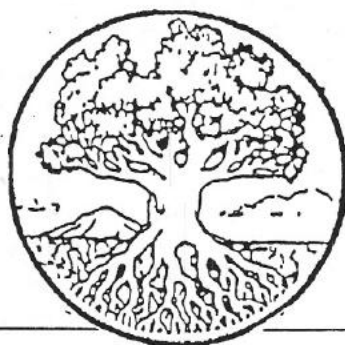


SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 305

Diablo, CA 94528-8308

President: Barbara Dyer

Coord. Editor: Sharon Clay

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.

3rd Tues. Of the Month

(Except August & December)

Alamo LDS Church

Stone Valley & Smith Roads - Alamo

Vol. XV No. 9

April 2001

THIS MONTH - April 17, 2001

Stephen Weir - Contra Costa County Clerk- Recorder

Mr. Weir will be discussing "California, 2001 - Open Records or Not?" He is a long time resident of Contra Costa County, attended the University of California at Berkeley, majoring in Political Science. He has been a city Councilman in Concord, Mayor of Concord, Commissioner and Chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, has been Administrative Assistant to Assemblyman/Senator Daniel E. Boatwright, and has been Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder since 1989. He is an avid bicyclist, and volunteer backstage support for local community theater.

LAST MEETING- March 20, 2001

30 Ways to Find a Maiden Name

Notes by Jean Hunt

Marguerite McCurry has a no-nonsense approach to researching. She advocates a very basic genealogical approach to what any of us would do if we had more than a year of genealogical researching experience under our belts. Then, she asks the question, have you done everything an experienced genealogist would do with the material you have gathered? If your answer is "I'm not sure," then you haven't.

Her handout listed 32 ways to find maiden names:

(1) birth certificates, (2) christening records, (3) church records (4) marriage records, (5) divorce records (6) death certificate (7) cemetery records (8) mortuary records (9) obituary notices (10) news items (11) wills (12) census records (13) county histories (14) pension applications (15) war records (16) prepared genealogies (17) queries (18) mortality schedules (19) naturalization/citizenship papers (20) lodge, club, organization memberships (21) school, alumni associations and lists (22) passports (23) social security number applications (24) land records (25) personal interviews (26) bible records (27) given names (28) I.G.I., L.D.S. church lists (29) family registry index (30) ancestral file (31) household items (32) prison records.

She gave a description of what each of the 32 items can do for you. For instance, on number 23, she indicated that social security number applications will list both parents of the applicant using the mother's maiden name.

Many of the records will give the maiden name of a woman participant in such documents as marriage and death licenses, etc. In older marriage certificates, the female might be underage and there will be a letter of permission. In mortuary records, it may list pall bearers who are usually family members and the mortuary will be on the death certificate. In census's after 1850, where there would be a number of people listed under one surname per household, who is that person with the different surname listed there? It might be the wife's mother. An unusual middle name often indicates the wife's maiden name.

Applications for bank accounts or social security numbers asked for maiden names. Newspaper social pages covered such occasions as weddings, anniversaries, reunions and funerals, listing all the people who attended those affairs. Check all those people out.

Old land records and wills will often carry the maiden name of the wife as will pension claims for soldiers and widows of different U.S. wars. Witnesses in many legal documents are often a relative of the wife. Informers on death certificates and other documents are also mostly relatives. County marriage indexes as well as indexes in County histories often bear wondrous fruit. Analyze every record you find to see if it will take you a step forward.

(Continued page 2)

Marguerite, with her 20 years of experience as lecturer, teacher and specialist at the Family History Center at Nevada City was an inspiration and all of us should review those records that we have brought back from our research treks.

If you didn't get a copy of the handout, have a friend make a copy for you and if you missed the meeting, listen to the tape from our tape library.

President's Message - April 2001

by Barbara Dyer

Genealogy has evolved over many years. Once it was considered a pastime for the few, often depicted as stodgy, academic types or snobbish "Mayflower" descendants. It is now one of the fastest growing interests for a large cross section of the populace. During this evolution, there have been changes in emphasis in what to research, how to research, how to record, document, publish and preserve the results.

