

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Vol. I

October 1985

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Thursday, 10 October - Contra Costa County Genealogical Society
7:30 p.m., Concord City Council Chambers,
Speaker: Sharon Hunt, library assistant at
LDS Library, "Secondary Sources".
- Monday, 14 October - Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society
7:30 p.m., Hacienda Business Park Community
Room, Pleasanton. Speaker Bill Wolcott on
"John and Mary" descendants' trip to England.
- Tuesday, 15 October - SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
10:00 a.m., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church,
1550 Diablo Road, Danville. Program:
"Show and Share".
- Tuesday, 22 October - SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Special tour of the Pleasant Hill branch of
the Contra Costa County Library from 9 to 10 a.m.
"Introduction to Resources of the Heritage
Collection" which is the genealogical section
of the library. Learn about special collections
in the vault and reference materials that have
genealogical interest. Meet at the front door
of the library at 9 a.m. 1750 Oak Park Blvd.,
Pleasant Hill.
- Saturday, 26 October - Contra Costa County Genealogical Society Seminar,
Contra Costa County Water District Center, 1331
Concord Avenue, Concord, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
"Tracing Your Heritage" with census records,
immigration lists, naturalization records and
military records by Lavonna Ness. Registration
at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$5.00
- Monday, 11 November - Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society
7:30 p.m., Hacienda Business Park Community
Room, Pleasanton. Speaker on the Civil War.

CONTEST

Logo, letterhead and a name for our newsletter contest has been
extended to November 19.

CLASSES

Beginning and intermediate classes start October 23. Have your check
for \$30 in to Bette Kot by October 18.

TAPE LIBRARY

Fred Potter is our tape librarian. Tapes will be "rented" out for
one month at a charge of \$1.00 each. Rental fees will be put toward the
purchase of more tapes.

PROPOSED 1985-1986 BUDGET

Revenue

Current memberships

49 @ \$10.00 \$ 490.00

4 @ \$15.00 60.00

Growth

20 @ \$10.00 200.00

Total Revenue

\$750.00

Expenses

Newsletter \$ 360.00

Rent 180.00

Speakers 100.00

Refreshments 25.00

Members badges, tags, cards, etc. 50.00

Membership in California Genealogical Alliance 15.00

Mailbox rental 5.00

Miscellaneous 15.00

Total Expenses

\$750.00

Excess of revenue over expenses -0-

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our program chairman, Dorothy Stanton, has planned a "Show and Tell" for the first part of our program. Bring or tell of genealogical highlights of your vacation or recent research (two minute limit, please). Being such a new group, we can all benefit by occasions when we can interact and become better acquainted. This program should be a good opportunity to do so.

Part two - we each have an area of the United States of special interest. Perhaps we have done research there, have some resource materials we can share, or tips to pass on to others who are less familiar with the area. Perhaps we have questions to ask of the assigned resource person. North, South, East, West, or Central States-we'll try to cover the ones that interest you. Don't forget to put your name on any resource material you bring. See you there!

Jean Blackmur

THE JOINER by Mary-Ella Jones Parrott, Joiner

THE HEREDITY ORDER OF DESCENDANTS OF THE LOYALISTS AND PATRIOTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION is a fairly recent organization (1973). On the eve of the American Revolution only one third of the colonists were Patriots, the other two thirds active Tories or Loyalists or were neutral. Thus, two thirds of our forebears were involved in a "lost" cause which would be a pity to fail to understand and appreciate as a real part of our heritage. The requirements are a bit complicated: the applicant must be a lineal or colateral descendant of someone who from 1775 to 1783 were loyal to the Crown of Great Britain. In addition, the applicant must be a member in good standing of another organization requiring proof of descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution.

Best Genealogical Libraries in the U.S. according to Ray Siemers (our September speaker):

- | | | |
|--------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. LDS | 2. National Archives | 3. Library of Congress |
| 4. DAR | 5. Sutro | |

