

 <p>Genealogical Association of Sacramento</p> <p>THE LAMPLIGHTER</p>	 <p>GAS</p> <p>November 2005</p> <p>Helping you step toward your ancestors</p> <p>New Web Address http://home.surewest.net/bbetts/gas.htm</p>
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**16 November 2005 Meeting
Tom & Virginia Hawthorn, "California Dreaming"
(slide show & music)**

NOTE: January 18th meeting will be at Colonial Heights Library

U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative

Health care professionals have known for a long time that common diseases - heart disease, cancer, and diabetes - and even rare diseases - like hemophilia, cystic fibrosis, and sickle cell anemia - can run in families. If one generation of a family has high blood pressure, it is not unusual for the next generation to have similarly high blood pressure.

Tracing the illnesses suffered by your parents, grandparents, and other blood relatives can help your doctor predict the disorders to which you may be at risk and take action to keep you and your family healthy.

To help focus attention on the importance of family health history, U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., in cooperation with other agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has launched a national public health campaign, called the U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative, to encourage all American families to learn more about their family health history.

In addition to the Office of the Surgeon General, other HHS agencies involved in this project include the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

National Family History Day

Surgeon General Carmona has declared Thanksgiving 2004 to be the first annual National Family History Day. Thanksgiving is the traditional start of the holiday season for most Americans.

Whenever families gather, the Surgeon General encourages them to talk about, and to write down, the health problems that seem to run in their family. Learning about their family's health history may help ensure a longer future together.

My Family Health Portrait

Americans know that family history is important to health. A recent survey found that 96 percent of Americans believe that knowing their family history is important. Yet, the same survey found that only one-third of Americans have ever tried to gather and write down their family's health history.

Because family health history is such a powerful screening tool, the Surgeon General has created a new computerized tool to help make it fun and easy for anyone to create a sophisticated portrait of their family's health.

This new tool, called "My Family Health Portrait" can be downloaded for free and installed on your own computer.

Continued on page 2

Family Health History by Curt B. Witcher

In just a few short weeks it will be Thanksgiving and the beginning of the annual holiday season with all its hustle and bustle. In addition to the shopping, parties, and get-togethers, it is good to remember that this season is also a great time to collect and share family stories. Certainly one of the most cherished gifts one can give or receive is a family heirloom along with the story of the people whose lives surrounded it. And if you have thought about giving a family history as a holiday gift, any time in any season is a great time to start!

Among the many important benefits of doing one's family history is discovering the details of one's family *health* history. With the completed mapping of the human genome and the continuing studies regarding inherited diseases, family health history is very important. The Surgeon General asks that on Thanksgiving Day families across the country start a new holiday tradition--a family health history tradition. With families gathered for a special meal, it is the perfect time to talk about family traits and one's family health history. This initiative was actually started last Thanksgiving. [See page 1 and below]

Tennessee Civil War Veterans Questionnaires by Timothy Dougherty

In 1914 and 1915, Dr. Gustavus Dyer, Archivist of Tennessee, sent a questionnaire out to all known Tennessee Civil War veterans. In 1920, John Trotwood Moore, Director of the Tennessee Historical Commission, circulated a revised questionnaire. By 1922, some 1,650 had been returned. Collectively, this series of documents became known as the "Tennessee Civil War Veterans Questionnaires." Fortunately for the researcher with a Tennessee Civil War veteran, the Genealogy Department owns a microfilm copy of this gem.

The responses of the Federal interviewees are grouped in alphabetical order (by surname) on the first reel, and those of Confederate veterans are arranged in the same fashion on the remaining eight reels.

The veterans interviewed came from all social classes, and answers range from the curt and barely literate to the reflective and erudite. Many questionnaires were returned with appended pages of information.

Questions include age, birthplace, parent's names, and occupation. The interviewee listed the unit with which he served, named those in his company he remembered, and chronicled his experiences during the war. Also included are questions regarding ancestry, schooling and conditions in the community, and sketches of his life before and after the war.

The veterans interviewed came from all social classes, and answers range from the curt and barely literate to the reflective and erudite. Many questionnaires were returned with appended pages of information.

This collection is a fascinating source for genealogical and historical research. Printed transcripts of the completed questionnaires are also available in five indexed volumes at call number 973.74 T25tenn.

U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative — My Family Health Portrait (Continued from page 1)

[The "My Family Health Portrait" download site is: www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/download.html — Microsoft ".NET Framework version 1.1" must be available (download from Windows Update)]

[The "U.S. Surgeon General's Family History Initiative" site is: www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/]

The tool will help you organize your family tree and help you identify common diseases that may run in your family.