The introduction of the computer into genealogical research has been a major factor in speeding up the process of change. One example has been the growth of a whole new genealogical publishing industry; not only books, but genealogy computer programs and CDs containing vast amount of data. These rapid changes have made research easier in many ways, but it has also pointed out the need for standards.

On March 24, I attended the Helen F. M. Leary seminar in Santa Rosa. Her subject was "Clutching at Straws and Other Last-ditch Efforts". The prevailing themes of each of her four presentations were those contained in the Genealogical Proof Standards adopted by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. While most of us do not plan to become certified, their standards should be a guide for us all.

- (1) Comprehensive search of reliable sources for all data relevant to the question;
- (2) Thorough, accurate citation of all sources that contributed evidence;
- (3) Skilled analysis and correlation of data and of evidence;
- (4) Adequate refutation of conflicting or contradictory evidence;
- (5) Soundly reasoned, substantially persuasive conclusions, and
- (6) Coherently written explanation of the conclusion and its basis.

I wish when I started genealogy, rather than the piecemeal acquisition, the trial and error methods and the "go back and do it over" process that I have experienced, I

had had clear guide lines such as those embodied in these standards. One way to accomplish this would be standardization of all courses for genealogists. We are not at that point yet and may never be since this is an avocation for most of us. But the quality of our research depends on our willingness to adhere to certain practices and procedures. Therefore, it behooves each of us as individuals to set standards for ourselves. The National Genealogy Society's home study course "American Genealogy: A Basic Course" would be a good starting place. See www.ngsgenealogy.org.

SRVGS March 2001 Treasurer Report

by Nancy Alexander, Treasurer 2000-2001

Fund Balances: 3/27/01

General Fund	2782.15
Hospitality Fund	70.78
Publications Fund	966.07
Special Projects Fund :	200.00
N.A.R.A. Fund	0.00
Cassette Tape Library Fund	110.85
Library Fund:	
Prior Year Gifts & Donations	203.80
Current Year Donations	276.00

Overall Total Balance: \$4609.65

MENTOR LIST:

SRVGS is beginning a mentoring program to aid members in need of help in specific areas of research. The mentor will guide the researcher but will not do the actual research. The terms are to be worked out between the two involved regarding time, place, etc.

1. **Beginning Research:** Vern Segelke, Mary Teicheira
2. **California Research:** Carol Glover
3. **Chicago Research:** Dorothy Stanton
4. **Czech Research:** Mary Jo Hosteny
5. **Irish Research:** Mary Jo Hosteny
6. **Italian Research:** Mike Fiorenza
7. **New England Research:** Barbara Dyer
8. **Probate Research:** Dorothy Stanton
9. **Swedish Research:** Sharon Clay

Note: The correct email address for the Sutro Library catalog is: www.lib.state.ca.us.

Newsletter Editorial Team

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Mailing:

Barbara Dittig 648-9364

Lucy Carver 837-3146

Deadline to put information in newsletter is the last Thursday of the month.

- 15 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. General meeting at the LDS Church, Alamo.
- 17 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Frances Lloyd will present a Member Education Class. This will be a rare opportunity to learn about records that are held at the national Archives, OTHER than census records.
- 22 Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Library trip to the National Archives in San Bruno.

SRVGS CALENDAR- APRIL 2001

- 3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at home of Barbara Dyer - 617 Camino Amigo in Danville
- 3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Member Education Class, "Genealogy on the Internet" at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. Sign up in advance.
- 17 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting at LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, Alamo. From I-680, take Stone Valley Road east. The Contra Costa County Recorder is scheduled to be the 11 a.m speaker.
- 19 Thursday -10:00 a.m. Dorothy Stanton will present a member education class. The subject will be Probate Records. Plan to meet at the LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, Alamo. Please sign up at the general meeting, or phone Dorothy at 820-3757.
- 24 Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Library trip to Napa. Please note the early time of departure. This library is owned and operated by the Napa Valley Genealogical and Biographical Society. It is located at 701 Menlo Ave. Phone (707) 252-2252. To take advantage of this opportunity, get your name on the list at the general meeting. There will be a non-member user fee of \$3.00. Car pools will meet behind Albertson's off Diablo road in Danville. Note that the Library Trip Coordinator is Michael Fiorenza. If you sign up for a trip and wish to cancel, please call him at 820-8294.

