

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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November 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

Please note: If your newsletter mail label shows 1/1/2015 annual dues are Payable on, or before, that date. Thank You.

November 15, 2014

ADVANCED GOOGLE TOOLS FOR GENEALOGISTS

Presented by

Francie Kennedy

Most of us barely scratch the surface of what Google can do, and we usually give up when a simple search returns 10 million hits! Advanced (but simple) search strategies can help you find useful information about your ancestors. Francie will share the best approaches to search -- and find - details about people, places, occupations, historical events, and resources for further research. Looking things up with Google is only one of the many useful tools available to us! Have you made a family map showing migration routes and everywhere your families have lived, over time? Catalogued all of your books in a format you can access remotely from a book sale, (so you don't wind up with three copies at home)? How often have you read a rare book about your ancestor's home town - that is every-word searchable? Have you found an image of a historic postcard of Main Street in that town to use as an illustration in your family history? This session will guide you toward finding many things Google can do beyond the basic search function -- there is a lot more in this site than the simple home page!

About the Speaker: Francie is a fourth generation Californian, and studied English and Biology at Pomona College in Claremont. She managed a business in landscape design and consulting for years before joining the local water district to help with drought response and customer questions in the early 1990's. Francie has been helping City residents and businesses manage their water use for over 22 years. For seven years she taught conservation to professionals at Santiago Canyon College, and continues to teach landscape classes to residents.

In her free time, she is an award-winning watercolor painter, and recently started quilting. Francie has been involved with community groups for over 30 years, serving as president of the Friends of the Library, chair of the Los Rios Historic District Review Committee, and is currently the president of the South Orange County California Genealogical Society. Historical research is her passion.

Safari News

~Bill Bluett

There are no safari trips scheduled during the months of November and December.

Mini Class - Don't do your research in a vacuum. Come to Arlene O'Donnell's Mini Class entitled "The Art of Collaborating with Other Researchers" at 09:15 am before the November General Meeting.

President's Message

~Francie Kennedy

My First Safari

I have been a member of SOCCGS for more than a decade (I have lost count), and for the entire time I have been hearing about the one-day trips we take, traveling to libraries and research centers around Southern California. We call them Safaris, and we are hunting for ancestors! I had the pleasure of joining the monthly trip in October, for my first Safari.

It was a last-minute opportunity, so the morning of the trip I quickly put together a list of research goals, and created some pedigree charts from my family database so that I would have names, dates, and places with me. I decided to use the trip as a shakedown cruise, a rehearsal for our big trip to Salt Lake City next April. I am no stranger to library research, but it has been a while! The challenge I set myself was to travel light, and use only my iPad mini to carry my ancestral information for reference plus my research notes. I wanted to see if this could possibly work for the upcoming week-long research trip. On my desktop computer, before I left I uploaded the pedigree chart PDFs to Dropbox, and added a document listing the names and places I wanted to look for. When everything was in the new "Research" folder I had created for the day, I tried opening Dropbox on the iPad, and everything was in there and viewable, so step one of the challenge worked very well.

We rendezvoused at the LDS church parking lot in Mission Viejo, then met Bill in San Clemente, and six of us drove in one car from there. We had an enjoyable ride down to the Carlsbad Library, and with Bill Bluett driving and the rest of us chatting, we were there before I knew it. On arrival I renewed my library card, then settled in with the group at long tables upstairs in the section dedicated to genealogy. I loved it. The camaraderie was great, and it was wonderful having people I knew who would watch my things when I went to the stacks for more books! It was delightful to share the vicarious joy of discoveries the others were making through the day.

The day flew by. My research centered on finding whatever records I could about the Russell family in **Somerset and Wicomico Counties, Maryland**. One of the strengths of the Carlsbad library is their book collection, so I made a beeline for the Maryland stacks, and found an armload of books relating to the two counties. Before opening the books, I opened a document to make notes as I went along, in a program which is called Pages for the iPad. I recorded where I was, the date, the call number and title of the first book, then dove in. When there was an entire page of a book I wanted to save, I took a photo with the iPad! No carting books to the copier. For Salt Lake I will try a sheet of plexiglass to hold the pages flat; other than a slight curve, the photos are clear and sharp, easily readable. I collected a great deal of information this way, to read at leisure at home.

Lunch was delicious fish and chips at a local restaurant (some Safaris with restaurants nearby have this option, for others it's better to bring a lunch). The afternoon zoomed along with more research, and we made the drive home in time for an evening walk. Some Safaris to places further away include a stop for dinner, and then the drive home after the traffic. We each contributed to the gas kitty, and thanked Bill for driving. What an easy and enjoyable way to travel! This seems like the very best way to get to some libraries that we might not visit otherwise.

