

# A n c e s t o r s W E S T

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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Volume 23, Number 2, Winter 1997

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# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1303, Goleta, CA 93116-1303

Library: Covarrubias Adobe, 711 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara  
Hours: Sunday 1-4pm; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-3pm

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Purpose: Established in 1972, the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society became incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986. Its aim is to promote genealogy by providing assistance and educational opportunities for those who are interested in pursuing their family history.

Membership: Benefits include *Tree Tips* (monthly newsletter) and *Ancestors West* (quarterly).

Active (individual) - \$17 Family (husband & wife) - \$24 Friend - \$30  
Donor - \$50 Patron - \$100 Life - \$1000

Meetings: Emanuel Lutheran Church, 3721 Modoc Road, Santa Barbara  
Regular monthly meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month except August. Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. and are preceded by sessions for beginners starting at 9:30a.m.

Publications:	<i>Ancestors West</i>	<i>Editor</i>	
		Lesley Newhart Fagan	969-7339
		<i>Book Reviews</i>	
		Paul Barrett	967-0298
	<i>New in the Library</i>		
	Frank Lore		

Tree Tips	<i>Editor</i>	
	Diane Stubblefield Sylvester	967-1742

*Ancestors West* is published quarterly in Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. As available, current and back issues are \$3 each plus postage. Library subscription to *Ancestors West* is \$10 per year.

Articles of family history or of historical nature are solicited and accepted as space permits. If materials are to be returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Be sure to add your name to copy being submitted.

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## Past Presidents

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Carol Fuller Kosai 1993

Cheryl Fitzsimmons Jensen 1994-95



## Ramblings From Your Editor: The Gods Smiled Upon Me.

There is something to be said for oppressive and racist government practices when it comes to researching one's ancestors. In my researching my Chinese grandparents, the extensive files kept on them has yielded a wealth of information.

The US passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. This was a backlash to the "Yellow Peril"—it was feared that the Chinese would take over the country by filling all the low-paying jobs. Chinese immigration was virtually shut down, with the only exceptions for students, sons of US citizens, and merchants. Fortuitously for the Chinese the 1906 earthquake wiped out the vital records of San Francisco. The Chinese inhabitants were asked to report to reestablish their records.

Now the fun begins. Some embellish the number of male children they have back in China, or even claim being US born themselves. The Chinese then turn around and sell "identities" to boys and men wishing to come to "Gold Mountain." Hence, the term "Paper son," and the government transferring the Chinese out to Angel Island for a minimum stay of two weeks to interrogate them to establish their true identity. Mistakes were made—some, truly deserving to immigrate, were denied on minor mistakes in answering, and some, who were bogus were allowed in. (The fee for such papers averaged around \$100 per year of age.)

I discovered my mother's half-brother Tom was living in San Francisco, a fact she had failed to mention to me in over 30 years. My Uncle Tom is from my grandfather's wife in China. He is in his 80's and frail, but, thankfully, his memory is impressive. I asked about his arrival from China and about when my grandparents arrived and the possible names they used.

For a greater part of the summer, I spent several days looking at microfilm of ship manifests. It wasn't until I talked to the docent at Angel Island's Immigration Center in August that I found out about the records at the National Archives in San Bruno. (I also realized I was taking a very long way

around to find out the information I wanted.) To my amazement, the records are intact for people who came to America via San Francisco port and passed through the immigration center on Angel Island between 1910 to 1940. Possibly stupid of me not to find this out sooner, but in most general "How-To" books on genealogy they only mention where the Chinese most likely came into port, and not much more.

I was referred to Neil Thomsen at the Archives. I called to see what he would need to know and made an appointment the following month (when I could get away). I continued to question relatives for any more enlightening information.

The story that my mother and her seven siblings had been told was that my grandfather Hom Gin was born in China. He had a wife, a son and a daughter when he bought papers and left for San Francisco. He lost his papers and could not get back into China. In essence, he mail-ordered my grandmother, since he wanted more children.

He and my grandmother ran a laundry in Inverness, California. The laundry was a wood building on the beach, next to edge of town. My grandfather died of a bleeding ulcer, leaving my grandmother with eight children ranging in age from six months to sixteen years.

My grandmother's story was a bit more dramatic. She had been orphaned by the age of seven and taken in by a family as a servant. The lady of the house was fond of Poh-Poh's ("grandmother" in Chinese) mild nature and quick mind, but my grandmother still had to work in the rice paddies (with snakes swimming around her ankles).

She was never educated and could not read nor write. The woman died and my grandmother was not favored by the woman's jealous daughter, so Poh-Poh had the choice of being sold into slavery or prostitution, or becoming a "mail-order" bride and leaving China. Not a bad story in itself; however, in my reading the files on my grandparents, a richer, and more complicated tale emerged.

At first, Neil Thomsen couldn't find any records pertaining to my family. Finally, he was able to trace my uncle down through his "paper son" name.

