Ancestors WEST



Volume 18, Number 4, Winter 1992

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	123
Standardized Addressing	124
Ahnentafel - Denniston	125
The Immigrant Car	127
The Elijah Estes Chair	128
Bible Records - Nelson/Lewis Family	130
In Memoriam	132
Case of the Devious Abstract	133
Printing Your Family History	135
Early American Christmas Celebrations	136
Caves Under Lexington	137
The Sinking Creek Cave System	138
Hints on Reading the Census	139
Are Your Researching in Norway?	140
McNemar Letter	141
Book reviews	142
New in the SBCGS Library	143
The Seed Bed	151
Queries	153
Looking for Samuel Plimpton	154
CSCA Writing Contest Rules	157

	SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIET	Y PAST PRESIDENT	rs
Location:	Covarrubias Adobe, 711 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara		
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 1303, Santa Barbara, CA 93116-1303 Area code (80.	5) Carol Roth 1	1972-73
Board of Directors 1992	Beatrice Mohr McGrath Jayne Craven Caldwell Al Hardy Howard Menzel Gorden Corbaley Burney First Vice President Programs Second Vice President Membership Treasurer 736-963 736-963 736-963 736-963	38 37 Harry R. Glen 1 78 38	1974-75
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Purpose:	Established in 1972, the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society becar	ne	1977
	incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986. Its aim is to prome genealogy by providing assistance and educational opportunities for the who are interested in pursuing their family history.	ote	1978
Membership:	Benefits include TREE TIPS (monthly newsletter) and ANCESTORS WEST (quarterly). Active (individual) - \$15 Family (husband & wife) - \$20 Friend - \$	25 Harry Titus	1979
	Donor - \$50 Patron - \$100		
Meetings:	Emanuel Lutheran Church, 3721 Modoc Road, Santa Barbara Regular monthly meetings are held on the second Saturday of each more except August. Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. and are preceded by session	nth	1980
	for beginners starting at 9:30 a.m.	Emily Perry Thies	1981
Publications:	ANCESTORS WEST Editor, Virginia McGraw Paddock 969-5158 Assistant Editor, Marilyn Appling Owen 962-7984	Harry Titus	1982
	Artwork and Design, Cheryl Fitzsimmons Jensen 969-4974		
	TREE TIPS Editor, Diane Stubblefield Sylvester 967-1742	Norman E. Scofield	1983
	ANCESTORS WEST is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall a Winter. As available, current and back issues are \$3 each plus postage. Library subscription to ANCESTORS WEST is \$10 per year.	ary Doreen Cook Dullea	1984
	Articles of family history or historical nature are solicited and accepted space permits. If materials are to be returned, include a self-address stamped envelope. Copying from ANCESTORS WEST for other publication is by permission of Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. Abstract with credit is permitted. Our staff is voluntary and cannot check the accurr of material submitted for publication, or accept responsibility for errors.	ed, ons Janice Gibson Cloud ing acy	1985-86
	Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit copy submitted.		1987-88

President's Message _

This is my final letter as President of our grand Society. four, short years since January 1989 have been most rewarding and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to meet and become acquainted with so many new people. It has been heartwarming to experience the dedication of all those movers and shakers who offered good advice, volunteered for various projects, helped us move into new facilities, and undertook all this with such good humor.

I know our new officers will enjoy working with our members who accept various assignments. Only a small percentage of members are required to manage our activities and functions and we welcome and encourage those who step forward to help us in 1993.

We made some important strides during this time. A few that stand out just in 1992 are: the monumental feat of moving our library from small quarters in Goleta to the Santa Barbara Historical Society's Covarrubias Adobe; the gathering of our resources from various homes and garages where they had been stored around the community; acquiring a microfiche reader and copier; expansion to 18 library hours during four days per week; the very economical purchase of numerous boxes of books from the Los Angeles Public Library Genealogical Division; gift of 100 books on Maine from Special Collections at UCSB; completion of cataloging books from the Estate of Lilian Mann Fish; gift from Dean and Roberta Smith of seven boxes of New England Historical and Genealogical Register to complete our collection to date; printing of another publication, the 1895-96 City Directory for Santa Barbara; pending publication this year of Santa Barbara marriages dating from early Mission records through 1905; move to Emanuel Lutheran Church for our monthly meetings where accommodations are truly accommodating; and membership of 500.....and growing.

We have good reason to be proud of our noteworthy advancement during these past two decades; our Society is successful, members are friendly, and benefits abound. I applaud all those members who have assisted us by joining, by participating in drives and various activities, and by volunteering to help on committees and special projects. We have needed you all and will surely continue to do so in the future.

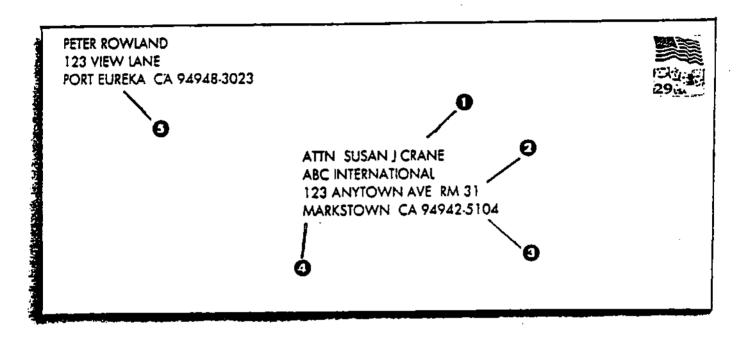
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Thanks to all of our members who have contributed the great variety of informative articles for publication in ANCESTORS WEST. A special thank you to our regular contributors: Patsv Brock, Doris Crawford, Al and Greeta Hardy, Carol Kosai, Bea McGrath and Marilyn Owen. Your continued support will be greatly appreciated. Nieginia M. Ban Tassock, whiten

STANDARDIZED ADDRESSING

The U.S. Postal Service now uses computer scanning to handle the half a billion pieces of mail delivered each day. Standardizing addresses helps move the mail faster and more reliably.

Please follow the simple guidelines for standardized addressing.



- (1) Always put the addressee name on the first line (If you are sending mail to someone at a company, put the company name on the second line.)
- (2) In addition to street address and PO Box number, please include the following:

N (North), S (South), E (East), W (West), NE, NW, SE, SW, if appropriate.

Ave (Avenue), ST (Street), DR (Drive), RD (Road), PL (Place), CIR (Circle), Blvd (Boulevard), or CT (Court).

RM (Room), STE (Suite), or APT (Apartment) number.

- (3) Put the ZIP Code on the same line after the city and state. If you know the ZIP + 4 code, please use it here.
- (4) Capitalize and left justify all type. Do not punctuate.
- (5) Always use the return address.

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THE IMMIGRANT CAR By N. Burr Corvell

As soon as the transcontinental railroads were completed, the era of the Covered Wagon ceased and travel by rail was the "way to go". Travel time between the East and Sacramento, California, was reduced to only 7 days compared to seven months via Wagon Train. The Pacific Railroad Bill was passed by Congress on 1 July 1862 and construction of the railroad began in 1863. Central Pacific (which became Southern Pacific in 1865) built eastward across the Sierra Nevada Mountains using Chinese labor. Union Pacific built westward from Omaha using Irish labor.

On the 10th of May 1869 at Promontory Point, Utah, a golden spike was driven at the point where east and west met. The gold spike was inscribed with a prayer - "May God continue the unity of our country as this Railroad unites the two great oceans of the World."

After the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe completed its continental railroad to Los Angeles in 1887, Southern Pacific's monopoly was broken and thus was ignited the "Boom of the Eighties" eventually making California the most populous state in the U.S.A. At the climax of "this railroad rate war" between these two railroads a person could travel from St. Louis, Missouri, to Los Angeles, California, for \$25. The usual passenger fares from the Midwest to California was \$125. Also freight rates were cut from \$1,000 per car to \$400.

Southern Pacific had printed a whole series of booklets and brochures - free to all - at depots on trains, at fairs and expositions. Publications were also made available to the general public by mail. Amazingly, over 80 million promotional items regarding the Pacific Coast States were distributed between 1912 and 1922. Particular emphasis was given to the several valleys of California, including the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Imperial, Coachella, and Indian Wells valleys. Southern Pacific had extended its rail lines northward from Sacramento to southern Oregon.

