

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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February 2015

Editor: Gary Schwarz

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 calendar year, joint membership \$25.

SOC CGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

Please check your Newsletter mailing label.

If it is 2015 your dues have not been received. Please remit as soon as possible.

Thank You.

February 21, 2015

"Civil War POW Camps"

Presented by

Mary Ann Vincent

Probably the most infamous prison camp of our Civil War was Andersonville. It was one of more than 150 camps used by the Union and Confederacy. Few camps were needed at the beginning of the conflict because each side exchanged prisoners. What brought about the change?

About the Speaker: Mary Anne Vincent is a 20-year member of the Delaware Genealogical Society, a ten-year member of the Corona Genealogical Society, and has served on its Board of Directors for seven years. She is also the Secretary for the California State Genealogical Alliance. Mary Anne taught grades 6-12 for several decades and now is an occasional substitute teacher for the Riverside County Office of Education.

She has been working on her family tree since 1971 and last February completed a book on one line of her father's side. As part of the research for the book, she has been in touch with literally dozens of second, third, fifth, and seventh cousins, each of whom generously provided family information. The book was published by CreateSpace and can be found on Amazon.com.

Safari News

~Bill Bluett

The Cole Genealogy Library in Carlsbad is the destination for the safari on February 25th. We will leave the LDS parking lot at 9:30 a.m. This library has one of the finest genealogy collections in Southern California. They have a huge book collection, periodical collection, microfilm, microfiche, and computers. Preparation is the key to making any research trip successful. Use their library catalogue at: <http://www.carlsbadca.gov/services/depts/library/default.asp> and set your genealogy research in motion. You may bring lunch, or be prepared to drive a short distance to a local eatery. Don't forget \$\$ for your driver. There are no plans for dinner on the way home. Contact Bill Bluett to reserve a spot.

... she would not move back to Sweden before her death, since she would be buried there.

~Anita Eckberg (1931-2015)

-Genealogists know that many ancestors may not have been buried near the place of their death.

President's Message

~David Flint

Well, fellow genealogists, it looks like we are starting our new year with a bang! We had a really good speaker at our January meeting, and record attendance. Jack Naylor tells me we had 102 people attending the meeting – with 96 members and six guests, three of whom became members before they left the meeting. It was the third largest turnout of members in five years. Thanks to so many of you for coming. I could definitely feel the buzz in the room.

Francie Kennedy, who will continue serving on the board as Past President, handed out our new Members Handbook to those who renewed their membership in our society. Mary Jo McQueen assisted Francie, so that everyone who was current on their membership by the end of the meeting received a Handbook. This is a new publication produced by Francie, and will be updated and published every other year. It will be available to all renewing members, and to new members as they join. The Handbook provides a comprehensive overview of all the programs, classes and events SOCCGS has to offer, as well as other handy information about the group that you will want to keep handy. Thanks to Francie for a great job on our Members Handbook.

At our January meeting I announced some of my short-term goals as President, and I will tell you about others as they develop in the future. For now, I am expecting that our membership will reach at least 300 this year. I also want us to begin two new special interest groups this year. When we surveyed our members during Francie's term, we learned that, of countries outside the United States you are researching, the top three are England, Ireland and Germany. The England SIG is already a reality, and it is going well. In the next year, I would like to see us start new special interest groups for **Ireland and Germany**. If you know anyone in our society who has knowledge or experience doing research in either of those countries, and might be willing to serve as leader for a new special interest group, ask them to talk to me. We are not looking for "experts". Someone who has been researching ancestors in either of those countries for several years has lots to offer the rest of us who want to start that kind of research, or learn how to do it better. If you know someone like that, please let me know, and perhaps we can get those two new groups going soon this year. I also hope that we can bring our Family Tree Maker Users Group back to life this year.

We have an exciting line-up of speakers planned for 2015, and Arlene O'Donnell, our incoming Vice President & Program Chair, is putting the final touches to our list on the back cover of the newsletter. You can help us keep the appeal of our speakers expanding -- if you have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic you would like to hear about, please contact Arlene and let her know. She has already received some good suggestions, and is open to your ideas and requests.

I look forward to continuing the momentum we started in our first meeting of the year. Thanks for getting us off to a great start. See you at the February meeting.

