

CLARK COUNTY NEVADA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

DECEMBER 1987

**VOL. 7 - No. 4** 

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DOUGLAS WASHOE NYE ELKO STOREY

The CLAK COUNTY NEVADA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (CCNGS) is a non-profit organization under Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Society meets regularly the second Tuesday of each month in the Drawbridge Room of Commercial Center, 900 E. Karen, Suite A-210, at 7:00 p.m. with a business meeting, guest speaker, and refreshments. The purpose of these meetings is for instruction on how to collect, preserve, and publish genealogical, biographical, historical, and geographical materials. All correspondence with the Society should be addressed to: Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society, Post Office Box 1929, Las Vegas, NV 89125.

Membership dues - per year - are as follows:

A Membership List is included in each December edition of THE PROSPECTOR. New members are listed in each of the other three editions.

THE PROSPECTOR, the quarterly publication of the CCNGS, is published each March, June, September, and December. Deadlines for submitting material for publication are:

- 15 February for the March issue
- 15 May for the June issue
- 15 August for the September Issue
- 15 November for the December issue

This quarterly is free with membership; for non-members it is available for \$1.50 per copy. Back copies of THE PROSPECTOR are available for \$1.50 per copy.

Queries are free to CCNGS members--\$1 for non-members. A limit of three queries from each submitter will be printed in each issue of THE PROSPECTOR. Queries must be resubmitted in order to appear again.

A membership copy of THE PROSPECTOR which is mailed but returned by the Postal Service for lack of a current or good address, will not be remailed until a remailing fee of \$1.50 is paid. Please check our Membership List to ensure we have your correct address. If you move, please advise the Membership Chairman and the Editor of your new address.

THE PROSPECTOR is published for genealogists and persons interested in family and historical research, and for the purpose of receiving and collecting historical and genealogical records. The Society accepts no responsibility for errors in data received and published.

It is the desire of the Society to compile for printing in this quarterly, original material when possible, supplementing this with other records—published or unpublished—of interest to the readers; to include brief family genealogies, Bible records, book reviews, ancestor charts, queries, old letters, vital statistics, census records, county records, cemetery records, and articles on local history and genealogy. It is also intended that the quarterly be balanced with articles reflecting Western, Nevada, and Clark County content, and with articles connected with, or of particular interest to, CCNGS members. Objections to, or support of, this policy may be made to the Editor or other officers. Material of this nature is continually being solicited from members and non-members.

### CLARK COUNTY NEVADA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

#### Founded and Chartered 1976

#### THE PROSPECTOR

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#### EDITOR'S NOTES....

I want to welcome all of the new and rejoined members to CCNGS.

I'm looking forward to our many good programs this year, and to meeting new members and visiting with our regular members, maybe helping someone with some ideas to further their family research.



The project of cataloging the wills of Clark County is such a good opportunity for our society to prove to the rest of the country that we are a serious organization. We do have records and history in Las Vegas and Southern Nevada, and we can be of help to other genealogists.

I am still, and always, looking for more members who would like to help with or have ideas for the PROSPECTOR. If you have ideas regarding material or would like to submit material, please contact me. Not to ignore the members who have contributed materials and ideas already -- THANKS.

As this year closes on a good and prosperous year for CCNGS, I wish you all a HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON and GOOD WISHES and GOOD LUCK in the NEW YEAR!!!

Boots K. Parker

O Family Tree, O Family Tree, How sturdy are your branches O Family Tree, O Family Tree How sturdy are your branches Through many years in ages past You have shown the strength to last O Family Tree, O Family Tree, How sturdy are your branches O Family Tree, O Family Tree, There is so much for you to tell O Family Tree, O Family Tree, There is so much for you to tell Reveal to me your mystery As I research my ancestry O Family Tree, O Family Tree, There is so much for you to tell O Family Tree, O Family Tree, Show to me my heritage. O Family Tree, O Family Tree, Show to me my heritage. I learn from you so I can see A part of you lives on in me O Family Tree, O Family Tree, Show to me my heritage.

#### from the

#### PRESIDENT'S PEN

With this being the first quarterly of our 1987-88 year, I would like to thank each and every member for your vote of confidence in the September election. I, as well as the rest of the Board of Directors will strive to continue the hard work and dedication that began our Society over a decade ago and brought forth our moto "PRESERVING FOR POSTERITY".