One nice aspect of the records is that there is log sheet in the back of the file that cross-references to other relatives or persons relevant to one's case. However, the files are numbered according to the year one last arrived in the country. My uncle went back to China and returned a number of years later, so the number on his file no longer corresponds with those on other log sheets. From this, I was able to find my grandparents' file numbers. Every time Neil Thomsen would bring me a file, he would pause before handing it over and say, "How much do you know about your family?" (Apparently not much.)

My Uncle Tom came to the US in 1930 under a false name. He had his interview where he had to flawlessly assume another identity. That part of his file was not surprising. However, in 1966, there was an amnesty/confession period where all Chinese that had entered under "paper son" identities could confess and avoid deportation. My uncle's "paper brothers" confessed, therefore causing the US to take another look at his papers. Unfortunately, my uncle had gone back to China when he took my grandfather's body back for burial in 1937. He married, started a family and left China in 1961 as the communists were flexing their muscles.

The US thought that my uncle was a Communist with a brood of future Communists. The FBI appeared on his doorstep, and took away his citizenship and that of his family. An extensive interview over a period of several days was conducted. My uncle had to produce witnesses to establish his true character.

The irony of all this is that my grandfather, Hom Gin, (actually being US born) claimed he had five sons and one daughter in China when he really had only one living son and one daughter. In the 1920's he sold off his five "paper sons" identities, so when his true son wanted to come from China, he had to "buy papers" for him. (This, my uncle did not know until I told him. I'll never forget the look of surprise on his face.)

With my grandfather being dead, that left only my grandmother to testify on his behalf. It is in her testimony that I learned

that she had come to this country on May 26th, 1917, as the bride of another man (not my grandfather). Her husband was a 14-year old boy in the sixth grade in Port Costa, where his family had a laundry. My grandmother was held on Angel Island for one month before she was released on probation. There was lengthy questioning about her wedding ceremony in China, since the marriage license was improperly filled out.

According to Uncle Tom, the family that she married into owned brothels with one wife in China running that operation while the US wife was producing US citizens. "Immigration" was suspicious due to the disparity in my grandmother's age (18) to the young groom's. Judging from the testimony, the family was a powerful and well connected one. One provider of a character reference was Miss Donaldina Cameron, the head of the Presbyterian Mission.

The "government" conducted surprise home visits to check that my grandmother was in fact a member of this family. They always found her cooking in the kitchen.

During that time she met my grandfather, 20 years her senior and fell in love. I suspect Hom Gin was working in a laundry owned by her father-in-law until he moved out to San Francisco. According to an anonymous letter (Oct. 15th, 1918) to the Department of Labor (Immigration), she would go over to San Francisco for shopping every two weeks and would spend the night in my grandfather's boarding house.

In December, 1918, my Auntie Noël was born, and Mar Fook Ying continued to live in Port Costa with her husband and his family. Her in-laws tried to get the Mission to take her (its main function was to try to reform fallen women), but they refused though the reason is not stated. The in-laws then tried to have her deported, but she wasn't, because, "The fact that an alien, subsequent to entry begins to lead an immoral life but who is not a prostitute, is not a ground for deportation...The present case would bear investigation later as there appears to be a likelihood that the alien may become a prostitute." This is one of my favorite pieces of paper in her file, a handwritten note between two investigators that conclude that when she *does* become a prostitute, "We'll pick her up."

My grandmother left Port Costa in early 1919. She made history by being the first Chinese to be sued for divorce in Contra Costa County on the grounds of abandonment and immoral behavior (Neil Thomsen gleefully announced, "She made it into the newspaper!") Hard to believe this file is referring to my dear, sweet, tiny grandmother who would slip me a five-dollar bill, when she wasn't baking cookies for me.

The divorce was granted September 7th, 1920, a month before my uncle Joe was born in a Vallejo laundry where Hom Gin was a partner. According to my grandmother's testimony on Tom's behalf, she left her first husband because he couldn't take care of her on his own. She also said she married my grandfather in a Chinese ceremony, thus explaining why I have never been able to find any record of it in the counties. But I'm not too sure the Chinese ceremony ever took place either. (This latter conclusion is one of the many reasons why my mother screams, "It's not true!" while stamping her feet in her kitchen.)

The family settled in Inverness, California, by 1923, where my mother was born. The inhabitants of the small town situated on the edge of Tomales Bay were kind to them, employing the children in their stores, having them babysit, and paying for their books when needed. The Martinellis, who actually owned the building that the family lived in, never raised the rent after my grandfather died in 1936.

My grandmother decided to retire from the laundry business in 1947, when all but the last two children were fully grown. The boys were in the military service or at school, and the girls were in college. My Auntie Noël had left by 1937, and was on scholarship at Berkeley, until she left to become the "Chinese Sally Rand" at Forbidden City, a famous Chinese nightclub in San Francisco. However, that is another story.

There were times while growing up, when I didn't think I was terribly lucky to be half Chinese. Racial prejudice delivers quite a sting to one's psyche. However, I am proud of my heritage, and the files at the National Archives reveal to me a remarkable woman--my grandmother.