January Meeting

~ Bill Bluett

Our guest speaker, **Chris Jepsen**, is the Assistant Archivist for the Orange County Archives located at 211 W. Santa Ana Blvd. in Santa Ana. The building was originally the Orange County Courthouse which opened in 1901. The Archives was established at this location in 1983. Chris gave us a rundown on many of the key documents and photographs that make up their collection. Many records date back to 1889 when Orange County was established. Some of the documents include newspapers, film, deeds, marriage certificates, burial records, tract maps, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, naturalization records, Knott's Berry Farm (family) collection, Moulton Ranch records, plus much more. Chris gave us a visual tour of the facility as part of his presentation and then concluded with some fascinating old photos to close out the program. He told us that you can drop in and visit their facility Monday Through Friday from 9:00 AM until 4:30 PM. He and his staff are more than willing to help you out with any research. Thanks, Chris, for a most interesting tour of our county archives.

During our break, there were great refreshments provided by members of our society. They were: **Felisia Dailey, Barbara Heebner, Deedee Gates, Karyn Schumaker, and Patricia Yocky.**

Note: There was no "**Brick Walls and Genealogy Research**" sharing this month due to time constraints. We will resume that segment of our meeting next month.

Tell Maxie [Max Baer] I thought I was going to get better.

-What would our last words be?

~Doris Smith (Donna Douglas/ Ellie May - 1932-2015) [On her deathbed]

What Happened to Nellie Farrell?

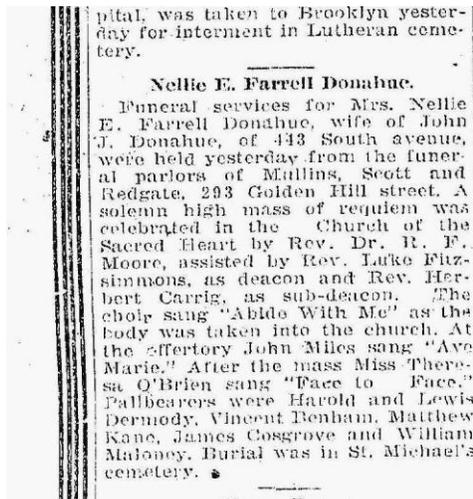
~Ed Reardon

Ellen "Nellie" Farrell was the elder of two daughters of **Patrick Farrell** and **Catherine Reardon**. Patrick and Catherine were married **August 2, 1885, at Saints Peter and Paul Church, South 3rd St., Brooklyn**. Ellen Mary was born in Brooklyn on March 6, 1886, and baptized on March 14 at the same church. Her father Patrick died about 1893. The next record of Nellie is the 1900 census of **Bridgeport, Connecticut**. She is living with her maternal grandmother **Kate Reardon**. Then.....nothing. Never did I hear my family speak of her.

Did she go back to Brooklyn or stay in Bridgeport? Did she die young? Did she marry? Did she become a nun? It turns out that she both married and died young.

Her mother Catherine and sister remained in Brooklyn in the same neighborhood through most of their lives.

I had searched for Nellie on and off for over ten years. I had previously done searches under Ellen and under Nellie in all of New York City and in Fairfield County, Connecticut. There are plenty of Ellen and Nellie Farrell's but no way to connect any one of them as my Nellie.



This past year on the safari to the Los Angeles Public Library, I spent hours searching the Brooklyn city directories for a clue that would tell me which of the many Patrick Farrell's was Nellie's father. No luck there. While recovering from this fruitless search, I started dabbling on Ancestry.com and decided to try Nellie Farrell in Bridgeport once again. This on the assumption she may have stayed there instead of going back to her mother in Brooklyn. Remember, I did this several times before with no luck. This time I found a funeral notice in the Bridgeport Telegram, December 29, 1923, for **Nellie E. Farrell Donahue**¹. Although I don't remember this item from past searches, I probably had seen it before and glossed over it because there was no mention of Farrell or Reardon relatives by name. The item was very brief. What caught my eye this time was a list of pall bearers, including **Harold and Lewis Dermody**. BINGO! Those are my

relatives, sons of Nellie's aunt **Margaret Reardon Dermody**.

Just like that, the veil hiding the past was lifted. So, here is Nellie in brief: **Nellie married John Joseph Donahue about 1907**, probably in Bridgeport, but I am still trying to verify that; John and Nellie are in the 1910 and 1920 Bridgeport census records with daughter Helen; In 1910 John was a machinist at the Locomobile Company, Bridgeport's luxury automobile manufacturer^{2,3}; By 1915 John was a mail carrier with the US Post Office and remained so the rest of his life. He died in Bridgeport in 1952. His daughter Helen lived with him until then. She never married and died in 1999.

