

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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August 2015

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 calendar year, joint membership \$25.

SOCCGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

August 15, 2015

"Eastern European Genealogy"

Presented by
Michelle Sandler

Our speaker will discuss Eastern European Genealogy. She will provide tips on getting started in researching those illusive ancestors. Michelle will examine the various countries that make up Eastern Europe and their historical significance. Come find out where to search and how to approach foreign language challenges

About the speaker: Michelle Sandler is currently Vice President of Programming for the Orange County Jewish Genealogical Society. She has a BA degree in History (Ancient Israel and Near Eastern History and archaeology) from the University of Arizona and an MLS degree from San Jose State University. She also possesses a Certificate in Cartography from California State University Long Beach. Professionally, she was the Librarian at Westwood College on the Anaheim campus. Presently, she is automating the libraries of Temple Beth David in Westminster and Temple Bat Yahm in Newport Beach.

Safari News
~Bill Bluett

There will be no safari in the August. We will resume in September with a trip to the Los Angeles LDS Family History Research Center. Stay tuned for more detailed information.

Carlsbad Library Will Close for Renovation

The Georgina Cole Library in Carlsbad is scheduled for renovations to start September 1 and anticipated to be complete in early 2016. The final day for public service is August 31. Online services and resources are available through the website www.carlsbadlibrary.org. So hurry on down there this month if you need to do genealogy research.

Genealogy Search Tip of the Day Posted: 14 Jul 2015 05:52 AM PDT

[Ancestral Locations in the US National Register of Historical Places?](#) Is there a place in your family history that is on the US National Register of Historical Places? If so, the application may contain significant clues or citations to additional sources that may be helpful in your own searches. <http://www.nps.gov/nr/research/index.htm>

Irish Catholic Church Records Online Posted: 08 Jul 2015 09:19 AM PDT

370,000 images are in this collection, ranging from the 1740s to the 1880s and covering 1,086 parishes throughout Ireland. The collection consists primarily of baptismal and marriage records. The records can be viewed at <http://registers.nli.ie/>

President's Message
Writing Your Family Stories
By David Flint

One of my very favorite genealogy speakers is Curt Witcher, Genealogy Center Manager at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I always find his talks engaging and he makes me think about my own genealogy work. He also delivers his presentations with humor, and lots of passion. Two years ago I heard Curt give a stirring program at the WAGS annual seminar. It was his closing talk, and today I find myself still thinking about what he had to say.

His program was titled "This I Believe – The Urgent Need to Record Living Memory". Curt reminded us how often we rely on others, mainly government agencies and the big genealogy tech companies, to preserve our genealogy records. He said "we have left the care of our written public records in the hands of disinterested strangers", and he wondered aloud about the future reliability of that dependence, considering all the possible technology changes that might make our generation's records unavailable to future generations. He advanced the argument that we are not doing enough to preserve our thoughts and words for future generations, and offered the disconcerting thought that ours might be the first generation since medieval times to "go dark".

What he emphasized was the personal family history that is typically not written down and preserved so that our own descendants will have it. Curt referred to all the memories and family stories that were passed down to us, by our own parents, grandparents, and other family members, that live only in our memory, or the memory of others who are still alive to retell them. But when those family members are gone, and we are gone, what happens to those stories then? Who will be here to remember them and pass them along to the next generation as we received them from those who went before us?

The solution that Curt proposed is that we should spend some time every day writing down our family history to capture the stories we know firsthand, or have been told by others who experienced them. He stressed the importance of writing down those stories while we still can, before they are lost forever. We all have those memories, and with them we also have a duty to our descendants to record them, and preserve them, and pass them on.

Yes, I know we are all busy and have lots of other things to do. But how many of us can guarantee that we will not miss the time needed to capture the priceless old family stories that only we can record? One way to do it is to get started with a journal, and simply take a few minutes each day to jot down those favorite childhood memories, or family stories we heard from our parents and grandparents. One of the many values of a class like the one offered by Jim Thordahl (SOCCGS – Writing Life Stories) is the discipline imposed by writing something for each month's class. Others who are more creative, like Dr. Stephen Baird, have decided to record their family history in songs.

