

# Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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June 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 - 21 June 2014

### "Need Direction - Try City Directories"

Presented by

**Jean Wilcox Hibbens PhD, MA, CG**

Census records tell us a lot about where people lived and what they did, but City Directories fill in the holes between Census years and often hold other secrets about family members. See how versatile these resources can be and how attainable they have become. Did your ancestor hold a position in a civic organization? Was his/her business a major enterprise in the city? Where was the business? Learn how to correlate the directories with other documents to reveal some of the lesser known bits of information about your family.

About the Speaker: A Board Certified genealogist, Jean Wilcox Hibben has been involved in family research for over 30 years. She is a member of the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Genealogical Speakers Guild, the Association of Professional Genealogists, and the Corona Genealogical Society. Jean maintains a website with information about her presentations, CDs, projects, etc. - [www.circlemending.org](http://www.circlemending.org). She is a volunteer at the Corona Family History Center where she trains family history consultants and is also a volunteer at the Pacific Region Facility of the National Archives in Riverside County. Jean says, "My goal is to assist others in their efforts to connect generations (past to present), completing the family circle."

**Safari News**

~Bill Bluett

The Huntington Beach Library will be our destination for the June 25th 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 their research page for additional information at:

[www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/library](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/library).

**“SOCCGS Library Tour & Genealogy Workshop”**  
**13 June 10 am -12 pm**

Please join us for a tour of the Genealogy Research Center at the Mission Viejo Library. Combined with the tour is a Genealogy Workshop. You will be able to explore the Genealogy websites to which we subscribe, ask questions and receive assistance on searching your family history. Laptops are welcome.

No need to sign up. Just be at the Library front doors no later than 10 am. We will go in as a group.

**No late arrivals! The library is closed Friday mornings.**

**May Meeting**

~Bill Bluett

It was nice to have **Randy Seaver** back as our guest speaker. This time, the topic was “Genealogy and Cloud Computing”. He covered the entire spectrum of electronic devices for doing our genealogy organizing, analysis, collaboration, and writing. And, being able to access all of it from remote mobile devices. Also, Randy showed where to store your files and how to protect what you have. It’s convenient to have a laptop with you when away from home. But now, you can access all your information through an I Phone, an Android, or even someone else’s computer – if you operating in the “cloud”. We thank Randy for a great presentation. During our break, there were great refreshments provided by members. They were: **Bill Bluett, Noel Jensen, Lana Fitz, Sue Lamond, and Barbara Heebner. Guests: Cheryl Lyman.**

**Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions**

~Bill Bluett

**David Flint** reminded our group to use more than one browser when searching for information. One may have a link that another does not.

**Pat Christiansen** needs help to reload **Mozilla Firefox** onto her computer. A friend might have accidentally deleted it.

**Ted Keyser** was very gracious in thanking “yours truly” (Bill Bluett) for helping him find information on his ancestor Johannes Keyser. What he was looking for has been added to Ancestry.com on a family tree. So, keep checking back on a regular basis.

**Barbara Taylor** was fortunate enough to find Pedigree Trees in the Nelson County Historical Society facility in Lovingston, Virginia. Her Ex-husband’s 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin, James Randall (Randy) Kidd, had left copies of those documents there. Randy has also written a book titled “Lost Marriages of Buckingham County, Virginia” which has info about her relatives. Now, Barbara has contact information for Randy and is awaiting his response from her e-mail. And, Pat Weeks told Barbara that she is also descended from the Kidd family in Buckingham County, Virginia. Small world!

**Arlene O’Donnell** shared that information that came out of the England “**Special Interest Group**” recently that has helped her to narrow down her search for the correct John Smith ancestor - to 10 possibilities! What a surname to have to search. Good for you, Arlene!

**Marlene Elster** found an interesting item on **Find a Grave**. The person she was searching had no gravestone information. But, instead, there was a scanned image of a newspaper clipping telling how the couple traveled from L.A. to Fresno on the train, got off in Bakersfield to be married, and resumed their trip to Fresno. Marlene has been looking in the wrong place for a marriage record. Interesting find, Marlene.

