

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

Vol. 20 No. 10

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

October 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

October 19, 2013

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)

"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.)**

Special note regarding access to the seminar:

You will not be able to access La Paz Road off the I-5 Freeway (from Chrisanta Drive to Marguerite Parkway) on the day of the seminar because of the "Walk Against Drugs" event. Oso parkway would be the best exit to take and travel east to Marguerite Parkway. Turn left onto Marguerite Parkway and travel north to the entrance to the M.V. Library and City Hall parking lot. Also, the Mission Viejo Farmers Market that is held in front of the Mission Viejo Library now takes place on Saturday mornings from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Arrive as early as possible (by at least 8:15 A.M.) to avoid any problems parking.

Presidents Message

~Francie Kennedy

Approved Changes to the SOCCGS Bylaws.

This proposed changes to the SOCCGS Bylaws were approved by members attending the September 21, 2013 general meeting and will now read:

Article VII –Nominations and Elections

Section 4. Term of Office

A. As of the election in December 2012, the term of office shall begin at the January executive board meeting following the installation, and shall continue for a period of two years.

The Day at the SOCCGS Family History Seminar

~Bill Bluett

Book Sale Table – Pat Weeks and Kathy Mauzey 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.

The Jewelry Table – It's back again this year. Jo Ann Minning, Noel Jensen, Pat Christiansen, and Karen Schumaker will offer a selection of mostly vintage costume jewelry. Great bargains await! This is a SOCCGS Ways & Means project as well.

Genealogy Table Sales - Marilyn Kowalski & Gary Schwarz will be at the table offering a “Genealogy Handbook” and other miscellaneous items. 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 – Hal Horrocks from OCCGS will be at 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? An APG member can meet all of your genealogical needs and more.

Betty Kreisel Shubert – Betty is an accomplished Hollywood fashion designer and has an interesting book that she has authored. Stop by and chat with this most interesting woman.

SOCCGS Genealogy Classes – Stop by this table and consider signing up for one of our many classes offered throughout the year. A SOCCGS member will assist you with information.

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. Stop by the Legacy table and find out for yourself about this full-featured genealogy software. Also, David teaches a Legacy class. Ask him about the date and time of classes.

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.

Door Prizes – Jim Thordahl will display the many door prizes which will be raffled off during the day. Be sure to stop by his table display and take a look. Door prize tickets will be sold the day of the seminar. Attendees will be able to select which prize they would hope to win by dropping their ticket or tickets into the basket in front of the prize item. Good Luck!

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

Come down and see my dog Spot [usually an exotic animal] *In genealogy we cite our sources so we know if Spot is really a dog or a tiger.*
~Cal Worthington (1920-2013)

Safari News ~Bill Bluett

Be sure to join us on October 23rd 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. This is one of the finest genealogy libraries in Southern California. 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 home. For more information, call Bill Bluett at (949)492-9408.

Salt Lake City Trip with Fellow SOCCGS Members

ROAD SCHOLAR Presents: Genealogy at the World Famous Family History Library. Check out Road Scholar's programs for 2014 at www.roadscholar.org, program # 7031RJ. Contact Marilyn Kowalski for information on attending with your SOCCGS family at ma_kowalski@sbcglobal.net or (949) 586-7257.

Ways & Means

~Jim Thordahl

Ralphs Community Contribution Program

Through the involvement of 44 supporters during the last Quarter (Jul, Aug, Sep) SOCCGS earned a contribution of \$217.68 from Kroger for our participation in Ralphs Community Contribution Program. I just noticed that, if you check your *Ralphs Rewards* account, among other information, you can see what your share of this amount is. Then take a bow as we all applaud to render a big "Thank You."

SOCCGS welcomes new members and new participants in the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. If you have a question, e-mail or call me: jimandbonniethor@juno.com, 949 492-5334.

A Surprising Coincidence

~Charlene Clark

Prior to moving to South County, I lived in Orange and volunteered for the Friends of the Library. I loved sorting through the books and was always keeping my eye out for something out of the ordinary. One day I ran across a book called *Killed Strangely – The Death of Rebecca Cornell*. I thumbed through it and could see very quickly that it took place in Rhode **Island during the 1670s**. It was written by **Elaine Forman Crane**, a professor of history at Fordham University and had been carefully researched and documented.

