

# Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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January 2016

Editor: Kathie Mauzey

Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Main Mission Viejo LDS Church Building, 27976 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, between Medical Center Drive and Hillcrest Drive. Membership is open to anyone interested in genealogy. Individual membership fees are \$20 per year, joint membership \$25.  
SOCCGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

## IMPORTANT!!!

**Please see the newsletter mailing label to check the month and year your dues are payable. The date is directly after your name. Most are due 1/2016. Members who joined this year will have dues payable on the anniversary of the month they joined. Thank You.**



## **"Who is That? Why did your Ancestors Associate with Apparent Strangers"**

**January 16, 2016**

**Presented by  
Jean Wilcox Hibben**

**Unknown individuals can appear on various documents and other locations listing your ancestors' information. Researching these "strangers" may break down genealogical brick walls.**

**About the speaker:** A Board-Certified genealogist, Jean is associated with the Corona California Family History Center (former director, current staff trainer); she was the lead researcher for the 2013 Season of the PBS television program *Genealogy Roadshow* and just completed research for *Follow Your Past*, to appear on the Travel Channel sometime in 2016. A native of the Chicago suburbs and retired college professor, she holds a master's degree in speech communication and doctorate in folklore. Jean is a national speaker known for her entertaining, as well as informative, presentations and is a frequent writer for various genealogy publications.

**Mini-Class 9:15-9:45 before the January Monthly Meeting – "Using Power Point" will be presented by Francie Kennedy. All Mini-Classes are held in the classroom to the left of the kitchen.**

## President's Message

By David Flint

Happy New Year to everyone – I wish all my Fellow Genealogists a happy and healthy 2016! I hope you all survived the Christmas holiday activities and are rested up by now for our new year of programs and activities with SOCCGS.

2015 was my first year as President of our Society, and I have another year to go in 2016. I have enjoyed holding the job in 2015 and I'm looking forward to serving you for another year. I expect that 2016 will be as busy and active as last year was. You have some new faces on the Executive Board and in other positions where new people have taken on new jobs in 2015. Some of the changes in 2015 included: **Gary Schwarz** leaving the job of Newsletter Editor to head up our new German Research SIG; **Kathie Mauzey** taking over from Gary as Newsletter Editor; **Pam Steube** preparing the monthly activity calendar (which is now posted on our SOCCGS website); **Patti Liebenow** is now responsible for coordinating our Special Classes, which includes the mini-class before our regular monthly membership meetings as well as the Fourth Friday Classes each month at the library; **Judy Davin** is working as Co-Librarian with Bunny Smith, with a particular focus on supporting our docents; **Bill Bluett** was appointed as interim Treasurer for the remainder of **Mary Jo McQueen's** term in 2016 since she will be moving to Utah sometime in the Spring. There will be some other changes in the leadership of our Society, and I will announce those as they occur.

Other noteworthy activities during 2015 include: Past President **Francie Kennedy** offered two series of classes on Beginning Methodology for (mostly) new members of our Society; 40 of our members went to Salt Lake City for our first-ever week-long research trip to the Family History Library, which has become an annual event we will repeat in 2016; our annual seminar in October was well attended with our nationally-known speaker **Dick Eastman**; our membership topped 300 by the end of the year with a total of 303 members – up from 289 in January, thanks in large part to our Membership Chairman **Jack Naylor**. I want to especially thank the large contingent of new members who have joined us this year from Laguna Woods Village. We also need to note the great job by **Arlene O'Donnell** with some interesting new speakers and topics during 2015. She also plans to break new ground with our programs in 2016, so watch for those!

I want to acknowledge the excellent support that I have received during the past year from all members of the Executive Board and others in key positions who have helped me throughout the year. Perhaps it looks easy from the audience as I get up in front of the group each month and tell you about things that are in the works for your benefit as members. But most of that would not happen without the effort extended on your behalf by many other people in our Society. I appreciate all of the good work and good will of those people in key leadership roles within our Society who make it all happen.

