

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. 2

September 2001

THIS MONTH - September 18, 2001 MODERN ENGLISH GENEALOGY

John Gleed was born in Blackheath, England, and has been researching five rare English family names for the past twenty-five years. He retired from the DuPont Company in 1993 to devote full time to genealogy. He is a Patron Server at Menlo Park FHC, and has done a variety of tasks for the San Mateo County Genealogical Society. For the past seven years, he has been a co-lecturer on English Genealogy at Menlo Park. The latest series of lectures covered the full range of topics from the latest Internet sites back to the Domesday Book. His subject for us this month will cover Civil Registration of Birth, Marriage and Death since 1837, Censuses from 1841 to 1891, Wills since 1858 and the Main Record Repositories in London plus Internet Web-Sites.

LAST MEETING- July 17, 2001 DNA AND GENEALOGY

Notes by Lee Schlenker

Doug Mumma has been trying to sort out his own genealogy between the American Mummas and the German Momma families (who immigrated in 1731, 1732 and 1748) and he wanted to find out who didn't belong to the gene pool since there were so many different spellings of that surname through the years. After reading about the Jefferson tests (searching Thomas Jefferson's roots) and an article by Byran Sykes from Oxford, Doug decided to do his own DNA testing through Family Tree DNA of Houston, TX.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is the "blueprint" for replication. Contained within the nucleus of the human cell are 46 chromosomes (23 from the female and 23 from the male). The first 22 chromosomes are known as autosomal which means these chromosomes can exchange material between each other. The 23rd is the "sex" chromosome. Women have 2 "X" chromosomes while men have one "X" and one "Y" chromosome. This determines a female or a male child. The "Y" chromosome is passed from father to son and doesn't deviate, whereas the "X" chromosome is lost in the female child. The DNA base attaches to a twin helix (looks like two loosely twisted ribbons with the DNA properties stretched in between the twists) in varying patterns. A pattern might be GATATCOCAGTGATAGATA with each letter representing a chromosome. In specific regions along the DNA molecule the base pattern

(GATAGATA) repeats. The number of the repeats can be measured at specific locations along the DNA molecule. It's this pattern of alphabet repeats which determines if this person has the same repeats as you or your relation. (If you were to stretch this DNA cell out it would be approximately 6 feet long with 3 billion base pairs) There are three cell properties used for genealogy: 1) Mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA) - passed only from mother to both sons and daughters; 2) Y-Chromosome DNA (nucleic DNA) - passed only from father to sons; 3) Polymorphism- the DNA "alphabet" sequence changes or "mutates" slowly after many generations (1 in every 500 generations).

So, with a handle on DNA, Doug sought out a reputable company, Family Tree DNA, of Houston, TX and then sought out his 30 male participants (which took some doing to convince his chosen few to do this). With the list completed, Family Tree DNA sent out testing kits (a cheek swab brush) to his participants which were to be returned to the company along with signed authorization and \$165.00 for the test. The final results turned out to be very successful! Doug received back detailed information sheets on the matches. By reading and analyzing the sheets he was able to identify and then work out a descendant's tree of Leonard and Jacob

Mumma (the German Mumma family) along with other immigrant Mummas and Mommas; but no matches of the Mumma family of Estonia. He came across a branch of Mummas who were copper industrialists who went to Sweden to ply their trade for the King, changing their name to Reenstjerna. And he did prove that the Mumma family of Livermore and the Moomau family of Livermore are related!

The conclusions/limitations of DNA testing are:

- You can determine if two persons are a common ancestor, but not which specific ancestor;
- you can establish a "fingerprint" for a particular family surname through many male participants;
- Test can yield unexpected and undesired results - non-paternity or adoption
- DNA techniques are rapidly changing
- Test is relatively expensive - \$135 to -\$260

References/Resources: www.familytreedna.com/
www.genetree.com/
www.oxfordancestors.com/
<http://molecular-genealogy.byu.edu>
www.mumma.org/DNA.htm

Mumma Project Articles:

U.S. News & World Report, Jan 29, 2001
 The Independent Magazine/IMPACT Feb. 8, 2001
 Tri-Valley Herald Newspaper, Feb. 18, 2001.
 Boston Globe Newspaper June 24, 2001.

