

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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P.O. Box 4513, Mission Viejo, CA. 92690

March 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 check your Newsletter mailing label.

If the mailing label is highlighted, 2016 dues have not been received.

Please remit as soon as possible.

Thank You.

"Space and Place: The Geography of our Ancestors"

March 19, 2016

**Presented by
Francie Kennedy**

Explore the past in a new way, through the perspective of historical geography. Find out how to roll back the layers of time and see the world the way your ancestors may have seen it. Topography, transportation, natural resources, food supply, land ownership, and boundaries have all changed since our people arrived in the places they lived. Pulling together many sources of information about the context of our ancestors' lives, Francie explores a variety of old maps, early descriptions, and uncommon resources to give a sense of the world that our ancestors inhabited.

About the Speaker: Francie Kennedy is passionate about microhistory, and inordinately fond of maps. Francie believes that the study of the past through the fascinating lens of genealogy can bring us a new understanding of the world we live in and a sense of our own place within the world. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) and is a frequent speaker to genealogical societies in Southern California. Past President of the South Orange County California Genealogical Society (SOCCGS), Francie attended Pomona College in Claremont, and is a fourth generation native Californian.

Mini-Class 9:15-9:45 before the March Monthly Meeting – Jim Thordahl and the Writing Family History Stories Group – Round Table. All Mini-Classes are held in the classroom to the left of the kitchen.

Check the Calendar at SOCCGS.org for meetings, special interest groups and classes.

President's Message

By David Flint

We hit another record level attendance at our February 20 meeting with a total of 98 people attending, including five guests. I suspect the combined impact of another excellent program by Gena Philibert-Ortega, and the fact that this was Mary Jo McQueen's last meeting before she moves to Utah resulted in our high attendance. Those attending had a chance to say their goodbyes to Mary Jo. Around the time you get this issue of the newsletter she and Bob will be making their final decisions about the packing before the moving truck arrives. I'm glad we had a chance for so many of you to join in our special refreshments at that meeting and bid her farewell.

At the meeting it was my special honor as President to present Mary Jo a Lifetime Membership in our society in appreciation of her many years of dedicated service. I was able to get the board to approve this special award via secret email vote so that Mary Jo was not aware of it and we could surprise her at the meeting. She is still not sure how I pulled that off without her knowing about it! Thanks to the board for their help in making it a true surprise.

At our February meeting I also announced that Cheryl Lyman will fill the vacant position of Historian on the Executive Board, replacing Pat Christiansen. I appreciate Cheryl's willingness to serve as our new Historian, and I know she will do a good job.

In my President's message last month I told you that a new SIG would be starting soon – it will be for Ireland. Two years ago we did a survey to find out what countries outside the United States our members were researching. The top three countries were England, Germany and Ireland, in that order, and we have a SIG for the first two. We have been working in the background to find someone willing to lead this new group and Myrna Hamid has graciously agreed to serve as the leader of the new Ireland SIG. It will meet on the third Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Watch this space and our website for the announcement of the first meeting coming soon. Many of you who do research on your Irish ancestors have been waiting for this group to start, so we are pleased to be able to offer this new opportunity to our members.

We are only eight weeks from our 2016 research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. We held our first "getting ready" meeting for that trip in February, and the next information meeting will be on March 8. The third meeting is a workshop on March 30 to help those going on the trip to develop a research plan for their week at the Family History Library. Everyone with a reservation for the trip is welcome to join us in those meetings. When I was in Salt Lake City the first week of February for the RootsTech 2016 conference, I met with the hotel and confirmed our arrangements. I also had a chance to visit with several of the key staff at the Family History Library, and they are looking forward to our visit. The library staff is very accommodating, and I am expecting this year's trip to be as successful as last year's. Those of you who use the Family tree Maker (FTM) genealogy program are probably aware of the updated news from Ancestry about their change in plans for the future of FTM. At the RootsTech conference they announced that they have sold the FTM program to Software MacKiev, the company that developed the Mac version of FTM for Ancestry. MacKiev will apparently be keeping FTM alive as the new owners. For more details, see Dick Eastman's story at <http://blog.eogn.com/2016/02/12/future-plans-for-family-tree-maker/#more-12003>. In view of these new developments, Sheila Larson and I will delay our plans to offer a workshop and discussion forum about FTM until we know more about MacKiev's new plans. We will keep you informed about when a meeting is planned.

