

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

Vol. 19 No. 10

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

October 2012

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, 27967 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

October 20, 2012

A Family History Seminar

Saturday - 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.)

"Breathing Life Back Into Your Ancestors"

Featuring

LORETTO DENNIS (LOU) SZUCS

Renowned lecturer & V.P. of Community Relations for ANCESTRY.COM

Topics:

"What's New and How to Best Use Ancestry.com"

"Beyond Names and Dates: Finding Biographical Details"

"Finding Naturalizations, Passenger Lists, and Immigrant Origins"

"A Dozen Ways to Jumpstart Your Family History Project"

Safari News

Come join us on October 24th and take part in our safari. We will be traveling back to the Cole Genealogy Library in Carlsbad which is located on Carlsbad Village Drive just off the 5 Freeway. The car(s) will leave the LDS parking lot at 9:30 a.m. You can bring a brown-bag lunch or travel to a nearby eatery. Also, bring \$\$ for your driver. There will be no dinner planned on the way.

Ralphs Community Contribution Program

Jim Thordahl – Ways & Means Chairman

August 31st was the last day that Ralphs contributed a cash portion of your purchases to the SOCCGS program account unless you re-enrolled. That means **we all must re-enroll** to continue to participate in this generous program. Thanks again to those who participated. If you have a question call or email: jimandbonniethor@juno.com; ph: (949) 492-5334.

You can't have everything, where would you put it.

~Steven Wright

-Genealogists would find a place.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

~Bill Bluett

Our Society has a new website subscription that Herb Abrams has added to our computers at the Mission Viejo Library. The website is GENEALOGYBANK.COM. I've been looking at that site for the past month and decided to get my own subscription. They gave me a 20% discount and my cost is only \$55.95 for the year. The reason I wanted my own is because of the number of items I am finding related to possible ancestors I am researching. I will still utilize the website when I am at the library. In the meantime, it's nice to be able to have access at home.

On the website, you can access newspapers dating from 1690 to the present, Historical Documents from 1789 to 1994, Historical Books from 1801 to 1900, and the Social Security Index from 1937 to the present. You can search any of these items by State if you wish. Many of the newspapers on this website are new to me and not found on ANCESTRY.COM or NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES.COM. This is also the case for the Historical Documents and Historical Books. So, much of this website is comprised of newly scanned documents.

Recently, there was a gentleman researching on our computers at the Mission Viejo Library. He had been searching mostly on ANCESTRY.COM when I arrived for my shift as a docent. I chatted with him briefly as he was preparing to leave. I told him that we had recently added the GENEALOGYBANK.COM website to our computers. So, he decided to stay a few minutes longer to try it out. Well, within 10 minutes, he had found something that he had been looking for the past several months! He was trying to find the maiden name of a great grandparent so that he could research that particular family line. One of the old newspapers had a wedding announcement with the groom and bride's name as the heading of the article. It was a nice lengthy article with a lot of family information included in the write-up. I have to say that he was very happy and excited about the find. He only had to print out one page and owed me 10 cents for the copy, but, handed me two dollars to put in the till and thanked me for the help. Wouldn't it be great if we had that kind of success each time we served as a docent?

There are many newspaper articles and historical documents regarding the name Bluett that I have come across on this website that are new to me. Now, I will have to research these folks to determine if they are connected to my family lines. I tried putting my own name into the search on GENEALOGYBANK.COM just to see what would come up. I found an article in a 1905 Colorado newspaper regarding a William Bluett who was tagged as a Nicaraguan Mining King. His picture is in the newspaper. He had just sold his interest in the Lone Star Mine in that country for \$160,000. That was a fair sum in 1905! I'll have to trace him down and see where it leads me.

Montana is one of the States where Bluett's from Cornwall, England, resided more than 100 years ago. There is a William Bluett who died in 1952 and is buried in Great Falls. Another Bluett, Thomas W. Bluett, was charged with murder in 1900 and served two years in prison. The trial took place in Great Falls as well. If I can't figure out who these people are, I may have to solicit the help of Mary Jo McQueen's sister – who lives in Great Falls. Or, maybe I'll hire Mary Jo the next time she visits her sister.

So, I guess the point of my message is that you should check out GENEALOGYBANK.COM. They claim that 95% of what is on their website is not on other websites. I know a few of you have already shared some things you found. I believe that prompted our Society to sign up for a subscription. So, give it a try and report back to us any finds or discoveries that you might be fortunate enough to find. Happy hunting!