When a family decided to migrate from the eastern part of the United States to the west, they arranged to hire a freight car from the railroad. One end of the cattle type car was boarded up to keep out rain and the family's furniture, farm implements, personal items etc. were placed here. A bed for one family member to sleep on was arranged in this part of the car. At the other end of the cattle car, the livestock, such as horses and cattle were placed. The family member, usually a young man, took care of the livestock - feeding and watering them along the way. He was allowed free passage by the railroad. The livestock caretaker was designated as "sleeping with the scoop shovel" - an inside type of humor. Other members of the family rode in regular passenger cars, perhaps, on a different train.

Compared to the seven month trek to the west by covered wagon, this new method of migration seemed a great improvement.

THE ELIJAH ESTES CHAIR

By Eleanor Ward 1990

In our branch of the Smith family each member retains a copy of an interview with Sarah Roberts Horn(e) my great, great grandmother, on the occasion of her 93rd birthday in 1888. It was taken by my great uncle, John S. Browning, of the Boston Globe, and is of interest because of her reference to Lafavette's visit to Dover on Thursday, June 23, 1825; and to a chair in her possession which was brought to Dover Neck New Hampshire by her ancestor, Elijah Estes, in 1623.

Where did this chair go? Who inherited it? None of my aunts remembered such a chair. In fact, none of the family who had lived in that homestead remembered any such chair. We assumed that it had gone with some son or daughter who had moved from the area and the chair's lineage was lost.

All genealogists can attest to the fact that one of the pleasures of family research is the renewed contact with long lost members. Aha! Cousin Minna Boomer Hyde would know! She's 96, sharp as a tack, and knows everything! We had visited with her several times and keep in telephone contact also. She was one of my mother's bridesmaids! I forwarded a copy of the interview with my query to her. Alas, she knew nothing of the chair; however, the Woodman Institute had recently contacted her concerning some family articles in their collection and she had mentioned the interview. The Institute expressed interest in obtaining a copy and she was able to tell them we were coming east again in the summer, so she would relay their request.

When we arrived in Dover for our luncheon with Minna she had a message for us to contact Mr. Whitehouse, a trustee of the Woodman Institute. He could not join us for lunch but offered to meet us at the Institute after lunch to talk and tour. What a delight! Time is always short in New England and we had never taken time to visit the Woodman, which serves as the local historical society, as well as a repository for artifacts of interest to the city. It was closed day for them so we had the place to ourselves with an expert guide.

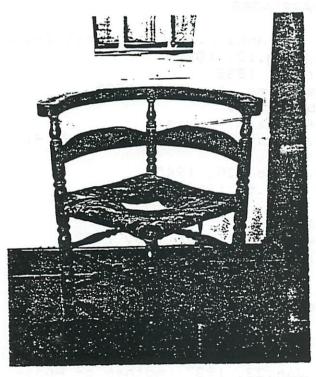
We discussed various family articles in their collection and I asked whether my uncles had ever donated anything from their houses. "No", he said. "Rats" I thought. They had received some papers though, but would really like a copy of Sarah's interview for their archives, because of its graphic description of Lafayette's visit. The house he slept in is still standing and the bedroom preserved intact.

We had brought a copy of the interview for him and I said "This also mentions a chair brought by Elijah Estes in 1623 that I've been trying to find." Eureka!!! He looked at me in astonishment! "We just got that chair!" Where?! It's in the Damm Garrison House on the grounds.

Come on, I'll show you, I have a key. How? Someone from Florida brought it in. Who? A man who had no heirs inherited it from his sister, who had no heirs either. It was stipulated by Estes that the chair was to be passed on to the eldest daughter in each generation of the family and had come to his sister.

The eldest daughter? My mother was the eldest daughter - no - her grandmother was the eldest - no, this is grandfather's family - that would have been - darn these generations - ah - Mary Horn Hanson. He must be a Hanson descendant. Why? The gentleman knew the history of the chair and since he had lost contact with any other family he decided it should be in some museum - preferably in Dover, New Hampshire.

Well, there it was - the Elijah Estes chair - sitting in the Damm Garrison House of 1675 and looking quite at home in this environment. It is what I call a tricorn chair though there is probably a proper name for it. It was devised to sit upon with bustles and/or a coat with coattails and sword. A square reed seat is backed upon two sides with a thick curving baluster. This provides a back to lean into as you straddle one corner of the seat. A practical chair for the times.



of our pictures Copies of the Elijah Estes chair were sent to family members and the response was one contentment vor and it had been found and was properly preserved at the Woodman in where it probably disembarked Cove on Pomeroy Piscataqua River with boat load of settlers came with the Hilton brothers to Dover Neck, New Hampshire in 1623.

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LOST AN ANCESTOR IN THE 1850s? - If you have an ancestor who appears to have disappeared in the 1850s, try checking the 1852 California State Census. Over 50,000 people traveled overland to the gold fields while others went by ship to San Francisco on their way in search of gold. The 1852 State Census of California is especially valuable, as it asked for the person's residence. Most answered with the name of the state from which they came. By 1855, 23,000 of these people had moved on or returned to their former homes. [Family Tree Digest, 8/91]

NELSON/LEWIS FAMILY RECORDS

The following information is taken from a Bible owned by Mrs. Walter Nelson (Anna Lewis), Connersuille, IN, Dec.25, 1889. The title page reads "The Holy Bible containing the Old and New Testaments translated out of the original tongues; and with the former translations diligently compared and revised". New York: American Bible Society. instituted in the year MDCCCXVI. 1889 [Minton Ref. 12mo.]". The transcription was done by Phyllis Nelson Reinheimer, granddaughter, 5750 Via Real, #303, Carpinteria, CA93013 who now has the Bible and other papers included herein. Information in () is added by transcriber. All other information in the Bible records seems to be in the handwriting of Anna Lewis, except where noted.

FAMILY RECORDS MARRIAGES

Walter L. Nelson and Anna M. Lewis, April 24, 1889 Charles S. Lewis, Aug.12, 1891 Edward Lewis, Oct. 4, 1888 Frank Lewis, first time, April 4, 1895 Ernest Lewis, Feb.7, 1900

(These are brothers of Anna M. Lewis)
Frank S. Lewis married Mrs. Sweenie, second time, Jan 4,
1919.

(added) Bertha died Nov.20, 1945 Kit died July 5, 1914

BIRTHS

Arthur L(ewis) Nelson born April 6, 1892
Miss Ruth Rhoderick born March 30, 1892
Arthur L. Nelson and Ruth Rhoderick married
Nov.26, 1914.

Phyllis Ann Nelson born June 8, 1922
Walter L(incoln) Nelson born Dec. 4, 1864 (in Arthur's handwriting)

Moses Lewis, Feb. 5, 1830 (father of Anna) Eliza J. Carter, Jan.23, 1837 (mother of Anna) married May 17, 1855

Charles S. Lewis, April 13, 1856 William D. Lewis, Dec. 29, 1857 Edmon E. Lewis, Aug.17, 1861 Anna M. Lewis, Nov. 12, 1866 Frank S. Lewis, Nov.6, 1871

Harry E. Lewis, Feb. 10, 1876
(added) Fred G. Lewis died Dec. 13, 1947
"Mother (Eliza J.Carter Lewis) died

age 63....1900-1837"

DEATHS

Deed Lewis, wife of E.E. Lewis died Jan.28, 1940
Walter L.Nelson, husband of Anna, died May 9,1943
Catherine M. Lewis died July 5, 1914, 1st wife *
Bertha M. Lewis died May 20, 1945, 2nd wife *
(*These are wives of Frank Lewis and the entries are written by someone other than Anna Lewis)
Mother died Feb. 25, 1900 (Eliza Carter Lewis)
Father died April 14, 1909 (Moses Lewis)
Edward died Aug.5, 1915
William died Feb.5, 1919
Clarence Lewis, son of E.E.Lewis, died March 20,1899
Charles S. Lewis died Jan.25, 1935
Rilla, wife of Charles, died July 26, 1937

On typewritten pages in the Bible was the following record:

LEWIS'S OF WALES

Nathan Lewis was born in Wales 1724. He came to Baltimore in 1760, then moved to North Carolina now the Eastern part of Tennessee, near Rotherwood on the Holston River. He was the father of five children, all of them born on Wales.

