

THE LIVERMORE ROOTS TRACER

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Contents:

Editorial	Page 23
Library Notes	24
Meet our Members	24
Upcoming Events	23
Queries	25
Genealogical Aids	25, 27, 28
German Researching	26
Membership List	29

The Amador Genealogical Association invites you to become a member.

Purposes

To share and aid each other in our search for ancestors.
To learn more about sources available for genealogy research.
To exchange information with fellow members.

These projects are promoted by the Amador Genealogical Association:

Continuously updated, computerized surname and locality index.
Beginning and continuing education in genealogy.
Genealogy related subjects at most meetings.
Co-ordinated car pooling to genealogical libraries.
Members willing to loan personal reference material to fellow members.
Pooling of funds through dues to purchase books and subscriptions
to genealogical periodicals of interest to members.
Club Library---Field trips---Speakers---Workshops

Newsletter--Livermore Roots Tracer

Opportunities for family research through the

AMADOR GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

THE LIVERMORE ROOTS TRACER

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Editorial

Our organization will soon pass it's second birthday. So much for the Doubting Thomas that predicted we would not last six months.

While the Amador Genealogical Association has not equaled the size of neighboring genealogical societies, we have compensated for this fact by the dedication and devotion of our members.

The suggesti on has been made that we celebrate our second birthday with an outdoor picnic or barbecue. Does anybody have any ideas or suggestions? We really should get to know each other better and get acquainted with our new members.

Be sure to attend our next meeting. The nomination committee will present a slate of officers for the coming year and will welcome your nominations from the floor.

Upcoming Events

A change of plans has been made in the program scheduled for our April and May meetings. On April 23, Janet Newton, of the local Historical Society and Northern Heritage Group, will be our speaker. May 28, George Parks from Stanford will tell us about his trip to Germany to do genealogical research.

Geraldine Davis, genealogical librarian from Sutro Library, will be the speaker for a special called meeting to hear her. This meeting is scheduled for 2 PM, May 5, in the reading room at the Livermore Library.

Arrangements have been made to return to the Livermore Library for our regular meetings. The April 23 meeting will be held there at 7:30 PM. We appreciate having had the privilege to use the LDS Cultural Center and wish to express our gratitude to those who made it's use available to us.

Meet Our Members

Meet Barbara Dittig, one of the newest members of our association.

I was born in Santa Barbara, California July 6, 1932. My family moved to Colorado four years later. I grew up in southeastern Colorado, finished high school and attended Colorado State University for two years.

I was a stewardess for United Air Lines for eleven years. During that time I lived in New York, San Francisco and Cheyenne, Wyoming. While in Cheyenne, I taught in the stewardess training school. I was a supervisor for two years and worked briefly for personnel, interviewing prospective stewardesses.

Jim and I were married in September, 1964. He had three small children at that time and now we have three very grown children. Sue will be 24 in May, Kurt is 21 and Jamie is 18. We all love to ski and look forward to a winter vacation. I enjoy gardening, do upholstering and have a miniature collection. Last year I built a Victorian miniature house. It's been fun decorating and furnishing it. I have made all of the furniture from kits.

Thanks to Lucile White, who stimulated my interest, I have plunged into genealogy research and love it. It was a real thrill to find a county history book that traced my "Bells" back to Scotland in the early 1700's.

Barbara Dittig

Library Notes

By Pat Saltgaver

Periodicals and newsletters from other genealogical societies are arriving monthly at the library. I will try to get the latest issues to each meeting and when new books arrive or a new subscription begins, I will let you know through this column.

Bob Blair recently donated to our library "The Kentucky Land Grants", parts one and two, by Williard Rouse Jillson. These books are a systematic index to all of the land grants recorded in the state land office at Frankfort, Kentucky 1782-1924. They should be of great interest to those searching in Kentucky. Thank you, Bob.

Olivette Chinn has donated her copies of "The Journal of the Kanawha Valley Genealogical Society". This society is located in West Virginia. Thank you, Olivette.