MAY 2001

- 1 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
- 1 Tuesday 10:00 a.m. "Genealogy on the Internet" at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road, Alamo. Sign up at the general meeting. Ron Frye may not offer this class again for some period of time.

SRVGS Special Interest Groups: March

BRITISH: This newer group will not be meeting until the fall, when hopefully there will be more interest. The contact person is Suzanne Johnston, phone 838-8682.

CANADIAN/FRENCH CANADIAN - This newer group will meet on Monday, May 7 (First Monday) at 10:00 a.m. at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road, Alamo. If interested, and not regularly attending please contact Clarice Hart at 743-9245 or e-mail WRHCGH@aol.com.

GERMAN - Meets 10 a.m. April 25 (fourth Wednesday) at the home of Margarete Koenig, 1545 Rancho View Drive in Lafayette. If you need directions or if you regularly attend, but cannot attend this meeting, please call 934-3830 or e-mail her at MMBKoenig@aol.com.

IRISH & CALIF. - Meets April 11, (second Wednesday of month) at 10:00 a.m. at home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place in Pleasant Hill. Phone (925) 229-0889.

NEW ENGLAND - Meets April 16 (third Monday) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Jean Hunt, 2173 Myrtle Beach Lane in Danville (Crow Canyon Country club). If interested contact Jean at 552-6564 or e-mail Hunt88961@aol.com.

PENNSYLVANIA - This is a newer group and will meet April 23rd (4th Monday) at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Barbara Johnson, 616 Camino Amigo, in Danville. Phone 837-2153 or e-mail Bjohnson@peoplepc.net..

PORTUGUESE - Sometimes meets third Tuesday of month after the general meeting. Bring a bag lunch. Confirmation of the meeting will be announced at the general meeting. The contact person is Millie Freitas, 837-2483.

SCANDINAVIAN - Those persons interested in Scandinavian research will not meet as a group. They will form e-mail groups for each country. The contact person is Marilyn Tanner, phone 376-6733 or e-mail jtanner@nothingbutnet.net.

SOUTHERN - Meets April 10 (second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. They will meet at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road, Alamo. The contact person is Frances Becker 934-4962

PUBLISHING - A future meeting will be scheduled as interested persons express a need. The contact person is Jane Steiner, 238-0867.

INTERNET - Interested users communicate via e-mail. Members should contact Robert daRoza, vraroza@ix.netcom.com to be included.

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP. This is a genealogy software users group for Personal Computers. Their primary focus has become the use of Master Genealogist. This group sometimes meets after the general meeting. The contact person is Bob Heacox, e-mail: riponolive@worldnet.att.net. MAC users do not currently have an active user group of SRVGS members.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS:

10 April Tuesday - The Livermore Amador Genealogical Society (LAGS) meets 7:30 p.m. at Beth Emek, corner of College and South M. St. Livermore. For information call Debbie Pizzato, (925) 606-7466.

12 April Thursday. The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the LDS church, 3700 Concord Ave., in Concord. John Gleed will speak about English Research. They will also meet on Thursday, May 10th..

19 April Thursday. Mount Diablo Genealogical Society regular meeting 1 to 3 p.m. at Civic Bank of Commerce, 1940 Tice Valley Blvd., in Walnut Creek. The speaker in April will be Bette Kot. They will also meet on Thursday, May 17, when the speaker will be Jim Tackitt.

26 April Thursday - The Solano County Genealogical Society will have their regular meeting and Pot-luck dinner at 7 p.m., 1200 Civic Center Drive, in Fairfield, CA.

27 April Friday - A workshop will be held at the National Archives in San Bruno from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The subject will be Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records. **Class Fees are \$15**. To reserve a space, call Rose Mary Kennedy at (650) 876-9009.

May 18 - Friday - Class at the National Archives: Military Records - Part I. Revolutionary to Civil War

June 15 - Friday - Class at National Archives: Military Records - Part II, Spanish American to Viet Nam.

