

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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May 2013

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

May 18, 2013

GENEALOGY BLOGGING - What? When? Why? Where? How?

Presented by
Randy Seaver

What is blogging about genealogy all about? Randy will tell all, with examples of genealogy blogs, and a basic how-to of starting one and writing one for you to share your family history and genealogy knowledge with the world.

About the Speaker: Randy Seaver is a native of San Diego, a graduate of San Diego State University, and a retired aerospace engineer. His ancestry is mainly colonial New England and Upper Atlantic, with some colonial German, French and Dutch forebears, and several 19th-century English immigrants. He has been pursuing his elusive ancestors since 1988, and has been online since 1992. Randy is a former President of the Chula Vista Genealogical Society, and is currently the Newsletter Editor and Research Chair. He speaks to Southern California societies, libraries and groups, and teaches "Beginning Computer Genealogy" adult classes at OASIS. He is a member of NGS, NEHGS, SCGS, SDGS, CGSSD and CVGS. Randy blogs daily at Genea-Musings (www.geneamusings.com) about genealogy subjects and at the Chula Vista Genealogy Cafe (<http://cvgencafe.blogspot.com/>).

Safari News

~Bill Bluett

The **Huntington Beach Library** will be our destination for the May 22nd safari. We will leave the LDS Church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. This library has a nice genealogy collection of over 18,000 books, maps, some micro-fiche, etc. They do not have computers for searching online in the genealogy area. So, you might bring a laptop if you have one. You may bring lunch or utilize the library sandwich, snack, and beverage area. Don't forget \$\$ for your driver. There are no plans for dinner on the way home. Contact Bill Bluett to reserve a spot. Go to www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/library their research page for more information.

Nothing is impossible. Some things are just less likely than others.

~Jonathon Winters (1925 - 2013)

-Your lineage back to Adam & Eve might be good, not!

I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way. *-Genealogists are patient but*

~Margaret Thatcher (1925 - 2013)

don't always get their own way.

President's Message
~Francie Kennedy
Now Arriving in the 21st Century and I "Like" It!

I never thought I would "text" or have a Facebook page. I did not want to. I thought I could just skip those phases of technological evolution and move into whatever would be the next thing, just like I skipped Betamax and went straight to VHS videotapes, skipped 8-tracks and bought cassette tapes. Those were the right decisions at the time, and those chosen technologies have persisted and are still usable if you have the players! (I do.)

In January my daughter persuaded me to get a smartphone, being offered free with my cell phone contract renewal. (I always get the free phone.) A smartphone? Big leap – deep breath – okay, I'll try it if you'll teach me how to use it. You know the next line; I don't know what I did without it. Well, I did just fine, but now I feel so nimble, so connected, resourceful and knowledgeable! Help finding my way to places with the map (it knows where I am). Looking up facts on the web. Checking email from SOCCGS Board members on my lunch hour. Taking photos of my daughter trying on a wedding dress, then sending them to her maid of honor from the store. Texting! So handy for just dropping a line to someone now and then, like a micro email. And I use it for making phone calls.

Last month, with the approval of the Board, SOCCGS established a Facebook page. This was the suggestion of member Sheila Larson, who is now the Facebook Coordinator, as well as the leader of the Family Treemaker Users Group. The Facebook page is a new vehicle for outreach, education, and connecting with each other and the wider community. The page is a place to announce speakers, classes, special interest groups, and activities. It's a place to share news about new resources at the library, CDs, databases, and discoveries people make. Very importantly, it is a way to find the next members of our Society, and for them to find us.

In order to write anything on the Society's page, I had to have a Facebook page myself! This broke the second barrier I had set for myself. When I began to sign up, and read all the privacy bits and the fine print, I closed the web page and went away to do something else. The urge to see our Society page and post something on it for the greater good overcame my reluctance the next day, and I signed up. Just to see how little information I could provide to get an account, I did not post my birth date, where I live or where I went to high school or college, hobbies, favorite movies, nothing at all. I did not even use my full name! I am FL Kennedy, I am female, and that is all it knows. Now you know.