## THE NAME GAME

The difficult part of looking for any immigrants' records is trying to figure out when one's ancestor arrived, and under what surname or spelling of the name the records may be filed.

This can be especially true with the Chinese. The first name is the actual surname, the middle, the generational name, and the third name, the given name.

For example, my mother's Chinese name is Hom Nyan Aoy. Hom is the surname, Nyan is the generational name that all of her sisters have, and Aoy is her given name.

My grandfather was known as Hom Gin, but his real name was Hom Kun Hoy. In looking at records for my grandfather, I wasn't sure if one of the names was switched around and he could be filed under Hom or Gin, or a variation of his real name of Hom Kun Hoy. There is also the complication of different dialect pronunciations for Hom, so it can also be more commonly Tom, but possibly Tan.

My grandmother is buried under the name Mah Shee Hom. The only part that is a clue to her original name is Mah. That is actually her surname, the Shee denotes that she is a married woman from the clan of Mar or Ma, (once again depending on the dialect), and Hom is only from the Anglo tradition of a woman taking on her husband's surname.



## CHINESE CALENDAR

In many of the interviews in the Chinese immigration files, dates are given according to the Chinese calendar. For example: KS 23-2-2 means the 23rd year of Kwong Sui, second month, day 2. I had asked at the Archives, and at UCSB, about a conversion calendar but no one knew of one.

I went to UCSB's library and was able to locate through interlibrary loan a slim volume of a Chinese to American calendar, compiled by Windon Chandler Welch, published in 1928 by the US Department of Labor (Immigration). With this gem of a book one can quickly find that KS 23-2-2 is March 4, 1897.



## Santa Barbara Cemetery Inscriptions

Compiled by Doris Floyd, Lesley Fagan, and  
the late Lois Jones.

Over 25,000 burials are in Santa Barbara's  
largest cemetery. In following issues partial  
recordings of inscriptions will appear. It started  
out as a project for the DAR, but due to the lack  
of volunteers, and the enormity of the task, the  
project died a natural death. (Bad pun not  
intended, but eliminated.)

These are the burials in one of the older  
sections of the cemetery. They are in front of the  
office.

THOMAS ARTHUR  
SON OF  
W. H. & M. S. Nut  
Aug. 11, 1889  
Oct. 18, 1890  
Gone to Jesus

MARGARET  
MERCER

LAURA H. RAWSON  
wife of E. J. RAWSON 1848 - 1876

In memory of HARDY PIERCE  
a native of Boston United States of America  
Born March 21, 1814 Died in Santa Barbara  
May 1st, 1838  
aged 24 years

HARPER  
Husband  
Jackson L.  
1869 - 1956  
Wife  
Adela D. 1865-1955

LIEUT.  
H. S. CARNES  
Co. F  
1 N.Y. Inf.  
Mex. War

CARNES  
ROSALIE 1872 - 1890  
FREDERICK 1858 - 1898  
JOHN 1852 - 1921

IDA MAY DEPUE  
Our Mother  
Dec. 7, 1856  
Dec. 18, 1892  
wife of T. O. DEPUE

GOLDIE [Depue]  
Born Nov. 10, 1880  
Died Feb. 8, 1898  
Aged 17 yrs. 2 mos. 28 days

ALFREDDA BEATRICE  
Our baby  
Aug. 2, 1888  
May 19, 1890  
Daughter of  
T. O. & I. M. DEPUE

MARY CONWAY  
Died June 15, 1884  
aged 48 years  
Also her adopted daughter  
DAISY CONWAY  
died June 15, 1887  
aged 9 years

JESSE J. MONROE  
1877 - 1882  
LEMUEL E. MONROE  
1882 - 1882

FRANCIS M. \_\_\_\_\_  
(illegible stone chipped)  
\_\_\_\_\_ HUGO  
his wife

HINMAN H. LAY  
died at Santa Barbara, Cal.  
Sept. 21, 1878  
aged 40 yrs., 4 ms, & 28 dys.

LOUIS H. [DICKINSON]  
son of E. H. & H. R. Dickinson  
born at Dubuque, IOWA  
died at Oceanside, Cal. Dec. 17, 1887  
God knoweth best

HELEN REECE KNOWLES  
Died Feb. 15, 1904  
Aged 54

NANCY wife of JAMES REECE  
born at Adelphi, Ohio  
March 24, 1915  
died at Santa Barbara  
June 4, 1845  
At rest GEORGE REECE  
died Jan 28, 1893 aged 40

HATTIE F.  
wife of O. M. REECE  
Born at Ossian, N.Y  
May 29, 1846 died Jan 14, 1878  
Aged 21 years, 7 mos.

LAURA  
infant daughter of O. M. & H. F. REECE  
died at Santa Barbara  
Oct. 15, 1878 aged 9 mos. 13 ds.

