

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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July 2017

Editor: Kathie Mauzey

Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Main Mission Viejo LDS Church Building, 27976 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, between Medical Center Drive and Hillcrest Drive. Membership is open to anyone interested in genealogy. Individual membership fees are \$20 per year, joint membership \$25. SOCCGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center.



July 15, 2017

"Utilizing the Digital Public Library of America and the HathiTrust for Family History Research"

Presented by
Colleen Greene

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and the HathiTrust Digital Library are two relatively new innovative resources to incorporate into your family history research. Both house and provide gateways to rich digitized collections that can be accessed online and on your mobile devices for free. DPLA's mapping and time-focused features make it possible for those unfamiliar with a particular era or geographic region to gain a better understanding of the types of records available for different places and times. HathiTrust's innovative reading features make it easy to quickly locate your ancestors in its extensive collection of published family histories and historical materials. You will walk away from this presentation with two new favorite websites for your research toolkit!

Colleen Greene, MLIS, is a librarian, genealogist, historian, web developer, and educator who teaches and presents on genealogy, digital history tools, and research from Boston University. She is the Marketing & Web Systems Librarian at California State University, Fullerton. Colleen is a member of several genealogical societies and was a recent presenter at the Southern California Genealogical Society's annual Jamboree conference.

Mini-Class 9:15-9:45 before the July Monthly Meeting - Gary Fredericksen will present "Zombies & Dust Bunnies, Cleaning up your family tree." All mini-classes are held in the classroom to the left of the kitchen.

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

President's Message

By Bill Bluett

I find it interesting that I can look back at stories I've written a number of years ago or articles I wrote for our society newsletter in past years and now be able to add more information to those stories. There is information that I didn't realize at the time they were written. I guess that means I am progressing in my research. Here is one "case and point" I can make: In our April 2011 newsletter, I wrote about the MORMON HANDCART EXPEDITIONS that traveled from Iowa City, Iowa, to Salt Lake City, Utah, from 1856 to 1860. The great-great grandparents of my wife Helen had a farm that was just a few hundred yards north of the main road (old US Highway 6) that headed west from Iowa City. This is the road that thousands of Mormons walked upon as they began their 1300 mile journey to Utah. Many of those "converts" were from England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden and the U.S.A. At the time I wrote this article, I didn't realize that Helen's G-G grandfather, Neunom Wesley Reynolds, had two brothers that left the family and converted to Mormonism in the late 1840's. William Fletcher Reynolds and his younger brother Levi Burt Reynolds eventually left Iowa (in 1852) and traveled to the Salt Lake region with a Mormon wagon train. Now, a few years after their departure, many more groups were passing right past Neunom's farm in Tiffin, Iowa. I wonder how he felt seeing these groups passing by headed for the land where his two brothers had settled. Did he attempt to send any messages or letters with these folks hoping they might reach his brothers? Or, had there been any correspondence between the Iowa and Utah families? How did Neunom and his wife Susannah feel about William and Levi joining the Mormon religion? Mormons were certainly a controversial group during this period of time. I do have evidence that at least one descendant of William Fletcher Reynolds attended at least one (or possibly more) Reynolds family reunions in Iowa. Carol (Reynolds) Jacobsen, a granddaughter, was present at the September 1986 reunion in Iowa City. She and her husband, Orlon, resided in Ogden, Utah, at that time.

Now, let's flash back to 1856 and the HANDCART EXPEDITIONS. Great-great grandfather Neunom and Susannah had 8 children at this time. One of those children was my wife's great grandfather Isaiah Parker Reynolds. He would have been about 14 years old when the first Mormon party traveled past their farm. I would think that Isaiah and his brothers and sisters were curious about these so-called "foreigners" that were heading west. While the Mormons were encamped along nearby Clear Creek awaiting their provisions, wouldn't you think that the Reynolds kids would want to go "sneak a peek" at the encampment or even talk to some of the folks? Or, did their parents tell them not to bother them or mingle. Most likely, I'll never know the answer to those questions. I'm sure that the great-great grandparents had heard or read stories about the settling of Utah and that many Mormon husbands had multiple wives. I wonder what they might have thought about that? William and Levi Reynolds did indeed have more than one wife and they settled their families in Mt. Pleasant, Utah. This small community is located about 100 miles south of Salt Lake City on historic Highway 89. Helen and I visited the Mt. Pleasant cemetery where over 65 Reynolds are interred.

So, the HANDCART story has taken on an entirely new perspective for me since finding the Reynolds family connection to the Mormons in Utah. I have written over 30 stories about ancestors over the past several years. Is it possible that I may find additional information in the near future that may change the complexion of other stories I have written? Only time will tell.

