

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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April 2017

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.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY



April 15, 2017

"Diseases that Ravaged our Ancestors"

Presented by

Dr. Stephen Baird

This presentation will include discussion of the history of diseases, epidemics, and causes of death. Dr. Baird will discuss some medical terminology and diseases lumped together in olden times that are differentiated today. He will also explain a few diseases to which some ethnicities are predisposed. You will receive a handout with names of many diseases and their definitions (old and new).

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. Dr. Baird's research interests were in lymphomas and leukemias and now in prostate cancer stem cells. Additionally, he has 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.

Meeting Place: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., 27976 Marguerite Parkway at Hillcrest Dr., behind the LDS Church, Mission Viejo.

President's Message

By Bill Bluett

This month, I'm going to put in a "plug" for **Jim Thordahl's Writing Class** which takes place on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 10 AM to noon in the Saddleback Room. In February, we had 16 folks in our group including one new guest who is going to join our society. This class is now in its fourth year and going strong. Folks have written stories about themselves, family, friends, and ancestors. Their stories are not more than 1000 words in length. We read our story to the group and then comments are welcome. The stories we hear might be humorous and some might even be emotional for the presenter if it is a sensitive topic. We all appreciate the time and effort each individual has put into compiling their written work. Over the past three years, I have written about 35 stories. Many are about my ancestors and what they accomplished during their lifetime. A few are about a specific incident or occurrence that had taken place in an ancestor's life. Now that I look at my list, I realize that only two of the stories are about myself. One is titled "**Where were you on 9-11?**" and the other is "**I Met My Wife in Las Vegas**". One of these days, I may put them in the SOCCGS monthly newsletter. In the meantime, I guess I'd better get "cracking" with some additional life experiences of my own. Actually, being involved in this class gives each of us the motivation to put together our stories. When working on the life of an ancestor, I like to put together a "timeline". This helps to show me where I might lack information on the person or family. Then, I can focus on research that will help to fill those gaps and allow me to come up with a more complete picture. So, the "timeline" can help a person's research as well as putting together life stories.

Our society has other SIG's (special interest groups) besides Jim Thordahl's that are available to members. They are: **Beginning Genealogy** (Arlene O'Donnell), **Legacy Software Group** (David Flint), **Family Tree Maker Software Group** (Sheila Larson), **England Research Group** (David Flint), **German Research Group** (Gary Schwarz), **Irish Research Group** (Myrna Hamid), and the **Genealogy Research Group** (Sue Naegeli). The final group is a mixed bag of sharing information, successes in research, or a "brick wall" that one may need help with. All in all, that is a lot of groups to consider! There must be at least one that sparks your interest. They all meet once a month either in the library or the Saddleback Room. I guess you could consider the **safari** as a special interest group as well. They travel once a month to a different research facility. Locations range from Burbank to San Diego with many in between. So, consider "jumping on board" and check out one of these groups.

Safari News

~Bill Bluett

Our destination on Wednesday, April 19th, will be the Orange Family History Center located on South Yorba Street in the City of Orange. **We are moving the safari date up one week because of the trip to Salt Lake City the following week.** 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 Parkway 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.

March Meeting

~ Bill Bluett

Our guest speaker for our March monthly meeting was **Colleen Fitzpatrick**. Her topic was **Forensic Genealogy – CSI Meets Roots**. Colleen had some very interesting examples of projects she has worked on in the past ranging from DNA samples to photographs and documents. I'll bet she has 100's of amazing stories she could share with us. Colleen did suggest some additional resources to use in expanding your research, such as coroner's records, medical records, and eBay and Amazon. We thank Colleen for giving our folks (**105 in attendance**) a most interesting presentation. Prior to her program, our members enjoyed some great refreshments provided by three of our members. Our contributors were: **Judy Jones, Bunny Smith, and Marilyn Kowalski**. And, every month, **Mike Bresnan** helps with the kitchen clean-up and takes out the trash. Way to go, Mike!

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE OF MAY SOCCGS MEETING

At the request of the LDS Church, we have rescheduled our May meeting. We will meet for **our May meeting only**, on **MAY 13th, the second Saturday**. Our speaker will be our own Francie Kennedy.

Membership Update

~ Sue Naegeli

We had 96 members and 9 guests at the March meeting. One guest became a member. I believe 105 is a record high for a regular non-October meeting.

New member (joined at meeting):

Paul Jansak (husband of current member Donna Jansak), Trabuco Canyon.

Guests:

Barbara Rogers, Mission Viejo; **Anna Sierra**, Rancho Santa Margarita, searching for Hayes in Scotland; **Graeme & Merrell Land**, Mission Viejo; **Yolanda Choo**, Lake Forest; **Melody Allen**, Lake Forest, searching for Hubbard & Cody; **Barbara Bennett**, Mission Viejo; **Holly Bennett**, Mission Viejo.

