

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

Vol. 21 No. 4

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

April 2014

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.
SOCCGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

General Meeting - 19 APRIL 2014

THE 1918 FLU EPIDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT ON GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Presented by

Stephen M. Baird, M.D.

Dr. Baird will review the history of the 1918 influenza, where and when it started, evidence that the virus mutated during the period 1916-1918, how the War helped spread it, how it got its name, what H1N1 means, and how evidence of its devastating effects were reflected in various records like death certificates, mass burials, and the censuses of 1910 and 1920. His own grandfather, Ben Miller, caught it in Kansas (one of the first places it showed up in the USA) in 1918, recovered, but died of Parkinson's Disease in 1949, a recognized late complication in survivors.

About the Speaker: Dr. Stephen Baird graduated from Stanford University with a degree in Biology and received his M.D. at Stanford University School of Medicine. He is Emeritus Professor of Clinical Pathology at UCSD School of Medicine, and retired as Chief of Pathology at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in La Jolla, CA. He received the highly respected *Distinguished Teaching Award* from the University of California's San Diego Division of the Academic Senate, the *UCSD Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*, as well as three UCSD Medical School's *Kaiser Teaching Awards*. Dr. Baird's research interests were in lymphomas and leukemias and now in prostate cancer stem cells. He has also spent a good deal of time studying creation stories, Biblical and modern (evolution), as well as the genetics of human diseases and the genetic variations found in all modern human beings. His interests in genealogy relate to how family trees could be used to study inheritance of various traits, both normal and disease processes.

Safari News

~Bill Bluett

Our destination on Wednesday, April 23rd, will be the Orange Family History Center located on South Yorba Street in the City of Orange. You can check out their website for information regarding their collection holdings at: <http://www.ocfamilyhistory.org>. We'll be leaving the LDS Church parking lot on Marguerite at 9:30 A.M. Keep in mind that it is a couple of miles distance for eating out if you do not bring a lunch. We will not stop for dinner on the way home. Don't forget \$\$ for your driver. Contact Bill Bluett at (949) 492-9408 to reserve a spot.

President's Message

~Francie Kennedy

Midnight Genealogy

Our Society just decided to go to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City in spring of 2015, so I knew I'd better start preparing now. It has been a long time since I looked at the Family History Library catalog; it has probably been three years since I spent time really searching the catalog in depth. What we have been hearing is true, folks. This FHL catalog is much more than a catalog. Start here: <https://familysearch.org/catalog-search>

First I checked out the library layout by clicking on "Floor Plans" at the page about the library itself, <https://familysearch.org/locations/saltlakecity-library>. There is a whole floor of family histories, and that proverbial "book with my family in it" could be there, so in the library catalog I began with a search for the **Russell** surname. When my 1,154 results popped up, I turned my attention to the left sidebar. I then tried narrowing the search by place, adding Maryland to the search box above the surname. As you type, the Library rewrites the place in the format it prefers, large jurisdiction to small, so I clicked on the suggestion "United States, Maryland". No results found. That's odd, there have to be **Russells** in Maryland in over a thousand references. Ah ha! The key is to use the Keyword. Adding Maryland to the box that appears when I click on Keyword brings up 102 results, a manageable number.

Manageable if you don't have to go to work tomorrow! It turned out that the most relevant results for me, shown in brackets in the list, were actually articles from a periodical, the "Russell Register", and this publication had been SCANNED and was readable from the detail page for each result. This was more than a catalog, it was the publication itself! It is possible I found my **Russells** in indexes of 18th century land and tax records for Somerset County! I still have to check the original sources. How? By finding out whether the originals have been microfilmed, and if that film is available at the Family History Library. This is a task for another night, and before I find too many more leads, I must first set up a system for organizing the list I develop of films and books to look at in Salt Lake City, along with the questions that each film or book might answer.

I plan to arrive at the library with a list of books and films to look at, and expect to do a great deal of preparation this year to make the most of this opportunity! Elsewhere in this newsletter are the details of the trip. Would you like to join us? Contact David Flint right away to reserve your space, and then get ready to research at the Family History Library by doing all the research from home that you can, before you go.

