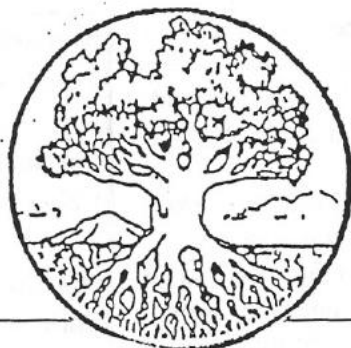


SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 305

Diablo, CA 94528-8308

President: Frances Lloyd

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. XVII No. 12

July 2001

THIS MONTH - July 17, 2001

DNA AND GENEALOGY

Douglas M. Mumma a retired physics researcher and administrator, is a family historian who has been investigating his ancestral roots for over 18 years. He was one of the first family history researchers to take advantage of DNA testing techniques and the exciting results that can be obtained. From his study, he has been able to show that the Mumma families of America share a common ancestry with the Mumma families of Germany, Holland and Sweden. He has also shown that all of the Mumma immigrants who arrived in America in the early 1700's share a common ancestry, even though the spelling of the surname has been altered to include the spellings of Moomau, Muma, Mumaw, Mummau, Mummah and several other variations. Similarly, he has been able to demonstrate that those with the Mumme spelling and possibly Moomey are not closely related.

LAST MEETING- June 19, 2001

MEN IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1890

Notes by Frank Williams

This meeting was a good one for our members and also, I trust, for Jane Steiner, who was presented a Life Membership in the society, and had the chance to discuss a project that occupied her time and talents for seven years.

Most genealogists are aware that the 1890 U.S. Census records were for the most part destroyed by a fire many years ago. Ten years ago the California State Genealogical Alliance made plans to copy and extract data from the 1890 California Great Register of Voters, to serve as a partial substitute for the missing Census. Other states are working on similar programs.

The Alliance called on California genealogical societies to make the study for each county, using printed copies of sections of the Great Register. The California Genealogical Society (then located in San Francisco) volunteered to do San Francisco City and County. Jane volunteered to coordinate the project; little realizing it would take 7 years and 35 volunteers to finish the job.

The importance to California of this project seems obvious. 1890 signaled the start of a huge migration of families attracted by the climate and cheap railroad fares and good land. Using a substitute for the 1890 census and the actual 1900 census helps to pinpoint the arrival of relatives to our state.

The Great Register of Voters is held in the state archives in Sacramento, and the state was willing to loan its 1890 pages to further the project. It was in the form of printed volumes for each county; which had to be microfilmed at Sutro Library and then returned to Sacramento. There could have been mistakes in the printing of the original Register from the handwritten voter sheets in 1890, in the microfilming by missing or blurring a page, in the abstraction of the data from the microfilm records, and in the final volumes printed up by the Alliance.

The voter records contained 57,000 registered voters only; meaning that no women and few Negroes and no Orientals were included. After the microfilms were made and verified, each record was tallied and grouped by age, surname and given name, occupation, and location of birth. These data were then organized into the final product, a 950-page printed volume which also listed each voter by name. This book costs \$150 and covers San Francisco County alone; the whole rest of the state fills only two more volumes. This shows the importance of San Francisco to the state at that time.

Jane gave several statistics from the survey. Among occupations, by far the largest group was 4305 clerks and secretaries; followed by 2695 carpenters and coopers. There were 1331 saloon managers and

vintners, 1192 who used or cared for horses, 1098 seafarers, 1087 shoe and boot makers, 704 medical workers, 590 stockbrokers or "capitalists", 310 actors and musicians, 282 teachers and students, 66 undertakers; and only 24 ministers.

She noted that the most common voter first name was John (over 7,000) and most common surname was Allen. The oldest listed voter was 89, and the youngest 13! The largest group from one state (5000) came from New York; next came Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Nearly 600 voters came from Ireland, but there were 90 different countries of birth. San Francisco was truly a cosmopolitan city in those days.

President's message - July 2001

by Francis Lloyd

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for making SRVGS such a special organization. Your board looks forward to a happy and productive year. Have no fear, we will continue to support, encourage, and instruct you to find "your people" and to verify, record, and cite your data.

