



MISSION OAKS GENEALOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER

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June, July, August 2006

WHY OH WHY DID MY GRANDPARENTS LIE? OR, DID THEY JUST PASS ON FAMILY LEGENDS?

For many of us the first foray into the genealogical world was through a family story that captured our interest. A military hero, a “rags to riches story” or perhaps the “black sheep” of the family. This kind of story holds the promise of some kind of rich heritage that will capture the imagination of even the most uninterested family members.

We also often find leads in these stories that we hope will further our quest. Unfortunately, we find many “mistakes” and “embellishments” in them. Many times the stories are closer to fiction than to fact, and they probably should come with disclaimers. “Names and facts may have been changed to protect the storyteller, entertain the audience and confuse the family historian.” Many times this is not intentional and has a root in actual fact. As the story is passed generation to generation a slight embellishment at each step makes the original story hard to discern. So how do we sort any truth out of these stories?

First, you write down the story or stories before they are forgotten. Next, it is time to pick them apart. Write down each fact that can possibly be proved. Military records, can help to verify

stories for the military heroes. Census records and directories can put your ancestor at the scene of the event and provide other critical details. Probates, wills, criminal record files can help document some of the details. The “black sheep” stories many times are easier to find, as being arrested and incarcerated tends to generate many records.

A story in my family that was passed on was that a great grandfather was killed by bushwhackers shortly after the civil war. He had gone to the mill to have wheat ground into flour, and as he returned he was met by a man named Kitchen and his gang. They stopped him, then let him go, then shot him and took the flour. There were supposed to have been 13 of them and the story goes that members of the family tracked down and killed all of them over the next 3 years. By researching old records, indeed there was an outlaw at the right time period named Kitchen And that his gang was killed during the right time period for the family story. But official records said he and his gang were killed by unknown persons. Picked off one by one. Truth or fiction. Did a reliable person see this happen?

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AN INVITATION

The Mission Oaks Genealogy Club is a nonprofit organization. It was founded in 1984 to provide education and training for its members and the general public on the techniques, methods, resources and facilities used in the pursuit of genealogical research; to promote the collection and preservation of genealogical historical materials; and to cultivate public awareness of the educational and historical value of genealogical research.

We invite your attendance and membership. Where else can inspiration, knowledge, fellowship and entertainment be found twelve times a year, plus a quarterly newsletter, for only \$12.00? These five big "Ws" have been enlisted to provide you with our vital statistics:

Why do we meet? For learning, sharing, fun and fellowship.

What do we do? ... Hold a variety of monthly meetings to keep our interest and whet our appetites for "fruit" to be garnered from our very own tree of genealogical delights.

When do we meet? ... Every third Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 P. M.

Where do we meet? ... Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, California.

Who may attend? ...Anyone, visitors and new members are always welcome.

We freely admit we have been bitten by the gene-bug and are looking for new people to infect to come in contact with us may be the end of life as we know it. There is no known cure once infection has occurred

HOW TO JOIN

You may join the Mission Oaks Genealogy Club by attending a meeting and paying your dues in person or by sending your

Name, address, telephone number and a check for

\$12.00 payable to:

Mission Oaks Genealogy Club

P. O. Box 216

Carmichael, CA 95609-0216

MISSION OAKS GENEALOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER

This is the official publication of the Mission Oaks Genealogy Club. The Club cannot assume responsibility for errors of fact made by contributors. Corrections will be made when appropriate evidence is provided. This Newsletter is published quarterly, (January, April, July, October). Except for material that is copyrighted, permission to quote from it is granted as long as appropriate credit is given to this

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CLUB MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS

—Subject to Change—

Thursday, May 18

Preserving A Living History by Ann Kerr

Thursday, June 15

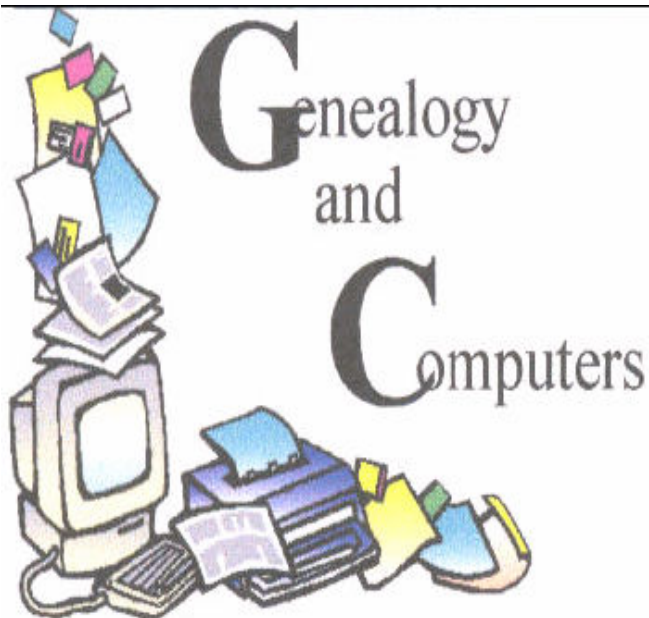
To be determined

Thursday, July 20

Correspondence by Pam Dallas

Thursday, August 17

California Room At State Library by Sandra Harris



MOLUG PC Meetings

The Mission Oaks Legacy Users Group (MOLUG) can be another way for you to become more familiar with using a PC computer as in adjunct to your genealogy efforts. Legacy is a computer program that can help you record your genealogical information and manage the results of your genealogical research.

This group meets the first Thursday of each month, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, in the Club Room of the Mission Oaks Senior Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, California. We have step-by-step planned presentations on the use of this commendable software. Come join us. For more information, call Elizabeth Kohler at 916-482-8531.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman—Willie Woolsey

She, and her committee, asks your cooperation in helping get persons to fill the offices of the Club. Give some thought to what you would like to do to serve the club and give her some of your suggestions.

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The National Genealogical Society Conference in the states is being held in Chicago, Illinois, this year from June 7 thru June 10th.

This is an excellent opportunity to brush up on your genealogy skills. There are greater speakers and programs presenting many valuable tips and plans to help further your genealogical research. There are many wonderful research facilities that you can take advantage of while you are in the area. The Newberry Library and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Great Lakes Region to name just two.

Registration Online and Questions Answered at the Conference Website:

**<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org> or you can call
1 800-473-0060.**

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES PRESENTS

BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN GENEALOGY BOSTON 2006

August 30 thru September 2, 2006

This conference is filled with much valuable information. There are 350 educational opportunities, classes, lectures and workshops. There will be speakers from 5 countries lecturing on many subjects of interest for those doing international research. Many of the participants have PhD's in their subject matter and have spent most of their adult lives in this endeavor. Their knowledge will be invaluable to your research. For more information go to: WWW.FGS.ORG or call: 1-800-FGS-1500

Conferences such as these can greatly supplement your knowledge of genealogy.

QUERIES

Have you encountered a brick wall? A dead end that seems to be very unforgiving and no amount of digging can seem to solve your problem. I have encountered that and the way around the wall turned out to be an answer to one of the many queries that I posted. A great grandfather who grew up an orphan and was never formally adopted. Informal adoptions leave no paper trail and most times are almost impossible to find. A person responded and gave me the information that was needed to get past that obstacle.

Send Your Queries to the Newsletter Editor

Charles H. Woolsey
2631 Darwin Street
Sacramento, Ca 95821
Or e-mail
Chwoolsey@aol.com

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number. Queries may be submitted on a 3X5 card or may be mailed to the above address. Queries will be published free for members as space permits. Take advantage of this resource, you may find a long sought connection.

NOTICE

I know many of you do research at the Family History Center. You will no longer be able to access Godfrey Memorial Library on line at that location. I understand it is only to be offered on line at libraries and for some reason the Family History Center doesn't qualify. Of course if you have a computer I understand that you can subscribe as an individual and the cost is Thirty dollars a month. As with all subscriber services I would advise you to use it at the library first to see if it has the kind of information that you are seeking.

Scratch Resistant CDs

By Rick Hanson

One solution to the high cost of publishing large quantities of genealogy information on paper has been to publish electronically. One such electronic publishing option is to write documents to a compact disk (CD). CD's have declined in price and can currently be purchased for about 50 cents each. Unfortunately a CD is a rather fragile medium. It can be easily rendered unreadable by dirt, scratches, beverages, sunshine, ball-point pens, children, nuclear radiation and a certain type of fungus from Central America.

Now a small company located in Denver, Colorado, may have a partial solution. They are producing CD's (and soon DVD's) with a new, harder polymer that is more resistant to scratches. And for those people who don't put the CD back into its case (shame on you), this CD has tiny bumps along its edge that raises it enough to prevent contact with your dusty, dirty desk surface. The only downside is that this people-resistant CD costs about twice as much as most CD's, about \$1.20 each in quantities of 20.