September Meeting

Joan Rambo gave us a wonderful presentation regarding the topic of **Online Queries**. Utilizing this free service on the Internet just might help you to connect with a distant relative or close family friend that may have documents or key information about your ancestors. Joan gave tips on properly formatting queries to give you the best results for your efforts. "Brick walls" can be broken through and doors can be opened by effectively using queries. We thank Joan for this most informative presentation.

Guests introduced at the meeting were: **Julia Tuttle**, **Diane Wahrman**, and **Susan Lirette** (who also attended last month).

Members who provided refreshments were: Robin Dreis, Maureen Witte, David Flint, and Bunny Smith.

Lost time is never found again. ~ Ben Franklin

Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions

David Flint shared a story about visiting his cousin in England this summer who, a year earlier, had helped to clear ivy and overgrowth in an area in the church yard in his village of Mickleham, Surrey. They uncovered a monument in the grave yard for Russell Sturgis, born in Boston (USA) 1805 and died in Leatherhead (near Mickleham) 1888. Also found were memorials for his wife and son. The mystery was: What were these people from the USA doing in Mickleham? David was able to find a considerable amount of information online about the Sturgis family and forwarded it to the newly-forming local history society in Mickleham. It turned out that Russell Sturgis, a Boston merchant active in the China trade, intended to visit his sons who were in China. He left Boston for England to catch the ship that would take him on from there to China, but arrived in England after the China ship had left. He decided to stay in England and later became a prosperous banker in England, living in a country estate called Givons Grove in Leatherhead, near Mickleham.

Julie Tuttle had family travel to Ireland to go to the location where her great grandfather is buried. They had a local man prepare a gravestone for the site. You don't rush folks in Ireland. It took nearly a year for the gravestone project to be completed!

Jo Ann Minning shared this story - About 5 years ago my husband and I were coming home in our 5th wheel. We went to Waterbury, Connecticut, to see where my great-great-grandparents were buried. About 90 years before, the town decided they needed a library instead of the old cemetery. So they moved some graves and built over others. I left without finding their graves. A few weeks ago I received an email from Ann Schroeder in Connecticut (She had found my name on Genealogy.Com) which read, "The gravestone for Roswell and Hannah Pratt was found under a cottage in Bantam, Connecticut. I now have it in my possession. Do you know anyone who would like to have it? Ann Schroeder". YES, I knew someone. I answered back and sent the email to my second cousin (Stephen) in Breckenridge, Missouri. He has the Pratt name and has 2 boys with the name. The boys took off for Connecticut to bring home the headstone. It will be put in the Cemetery in the one spot that Stephen still has and it will be next to their grandson, Charles H. Pratt. It will be very close to Roswell Pratt, their great grandson. We don't know how the stone got to Bantam, but, I hope that it will stay put for another 100 years.

Legacy User's Group Starting

~ David Flint

The Legacy User's Group will meet at the Mission Viejo Library from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the **third Thursday** of each month.

This monthly meeting will provide a forum for anyone interested in learning about the Legacy Family Tree program - whether you are a beginner or you are already using Legacy. This will be an informal meeting where you can get your questions answered and share ideas with other people who use Legacy. I will lead the group and provide demonstrations on how to perform various functions with the Legacy program, as well as address specific questions or problems from those attending the meeting. You are free to drop in and out of the group as you like. The next meeting is at 11:00 a.m. on **Thursday, October 18** at the Mission Viejo Library. I look forward to seeing you there.

OCJGS

Sunday, Oct. 28 - O.C. Jewish Genealogical Society hosts, Speaker: Ann Mitchell of Ancestry.com, Topic: "Genealogical Resources Available through Ancestry.com" at North County Chabad Center, 19045 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA. For time contact: Barbara Sloate, Phone:(949)644-6821 or Email: bsloate@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Submissions

~Gary Schwarz – Editor

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". If you have a typewriter hardcopy article, I will accept that too, but it may take a while to get it digitized to go into the newsletter.

Energy and persistence conquer all things. ~Ben Franklin -You will find that ancestor.

The Day at the SOCCGS Family History Seminar

Book Sale Table – Pat Weeks and Eileen Merchant will greet you at this table, which is a Ways & Means project for SOCCGS. Genealogy related books and magazines, fiction and non-fiction books will be offered for sale. Some periodicals will be available for sale as well.

The Jewelry Table – It's back again this year. Jo Ann Minning, Karen Schumaker, and Lee Kraft will offer a selection of mostly vintage costume jewelry. Great bargains await! This is a SOCCGS ways & means project.

Genealogy Table Sales - Marilyn Kowalski & Gary Schwarz will be at the table offering a "Genealogy Handbook" and "Ancestral Tablet". Proceeds will benefit the SOCCGS Library.