In amassing lots of "stuff," we hope that you meet many new friends and family members and explore interesting buildings and legible records. Genealogy sometimes take us to parts of this country and other countries - aren't we fortunate!

Genealogy is a great study of history for it is our people who made history. (Interestingly, historians are now starting to see things our way.)

I hope that during this next year our friendships will grow, as well as our information and, who knows, that information may get logically recorded and safely stored.

Congratulations to Jane Steiner upon receiving SRVGS's fifth honorary life membership. This award was proposed by the board, approved by the general membership, and very much deserved. Thank you, Jane, for all you have done for us.

Other honorary life members are: our founder and first president, Jan Blackmur; our program tape person for many years, Wyn Kynett; past president, Bea O'Rand; past president and long time newsletter editor, Dorothy Stanton. We owe much of this society's success to the support of these members.

Our board meetings are the first Tuesday of the month, coffee at 9:30 a.m. meeting at 10:00 a.m. You are most welcome to join us.

Newsletter Team

Coordinator: Sharon Clay 462-4518
sharoncl@ix.netcom.com

Special Contributors: Pat Isom 820-2660

Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 838-8570
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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.

TREASURER'S REPORT - JUNE 2001

by Marilyn Tanner

Fund Balance of 6/30/01

General Fund	\$3,435.23
Hospitality Fund	70.78
Publications Fund	530.03
Special Projects Fund	465.00
NARA Fund	35.00
Cassette Tape Library Fund	118.85
Library Fund	504.26

Total Balance \$5,159.15

SRVGS CALENDAR-July 2001

3 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at the Lloyd's home, 210 Town and Country Drive, in Danville.

17 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting at LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, Alamo. From I-680 Freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/3 miles.

24 Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. Departure time for the library trip to the University of California North Regional Library Facility, South 47th St. and Mead (Richmond Field Station), in Richmond, CA.. Car pools will meet behind Albertson's, off Diablo Road in Danville. The Library Trip Coordinator is Michael Fiorenza. If you sign up for a trip and wish to cancel, please call him at 820-8294.

AUGUST 2001

MEETINGS ARE NOT HELD DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS: JULY - 2001

BRITISH - This group will not meet in June, July or August. If there is a renewed interest, they will meet again in the fall. The contact person is Suzanne Johnston, phone 838-8682.

CANADIAN/FRENCH CANADIAN - This group will not meet during June, July or August. The contact person is Clarice Hart. You may phone her at 743-9245, or e-mail WRHCGH@aol.com.

GERMAN - This group is not scheduled to meet during July or August. They plan to resume meeting on the fourth Wednesday of September. The contact person is Fran Schweitzer, phone 935-5744 or e-mail rbtschw@pacbell.net

IRISH & CALIF. - Meets July 11, (second Wednesday of month) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place in Pleasant Hill. Phone (925) 229-0889. Her e-mail address is russpat@netvista.net

NEW ENGLAND - This Special Interest group is not scheduled to meet during July or August. They plan to resume meeting on the third Monday of September at 1:00 p.m. The contact person is Jean Hunt: phone 552-6564, or e-mail JHunt88961@aol.com.

PENNSYLVANIA - This group will not meet during June, July or August. The contact person is Barbara Johnson. Phone 837-2153 or e-mail bcj616@earthlink.net

PORTUGUESE - 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, phone: 837-2483

SCANDINAVIA - 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 - This group will not meet during June, July or August. They will meet again in Sept. at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road, Alamo (second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. The contact person is Frances Becker, phone 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, vrdaroza@ix.netcom.com to be included.

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - This is a genealogy software users group for PC's. Their primary focus has become the use of MASTER GENEALOGIST. The group often meets after the General Meeting. The contact persons are either Bob Heacox, riponolive@

worldnet.att.net; or Dorothy Stanton, dpstant@hotmail.com. MAC users do not currently have an active user group of SRVGS members.

**CALENDAR OF OTHER
UPCOMING EVENTS**

10 July, Tuesday The Livermore Amador Genealogical Society (LAGS), meets 7:30 p.m. at Beth Emek, 1866 College at South M St., Livermore.

