

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 305

Diablo, CA 94528-8308

President: Barbara Dittig

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

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January 2003

THIS MONTH - JANUARY 21, 2003

FINDING WHERE YOUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS CAME FROM

Speaker: Don Baker

Don is an industrial chemist who has been able to travel widely in his work, and while doing so has unearthed much information about the homes and lifestyles of his ancestors. He is also a volunteer docent at the Oakland Family History Center Library.

LAST MEETING - November 19, 2002

JOURNEY TO AMERICA

Speaker - Bernard Freedman - notes by Lee Schlenker

Bernard Freedman is an extensive researcher and dilettante historian, talking on historical stories (from the Bill of Rights to great love stories) for over 20 years. During his researching he has come across many interesting stories and information which he hoped to impart on us to help in our own research. He has followed the Italians, Irish, Germans and Jews. He spoke mainly on the Irish and the German immigrants giving us a general time line.

During the earliest years there were no census reports and state laws on immigration didn't start until the third quarter of the 19th century.

The immigration to the U.S. happened in three waves: American Colonial period, 1830-1850, and the 1880 exodus from Europe.

The Irish started coming to the U.S. in 1790-1840 and they were mostly Irish/Scottish; then 1840-1850 they were mostly Irish (very impoverished due to the 2 year potato famine); 1870-1890 they were 80% Roman Catholic. Their migration ended around 1930. The Irish started coming to the U.S. on Canadian ships which had forest products (timber ships) en route to Europe. Ship owners decided they could charge a fare and have a full ship going back to Canada. The Irish were the "product" on the return voyage. A trip from England to the U.S. could be bought for about 4 to 5 pounds, from England to Quebec was about 6 pounds. Then, from Canada many just walked into the U.S. along the Eastern seaboard. Often the Irish moved to England temporarily, worked for money in order to buy ships passage, then sailed on to the U.S. Before the 1840s, some of the worst rioting was between the Irish and the

Italians. A lot of people died and there was a lot of bloodshed leaving a lasting legacy in politics.

The first wave of Irish liked Andrew Jackson because he was of Irish descent, so they became Democrats as he was, and continue, to this day, to be Democrats! The second wave of Irish walked from Canada down the Eastern coast and settled in the Lawrence, Fall River N.Y., Hartford, Jersey City areas. Nearly 60% of all Irish lived in large cities. Every Irishman spoke English and not Gaelic. When single men only came, they had no families to help them farm and they had no funds. So the Presbyterians from Ireland helped the poor newcomers figure out just what to do. They became the ditch diggers and laborers who worked on the Erie Canal project, the Transcontinental Railroad, the police and fire personnel. They went down to Louisiana to help on the "New Canal" digging and they died from malaria. It was thought that the actual Black slave was too valuable to use on this project, so, the Irish were hired to do the work. By the end of the 19th century the Irish of the northern U.S. had to compete with the Blacks and the Irish didn't like that at all. So, many of them became plumbers, general contractors and came to be known as "lace curtain Irish". Irish women were hired as "domestics" and because they spoke English, were also hired as teachers.

An Irish stereotype: he was never seen waltzing, had a good tenor voice but could only sing "Danny Boy", and was a whiskey drinker. The Irish gained acceptance

(Continued on page 2)

consistently and during FDR's term attained a cabinet post. By JFK's term the cabinet post was higher.

The German migration was a little different in that they left Bremen, Germany (usually) on a long and uncomfortable ocean voyage. They landed in Halifax and the Nova Scotia area. Many settled in the Pennsylvania area because the land was cheap or free. These German people were noted to be very intellectual; they were writers, teachers, musicians. 1830 to 1850 was the second wave of Germans who left Germany because of the futile control and political strife. They didn't care to die in prison or to be killed. Upon coming to the U.S. they established their own little communities and lived the way they chose. The women rarely ever worked outside the home. Usually the man immigrated first and then he brought over his family. The Germans like an orderly way of living. They were thrifty. In the 1830s it was reported that there were approximately 152,000 Germans in the U.S. By 1840 that tripled to 435,000 and by the 1850s that figure doubled again to 900,000. By 1880 there were over 800 German language newspapers in the U.S. (Abraham Lincoln even owned a German newspaper in Illinois).