My family (the Gifford family) was in that part of the country during that time, so I purchased it just to get a feeling for the time and place. As I was reading it during the next few days, I had the strangest feeling that I had heard a story very similar to this. And then as I read further, I thought that some of the names were familiar. I went to my Gifford data base, which I had not worked on for a while, and lo and behold, here were the very people the book was talking about!

Thomas Cornell (an ancestor of the Cornell that donated the land for the university), was accused of killing his mother, **Rebecca Briggs Cornell**, who was living with him, his second wife and family. The 73 year old woman had been found close to her bedroom's large fireplace dead and badly burned. The coroner's panel initially declared her death an accident, but a dark web of events – rumors of abuse, allusions to witchcraft, her "ghost" coming back to her brother with innuendo, resulted in Thomas being tried for her murder. **George Soule** (the son of George, a passenger on the **Mayflower** and directly connected to the Gifford family) was constable of the town of **Dartmouth, Massachusetts** and offered evidence at the hearing. Thomas was eventually convicted and hanged in 1673 with little or no evidence of his guilt.

Elaine Crane tells this compelling story, including the aftermath, and vividly depicts the world in which they lived. Thomas's wife **Sarah** was pregnant at the time he was executed, and gave birth to a girl after his death, which she called **Innocent**.

Innocent married **Richard Borden** (an ancestor of the infamous "**Lizzie**" **Borden**) and two of their children married Giffords who are in my direct lineage.

What a coincidence that I would come across that particular book which would add so much to my research and round out the characters of my ancestors!

Oh yes, we Giffords are a very interesting family. We are directly related to **Samuel Wardell** (Wardwell) who was one of the "witches" hung at the Salem Witch Trials in 1692. The entire time of accusations and subsequent trials and convictions is well documented in [The Salem Witch Trials](#) by Marilynne K. Roach.

Books can be a fantastic source for clues in genealogy research. You just have to be lucky and delve into the history of the times!

My Recent Visit to Slovakia, Birthplace of My Grandparents

~Tina Murtha

I recently returned home from a trip to **Slovakia** where my expectations were greatly exceeded. All I hoped for was to see my grandparents' country and where they grew up before immigrating to the United States. They met and married in the US.



New to Genealogy in 2009, I was sure I wouldn't find much information about my grandparents. Starting with my father's parents, I contacted a few cousins only to find one who had any interest in 'tracing roots'. My Cousin Jim's wife graciously sent me copies of our grandparent's marriage license and my grandmother's birth certificate. The documents confirmed names, my grandfather, **Andrew Zubal** and my grandmother, **Mary Bednar**. The birth certificate gave my grandmother's village of **Rovne**. The search was on!

I did all of the typical things, went to the desk, the Family History Center, the National Archives, Montgomery County, PA courthouse, and searched Google over and over, key word – Slovakia. I joined SOCCGS and finally subscribed to Ancestry.com building a tree, and searched other websites. The most helpful websites for Slovakia were: www.iabsi.com, www.cisarik.com, Wikipedia, and FamilySearch Wiki.

I eventually found both of the villages where my grandparents were born. Somehow I stumbled onto and joined The



Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society, International in Rochester, New York. As my information grew, I decided to take one of their tours (www.our-Slovakia.com). I registered for the July 2013 Treasures Tour, including hiring a guide for a personal tour of the villages. I sent them all the information I had on my grandparents. Two days before leaving for Slovakia, I received an email message from my guide, Ivan, that he had found a relative who was eager to meet me.



To my surprise when we arrived at my grandfather's village of **Zemplinsky Branc**, originally **Barancs**, there were 15 relatives waiting for me. I met grandsons of my grandfather's oldest and youngest brothers and the daughter of my grandfather's only sister and their extended families. They were warm and welcoming, even arguing a little over whose house I went to first! Ivan had to work hard to keep up with interpreting all of the conversations. Only the younger ones speak English and, yes, we traded email addresses.

We spent about 6 hours with the Zubal families then drove to Rovne to meet with a young woman whose grandmother was a Bednar. Unfortunately, we weren't able to find a family link. However, her husband speaks English, so we will continue the search together by email.

So don't give up and some day you will be telling a story like this one.

New Website

~Herb Abrams

Check out this site: <http://www.gravestonephotos.com/index.php>. Mostly in the UK. A lot of pre-1900 tombstones. It is a free site but it only shows a small photo of the tombstone. To get a full size photo you need to tell the administrator why you want it and then he will send it to you via email



Returning Treasures

~Victoria Crayne

I was intrigued when I learned about Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness. Since I didn't have great genealogical experience, I couldn't help solve brick walls and without an extensive library my help with look-ups was limited, but I was good with a camera and could travel hither and yon and take pictures of houses, graves, cemeteries, schools and neighborhoods for people who lived far away from California's golden shores.