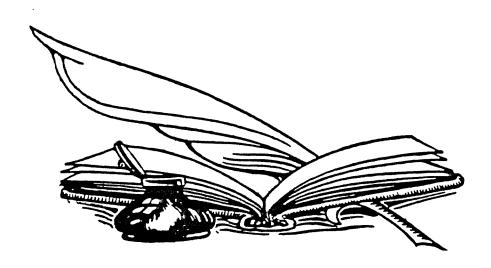
Our thanks also to the members who have given of their time to volunteer help during this past year. Our events during the year could not succeed without those extra hands helping. Volunteer help is always needed and appreciated. If you can help in any way please let us know.

Watch over the next few months for the events that are being readied for the 1987-88 year. Our monthly programs will be very interesting along with our Spring Seminar and Summer Party. I would like our group to participate in a trip to the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City, so keep this in mind along with the other fine events we have planned.

In closing, I want to wish each of you the happiest of holidays and may the next year bring you lots of newly found ancestors!

Good luck in your searches,

Joyce Kelley Morris



## acts about folks

Welcome to all NEW MEMBERS and to FORMER MEMBERS who have REJOINED us. We hope you will join us for our meetings and programs as often as possible. We have several good programs planned, so we hope to see you and get acquainted.

Please submit a copy of your ancestor charts for our files as soon as possible. You never know when you'll find - or be found by - a relative.

MEMBERS -- Your 1987-1988 dues may be "overdue". Please verify your dues renewal date with our Membership Chairman, Edie Kraemer.

The Current CCNGS Membership List is attached to this copy of the PROSPECTOR. EVERYONE, please check the information on your copy for errors and report them to the Editor, Boots Parker, AND to the Membership Chairman, Edie Kraemer.

The CCNGS Surname List (1/87) is available for \$3.00. You may purchase it at one of our meetings. If you wish to purchase the List and have it mailed to you, send a check for \$3.50 (made out to CCNGS) to the Editor.

The CCNGS SALES TABLE, managed by Membership Representative Frank Lang and wife Kate, is open and full at each meeting. Please check it over and buy what you need. Catalogs for ordering are also available, or ask Frank - he may be able to order items for you.

Remember CCNGS Library Day, held each 4th Saturday, 1 PM., at Edie Kraemer's home, 4221 Falem Circle.

Thanks to all of our members who have helped by bringing refreshments to our meetings. All of the goodies have been greatly appreciated. If you haven't helped out yet, contact our Refreshments Chairman, Marion Haefner.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR!!! We are still in the process of setting up the project and a schedule to catalog/extract information from the wills which are filed with Clark County. These records pegin about 1909. We will need the help of ALL of our members on this project. When a sign-up sheet is circulated, please sign up to help. When the project is finished, we intend to publish the information, and, it will be free and available for use by our members.

CINGS Board Members want to wish all of our members and their families a good and HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!!!

## EARLY EXPERIENCES OF PHILIP AND ANN GERBER by Edna Eaton Gerber

When Michael Gerber left Ohio for Kansas it seemed like he was coming to a land of promise, but when his wife died leaving him with a large family of children it seemed to have been a tragedy. After struggling along alone several years he met a young widow, mother of several children and it seemed a wise solution to unite the two families by Michael marrying the charming widow. However they did not count on them becoming as closely united as they did, as two of his sons married two of Katherine's daughters and became in-laws to their own parents.

Thus it was that Philip and Ann embarked on the sea of matrimony and established their first home near Marquette, Kansas. As a ways of making a living were limited in that community they moved to Ness City, where he was employed as janitor of the school and did odd jobs around the town while Ann worked at any thing she could find to do to help support their family of seven children who arrived in rapid succession.

Great was the disappointment of the people of the little town when they found that Philip was going to make the race for a claim at the Opening of the Strip as the opening for settlement of northern Oklahoma was called.

Who would take care of the school building? --- Who would be Superintendent of their Sunday School? --- And how they would miss Philip's jokes and fun. --- Yes and would would lead the singing? --- And, if Ann left, who would welcome their babies into the world when they couldn't get a doctor and who would bring their children out of a spell of colic with Calamis root and who would do the washing for the town women? Why, Ann would do a whole family washing for seventy five cents --- all you could tie in a bed sheet. ---

But, of course, -- if Uncle Sam would give them 160 acres -- well, of course they couldn't ask them to stay.

