

THE PIERRE-FT. PIERRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Box 925, Pierre, SD 57501

1990
YEAR 1990, VOLUME 15, NUMBERS 1&2

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Officers were elected for 1990 at the February meeting of the Society. Joanne Fix And Christine Dierks retained their positions as president and secretary. New officers are Ardys Ruark, vice president; Starlene Mitchell, treasurer; and Virginia Hanson who joins Laura Glum on the Executive Board.

This is the last issue of the newsletter that you will receive unless you have paid your dues for 1990. Members who have paid their dues are the following individuals:

Joanne Fix
Virginia Hanson
Richard Phillips
Laura Glum
Ardys Ruark

Christine Dierks
Starlene Mitchell
Geri Spargur
Roger Ruark
Genny Ziegler

COMING UP

The March 20 meeting will be a continuation of the February meeting. The 'guest speaker' will again be in attendance and can be slowed to answer questions. If you are still having problems, bring them and your five generation charts to the April 17 meeting. We'll have a brainstorming session and also will update the Society's five generation charts. Both meetings begin at 7:30 P.M. at Rawlins Library.

NEW MEMBER

Virginia Hanson--P.O. Box 112, Onida, S.D. 57564

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Geri Spargur--114 North Highland, Pierre, S.D. 57501

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

The January 1990 issue of FAMILY RECORDS TODAY presents yet another calendar used in foreign countries. This is the Calendar of the French Revolution which was used in some areas of western Germany as well as France. Names of the months were changed and years were counted in Roman numerals after the Revolution.

The Minnesota Historical Society has been microfilming the naturalization records in their archives, making them available for purchase or interlibrary loan. The list of records available is found in the March/April newsletter of the Anoka County Genealogical Society. A guide to the research resources of the Minnesota Genealogical Society is found in the November/December 1989 issue of their newsletter.

In 1991 the people of Switzerland will be celebrating the 700th anniversary of the establishment of their constitution. As a part of the celebration, the canton of Valais (Wallis) is sponsoring a program to reunite descendants of emigrants from their canton with their Swiss cousins. It is estimated that 400,000 Swiss emigrated to the United States with the largest number settling in New York, California, and Wisconsin. Maralyn Wellauer writes in more detail about the on-going search for individuals of Swiss descent in the September/October 1989 National Genealogical Society Newsletter. Anyone with a "Swiss Connection" is invited to submit information to Wellauer at 3239 North 58th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53216. More information will be sent if a SASE is included.

From THE FORUM, newsletter of the Federation of Genealogical Societies comes the news that the Archdiocese of Chicago of the Roman Catholic Church has been microfilming sacramental records of their parishes. Pre-1916 records have been filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah. A private contractor is filming the later records.

Military records research is the topic of the September 1989 issue of THE GENEALOGICAL COMPENDIUM. The names and addresses of individuals to contact in South Dakota are out-dated. A bibliography of printed materials follows the state information as well as a history and listing of addresses for national cemeteries.

THE DAKOTA HOMESTEAD, newsletter of the Bismarck-Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society, brings us the news of a new book on North Dakota genealogy resources. The book, compiled and edited by JoAnn Winistorfer, evolved from a genealogy column and can be purchased for \$7.50 at the following address:

TRACING YOUR ROOTS
North Dakota REC Magazine
P.O. Box 727
Mandan, ND 58554.

The purchase price includes tax, postage, and handling.

ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

South Dakota

- Brentford Congregational United Church of Christ 1888-1988
Canistota. Our Heritage and History 1884-1984
Century Farms Book Committee--A History of South Dakota Century Farms
Cummins, Cedric; Hildebrand, Robert C.; Ward, Stephen R.--The College of Arts and Sciences 1882-1982 (University of South Dakota)
Karolevitz, Robert--With a Shirt Tail Full of Type
Lyman-Brule Genealogical Society--The Centennial Newsletter. 1889-1989
Ziebach County Historical Society--South Dakota's Ziebach County
Reed, Dorinda Riessen--The Woman Suffrage Movement in South Dakota
75 Years of Sully County History

Genealogy

- Hyde, Edith Drake--The Descendants of Andrew Hyde of Lenox, MA, Sixth in Descent from William Hyde of Norwich, CT. Including the Descendants of Rebecca Hyde Aye of Morrow County, OH (The ancestors of Charles L. Hyde, early resident and land developer of Pierre. A gift from his granddaughter, Marjorie Hyde Gallimore, Pierre resident)
Muhlhausen, Marvin D.--Muhlhausens. A Story of the Ancestors and Descendants of Friedrich Eduard and Marie Wilhelmina Sophie Susebach Muhlhausen (A gift from the author. Included in the genealogies are the Huckfeldts of the Ft. Pierre area)
Who's Who in American Politics. 2nd. Edition 1969-1970
Who's Who of American Women. 8th ed. 1974-1975
L'Heritage. Quarterly Magazine of St. Bernard Genealogical Society of Chalmette, LA (Excellent source of genealogical information for the area. Included is a list of previous publications available for purchase.
Heritage Quest Magazine (A genealogical publication now being subscribed to by the Society)

History

- Sillers, Mable Harriet--The History of Alpha Chi Omega
The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies Prepared Under the Direction of the Secretary of War. 128 volumes.

Telephone Directories

Philadelphia, PA 1972

Catalogs

The Pennsylvania Traveller-Post (includes books on eastern Pennsylvania) Virginia Library. A Publication List of Titles on Virginia Genealogy and Surrounding Areas.

South Dakota Heritage Store Book Catalog. (The Heritage Store also has conservation materials for purchase. Supplies include acid-free bond paper, tissue paper, file folders, storage boxes and sleeves, and plastiklips.)

Ram Press. A new list of books available for purchase on Tennessee.

INDIANA 1900 SOUNDEX

The microfilm reel of the Illinois 1900 soundex for the surnames coded H-500 through H-513 has been found to have a number of cards that belong in the Indiana reels 66 to 67. If the surname you are searching in Indiana falls within that code and you have been unable to find the family, try the Illinois soundex. They might be there.

NORTH DAKOTA RESEARCH

The Dakota Homestead, newsletter of the Bismarck-Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society, brings the news of the cemetery index of the North Dakota Bureau of Vital Statistics. The index lists the cemeteries, date of organization, and location. Also included in the index may be ownership or re-location information. The Society will respond to inquiries about the index. Address requests to Cemetery Index c/o Bismarck-Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society, Box 485, Bismarck, ND 58502. Include as much information as possible to assist in identification and enclose a SASE.

CANADIAN ROOTS?

The New Brunswick Museum Bookstore carries a large selection of publications on New Brunswick and Maritime history. Subjects include Loyalists, Acadians, the Irish, and Canada's native people. For a catalog of their holdings, write the New Brunswick Museum Bookstore, 277 Douglas Avenue, St. John, New Brunswick F2K 1E5, Canada. New Brunswick Museum members receive a 10% discount on all purchases.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM RENTAL PROGRAM
PREPARES FOR RELEASE OF 1920 CENSUS

(Washington, D.C.)

On March 2, 1992 the National Archives will make the 1920 census microfilm available to the public for the first time. And, the National Archives Microfilm Rental Program will rent copies made from the original silver masters.

"We're excited about the release of the 1920 census," said Rita Hope Counts, President of Professional Mail and Distribution Services, Inc. (PMDS), the company now fulfilling the Microfilm Rental Program contract for the National Archives. "In fact, we expect such a great demand for the census microfilm, we're taking advance rental orders starting September 1, 1991, so we can have them processed and ready to go as soon as we get the microfilm in March."

The National Archives awarded the PMDS Microfilm Rental Program contract in September 1989 and PMDS plans to uphold the same level of service the program has provided since 1983. Under PMDS, the program will continue to be the only microfilm rental program to offer microfilm copied directly from the National Archives silver masters. Because of this the quality of film PMDS provides cannot be matched by any other rental group.

This microfilm can be ordered directly by individuals or through more than 6,000 local libraries across the country. The rental rates are \$3.00 per roll for orders of 1-4 rolls, \$2.50 per roll when 5-9 rolls are ordered, and \$2.00 per roll for orders of 10 or more rolls. The postage and handling fee of \$3.00 is waived for orders of 4 or more rolls.

To assist first-time users, the Microfilm Rental Program offers a Start-Up Kit for \$20.00. Included in the Start-Up Kit are the complete set of catalogs required for census and Revolutionary War research, order forms for ship passenger arrival and veterans records, research guides, coupons for free rental of 2 rolls of microfilm, and a Rental Program membership card.

The membership is a lifetime one, entitling the member to a 10% discount on a selection of National Archives and other genealogical publications.

Interested individuals can request a copy of the Microfilm Rental Program brochure by writing to:

National Archives Microfilm Program
Post Office Box 30
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.

RESEARCH AIDS

Abbreviations Commonly Used in Early American Documents

according - accord ^g	honorable - hon ^{ble} , han:
account - acco ^t , acc ^t	improvement - improv ^t , improv ^t
administration - admin ^{ion} , admon:	inventory - invent ^y , inv:
administrator - admin ^r	Junior - Jun ^r , J ^r , Jun:
administratrix - admin ^x	Messieurs - Messrs, Mess ^{rs}
aforsaid - afors ^d , fors ^d , afsd.	namely - viz, viz:, viz ^t
and - &	paid - pd.
and so forth - &tc, etc.	pair or per - p ^r
captain - capt ⁿ , capt:	personal - person ^l , p'son ^l
church - chh	probate - prob ^t
daughter - dau, dau ^r	probate register - p. regist ^r
deceased - dec ^d	received - rec ^d , recv ^d
ditto - do, d ^o	receipt - rec ^t
Esquire - Esq:, Esq ^r , Esq.	record - rec ^d
executor - exec ^r , ex ^r , ex ^{or} , exor:	register - reg ^r , regist ^r
executrix - exec ^x , ex ^x , ex ^{ix}	said - s ^d
Gentleman - Gentl ⁿ , Gent:, Gent.	Senior - Sen ^r , S ^r , Sen:
the - ye, y ^e	testament - testam ^t , testa:

Ye is a carryover from the old Anglo-Saxon alphabet in which the Y had a TH sound. Other words beginning with the same sound might be written as follows: y^{en}, y^{ere}, y^{is}, y^t. Abbreviated words might also be designated as such by drawing a line through the word. Apostrophes were also used to signify that letters had been omitted, but sometimes a curved line was placed above the word. Words with double consonants were sometimes written with one consonant and a line was drawn over it to show that the consonant should be doubled. That line might be a curved line. Varying abbreviations of the same words could appear in one document. Although colons were frequently used in abbreviations, they were also used to hyphenate words and sometimes placed at the beginning of the next line rather than at the end of the line. In early years the hyphen was not used. The equals sign or the colon took its place. Words were frequently capitalized within a sentence. The consistency of this habit depended upon the writer.