In the Colonial Period, the Germans settled on the American frontier (which was up-state New York) with hostile Indian fighting and the Huguenots.

In the 1850s, the second wave of Germans settled in the larger cities. There was the "German Triangle" which was a line drawn from Milwaukee to St. Louis then back up to Cincinnati. They were the radical "free-thinkers" - the agnostics, the atheists, people who believed in an 8 hour work day. They created cities and towns as they had in Germany, but without churches in any of the towns. The women did not work outside the home. In St. Louis in 1854, they were supporters of Abe Lincoln and joined the war effort as chaplains - even being agnostics.

The Amish/Mennonites came for the Industrial Revolution. Then just before WWI the migrating German population dropped off. They couldn't use German as a language in the schools. There was strong anti-German feeling about migration in Illinois.

A stereotype German: over-weight, handlebar mustache, hoisting a beer stein and wearing the typical garb of leather short pants.

There was a very brief Q and A following the talk. For more information, one excellent source to read is Coming to America by Roger Daniels (973.04)

Hint: For background information about the area where you ancestors lived, order travel catalogs from their area. These usually have lists of churches, local maps, and other local information. They are usually free, and some list toll-free numbers. Chambers of Commerce may be able to give you cemetery information, addresses, mortuaries.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Barbara Dittig

I do hope your holiday was wonderful and that you're now looking forward to another busy and rewarding year with SRVGS. Our dedicated committee members are busy planning events that will be of interest to everyone, I'm sure. Do check the "Calendar of Events" for library trips, education classes and future speakers.

Has genealogy research been included in your list of "New Year's Resolutions"? When we become overwhelmed with all that we'd like to accomplish, it's easy to put it all aside for "another day". What I've decided to do is to take one ancestor whose research has been put aside for a long time and concentrate on just that person. Have I explored all the avenues available to me?

Compared to 20+ years ago, when I first became interested in genealogy, we now have a wealth of resources from which to draw. The Internet is really a gold mine. If you don't have access to a computer at home, come to the FHC in Danville. The volunteers are very knowledgeable and are there to help you. Take advantage of our library trips. It's amazing what you can learn from your fellow car-poolers in that hour going and coming from the libraries.

Starting at our next general meeting, I'm going to ask for 4 or 5 members in the audience to volunteer the name of 1 ancestor they plan to research this year and the county and state where they lived. It may surprise you to know that the person sitting next to you is also researching in that county and state. Hopefully, this will be another helpful tool in finding information on your long lost ancestor.

Happy Hunting in 2003.

Handbook Corrections

John C. Lemak - Membership Chairman

Please correct the following information in your handbook.

Audrey Morgan's new e-mail address:

amorgan@astound.net

Corrected Address:

Carol Green
PMB 237,
3494 Camino Tassajara,
Danville, 94506-4680

New Addresses:

D. Lee Garrison
5798 Christine Drive
Eureka, Ca 95503-7702

Frances Becker
2722 E. Manoa Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

Did you know that the Post Office has FREE postage paid envelopes to use for safe environmental disposal of your empty ink jet cartridges

