

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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May 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.

SOC CGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

General Meeting - 17 MAY 2014

GENEALOGY and CLOUD COMPUTING

Presented by

Randy Seaver

Can we do all of our genealogy research, data organization, analysis, collaboration, and writing online - in the "cloud" on remote servers and computers rather than on our desktop or laptop computers? What about using smart phones and tablets for genealogy? This talk will discuss the elements of cloud computing, including mobile devices, and their application to genealogy tasks, along with an evaluation of the benefits and drawbacks for these exciting new and pervasive technologies.

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 about genealogy subjects at *Genea-Musings* (www.geneamusings.com) and the Chula Vista Genealogy Cafe (<http://cvgencafe.blogspot.com/>).

Safari News
~Bill Bluett

The new San Diego Public Library will be our destination for the May 29th safari. This will be a **Thursday** instead of a Wednesday because the library does not open until noon on Monday and Wednesday. Otherwise, they open at 9:30 AM except Sunday. The library is a very modern nine story structure. And, the genealogy area is on the ninth floor. So, the view will be fantastic! The location is at 330 Park Blvd. in downtown San Diego. For more information on the library, you can go to: www.sandiego.gov/public-library/. There is a café in the Garden Courtyard (ground floor) or you can bring your lunch with you. We may plan for dinner on the way home. This is an option we can discuss. Don't forget \$\$ for your driver. See you on **Thursday**, May 29th at 9:00 a.m. at the Mission Viejo LDS Church parking lot.

President's Message

~Francie Kennedy

At the monthly meeting on May 17, Wendy Goodall will be making a presentation at the 9:15 a.m. mini session titled, "Facebook as a Genealogy Research Tool". If you have ever wondered about Facebook, Wendy will go over the basics of getting started, the history of Facebook and how she makes this social media program work for her as a genealogy tool.

I chatted with Wendy about Facebook last month, and the way she uses this site to gather news and announcements that fit her personal research interests.

April Meeting

~Bill Bluett

After we sang "Happy Birthday" to **Dr. Stephen Baird**, he presented us with an excellent and most interesting topic – **The 1918 Flu Epidemic and its Impact on Genealogy research**. It is absolutely mind boggling how much of the world was affected and how many died from this epidemic. He gave examples of how some families completely disappeared after the 1910 census and cannot be found in the 1920 census. Many that died were buried in mass graves. Dr. Baird emphasized the importance of how vaccines have nearly eliminated many major diseases today. New flu vaccines are developed each year to prevent further epidemics in the future. So, Dr. Baird strongly urged everyone to make sure that you get your flu shots each year. Don't miss out! He then completed his presentation by serenading us with a couple of songs he composed. His voice was accompanied by his own guitar.

We had many guests at our meeting. They were: **Jerry Andes, Sonya Chastain, Virginia Gilmore, Joann Jones, Mary Matura, Curtis J. Raymond, Scott Richmond, Virgil Sebelius, and Joe and Barbara Villanueva.**

We would like to thank the members who provided refreshments. They were: **Pat Christiansen, Sue Naegeli, Mary Jo Nuttall, and Arlene O'Donnell.**

Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions

~Bill Bluett

Francie Kennedy shared how she likes to use the **FamilySearch** library catalog for newly added files and links. Missouri State Death Certificates was one that had scanned files that she copied. This helped her with ancestral information that she had been looking for which led her to the State of Maryland.

Melissa Cottrell has an ancestor that was in the Revolutionary War at the Battle of King's Mountain. She and a 2nd cousin need help knowing what documents to compile for application into the DAR. Bunny Smith might give her some guidance.

Ruth Relin said that she had an ancestor that was an officer and was at the Battle of King's Mountain (North Carolina) and was involved in accepting the surrender.

Verl Nash ended our "brick wall" session with a comment about genealogists who think they might be done with their research but find themselves extremely happy when they have to take a step backwards. Your right, Verl. We're never done!

Membership

~Mary Jo McQueen

Jack Naylor, membership chairman reports eighty-nine members and ten guests attended the April "songfest". (Really sorry I missed it.) Two of the guests have joined the society and two more memberships arrived in the mail.