GENEALOGICAL CONVENTIONS

The South Dakota Genealogical Society will hold their annual meeting in Pierre on April 28. Registration begins at 9:30 A.M. with the business meeting scheduled for 10:00. The Decennial Digest is the program topic of the luncheon meeting to be followed by a tour of the Capitol Law Library and research at the South Dakota Archives. The meetings will be held at the Lancer Room of the Kings Inn.

The Montana State Genealogical Society Seminar will be held April 27 and 28 at Helena. Topics include research in Canada, Germany, and Norway, Church Records, and Research and Law. Pre-registration is \$25.00 for the two day meeting.

The Nebraska State Genealogical Society will hold their annual conference on May 4 and 5 at the Old Mill Holiday Inn in Omaha. Speakers include Colin James who will speak on courthouse, probate, and land records and Sandra Leubking who will speak on Indiana and Illinois research.

The National Genealogical Society is planning a 'one-of-a-kind' event for their 1990 conference. The meeting will be held in Arlington, VA with access to the nation's capitol where the National Archives, Library of Congress, and National DAR Library are located. Middle Atlantic records are the main focus of the conference which is scheduled for June 6-9. United States Archivist Don Wilson will be the speaker for the opening session.

Windows to the West is the theme of the 1990 conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Utah Genealogical Association which will be held in Salt Lake City August 15-18 at the Salt Lake Hilton and Little America Hotels. A wide variety of topics will be covered with additional time for research at the Family History Library and tours of the area. Singer Helen Reddy, an accomplished genealogist will be the banquet speaker.

The Genealogical Conference of New York is holding their first major conference in Western New York at the Riverside Convention Center in Rochester from July 5-7. Since this part of New York was a passageway to the western frontier for thousands of people from Europe, the United States, and Canada, many of the topics will deal with immigration research assistance. To receive registration materials, write to GCNY-Rochester'90, P.O. Box 299, Interlaken, NY 14847-0299.

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society is presenting a genealogical/cultural conference on May 19 at the Edina Community Center in Edina, MN. Topics include use of cadastral maps, customs, culture (including native costumes), a travelogue of Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia and history and geography of the areas covered. For information write to the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 16225, St, Paul, MN 55116.

ONE MEMBER

Ten little members standing in a line
 One disliked the president
 Then there were nine.
Nine ambitious members offered to work late.
 One forgot her promise,
 Then there were eight.
Eight creative members had ideas good as heaven.
 One lost enthusiasm,
 Then there were seven.
Seven loyal members got into a fix.
 They quarreled over programs,
 And then there were six.
Six members remained with spirit and drive.
 One moved away,
 Thwn there were five.
Five steadfast members wished there were more.
 One became indifferent,
 Then there were four.
Four cheerful members who never disagreed--
 'Til one complained of meetings,
 Then there were three.
Three eager members! What do they do?
 One got discouraged,
 Then there were two.
Two lonely members, our rhyme is nearly done.
 One joined the bridge club,
 Then there was one.
 One faithful member was feeling rather blue --
 Met with a neighbor,
 Then there were two.
Two earnest members each enrolled one more --
 Doubling their number,
 Then there were four.
Four determined members just couldn't wait --
 'Til each won another
 And then there were eight!
Eight excited members signed up sixteen more.
 In another six verses
 There'll be a thousand twenty-four!

--taken from the 1990 Educators Advocate

CAN YOU HELP?

With the additions to our Collection, we are once again in need of book shelves. Can you help us clear out the boxes and arrange our materials so that our members can easily use the materials available to them?



The South Dakota State Archives received two old photographs from Mr. and Mrs. Donald Morrison of Chemainus, British Columbia. The donors wished to have the photographs returned to relatives of those pictured, thinking they may be of some sentimental value.

The names on the back of the photographs are Ella Tueber and Julian Hannon. The woman's photograph also reads that she married an Andrew. It is not known if Andrew is the first or last name. Because the photographers are from Pierre, it is believed that these individuals were from the Pierre area and may have lived here between 1900 and 1930.

The photographs are now in possession of the Society. Anyone having information about the individuals in the photographs may contact the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Genealogical Society at Box 925 in Pierre.

Have you checked your mailbox lately? Have you found a postcard announcing the formation of a family news organization for your surname and inviting you to join them for a reasonable \$7.00 yearly subscription to a publication devoted to your surname? Moreover, for \$15.00 the National Registry of living individuals with your surname can be purchased. Mail to 930 S. Monaco, Box 11337, Denver, CO 80224.

Recent letters to the National Genealogical Society indicate that the Family News organizations are a computer-enhanced form of the Beatrice Bayley family history books. According to Jim McMillan, president of the Ft. Worth, Texas Genealogical Society, the McMillan Family News could have applied to any family from Scotland. Genuine news of the McMillans was rare. With the aid of a computer, other surnames can easily be substituted for McMillan. The National Registry contains names and addresses gleaned from telephone directories.

The National Genealogical Society has copied the Winter 1989/1990 issue of the Fugate Family News and will send a copy to anyone interested in learning what can be expected from a subscription. They ask for \$1.50 to cover the cost of photocopying and mailing. Requests should be sent to the NGS Newsletter Editor, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399.

COMING UP

South Dakota's legal system will be the topic of discussion at the May 15 meeting. Brad Schreiber, clerk of the South Dakota Supreme Court, will acquaint us with the different levels of South Dakota's legal system and the records to be found for each. The meeting will be held at the Supreme Court Law Library at 7:30 P.M. Members are asked to meet at the north entrance of the Capitol building at that time. An Executive Board meeting, if necessary, will follow the regular meeting.

The June 19 meeting will be at Rawlins Library at 7:30 P.M. with the Executive Board preceding the regular meeting at 6:30 P.M. Members are requested to bring publications from organizations of genealogical interest to which they belong so that others, especially new members, can be made aware of other areas of research available to them.

NEW MEMBER

Robert Wallace -- P.O. Box 416, Pierre, SD 57501

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Stan and June Oestreich -- 3601 Cheyenne Blvd., Sioux City, IA 51104

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RECENT GENEALGOCIAL PUBLICATIONS

Since 1900 the DAR has been locating graves of Revolutionary War patriots. Over 58,500 names have been reported. An alphabetical list of the graves with an abstract of the grave information and an index to additional information has been published in four volumes, divided A-D, E-K, S-R, S-Z, by Patricia Law Hatcher. Entitled ABSTRACT OF GRAVES OF REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOTS, the volumes can be purchased hardback for \$25,00 each or softbound for \$23.00 each.

Order from:

Pioneer Heritage Press
8040 Claremont Drive
Dallas, TX 75228

The German Research Association announces the first volume of their SURNAME BOOK. Entries of German ancestral lines only were submitted by the 202 GRA members worldwide. Cost of the volume is \$18.00 with an additional \$2.00 for shipping and handling.

Order from:

German Research Association
P.O. Box 11293
San Diego, CA 92111

Natchitoches, the oldest settlement in the Louisiana Purchase, is a storehouse of early American history. Official French and Spanish colonial documents from 1725 to 1804 are indexed and abstracted in a volume entitled INDEX AND ABSTRACTS OF COLONIAL DOCUMENTS IN THE EUGENE P. WATSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY. Cost of the index is \$5.00.

Order from:

Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library
Northwestern State University of Louisiana
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Larry D. Schenck shares his method of collecting and organizing family history in YOUR GENEALOGY, A PRACTICAL GUIDE. Schenck outlines a step by step method of assembling genealogical information. Included are blank charts that can be copied for personal use. He also suggests various organizations and publications to consult for information and assistance. The guide can be purchased for \$7.95 with an additional \$1.50 for postage.

Order from:

Sales Manager
Oregon Historical Society Press
P.O. Box 4500-73
Portland, OR 97208

BEN FRANKLIN SAID IT BEST

As genealogists we are always searching for records that will prove our ancestor's existence in a certain area at a certain time. Think how much easier our research would be if all records were kept like those of Egypt.

In Egypt, because of its extremely dry climate, records of its earliest years have survived, all neatly written on papyrus. Some of the records date from the age of the pharaohs but most come from the time of Egypt's foreign domination by the Greeks and Romans after 300 B.C.

Every taxpayer, present and potential, was listed beginning with birth registration. Male citizens from the age of 14 to 60 paid poll taxes. The government kept a house by house registration furnished by the house owner in which he listed all those dwelling in the house, parentage of each, age, occupation, tax status, and property owned. A land registry held descriptions of each parcel of land, crops grown upon it, and their value. Another registry listed animals whose owners paid a tax on each head. Transients and prostitutes were registered. Craftsmen and tradesmen paid a craft or trade tax.

Clerks were kept busy recording all this information on rolls of papyrus. The clerks could be found in the workshops or harvest fields, estimating the value of the products.

A taxpayer was issued a receipt for each payment but he had to supply his own writing material. Often a broken piece of pottery was used. Shards were cheaper than papyrus.

The Romans appointed local people to serve as collectors. Failure to pay taxes meant stiff penalties, especially since the collectors had to make up the difference out of their own pockets. The harsh demands of the collectors sometimes caused the delinquent taxpayers to flee the area. With most of the inhabitants of a village missing because of unpaid taxes, the collector would appeal to the higher authorities who might grant an amnesty, allowing the villagers to return and the cycle to begin again.

