

# Saddleback Valley Trails

## South Orange County California Genealogical Society

Vol. 22 No. 04

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

April 2015

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 calendar year, joint membership \$25.

SOCCGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

### April 18, 2015

## "The Power of DNA: Genetic Genealogy Basics"

Presented by

**CeCe Moore**

Understanding the basics of the four types of DNA and the three types of genetic genealogy tests is essential to successfully applying genetic genealogy to furthering your research. Case studies will reveal the power of genetic genealogy.

About the speaker: CeCe Moore is the genetic genealogy researcher and scriptwriter for "Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr." and was the DNA consultant for both seasons of "Genealogy Roadshow." She also works extensively with individuals of unknown parentage to help them learn about their genealogy through DNA, often reuniting them with biological family members.

She is the co-founder of the Institute for Genetic Genealogy and has written the popular blog, "Your Genetic Genealogist" since 2010. She has appeared as a genetic genealogy expert on 20/20, CBS This Morning, The Doctors, and other informative shows discussing high-profile cases that used DNA to trace family history

**Mini Class - Kathy Richardson will present "MyCanvas an Ancestry Tool for Digital Scrapbooking" - 9:15--9:45 a.m. before the April Monthly meeting.**

**Safari News**

~Bill Bluett

Our destination on Wednesday, April 22rd, 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

By David Flint

This month we will see the beginning of another new group within SOCCGS – our German Genealogical Research Special Interest Group. By the time you receive this month's newsletter, Gary Schwarz will have conducted his one-time kickoff meeting for the German SIG. The new group will start its regular meeting schedule on the third Friday of each month 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Saddleback Room of the Mission Viejo City Hall. The first meeting will be April 17. There is high interest within our society in getting this new SIG going, and we are happy that Gary Schwarz will be leading the group. If you are interested in participating in the new German SIG, contact Gary Schwarz at **SOCCGS\_GERSIG@att.net**

This month I also wanted to share more information from the FGS/RootsTech Conference in Salt Lake City in February. The first day of the conference was dedicated to genealogical societies. I attended the FGS luncheon - The State of Our Societies: 2015 Update. The program speaker was Josh Taylor, who is the current FGS President. Josh gave an overview of their 600 or so member societies across the country. I was particularly interested in the statistics he gave about how societies were doing with attracting new members. Josh told his audience that a FGS survey showed 81% of societies found it difficult to attract new members, while only 19% did not have difficulty bringing in new members. Those percentages seemed very different from our experience in SOCCGS. Over the past two years, 72 new members have joined our society, which puts us in the minority of genealogical societies who enjoy a healthy growth in membership. So, we must be doing something right.

In fact, we are probably doing several things right, and we need to find out more about what they are. Over the next several weeks I will be working with our executive board to prepare a new survey of our members, with special attention to our new members. We need to find out what we are doing to interest new people in joining our society, and, more importantly, what we need to be doing to keep them as members. I expect that one of the things we will find is the welcoming attitude our group shows to newcomers. We are a very outgoing and social group, and that certainly helps. We are also a very active and busy group, and we have lots of new and interesting activities. Our German SIG is just the newest example.

I also want to renew my appeal to our members for new volunteers to serve as docents in the library. In April I will be leading a group of 43 of our members on our first week-long research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Unfortunately, the good response to our trip will also create a temporary shortage in our supply of docents for the week we are away because many of our docents will be in Salt Lake City and not available to work at the library. Our docent program is very important to our society, and serves as our public face at the library. When people come to the library with a genealogy question, how well we do at the docent desk says a lot to visitors about our society. If we do a good job it speaks well of our organization.

We need more docents in general, but especially for the week we are away. It's important that we have the docent desk fully staffed with well-trained volunteers able to help the public with whatever they bring to us. Please consider whether you can help us by covering one of our docent time slots. Contact Bunny Smith or Mary Jo McQueen to see what is available that fits your personal schedule, and what to do about getting properly trained so you can help us with this very important service we provide to the public. Thank you.