Phil made the race in September and staked his claim in sight of the few trees that grew along the Medicine River and the Driftwood Creek. Then he put up a two roomed sod house -- left the key with a neighbor and went back for his family.

Early one morning in January the neighbors met to tell them good bye and God speed.

They would take three teams. Ann would drive one, Phil another and Phil's father the third. The wagons were covered and beds were fixed so they need not ask for shelter. Ann had baked stacks of big loaves of bread; there were big hams of meat and a hundred pounds of potatoes. Also several pounds of Arbuckles coffee. They would eat cold dinners but would stop in time for a hot supper and would eat breakfast before they started.

The morning was clear and cold. Ten year old Katie was dutifully watching after the children; Robert was clasping his scrop book which his teacher had given him and Frank was proudly showing off his knife which he had won as a prize in spelling. Ida was carefully wrapping up her corncob doll and Charles and John were clutching the few playthings they were allowed to take. Glenn, amere six months old, was being packed around by first one neighbor girl then another, while Glenn Jones, the boy for whom he was named, shyly presented him with a wooden toy he had painfully whittled out for him.

The bird's cage was hung in the top of Ann's wagon and great were the cries of anger when a cat sneaked into the wagon and caught the bird at one of the houses where they had spent the night.

When the last box and child had been loaded, the good byes said --the drivers stepped on the hubs, crawled under the wagon sheets --shouted to the horses and the long slow treck was on. The children
were warm because they could stay under the cover. Ann was always
a great one to have plenty of covers --- but many a mile the drivers
trudged beside the wagons to keep their feet from freezing.

At last the last Kansas town was reached -- Kiowa. It was late and common sence told them to stop there but it was such a short way now -- only sixteen miles -- couldn't they drive on.

So on they came. Every thing went well until they were just a mile from their new home. Suddenly one of the wagons struck a hole -- lurched -- and slowly turned over. By the time they had it right and everything picked up Phil's fingers were frozen.

Can you see them straining their eyes as they drive along looking for the first glimpse of their new home? Only Phil's memory of the lay of the land to guide them! I wonder which one saw it first.

At last they reached the place, --- Yes there was the house they could not enter because the key had been left with a neighbor three quarters of a mile farther on. After some deliberation they decided to go on to the neighbors and spend the rest of the night. --- There were only fourteen people slept that night in a nine by twelve room.

Early the next morning the children were again loaded into the wagon and with shrill cries of excitement and exclamations of wonder they drove into the yard and gazed at that beautiful two roomed sod house. Even now, altho only a daughter-in-law I thrill with excitement when I think of the stillness that must have come upon each member of the family while the new key was inserted in the lock and the door slow-ly swung open. --- Yes, the walls were od sod -- the floor a smooth plane of earth -- which would soon be dust -- but it belonged to them and it was HOME!

I've always been glad that Ann and Phil were praying people; surely they must have taken God in as their partner to have been able to stand the shocks and strains that must have been their daily portion as they reared and made a home for their family.

You say Uncle Sam gave them their land? Ask Ann as she plowed acre after acre of land walking barefoot behind the plow. --Ask Phil as

he left his family to the dangers of the wild prairie while he went to Kansas to work for a few dollars to buy seed and flour and potatoes. Ask Katie and Ida, who as nere babies took over the house work -- bread baking and baby tending so Ann could work in the field or away from home to earn enough to buy a cow so they might have milk; ask the boys who went to work as soon as they were old enough to use a hoe; -- A gift? --- A chance for ownership -- yes -- But a gift --decidedly NO! If you want proof check the number of homesteads which were abandoned because the owners were unable to endure the hardships of those first years.

It must have been a healthful life for the children grew sturdy and strong except Little Robert, who filled the second grave to be made in the new cemetary. Some where along the line a new house was built of lumber and people came from miles around to see "Gerbers new house".

Also, people came out from the town seeking board and room and Ann took them all in. Where she put them has always been a wonder to her daughters-in-law.

Gardens began to flourish and Ann had a chance to use her excellant skill in cooking. --Glenn swears that one whole summer they lived on potatoes boiled with their jackets on, wild lamb's quarters and corn bread -- but, since he insists he stood up at the table and could just reach the table with his mouth it may be he has forgotten a few itmes of their diet for I am sure Ann must have had a pie occasionally even if she had to make it of vinegar or buttermilk.