Success finding Nellie is an example of persistence and a sharp eye.

Bridgeport Sunday Herald, April 27, 1952, page 48, column 3 - "Services for John J. Donahue, of Black Rock Village, a retired mail carrier, who died Friday in his home, will take place tomorrow at 8:30 A. M. in the Mullins and Redgate Funeral Home, 1297 Park Av. and at 9 o'clock with a solemn requiem mass at St. Ann's Church. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery. He is survived by a daughter, **Helen Donahue**; a brother, **Harry Donahue**; a sister, **Mrs. Vincent Benham** all of Bridgeport, and several nieces and nephews."

Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2001 via ancestry.com -

Name:	Helen Donahue	Father's Surname:	Not Available
Death Date:	15 Mar 1999	Death Place:	Waterbury, New Haven, Connecticut
Age:	90 Years	Gender:	Female
Birth Date:	4 Sep 1908	Race:	White
Marital Status:	Never Married (Single)	Birth Place:	Connecticut
Residence:	New Haven, New Haven, Connecticut	State File #:	07202
		Education:	99
		Address:	577 George St

1. [Bridgeport Telegram, Dec 29, 1923, page 7 column 5.](#)
2. <http://www.locomobilesociety.com/history.cfm>
3. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Locomobile_Company_of_America

A Promise Kept

~Naomi McCabe

Prologue

Last year, I shared a story^[1] about 3 great uncles - Sgt. Samuel, Privates Thomas and Nathaniel Fields. On August 18, 1862, they had enlisted in the 6th Infantry, 71st Regiment, Indiana and, 12 days later, Thomas was killed at the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky. The other brothers were captured but pardoned, then, reenlisted as 6th Cavalry soldiers in the 71st Regiment this time.

They fought many battles including Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain and the Atlanta Siege and were recaptured and exchanged at least 2 times. Samuel, permanently injured, was honorably discharged in September, 1865 after 3 years of service. Nathaniel died on September 30, 1864 but not in battle.

Promise Kept! – [To visit Andersonville in her great-great grandmother's stead.]

June 10, 2014 was a very hot, humid day in rural southwestern Georgia. I had flown from California to Charleston a couple of days earlier, then, by car for several hours on to my final destination, a historic Cemetery, so peacefully set in a huge expanse of blue sky, clustered pine trees and rolling hills.

Standing near the gate entry, I noticed an old railroad track outside the Cemetery's low rock walls that didn't appear to be used much anymore. Sadly, from research, I knew there was a time it was used constantly to transport Union soldiers from battlefields or temporary prisons to permanent incarceration nearby.

Yes, I had come to Andersonville to see all of it....Cemetery, Museum and, worst-of-the-worst Prison, a Creation of Infamy.

There are national park rangers available in the segments of Andersonville. They are informative and friendly especially about the logistics and design. However, there is little structure left in the Prison section across the field from the Cemetery. Only snippets of the past- a few shebangs (mini tents made from ragged blankets or shirts); a sample stockade wall with guard platform 16 feet in the air; the infamous wooden rail barrier (Deadman's Line) that ran 10 feet away from the inside of stockade wall, an ominous warning to the prisoners about escape ideas; the contaminated ribbon of water called "Sweetwater Creek" that bisected the length of the prison field and meant for use bathing, drinking and toilet facilities alike.

A literal miracle occurred in the field sometime during the 14 months of the Prison's existence. A lightning bolt struck the earth and liberated a spring which was used abundantly, thereafter, by the seriously dehydrated prisoners. They would spend all day standing in line for a cup of non-contaminated water. A special stone fountain with plaque marks the spot.

In the Cemetery, 150 years of peace has softened the edges of headstones and blurs inscriptions but the numbers on each stone are still clear and there are names for these numbers, recorded by Clara Barton and Dorence Atwater in their superior task of reclaiming soldier identity for families at the end of the Civil War. So, considering the nearly 14,000 graves, there was little anonymity in this place. Some Union states have placed monuments throughout the Cemetery, dedicated to their soldiers who died in Andersonville.



