

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo CA 94529-0305

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

Vol. XII

March 1997

THIS MONTH

BARBARA E. LEAK is editor of the *Council New Coordinator*, president of the Genealogical & Historical Council of Sacramento Valley, president of the Placer County Genealogical Society, and a research specialist at the Auburn Family History Center. Descent from a long line of farmers may account for the subject of her talk, YES, INDEED AMERICAN COUNTY LAND RECORDS.



LAST MONTH

PHOTOGRAPHY - PAST AND PRESENT

Reported by Frank Williams

James W. Tackett, a retired high school photography and graphic arts instructor, a Certified Genealogical Researcher and a Past President of the Contra Costa County Genealogical Society, operates a photo restoration and archival quality copy service from his home.

Mr. Tackett pointed out that an understanding of photo processes is important in recognizing the value and proper treatment of old prints.

The first permanent images, which appeared in 1839, were daguerreotypes consisting of a highly polished silver-plated image on copper. These images appeared faint, as on a mirror, and looked silver until 1842 when the process changed to give a more visible brown tone. They were common until 1860.

In 1852 ambrotypes were introduced. On fragile glass, the image is a reversed negative backed by a black painted or velour sheet. Ambrotypes were used until 1870.

Both of these early images are usually found in a permanent case, often made of leather or metal.

Tintypes, which also appeared in

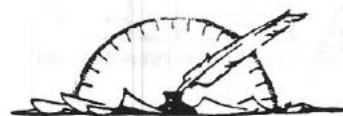
1852, were in use until the 1930's. These primitive images appeared on a sheet of polished iron, not tin. They too were put in cases until 1865. In 1870 chocolate-brown plates were introduced. Several images were made with one exposure by using multiple lenses. Tintypes were cut apart with tin snips, leaving rough edges. Surviving tintypes have low contrast and may have rust marks or pitting.

During the Civil War Cartes-de-visite were popular. These thin paper prints were cemented on a thicker backing approximately 2 1/2" by 4 1/4". The earlier prints had square corners, but after 1870 they had rounded corners and double printed border lines. They were produced until 1885.

Cabinet photos, which appeared from 1866 to 1906, consisted of a high-gloss, thin paper print mounted on 4 1/4" by 6 1/2" heavy cardboard and often toned sepia, brown, yellow, or purple. Elaborate albums were designed to hold them.

None of the above processes could be used for making direct copies of a picture, and this limited their use.

(Continued on page 63.)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH

SRVGS

18 TUESDAY - 10:00 General Meeting 7777 Norris Canyon Dr., San Ramon. BARBARA E LEAK on YES, INDEED! AMERICAN COUNTY LAND RECORDS.

25 TUESDAY - 9:00 p.m. Library Trip to Santa Clara County Library. Details on page 64.

OTHER EVENTS

11 TUESDAY - 7:30 p.m. L-AGS meeting, Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. CHRISTINE ROSE on USING LITTLE KNOWN AND NEGLECTED SOURCES, A POTPOURRI. For info call David Abrahams at 447-9386 or John Walden 443-2057.

13 THURSDAY - 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa County Gen Soc meeting, Community Meeting Room in Concord Police Station, 1350 Galindo St., Concord. SUE SWINDELL on PERSI. (Periodical Source Index).

15 SATURDAY - 10:00 a.m.-noon, Solano Co Gen Soc, NANCY MOREBECK on PERSI, Immigration Records, and Pension & Bounty Land Records. \$15.00. Location: Blanchard Room, Davis Branch Library, 315 E. 14th Street, Davis. For further info call Lois Nash at (916)753-5261 or Nancy Merrill at (916)753-8892.

22 SATURDAY - 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sonoma Co Gen Soc Spring Seminar. Details below.

27 THURSDAY - 7:00 p.m. Solano County Gen. Soc., 1200 Civic Center Dr., Fairfield, CA, Senior Center, ED BARTOSH on INTERNET AND GENEALOGY.