Jacquelyn Hanson – Author Jackie is a member of SOCCGS. Her historically accurate books written about her family are a wonderful read. They are entertaining and educational which is a great combination!

Association of Professional Genealogists - Jean Wilcox-Hibben and Alice Volkert will be this table to assist you. Are you looking for an expert to break through your research brick wall? Do you need someone to write your family history? APG members can meet all of your genealogical needs.

Legacy Stories – "Butch" Hibben will have information about how to go about capturing those life stories from loved ones.

Photos Made Perfect – Claire Santos-Daigle will return "in costume" to show how those old photos can be repaired and/or enhanced in appearance. Stop by and say "Hello!" to Claire!

Legacy - David Flint will conduct demonstrations of the Legacy Family Tree genealogy program. This is a well-rounded and easy-to-use genealogy program for both beginners and experienced genealogists. David will have a supply of free CDs for the Basic Edition of Legacy. He will also have informational handouts. Stop by the Legacy table and find out for yourself about this full-featured genealogy software.

DAR/SAR - Bunny & Leon Smith are the local registrars for "Daughters of the American Revolution" and "Sons of the American Revolution." Persons interested in either organization may stop by their table for information.

Grand Prize – Our speaker, Lou Szucs, will make the final drawing of the day for an Ancestry World Deluxe one year subscription.

Door Prizes – Sandy Crowley will display the many door prizes, which will be given during the day. Barbara Wilgus, Francie Kennedy, and Jack Naylor will assist in passing out prizes. Be sure to stop by her table and take a look. Every attendee will be given a door prize ticket. Good Luck!

As you can see, a "Day at The Seminar" will be a day well spent!

Library Genealogy Research Center

If you haven't been to the Research Center at the Mission Viejo Library recently, you should come up and check out some of the new subscription sites on our computers. If you have a book title you think would be valuable to our collection, let Bunny Smith our librarian know. She may be able to get it on CD and add it for everyone to use.

The important things in life are children, honesty, integrity, and faith.

~Andy Williams (Howard Andrew Williams (1927 – 2012))

- *The important things in life help us do genealogy. Children help identify ancestral families and are the reason many of us do genealogy; honesty and integrity show in the records we find, and faith tells us who we are and from church records of the faithful, who our ancestors were.*

Can you picture yourself at 60 doing what you do now? – *Do you remember what you did at 60?*

~ Dick Cavet

New Found Family ~ Virginia Dunk

Earlier this year, I decided to change my genealogy search game-plan in pursuit of my great-grandfather, **William F. Ellsworth's**, parents. Instead of continuing to go back in history searching for his parents who immigrated from England and Italy (brick walls), I decided to move forward in hope of connecting with some unknown living relative who may have already done the work.

I began looking for the family who might be in northern California and/or southern California knowing that few stayed in New Mexico where my Civil War great-grandfather met and married my great-grandmother. Earlier, I succeeded in finding data on my mother's cousins in both areas, but all were now deceased. Actually, all from that generation were now gone. I was left to look for distant cousins still living.

Using the handout created by Francie Kennedy for her presentation (August, 2012 "Online Genealogy Books"), I tried the 'Advance Google Search' again. This advance search did supply me with some interesting items a year or so ago, therefore, I decided to try again as the internet adds data daily. With some downtime at the library, I did a Google 'Advance Search' on William F. Ellsworth. I saw some of the same data info I'd seen before, yet, I noticed a link below from a John Ellsworth from Reno, Nevada. That's the same name as my mother's uncle from New Mexico, but he would be deceased now. Yet, in the faint few sentences below his link, I saw the name **Juana Trujillo** married to **William F. Ellsworth**. **Eureka!** That was my great-grandmother's maiden name. Only a relative would know that unusual name. I read further and saw a questioning statement; "did the eldest daughter, Rachel Ellsworth die as a child?" No! She did not. That was my grandmother. I had found a relative. With great excitement, I emailed John Ellsworth in Reno, Nevada to introduce myself as family.



Two days passed with no response. Then last Saturday, he answered. That day, the emails were flying back and forth. He connected me to two female cousins of his in the Bay Area. He was anxious to meet me when he came to southern California the weekend of September 14th. But, alas, I would be in the Bay area visiting my daughters and grandchildren. So, I have a scheduled meeting with the two female second cousins (or second cousins once removed). We all share the same great-grandparents. David Flint would know.