Phone: 808-988-2811

SRVGS CALENDAR JANUARY 2003

- 7 **Tuesday— 10:00 a.m.** Board Meeting at the home of President, Barbara Dittig on Jacaranda Drive in Danville.
- 21 **Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** General Meeting at LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/2 miles.
- 23 **Thursday – 10:00 a.m.** Member Education Class—"Area Libraries and Research Facilities." This presentation will be made by Frances Lloyd at 210 Town & Country Drive in Danville.. Her phone number is 837-9382. You may also contact Vern Segelke, Member Education Coordinator at (925) 838-8570 and please sign up at the General Meeting. If you also plan to attend the afternoon meeting, you are welcome to bring a bag lunch.
- 23 **Thursday – 1:00 p.m.** This is a follow-up, of a group meeting held in September. How would you format your material, in order to share or distribute your research findings? This non-published group will meet again with Fran Lloyd to develop more ideas and be inspired. The meeting location will be at Fran's house - 210 Town & Country Drive in Danville. Members that did not attend the prior meeting, but wish to attend this January meeting, please call Fran Lloyd at 837-9382
- 28 **Tuesday – 9:00 a.m.** The Library trip will be to the California Genealogical Society (CGS) library in Oakland. Carpools will meet behind Albertson's, off Diablo Road in Danville. The Library Trip Coordinator is Louise Ford. If you sign up for the trip and wish to cancel or if you wish to join the group, please call Louise (925) 376-4587. Nearby parking is not readily available. Drivers are urged to learn about available parking facilities in advance. The library is located at 1611 Telegraph Avenue, between 2 BART stations, thus it is reasonably accessible via BART. Phone (510) 663-1358 or go to www.calgensoc.org. Non-members of CGS will be asked for a user fee of about \$ 3.00.

FEBRUARY 2003

- 4 **Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** Board Meeting at the home of President, Barbara Dittig on Jacaranda Drive in Danville
- 11 **Tuesday – 10:00 a.m to 11:00 a.m..** Member Education Class, "Computer Resources Available at the Local Family History Center". This will be presented by Ron Frye at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road. Please note: This

is NOT his Internet class. Interested members will be invited to sign up at the January meeting because this will be held prior to the February general meeting. Only 7 - 10 members can be accommodated on this date.

- 18 **Tuesday – 10:00 a.m.** General Meeting at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road.
- 25 **Tuesday -** The Library trip will be to the Oakland Family History Center on Lincoln Avenue.

**SRVGS Special Interest Groups:
JANUARY/FEBRUARY - 2003**

GERMAN – There will be a meeting of group members on Wednesday January 22 (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.. This meeting will be at the home of Jack and Barbara Johnson, 616 Camino Amigo in Danville. Let the hostess know if you do not plan to attend. Phone (925) 837-2153. The group coordinator is Fran Schweitzer (925) 935 -5744 or e-mail FranSchw@pacbell.net.

IRISH. – Their meeting dates will be January 8 and February 12, (second Wednesday) 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

SOUTHERN – This group will meet January 14 and February 11, (Second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road, in Alamo. The contact person is Dorothy Stanton, Phone 820-3757 or e-mail dpstant@hotmail.com.

INTERNET – Interested users communicate via e-mail. The coordinator is Jack Johnson, 837-2153 or jackmj@earthlink.net

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - They will meet Tuesday, January 21 after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m.. They will meet at the home of Dorothy Stanton, 501 El Capitan Drive in Danville. Bring a bag lunch. This is a genealogy software users group for PC's and will focus on the use of Master Genealogist. Peggy Dearman is the contact person for the group, 837-1621 or dearman@pacbell.net.

The following is a list of Special Interest Groups that are currently inactive. The name and phone number of the group contact person is also listed:

(Continued on Page 4)

(Inactive groups, continued)

MAC Computer users – Barbara Dittig, phone 648-9364 or e-mail bdittig@aol.com.

NEW ENGLAND – Barbara Dyer, phone 820-9738 or e-mail bdyergen@aol.com.

PORTUGUESE – Millie Freitas, phone 837-2483.

SCANDINAVIA – Marilyn Tanner, phone 376-6733 or e-mail jtanner@nothingbutnet.net.

PUBLISHING -. If you are ready to organize your material into a format for publishing, printing or distribution, contact this group.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

14 January, Tuesday The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will hold its regular meeting 7:30 p.m. at 1866 College Ave. in Livermore.