APRIL



SRVGS EVENTS

8 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Board meeting at Fran Lloyd's, 210 town & Country, Danville. Everyone welcome.

21 MONDAY - 9:00 a.m. Library Trip to the Mayflower Library. See page 64.

22 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, MEMBERS SHARE PUBLICATIONS.

OTHER EVENTS

5 SATURDAY - San Mateo Co Gen Soc Spring Seminar with Wendy L. Elliot. Details below.

12 SATURDAY - 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society, ALAN E. MANN on USING THE INTERNET IN GENEALOGY, Citrus Heights Elementary School. 7085 Auburn Blvd., Citrus Heights, CA. \$22.00 before Apr. 1; 24.00 at door. Mail to: Root Cellar, P O Box 265, Citrus Heights, CA 95611.

12 SATURDAY - Paul Saart will be featured in a British Isles Research Seminar at the Concord FHC. Details below.

25-26 FRIDAY-SATURDAY - California Gen Soc 12th annual Family History Fair "The Golden Gateway to Your Ancestry." Details in February newsletter.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Millie Freitas 837-2483

Vice-Pres.: Irma Dotson 820-8344

Membership: Diana Hancock 820-1424

512 Zephyr Cir.

Danville, CA 94526-4923

Annual Dues: Individual \$15.00

Family \$20.00

Membership year: June 1 to May 31

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Betty Vail

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.

SONOMA SEMINAR: March 22,

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. J

CARLYLE PARKER and BETTE

KOT. Santa Rosa Veterans

Memorial Blvd, Santa

Rosa. Cost: Pre-Regis-

tration \$12.00; at the

door \$15.00. Mail check

to Al Heiken, 5530

Dupont Dr., Santa Rosa

95409.

SAN CARLOS: SMCBS seminar,

April 5, 8:00 a.m.-4:00

p.m., WENDY ELLIOT. Sam

Trans Building, 1250 San

Carlos Ave., San Carlos.

Non-members \$18 before

March 29. Send check to

Elliot Seminar; 1604 Dix

St.; San Mateo CA 94002.

CONCORD: April 12, 8:00

a.m.-4:00 p.m., Concord

Family History Center,

3700 Concord Blvd., Con-

cord. PAUL SMART on

BRITISH ISLES RESEARCH.

\$15.00 without lunch;

\$20.00 with lunch. Send

a check to Les Ruefen-

acht, 1523 N El Camino

Dr., Clayton 94517.

For info call 686-1766.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GERMAN - No meeting this month.

SOUTHERN - To be announced.

IRISH - Will meet at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, April 9, 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, April 23, at Barbara Dittig's, 366 Jacaranda Dr., Danville. Please call her at 648-9364 if you plan to attend so that she can make arrangements to get you through the security gate.

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, April 3, at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country, Danville to discuss OH & WI.

INTERNET USERS - Will meet at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 27 at Jack & Barbara Johnson's, 616 Camino Amigo, Danville.

(PHOTOGRAPHY - PAST AND PRESENT)

It wasn't until George Eastman developed simple cameras and dry flexible film that amateur photography became popular. However, professional photographers could use glass plates to make picture negatives from which a contact print could be made. In the 1890's bromide prints were developed. Modern printing papers evolved from the bromide process. The paper is sensitive enough so that it can react to a much fainter projected image rather than having to be placed in direct contact with the negative. Thus an enlargement can be made.

Until recent years the only way to repair damage to an old photo or negative was to try to retouch it by removing or painting over blemishes and then photographing it. However, modern computers have made it possible to scan a photograph and, by changing the individual electronic impulses that make up the picture, improve or change it. Results range from removing spots and blemishes to correcting distortion or combining several color images. Quite respectable work can be done with fairly inexpensive scanners. Digital cameras are neither cheap enough nor good enough yet for the average photo enthusiast to use them for this work.

Even badly damaged old photographs made by any of the above methods can probably be improved enough to rephotograph to an archival print that will last many years. Meanwhile the old faded or damaged image can be kept as a treasured memento of your family history.