28 April - Saturday - Three societies will co-sponsor a seminar at Mills College featuring Karen Clifford: "All Races, Colors or Creeds." \$5 fee, if under 65, 1 to 4 p.m. For further details, call (510) 832-5146 or log-on to: www.calgensoc.org.

16-19 May - NGS Conference will be in Portland, Or. Phone 1-800-473-0060 or see www.ngsgenealogy.org.

2 June Saturday - the Sacramento Genealogical Society (Root Cellar) will present Curt Witcher, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at Woodcreek High School Theater in Roseville, CA. Fee: \$27 if space is available. Call Sammie Hudgens at (916) 481-4930 or Billie Helms (916) 991-5971.

GENEALOGY HANDY HINTS

"We found among grandma's belongings, a bunch of unlabeled photos. I took the pictures and attached them to 8-1/2x11" sheets of paper and then photocopied each page. I then inserted the photo pages in a plastic page protector and put the pages in a notebook.

We took the notebook to a family reunion and left it on the table for family members to look at. When someone recognized a person in a photo, I took the photocopy of that page and noted on it the name/-place/whatever. This way, I did not tie the book up in removing the page to make my notes. Needless to say, the book was a hit at the reunion, and I was able to get most of the photos identified."

Kathryn Bolander - from Ancestry Weekly Digest /10/2001.

"Remember, in a searchable database, a person's record might be stored only under the first letter of the person's given name, rather than the complete given name. So, when searching for John Smith, for example, try another search for J Smith. But don't enter any period after the initial. In some searchable databases (for example the popular Ancestry.com and RootsWeb-.com SSDI databases), a punctuation mark will stop the search engine cold, and it then will show zero hits. However, it seems that all search engines react fine if the period after an initial is omitted."

Art Klinger, Ancestry Weekly digest 2/10/2001

IMPACTS OF EPIDEMICS

In case you ever wondered why a large number of your ancestors disappeared during a certain period in history, this might help. Epidemics have always had a great influence on people - and thus influencing, as well, the genealogists trying to trace them. Many cases of people disappearing from records can be traced to dying during an epidemic or moving away from the affected area. Some of the major epidemics in the United States are listed below:

- 1657 Boston - Measles
- 1687 Boston - Measles
- 1690 New York - Yellow Fever
- 1713 Boston - Measles
- 1729 Boston - Measles
- 1732-33 Worldwide - Influenza
- 1738 South Carolina - Smallpox
- 1739-40 Boston - Measles
- 1747 Connecticut, NY, PA, & SC - Measles
- 1759 N. America (areas inhabited by white people Measles
- 1761 N. America & West Indies - Influenza
- 1772 N. America (especially hard in New Eng.) - unknown epidemic
- 1775-76 Worldwide - Influenza (one of the worst epidemics)
- 1788 Philadelphia & NY - Measles
- 1793 Virginia - Influenza (killed 500 people in 5 counties in 4 weeks.)
- 1783* Delaware (Dover) "extremely fatal" bilious disorder.
- 1793 Pennsylvania (Harrisburg & Middletown) many unexplained deaths.
- 1794 Philadelphia - Yellow Fever
- 1796-97 Philadelphia - Yellow Fever
- 1798 Philadelphia - Yellow Fever (One of the worst)
- 1803 New York - Yellow Fever
- 1820-23 Nationwide "fever" (starts on Schuylkill River PA and spreads).
- 1831-32 Nationwide - Asiatic Cholera (brought by English emigrants)
- 1832 New York & other major cities - Cholera
- 1837 Philadelphia - Typhus
- 1841 Nationwide - Yellow Fever (esp. severe in South)
- 1847 New Orleans - Yellow Fever
- 1847-48 Worldwide - Influenza
- 1848-49 North America - Cholera
- 1850 Worldwide - Yellow Fever
- 1850-51 North America - Influenza
- 1852 Nationwide - Yellow Fever (New Orleans 8,000 die in summer)
- 1855 Nationwide (many Parts) - Yellow Fever
- 1857-59 Worldwide - Influenza (one of the disease's greatest epidemics)
- 1860-61 Pennsylvania - smallpox