Here as at Ness City Ann was constantly in demend of care for new babies. As she grew older one of her greatest delights was to tell that she washed and dressed some particular person for the first time. Then one morning John and Glenn rushed over to the neighbors to tell them the glad news that there was a new baby at their house ---- Clarence Albert.

Things happened fast thru these years -- A Sunday School was organized in Phil's sod house. -- How Ann had to hurry to get the children ready and the house cleared up in time for that and one time the preacher who had driven ten miles to preach for them that day went into her kitchen and asked to use the soot off her stove lid to polish his shoes which he had forgotten to do in his hurry to get there in time.

A sod school house was built -- each fall fresh groups of six year olds entered and a fresh group of older boys and girls graduated. Let me tell you those graduations were events of real importance in those days and many of our mid west educators for their vision of service in just such schools.

It was a shock to Phil and Ann when a young blacksmith asked for Katie's hand in marriage -- Surely she couldn't be old enough for that -- but, yes, the years had passed so quickly. In the next few years the other children married and grand children played about the yard where so shortly before their Dad and Mothers had played.

One hot day in July Phil passed on to his reward. Ann lingered on a few years but in May 1944 she went to join Phil and Katy who had

preceded her in death. As I bring this brief story of their busy lives to an end I pray earnestly that each generation may pass on the name as honored and unsullied s Phil and Ann passed it down to their children.

This story was sent to me by Richard D. Gerber, Annadale, Va. He is a grandson to Philip Gerber.

Philip Gerber b 18 Jan 1858 Wells Co. Indiana d 30 July 1929 Driftwood, Alfalfa Co. Oklahoma

Anna Frey Gerber b 20 March 1858 PolkCo. Iowa d 6 May 1944 Wichita, Kansas

Edna Eaton Gerber - wife of Oscar Glenn Gerber (son of Philip Gerber) now living in Cherokee, Oklahoma

---Submitted by Joyce KELLEY MORRIS

Barbara Cullings found the following book in an antique store and will search it for any surnames you request:

"Columbia University Alumni Register 1754-1931" Compiled by The Committee on General Catalogue Columbia University Press, NY, 1932

The book includes: :

#### An Alphabetical List

Name, Columbia degrees, class or years of attendance and the school attended, present address, occupation, or in the case of a deceased alumnus, date or statement of death.

#### A List by Class

Name, Cooupation, decease and lack of address. When a name has been changed by marriage only the present name appears.

#### Honorary Degree Recipients

Name arranged chronologically according to the year in which the degree was conferred and the degree awarded.

#### Geographical List

Name, occupation of every living person in the alphabetical list whose address is known with reasonable certainty

Barbara Cullings 1728 Kassabian Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89104 (702) 735=1688

#### TIPS ON TRACING YOUR FAMILY TREE

- 1. YOU'RE NUMBER ONE. Start with yourself; your full name, date of birth and other important dates, the full names and dates of your parents.
- 2. KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT. You may use file cards, loose-leaf notebook, or another system. Enter all the information you find so that you can find it again when you need it.
- 3. ONE STEP AT A TIME. Prove the facts as you go; don't skip generations. You can't prove that John Henry Morgan was your great-grandfather unless you can show positive evidence that your grandfather was his son.
- 4. PENCIL VERSUS PEN. You need both. Keep unproved records in pencil so they can be changed. Don't make a permanent record till you're sure.
- 5. IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR. Enlist the help of relatives. If they're nearby, visit them. If they're far away, write. Get reacquainted with distant cousins; learn their family traditions. Ask questions.
- 6. DATES ARE VITAL. Exact dates of birth, death, marriage may be found in family Bibles, on tombstones, in state, federal, or local records. Approximate ages appear in the census. Try every source.
- 7. "THEY WENT THATAWAY" . . . whichaway? Census records since 1850 show state of birth, family migration. Newspaper obituaries, county histories, some land and probate records also give clues to residences.
- 8. WHERE THERE'S A WILL . . . probate records can be proof positive of a relationship. Even when there's no will, records of estate settlements may show heirs and relationships.
- 9. NAMES ON THE LAND. Land transactions have been recorded with great care through most of our history. Records of deeds may show not only owners, but heirs and relationships on both sides. Tax lists help, too. And look at the neighbors they might be relatives.
- 10. PENSION PAPERS PAY DIVIDENDS. They're full of dates and places. If ancestor served in any war, it's on record; you can get a copy.
- 11. CHECK THE CHURCHES. Some denominations kept baptismal, marriage, burial records; others didn't. But some who didn't may have adjacent cemeteries with the data you need carved in stone.
- 12. LEARN TO LOVE LIBRARIES. For it may be that much of the research you need has already been done and is waiting for you right in your local library . . . in printed books or on microfilm.