I personally will continue using cheap, fragile CD's for most purposes. But for CD's I distribute to relatives and historical societies, I plan to give these a try.

For more information, go to <http://www.scratchlessdisc.com>. According to that web site, the CD's can be found at OfficeMax and Amazon. COM under the brand name "Scratch-Less."

Family History Seminar

Saturday, November 4, 2006

Antelope

See future newsletters for more details, this is an excellent opportunity to improve your knowledge.

Research Helps And Guidance

FamilySearch.org

By Susan Jackman

The following is a brief summary of Research Helps and Guidance from Family Search. These guides are underused by the family historian and contain a wealth of information as well as quick reference materials. Many can be printed in PDF (Portable Document Format).

From the **Search Tab**:

Research Helps by place, title, subject or document type

Sort by Place —Groups all helps together by country, province or state and includes generic research helps that may apply. For instance, Pennsylvania research helps include; How do I Begin, How to Locate an Ancestor in the United States, Name Variations in the United States Indexes and Records, Pennsylvania Historical Background, U.S. Census Worksheets, United States Social Security Death Index and Application Files, United States, How to Find a Map and many others helps.

Sort by Title — If you happen to know the title of a particular research help such as “Tracing Immigrant Origins” you can use this option.

Sort by Subject — If you are familiar with the Subjects used by the Family History Library you may find this useful. Otherwise it is not the best place to find help. The same subjects and subject matter can be found in most County/State Research Outlines.

Sort by Document Type

Forms — Lots of blank forms for research such as a research log, blank time line or analysis chart, pedigree charts and group sheets, To do list, and census worksheets. Something that may go unnoticed: Request for Photocopies: Census, Books, Microfilm or Microfiche.

Letter-writing Guide — Very useful for writing a letter in a language that you DON'T KNOW!!!

Map — a quick reference section useful if you are working in family search and want to get oriented in your area of research, Example: The German Empire map, 1871 to 1918.

Reference Document — Historical backgrounds by place. Hidden in the middle are some great reference helps such as: Organizing Your Genealogy Using Computers, Organizing your Paper Files using Binders, United States List of Colonial and Territorial Censuses, United States List of State Censuses, Where to Write for Vital Records and a real gold mine — a 40 page book; Genealogical Handbook of German Research!

Research Outlines — The online version of the outlines that are sold at the Family History Center by Country, State and Research Subject. These are often available to print in PDF. Hidden in the alphabetical list are a few treasures; Preparing a Family History, Sources for Previous Research in the British Isles, Tracing LDS Families, US Military Records, Indians of the United States and Canada!!

Resource Guide — Lots of different topics. Some general such as How do I Start?, A Guide to Research, Discovering your Family Tree. Others more specific such as; African American Quick Guide, African American Records, Early church Information File, German Gothic Handwriting Guide, Ireland Household Index, Membership of the LDS Church 1830–1848.

Step-by-step Guides—Some people need them! Step one, step two, step three mostly by place. Example; United States County Boundary Changes, England, How to Find the Name of the Place where your Ancestor Lived, How to Pull Facts and Clues from Canadian Censuses, How to Use the Meyers Gazetteer, United; How to Find and Use a Map, United States; How to Find Family Histories, United States Social Security Death Application Files, Wales; How to Find a Place Name.

Word Lists—By language of the country and containing all commonly used and their translation.

(Continued on page 18)

California State Railroad Museum Library

Located in Old Sacramento

E-MAIL: rrmuseumlibrary@parks.ca.gov

(916) 323-8073

A program presented in April brought to light this excellent resource for information on the Railroads in California.

The California State Railroad Museum Library focuses on all aspects of railroads and railroading — historical, political, cultural, social, economic, and technical—with particular emphasis on topics pertaining to California, and the West. Reference sources include a wide range of books, periodicals, railroad association and union publications, government documents and trade catalogues. The Library also contains extensive photograph, drawing, map, manuscript and ephemera collections.

MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES DEATH RECORDS

For those of you who have had relatives that died in the state of Missouri between 1910 and 1955 this is a mother lode of information.

The Missouri state archives has expanded its free death certificate database; which previously indexed per-1910 records, to include 2 million deaths through 1955. Some images of original certificates.

Visit:

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates>.

And search on the first name and last name, county or month and year. If you're unsure of the name, click **Advanced Search** to choose starts with, ends with or contains options. You can order copies of post-1920 records by clicking to generate a form you fill out and mail in with One Dollar per request (the limit is five).