In January our board will meet to discuss what's in the hopper for 2016, and I expect that I will have some new things to announce at our meeting in February, if not sooner. I want to close with a reminder that, in addition to the research work involved, genealogy is a learning endeavor. We are fortunate to have so many classes, special interest groups, discussion groups and other forums available to our members as opportunities to update or expand your knowledge in specific areas of genealogy research of particular interest to you. If you are not already participating in those activities for members, I invite you to do so in 2016. We do it for YOU! If you are a member who has not attended one of our monthly meetings for awhile, please come and join us on the third Saturday each month – you may be surprised by all the new friendly faces you will see.

### Safari News

~Bill Bluett

On January 27<sup>nd</sup>, we will journey to the Los Angeles Public Library. Since we make this trip just once a year, you will want to make a special effort to go along. In order to prepare for this fact-finding excursion, you can go to the LAPL website and peruse the genealogy books available. Also, it is always a good idea to make a list of research goals. We will leave the LDS parking lot promptly at 9 a.m. This will be an all day and into the evening foray. You may bring your lunch, eat in the library food court, or in one of the nearby restaurants. We will have dinner on the way home. Don't forget to bring \$\$ for your driver. Make your reservation with Bill Bluett.

## Genealogy Research Special Interest Group

~Mary Jo McQueen

Due to the New Year's Holiday the **Genealogy Research SIG** will meet on Friday, January 8. Information for that meeting will be sent via email, the week of the meeting.

### December Holiday Meeting and Brunch

~Bill Bluett

About 78 folks attended our annual holiday gathering and enjoyed hot cider, lasagna, rolls, and salad. A great assortment of desserts was provided by your Board of Directors. Once again, the **McQueens** and their neighbors, **Jim and Sue Lamond**, helped prepare the great lasagna and salad we all enjoyed. Servers in the kitchen included **Mary Jo McQueen, Barbara Heebner, Sharon Keener, Bunny Smith, and Sue Lamond**. A number of our members brought canned goods to be delivered to the South County Outreach Food Bank.

There were a number of items on display for folks to look at including, scrapbooks, photos, a quilt, and some of our Society Historian Books. The displays included:

**Barbara Taylor** displayed her family newsletter which was started in 2006.

**Herb Abrams** had a picture of his living room with many presents and a large Christmas tree filling up the entire photo. The object was to find his two cats buried somewhere in the photo.

**Victoria Crayne** laid out a beautiful quilt depicting the scenic countryside her grandparents lived in.

**David Flint** provided **his** scrapbook collection of interesting Christmas cards from past years.

**Sheryl Layman** had her birthday scrapbook put together for "Aunt Ruby" - quite the competitive "cowgirl" in her heyday! Feisty Aunt Ruby even ran a bear out of her bedroom at one time in her life!

**Carol Lobo** brought her Scottish ancestor scrapbook for the "Cahoon" family.

**Sue Lamond** displayed her scrapbook for the "Head" family.

**Pat Christiansen**, our Society Historian, laid out the scrapbooks for 2013, 2014, and 2015.

I would like to thank each member who brought items to share and display with our group.

After a brief General Meeting (prior to the brunch), we had drawings for a number of "door prize" gifts that were given out by **Jim Thordahl** and **Francie Kennedy**. Then, society president **David Flint** introduced individuals who shared memorable Christmas moments with the members in attendance:

**Victoria Crayne** shared the story about the quilt she made titled "Over the river and through the woods" with scenes depicting images similar to her grandparents' home in the country.

**Jim Thordahl** showed us "glitter plaques" of Santa in his sleigh. These decorative items were made by a company in Connecticut up until a few years ago.

**Joyce Van Schaack** talked about moving to L.A. from Indiana in 1945 and meeting the "love of her life" at L.A. High in 1949.

**Arlene O'Donnell** has over 1000 ornaments on her tree with some dating as far back as World War II. Many broken ones have been repaired by a man she connected with through a DNA match. As far as Arlene is concerned, if they are broken, they can be fixed!

**Barbara Taylor** pointed out that a photo of a son and a father in her scrapbook almost look exactly alike when they were young boys. Hope you checked out the photos!

**Noel Jensen's** birthday is on Christmas Day. Her family would always have a separate location to stack her birthday presents rather than mix them under the tree with the Christmas presents. That was very thoughtful of her parents.

**Pat Christiansen's** family has had many that were members of the military. So, Christmas was always a very meaningful time when service members could be home during the holiday season. If not, I'm sure they communicated with one another during the season as best they could.