Later this month I will be traveling to Kent, Ohio to attend the 100th birthday celebration for my Aunt Vena. My mother died at age 87, and Vena is her only remaining sister. She is still in fairly good health, and I'm looking forward to hearing what she recalls about a long century of living. She left England with her family in 1955, the year after my family left. My brother will join me from Washington, and a cousin from Canada, as we meet with other family for the celebration in Ohio. I will take a digital voice recorder and hope to capture some of her living memories while she is still with us.

Whether you record your family memories and stories in songs, poems, narrative writing, or a daily journal is not as important as just getting started in doing it! That's why Curt Witcher's talk referred to "the urgent need to record living memory".

Membership Update
~Jack Naylor

Seventy-three members and two guests were in attendance at the July meeting. Guests were: Geeta Parikh and Pat Williams.

Five new members joined during the month of July: **Chuck Costello**, Mission Viejo; **Edna Reid**, Laguna Woods; **Linda G. Hughes**, San Clemente, CA lindah2508@gmail.com who is searching for **Beeson** (England 1690's) and **Pearce/Pierce** (Wales 1700-1800). **Mary Jane Williams**, Lake Forest, CA maryjanew224@gmail.com. Mary Jane would like to inquire about the **Morris Family**. Thomas Morris born about 1834 in Keswick Ridge, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. She has been unable to find the names of his parents. Another new member is **Lynne Holt**, Lake Forest, CA holtlynne13@yahoo.com. Lynne is the granddaughter of **Beverly Long**, a SOCCGS founding member.

Bylaws Update

~David Flint

This is to provide a summary and update for members on the recent changes in the society's Standing Rules and Bylaws regarding membership dues and renewals. Two recent actions were taken by the general membership at our meetings in June and July on these matters.

At the June meeting, the membership adopted changes to the Standing Rules approved by the executive board to simplify the handling of dues payments and membership renewals. Our membership dues will continue at the rate of \$20 for Individual Membership and \$25 for Joint Membership. For most current members, you will continue to pay your renewal dues on January 1st each year. However, for all new members joining in the month of February 2015 and later, their renewal date will be the anniversary of their first membership month. For example, someone who joined our society in March of 2015 will pay their renewal dues on the anniversary of that date -- March 1 of 2016, and so on for all new members based on their individual anniversary dates.

At the July meeting, the membership approved related minor changes in the Bylaws. Those changes revised Article III-Membership, Section 4. Dues -- so that the Bylaws refer to the dues payment dates and renewal payment dates in the Standing Rules, and provide that a member's name will be removed from the membership rolls if dues are not paid within 60 days of their renewal anniversary date. Both of these actions will reduce the amount of special handling by the Treasurer required under the previous Bylaws and Standing Rules language. You will receive notice when your renewal dues need to be paid. Please watch for further information on dues payments and membership renewals in future issues of the newsletter. If you have any questions about these matters, please contact David Flint, Mary Jo McQueen or Pat Christiansen.

I NEVER MADE IT TO ENGLAND

By Patricia Ann Dean Christiansen

Research Tour 2015

Family History Center & Library, Salt Lake City, Utah

For almost a year I have been attending the "England Special Interest Group (SIG)" class to learn how to do research in England. After all, I had ancestors by the score born in Kent, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Lamington, London, Nottingham, York and Yorkshire. With all that I had learned from the England SIG, I was ready to try my hand at researching these good 'ole folks across the pond. There was definitely a need.

In planning for this week-long trek, I made lists of those to research, kept research logs to avoid wasting time, placed data onto a thumb drive, printed out a few key family group sheets and selected pedigree charts on preferred lines ... all these steps were done with relish. I could smell success and almost taste the rewards of my efforts.