### **Genealogy Search Tip - [genealogysearchtip.blogspot.com](http://genealogysearchtip.blogspot.com)**

[1925 Iowa State Census](#) Posted: 11 Mar 2015 08:52 PM PDT

If any relative lived in Iowa in 1925, make certain you have found them in the state census taken that year. It asked a variety of personal questions, including names of parents.

### **[84000 Books from Ft. Wayne's Genealogy Library Online](#)**

Posted 21 Mar 2015 07:03 AM PDT

Over 84,000 titles from the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, have been digitized and placed on *Archive.org*. Search or browse the collection.

## Condolences

We are so sorry to report the passing of member Jim McGuigan. Following is his obituary. Thank you to his wife, Myrna Hamid, for sharing. Look for "Jim's Story", which will be published in a future edition of the Trails. *Mary Jo McQueen*

### **James J. McGuigan 1929-2015**

Jim McGuigan was as Irish and as Catholic as anyone could claim to be and he had the research to prove it! His father's line traced back to County Armagh, Ireland. His mother's various family lines traced back to County Kerry, County Mayo, County Clare and County Longford. He had great fun researching all of these family lines from 1994 until shortly before he died.

He passed away peacefully at his home in Newport Beach, California on 5 February 2015. His was a life filled with love of family, countless travel adventures, a passion for fishing and a serious addiction to genealogy. His wife, Myrna, four children, four granddaughters and a stepson survive him.

Jim was a third generation Californian on his mother's side. Shortly before his death he received a request for his genealogy research on his Casey, Moran, and Farrell lines for a First Families project, which the San Mateo County Genealogical Society is compiling. Myrna will work with the Society to make that happens in the coming months.

A book about his quest to discover the story of his great grandfather, Michael McGuigan who emigrated from Co Armagh, Ireland to Prince Edward Island, Canada in 1841 was in process. His wife will now take up the actual writing of the book.

Jim and Myrna have been members of SOCGS for many years. Both have enjoyed the fine lectures and the great community of fellow genealogists. Myrna looks forward to the time she will be able to attend the meeting again. She sends her thanks for the condolence cards and messages of sympathy she has received from the group.

### **Brick Walls and Genealogy Research** (from February meeting) ~Bill Bluett

**Barbara Taylor** - is researching her husband's family and has found his grandparent, namely, Charles Taylor. She is discovering the names of more cousins and even found a gentleman online that has a DNA match and is indeed a cousin of Barbara's husband.

**Sue Lamond** - has received a book that lists all the historical societies in the State of Michigan with information about each organization. She is going to make this book available at the library.

**Joyce Van Schaack** - has discovered many additional relatives in Indiana and has had the opportunity to travel and visit with some of them. She even found out about a relative that was taken by Indians as a baby and raised by them. But, later in life, she still ended up marrying a white man. I'll bet that Joyce is hearing many interesting stories from the folks in Indiana.

**Pam Steube** - shared that she traveled to the Czech Republic last year and went to her ancestors villages in Rokytnice v Orlick Horach, Kunval, and Mladkov. Also, she recently attended a presentation on "Eastern Europe" held at the Orange County Jewish Genealogical Society.

**Arlene O'Donnell** - reminded everyone about her Beginning Genealogy classes at the library. Also, she emphasized to folks not to be discouraged if you find incorrect information on websites, such as, FINDAGRAVE or even ANCESTRY. There is a button you can hit on those websites that will allow you to correct erroneous information.

### **Genealogy Search Tip - [genealogysearchtip.blogspot.com](http://genealogysearchtip.blogspot.com)**

[US Census Enumerator Instructions](http://genealogysearchtip.blogspot.com)

Posted: 22 Mar 2015 10:30 AM PDT

Knowing what the census enumerator was supposed to do can help you to interpret the census enumeration. This site has links to those instructions.