SRVGS CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2001

- 4 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at the Lloyd's home, 210 Town and Country Drive, in Danville.
- 18 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. The speaker will be Mr. John Gleed. The title of his presentation will be "Modern English Genealogy".
- 20 Thursday - 10 a.m. to Noon. Member Education Class, Getting Started in Genealogy I -10 a.m. to Noon. It will be presented by Frances Lloyd - 837-9382 at her home, 210 Town & Country Drive, Danville. Frances Lloyd's "Getting Started" class has been re-organized. It was felt that the full day seminar was too much to absorb all at once, so we are going to try two morning classes. Her class is a must for beginners and as a refresher for veterans. Forms to use, where to start, and documentation are all included subjects. there is no end to her useful information. You need to sign up for both mornings.

- 25 Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. Departure Time for the Library Trip to the National Archives in San Bruno, CA. Tel (650) 876-9009. Carpools 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.

- 27 Thursday - 10 a.m. to Noon. Member Education Class, Getting Started in Genealogy II

OCTOBER 2001

- 2 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
- 16 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting at LDS Church on Stone Valley Road.
- 23 Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Library trip to the Pleasanton City Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS SEPTEMBER - 2001

BRITISH - The British group will not meet during September. They formerly met on the fourth Tuesday. The contact person is Suzanne Johnston, phone 838-8682.

CANADIAN/FRENCH CANADIAN - The contact person is Clarice Hart. You may phone her at 743-9245, or e-mail WRHCGH@aol.com. They formerly met on the first Monday of the month.

GERMAN - This group will plan to meet on September 26th (fourth Wednesday) 10:00 a.m. at the home of Bob and Fran Schweitzer, 2493 Lariat Lane, Walnut Creek. The contact person is Fran Schweitzer, phone 935-5744 or e-mail rbtschw@pacbell.net. If you need directions or cannot attend please let them know.

IRISH & CALIF. - Meets September 12, (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 PLEASE NOTE THAT THE October MEETING WILL BE A THE HOME OF Rae Atwood in Moraga.

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

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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 - This group will plan to meet September 11 (second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road, Alamo. The contact person is Frances Becker, phone 934-4962.

PUBLISHING - A future meeting will be scheduled as interested persons express a need. The contact persons are Dorothy Stanton and Jane Steiner.

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

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - This is a genealogy software users group for PC's. The group often meets after the General Meeting. If you would like to participate in renewing interest in this group, please plan to stay after the general meeting to discuss the future of this group. Peggy Dearman, dearman@pacbell.net has agreed to be a local contact person and Dorothy Stanton, dpstant@hotmail.com has been a person to contact. Bob Heacox has been a very valuable contributor and chairperson for this group. It has become impractical for him to continue. Undoubtedly his presence with this group has already been greatly missed during the past year. MAC users do not currently have an active user group of SRVGS members.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

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

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

15 September, Saturday The Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County presents a seminar at the Modesto Centre Plaza, Modesto, CA. George Ott from Salt Lake City will be featured. Contact Don Wilson at (209) 869-3966

22 September Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will sponsor a seminar featuring Arlene Eakle. It will be held at Eastside Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 1020 East Tregallas Road, Antioch, CA. Pre-registration is requested. \$25 for non-members. Contact Swindell@value.net

13 October Saturday, - Annual fall seminar at the Concord Family History Center, 3700 Concord Ave.

20 October, Saturday The Sacramento Genealogy Society presents Nora Hickey, The Irish Researcher. P.O. Box 265, Citrus Heights, CA 95611 or www.rootseb.com/~carcsgrs/rootcellar.html

27 October Saturday NGS Regional Conference, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA. Speakers will include Curt Witcher and Cyndi Howells www.ngsgenealogy.org/confSanFran.htm

3 November Saturday The Monterey County Genealogical Society presents Central Coast Conference Featuring Curt Witcher, president of NGS and Department Manager at Allen County Public Library. \$35 for the first 165 registrants. Contact Jeannie Pederson (831) 4841-9350 or milleriw@mbay.net

The SRVGS 2001-2002 Handbook/Directory will be available for pickup at the September general meeting. Use this valuable resource to check the titles of our books housed at the Danville Library, the titles of audio tapes in our collection, libraries with genealogical resources, our By-Laws and Standing Rules, in addition to our membership roster.