11 July, Wednesday The San Mateo County Genealogical Society meets 7:30 p.m. at Central School, 525 Middle Ave., Belmont. "Unique Documents" will be the topic of a presentation.

12 July, Thursday The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at LDS Church, 3700 Concord Ave., in Concord.

31 July - 3 August BYU annual Genealogy and Family History Conference in Provo, UT. \$165 registration for four days. Housing on BYU campus is \$15 per person per night. Check the website: <http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgeneal/> for more information.

10 - 12 August Western Conference of the Assoc. for Gravestone Studies will take place at San Francisco State Univ.. Registration closes July 20. \$70 to \$90 regis. excludes any meals. Contact Mary Ellen Jones, registrar, 2 Los Amigos Court, Orinda, CA 94563 or e-mail jonesmaryellen@prodigy.net.

23 - 25 August Journey to the Past on board the Queen Mary at Long Beach, CA. 14th annual seminar on Genealogical Research of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is sponsored by the British Isles Family History Society. Contact Dorothy Losee at (310) 838-6085 or check the website: <http://www.rootsweb.com~bifhusa>.

22 September Saturday The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will sponsor a seminar featuring Grace-Marie Hackwell or Arlene Eakle researching the Civil War.

28 - 30 September Conference of CA Historical Societies, Northern Symposium in Petaluma, CA.
20 October The Sacramento Genealogy Society presents Nora Hickey, The Irish Researcher.

27 October Saturday NGS Regional Conference, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA. Speakers will include Curt Witcher and Cyndi Howells.

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to announce the passing of Margaret S. Dougherty on 21 June 2001, after a long illness. Margaret was active in the Irish Special Interest Group.

TAPE LIBRARY NOTES - ANCESTORS

By Betty Vail

Are you aware that the society owns 3 VCR cassettes of the television series "ANCESTORS"? This program is particularly useful to those of you who are just beginning to explore your genealogical heritage. The series' first episode explains how to start a search for your roots, including how to fill out a pedigree chart. In the second episode you will learn how to start at home to find clues to your ancestors and how to use the Family Group Record. Other episodes illustrate how to conduct interviews; how to search records to fill in the blanks on pedigree charts and family group records; how to make the most of a visit to a library or archives, how census and military records can be a rich source of biographical information and how a computer can be a genealogist's best friend.

Each episode has two components, a "mini-documentary" and a "how-to" segment, with the exception of the tenth episode - "Leaving a Legacy". This would be an excellent choice for July since you will have two months to review all ten programs.

USE THE SUMMER FOR ORGANIZING

You have **mounds** of paperwork; **boxes** of research material; **more boxes** of pictures. You **KNOW** that you have that special piece of information some place, but don't know where. In fact, you couldn't locate a specific piece of information if your life depended upon it. Now is the time to start organizing your research materials. But **HOW** do you go about it? Check out a tape on "Organizing your material" and put the information to work during this summer. You have two months to listen to the tape, since it won't have to be returned until September. Look for the following tapes:

- M-53 It's Time to Organize** - by Tudy Baskay
- M-69 Organizing Your Material & Documentation** by Bette Kot
- C-95 Organizing Your Material - Turn a Pile of Notes Into A Quality Finished Product** by Alecia Crane
- C-36 Organization & Management of Gen. Materials W/O Computers** by Bill R. Linder
- M-7 Organizing a Family History** - by Barbara Langlois

SOME GRAVESTONE RUBBINGS

Do's and Don'ts

You're on vacation and doing some genealogy research at the same time (is there another reason to take a vacation?). You decide to check out the local cemeteries and find that the tombstones have information that you would like to have, if you could read them. How do you get that from the tombstones?

If there is a restoration project going on, rubbing may be banned, to enable the restorers to have the opportunity to preserve the stones without more damage occurring. If the stones are very fragile and more damage is likely to occur by your attempts, these may also be banned.

So, the first thing you should do is check with the cemetery superintendent, cemetery commissioners, town clerk, historical society, or whoever is in charge to see who is in charge of the cemetery. Then get permission and/or a permit as required and make sure that rubbing is allowed.

Rub only solid stones with no cracks, evidence of previous breaks and adhesive repairs, or stones that are defoliating and have air pockets behind the surface. This may cause the surface to collapse under the pressure of rubbing.