Their names were: David, born 1758; George, Washington, and two girls, only one name is given, Rachel.

David Lewis, son of Nathan married Elizabeth Hawkins. Their children were:

Nathan Lewis married Jennie Trusler Jane Lewis married John Harley Nellie Lewis married John Weston

John Lewis (our Great Grandparents) married Susannah Barber

Morgan Lewis married Susan Payne
Polly Lewis married Mr. Campbell
Becca Lewis married Jacob Miller
Sallie Lewis married Williamson Collet
David Lewis married Nancy George
Celia Lewis married William Payne
Elizabeth lewis married James Wise

"This is our great grandfather's family: when I say 'our' I mean the generation now in their forty's, fifty's and so forth."..written by Gene D.Lewis.

Family of John and Susannah Lewis

John Lewis born Oct. 17, 1793. Died April 7, 1861 Susannah Barbere born Aug. 30, 1797. Died Aug. 8, 1864.

Their Children

Huldah born Jan. 16, 1818 married Rufus Wilson and John Morgan.
Harriet born July 11, 1820 married Preston Cartmel.
David born Aug.14, 1822 married Harriet Pickets.
Simeon born June 30, 1824 married Jane Scott
Wesley born Feb.23, 1826 married Margaret Malone
Dewitt Clinton born Dec.29, 1828 and died in infancy.
Moses born Feb.5, 1830 married Eliza Carter
Clark born Nov.28, 1832 married Mary Ann Jackman
Eliphlet born Nov.30, 1834. Not married
Mathan born Dec. 22, 1837. Not married

"You can take it from there, kiddles!"

Written from notes furnished by Frank Scott Lewis, with an assist from Aunt Sallie Lewis, who in turn, got them from the family Bible.

Written by Gene D. Lewis, United States Coast Guard, at CG Radio Station, Box 875, Palos Veerdes Estates, California, this, the 23rd of February 1950. (Gene Lewis died 1 March 1957 per CG records.)



In Memoriam

BARBARA GAIL MARTIN 17 Feb 1941 - 18 Sep 1992

Barbara will be sorely missed by our Society. She was a good kriend and was an active participant in genealogical matters. For several years, she arranged our annual visit to the Salt Lake City Library. To extend her genealogical research, it is requested that memorial contributions be made to the Santa Barbara Stake Family History Center, 56 La Vista Grande, Santa Barbara CA 93103. We extend our sincere sumpathy to her kamily.

THE CASE OF THE DEVIOUS ABSTRACT By Mary Ellen Galbraith

After two years of spinning my wheels and not being able to find any family records past my father's grandfather, I heard rumors that there was a complete genealogy in print of a Webster family. But where?

It was not listed among any references that I had been bouring over. No one that I knew was researching that name. It seemed like a gleam of hope, always dancing ahead of me, but fading to nothing whenever I reached for it. "Have you tried the Inter-state library?" someone asked. No, I had not. At that time I had not even heard of the Inter-state library; however, I hurried to fill out a form, under the helpful eye of the City Librarian.

Months went by while I waited. A year passed. Meantime, I found the record of my father's great grandparents in a book on Michigans, Oakland County. I began to research where they had come from and forgot about the Webster book I had ordered - and then it came! After nearly two years of waiting, I now had in my possession for the next three weeks, a copy of "John Webster, 5th Governor of the Colony of Connecticut and His Descendants." I held a gold mine in my hands.

The first of my ancestors coming to Michigan in 1823 were Chester Webster and his wife, Polly Matilda Whitney. I was off and running. Chester could be traced back through Governor John Webster, and into two to three generations back in England, but what about Polly Matilda?

It was the same frustrating story all over again. Where were the Whitney records that would connect to my Whitneys?

I am not a silent researcher and this has frequently paid off. Some one hearing my moans and groans remembered that their chiropractor was named "Whitney" and was known to have a copy of his family history. Right away I developed a very sore back. No-o-o, I'm just kidding, but I did go to see him, and he did lend me his book. Woe, and more woe; there was no "Polly Matilda" anywhere. Right where she should have been was "Joshua Whitney", his wife, Phoebe, and an abstract of his Will, naming his five sons.

Despite the intense disappointment, this activated the "Perry Mason" part of my nature and I set about tracing those boys. Could one of them have had a daughter named Polly Matilda? Maybe, possible, but not probable; however, I did learn that one son's family had located in Detroit. He had made a lot of money and had built Detroit's first opera house. His philanthropy paid off for me.

When I went back to Pontiac, I went out to the old "Wisner House" that the local people are restoring, and are collecting relics and curios donated to the cause. I asked if there were any memorabelia of the Whitney family. That dear, kind docent put a scrapebook of ancient newspaper clippings into my hands.

I found Polly Matilda's obituary there, ending with the words "Mrs. Webster was the aunt of Clark D. Whitney, who built the Detroit Opera House." Now I had proved the connection, and could take the chance on sending for Joshua Whitney's Will. Guess what! He not only had five sons, he also had three daughters. There was Polly!

So, you see, an abstract of a Will is not entirely trustworthy. You may never meet a chiropractor who owns a genealogy book on the very family that you are researching, nor be given a 100 year old newspaper clipping that relates to your family and ties the two incidents together. Abstracts can lead one into making wrong conclusions. It is not wise to depend on an abstract of a Will. They can be very devious, divisive, misleading, and incomplete. Always try or a copy of the original Will.

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ANOTHER "FAMILY HISTORY" BOOK ON THE MARKET

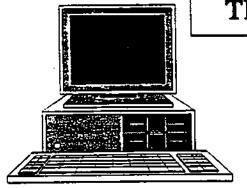
David Horowitz, a nationally syndicated columnist and TV host to his program "Fight Back" points out another book on the list of scams. Halbert's Family Heritage of Bath, Ohio, offers another "family history" book sold through direct mail flyers. They offer for \$30 "The World Book of [family name entered here]". Unfortunately, the people who fall for this type of advertising know little about family history. when Denice Steiner contacted Horowitz about the scheme, Horowitz asked Steiner to order the book and he would pay for it. What she received was a cheaply printed paperback containing some general guidelines on tracing a family tree, a drawing of the purported Steiner "Coat of Arms" and a computer printout of the names and addresses of other people named Steiner. There was nothing that specifically related to Steiner's family. A short time later, Steiner received a brochure for momentoes bearing the Steiner name, coat of arms, wall plaques, shirts and sweaters, plates, flags, even glassware.

Horowitz points out tracing your roots can be a wonderful hobby and may lead to rewarding discoveries about yourself and your family. There are no cheap, easy shortcuts. When you are asked about the mail order family history books, refer those interested to a school or genealogical society that offers courses to help one get started.

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"Printing Your Family History" by John Baldwin, found on the next page, is from Mr. Baldwin's column "The Genealogists' Computing World" published in the EI Paso Genealogical Society's newsletter. Mr. Baldwin has given SBCGS member, Garth Riddler, permission to submit his column to ANCESTORS WEST.

The Genealogists' Computing World



PRINTING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

You

have spent years

writing letters, visiting libraries and government offices, reading microfilm and talking to relatives. You now have a substantial collection of the names of family members, the dates and places of their genealogical events, and a few stories that you have heard or acquired. You have spent thousands of hours and no small amount of money on your hobby. You are sitting on top of a gold mine of personal memories and family history. What do you do now?

As the years and months passed by, you sent out hundreds of family group sheets to your relations with information about one or more ancestors in hopes that the aunt or cousin would respond to your request for their vitals. You may have even printed out descendants lists for distribution to your favorites. Now you are asking yourself what's to become of it all. If you are lucky, you have someone waiting in line to take over where you have left off. One of my favorite singers, Peggy Lee, crooved, "Is that all there is, my friend....". You find yourself asking the same question. And obviously, the answer is "No". You can and should write a book.

With the high cost of publishing, very few of us could afford to underwrite the costs of going through the formality of having a printing company print and hard bind a family volume. While the quality of a book can vary widely by professional printers, the basic cost of setting up for a print run will cost \$500 or more - if you provide camera ready copy. Typesetting is very expensive and can run over a thousand dollars for a moderate size book. A feasible alternative open to all of us is to print the book ourselves.