Meet the Board

Herb Abrams – SOCCGS Publicity Chairman and Webmaster

I was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma in 1930 and attended my first three years of school there. My father was a locomotive engineer for the Santa Fe Railroad and in 1939 he was bumped from his job in Shawnee and our family moved to Purcell, Oklahoma. I finished school in Purcell and went on to the University of Oklahoma where I obtained a degree in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation I spent two years in the Army and then went to work at Douglas Aircraft in Tulsa. I spent 37 years as an Aircraft Structures Design Engineer with eight different companies located in Tulsa, Dallas, Nashville, San Diego, Ft. Worth, Seattle, Santa Ana and El Segundo. I even spent a year in France when Stresskin Products Co (now Astech), of Santa Ana sent me and 9 other engineers to help with the design of the Concorde SST thrust reversers. I retired in 1992 after 17 years with Rockwell Aircraft in El Segundo.

I became interested in genealogy shortly after retiring and became a volunteer at the Laguna Niguel branch of the National Archives helping people find their ancestors in the census records which at that time were only on microfilm. I worked with several members of the newly organized South Orange County Genealogical Society and they encouraged me to join. I joined the society in 1995 and became publicity chairman and webmaster shortly after that. I have been the Saturday morning docent at the genealogy desk in the Mission Viejo Library since the library opened and enjoy helping people with their research. I have made so many great friends in the many years that I have been with the society that they are like family to me. I encourage you SOCCGS members to come on down to the library. Maybe I can help you find your long lost ancestors.

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone. *-A docent's motto. Come be one and help someone.*
~Ronald Reagan

March Meeting

~Bill Bluett

Our 20th Anniversary Celebration program turned out to be a great success. Participants were Pat Weeks, Mary Jo McQueen, Bill Bluett, Sandy Crowley, and Francie Kennedy. Thank you, Herb Abrams, for assembling our wonderful PowerPoint slide show. Pictures were shown that covered the entire timeline of our society dating from 1994 to the present. It was a joy to have six of our original Founding Members in attendance. Those present were: **Mel Kinnee, Bea Norred, Ruth Sheean, Pat Weeks, Arlene Schreder, and Georgiana Emery.** The Historian books and a display board with historical information were available for viewing near the kitchen area. Speaking of the kitchen, the refreshments included a carrot cake with cream cheese and raspberry filing along with some veggies, crackers and cheese, water and lemonade. Some of the group members had their dessert first and then went to Carrows for lunch! Boy, were we full! Also, we would like to thank the members who provided refreshments: **Barbara Wilgus, Pat Nostrome, Barbara Taylor, Susan Lirette, and Bill Bluett.** Guests at our meeting were: **Jacob and Lori Caldwell, Richard and Sally Light, and Cheryl Lyman.**

Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions

~Bill Bluett

Barbara Taylor found out recently that you can get a 30% discount off ANCESTRY.COM if you're a member of AARP. But, you need to call them in order to do it.

Mary Jo McQueen has finally found documentation regarding her 5th great-grandfather, Col. Elisha Sheldon, as being on George Washington's staff at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778. She has received documentation from the Valley Forge Association.

Bill Bluett shared his great finds in the GENEALOGYBANK.COM. historical newspapers regarding his great-great uncle and his family in Denver, Colorado, over 100 years ago. The youngest son, George A. Collins, was a political "strong-arm" for the mayor and received the nickname "Crowbar Collins". Just using that name alone came up with 58 hits on the website.

Marilyn Kowalski says it's difficult to research the surname STILL because it's a pronoun. She needs some guidance on solving that problem – if possible.

Pat Christiansen is putting addresses or locations into GOOGLE to have the street view of places she used to live, hospital where she was born, and schools she attended.

David Flint has even used GOOGLE to view locations in his homeland of England.