Use a soft brush and plain water to do any necessary stone cleaning. Don't use stuff bristled or wire brushes, putty knives, nail files or any metal object to remove lichen from the stones. Soft, natural bristled brushes, whisk brooms, or wooden sticks are usually OK if used gently and carefully.

Make certain that your paper covers the entire face of the stone; secure with masking tape. Don't use spray adhesives, scotch tape or duct tape. Use masking tape.

Use the correct combination of paper and waxes or inks. Avoid magic marker type pens or other permanent color materials. (You can get these and the procedure for using lumberman's crayons for \$3.50 in the brochure "Gravestone Rubbing for Beginners" from the Association for Gravestone Studies. 278 Main Street, Suite 207, Greenfield, MA 01301. Further information can be found on their website at: <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>.)

Test your paper and color **before** working on the stone to be certain that no color bleeds through.

Don't use detergents, soaps, vinegar, bleach, or any other cleaning solutions on the stone, no matter how mild! Don't use shaving cream, chalk, graphite, dirt, or other concoctions in an attempt to read worn inscriptions. Rub gently, carefully. Leave the stone in better condition than you found it.

(Gravestone rubbing - Continued)

Try using a large mirror to direct bright sunlight diagonally across the face of a gravemarker to cast shadows in the indentations and make inscriptions more visible.

Don't attempt to remove stubborn lichen. Soft lichen may be thoroughly soaked with plain water and then loosened with a gum eraser or a wooden popsicle stick. Stop if lichen does not come off easily.

Don't use any rubbing method that you have not actually practiced under supervision.

Take all trash with you. Replace any grave site materials that you may have disturbed.

Another brochure is also available: "A Technique for the Experienced Rubber", using oil paints and an easily made applicator. This is also available for \$3.50 from the AGS office at 278 Main Street, suit 207, Greenfield, MA 02402..

This information is used with permission from the Association for Gravestone Studies."

DON'T FOLD SASE'S, SAYS THE POST OFFICE

You risk having your mail with folded SASE's jam the automated equipment. The employees are authorized to send letters that won't slide through the equipment to the dead letter office. Also, your mail could be damaged. The solution? Choose a smaller size envelope to enclose so that you will not have to fold it (a No. 9 within a No. 10 envelope).

Typed envelopes will arrive one day earlier than hand-written ones. Do not use "Attn" in the address because the optical scanner will kick this out and the letter will be held until sorted manually.

You may obtain a zip code by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777). This is a 24 hour free service, or check the United States Postal Service's web site for additional, helpful information, and postal rates:
<http://www.usps.com>.

San Mateo Co. Gen. Soc. V.15, no. 3, 3/97.

INCREASES IN RATES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY INFORMATION

The Social Security Administration is raising the fees for requesting records as of 1 July 2001. The fee schedule will be as follows:

Request for copy of Original Application for Social Security Card (Form SS-5) SSN provided - \$27.

Request for copy of Original Application for Social Security Card (Form SS-5), SSN NOT provided - \$29.

Request for Computer Extract of Social Security Number Application, SSN Provided - \$16.

Request for Computer Extract of Social Security Number Application, SSN NOT provided - \$18.

Search for Information about Death of an Individual - SSN Provided - \$16.

Search for Information about Death of an Individual SSN NOT Provided - \$18.00

For more information about requesting records from Social Security, see the Social Security Administration's Guide to FOIA requests at:
www.ssa.gov/foia/foia_guide.htm.

HANDY HINT

Have you ever been unable to read the writing in an old black-papered photo album - you know, that white ink on the black paper. Or how about lead pencil on black paper when it has faded to become nearly illegible. Try this: Scan the image, in color, even if it appears to be a basic black/white thing. Then use the color spectrum toggle until you find a color band that can highlight the distinction between the two colors and then focus on enhancing the contrast. You may need to play around with this a bit, but digital graphics enhancement can go a long way to bring out faint images. Sometimes it can take awhile, so always keep the original scan and work just with a copy of the scan, in case you need to "back up" and try a different band of color.