June Meeting

~ Bill Bluett

Our guest speaker for the June monthly meeting was **Gregory C. Beckman**. His topic was **The Case of The Wrong Headstone**. Greg has only been doing genealogy research for two years and has uncovered an amazing amount of data and information in such a short period of time. I was impressed! He has found informational errors and even an incorrect headstone marker for an ancestor that was in the Civil War. Through his persistence, errors have been corrected including a new military headstone with the correct surname – Beckman, not Bergman! Good job, Greg. We commend you on your efforts and diligence. Prior to his program, our members enjoyed some great refreshments provided by five of our members. Our contributors this month were: **JoAnn Jones, Kathie Mauzey, Gayle Meldau, Pat Nostrome, and Gary Schwarz**.

Safari News

~Bill Bluett

There will be no safari destinations in the months of July and August. Safaris will resume in September when we will travel to the LDS Family History Research Center located in West Los Angeles. Check your September newsletter for additional details.

Membership Update

~ Sue Naegeli

We had 85 members and 2 guests, and 2 new members who joined at the June meeting. 1 new member joined earlier in the month.

New members:

Nancy Harris, Laguna Woods, searching for **Casey, Brinsun, Luper, Garnet**

Terry Holcomb, Laguna Woods, searching for **Holcomb, Small (IN & IA), Hively (IN), Houck (IN)**

Phillip Omatsu, Rancho Santa Margarita

Guests: **Kelly Albright**, Aliso Viejo, searching for **Hortencia Hinio, Mary Millspaugh, Frank Appodaca Sr.;** and **Margaret O'Neill**, Laguna Woods, searching for **Richardson (UK), Cahill (IRE & UK), Zweigbaum (Ukraine, Skauge (Norway)).**

Fourth Friday Class – Identifying Old Photos from a Family Collection Presented by Gary Fredericksen

Our Fourth Friday class will be on July 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the Saddleback Room of the Mission Viejo City Hall. Join the class to learn about Identifying Old Photographs.

SOCCGS Research Center News

~Judy Davin & Bunny Smith

Come to the Mission Viejo Library, SOCCGS Research Center, during the month of July to see the flag display and TEST your Revolutionary Flag knowledge. The first flag flown over the American Colonies was the British Union Flag. Learn how our Stars and Stripes came to be the American flag it is today.

World Vital Records is now part of My Heritage. The World Vital Records icon was removed from our Research Center computers, so to access those records you now use the My Heritage icon.

In addition to 17 books on Ireland and 12 books regarding Scotland, our Research Center has 105 books and 11 pamphlets on Virginia. Everything from Irish families, early Virginia immigrants, various county records and much more.

Orange County Public Library has a wonderful new website on Genealogy. Go to OCPL.org and on the opening page look for the tabs that move across the home page. Find the Genealogy tab and click on it. When the Genealogy tab is displayed click on Genealogy and then click on the small words that say “read more.” This site has lots of good information including “Local Organizations” which mentions SOCCGS!! And features “Local Libraries.” Our Mission Viejo Library Research Center comes up.

Do You Have a World War I Veteran Ancestor?

~David Flint

In a recent conversation with Bill Bluett, I learned that Jim Thordahl, leader of our Writing Family History Stories SIG, reminded his group that this year is the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entry into World War I. Jim suggested to his group that they consider writing stories about their ancestors who served in WWI. That gave me the idea to make a similar request to **all** of our members. Many of us had ancestors who served in the military during World War I, and we have stories to tell about their service.

The war began in Europe in 1914, and the United States entered the war after Congress declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. On Veterans Day/Armistice Day – November 11 – we will be reminded of the war that ended on 11 November 1918 with the signing of the Armistice with Germany on a railway car in Compiegne, France. President Woodrow Wilson called it “a war to end all wars”.

If you had an ancestor with military service during World War I, please consider writing a brief story about your ancestor's service and submitting it for our newsletter between now and next November. It would be nice if we could run a story in each issue for the rest of the year. It's a good way to remember their sacrifice and to support our 100th anniversary of entering the war that was supposed to "make the world safe for democracy."

727096 Private William Sweeney 1898-1918
by David Flint

William Sweeney was my first cousin once removed. He was the third child and second son of Thomas Sweeney and Elizabeth Fear, who left England in 1907 and moved their family to St. Marys, Ontario, Canada. Elizabeth was my father's aunt, sister of his mother, Alice Fear, my grandmother. When my own family left England in 1954, Aunt Lizzie, as my Dad called her, then a widow, sponsored us for our move to Canada, and we moved to St. Marys because that's where Aunt Lizzie lived. This story is in response to my own request to our members in this issue of the newsletter for articles relating to ancestors who served in World War I.