In memory of OSCAR M. REECE  
Born at Dubuque, Iowa  
Sept. 7, 1842  
died at Oceanside, Calif.  
Aug. 22, 1890  
(four sided stone)

A. W. BUELL

M. M. BUELL  
June 6, 1873-July 30, 1878  
H. BUELL  
Oct. 24, 1869-April 9, 1882

J. C. BUELL  
May 4, 1871  
March 17, 1877  
D. W. BUELL  
Nov. 18, 1877  
June 30, 1878  
Our Brother  
GEO. A. LONGFELLOW  
of Palermo, Maine  
died April 2, 1879  
aged 26 years  
Asleep in Jesus

GEORGE L. COLLINS 1871-1879

Our Baby  
Born Dec. 25, 1889  
Died Oct. 23, 1890  
MERITHEW

MERITHEW  
CHARLES 1833-1915  
C. FRED 1885-1965

John Holmes, a well-known attorney and brother of Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, was dying. A nurse announced that they would be able to tell when he had died, by feeling his feet.

"Nobody ever died with warm feet," she pronounced with the certainty that only a nurse can muster.

"John Rogers did," said Holmes, in his last words.

Rogers was the protestant martyr who was killed in 1555, burnt at the stake.

*"Frankly, My Dear..."*

Edited by Katherine and Richard Greene

## **THE GUILD OF ONE NAME STUDIES: WHAT IS IT?**

The Guild of One Name Studies was formed in Sept 1979 by a group of like minded researchers who, as a result of their activities, had collected considerable information relative to one particular name. At that time there was no specific organization to inform other family historians that information on a particular name had been collected.

It was therefore decided to form an organization to publicize the fact that certain names were being researched (and by whom). In this way, duplication of efforts could be eliminated or at least substantially reduced.

The Guild was therefore born, since then it has grown considerably to a membership at present in the region of 1500 of which 175 are overseas members.

Membership of the Guild is split into three categories, dependent on the amount of research already carried out, the publication of newsletters/journals etc., and a commitment to collect certain basic information.

A prospective member can only apply for membership if the name is not already registered.

The Guild Registration fee is £4.00 for each surname registered and each registration may include up to five variant spellings. The annual subscription is payable in the 1st January each year, the present subscription being £8.00.

Once becoming a member that person becomes responsible, World Wide, for that particular name.

All enquiries and/or information submitted to the Guild relative to a registered name will be passed on to the registered

member for that name for appropriate action. In this way knowledge of the name is enhanced and is made available for other members.

As a member of the Guild each member receives annually four copies of the Journal of One Name Studies and two issues of the Family History News and Digest. Additionally the Guild has available, for purchase, a number of publications to assist members in their activities in relation to The Guild.

For more information relative to the Guild please write to the Overseas Liaison Officer :

W Keith Plant  
22 Chapel Croft  
Chelford, Nr Macclesfield  
Cheshire SK11 9SU  
England

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## **THE PLANT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**

Have you any connection with the name of Plant?

If so - you may be interested in joining The Plant Family History Group.

This group was founded six years ago, since then twelve issues of a journal have been published. Each journal contains a mixture of 'stories' and information submitted by members of the Group relative to the name of Plant.

The Plant name appears to have originated in the South Cheshire/North Staffordshire area, there being Plants in the Macclesfield area early 15th century. In fact, even now the main concentration of Plants in the UK is around Stoke, Staffordshire, with a further concentration in the 'Black Country' near Birmingham.

For more information please contact:  
William Keith Plant,  
22 Chapel Croft, Chelford,  
Cheshire. SK11 9SU England.



## HASKELL FAMILY SOCIETY

The Haskell Family Society has reunited a number of "lost" family members, even first cousins and in one instance an uncle and nephew living in the same town, but our greatest coup came 29 May 1996 when we reunited two sisters, desperately seeking each other for the last 65 years.

With members in ten countries around the world able to trace their origins to a little corner of SW England, through 500 years of recorded family history, the society's international aspects proved of great value in bringing these sisters together, one living in England, the other in far western Canada. A half-sister and three half-brothers in New Zealand and Australia share in the joy of the reunion. For the members and officers of our society it was a truly satisfying experience to play a part in bringing so much happiness to these deserving people.

Membership in the Haskell Family Society is open to all Haskell descendants at £8.00 UK, \$11.00 USA, or \$13.00 Canadian and includes our informative quarterly Newsletter, free unlimited queries and gratis research.

To apply for membership or request further details please contact our Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. Mary Haskell,  
21 Royston Way,  
Slough, Berks, SL1 6EP.  
England

### Sorry for the tardiness of this issue.

The Society is experimenting with the distribution of the Quarterly in an effort to save money. *Ancestors West* will be given out during the monthly meeting, and the copies remaining will be mailed off as usual. We are hoping to be able to save 30% of our postage costs with this plan.

## A Different Perspective

In Africa black men will tell you this: "From this great distance you seem to have everything. Here in our little villages, very often we have nothing but this, and this is more than wealth: we know who we are. We can look back one hundred years, two hundred years, we can look back forever and we know who our fathers were, where they were born, how they died and where they are buried. But you, American man, you can only look back a few lifetimes and then you are lost. You have everything but this: you do not know who you are."

