



The Virginia Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

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New Resources at the Richmond Branch of the GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS in Salt Lake City

by Jessie S. Barbour

Mrs. Barbour, Librarian of the Richmond Virginia Stake Genealogical Library and a member of The Virginia Genealogical Society, was a panelist on the Society's March 1984 Conference. She places us again in her debt for sharing the remarks printed below.

Accelerated Indexing Systems Database on Microfiche

Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc., is a private company that produces and publishes census indexes in both microfiche and book form. While each book index covers only one state, the microfiche covers several states or, in some cases, the entire United States. The Salt Lake Genealogical Library has purchased the right to copy the AIS microfiche indexes and distribute them to the branch libraries.

The AIS indexes have definite strengths and weaknesses of which you should be aware. Concerning their strengths, they can be enormously helpful finding aids, providing a practical means, for example, of locating an ancestor if no locality is known and of establishing migration patterns of families. As to weaknesses, previous studies have demonstrated an overall error rate of 19% in these indexes. As a consequence, a good deal of checking against original records will be needed to convince the careful researcher that he or she has garnered all the information a particular census may have to offer.

The AIS microfiche indexes are divided into nine sets covering the time period from 1608 to 1906. In the main, they index federal censuses from 1790 to 1850, but they also include some special censuses, tax lists, military lists, church records, land records, and other sources helpful in locating people. Surnames in the nine groups are arranged alphabetically, and the groups are divided as follows: (1) 1607-1819: entire U. S.; (2) 1820-1829: entire U. S.; (3) 1830-1839: entire U. S.; (4) 1840-1849: entire U. S.; (5) 1850-1860: Southern States; (6) 1850: New England and Northern States; (7) 1850-1860: Mid-western and Western States; (7a) 1850-1906: entire U. S.; (8) 1850-1885: U. S. Mortality Schedules. [Note: indexing is still in progress in groups (5), (7), (7a), and (8).]

Family Registry

This is a new service provided free of charge by the Genealogical Department of the LDS Library to help patrons locate other people researching related names. There are two steps to using the Family Registry.

(1) Family Registry Index. This is an inclusive index of all names participants have put on file as being actively researched. Each ancestor name is identified by certain dates, localities, and relatives, as well as by the name and address of the registrants.

(2) Registration Forms of the Family Registry. These are microfiche copies of the registration forms to which the above is the index. The form itself should be seen as it usually contains more information about the ancestor than is contained in the index entry.

Those wishing to enter their ancestors in the Family Registry may obtain Registration Forms at the Richmond branch library. The Richmond Branch LDS Genealogical Library is located at 5600 Monument Ave., and is open to the public Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm, and on Saturdays from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm.