Safari News

~Bill Bluett

The Southern California Genealogical Society Library in Burbank will be our destination on March 23rd. We will leave the LDS Church parking lot at 9:00 A.M. You might bring a lunch with you. If you don't, there are a few eateries within a short walking distance. This library has a large book collection as well as computers and CD's for researching. Also, this is an excellent location for French-Canadian research, German research, and many documents regarding Cornwall, England. Don't forget \$\$ for your driver. There will be plans for dinner on the way home. Contact Bill Bluett to reserve a spot. You can search their library catalog before the trip by going to: www.scsgenealogy.com/catalogMain.htm.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The **May meeting** will be moved to the second Saturday, **MAY 14, 2016**, due to a scheduling conflict.

February Meeting

~ Bill Bluett

Gena Philibert Ortega was our guest speaker. Her topic was the **WPA: Resources for Your Genealogy**. She covered many of the locations where record documents and photos can be found. The WPA was responsible for a multitude of projects during the Depression Era that included building roads, bridges, and infrastructures as well as many Humanities projects. There are microfilmed records and some online transcriptions available. Her handout gave us a list of resources, books and websites to use for research. Even the **FamilySearch Catalog** has a list of 488 titles of records that are a result of the WPA indexing projects. We thank Gena for giving us an informative presentation regarding WPA records. After her presentation (yes, after), we had a great refreshment "bash" provided by a number of our members. They were: **Mary Jo McQueen, Sue Lamond, Karyn Schumaker, Shiryl Boerlin, and Mickie and Ron Dempsey**. A number of other folks brought some additional "goodies" to help make the "bash" successful. Refreshments were served at the end of our meeting in order to have time to say "goodbye" to two of our wonderful members who are moving away from Southern California. **Sue Lamond** and her husband are relocating to Michigan and **Bob and Mary Jo McQueen** are moving to Ogden, Utah. The McQueens will be near their daughter and her husband who live near the Ogden area. We wish both families well in this transitional period of their lives. Mary Jo will be joining our Salt Lake group in April. **Note:** There were no "Brick Walls or Genealogy Moments" this month in order to afford additional time for refreshments.

Membership Update

This month SOCCGS welcomes 2 new members who joined at our meeting:

David O'Hoy, Dana Point, artinlaguna@gmail.com.

Linda O'Hoy, Dana Point, myaussi@gmail.com. She is searching Joshua Cook in the Revolutionary War.

There were 93 members and 3 guests at the February meeting. Besides those who joined, guests joining us were: **Kimberly A. Coutts**, Oceanside; **Bill Mills**, Mission Viejo; and **Claudia Neill**, Mission Viejo.

SOCCGS Research Center - Book of the Month

~ Judy Davin, Co-Librarian

The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records by General Lucius Barbour

As early as 1640 the Connecticut Court of Election ordered all magistrates to keep a record of the marriages they performed. In 1644 the registration of births and marriages became the official responsibility of town clerks and registrars, with deaths added to their duties in 1650. From 1660 until the close of the Revolutionary War these vital records of birth, marriage, and death were generally well kept, but then for a period of about two generations until the mid-nineteenth century, the faithful recording of vital records declined in some towns.

The dates of coverage vary from town to town and of course the records of some towns are more complete than others. Altogether the entire Barbour Collection – one of the great genealogical manuscript collections and one of the last to be published – covers 137 towns and comprises 14,333 typed pages

Unfortunately our genealogy collection only has 26 volumes out of 55. But it's a place to start. The books are located in the Research Center in a glass cabinet next to the patron computers. We have the **entire** collection on CD: Case #27 (Ricker Compilation of Early Ct. Vital Records). Ask a docent to get the CD for you.

"Come on over" and see what the library has for your research needs!