*South of Haunted Dreams: A Ride Through Slavery's Old Back Yard,*  
by Eddy L. Harris



Depending on the forces at work on our tax code (always subject to change), you may face an awkward decision: Either send a check to the IRS, or give money away to avoid sending a check to the IRS.

The answer is obvious. Don't forget the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Property, stocks, bonds, etc. are graciously accepted. Contact a board member for assistance.

**We are your tax deduction -  
Members are our life.**



# Book Reviews

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## **The Ancestry of Eva Belle Kempton, 1878-1908, Part I: The Ancestry of Warren Francis Kempton, 1817-1879.** By Dean Crawford Smith. 1996.

Hardbound, 599 pp. Indexed. \$40.00 + \$4.25 S & H. NEHGS Sales, 160 North Washington Street, Boston, MA 02114. Phone: (617) 624-0341.

Do not for a moment think that this book is only for you if you have a "Kempton connection." This newest volume in the ongoing series on early New England families contains never before published information on 28 other New England families, including such lines as Barron, Battles, Browne, Bullard, Cheney, Collier, Cutting, Darling, Howe, Jones, Peabody, Reeves, Rogers, Smith, Treadway, Warren, and Whitney.

Each of these families is included in its own chapter, in alphabetical order, beginning with an ancestral "drop chart." Far from the usual listing of ancestors and their progeny, Dean Smith has produced an exceptional volume enhanced with fascinating narrative. He has broken up the text with excerpts from town records and various other documents, including wills, inventories, depositions and other legal proceedings, and clever visual representations, such as computer-enhanced signatures, tombstone photographs with inscriptions clearly outlined through the use of reflected light, early street maps, coats of arms, and hand-drawn illustrations.

There is an alphabetical "List of References" and their abbreviations (referred to in the text) at the beginning of the volume, although there is some inconsistency in how

this reference list and the citations in the text are organized. Smith refers often to "Savage" or "Bond" and these are readily found in alphabetical order under "S" and "B" in the reference list. However, "Eliot" is cited on occasion and cannot be found as a reference under "E" (although it is obvious his work relates to the records of Roxbury, Massachusetts). Likewise, most of the "History of (town name) . . ." resources are listed alphabetically under "History of town name", such is not true of the History of Hingham, which is listed under "Hingham" (rather than "History of Hingham"). This reference confusion aside, this is an indispensable volume for every library or for any person researching early New England families.

*Reviewed by Bonnie Gaines Poucher*

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## **The Surnames of Wales** By John & Sheila Rowlands. 1996.

Paper, 217 pp. Published by the Federation of Family History Societies, England.

Hundreds of surnames found in Wales during the authors' 1813-37 survey are discussed in this book. Origins of the names and how the Welsh adopted surnames are just two of the very interesting topics covered.

The lack of variety in the common surnames to be found in Wales has been cause for comment for several centuries. The authors include a fascinating "Glossary of Surnames", listing over 250 of the more common surnames found in Wales. There is a short historical paragraph about each one,

plus descriptions of the areas and counties (pre-1974) where these names are more commonly found.

Many maps are included throughout the book, showing the distribution & incidence of the more common surnames.

There is an extensive list of references and select bibliography, which would be very useful to the family historian researching Welsh ancestors.

At the end of the book, Appendix A lists all the parishes in Wales within each of the 13 historical counties, and gives the number of surname occurrences within these counties.

This convenient sized book includes two indexes - a Subject Index and a Surname Index, making it a very useful source for anyone with Welsh ancestry. It is currently in our library, or can be ordered from our Society sales table.

*Reviewed by Pat Park*

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## **Federation of Family History Societies Publications**

c/o The Benson Room, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham B3 3BS, England

For those who are researching their English ancestors, the publications of the Federation of Family History Societies are a treasure trove. The 7 booklets published in 1996 are worth the attention of anyone researching their English ancestors. They consist of:

1. *English Genealogy - A Bibliography* is a guide to the most useful works for researching in all parts of England and, to some degree, Scotland and Ireland.
2. *Record offices - How to find them* gives the addresses, telephone numbers, as well as maps of the towns in which they are located.
3. *The Hearth Tax and other later Stuart Tax Lists and the Association Oath Rolls* has sources for records 1660-1715 listed by

county, and also has computerized maps of old parishes of all counties in England and Wales.

4. *Using Marriage Records for Family Historians* outlines the various types of marriage records and in which type of repository such records can be found for England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Jews, Quakers and Non-conformists, including Roman Catholics.

5. *Marriages, Census and other Indexes for Family Historians* lists the places by county where such records can be found in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

6. *Lancashire. A Genealogical Bibliography. Registers, Inscriptions and Wills* lists published works on parish registers and other records of births, marriages, death, monument inscriptions, and probate records. Place names, family names (as well as authors) are well indexed.