A friend of mine admiring some of the old pictures on the wall of my home, asked are these pictures of your ancestors? No, I explained, all my ancestors were too ugly for us to display their pictures. We bought these at a yard sale, they are much better looking!

Quick tips

Local Library Websites

Don't overlook the library website in the location of your ancestor. Many library websites have a nice genealogy section. I recently requested some obituaries online, and the librarian alerted me to online photos of the cousins I was researching. The photos had relationship notations accompanying them that enabled me to add a number of connections.

Also, many libraries have a file for people researching a particular family name. When ordering materials from a library, be sure and ask them to add your name and address to their contact files for families you are researching.

Include Full Locations with Data

When posting to a message board or sending information to someone, please remember to include the state. I received information with the place name stated as Benton County only and no state listed. There are eleven states with Benton Counties. Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson counties exist in over 30 states.

It also said that great-great-grandparents were married in Little Rock. Again there was no state. So people would assume it was Little Rock, Arkansas, when in truth it turned out to be Missouri, where three counties had towns by that name in the nineteenth century.

And would you like an all expense paid trip to Las Vegas. Well in New Mexico it would only cost you about 40 dollars a night and there is no place to gamble.

NOTICE

For us to have a vital society and an interesting newsletter I need to have contributions from the membership. Queries, interesting articles you come across, and suggestions as to what you would like to learn. That way we can have a more interesting society.

EPIDEMICS

Below is a compilation of epidemics that ravaged parts of the United States, listing the year, the place and the disease. Possibly if your “brick wall” stops at one of these places/dates, this might be the reason. Many times deaths were so many they went unrecorded, and burials were communal, or bodies burnt, in the belief it would stop the disease from spreading..

- 1655 Boston, Measles
- 1687 Boston, Measles
- 1690 New York, Yellow Fever
- 1713 Boston, Measles
- 1729 Boston, Measles
- 1732-33 Worldwide Influenza
- 1738 South Carolina Smallpox
- 1739-40 Boston, Measles
- 1747 CT, NY, PA, SC, Measles
- 1759 North America {areas inhabited by white people}, Measles
- 1761 North America & West Indies, Influenza
- 1772 North America, Measles
- 1775 North American[especially in NE], Measles
- 1775-76 Worldwide, Influenza [worst worldwide]
- 1783 DE [extremely fatal], Bilious Disorder
- 1788 Philadelphia & New York, Measles
- 1793 Vermont, [a “putrid” fever] & Influenza
- 1793 VA [killed 500 in 5 counties in 4 weeks], Influenza
- 1793 Philadelphia one of the worst epidemics, Yellow Fever
- 1793 Harrisburg, PA, [many deaths] Unknown
- 1793 Middletown, PA [many deaths] Unknown
- 1794 Philadelphia, PA, Yellow Fever
- 1796-97 Philadelphia, PA, Yellow Fever
- 1798 Philadelphia, PA, Yellow Fever [worst]
- 1803 New York, Yellow Fever
- 1813 Tennessee, Maury Co.,, Black Tongue epidemic, killed many
- 1820-23 Nationwide, Cholera
- 1831-32 Nationwide, Asiatic Cholera

EPIDEMICS CONTINUED

- 1833 Columbus, OH, Cholera
- 1834 New York City, Cholera
- 1834 Tennessee, Maury Co., Cholera
- 1837 Philadelphia, Typhus
- 1840 Tennessee, Stewart Co.,, Dover, Hard times in area attributed to depression of 1837. Malaria, Cholera, Smallpox, frequent epidemics, widespread
- 1840 Nationwide, Yellow Fever, mainly in South
- 1844 Tennessee, Maury Co., Black Tongue Epidemic [Feb & March main epidemic].
- 1847 New Orleans, Yellow Fever
- 1847-48 Worldwide Influenza
- 1848-49 North America, Cholera
- 1848 Tennessee, Decatur Co., Small Pox
- 1849 New York, Cholera
- 1850 Nationwide, Yellow Fever
- 1850 Gainesboro, TN, Cholera [July 17]
- 1850-51 North America, Influenza
- 1851 Coles Co., IL , MO, & Great Plains, Cholera
- 1852 Nationwide, Yellow Fever [New Orleans, 8000 die in summer
- 1854 Tennessee, Giles Co., Unknown Epidemic
- 1855 Nationwide, Yellow Fever
- 1857-59 Worldwide, Influenza [one of greatest]
- 1860-61 Pennsylvania, Smallpox
- 1862 TN, Shelby Co., Memphis, Yellow Fever
- 1863 Illinois, [in large cities,] Measles & Pneumonia
- 1865-73 Philadelphia, NY, Boston, New Orleans, Smallpox
- 1865-73 Baltimore, Memphis, Washington DC, Cholera
- 1866 United States, Cholera
- 1865-73 Baltimore, Memphis, Washington DC, Typhus, typhoid, Scarlet & Yellow Fever
- 1873-75 North America & Europe, Influenza
- 1873 TN, Rutherford, Co., Cholera