Whether you have an impact printer or a laser printer, you only need to print your book once and save that copy as a master. You can now announce to all your relatives that you have printed a book and it is available for such and such a price. Whenever you get an order, you simply take your master to any of the copier stores and print one more copy. Some of the better copier companies will even spiral bound your 'book' for you. The point is that you need invest very little of your savings. It might be wise to

inform everyone that you must have the money up front. All of us have deadbeats in the family who think it is their right to receive a free book. After all, if they hadn't given you their information, you wouldn't have a book to print.

One tremendous advantage to this "Do it yourself" approach, is revisions. You can absolutely count on it that once you have 'published' a book; you will receive additional data and you will receive corrections. As your book becomes talked about from one cousin to another, they will begin sending in information filling some of the gaps in your data base and new collateral lines. Had you published your family history, there would be very little chance that the new data would ever appear in a revised edition. However, since you printed the book yourself, a new edition is very little work and only a few hours away.

What can you expect in the way of cost to print a book? If we do not count your hours of labor, you can figure the cost of your master will be about three cents per page (sheet) on an impact printer and about five cents per page on a laser printer. A 200 page manuscript would cost you less than ten dollars on an impact printer and certainly less than fifteen dollars on a laser printer. If you are like most of us, you will waste a few sheets in getting it all together; but I've already fudged that cost into the above figures.

Now to print your first book, spiral bound, heavy stock cover sheets, and maybe even have plastic covers, figure the printing cost at five cents per page for single sided printing and three and one-half cents per page for duplex printing. To have the copier business collate and bind your book, figure up to five dollars additional. Thus, for a 200 page, single sided printing, the book will cost about \$15.00 each. For the less bulky and heavy double sided copy, your total cost would run about \$12.00

You could sell your book for \$20 each and make up for some of the money you have expended over the years. At this price, your relatives would be getting a great bargain, especially those who are doing research themselves. Just think of how many fewer letters and copying they will have to do. And at \$20 a book, you could afford to put one on the shelves of a library or two back where your ancstors used to roam..

Now that you have decided to print your faily history, the question arises "How do I go about it easily and efficiently?" In the next issue we will discuss reports written by a genealogy program and/or in a word processor, the use of relational data bases, and what do we do about graphics.

by John Baldwin



EARLY AMERICAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The colonists at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607 observed Christmas with the ringing of bells, the burning of the yule log and decorated their homes and churches with evergreens and candles. They held elaborate dining and dancing celebrations during the Christmas season. In contrast, the Mayflower colony in New England did not hold gay festivals. Governor William Bradford forbade the observance of Christmas and commanded that it be a work day as usual. In 1659 a law was passed in the colony which called for a fine of five shillings for anyone found observing Christmas. That law was repealed 22 years later. A Christmas service was conducted in the Boston Town Hall in 1781, although it was not legally recognized as a holiday until 1856.

When the Dutch colony settled New Amsterdam during the 1620s, which later became New York, they celebrated Christmas with feasting and yuletide meriment with their Saint Nicholas, which is now our beloved Santa Claus figure.

Christmas was first observed in England in 521, when King Arthur celebrated his victory in retaking York. The Knights of the Round Table were entertained by strolling musicians, who told a story in song. During the late 1500s, the Puritans in England desired a more Christian observance and denounced the celebration of not only Christ's birthday, but Easter and Whitsuntide, as well. They felt the festivities were a heathen practice. [Excerpted from an article appearing in vol 9, \$4, Winter 1991, Conejo Valley Gen. Society.]

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ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has an outstanding genealogical department on the second floor. Hours: 9 AM - 9 PM, Monday-Thursday; Friday & Saturday 9 AM - 6 PM; Sunday 1 - 6 PM, Labor Day thru Memorial Day. There is no free parking, but public lots are adjacent to the library, which is located at 900 Webster St. CANDLEWYCK INN 331 W. Washington St. is a delightful Bed & Breakfast Inn located nearby. Phone (219) 424-2643.

FORREST C. POGUE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY at Murray State University, Murray KY 42071, telephone (502) 762-6152, has a genealogical section especially strong on southern States. The library also has a considerable collection on New England as well as general information. It features a beautiful large reading room. The library is open during regular University sessions Monday-Friday 8 AM - 4:30 PM; Saturdays 10 AM - 3 PM. Hours vary between sessions, in the summer and on holidays. It is best to write or call the library when planning a trip. THE DIUGUID HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST is located on Main St. between 6th & 7th Streets and is a convenient place to stay near the library.

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SBCGS offers for sale SANTA BARBARA - TIERRA ADORADA, a brief community pictorial history of Santa Barbara from its early old Spanish days to 1930, when it was printed by a local bank as a public relations promotion. This 112-page informative booklet is available from our Society for \$5.00. To order by mail, add \$1.75 for postage & handling and mall to: SBCGS, P.O. Box 1303, Santa Barbara CA 93116-1303.

DID YOU KNOW - Our library has more than 2,000 books on its shelves?

A Tale Concerning Caves Under Lexington

By Tabitha Burnside Walker

[The story below is taken from "The Kentucky Explorer", September, 1992. The tale first appeared in "The Illustrated Kentuckian", circa 1893].

More than thirty-five years ago, this story I relate was told me by my grandmother HURST. She was the daughter of Richard ALLEN, of whom GREEN writes words of praise in his History of the First Families of Kentucky. Grandmother was very proud of her old Virginia blue blood. She, Patsy ALLEN, was first cousin to Patsy GATEWOOD, my grandmother BURNSIDE, who was a granddaughter of Lord GATEWOOD, of England. Patsy ALLEN was born at Bryan's Station, five miles from Lexington, was a child there when Simon GIRTY surrounded the Fort with a band of Indians, and the women and children were sent to the spring for water with the Indians in ambush nearby. Her parents moved to Lexington, where she attended the first school taught by McKINNEY, in a log schoolhouse. This is what happened while she attended school there.

Near where Lexington now stands, said she, was a large cave. The scholars had heard wild stories about it, and would go there and look down into the black opening with awe. One day they concluded to explore it, so the largest boys cut down a sapling twenty feet tall, trimmed the limbs to serve as a ladder, and put it down the hole. Then, unknown to the teacher, they assembled early next morning, with torches and lunches prepared. All went down into the cave. They landed in what seemed to be a gallery, with others leading in every direction. In these rooms and galleries were bones, beautiful Indian relics, pottery, inscriptions on the walls, etc. So busy were they examining these curiosities, and running from one gallery to another that they lost themselves. They wandered on and on, never finding any end, always the long, beautiful galleries leading, one into another, all filled with countless, curious things.

They rested, ate their lunches, then went on seeking for the entrances. My grandmother being the youngest, became exhausted and the older ones carried her. At last, after what seemed to them an age, they heard the reports of guns and shouting of men, which meant to their affrighted hearts that rescuers were at hand. McKINNEY, when he found they were in the cave, had assembled the neighbors as soon a possible, and all day long they too, had been tramping in these catacombs, marking their way as they went; hunting for the runaways; for it was dark, grandmother said, when they got them all out.

Next day the neighbors came with their wagons and teams, cut down large trees, and filled the entrance with logs, earth and stones.

A century has passed, for this event took place in 1783. The eyes of the children who looked on those strange chambers have closed in death, the young feet whose footprints still linger

A Tale Concerning Caves Under Lexington, cont.

undisturbed in the silent halls, have crumbled to dust; while the voice of her, the youngest of the band, has long been silent; and still the entrance to those wonderful chambers she described, remains unknown.

I sometimes see a reference to the Catacombs of Lexington", and many regard them as a myth. But I always think they do exist, for grandmother explored them one hundred years ago.

The Sinking Creek Cave System Simpson County, Kentucky

by Marilyn Owen

The most famous system of caves in Kentucky, is the Mammoth Cave system, in Mammoth Cave National Park. It is perhaps less well known that there are many limestone caverns in this state.

My ancestor, James STEPHENSON, owned land on Sinking Creek in Simpson County. The property was sometimes described as being on the Sinking Fork of Drakes Creek. When I visited the area several years ago, I could not understand why the wide and beautiful, tree-lined creek that I found, was named "Sinking Creek".