The Society page is still in its infancy. Sheila is doing an amazing job keeping the content fresh, updated, with plenty of humor. It is fun to read! I admit I get a thrill when I see that another person has "liked" the page! It does feel like a community is growing here. Please "like the page"; I believe you will enjoy the content and the connection as I do. I feel like I have finally arrived in the 21st century in the past four months. These feel like the right decisions for this time ... and I can now check our Facebook page from my smartphone. I never thought I would write that, or be so happy about it!

April Meeting

If you have not checked a county genealogical website lately, it may be time to revisit the idea! Jean Wilcox Hibben inspired the group at the April meeting, with her talk, "County Websites: An Overlooked Resource". The Genweb sites should be familiar to seasoned researchers – if not, they are not overlooked, they are undiscovered, and should be checked immediately for every county in which your people lived! Along with Genweb, Jean showed us the American Local History Network, Kindred Trails, and the American History and Genealogy Project (AHGP). Often run by volunteers, the sites contain a wide variety of resources, from maps to transcribed obituaries, and usually have a way to connect with other people searching in the same place.

Delicious refreshments were available at the break, provided by Joan Petrine, Judy Ryu, Gary Schwarz and Pat Christiansen. Thank you!

Library Docent
~Bunny Smith – Society Librarian

Attention Anyone Who Wants to Volunteer at the Library!

This is a great way to get your genealogy on track with a regular schedule at the library. It doesn't matter if you have not been trained, that can be arranged. If you are interested please contact Bunny Smith.

Membership
~Mary Jo McQueen

Five family history researchers joined our group in April.

Joyce Schrock, San Juan Capistrano, CA pappett@aol.com, who is searching for Smoylin (Poland, & Ukraine), Mucyka (Ukraine), Bohach and Szostkowski in Poland.

Dee Dee Prince, Laguna Niguel, CA, dapwriter@gmail.com, who is searching for Burdett, Rhoda, b. 28 Sept 1920, England; Burdett, Winifred, England, 1917; Wright, Winifred, England; Prince, Oklahoma, Texas, California 1850.

Bob Lozano, Laguna Hills, CA, rboblozano@cox.net. Looking for Eugenio Lozeno in Texas and Mexico, (1850?) and Benito Rodela in Ysleta, Texas (1850?).

Kathleen Lemann, San Jaun Capistrano, mzzkath@cox.net. Looking for Parker in Bay City Michigan (1920s-1930s) and Mulligan in Moline, Illinois (1920s-1930s)

Bill Swanson, Lake Forest, CA, rooster-fish@cox.net. Bill is searching for Andrew Hanson in South Dakota or Montana. Born in Norway in 1878.

All of these new members attended the April meeting. About 58 regular members signed in. **Please remember to sign in.**

Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions

~Bill Bluett

Bill Swanson found his grandfather in the WWI registrations and in the 1920 census indicating naturalization in Brown County, South Dakota. But, he cannot find him in the 1930 and 1940 census. Any suggestions?

Judy Freund found information on her trip the Salt Lake regarding her gg-grandmother's birth in the Germany/Switzerland area around 1906.

Jo Taylor says that her son, Chris Taylor, is now working for ANCESTRY in the Salt Lake City area as a result of ProGenealogists being acquired by ANCESTRY.

Sheila Larson was looking for Lafayette Baldwin in a census and the census taker recorded his name as "Lazyette Baldwin"!

Sandra Koegler has been looking forward to finding herself and her parents in the 1940 census and has had no luck to date. Sandra was born before the census was taken and they should be either in Iowa or South Dakota. It might be possible that they moved from Iowa about the time the census was taken. But, she didn't seem to think so. Sandra will keep up the search.

Donna Skelly says to go back and revisit materials that you may have gone over before. You might find that you overlooked or missed something the first time around. She revisited ANCESTRY and found additional information that had been added regarding Postmasters that helped her find a relative she could not find before.

Barbara Heebner said that the Katy Couric Show had a gentleman on that had been adopted 41 years ago that was reunited with his biological mother. Barbara found the story to be a very interesting and touching story.

Arlene O'Donnell said on Sunday, April 29th, she is having a reunion of 16-18 cousins that she has discovered through DNA information. During the gathering, they will SKYPE with some of those that cannot attend. She will give us a follow-up report next month. Great job, Arlene!

Jean Wilcox Hibben tells us that the day before the SCGS Jamboree begins in June, there will be an informative DNA presentation given.