We must, perhaps with a sigh, agree with Benjamin Franklin that nothing in life is certain except death and taxes. As genealogists we are grateful for the certainty of taxes, the perserverance of tax collectors, and the carefully kept records that list the names of the 'ordinary' individuals from whom most of us descend.

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

"It must unquestionably be true that almost every living human being qualifies to join a Society of the Descendants of Eleventh-Century Peasants. But it is also unquestionably true that no such proper hereditary society can ever be established. Given the generation to generation documentation rules required by hereditary societies, no one will every prove a lineage to an eleventh century peasant. There is no documentation. All documented lines that run that far back in history, proven, are royal or noble. No records were kept on "ordinary people," in most cases until the sixteenth or seventeenth century. At least none were kept of the proper type and consistently maintained throughout time to the point of permitting a lineage to be documented from now until then. The best estimate is that 90 percent of the world's population, in most eras of history, managed to live and die without generating any surviving written records...We should be grateful that we have as many documents as we do. Nonetheless, at some point in the tracing of the line, the trail will run out." With this statement in the March-April 1990 issue of the NGS newsletter, Virginia Easley DeMarce goes on to tell us that we can do when the genealogical urge is still strong and the line has run out.

An excellent article on Swiss research is found in the April issue of Family Records Today. The author, Ruth Keys Clark, includes a brief history of the country, describes genealogical sources, and included a bibliography of materials that will be helpful in Swiss research.

In the same issue of Family Records Today, Ursula Huelsbergen who regularly writes on German research suggests some of the possibilities now available to those who trace their families to East Germany.

LOST IN THE CENSUS?

One of the frustrating experiences of genealogical searching is the inability to find an individual on the census, although all previous and succeeding research point to his having been in a certain area at the time of the census.

Possible explanations include the fact that the individual may not have been at home and the census taker did not investigate further. Perhaps the individual moved away for a short time and then returned. Another explanation is that perhaps the person doing the microfilming missed a page. A quick check of the pages will reveal if the household numbers follow in consecutive order. Another clue might be the incomplete household which starts a new page and is incompatible with the preceding household. A request for an examination of the original copy may show the missing individuals.

THE PIERRE - FT. PIERRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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RESEARCH AIDS
Name Abbreviations

Given names are often abbreviated in early American documents. Some of the most common name abbreviations follow.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Aaron - Aar ⁿ | Abraham - Abra ^m |
| Andrew - Andr ^w , And ^w | Arthur - Art ^r , Arth ^r |
| Barbara - Barb ^a | Benjamin - Benj ^a , Benj ⁿ , Benj: |
| Charles - Cha ^s , Char ^s | Christopher - X ^r , Xopher, Xofer |
| Daniel - Dan ^l | David - Dav ^d |
| Ebenezer - Eben ^r | Elizabeth - Eliz ^a |
| Franklin - Frankl ⁿ , Frank ⁿ , Frank: | Frederick - Fred ^{ck} , Fredr ^k |
| George - Geo:, G ^o | Gilbert - Gilb ^t , Gil ^{rt} |
| Hannah - Han ^{ah} | James - Ja ^s , Jas: |
| Jeremiah - Jer ^a , Jerem ^a , Jer: | Jonathan - Jonath ⁿ , Jon ⁿ , Jon: |
| John - Jno:, Jno | Joseph - Jos, Jos: |
| Leonard - Leon ^d | Margaret - Marg ^t |
| Nathan - Nath ⁿ | Nathaniel - Nath ^l , Nathan ^l |
| Patrick - Patr ^k | Richard - Rich ^d , Rich: |
| Robert - Rob ^t , Rob: | Samuel - Sam ^l , Sam: |
| Stephen - Steph ⁿ | Thomas - Tho ^s , Tho: |
| Vincent - Vinc ^t , Vinc ^{nt} | Virginia - Virg ^a , Virg: |
| Wildord - Wilf ^d , Wilf: | William - Will ^m , W ^m , Will: |
| Zachariah - Zach ^a , Zachar ^a , Zach: | |

Capital letters are often very difficult to distinguish between in early documents. Confusion can be caused by I and J, U and V, L and S, T and F. Curlicues on small letters may extend into the next line, contributing to difficulty in reading a document. The character for the double s may be read as an f or a p. Careful study is required to correctly interpret early documents.

White has also compiled Index to Texas CSA Pension Applications. The volumes are expensive for single purchaser but a welcome addition to any genealogical library.

MILITARY RECORDS INDEX

Virgil D. White has transcribed a variety of military records at the National Archives. For each set of records, he has prepared an informative index which is available for purchase from the National Historical Publishing Company of Waynesboro, Tennessee.

The records searched and the index to each are the following:

Index to Old Wars Pension Files 1815-1926. The Old Wars files should be searched by anyone doing research between the middle 1700's and the early 1900's, especially if a soldier was killed or disabled because of reasons other than hostile action. Applications are filed for service in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps between the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783 and the outbreak of the Civil War before July, 1861. There are claims from the Mexican War, the Indian Wars, and a few from the War of 1812.

Index to Indian Wars Pensions Files 1892-1926. These pension applications are for service in Indian Wars and Campaigns between 1817 and 1898. In addition to the usual types of records found in pension applications, these files contain a personal history questionnaire of the soldier as well as a family history questionnaire. Many of the claims for service in the earlier wars were filed by widows who were second, third, or even fourth wife of the veteran. The late filing date can be misleading. Many of the claims contain data from the late 1700's and early 1800's.

Index to Volunteer Soldiers 1784-1811. This index is cross-referenced for records under more than one spelling or for service in more than one unit. The service records do not contain as much information as pension records but they do provide places and dates of enlistment and discharge. Some of the earlier entries may contain a personal description of the soldier.

Index to War of 1812 Pension Files. Entries in this informative index give the name of the veteran and any alias used, maiden name of wife, name of wife's previous husband or subsequent husband, date and place of marriage, date and place of death for veteran and wife, application number or certificate number for approved claim, Bounty Land Warrant number for which no pension claim was filed, name of unit in which veteran served, county and state of residence for veteran or widow.

Index of U.S. Marshals 1789-1960. The records and service files for U.S. Marshals are located in Record Groups 60 and 287 at the National Archives.

White has also compiled Index to Texas CSA Pension Files and Register of Florida CSA Pension Applications. The volumes are expensive for a single purchaser but a welcome addition to any genealogical library.

IN SCANDINAVIA, ODD'S NOT AN ODD NAME

This story recently appeared in the Rapid City Journal. We thought it entertaining and informative enough to be reprinted here.

Norwegians can name a son Odd, Bent, even Roar, but Scott and Russell are beyond the law.

Danes need middle names to tell each other apart, since half the people share 14 surnames.

In Sweden, middle names are unusual. Swedes are allowed as many first names as they want, however, and some use 2 last names.

Every baby must be registered, with name officially approved, in the highly regulated societies of Europe's far north. Names like Bent Worm, Roar Bull or Odd Ones sound fine to Scandinavians, but the rules bewilder some parents.

"All this regulation started because a lot of names were being casually used," said Anne Svanevik, a Norwegian name researcher. "Officials were trying to stabilize things so it would be easier to find people in files, for example."

Scandinavians often adopted the name of a farm or region, which they might change like an address. They created new surnames by adding "sen" or "son" to the father's given name. A Danish Jens, son of Hans, became Jens Hansen. His son Per took the name Jensen, the grandson became Persen, and so on.

Chaos reigned by the mid-1800's and governments insisted everyone adopt a permanent family name. Iceland is the exception; patronymics persist among the island's 250,000 people.

Each year in Sweden, thousands of Johanssons, Anderssons and Svenssons ask to change their names which are so common that mixups are inevitable. Each must apply to the Patent and Registry Board for permission.

About 20,000 of Norway's 4.2 million people change family names each year. "Norway passed a forename law in 1923 because people began to use last names as first names, and to protect the children from having names that sounded strange," Svanevik said.

An 1828 decree inadvertently stripped Danes of a rich variety of informal surnames, leaving 70 percent with names ending in "sen" said Gillian Fellows-Jensen of Denmark's Institute of Names Research. "The government said everyone had to have a permanent last name," said Fellows-Jensen, who was allowed by 1983 reform of the law to hyphenate her name. "They didn't mean just the 'sen' names. It was up to the local vicar to record names. A lot of vicars weren't very imaginative and wrote down the easiest one: the patronym."

Hundreds of Danes now have the same first and last names, creating an identity problem that can follow them to the grave. Tombstones are inscribed "Mr. Managing Director Jensen" and "Mr. Unskilled Worker Jensen" to distinguish the occupants.

In Oslo, a city of 480,000 people, 50 of the 4,000 Hansens in the telephone book are named Hans and hints are provided like Hans the surveyor, Hans the retired, Hans the bricklayer.

Scott, Russell and some others are registered as surnames in Norway and cannot be used as given names. Immigrants are given leeway, however, and usually can register non-Nordic first names like Hussein or Carlos without problems. "I know a Norwegian family who wanted to name their baby Scott and were refused, while Scott was approved for another family with one British parent," Svanevik said.

At the Swedish population registry, Thomas Erikson said, "We respect whatever name people had when they moved to Sweden. Their children born here have to abide by Swedish law."

ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

Histories of the following South Dakota counties and communities have been added to our Collection at Rawlins Library:

<u>Counties</u>	<u>Communities</u>
Brown	Elk Point
Jerauld	Garden City
Sully	Hurley
	Leola
	Valley Springs

DID YOU KNOW?

Waterloo, New York has held Memorial Day ceremonies every year since 1866, two years before General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic proclaimed May 30 to be the day to decorate the graves of those who died in defense of their country. The first Memorial Day ceremony in Waterloo was on May 5 but since then they have observed May 30 as Memorial Day and continue to do so despite the passage of the National Holiday Act in 1971 that set aside the last Monday of May as Memorial Day.

WHAT DAY WAS IT?

There are calendars that will help determine the day of the week when an event occurred but this formula from the Southeastern Colorado Genealogical Society is fun. Try it. It will work for any date after September 14, 1752.