REVIEWS

by Dorothy Stanton

OUR MEMBERS PUBLISH: SRVGS members who are not readers of San Ramon Valley newspapers may be unaware of IRMA DOTSON's new book on local history. Entitled *Danville branch of the Oakland, Antioch and Eastern Railway*, it tells the story of the of the old electric railway (trolley) which ran from the Saranap area in Walnut Creek to what is now Diablo. The trolley line lasted from 1913-24. This is Irma's second book on local railways. The first was *The San Ramon Branch Line of the Southern Pacific*, published in 1991. The Museum of the San Ramon Valley published the new book and part of the \$35.00 book's proceeds go to the museum. Irma was recently named Danville's "Citizen of the Year." Congratulations on a well-deserved honor!

If you're interested in starting a newsletter for a family organization, you'll find help in a booklet SHIRLEY TERRY has published. Based on her experience in editing award-winning family newsletters over a number of years, her tips will get you off on the right track and will also help those who are more experienced. Entitled *Family Newsletter Handbook*, the 70 page illustrated booklet has suggestions on naming, format, editing news, using graphics, etc., plus a complete glossary of terms. Also included is a medical questionnaire. The booklet can be obtained from Shirley (301 Almond Ct., San Ramon CA 94583) for \$6.00. Add \$1.50 for postage and mailing.



SRVGS NEWS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Of great concern to many is the possibility of the breaking up of the county's Central Library in Pleasant Hill — scattering its vast collection of reference materials throughout the county to local libraries. There would be no central county library. On page 68 is a copy of a newspaper article giving some pros and cons for your consideration. I feel very strongly that the central library should NOT be broken up....Listed below are the names and addresses of the five Contra Costa Supervisors who will make the final decision. Please write to each of them!

* * * * *

Joe Canciamilla — 300 E. Leland Road, Suite 100, Pittsburg CA 94565. 427-8138, FAX 427-8142.

Mark DeSaulnier: (4th District) — 2425 Bisso Lane, Suite 110, Concord CA 94520, 646-5763 or 646-5222, FAX 646-5767.

Donna Gerber — 18 Crow Canyon Ct., Suite 120, San Ramon CA 94583.

Jim Rogers: (1st District) 100 37th St., Richmond CA 94805, 374-3231, FAX 374-3429.

Gayle Uilkema: (2nd District) County Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Room 108A, Martinez CA 94553, 646-2080.

* * * * *

The taping of the Ancestry TV program is progressing. Your nominating committee has some Chairmanship openings — please say yes when they call. The In-House Education Classes committee is gearing up for the next series. The first batch of our library books is being catalogued and will soon be on "our shelves" and... all's right with the San Ramon Genealogical Society!

— Millie Freitas

LIBRARY TRIP

This month we will visit the Santa Clara County Library, Tuesday, March 25. Departure time is 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.

NEW MEMBER

KATHLEEN MCDOWELL, 7540 Interlachen Ave., San Ramon, CA 94583-4019, phone (510) 828-3364.

THE INTERNET INTEREST GROUP

On Thursday, February 27, The Internet interest group met at the Pleasanton Library where two computers had been reserved for their use. The group would like to thank George Anderson and Doug Mumma from the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society for their excellent instruction. The address for the L-AGS homepage is: <<http://www.california.com/~lags.html>>

CGS LIBRARY TRIP

On Tuesday, February 25, 16 members of SRVGS visited the California Genealogical Society. We would like to thank JANE STEINER for making the arrangements for our visit and helping us find our way around a new library. Several members asked how to get to the library on their own.

* * * * *

● IF YOU DRIVE: take the first off-ramp from the left lane of the Bay Bridge (Harrison/Embarcadero). At the first stop light (Harrison St.) turn left and go three blocks to 2nd Street, turn left and go two blocks to Brannan St. There is a parking lot on Brannan between 2nd and 1st Streets and charges \$4.00 all day — \$2.75 on Saturdays.