I was very pleased with how well the research process went on the little iPad. Not quite the same as a comfy laptop with multiple windows open, but at a fraction of the weight, it is a fine solution for me. I wrote down a few more things to remember to bring on a longer trip, like post-its and a sweater, and I am ready to go. Please take advantage of our monthly Safaris next year! Taking a Safari is a wonderful research opportunity and a great way to explore new libraries, make friends, and get some good research done.

Nominations for 2015-2016 Officers

The following members have been nominated to serve: President – David Flint, Arlene O'Donnell – Vice President, Recording Secretary – Patricia Weeks, Corresponding Secretary – Marilyn Kowalski, Treasurer – Mary Jo McQueen.

Nomination from the floor will be accepted at the November General Meeting. You must have permission of the person being nominated. Election of Officers will also take place at the November meeting.

"Reader suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself."

~Will Rogers

-Research the candidates and issues, and vote while you are still able.

October Seminar

~ Bill Bluett, Seminar Chairman

Our 13th Annual Family History Seminar was a tremendous success. We had about 137 folks in attendance. Nearly 80% were members of SOCCGS. Other guests traveled from neighboring county areas. Our guest speaker, **D. Joshua Taylor**, is an amazing young man with exceptional technical knowledge and a very broad experience level in performing genealogy research. What more can you say about an individual that started his genealogy path at the age of 10 with the beckoning of his grandmother. Today they both still communicate and work together on projects even though she is now 86 years old. What a wonder mentor and encourager Joshua has had all these years. Many folks commented that he is one of the best speakers we have ever had. Each presentation captivated the entire audience.

Later in the day, 31 lucky tickets were drawn for door prizes. **Jim Thordahl** organized the prize table and **Wendy Goodall** reached out to a number of organizations that contributed some wonderful gifts to our collection. The following folks helped Jim pass out gifts: **Wendy, Barbara Wilgus, Donna Rathman, and Gary Baier**. Congratulations to **Laura Nygaard** of Rancho Santa Margarita, the winner of our Grand Prize, the Ancestry World Deluxe one year subscription! **Nancy Peralta** of Buena Park won the NEWSPAPERS.COM one year subscription. And, **Charlene Clark** of Aliso Viejo won the FOLD3 one year subscription. And, of course, congratulations go out to all the other lucky winners.

The food and refreshments were under the direction of **Barbara Heebner** and **Sue Lamond** with assistance from **Mary Jo McQueen** (who wore many hats during the day) and **Sharon Keener**. Everything was excellent and very nicely displayed. Our "Corner Bakery" lunches were superb as they always have been in past years. Thank you, **Bob McQueen**, for delivering those delicious lunches to the group. There was always a buzz of activity around the vendor tables. I would like to thank the "Association of Professional Genealogists" (**Hal Horrocks**, OCCGS President, and **Linda Serna**) for having an informational table. And, our own **Jackie Hanson**, author of many wonderful books (Matilda's Story, Susan's Quest, etc) had a sales table with all her works. The SOCCGS book sales table was handled by **Kathy Mauzey** and **Judy Davin**. And, the jewelry tables were very successful thanks to **Jo Ann Minnig, Noel Jensen, Lee Kraft, and Karyn Schmaker**. Our SOCCGS genealogy table combined forces with our genealogy class sign-up table and answered many questions regarding our Society's activities and class schedules. **Marilyn Kowalski, Gary Schwarz, and Arlene O'Donnell** covered those tables. Included in those activities was **David Flint's** "Legacy" table. He gives classes on "Legacy" each month as well. And, we always give a big thanks to **Leon and Bunny Smith** for providing our DAR/SAR table. Our technical support was given by **Herb Abrams** (as usual) And our Historian, **Pat Christiansen**, took a lot of great pictures during the event. Of course, I cannot leave out our parking crew **Jack Naylor** and **Bob Reilly**. At the front door, we had **Mary Jo Nuttall** and **Karen Sepp** at the registration table and **Tina Murtha** greeting guests as they arrived. Our President, **Francie Kennedy**, opened the event with some announcements and then served as our "rover" to connect with many of our guests.

Finally, I must say that all our volunteers did a superb job in setting up and hosting this event. Now, I would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to everyone who assisted in putting the seminar together. I apologize if I missed mentioning any of our volunteers. Each of you did an excellent job! Our seminar just wouldn't happen if we didn't have such a great group of folks. With that said, we will do it again next year!

New at the Library

New newspaper subscription site in addition to the old ones.

New old computer using Windows XP to allow viewing CDs that use old programs but still contain information that is not online.