PERSONAL DISCOVERY! By Sharon Clay

Two weeks ago, while visiting my mother, I found my grandmother's birth/baptism certificate, from February 1889. It was badly faded, and in terrible condition. I took it to the nearest Kinko's to have it copied and laminated so I could get it home in a condition other than confetti. They wouldn't laminate it, fearing that the heat would scorch the old paper. However, I did make a color copy of it, and actually the printing was more readable on the copy than on the original. But, to preserve the original while I transported it, they did give me a piece of cardboard, and some scrap laminate. I encased the document in the laminate and stapled around the edges to hold it flat. I did the same with the marriage certificate from 1907, which I also found. Does anyone have information on preserving these old documents? I'll pass the word along in the next newsletter if you'd like. Call 462-4518 or e-mail me at sharoncl@ix.netcom.com.

Upcoming Library Trips by Mike Fiorenza

Sept. 25, 2001	National Archives 1000 Commodore Dr. San Bruno, CA 94006	650-876-9009
Oct. 23, 2001	Pleasanton City Library 400 Old Bernal Ave. Pleasanton, CA 94566	925-462-3535
Nov. 27, 2001	Sutro State Library 480 Winston Drive San Francisco, CA 94126	415-731-4477
Jan. 22, 2002	Oakland Family History Center 4766 Lincoln Ave. Oakland, CA 94602	510-531-3905
Feb. 26, 2002	Calif. Genealogical So. Latham Office Bldg. 16 th & Telegraph Oakland, CA 94612	510-663-1358
THURS. Mar. 21, 2002	Danville Library 400 Front Street Danville, CA 94526	A special orientation visit 925-837-4889
Mar. 26, 2002	Sutro State Library 480 Winston Drive San Francisco 94126	415-731-4477
WED. April 24, 2002	National Archives 1000 Commodore Drive San Bruno, CA 94006	650-876-9009 Lib. Open late on Wed. Night
May 28, 2002	Santa Clara Library 3345 Lochinvar Ave. (Temp. Address) Santa Clara, CA 95050	408-248-8205
Tentative SAT. June 29, 2002	U.C. Berkeley Library Bancroft-Doe U.C. Campus Berkeley, CA 94720	510-642-6481
July 23, 2002	California. State Library 900 "N" Street Sacramento, 95814 and California State Archives 1020 "O" Street Sacramento	916-654-6481 916-653-7715

Please note - there are some trips scheduled on days other than Tuesdays to try to accommodate special library opening times and also for people who cannot attend on Tuesdays.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-September 2001

by Francie Lloyd

The Scottish Games have come and gone. These games have come to mean the end of summer - ready or not! I remember hearing my grandmother commenting that the summer had flown by. I thought that was pretty dumb because each day on the calendar was really the same length and I was ready to go back to school. Well, guess what, where has this summer gone? Are your "to do" piles shorter? I do hope so.

My thanks to our hard working board for their preparations for another year of activities for the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society.

Sharon Clay has put together yet another newsletter. Thank you Sharon for all your time and care. And thank you also to the support team that gets the information to Sharon (Vern Segelke who does a superlative job on putting together the calendar; Dorothy Stanton for her awareness of interesting information that might be included; Pat Isom for updates from the FHC, and others) and those who pick up the copies at the printer and get them mailed (Barbara Dittig and Lucy Carver)..

Jack and Barbara Johnson have completed the Directory. It is beautiful, ready and waiting for you to collect at our September meeting.

Louise Ford, Vern Segelke, and Bob Kay have planned exciting programs for us. They kindly included me in their planning sessions, and I am anxious to benefit from their deliberations.

Mike Fiorenza has scheduled another year of educational trips to libraries and repositories. We do hope that you will take advantage of these outings. It is a great way to get to know the facilities in the area under friendly circumstances!

