

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-8305

President: Shirley Siems Terry
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. XIII, No. 6

January 1998



THIS MONTH

January 20, 1998

Robert DaRoza, Patty Erickson, Denise Schoo, Lee Garrison, and
Manny Lindner will share INTERESTING RESEARCH STORIES.

LAST MONTH

Reported by Louise Ford

David Abrahams, president of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society and Regional Director of CSGA, spoke on immigration records, describing what is available from the Immigration and Naturalization Service and how to access the information.

Beginning with the Immigration Act of August 3, 1882, the first national immigration law, Mr. Abrahams cited subsequent laws such as: the 1882 Chinese exclusion law (repealed in 1943); the national contract labor laws (1885 and 1887) that were enacted in response to the flood of cheap foreign labor; and the 1868 law which specifically affected Chinese from Canton, permitting deportation of contract laborers within one year after entry. The 1891 Immigration Act created the Office of Immigration. This act is noteworthy for genealogists as one of its provisions required vessels to provide passenger lists. An 1894 law increased the head tax to \$1.00. In February 1903 Congress transferred immigration work to the new Department of Commerce and Labor. In 1906 Congress passed the Naturalization Act, which framed the basic rule for naturalization and renamed the Bureau

of Immigration the Immigration Naturalization Service —the INS. This marked the beginning of standardized forms in triplicate and required applicants to be able to speak English and to sign a petition in their own handwriting.

Mr. Abrahams pointed out that after September 27, 1906, anyone entering the U. S. legally will have their records on file with the INS. These include passenger manifests, visas, naturalization files, identification cards, registry files, and alien registration records.

Passenger manifests can be very rewarding for the genealogist as they may show a passenger's name, age, occupation, nationality, place of birth, visa number (after 1924), name and address of a relative in the "Old Country," and final destination. Manifests from 1892-1947 are on microfilm at the National Archives, Washington, DC, and some of its branches. Consult the National Archives catalog for the microfilm index (also available on the Internet at <http://www.nara>) or the Norton Allen Ship Directory for ship arrival dates.

Visas, a product of the Quota Act of 1921, can
(Continued on page 43.)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY

SRVGS EVENTS

- 20 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. SRVGS regular meeting, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Five members will share their GENEALOGICAL BREAKTHROUGHS.
- 22 THURSDAY - Membership class on libraries, archives and genealogical societies. For more information, see page 44.
- 27 TUESDAY - 9:30 a.m. trip to the Oakland Main Library. **Note change of time.** Details on page 44.

OTHER EVENTS

- 13 TUESDAY - 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador Gen. Soc. regular monthly meeting at Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore.
- 22 THURSDAY - 7:30 p.m. Sonoma School, 543 Sonoma Ave., the Livermore-Amador GEORGE and HARRIET ANDERSON will discuss GEDCOM files and utilities. Non-members are welcome.

FEBRUARY



SRVGS EVENTS

- 3 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. Board meeting at Fran Lloyd's, 202 Town & Country, Danville. All members welcome.
- 17 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting at 7777 Norris Canyon Road, SHIRLEY RIEMER on GERMAN RESEARCH.
- 24 TUESDAY - 9:00 p.m. Library Trip to Sutro Library.

OTHER EVENTS

- 10 TUESDAY - 7:30 Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, Congregation Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave., Livermore.
- 12 THURSDAY - 7:30 p.m., Contra Costa County Gen. Soc.. 3700 Concord Blvd. Concord. Show and Tell WHERE YOUR ANCESTORS WERE A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
- 28 SATURDAY 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. San Mateo Co. Genealogical Society presents GEORGE SCHWEITZER in an all-day seminar. Details below.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Shirley S Terry 829-1433
 Vice Pres.: Carol Glover 829-7207
 Membership: Patty Erickson 229-0889
 10 Ridge Pl.
 Pleasant Hill CA 9452-1609

Annual dues:

Individual \$15
 Family \$20

Membership year: June 1 to May 31

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Betty Vail 283-3596
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This newsletter is published each month except August and December.

SAN MATEO SEMINAR: From 9-4 at the SamTans Building, 1250 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos, CA. DR. GEORGE K SCHWEITZER will speak on Revolutionary War Genealogy, Obscure Genealogical Sources and Virginia Genealogical Research. \$25 pre-registered by February 21; \$27.00 at door. Mail check to: SMCSS Schweitzer Seminar, 1944 Parrott Drive, San Mateo, CA 94402.

CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CENTENNIAL: On Friday, March 27, 1998, from noon-8 and Saturday, March 28, 1998 9-5, CGS will be holding its 1998 Family History Fair at the Concourse Exhibition Center at the corner of Eight and Brannan Streets, San Francisco, CA. For information call CGS (415) 777-9936 on Thursday and Saturday 9-4 or Friday 11-6.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SOUTHERN - Meets 2nd Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Next meeting February 10. Place to be announced.
Call Frances Becker (934-4962) for information.

IRISH - Meets 2nd Wednesday 10:00 a.m. at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill. (229-0889)
Next meeting February 14.

CALIFORNIA - Meets with the Irish group.

MAC COMPUTER - Meets 3rd Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Next meeting February 18. Place to be announced. Call Barbara Dittig (648-9364) for information.

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

ROOTS USERS - Learning to use Palladium Ultimate Family Tree, will meet in Room AB, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, Tuesday following the general meeting.

INTERNET - Interested members should contact Robert DaRoza by e-mail at vrदारोza@ix.netcom.com to be added to the SRVGS list.

(LAST MONTH Continued from page 41)
provide basic and background information for researchers of immigrants. Certified copies of birth certificates, marriage certificates, military records, and even police records may still be attached to some visas. To obtain these attachments the family must be able to convince the INS that they are entitled to these records. Visa records are not considered to be permanent records and their destruction is scheduled to begin in the year 2027.

A Naturalization file contains a Declaration of Intention, a Petition for Naturalization, a Certificate of Arrival, etc., all having the same immigrant number. Originals are usually in the applicant's local courthouse with the official copy filed with the INS in Washington, DC. Prior to 1922 a woman's nationality was determined by her husband's nationality. Mr. Abraham emphasized that the naturalization records created prior to 1956 are scheduled for destruction beginning in 2030. Only the index is to be retained. Destruction of records created after 1956 is scheduled to begin in 2019.

Identification Cards are another source of information; Border Crossing cards are especially helpful. The National Archives has Canadian Records for 1895-1954. The LDS Family History Center has microfilms of records for 1895-1949 and a Soundex index of 1895-1924.

The Registry Act, passed in March 1929 and amended in 1940, applied to those who did not have arrival records and who arrived before 3 June 1921. It is important to note that Certificates of Registry are not considered to be permanent records; their destruction is scheduled to begin in 2020.

Alien registration began June, 1940, and was in effect through 1952. Registration forms

include full name and any aliases used, first date of arrival in the U.S. and other useful information. Today these are known as "green cards."

Accessing 20th century immigration records is possible under the Freedom of Information Act. Form C-639 is available from the INS, but Mr. Abraham recommends sending a letter giving a person's full name, any alternate spelling, date and place of birth, and any other information (port of entry, naturalization date, certificate number, etc.). He stressed that providing any kind of document number is very important as many records are cross-referenced by number. For information on family members who arrived before 1960 request **MANUAL SEARCH OF THE MICROFILM INDEX**. Ask for records pertaining to the person and the "family of" that person. If a person arrived after 1921, specifically ask for a search for a Visa file. When writing the INS for records of a deceased person, a proof of death must be provided. If the person is still living, a letter from that person is required. If a Visa file is found with original attachments, ask to be provided with the current form to complete so the attachments may be returned to the family. For persons who arrived after 1960 a computer research can be requested. Write INS; Freedom of information Act 425 Eye Street NW, Room 5304; Washington, DC 20536. Requests may be made through the INS District Office serving the area where you live; be sure to include "attention FOIA/PA" in the address.

The Archivist of the U.S. has recently established a task force to investigate immigration records to establish what should be kept. To express your concerns both as an individual and as a member of the society, write Mr. John Carlin; The Archivist of the United States, 7th & Pennsylvania Ave. NW; Washington DC 20408.



SRVGS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January brings the beginning of a new year and renewed hope for finding those elusive ancestors. Tradition suggests we begin a new year by making resolutions. Don't make your list too long. How about one resolution per month.

I hope your holidays were as full and family-oriented as ours. We did miss being with our only two grandchildren. Instead Wayne and I drove to Salmen, Oregon, to help my mother celebrate her 80th birthday and my folks' 60th anniversary on the 27th. We spent Christmas Eve with some of my husband's family and our youngest daughter and new son-in-law.