When you are finished, the tool will create and print out a graphical representation of your family's generations and the health disorders that may have moved from one generation to the next. That is a powerful tool for predicting any illnesses for which you should be checked.

For information on other activities of the Office of the Surgeon General, please visit www.surgeongeneral.gov.

Virginia (Part I)

Submitted by Nancy Phillips: November 2005

Bibliography

The first permanent English settlement in the New World was established at Jamestown in 1607. The story of John Smith and Pocahontas is well known to all. At first the colony struggled, but with the introduction of tobacco cultivation in 1612, the livelihood of the colony was assured. Early settlement was in the Tidewater region. By 1700 there were 80,000 settlers there.

Between 1710 and 1740 passes were discovered across the Blue Ridge Mountains into the Shenandoah Valley. Early immigrants into the Shenandoah Valley came from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. As early as 1730, there were large migrations of Scotch-Irish, Germans, and Welsh from Pennsylvania into Virginia. By the mid-18th century Virginia had grown to over 280,000 people.

Virginia was prominent in the Revolutionary War and entered the Union in 1788. During the Civil War, Virginia seceded from the Union in 1861 and Richmond became the capital of the Confederacy. An estimated 155,000 men from Virginia fought for the Confederacy. The northwestern counties of the State refused to join in the secession and were admitted to the Union in 1863 as the state of West Virginia. Virginia was readmitted to the Union in 1870.

Census Records

Printed censuses are available from 1810-1930. There were no state censuses taken.

Useful Addresses

Virginia Dept of Health
Office of Vital Records
P.O. Box 100
Richmond, VA 23218
(804)602-6200

www.vdh.state.va.us/vitalrec

Vital records 1853-1896 and 1912 to present. Death records become public records after a period of 50 years following date of death; birth records 100 years after date of birth.

Library of Virginia
800 East Broad Street
Richmond VA 23219-8000
804-692-3500

<http://www.lva.lib.va.us>

One of the best state websites. If you're doing research in Virginia, this is a must!

The following titles and web sites will prove useful in researching your Virginia ancestors. All books are available at the GAS library, 828 I Street, Sacramento on the 4th floor.

- Abstract of land grant surveys, 1761-1791 (GENE 929.3755 K23 1991)
- Annals of southwest Virginia, 1769-1800 (GENE 975.57 S955a 1992)
- Bibliography of abstracts and compilations of VA city & county records (GENE 929.3755 V54 1993)
- Bristol registers of servants sent to foreign plantations, 1654-1686 (GENE 929.342393 C688 1988)
- The Carters of Virginia (GENE 929.2 C3252zc 1979)
- Cavaliers and pioneers: abstracts of VA land patents and grants, 1623-1800 (GENE 929.3755 N967 1934)
- Early Quaker records in Virginia (GENE 929.375553 C559 1977)
- Early VA families along the James River (GENE 929.3755 F663 1974)
- Early VA immigrants, 1623-1666 (GENE 929.2755 G816 1960)
- Encyclopedia of American Quaker genealogy (GENE 929.373 H665 1969 vol. 6)
- English duplicates of lost VA records (GENE 929.3755 D441 1990)
- Finding your people in the Shenandoah Valley (GENE 929.107207 G646 1988)
- Genealogical abstracts from 18th century VA newspapers (GENE 929.3755 H433 1987)
- Genealogies of VA families: from the VA magazine of history & biography (GENE 929.3755 G326 1981)
- Genealogies of VA families: from the William & Mary historical quarterly (GENE 929.20973 G3263 1982)
- A guide to genealogical notes & charts in the Archives Branch, VA State Library (GENE 929.3755 V8177g2 1988)
- Index to the 1810 census of Virginia (GENE 929.3755 F317 1976)
- Index to the 1820 census of Virginia (GENE 929.3751 O51 1977)
- Index to the VA revolutionary "publick" claims county booklets (GENE 929.3755 A144 1992)
- Lees of VA: 7 generations of a family (GENE 973.70922 L479zn 1990)
- List of colonial soldiers of VA (GENE 929.3755 V8177 1961)
- The quit rents of VA, 1704 (GENE 929.3755 S642 1975)
- Some emigrants to VA (GENE 929.3 S784 1964)
- Some VA marriages, 1800-1825 (GENE 929.3755