**Herb Abrams** asked if anyone has used “Wiki Tree”. He joined and felt that it is a good website.

**Kathryn Doe** has attended genealogy classes at our library and DAR meetings in Laguna Beach and has found many Doe ancestors listed as “Patriots” in our DAR books at the library.

**Joyce Van Schaak** continues to work with the Saddleback College Foundation “fund raisers” for providing scholarship funds to many students. Check out the latest fund raiser on their website. They are raffling off an Audi A3. You could be a winner.

**Membership**

~Mary Jo McQueen

Two new members: **John E. (Jack) and Mary E. (Betty) Wagner**, Mission Viejo, CA  
pkstratford@yahoo.com.

## 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/svnvitals.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](mailto:jimandbonniethor@juno.com) /949 492-5334.

### Beginning Genealogy Class

~Arlene O'Donnell

**Location:** Mission Viejo Library - Bill Price Room. **Date:** June 19th 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](mailto: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 June 1 and July 6, 2014.

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](mailto:lighthouse1212@yahoo.com).

### Legacy User's Group

~David Flint

The next SOCCGS Legacy User's Group will meet on Thursday, June 19th 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](mailto:davidflint@cox.net).

### Ways & Means

#### California Pizza Kitchen Fund Raiser

~Jim Thordahl

**Great News:** We have sealed the deal with California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) for a FUNDRAISER. On Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, CPK on Marguerite Pkwy., in Mission Viejo, will donate 20 % of the proceeds for every customer who presents our Flyer. So, warm up your Italian taste buds and grab your family, friends and neighbors for pasta at their restaurant or pick up a take home meal (NOT delivery). Check out their menu on the internet. The party lasts all day; so come anytime. You could stop by after some research at the Genealogy section in the MV Library. CPK is right next to the Community Center. Pick up a **flyer** for yourself and a couple for your family and friends at the Library or at the next SOCCGS meeting. A reminder, with a flyer attached, will also be e-mailed to all members. SOCCGS needs your support.

## **Cape Horn Then and Now**

~James J. McGuigan

Cape Horn, also known as “Old Cape Stiff”, is legendary for its treacherous waters. Steady gales from the southwest made reaching the Pacific from the Atlantic difficult, if not impossible until the mid 1800’s. Most sailors came around Cape Horn in an easterly direction from the Pacific. Those who could not get through heading west had to turn around and sail east and around the Cape of Good Hope then through the Indian Ocean to reach the Pacific Ocean from the west. Sailors going either direction had to carefully thread their way between the dangerous shore of the Cape and the Antarctic ice as there was no safe harbor in which to shelter.

Family stories say my great-grandfather, **Thomas Francis Russell (1834-1917)**, sailed around Cape Horn to come to California in 1860. The name and type of ship is yet to be discovered. It was most likely a clipper ship or a windjammer. The stories of his adventures sailing around the horn have been lost to time. The stories of others reveal that the journey was often perilous.

Thomas came to Canada from **Dicks Grove, County Kerry, Ireland** in 1848. It was during the famine and many of his 16 siblings had died. His father died shortly after the family arrived in Canada. His mother moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts with her seven surviving children. Thomas and his brother James went to work in the glass factories in Cambridge to help support the family in 1850. James worked in glass manufacturing for the rest of his life while Thomas decided to go to sea in 1852. He sailed to many ports over the next eight years.

Thomas arrived in San Francisco on 1 January 1860. He initially tried working in the mines in Tuolumne County but like many others he did not find his fortune. He returned to the sea in 1861 where he sailed between San Francisco and Puget Sound delivering ties for the San Francisco and San Jose Railroads.

In the fall of 1865 Thomas rented a tract of land in Mountain View, California. His knowledge of farming was limited and I found an article that told of the amusement of his neighbors the first time Thomas tried to hitch his team of horses. The sailing knots he used were insufficient to the task. He was quick to learn and he spent the rest of his life as a successful rancher and breeder of Percheron horses in Milpitas.

One hundred and fifty four years after my great-grandfather sailed around the horn to San Francisco I had the opportunity to experience the journey myself. I began to think about what Thomas’ journey might have been like. I wondered if my experience would give me a better understanding of what he had experienced.