● IF YOU TAKE BART: at the EMBARCADERO STATION, walk west on Market to First St. (crossing two streets). You'll see a bus shelter a short distance from the corner where you wait for either a No. 15 or 42 bus. Both stop at the corner of Brannan and 2nd Streets. Senior citizens pay \$.35 for the bus.

At the MONTGOMERY STREET station, walk to 2nd Street and go east about .8 of a mile.

Have you seen the Lockhorn cartoon in which Loretta, who is sitting at the computer, says to her husband, "You do come from Royalty, Leroy... I've traced your family back to King Kong?"

RESEARCHING ACROSS THE USA

ARKANSAS: Indexes to Arkansas Death records cover the following years: 1914-1923, 1934-1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946. The 1924-33 segment will be released in early 1997. Two locations have the index on microfiche: The Arkansas History Commission and the Genealogy Department of the Central Arkansas Library System's Main Branch in Little Rock. (CCC Diablo Descendants, Vol. 12, No. 1, Jan 1997.)

CALIFORNIA: California Cornish Cousins, an organization which began with a gathering in Grass Valley in 1992, is affiliated with the Cornish American Heritage Society. Their purpose is to stimulate interest in Cornish culture, to encourage information and social gatherings of the Cornish on a scheduled basis, and to share family history and genealogy. The next event will be in Grass Valley on May 16-18. For more information call or write: Maureen Roberts; Membership Chair; 5638 North Alpine Road; Stockton CA 95215. (209) 931-2722
<popojoe@deltainet.com>
(CCC Gen Soc Newsletter, Vol. 12, No. 2, February 1997.)

LOUISIANA: You may request free copies of *Louisiana Roots* from the editor Randy DeCuir. It is published bi-monthly and is full of information and queries. Request copies from Louisiana Roots, P.O. Box 383, Marks-ville, LA 71351. Advertisements and donations are accepted to cover publication costs.
(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 11, Nov 1996.)

MISSOURI: If you are searching for someone born in Missouri between 1805 and 1812, check Louisiana Records. During these years Missouri was part of the Louisiana Territory.
(Diablo Descendants, Vol. 12, No. 2, February 1997.)

MISSOURI: *Gone to Missouri, From Whence They Came - to Where and When* compiled by Marilyn Moore is a great genealogical reference book from the publishers of Missouri Pioneers. Listed alphabetically by surname,

this new book gives the state, county or country of birth, the Missouri county moved to and the year each arrived. Also listed is the Source of the Information which references the volume of *Missouri Pioneers*, *Missouri Miscellany*, etc. where further information can be found. Moore Technical Industries (MIT), Publications Division, P.O. Box 86, Bowling Green MO 63334, \$19.95 plus \$2.50 first & \$1.00 for each additional book.

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

VIRGINIA: Land patent information available from the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, VA 22153, which has computerized over a million patents dated from the late 1700's to 1908 for the states of Arkansas, Florida, Ohio, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi and Wisconsin. This information is available either by mail or on CD-ROM. Call 703-440-1600 for more information.
(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 12, Dec 1996.)

HELP SAVE ACCESS TO CALIFORNIA'S VITAL RECORDS

Iris Carter Jones, legislative coordinator of the California State Genealogical Alliance (CSGA), has asked for help in monitoring the State Legislature to make sure that it does not pass a bill sealing vital records. California remains one of the few states with open access to this valuable source of information.

"We need people willing to put their time and talents into preserving our rights to access public records and at the same time support reasonable efforts to protect people's individual rights," Ms. Jones states. If you can become a regular member of her team or are willing to volunteer on an emergency basis, contact your Regional Director (SUSAN SWINDELL 372-6996), your Alliance Representative (FRAN LLOYD 837-9382) or IRIS CARTER JONES at (916) 428-2246 or <ralphj@ix.netcom.com>

TIPS FOR FOREIGN RESEARCH



IRISH NAMES: Did you know that back in 1465, your Irish ancestors living in Dublin, Meath, Louth and Kildare counties were forced to take an English surname? Your ancestor had four choices in selecting this surname. He could choose the name of an English town - Sutton, Chester, Tryme, Kinsdale; a color - White, Black or Brown; an art or science - Carpenter, Smith; or an office - Cook or Butler. (CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 4, April 1996.)