Melissa Cottrell's late mother-in-law told about her maternal grandmother Barbara Vermeersch Rumbolt who was abandoned by the midwife while delivering twins and subsequently one died. While doing their family tree she could locate one twin, William Rumbolt, whose obit mentions a twin but that is all. Recently William's great granddaughter Mandy contacted her through ANCESTRY.COM and it turns out she has a copy of the twin's death certificate and Barbara's. The twin was stillborn. Mandy and Melissa each have family photos and info that the other hasn't seen. Melissa says she just love's genealogy on the internet!

Verl Nash – It's difficult to put some of Verl's stories into words. So, we'll just say that we all had a good laugh and then got on with our 20th Anniversary Celebration Program. Thank you, Verl, for your timely humor.

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm Possible'. *-Brick walls watch out*

~Audrey Hepburn

MEMBERSHIP

~Mary Jo McQueen

Sixty eight members attended the March meeting. The following guests were introduced by membership chairman, Jack Naylor:

Jacob Caldwell, Lori Caldwell, Cheryl Lyman, Richard and Sally Light. We hope they decide to join our society.

SOCCGS welcomes four new members: **Ferris L. Worden**, Yorba Linda, **Jerry Hampton**, Whittier, **Jim Currie**, Trabuco Canyon, and **Chuck Johannsen**, Dana Point. Surnames they are researching may appear in next month's newsletter.

Safari to the SOCCGS Research Center?

(Genealogy Section, Mission Viejo Library)

~Mary Jo McQueen

All year long we take research trips to various libraries in Southern California. Perhaps we should schedule one to our own. Mark your calendar for **June 13**, which is Open House Day at SOCCGS Library/Research Center. Plan to attend and do some research while you are there. Docents will be on hand to assist.

Before you begin researching at the library go to the SOCCGS website, where you will find a complete subject and title index of the books and CDs and Docent hours.

The society is subscribed to a number of excellent websites, which are available on SOCCGS computers: Genealogy Bank, Newspaper Archives, Heritage Quest, British Newspaper Archives, World Vital Records, New England Ancestors (NEHGS) and Fold3.

Ancestry.com is also available, due to the generosity of the Mission Viejo Library.

Google "SOCCGS" to find the website in a jiffy.

Honoring Deceased Members at the Library

We no longer have room for new books, which is how we honored deceased members in the past. Therefore, we now have bookends with brass plates on which are inscribed their names. .

A brass plate has placed on the Map Case honoring **Elmer Leon Christiansen and founding members Mary Ellen Lytle, Jinx Cochrell, Goldie Gay, Iris Graham, Beverly Long and Shirley Fraser.**

Stop by the library and take a look. Next month we will list the names that are inscribed on the set of bookends.

Federation of Genealogical Societies Webinars

~Jack Naylor

Two free Webinars on the War of 1812 from the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) are available at <http://www.fgs.com> through April 27, 2014: "Discovering Local and State Militia Records" presented by J Mark Lowe; and "Researching in the Post War Records of 1812" presented by Craig Scott.

To access the webinars: Go to the home page of the fgs.org website; click on "Webinars" in the list under the blue "Learn" box; locate the webinar of interest and click on the play button (the white triangle in the webinar screen area). Click on the button to the right of "HD" to enlarge the screen. Click "Esc" on your keyboard to return to your normal screen. Use your keyboard to adjust your sound.

Special Interest Group for England

By David Flint

In response to people who wanted to see us open a special interest group for England, David Flint will conduct the first time meeting on April 18. The England SIG will hold its first meeting from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the genealogy area at the Mission Viejo Library. At the first meeting the group will discuss what people would like to get out of such a group, how often to meet, what we would do at meetings, and see who shows up. If there is enough interest to organize a group and keep it going the group can then decide how often and when and where to meet on an ongoing basis.

The library is closed to the public on Fridays until 1:00 p.m. Therefore, you will need to enter the building using the employee entrance, which is a further to the left of the glass doors at the main entrance. Someone will be at that entrance to let you in. Please plan to arrive around 9:50 a.m. so that we can get everyone in the building and settled in the meeting area to start on time. Bring your laptop, research notes and questions, and any suggestions for good English research websites to share. Contact David Flint – davidflint@cox.net for information and let him know if you plan to attend the meeting.