Those joining are: **Lori & Jacob Caldwell**, Dana Point, CA >lcaldwellrn@yahoo.com<; **Jo Ann Jones**, Laguna Woods, CA >jayjay35@comline.com<; **Mary Matura**, Mission Viejo, CA >rmndog@cox.net< and **Patricia Touher**, Mission Viejo, CA.

Mary Matura is searching **Thomas Cavanaugh** who emigrated from England about 1900, **Vesely** from the Czech Republic and **Said** – USA, Indiana.

JoAnn Jones is researching **Grappa** in Louisiana, **Woody** and **Howell** in Oklahoma.

Ferris Worden <oldsnoopy@earthlink.net> who was introduced in last month's newsletter is trying to find the parents of **Albert Worden** who was born in Dutchess County, New York 1804.

Custer County, Nebraska Rural District #2

By Pam Knoell Steube

My Dad and his siblings as well as I attended rural District #2 school. The one room schoolhouse was built in 1879. In order to get to the school even though it was just across the Victoria Springs road from my family farm was to walk a quarter of a mile on a rutted dirt road. There was a shortcut, which was more fun and adventurous and that was a path leading to a huge tree that lay from bank to bank across Victoria creek. This creek ran along the edge of the farm and the school and even though I do not remember it being more than a couple of feet deep; I do remember the banks being steep. When I started school, Dad decided to make the tree trunk bridge more “user friendly” by chopping out steps at either end so I could climb on top of it. I always thought my dad had put in the tree bridge, but according to him, this tree was washed up along the banks during one of the floods.



Rural district #2 sat on an acre of land, which still exists as a museum thanks to the local community and the Victoria Springs recreational park. It has been open to the public since 1963.

I attended this rural, one room school from kindergarten through third grade, second semester. I do not recall either of my parents driving me to or from school, which worked out great for a tomboy such as myself. I enjoyed my adventures walking to and from school. You see, Eddie and Debbie Sargent used our farm as their shortcut and were our family friends so when I started school they would come by and take me along.

We played the entire time while heading to school, as we knew the bell from the bell tower would ring which meant we had five minutes to be in our seats. As soon as we heard that bell, we would scurry like little squirrels across the log and up the path to school.

Once we got to school, we entered the mudroom. Hooks were spaced along the walls for our coats, and below the hooks was a wooden bench that also served as our cubby for boots and lunch pails. As you left the mudroom, you entered the classroom. It was full of desks for every size student as the school accommodated grades kindergarten thru eighth. The desks surrounded a big potbelly stove, which was our only source of heat. In fact, many days we kept our jackets on as the room was very drafty and we were also allowed to move our desks closer to the heat. The older boys were responsible for keeping the fire going and at times let the younger kids help them. It was always such an honor to be selected by one of the older children.

The teacher sat up front behind a large desk facing the class with a chalkboard attached to the wall. Facing the desk was a bench for us to attend class as each grade was called up to the teacher to go over that class assignment. I looked on as the different grades would attend their classes and it seemed they had such a good time up there, but my experience was lonely as I was the only one in my grade. This created a problem occasionally when I did not do my assignment because now the teacher’s attention was on me and me alone. I had no one to look at except the teacher and it was not always a happy, “oh good job, Pam” face.

Along one of the side walls was a long slender sand box made of wood that was up off the ground but not so high the younger children couldn’t enjoy playing there if their assignments were done. In the back of the room, just off the entry was a small stage with a piano. Each morning we proudly went to the stage, stood and faced the flag with our right hand over our hearts and said the pledge followed by singing “America the Beautiful”. Either the teacher or one of the students

would lead us in song. We also had our music class on that stage which consisted of each of us possessing one of the many crude instruments found in a box such as a triangle, the sticks, or a tambourine. We also put on an annual play on that stage at Christmas. The families would share cookies and punch and listened to their child recite their lines as everyone had lines.

The school faced the road and there was not a lot of room to play in front of the school, but the space in the back was large enough to play Kick the can, Red rover, Dodge ball, Duck, Duck, Goose and Freeze tag. We also used the creek as our playground. During the winter, we slid around on the ice and on warmer days, we skipped rocks or played Hide and Seek. When the teacher stayed inside catching up on some things, she assigned the older boys and girls to keep an eye on us. Then when recess was over the water pump was primed and a line formed for a wonderful sip of fresh water from a nearby spring as this was our only source of water. And yes, we all shared the same tin cup which was wired to the pump.