IRELAND: *Indexes to Irish Wills*, edited by William P.W. Phillimore and Gertrude Thrift, is an alphabetical index of over 30,000 Diocesan wills proved in the Consistorial Courts of Ireland between 1536 and 1857, when the various ecclesiastical courts were abolished by Act of Parliament and superseded by the Probate Court. Arranged by Dioceses, and preceded by maps showing in which Dioceses the various Irish counties are situated, the indexes provide the name of the testator, his parish, county, and the date of probate.

Index to the Prerogative Wills of Ireland, 1536-1810 by sir Arthur Vicars contains 40,000 entries arranged alphabetically by the name of the testator, showing his rank, occupation or condition, his town and county of residence, and the year in which the estate was probated.

Both of these books can be ordered from Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897.

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

TRANSLATIONS: Do you need help with translations? The International Institute of Wisconsin, Inc. can offer translations in about 30 different languages including Polish, Czech, German, Croatian, Serbian, Russian, Ukrainian, Hungarian and Italian. The cost depends on the length of the document. Hours at the institute are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Contact Lorraine Pozayt of the Translation Department at 1110 North Old World Third Street, Milwaukee, WI 53203. Phone 1-414-225-6220. Please remember to include a SASE when writing. (Diablo Descendants, Vol. 11, No. 11, Nov 1996)

GERMANY: If your ancestor emigrated through the port of Hamburg he may have lived and worked in the city for up to six months while awaiting passage. The Hamburg Police Reports would record when he registered with the police upon arrival. These reports have been microfilmed and indexed by the Family History Library and are available at LDS Family History Centers across the country. (Odum Family Tree, Vol. VI, No. 6, Dec 1996, /Jan 1997.)

NORWEGIAN HELP OFFERED: The Norwegian American Historical Association offers help. Write for information on schedules, fees and services available 1510 St. Olaf Ave., Northfield, MN 55057. (Odum Family Tree, Vol. VII, No. 1, Feb/Mar 1996.)

SWEDISH HELP AVAILABLE: The Swedish-American Historical Society, 5125 N. Spaulding Ave., Chicago, IL 60675 offers help to those researching their Swedish roots. (Odum Family Tree, Vol. VII, No. 1, Feb/Mar 1996.)

SWISS RESEARCH AVAILABLE: Swiss research by trained volunteers is offered by the Immigrant Genealogical Society, PO Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91304-7369. They will consult the considerable resources of their library in search of information. Send SASE to IGS for research specifics and fees. (Odum Family Tree, Vol. VII, No. 1 Feb/Mar 1996.)



GENEALOGY ON THE INTERNET

FINDING YOUR ROOTS VIA CYBERSPACE: Genealogy can be enormously fascinating, but serious research has traditionally required a lot of legwork time and money. But the Internet makes it possible for just about anyone to research their family history from home, after work.

You are unlikely to find all you want to know about your family simply by searching the available materials on the Internet, since most of the documents required for accurate genealogical research are not online.

But one of the beauties of the Internet is that you often can find people who have already done the traditional work for you — and often they are willing to share what they've found.

"The Web has a tradition of sharing information and research, which melds perfectly with the traditions of genealogy," said William Yates, owner of Yates Publishing. "Once you plug in, you can find people who have already done a lot of the work. You don't have to reinvent the wheel if someone else has already researched your family."

Yates Montana company provides a free, searchable Web site called the "Computerized Ancestor," <www.montana.com/yates/> where users can type in a family name and get listing with basic information about thousands of individuals who have been researched by genealogists.

Some quick ways to try to find kinfolk involve the use of online phone directories like switchboard: <www.switchboard.com> or Bigfoot <www.bigfoot.com>. These directories are basically like the white pages of a telephone book. And while fun, they are not necessarily the best way to find relatives, especially if they have a common last name.