In the October, 1992 edition of the "Jailhouse Journal", a publication of the Simpson County Historical Society (whose collection is housed in the old jailhouse), I learned more about Sinking Creek from an article written by Billy D. BYRD, of Franklin, Simpson Co. Mr. BYRD is a member of the Central States Archaeological Society. It seems that at one point, Sinking Creek does indeed sink out of sight. A dye test performed in its waters in March of 1991, confirmed that the creek sinks into the cave which bears its name, traveling fifty meters down the west wall. It then continues on under the cave floor for 875 meters where it flows through a rock wall and emerges into Drakes Creek. The cave itself consists of several larger areas, connected by many meandering passageways., which lead to two separate entrances.

The Sinking Creek Cave was evidently used for habitation intermittently by pre-historic man, as many arrowheads and other artifacts can be found there, as well as evidences of ancient cooking fires. The cave had plenty of water, and it's large vestibule was well lighted. Refuse heaps reveal large quantities of flint flakes, along with animal bones and mussel shells. Live mussels have disappeared from the creek today.

Just as in the Lexington caves in the preceding story, ancient peoples found the Sinking Creek caves an excellent place to take shelter from the elements. They left behind them traces of their life, for the curious to find today. Because curiosity seekers in the past have scattered and destroyed much of the ancient living site, the Sinking Creek Cave System is now under the control of the National Register of Historic Places.

HINTS ON READING THE CENSUS

The early census from 1790 thru 1840 are as important as the later ones. The head of the household is always included in the numerical statistics. The 1850 census was the first one to name all members of the household.

Use Indexes if you are not sure where your ancestor resided during the year the census was taken. Indexes may be incomplete or incorrect.

Use the forms designed for that census year, as the form provides space for recording what was asked that particular census. Forms are available at LDS Family History Centers, or from a genealogical supply company.

Headings at the top of the page give page number, area of county, and enumeration date. Don't forget to also copy the data to the right of the occupation column.

Transcribe word for word, as spelled, all information from the census record, including abbreviations. Do not hurry or skim through census reading.

Remember there may be errors and/or omissions, so do not rely entirely on census information.

Study the enumerator's handwriting. If you have trouble with a letter or word, compare it with others on the page. Ask for a second opinion from someone.

Check for all possible spellings. Because of the high rate of illiteracy, the enumerator often spelled a name phonetically. The letters "s" and "p" are often misread. The spelling of a name today may differ from previous spelling.

Copy all names in the household. Remember the names listed may not be immediate family. They could be parents, in-laws, visitors, hired help, etc. Don't assume the relationship to head of household as stated to be entirely correct. Don't assume the wife is the mother of any or all of the children listed. Don't assume the ages given provide the birth year.

Read the names of nearby households and make a note to refer to later. Related families frequently lived near one another. Copy all entries for your surname in the county.

Check the special schedules for agricultural, industrial, slave, mortality, as well as social statistics. Veteran schedules listed the name and age of Revolutionary War pensioners living in the household. The 1890 census listed Civil War veterans and widows. Don't forget to check State census records.

A Soundex Coding system was first used with the 1880 census indexes. The Soundex Code is determined by using the first letter of the surname followed by a three-number.

The letters B, P, F, V are assigned the number 1.

C, S, K, G, J, Q, X and Z are number 2.

D and T are number 3.

L is number 4.

M and N are number 5.

R is number 6.

The vowels (A, E, I, O, U) plus Y, W, and H are NOT coded.

The code is always a letter and three numbers. This is accomplished by adding zero to the end of short codes. The same number is not used twice consecutively. Example: in the name Hallberg, the second L is not coded. The code is H416. If the first letter is C, then the first number cannot be a 2. This holds true for all first letters. The only exception to the twice-in-a-row rule is the O, added to the end of some codes. If you should encounter a name such as, Wayo, its code is WOOO.

It is often necessary to skip over several letters before finding a letter that can be coded. Schwartz is S632, with R being the first letter coded. Hayes, Heacox, Hahs, Haas all have the same code number - H200.

Prefixes, such as van, von, de, D', O', etc. are sometimes not included in the coding. Be sure and check both spellings. Silent letters are coded, as they are not silent in all pronunciations.

By Virginia McGraw Paddock

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ARE YOU RESEARCHING IN NORWAY?

Muriel Graham, our member currently residing in Madison, Wisconsin, has sent us an interesting item from the 26 September issue of the WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL. It tells of the fine research services available at the Vesterheim Genealogical Center, 415 West Main St., Madison, WI 53703. The Center is a division of Vesterheim, the Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. A staff of six includes Blaine Hedberg and Gerhard Naeseth, UW Emeritus Professor of Library Studies. The Center boasts 1600 members and a new spacious facility.

"The tools provided at Vesterheim for patching holes in a family sage include the local histories of Norwegian families and communities, census records from Norway and the U.S., cemetery lists, Norwegian church and sheriff's records and ships' passenger lists. Even military records can be examined. They are especially valued for physical descriptions.)"

Letters with membership questions should be sent to the Norwegian-American Museum, 502 Wast Water St., Decorah, Iowa. Genealogical letters can be sent to the Vesterheim Genealogical Center. The Center is open Monday through Friday from 10am to noon, and from 1 to 5 pm. The telephone number is (608) 255-2224.

Mr. J.G. McNemar Dear Sir

I was at this time pursuant to your request, to be informed respecting your business matters, there, as well as the location or whereabouts of Moses. As to your bedsteads I have sold two of them, and the rest were turned over to the care of Mr Cobb, as you directed I wish you would state in you next letter how many beadsteads your receipt calls for as there is some doubt in my mind as to the exact number.

The note, which you left with me for collection, has been duly presented, and the money paid over unto my hands.

As to Moses he is at present here. I do not know, however, whether he is doing anything, which is likely to result profitably to him. As to your claims against him, it is possible he will be, able to meet them I have not mentioned the matter to him however not knowing whether you desired me so to do I examined the Post Office agreeably to request and sent you two or three letters which I hope you have received.

duliness of the times and the scarcity of money renders life rather monotinous in the valley at present Change of scenery is not an advantage presented as frequently here as in the mountains The old bachelors have become somewhat dissatisfied with so uneaqual dispensation of Providence, and to make amends in some degree at least for this deprivation are substituting a change of life Charly Clayton is to be married tomorrow to Miss Hanah Morgan Also Mr C Peoples to a Mrs somebody living in the neighborhood of the Gollgate Charley & Peoples you know are both M. Masons Since you left a Mr Critchfield who was working in Hight's Smithshop became deranged - was taken to the Insane Assylum in Stocton remaind there for one month had his head shaved and was taken through diverse medical processes and sent home or back to this place clothed in his right mind This is the second individual sent up from this place because of derangement. On the 27th inst two days after Christmas a Masonic Celebration & installation will take place at the Adobe Methodist church and dinner will afterwards be served at the St Marys Hall a building opposite Madan and Fos lis built by Mr Cobb for a storehouse but - which has since been converted into a dancing saloon There will be a grand ball at night under the supervision of Mrssrs Gardiner Goodman & Jackson The St Marys is a spacious Hall capable of accommodatios at least four setts through all the gyrations attendant upon a cotillion The San Jose Lodge are to be in attendance and many of the Brethern are expected from the Bay With considerations favorable to your prosperity and hopings

I subscribe myself

J.G. McNemar Fraternally yours W.B. Stockton

Editor's Note: The letter above was submitted by Bruce A. Baker. His ancestor, John Gardner McNemar, came to California from Kentucky in 1851 during the Gold Rush to apply his trade as a cabinetmaker. He was born 4 Oct 1828, Rutherford Co TN. His father, John McNemar, died shortly after his son was born. His mother, Jane McNemar, remarried and John Gardner McNemar was apprenticed to a German cabinetmaker. In 1854 he left California for Gonzales Co. TX, where he married Pernicia Motes McLemore. John G. made wedding rings for each of his daughters from the California gold nuggets. Bruce Baker has the ring made for his great grandmother, Linnie Eliza McNemar Sorell. John Gardner McNemar died 31 July 1897, Gonzales Co. TX.