1865-73 Philadelphia, NY, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, Memphis & Washington D.C. - a series of recurring epidemics of Smallpox, Cholera, Typhus, Typhoid, Scarlet Fever & Yellow Fever

1873-75 North America & Europe - Influenza

1878 New Orleans - Yellow Fever (last great epidemic of disease)

1885 Plymouth, PA - Typhoid

1886 Jacksonville, FL - Yellow Fever

1918 Worldwide - Influenza (High point year) More people hospitalized in World War I from influenza than wounds. US Army training camps became death camps - with 80% death rate in some camps.

Finally, these specific instances of cholera were mentioned:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1833 Columbus, OH | 1851 Coles Co. IL |
| 1834 New York City | 1851 The Great Plains |
| 1849 New York | 1851 Missouri |

Article submitted by Tom Smalley to Kindred Spirits newsletter, Vol. 17, No. 9, Page 85, dated March, 1999.

Reprinted with permission from "Among the Coles", Coles County, IL Genealogical Society, Vol. XXVI, January & Feb. 2000.

Using Wildcard Searches with the California Birth and Death Indexes

SURNAMES: Searching for a name that can be spelled more than one way? Search using a wildcard. Enter three or more letters followed by a * (asterisk). If I enter Low*, I can find Lowrey, Lowery, Lowry and Lowrie.

DATES: Wildcard searches can be used here, too. Enter at least three numerals, followed by a *. If you don't know the exact date, but you know the person was born in the 1960s, for example, enter 196*. This is a good way to limit the number of hits you get when you are searching a common name.

Joan Lowrey - CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 18, No. 10 (October 2000)

Trials and Tribulations of Genealogical Buffs
Your great grandfather's newspaper obituary states that he died leaving no issue of record.

The one document that would supply the missing link in your dead end line has been lost due to fire, flood or war.

TAPES IN OUR TAPE LIBRARY RELATING TO LAND AND TAX RECORDS

- C-20 Making County Land Records Work for You by Gladys Muller
- C-21 Land Records - Their Extensive Use for Genealogists by Scharlott Blevins
- C-162 Family Detective Work in Land Records by Marsha Hoffman Rising
- C-163 Beyond the Jargon, Land Records, What do they Really Mean by Larry L. Piatt
- C-146 Hidden Clues and Pitfalls In Your Ancestor's Land Records by Elizabeth Shown Mills
- M-41 Records in Contra Costa County Recorder's Office 5/92 by Barbara Chambers
- C-164 Tax Records for Genealogy by Connie Lenzen
- C-208 Finding and Using Birth, Marriage and Death Records Before Vital Registration by Elizabeth Shown Mills
- C-132 How Did They Die? Locating Death Records and Creating Medical Files by Martha Hoffman Rising
- C-156 Getting the Most Out Of Death Certificates by Desmond Wells Allen

Note: C prefixes on tapes indicates conference tapes
M prefixes indicate meeting tapes.

Tape Reviews by Sharon Clay

I have found little evidence that any of my ancestors served in the Civil War or the Revolutionary War, the Spanish American War or the Indian Wars. So, why would I look for them in the Veterans Records in the National Archives?

The tape "**Veteran's Records**" (C-48) by James D. Walker certainly has convinced me that if I DON'T I will be missing the possibility of some valuable information. Mr. Walker is an extremely knowledgeable person about the records and the laws that were passed many years after the wars that affected the benefits of veterans or their wives and children. In some cases these affected girl friends, cousins, and other distant relatives. He talks about how to obtain the records, what information can be found therein, and which records give the most information. With a trip next month to the National Archives - this tape should be listened to by anyone who has not checked these resources for their American ancestors. But, I listened in the car and it would be far better to have a pad and pencil available to make notes as he talks. He is VERY informative.

