

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

Vol. 20 No. 07

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

July 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

July 20, 2013

DISEASES THAT RAVAGED OUR ANCESTORS

Presented by

Stephen M. Baird, M.D.

This program 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. He received the highly respected *Distinguished Teaching Award* from the University of California's San Diego Division of the Academic Senate, the *UCSD Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching*, as well as three UCSD Medical School's *Kaiser Teaching Awards*. Dr. Baird's research interests were in lymphomas and leukemias and now in prostate cancer stem cells. He has also 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.

Safari News

Official Safaris are suspended during the summer months of July and August to provide you the freedom to schedule your own Safaris at locations more remote than Southern California. Our Safaris will resume, so keep the Wednesday, September 25th open for the renewed fraternity we have our trip.

Evening docents NEEDED for the summer!

Are you interested in being a docent at the Mission Viejo Library from 5:30 or 6:00 to 8:00 pm? We need you for a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday shift. This is only for the summer, just a few months. Please call Bunny Smith for training. Thank you.

Part of the fun of acting is the research, finding out about other people. -Ditto for the fun of Genealogy!

~James Gandolfini (1961-2013)

The Life and Time of Your Board ~Bunny Smith – Librarian

I was born on a cold winter's day in December to **James Camden** and **Ethel (nickname Bunny) Wisecarver**. My life started in **Cole County, Missouri**. Good jobs were hard to find in the Mid-west, so my father moved to sunny California when I was 2. I grew up and attended school in **Torrance, California**. Every summer, my parents would plan their vacations to visit relatives in Missouri. All lines of my family came together in Missouri.

My father's side, the Camden's, came to Camden County in the 1850's from **Lincoln County, Kentucky**. They came with several other families and **Daniel Boone** to settle the wilderness in the 1780's. William Camden was born 1760 in **Albemarle County, Virginia**. I have not been able to prove his parents. The Camden family came to America in the early 1700's from England.

My Grandmother Allen's line came to **Jackson County, Missouri** in the 1840's from **Bourbon County, Kentucky**. The Allen's moved to Kentucky in the 1800's from New Jersey. **David Allen** was born 1750 in **Hunterdon, New Jersey**. After the Revolutionary War, he moved to **Hampshire County, Virginia**, then **Bourbon County, Kentucky**. David's father, **William**, was born in **Ireland** and moved to America in the 1720's.

The Wisecarver line came to Jackson County, Missouri in the late 1920's from **Benton County, Arkansas**. They came to Arkansas in the 1890's from Ohio. The family moved to **Muskingum County, OH** in the early 1820's from Frederick County, VA. **John Wisecarver** was born in 1735 in VA. His father, **Johannes**, came to America from **Oberfischback, Germany**.

My Grandmother **Davis'** line came to **Osage County, Missouri** in the late 1900's. My Great Grandfather worked for the railroad that was laying track through Missouri. He met his wife, **Mary Wiley**, got married and they had nine children, all born in a different place in Missouri. **John Davis** was born 1862 in **Edgar County, Illinois**. His father, John, was born 1829 in **Edgar, Illinois** and died there. **Adam Davis** and his father were born in **Randolph County, North Carolina**. They moved to Illinois in the 1820's. I have not found proof of **Absolom Davis'** parents of North Carolina, or where they came from.

I remained in California and continued to visit my relatives who still lived in Missouri. I started working on my Family History and Genealogy in 1996 when I retired from Pacific Bell after 32 years. I have traced several lines back to a Revolutionary War patriot. I worked as the registrar for the **Mission Viejo DAR** for 10 years. I love helping others with their family research. I hope to see you at the Mission Viejo Library soon.

Using Digital Newspaper and Book Collections to Enhance My Genealogy

~Pat Nostrome

The first story I would like to tell was using <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc> for “California Digital Newspaper Collection” records. My cousin was searching “The San Francisco Call; 11 Mar 1903 and 20 Oct 1903” for family names and came upon several articles about how our Great Great Aunt **Alice Tehan Buck** had to find and rescue two of her three children after her husband a motorman in **San Francisco, California** had taken them and disappeared with them. The five and three year old children were taken from their grandmother's house in **Doherty, Alameda County** where they were visiting. **J. S. Buck** appeared at the grandmother's demanding the young children and pulled a gun from his pocket when he met with a refusal on his odd behavior. They were not having marital problems although he had shown signs of mental derangement. He took the children and disappeared. The police, railroads, his business associates didn't know his whereabouts. This story was unknown to us as well. An appeal to a charitable society prompted a police officer to investigate the mysterious case. Through the *Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children* they were finally located at a farm in **Mina, New York** state.