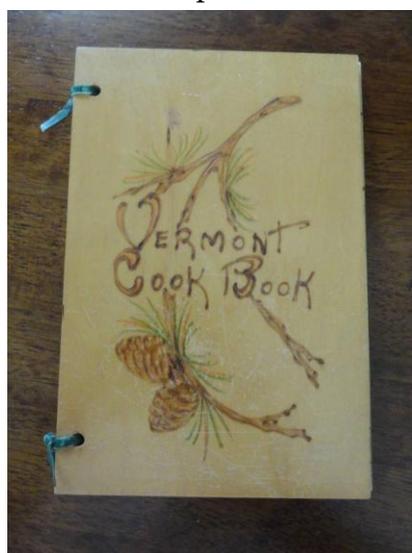
Then I found the two volume scrapbook set in a Collectibles Shop in San Diego one hot, muggy Sunday and it started my quest to search out and return family treasures.

The scrapbooks, covering the years 1937 to 1941, were put together by Mrs. Florence Mitchell who had lived in Adrian, Michigan and then moved to Toledo, Ohio. It is obvious, she had the local newspaper sent on to her, and she clipped out articles about old friends and local events.

She also included national

and world events which made reading it seem like opening a time capsule.

I quickly discovered that items crumbled to dust when you tried to remove them, so I spent several months logging every name, date and subject. Since that time I have spent many a Sunday afternoon listing the articles under their surnames and towns on the internet trying to spread the word. I offered the books to the Adrian, Michigan Genealogical Society, but their tiny group of elderly ladies wasn't up to the task. Shortly thereafter, they had a flood in their library and much was destroyed.



The path was clear, it would be my job to try and unite these articles directly to family members.

Time passed and I added on the quest to reunite books, postcards, letters, diaries and photographs to family members. I would put \$20 per payday into an envelope in my purse and would use it to purchase any of those items at yard and garage sales, and junk stores. I only buy items with names on them, and though I haven't found homes for most of them, I do persist on Sundays to search the web for surname connections and websites to register the finds.

I have sent off postcards, letters, reunited a war time diary, and loads of wedding and death articles through the RootsWeb Message Boards, and various family history web sites. I don't ask to be reimbursed for the item, and have gladly paid to have the items sent on to the families.



It is a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon, returning treasures to their proper home.

“SOCCGS Saddleback Valley News” Project

~Herb Abrams

There are 86 rolls of microfilm in the Mission Viejo Library covering the issues of the “Saddleback Valley News” from 1969 to 1989. We are asking for volunteers to record birth, marriage and death records from those films. A microfilm reader is being moved into the genealogy section of the library for that purpose. Contact Herb Abrams hvabrams@cox.net if you want to help with that project. He can assign a film to you and provide spreadsheets for recording the information. You can either bring your laptop to the library and record the information or you can bring your digital camera, ipad or iphone and take pictures of the information on the film and then enter it into the spreadsheets at your leisure.

At the conclusion of the project the information will be put online on the SOCCGS website. The library will then provide a link from their website to our site. The database will be searchable by name and will be useful for people researching local vital records.

September Meeting

Speaker: Connie Moretti reminded us of places we need to research for each and every person and place that pertains to our family tree. **Refreshments:** Pat Weeks and Marilyn Kowalski filled in for Barbara as servers. Bea Norred, Bunny Smith and Sondra Kaeller brought cookies and crackers with cheese. **Membership:** There were 80 members and 6 guests in attendance at the meeting. Three of the guests have joined and will be introduced in the November newsletter. **Those who joined are: Margaret Coggins, Marisue Mitchel and Lana Lambert Fitz.** **Other guests: Jennifer Frank, Gary Frederickson and L. A. McIlravy.**

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 next meeting will be on Sunday, November 3, 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. You can just show up or call/email Sheila Larson at 949-436-0500 or lighthouse1212@yahoo.com.

Beginning Genealogy

~Arlene O'Donnell

Location: Mission Viejo Library - Bill Price Room. **Dates:** Oct 17th 10:00 a.m. -12:00 noon; Nov 14 and Dec 12th 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

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. “SOCCGS Newsletter Article – “Changing My Search Strategy Helped Me Find My Grandpa John”.” 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. 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.