Good News! We don't need to worry about losing our meeting place or time — for awhile anyway. I'd like to thank Pat Isom for her time and trouble in getting us a back-up site (at the Alamo LDS) after we learned of the sale of the Rehab Hospital. It certainly doesn't hurt to be prepared, so if anyone else knows of a meeting room big enough for our membership with adequate parking, please check it out and give the contact information to me or another officer.

Mark your new calendar for the third Tuesday of every month (except August and December) for our ten o'clock regular meeting. We promise some interesting speakers. If you're new to the group, I invite you to join those going to lunch after the meeting. I also suggest you attend our classes, special interest groups and library trips. It is much easier to get better acquainted in the smaller groups. Everyone is welcome (even those that aren't new.)

Shirley Siems Terry
shirley@tdl.com

JANUARY LIBRARY TRIP

This month we will visit the History and Newspaper rooms of the Oakland Public Library. We will meet in the back parking lot of the Lucky store on Diablo Road in Danville or in the upper parking lot of the Orchard Nursery in Lafayette at 9:30 a.m.. The library doesn't open until 10:00. There will be a \$4-5 parking fee for the day.



NEW ADDRESS

WANDA BRAKER has moved to 1090 Livorna Road, Alamo 94507.

TREASURER'S REPORT

FUND BALANCE (11/30/97)

General Fund	2,578.80
Hospitality Fund Balance	260.00
Publications	631.66
Special Projects Fund Balance	200.00
Tape Library Fund Balance	215.61
Library Fund: Gifts & Donations	1,526.49
	5,412.56

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

The next class will be held on Thursday, January 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of SHIRLEY TERRY, 301 Almond Court, San Ramon. Shirley will discuss libraries, archives, and genealogical societies. To reach her home go south on 680 to the Bollinger Canyon exit. Move quickly to the left lane. Turn left onto San Ramon Valley Road and left onto Pine Valley. Turn right on Broadmore to Almond Ct.



A THANK YOU NOTE

Toward the end of 1992, I invited 18 genealogical and lineage societies in the Bay Area to help CGS with the indexing of the 1890 San Francisco Register by going to the city one day a month to type information from a microfilm reader into a computer. Several of our members joined the volunteers working on the seemingly-endless task of entering data from 11 microfilms. SANDY ABERER, SHIRLEY THOMSON, SANDY KIMBALL, MARY JO HOSTENY, CINDRA WHEELER and BETTY VAIL came to San Francisco for computer input. MARIAN BONWEL, GINNA DENUES, THERON and LIZ NELSON, FRED POTTER, ALICE WADE and HELEN ROACH and worked as proofreaders. I would like to thank everyone who helped. — Jane Steiner

SWAN SONG

This has been the easiest newsletter I've edited and, ironically, will be my last. I thank you all for your patience with my frequent errors and misadventures with my computer. Denise Shoo, a wizard at the computer and a former editor of two newsletters, has agreed to take over for me. I know that the San Ramon Genealogical Society Newsletter will have a very professional look next month.
— Betty Vail

ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCHERS

- *I will be courteous to research facility personnel.*
- I will do my homework and know what is available, and what I want.
- I will dress appropriately for the records office that I am visiting.
- I will not take small children into repositories and research facilities.
- I will not approach the facility asking for "everything" on my ancestors.
- I will not expect the records custodians to listen to my family history.
- I will respect the records custodian's other daily tasks, and not expect constant or immediate attention.
- I will be courteous to other researchers and work with only a few records or books at a time.
- I will keep my voice low when conversing with others.
- I will use only designated areas for my workspace.
- I will not go into off-limit areas without permission.
- I will request permission before using photocopy and microforms machines and ask for assistance if needed.
- I will treat records with care and respect.
- I will not mutilate, rearrange, or remove from its proper custodian any printed original, microform, or electronic record.
- I will not force spines on books or handle roughly any original documents/
- I will not use my fingertip or a pencil to follow the line of print on original materials.
- I will not write on records or books.
- I will replace volumes in their proper location and return files to the appropriate places.
- I will not leave without thanking the records custodians for their courtesy in making the materials available.
- *I will follow the rules of the records repository without protest.*

These codes were compiled by Joy Reisinger, Certified Genealogical Records Specialist. Some points were adopted from the codes of the Board of Certification of Genealogists and the Association of Professional Genealogist. (Santa Clara Co. Genealogical & Historical Society Newsletter, No. 42, Issue 9, October 1997.)