16 January, Thursday The Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society will be hosting Sandy Shafer, CGRS at their general meeting. They meet at 3345 Lochinvar Ave. in Santa Clara at 7 p.m.. The topic will be "The Development of Surnames and How They Change"

13 February, Thursday The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society will hold its regular meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Concord Family History Center, 3700 Concord Blvd, in Concord.

8 March, Saturday Family History Day at the California State Archives, 020 'O' Street in Sacramento. Free admission. Computer demonstrations, preservation techniques, mini classes and more. For further information go to www.ss.ca.gov/archives/archives or e-mail ijones@accessbee.com

15 March Saturday The San Mateo County Genealogical Society will sponsor an all day seminar featuring Nora Hickey of County Cork, Ireland. The time is from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. at 1st Presbyterian Church, 25th & Hacienda in San Mateo. The pre-registration fee for a non-member is \$ 22. For further information e-mail CathT@aol.com

22 March Saturday The Sonoma County Genealogical Society will hold its 11th annual Spring Seminar featuring Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. It will be held at Sonoma State Univ. in Rohnert Park. The pre-registration fee for a non-member is \$ 22; \$25 at the door. For further information go to www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/carmack.htm

Newsletter Team:

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

Special Contributor: Pat Isom 820-2660

Calendar Coordinator: Vern Segelke 838-8570
e-mail: vmseg3@greaterbaynet.com

Mailing:

Lucy Carver 837-3146

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

How to Reach the Board Members:

President: Barbara Dittig 648-9364
e-mail: bdittig@aol.com

1st Vice President - Barbara Johnson 837-2153

2nd Vice President: (Program)

Bob Kay 945-7426

Carol Thompson 820-4103

Frank Williams 283-6135

3rd Vice President (Membership)

John Lemak 932-3957

Recording Secretary: Virginia Rood 937-8659

Treasurer: Marilyn Tanner 376-6733

Parliamentarian: Frances Lloyd 837-9382

For all the people involved in Special Interest Groups and the other necessary duties of the operation of this organization, please see your handbook and the calendar.

A Touch of Census Humor:

A census taker walked up to a woman who was sitting on a porch. After introducing himself, he said, "How many children do you have?"

The woman answered, "Four".

The census taker asked, "May I have their names, please"?

The woman replied, "Eenie, Meenie, Minie, and George."

Confused, the census taker said, "May I ask why you named your fourth child 'George'?"
"Surely, because we didn't want any Moe."

From Legacy News, January 7, 2003.

Sutro Library has 1930 Census

From Martha Whittaker, Reference Librarian, Sutro Library

The Sutro Library now has the 1930 census and soundex available for use. The reels may be borrowed on interlibrary loan within the state of California. To see what is available, go to www.lib.state.ca.us, to view the California State Library catalog as a whole. Do a subject search for the state you want, plus the words "census 1930". Here is an example: California census 1930. That search will bring up both the census and the soundex reels, if any.

The Sutro has the following indexes for states which were not soundexed in the 1910 census: New York State (in print form and on CD-ROM; neither are available for interlibrary loan); Indiana and Alaska (CD-ROM; not available for interlibrary loan); and Oregon (microfilm, available for interlibrary loan within California.) For a complete list of the weekdays and Saturdays the Sutro will be closed in 2003, go to www.lib.state.ca.us. Click on "Hours" in the left column, then click on the link to Sutro Library.

Wisconsin Restricts Information On Death Certificates

Beginning January 1, 2003, the specific causes of a person's death on a Wisconsin Death certificate no longer will be public information. The public still has access to general information, including whether the death was from natural causes, accidental, a suicide or a homicide. The law is not retroactive, so all information on death certificates filed before January 1st will remain public.

From Legacy News, January 3, 2003

The Copenhagen Police Records of Emigration 1868-1908

The Danish Emigration Archives and the Danish Data Archives have produced a CD-ROM with the Danish emigration records listed by the Copenhagen Police 1868-1908. This data is also available on the Internet. It contains approximately 350,000 records and includes a free search facility which will enable you to search all the listings made by the Copenhagen police. The data can be found at emaarch@emiarch.dk. At this site are also other items available for Danish research, including immigration records for people who left from Vejle.