Then there is good old lunchtime! As everyone took out their lunch sacks or pails, the room filled with aromas of ketchup, bologna and oranges. We ate at our desks; unless it was nice outside then we sat out on the ground. I was given a variety of different sandwich meat, which consisted of bologna, left over fried SPAM or liverwurst. The sandwiches always had homemade butter with mayonnaise on two slices of white bread. I also had our own cow's milk in my thermos and homemade cookies. My dad loved his desserts so Mom made sure there were plenty of goodies around.

When it was time to go home everyone crammed into the mudroom and then scattered like ants. There were times when the Sargents and I had half the school (6 to 10 depending on the year) following us to the creek where we continued our recess. We girls took our time going home, as the boys seemed to have to get home to help their Dads. Our parents never worried if we did not get straight home. The rule at my house was as long as I was home before Dad and helped set the table, Mom never said a word. Those were carefree times when everyone knew each other and trusted each other thoroughly.

I took a trip back to my old school several years ago and sat in one of the desks. Some of my fondest memories of my childhood were from that one room schoolhouse. I smiled, as I could faintly smell those aromas of ketchup, bologna and oranges.

Genealogy 4th Friday Classes

~Bunny Smith, SOCCGS Librarian

The SOCCGS Extra Classes on the 4th Friday will continue the series on the Computer Programs that are provided by SOCCGS. The May 23 Friday class will cover Ancestry, taught by Chris Hurst-Leoffler and Genealogy Bank taught by Herb Abrams. Come and learn all the ins and outs of Ancestry and Genealogy Bank.

The library is closed to the public on Fridays until 1:00 p.m. Therefore, you will need to be at the library entrance before 10:00, you will be escorted into the library genealogy section as a group. Please bring your laptop as the library has Ancestry online. You may find something great that you can save to your computer.

Mark your calendars for Friday June 27th when Mary Jo McQueen will teach New England Ancestors and Jack Naylor will teach World Vital Records.

Special Interest Group for England

David Flint had a good number of attendees at the first gathering of those who wanted to see us open a special interest group for England. Conducting the meeting in Genealogical Section of the Library proved difficult, so David Flint was able to get The Saddleback Room at the Mission Viejo City Hall from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, **May 14** to conduct the second meeting.

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. June 9 will be the start the regular meeting day, the second Monday each month. The meeting dates for the rest of the year will be on Mondays – July 14, August 11, September 6, October 13, November 10, and December 8, based on that regular schedule from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

The Saddleback Valley News Project

There are still rolls of microfilm left to be indexed. Relive that old time feeling of genealogy research by cranking through a roll of microfilm on our microfilm reader or use the library's motorized reader. Put The Saddleback Valley News Project on the front burner of your things-to-do-list.

Herb has been putting indexes for completed rolls online at the SOCCGS Website. You can view them at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocgs/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 in the Saddleback Valley. Just because a person was born, married or died here doesn't mean this information is not valuable to researchers elsewhere. Just think of when you've gone to a local genealogical society's website from USGenWeb.org and found an index that gave you a clue to break through a brick wall. Working on The Saddleback Valley News Project will be a **"thank you!"** to all those indexers giving you clues across the country.

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:** May 15th 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 May 4th and Jun 1st, 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, May 15th 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

Great news from Ways & Means, good news for SOCCGS: Our participants (a total of 49) in the Ralphs Community Contribution Program have done it again. Thanks to their support of this generous program, SOCCGS has received a check for \$256.59 for the last quarter. If you have any question, please call me. Phone: 949 492-5334; e-mail: jimandbonniethor@juno.com

You always pass failure on your way to success.

~Mickey Rooney (1920-2014)

*-Genealogists fail often but persist until
successful at finding their primary source.*

Salt Lake City Waiting List Only

SOC CGS's first trip to Salt Lake City (SLC) will be from April 26, 2015 to May 2, 2015. 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. The trip is limited to SOC CGS members only and has been **sold out**. Rooms were reserved on a first-come first-served basis. The trip cost is \$450 per person double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms were available at \$750 per person single. A deposit of \$100 per person was required to reserve a room. Contact David Flint davidflint@cox.net for info on changes to availability.