Genealogy Search Tip of the Day <http://searchtip.genealogtipoftheday.com>

Virginia Confederate Disability Applications and Receipts Posted 22 Feb 2016

The Library of Virginia has online images from the "Confederate Disability Applications and Receipts" collection. These applications result from an 1884 act to grant a total of \$60,000 to veterans (soldiers and sailors) who had been disabled in the Civil War. [Confederate Disability Applications and Receipts](http://lva1.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas11&local_base=CLAS11)
http://lva1.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas11&local_base=CLAS11

Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Posted 23 Feb 2016

Louisiana State University has published between 1836 through 1922, a total of 211,500 pages. More are in the works.
[newspapers from 78 titles from the state of Louisiana](http://www.lib.lsu.edu/collections/digital/dlnp) <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/collections/digital/dlnp>

2016 Family History Fair: A Story to Tell
Saturday April 16, 2016 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

The Annual Orange County Family History Fair brings together a talented group of teachers and topics to share their knowledge in genealogy and family history. Our instructors have presented at regional, national and international genealogical events—these are same caliber of class you might find at RootsTech, NGS or FGS, but so much closer to home! Every family has a story. Every story is waiting to be uncovered. This year our presenters will help give you the tools — and the encouragement — to find and document yours.

There is no cost to attend the Fair, which draws several hundred participants every year. Some classes fill up early and only registered participants can attend. An online syllabus with biographies and class materials for each presenter is made available to attendees. There are five sessions with several classes to choose from. For the class schedule and to pre-register go to ocfamilyhistory.org.

March Free Webinars

Legacy is presenting several free webinars in March: **Mar 2** The War of 1812 Records, Preserving the Pensions – Michael Hall; **Mar 4** Making YDNA and mtDNA Part of Your Family History – Diahn Southard; **Mar 9** How Do I Know That’s My Ancestor – Amy Johnson Crow; **Mar 16** The Private Laws of the Federal and State Governments – Judy Russell; **Mar 23** Introduction to German Parish Records – Gail Blankenau; **Mar 30** Proof Arguments-What They Are and Way They Are Needed – Warren Bittner. Register at 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.

Southern California Genealogical Society: **Mar 5** Origins Evolution of a One-Name Study or Surname Research – Julie Goucher; **Mar 16** Inferential Genealogy: Deducing Ancestors’ Identities Indirectly – Thomas W. Jones; **Apr 2** Researching Your Civil War Ancestors – Michael L. Strauss. Register at www.scsgenealogy.com, click on programs and webinars.

NEHGS: **Mar 16** Digital Collections at NEHGS & AJHS-NEA – Sally Benny & Stehanie Call. Register at www.americanancestors.org

WAGS SEMINAR January 30, 2016

At the WAGS Seminar, Thomas MacEntee gave four presentations and I thought this one was worth sharing with our members as it is a subject many of us are contemplating. Thomas MacEntee has given permission to print his handout - Kathie Mauzey, Editor

After You’re Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research
By Thomas MacEntee

Try as we might, we really have little control over what will happen to our possessions, even our bodies, after we die. Yes, we can draw up legal documents, we can express our wishes to family members and more; however, there are no guarantees when it comes to these matters. The best we can do is prepare, plan and communicate now. When it comes to your years of genealogy research and material, what plans have you made to ensure that it doesn’t die with you? Here is some advice on creating a realistic plan to get your “genealogy affairs” in order so that the next generation of researchers can benefit from your years of hard work.

The Perils of Inaction: Lost Genealogy

To gain some insight as to what could possibly happen to all your genealogy stuff, simply read the haunting story [*Cleaning Mother’s House*](#) by genealogist Michael John Neill. As you hear the words, just imagine one of your children or grandchildren being in the same situation and not knowing the importance of your genealogy research. You have a responsibility to safe guard your research and to make sure it gets passed on properly. ***If you don’t act now, someone else will act on your behalf.***

Basic Planning and Data Successorship

How can you create a plan for the future of your genealogy research without knowing what you have? The first step is to create an inventory of ALL of your items.