Source: Pomona Valley Genealogical Society, December 2002

U.S. Geographic Names Information System

The GNIS, developed by the USGS in cooperation with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) contains information about almost 2 million physical and cultural geographic features in the United States. The following information is available about a selected geographic feature:

- The officially recognized feature name and type (populated place, river, mountain, cemetery, school, etc.)
- Estimated 1994 population of incorporated cities and towns.
- States(s) and county(s) in which the feature is located
- List of USGS topographic maps on which the feature is shown
- Names other than the federally recognized name by which

the feature may be or may have been known.

- Links to sites offering map view for graphical displays of the feature.

For example, in looking up Placerville, Calif., you can learn that it is the county seat for El Dorado county, and that it is also known by the names Dry Diggins, Hangtown and Old Dry Diggins.

By clicking the link "View USGS digital Raster Graphic" you can instantly see a digitized version of a USGS topographic map.

By clicking the link "Show Feature Location" you can see a map produced from the U.S. Census Bureau's Tiger Map Server. By clicking the link "View USGS Digital Orthophoto Quadrangle" you can see a satellite view from space.

The US Geographic Names Information System online site can be found at:

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis/web_query.gnis_web_query_form.

Source: Legacy News January 7, 2003

Obituary Lookups

The magazine and newspaper Department of the San Francisco Public library will provide one free lookup/photocopy for California residents if they provide their mailing address, name of deceased, place and date of death. You can e-mail your request to http://www.info@sfpl.org or mail your request to: Attn: Magazine & Newspaper Dept. San Francisco Public Library Information Services Department 100 Larkin Street San Francisco, CA 94102.

If you mail your request, you should send a stamped self addressed envelope.

Multiple requests from one person or requests that lack full information should be placed via inter-library loan as a photocopy request.

San Francisco Public Library's holding of newspapers may be found at <http://sfpl4.sfpl.org/magnews/SFNewspapersOnMicrofilm.html>.

To find their holdings of other California papers, search their periodicals database at <http://libweb.sfpl.org>. Another tool for research is California Digital Library's Periodical Database at: www.cdlib.org. **(Check this out, it's great)**

Source: Livermore Roots Tracer, Nov. 2002.

Guardianship Records: Searching for Those

"Loose Papers" by Barbara McKinley

In the past, serious epidemics killed large numbers of people. Even during the 20th century, the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 claimed the lives of more than 500,000 men and women in the United States.

Left in the aftermath were children who had lost one or both parents. In many states, a guardian was appointed for minor children, *even if one parent had survived*. These records may contain important information for genealogists regarding family relationships and children's ages. An orphan was defined as a minor whose father has died or whose deceased mother left separately owned property to a child and excluded the father, or as a child who has lost both parents.

A search for family specific documents is important. These documents may be listed in separate court indexes or may not be indexed at all, but rather filed with other records concerning the family in question.

While doing research on James Saffer and Mary Rogers of Harrison County, Indiana, with the aid of Catherine Summers, a researcher and historian, as well as a sympathetic county clerk. Letters of Administration and Guardianship Records were located in a box labeled "Loose Papers", stored in a safe in a garage "down the street" from the courthouse!

James Saffer had died in 1829 and Mary Rogers married Joseph Wilson on November 12, 1832. In the court's April 1834 term, Joseph Wilson was made guardian of the minor children of Mary Rogers Wilson by order of the court. Because of these papers, the children's ages were established along with a number of other facts about Joseph Wilson, Mary Rogers and James Saffer.

In colonial days, at age 14, children were allowed to accept the guardian chosen by a judge or to choose a new guardian. For example, a son might pick another guardian in lieu of his mother, particularly if she had remarried.