Web Page Builder

~Herb Abrams

Go to <http://www.GedPage.com> to get information on a free trial on using a program that will convert gedcom files into a useable webpage format.

Lamberts From The West – Chapter 1

~Lana Lambert Fitz

While carefully turning the black and tattered pages of my grandmother Elizabeth Walton's old photo album, one particular photograph, barely fastened on the page, caught my attention. The picture looked old and was that of a mature looking soldier with gray hair and a full mustache. He was standing proud and at attention in front of a very old and ancient stone wall. His uniform appeared to be made of heavy dark wool and he held, securely, posed in his hand, a swagger stick. Who was this soldier and why was his picture in my grandmother's photo album. Strangely, the soldier's face looked hauntingly familiar to me.

On October 9th 1890, my grandmother **Elizabeth** age seventeen, her sister **Margaret** age fifteen, brother **Alfred** age thirty four, mother **Dinah** age fifty four and father **Alfred** age fifty eight, embarked on the steamship **Sarmantian** at the Port of **Liverpool, England**. They would arrive at the Port of **Quebec, Canada**, to begin their new life.

My search on the Internet found that the soldier's uniform was worn by the Canadian Army during the World War I. The soldier in the picture was a Lance Corporal and the swagger stick that he held indicated that he had some type of authority. I estimated the year that the soldier's picture was taken to be between 1914 and 1918, the years of the Great World War I. The only relative that I knew of that had served in the military and in World War I in 1918 was my father's eldest brother, **Frank A. Lambert**.

Frank was born on **August 31, 1895** in **Nanimo, Canada**. On June 5th 1917 he is a Farmer living in Long Beach, California with his parents. His Draft Registration Card also indicates that he is age 21, single, Tall, Medium build, Brown hair and has Blue eyes. Frank was one of many young men drafted into the Army to fight in World War I. He was assigned to Company g, 364th Infantry sent to do battle in Normandy, France.

Frank's parents were notified sometime in 1918 that their son Frank was missing in action during battle at Normandy, France. Three months later on January 14, 1919 his parents received another notification that their son, Private Frank A. Lambert, Co g. 364th Infantry was killed in action, shot by a sniper on **October 3, 1918**, the day after the war ended. Frank was age 23.

Who was the soldier in this photo and would I ever be able to identify him? I decided to set this quest aside and move on to researching another relative.

One morning I found that there was a message on my e-mail from Ancestry.com. The message was from another member asking me what my connection was to the Walton family. How surprised I was when this person turned out to be a distant Walton cousin. Cousin Joan was born in England and grew up there but was now living in Australia. We exchanged family stories and verifications and to my surprise we shared the same great-great Grandmother, **Margaret (Maggie Magee) Walton**. Joan recommended that I contact another Walton cousin, named Ann, who she grew up with in England, and was now living in the country of Cypress. Cousin Ann was also very helpful with Walton family information but could not help with the photo of my unknown soldier. She advised me to contact yet another cousin, Barbara, who



Figure 1- William

lived in Ontario, Canada who would be more familiar with the Canadian Walton's. Numerous e-mails were exchanged between the four of us distant cousins, all living in different countries, who had never met, but shared the same lineage. How unique and ironic this all was but would not have happened if I had not been a member of Ancestry.com, with a public family tree, Lambert Walton Family.

When I described the soldier's picture to cousin Barbara in Canada she knew right away who the soldier was. I sent her a copy of the picture and she sent to me a similar picture of the same soldier holding a rifle, in front of the same stone wall. She confirmed right away that the soldier in the picture was that of my great uncle **William Walton**, born in England, in 1862. William the soldier was the older brother of my grandmother Elizabeth and his six siblings. Barbara was kind enough to send to me a treasure of family pictures along with the Great uncle William's amazing Obituary. Barbara's great grandmother was my grandmother's younger sister Margaret who journeyed together across the ocean from England in 1890. The Walton families were close and all lived in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia, pioneers of the area.

William Walton at the age of 18 left his family in **Terwick, Sussex, England** and out of Port Liverpool, he embarked on the passenger steam ship Sarmantian. The ship arrived in the Port of Quebec, on July 10, 1882. His destination was Montreal, Canada according to the passenger log and he was listed as a laborer. It was stated in William's Obituary that William and his younger brother traveled on this voyage

from England to Canada together but the ship's passenger list indicated William Walton was the only Walton passenger. His brother John actually arrived in Canada the following year.