Hard Copy Items

Use a special notebook, a document on your computer, or a spreadsheet. Just get it down in writing and also realize that you should update it periodically. Items to include:

- Genealogy research binders, folders and stack of paper
- Genealogy books and magazines purchased over the years

- Photos, slides, negatives, videos, CD-ROMs
- Technology items such as scanners, software programs, flash drives
- Miscellaneous items such as audio recordings, gadgets, etc.

Make sure you label each item or include a note; remember that the person cleaning out your possessions may not be a genealogist.

Digital Items

And what about your genealogy data? You may not realize how much information you have and where it is stored. The easiest way to organize all your digital assets is to create two backups: one in the cloud and one on an external drive or CD-ROM.

- Genealogy database files
- Scanned photographs and documents
- Digital books, magazines and guides
- Digital writings such as PDFs and blog posts you've written
- Emails from family and other researchers as well as emails that you've sent
- Any other items you believe are important including social media posts

Online Profiles

Increasingly, genealogists are leveraging online websites, apps and social media for research purposes and to connect with others. While you may not have valuable information stored at these sites, at a minimum you should allow family members to disable or shut down accounts. This way your followers are informed and also it avoids having these accounts hacked or mis-used.

Create a list of website names, their URLs (addresses) and login credentials. Keep the list in a safe place; print out and keep with estate planning papers or store online with a master password to access the list; make sure your executor knows the password.

Working with Societies, Libraries and Archives

There are many "myths" about being able to donate your genealogy to organizations:

- "You can donate any and all of your genealogy stuff to the National Archives." **False:** The National Archives is the archivist of record for the United States government; it does not typically archive personal items.
- "You can donate your genealogy to the Library of Congress." **Partially true:** The Library of Congress does accept published genealogies and other items of importance.

If you plan on donating anything related to your genealogy to an archive, a library or a genealogy society, here is a plan you should follow:

- **Contact the organization.** Always check a repository's policies before making a donation or directing your executor to make a donation.
- **Inform family members.** Let your family or friends know what your plans are involving the organization.
- **Include a monetary donation.** It costs money to process donated materials no matter how well organized those items may be. If possible, make sure you include a financial donation to the institution. Another option is to direct your executor to sell off specific items to raise money for preservation of the collection.

Finally, realize that you can always donate items NOW rather than after your passing. By donating now you have more power to direct how the items will be used and which organizations can benefit from those items.

Technology to the Rescue

As with other industries and even hobbies, genealogy has moved into the digital realm, for better or for worse. Advantages include the ability to preserve fragile items through scanning and digitization as well as the the ability to share items with other researchers. Disadvantages include the ability to easily delete items with the touch of a key or failing to update technology like moving from floppy discs to flash drives. And there is also the fear of having your digital items stolen or "hacked."

Another idea is to utilize one or more websites that offer a virtual "lock box" for digital items including photos and documents such as **Protect Their Memories**. Or create your own using DropBox or Google Drive since online services can and do go out of business from time to time (remember **MyFamily.com?**).

For a complete list see *The Digital Beyond – Online Services List* at <http://www.thedigitalbeyond.com/online-services-list/>.

Best Practices for Genealogy Future Proofing

In summary, here are some tips of future proofing your genealogy research and making sure it is preserved for others to use for generations to come:

- **Take inventory.** Determine what you have including hard copies as well as digital assets and online sites.

- **Include in estate planning.** Create a codicil to your will or make sure there are some form of instructions concerning your genealogy researcy.
- **Backup your data.** Backing up your genealogy data is a good habit for the living and it will keep all your info in one place for your executor.
- **Future proof your technology.** CD-ROM discs degrade over time. Negatives and movie film can fade and fall apart. Transfer items to digital ASAP.
- **Have that conversation with family.** Be very clear about where your genealogy research is located, why it is important, and what you want done with it.
- **Contact organizations.** Determine which libraries, societies and archives will accept all or part of your collection. Donate items you don't need NOW.
- **Post items online.** Consider starting a blog, even a private one, to preserve your family stories. Do the same with a family tree on Ancestry or one of the popular genealogy sites.
- **Do stuff NOW.** Tell your own stories NOW. Write that genealogy book NOW. Interview family members NOW.