New Member who joined in March:

Janet Rolek, Costa Mesa, e-mail smrof44@att.net

SOCCGS Research Assistance

There is a **correction to the Research Assistance list** published last month. Under Area of Interest "Poland," Janima Rezler can assist in translation of Polish Records, but not in Polish research.

If there are any members that can assist in a particular area of research or in translation of foreign records, please contact SOCCGS Librarian Judy Davin, judydav@aol.com

SOCCGS Research Center

~Judy Davin

Do you know our Genealogy Research Center at the Mission Viejo Library has **61 books** on our bookshelves about **Pennsylvania** !!!! Plus about 25 County information, maps and cemetery booklets for Pennsylvania in the metal file cabinets.

A few books from Pennsylvania are:

"Early Pennsylvania Births – 1675-1875"

"Pennsylvania Marriage Prior to 1790"

"Union County, Pa."

"History of Adams County 1700-1990"

"Bedford City Cemeteries"

History of Lancaster County"**1101 pages**

Just to name a few. Come take a look.

Do you have Ancestors from Kentucky? Then check out the Courier-Journal from Louisville, Kentucky 1830-1922 on Newspapers.com. Newspapers.com is a paid subscription site on our computers at the Genealogy Research Center.

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

Is the Latest Always the Best? Posted 26 Feb 2017

In some cases the latest transcription of something might not be the best. If you've seen a published book of tombstone inscriptions from the 1990s, you still might want to look at that book of transcriptions done in the 1940s. Stones might have been more legible in 1940, some might not have been readable at all in 1990. That book of transcribed marriage records in the 1930s might contain handwriting interpretations with different renderings of certain words. The ink might not have been as faded in 1930 as it was when a later transcription was done. And the transcriptionist from 1930 might have been more familiar with local names than was the 1980 era transcriptionist. Do not always assume the latest publication is the best. Sometimes it is not.

The Unexpected Find

Submitted By Ron Kula

January 2017 was a chance to go back to New Hampshire for a visit with Mom and Dad to help celebrate their 76th wedding anniversary. Normally, my visits back east occur in the summer when the weather is more enjoyable but this time it was January which often is the most frigid time of the year. I specifically wanted to visit Manchester Historical Association to thank John Clayton, the Executive Director, for the wonderful write-up that he did with my Uncle Matty's story on Veterans Day this past year and which was published in the Manchester Union Leader.

The organization's research building is a beautiful granite building next to Veterans Park in the heart of the city. I assumed that John would have his office in this building so I stopped there first only to find out that it was closed. That left a visit to the Millyard Museum located in the heart of the Amoskeag Millyard buildings, at one time the largest millyard in the world. The millyard complex is huge with multiple three and four story buildings over several hundred acres. All of the buildings have been repurposed from mill operations to other economic drivers and are no longer producing fabrics.

I had barely walked into the building when I spotted John walking through the exhibits. It turned out that his office was located in the museum and not the research center. We sat down for a few minutes to chat and for my personal thanks on the story that was published. John is a freelance writer and has published several books on New Hampshire so I was surprised when he mentioned that the article on Uncle Matty was a free article as long as they put it on the front page of the newspaper which they did. It made the article even more special to me.

John mentioned the history about the mill operations that had been cataloged covering the time the mill was in operation starting in 1810 and that the index was available on line. He indicated that if I needed any research performed, that the research staff would be happy to do it. It was an opportunity that I could not refuse so I asked about three specific family names, Cole, Benjamin Prichard and William T Douglas.

Benjamin Prichard was the original founder of the Amoskeag Mills constructing and operating the first mill in 1810. He was Barbara's 4th great grandfather. William T. Douglas was her grandfather and Cole was the family name of Williams' wife Edna. I didn't have high hopes, but it turned out that there was more information available than I expected. The research team found a Wesley Cole. This was a name that I was not familiar with and that I will now have to research to find out if there is a family link.

Benjamin Prichard was a known entity and they were able to provide more information on the early years of the mill operations and the financial requirements of the operations.

The biggest surprise was the information on William Douglas. They presented me with a history of his work in the Millyard starting with his work as a temporary worker and finishing with a supervisory position. The most exciting thing was the inclusion of his picture taken when he was a supervisor and a member of the Amoskeag Textile Club. This is the only known picture of William (Billy) Douglas since any others had been lost many years ago. This sounds like it should have been considered a major genealogy coup for a short thank you visit but there was more to come.