As the grandchildren of the eldest child, they inherited several love letters from William F. Ellsworth (age 30) to Juana Trujillo (age 14) as well as a handwritten autobiography by her telling of her childhood in the almost lawless West. In the 1860s, the Santa Fe Trail led to Las Vegas, New Mexico and soon, industrialization and the railroad brought prosperity and goods from the East. Las Vegas became one of the most notorious towns with many saloons, rough cowboys and gunfights. Great grandma Ellsworth tells of living near the Spanish ranches, the decent Indians trying to eke out a living and the not-so-nice Indians trying to take advantage of the risky times. I look forward to reading the data, but I am not sure this new found family has any information on the immigrants from England and Italy, but the door is open.

I've been sharing my finds and scanned photos of our great-grandparents in the 1920s in Los Angeles. One of the female new cousins commented, "My mother could have been one of your aunts. The family resemblance is very strong." I look forward to my first time visit with these ladies on September 16th.

Thanks to Francie Kennedy. [Black and white copies of Francie's handout can be made at the library, if you've misplaced yours.]

October 20th Seminar

The date for the annual seminar is just around the corner. Books and costume jewelry are still being collected for the sale tables. If anyone has a door prize gift they would like to donate (gift cards, etc), it would be much appreciated. You can drop off any of the above mentioned items at the docent desk in the Mission Viejo Library. This would need to be done by Saturday, October 13th. If you need items picked up, please contact Bill Bluett.

Genealogy Definition

geboren or geb. – For German researchers, geboren is the German equivalent of the English "nee". The word geboren or its abbreviation geb. is followed by a woman's maiden name e.g. Olga Schmidt geb. Braun means Olga Schmidt's maiden name is Braun.

DNA Match Success

~Gary Schwarz

Arlene O'Donnell a member of SOCCGS participated in an early trial of the Ancestry DNA service last year. The trial supplied the collection kit which Arlene used to take a sample of her DNA and mail it to the lab. The lab identified her specific marker pattern and determined her ethnicity by comparing her marker pattern with the patterns from many other people around the world.

The Ancestry DNA service also provided Arlene with a service that connects people with familial matches, if both parties agree to the contact. In Arlene's case she was able to contact a previously unknown second cousin in New Jersey who connected her with another second cousin in Southern California. The DNA lab used data in the service's database to cross match Arlene's DNA and family tree to the family tree of another DNA submitter in the database which showed that their grandmothers were sisters. Success in finding her relatives which may not have been found for years!

Arlene's success with her use of DNA to find her cousins was featured in an article in the Wall Street Journal. Arlene also had a television interview on KTLA news.

The increasing number of people submitting DNA and family trees to genealogical DNA services is increasing the chance of people finding matches and new contacts. A single match in a database is likely to connect many people from both sides not just the two in the match.

Finding Famous Relatives Using OneWorldTree

~ Herb Abrams

Here is a fun thing to do if you have access to Ancestry. In the drop down menu under "Search" click on "Card Catalog". Type in "OneWorldTree" in the search box and it will take you to that site. Now type in the name of one of your oldest ancestors and see what comes up. I typed in Jacob Duckett b. 1714. When he came up, I clicked on his name and over on the right it said "Find famous relatives". When I clicked on that, I found that I had 27 famous relatives. The first one was Rosalynn Carter, the wife of Jimmy Carter. It turns out that she is my 8th cousin and I, being an admirer of her, was pleased. Then I typed in Austin Bearse b. 1618, who was my late wife's ancestor. There were only two famous relatives, George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush. George W. was her 9th cousin once removed. She could not stand George W. and would have been appalled! Which goes to prove the old expression: "You can pick your friends but you can't pick your relatives."

[Note: This only works for personal subscribers; it won't work using the Library Edition subscription at the Mission Viejo Library].

Southern California Genealogical Society - 2012 Webinar Series

Saturday, 6 Oct 2012 - 10am PST - Linda Woodward Geiger – "That Tombstone is Talking to Me!"

Wednesday, 17 Oct 2012 - 6pm PST - To be Announced - Thanksgiving Special

If you always do what interests you, at least one person is pleased. – What genealogists tell their spouse.
~Katherine Hepburn

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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) _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address: _____

Make check payable to: SOCCGS

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

Always do whatever's next.
~ George Carlin

- Make and work your genealogical to do list.

Family History Seminar

Saturday, October 20, 2012 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"Breathing Life Back Into Your Ancestors"

Featuring

LORETTO DENNIS (LOU) SZUCS

"What's New and How to Best Use Ancestry.com"

"Beyond Names and Dates: Finding Biographical Details"

"Finding Naturalizations, Passenger Lists, and Immigrant Origins"

"A Dozen Ways to Jumpstart Your Family History Project"

(Seminar information & registration form also available on SOCCGS website.)

SOCCGS '2012' 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
Mission Viejo, CA 92690-4513

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