

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Editor: Marilyn Fullam
6933 Prince Drive
Dublin, CA 94568
(415) 828-1873

Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- Thursday, 12 November - Contra Costa County Genealogical Society
7:30 p.m., Concord City Council Chambers,
Speaker: Bette Kot on "Indexes".
- Saturday, 16 November - California Alliance Indexing Project
1:30 p.m., Contra Costa County Water District
Center, 1331 Concord Avenue, Concord. A special
hour and a half program on the project with a
question and answer session.
- Tuesday, 19 November - SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
10:00 a.m., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church,
1550 Diablo Road, Danville. Speaker: Bill
Wolcott on "The 'John and Mary' Descendants'
Trip to England-Summer of 1985".
- Tuesday, 28 January - SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY trip
to National Archives in San Bruno. Rosemary
Kennedy, staff member, will be on hand for
questions. More in January newsletter.

CONTEST

Logo, letterhead and a name for our newsletter enteries are due at
our November meeting.

MEETING TIME

Our meetings start at 10:00 a.m. Come ahead of time to socialize,
check bulletin board, etc., Our November speaker, Bill Wolcott, will
begin at 10:00 a.m. and the "business" meeting will follow.

DECEMBER MEETING

There will be no meeting in December.

There will be no newsletter in December.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the holiday season approaches we can anticipate seeing relatives
and exchanging family news. These occasions offer wonderful opportunities
for obtaining data and enlarging our information files.

Those newsletters and pictures exchanged during the holidays
probably need additional notations. Before filing, identify people
pictured or mentioned and add their probable ages and the current date.
Years from now you'll be glad you did.

Perhaps you have neglected correspondence with some elderly relatives
or far-away cousins - all possible sources for valuable family information.
What better time to renew your contact as well as make them happy to hear
from you!

Think of how you spend your holidays. Do you have adopted traditions or have you created your own? From whom and where have the traditions come? Most of us are too busy to maintain a daily journal (although it is a good idea), but for some occasions of the year such as relatives' weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc., your descriptions might be of considerable interest some day. Try to take the time to write down your accounts of special times, - and don't hesitate to personalize them with your own feelings and observations.

Besides the written account, video taping is one of the newest ways of recording events for home viewing on the TV set. The action, - live, in color, and with audio offers marvelous opportunities for capturing on tape precious family moments, conversations, remarks about heirlooms, favorite stories, interior and exterior views of the house, yard, and neighborhood, and friends, - but mostly just the way people look and talk. Make sure to identify who, what, where, and when. Remember, by tomorrow, today's events are but history, - and YOU WERE THERE!

Happy Holidays
Jean Blackmur

THE JOINER by Mary-Ella Jones Parrott, Joiner

English records designate the first settlement of New Hampshire in 1623 as THE PISCATAQUA PLANTATION, named for its location on the banks of the Indians' Piscataqua River which now separates New Hampshire from Maine. The area includes Hampton, Exeter, Dover in New Hampshire and the Isle of Shoals in Maine. Eighty years ago this year the PISCATAQUA PIONEERS were organized to preserve the records of those pioneers and their descendants and to promote the historical points within the area. Lineal descendants of these pioneer settlers in the region before 1776 are eligible for membership.

HERE AND THERE

- GERMANY - The German-American Research and Documentation Center is being established at the University of Madison to assist researchers in tracing their family in the Germanic countries of Europe. Contact the University of Wisconsin Foundation, 702 Langdon Street, Madison, WI 53706 for further information.
(Fox Valley Gen. Soc.)
- WORTHINGTON - "Worthington Descendants" is a quarterly newsletter that includes unlimited free query column and covers all branches of the Worthington surname and its many allied lineages. Subscriptions are \$12.00 per year. Contact Frances Brengle, 6619 Pheasant Road #16, Baltimore, Md 21220.
- IRELAND - "Identifying the Place of Origin for Your Irish Ancestor" can be had by sending a SASE to: Andrew J. Morris, P.O. Box 8825, Fort Collins, CO 80525.
- NEW YORK - New York State now allows adults who were adopted as minors certain facts about their parents (including parents' ages, racial and ethnic heritage, religion, education, general physical appearance, occupations, talents, hobbies, health). The law also allows disclosure of names and addresses of all parties who have registered with the New York Department of Health. Ten states have this law including Oregon, Texas and Colorado.