(continued on Page 19, column 2)

Saving Your Family Treasures

Sliding Home Redux

By Maureen Taylor

Your slides were taken, filed and put away in slide trays; and stored in a hot cabinet or closet. After all these years you suddenly discover that they are not forever and the question comes along,, how do I preserve this small bit of history.

Deterioration One reader mentioned his grand mother's deteriorating slides. They date from the late 1930's and the emulsion has crystallized making it difficult to recover the full image through scanning. It doesn't take that long for the damage to occur. I have several pages of slides from the 1970's. The plastic pages I stored them in ruined them. As the plastic aged, it left droplets on the slides. Proper storage in non-PVC pages possibly would have prevented that from happening, but they weren't readily available in the 1970's, and long-term storage guidelines for color slides weren't known in the 1930's.

She reminded me to mention cellulose nitrate film used for twenty or thirty years after World War I. Nitrate film is flammable and can spontaneously combust if not stored in low temperature and low humidity environments. These images get gummy, smell like vinegar, and are potentially explosive. When they catch fire, they burn rapidly and give off toxic gases. If you suspect you have slides or negatives of this material, have them copied using a reputable lab that specializes in duplicating these hazardous images. Most labs won't touch them and because they are flammable you can't mail them to a lab. Contact an archive in your area to obtain the name of a lab near you capable of handling these materials.

Slides deteriorate. You can't stop that process but you can slow it down. Store your images in stable temperature and humidity in cold dark storage. Use the Google search feature on [Wilhelm Imaging Research](#) with the search term "color slides" to find scientific research on the rates of deterioration of various types of slides and specific recommendations for storage, including the use of frost-free freezers for color materials.

What's a family photographer to do?

1. If your slides are in hard plastic trays and in good condition, leave them alone.
2. You don't have to remove paper mount unless deterioration is visible.
3. Remove any slides stored in metal trays, wooden boxes, and any storage container lined with rubber foam. Those storage boxes will damage your images..

Sharing

The medium of choice by readers for sharing slides was the CD. Many people told me stories about how much it meant to receive a CD of images from a family member. Several remarked that these photographs would now be in the family forever. I wish that was true.

A slide taken in 1936 has been in existence for 70 years. If it is in good condition and stored properly it is likely to last several more years. The same is not necessarily true for a CD. The first CD's had a relatively short shelf life of around ten years. Today manufactures claim they last decades longer but CD's still deteriorate a lot faster than the most original photographic mediums. Watch your CD's for slaking at the edge or pinpricks on the information area of the disk and copy when necessary.

By all means, keep sharing family photographs as long as you label each one with a caption (name, date, location, and owner's name) and check the condition of the CD periodically.

When ever you upgrade your computer or change significant software, check to see that the CD's will still play. Always keep a copy of all your slides stored on your computer or a backup hard drive. That way you can always burn new CD's if there are any questions about whether they have much shelf life left.

Unfortunately , there is no quick way to scan and copy a large quantity of slides. It takes time to organize them and to go through the scanning process, but I prefer scanning because I can obtain a high resolution digital copy of the slide. Then I can sort them using image organizing software like Picasa (free on Google. COM) and burn the set to a CD for presents. It's quick, simple and efficient.

Research Helps and Guidance

(continued from Page 15)

Research Guidance by Country, Province or State

Each guide is organized by place and contains a timeline for information on Birth, Marriage and Death. Under each time frame there are three tabs: One containing a historical background of the place for the group of years, a tab for beginners and a tab for search strategies. An excellent way to look at records in a particular time and place.

SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE: 100 YEARS LATER

At 5:12 AM on April 18, 1906 an earthquake measuring about 8.0 on the Richter scale struck San Francisco. The resulting devastation and fire was a defining moment in many peoples lives. 3,000 to 6,000 lives were lost from a population of 340,000 and the rest were left homeless.