Virginia (Part I) - continued from page 3

- Some VA marriages, 1700-1799 (GENE 929.3755 M135 1972)
- Virginia colonial abstracts (GENE 929.3755 F594 1988)
- Virginia cemeteries: a guide to resources (GENE 929.509755 V817 1986)
- Virginia county records (GENE 929.3755 V817 1993)
- Virginia genealogical research (GENE 929.1072 S413v 1982)
- Virginia genealogy: sources & resources (GENE 929.3755 M145 1993)
- Virginia in the 1700s: an index to who was there and where (GENE 929.3755 V8173 1993)
- Virginia in the 1600s: an index to who was there and where (GENE 929.3755 V8172)
- Virginia marriage records before 1853 (GENE 929.3755 W162 1956)
- Virginia colonial soldiers (GENE 929.3755 B665 1988)
- Virginia soldiers of 1776 (GENE 929.3755 B955 1994)
- Virginia vital records: from the VA magazine of history & biography, etc. (GENE 929.3755 V8178 1982)
- Virginia wills before 1799 (GENE 929.3755 C625 1973)
- Virginia will records (GENE 929.3755 V817 1982)

(To be continued next issue)

Posted on October 18, 2005 in [Tips from the Experts](#) at www.legacynews.typepad.com/

It's well-known - the Internet has a lot of good information. If only we could read it. . . . Some of us have more aged "experienced" eyes. The words on the screen just aren't big enough sometimes. Fortunately, for those of us who use Microsoft's *Internet Explorer* or Mozilla's *Firefox* Internet browsers, the text size is easy to increase.

Internet Explorer instructions:

1. Click on the **View** menu.
2. Click on **Text Size**.
3. Select the desired text size (largest, larger, medium, smaller, smallest).

Firefox instructions:

1. Click on the **View** menu.
2. Click on **Text Size**.
3. Select the desired text size (increase, decrease, normal).

GENEALOGY CITATION "QuickSheet" a Smash Hit at FGS Conference from: Genealogy Pointers (10/04/05)

Elizabeth Shown Mills, author/editor of numerous genealogy books and articles, including the best-selling guidebook, "Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian," has come up with a splendid tool for citing genealogical and historical sources off the Internet. Mrs. Mills's new product, QUICKSHEET: Citing Online Historical Sources, which debuted at the recent Federation of Genealogical Societies conference in Salt Lake City to record sales, provides a template for citing historical sources on the Internet. It also lays down rules to help you judge the reliability of these sources.

Published in the form of a laminated four-sided folder, the QUICKSHEET contains a series of sample citations showing the correct way to identify online sources such as databases, census images, and digital books, and articles.

For example, the QUICKSHEET shows you how to cite census records--in long and short formats--for each of the three most popular online census databases: Ancestry, FamilySearch, and Heritage Quest.

Based on the premise that online sources are publications that have the same characteristics as printed publications, it provides rules and models for common record types such as passenger lists, vital records, and newspapers. Since a website is the online equivalent of a book, the QUICKSHEET shows you how to cite author/creator/owner of a website, title of the website, place (URL), date posted, and so forth.

Convenient for desktop use at home or in the library, the QUICKSHEET answers all those niggling questions left unanswered by the standard citation guides; it is also a perfect companion to the classic citation manual, "Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian." Eminently portable and laminated to see you through years of research, QUICKSHEET is affordably priced at \$5.95. You may even wish to buy two copies--one for your office and another for your traveling bag or briefcase. http://www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?afid=&ID=3849

MAKING SENSE OF THE CENSUS, By Pam Hagen, Lancaster New Era, Published: Oct 28, 2005

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA - FRIENDS FREQUENTLY TELL me they would like to research their family history but do not know how to begin. Instead of going into a lengthy explanation, I say one word: census! Few records are so accessible and reveal so many details about individuals as the U.S. federal population census records.

CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Census information is only as accurate as the person providing the information. We never know who supplied the answers to the questions the census takers, or enumerators, asked. For example, if parents were working in the fields when the 1850 enumerator came by, a child answering the door could have been the informant. What's the likelihood he knew his parents' birth years, places and so on?

Some people lied about their ages. My French great-grandfather must have found the Fountain of Youth; his age increased only 25 years in four decades. When these discrepancies appear, locating the individual as a child in an earlier census gives a more accurate age. Parents usually provided correct ages for their children. Of course, some people really did not know their birth year, in which case the enumerator rounded off their age to the nearest decade.

My husband's elderly Aunt Thelma is an example of another problem that vexed census takers. When asked about her family history, she always frowned and responded, "Why do you want to know?" People worried their answers to census questions would be used against them, particularly in regards to immigration and taxation.