A much better approach is one of the major genealogical sites such as the *Computerized Ancestor*, the similar *Gendex* <www.gendex.com> or *Roots Web* <www.rootsweb.com>

Like many kinds of research on the

world wide Web, starting genealogical searches on Web sites like these can be exhilarating, tantalizing, and frustrating at the same time.

(San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 22, 1997, page 1.)

IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY web site:

<<http://www.rootsweb.com/irish/index.html>>

(San Mateo Co Gen Soc News, Vol.15, Issue 2, February 1997.)

(The following URL's are from the "Genealogy on the Web," Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 42, Issue 2, February 1997.)

RHODE ISLAND FAMILIES ASSOCIATION, publisher of the Rhode Island Register and the Rhode Island Vital Records, New Series
<<http://www.erols.com/rigr>>

OREGON STATE ARCHIVES

<<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/>>

THE IRISH ANCESTRAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (TIARA) has added a new page to its web site for Irish books, libraries, newspapers and periodicals online <<http://world.std.com/~ahern/books.html>>

ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL GROUP WEB SITE:

<<http://www.italiangen.org>>

DANISH RESEARCH <[http://www.](http://www.cybercity.dk/users/cccl3656/uk/archives/archives.html)

[cybercity.dk/users/cccl3656/uk/archives/archives.html](http://www.cybercity.dk/users/cccl3656/uk/archives/archives.html)>

NEW YORK: You may order 5 microfilm reels at a time from the New York Library through your local public library or college for a minimal charge. The Interlibrary Loan staff will help you locate what you want to order, or you may view a list of the holdings on the Web at <<http://nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/>> There may or may not be a small charge which your library adds on. (SNCGS News, Vol. 15-3, March 1997.)

PROPOSED LIBRARY CHANGES TO SHAKE UP SYSTEM! DO YOU APPROVE?

Editor's Note: The following is a condensation of an article by Helen Pearlstein, President/Editor of *The Friendly News*, a newsletter published by the Friends of the Danville Library. It appeared in the February/March 1997 edition of the newsletter. I have tried to incorporate the major issues and the arguments for both sides of the problem but have omitted local references and editorial comments.

A major change in the governance of our county library has been proposed in an effort to solve some of the inequities in the present system.

The problem comes down to funding and governance. When the State of California cut the county's funding in 1992 and 1993, the county cut library funding. Consequently all of the libraries with the exception of Central Library at Pleasant Hill were reduced to 29 hours of service per week. The county said to the cities that if they wanted more hours of library service, they would have to provide the money. Ten of the 17 cities in the county have responded in some form. Now since the cities are contributing to the library, they want a role in how service is provided. The county had hopes that the 1994 ballot measure for a \$15 parcel tax to restore funding would take care of the problem, but it failed.

The solution would be to divide Contra Costa County into five sub-regions. A Library Commission composed of one member from each region and one member from the county would be established by ordinance as the governing body for the library system. The Commission would be advised by a Technical Committee comprised of one city manager from each region and the County Administrator. Regional Library Boards, comprised of one member from each member jurisdiction and one at-large member appointed by the county supervisor in whose district the region falls, would be established and would make service decisions for their region.

The role of the Pleasant Hill Library would be significantly modified. Hours would be decreased to

the 29 per week accorded the other libraries in the system. The 800 information number would be retained as well as cataloging and automated technical support.

The reorganization of the reference services and drastic economies at the Central Library are necessary so that the money saved by these measures can be distributed to the branches that over the years have paid taxes on which the cities now feel was an unfair return. The return to source issue is being tackled from another standpoint also. The growth part of a region's tax base would be returned to the region.

• Point: The real problem is that there isn't enough money to fund a decent library system for the whole county. This plan does nothing to find more funding. Counterpoint. It keeps the system together. Concord threatened to leave the system if its return to source problems were not addressed.