(Connecticut Nutmegger)

- POLAND - Contact the Polish Genealogical Society, 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622 for instructions on how to add your Polish ancestors to their Ancestor Index Card File which is housed at the Polish Museum of America.
(Livermore Roots Tracer)
- OREGON - The Oregon Department of Transportation, 108 Transportation, Salem, OR 97310 has available free, The Oregon Cemetery Survey. Contains maps of the state's cemeteries.
(Marin Co. Gen. Soc.)
- HERITAGE COLLECTION - Bette Kot is making arrangements for a dozen copies of the "Holdings of the Heritage Collection" at the Contra Costa County Library in Pleasant Hill to be printed (approximately 70 pages). Copies will be sold at the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society meetings at \$5.50 each.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA - If you have a Czechoslovakian surname and would like to add it to a larger list of those doing genealogical research contact Evelyn A. Fantilli, 31480 Hilltop Road., Golden, CO 80403
(Illinois State Gen. Soc.)

WARNING! Genealogy Pox (very contagious to adults)

Symptoms: Continual complaint as to the need for names, dates, and places. Patient has blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins, and remote, desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls. Hides phone bills from spouse and mumbles to self. Has strange faraway look in eyes.

Treatment: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in house where he/she can be alone.

Remarks: The unusual nature of this disease is...the sicker the patient gets...the more he or she enjoys it!

(SW Nebraska Gen. Soc.)

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays. In addition to the good food and family to share it with, I gave thanks that I was born in the United States. It was not until I got into my family genealogy that I realized why I was born here and who was responsible. It was my ancestors who, fleeing religious persecution, famine and political upheaval, had the courage to leave family, friends, and place of birth to venture to an unknown future.

After surviving the hardship of the vessels they came on, they had to learn the language and ways of this country. Through hard work, they were able to better themselves. They paid their dues by becoming citizens, soldiering, serving as policemen, firemen, farmers, canal builders and laborers and pushing the frontier always westward. Their children did a little better and their children's children did even better.

We take for granted our right to liberty, equality, religious freedom and free speech. But our ancestors braved the unknown, fought and died so that we could have these rights.

This Thanksgiving, remember all these brave men and women (whose genes we carry), who made it possible for us to be born in this great land.

Marilyn Fullam

- WEST COAST PASSENGER
LISTS - GSA Archivists recently opened some government crates and found long lost passenger lists for San Francisco and other Western seaports. The passenger lists include arrivals at Honolulu, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco, San Pedro, and Seattle. Also included are arrivals at El Paso, Galveston, Miami, Newport News, Port Huron and Oswego. There are at least 10,000 volumes and it will be years before the records are inventoried and microfilmed. Microfilming has started and San Francisco lists will be on 470 reels and Galveston on 50 reels.
(Diablo Descendants Newsletter and U.S. News & Canadian Report, Gen. Kib., March 1985)
- SAN MATEO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA - San Mateo County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5083, San Mateo, CA 94402 has available soon county marriages 1853-1899 with separate alphabetical bride and groom indexes. The cost for the 65 page book is \$8.00 pstg. pd.
- OSAGE, OKLAHOMA - Osage is the largest county in Oklahoma and free queries regarding Oklahoma are printed in the "Genealogical Corner" in the Sunday newspaper. Send query to Doris Parker, 301 E. 6th, City Library, Pawhuka, OK 74056.
(Diablo Descendants)
- SAN FRANCISCO PRE
1906 RECORDS - The San Francisco Historic Records Index is now accepting queries on pre-1906 deaths, land information, marriages, births and probate/court records. Send SASE for forms to: San Francisco Historic Records Index, City Hall-Room 167/Mezzanine, San Francisco, CA 94102.
- NETHERLANDS
IMMIGRANTS - The Herrick Library, Holland, MI 49423 has a computerized list of residents of the Netherlands coming to America in the last century.
(Chicago Gen. Soc. Newsletter)
- LUXEMBOURG - There is a society for those of Luxembourg descent with a membership fee of \$5.00 per year. They publish a monthly newsletter available to members only. Contact the Luxembourg Society of Wisconsin, 303 N. Garfield Avenue, Port Washington, WI 53074.
(Fox Valley Gen. Soc.)

We are all omnibuses in which our ancestors ride, and every now and then one of them sticks his head out and embarrasses us.

By Oliver Wendell Holmes contributed by
Loretta Vranish.