## Condolences

We are so sorry to report the passing of member Gay Chisholm-Poff. Following is a story she wrote for the Saddleback Valley Trails, but was unable to submit. We publish it here in her honor. Thank you, Brian, for sharing Gay's story. *Mary Jo McQueen*

### **“A Family History Story” by Gay (Helmuth) Chisholm-Poff**

I researched my family's name at the Mission Viejo library and discovered some leads of places going back to the 1860's, this was my driving force, to see what I could discover in person. My husband, Brian and I took a road trip one summer to Northern CA to research the places I had discovered about my father's side of the family. My Great Great Grandfather, George Frederick Hellmuth (B.1840) made his way from Germany with his wife Louise around 1860 to Siskiyou County. He went by the name Fred. He was a gold miner and had several mining claims around Callahan. Fred then started a general goods store in South Fork, CA. By all accounts he was successful and partnered with several others and started the Denny Bar and Parker Company. They had stores in South Fork, Etna and Callahan and owned the Denny Hotel in Callahan. From newspaper accounts they also ran a freight line to neighboring towns. This business continued into the 1930's. They had a son, George Frederick Hellmuth (b.1866). My Great Grandfather married Bertha Crawford and he continued to live in the area and work for the company. They had a son Gay F. Helmuth (dropped the second "L") whom I was named after. Gay married Ruth Zuckerman and they had a son, James Gay Helmuth, my father.

When Brian and I visited Callahan we went into the old Denny Hotel, being remodeled at the time. It had been vacant for many years. We visited the local graveyard and found the grave- stones of my relatives. It is amazing that some of the buildings still exist where my relatives spent their lives so long ago.

I take a lot of photos while traveling; many of the scenery were taken from the car window while driving. To Brian's reluctance I have asked him many times to stop and back up so I can get a better shot of something. He kept looking in the rear view mirror watching for any cars catching up. Luckily these times are on quiet country roads and we never had an incident.

My biggest surprise came after that trip when we came home and I had time to download the photos onto my computer and view them in larger scale. I had taken a photo of an old one-lane steel truss bridge on highway 3 crossing the South Fork of the Scott River. There was a metal plaque high up on the structure. On my computer I could zoom in and read what it said. What a great surprise I had when it read, "Dedicated in 1909, George F. Helmuth- Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Siskiyou County".

I had no idea of any of this family history, my mother and father had divorced when I was very young and I never had a chance to find out about our family. I am so grateful for the resources now available to trace our family roots.

### **Beginning Methodology Class**

~Francie Kennedy

"Beginning Methodology" a new class will be offered to SOCCGS members, starting in June 2015.

This class is for absolute beginners. The class will provide an introduction to contemporary genealogy conventions, standards and methods for researching and recording your family history. Students will discover and use basic sources of information available at home, online, and at the Mission Viejo Library Genealogy Section. We will explore rigorous analysis of evidence, and current standards for citation of sources. There will be between-class homework and research assignments to be completed.

Four sessions, meeting every other Friday morning from 10:00 a.m. - noon: June 12, June 26, July 10, and July 24. Held at the LDS Church classroom: 27978 Marguerite Parkway. Beginners - limited to ten students. Instructor: Francie Kennedy. Reservation is required! Please email Francie to enroll: [writefrancie@gmail.com](mailto:writefrancie@gmail.com). Subject line "Methodology class" (questions are welcome!).

## German Genealogy Research Special Interest Group

~Gary Schwarz

The SOCCGS Board has approved the creation of a German Genealogical Research Special Interest Group determined from a survey taken by Francie Kennedy last year to be of interest to many of our members. An organizational/kick-off meeting was held as “The Fourth Friday of the Month” meeting on March 27, 2015. After the kick-off meeting, all **regularly scheduled meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday** of the month from **10:00 to 12:00** in the **Saddleback Room** of the Mission Viejo City Hall Building, the first meeting being held on **17 April 2015**.

We will present and discuss techniques: on German genealogical research; ways to find from which towns our ancestors came; what sources are available for each of our ancestors' towns; to define Germany at present, the areas which have become Germany, those that were lost from Germany, those to which Germans immigrated and how those changes may have affected the ancestors in each of our family trees.