**Brenda Hardiman's** family was Jewish and French-Canadian which made for interesting family gatherings during the holiday season. She said that some French would be spoken during conversations. But, the more they drank, the more French that was spoken and the more arguing that would take place. Then, the following year, they would do it all over again!

Overall, a great time was had by all at our holiday gathering. With that, I would like to wish each of you a very "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year." Hope to see you all at our January meeting.

## Membership Update

~Jack Naylor

One of David Flint's goals for 2015 was to reach a membership of 300. Closing out the year we have exceeded that goal with 302 members. Maybe we can reach 350 by the end of 2016.

### SOC CGS Research Center: Featured Book of the Month

The “**New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer**” is the first book of its kind. More than 100 experts have reviewed and contributed content about local and regional resources and key topics in New York family History. The result is a book of 856 pages with:

- Chapters on major record groups and research resources, including the most up-to-date and comprehensive review of New York State's extremely complicated vital records system.
- Information on research resources for sixteen major ethnic and twelve major religious groups that have lived in New York.
- Gazetteers, maps, and research guides to each of New York's 62 counties, including the five boroughs of New York City.
- More than 100 separate, categorized special topic bibliographies vetted by genealogists.
- Timelines of key events in New York history 1609-1945 that impact genealogical research.
- An index of over 11,000 place names and place-name variants past and present, the first published gazetteer of its kind since 1872.

This is a new book purchased by SOC CGS to use at the Research Center in the Mission Viejo Library. For the month of January it will be on the docent desk, then on the bookshelf. Come and see our new acquisition.

### More on New York Research

At the November meeting there were several folks researching the state of New York. Member **Ed Reardon** sent information on New York newspaper research: 1) [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com) “a terrific website containing millions of pages of New York newspapers going way back in time” and 2) <http://dev.nyhistoricnewspapers.org> “much more limited in scope, but more easily searchable.” **Kathie Mauzey** has a reprint of the 1860 “Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York State” by J. H. French, also a useful website is [www.betweenthelakes.org](http://www.betweenthelakes.org) with focus on New York and Connecticut.

### New Legacy Beginner's Class Starting in January

David Flint will offer a new beginner's class in January where you can learn how to use the **Legacy Family Tree** genealogy software program. This class is for anyone interested in getting started with this award-winning genealogy software for the first time. The new class will meet for four two-hour sessions – on January 12 & 28, and February 9 & 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Saddleback Room at the Mission Viejo City Hall.

If you are interested in attending the new Legacy beginner's class, please contact David Flint directly at [davidflint@cox.net](mailto:davidflint@cox.net). He will provide additional details about the class and what to do to be prepared for the first class session. If you are currently using Family Tree Maker and thinking about switching to a different genealogy program, this class would be a good opportunity to explore Legacy as an alternative.

It is not necessary to buy the Legacy Family Tree software to be in the class. Free copies of the program are available to load on your computer, and those in the class will receive instructions for downloading the FREE Basic Edition from Legacy's website.

Class sessions will include instruction and demonstration periods, discussions with question and answer time, and practice sessions where you will create your own family files in Legacy, and add your own personal genealogy research information to those files. There will be a written handout for each class.

The class can accommodate up to 20+ people, and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. It is already about half full with people from previous waiting lists, so don't delay if you are interested in the class, or know someone else who is. David will advise you on details for the class after he hears from you regarding your interest.

## **SOC CGS Docent Profile – Barbara Harley**

My volunteering to be a docent at the Mission Viejo Library Genealogy Desk began in 2011. I enjoy interacting with the people who come in to use the sites on our computers. I'd say about half of the people just sit down and get going; the others need some help and some are just clueless!

It's fun to get them going on their search and hear their reactions as they start. Then, there are those who seem amazed that they don't find their ancestor instantly! I helped one gentleman who was not at all familiar with computers. As we sat together, I demonstrated how to use the 'mouse', where to 'click', etc. After a bit, I said, "Now you try it."

He was very reluctant to do it at first, saying, "My secretary always did the computer stuff," (obviously he was recently retired). I continued to encourage him, as I walked back to the docent desk.

If there are no patrons, I work on my own research, exploring and trying the paid websites I do not have at home. I especially like the newspaper sites ... finding those 'tidbits' in a weekly paper of a small town!