One year after William's arrival in the freezing and stormy winter month of November 21st, in 1883, William was on the **steamship Erie Belle**. It was a 112 foot long steam powered passenger ship that originally served as a tug that operated on the **Great Lakes** and the East Coast during the Civil War. During this monumental storm, on that November day, the Erie Belle was sent on an emergency rescue of a distressed schooner, the J.M. Carter. The schooner had blown ashore during this very severe storm on the Lake Huron, an area south of **Kincardine, Ontario**. While the Erie Belle was maneuvering the rescue, and in the midst of towing the schooner, the Erie Belle suddenly and without warning exploded! Four crewman died. William survived the explosion along with nine other men and one woman. William walked 120 miles through the severe winter storm to the nearest settlement to get help. Two of the men with him froze to death en route. The cause of the explosion of the Erie Belle was thought to be that the water supply to the boiler of the steamship, was cut off, and when restored, superheated steam blew up the boiler, causing the explosion that completely destroyed the ship and the loss of life. The only remains left of the ship, after the explosion, was the boiler that came to rest on a nearby beach. Today the boiler can be seen at low tide at the "Boiler Beach" now a historic site and reminder of the tragedy.

Three years later on June 13, 1886, William lost all of his possessions in the Great Fire of Vancouver. At that time Vancouver was known as "Gas Town" and William was working in road construction in the new city surrounded by dense forest. The buildings were new and built entirely of wood construction. The Canadian Pacific Railway workers had been clearing the land, near the new Roundhouse site, for weeks, by burning cut down trees, stumps and heaps of forest debris with the controlled burning. On a quiet Sunday afternoon at 2 PM, while a gentle ocean breeze came through the city, the breeze suddenly became a fierce gale. Instantly stirring up red hot flying cinders that filled the air and instantly became a mass of roaring flames. Panic filled the air as people ran for their lives and toward the water and steamships anchored near the wharf. Buckets of water to douse the flames were useless and in less than one hour 1,000 buildings were completely destroyed by the raging and uncontrolled fires. Of the city's population of 2,000, it was reported that eight people died in the massive inferno. The nature of the town was such that there were many transients, whose names would not have been known that could have perished raising the death toll.

One of the highlights of William's life was when, in 1932, a Pioneer Meeting in the city of Vancouver found 400 survivors of the Great Vancouver Fire of 1886. In a ceremony Medals were presented to each of the survivors. William was age seventy on that day.

Many adventures including the search for gold found William on the trail of 1898 when he went to the Yukon to seek his fortune. He walked with his brother John through the rugged terrains of the Canadian Rockies and to the end of the point at Moodyville, later called Port Moody.

An outdoorsman and kindly man in all his ways, his special love for animals brought him many pets. While fishing on the Fraser River, William had a pet seal that liked to crawl into his tent on the river bank, warm by the fire, and later would slip into bed with his human friend. A pet raccoon did lots of tricks, a pet beaver nearly felled a tree on his tent while he was sleeping and he walked miles for milk to feed a fawn whose mother was killed by coyotes.

William was married to Alice Funnel in 1889 and built a home with the help of relatives in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia. He lived in his Walton Homestead for forty five years.

William served as a Lance Corporal with the 104th Battalion in World War I. He was forty four years old in the picture that was finally identified. After the war he was employed as a road foreman retiring in 1932 at the age of seventy.

I never expected to find such stories of unbelievable adventure, tragic experiences and miraculous survival behind this mysterious old photograph of a soldier, taken from the tattered pages of my grandmother's old photo album. William's voyage from England across the ocean to Canada alone at the age of eighteen. His miraculous survival of the Erie Belle steamship explosion in a severe winter storm and being one of the ten survivors of the explosion. Possibly with injuries from the explosion he then walked 120 miles in the storm to get help was a miracle. Two years later he survives another nightmarish and devastating event in his life, in the Great Vancouver Fire, losing all his possessions but miraculously surviving once again.

On March 7th, 1952 William Walton, the old soldier in the old photograph, now identified as my great uncle William Walton, died from the complications of a stroke in Port Coquitlam, British Columbia. William was ninety years old.

Finding Lillian's parents: Breaking through a brick wall, one brick at a time

~ Barbara Taylor

I knew nothing about my father's side of the family until after my mother died a few years ago. When I went looking for my father's family, I found a family tree created by a niece on Ancestry.com and she had filled in as much as she knew at the time.

Until this past week, I had not focused on my father's mother's line as when I had tried to look for information before, I could not confirm what I had been told and what I found didn't seem to fall together very well. Recently, someone contacted me about a DNA match with lots of people in Pennsylvania where my father's family had lived for several generations so I decided to try again.