HERE AND THERE

- NEW YORK - "Bibliographies and Lists of New York State Newspapers: an Annotated Guide", 79p, 1981, \$3.00
"Cartographic Resources and Services of the New York State Library", 7p, free
"A Guide to Dutch Manuscripts Related to New Netherland in United States Repositories", 138p, 1978, \$4.00
"New York State Census Records, 1790-1925", 64p, 1981 \$3.00.
"Gateway to America -Genealogical Research in the New York State Library", 46p, 1982, \$3.00
- To order copies send check or money order payable to the New York State Library to: Gift and Exchange, New York State Library, Cultural Education Center, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12230
- POCAHONTAS - Anyone interested in decendants of Pocahontas - I have limited information of Rolfe, Bolling, Kennon, Blair, Fleming, Randolph, Eldridge and related families.
Eula Sale, 7910 Diana Lane, Dublin, CA 94568; 828-3739
- IRELAND - "The All-Ireland Heritage", a journal of genealogical and historical research (published three times a year) can be ordered by writing to the All-Ireland Heritage, 2255 Cedar Lane, Vienna, VA 22180. \$18 for one year, \$33 for two.
- OHIO - Mortality Census Schedules are on microfilm at the State library of Ohio for 1850 (counties H-W), 1860 (all counties), and 1880 (counties A-Geauga). These are the only surviving schedules for Ohio. Not indexed.
Land Entry Records for original Ohio Land Entries are in the Auditor of State's Office.
Deed Records for land transactions are kept by the Recorder of Deeds in each county.
Military Records of all servicemen who enlisted from Ohio since WWI and all National Guardsmen (since 1903) are located in the Soldiers Claim Division, Office of the Adjutant General. Ohio did not grant state pensions.
Divorce Records are maintained by the Court of Common Pleas in each county. Prior to 1851, the State Supreme Court had jurisdiction, but petitions were filed in the county court.
(Ohio Historical Society)
- GREAT BRITAIN- "Family Tree" magazine contains 35 pages of historical articles about Great Britain, Scotland, and Wales, "how to" research information, book reviews, family associations, letters and pictures. Single copies available at \$2. One year subscription (6 issues) is \$12. Family Tree Magazine, 1062 N. Buhach Road, Merced, CA 95340.
- CONTRA COSTA COUNTY - New microfilm at the Pleasant Hill Library:
C979.463Hist - "History of Contra Costa County and Biographical Sketches".
VCA929.3794.6- "Obituaries, Alameda-Contra Costa Counties, 1976".
VC929.37936 - "Great Register of Voters, Contra Costa County, 1867-1890".
(Diablo Descendants)

Books, magazines, subscriptions are listed for your information only. We do not review or recommend.

SURNAMES

- The twenty most common surnames in the U.S. are: Anderson, Brown, Clark, Davis, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Lewis, Martin, Miller, Moore, Smith, Taylor, Thomas, Walker, White, Williams, and Wilson.

In 1790 the most common surnames were: Adams, Allen, Baker, Brown, Clark, Davis, Green, Hall, Hill, Johnson, Jones, Miller, Moore, Reed, Smith, Taylor, Thompson, White, Williams, and Wilson.

(Fed. of Genealogical Societies & Livermore Roots Tracer)

Australians find their roots in prisons

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — As their nation's bicentennial approaches, Australians are searching their roots and many have found jailbirds among them.

Genealogy has become a fad as the country gears up for the 1988 celebrations to mark the arrival of the first European settlers, which included what is known as the First Fleet — 11 ships carrying 736 convicts from England.

A few years ago many Australians were ashamed to admit blood links to the First Fleet. Now, it's fashionable.

"People have only now begun to feel it is acceptable to admit they convict ancestors while before they did their darndest to get rid of the evidence," said a noted genealogist, Jan Worthington.

It is estimated that only 20 percent of the country's 16 million people can trace direct blood lines to the 167,000 criminals transported from 1788 to 1868 for crimes ranging from highway robbery to sheep rustling.

Australia, two centuries later, is a multi-racial society.

Although slow to arrive, free settlers came in droves in the 1830s, driven across the world by social upheavals in a Britain becoming industrialized, or in the case of the Irish by the desperate need to escape the ravages of the potato famine.

They were followed by German Lutherans seeking religious freedom. The gold rush years of the 1850s signalled another massive influx of people and post-World War II immigration policies brought 3.35 million more, many once again from Britain.

More recently, Australia has accepted tens of thousands of refugees — Vietnamese, Ethiopians and So-

viet Jews. It is estimated 20 percent of the present population was born overseas.

"As a nation we have an identity crisis," said Nick Vine Hall, director of the Society of Australian Genealogists.

"Our increasing awareness and appreciation of family history stems from a need to feel more Australian, to relate more directly and personally to our past, to experience a sense of belonging," said Hall, who traced his family tree to the British explorer credited with discovering Australia, Capt. James Cook.

Since he became the society's director in 1978, membership has grown from 1,500 to 11,000. By 1988 the figure is expected to double.

Its staff of 300 volunteers receive hundreds of letters a day from people wanting authentic, well-documented pedigrees. The society says it can help almost any ethnic group, even aborigines whose 70,000-year history is mostly unrecorded and steeped in legend.

"We get Germans, Italians, Chinese — even Koreans," genealogist Worthington said in an interview. "Everybody is getting in on the act. After all, they're now part of Australia."

"People's interest in the past developed very late because we were told at school we didn't have any history."

Another factor in the scramble to find convict blood was the showing of "Roots," the American television series based on Alex Haley's search for his African ancestors.

"It got a lot of people thinking about themselves and their origins," Ms. Worthington said.

She added that many Australians are surprised to discover a shared heritage with Americans.

San Ramon Herald, September 26, 1985
submitted by Jean Blackmur

FROM THE PAST

How would you like to have a letter written by an ancestor telling about their feelings and reactions when they heard the news that President Lincoln had been assassinated? Have you written down your feelings and reactions when you heard about President Kennedy's assassination? Do it now — your descendants will treasure it.