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The children were taken in March and finally located in October. Instead of giving up Alice accepted the position of a nurse and when she had saved \$200 prepared to travel east and rescue them. She

took the train for New York State and acquainted herself with the area. She hired a swift horse and buggy and awaited the children coming home from school. When they saw her they climbed in the buggy and she drove ten miles to the Pennsylvania state line. Buck knew it was the mother but said a gypsy had kidnapped his children. He got a mob to give chase. She saw the pursuers but made it to the state line taking shelter at a farm. When Buck's companions arrived and saw it was his wife and not a gypsy, they left. Buck left to get legal assistance thinking his wife would stay there overnight. He no sooner left than she hustled her children back into the buggy and hurried for the train. Seeing her husband and two men near the depot she took another road and caught an electric car bound for Erie. From that point, the coast was clear. Mrs. Buck and her children arrived safely back in San Francisco. We knew the Tehan women were strong but had never heard this story.

My second story was using the <http://www.hathitrust.org/> digital library. After numerous years of people trying to find any record of **Jeremiah Fallon's (1815-1864)** (my great-great grandfather) ships or logging operation on the Mississippi River to New Orleans, I found a six volume book set, "*Ship Registers and Enrollments of New Orleans, Louisiana*", prepared by the Survey of Federal Archives in Louisiana, Division of Community Service Programs, Works Projects Administration. It clearly listed his second schooner. I knew it was named Mary Ann after the birth of his daughter. It was built on the **Tickfaw River, Livingston Parish**, in 1842. Information gave the tonnage measurements and description. **Darby Fallon** (the same person as Jeremiah) was listed as owner and master, Livingston Parish. Documentation told when it was sold and enrolled by a new owner in 1846. This gave us the Parish he was living in so I could verify a census. It also coincided with his selling of a home and business to join a wagon train in **Missouri**, going west to **California**. This is an easier site to search. Again it shows why we never stop looking. The book was held by the **University of Michigan**.

[**HathiTrust** is an international community of research libraries committed to the long-term curation and availability of the cultural record. Through their common efforts and deep commitment to the public good, the libraries support the teaching and learning activities of the faculty, students or researchers at their home institutions, and the scholarly needs of the broader public as well.]

Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions

~Bill Bluett

Bill Bluett reminded the group to keep checking back on genealogy websites because they are continually adding information. He found the photo of his 4th great grandfather's tombstone on **FindAGrave.com**. **Richard Paddock** was born in 1787 and died in 1854. He and his wife are on the same tombstone in a cemetery located in Syracuse, New York. Bill now has ancestors that served in the War of 1812, the Civil War, and World War II – with the name Richard Paddock!

Bunny Smith agrees that **FindAGrave.com** continues to grow in leaps and bounds. Also, through **23andMe** genetic testing, Bunny has discovered a 3rd cousin who is also a DAR member. They are now communicating by e-mail with one another.

Kathy Mauzey and **Mickie Dempsey** attended the Southern California Genealogy Jamboree in June and found a vendor with great information and resources for the State of Oklahoma. Some of the information focused on Indian Affairs, tribes, and reservations.

Pat Nostrome had two success stories using digitized newspapers or book repositories. See her article in this newsletter.

Victoria Crayne performs "Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness" By that I mean that she will go through antique shops and find old postcards, photo albums, scrapbooks – you name it. Victoria will put information and images online through **Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness** (RAOGK) and hope that it will connect with someone's family. She has numerous stories of success that we are encouraging her to share with us in one (or maybe two) of our future newsletters. And, maybe she would be willing to instruct us on how to go about doing this to help others find a missing family treasure. Wouldn't that be a rewarding hobby to go along

Membership

~Mary Jo McQueen

Sixty-four members and two guests attended the June meeting. Guests were former members, **Dean Duet** and **Draden Ekas**. Dean has reinstated his membership and is searching surnames: Burgau, Duet, Coll, Ribaul, Bergean and Burgo. Email: duet111@gmail.com.

President's Message

~ Francie Kennedy

Genealogy is a great puzzle, a brain-teaser, a history quest. These aspects of our pursuit are intellectually stimulating and satisfy the same part of the brain that loves crosswords and jigsaw puzzles. But genealogy is so much more personal than that kind of puzzle. Not only do we fit the pieces together, we find out things like our own great-grandmother's maiden name. This gives us a sense of deeper connection with where we came from, knowing who are "our people".