I had a death certificate for **Lillian Adams** (my father's mother) with information supplied by a daughter. Her father's name was listed as **James Adams** with mother's name unknown. I followed the two people that my niece had as her parents (**James and Stella Adams**) and found they could not be the right ones as their daughter Lila had moved to Indiana, and was having children at the same time that my Lillian was still in Pittsburgh having her own children, so had to start over.

On the 1900 census, I found a Lillie Adams, born January 1893, daughter of James W Adams and **Minnie Adams**, with children: **May, Hazel, Lillie and William J.** So this was a possible fit as my Lillian's birth date was January 31, 1893 on her death certificate. I worked through all the records I could find for James W, who was really **William James Adams, Sr.**, it turned out.

Then, I searched for Minnie's parents. Her father's name (**Frederick Shubert**) was on her death certificate; he was born in Germany in 1820 and came to **Allegheny County, PA** in 1854. Her mother's name (**Mary Smith**) was listed on Minnie's brother's death certificate. Germany made sense because my father's death certificate listed his background as German/Irish and this was the first link I found to Germany in his lines.

I also worked through each of Lillie's siblings, their spouses and their children, hoping to find some connection to Lillie or Lillian. Nothing was found so all I had was a possibility and no proof.

After collecting the details about William James Adams Sr. and verifying them, I created a memorial for him on findagrave.com with what I knew. The next day, I received an email out of the blue with his wife Minnie's death certificate. I asked the person who sent it if he was related and he said no. I was still curious how he knew that I was researching them, so asked him how he found me and told him why I was researching William and Minnie. He told me that he was a researcher in the very large cemetery where William was buried. After several back and forth emails, he asked me if I had seen the notice from the newspaper about Lillian's death (copied below).

Thornberry

On Saturday, September 28, 1957, **Lillian Adams Thornberry**, of 151 Jamaica Ave., West View, wife of the late **Edward H.**, mother of Mrs. **Thelma Vandergrift, Raymond A. and William E., sister of Mrs. Hazel Barbin and William J. Adams**, also seven grandchildren. Funeral service at the James Lowrie Memorial Home, 1407 Chateau St., at Penn Ave., on Tuesday, at 2 p.m. Friends invited.

Pittsburgh Press, September 30, 1957

I had not seen her obituary before and the *Pittsburgh Press* is not in the subscription sites that I have or our society has. This short little notice had the last clues I needed to connect Lillian/Lillie to her siblings Hazel and William J Jr. Since I had already cross-linked and verified her siblings to each other and to their parents, it proves that my grandmother **Lillian Adams** (born January 31, 1893 in Pittsburgh, PA; died September 28, 1957 in Pittsburgh, PA) is indeed the daughter of **William James Adams Sr.** (born July 16, 1861 in Ducktown, Tennessee; died March 7, 1932 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) and **Minnie (Shubert) Adams** (born September 23, 1854 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; died May 27, 1908 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania).

I had shared my query this week with one of the Facebook genealogy groups I belong to in Allegheny County, PA. They also tried to help with suggestions. After I reported that I had found Lillian's parents, someone sent me a link to the Google news site for the *Pittsburgh Press* newspaper. It is not indexed or searchable via Google, however, since I now know the publication date of Lillian's obituary, I was able to scroll through to find the listing. Now have an actual image of Lillian's obituary also.

Moral of the story: It's OK to start over, keep asking questions, never give up and always be nice to people. You never know when a stranger might have just the clue you need.

Membership Update

New members who joined in October: **Barbara McLaren Wiseman, Karen VerWayne, Karen Sepp, Fieona Heringer, Harry & Sheila Hansen, June L. Donavan and Virginia Valdez.**

These members are eligible to have their Surnames, Dates and Places included in a future newsletter. Please contact Membership Chairman, Jack Naylor @ jigsaw1948@cox.net. Authorization to use an email address must also be given, so contact can be made in case of a match.

Future Genealogy Events

November 7, 2014, 10-12:00-Mary Jo McQueen- Genenealogical. Research Sig; Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall
November 10, 2014, 10-12:00-David Flint – English SIG – Saddleback Room MV City Hall
November 14, 2014, 1-4:00-Mary Jo McQueen – Heritage Family Scrapbook Wrkshp, Sdlbk Rm
November 20, 2014, 10-12:00-Arlene O'Donnell–Begining Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library
November 20, 2014, 11-1:00-David Flint – Legacy Family Tree User Group – Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall
November 25, 2014, 10-12:00-Jim Thordahl – Writiing Life Stories – Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall
January 31, 2015-Geoff Rasmussen – WAGS seminar- <http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>
March 21, 2015 – Judy Russell, the “Legal Genealogist” – NSDCGS in Carlsbad .

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SOCCGS Website @ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocccgs/>

Mail List: 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

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 _____

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