

HOLIDAY ISSUE
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
THE LIVERMORE ROOT TRACER

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Editorial

As we approach the happiest and most important holiday of the Christian world let us not forget the reason for this day. We pause to celebrate the birthday of a man, Jesus, whose life and teachings have altered the course of civilization more profoundly than any other event.

It should be a happy time, particularly for our genealogists and family historians, since it is a traditional gathering time for the living generations.

Some polls show that family history has become the number one leisure time activity in America. The holidays are one of the best times to use your camera and tape recorder. We are living family history and we should do our best to record it.

Some of us have Christmas photo albums reaching back over many years. These represent a visual family history that surpasses all attempts of the written word.

Last but most important, let us forget the turmoil of national and international crises, relax and enjoy the holidays with those who are near and dearest to us.

The President's Christmas Message

Christmas, that glamorous and glorious season, which returns to us each year at exactly the same time! About 320 A.D. the Church established December 25 as the date to observe Christmas. Our Puritan ancestors in New England disliked this date so much that they levied fines on those who dared to celebrate this holiday. This season did not become popular in New England until the nineteenth century, and this date was due to the influence of German and Irish immigrants.

To some Americans, a Christmas Season is a time to close out the old year and start a new year, generally on a positive note of some kind, as with a New Year's resolution, or getting a Christmas record in the Guinness Book of World Records, such as having a Christmas tree taller than 221 feet, or sending more than 62,824 Christmas cards. Thank goodness, most Americans will not celebrate the Christmas season this way.

I'm sure that most of us will slip momentarily out of reality and forget our daily problems, and dream unashamedly of a world at peace, where everything always works out right. If this is something near your method of celebrating this Christmas season, I hope that your dreams come true.

I wish for you successful ancestor-hunting in 1980. May you find the key to one or two ancestors who have blocked your attempts to establish a connection between your past and present.

Happy Ancestor-Hunting in 1980.

Bill Wolcott

Board Announcements

Since we will not have a board meeting or a regular meeting during December the next regular meeting will be at 7:30 January 28, 1960 at the Livermore Library.

We hope to have a projector available by this meeting which should be very useful in future programs.

Thanks to Fran Saman for the two copiers that she so generously donated to the association during the November meeting. We are sure they will be put to good use.

We also wish to thank Lucile White who took time from her work as our circulating librarian to do a rush job on the November Tracer.

Genealogical Aids--Pennsylvania Researchers

by Lucile White

The last survey of our members show more Pennsylvania researchers than any other state. These members are most fortunate to have the Hoenstine Guide to help them. This guide lists 2201 books at the Hoenstine Library that can be rented for a minimal fee, or copies will be made at their library and mailed to you of the information on any surname found in the indexes of the books. This copy service is inexpensive and I have found it to be a very satisfactory way to obtain material.

The A.G.A. Library has this Hoenstine Guide, as do some of the individual members. This is a listing of their books but it also lists the surnames shown in the indexes of these books. Most of them are about Pennsylvania, but a few of other states. There are county histories, Pennsylvania genealogies, biographies, autobiographies, church and cemetery records, religious records, different nationality information and the Pennsylvania Archives.

I would recommend that anyone doing early research in Pennsylvania to send their surname to Hoenstine for a copy from the Pa. Archives Index for the Series of their choice. Series I covers the Colonial Period, Series II covers much Rev. War records, church lists, oaths, tax lists and marriages, Series III covers land records and tax lists, Series IV is Governor's papers, Series V covers French and Indian Wars and Rev. War military rolls, Series VI covers military records, some vital statistics and election returns, Series VII is an index to the previous series, Series VIII House of Representatives, Series IX covers Rev. War claims, pensioners and Governor's records. See the Guide for more detailed listings.

This is a vast amount of Pennsylvania information available to us from our homes at any time, and inexpensive.