The great chain of overlapping generations stretches back in time, a river of DNA and social context for all of the lives lived that results in ... us. It is astounding to contemplate the unbroken lines going back, back, back, until there are no more written records, but "our people" were there, living their lives. Details of those distant lives may be lost and forgotten, but can be carried forward in attitudes and traditions, and we may not even be aware of the origins of those in our present-day family.

For families that moved west in the United States, often the old life was deliberately left behind, purposely forgotten, as people started over in the wide-open spaces of opportunity. Leaving a town where generations had lived in Missouri, to start over in California, meant that their children had no sense of their history. Many of my lines have forgotten their history this way. It has been exciting to be the detective and recreate where we came from, who we lived near and knew back then, and find the small towns of my ancestry in the Midwest and farther east.

My father forgot his history for a different reason. It was too painful. He did not really forget it of course – he just suppressed it, and could not talk about his background. He was a wonderful man, but had a troubled side, which I could never talk to him about. After he passed away, I began my genealogical research, to create a family tree for my daughter. I discovered Dad's illustrious Civil War heritage, plus mayors and teachers and socially prominent successful business people in his ancestry. I wonder how much Dad knew of that aspect of his family history? Recently, I have dug deeper into the death records, and found his grandfather's death. Fortunately, this was a scanned certificate posted online from the commendable state of Arizona. Cause of death: fall from a fourth floor window. In the blank marked "Homicide, Suicide, or Accident?" the person filling out the death certificate wrote "Over". Over?? There was no "over" on the scanned copy online. I pursued locating the back of the form via emails, eventually finding out that at the time and for the record they did not specify homicide, suicide, or accident, and on the back noted specifically that no coroner's investigation took place. He was a prominent businessman in Phoenix, and this was in June 1942, when my dad was 10 years old.

More recently, I found the details of his father's death, just 3 1/2 years later, in December 1945. This death was identified as suicide, also a fall from a window, this one in San Francisco. Using Google street view, I visited the place which was once a posh-looking residence hotel, and based on the coroner's report of a witness, found the window from which he probably fell. I found old postcards online of how the hotel looked in its heyday, as it looked when he lived there. Dad was 12 years old when his own father died. My heart went out to the little boy that was my father in 1945, losing the two men in his life, his father and grandfather, before he was old enough to cope with it as an adult. It completely changed my attitude about the father I grew up with, seeing him as this wounded little child.

Many of us have family secrets, or just grey areas that aren't talked about, in our history. When we gather the courage to investigate the facts and interpret them as adults, it can release us from the shame or tension we felt as children when these subjects were hushed up. Knowing this, genealogy is a pursuit that satisfies the both the mind and the heart. Our ancestors lived in their own "now", and did the best they could at the time. As we investigate, we may have these opportunities to grow our sense of compassion, and move forward with forgiveness, into the river of time.

Beginning Genealogy

~ Arlene O'Donnell

Location: Mission Viejo Library - Bill Price Room. **Dates:** Jul - Oct: The 4th Thursday of the month; 10:00 a.m. -12:00 noon; Nov/Dec: **2nd** Thurs/mo 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Bill Price Room (due to holidays). **Class Size:** 4 Maximum

Requirements: Bring one document e.g. birth/marriage/death certificate, obituary, or any document pertaining to your family. This is a class for those interested in starting their search for their ancestors.

This class is given by the South Orange County California Genealogy Society. There is no charge for the class; however, we request that you RSVP. There is also a signup sheet at the docent's desk in the Genealogy Room. Call for details: 949-466-7178; email: silkberry@aol.com

**South Orange County
California Genealogical Society**
Mission Viejo, California

Presents

A Family History Seminar
Saturday, October 19, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
(Doors Open 8:00 a.m.)
City Hall, Saddleback Room, 100 Civic Center Drive, Corner La Paz & Marguerite
(North end of the City Hall - directly across the library parking lot)

“Settlers, Soldiers, & Overcoming Brick Walls”

Featuring

LLOYD DEWITT BOCKSTRUCK

Renowned lecturer & past Director of Genealogy @ the Dallas Allen Public Library

Topics:

“The Name of the Game: Onomatology and the Genealogist”

“The Scots and the Scots Irish”

“Researching your Ancestors from 1775 to 1820”

“Researching Deeds and Wills”

**Refreshments - Door Prizes - Drawing for Ancestry Subscription -
Sales Tables and Displays**

Pre-registration must be received by October 16 / Tickets at the door \$25.00, no lunch.
(Seminar information & registration form also available on SOCCGS website.)