MISSING ANCESTORS

Occasionally a researcher cannot find a person or entire family in the census. The reason is often an enumerator's poor penmanship, bad photocopies, faulty transcriptions of indexes and original copies, or any combination of these.

When we look at microfilm of the 1850 to 1870 censuses, we think we are viewing original documents. In fact, we are looking at one of several handwritten copies made of the original census. (The original census was supposed to be kept in the county, but very few have been found in county courthouses.) When you cannot find your ancestor, or your ancestor's name is misspelled, remember you may be reading a copy — or a copy of a copy. The possibility of mistakes increases exponentially with each copy made!

Sometimes the worst happens: An ancestor was not enumerated. My mother, at age 6, does not appear in the 1920 census. She was temporarily living with her grandparents but was not enumerated with them. I believe the census taker omitted her, believing she would be counted with her mother and siblings.

Despite a few imperfections, the U.S. federal population census is a wonderful resource. It should be one of the first sources you consult in almost every genealogical project.

Pamela Hagen is a research assistant at the Lancaster County Historical Society. Send your questions about how to trace your family's history to "It's All Relative," Lancaster County Historical Society, 230 N. President Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603. The columnists will not be able to answer each letter personally. Process-related questions will be answered in a future column. For additional information on genealogy or the historical society's research services, consult their Web site at www.lancasterhistory.org.

Message from the GAS Board:

Our organization is in need of a volunteer to take notes at some of our meetings (both board and general) and generate a written summary of that meeting's activities. This job only activates when the Recording Secretary is unable to attend a meeting. An agenda is furnished to refer to during the meeting to assist the Secretary in note taking. The written summary is presented at the next meeting for corrections and approval. The Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month, except for August and December, at 10 am at the Elk Grove Family History Center. Usually, the Board gathers somewhere (currently Round Table Pizza) for lunch and conversation (usually genealogy related) after the Board meetings. Our regular GAS meetings are on the third Wednesdays of the month, except for the summer and Christmas.

If you are interested and think you can help us out please contact Esther, Ralph or Donna.

CALENDAR OF 2005 EVENTS

- **November 16 — GAS Meeting**, Belle Cooledge Library, 12:45 pm, Tom & Virginia Hawthorn, "California Dreaming" (slide show & music)
- **November 18 — SAMCC Open House & History Fair**, 4 pm to 9 pm, 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.
- **December — NO GAS Meeting**
- **January 18 — GAS Meeting, Colonial Heights Library**, 12:45 pm, Program to be determined.
- **April 30 to May 7, 2006 — GAS — Salt Lake Trip**, see Donna Van Lone

BYU's Annual 2006 Computerized Genealogy Conference: March 10-11, 2006

The ninth annual Computerized Genealogy Conference at Brigham Young University has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday March 10-11, 2006. This conference is designed to be a how-to guide for everyone, including beginning, intermediate, and advanced researchers. The focus of the conference is to learn how new computer programs and advancements in existing programs can help you be more effective in genealogy and family history work.

Topics at this year's conference will include improvements in genealogy software, managing genealogical databases, and finding useful tools on the Internet.

Vendors will be available throughout the conference to showcase their products, and provide demonstrations.

Anyone with interest in genealogy is invited to attend this conference where you will be able to meet with fellow genealogists and computer enthusiasts.

For pricing or additional program and registration information, contact: **BYU Conferences and Workshops**
136 Harman Continuing Education Building
Provo, UT 84602-1516
(801) 422-4853

<http://genealogyconferences.byu.edu>
E-mail: cw136@byu.edu

Since the Post Office took three weeks to process and deliver the October Lamplighter, the November issue is being reduced to three pages and going by first class mail. We hope delivery will be before the November meeting.

About the Genealogical Association of Sacramento (GAS)

PO Box 292145, Sacramento, CA 95829-2145

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Meetings

We meet the third Wednesday of each month (except July, August and December) at 12:45 pm, Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. We offer assistance in genealogical research, and support members in tracing their family trees. Activities include guest speakers, seminars, and field trips to library or archive holdings.

Dues are \$15 per person or \$20 per couple from July 1 to June 30.

Salt Lake Trip

Once a year GAS coordinates a trip to Salt Lake City so that participants can research at the LDS Family History Library. Individuals must arrange their own transportation, but hotels are secured at a discount for the group.

Library Collection

The GAS collection of genealogical books and periodicals is held on the fourth floor of the Sacramento Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA. The collection can be accessed during regular library hours, currently 12-5 on Sunday; 10-6 Monday and Friday; 10-9 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; and 10-5 on Saturday. Donations of books are accepted gladly.