This is an opportunity to share and gain knowledge about German genealogical research. Those of you with some type of portable computing device such as a laptop, a tablet or “smart” phone will find it beneficial to bring it to the meetings although not required.

Pre-requisites are enthusiasm, an inquiring mind, willingness to share, desire to retain and apply what you've learned. Contact: Gary Schwarz SOCCGS\_GERSIG@att.net

### TIP #1076 – THE LIFE OF A BEGINNING GENEALOGIST

~ Sandi Gorin, Kentucky Colonel President, South Central KY Historical & Genealogical Society

~Submitted by Donna Hobbs our Tennessee Rep sorely missed on Safari days

Do you remember your early researching days? You bet you do. You were so excited to delve into the family tree that you ate, slept and dreamt of genealogy around the clock. Friends likely started backing away thinking that you had gone off the deep end in trying to find dead people who many times did not want to be found.

Your poor family had to start eating their meals while sitting on the couch since the kitchen table was overflowing with paperwork! You could have owned stock in several companies as you bought pens, pencils, notebooks, tabs for various family lines.

Your husband really did not think it was too interesting to hear your latest story of the gory death of ggg-grandpa Jones and that his casket floated off the back of the wagon on the way to the cemetery and sailed down the river. He learned to nod his head “yes” as you rattled on and on and on and on.

You soon pictured yourself as the world's greatest genealogist and you planned to publish the family tree in a beautiful hardbound book with gold lettering. Why, you could even see your story becoming a television special – or even on the big screen. Money would start rolling in from all over and other genealogists would want to know your secret of success.

Your children evoked laughter in the classroom when the teacher asked what they had done on their summer vacation and they had to say, “We went to ten cemeteries to look for dead people.” Soon, perhaps, they preferred to walk to school instead of having you drive them and seeing their friends shake their heads at the “crazy woman” who lurked around cemeteries.

The piles of paper grew on that kitchen table and books were stacked everywhere. You ordered books on every family name that might connect and from every county where they lived. You joined historical societies with a passion. Soon you were on a first name basis with the mail carrier and you had to hide some of the books under the bed so your husband would not see what had come in that day! You grabbed the bank statement first and balanced the checkbook, he must not know that you forgot to pay the water bill and instead ordered family tree charts.

All of a sudden, everything came crashing around your head when you had reached your first brick wall. You could not find Aunt Maud's parents and your husband refused to drive from Kentucky to Virginia to visit yet another County Clerk's office. He wanted a REAL vacation, not sitting there, twiddling his thumbs while you poured over deeds, wills and marriages. He had killed so much time in the local stores

that the store detectives were beginning to watch him suspiciously. You started hunting for all the notes you took earlier: Where had you found that will? What county was it in? You just knew then that you would remember. Whose child was that? You were so thrilled to find him and wrote down all the date, but forgot to indicate to which line he belonged.

Your filing system had fallen behind or fallen off the table in a jumbled mess. Some of your papers the children had drawn on and marked through very important information. The dog had thrown up on Uncle Simon's papers there by the table.

Your anniversary had passed by and wasn't last week your son's birthday? Had you not promised him a party or something?

Then came the realization that maybe your book would not be published as quickly as you thought and maybe no television producer would be knocking at your door. Slowly you came down from the clouds and realized that you, like most other genealogists, have to slow down and smell the roses once in awhile.

Oh, you will publish the book and you will find those missing people, but, while the husband was not looking, you advertised some of your useless books from under the bed on e-bay and attacked the dust bunnies that had been breeding rapidly there. You gathered up the papers from the floor (the ones that you could still save from the dog barf!) and promised that tomorrow you would get organized.