PATSY BROCK

Computer Genealogy: A Guide to Research Through High Technology, edited by Richard A. Pence, Rev. ed. 1991. 259 pages, indexed, 5½ x 8½, softbound. Ancestry, Inc. P.O. Box 538, Salt Lake City UT 84110. \$12.95.

Are you thinking about taking the plunge and getting a computer to help with your family research...or are you a long time computer user with thousands of ancestors' names in your database? In either case, this book will help to answer questions you may have. The beginner can find detailed information on making hardware and software choices and how to use telecommunication via telephone lines. The more advanced user will find sections on how to send genealogical data to other researchers or submit material to the Family History Department in Salt Lake city via GEDCOM files. Every genealogist will be interested in the chapters on how to do research by computer and ultimately publish a family history.

Eleven contributors have written chapter sections dealing with all aspects of computer genealogy. There are numerous examples and notes, including current price lists for both software, hardware (computer) and input devices such as scanners and mice. Also included is an extensive glossary of computer terms, which will help guide the genealogist through the often confusing language of computers.

So, whether you a computer novice or a seasoned veteran, you are bound o find this book very helpful and informative.

Reviewed by Merna McClenathen

Early Settlers of Montgomery County, Ohio; Genealogical Abstracts from Land Records, Tax Lists and Biographical Sketches, by Shirley Keller Mikesell, 1991. 292 pages, softbound, indexed. Order from Heritage Books Inc. 1540-E Pointer Ridge Place, Suite 300, Bowie, Maryland 20716. \$21.50 plus \$3.00 shipping.

The combination of the records is a great asset to the researcher, all presented clearly and succinctly. In addition to the special lists, the author abstracted biographical information from five local, early histories and then included information from more contemporary sources. The index lists all names used in the text. The type is clear, easily read in this highly practical reference.

Reviewed by Patsy Brock



New in the SBCGS Library Dorls Batchelder Crawford



GENERAL

Consolidated Bibliography of County Histories in Fifty Sta	
piled by Clarence Stewart Peterson (1961) Gift	
Family Names/ by J. N. Hook (1982)	929.4 D4 HOO *
The First Salute /by Barbara W. Tuchman (1988)	973.3 H2 TUC
Donated by Charles & Gerry Thompson	
German Immigrants Lists Bremen to New York, 1847-185	4/ by Gary J.
Zimmerman & Marion Wolfert (1987)	943 W3 ZIM
As above, 1863-1867 (1988)	943 We ZIM
Historic Towns of New England / edited by Lyman P. Powell	
mi	DIA UT LON
Historical Atlas / by William R. Shepherd (1956)	911 E7 SHE
How to Locate Anyone Who Is or Has Been in the Military/	y kichard S. John-
son Donated by Robert K. Vance	355 M2 JOH
Map Guide, U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920/ by William Th	otugate % Milliam
Dollarhide (1987)	973 E7 THO
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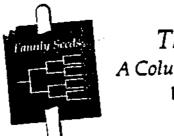
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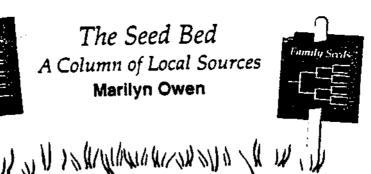
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The Seed Bed A Column of Local Sources Marilyn Owen



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- "Ancestor Hunt" 1976, 1978-1985. Ashtabula Gen. Soc.
- "On the Trail" 1983-1986. Brown Co. Genealogical Soc.
- "The Certified Copy" 1972-92. Greater Cleveland Gen. Soc.
- "Clark County Kin", Clark Co. Genealogical Society.
- "Family Tree National Directory of Local Researchers 1980-82
- "Hancock Heritage" 1982-1992.
- "Ohio Genealogical Society Newsletter" 1982-1992.
- "Our Family Heritage" 1974-1975. Fairborn, Ohio.
- "Newletter: Greater Cleveland Gen. Society" 1978-1985.
- "Our Heritage" 1983-1989. Adams Co., West Union, Ohio.
- "The Licking Lantern" 1981-92. Licking Co. Gen. Soc.
- "Newsletter (Index to) Ohio Gen. Society" 1972-1978.
- "Records & Pioneer Families" 1972-78. Ohio Genealogical Soc.
- "The Report" 1972-1992. Ohio Genealogical Society

<u>OKLAHOMA</u>

- "Canadian Co. Connections" 1978. Canadian Co. Gen. Soc.
- "The Chronicles of Oklahoma" 1983-86. Oklahoma Gen. Soc.
- "OGRG" 1991 Oklahoma Gen. Research Group, Stigler, OK.
- "Oklahoma Genealogical Society Quarterly" 1983.
- "Pontotoc Co. Quarterly" 1979-1992. Ada, Oklahoma.

OREGON

- "Beaver Briefs" 1975-82. Willamette Valley Genealogical Soc.
- "End of the Trail Researchers" 1976-77. Salem, Oregon.
- "Oregon Genealogical Society Quarterly" 1965-1989.
- "Timber Trails" 1980-92. Yamhill Co. Genealogical Society.

QUAKERS

"The Quaker Yeoman", 1980, 1981

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

QUERIES

SKOFIELD

Seeking proof of relationship between Fred Skofield b Amity, ME 31 Dec 1865 and Hobert Skofield, owner of the Skofield Printers Collection which was on display at UCSB in April 1985.

Fred Skofield was son of Charles H. and Sarah Greenleaf Skofield. Mar Ruth McGary-McGory. Daughter Lura Blanche Skofield, mother of Charles R. Willey.

Hobart Skofield came to SB in 1931 from Mt. Vernon, N.Y. He was a consultant to UCSB Dept. of Special Collections. A bachelor, he was active in the maintenance of his family's Skofield Ranch property.

Charles R. Willey, 1447 Nessau Circle, Tavares, FL 32778

FOSS JONES PHINNEY Trying to locate Genevieve (Phinney) Foss, who at one time, lived in our (sic) area. She was wife of Allan Foss who was killed in explosion at oil wells near San Gabriel 19 Octuber 1923. They had two daughters, May Beth and Eileen. One of them was married to Tom Jones. Any help appreciated.

Kathleen Foss, 14745 Hammond, Buckingham, IA 50612

VALENCIA ZAMORA Seeking information on Jose Ignacio Valencia married to Maria Rita Zamora and early Presidio soldiers, Vicente and Cristobal Valencia. Also, my grandfather, Victor Manuel Valencia. All in Santa Barbara area.

Lupe Burquez, P.O.Box 2436, Yountville, CA 94599

DAVIS CLEVENGER PADDOCK Seek information on Delilah Davis b ca 1800 poss in Ohio, and her parents. As widow of Joseph Clevenger, she married #2 Elijah Paddock 18 August 1836 in Wayne Co. IN.

PETTY MACY Who were the parents of Sarah (Sally) Petty b ca 1806 poss. NC. Married Thomas Macy 24 Apr 1828 in Guilford Co. NC. Thomas was a Quaker who married Sarah "out of unity."

James C. Paddock, 2239 Featherhill Rd. Santa Barbara CA 93108-1518

This question was asked in the October 1992 issue of SEARCHIN' NEWS:

QUESTION: My g-g-grandfather and his family left PA in the early 1800s and traveled to the south. How can I find out where they went?

ANSWER: One of the lesser known documents was the Land Passports issued by the Federal Agency of War to people who were traveling east of the Mississippi River during the period of 1770 to 1830. Sometimes they would have to have two, or more, passports - one to go through the Cherokee, Creek or Chickasaw Indian Territories, another to go through the foreign-held territories. This was not for the protection of the settlers, but for the Indians. It was to protect them from the bad whites who would try to find safe haven in the Indian lands. These records can be found in most libraries and archives.

LOOKING FOR SAMUEL PLIMPTON A search for my great uncle By Winifred Corbett

Winifred Corbett, a member of our society, was the first place winner of the California State Genealogical Alliance Gold Nugget Writing Contest for 1991-1992. AW is printing her manuscript in two issues. The conclusion will appear in the next issue. Details for entering the contest appear on pgs 157/8.

In searching for an ancestor nothing can give better training than piecing together 500-piece jigsaw puzzles. One learns helpful skills like extending patience, looking carefully at small details, and paying attention to variations in data. In assembling a picture one must walk away from it occasionally to gain new perspectives. I love doing jigsaw puzzles.