Mickie Dempsey has over 50 first cousins and has been in contact with many of the children of these cousins on FACEBOOK. Doing this has been fun and rewarding for Mickie.

When you are young and healthy, it never occurs to you that in a single second your whole life could change. -Site your sources when you find them.

~Annette Funicello (1942 - 2013)

No good movie is too long and no bad movie is short enough. -to genealogists, sources are like movies, with respect to length.

~Roger Ebert (1942 - 2013)

Legacy User's Group

~ David Flint

The SOCCGS Legacy User's Group meets at the Mission Viejo Library from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. This monthly meeting provides a regular forum for anyone interested in learning about the Legacy Family Tree program -- whether you are a beginner, or you are already using Legacy. This is an informal meeting where you can share ideas with other people who use Legacy. The meeting includes demonstrations on how to perform various functions with the Legacy program, as well as time to address specific questions or problems from those attending the meeting. Feel free to drop in and out of the group as you like. The next meeting is at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 16 in the Saddleback Room in Mission Viejo City facilities across the parking lot from the Library. See you there.

One Bud wiser. *-Most Genealogists strive for new or extended branches but will
~George Jones (1931-2013) accept being "One bud wiser".*

2013 - Southern California Genealogical Society Webinars

The live broadcast of each session is open to the public and FREE to all (space is limited to 1000 attendees). Webinars are recorded, archived, and available for the next twelve months day or night to SCGS members, in the members-only section of the SCGS website.

Info and Schedule: <http://scgsgenealogy.com/extension-series/jes2013.html>

Leona Marie "Dottie" Farnsworth – abt 1873-1902

~ Barbara Taylor

Leona "Dottie" Farnsworth was one of the top women bicycle racers in the late 1800s. Bicycle racing sports back then were very popular.

Leona was my 1st cousin 3x removed. She was listed in my family tree on Ancestry.com however I knew nothing about her until I was contacted in February 2013 by Roger Gilles who is writing a book about women racers of that time period. Roger had a couple old photos, news clips and a bit of other background; he was looking for someone in the family who could find more about Dottie. That got me interested.

Leona Maria Farnsworth was born in Minnesota around 1873 to **Austin W Farnsworth** (9/27/1843 - 9/5/1918) and **Sarah A Bartholomew** (12/29/1846 - 12/24/1931). Roger Gilles wrote, "Dottie graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in **St. Paul, Minnesota**, in June 1895, got her first bicycle that summer and then in December 1895, she rode in her first race in Minneapolis, which she won. She went on to ride in probably a hundred races from 1896 to 1900. She rode a bicycle from the Dayton bicycle company, so she was often called Dottie 'Dayton' Farnsworth. She was also known as 'Red Bird' Farnsworth because she often wore a bright red racing outfit."

Dottie became so popular that one night in July 1896 when she was too ill to ride, there was a riot by the crowd of about 5,000 people when they learned that she was not there and the treasurer had left with the ticket money, so no refunds could be issued. To make matters even worse, the race admission ticket price that night had been raised to \$1.25 from their usual \$.25 price. The crowd destroyed the race track and smashed several buildings before order could be restored.

In February 1897, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* wrote: ". . . there is more excitement to the square inch in these races than can be found in any event that has been seen here of late."

According to the *Racine Daily Journal*, January 7, 1899: "Miss Farnsworth is the daughter of one of the best families of Minneapolis and her going on the racing circuit was at first ardently opposed by her family. She persisted, however, and entered her first race under an alias. She won her race, and then



allowed herself to be discovered and reconciled her family to her racing priorities. Since Christmas week 1895, she has ridden in 459 races of all distances. She has won 432 firsts, 18 seconds, 2 thirds, 1 fourth, riding 10,088 miles upon the board tracks.” The race tracks were built of wood in an oval pattern.

Dottie’s picture appeared on souvenir trading cards and in advertisements with her Dayton bicycle. I found an auction of two of the cards that sold for \$31.00 in 2009.

In April 1899, Dottie married **Albert Lester Spencer** (04/1866 – 06/25/1905) in Minneapolis. Albert was the son of **Albert L Spencer** (about 1838 –? before 1880), a butcher and Civil War soldier from Maine, and **Prudence Gertrude W (Hasey) Spencer Pond** (1829 – 10/15/1911).