Example: What day of the week was January 10, 1946?

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Take the last two digits of the year. | 46 |
| 2. Add a quarter of this number, neglecting any remainder. | 11 |
| 3. Add the date of the month. | 10 |
| 4. Add according to the month: | 1 |

Jan 1	(use 0 for leap year)
Feb 4	(use 3 for leap year)
Mar 4	Aug 3
Apr 0	Sep 6
May 2	Oct 1
Jun 5	Nov 4
Jul 0	Dec 6

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 5. Add for the century | 0 |
| 18th | 4 |
| 19th | 2 |
| 20th | 0 |
| 21st | 6 |

- | | |
|--|----|
| 6. Divide the total by 7 and the remainder gives the day of the week as follows: | 68 |
|--|----|

68 divided by 7 = 9
 with a remainder of 5

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1 Sunday | 4 Wednesday |
| 2 Monday | 5 Thursday |
| 3 Tuesday | 6 Friday |
| | 0 Saturday |

The answer is Thursday!

Midsummer. It's time to put aside our serious pursuits and indulge in a little laughter at ourselves. For some time I have been toying with the idea of printing some rather descriptive verses of various groups of people, but I hesitated, not wanting to offend anyone. When I opened one of our exchange publications and found one of the verses with the heading 'As Others See Us', I decided to throw caution to the wind and touch up this issue with, I hope, a little humor. If I have missed anyone's ethnic group, don't feel left out. I'll get you next time.

COMING UP

July 19 is the date of our next meeting. The program topic is Federal Court Records.

The last summer meeting will be held on August 21. The program topic is Immigration Trails.

Come prepared to take notes on both these useful lectures which should be of interest to all our members.

Remember -- Our meeting place at Rawlins Library is always cool. Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M. The Executive Board will meet at 6:30 P.M.

THANK YOU

Virginia Hanson for assembling the new shelving.

Chris Dierks, Joanne Fix and Ardis Ruark for unpacking and processing the 128 volumes of the War of the Rebellion series.

NEW MEMBERS

Sharon Ackley -- HCR 37, Box 196, Pierre, SD 57501 224-2739

Keith Skron Dahl -- 200 N. Hemlock, Pierre, SD 57501 224-7115

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Denise Lantz -- 2017 E. Dakota Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501 224-1861

FOURTH OF JULY MUSINGS

Can you name the first thirteen states? Can you name them in the order in which they entered the United States? Find the answer in this issue.

2595-1210 8821

YEAR 1990, VOLUME 15, NUMBER 4, PAGE 2

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

The May-June 1990 issue of the ANCESTRY newsletter carries an article on burials in nineteenth century London, England. The article opens with a history of burying grounds in London, then gives sources to use in locating the burying grounds, identifies them on a map of the city, and lists those whose records have been copied and are found at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Anyone doing research in New York should take the time to read the article in the March-April 1990 issue of the HERITAGE QUEST magazine on the historians found at the county level in that state. These individuals charge no fees for their work but donations to the local historical society are always gratefully accepted.

The LONGMONT HERITAGE, publication of the Genealogical Societies of Longmont, Colorado, has reprinted the research suggestions to solve the problem of the 'burned courthouse' records that originally appeared in the Stephenson County, Illinois Genealogical Society magazine. Many possibilities exist for continued research, even if the county claims they have no records for a particular time period.

The Lyman-Brule Genealogical Society has included a list of surnames being searched by members in their 1990 publication.

The National Genealogical Society continues to bring news of the opening of the Soviet Archives. The American delegation visited archives in Moscow, Minsk and Leningrad. The Soviet archivists will be visiting the United States in July to observe reference techniques at the National Archives. They will also visit the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The Soviet archivists were puzzled that ordinary people in the United States were interested in genealogy as they understood genealogical research to be done for the purpose of charting nobility but they were more easily able to understand the interest in the United States when the term 'family history' was substituted for genealogy.

The National Genealogical Society newsletter has also been carrying a number of articles discussing the so-called problem of adopted individuals in genealogy. One school of thought holds that since they are not of the bloodlines, adoptees should not be included. Another points out that if this is family history, certainly adoptees are part of the family and should be included. Helen Hinchliff, in her article, describes her solution to this so-called problem. She also points out the problems that can arise from an over-zealous probing into the circumstances surrounding an adoption.

We call England the mother country because most of us came from Italy and Poland. A slight exaggeration from humorist, Robert Benchley.

SHIP'S PASSENGER LISTS
The New Publications

Two recently published collections of ship's passenger lists have received publicity as the complete lists of Irish and German immigrants in specific time periods. THE FAMINE IMMIGRANTS: LISTS OF IRISH IMMIGRANTS ARRIVING AT THE PORT OF NEW YORK, 1846 - 1851 is a seven volume set edited by Ira Glazier and Michael Tepper. GERMANS TO AMERICA: LISTS OF PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT U.S. PORTS, 1850 - 1855, edited by Glazier and P. William Filby, is a ten volume series. Information for both collections was gathered at the Balch Institute-Center for Immigration Research at Temple University in Philadelphia where the American passenger arrival lists, formerly at the National Archives, are now housed. An in-depth review of these publications is found in the June 1990 issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly from which the following comments are taken. Gordon L. Remington who reviewed the books is the editor of the GENEALOGICAL JOURNAL.

These volumes have been widely advertised in genealogical publications. The editors, however, have compiled the names for statistical purposes, giving them a margin of error that genealogists may not find acceptable.

In selecting the time for THE FAMINE IMMIGRANTS, the compilers chose the years between January 1846 and December 1851 inclusive, a period of great emigration from Ireland because of the failure of the potato harvests. All Irish passengers arriving at the port of New York in that time period are presumed to be included. However, in the introduction to Volume I, present the Irish immigrant being designated as Irish only if he sailed from an Irish port. Another omission is of those sailing on ships with less than twenty passengers but whether the data or the names were omitted is unclear. Subsequent study by Remington of passenger lists from the same time period reveals many names that do not appear in the series.

The compilers of the German lists state that they have selected 80% of the German surnames. Their lists include arrivals at New York, Baltimore, New Orleans, Philadelphia and Boston. Departure ports are Bremen, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and LeHavre. Germans who left from British ports are not included.

The reviewer includes an accounting of twenty-eight ships that arrived in January and June of 1850 and 1851, carrying Irish and German passengers whose names were not included in the published lists. It is evident that while the published lists will be helpful to genealogists, there may be many who will not find their ancestors in these volumes.

THE PIERRE - FT. PIERRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
.....YEAR 1990, VOLUME 15, NUMBER 4, PAGE 4

Remington speaks more favorably of another series containing names of German immigrants. The series is entitled GERMAN IMMIGRANTS: LISTS OF PASSENGERS BOUND FROM BREMEN TO NEW YORK. The compilers make it clear that only the lists that give a specific place of origin in Germany are included. In the introduction they list all of the represented ships and dates of arrival.

Indexing of arrival records at the port of New York from 1846 to 1896 continues. Both Tepper and Glazier have other projects planned which will include the names of East Europeans and Italians, but the basis of selection has not been announced.

The GERMANS TO AMERICA series is available for research at the South Dakota Archives in the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. THE FAMINE IMMIGRANTS series can be found at the Rapid City Public Library.

Another recently published research aid is THE WUERTEMBERG EMIGRATION INDEX. Ancestry Publishing has printed five volumes of a projected eight volume set. Each volume holds approximately 12,000 names of individuals who applied to emigrate from Wuerttemberg between 1750 and 1900. Vital information about the individuals is included along with their destination.

KANSAS RESOURCES

The Kansas State Historical Society announces four new programs that will greatly assist those researching Kansas records. Nearly 40,000 rolls of microfilmed records, which includes much of the Society's newspaper collection, will become available for inter-library loan. Microfilm collections can now be purchased at a savings of nearly 40% because of the Society's purchase of duplicating equipment. The Society also plans to purchase a FAX machine to allow interlibrary loan of materials other than microfilm. The Society will be returning major portions of its newspaper collection, which has been microfilmed, to local groups.

Construction of a new Center for Historical Research in Topeka will begin this year with completion planned for 1992. The new facility will hold all the materials except the microfilmed newspapers. This includes non-Kansas materials held by the Society who intend to expand their collection and promote its use by both Kansans and non-Kansans. Genealogists will be welcome to use the facilities as the Society continues to add to their collection of genealogical materials.

Most people work to live but the Germans live to work.

BOOK CORNER

Perhaps the biggest step anyone searching for ancestors will take is the leap across an ocean to the home land. It is also the most frustrating research for many genealogists. Although learning the original nationality of one's ancestors is not difficult, finding the exact place in which they lived in a foreign country often seems next to impossible. A recent publication, *THEY CAME IN SHIPS*, by John P. Colletta, PhD, offers aid to the researcher.

Dr. Colletta has many years of experience working with ship's passenger lists. He lectures on this topic at the National Archives. In this book, he sets up a program to be followed by anyone searching ship's lists beginning with obtaining the information needed before tackling the lists.

Separate chapters deal with the ship records available from 1565 to 1819 and from 1820 to 1954 when captains of vessels arriving at American ports were required to submit lists of passengers. He encourages using the available indexes of the lists and has suggestions to solve the problem of what to do when an ancestor's name does not appear in the index.

Background material includes the history of immigration, the changes in the reporting laws, quotas, and a reminder that despite the publicity about the 17,000,000 people who arrived at Ellis Island, for many whose ancestors arrived before 1892 the projected history center at Ellis Island will be of no research value.

Other ports of entry and available records are described as well as European ports of departure. A descriptive bibliography of reference materials follows the text. The book concludes with a chart to guide the researcher.

All of this useful material is contained in one slender volume, well-written, concise, and extremely readable. It is in our collection at Rawlins Library. Because of the small size and many helpful hints, it can be tucked into a traveling genealogist's briefcase. You may find yourself wanting your own copy. The book is available for purchase from Ancestry Publishing, P.O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. Cost is \$5.95 with an additional \$2.50 for shipping and handling.