Thanks to Ed O'Donnell for getting the word out to the local publications about our meetings.

John Gleed's presentation on modern English genealogical research promises to be very informative. His helpful hints and methodology are easily put to use in any geographic area. We look forward to seeing each of you at our September 18th meeting. Why not bring a friend and introduce them to our world of family research.

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.

Hope to see you on the 18th.

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

by Cynthia Fox and Connie Potter of the National Archives (Continued from July Newsletter)

There are actually **5 separate series** of Civil War and Later Pension files. There are two series of applications that were rejected and never converted to the 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 that is not always the case. Sometimes a soldier or a widow kept reapplying each time the laws became liberalized, and the files are very 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. That's why enclosing a copy of the index card saves time.

There are also going to be other times when there is an index entry for this soldier that appears to be correct, however, the file does not appear to be in our custody. It may have been that someone made a mistake and removed the files without documentation prior to transfer to the National Archives more than 50 years ago. That kind of mistake is virtually impossible to correct. We don't know where it is and have no possibility of finding it. In some cases, we know that we don't have files for a soldier in the index. The file may be a XC or C pension claim number. The XC or C pension file number should appear at the bottom of the index card. There are a lot of C and XC files that we do not have. If there was anyone still alive who had a claim against the pension in roughly 1928, then NARA probably won't have the file. It was still an active record and therefore is still in the legal custody of what is now the Department of Veterans' Affairs. To get access, you have to contact your local Veteran's Affairs office. The sites of these are listed on the Web site at www.va.gov.

Send your local VA office the XC pension number and the other soldier identifying information that you can provide. **DO NOT INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE WAR.**

Then write: **"I am requesting that you conduct a Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator System (BIRLS) search for the file and retrieve it for my use from the Federal Records Center where it is currently housed. Procedures for recall of records from Federal Records Centers are found in VA Handbook 6300.1, Chapter six, Part five".** They will retrieve the file and either:

1) Make you a copy or 2) Invite you to their office to review the file. There are also a few civilian pensions in the index. For access to files with number designations "R-###" contact the Bureau of Retirement and Insurance, Office of Personnel Management, 19th and E Streets, NW,

Washington, DC 20415. We do not have all the rejected original applications filed by soldiers or their widows (SO and WO). About half of the applications were destroyed before NARA was created in 1934. Some of the widow's applications were returned to the applicants.

Sometimes it takes forever to get a response. The average length of time for a file to be off the shelf is 4-6 weeks. There are 10-12,000 pension files off the shelf at any point in time. Researchers who visit NARA in Washington, use the same files. There is no way we can find a single file until they have been put back into some sort of order. So, if a file is missing on the first check it does not get reassigned until a minimum of four weeks has passed.

If you have not heard from us in 10-12 weeks, you can give us a call at 1-800-234-8861 or 301-713-6800 or send us an e-mail at: mailto:inquire@nara.gov. Be sure to have your form number handy.

The average Civil War Pension File is 126 pages. You can order the complete file for a flat fee of \$37 or (the newly revised price list provides for a packet of 8 important specific documents, if they exist in the file, for \$14.75). These documents are:

- 1) Declaration for a pension
- 2) Declaration for a widow's pension
- 3) The Adjutant General's Office statement of service
- 4) Questionnaires completed by applicants (numbered forms)
- 5) Pension Dropped cards
- 6) Marriage certificates
- 7) Death certificates
- 8) Discharge certificates.