In 1968 I found in the attic of my uncle's house in Connecticut a box of letters which presented me with a puzzle. They had been written from 1848 to 1859 by members of my great-grandmother's family, the Plimptons of Sturbridge, Massachusetts. For the most part, they talked about farm activities, village gossip, and church news. As I read them, I had the increasing pleasure of having a door swing open into the lives of my great-grandmother and her sisters and brothers. The letters brimmed over so brightly with family news that I began to feel real affection for my great-uncles and aunts. However, one letter was very different. Samuel Plimpton wrote it to his oldest brother, Vernon, and it surprised and intrigued me.

His letter¹, headed "Ohio River 50 miles below Louisville", carried two dates. April 14 and April 18, 1849. In the first lines he described the departure of a band of Forty-Niners on the initial part of their journey for the gold mines of California.

He did not refer to his group by name, but described their spirited march to the railroad station in Boston on March 29, 1849.

I left Lowell on the 27th of March, went to Lynn and staid(sic) two days on account of the weather being so stormy it was not prudent to start. On the 29th we left Lynn in good spirits marched through Boston from the Eastern to the Providence depot, headed by a band of music. Here we met the Bay State Boys number some 100 odd who gave us three cheers, and we as good as they sent.

Not much about Samuel had appeared in the letters I had been reading². He was not living on the farm in Sturbridge, but had gone to Lowell, MA to work for an uncle in a boot factory. Unlike his two older brothers, he had not prepared for college, nor had he formally made a religious commitment. Lowell was distant enough from Sturbridge so that he visited only occasionally. In one letter of February 7, 1849 I found mention of a trip he had taken to Springfield (Massachusetts), to withdraw money from a bank. No reason was given, and the incident seemed trivial. Later, after I came across his letter to Vernon, I guessed that he had withdrawn the money to prepare for his California trek.

Samuel said that he had joined his company in Lynn, a city not far from Lowell. He mentioned the name of the Bay State Boys, but not that of the company he had joined. What company was it? I had to wait until 1991 for the answer, when I came to California.

Upon arriving in California and having waited almost 25 years, I began to learn what I could about Samuel's adventure. Since he had not given the name of the company he had joined in Massachusetts, it seemed reasonable to hope that information about the Bay State Company might lead to a reference to the group Samuel had joined.

I looked carefully again through his letter. In the remainder he told about their train trip from Boston to New York City and then on to Philadelphia where they boarded a canal boat to cross Pennsylvania. He included an exuberant description of the cable cars which pulled trains over the Appalachian Mountains, and of the very pleasant river boat experience as their group traveled down the Ohio River to St. Louis. He did not mention any other group. Since this was the only letter from him that I knew of, and no mention of his trip occurred in the other family letters I have, I felt quite stumped. Time to stand up from the puzzle and change my focus.

At this point I turned to the Santa Barbara County Library's computerized catalog of Gold Rush books. Of the these I found four particularly helpful. William Goetzmann in <u>Army Exploration in the American West 1803-1863</u> gave detailed background of these expeditions. Joseph H. Jackson's <u>Gold Rush Album</u> recounted the variety of routes taken by the Forty-Niners. I realized that the cross country trip was not the most used in 1849, but that many companies had gone by way of Mexico, and Panama. Many, many more went by sea. Disappointingly, in these books I found no individ-

Then I met O.T. Howe's Argonauts of '49. subtitle: History and Adventures of the Emigrant Companies from Massachusetts. 1849-1850. I could not believe my good fortune. Howe listed every company from Massachusetts of which there was record. Where he had the information, he included date of departure and the number of men in each party. It was a treasure house of details. With its help I found some of what I was searching for. Howe reported that the Sagamore and Sacramento Co. of Lynn had left Boston on March 29th, 1849 after making a "fine show" as they marched. They planned to reach California by the overland route which went through the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains'. Going back to Samuel's letter, I found his description of his uniform.

We had on for clothes a suit of grey trimmed in military style, coat, pants, and a cap with the letters S, C, M, and Co and an eagle on it. Our coats are frock coats and we surround them with a belt in which are stuck 2 10-inch rifle pistols, an 8-inch dirk knife, which with an United States rifle or double-barrelled shot gun completes our uniform and arms and makes us appear quite formidable.

Howe also listed the Bay State and California Mining Co as having left Boston by ship on April 4 with 163 men. 8 It seemed possible that on their march to the railroad depot the Sagamore Company could have met the Bay State Company as Plimpton had written. I would have immediately thought that because the dates of departure coincided with those in his letter. Just one thing

prevented me: the initials on the company hats. S,C & M and Co. are not initials for Sagamore and Sacramento. It was puzzling, like finding an extra piece.

Again it was time for refocusing. After puzzling for several days I combed back through Howe's book. A possible answer appeared. The Salem and California Mining Co. had left from Salem on March 19, 1849. Was it not possible that the Sagamores had received hats not needed by the Salem and California? It seemed likely.

A picture of Samuel as an adventurer was beginning to emerge, an attractive picture. He obviously enjoyed the trip through Pennsylvania and down the Ohio for he wrote:

We paid \$7 1/2 for fare from New York to Pittsburg taking the cheaper cars. We took the canal boat at Philadelphia for nearly 200 miles, a regular freight boat, and lived on the way as we could. We had a fine time trying our rifles at ducks, shot several of them, a crow, and a number of muskrats, and any quantity of small birds too numerous to mention. We had the greatest time camping down, 50 of us, and but just room enough to lie down.

Later in the letter he enthused:

We staid (sic) over Sunday in Pittsburg. It is a very dark-looking place, all smoked up, but looking first rate otherwise. We took the steamboat, DeWitt Clinton, on Monday afternoon and started on Tuesday morning. She carries 250 cabin passengers, 150 deck, We pay \$7 a piece, state rooms, \$9, \$1 short of the common fare. We arrived in St. Louis on Tuesday being 7 days on the river.....

We have had a first rate time. Just as much music and dancing as we wished for. We have 2 fiddles in the company, drum, fife, banjo, triangles, accordion, and the very best of players, which makes time pass off very pleasantly. We have machinists, lawyers, doctors, and men of all trades in the company. We stopped in Cincinnati half a day. It is a very beautiful place. We come into St. Louis about 11 o'clock on Tuesday and leave on Wednesday at 12 o'clock, changing boats.

His letter ended.

Mother, you may feel easy on my account. We have a great deal better society than those we left behind will average, but I don't know what California gold will turn them into.

Having decided that my data so far indicated that Samuel Plimpton had been a member of the Sagamore and Sacramento Co. of Lynn, and had arrived at St. Louis about April 18, I tried to follow his journey as far as I could.

Here again Howe's research helped for he reported that for Massachusetts parties: "The favorite overland route was by the South Pass of the Rocky Mountains...the start, which was usually made from Independence, MO, could not be begun until grass on the plains was sufficiently grown to feed the oxen and mules used to drag the wagons."

TO BE CONTINUED



The California State Genealogical Alliance is conducting its second annual Writing Contest to "mine" some of the many "gold nuggets" of information buried in the files, records, and experiences of California genealogists and historians.

GOLD NUGGET WRITING CONTEST

This 2nd CSGA Writing Contest will feature AMUSING and HUMOROUS genealogical tales.

The topics suggested below are intended to spark your interest and imagination, not to limit your choice of topics. We hope they will trigger your memory of recall engaging personal interreactions, unusual human perversity or generosity, personal wit, ironic "just deserts," or other amusing incidents encountered in your research.

Military situations: A soldier who never returned but was not killed-in-action, a soldier who went AWOL, how a wife "managed" while the husband was in service.

Tombstones: Unusual headstones, unique inscriptions, headstones revealing spousal attitudes.

Secrets kept from spouses: Misrepresented age, previous marriages and families, old flames, former occupations.

Cemetery research: Unearthing downed headstones, braving snakes and briars, unexpected burials in a family plot, locating unmapped cemeteries, finding unmarked graves, falling into a collapsed grave.

Court house research: Records that "we don't have," rummaging in attics or basements, records you aren't shown unless you ask, clerks' excuses.

Library research: Unusual librarians, tales overheard, a librarian helping an inexperienced researcher, pertinent rejoinders, local color from old newspapers.