My son found our Nathaniel's grave, No. 8379. We know he reportedly died of scorbutus (scurvy). The ranger said it may have been recorded as that but many died of something as simple as a small scratch because their starved

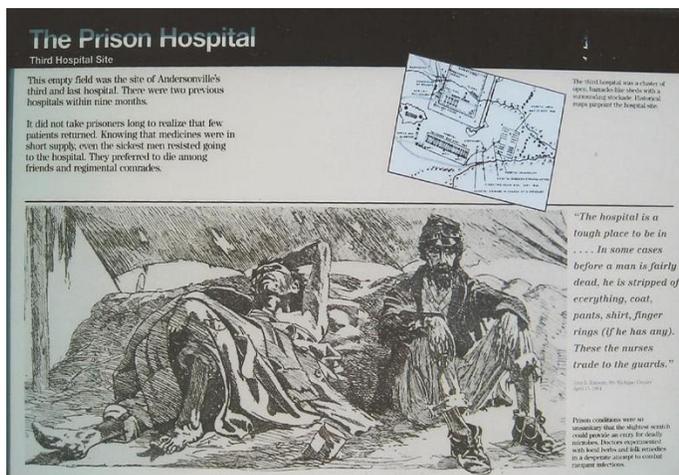
immune systems could not fight bacteria. His Future left with him at 24 years of age – no chance to build his own farm; married to his bride for only 2 1/2 months before enlisting; no children would be his to watch grow in to their own destinies. I looked around at all those graves -How many had the same story?

At end of the long day, standing at that graveside, we were so very grateful that a Promise to his mother’s memory had been fulfilled- then, my son snapped off a large magnolia on a nearby tree and laid it below his headstone. A Promise Kept!

Epilogue

My burning Questions after the trip:

1. Where and why was Nathaniel captured? Prison records did not show this.
2. Why was Samuel not with him at Andersonville?



In July, I found my answers in a Colorado used bookstore Treasure. John Kegan, noted historian, wrote in “Fields of Battle” about a Plan, with General Sherman’s permission (unusual considering his standard position on such things). A force of soldiers would be sent to liberate the Andersonville prisoners. Out of 2400 soldiers, being dispatched to Macon, Georgia with the intent of tearing up railroad tracks and demolishing warehouses, 700 (all cavalymen and the 71st Regiment was included) were to be redirected instead for the Andersonville Plan.

Samuel was probably retained for the Macon assignment and escaped the Andersonville Plan. Nathaniel did not. The liberation attempt was a no-win strategy. Not enough men to carry the Plan out and larger Confederate forces were deployed to cut them off. The date of his entry into the Prison coincides with the time of this encounter. And, his life ended there, 52 days later.

[1] [“Widow of the North” - [Newsletter Article - 01 Jan 2014](#)]

French Canadian Research

~ Patricia Weeks

The SOCCGS special interest group, “French-Canadian Research” was formed to provide exchange of ideas and share resources pertaining to the vast predominance of the French reign and culture of the early 16th century through the 19th century in North America. Researching the French Canadian can be unique.

French prominence was massive in the New World. It included the region now known as Canada, and also the Great Lakes, down the Mississippi and all the way to the delta of New Orleans, spreading out over the Gulf of Mexico, and into the mountains of Colorado and through the plains states. It was keenly felt by the plains Indians and the Negro population of the regions. It is hard to grasp, but when the revolution was taking place, all lands west of the Mississippi, excluding the coastal region of California and the southern section of Texas, were under French control.



These people brought their own pre-established way of life. In contrast, they spoke a different language, had governmental structures based on French tenets, followed a different religious influence (exclusively Catholic) and their tastes in foods, clothing, music, etc., were influenced primarily by the frontier-Canadian style of life.

So, if your ancestors were early settlers of the territories before they became states, it is possible their history may be contained in the early archives, generally known as the French Canadian research tools.

If you are interested in researching these Frenchmen, please join our SIG. Contact - Pat Weeks at dppatty@cox.net

An Introduction to Eastern European Genealogy

Hosted by Orange County Jewish Genealogical Society and presented Michelle Sandler
TIME: Sun, Feb 22, 2015 at 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. PLACE: Temple Bat Yahm, 1011 Camelback, Newport Beach
(714) 891-0788 Contact: www.ocjgs.org - info@ocjgs.org - (949) 423-3746

Ancestry Price Reduction for AARP Members Expiring Soon

We notified everyone previously that Ancestry.com was offering a 30% discount to AARP members renewing their Ancestry subscription. The discount applies to Ancestry World subscriptions only. Please be aware that this offer is good until March 4, 2015 only. To save 30% on your renewal, contact Ancestry's Member Services department at 1-800-514-4645 seven days a week, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eastern Time. You will need to have your AARP membership information handy when you call.