These are also listed in the instructions for the form. If the documents are not in the file you requested, you will not receive other documents to replace them. You can get blank forms by e-mailing: inquire@nara.gov or calling 1-800-234-8861 or 301-713-6800. Don't try to electrostatically reproduce the forms. Each form has a unique number. If you send us six forms with the same number, we will mail them back with six new blank forms. Status tracking needs a unique number for each request. Remember to pull off the pink copy of the form NATF85 for your records. It has the form number "F####" and it has the phone number and address to call or write. (Continued on P.8)

Treasurer's Report- July-August 2001

by Marilyn Tanner

Income:

Beginning Balance:		\$5159.15
Dues:	1590.00	
Hospitality:	80.00	
NARA Contributions:	60.00	
Cassette Library	38.00	
Library Donations	134.50	

Expenses:

Liability Insurance	302.00	
Membership Committee	48.04	
Program Costs	40.00	
Misc. Costs	36.72	
Newsletter	99.72	
Publications (Taxes)	1.00	
Cassette Library	28.06	
Handbook Publishing	208.80	

Balance as of August 31, 2001 **\$6297.27**

We currently have 171 active members and 5 Life Members.

TAPE LIBRARY

This month's program by John Gleed can be supplemented by these tapes in our audio tape library on researching your English ancestors:

- M-27** British Research by Joyce Buckland
C-51 Ancestors on the Run: Three Centuries of Migration in England by Anthony J. Camp
C-213 The Base for English Research: The church of England Register by Dean J. Hunter
C-101 Probate in England: Basics for Effective Research (With handouts) by Anthony J. Camp
C-119 England - Probate Records by David Gardner (With handouts)
C-209 Colonial Americans & Their Land Records at the Public Record Office in London Dean J. Hunter

See the complete list of tapes on the British Isles research on pages 31 and 32 in Membership Handbook. Don't forget that if you don't have a tape player, we can rent you one for only \$1.00-2.00 per month.

Then check our reference books on British research at the Danville Library:

- R.929.1** The A-Z Guide to Tracing Ancestors in Britain SAUL (4th Edition) by Pauline Saul and F.C. Markwell. 1992. (See complete ref. on page 19 of 2001 Membership Directory).
R.929.1 Ancestral Trails: The Complete Guide to British HERBER Genealogy and Family by Mark D. Herber.

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Barbara Dittig 648-9364

Lucy Carver 837-3146

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

Internet Happenings

One of the most authoritative guides to genealogy is Val. D. Greenwood's book "The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy". The 2000 edition is readable online (all 600 pages) at http://ads.genealogical.com/ads/cgi/viewer.pl/gpc_002.pdf. It is accessible if you have Acrobat Reader, then it is very simple to find the index and get to the pages you want.



After you read the article on obtaining your ancestor's Civil War Records - you may want to check for more information on the Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System at www.itd.nps.gov/cwss. It is from the National Park Service, and has lots of information and links.

The Minnesota Historical Society has made it easier for people to trace their family trees in Minnesota. The Web address is: <http://people.mnhs.org/dci>. This allows you to search by name or several other options for death, records in Minnesota from 1908-1946. I was able to search by surname only, and for a range of years. I did not need a first name or specific year of death.

Have you checked the Ellis Island records database to see if your ancestors came to America through Ellis Island. The Ellis Island database is available online at <http://www.ellislandrecords.org>. It is a very busy website and it is known to be ripe with errors, so use with caution. It only covers the years 1892-1924, and most of those years (except 1892-1897) are already soundexed by the LDS Church.

TAPE REVIEW by Betty Vail - Tape Librarian**WRITING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY**

Even though you are not ready to begin writing the final draft of your family history, you might want to review some of our tapes on the subject. They will give you tips on how to make your work more professional.

All of the speakers stress the importance of the title, urge the use of a standard numbering system and point out the need for proper citations. An anonymous note in tape C-33, "Writing and Publishing Family Histories," reports: "Excellent. Speaker--lady with a deep southern accent--professional genealogist who wrote 4 books for clients besides her own." The speaker, Jo White Linn, stresses that your report should be serious and that your book should be honest.

On tape C-23, "Writing and Sharing Family Histories," Arlene Eakle gives some unusual suggestions for adding interest by including such things as pictures from old LIFE magazines, poems or stories by family members, and photos of family treasures.

On tape C-125, "Compiling and Publishing Your Family History," Brian E. Michaels urges the writer not to portray people as saints but to be realistic. "You may not tell the whole truth but tell only the truth."