JF

When three Serbs get together, they form an army.

When three Croatians get together, they form a political party.

When three Slovenes get together, they form a singing society.

ARCHIVISTS AND GENEALOGISTS

The June 1990 special conference issue of the National Genealogical Society contains a printed dialogue between Peter W. Bunce, Archivist, and Elizabeth Shown Mills, a genealogist. Points of view expressed by each will contribute to a better understanding and more harmonious working relationship between archivists and genealogists. Highlights of the dialogue follow. For a complete reading, see the June issue in our Collection at Rawlins Library.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Archivists are providers. | Genealogists are users. |
| Archivists should not decide who is to use the records. | Genealogists provide high usage figures for archives. |
| Archivists are guardians of our heritage. | Genealogical materials are used by scholars in many fields. |
| Archivists should make genealogists aware of materials available for research | Genealogists must prepare by studying the history of the area to be searched. |
| Archivists can assist in educating genealogists by workshops and volunteer programs. | Genealogists should study methods of research and follow rules of documentation. |
| Archivists should give genealogists an opportunity to become acquainted with the archives and/or library before starting research. | Genealogists should contact archives before extended research and prepare carefully, not "run in because they have a couple extra hours while in town." |
| Archivists should remember that although they face the situation on a daily basis, it may be new to the patrons. | Genealogists should remember that archivists grow weary, too. |
| Archivists should be aware that gifts of money, manuscripts, and other materials to the archives may be donated by grateful patrons. | Genealogists should learn to be precise and concise in their request, whether by mail or in person. |

The Finns will invent it, the Danes will market it, the Swedes will buy it, and the Norwegians will complain about it.

THE FIRST U.S. CENSUS

The first census of the United States was taken 200 years ago in 1790. In the Constitution of the new country, it was specified that a census should be taken every 10 years. The individuals who were to do the actual counting were the U.S. marshals.

The position of marshal came into existence when the need to enforce the laws of the new nation became apparent. The marshals looked upon themselves as executors of the orders of the federal courts and much of their work was administrative.

Each marshal divided his district and hired assistants to take the count. All inhabitants were counted except Indians who paid no taxes. The only name entered was that of the head of the household. Sometimes the occupation was included in an effort to distinguish individuals with the same name. Categories in which entries were made were the number of free white males under 16 in the family, number of free white males 16 and over, number of free white females with no age breakdown, number of all other free persons including blacks, and number of slaves.

Pay was based upon the population of the district. The assistants were paid \$1.00 for every 150 people in the country and \$1.00 for every 300 people in the cities or towns with more than 5,000 population. In Maine where the population was scattered, the assistant was allowed up to \$1.00 for every 50 people. An additional \$2.00 was paid for every handwritten copy of the returns. The assistant had to use his own pen and paper, except for Massachusetts where printed forms were supplied.

The marshal compiled the returns from his district into one volume. One copy went to the district clerk and one went to the President of the United States.

The census was to begin on August 2, 1790 and be completed within 9 months. Some were completed after that date. Vermont didn't begin the taking of their census until April 1, 1791 and had a 5 month completion period. South Carolina, where many people opposed the census, had difficulty finding assistants to the marshal. It was the February 15, 1792 before their census was completed. In the Southwest Territory, which is present-day Tennessee, the captains of the militia did the counting. Those schedules were returned on September 19, 1791.

When the final count was made, it showed 3,929,214 free people in the United States. Most people thought the count was too low. Thomas Jefferson, who was then Secretary of State, added his own estimates in red ink on the copies sent to Americans serving in government posts overseas. Later census returns showed the marshal's count was more nearly correct than Jefferson's estimate.

The census schedules of 1790 that exist today have been published in several volumes entitled Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States in the Year 1790. These volumes can be found in the library at the South Dakota Archives in the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The schedules for Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Virginia are missing. It has been presumed that they were burned when the British burned Washington, D.C. during the War of 1812. However, others point out that copies of the schedules were deposited with the district clerks and that it was 1830 before the clerks were asked to forward the schedules to Washington, D.C. Efforts to find the missing schedules have been unsuccessful.

Reconstructed schedules for Delaware, Kentucky, and Virginia have been published, but the schedule for Virginia is considered to be only 2/3 complete. Tax lists for New Jersey from 1773 to 1822 have been used as a basis for the 1790 census but they are not complete. In Georgia lottery lists made up of names of individuals who drew land from 1803 to 1832 have been used as a research aid in place of the census.

The published census schedules are indexed. Knowledge of a place of birth can lead to the discovery of the family in a particular location. Year of birth can help in identification. Although only the head of household's name is recorded, the 1790 census schedules can be a useful research aid when combined with other records.

THE FIRST THIRTEEN STATES

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Delaware -- 1787 | 8. South Carolina -- 1788 |
| 2. Pennsylvania -- 1787 | 9. New Hampshire -- 1788 |
| 3. New Jersey -- 1787 | 10. Virginia -- 1788 |
| 4. Georgia -- 1788 | 11. New York -- 1788 |
| 5. Connecticut -- 1788 | 12. North Carolina -- 1789 |
| 6. Massachusetts -- 1788 | 13. Rhode Island -- 1790 |
| 7. Maryland -- 1788 | |

Vermont entered in 1791 and Kentucky in 1792. Tennessee joined in 1796.

There were the Scots who kept the Sabbath
and everything else they could lay their hands on.

There were the Welsh who prayed on their knees
and their neighbors.

There were the Irish who never knew what they wanted
but were willing to fight for it anyway.

And then there were the English who considered themselves a self-made
nation, thus relieving the Almighty of a dreadful responsibility.

RESEARCH AIDS
Latin Terms

Latin terms are frequently used in old documents. Following are some of the terms and their abbreviations.

Anno Domini (A.D.) - in the year of our Lord
circa (c., ca., circ.) - about
et alii (et al.) - and others
etcetera (etc., &c) - and so forth
et uxor (et ux.) - and wife
item - also, likewise
liber or libro - book or volume
nepos - grandson
obiit (ob) - he died, she died
requiescat in pace (R.I.P.) - may he (or she) rest in peace
sic - so, thus (an exact reproduction of the original copy)
testes - witnesses
ultimo (ult.) - last
uxor (us, vx) - wife
videlicet (viz, viz^t) - namely

BEWARE THE RED BOOK

Helen F. M. Leary, certified genealogist, lecturer, and currently president of the Board of Certification for Genealogists, has reviewed the publication ANCESTRY'S RED BOOK: AMERICAN STATE, COUNTY, & TOWN SOURCES for the National Genealogical Society. She warns that the book is full of errors, making it a far from reliable research aid. Leary regrets that in their haste to publish, the editors have put out a volume that misdirects genealogists and surely will cause annoyance to the public officials who will have to deal with misinformed researchers.

No matter what other nations may say about the United States, immigration is still the sincerest form of flattery.

Cool nights remind us that there is a touch of fall in the air. We'll soon be involved in the many activities that occur in that busy time of year. Let's keep our meeting dates on the calendar so that all will continue to be informed about the many happenings in the world of genealogical research.

COMING UP

September 18 is the date of our next meeting. Because of the opportunity to hear from Robert and Ruth Anna Pulfrey about their research in the Library of Congress and the National D.A.R. Library, the program on Immigration Trails was postponed until the September meeting.

The October meeting will be on the 16th. Tentative plans are for a program on naturalization records and passenger lists.

Both meetings will be held at Rawlins Library at 7:30 P.M. Executive Board meets beforehand at 6:30 P.M.

MAYFLOWER ANCESTRY

Visit the towns and villages in which the Pilgrims lived before escaping from persecution in England. An 11 day tour takes you to the places where your ancestors lived. For more information about this May, 1991 tour, call 1-800-328-3112, Heritage Links Limited of Friendship, Maine.

SEMINAR "90"

From October 19 to the 21st the Manitoba Genealogical Society will be hosting a seminar entitled "Genealogy Pot Pourri II" at Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. Topics include Ontario, English, and Ukrainian Research. For more information contact the Seminar 90 committee, P.O. Box 1332, Brandon, Manitoba R7A 1A8, Canada.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Thelma Aasby -- P.O. Box 282, Pierre, SD 57501

It usually takes five years for a tree to produce nuts,
but this isn't true of a family tree.

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

In the July 1990 FAMILY RECORDS TODAY a description of the different kinds of archives found in Germany, both East and West, is given. The addresses of the archives will also be found in the descriptive article.

The ANCESTRY newsletter for July-August 1990 offers several unusual sources for genealogical searchers. Those seeking an ancestor who served in the Confederate military forces will be interested to learn that there are county records in the Southern states that may hold the needed information to identify the ancestor's military service. Another article describes the vital information that can be found in military records of the nineteenth century. Births, deaths, and marriages that took place at army posts were recorded and can be found in the post reports. Vital records of Americans living overseas were recorded by the United States Consuls and that information is found in the papers of the Department of State. Both of these records are in the National Archives.

GOLDEN ROOTS OF THE MOTHER LODE, the quarterly magazine of the Tuolumne Genealogical Society contains an article on Canadian genealogical sources. Addresses are included in the Spring 1990 issue.

From the July 1990 publication CROSSROADS, the Orphan Train Heritage Society magazine, comes this address for obtaining old New York birth certificates:

Municipal Archives & Record Center
31 Chambers St.
New York, NY 10007

Telephone (212) 566-5299

The Spring-Summer 1990 issue of PINON WHISPERS from the Southeastern Colorado Genealogical Society has an address for research in East Germany where there is a central office for genealogical research. Correspondence may be conducted in English but the term 'East Germany' is not to be used. The proper address is:

Zentralstelle fur Genenalogie
Georgi-Dimitroff Platz 1
7010 Leipzig, D.D.R.

The same issue of PINON WHISPERS offers an unusual genealogical aid to those of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. Hand-made certificates called fraktur on which family information was recorded are sometimes the only existing records, especially of births and baptisms. Parochial schoolmasters were the first to record the information but later on professional scribes called at the homes of the Pennsylvania Dutch to gather and write the vital information on hand-colored prints.