**Editor's Note:** Look for Barbara Harley when you come to the desk; she's the one wearing a smile.

### **Salt Lake City Update ~David Flint**

You are aware by now, based on my previous announcements and updates that all 25 rooms for our 2016 trip were reserved, and we were fully booked. Well, that changed over the holidays, and I received a cancellation. Therefore, I now have one room available for our trip -- April 17-24, 2016. If you are interested in joining us on our second annual week-long research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City – don't delay. This last room will be available for booking on a first-come, first-served basis.

You can find more detail about the trip and a reservation form on our website. Visit the website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocgs/SLC%202016.pdf>. The cost is \$450 per person (double occupancy) and \$750 per person (single occupancy). A deposit of \$100 is required to confirm a room reservation, and final payment is due February 1. Contact me to let me know of your interest – [davidflint@cox.net](mailto:davidflint@cox.net). We hope you join us in Salt Lake City!

### **Whittier Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Seminar Saturday, January 30, 2016**

**Speaker:** **Thomas MacEntee** is a genealogy professional specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogical research. Thomas has been involved with genealogy and family history for close to 20 years and for the past two years has dedicated himself professionally to various aspects of the genealogy industry. **Topics:** 1) Genealogy Do-Over: A Year of Learning from Mistakes 2) Successful Collateral and Cluster Searching 3) After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research 4) The Future is Now. For information [www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags](http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags)

### **Orange County Jewish Genealogy Society Sunday, January 24, 2016, 1:30 to 3:30 pm**

**January monthly meeting** speaker is **Joan Rambo**, Past President of the OCCGS. Her topic is the genealogy collection (over 20,000 books) housed at the Huntington Beach Library, and some of the "over looked items in the collection." Come and find out about this amazing resource right here in Orange County.

### **OCJGS Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 4:00-6:00 pm**

**Did you have family or friends in Europe or North Africa during World War II?** The Germans kept meticulous records. Many of those records (millions of individual records) have been collected and are available to the public. Presentation by **Megan Lewis**, will present an overview of the records available at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum from the International Tracing Service.

For information on both events: [www.ocjgs.org](http://www.ocjgs.org)

**Genealogy Search Tip of the Day** <http://searchtip.genealogtipoftheday.com/> posted 4 Dec 2015  
**South Dakota Birth Certificates Over 100 Years** The South Dakota Department of Health has an online index to birth certificates in their state that are over 100 years old.  
<http://apps.sd.gov/ph14over100birthrec/index.aspx>

## January Free Webinars

**Legacy** is presenting several free webinars in January: **Jan 6** Tap Into Your Inner Private Eye - 9 Strategies for Finding Living Relatives – Lisa Louise Cooke; **Jan 13** Technology & Techniques for Differentiating Two People with the Same Name – Geoff Rasmussen; **Jan 15** Snag-it for Genealogists – Michael Brophy; **Jan 20** The Basics of Virginia Research – Shannon Combs-Bennett; **Jan 27** The Paper-Less Genealogist – Denise Levenick. Register at [www.familytreewebinars.com](http://www.familytreewebinars.com) If you miss the live Legacy webinar, recordings are in the archives and free to watch for the first 7 days after the broadcast.

**The Southern California Genealogical Society:** **Jan 2** The “Push” and “Pull” Decision Making of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Emigrant – Jill Morelli; **Jan 20** Making YDNA and mtDNA Part of Your Family History – Diahann Southard. Register at [www.scsgenealogy.com](http://www.scsgenealogy.com), click on programs and webinars.

**New England Historic Genealogical Society:** **Jan 21** Chinese American Genealogy – Alice Kane; **Jan 26** Choosing a Genealogical Software Program – Rhonda R. McClure. Register at [www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org) (Under Education and Online Classes).

### NEHGS – Special Promotion for Guest Users

The Weekly Genealogist Vol. 18, No. 47, December 30, 2015

Here's to new beginnings! NEHGS has the resources, experts, and services you need to make 2016 a great year for your family history research.

To Celebrate the New Year, starting today and lasting throughout the month of January, we're offering FREE access to several popular databases on [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org) to our guest users--with additional resources to help you further your genealogical research. If you're already a guest user, take advantage of this month-long celebration. And share the news with your friends!