On tape C-196, "Footnotes, Formats and Froufrou: What You Really Need in Your Family History," Helen F. M. Leary points out that there are three stages in developing a family history--collecting, analyzing and assembling. In this speech she focuses on the assembly stage. She discusses the use of notes-- footnotes, end notes, explanatory notes and acknowledgments. She gives a lot of attention to the proper way to number people.

Each of the speakers gives a different insight into the pleasures and problems of publishing a family history.

BONDS by Shirley Hornbeck

Bonds are a type of "guarantee" that the bondsmen will perform the responsibilities granted them and if they default, the value of the bond will be forfeited. Bondsmen were often family members or close friends.

★Marriage bonds insured that the marriage would occur according to agreement and that there was no impediment to the marriage such as an existing marriage.

★Executor's bonds insured that the executor of a deceased person's estate would administer the estate according to law.

★Bail bonds insured that the accused would appear for trial.

★Bastardy bonds might be required of the father of an illegitimate child to insure that he would be responsible for the child's support.

★Professional bonds are similar to today's malpractice insurance.

Shirley Hornbeck - hornbeck@s-hornbeck.com
This & That Genealogy Tips: <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~hornbeck>

German Genealogical Symbols And Abbreviations

Researching records in a foreign language can be a frustrating challenge, especially when confronted with symbols and abbreviations of which you have no knowledge or understanding. Genealogists researching in German genealogical documents will be pleased to find the "Genealogical Symbols & Abbreviations" page of the German Genealogy.net at: <http://www.Genealogienetz.de/gene/misc/gensig.html>. The page contains lists of symbols and abbreviations frequently found in documents, along with the German word for them and the English equivalent. This is only one of many resources at Genealogy.net, all of whose resources can be found in both German and English. For their English language site, go to <http://www.Genealogienetz.de/genealogy.html>.

By George G. Morgan
<http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/george/george.asp>

USING ONLINE MAPPING RESOURCES

Have you considered using online mapping resources such as MapQuest.com and USGS.gov. For tracking people. MapQuest is best suited to urban areas while the resources of the U.S. Geological Survey are more suited to rural areas. Some ways you can use these resources are:

1. Map and address from a city or rural directory and use it when looking at the census enumeration district descriptions to see which ED covers that address. You do need to be aware that there may have been changes in the city street numbering system over time, as well as changes in street names.
2. Map the location of your people for each census
3. Map the location of possible churches your family might have attended to see which is closest to the known address. The USGS maps will tell you what geographical obstructions might exist to hinder attendance at a particular church.
4. Map the neighbors to see how their location relates to that of your family.
5. In a large city, use the map(s) of known family member locations to narrow your search for parental or other related families.

Helen Shaw, Chicago
Ancestry Weekly 21 July 2001

Watch for genealogy Scams such as GENTRUTH@aol.com, GENSUSONLINE & OTHER DIGGINS, genseekers.com, family discovery.com and genealogy-express.com. They charge services to your credit card and don't come through

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Civil War Pension Files (Continued)

The most important thing is to not forget to write your name and address on each and every order. We can't process an order without a name and address.

NARA cannot do substantive research for you. You must determine WHICH John Jones in Regiment X is yours. If there are too many soldiers in a unit with the same name, we will return the request to you for additional information. Using the Civil War Pension Index is one way to ensure that the file you want is the file that you get.

Those interested in requesting military records from the National Archives should also read "Changes in Ordering Copies of Original Pension and Service Records from the National Archives" at

www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles/4005.asp.

Also. Check for the new fee schedule at:

<http://www.nara.gov/nara/cfr/cfr1258.html>.

From Ancestry Daily News June 7, 2001.

More information on obtaining civil war information can be found in Kip Sperry's column at

<http://www.ancestry.com/library/print/columns/tips5239.htm>.

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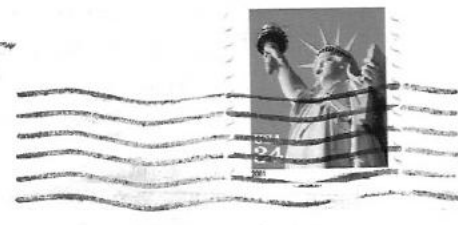
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