ELLIS ISLAND REOPENS

During the month of September Ellis Island, which processed its last immigrant nearly 40 years ago, will be opened to the public as the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Visitors will be able to walk where their immigrant ancestors walked upon their arrival in the United States.

Between 1892 and 1954 an estimated twelve million immigrant men, women and children landed at Ellis Island. They had heard stories of a better life in this new land. In the hope of that better life they left their villages, friends, and often other family members.

Many of them sailed "steerage," near the bottom of the ship. They were crowded and sick, both from stormy seas and disease. In the peak years of immigration, one in ten contracted a fatal illness, but when they saw the Statue of Liberty they wept tears of joy and gave prayers of thanksgiving, some falling to their knees as they sailed into the harbor.

The ships docked at piers in lower Manhattan. Sometimes as many as thirty ships were anchored in the harbor. From the ships the immigrants boarded small, wooden ferries to reach Ellis Island where they were lined up in the Great Hall for their physical examinations. The medical officers checked them for cholera, yellow fever, typhoid fever, leprosy, ringworm, scarlet fever, and trachoma. Those found to have any signs of these diseases were sent back to the ports of embarkation. Any immigrants considered likely to become a "public charge" were also sent back. Eighty percent were accepted in the United States.

Interpreters assisted the inspectors in asking questions to determine fitness. Questions concerned the amount of money the immigrant had, his prospects for making a living, and who would be responsible for him. Sometimes the immigrant's name was changed to something more easily understood by the Americans.

Once declared "free to land," the immigrants hurried on to the ferry that would carry them to the mainland. Some bought railroad tickets to their destinations after the agents deciphered the handwriting on the baggage tags. The foreign money was exchanged to purchase the tickets on the Island. Barges took the travelers to the terminals.

Greenhorn was the name given the immigrant traveler by the Americans but to the immigrant, America was a land of hope. He took what work he could find, none of it easy. He lived in tenements and tarpaper shacks and sod houses. His life was still a life of hardship but always there was the promise that for his children, life would be better. That was the hope of America.

"First, I learned the streets weren't paved with gold. Second, I learned the streets weren't paved. Then I learned I was supposed to pave them."

--- An Irish saying about America.

RECENT GENEALOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

Patricia J. Young and Frances E. Marks, members of the Orphan Train Heritage Society, have written a history of Orphan Train Riders in Nebraska. Life stories of the orphans are included. TEARS ON PAPER is the title. It is available for \$23.00 plus a \$3.00 postage and handling charge. Order from:

Patricia J. Young
18 Wiltshire Drive
Bella Vista, AR 72714

or

Frances E. Marks
Box 5013 Rt. 4
Rathdrum, ID 83858

The Southern Historical Press of Easley, South Carolina has made plans to reprint county histories of Missouri if enough orders are received. The counties to be reprinted are the following:

- Adair, Andrew
- Barry, Barton, Bollinger, Butler
- Camden, Cape Girardeau, Cedar, Crawford
- Dade, Dallas, DeKalb, Dent, Dunklin
- Franklin
- Gasconade
- Hickory
- Iron
- Jackson, Jefferson
- Knox
- Laclede, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln
- Madison, McDonald, Mississippi
- New Madrid, Newton
- Perry, Pemiscot, Phelps, Polk, Pulaski, Putman
- St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Scott, Schuyler, Scotland, Stoddard, Sullivan
- Washington, Webster, Wayne, Wright

The first volume to be printed was Jackson County. Anyone interested in obtaining any of these volumes should contact the Southern Historical Press at P.O. Box 738, Easley, SC 29461-0738 to take advantage of their pre-publication price. A minimum order of 150 to 200 books is required for a printing. The Press would also like to reprint HISTORY OF MISSOURI FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT which was originally published in 1888.

The Westchester County Historical Society has published an INDEX OF PERSONAL NAMES IN J. THOMAS SCHARF'S HISTORY OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY, published in 1886. Elizabeth Green Fuller, librarian of the Society, has compiled this index of 10,000 names. It can be ordered for \$25.00 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling from:

Westchester County Historical Society
2199 Saw Mill River Road
Elmsford, NY 10523

THE 1915 SOUTH DAKOTA STATE CENSUS

Article by JoAnne Fix

In 1915 South Dakota again counted its inhabitants. Census takers were given cards to be filled out for each individual. Information to be collected included residence, age, sex, color, marital status, maiden name of wife and number of years married, occupation, ancestry, birthplace and birthplace of parents, home ownership, military service, literacy and extent of education, religion, naturalization, years in the United States and years in South Dakota, and a category to be checked if the individual was blind, deaf, insane, or idiotic.

In addition to the required information, many of the census takers made notes on the cards. Some of the pertinent information found in the margins or on the reverse of the cards follows with examples in parentheses:

1. Date of death of individual who died soon after the census was taken.
2. Adoption and guardianship. (Frequently "from the Childrens Home in Sioux Falls.")
3. Complete date and location of place of birth. (One census taker entered this on the reverse of the card.)
4. Relationship of an individual in the household with a different surname. (Wife's son from previous marriage - Widowed mother of wife, - Visiting from Wisconsin.)
5. Place of employment
6. Twins. (It is not unusual to find a census taker had used one card for twins.)
7. Livestock owned.
8. Location of spouse of immigrant. (Wife in Old Country.)
9. Additional information on marital status. (Legal separation. Married but living apart.)
10. Street address of residence.

Because a card was made for each individual, searching the census presents some unusual situations. Instead of discovering the entire household together as is done when the names are entered in a register, the researcher must construct the household from the cards. This is not difficult when the surname is uncommon but when looking for Jones or Nelson or Johnson or Smith or any of the more common surnames, all of the cards must be searched because they are filed alphabetically.

The cards are numbered so that by matching locations and census takers and following the numbering system, a family can be reconstructed. However, this does preclude an individual with a different surname who was living in that particular household.

Once again, because the given names are alphabetized, the searcher must consider variations in spelling. For example, names such as Carl and Catherine may be spelled with a C or a K. Your grandmother may be Elizabeth on her marriage license but to the census taker she was Lizzie. Her card will be in the L section rather than E. Gus could be a nickname for August as well as Gustaf. Magdalena was frequently shortened to Lena. Matilda could be Mattie or Tillie. In addition to the shortened forms of given names, the census taker may have spelled phonetically so that Eugene and Eunice might be found under U. Scandinavian names like Inga and Ingval more often began with E than I.

If the searcher is still having difficulty finding family members, there is another possibility. The census taker may have used initials. He may have recorded Henry Johnson and Mrs. H. Johnson or H. J. Johnson and Mrs. H. J. Johnson. The initial cards precede those in the alphabet division.

Another category that should not be overlooked is "No Given Name." Our ancestors seem not to have been in a hurry to name infants. Children who are several months old are still known as "Baby."

Cards that are unreadable are filed at the end of the census. If the first letter of the surname is legible, that card will be filed at the end of that section of the alphabet.

Working on a daily basis with this census has given me an interesting view of life in South Dakota in 1915. The small towns all have hotels and banks and grain elevators. Automobile agencies are becoming rather common. Telephone service is provided by "hello" girls. Single women still have millinery shops and teach school but many teach in neighboring towns. A great many men make their living as carpenters and many of them seem to be transients. In western South Dakota there are shepherders and cowboys and miners but the railroad gangs are gone. Young people were away from home, attending college and working in larger towns.

Nothing better shows the unreliability of census data than a comparison of duplicate cards for individuals who were counted both at home and away. Ages varied by a year. Ancestry might be German or Dutch, French or Canadian, depending upon the informant.

Certainly the census takers were conscientious. One wrote that he had called 3 times at a residence but had found no one home. Another noted that not only was this lady a cook, but she was a good cook. The underlining was his. A number of men responded the Golden Rule when asked their religious affiliation but my all time favorite is the individual who, when asked his ancestry, replied, "God only knows."

Excerpts from the address

"The National Archives: An Agenda for the '90's"

Dr. Don Wilson, Archivist of the United States, delivered the opening address at the National Genealogical Society convention in June, 1990. Particularly significant remarks from his address follow:

"The National Archives and the genealogy community have worked together over the past several years to achieve many goals -- independence for the agency, increased funding for many of our programs, and education for genealogists through the National Institute on Genealogical Research as well as through the hundreds of workshops conducted in our regional archives. Without the individual and collective support of many of you, I would not be speaking to you today as a professional, nonpartisan Archivist of the United States. For those and countless other efforts you have made on our behalf, the National Archives is extremely grateful. Certainly our continued partnership is a high priority in my agenda for the 1990's...

"In the past half century, the Archives and its programs have grown and outgrown the familiar building on Pennsylvania Avenue. The Archives shelves are full, and the research rooms are crowded. However, there is a solution on the horizon. Before you return to Washington for your next Capital Area Conference, we will have expanded to our new facility at the University of Maryland campus in College Park. This facility, known as Archives II, will meet our expansion needs for the next 15-20 years. This new state-of-the-art, world-class building will eventually house over a million cubic feet of records in its 1.7 million square feet of space.

"For those of you involved in genealogy and family history research, it will mean increased space and improved facilities in the Pennsylvania Avenue Building in downtown D.C. Before the end of the decade we hope to begin major renovation of the main National Archives building to expand public spaces and research rooms. As part of the renovation, we want to develop space for a Family History Research Center and expanded microfilm research facilities.

"'Enhanced access' is one of those archives terms which is usually used in connection with electronic access to records, but it can also mean improved physical access. One of my early goals was to reinvigorate our regional system. Plans are now finalized to move the Northeast Regional Archives from Bayonne to downtown New York City in 1992. Next month, I will be traveling to Anchorage, Alaska to open a brand new facility, our twelfth regional facility, to improve access for those citizens living in our northernmost region...I would see similar initiatives continuing in the '90's for those regional archives facilities which can be relocated to more accessible and better quality research facilities...

"I have heard concern expressed now and then about whether or not the Archives will have enough money and resources to open this (1920) census...