**Become a Guest User** on AmericanAncestors.org. Guest Users--a **FREE** account on AmericanAncestors.org--are entitled to several benefits: eleven free databases, helpful content such as study guides and webinars, and the ability to buy books from our online store. Guest users get access to every new database we upload for the first 30 days that database is online. After 30 days, that database is available to members only. Why not sign up now?

**Genealogy Tip of the Day** <http://genealogytipoftheday.com/>

**Cross Off One Assumption** posted 21 Dec 2015 - If you're “stuck,” write down all the assumptions you have made about your ancestor. Generally speaking, these are things you “know” but for which you have no documentation. Assumptions could include:

- Married near where the first child was born
- Wife outlived the husband
- All the children married and had their own children
- etc.

Assumptions can vary from person to person. But, cross one of those assumptions off. What if it were not true? Would your research change? How would it change? Something to think about.

**May Take Decades to Settle** posted 27 Nov 2015 - When searching for records of an estate settlement, keep in mind that it may be ten or twenty years before an estate is finally settled. This final settlement may appear in the probate records or the land records--or both. Thomas Sledd died in Bourbon County, Kentucky, in 1815. His land was finally partitioned among his heirs in 1831.

**Post-Death Court Action Besides Probate** posted 25 Nov 2015 - A probate court typically is the local court where your deceased ancestor's estate would be “settled up.” However there are times when the heirs cannot agree to the point where there is court action in a civil court or court of equity. Partition suits and other estate squabbles may be in a separate court file and may contain more detail, particularly if the case drag on for several years.

**Did that Event Warrant Newspaper Coverage?** 17 Nov 2015 - When you discover a “new” event in your ancestor's life, do you consider that it might have generated newspaper coverage? Deaths and marriages are pretty obvious items for possible newspaper mention, but there are other events that may have generated newspaper coverage as well. An ancestral acquaintance was convicted of manslaughter in 1858 and pardoned a few years later. I thought to look for a newspaper account of the trial, but should have looked for mention of the pardon as well.

## Future Genealogy Events

**Jan 8, 2016**, 10-12:00-Mary Jo McQueen – Genealogy Research SIG – Sadlbnk Rm. MV City Hall  
**Jan 11, 2016**, 10-12:00-David Flint - England SIG, Saddleback Room, City Hall  
**Jan 15, 2016**, 10-12:00-Gary Schwarz – German SIG – Saddleback Room, MV City Hall  
**Jan 21, 2016**, 10-12:00-Arlene O'Donnell - Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library  
**Jan 21, 2016**, 11-1:00-David Flint – Legacy Users Group, Saddleback Room, MV City Hall  
**Jan 24, 2016**, 1:30-3:30-OCJGS, speaker Joan Rambo on Huntington Beach Library collection  
**Jan 26, 2016**, 10-12-Jim Thordahl – Writing Family History Stories, Sadlbnk Rm. MV City Hall  
**Jan 26, 2016** - 9:30 NSDCGS program –Civil War Widow's Pensions – Union and Confederate  
**Jan 30, 2016** – WAGS Annual Seminar –Featured Speaker is Thomas MacEntee  
**Mar 5, 2016** – OCCGS Genealogy Bash – Featured Speaker is Lisa Louise Cooke.  
**Mar 19, 2016** – NSDCGS Spring Seminar, CeCe Moore genetic genealogy, Carlsbad Senior Center  
**Mar 30, 2016**, 4-6:00pm – OCJGS, speaker Megan Lewis on U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum records

### **SOC CGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**SOC CGS Website: [www.socccgs.org](http://www.socccgs.org)**



**SOC CGS Research Center, located at the  
Mission Viejo Library, Marguerite Parkway at La Paz, (949) 470-8498  
SOC CGS E-mail: [cmvgs@netzero.net](mailto:cmvgs@netzero.net)**

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
Membership/Renewal Application

( ) New      1 Year:      ( ) Individual, \$20.00      ( ) Joint Membership at same address, \$25.00

( ) Renewal      Membership Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Make Check payable to: SOCCGS

Mail **with application** to: SOCCGS, P.O. Box 4513, Mission Viejo, CA 92690-4513

I do not wish to share my personal information with other members.