SOCCGS '2013' Seminar Registration

Name(s) _____ Registration: _____ @ \$20.00

_____ Box Lunch: _____ @ \$9.00

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____ Total: \$ _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mail to: SOCCGS, P.O. Box 4513 Information: (949) 492-9408 or Mission Viejo, CA 92690-4513
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocgs/>

Legacy User's Group

~ David Flint

The next SOCCGS Legacy User's Group will meet on Thursday, July 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The meeting location has moved to the Saddleback Room 1 in the Mission Viejo City Hall, directly across the plaza from the library. (Please note that this meeting is not on the regular third Thursday meeting date. We will return to the regular Third Thursday meeting schedule in August.)

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 genealogy software. 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. Bring your laptop computer to the meeting to get the full benefit. For questions or more information, contact David Flint – davidflint@cox.net . See you there.

The Family Tree Maker User Group

~Sheila Larson

The 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 of the Mission Viejo Library (across from the public computer area). The July 7, 2013 meeting will **not** be held due to an out-of-town visitor. However, we will resume on Sunday, August 4, 2013. The purpose is for users to share their collective knowledge of the program and pick up some tips.

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

SOCCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SOCCGS Website @ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocgs/>

Mail List: SOCCGS-L@rootsweb.com

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

June Meeting

~Mary Jo McQueen

In her opening remarks President Francie reminded us that the monthly calendar of events is printable from our website. She gave us a sneak peak at the new door prize format for the Seminar. Stay tuned! A survey questionnaire using "Survey Monkey" will be forthcoming. It will come via email from Herb Abrams. We learned of the California Celtic Classic to be held August 25 at Dana Point. **www.calcelticclassic.com**.

Nancy Huebotter gave her usual stellar presentation. She gave several Internet Research hints. Looking for family or place pictures? Try **Google Images**. Try different search engines for genealogy information, i.e. **Dogpile.com** and **Bling.com**. Timelines are an important tool to use in compiling your family history. Check out **www.ourtimelines.com**. Don't forget **Cyndi's List**. For those of you who were not in attendance, there are extra copies of Nancy's handout at SOCCGS' Library/Research Center.

We thank our hostesses: Teress Weber, Susan Lirette, Maureen Witte, and host David Flint.

See you in July.

Search at Mission Viejo Library Success

~Arno "Gil" Gillis

While searching a genealogy forum at the Mission Viejo Library in April I found a posting on GenForum stating that the author "was adopted out of the **Gillis family** in 1970". The posting gave the name of the author's grandfather and grandmother, both now deceased. The author, "LISA", asked whether anyone had ancestral roots information on this Gillis family. There had been no replies to the posting and it was over four years old. I decided to try email instead of forum posting. I tried two variations of her possible email address but both came back as undeliverable. With **Herb Abrams'** help, we decoded the security blur on Lisa's email address on GenForum. I again sent her a message that I was the nephew of her grandfather and grandmother.

I was very pleased to receive a response from her. She provided some additional information but stated she had not been successful in finding out more about her grandparents. I sent her a picture, scanned from my father's photo album, of the Gillis family taken in 1936 which included her great grandparents (my grandparents) and their sons and daughters which included my Uncle Wes, Lisa's grandfather.

Her response was extremely enthusiastic – stating in the opening of her email that it was the first time she had ever seen a photo of her grandfather. She went on to tell me about her less than desirable circumstances growing up in foster homes but ultimately getting to college and earning two masters degrees in Education and History. She is now 50 years old and is a teacher in a private school in Colorado.

She also related the background as to why she legally changed her last name to **MacGillis**. **Lisa** had learned that her own mother, who had abandoned her and her siblings, may not have been the biological daughter of Wes, but that he had raised Lisa's mother as his own. Lisa felt that because she had virtually no familial ties that she would honor her grandfather by adopting a new name.

I have sent another follow-up email with more pictures. These included a picture of my Uncle **Wes** taken while he was in the army in **Hawaii** prior to WWII (He ultimately served in Europe during the war.) I also included a photo of her grandfather and his twin brother taken prior to their first birthday. The twin did not survive.

Lisa's response to all of this is overwhelming. I will be continuing to fill in her family tree. I have an 1895 photo which will take her back two more generations. I am sensing huge satisfaction in knowing that this has been quite a discovery for Lisa. My thanks to **Jack Naylor** and Herb who helped me make the original contact.

*** **JUST IN AT THE LIBRARY** ***

~Bunny Smith – Society Librarian

Norfolk County, VA Birth and Death Register, Births from 1853-1874, Deaths from 1853-1870

Norfolk County, VA Death Register, Deaths from 1870-1896

Norfolk County, VA General Index to Deeds 1646-1780

While you are in the Library, stop in at our Computer Stations for the latest program updates. Books and other documents are being loaded onto these sites everyday.