Guardianship appointments were usually handled through a probate court, but it is not unusual to find them in another court as well. In small jurisdictions, a well-informed county clerk will know where such records are entered, but in large counties it may take diligence to track down some of these "loose papers".

At any rate, if there is any reason to doubt that a child's parents are alive, or a mother or father remarried, search for possible guardianship records. Don't overlook the possibility that something may be lurking in the "loose papers" to add valuable clues to your research.

*References; Doane, G. Searching for Your Ancestors, p. 92
Eakle and Cerny, The Source, p. 177, 1984*

Excerpted from article in Santa Clara County H&GS Newsletter

Tombstones - Care and Handling

Contributed by Dorothy Stanton

When in Tennessee this summer I was told that a relative went out to the cemetery with a steel brush and "cleaned" all the family stones (some early 1800's) that were covered with moss, etc.

Debra Rookard (debrarookard@flashofcrimson.com) states "as someone with years of professional experience in the stone industry, I respectfully implore that you do absolutely nothing to a tombstone, outside of throwing a bucket of water it.

Organic substances initiate the growth of microbials and accelerate the growth of moss and molds. While it will be easier to read today, it is causing permanent damage for tomorrow. This certainly includes the use of any and all chemicals. Please leave this to the professionals. The words "unknown" or "illegible" does not make us failures."

Debra's credentials are: Senior Designer for Sherman Interiors in Sugar Hill, GA. specializing in high-end stone floors, walls, and buildings.

New York Information

If you are looking for some good links into New York information, check The Brooklyn list:

NYBROOKLYN-L@rootsweb.com and the Brooklyn information page (see url below). There is a volume of information there, including newspapers which are being transcribed very quickly, some of these going back to 1828.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~blkyn/Bklyn.Info.Page.html>.

(Editors note: at time of printing this worked as a link)

Cornell University Holdings

Historical documents readable on-line free of charge with incredible links can be found at

<http://moa.cit.cornell.edu/moa/index.html>.

Several methods of researching are available, and it is recommended that you try all of them.

Vital Records Research Reminder

Need to find the most up to date resources for locating those birth, marriage, death, divorce, etc. records? Don't forget <http://www.vitalrec.com>. There are links to all the states, American Samoa, Canal Zone, District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and links to Adoption Resources, and more. There is information on how to obtain a Certified copy of a report, and even links to finding foreign vital records.

If you don't have a computer, remember that you can access the Internet at the FHC in Alamo.

Veterans History Project

The Library of Congress and its American folklife Center invite you to join in an important national project - the Veterans History Project. You can join as a member of the Volunteer Corp or as a Partner.

Volunteers are the individuals who interview war veterans and transcribe their recordings or identify documents to donate. They may be family members, fellow veterans, students or other interested citizens who collect veterans' histories and donate them to the project.

If you are a war veteran, you possess a valuable resource in your war memories. Your military experience might make you a knowledgeable interviewer of other veterans. You can work closely with your local library, historical society, college or school to encourage their participation as a Partner in the Veterans History Project.

If you want to participate, see the web site for further information on volunteering or e-mail or write to:

Veterans History Project
Library of Congress
American Folklife Center
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20540-4615
or E-mail: vohp@loc.gov
Web site: <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/>

Genealogy Scams

Not every Web site that sells genealogy products and services is legitimate, but there are places where you can validate the company who has just offered to sell you a volume about your ancestors.

To check genealogy scams in general - try the Genealogical Web Site Watchdog (for only online scams) at: <http://www.ancestordetective.com/watchdog.htm>.

The National Genealogical Society's Consumer Protection committee keeps an eye out for scams both online and offline. Contact NGS Consumer Protection Committee at: 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399, or check their Web pages at: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/comconsumer.htm>. This site provides general information and warnings, but their site at: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/comconsumerpsst.htm> tells you what to do if you already have been scammed.