7. *Lancashire - A Genealogical Bibliography. Lancashire Family Histories and Pedigrees* lists the published family histories well indexed by family names and place names.

*Reviewed by Elizabeth Caldwell Hastings*

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## **Researching Masonic Records**

By John S. Yates. 1995.

Paper, 31pp. \$6.50 Incl. postage. Order from John Yates, P.O. Box 3496, Wichita Falls, TX 76301-0496.

Masonry is the oldest and largest of the fraternal organizations. The Masonic lodge would often be among the first community organizations in an early American community. Masonic records date back to the earliest days of our country and may be found in almost every city and town. Locating and interpreting these records is the purpose of this little "how to" booklet.

*Reviewed by Paul Barrett*

## One Never Knows!

Submitted by Carolyn J. McQuaid Thomas

One never knows what might be found at a rummage sale! Soon to appear in the SBCGS library is a little gem discovered at a church rummage sale. *An Encyclopaedia of London*, edited by William Kent, F.S.A. was first published in Great Britain in 1937 by the Camelot Press, Ltd. Southampton. It was revised and reset in 1951, the date of this edition. The editor was the president of the Clapham Antiquarian Society in 1951.

Main headings in the book are: banks, bridges, city churches, companies of the City of London, epitaphs, hospitals, inns, institutes, libraries, London clubs, lost monuments, lost rivers, markets, parks, prisons, restaurants, schools, squares, statues, synagogues, taverns, and theatres. Perhaps these don't sound like likely sources of genealogical information, but don't be deceived. I had great fun, opening the book at random and doing spot checks.

Come along with me on some:

Page 214: under heading of 'Companies of London': "The greatest benefactor to the Co. [Apothecaries' Co.] at its inception was Gideon Delaune (master, 1637): he was the son of a Huguenot refugee, and Apothecary to James I's Queen: he d. 1659 at the age of 97—having been (his profession makes the fact relevant) a prolific father. He had seventeen children, many still-born. He is said to have died worth about 90,000, much of the money being made by pills."

Page 290, ending 'Epitaphs': "Perhaps the best conclusion of the whole matter is to be found in the couplet on the tablet to Mr. W. Pinder (d. 1806) in St. Botolph's Church, Aldersgate: 'Praises on tombs are trifles vainly spent, A man's good name is his best monument.'"

Pg. 291, 'Fleet St.': John Allin, in 1272, left 'his estate in a stone house in Fletestrete' to his two sons."

Page 402: 'Ludgate Circus': "NW of the Circus is a tablet with a bas-relief inscribed as follows: 'Edgar Wallace, Reporter, Born London 1875

Died Hollywood 1932, Founder member of the Company of Newspaper Makers. He knew wealth and poverty yet he had walked with kings and kept his bearing, and his talents he gave lavishly to authorship, but to Fleet Street he gave his heart.'"

Page 512: 'Southwark Cathedral': "There are some Norman arches in the Harvard Chapel. The Lady Chapel (c.1228) is a beautiful specimen of early Gothic architecture. Here, in 1854, took place the proceedings annulling the marriage of John Ruskin and his wife. Ruskin was not present."

Page 547; 'Taverns': "Dirty Dick's (Bishopsgate) commemorates a strange story of 18th-century date. The hero was not a Dick, but a Nathaniel, and his surname was Bentley. His father was a man of wealth who is said to have given money for a church bell in the City to be rung on every anniversary of his birth until his death, which occurred in 1761." [The story continues, incl. an 1852 poem!]

There are 17 pages on 'Westminster Abbey,' including many of the persons buried within the Abbey, such as "Mrs. Aphra Behn (1640-89), the only feminine imaginative writer in W. A. [at least up to 1951] One of her best stories is *Oroonoko*." [Read it???

A Supplementary Reading List of 44 books begins with *Survey of London*, by John Stow (2nd ed. 1603), and ends w/ *Guide to the Records at Guildhall*, Jones/Smith, 1951.

The book has 21 pages of index, although it is not complete. While it listed just 2 Booths, (Chas. and Wm.) in the index, on page 527, I found Wm. Booth (1912) and a Catherine Booth (1890) buried at Abney Park cemetery. Still, if you have leads to places or things associated with your ancestors in or near London, I suggest you check this book. You just might find yourself truly fascinated by everything you read!

*This book is in the SBCGS Library--call number 942. LONDON H2 KEN.*



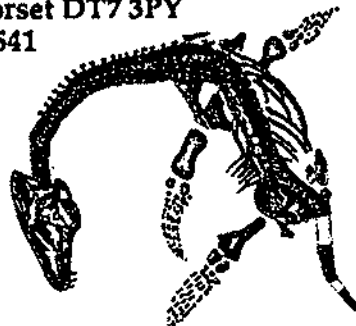
## Adventure in Dinosaurland!