Their Times and Their Lives - Sources for Scandinavian History by Ruth E. Maness - (C-219)
Scandinavian Research Sources & Methodology by Ruth Ellen Maness (C-130)

I have been researching my Swedish ancestors for about 20 years, including two trips to Salt Lake with the Swedish American Genealogist Magazine, and I just checked out these tapes to reaffirm my own "extensive" knowledge of the subject. How humbling that was! These tapes, by Ruth Ellen Maness, of the FHL in Salt Lake deal with Scandinavian research of Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden. Since I had had little luck with probate records of my American ancestors (most of them didn't leave wills to be probated, or had so little property that the information wasn't much help), I avoided trying to find information in probate records of Sweden. However, if that is the only information that I got off these tapes, it will be well worth checking out the tapes twice (as I have). The Government of Sweden mandated probate, and everything had to be listed in these probates. I am not very fluent in Swedish, and that is the main reason I have avoided searching these records. However, with my handy Swedish Genealogical Dictionary, Compiled by Phyllis J. Pladsen, Joseph C. Huber and Eric B. Pladsen, I will be deeply researching these records on the films of the FHC.

Other information that will be helpful when publishing my family history that Ms. Maness relates is the quality of life in Sweden during the time my relatives were there. A family history that just lists pedigree charts and family group sheets can be very dull. But, if you can add some "color" to the lives of the family it will provide more interesting reading. Again, since my ability is limited, to translate the Swedish from the local history books in Salt Lake, I found her narrative about Swedish lifestyles quite interesting.

There is information on these tapes about the other Scandinavian countries also, such as what records are available through the FHC and how to locate them. Check out the tapes, and "check out" your knowledge also.

We have a library trip to the National Archives next month. Be prepared, listen to some of our "handy helper" tapes on the National Archives records. See Section III of our Tape Library Catalog in the back of your membership book. Don't miss this valuable component of your membership.

MEDICAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

This is a part of an article published in several parts. I will put more sections in succeeding issues of this newsletter. It is from "Disease and Death in the Nineteenth Century: A Genealogical Perspective" by James Byars Carter, M.D., excerpted from a complete article on the subject from the NGS Quarterly vol. 76 (Dec. 1988 pp. 289-301).

Abscess: A localized collection of pus buried in tissues, organs, or confined spaces of the body, often accompanied by swelling and inflammation and frequently caused by bacteria. The brain, lung or kidney (for instance) could be involved. See boil.

Addison's disease. A disease characterized by severe weakness, low blood pressure, and a bronzed coloration of the skin, due to decreased secretion of cortisol from the adrenal gland. Synonyms: Morbus addisonii, bronzed skin disease.

Ague. Malarial or intermittent fever characterized by paroxysms (stages of chills, fever, and sweating at regularly recurring times) and followed by an interval or intermission whose length determines the epithets: quotidian, tertian, quartan, and quintan ague (defined in the text). Popularly, the disease was known as "fever and ague", "chill fever," "the shakes," and by names expressive of the locality in which it was prevalent - such as "swamp fever" (in Louisiana), "Panama fever," and Chagres fever".

Ague-cake - A form of enlargement of the spleen, resulting from the action of malaria on the system.

Anasarca - Generalized massive dropsy. See dropsy.

Aphthae - See thrush

Aphthous stomatitis - See canker

Ascites - See dropsy.

Asthenia - See debility

Bilious fever - a term loosely applied to certain enteric (intestinal) and malarial fevers. See typhus.

Biliousness - A complex of symptoms comprising nausea, abdominal discomfort, headache, and constipation - formerly attributed to excessive secretion of bile from the liver.

Boil - An abscess of skin or painful, circumscribed inflammation of the skin or a hair follicle, having a dead, pus-forming inner core, usually caused by a staphylococcal infection. Synonym: furuncle.

Brain Fever - See meningitis, typhus

Bronchial asthma - A paroxysmal, often allergic disorder of breathing, characterized by spasm of the bronchial tubes of the lungs, wheezing, and difficulty in breathing air outward - often accompanied by coughing and a feeling of tightness in the chest. In the 19th century the direct causes were thought to be dust, vegetable irritants, chemical vapors, animal emanations, climatic influences and bronchial inflammation - all of which were reasonable guesses. The indirect causes

were thought to be transmissions by the nervous system or by the blood from gout, syphilis, skin disease, renal disease, or heredity. Only the latter cause was a reasonable assumption.