Sure!.. welcome to the world of genealogy! Sandi's Website <http://www.gensoup.org/gorin/index.html>

### **MAC Users Group Change of Venue**

~Mary Jo McQueen

**Beginning, April 17 the MAC Group will meet in the Genealogy Section of the Mission Viejo Library.** Those planning to attend are reminded that we meet in front of the library by 10 a.m., as we all enter the library in one group. The library is closed to the public at that time

### **Genealogy Research Special Interest Group**

Mary Jo McQueen

The Genie Sig will meet in the Saddleback Room, Mission Viejo Civic Center, on April 3 from 10 to 12. Reservations are not required. This month will feature a demonstration by Harry Hansen, "Using **Evernote** in your Genealogy Research." Harry will use the computer and screen for this in-depth presentation. Laptops and/or Tablets will be helpful. Or, pencil and paper still works

### **Membership Update**

There were 87 attendees at the March meeting. **Marilyn Kowalski, Noel Jensen, Patti Liebenow, Sue Naegeli and JoAnn Jones provided the refreshments.** Five new members have recently joined SOCCGS. We welcome them and hope they find a cousin among our group.

**Robert & Jeanne McIntyre**, Capistrano Beach, CA [urbangirl2006@gmail.com](mailto:urbangirl2006@gmail.com). They are searching Alonzo & Lomeli (Mexico & Italy), McIntire/McIntyre/McEntire, Woolley, Vaughn, Downing, Ashton (England), Langley (England) and John McIntire, Lincoln County, NC 1797.

**Nick & Shannon Douglas**, Irvine, CA [nsedsb@juno.com](mailto:nsedsb@juno.com). Nick is looking for: Pierre Johnson, New Orleans, 1820's-1830's. Perhaps we can list Shannon's interests in a future newsletter.

**Arlene Hanneman**, San Clemente, CA [ldsgo@cox.net](mailto:ldsgo@cox.net) Looking for: Prusia, mid 1700's, in Germany or Prussia with a different name, perhaps Brutzius.

**Sharon Jansen**, San Clemente, CA [sharonjansen@cox.net](mailto:sharonjansen@cox.net) Looking for: Cantwell, abt1865, from Ireland to Boston; Mullicane, abt 1750, from Ireland to Missouri; Horrocks, abt 1800 from Great Britain to Boston; Keener & Wilson in West Virginia.

**Michelle Cahill**, Laguna Woods, CA [mcahill79@comline.com](mailto:mcahill79@comline.com)

Guests were: Lana Williams, Muguette Thimens and Donna Dahl.

### Future Genealogy Events

**Apr 03, 2015**, 10-12:00-Mary Jo McQueen- Genealogical Research SIG; Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall  
**Apr 13, 2015**, 10-12:00-David Flint – English SIG – Saddleback Room MV City Hall  
**Apr 16, 2015**, 10-12:00-Arlene O’Donnell–Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library  
**Apr 16, 2015**, 11-1:00-David Flint – Legacy Family Tree User Group – Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall  
**Apr 17, 2015**, 10-12:00-Mary Jo McQueen- Mac Users Group (MUG); Genealogy Section, MV Library  
**Apr 17, 2015**, 10-12:00-Gary Schwarz – German SIG – Sadlback Rm, MV City Hall  
**Apr 18 2015**, 9-5:00- Family History Fair, Orange FamilySearch Library  
**Apr 28, 2015**, 10-12:00-Jim Thordahl – Writing Life Stories – Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall  
**May 13-16, 2015**, National Genealogical Society, 2015 Family History Conference, St. Charles, Missouri  
**Jun 5-7, 2015** – Southern California Genealogy Jamboree - Burbank  
**Jul 15-19, 2015** – 45<sup>th</sup> Annual International Convention - German Russian Heritage Society – Bismarck, ND – Info: [www.GRHS.org](http://www.GRHS.org)  
**Jul 12-19, 2015** – 2015 AHSGR International Convention – American Historical Society of Germans from Russia – Billings, Montana – Info: [www.AHSGR.com](http://www.AHSGR.com)

### SOCCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SOCCGS Website @ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocccgs/>  
Mail List: [SOCCGS-L@rootsweb.com](mailto: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](mailto:cmvgs@netzero.net)

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### 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