A list of books which members of our association are willing to loan to other members is on file at our library. There are a great many books listed. If you have any genealogical books that you are willing to loan, but have not listed them with me, why not do so soon. On an index card, put the title, author, and a brief description of contents plus your name, address and telephone number.

Queries

Mrs. Shirley Terry, 8600 Hopewell, El Paso, Texas 79925

My father's grandparents were all born in Germany and brought to Nebraska (more or less directly) by their parents about 1870. I am interested in exchanging information on the following surnames: BEUKE, DAMKROGER, EITZEN, SCHARNIKAU, SCHLAKE, SIEMS, WISCTEN and WELTZIN.

Genealogical Notes

by Shirley Terry

Many of us are beginning our summer travel plans. If you are lucky enough to be planning a trip among relatives this summer, I have a few ideas for you to think about.

Collecting the signatures of ancestors and living relatives can add another dimension to family history. Ten years ago I began such a collection when a distant cousin loaned me a very old autograph album signed by members of our mutual relatives around the turn of the century. I photocopied them and put them in a small loose-leaf binder (4½ x 6") with blank pages for living relatives to sign.

Some write the usual autograph verses remembered from school, others might write original verse or just mention a special shared experience. You might even take along a sheet of verses from which they can select one appropriate for them.

Several pages in my book are especially meaningful to me. My father who has probably written fewer than a dozen letters in his life, penned only a few lines, "writing this on July 20, 1969, while watching men step on moon on T.V. Glen Claus Simes." What could be better for this book?

Don't forget to go through all those wills, deeds, pension papers, etc. and photocopy the signatures of your ancestors.

While we are thinking about collecting signatures, how about a signature quilt? Even for those not in the quilting "frame" of mind, signatures for the purpose could be collected to the delight of some future descendant who would love to carry it through to its conclusion. For this purpose, I would suggest 15" squares of paper or preferably a good white fabric. Maybe you could even talk some of your "signatures" into embroidering their own name on the square! Such a quilt would make a perfect heirloom.

Note- It was good to hear from Shirley Terry again, and appreciate the articles she sent for the Tracer. She also sent a letter telling about her experiences editing a newsletter for the PTA in El Paso, Texas. Shirley sounds like she is as busy there as when she lived here and was our first president of AGA. We hope she will return to our area again soon. In the meantime, write often, Shirley.

Searching in Germany

by Sandy Fox

Tracing my family history back to Germany has been exciting, and I would like to share one of my experiences with you.

My great, great grandfather, John Henry Fisher, was born in Germany and came to the United States about 1850. According to all of the records I could find about him, his birthplace was simply stated as "Germany". My grandmother, who is 77 years old, remembered her Grandfather J.H.Fisher, because he died in 1914 in her home. However, all he ever told her was that he was born in Stuttgart, Germany. Reluctantly, I wrote to the Evangelisches Kirchenregisteramt (Protestant Church Office) in Stuttgart. With a name like Fisher in a large city like Stuttgart, I doubted anyone could find the proper records. I also felt that Stuttgart had been named as his birthplace, but he was probably born nearby. When the letter of negative results came from Stuttgart I told my grandmother it was probably a hopeless case. She then miraculously remembered that once (around 67 years ago), old J.H.Fisher had mentioned a Balingen, or something! Near Stuttgart I found a very small town on my map of Germany, named Balingen. I immediately wrote to the Evangelisches Kirchenregisteramt in Balingen, Germany. Within two weeks I received photostatic copies of church records where Johann Heinrich Fischer is listed as the 11th child out of 14, born on the same date as we had for his birthdate, 9 Dec 1830.

The old German script is hard to read in the copies. Several family sheets were sent, dating back to the early 1700s when the family apparently settled into this town.

In East Germany it is much easier to read the information. They dont have copy machines, so must type any communications, although it does take longer to get a reply.

If anyone needs help in researching families in Germany, I would be glad to do what I can.

Note-Thank you, Sandy for sharing this fascinating story with us. We would like get more articles like this for the Tracer.