Camp Fever - See typhus

Cancer - a malignant and invasive growth or tumor (especially tissue that covers a surface or lines a cavity), tending to recur after excision and to spread to other sites. In the 19th century, physicians noted that cancerous tumors tended to ulcerate, grew constantly, and progressed to a fatal end and that there was scarcely a tissue they would not invade. Synonyms: malignant growth, carcinoma.

Cancrum otis - A severe, destructive, eroding ulcer of the cheek and lip, rapidly proceeding to sloughing. In the 19th century, it was seen in delicate, ill-fed, ill-tended children between the ages of two and five. The disease was the result of poor hygiene acting upon a debilitated system. It commonly followed one of the eruptive fevers and was often fatal. The destructive disease could in a few days, lead to gangrene of the lips, cheeks, tonsils, palate, tongue, and even half the face; teeth would fall from their sockets, and a horribly fetid saliva flowed from the parts. Synonyms: canker, water canker, noma, gangrenous stomatitis, gangrenous ulceration of the mouth.

Canker - A ulcerous sore of the mouth and lips, not considered fatal today. Synonym: aphthous stomatitis. See cancrum otis.

Carcinoma - See cancer

Catarrh - Inflammation of a mucous membrane, especially of the air passages of the head and throat, with a free discharge. It is characterized by cough, thirst, lassitude, fever, watery eyes, and increased secretions of mucus from the air passages. Bronchial catarrh was bronchitis, suffocative catarrh was croup, urethral catarrh was gleet; vaginal catarrh was leukorrhea, epidemic catarrh was the same as influenza. Synonyms: cold coryza.

Childbirth - a cause given for many female deaths of the century. Almost all babies were born in homes and usually were delivered by a family member or a midwife; thus infection and lack of medical skill were often the actual causes of death.

Used with permission from "Among the Coles"
Newsletter of the Coles County, Illinois Genealogical
Society, Vol. XXVI, Jan & February 2000.

National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections

Said to be the best least known resource for genealogical research is the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, also known by its acronym, NUCMC (pronounced "nuck muck".) It is a free-of-charge cooperative cataloging program operated by the Library of Congress. Repositories around the world participate in the catalog and their holdings of manuscripts, letters, diaries, journals, and private papers are catalogued in a standard format. You can access NUCMC at <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/> and search its catalog using keywords. The results are displayed in a summary format and you can then click on a link to display more about the record, including author, title, date published (or written), subjects, location where the material is housed, control number and any notes. You can then plan a trip to the facility or work with libraries to obtain more information about the availability of copies.

Records Access

The Illinois State Archives has added local government records databases for the Illinois Archives Depositories. A global search feature allows a search of all databases available on the site at once. Some of the earliest records are: Wayne County Coroners Inquest Record Index, 1888-1960; Shelby County Circuit Court Case Files Index 1821-1871; Logan County Circuit Court Criminal Case Files

Index 1857-1945; McLean County Probate Record Index, 1834-1934; Kane County Circuit Court Case Files Index, 1836-1870; Lake County Circuit Court Case Files, 1840-1898; Madison County Probate Case Files Index, 1813-1903; St. Clair County Circuit Court Case Files Index 1815-1870. Sangamon County Guardian's Case Files Index 1825-1901; Fulton County Circuit Court Case Files Index, 1825-1876. Also online are the Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database and Database of Illinois Servitude and Emancipation Records. Visit the site at: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com>. Then click "About the Office," then "Illinois State Archives." Source: FGS Forum, Winter 2000, Vol. 12 No. 4.

General: Three million dollars has been appropriated to "ensure preservation of the records of the Freedman's Bureau." Howard University has agreed to initiate efforts to index names in the records after microfilming. You can track the bill at the Thomas Web site at: <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Source: FGS Forum, Winter 2000

Samples of Online Genealogy Publications:

Ancestry.com <http://www.ancestry.com/columns/index.htm>

Genealogy.com: <http://www.genealogy.com/backissu.html>

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