• Point: The disbursal of the Central Library reference resources is ridiculous. A centralized reference collection and the staffing expertise that goes with it is economical and sufficient. Counterpoint: Many counties in southern California have regional reference sources rather than a central one. Point: That's because Los Angeles is so spread out. Counterpoint: Contra Costa is becoming more and more congested and people don't want to travel long distances to get reference materials.

• Point: The regional boards add unnecessary layers of bureaucracies. Counterpoint: Not ideal but at least you have local input with regional (Continued on page 69.)

(Continued from page 68.)

boards saying how local tax money

should be spent, and the Library Commissioner's recommendation is that funding for those boards come from cities not the library budget.

As you can see, this is a complicated issue. There is no solution that is going to please everyone.

THE IRS AS A LOCATOR? IT'S TRUE: When we think of the IRS, we automatically think of the Internal Revenue Service — federal and state income taxes, our responsibility in meeting the terms and deadlines for reporting our earnings, and then sending in our payments to the correct government office. Are you aware that same Internal Revenue Service, through its Disclosure Office, could assist you in locating someone? The District's Office can give you assistance per IRM 1272 (11)(14), the Internal Revenue Service's policy that allows its personnel to forward certain letters for "humane purpose."

Two examples of this type of service are: (1) a person seeking to find a missing person to convey a message of an urgent nature such as serious illness, imminent death or the death of a close relative, or (2)

a person seeking to find a missing relative.

Write for the forms: Internal Revenue Service, Disclosure Office, Room 5202, 300 North Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles CA 90012. If your research trail includes a missing relative, and you have tried every idea you can think of in locating your relative, consider using the IRS Disclosure Office. The IRS will provide the date of the last return of an individual, which includes the address to which the return was sent. You will need the subject's full name and Social Security number. We do have the privilege of using the Freedom of Information Act to aid us in opening records of importance to us.

(Odom Family Tree, Vol. VI, No. 6, December 1996/January

INEXPENSIVE ACID FREE PAPER: 20# Hammermill CopyPlus and Fore DP copy papers are acid free. You can buy CopyPlus in case quantities (10 reams or 5000 sheets) for about \$26 per case at Office Depot or Staples. That works out to about 0.5 cents per sheet. Staples also sells it in ream quantities for \$3.09. The Fore DP 20# paper costs \$5.59 per ream.

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



PENNSYLVANIA
Cradle of a Nation
— NGS • GSP —

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7-10 May 1997

National Genealogical Society Conference in the States

Local Host Society
The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

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- ☆ Meet local and national experts
- ☆ Discover ways to achieve research goals
- ☆ Learn how to travel the Information Superhighway
- ☆ Try new genealogical software
- ☆ Find new products in the Exhibits Hall
- ☆ Talk with fellow genealogists

Write for: NGS '97 Conference Registration Brochure, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399
Tel. (703) 525-0050 or Fax (703) 525-0052

1890 CENSUS FRAGMENTS? Issued quarterly by the National Archives and Records Management, *Prologue* recently reported that as recent as 1953 the Archives had found additional sets of fragments of the 1890 census. These sets of existing fragments are from the District of Columbia, Texas, South Dakota, Ohio, North Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Minnesota, Illinois, Georgia and Alabama and have been microfilmed as National Archives Microfilm publication M407 - 3 rolls. An index is on M496 - 2 rolls. The *Prologue* article states that before disregarding this census, researchers should always verify that the schedules they seek did not survive. There are about 6,100 names indexed on the surviving 1890 population schedules. Are these your ancestors?
(Odom Family Tree, Vol. VI, No. 4, Aug/Sept 1996.)

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The following is reprinted at the request of a Society member.



OUR COUNTRY'S ROOTS?

There were Scots who kept the Sabbath
And everything else they could lay their hands on.
There were Welsh who prayed on their knees
And their neighbours.
Thirdly, there were the Irish who never knew what they wanted
But were willing to fight for it anyway.
Lastly, there were the English who considered themselves a
self-made nation,
Thus relieving the Almighty of a dreadful responsibility.

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