Cyndi's List also has a section for genealogy hoaxes, myths and scams at: <http://www.cyndislist.com/myths.htm>

Dick Eastman wrote an article for his 9/18/02 online newsletter about scams and he does name names such as [genseekers.com](http://www.genseekers.com) and [FamilyDiscovery.com](http://www.familydiscovery.com), [Genealogy-Developments.com](http://www.genealogydevelopments.com), and [GenLocator.com](http://www.genlocator.com). He also suggests looking at the Genealogy Hall of Shame at <http://blacksheep.rootsweb.com/shame/genlocator.htm>. You can also go to the [ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) library/view/columns/eastman and then enter scam into the

"Search the Library" box. That will bring up all the articles in their library about scams. Also, you can go to "google" or any of the other reputable search engines and do a search on the company name. This should bring up both good and bad comments about the company.

Copyright in an Electronic World

by Cath Trindle

Recently two McGraw-Hill e-books were submitted and processed by the US Copyright Office entirely in digital format. This was possible because of the CORDS system (Copyright Office Electronic Registration, Recordation and Deposit System)

According to a press release by the Copyright Office, "The CORDS system now offers book publishers the benefit of more efficient filings, saving time and effort in preparing and transmitting copyright applications and deposited works electronically. Once received in the office, CORDS simplifies processing of copyright applications for e-books by avoiding much of the keystroking and handling required by paper-based registration procedures, automatically charging filing fees to CORDS Deposit Accounts, creating in-process records, and preparing preliminary copyright catalog records. CORDS checks the authenticity and integrity of digital submissions through digital signatures and provides sage and secure storage of digital works".

The copyright office started registering copyright claims through CORDS in 1996. The works submitted include e-journals, technical reports, computer programs, electronic study guides, dissertations, musical works and now e-books.

Copyright registration of works in digital format is the wave of the future. **Genealogists should take advantage of the ability to submit in this format, protecting their creations before posting to the web or sharing with others.**

As registration of digital works becomes more common, we are likely to see more prosecution of those who violate digitalcopyright as well. **While cut and paste off the Internet is a great way to gather family data, those who do so should be well versed in the principles of fair use and adequate documentation, and beware of copying the original work (whether registered or not) of other genealogists without their explicit permission.**

For more copyright information visit the US Copyright Office online at <http://www.loc.gov/copyright>.

Photo Life Span by Sharon Clay

Have you been really careful about preserving those precious photos of your ancestors, or even yourself and your family? Do you buy those expensive photo albums with acid free paper, only use acid free ink and adhesive, and use archival safe page protectors. You HOPE this will keep those precious photos from deteriorating and turning yellow within your lifetime, or that of your children. But, just how long can you expect them to last. What about committing them to CD's?

In an article in Wired E-journal of June 2002, Michael Menduno assembled information from many different expert sources and printed a "time-line" of expected information life span.

Low man on the totem pole is the thermal fax paper - with only 5 year life span. If you have tried to check a cash register receipt a few months after a purchase, you will think that is far too great an estimate for that item. Here are some others:

Item	Life Expectancy
3.5 - 5.25 Inch floppies	5-10 years
Zip Drives, hard drives	10-20 years
Digital Tape	10-30 years.
Inkjet Prints	20-30 years

Item	Life Expectancy
35 mm. Hollywood films	50-75 years
Polaroid Photos	20-80 years
Acid free papers	50-80 years
CD's	5-100 years
Papers in File Cabinets	20-100 years
Mag. Tape, audio & video	30-100 years
Color Prints	50-200 years
Color Negatives	100-200 years
Modern day letters, maps, manuscripts	100-200 years
Newspapers	100-400 years
Black and white prints	200-400 years
Microfilm	400-500 years
Books	100-1000 years
Clay Tablets	5,000-10,000 years

See, now you have another reason to get those records published in books (unless you prefer clay tablets.).

**San Ramon Valley
Genealogical Society
Box 305
Diablo, Ca 94528-0305**

FIRST CLASS MAIL