations

of individual cabins, springs, mills, trails, rivers, streams and villages. Often included are the full names of the land owner and significant landscaping details.

The following indexes can be ordered from Sally Powers-Albertz, 1688A. Royal Ave., Fond du Lac, WI 54935-5336: 1862 Wall Plat Map Copy and Index of Fond du Lac Bounty, WI -\$16, 1879 Plat Map Index, Fond du Lac, WI, \$18, 1893 Plat Book Index, Fond du Lac, WI \$20.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 10, Oct 1996.)

GERMANY: If you are interested in maps of Germany, one that has been recommended is Euro-Atlas published by Langenscheidt Publishing Company. Its maps are 1:300,000. The cost is \$14.95 and consists of 11 pages of maps with an index to cities. Most large book stores have it for sale.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 10, Oct 1996.)

RUSSIAN BORDER CHANGES: Anyone involved in Russian research is referred to an article under the heading "RESEARCH" in the Federation of East European Family History Society NL Vol. 3, No. 4, Feb. 1996, pp. 84-85. Many Russian areas are listed; an example: Galicia/Poland: 1772 to Austria - 1918 to Poland; - 1945 East to Poland West to Ukraine. This reference Newsletter is on file in the San Mateo C G S library. (SMCGS Newsletter, Vol. 14, Issue 9, October 1996.)

HISTORICAL ATLAS OF THE HOLOCAUST: The Atlas is an excellent research tool for those doing Jewish Research or Eastern Europe Research. The Atlas shows Eastern Europe before World War II, Nazi extermination camps, The Holocaust in Central Europe, The Holocaust in Southern Europe and Hungary--rescue and Jewish armed resistance, death marches and liberation. The book is published by U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. It can be located in central reference, call no. Ref 940 5138 H67, SCCHGS library. (SCCHGS Newsletter, Vol. 41, No. 10, Nov 1996.)

EASTERN EUROPE: If you have an Eastern European geographic questions, write to the Library of Congress and ask for information about WWII or earlier maps. Give the town name and its variants and any other identifying information. Ask them to look in their historical gazetteers. also. They will send you a sample of their research, then you may request a full-sized copy of the desired map upon payment of a fee. Write the Library of Congress Attn: Thomas De Claire, Geography and Map Division, Washington, D.C. (SMCGS Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 2, February 1997)

RESEARCHING ACROSS THE USA

● **ALASKA:** Find your Gold Rush relatives in a new electronic database called "Ancestors", developed by librarians at the University of Alaska and a professional genealogist. It contains early obituaries, newspaper and magazine articles, mining reports, business directories and records of pioneer organizations. It is available only through Alaska and Polar Regions Dept., Rasmuson Library, PO Box 756800, Fairbanks, AK 99755-6800; (907) 474-7261.

The Alaska Historical Society and Alaska's Office of History and Archaeology are publishing "Sources of Alaskan and Yukon Gold rushes and gold Rush Communities." Contact the Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources, 3601 C Street, Suite 1200, Anchorage, AK 99503; (907) 762-2622.

Searching for Native Indians, Aleuts and Eskimos? Start with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Enrollment Office, PO Box 25520, Juneau, AK 99802; (907) 586-6735. Or contact its Canadian counterpart, the Dept. of Indian and Northern Affairs, Rm. 122, 300 Main St. Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Y1A2B5; (403) 667-3353.

Canadian mining records are at the Dawson Museum, PO Box 303, Dawson Yukon Territory, Y0B1B0; (403) 993-5291. Other Canadian information may be located at the Yukon Archives, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Y1A2C6; (403) 667-5321.

(CCC Diablo Descendants, Vol. 11, No. 11, Nov 1996.)

● **INDIANA:** *Every-Name Index to 1860 Indiana Census*, by John Ballard. An index is available for the 1860 census of Indiana which lists all the names. It is available at Salt Lake City and at Indianapolis on fiche. Regrettably these fiche cannot be ordered at local Family History Centers in the usual way. There are 60 fiche, all listed under the number 6,334,383 and arranged in alphabetical order. For each person it lists all the usual items like name, age, birthplace, county number and page number. A three ring binder in the census area has an explanation. (CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 1 (January 1997).)