REVIEWS

Dorothy Stanton

- FROM the SRVGS TAPE LIBRARY: Recommended listening C-159 "National Archives Finding Aids" by Craig Roberts Scott (NSG Conference)

If you plan to visit the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and spend your time looking at microfilms, you are wasting your time and money, says Mr. Scott. You can do that at Regional Archives and libraries. What you want to do in Washington is to put your hands on some of the paper document collections that have never been microfilmed. You can do this in Central Reference Room #203. He suggests that the approach you must take: ask yourself what relationship exists between your ancestor and the Federal government, what agency had oversight and is the current custodian. He then tells how to use the Finding Aids to locate the record groups you need. He guarantees that by following his suggestions, your family tree will have "fleshed out" individuals — not skeletons with just a name and dates.

- FROM THE SRVGS LIBRARY COLLECTION (Danville Reference Shelves) R2929.3 THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS A Guide to Genealogical & Historical Research by James C. Neagles, assisted by Mark C. Neagles. Ancestry Publishing, 1990.

The Library of Congress can be overwhelming. It comprises three buildings which hold a multitude of information from all over the world. There's far more for the researcher than just the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room. Mr. Neagles' book is an access tool to help you make good use of your time when visiting the Library. Described as a "straightforward and informal description of genealogical resources and how to locate them, the book is divided into three parts: I — The Library, Its Resources & How to Use the Specialized Reading Room; II — Categories of Research, e.g., records showing local history, residence, military & pioneer history, immigrants, etc.; III — Key Source Material (by regions) which lists 2700 titles with call numbers. The authors give simplified instructions on how to use the card and computer catalog.

RESEARCH TIPS



CALIFORNIA: The California Information File, a must for researching early California, contains 1.4 million citations to information in California periodicals, newspapers, manuscript collections, vertical file collection, county histories, government documents, biographical encyclopedia and special biographical files. Material dates from 1840 through April 1986. The references are available at the EBGs Library which shares space with the Mayflower library in the basement of the Financial Bldg, 14th & Franklin streets, Oakland, at CGS Library in San Francisco, at the California State Library and many local libraries. (The Live Oak, Vol. XVII, No. 4, Nov/Dec 1997.)



CONFEDERATE VETERANS: The National Archives DOES NOT have pension files for the Confederate soldiers. Pensions were granted to Confederate veterans and their widows and minor children by the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. (CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 9, September 1997.)

CENSUS: The Census Bureau will assist researchers in obtaining census records from the 1930-1990 Federal returns for any person for whom you can supply proof of death. "Age Search" will, for \$25 a search any two census records. The search is limited to the person for whom you are requesting information, but you may ask for other family members to be included for a \$2 per person fee. The basic fee includes an official document stating the person's name, age, place of birth, citizenship and relationship to the head of the household. Form BC-600, which is required, may be obtained from any local Social Security office or by writing: Bureau of the Census, "AGE SEARCH", P. O. Box 1545, Jeffersonville, IN 47111.



(The Live Oak, Vol. XVII, No. 4, Nov/Dec 1997 via CSGA Newsletter, June 1957.)

PUBLISHING: Genealogical Publishing Co, is making a special offer to authors and publishers of family histories. Free listing will be available in their forthcoming Family History Vol. Supplement which will come out in the fall of 1998. Those who wish to have their book included

should send their information by March 31, 1998, to Marian Hoffman, G&LHBIP, c/o Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc, 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202.

PERSI: The Periodical Source Index is the largest and most widely used index of genealogical and historical periodicals in the world. Created by Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, PERSI is available on CD-ROM from Ancestry for \$99.95. With it you can research more than 5,000 different periodical titles, browse through over 1 million index entries and instantly search for information by surname, locality, date, title, etc. For more information write Ancestry, Box 990, Orem, UT 84059.

HOW TO CITE A CD AS A SOURCE

Include all of the following information on your notes. (You can find the first three items on the CD or on the card inside the plastic CD case.)