Walking into the Family History Center in Salt Lake City would be like approaching Mecca; knowing in my soul that there was light at the end of the tunnel. As you enter, you are greeted warmly and young men wearing badges are there to escort you to your location of choice. One grabbed my briefcase and offered me his arm so that I was better balanced (I walk with a cane) and we headed into the main floor research room.

As I was seated at a spacious curved desk with a "humongous" computer screen staring back at me, I could see the bank of copy machines less than ten feet away. As I collected my thoughts, I realized that this was not Floor B-2; I had failed to tell my escort that I wanted to do research in England.

The amenities at each individual seating area (along with the supplies provided by David Flint, our tour organizer), were an encouragement to stay where I was ... it couldn't get any better than this. Besides the "ergo" chair that fit my back so comfortably had my name on it. Before the day was out, two persons gave me their copy cards so that I could take advantage of the monetary balance on them.

Within the next four hours, I was overjoyed that I had missed that step in my lobby encounter of stating my research preference. The decision to take a second look at some of the lists that I had brought with me resulted in new names and data pouring forth on the U.S. families that I had brought with me ... these names, dates and locations will definitely be of assistance when I do get to the England Research area two floors below.

When I returned to the Family History Center on subsequent days, I felt equally rewarded; so rewarding were my results that I never made it to England! Even though I continue to do research since

returning home, and realize successes here, I have already signed up for next year's tour. Whether I make it next year to floors containing England, Wales, Germany or Ireland research, it is an experience to rare to forego.

DNA Update

By Barbara Taylor and Arlene O'Donnell

At our June 26, 2015, DNA workshop, someone asked if we could share a few of the sites we mentioned for others.

A. Top Autosomal DNA testing companies

1. AncestryDNA.com
 - Strengths: Reasonable cost \$99. Fast turnaround (within 4 weeks), Large customer base with many family trees. "Hint" system to help identify matching people in trees. User-friendly interface. Test includes ethnicity estimate. One person can manage several tests under one account; can invite others to see the results.
 - Weaknesses: No chromosome browser. Some features require a paid subscription to Ancestry for full family tree tools.
2. FamilyTreeDNA.com
 - Strengths: Can transfer a DNA test from Ancestry for \$39.00 or take autosomal DNA (atDNA) test for \$99. Has a chromosome browser to compare results and identify matching segments. Test includes ethnicity estimate. Also offers mtDNA (maternal lines) and Y-DNA (paternal lines). No subscription fees.
 - Weaknesses: Tests take longer to process. Many fewer family trees than Ancestry. Harder to navigate site. Each test requires a separate account.
3. 23andme.com
 - Strengths: Reasonable cost \$99. Test includes ethnicity estimate. Formerly, offered medical DNA analysis (now blocked by FDA).
 - Weaknesses: Have to request matching from each person to see results. Connection to MyHeritage for family trees requires an additional subscription fee. Many people tested for medical reasons and are not interested in genealogy, so don't respond to inquiries.

B. Third-party Tools and Resources

1. GEDmatch.com — Accepts tests from the top 3 companies for matching. Highly recommended to upload your DNA tests here. Provides other tools such as Chromosome Browser to help identify matching segments and a large variety of ethnicity estimates. Supported by donations. Allows for upload and searching of GED files of members. Site is free, supported by donations. People who donate have advanced tools available.
2. The "AncestryDNA Helper" add-on for the Chrome browser adds additional features to AncestryDNA tests. Documentation at <http://www.itstime.com/AncestryDNAHelper.htm>.
3. DNAGEDcom.com — Lots of free tools for matching DNA results: download DNA test results from FTDNA and 23and me to spreadsheet format. DNA segment analyzer. Jworks and Kworks (help to compare results). Gworks (compares surnames from GED files). Supported by donations; some new features available by subscription.
4. DNAAdoption.com — Many resources for adoptees and genealogists searching for their families. Supported by fees for classes and donations.
5. Online Classes —
 - DNAAdoption.com — classes for adoptees and genealogists at a variety of levels: one session "First Results" classes for each DNA website, 2-session beginners class, 4 session "Working with Autosomal Results" class, Advanced DNA classes, Introductory Y-DNA class. Costs: \$5 to \$25.
 - DAR.org. DNA and the DAR: Using DNA as a Piece of Evidence for a DAR application: \$100.
6. Facebook groups:
 - DNA Newbie <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dnanewbie/>
 - Many other genealogy and DNA groups - See list of Facebook groups at <http://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>

Docent Profile: Herb Abrams

After retiring in 1992, I needed something to do with my spare time so I started going out to the National Archives site in Laguna Niguel to do family research. A couple of years later I became a docent there and that is when I met some members of the newly organized South Orange County California Genealogical Society.

I joined SOCCGS in 1995 and was asked to fill a vacant position on the board as Publicity Chairman and shortly after that as Webmaster. When the new Mission Viejo Library opened in 1997, I volunteered to become a genealogy docent and have been holding down the Saturday morning slot ever since. I also took on the job of “handyman,” fixing the computers and printers as needed.

I enjoy helping people find their ancestors. Come on down to the library on Saturday and maybe I can help you find yours.

Docent Profile: Jim Thordahl

It was a few years ago – I don’t remember when – that I volunteered to cover a couple of Saturday afternoons a month for a awhile. “A while” took me into September and football season. I gave up my favorite sport on TV and continued as a genealogy docent. I was having too much fun.

It was so rewarding to meet people and, perhaps, help them take their first genealogy steps. The stories that they share are always interesting. Of course, I hope they find my stories of interest, too.

When the day is quiet, it’s a great opportunity to work on my own family tree with the free resources that SOCCGS provides. If I find myself distracted by everyday life, being committed to those three hours gets me back in the genealogy grove.

SOCCGS Research Center: CD Highlight

#268 Scottish Immigrants to North America, 1600s-1800s

~Bunny Smith

If you want rich, quality information from your Scottish line, you have to see this CD. It covers approximately 70,000 immigrants, spanning 16 volumes of *The Original Scots Colonists*, this collection was authored by Scottish emigration specialist David Dobson. Extracted from a variety of sources both in North America and Scotland, the fully indexed images collected here would otherwise be difficult to locate. Records were compiled from private and public sources including passenger lists, newspapers, church records, land deeds, records of indenture, and oath of allegiance. Mr. Dobson specializes in migration patterns and the historical background of the Scottish peoples’ emigration. By itself, this work identifies virtually all the Scottish settlers to America in the 1600’s. My favorite title was *Directory of Scots Banished to the North American Plantations, 1650-1775*. See you at the Mission Viejo Library, Research Center.

July Hospitality

~Barbara Heebner

At the July meeting, refreshments were provided by members **Sheila Hansen, Chuck and Pat Nostrome, Pat Weeks, Ruth Relin and David Flint**.

What Your Town Looked Like on Penny Postcards

Dick Eastman, Newsletter June 23, 2015

Years ago, postcards cost 1¢ to mail within the U.S. Postage was temporarily raised to 2¢ from 1917 to 1919 to cover the cost of World War I and the increase was rescinded after the War. In 1952, the required postage was raised to two cents and has slowly escalated ever since. Today, mailing a postcard cost 34¢. (Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_United_States_postage_rates)

Over the years, many postcards were printed with view of a town or other area, then sold in stores within that town or area. Many of these postcards have been preserved and often provide an interesting glimpse of what life was like in “the good old days.” Possibly your ancestors saw these same views in person. USGenWeb has a rather good collection of penny postcards available online. The scenes vary from pictures of the downtown business area to residences to people at work. Railroads seem to be featured often in these old pictures. You can view the USGenWeb collection of postcards at <http://www.usgwarchives.net/special/ppcs/ppcs.html> Click on the states and then on the county name to see old penny picture postcards from that area.

Future Genealogy Events

Aug 1, 2015, 11am – OCCGS, Huntington Beach Library -Jean Mossis presentation “My Adoption Search: Follow My Journey in Solving the Puzzle, Piece by Piece”

Aug 1, 2015, 10am - Free webinar - Cyndie Ingle, Remedies for Copy-and-Paste Genealogy, <http://tinyurl.com/scgs-150801>

Aug 7, 2015, 10-12:00-Mary Jo McQueen - Genealogical Research SIG - Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall

Aug 10, 2015, 10-12:00-David Flint - England SIG - Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

Aug 19, 2015, 6:00pm – Free webinar – Kathryn Lake Hogan, Find Your American Ancestor Using Canadian Records, <http://tinyurl.com/scgs-150819>

Aug 20, 2015, 10-12:00-Arlene O'Donnell - Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library

Aug 20, 2015, 11-1:00-David Flint – Legacy Users Group, Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

Aug 21, 2015, 10-12:00-Gary Schwarz – German SIG – Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

Aug 23, 2015, 1:30pm – OCJGS-Jane Neff Rollins will present Sensitive Subjects: What to Reveal, What to Conceal. For information (949) 423-3746

Aug 25, 2015, 10-12:00-Jim Thordahl – Writing Life Stories – Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

Sep 6, 2015, 10am – Free webinar – Michael L. Strauss, “The Great War: Researching Your World War I Ancestors,” <http://tinyurl.com/scgs-150905>

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address: _____

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

**A Family History Seminar
Presented by SOCCGS
Saturday, Oct. 17, 2015 - 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 - Mission Viejo
"Search, Find, & Preserve Your Genealogy Data"**

**Eastman Topics for the 2015 October Seminar
~Bill Bluett**

"MOCAVO: How Does It Compare To GOOGLE?" It is a search engine that many people have never heard of. However, it is designed for use by genealogists and often can find information that is buried within thousands of "hits" when searching Google. This lecture describes Mocavo in some detail, including the new data matching and monitoring for new data features. The lecture will include a live demonstration searching for information suggested by the audience. Have your suggestion ready for this presentation!

"Find Genealogy eBooks For Free And For Pay" This presentation will describe the many online resources to find genealogy and local history books. Many books are available free of charge while others may charge \$10 and up. In most cases, the genealogy books may be downloaded and read as PDF files and many can also be read on Kindles, Nooks, iPads, PCs, Macs, and many other e-book readers. This is a great way of increasing your personal genealogy library without requiring additional bookshelves! (P.S. - I, your faithful seminar coordinator, can attest to this. I downloaded a 1000 page Stowell Family Genealogy book from Amazon on my Kindle for 99 cents. What a bargain!)

"The Organized Genealogist!" This topic looks at various methods of organizing record keeping by use of digital techniques. This talk focuses on converting paper-based record keeping to all digital records, making plenty of backups (to be stored in different locations), and preserving the digital records for many more years than is possible with paper. This presentation also discusses methods of digitally preserving printed books and magazines for long-term storage and making sure that information in those publications can be easily searched and retrieved.

"Oh, My Goodness, Where's My Data?" The final topic describes the pitfalls of using computers without making frequent backups. How valuable is your Data? How long would it take to re-construct the information? Those are questions you need to ask yourself. Mr. Eastman will discuss what you should backup, what you should use to back up your material, and how many back-ups are appropriate. He will even discuss online backup sites that are available. The topic will cover both PC's and Mac computers.

SOCCGS '2015' Seminar Registration

Name(s) _____ Registration: _____ @ \$25.00
_____ Box Lunch: _____ @ \$9.00
Address: _____
City & Zip: _____ Total: \$ _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Information: (949) 492-9408 or at
<http://www.socccgs.org>