Let me state emphatically that we appear to have the necessary resources and that opening on schedule is one of the agency's top priorities. The 1920 census microfilm is being reproduced in our own lab for the main Archives, the regional archives, catalog sales, and for the microfilm rental program. The lab is producing in total more than 3,400 miles of film -- enough to go from here to San Francisco.

"There are many exciting and expensive technologies which will change the nature of archival research in the future. As we examine these technologies, especially in formation systems, we need to understand more systematically how researchers use our records, the information they seek, and how easy or difficult it is to find that information. And I believe the best way to find out what researchers need is to ask them. Archivists know their records. Now we need to understand if our work -- the finding aids we prepare, the informational materials we disseminate, the assistance we render -- is meeting the needs of our research clientele. For these reasons, the National Archives has undertaken a series of user studies.

"What we are learning is that researchers want to make the best possible use of their time and get the most out of their research visits. Surprisingly, we have found researchers do not expect one-on-one service. We are discovering that one of the best direct services we can offer is teaching our researchers how to define research questions in terms that relate to the records and showing them how to navigate creatively between reference tools and records. If we can help you be better researchers, we will be better archivists. Your efficiency ensures our efficiency.

"Although individual needs for archival information are as unique as the records themselves, we can through our user studies discover patterns of users and use and apply this knowledge in the development of finding aids, research rooms, signage, search guides, and automated systems of information retrieval.






"We are about halfway through these studies...Researchers have told us they need better signs and maps to find their way around the Archives and around research rooms in the Archives. We still need better ways to help the beginner. Thirty percent of the researchers in the Microfilm Research Room, where most genealogy research begins, are first-time users of the National Archives...

"We are developing an information retrieval system known in the Archives as AIS, for Archival Information System. This system will automate our finding aids and allow subject access to the records...

"The National Archives has an active published guide program both for textual and microfilmed records. Guides are expensive and time-consuming to compile. Once the system is complete, with AIS, you will be able to instantly compile an individual subject guide... We want you to be able to use AIS...We recognize the need to free you from archivist-dependent systems...Researchers will find an energized staff along with tools that will help them make the most of their research visits."

RESEARCH AIDS

Symbols are frequently used by genealogists. Some of the more common symbols are shown below.

- * - born
- (*) - born illegitimate
- X - baptized or christened
-  - baptized or christened
-  - baptized or christened
- 0 - betrothed
- 00 - married
- 0/0 - married
- 0-0 - common-law marriage
- † - died
-  - died
-  - buried
- †† - no further issue
- (†) - no further issue
-  - died of wounds, battle

THE PIERRE - FT. PIERRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

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This is the last newsletter of 1990. The last meeting for this year will be held on November 20 at Rawlins Library at 7:30 P.M. The program topic will be one that we have carried over from a previous meeting. Immigration and naturalization is the topic under discussion. Copies of ships passenger lists and naturalization records will be available for examination. Join us for an informative evening that will close our Society's activities for 1990.

CAN WE SEE THE END OF GENIE-BASHING?

The following comments were taken from an article in the National Genealogical Society Newsletter which describes the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Seattle, Washington this summer.

Genealogy in our time is not the pursuit of trivia.

Genealogy is not the province of would-be aristocrats.

Genealogy is not the modern day equivalent of woodworking.

Genealogy has become a serious study as well as a rewarding hobby.

Thousands of highly skilled genealogical researchers exist today as a result of educational conferences, institutes, and seminars. Family histories are now being used for databases accumulated by humanistic and scientific researchers. If archives grant access only to 'serious' researchers, excluding genealogists, they undermine the scholarship of the traditionally preferred patrons. Because genealogists are interested in the individual person, they are willing to delve deeper to resolve discrepancies in records. Once the identities upon which political alliances are built and the kinships that tie communities together are established, scholars in other academic fields have databases for far more reliable conclusions regarding historical events, demographic movements, or genetic patterns of certain diseases. There is a need for all types of perspectives in today's intellectual world.

The appeal of genealogy is that it personifies history.

The Center for Western Studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota is compiling a guide to collections of Norwegian American materials in South Dakota. The 1880's to the present. Letters, diaries, notebooks, photographs, newspapers, periodicals, books, and instructional records will be compiled into an annotated guide. Copies of the guide will be available.

The Center has recently added the early South Dakota Norwegian language newspaper found in its collection of Norwegian American materials. More information about the collection at the Center can be obtained by contacting the Center for Western Studies, Augustana College, Box 757, Sioux Falls, SD 57197 or Telephone (605) 338-4007.

ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION

Reunions, the Magazine

From Edna Cooper -- 1983 South Dakota Legislative Manual

1884 - 1984 A Century of Roots from One Lone Tree, Blunt (SD) Centennial

Bryant, South Dakota Centennial 1886-1986

Catalogs

Fall Catalog from the American Association for State and Local History

South Dakota Heritage Store Book catalog

Catalog of Microfilm Resources at the National Archives

From Richard Phillips -- 1990 Catalog of Publications of the Iowa Genealogical Society

SCANDINAVIAN RESEARCH AIDS

Trade guilds were disbanded in Sweden in 1864, eliminating the many rules once in force for the work done by artisans and tradesmen. This caused apprehension that the quality of goods might suffer. Associations were formed by the various trades to assure the best quality of workmanship might be maintained. Passbooks for apprentices and diplomas for artisans were re-introduced.

The passbook, carried by the journeyman as he traveled from employer to employer, was often descriptive of the individual and his ability in the trade he pursued. Along with this information was the date and place of birth of the individual.

As the journeyman moved on, the master would sign the book and write a recommendation. Discovery of one of these passbooks may be enlightening as to the character and abilities of the ancestor being researched.

The Center for Western Studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota is compiling a guide to collections about Norwegian Americans who settled in South Dakota. The time covered will be from the 1860's to the present. Letters, diaries, notebooks, photographs, newspapers, periodicals, books, and institutional records will be compiled into an annotated guide. Copies of the guide will be available in libraries throughout South Dakota.

The Center has recently added the early South Dakota Norwegian language newspaper Fremad to its collection of Norwegian American materials. More information about the collection at the Center can be obtained by contacting the Center for Western Studies, Augustana College, Box 727, Sioux Falls, SD 57197 or telephone (605) 336-4007.

BOOK CORNER

Somerset Homecoming
Recovering A Lost Heritage

Dorothy Spruill Redford, a black woman born in Columbia, North Carolina in 1943, grew up with no knowledge of her heritage. Two years after her birth, her mother, Louise Littlejohn Spruill, left the home of her parents to join her husband, Grady Spruill, in Portsmouth, Virginia where he had been working, sending money home for her and the children. Dorothy, the fifth child in the crowded household, was sent to visit Uncle Fred and Aunt Dot Spruill in New York one summer. She stayed for eight years.

Uncle Fred and Aunt Dot lived in a middle-class neighborhood in Queens where there were more white families than black. Their life was like that of their neighbors. Aunt Dot had a fur coat and shopped in department stores. Dorothy went to movie matinees, took dancing lessons, and played with the white children, one of whom was her best friend. In that neighborhood, the worst thing to be was from the South so Aunt Dot made up a family background that was acceptable. She warned Dorothy not to talk about Virginia. They were islanders from Jamaica.

When Dorothy was eleven years old, she went home to Portsmouth to stay and for the first time in her life was called 'nigger'. Dorothy, with her Northern ways, didn't fit in. As soon as she had finished high school, she went back to Aunt Dot but she didn't fit in there either. Her white friends were gone and the blacks who had replaced them were all living the same pretense as Aunt Dot.

Planning to be a psychologist, Dorothy enrolled in night classes at Queens College. There she met a different kind of black person. These were the activists and militants. They took Dorothy to Harlem where she had never been. She joined CORE, but most of all she wanted to be African. She didn't want to admit that she had a white grandfather so she said she was part-Indian. Meeting real Africans soon showed her that she couldn't fill that role.

Then she met a man, fifteen years older than she, who was separated from his wife and going to get a divorce. They had a child, much to Aunt Dot's dismay. Then Dorothy left the man, still not divorced, to rear their daughter, Deborah, alone.

One summer Dorothy sent Deborah to Portsmouth to stay with a sister. When Dorothy went down to bring Deborah back to New York City, she found that she couldn't remove the child from the warmth of an extended family and all the love that Dorothy had never had as a child. So Dorothy stayed in Virginia. She gave Deborah all the family that she knew until she saw Roots and wanted to give her more.

Alex Haley had gone back to Africa and Dorothy wanted to go, too. Using a paperback genealogy how-to book that she bought off a rack at a grocery store, Dorothy began her search with her mother, Louise Littlejohn, who had no white ancestors.

Louise began her stories with her father, James Ed Littlejohn. He hadn't come from Columbia but from a place further west called "over de river" where people lived who had names never heard before by Dorothy, names like Honeyblue and Cabarrus. They lived in places named Edenton and Cresswell.

Dorothy next went to the public library at Norfolk, Virginia. This library was to become her second home for the next four years. The latest census then available to the public was taken in 1900. At the library were the copies for seven central Atlantic states which included North Carolina. The library also had a large collection of local history, especially white history, but since Roots no one thought it strange to see black people using the materials. None of them was there as often as Dorothy was. The librarians soon learned her name.

Dorothy had seven surnames to search for in three North Carolina counties. The counties were Tyrrell in which Columbia is located, Washington which included Cresswell, and Chowan in which Edenton is located.

She searched each page, finding the surnames in towns her mother had never mentioned. Sometimes she found people with those surnames living in households of individuals with different surnames. Were they relatives?

Learning that many former slaves were living on the land of their owners in 1870, Dorothy went to that census and found herself two generations back with Littlejohns who had been born in slavery. Her grandfather was a member of the first generation that had been born free.

Dorothy wrote down the name of each black individual in the counties for three census years, 1870, 1880 and 1900. She had thousands of names. Her friends were tired of hearing about her pursuit but not her relatives, except for Aunt Dot who couldn't understand why she was doing this. The death of an uncle at Edenton took Dorothy there to meet cousins for the first time and to walk the cemetery where the Littlejohns were buried.