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Resources

Articles and Books

- **4 Things To Do Before You Donate Your Genealogy**
<http://www.geneabloggers.com/gendonate1>
- **Cleaning Mother's House**
<http://rootdig.blogspot.com/2010/11/cleaning-mothers-house.html>
- **Donating Your Personal or Family Records to a Repository**
<http://www2.archivists.org/publications/brochures/donating-familyrecs>
- **How to Protect Your Digital Afterlife**
<http://www.geneabloggers.com/digilife1>
- **Managing Your Digital Afterlife**
<http://www.geneabloggers.com/digilife2>
- **Preparing for Your Digital Afterlife** (infographic)
<http://www.whoishostingthis.com/blog/2013/12/19/preparing-for-digital-afterlife/#>.
- **What Happens to Your Social Media Profiles When You Die?**
<http://mashable.com/2014/06/24/social-media-death/>

Organizations Accepting Items

- **Allen County Public Library**
<http://www.genealogycenter.org/Donate.aspx>
- **FamilySearch**
<http://www.geneabloggers.com/fsdonate>
- **Library of Congress**
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/gifts.html>
- **Mid-Continent Public Library**
<http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/donations>
- **New England Historic Genealogical Society**
<http://www.americanancestors.org/donate-special-collections/>

Apps and Websites

- **Genealogical Codicil to Last Will and Testament**
<http://www.geneabloggers.com/genwill>
- **Knotify.me**
<https://knotify.me/>
- **Life at Hand**
<http://www.lifeathand.com>
- **Protect Their Memories**
<http://protecttheirmemories.com>
- **The Digital Beyond**
<http://www.thedigitalbeyond.com/>

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

Enumerated Twice In the Census? Posted 4 Jan 2016

While it is possible for someone to be missed in the census, it is also possible for them to be counted twice. This can happen if the person is moving around the time of the census, has a job that requires them to live away from home for part of the week, or other reasons.

Future Genealogy Events

Mar 4, 2016, 10-12:00-Sue Naegeli – Genealogy Research SIG – Sadlbc Rm. MV City Hall
Mar 4, 2016, 10:00 am-Lisa Louise Cooke – Google Earth for Genealogy – Aliso Viejo Public Library
Mar 5, 2016 – OCCGS Genealogy Bash – Featured Speaker is Lisa Louise Cooke. www.occgs.com
Mar 8, 2016, 4-6:00 pm – OCJGS, speaker Megan Lewis on U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum records
Mar 14, 2016, 10-12:00-David Flint - England SIG - Saddleback Room, City Hall
Mar 17, 2016, 10-12:00-Arlene O'Donnell - Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library
Mar 17, 2016, 11-1:00-David Flint – Legacy Users Group - Saddleback Room, MV City Hall
Mar 18, 2016, 10-12:00-Gary Schwarz – German SIG – Saddleback Room, MV City Hall
Mar 19, 2016 – NSDCGS Spring Seminar, CeCe Moore “The Power of DNA” - Carlsbad Senior Center
Mar 22, 2016, 10-12:00-Jim Thordahl – Writing Family History Stories - Sadlbc Rm. MV City Hall
Mar 22, 2016 - 9:30 NSDCGS program –“Spanish Research” by Linda Serna-Carlsbad Council Chambers
Mar 25, 2016 – 10-12:00 – 4th Friday Class – Bunny Smith: Preparing an Application for Lineage Society and Other Genealogy Related Topics – Sadlbc Rm. MV City Hall
Apr 1, 2016 – 10-12:00-Sue Naegeli – Genealogy Research SIG – Sadlbc Rm. MV City Hall
Apr 16, 2016 - Orange Family History Fair, “A Story to Tell” ocfamilyhistory.org
Jun 2-5, 2016 – SCGS Annual Jamboree – Marriott Hotel, Burbank www.genealogyjamboree.com
Jul 30, 2016 – Genealogy Seminar with Cyndi Ingle, Yorba Linda, www.gsnocc.org

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SOCCGS Website: www.socccgs.org



**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 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.