“Connecticut Books Are Back In Our Library”

We have recently returned books from **The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records** to the library. They have been in storage since we had to reduce the number of books a few years ago. The new location is in the glass case at the north end of the computer counter.

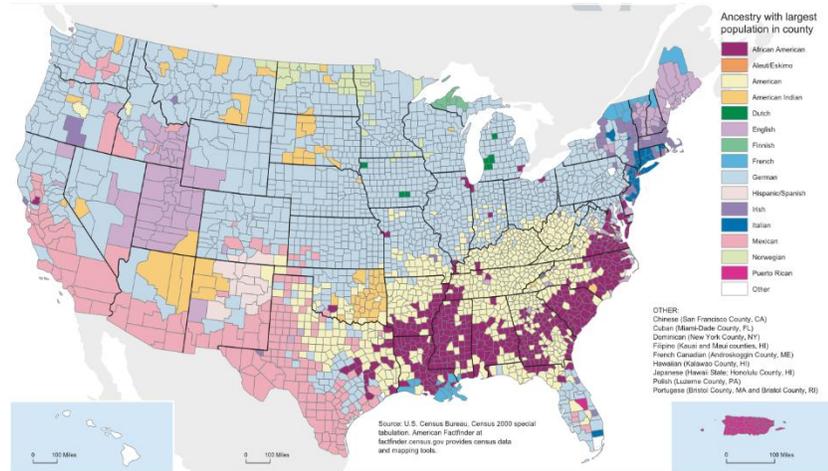
Our collection consists of 26 books, which cover early records from 57 Connecticut towns.

These books will appear soon on the SOC CGS Website Book Lists.

Stop in and take a look.

Census Data Map Ancestry Map

The map below is in black and white for the printing of the Newsletter but you can view it in color by going to the site <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/censusatlas/>, and choosing option 9 from the table of contents or viewing it in our websites Newsletter archive, May 2014. Other interesting maps are also available for viewing there. Additional Census information of interest can be found at <http://factfinder.census.gov>.



Member Articles for Our Newsletter

~Gary Schwarz

Newsletter Article submissions should be submitted by the Wednesday after the monthly meeting. The articles should be a text or MS Word attachment, emailed to the editor and have a Subject line: “SOC CGS Newsletter Article – article title or description” e.g. **Subject: SOC CGS Newsletter Article – “Changing My Search Strategy Helped Me Find My Grandpa John”**. A typewriter hardcopy article can be accepted too, but it may take a while to get it digitized to go into the newsletter. The editor would appreciate the use of “Georgia” font of size 11. Do not use any special line spacing or boxes because it takes time for the editor to figure what you did and how to remove it, which may delay publication of the article.

Typical articles might include: information about a website new to you that helped in your research; how you made a new connection in your research; a one or two page biography of one of your ancestors (I will also place pictures in your article, if you attach a digitized image of photograph, painting or drawing in your submission); a description of a genealogical trip that proved to be fruitful to your research; a special technique you use in your research that you feel might be beneficial to fellow researchers; a feature of genealogical software that helps you in your genealogy.

Hobie Alter (1933-2014) Vision: Don't work, where you need to wear hard soled shoes or east of Pacific Coast Highway.

-Why our ancestor's lived where they lived?

Future Events

May 7-10, National Genealogical Society, 2014 Family History Conference. Richmond, Virginia
Info: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

May 24-25, Scottish Highland Games, Orange County Fairgrounds, <http://www.scottishfest.com>

May 26 11:00 am, Memorial Day at El Toro Memorial Park, 25751 Trabuco Rd., Lake Forest, (949) 951-8244

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

Aug 9, GSN OCC Seminar One Day Seminar with Henry "Hank" Jones, JR., F.A.S.G. Fullerton, Public Library and Conference Center, <http://www.gsnocc.org/gsnocc-seminar.html>

Sep 27, San Diego Genealogical Society Seminar, Cyndi Ingle from Cyndi's List, <http://casdgs.org>

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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