John happened to mention a visit that the Museum had the previous week from a Canadian research team trying to find out information about the Millyard. John mentioned to them, and to me, that the major research group for the French Canadians in Manchester is the American Canadian Genealogical Society and that they had records going back many generations for the French speaking Manchester population. They have records from all of the Catholic churches plus most of the Protestant churches. All categorized and easily searchable. Unfortunately, the records are hard copy only and have not been digitized, although some can be found on Ancestry.com.

I invited my sister, Diane, to accompany me to the ACGS to research out grandmother's history. There was no expectation of finding anything of value but with an open eye on what we might find, we ventured forth. The ACGS is located in a onetime Catholic grammar school, Blessed Sacrament, on the south end of Elm St. and is only open two days a week. They are a nonprofit and the cost to visit is \$5.00 p/p or a \$20.00 annual membership.

We were introduced to Bob Descoteaux and told him that we were researching the LaJoie family and he graciously volunteered to help us search through the archives. For a little over an hour we worked our way through the various records starting with the knowns which was the name of my grandparents and their marriage date. We found a little information but were stymied when trying to get past my grandmother's father's name. We were deep into the research when Bob asked us to stop for a minute while he went to get a special book which he promptly brought back.

The special book was Bob's family genealogy. He quickly opened the book and showed us our grandmother's family tree. He asked if we were familiar with the use of DIT in French Canadian Genealogy and then explained how it was common for the surnames to change across time making the research that much harder. We traced the family surname name from LaJoie to Lefebvre to Descoteaux and yes, it turned out that Bob was a distant cousin. I asked Bob where I could buy a copy of the book but we couldn't since his copy was the only one. It turned out to be a great research trip to Manchester with so much more information now known about our family's history.

April Free Webinars

Legacy is presenting several free webinars in April:

Apr 5 – Preserve, Share and Search Your Digital Pictures with Google Photos – Geoff Rasmussen

Apr 12 – Your Whiteboard in the Cloud: Trello for Genealogists – Lisa Alzo

Apr 14 – Complete Photo Restoration in 4 Easy Steps – Eric Basir

Apr 18 – The Genealogy in Government Documents – Rick Sayre

Apr 19 – Neighborhood Reconstruction: Effective Use of Land Records – Mary Hill

Apr 26 – Finding and Using Land Ownership Maps – Rick Sayre

Apr 28 – Researching Criminal Records – Ron Arons

May 3 – Take Me Back to Where I Belong: Transportation Records of the Freedmen's Bureau - Angela Walton

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:

Apr 1 – Finding Scottish Ancestors Online – Nancy E. Loe

Apr 19 – So Many Historic Books: How Can I Find My People – James Baker

May 6 – Beyond the Surface: Analyzing and Capturing Genealogical Data – Nicka Smith

Register at www.scgsgenealogy.com, click on Programs and Webinars.

New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)

Apr 13 – Guide to Connecticut Resources – Clare Ammon

Register at www.americanancestors.org (Under Education and Online Classes)

Illinois Genealogical Society (ISGS)

Apr 11 - Tracing Slave and Slaveowner Ancestors with DNA & Genealogy – Nicka Smith

Registration: <http://ilgensoc.org>

NSDCGS Spring Seminar 2017 Saturday April 29, 2017, 8:45am – 3:30pm

Road Map to Your Elusive Ancestors will be presented by **James Tanner**, Genealogy's Star blogger, BYU instructor and retired attorney.

- 1) Researching in Depth (Hard-to-Find Ancestors)
- 2) Record Hints: How to Use Them (FamilySearch, Ancestry.com)
- 3) Land and Property Ownership for Genealogists
- 4) Digging Deeper into Maps and Mapping Programs

The seminar will be held at the Woman's Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad, CA.

Registration is \$30 for NSDCGS members, \$40 for non-members. Information <http://nsdcgs.org>

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

What Does a Veteran Do With a War of 1812 Land Warrant? Posted 29 Jan 2017

If a veteran or his widow received a land warrant for service in the War of 1812, they had one of two choices:

- haul their happy self to territory that had unclaimed federal land
- sell the warrant and assign it to someone who did want to haul their happy self to territory that had unclaimed federal land

Then whoever had the warrant would claim the appropriate amount of acreage in the federal domain and surrender the warrant in exchange for title to the property. The warrant was what was used for payment or consideration. After the paperwork was completed, the individual who surrendered the warrant would receive a "first deed" (patent) giving them title to the real estate they had claimed. The application to get the warrant (filed by the veteran or his widow) is at the National Archives. The surrendered land warrants are as well.

Do They All Live in the Middle of Nowhere?