# Thanksgiving: A Time To Reflect On The Hardships And Struggles Of Our Nation

by James Tenney

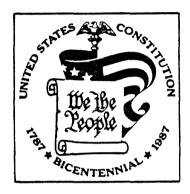
Thanksgiving traditionally conjures up scenes of the Pilgrims gathered around food laden tables with their Indian friends, kneeling in prayer to give thanks for the arrival of supplies and a bountiful harvest.

Virginians' thoughts probably run first to scenes of the early colonies at Berkley Plantation and Jamestown where thanks was variously given for a safe ocean crossing and for survival of Indian attacks and famine. The essence of these observances was to thank God for his mercy and care.

It may come as a surprise then to learn that when Thanksgiving was first proclaimed a national holiday, it was done in observance of the adoption of the U.S. Constitution.

The thanksgivings we traditionally envision, those of the original Massachusetts and Virginia immigrants, soon declined into haphazard affairs, called on various whims. One, in 1663, was to offer thanks for surviving a foiled plot of insurrection by indentured servants. Another, in 1699, commemorated the occasion of the use of a new royal seal. And, in 1704, the victory over the French and Bavarian forces at Blenheim was noted by a thanksgiving service.

This practice continued until the time of the revolution, when, during the period 1777 to 1783, the Continental Congress issued annual proclamations for a day of thanksgiving "and suspension of all worldly employment."



But again, the observances dropped off, this time until Sept. 25, 1789, when Elias Boudinot, a member of the new National Congress from New Jersey, submitted a resolution requesting the president to recommend day of public thanksgiving to "acknowledge...the many signal favors of Almighty God...by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a Constitution of government for their safety and happiness."

Boudinot's resolution met stiff resistance from, among others, Thomas Tudor Tucker of South Carolina. Tucker felt that the people might not be thankful for an untried constitution. Further, he stated, "...it is a business with which Congress should have nothing to do; it is a religious matter, and, as such, is proscribed to us." He continued, "If a day of Thanksgiving must take place, let it be done by the authority of the several states; they know best what reason their constituents have to be pleased with the establishment of this Constitution."

Despite these objections, the resolution was adopted and forwarded to President Washington who issued a Thanksgiving Proclamation, the very first presidential proclamation. In it, he cited "the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions" and "the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed" as two of the causes for giving thanks, and designated Thursday, Nov. 26, 1789 as a one-time, national holiday.

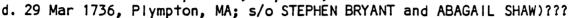
Seventy-four years later, President Lincoln, in the midst of fighting a war to preserve the Constitution, proclaimed Thanksgiving Day an annual holiday to be observed on the last Thursday in November.

In retrospect, it is altogether fitting that this genuine American holiday should have had its formal beginning at the time of and in observance of the birth of our nation.



# Queries

BONHAM / BRYANT / MORTON / SHAW
Was SARAH BONHAM (b. 10 Dec 1653, Plymouth, MA m. before 1676 - d. 10 Jan 1742, Plympton, MA;
d/o GEORGE BONHAM and SARAH MORTON) the wife
of JOHN BRYANT (b. 7 apr 1650, Plymouth, MA -



\*\*\*Carl Jarnberg, 3111 S. Valley View, #A206, Las Vegas, NV 89102

#### KNAPP / McCALL / SAUNDERS

Seeking info on parents of and description of NANCY THERSA SAUNDERS (b. ca. 1839-42, Manilus or Demyter, NY) She married HENRY RENIER HALL in NY - moved to Pierce Co., WI. 2nd marriage to WILLIAM KNAPP in WI. Parents may be GEORGE SAUNDERS and NANCY McCALL, both of NY.