Unusual occupations: Witch, old-time doctor, moonshiner, card shark, jack-of-all-trades, grave digger, inventor, circus performer, etc.

Mail service or Mailmen: Misdirected letters, delayed deliveries, unusual addresses, unusual means of delivery.

Travel: Finding an obscure town, no place to stay overnight, unexpected hospitality, taking the wrong turn, discovering unknown relatives, chasing a newly uncovered lead, proving everything you "knew for sure" was wrong, physical discomforts vs determination.

The Writing Contest 1992-1993 is open to any person wishing to participate, offers awards for the best-written submissions, and promises future publication.



CSGA WRITING CONTEST RULES

- All entries must be in English.
- 2. The primary subject of a family incident must be deceased.
- Manuscripts must include previously unpublished materials, but this may be placed in historical context by previously published facts or accounts, duly referenced.
- 4. Submission date for the 1992-1993 Writing Contest is on or before March 1, 1993.
- Format:

Submissions should be typed or printed on a near-letter-quality printer, be submitted on 8 1/2° X 11° white paper (not erasable bond), in 10 or 12 point/pitch type, single spaced, one side of sheet only, with 1° margins all around.

Page one should begin with the title centered at the top, with 3 lines of space before the text begins.

Paragraphs should be indented 5 spaces, with no extra space between paragraphs.

The title of the paper and page number of the document should appear as a footer in small type at the lower left corner at the bottom of each page.

Abbreviations may be used in references, but not in the manuscript text.

- The manuscript should be from 1 to 5 pages in length, plus references.
- 7. Documentation of facts in the manuscript is required. Suggested guidelines are outlined in Richard Lackey's, Cite Your Sources, and Elements of Style by Strunk & White.
- Each manuscript should be accompanied by a Cover Sheet including:

Title of the manuscript

Name, address and phone number of the author

Number of pages

Statement of permission to publish, signed by the author

- The Submitter's name should appear only on the Cover Sheet.
- 10. Entries become the property of CSGA with rights of publication. Non-published materials will be returned with right to author publication, when adequate postage is supplied by author.
- 11. When mailing the manuscript, pages should not be folded, stapled together, or bound, so that the copy is print-ready. A piece of cardboard the same size as the pages will prevent the post office employees from bending or folding the package. A self-addressed stamped post card should be enclosed if you wish to be notified that the manuscript was properly received. Enclose a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope, #10, so you can be notified of the results of the judging.
- 12. Mail your manuscript to Jean Nepsund, 3641 Summer Shore Lane, Westlake Village, CA 91361 to be received on or before March 1, 1993.
- 13. Judging will be based on content, originality, composition, clarity, format, style, grammar, spelling, punctuation, documentation, and appearance.
- 14. Awards will be announced at the CSGA Annual Meeting in May 1993.

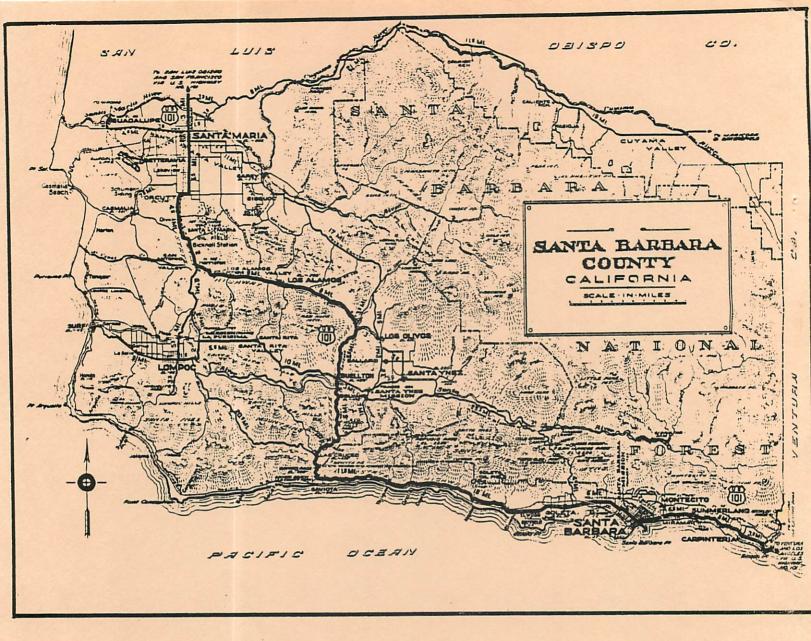
SURNAME INDEX

ALLEN, 137	GREEN, 137	PAYNE, 131
BAKER, 141	HANSON, 129	PENCE, 142
BALDWIN, 134, 135	HARDY, 123	PEOPLES, 141
BARBER, 131	HARLEY, 131	PETTY, 153
BRADFORD, 136	HAWKINS, 131	PHINNEY, 153
BROCK, 123, 142	HEDBERG, 140	PICKETS, 132
BROWNING, 128	HORN(E), 128	PLIMPTON, 154
BURNSIDE, 137	HOROWITZ, 134	REINHEIMER, 130
BURQUEZ, 153	HURST, 137	RHODERICK, 130
BYRD, 138	HYDE, 128	SCOTT, 132
CAMPBELL, 131	JACKMAN, 132	SKOFIELD, 153
CARTER, 130, 132	JONES, 153	SMITH, 123, 128
CARTMEL, 132	KOSAI, 123	SORELL, 141
CLAYTON, 141	LEWIS, 130, 131, 132	STEINER, 134
CLEVENGER, 153	MC CLENETHEN, 142	STEPHENSON, 138
COBB, 141	MC GORY, 153	STOCKTON, 141
COLLETT, 131	MC GRATH, 123	SWEENIE, 130
CORBETT, 154	MC LEMORE, 141	TRUSLER, 131
CORYELL, 127	MC NEMAR, 141	VALENCIA, 153
CRAWFORD, 123, 143	MCKINNEY, 137	WALKER, 137
CRITCHFIELD, 141	MACY, 153	WARD, 128
DAVIS, 153	MALONE, 132	WEBSTER, 133(2), 134
DENNISTON, 125	MARTIN, 132	WESTON, 131
ESTES, 128, 129	MASONS, 141	WHITEHOUSE, 128
FISH, 123	MIKESELL, 142	WHITNEY, 133, 134
FOSS, 153	MILLER, 131	WILLEY, 153
GALBRAITH, 133	MORGAN, 132, 141	WILSON, 132
GATEWOOD, 137	NAESETH, 140(2)	WISE, 131
GEORGE, 131	NELSON, 130, 131	ZAMORA, 153
GIRTY, 137	OWEN, 123, 138, 151	
GRAHAM, 140	PADDOCK, 123, 153	

INDEX DOES NOT INCLUDE THE AHNENTAFEL, THE SEED BED, NEW IN THE LIBRARY

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

	PRICE	P & H
THE SEED BED - A Column of Local Sources by Marilyn Owen, 46 pages	\$ 5.00	\$ 1.25
THE GREAT REGISTER 1890 - Santa Barbara County California - Male Surnames in the Santa Barbara County Election District, 68 pages	10.00	2.00
THE GREAT REGISTER 1890 - Mono County California Male Surnames in the Mono County election District, 18 pages	5.00	1.00
THE 1895 SANTA BARBARA CITY DIRECTORY, 90 pages	10.00	2.50
SANTA BARBARA - TIERRA ADORADA - A Brief History of Santa Barbara from old Spanish days to 1930	5.00	1.75



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

One of California's 27 original counties. While the county was actually created in 1850, the history of the area dates back to 1542. In that year Juan Cabrillo discovered the Santa Barbara Channel and later, according to legend, crossed to San Miguel Island where he died and was buried. A second Spanish explorer, Sebastian Vizcaino, entered the channel on the Feast Day of Saint Barbara in 1602, and named the area accordingly. Fr. Fermin Francisco de Lasuan founded the Santa Barbara mission in 1786. Santa Barbara Royal Presidio, established April 21, 1782, by Fr. Junipero Serra, was the last of four royal presidios in Alta California - San Diego, Monterey, San Francisco, and Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara had all three Spanish forms - Presidio representing the military, Pueblo, the civil, and Mission, the religious. In 1873, Ventura County was established from the southern portion of the original Santa Barbara area.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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