There are two ways of spreading light:

- Telling or reflecting family histories are ways

To be the candle or the mirror that reflects it

to preserve our genealogy.

~Edith Wharton

Anyone for Salt Lake City?

~David Flint

If you attended our March meeting, you heard Francie Kennedy announce that the SOCCGS Board has decided that to make our first annual research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City next year. I volunteered to organize this new adventure for our society, and we have made a lot of progress since Francie's announcement.

Our first trip to Salt Lake City (SLC) will be from April 26 to May 2. So hold those dates on your calendar for next year. We will stay at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, which is literally next door to the Family History Library, the largest genealogy library in the world. Whether you are a first-time visitor or have been to SLC before, make plans now to join us on our first annual trip to the Family History Library.

The trip will be limited to SOCCGS members only. Rooms will be reserved on a first-come first-served basis. The trip cost is \$450 per person double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms will be available at \$750 per person single. A deposit of \$100 per person is required to reserve a room. Final payment of the balance will be required by February 1, 2015. We have a limited block of rooms and I expect the trip will book up quickly, so please let me know if you are interested as soon as possible. Start thinking about who might be your roommate to share a double room.

The schedule will be focused primarily on personal research on your own family history, based around the library's open hours. However, I want the trip to be fun too, and will also plan some activities to break up our week in SLC. A week may seem like a long time, but once you get started it goes by fast.

Our trip will be seven nights, Sunday to Sunday. We will assume you arrive on Sunday, April 26, 2015. You will be responsible for booking your own travel arrangements. Therefore, you will book your own flight reservations to and from SLC, or you can drive - maybe carpooling with someone to share the transportation costs. If you drive, the distance is about 690 miles and takes about 11 hours driving time. If driving, you might want to break up the distance over Saturday and Sunday by staying one night half way on Saturday. We will check out of the hotel on Sunday, May 3, 2015 to return home, or the next leg of your trip -- maybe you will want to visit one of the national parks in Utah while you are there!

The Family History Library has five floors filled with books, microfilms, microfiches and many other resources available free for your family history research. One floor is dedicated to US and Canada microfilms, another for family history and Canada books, another for US books and maps, one for international research, and an entire floor dedicated to books, maps and microfilms for the British Isles. Public computers are available on each floor. You can find lots of information about the Family History Library and how to use it at <https://familysearch.org/locations/saltlakecity-library>.

My goal for our trip is to offer a well organized, affordable and fun trip for a week-long getaway with lots of time for genealogy research. Even if your spouse or partner is not a fellow genealogist, make a vacation of it and bring them along for company. I will hold information meetings on future dates to prepare for the trip.

To reserve a room, send a \$100 deposit per person – checks payable to SOCCGS. Send your check with the reservation form printed below to SOCCGS, P.O. Box 4513, Mission Viejo, CA 92690. Registration information will follow by mail. Contact David Flint davidflint@cox.net if you have questions. Stay tuned – more information to come.

SOCCGS -- Salt Lake City Trip 2015 – Reservation Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Number of reservations requested: Double: _____ Single: _____ Total no. of people: _____

Newspaper Website

~Barbara Taylor

I belong to a Facebook group that posted a free newspaper site. The site has a very good display of the articles that can actually be read, <http://www.elephind.com/>. [Elephind says its purpose is “to make it possible to search all of the world’s digital newspapers from one place and at one time across thousands of articles using key words and phrases.”]

Future Events

Apr 27 O.C. Jewish Gen Soc presents Jean Hibben “Hints for a Successful Research Trip to Salt Lake City, email - info@ocjgs.org or call (949) 423-3746

May 7-10, National Genealogical Society, 2014 Family History Conference. Richmond, Virginia

Info: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Jun 6-8 2014 Southern California Genealogy Jamboree and Family History and DNA Conference; More info: <http://www.scsgenealogy.com/>

Jul 6-12, 2014 American Historical Society of Germans from Russia International Convention, Lincoln, Nebraska, http://ahsgr.org/Conventions/Convention_2014.htm

Jul 23-27, 44th Annual International Germans from Russia Heritage Society Convention, Spokane Washington, <http://www.grhs.org/>

SOCCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Francie Kennedy <writefrancie@gmail.com>

Vice President/Program Chairman - David Flint <davidflint@cox.net>

Recording Secretary – Pat Weeks <dppatty@cox.net>

Corresponding Secretary - Marilyn Kowalski <MA_Kowalski@sbcglobal.net>

Treasurer - Mary Jo McQueen <mcqueenmaryjo@aol.com>

Historian - Pat Christiansen <patcopy@cox.net>

Hospitality - Barbara Heebner <bheebner@cox.net>

Sharon Keener <slkeener@yahoo.com>

Librarian - Bunny Smith <leonbuny@pacbell.net>

Membership - Jack Naylor <jigsaw1948@cox.net>

Newsletter Editor – Gary Schwarz <SOCCGSNL@att.net>

Parliamentarian – Pat Christiansen <patcopy@cox.net>

Publicity/Webmaster - Herb Abrams <hvabrams@cox.net>

Seminar & Safari Chairman - Bill Bluett <billbluett@cox.net>

Ways & Means – Jim Thordahl <jimandbonniethor@juno.com>

SOCCGS Website @ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casoccg/>

Mail List: SOCCGS-L@rootsweb.com

SOCCGS Research Center, 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

The Saddleback Valley News Project

Stephanie Tanton, Mission Viejo Library Director, sent a thank you to Herb Abrams and The Saddleback Valley News Index Team for reaching the halfway point in indexing birth, marriage, and death records in the Saddleback Valley News Microfilms at the Mission Viejo Library. Members of the project continue to work diligently to finish indexing all 86 rolls of microfilm covering the issues of the "Saddleback Valley News" from 1969 to 1989.

Herb has been putting indexes for completed rolls online at the SOCCGS Website. You can view them at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocccgs/svnavitals.htm> . When the project has concluded, all of the project the information will be online at the SOCCGS website. The library will then provide a link from their website to our SOCCGS site. The database will be searchable by name and will be useful for people researching local vital records.

Herb as usual has been doing a fantastic job working with the team to get the job done along with other projects he does for the society.

Writing Life Stories

~Jim Thordahl

SOCCGS' Writing Life Stories Group meeting is held on the **fourth Tuesday each** month. Check the schedule on the SOCCGS calendar. There is always room for more storytellers. Begin writing the stories you want to preserve and join this group at any session. Call me or send an e-mail if you have a question; jimandbonniethor@juno.com /949 492-5334.

Beginning Genealogy Class

~Arlene O'Donnell

Location: Mission Viejo Library - Bill Price Room. **Date:** Apr 17th 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. RSVP to Arlene to verify schedule and required items to bring: 949-466-7178; email: silkberry@aol.com

Family Tree Maker User Group

~Sheila Larson

The Family Tree Maker User Group meets on the first Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Bill Price Room of the Mission Viejo Library. The next two meetings will be on April 6 and May 4, 2014. At the meetings, we share our knowledge of the program and pick up some tips. We use an overhead projector and have the program running on a laptop so everyone can follow along. This is a fun group!

Bring your laptop if you have one and your questions or problems you are having with the program. Email questions to Sheila Larson at lighthouse1212@yahoo.com.

Legacy User's Group

~David Flint

The next SOCCGS Legacy User's Group will meet on Thursday, April 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Saddleback Room in the Mission Viejo City Hall. For question more information, contact David Flint - davidflint@cox.net.

Ralphs Community Contribution Program

~Jim Thordahl

With apologies to Alex Trebek, let's play "SOCCGS Jeopardy." The category is SOCCGS Ways & Means. Today's contestants are members of SOCCGS and their supporters. Okay players, get ready and pick up your scan-bar letter. What, you don't have a scan-bar letter? Well, let's proceed. Make a selection: "You can print it from the SOCCGS website." The correct question is: "What is a Ralphs Community Contribution Program scan-bar letter? Congratulations. The scan-bar letter is the easiest way to begin participating in this program to benefit your Society. The second selection is: --- I'm sorry; we're out of time and space. Tune in next month for another round of "SOCCGS Jeopardy."