This February, my wife and I flew to Buenos Aires, Argentina to begin our journey. Our ship was large and had all the modern navigation amenities on board. I needed to keep the probable size of Thomas’ ship in mind during this voyage.

As we left the Falkland Islands and began sailing toward the Cape the sea became increasingly rough. The winds were 40 knots and the waves kept increasing in height. The Captain announced that a severe storm from Antarctica would cross our path if we went around the horn. The wind at the Cape was already at 50 knots and the waves were 30 feet. Our ship changed course and entered the Straights of Magellan to sail the Inland Passage to the Pacific Ocean. The water was still rough but it was a great deal safer.

This trip helped me better understand what my great grandfather Russell may have experienced when he sailed around Cape Horn. I also have increased respect for his courage and fortitude.

### **Genealogy 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Classes**

~Bunny Smith, SOCCGS Librarian

The SOCCGS Extra Classes on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday will continue the series on the Computer Programs that are provided by SOCCGS. The Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> when Mary Jo McQueen will teach New England Ancestors and Jack Naylor will teach World Vital Records. Come and learn all the ins and outs of New England Ancestors and World Vital Records.

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 July 25<sup>th</sup> when Francie Kennedy will teach “Creating a Family Map in Google”.

## 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 Monday, **June 9<sup>th</sup>** to conduct the third meeting.

Bring your laptop, research notes and questions, and any suggestions for good English research websites to share. Contact David Flint – [davidflint@cox.net](mailto: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.

## SOCCGS Facebook Discussion Group

~Barbara Taylor

Discussion groups are ways for people to discuss topics with each other, as well as share photos and files. When someone posts a message, others can add to the discussion and see all comments about the discussion in one place. Members of the group are notified with a little symbol on their Facebook page when someone adds a comment to a topic they have started or participated in.

The SOCCGS Facebook discussion group is at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/socccgs/>. We have 20 members on our discussion group right now. To join the group, people just need a free Facebook account, go to that link above and ask to join the group. We approved everyone who requested so far. Asking for people to join helps keep out spam and trouble makers.

Our introductory message says:

- *This group allows genealogy researchers to post queries, offer suggestions or otherwise discuss their South Orange County, CA Genealogy Research.*
- *This group is closely aligned with the South Orange County CA Genealogical Society Facebook page* <https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Orange-County-California-Genealogical-Society/567245949960695>.
- SOCCGS home page: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocccgs/index.htm>. We have members from Orange County, California; Los Angeles, California; Nebraska; Wisconsin; Pennsylvania; and Washington State so far.

One of the posts we have on our group comes from <http://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>. This link contains a listing of groups on Facebook related to Genealogy in a downloadable PDF file - now 118 pages (as of April 2014).

We have a list of cemeteries in Orange County and a list of local Orange County genealogy resources including: genealogy societies, libraries, OC Clerk/Recorder's Office, etc.

Sheila Larson manages our other Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Orange-County-California-Genealogical-Society/567245949960695>. Sheila posts information about events, classes and other programs of SOCCGS.

## NewsPaperArchive.com Subscription and Terms of Service Practices Questioned

~Alert by Autumn Murphy posted at [<socccgs@groups.facebook.com>](mailto:socccgs@groups.facebook.com)

Wanted to share this article with everyone. I've used newspaperarchives.com before, but will re-think using them again, at least until they change their practices. It's a long article, but worth reading! [As it states at the website, be sure to read the entire article, which gives things to watch out for when subscribing, ways that may be more effective in terminating service if desired, points in the "Terms of Service" that need to be read with a 'fine toothed comb', and unexpected large increases in renewal subscription costs.] <http://www.cluewagon.com/2014/05/want-a-full-refund-on-your-newspaperarchive-com-subscription-just-ask-about-their-charity/>

## SOCCGS Seminar

**18 October 2014 – D. Joshua Taylor – Reserve before it's too late!**

Get your Flyer/registration form at the library and turn it in to Mary Jo or Bill Bluett.

## Access Genealogy - A Free Genealogy Resource

~Arlene O'Donnell

Another researcher shared this website that is free. I have found it useful for my North Carolina ancestral research.