While on vacation in England last October, I made my usual pilgrimage to Lyme Regis where my husband grew up. This southcoast area is well-known for the cliffs above the beach yielding numerous fossils. Tucked away on a small street off the main one is a fossil museum with the silly name of *Dinosaurland*. (Ah, the places one find's when waiting for laundry to dry at the local launderette.)

It is located in the original Congregationalist church built around 1745. It is rumored that a portion of a mast from the *Mayflower* is incorporated in one of the pillars of the old church. Core tests conducted showed that the suspected pillar is made of wood while the others are mostly plaster. Date analysis of the core also proved it to be of the correct age for it to be feasible.

I also found tucked in a corner of the chapel a book of church records roughly dating from 1746-1800. (I didn't actually get to go through it to confirm its range of dates, for it was on display under glass.) According to the proprietress, no one has ever indexed this book. So if you happen to have an ancestor from the area, write ahead to try to get a peek at the book. Also, the museum contains one of the finest examples of an Ichthyosaur and its embryonic young I have ever seen.

**Dinosaurland Fossil World**  
Coombe Street  
Lyme Regis, Dorset DT7 3PY  
Tel. (01297) 443541



## Salvation Army Family Tracing

If one is trying to find lost relatives, you may want to try using the Salvation Army. I requested information from the Army's Family Tracing Division in England and had a fax back the next day. They had searched public records—phone listings and voting rolls, and provided addresses and phone numbers to a couple of relatives in England.

## Revised Probate Costs

By Tom Wood

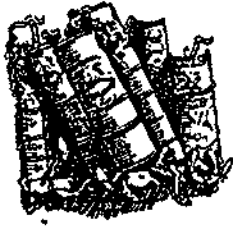
Family historians visiting the Principal Registry of the Family Division, Somerset House, Strand, London, to search for English or Welsh probate records since 1858 are advised of a revised pricing structure.

To read an ordered document whilst visiting Somerset House now costs 25p per document. Office copies of will (a copy impressed with the seal of the court) now costs 75p (formerly 25p per sheet). An office copy of a grant (impressed with the seal of the court) now costs 25p. A sealed and certified copy of a will (impressed with the court seal and certified by a judge as being true and correct copy) costs £1.50. A sealed and certified copy of a grant (impressed with the court seal and certified by a judge as being a true and correct copy) costs £1.

Readers are reminded that copies of the "Somerset House" will calendars 1858-1930 are now generally available in many county record offices and copies of the later calendars can usually be seen by appointment at various controlling district probate registries around England and Wales (check under "Probate" in Yellow Pages for the nearest registry).

Family historians unable to visit Somerset House or to search in copies of the calendars are reminded that all postal

*Continued on p. 45*



## New In The Library

By Frank Lore

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BOW
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MacLysaght, Edward  
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Directory of Scots in the Carolinas, 1680 - 1830. 1986.  
Dobson, David  
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Directory of Scottish Settlers in North America, 1625 - 1825,  
Volume VI. 1986.  
Dobson, David, Compiler  
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in America Prior to the Peace of 1783, together with notices of  
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Twenty-nine Pedigree Charts with Two Charts of Combined Descents, a supplement to Volume 3 of Family Histories and Genealogies. 1892. Salisbury, Edward Elbridge and Evelyn McCurdy Salisbury. Gift of First Interstate Bank	929.1 D2 SAL Suppl.


**Revised Probate Costs, continued from p. 37**

applications for searches in the calendars should be mailed to:

York Probate Sub Registry, Duncombe Place, York YO1 2EA.

You must supply full details of the deceased's name, their last permanent address and their date of death. A fee of £2 must be enclosed, payable to "HMFG," and you should also state which probate documents are required (i.e., the will, the grant, or both). If a grant has been made you will be sent the documents requested. If no grant has been issued (i.e., there are no probate records for the deceased) you will be notified that there is no trace of a grant. Somerset House no longer deals with postal applications for searches.

*Family Tree Magazine, January, 1996 & The Ancestral Searcher, Vol. 19, No. 2.*



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**Submission  
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October 15 - Fall 1997  
January 15 - Winter 1998

Find Fame!  
Send in an Ahnentafel,  
query or helpful hint  
for doing research.

**Guidelines on Submissions**

Material for this quarterly publication is solicited from members and non-members of the Society.

Articles and information submitted will be scanned and converted into raw text for typesetting. Therefore, all submissions must be typed and printed clearly. Dot matrix print-outs in very small print does not convert well, so please try to set your letter size at 11 pt. or larger.

**Queries:** Please have them be succinct, and easy to understand. Give full names, dates and locations when possible. Queries should be typed, and accompanied by a cover letter with your name, address and phone number.

**Submission topics:**

**Local records:** Church records (birth, baptisms, death, marriage records); Cemetery records; School records; Business records; Civil and Court records; Clubs and Lodge records; Deeds; Wills and Estate records.

**Family research:** Ahnentafels, narratives or lineages of a family (sources would be appreciated).

**General information pertaining to genealogy:** "How To" articles; historical essays; anything that may make one laugh, etc.