\*\*\*Carl Jarnberg, 3111 S. Valley View, #A206, Las Vegas, NV 89102

#### BUSH / GILLEY / SPENCER

Would like any info on 'Doc' GILLEY & Martha SPENCER who are supposed to be p/o Joseph C. GiLLEY (b. 20 Nov 1857, KY - m. ca. 1880 to Susan Catharine BUSH - d. 20 Feb 1929, Langlade Co., WI). Have quite a bit of BUSH info to share.

\*\*\*Linda McEwen, 1112 Nassau Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108

#### BENNETT / DECKARD

Would like to find b. & d. dates of John Selvey BENNETT, s/o Mansfield BENNETT & Elizabeth JAMES. John m. 27 Jan 1845 (license date) in Monroe Co., IN to Malinda DECKARD. Their ch: Jacob M., James A., Sarah E., William, Martha M., Emily Catharine, Louisa A., & John W.

\*\*\*Linda McEwen, 1112 Nassau Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108

#### GERBER / MOSER / FALB

Wish to exchange info with anyone researching these names in Wayne Co., OH, in the 1800s.

\*\*\*Joyce Kelley Morris, 6439 Pine St., Las Vegas, NV 89120

#### KELLEY / WINBURN

Seeking info on JAMES MONROE KELLEY (b. 1855, NC). Married MARY ELIZABETH WINBURN (b. 1865, AR - d. 1917).

\*\*\*Joyce Kelley Morris, 6439 Pine St., Las Vegas, NV 89120

#### HARRELD / DOBBINS

Would like any info on Anderson F. HARRELD (b. 1824-25, TN - d. 1903, KS) & first wife Sarah Ann \_\_\_\_? (b. 1823, OH - d. 1857, IA). Known ch: Alice Samantha (b. 1847, IA - m. George W. DOBBINS, 1872, IA - d. 1885, KS), Mary Agnes (b. 1857, IA - m. Joe RIDGE - d. 1926, KS), and William.

\*\*\*Boots K. Parker, 6328 Pedro Pl., Las Vegas, NV 89108 (ph. 702-645-5312)

#### NOLAND / FLUTY

Would like any info on Abraham NOLAND (b. 1821, KY - d. 1900, KS) & Elizabeth FLUTY (b. 1820, KY - d. 1911, IL). They m. 1839, KY. Ch: Cynthia, Nancy, Elizabeth, John, Thomas, Mary/Ada, Martha, Robert, William, David, Nellie/Ellie, George.

\*\*\*Boots K. Parker, 6328 Pedro Pl., Las Vegas, NV 89108 (ph. 702-645-5312)

#### JOHNSON-TRAVILLA-PENNOCK

Need info on Nathan JOHNSON of Londongrove, Chester Co., PA. (SADLER) m. Mary TRAVILLA, d/o William TRAVILLA and Susan PENNOCK, same location. Need p/o Nathan JOHNSON, m., b., & d. dates on all parties. Will exchange any info.

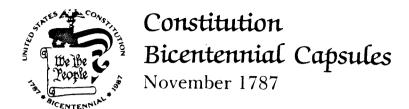
\*\*\*Edith J. Kraemer, 4221 Flame Cir., Las Vegas, NV 89108 (ph. 702-647-5745)

#### JOHNSON-HOOPES

Need info on Jacob HOOPES and Rebecca  $\underline{?}$  p/o Sarah HOOPES (b. 28 Feb 1823 - d. 29 Jan 1886, m. Benjamin Franklin JOHNSON 10 Oct 1839, Chester Co., PA). Will exchange any info.

\*\*\*Edith J. Kraemer, 4221 Flame Cir., Las Vegas, NV 89108 (ph. 702-647-5745)

The Baltimore City Archives has an indexed collection of ship's passenger lists dating from 1833 to 1866. They also have copies (microfilm) of additional passenger lists created for Baltimore by federal customs agents between 1820 and 1891. They have the soundex for these lists as well as to additional ones dating to 1897. They have a complete collection of all available passenger lists and indexes for Baltimore between 1820 and 1897. According to the article, the Archives will search up to 3 surnames in the indexes for a \$4.00 fee. For more information send a SASE to: Baltimore City Archives, 211 East Pleasant Street, Room 201, Baltimore, MD 21202.