Posted on March 26, 2017 by [mjnrootdig](#)

I asked a colleague to recommend a researcher in a specific area that's too far for me to travel to and a little outside my area of expertise. He wasn't able to give me the name of a researcher and, because we occasionally share attempts to be funny with each other, he included the following in his response:

Apparently your family has a long history of living in the middle of nowhere.

He was joking and occasionally likes to remind me that I live in the middle of nowhere and he does not. But his comment got me thinking about something that I had realized but never verbalized.

The majority of my direct-line ancestors did live in the middle of nowhere or at least somewhere fairly rural.

I won't bore readers with a lengthy discussion of where my various families are from or where they settled, but will briefly summarize. My maternal ancestors all hail from a rural area of northern Germany where they had lived for generations. They settled in rural areas of Illinois and Nebraska in the mid-19th century. My paternal ancestors have been "rural dwellers" in the United States since at least the mid-18th century (for those who were in the United States). My paternal mid-19th century immigrants came from rural areas of Europe as well. We just are not city dwellers.

Except for a set of 3rd great-grandparents who spent two years in Cincinnati.

What changed for your ancestors when they moved from one place to another? What stayed the same (or relatively close)? For many of mine their occupation and way of life stayed the same. Some of their neighbors also stayed the same—if not initially, at least after a few years some of their former neighbors were their neighbors again. Thinking about what did and did not change for your migrating ancestors when they moved may at the very least give you some insight into their life in their new location. Determining what might have changed and what might have not changed may require learning more about the area and the time period than you currently know.

It may even cause you to let go of some assumptions you had about your ancestor and their life. And that may help you solve your research problem. Or maybe not. If you don't do it, you will never know.

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

New York City Marriage Index Website posted 30 Sep 2016

The New York City Marriage Index website has searchable indexes of NYC marriage indexes as well as links to other NYC marriage material from the 20th century. <http://www.nycmarriageindex.com/>

New York Public Library Digitizes 137 Years of New York City Directories posted 6 Oct 2016

This is an ongoing project, but currently 1849/50 through 1923 are available online at the library's website.

<https://www.nypl.org/blog/2016/09/21/new-york-city-directories-free-online>

Genealogy Tip of the Day

Court Fights Outside Probate posted 5 Feb 2017

Even if you find a will admitted to probate for your person of interest, consider looking for separate court action regarding their estate. In some locations these court proceedings may be with the probate materials. In others they may not. Heirs and those mentioned in the will may not always get along.

His First Wife Died...Or Did She? Posted 25 Mar 2017

A relative is married in 1843 in St. Louis, Missouri. He is married again in Illinois in 1848. The most likely scenario is that she died. It is possible that the couple actually divorced or separated and never bothered to divorce. The divorce would have generated a court record. A separation that never resulted in divorce may not have generated any records at all. But I should not assume the first wife died unless there is some additional evidence other than simply the subsequent marriage

Future Genealogy Events

Apr 7, 2017, 10-12:00 – Sue Naegeli - Genealogy Research SIG – Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

Apr 10, 2017, 10-12:00-David Flint - England SIG - Saddleback Rm, MV City Hall

Apr 19, 2017, 10-12:00-Gary Schwarz – German SIG – Bill Price Rm, MV Library

Apr 20, 2017, 10-12:00-Arlene O'Donnell - Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library

Apr 20, 2017, 10:00-12:00 -David Flint - Legacy Users Group - Saddleback Rm. MV City Hall

Apr 21, 2017, 10-12:00-Myrna Hamid - Ireland SIG – Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

Future Events continued

Apr 23, 2017, 1:30 pm – **OCJGS** - SchellyTalalay Dardashti – “Your Quest for Sephardic and Misrahi (Jewish) Ancestors Just Got Easier” For information www.ocjgs.org Phone (949) 423-3746

Apr 25, 2017 -10-12:00-Jim Thordahl - Writing Family History Stories - Sadlbc Rm., MV City Hall

Apr 25, 2017 9:30 – **NSDCGS** – Jean Wilcox Hibben “Is Your Brick Wall Topped by Barbed Wire?” Researching Ancestors in the Big House. Carlsbad City Council Chambers www.nsdcdgs.org

Apr 29, 2017, 8:45-3:30 – **NSDCGS Spring Seminar**, www.nsdcdgs.org

May 5, 2017, 10-12:00 – Sue Naegeli - Genealogy Research SIG – Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

May 10-13, National Genealogical Society Conference – Raleigh NC www.ngsgenealogy.org

Jun 9-11, 2017 – Genealogy Jamboree, Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, Burbank, CA

Link: <http://genealogyjamboree.com/>

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SOC CGS Website: www.socccgs.org



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

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 _____ Date _____

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.