The following sources contain photo, narrative accounts, listing of injured and dead and much more information of interest to the genealogist.:

The Bancroft Library: The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and fire:

<http://Bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/earthquakeandfire/>

San Francisco Genealogy Online Databases

Link to record indexes, including some from the 1906 quake.

<http://www.sfgenealogy.com/sf/sfdata>

Before and After the Great Earthquake and Fire:

Many early films showing before and after April 18, 1906:

<http://www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/papr/sfhome>

US Geological Survey: 1906 Earthquake

Learn the geology of the quake and read a 1977 interview with a survivor.

http://www.earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/states/events/1906_04_18.php

Museum of the City of San Francisco

The Great 1906 Earthquake and Fire

Transcribed accounts, list of the dead & photos

<http://www.sfmuseum.org/1906/06>

EPIDEMICS CONTINUES

(Continued from page 17)

- 1878 TN, Shelby Co., Memphis, Yellow Fever [5000 fatalities, 25,000 in crazed flight.
- 1879 New Orleans, Yellow Fever [last great epidemic]
- 1878 TN, Hamilton Co., Chattanooga, Yellow Fever
- 1885 Plymouth, PA, Typhoid
- 1886 Jacksonville, FL, Yellow Fever
- 1918 Worldwide, Influenza [more people hospitalized in WWI from Influenza than wounds, training camps became death camps. 80% death rate in some camps
- 1924 TN, Stewart Co., Dover, Typhoid Fever

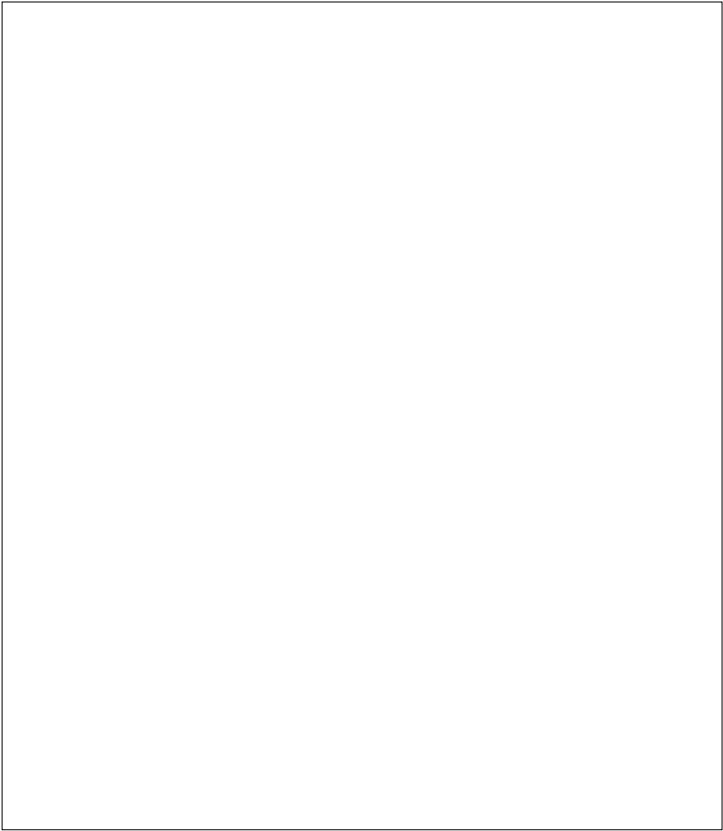
The great Cholera epidemic was spread by immigrants from Europe. The major years were 1832, 1849, 1866, and 1873. By 1890, the disease was practically controlled.

Malaria was also of epidemic proportions in the late 1800's. The hottest summer on record was 1886 and 1887. Mosquitoes were out of control in Ohio and Mississippi valleys, as well as tributaries. This went on for years. TB was also of epidemic proportions at the time. Children ages 5 to 15 rarely died from the "adult" epidemics, as this is a period of "Natural Immunity."

European epidemics introduced into the southeastern United States in 1540 by the Desoto expedition are estimated to have killed at least 75% of the original native population. How much the Cherokee suffered from this disaster is unknown, but their population in 1674 was about 50,000. A series of smallpox epidemics (1729, 1738, and 1753) cut this in half, and it remained fairly stable at about 25,000 until their removal to Oklahoma during the 1830's

TIPS

Do you have tips that can help someone get beyond a brick wall? If so submit them to the editor and they will be published as space permits.



AVAILABLE
Back issues of
Newsletter
\$1 each plus postage

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