Whenever Dorothy needed a break from her microfilm reading at the library, she would look through the white genealogies. Knowing that slaves often took the name of their owner, she looked for Littlejohn. There were no Littlejohns in Edenton in 1870 but they had been there earlier. A family genealogy gave the arrival at Edenton of William Alexander Littlejohn from Scotland in 1760. He was the father of fourteen children, all of whom were listed in detail along with the property he owned. But there was no mention of slaves. A search of the 1790 census showed that he had owned sixty-two slaves, making him the third largest slave owner in Edenton.

Now Dorothy began her search for the white families to find that by 1840 only one white Littlejohn remained in Edenton. By the time that William Littlejohn died in 1817, only four of his fourteen children were still living. Of these, John was the one who stayed in Edenton. Where were the slaves? Slaves were property; as such, there would be a record of the transfer at the local courthouse. The courthouse was to be the next stop on Dorothy's search.

Upon her arrival in Edenton, Dorothy had no difficulty in finding signs of the white Littlejohns. They were in the local history books and old newspapers and their home was on the historical home tour. That was the easy part. Reading the deed books at the courthouse was not because the transactions were recorded in old English longhand. Dorothy persevered and found William Littlejohn's transactions but none concerned slaves. It was not until after Williams's death that Dorothy found what she was looking for. John, the surviving Littlejohn, was the one who had lost the family fortune. It was he who had disposed of the slaves, selling them to Josiah Collins. In the bill of sale were the names of Dorothy's ancestors including the Littlejohn she had found in the 1870 census who had been born in slavery.

Collins had been a partner in a company that built a canal to drain a swamp with the intention of raising rice. Fortunately for Dorothy, Collins preferred to purchase slave families. When the partnership was dissolved, the inventory listed the slaves. The family groups were obvious; moreover, many were African-born because it was believed Africans could better withstand the rigors of rice cultivation.

Dorothy's next discovery was at the Edenton Visitor's Center where she found a brochure on Somerset Place, the home of Josiah Collins. A visit to that local historic site was depressing for Dorothy, the only visitor at that time. The house was dusty and filled with an assortment of furniture of which only four pieces belonged to the Collins family. Portraits of Josiah Collins III and his wife were propped against a wall. No sign of the slaves who had maintained the estate existed. After six years of searching, Dorothy felt she had reached the end.

She did not give up. She returned to Somerset Place to find a plantation study written in 1954 and a published collection of correspondence, The Pettigrew Papers, written by members of the family who owned the next plantation. She also found unpublished correspondence of the Collins family in the North Carolina Archives. As an amateur, Dorothy had been unaware of the work done by professional historians but because of her work with the original documents, she found mistakes in the published works. However, she did learn about the white people who lived at Somerset and the surrounding area. There were no first-hand accounts of the way the slaves lived. Dorothy was able to visualize their life from the ledgers, correspondence, notes made by visitors, and newspapers of the area.

Dorothy was never able to trace the slaves to a definite location in Africa. Using the description of their characteristics and recognizing the African forms of their names, a scholar in African studies was able to identify the general area of Africa from which they were believed to have been taken.

The African connection no longer held the importance in Dorothy's search that it had held. Her new goal was to find the descendants of the Somerset slaves. She began at a fair at Somerset, setting up her display of family trees and being ignored. After that, she went knocking on doors and speaking at churches, dropping off fliers listing the names she had traced back to Somerset, and visiting with local people who told her family stories. She set 1986, two hundred years after the Africans had arrived at Somerset, as the date of the homecoming.

No one paid much attention until a Norfolk newspaper printed a story about her plans. The telephone began ringing and the letters began arriving. People from other newspapers and magazines wanted interviews. The State of North Carolina agreed to have the reunion at Somerset and sent out a crew to get things in shape. Local storekeepers put signs in their windows, welcoming the Somerset descendants who arrived by busloads and carloads. Alex Haley and the Governor of North Carolina came. So did Josiah Collins VI and white descendants of the overseers. As Dorothy said, you inherit your ancestor's genes and their blood but not their sins or their glory.

Dorothy had another homecoming in 1988 for the descendants of eighty-one Collins slaves who were shipped to Alabama in 1843.

The State of North Carolina decided to re-create the conditions of the community of slaves who had lived at Somerset. Dorothy, who is living in a house built by a Spruill ancestor in Creswell, was put in charge of the project.

Deborah, Dorothy's daughter, married after her graduation from college. She has a son and now understands her mother's strange obsession with the past.

Aunt Dot didn't come to the homecoming. Uncle Fred, who had planned to be there, died unexpectedly before the event. Aunt Dot, alone at eighty years of age, still didn't see much sense in what Dorothy was doing.

The book SOMERSET HOMECOMING, written by Dorothy Spruill Redford, was published in 1988 by Doubleday, a division of Bantam, Doubleday, Dell Publishing Group.

VETERANS RECORDS

The recent observance of Veterans Day reminds one of the great amount of genealogical information that is to be found in veterans records.

The first census to record veterans was that of 1840. In the column entitled Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services, census takers recorded the veteran's age or day and month of birth. The place of origin was frequently recorded, too.

In 1841, following the 1840 census, a report by the Secretary of State was published. This report, A Census of Pensioners, Revolutionary or Military Services With Their Names, Age, and Place of Residence, arranged the data by state or territory, then county. There were about 25,000 pensioners listed, their age, and the head of the family with whom they were living. A copy of this report has been printed by the Genealogical Publishing Company as recently as 1965. The report is also found on the end of Roll 3 of the First Census of the United States, 1790. The Genealogical Society of the Latter Day Saints prepared a two-part index to the report in 1949. The index can be found at the National Archives and is available as Microfilm Publication GR9 from the Archives.

Veterans of the Revolutionary War were eligible for pensions or Bounty Land Warrants. Records of their applications are found at the National Archives. Bounty Land Warrants were also issued to veterans of the War of 1812, the Indian Wars, and the Mexican War.

In 1890 veterans were again recorded by census takers. Although most of the 1890 census was destroyed by fire, the veterans schedule was not and is available for research except for 14 states and territories from A through Kansas and part of Kentucky. With the information found in the schedules, the researcher can obtain records of service and pension applications from the National Archives.

In 1910 veterans of the Civil War were again counted. In a special column on the questionnaire, it was noted whether the veteran had served in the Confederate or Union Army or Navy.

A series of volumes was published which listed the Civil War pensioners in the United States. This series, titled List of Pensioners on the Roll January 1, 1883, is available for use at the South Dakota Archives. Another series that is of interest to those searching for ancestors who took part in the War Between the States is the compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate Armies. In our collection at Rawlins Library are found 128 volumes of this series.

After 1872 Civil War veterans were allowed to apply their service record, up to 4 years, toward the 5 year residency requirement for homesteading. The veterans were considered to automatically meet the age requirement of 21 years for homesteading if they had served for 14 or more days in the Union Army or Navy when the first homesteading laws were enacted.

The special census of 1885 that was taken in Dakota Territory recorded veterans on a separate schedule. The South Dakota portion of the census is available for research at the South Dakota Archives. South Dakota also noted veterans on their state census from 1915 through 1945. Another source of veterans records is the WPA Graves Registration Project that was completed in 1940.

Compiled service records for Spanish American War veterans are found in the National Archives. State archives are a good source for these records because many of the units were formed from the National Guard or state militia. Because of the relatively recent happenings of this war, newspapers of a particular area can be a good source, too. The searcher should look for photographs in state archives. In our Society's Collection will be found a series of reports of reunions of the veterans of this war as well as Civil War veterans.

Many of the records of World War I servicemen that were stored in St. Louis were destroyed by fire. The November-December 1990 issue of the Anoka County Genealogical Society newsletter has a number of suggestions to help solve this problem. They also recommend state archives or historical societies as areas to be searched. Addresses are included.

The library at the South Dakota Archives holds printed materials relating to veterans from other states than South Dakota.

Military records kept at the National Archives are described in detail in their catalog and guide, both of which are found in the Society's collection at Rawlins Library.

The information found in these records is not only genealogically valuable but also adds an extra dimension to the knowledge gained about an ancestor. By placing him in the proper historical background, the genealogist learns of the problems and sorrows that his ancestors faced and often develops a sense of pride and admiration for the way in which they overcame the difficulties of the time in which they lived.

THE LAWS OF GENEALOGY

No one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy,
always rented property, was never sued, and was never
named in anyone's will...or does it just seem that way?

RESEARCH AIDS

Land Measurements

A legal description of land must be so clear that anyone can locate a parcel of land from the description. Descriptions by metes and bounds must begin at a definite starting point which is located by measurement from a permanent monument. The bounds of the tract are described by directions and distance. Lots and blocks are described by number as shown in a recorded plat. Sections are described by township and range. Terms of measurement used in describing land follow:

- 1 link - 7.92 inches
- 1 rod, pole, or perch - 16.5 feet
- 1 chain - 66 feet or 4 rods or 100 links
- 1/2 mile - 2,640 feet or 40 chains or 160 rods
- 1 furlong - 660 feet or 220 yards or 10 chains
- 1 mile - 5,280 feet or 80 chains or 320 rods or 8 furlongs
- 1 acre - 43,560 square feet or 160 square rods
- 1 section - 640 acres
- 1 township - 36 sections

A section is 1 mile square. The top of a section is always north. A section may be divided into quarters. A typical land description may be written as follows:

SW1/4 S. 1 T. 120 N. R. 72 W. 5 P.M.

This is read as the Southwest Quarter of Section 1 of Township 120 North Range 72 West of the Fifth Prime Meridian. A quarter may be divided again in which case, for example, the land description above would be preceded by SE1/4 meaning that this was the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Township 120 North Range 72 West of the Fifth Prime Meridian.

This method of measuring land came into use after the Land Ordinance of 1785. A traditional method of measuring land in the original colonies had been for each man to survey his own land. Their descriptions, using metes and bounds, had often depended upon temporary landmarks such as trees. With surveyors using compasses and setting markers, a permanent platting of public lands developed. Metes and bounds are used by some states but measurements of the lines give a more accurate description than that of earlier landowners.