Book Purchase

Kathie Benapfl has requested that everyone who has a choice of any books to be purchased, please notify Pat Saltgaver, or make your choice known at the next meeting. Purchases will be made in the near future so the selections must be made soon. Last month's Tracer carried a long list of the books that are most in demand at Sutro Library. Any of these books would be an excellent choice for our library. If you have a preference for some of the books on this list, please let Pat Saltgaver know.

Books Available

I have the following genealogical books and aids and would like for all members of the association to know they are welcome to use them. If interested call 455-0550 to make arrangements for them.

Lucile White

History of the Brigham Family, by Emma E. Brigham-Includes many indexed surnames in Mass. and other states from 1635 on.

Ketcham Genealogy-by Olin George Ketcham-Includes many indexed surnames of the northeastern states from 1635 on.

History of Caroline County, Maryland, by Laura C. Cochrane

Maryland Marriages 1778-1800 by Robert Barnes

Missouri Pioneers, by Hodges & Woodruff Vols. XII, XVI and XXX. Information from many counties in Missouri.

Missouri-Printed census for 1840 of Pulaski County.

North Carolina, Anson County, Abstracts of early records by May Wilson McBee-An excellent source for this area and time.

The Hornet's Nest-By Blythe and Brockman-The story of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Western North Carolina-by Cyrus L. Hunter-Considerable genealogical data from the western counties. Index has 1500 names.

South Carolina Baptists-1670-1805-by Leah Townsend- A 390 page book of the early church in S.C., including 66 pages of surnames of residents, both Baptists and non-Baptists.

The RidgeRunners-Vols.III, IV, V, VII, VIII, IX, and Xi

Genealogical Helpers-by Evertons-All issues since January 1977.

County by County in Ohio Genealogy-by the Staff of the State Library of Ohio-1978. A full listing of Ohio genealogical material available at the state library for each Ohio county.

The 1972 Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research in Pennsylvania-by Floyd Hoenstine-An excellent source of surnames and material available for Pa. searchers. Books for rent or sale.

Handy Index to the Holdings of the Genealogical Society of Utah-by Mary J. Brown-1971-An excellent source for locating many old records. Lists county by county of all states the records available at Salt Lake City.

Books (Continued)

Maps:

1781 Map covering Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey

Caroline County, Maryland, Current

The formation of North Carolina Counties-Eight maps of N.C. dating from 1775 to present. Includes locations of Quaker monthly meetings.

Maps showing the development of Pennsylvania, Prepared in the Land Office Bureau, 1920-From early claims of Connecticut, Maryland and Virginia. Shows the depreciation lands, the formation of Pennsylvania counties. Thirteen pages.

Catalogs:

The Bookmark-Knightstown, Indiana-An excellent source to rent or buy books for research in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and many southern states.

Tuttle's Genealogy and Local History- #382, Lists about 6500 books and articles of genealogical interest for all areas. Books for sale only.

Goodspeed's Book Shop-#582-Lists 4730 books. Many family and local histories, for all areas. Books for sale only.

Genealogical Book Company-#231-Many listings of family and county histories for all areas. These articles are only for sale.

Chabot Class

by Muriel Camozzi

Fifty people attended the first meeting March 28 of the Introduction to Historical Genealogy, being offered at Chabot College-Valley Campus. The instructor, Katherine H. Rich, gave an introductory lecture on research and discussed some of the books and pamphlets that are helpful. A movie on genealogical research concluded the first meeting. Classes will include field trips to the genealogical library at LDS Temple in Oakland and the library of the California Historical Society, San Francisco. Other meetings will consist of on campus study sessions at which time the students can discuss their problems with the instructor. It is gratifying to see so many people interested in expanding their knowledge of searching for ancestors.

Two of the students, Gloria Martin and Mr. Carver, both descendants from Mayflower ancestors, have been invited to our next meeting. Perhaps our members with similar backgrounds can offer them some suggestions to aid them, or may find they are researching the same lines.

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