Access Genealogy at <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/> has been online since 1999. What started out as a small 50 page website has evolved over the years to one of the leading websites in providing free genealogy. With over 240,000 links, it is also one of the largest directories of genealogy websites found online. Its crowning achievement though is in providing Native American researchers an avenue for research online. With partnerships between it and Fold3, Native American data has finally been provided to the masses electronically.

### DNA and You

~ Barbara Taylor and Arlene O'Donnell

In the past few years, DNA testing has become a very useful tool for genealogists. There are 3 major types of DNA tests used for genealogy: Y-DNA – for men only to follow their male line; mtDNA – for women and men to follow only their female (maternal) line and autosomal DNA (atDNA), which follows all lines.

Due to the low cost, autosomal DNA testing has become very popular. It can add a whole new dimension to family tree research. It is possible to find relatives that you never knew about, learn more about your ethnic background and social history and meet other relatives who can help with family tree research.

Arlene was one of the beta testers for Ancestry.com when their new DNA test came out a few years ago. After learning of Arlene's success, Barbara tested herself and later tested one son and her ex-husband.

How it works: You order a DNA test and when it arrives, you either fill a little tube with saliva or use a special tool to scrap the inside of your cheek. After you mail in your results, it takes about a month for the results to be returned. Each of the major DNA companies – Ancestry.com, FamilyTreeDNA.com and 23andme.com – now offer their autosomal test for \$99.00. You look at your test results on the DNA company's website. You will be provided with a description of your ethnic background and a list of people who match your test as well as other information, depending on the website. There is always an indication of how closely you match others and often a way to contact those matches. If the other person has provided a family tree or a GED file, you are able to match your family to your match's family.

DNA success stories: Arlene found a previously unknown 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin when she got her DNA results back. That cousin led her to another previously unknown 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin. Arlene has actually met one of her newly found 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins and they are collaborating on their research. See our SOCCGS Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/socccgs/>) for a video interview of their story. Barbara found out that she is related to our own Bunny Smith's husband Leon and has used the tests to break through several brick walls in her ex-husband's family as he only knew his grandparents when she started working on his family tree a few years ago.

Why do DNA testing? Using DNA can open up many new avenues of family history. It does take some effort on your part to make it most useful. A family tree or GED file of your tree should be available online for best results – either at the testing company (e.g., a public family tree on Ancestry.com or an uploaded GED file on FamilyTreeDNA.com or 23andme.com) and/or posted to GEDmatch.com. It is important to reach out to DNA matches and let them know you are interested in finding your common ancestors. It is also important to answer requests from others to share information. As we all know, it is through sharing that everyone benefits and puzzle pieces can be fit together more quickly.

What the future holds: As more and more people take the DNA test, the testing companies are updating their services to provide better tools and features. There is a free/donation-support site (GEDmatch.com) that can take uploads of raw DNA test data from the 3 major testing companies and a few others. GEDmatch.com provides a range of software tools for further analysis and allows for matching a larger pool of people across the other major companies.

How to learn more: An introductory article on DNA is available at <http://dna-explained.com/2013/10/06/dna-testing-for-genealogy-101/>. Arlene and Barbara are also available to answer questions.

**The secret of getting ahead is getting started.** *-Got to send in your DNA to reap the rewards.*

~Mark Twain

### Salt Lake City Waiting List Only

SOCCGS'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 SOCCGS 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](mailto:davidflint@cox.net) for info on changes to availability.

### Future events

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

**22 Jun Sunday** - 1:30 p.m.; Beginner's Workshop in Jewish Genealogy; Temple Bat Yahm, 1011 Camelback St., Newport Beach. Please RSVP to Sandy Bursten, [sandybee1@cox.net](mailto:sandybee1@cox.net), 949-854-8854.

**Jul 6-12**, 2014 American Historical Society of Germans from Russia International Convention, Lincoln, Nebraska, [http://ahsgr.org/Conventions/Convention\\_2014.htm](http://ahsgr.org/Conventions/Convention_2014.htm)

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

**Aug 9**, GSNOC 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 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,**  Find us on Facebook

**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