#### Travels of the Constitution

It was now a month-and-a-half since the proposed U.S. Constitution had been signed in Philadelphia. In each of the states, except Rhode Island, plans were underway for a ratification convention or delegates were being elected.

The ratification debate was carried in all newspapers in the young country. John Jay, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton were vigorously writing and publishing their "Federalists Papers." More than ten would be

published during November.

The travels of the Constitution that the delegates had signed on September 17 is a story in itself. On September 18 it was placed on a stagecoach for delivery to the Confederation Congress meeting in New York City. On September 26, 1789, with Washington in office as President, it was stored at the Fraunces Tavern in New York City. When the Capital shifted to Philadelphia in 1790, the Constitution went along to be stored in at least four locations. In 1798, the Capital moved to the newly created District of Columbia, where the Constitution was placed in the Treasury Building, then moved around to several locations for the next thirteen years. When the war of 1812 brought British troops to Washington D.C., President James Madison warned that the records had better be moved. The Constitution was carted to a grist mill in Virginia, and then taken to Leesburg, Virginia, and locked in an unoccupied house. By 1820, the Constitution was stored in the North Wing of the Treasury and remained there until 1866 when it was placed in the Washington Orphan Asylum. It was next moved in 1875 to the War and State Building (now the Old Executive Building) and stored in the basement. There it remained until 1921 when it was transferred to the Library of Congress. During World War II it was taken to Fort Knox, Ky. for safekeeping. Returned to the Library after the War, it finally found its present home at the National Archives in 1952.

The document today remains in surprisingly good condition. It was written on an animal skin parchment. The calligrapher, Jacob Shallus, was paid \$30 to do the work. He was a workman serving as a clerk in the Pennsylvania Legislature. He died during the yellow fever epidemic that swept

through Philadelphia in 1796 at the age of 46.

#### A Genealogist's Christmas Eve



Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even my spouse.

The dining room table with clutter was spread with pedigree charts and with letters which said...

"Too bad about the data for which you wrote Sank in a storm on an ill-fated boat."

Stacks of old copies of wills and the such were proof that my work had become much too much.

Our children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.

And I at my table was ready to drop From work on my album with photos to crop.

Christmas was here, and of such was my lot That presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.

Had I not been so busy with grandparents' wills, I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills.

While others had bought gifts that would bring Christmas cheer, I'd spent time researching those birthdates and years.

While I was thus musing about my sad plight, A strange noise on the lawn gave me such a great fright.

Away to the window I flew in a flash, Tore open the drapes and I yanked up the sash.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear, But an overstuffed sleigh and eight small reindeer.

Up to the housetop the reindeer they flew, With a sleigh full of toys, and 'ole Santa Claus, too.

And then in a twinkle, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hoofs.

The TV antenna was no match for their horns, And look at our roof with hoof-prints adorned.

As I drew in my head, and bumped it on the sash, Down the cold chimney fell Santa – KER-RASH!

"Dear" Santa had come from the roof in a wreck, And tracked soot on the carpet, (I could wring his short neck!)

Spotting my face, good old Santa could see I had no Christmas spirit you'd have to agree.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work. And filled all the stockings. (I felt like a jerk).

Here was Santa, who'd brought us such gladness and joy; When I'd been too busy for even one toy.

He spied my research on the table all spread "A genealogist!" He cried! (My face was all red!)

Tonight I've met many like you. Santa grinned.

As he pulled from his sack a large book he had penned.

I gazed with amazement - the cover it read "Genealogy Lines for Which You Have Plead."

"I know what it's like as a genealogy bug." He said as he gave me a great Santa hug.

While the elves make the sleighful of toys I now carry, I do some research in the North Pole Library!"

"A special treat I am thus able to bring. To genealogy folks who can't find a thing."

"Now off you go to your bed for a rest,
I'll clean up the house from this genealogy mess."

As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee, I looked back at Santa who'd brought much to me.

While settling in bed, I heard Santa's clear whistle, To his team, which then rose like the down of a thistle.

And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight, "Family History is Fun! Merry Christmas! Goodnight!"

Alice Adams received this on a Christmas card and wants to share it with us. It was published on a card by the Gibbs Publishing Co. Napoleon, Ohio.

### CLARK COUNTY NEVADA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY P.O. BOX 1929 - LAS VEGAS, NV 89125-1929

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