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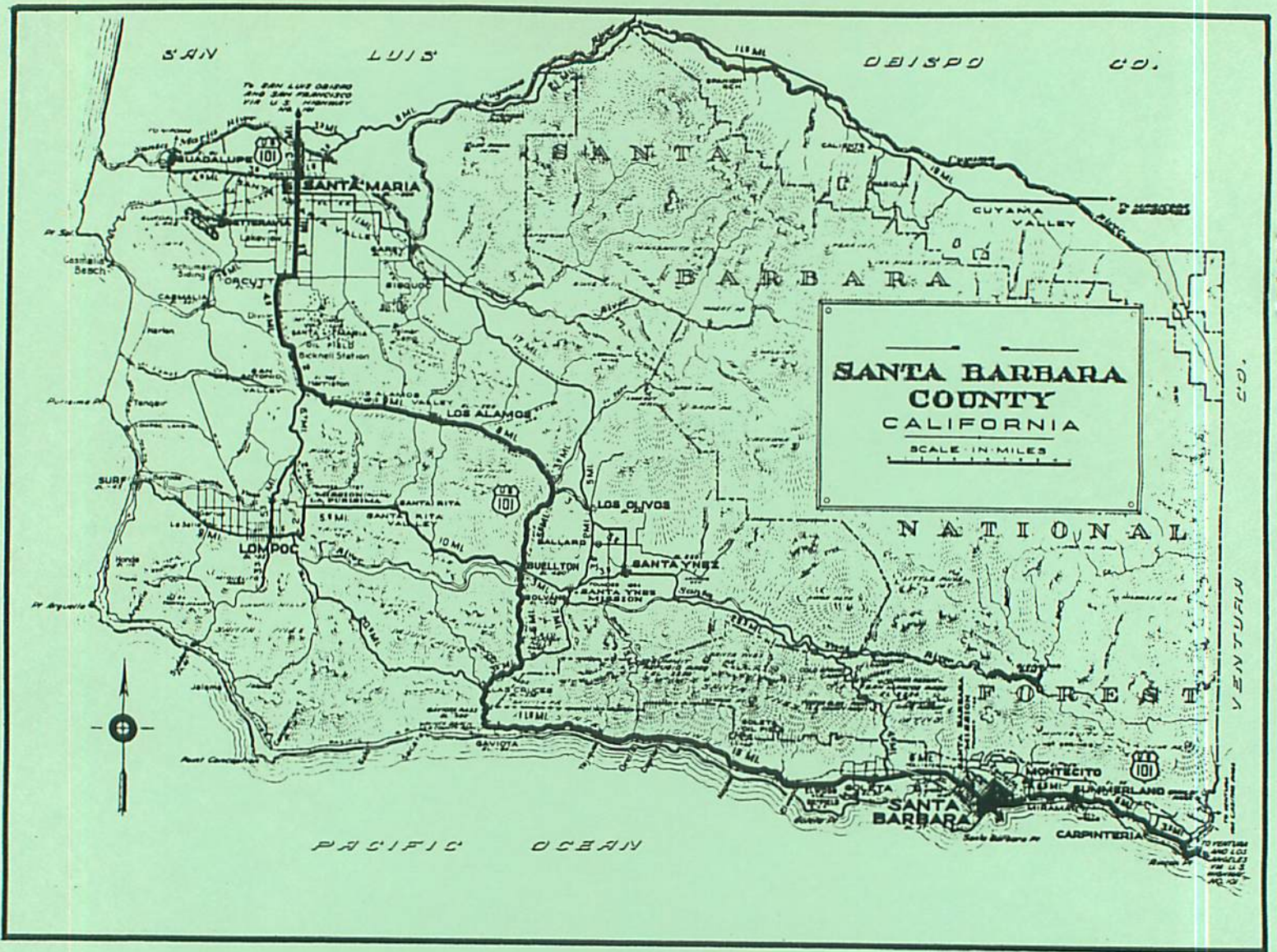
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### Publications For Sale

	Price	P&H
<i>The Seed Bed - A Column of Local Sources</i> By Marilyn Owen, 46 pp.	\$5.00	\$2.00
<i>The Great Register 1890 - Santa Barbara County, Calif.</i> Male Surnames in the Santa Barbara County Election District, 68 pp.	\$10.00	\$2.00
<i>The Great Register 1890 - Mono County, California</i> Male Surnames in the Mono Co. Election District, 18pp.	\$5.00	\$2.00
<i>The 1895 Santa Barbara City Directory</i> , 90 pp.	\$10.00	\$2.50
<i>Santa Barbara - Tierra Adorado - A brief history of</i> Santa Barbara from old Spanish days to 1930, 112 pp.	\$5.00	\$2.00



## Santa Barbara County

One of California's 27 original counties. While the county was actually created in 1850, the written 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 Lasuen 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: Santa Barbara, San Diego, Monterey, and San Francisco. Santa Barbara had all three Spanish forms of administration - 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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