When World War I broke out in Europe in 1914 many of the local men in St. Marys enlisted in military service, as did eligible men all over the British Empire who volunteered to support England at its time of need during that war. William's father, Thomas Sweeney, had served previously in the British Army in India and Burma. After five years of service in India he returned to civilian life and was in the reserves. In August 1915 he returned to active duty with the 33rd Canadian Infantry Battalion. Thomas Sweeney served overseas and was wounded in August 1916, after which he returned to Canada. Three months later his son, William Sweeney, enlisted in the 110th (Perth) Canadian Infantry Battalion in November 1915.

All this occurred long before I knew anything about these men or their military service. I was ten years old when my family left England for Canada, and World War I was nowhere in my awareness. I was on a grand adventure to a new country. Aunt Lizzie was very old and sour-faced. I don't know how my Dad felt about his elderly aunt, but I remember thinking she was very scary. I don't remember her ever laughing, and she always seemed somber whenever we saw her. She lived alone in an old stone house on a corner on Church Street. I don't recall ever thinking about her living by herself, and I was not aware of her absent husband, who died in 1948 at age 81. Ten year-olds tend not to pay attention to family details like that.

In 2007 my wife and I visited St. Marys for a day when we were in Ohio and New York visiting other family. We returned to St. Marys in 2013 for a family reunion. During that trip, a visit to the local museum produced information about my family in St. Marys, including a number of newspaper articles dating back to the early 1900's. I also found a book published in 1995 to remember the men from St. Marys who died in various wars, including WWI. There is a page dedicated to William Sweeney that gives details about his short life and military service.

William Sweeney sailed to England in October 1916 with the 110th Battalion, which was broken up for reinforcements shortly after arriving. Private Sweeney transferred first to the 8th Reserve Battalion, and then to the 119th Battalion, because he was too young to go overseas at age 18. In March 1918, shortly after reaching his 19th birthday, William transferred to the 52nd Canadian Infantry Battalion serving in France.

He reported to his new unit and was immediately sent for training to the 3rd Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps. An increase in strength was approved for the machine gun battalions, and each one was ordered to provide 50 men on a trial basis. Some battalions avoided sending their best men, and instead provided newly arrived reinforcements, many of whom proved unsuitable due to their inexperience and were returned to their original units. One of those was my William Sweeney, who returned to the 52nd Battalion in May 1918.

By August 1918 William saw active combat service with the Canadian Corps in the area of Amiens, France. On August 8, 1918 William was wounded fighting in the Luce River Valley, suffering a fractured leg and shell wounds to his left knee and left hand. He died there that same day. He was 19 years old.

Private William Sweeney was buried in France at the Longueau British Cemetery. He is remembered on the Honor Roll at the cemetery, and on a cenotaph in front of the St. Marys Town Hall along with the names of other young men from that town who died in World War I. Unfortunately, the "war to end all wars" did not end the loss of many thousands of young men like Private William Sweeney in the wars that followed.

WE ARE THE CHOSEN
IN EACH FAMILY, THERE IS ONE
WHO SEEMS CALLED TO FIND
THE ANCESTORS. TO PUT FLESH
ON THEIR BONES AND MAKE
THEM LIVE AGAIN. TO TELL
THE FAMILY STORY AND TO
FEEL THAT SOMEHOW THEY
KNOW AND APPROVE. DOING
GENEALOGY IS NOT A COLD
GATHERING OF FACTS, BUT
INSTEAD, BREATHING LIFE INTO
ALL WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE
US. WE ARE THE CHOSEN, THE
STORYTELLERS -----

THIS IS US!!!!!!

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Website Correction

In the June newsletter the website to “**Replace Veterans’ Medals, Awards and Decorations**” was incorrect. It should be <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/replace-medals.html>

Also, Barbara Taylor has another good site for information about military records. She writes “I have used their Golden Arrow Research services several times. They found records at the National Archives that the military couldn’t find and the NARA staff couldn’t find. www.mymilitaryservicerecords.com - Geoff Gentilini specializes in the research of U.S. military records and is founder of Golden Arrow Military Research, one of the most highly regarded military research organizations operating in the United States.”

July Free Webinars

Legacy is presenting several free webinars in July:

July 5 – 11am – Censational Census Strategies – Mary Roddy

July 12 – 5pm – Google Books: the tool you should use every day! – Lisa Louise Cooke

July 14 – 11am – Tips for Snapping Pics: How to Take Perfect Family Photographs – Jared Hodges

July 18 – 5pm – Analyzing Documents Sparks Ideas for Further Research – Angela Packer McGhie

July 19 – 11am – The Firelands, The Connecticut Western Reserve, and the Ohio Territory – Peggy Clemens Lauritzen

July 26 – 11am – Family History Adhesive: The Science of Why History Binds Families and the Simple Tech of How to Do it – Janet Hovorka

Aug 2 – 11am – Tracing Your West Country Ancestors – Kirsty Gray

Register at www.familytreewebinars.com If you miss the live Legacy webinar, recordings are in the archives and free to watch for the first 7 days after the broadcast.

Southern California Genealogical Society:

July 19– 6pm – The Early Religious Experience in America: the Theology Behind the Records – Michael D. Lacopo

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

New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)

July 20 – 12pm – BostonHistoric Catholic Records Online – Jean Maguire

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

Illinois Genealogical Society

July 11 – 6pm – The Watchfires of a Hundred Circling Camps – Peggy Clemens Lauritzen

Aug 8 – 6pm – Ten Years is a Long Time: Census Substitutes for the In-between Years – Amy J. Crow

Registration: <http://ilgensoc.org>

Spotlight: Canadian Newspaper Database

by Valerie Beaudrault, Assistant Editor

NEHGS The Weekly Genealogist, June 14, 2017

Simon Fraser University (SFU) is a public research university in British Columbia, Canada. It has campuses in Burnaby, Surrey, and Vancouver. SFU has more than 130 digital collections of newspapers, photographs, documents, sound recordings, and more. The [digitized newspaper collection](http://newspapers.lib.sfu.ca/) is the largest, with nearly a million pages. Three newspaper collections are of particular interest to family history researchers: British Columbia/Canada, French Canadian, and Immigrant Experience. Click the thumbnail image to select a collection. Browse page images or search by keyword. Use the advanced function to search by publication date or to search the full text. <http://newspapers.lib.sfu.ca/>

British Columbia/Canada There are 19 newspapers in this collection.

French Canadian There are 7 newspapers in this collection. Some of these newspapers were published in Ontario, which had a significant French Canadian population.

Immigrant Experience The 28 newspapers in this collection represent a number of immigrant communities: Chinese, Estonian, Finnish, Polish, Pakistani, Ukrainian, Russian, German, Latvian, Indian, Hungarian, Jewish, and Celtic (Irish, Scottish, and Welsh).

Future Genealogy Events

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

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

July 14, 2017, 12-2:00 – NSDCGS – **Francie Kennedy** “Put Your Ancestor On the Map” Faraday Administration Center, Carlsbad. Contact Jill Scott at legacyusersgroup@gmail.com

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

July 20, 2017, 10-12:00-Arlene O'Donnell - Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library
(Small class size – for reservation contact Arlene at silkberry@aol.com)

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

July 21, 10-12:00 – Myrna Hamid – Ireland SIG – Saddleback Rm. MV City Hall

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

Future Events (continued)

July 25, 2017 9:00-11:30 – **NSDCGS –Jean** Tempke, “Beyond the Book: Ideas for Sharing Your Genealogy with Family Members” - Carlsbad City Council Chambers www.nsdccgs.org

July 28, 2017, 10-12:00 – 4th Friday Class - Gary Fredericksen – Identifying Old Photos from a Family Collection. Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

Jul 29, 2017, 9-3:30 – GSNOOC Seminar with **Thomas MacEntee**, contact www.gsnooc.org

Aug 4, 2017, 10-12:00 – Sue Naegeli - Genealogy Research SIG – Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

Aug 12, 2017, 12-3:30 – SCCGS Lunch & Learn – Crista Cowan “Getting the Most of Ancestry” For Information: <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com> click on programs, then lunch and learn.

Aug 18-20, Genealogical Society of Hispanic America 2017 Conference, Ontario, CA. For information: www.gsha.net

Aug 30 – Sep 2 – Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference – Pittsburg, PA www.fgs.org

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SOC CGS Website: www.socccgs.org



SOC CGS Research Center, located at the

Mission Viejo Library, Marguerite Parkway at La Paz, (949) 470-8498

SOC CGS E-mail: cmvgs@netzero.net

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Membership/Renewal Application

() New 1 Year: () Individual, \$20.00 () Joint Membership at same address, \$25.00

() Renewal New Address or E-mail Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Make Check payable to: SOCCGS

Mail **with application** to: SOCCGS, P.O. Box 4513, Mission Viejo, CA 92690-4513

I do not wish to share my personal information with other members.

April 2017