- (1) CD number
- (2) Volume number (if any)
- (3) Title of the CD — this will typically include the type of record, the state(s) covered, and the years included
- (4) Date of CD publication.
- (5) Page number (if applicable)
- (6) Record number (if applicable)
- (7) The copyright symbol, followed by the year of CD publication and the name of the company. Here's an example of a citation you might use if you found information on Broderbund Software, Family Archives #2.

Family Archive CD#2, Marriage Index: IL,IN, KY,OH,TN,1720-1926,Du Page County,IL(1826 to 1877),September 1994 Edition,Page 20,Record 50 • 1994 Broderbund Software Inc.
(From the San Mateo Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 15, Issue 9, October 1997.)

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GENEALOGIST STEW



Take 1 Curious Beginner
Add 1 Age Discrepancy
1 Unreadable Microfiche
1 Census Record written in "disappearing ink"

Fold in 1 ton of correspondence
Simmer while waiting answers
(Mt. Diablo Digger, November 1997.)



INTERNET CONNECTION

by Denise Schoo

Using the Internet is a powerful way to get access to information from around the world. The Internet is made up of thousands of computer databases which are linked together. The goal of this page is to assist all of our members in their research efforts. The Net is constantly changing therefore not everything described here will work well or all the time as sites close, and files and addresses change. If you would like me to send you an e-mail with these addresses hyperlinked for your convenience just e-mail me: NiseyS@AOL.com

Hillsborough County's Marriage Records

The University of South Florida Library has put some of Hillsborough County's marriage records on-line. The records are available for January 4, 1878 - May 11, 1884. The index can be accessed alphabetically by the last name of the groom, bride, or officiator, and by year of the marriage. Each entry points to the scanned image of the actual license.

<http://www.lib.usf.edu/spccoll/guide/m/ml/guide.html>

Northern New England Genealogy Chat Room

Interested in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts? This internet chat room was established by Northern New England Genealogy Newsletter for those doing research in this area.

<http://members.aol.com/mearchives/MaineChat.html>

The Orphan Trains of Kansas

In 1854, the city of New York began sending orphans by trains west to new families. The trains arrived in Kansas between 1867 and 1930, 5000-6000 children were placed in homes.

<http://kuhttp.cc.ukans.edu/carrie/kancoll/articles/orphans/>

The Dead Persons Society (DPS), Australia

Society for the advancement of genealogical and family history research through the use of the electronic mediums.

<http://www.pcug.org.au/~chowell/dpshome.htm>

United Kingdom Births Deaths & Marriages Exchange

A resource for genealogists to share information about details contained on birth, death or marriage certificates registered in the UK

<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/graham.pitt/bdm/>

Texas State Library Confederate Pension Records

Enter the surname and county (if known) the search engine will return the results. Pension records can be ordered on-line. I did this and received the records in two weeks with a bill for \$1.87!

<http://link.tsl.state.tx.us/c/compt/pension.html>

CCHelper Central Search for a Surname

A surname searchable database of queries and surname registrations posted on various genealogy sites.

<http://www.rufus.wright.edu/~plindsay/srchall.html>

Baptisms at the Reformed Dutch Church of New Amsterdam

These are the files of the baptisms at the Reformed Dutch Church of New Amsterdam for the years 1639 - 1730.

<http://www.altlaw.com/edball/dutchbap.htm>

U.S. Army Center of Military History

Full listing of Medal of Honor Citations for all branches of the service since the decoration's creation in 1861.

<http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/moh1.htm>



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

I CAN'T REMEMBER

Just a line to say I'm living, that I'm not among the dead,
Tho I'm getting more forgetful, and mixed up in the head.
I've gotten used to my arthritis; to my dentures I'm resigned.
I can manage my bi-focals, but God I miss my mind.
For sometimes I can't remember, when I stand at the foot of the stairs,
If I must go up for something, or have I just come down from there.
And before the fridge, so often, my poor mind is filled with doubt,
Have I just put food away, or have I come to take some out?
And there's a time when it is dark, with my nightcap on my head,
I don't know if I'm retiring or just getting out of bed.
So, if it's my turn to write you, there's no need for getting sore.
I may think that I have written, and don't want to be a bore.
So remember that I love you and wish that you were near,
But now that it's nearly mail time. I must say good-bye, dear.
And there I stand beside the mail box with a face so very sad.
Instead of mailing you my letter, I have opened it instead.

— Author unknown

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FIRST CLASS MAIL