● **IOWA:** The IOWA Genealogical Society Library at 6000 Douglas St., Des Moines, IA 50322, has recently acquired the Old Age Assistance records for 56 counties of Iowa.

Compiled during the 1930's, it lists the names of Iowans 21-65 years of age subject to tax to help care for their elderly. For each person listed, the names of the parents, including the mother's maiden name, are given.

(The Live Oak, Nov/Dec 1996.)

● **MICHIGAN:** If some of your Michigan ancestors started out in southern Michigan, you may want to check out the following source that might have been unknown to you: Ypsilanti Historical Museum and Archives, 220 North Huron St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197, (303) 482-4990. They will help over the phone by checking their card index.

(Wine Press Newsletter, Vol. 20, No. 3, Mar 1994.)

● **MISSOURI:** St. Louis County Library has obtained 242 rolls of microfilm with all the St. Louis Archdiocesan Parish records. This includes most of St. Louis City, St. Louis County and Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, Perry, St. Charles, St. Francis, Ste. Genevieve, Warren, and Washington Counties. The records date from 1776 to 1993 and include baptisms, marriages, first communions, and burials. The librarians have indexes to the records of each parish.

(SHCSG Newsletter, Vol 15, No. 2, February 1997.)

● **MISSOURI:** Many early Missouri newspapers have been microfilmed and are available through inter-library loan from the State Historical Society, 1020 Lowry Street, Columbus, MO 65201. A few date back to 1808. Some of the early newspapers have been indexed by the society and maintained in a card file with the individual's name, name of newspaper, date, page and column reference.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 1, January 1997)

● **VIRGINIA:** The boundaries of old Frederick County of today encompass 12 counties: Frederick, Clarke, Warren, Shenandoah and Page counties in Virginia; and Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, Mineral, Hardy and Grant counties in West Virginia.

A new book, *Pioneers of Old Frederick County* offers a comprehensive study of the settlers of the original, huge county and includes many maps, land records and family histories. Most researchers of the area ran into a dead end due to an 18-year court battle in the early 1700's during which no land was legally disposed of. But the author of this book, Cecil O'Dell, went to the parent countries of Frederick county, Orange and Spotsylvania, and searched court records, patents, wills, deeds grants and Quaker parishes records among others. The result is this 623-page tome in hardcover. It may be ordered from O'Dell, 464 Morse Ave., Liberty, MO 64068 for \$54 postpaid. (FAX: (816) 781-5260.

(The Live Oak, Vol. XVII, No. 4, Nov/Dec 1996.)

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

SOME THOUGHTS ON FEBRUARY, THE MONTH OF ROMANCE



A KISS

Our custom of putting X's at the end of letters and notes to symbolize kisses grew out of medieval legal practices. In order to indicate good faith and honesty in those days, the sign of St. Andrew — a cross — was placed after the signature on all important documents.

Thereafter, contracts and agreements were not considered binding until each signer added St. Andrew's cross after the name. Then he was required to kiss the document to further guarantee faithful performance of his obligations. The cross was drawn hurriedly, and often it was tilted and looked much like the letter "X."

Over the centuries the origin of the ceremony was forgotten. But people still associated the "X" with the kiss instead of the pledge of good faith and the custom has continued into modern times.

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

WORLD'S SHORTEST WEDDING!

In the early days of America on the prairies, they wedded without much preliminary to do. There were cases such as this: "Have her?"

"Yes."

"Have his?"

"Yaw."

"Hitched. Two dollars."

(Odom Family Tree, Vol. VII, No. 1, Jan/Feb 1996.)

THRIFTY ABOUT MARRIAGE

On marriage certificates the same address in a town is often given for both parties. This may not mean that they were living together, or even living at the same place. Declaring the same address avoided paying for two sets of banns in different parishes.

(SVC Newsletter, Vol. 14, Issue 8, September 1996.)

SAN RAMON VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
BOX 305
DIABLO, CA 94523-0305



FIRST CLASS MAIL