At age 27, Dottie was in her first season riding her bicycle with the circus when she died. One news report indicated that Dottie was injured a couple weeks before she died and one speculation was that she died of undiagnosed appendicitis; another news report said she died of blood poisoning. Dottie’s husband Albert was with Dottie when she died. Dottie’s mother was en route from Minnesota when she learned that Dottie had died.

The *Racine Daily Journal*, reporting on her death on June 6, 1902 wrote: “Miss Dottie Farnsworth, of **Minneapolis, Minnesota**, one of the best known female bicycle riders in this country . . . received injuries resulting in her death at Dunkirk, New York. She was riding the ‘cycle wheel’ with the **Walter L. Main** Circus. During the performance, she rode over the top of the track. She was taken to a hospital and soon after died of peritonitis. Miss Farnsworth was the protégé of **H.O. Messier** who first brought Miss Farnsworth out as a cyclist Christmas week, 1895, at Minneapolis, where she broke the eighteen-hour world’s record by riding 319 1/2 miles in a six days race of three hours each night. Since then, she has appeared in all the leading cycle events for women from the Atlantic to the Pacific, having ridden over 15,000 miles upon the board tracks and holding many world’s records at various distances.”



According to the US Bicycling Hall of Fame website: following Dottie’s death, women were barred from bicycle racing due to the dangers in the sport. Dottie broke her leg during a race in September 1898, and many other injuries in the sport were mentioned in news reports. I found another article that mentioned one of the women racers had died in a race before Dottie.

Dottie’s husband Albert died in a state mental hospital only a few years after Dottie’s death. Dottie and her husband are both buried in unmarked graves in the Pond family plot in Minneapolis where Albert’s mother is buried.

Life was much different back in those days in many ways compared to our society today. In my search for information about Dottie, I found the following stories in the *Old Rail Fence Corners*, a collection about Minnesota history which tells of how Dottie’s parents came to Minnesota in the 1850s.

Mr. Austin W. Farnsworth – 1851

We came to Fillmore County in the Fall of 1851 from Vermont. We were strapped. Not one cent was left after the expenses of the trip were paid. A neighbor took my father with him and met us at McGregor Landing with an ox team hitched to a prairie schooner. We were four days getting to **Fillmore County**, camping on the way. The nearest town, only a post office, was **Waukopee**. Father had come the previous spring and planted two acres of wheat, two acres of corn and one-half acre of potatoes. The potatoes all rotted in the ground.

I was only nine years old and my brother thirteen, but we made all the furniture for that cabin out of a few popple poles and a hollow basswood log. For beds, beams were fitted in between the logs and stuck out about a foot above the floor and were six feet long. To these we fastened cross pieces of “popple” and on this put a tick filled with wild hay and corn stalk leaves. It made a wonderful bed when you were tired as everyone was in those days, for all worked. After we had cut off a section of our big log by hand, we split it in two and in one half bored holes and fitted legs of the unpeeled popple for the seat. The other half made the back and our chair was done. As we had no nails, we fitted on the backs with wood pegs. Our table was made of puncheons split with a wedge and hewed with a broadax. The cabin would have been very homelike with its new furniture if it had not been for the smoke. My mother had to do all the cooking on a flat stone on the floor with another standing up behind it. She nearly lost her sight the first winter from the smoke. Our attic was filled with cornstalks to make the cabin warmer.

Our fare was good, as game was very plentiful and we had corn meal and a coarse ground wheat more like cracked wheat. There was a little grist mill at **Carimona**, a tiny town near. My mother made coffee from corn meal crusts. It would skin Postum three ways for Sunday.

When I was nine years old I killed a buffalo at **Buffalo Grove** near us. That grove was full of their runs. Elk were very plentiful, too and deer were so plenty they were a drug in our home market. I have counted seventy-five at one time and seven elk. Pigeons were so thick that they darkened the sky when they flew. Geese and ducks, too, were in enormous flocks. In season, they seemed to cover everything. We used the eggs of the prairie chickens for cooking. They answered well.

Once my brother shot a coon and my mother made him a cap with the tail hanging behind and made me one too, but she put a gray squirrel's tail at the back of mine. She knit our shoes and sewed them to buckskin soles. I was twelve, when I had my first pair of leather shoes. They were cowhide and how they did hurt, but I was proud of them. None of the country boys wore underclothing. I was nineteen before I ever had any. Our pants were heavily lined and if it was cold, we wore more shirts. I never had an overcoat until I went in the army. Before we left Vermont, my mother carded and spun all the yarn and wove all the cloth that we wore for a long time after coming to Minnesota.