Library Trip Notes:

To anyone going on the library trip this month to the NRLF in Richmond on the 27th: you can check their catalog before you go then e-mail or fax the information to them and they will have your material ready for you when you arrive. First, go to www.dbs.cdlib.org to access Melvyl, then click on NRLF. You can check through "subject" (or title and author) to find potential materials. When you find what you might want, then fax the information to (510-233-0455) or e-mail to nrlfreq@library.berkeley.edu and ask them to hold it in the reading room for your perusal on the 27th.

1930 FEDERAL POPULATION CENSUS

On April 1, 2002, the 1930 census and all existing soundex indexes will become available at the national Archives Building, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20408-0001, and at regional facilities in 13 major cities. This particular date is chosen because it ends the statutory 72 year restriction on access for privacy reasons. The census day was April 1, 1930.

Microfilmed indexes

Twelve states are fully or partially indexed. Indexes using the soundex indexing system exist for the states of:

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky (part), Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia (part)

Counties that are indexed in the two partial states, Kentucky and West Virginia are:

Kentucky: Bell, Floyd, Harlan, Kenton, Muhlenberg, Perry, and Pike.

West Virginia: Fayette, Harrison, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, and Raleigh.

Questions Asked on the Census

The 1930 census asked 32 questions about each person:

Place of abode:

1. Street, avenue, road, etc.
2. House number (in cities or towns)
3. Number of dwelling house in order of visitation
4. Number of family in order of visitation

Name:

5. Name of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930 was in this family.

Relation

6. Relationship of this person to the head of this family

Home Data

7. Home owned or rented
8. Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental if rented.
9. Radio set
10. Does this family live on a farm?

Personal Description

11. Sex
12. Color or race (white (W), Negro (Neg), Mexican (Mex), Indian (IN), Chinese (Ch), Japanese (Jp), Filipino (Fil), Hindu (Hin), Korean (Kor), other races spelled out in full.)
13. Age at last birthday
14. Marital condition {Single (S), married (M), widowed (Wd), divorces (D).}
15. Age at first marriage

Education

16. Attended school or college any time since Sept. 1, 1929.
17. Whether able to read and write.

Place of birth

18. Place of birth - Person
19. Place of birth - Father
20. Place of birth - Mother

Mother Tongue (or Native Language) of Foreign Born

21. Language spoken in home before coming to the United States.

Citizenship, etc.

22. Year of immigration to the United States
23. Naturalization
24. Whether able to speak English

Occupation & Industry

25. Trade, profession or particular kind of work done, as spinner, salesman, riveter, teacher, etc.
26. Industry or business, as cotton mill, dry-goods store, shipyard, public school, etc.
27. Class of worker

Employment

28. Whether actually at work yesterday (or the regular working day) - yes or no
29. If not, line number on Unemployment Schedule.

Veterans

30. Whether a veteran of U.S. military or naval force - yes and no.
31. What war of expedition?
(World War (WW), Spanish-American War (Sp), Civil War (Civ), Phillipine Insurrection (Phil), Boxer Rebellion (Box), Mexican Expedition (Mex))

Farm Schedule

32. Number of farm schedule (Farm schedules no longer exist)

(FGS Forum, Summer 2000, Volume 12 Number 2)

Have you paid your SRVGS dues for the 2001-2002 year yet? If not, this is your LAST NEWSLETTER. Check near your mailing label, if there is a red dot - you need to pay your dues. See the application form and address on page 7 of this newsletter.

Census Trivia

Some facts about the 1990 Federal Census:

It is estimated that, during the 1990 Federal Census, about two million, or 3.2 percent, of the children were not counted. This was twice the undercount rate for the total U.S. Population 1.6%.

William P. O'Hare, PhD; "The Overlooked Undercounted: Children Missed in the Decennial Census, 21 July 1999.

The top ten surnames named in the 1990 Federal Census are: Smith, Johnson, Williams, Jones, Brown, Davis, Miller, Wilson, Moore and Taylor.

U.S. Census Bureau - from "Tree Tips" compiled by Janice Ramey Lear, SearchNotes, Vol 14, No. 4, p. 14-29.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE CIVIL WAR PENSION INDEX, Part I

Cynthia Fox and Connie Potter of the National Archives have submitted the following guide to help people understand the process for requesting Civil War Pension records from the national Archives and to help avoid some common mistakes in their requests.