Colonial Virginia – resources

~Submitted by Barbara Taylor from a discussion on the Ancestry.com Facebook group

Question: If your ancestors weren't at Jamestown and didn't come over on the Mayflower, but you know they were in Virginia in the 1630's and came from England, what resources are out there to find out exactly who came when?

Resources:

Library of Congress Colonial Settlement 1600s-1763 - Evolution of the Virginia Colony

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/colonial/virginia/>

England's Irish Slaves <http://www.ewtn.com/library/HUMANITY/SLAVES.TXT>

UK National Archives - American and West Indian colonies before 1782

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/american-west-indian-colonies.htm>

Virtual Jamestown - Registers of Servants sent to foreign plantations

http://www.virtualjamestown.org/indentures/about_indentures.html

Pilgrim Ship List Early 1600s <http://www.packrat-pro.com/ships/shiplist.htm>

Library of Virginia http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using_collections.asp

First Families of Virginia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Families_of_Virginia

Also, some mentioned that some people went through Barbados, Jamaica or West Indies before coming to the US.

Ancestry.com Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ancestryglobal/>

Ralphs Community Contribution Program

~Jim Thordahl

The latest news from Ways & Means is good news for SOCCGS. Our participants in the Ralphs community Contribution Program (33 households) have done it again. Thanks to their support of this generous program, SOCCGS has received a check for \$256.49 for the last quarter. If you have any questions, call me. Ph: 949 492-5334; e-mail: jimandbonniethor@juno.com

Membership Update

We welcome six new members who joined in December and January: **Sonia Appell** Laguna Woods, **Ingrid Sarasola** Mission Viejo, **Brad & Deedee Gates** San Juan Capistrano, **Elizabeth Sand** Laguna Beach, and **Marilynn Sedoff** Laguna Niguel. Former Member, **Eveline Paullin**, reactivated her membership at the January meeting. Welcome back Eveline.

The Genealogy Research Special Interest Group will meet on Friday, February 6, 10 to 12, in the Saddleback Room at the Mission Viejo Civic Center. **Harry Hansen** will give a presentation on using **Dropbox** for genealogy. Information: Mary Jo McQueen (mcqueenmaryjo@aol.com).

New State Census 1865

~Mary Jo McQueen

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FamilySearch has added an additional 2.6 million indexed records from the New York State Census of 1865. This census lists the name, age, occupation and birthplace of each household member. Most of the counties are covered. This collection can be searched by first and last name. Access is free.

Future Genealogy Events

- Feb 09, 2015**, 10-12:00-David Flint – English SIG – Saddleback Room MV City Hall
Feb 06, 2015, 10-12:00-Mary Jo McQueen- Genealogical Research SIG; Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall
Feb 19, 2015, 10-12:00-Arlene O’Donnell–Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library
Feb 19, 2015, 11-1:00-David Flint – Legacy Family Tree User Group – Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall
Feb 20, 2015, 10-12:00-Mary Jo McQueen- Mac Users Group (MUG); Genealogy Section, MV Library
Feb 24, 2015, 10-12:00-Jim Thordahl – Writing Life Stories – Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall
Mar 21, 2015 – Judy Russell, the “Legal Genealogist” – NSDCGS in Carlsbad.
Jul 15-19, 2015 – 45th Annual International Convention - German Russian Heritage Society – Bismarck, ND – Info: www.GRHS.org
Jul 12-19, 2015 – 2015 AHSGR International Convention – American Historical Society of Germans from Russia – Billings, Montana – Info: www.AHSGR.com

Writing Family History Stories

~Jim Thordahl

In January the Writing Life Stories Group celebrated its first anniversary. As part of our evolution we have revised the group’s name to “Writing Family History Stories.” While this title more closely reflects our genealogical orientation, personal life stories are welcome and may be good starters. Please look for our flyer at the genealogy desk at the Mission Viejo Library and sign-up for an introductory class or contact Jim Thordahl via email or phone (listed on this Newsletter).

SOCCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President/Program Chairman – Arlene O’Donnell <silkberry@aol.com>
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SOCCGS Website @ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocccgs/>

Mail List: SOCCGS-L@rootsweb.com



SOCCGS Research Center, located at the
Mission Viejo Library, Marguerite Parkway at La Paz, (949) 470-8498
SOCCGS E-mail: cmvgs@netzero.net

South Orange County California Genealogical Society Membership/Renewal Application

New Renewal Individual, \$20/yr. Joint Members, same address, \$25/yr.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address: _____

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