We found the most delicious wild, red plums, half the size of an egg and many berries and wild crab-apples.

The timber wolves were plenty and fierce. My sister was treed by a pack from nine o'clock until one. By that time we had got neighbors enough together to scatter them. I was chased, too, when near home, but as I had two bulldogs with me, they kept them from closing in on me until I could get in the house. There was a rattlesnake den near us and once we killed seventy-eight in one day. They were the timber rattlesnakes—great big fellows. I caught one by holding a forked stick over its head and then dropped it in a box. I kept it for a pet. It was seven feet one and a half inches long. I used to feed it frogs, mice and rabbits. I thought it was fond of me, but it struck at me and caught its fangs in my shirt when I was careless, so I killed my pet.

The only time I ever went to school was for two months in '55, to John Cunningham. Wilbur made our desks out of black walnut lumber, cut in Buffalo Grove. It was very plentiful there. Later we used to go to dances. I was great for cutting pigeon wings and balancing on the corner with a jig step. We used to dance the whirl waltz, too. Some called it the German waltz. We spun round and round as fast as we could, taking three little steps.

Mrs. Austin W. Farnsworth — 1855.

We came to **Dodge County** in 1855. The first year we were hailed out and we had to live on rutabagas and wild tea. We got some game too, but we were some tired of our diet before things began to grow again. When that hailstorm came we were all at a quilting bee. There was an old lady, Mrs. Maxfield there, rubbing her hundred mark pretty close. She set in a corner and was not scared though the oxen broke away and run home and we had to hold the door to keep it from blowing in. We said, "Ain't you afraid?" She answered, "No, I'm not, if I do go out, I don't want to die howling."

The first time I worked out, when I was fourteen years old, I got 50¢ a week. There was lots to do for there were twin babies. I used to get awful homesick. I went home Saturdays and when I came over the hill where I could see our cabin, I could have put my arms around it and kissed it, I was that glad to see home.

Sources: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, NewspaperArchive.com, GenealogyBank.com, Library of Congress "Chronicling American" collection, *Old Rail Fence Corners: The A.B.C's. of Minnesota History* and several sites about the history of women bicycle racers. One photo provided by Roger Gilles, enhanced by Kent O'Donnal owner of the Farnsworth Family site; other photos from a site dedicated to Tillie Anderson, another top woman racer and competitor of Dottie.

Family Tree Maker User Group

~Sheila Larson

The SOCCGS Family Tree Maker User Group meets on the first Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Bill Price Room at the Mission Viejo Library (across from the public computer area). We are enjoying learning from each other how to get the most out of the program and have are having some laughs in the process. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, May 5, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

Bring your laptop, your questions and become a part of this growing group by calling or emailing Sheila Larson at 949-436-0500 or lighthouse1212@yahoo.com.

Beginners Genealogy Class

~Jack Naylor

A friend interested in genealogy?

Tell them of the new SOCCGS Beginner’s Genealogy Class taught by Jack Naylor. Learn how a man can be both the first and second son of his mother and father, why the Mann Act was important and what happened to the man who shot himself three times in the head.

Become a member of the next class. Call or e-mail Jack at 949-586-6689 or jigsaw1948@cox.net for the next scheduled class.

You've got to go down to the Village, that's where it's happening.

~Richie Havens (1941 – 2013) -As genealogists, we each at some point need to go to ancestral villages.

Corresponding Secretary Note

~Marilyn Kowalski

Greeting and best wishes to all our SOCCGS folks! Do you know someone in our society family whose day would be a little better by receiving a card or a note to let them know we are thinking of them? As your Corresponding Secretary I invite you to call me: Marilyn Kowalski 949 586 7257 or email me: [>ma_kowalski@sbcglobal.net<](mailto:ma_kowalski@sbcglobal.net) with the recipient’s name and address (if different from the SOCCGS membership roster) and reason for the card. I’ll send them a greeting from SOCCGS to meet their situation. **Friendship isn’t a big thing....It’s a million little things.**

SOCCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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South Orange County California Genealogical Society Membership/Renewal Application

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

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