1. Ordering Copies of Original Pension Records from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

Most Union army soldiers, their widows, or minor children applied for a pension. In rare cases, a dependent father or mother applied for a pension. The pension application file will often contain a statement of service prepared by the Adjutant General's Office and it may contain much medical information if the soldier lived for a number of years after the war. To obtain a widow's pension, the widow had to provide proof of marriages, such as a copy of the record kept by county or local officials, or by affidavit from the minister or some other person. Applications on behalf of the soldier's minor children and to supply both proof of the soldier's marriage and proof of the children's birth. You can order copies of Civil War and later pension applications by using the form NATF 85, "Order for copies of Federal Pension or Bounty Land Warrant Applications." NARA does not have pension applications for service in the Confederate Army or Navy although some of the former Confederate States did pay pensions. Those applications are in the various State Archives. The NARA Web site at www.nara.gov lists the institutions that have Confederate pensions, their addresses, and information about how to conduct research with them.

There are several indexes to the Civil War and later pensions. The most important and frequently used is the name index. It is available as a NARA microfilm publication (T288). It was recently scanned and computerized by Ancestry.com and is available to subscribers at: www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/military/cwpi/main.htm.

The online pension index is an exact copy of the index used by National Archives to retrieve pension files for copying. The index entries include a lot of information that you can use to identify your particular soldier. By reading the card, you can see the units in which the soldier served, find the widow's name, learn the place of residence after the war, and you can even figure out approximate dates of the soldier's death.

If you enclose a printout of the card image, you will cut a least a week, maybe more, off the amount of time it takes to locate a file and send it to be copied. NARA staff uses the index just as you do. Getting an unindexed request through that step takes about a week. Here's how it works.

Continued on page 8

MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL APPLICATION 2001-2002

It's time to renew your membership and pay your annual dues which support our educational programs, and provide knowledge to find our ancestors. Please fill out this form and send it with your check made payable to SRVGS to: P.O. Box 305, Diablo, CA 94528-8308..

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

e-mail: _____ **PHONE:** _____

\$ _____ Dues: \$15 Single: _____ \$20 Family: _____

\$ _____ donation for Library resources additions, if desired.

\$ _____ \$1.00 Donation suggested for National Archives Record Administration (NARA)
Records microfilming project

\$ _____ \$2.50 added, please if you desire a handbook/directory sent to your address
and cannot pick one up at a meeting.

_____ If you DO NOT wish a Handbook/Directory, please check here so we won't print unneeded copies.

\$ _____ **Total amount of check**

Civil War Pension Files (Continued)

The file is supposed to be under the last certificate number. If a soldier applied for a pension based on wounds or illness suffered while in the service, his application file got a number. Once the pension office had reviewed the application and decided that the soldier was an invalid and deserved a pension, they gave him a certificate number and moved the entire application file into the soldier's certificate files under a new number. The original application number became void. When the soldier died, his widow applied to have the benefits continued. Her application was given a number, the soldier's pension certificate file was not moved to her new application number. In fact, her application becomes part of the soldier's file. Once the claim for continued benefits was approved, the entire file was given a new number as a widow's certificate. Minor children and invalid parents claims were processed in the same way as a widow's claim. This system continued until the beginning of the 20th century. The pension office decided to stop moving files around and to create a single pension series of certificate ("C") files. Old pension certificate files that were still active were transferred ("X") to the C files. The XC numbers, which appear at the bottom of the index cards, indicate that a file was transferred to the C pension series.

There are actually **five** separate series of Civil War and Later Pension files. There are two series of applications that were rejected and never converted to certificates of pension. These series are the soldier's or survivor's original (SO) application and the widow's original (WO). These files tend to be thinner but each time the laws became liberalized, and the files are ver rich. There are three series of certificate files: soldier's certificates (SC); widow's certificates (WC) which include minor child and indigent parents; and certificates (XC or C). If the file isn't where it is supposed to be we have to assume that someone forgot to move the file and it is still under the old number. See why sending a copy of the index card saves time?.

(To be continued in September)

From Ancestry Daily News June 7, 2001.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL