

# Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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September 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 - 20 September 2014

### "Getting the Most Out of the FamilySearch Wiki"

Presented by

**Jamie Mayhew**

**How do you start research in a new area? Where do you find the instructions the enumerators used for the census? What should you do if you are a beginner? But, I'm not a beginner, and I want to learn about land records. Where do you go? The FamilySearch Research Wiki is an underused jewel for genealogy research. Learn how to get the most out of the FamilySearch Wiki.**

About the Speaker: Jamie Lee McManus Mayhew is the principal researcher for California Cousins. Her first experience with genealogy was as a teenager researching with her mother, cranking through census records and old books that had that peculiar odor that old books have. She has been researching now for almost twenty-five years, and in 2010 started the research service California Cousins: Family History Research Services. She is a lecturer throughout Southern California and recently, she was a researcher for season one (2013) of the PBS television show *Genealogy Roadshow*.

**Safari News**

~Bill Bluett

Come join us on September 24th and take part in our safari. We will be traveling the Los Angeles Family History Center on Santa Monica Blvd. in West L.A. Go to [www.larfhc.org](http://www.larfhc.org), where you can search for books, film and fiche available at this destination. This will enable you to better plan your day. The car(s) will leave the LDS parking lot at 9 a.m. Bring a brown-bag lunch, \$\$ for your driver, and then enjoy dinner on the way home at the "Earth, Wind, and Flour" restaurant.

**I think your whole life shows in your face and you should be proud of that.**

~ Lauren Bacall (Betty Joan Perske; 1924-2014)

*-Genealogists love old photos showing the lives in the faces of their ancestors.*

**Don't delay! Reservations for the October Seminar will close once they reach 125. Tickets will not be sold at the door.**

## Presidents Message

~Francie Kennedy

What does a genealogist really want? Besides finding the parents of the oldest ancestor, door prizes at the seminar! Door Prizes were handled differently last year. The focus was items useful for genealogy, like books, computer gadgets like flash drives, reference books on CD, and scrapbooking supplies. The Board invites you to give a gift to a genealogist, and donate items that might appeal to genealogists. In addition to the items listed above, this is a great time of year to pick up office supplies like post-its, clear sheet protectors, a batch of 3 ring binders, an archival pen, flash drives - these things are always useful. No gift is too small!

At the seminar, people buy tickets and put them in the bag for the specific prize they want to win, so it's very satisfying to win what you want. Also, last year's mascot was an elephant donated by Patty Weeks and decorated by Mary Jo - it was one of the most popular items! We already have our mascot for this year, so the rest of the prizes will be more focused on genealogy and family history. You can give your donation to Jim at the next meeting, or drop it off at the library with a docent, or email any board member and we'll arrange a way to pick it up. There is just one more meeting before the seminar! Let's get some great gifts together by the September meeting!

Thanks, Francie!

## Changes to SOCCGS Bylaws and Standing Rules

The Bylaws Committee has completed a thorough review and update of the Society's Bylaws and Standing Rules. The proposed changes were approved by the Executive Board and will be submitted to the members of the Society for approval at its meeting on September 20. There has not been a comprehensive review and update of our Bylaws for some time, and this recent review was to bring the Bylaws, as well as our Standing Rules, in line with our actual operating requirements and current practices, and to clarify language in those documents where needed. A brief summary of the major changes follows.

- Clarified the responsibilities and duties of individual officers and committee chairpersons in line with their current duties.
- Overhauled **Article VII – Nomination and Elections** to accurately reflect the current timeline of the nominating and election practices, now that the term of office has been revised to two years. The new language also makes it clear when each step in the process is to occur, when it is reported to the Board and the membership, and when actions are announced in the newsletter for the information of the members. There will no longer be any action taken on nominations in the month of October, when we have our annual seminar in place of a regular monthly meeting; the election of officers will be conducted at the November meeting; and new officers and committee chairpersons will be installed at the December meeting.
- All provisions relating to the amounts and receipt of membership dues have been combined and moved to a single section in the Standing Rules, rather than being split between both the Bylaws and Standing Rules, as they are currently.

A copy of the “redlined” version of both documents is posted for viewing on the SOCCGS website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocgs/srandbylaws.html>. The words proposed for deletion appear as ~~strikethrough~~ type, and additions are printed in red. In the view of the Bylaws Committee and your Executive board members, the proposed changes have been needed for some time, and will help to better organize our governing documents and make them easier to understand and follow. Special thanks for their work on the changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules go to our Parliamentarian Pat Christiansen and Mary Jo McQueen. If you have any questions about the proposed changes to the Standing Rules or Bylaws, please ask any of those individuals, or any other member of the board.

## August Meeting

~Gary Schwarz

**Nancy Huebotter's** presentation was outstanding. She presented ways to determine what to keep, what to give away, and what to throw away from the family archive. Her handout was extremely helpful. It described typical items found in a family archive; the basic steps to preserve the ones you're keeping and giving away; a deterioration risk chart for different types of items; and a more detailed list of hints for preservation. Nancy also provided addresses and websites for archival supply companies.

## Brick Walls and Genealogical Research Suggestions

~Pat Weeks

Member **Joyce Van Schaack** recounted her recent visit to Southern Indiana where she visited with a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin, three times removed. Through him she discovered the cemeteries she was interested in had been removed to other counties to make way for a military camp to be built there. The cousin did show her one gravesite, and with some luck, they gained access to an old burial plot still on the grounds of the camp. There she found the tombstones of her third and fourth grandparents.

**Karen Guth** has been attempting to further her research in Croatia, but has not been able to contact anyone who will reply to her requests. She asked for suggestions from the group.

**Kathy Richardson** has been researching her husband's family and has uncovered Ancestry his family in Spain who were royalty with records going back three hundred years. Her dilemma is she is unable to find out the sources of such, which Ancestry cites as in the "millinium files". Different members replied these files are compilations, not actual sources.

**Melissa Cottrell** has found her family in an 1896 city directory that gave much more than just his name and address. She also commented on a site on Ancestry - US Register of Civil, Military and Naval Service 1863 - 1959 which was just added in June.

## Membership Update

~Mary Jo McQueen

There were 82 members and 4 guests at the August meeting. We welcome the three guests who joined SOCCGS:

**Roxanne Burg** - Ladera Ranch, msinfo@aol.com. Roxanne is looking for: ANDREWS, 1750 IN New England and HUNSDORFER about 1800 in Germany, Missouri and Wisconsin.

**Margaret (Peggy) J. Graham** - Mission Viejo, CA

**Marge Foster** - Mission Viejo, CA was a guest.

**Joan Collings** - Mission Viejo, CA; [joancollings@yahoo.com](mailto:joancollings@yahoo.com); Looking for Calhoun & Skinner in Texas, Allen, Hargas & Willcuts in Indiana and Collings in North Carolina.

## Seminar Door Prizes

Ways and Means Chairman, **Jim Thordahl**, is requesting donations for the Seminar Door Prize Table. Items of a genealogical nature will be appreciated. Anyone wishing to donate please contact Jim at (949) 492-5334 or [jimandbonniethor@juno.com](mailto:jimandbonniethor@juno.com).

## Ancestry Price Reduction for AARP Members

~David Flint

At our August meeting Joyce Van Schaack announced that Ancestry.com is giving a discount to AARP members on renewing your subscription to Ancestry. I contacted Ancestry and learned that this discount offer is good until March 4, 2015. If you are interested in a 30% discount on your next Ancestry.com renewal, contact the Member Services Department seven days a week, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. ET at (800) 514-4645. So give them a call and save 30%.

**I'm sorry, if you were right, I'd agree with you**  
Robin Williams (1951 - 2014)

*- What we might say after checking  
others sources thoroughly.*

## Opportunities Available To SOCCGS Members

**The Saddleback Valley News Project:** Herb Abrams - 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 put completed rolls online at the SOCCGS Website. They may be viewed at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocgs/svnvitals.htm> .

**Writing Life Stories:** Jim Thordahl - SOCCGS' Writing Life Stories Group meeting is held on the **fourth Tuesday each** month. The next meeting is on September 23, 10:00 to 12:00 in the Saddleback Room. (The Seminar location) 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:** September 18<sup>th</sup> from 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)

**Legacy User's Group:** David Flint - The next SOCCGS Legacy User's Group will meet on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Saddleback Room in the Mission Viejo City Hall. For questions or more information please contact David Flint at [davidflint@cox.net](mailto:davidflint@cox.net).

**England Special Interest Group:** David Flint –This group meets on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be September 8, followed by October 13, November 10 and December 8, 10 am to noon. You may join in at any time. Bring your laptop, research notes and questions, and any suggestions for good English research websites to share. Contact David Flint at [davidflint@cox.net](mailto:davidflint@cox.net).

**Genealogy 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Classes:** Mary Jo McQueen - **Heritage/Family History Scrapbook Class** Friday September 26, 1 to 4 pm, Saddleback Room. Join us to begin a new project or work on one you have previously started. Please bring items you wish to include in your book and paper or supplies you may have. This is a fun workshop that will give you an opportunity to learn and share ideas with fellow genealogists. Please reserve your space with Mary Jo McQueen, [mcqueenmaryjo@aol.com](mailto:mcqueenmaryjo@aol.com) or (949) 581-0690.

### October 10 – Organizational Meeting for the Genealogy Research SIG

~Mary Jo McQueen

SOCCGS' newest Special Interest Group will hold the first meeting in the Saddleback Room on October 10, 10:00 to 12:00. This group is intended to follow up on the Beginning Genealogy Class by helping members "Jump Start", or delve more deeply into their genealogy research. Perhaps we may jump a "Brick Wall" or two. Please bring your ideas, questions, notebooks and pencils/pens to this meeting. No need for computers.

More information will follow at the September 20 general meeting.

### Mac Users Group on October 31

~Mary Jo McQueen

The first meeting of the Mac Users Group will be on October 31, 10:00 to 12:00, in the Genealogy Section of the Mission Viejo Library. Please sign-up with **Mary Jo McQueen**.

There are seven members signed up thus far. Please join us!

### Book Review - West of the Revolution

~Jack Naylor

West of the Revolution by Claudio Saunt, a noted Historian is a must read for genealogists. It covers items of historical interest that were happening 50 miles west of the East Coast all the way to the west coast during the 1776 time era. [Included information is: Russia in the Northwest; Spain in the southwest; Indian tribes on the plains; activities near and west of the Mississippi; San Francisco and much more beyond Minute Men and Red Coats.] Extracted from a Book Review by Gerard Helferich in the 22 July, 2014 issue of "The Wall Street Journal."

## Ways & Means

~Jim Thordahl - Ways & Means

**Ralphs Community Contribution Program** - September 1<sup>st</sup> is a red letter day. It's the first day of Ralphs Community Contribution Program's new term. Each year our participants in Ralphs Community Contribution Program **must re-enroll** on or after September 1<sup>st</sup>, even if you enrolled for the first time just days ago.

If you are an online enrollee just go to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) and repeat the steps you used before. The instructions are also available on the SOCCGS website. In the long list of organizations supported by Ralphs, find SOCCGS by entering "South" for the first five letters of our name. Remember to "Save."

For those who register by the scanbar letter, last year's letter is still good. If you need a scanbar letter you can download a copy from our website or pick one up at the docent desk at the library. I always have a copy for you at our SOCCGS meeting.

New enrollees can use either method. We'd love to have you participate. Questions: Call me, (949 492-5334) or send an e-mail [jimandbonniethor@juno.com](mailto:jimandbonniethor@juno.com).

## Jane Doe

~Book Review by Shelia Larson

I have just finished reading a fascinating book and thought I would let the SOCCGS members know about it. It's called Someone's Daughter: In Search for Justice for Jane Doe by Silvia Pettem. It's a true story about a genealogist's passionate quest to identify a woman buried in a Boulder, Colorado cemetery. The woman had been killed in the 1940's and her headstone simply read "Jane Doe." Pettem worked with local authorities and interested them in renewing their efforts to find the killer.

I wanted to read the book initially because I had worked at the Sheriff's Department in Boulder in the late 1980's and knew many of the investigators she collaborated with. However, I think the book would appeal to any genealogist as the techniques are the same we use in tracing our families. At 296 pages, it's an easy read. It can be purchased online for less than thirteen dollars.

## Seminar Jewelry Table

~Jo Ann Minnig

Jewelry Chairman, **Jo Ann Minnig**, is requesting costume jewelry from members to sell at the Seminar. This has been a very successful Ways & Means Project at past Seminars. She may be contacted at (949) 582-3682 or [jbminnig@earthlin.net](mailto:jbminnig@earthlin.net). Please bring donations to the August general meeting or they may be left in the Genealogy Section of the Library. Donations will be accepted at the meetings in September as well.

## Member Articles for Our Newsletter

~Gary Schwarz

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

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

**Spotlight: Northern Oregon Cemeteries**

~Valerie Beaudrault, Assistant Editor

[Metro's Portland Area Cemeteries](#)

The Metro's website offers information about services and places in the metropolitan Portland area and beyond. The city of Portland is located in Multnomah County, in northern Oregon on the Washington border. All fourteen historic cemeteries profiled on the website are located in Multnomah County. Many of the cemeteries started as family plots in the mid-1800s. Between 1949 and 1960 the county took on responsibility for the maintenance of thirteen cemeteries. One of them, Jones Cemetery, had been a county cemetery since 1872. In 1994 Multnomah County transferred the ownership of its cemeteries and the responsibility for their care to Metro.

The cemeteries are listed on the homepage. Click the cemetery name for additional information, including brief histories and detailed maps

Click "search burial records" for the database search page. The database may be searched by last name, first name, and death and burial year. The data fields are last name, first name, death or burial date, and cemetery. Click the last name link for detailed burial location information.

[Mt. Calvary & Gethsemani Catholic Cemeteries, Oregon](#)

This website comprises the three Archdiocesan cemeteries in the Portland area: Gethsemani Catholic Cemetery, located on the east side of Portland near Clackamas Town Center, in operation since 1961; Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery located in western Portland and the largest of the Archdiocesan cemeteries; and Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Eugene, located about 100 miles south of Portland.

Click the "Search Our Database" header at the top of the page to search by name and view a detailed record including full name, cemetery, date of birth (age), date of death, funeral date, church affiliation, mortuary, grave location (section unit, wall block, lot), property type, and space number.

**Why do they call it rush hour when nothing moves.**

Robin Williams (1951 - 2014)

*-Time for the genealogist flies by many times without finding a new clue.*

**Legends are all to do with the past and nothing to do with the present**

~Lauren Bacall (Betty Joan Perske; 1924-2014)

*-Genealogists use the present to document legends of the past.*

**We look forward to hearing Mr. Taylor's presentations at the October 18<sup>th</sup> Seminar.**

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**SOCCGS '2014' 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

Information: (949) 492-9408 or 2014

## Future Genealogy Events

**September 13** – NEHGS West Coast Symposium; “New York Research”; Berkeley, California  
**September 21** – Sunday; 1:30 pm; Jane Neff Rollins; “From Chernorrudka to Chicago”; O.C. Jewish Gen. Society; 1011 Camelback Street, Newport Beach  
**September 27** - San Diego Genealogical Society Seminar, Cyndi Ingle from Cyndi’s List, <http://casdgs.org>  
**October 18** – SOCCGS Seminar featuring **D. Joshua Taylor**.  
**January 31, 2015** – Geoff Rasmussen – WAGS seminar.  
**March 21, 2015** – Judy Russell, the “Legal Genealogist” – NSDCGS in Carlsbad .

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### SOCCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SOCCGS Website @ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casoccg/>  
Mail List: [SOCCGS-L@rootsweb.com](mailto:SOCCGS-L@rootsweb.com)



SOCCGS Research Center, located at the  
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