

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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November 2015

Editor: Kathie Mauzey

Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Main Mission Viejo LDS Church Building, 27976 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, between Medical Center Drive and Hillcrest Drive. Membership is open to anyone interested in genealogy. Individual membership fees are \$20 per year, joint membership \$25.
SOCCGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

November 21, 2015

"Nuts & Bolts of Oral History"

Presented by

Natalie Fousekis, PhD.

Have you struggled with how to interview someone effectively to gain their life's story? What is the best way to set up an interview? What is your agenda versus theirs? Just how personal can we get? Does the location of the interview affect the outcome? Come find out the best methods for successful interviewing!

About the speaker: Natalie Fousekis is an Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for Oral and Public History at California State University, Fullerton. Dr. Fousekis specializes in modern U.S. History, grassroots politics, women's history, and oral history. She has coordinated and directed a number of oral history projects, including the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station Oral History Project. She received her PhD in U.S. History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. An accomplished author, she is a frequent speaker in Southern California.

Mini-Class 9:15-9:45 before the November Monthly Meeting – "Cyndi's List" will be presented by Francie Kennedy. All Mini-Classes are held in the classroom to the left of the kitchen.

Safari News

~Bill Bluett

There are no safaris scheduled during November and December. On January 27, 2016, the safari destination will be the Los Angeles Public Library. Hope you can join us at that time.

England Research Special Interest Group

The England Research Group will not meet in November as David Flint will not be available. The next meeting will be December 14th.

President's Message

Brickwalls

By David Flint

During a recent lunch discussion one of our members was telling me about his enthusiasm and his satisfaction, as someone relatively new to genealogy, with making good progress in his early research. He also told me about his frustration when his progress came to a halt and he did not know what to do next to continue his research.

Most of us know that brickwalls are common in genealogy, so don't be discouraged if you encounter one. Brickwalls occur at a point in your personal research where you get stuck and seem unable to move ahead to the next step in your research. You may start on one of your family lines and make good progress in what you are looking for – finding a particular ancestor and all the details about him you wanted to know. Perhaps you also find his parents and you keep making progress on that family line. Then, for no apparent reason, the trail dries up and your progress stops. That's what we call a brickwall – a dead-end in the line of research you are pursuing.

It's important for beginners to understand that you will encounter brickwalls. Beginners typically know just enough to get lost, but not enough to find their way back – or around a brickwall. I encourage you to look at it as an opportunity rather than a problem. A brickwall is a clue telling you that you need to learn more about something in order to keep moving ahead in your research. It's one of the reasons we encourage beginners to go to lectures, attend classes and seminars, watch a webinar or online course on a particular topic to learn more and expand your knowledge base. It seems that the deeper we go in our research, the more we need to learn. It's not all intuitive – we need to get educated. The more you learn -- the more you know -- the better you will do – the fewer dead-ends or brickwalls you will encounter.

So when you are confronted with one, don't let it throw you. It's often just a reflection of your lack of experience or knowledge about a particular area of research in genealogy. A brickwall is telling you that you need to learn more -- perhaps about a specific period in history, or a particular kind of record, or the geography of a particular area.

It's not unusual to be researching a family line and trace an ancestor back a few generations, then suddenly find nothing further – as though the last one you found in your line just appeared out of nowhere. This has given rise to a growing theory in genealogy research that many of us are descended from ancestors who were brought by aliens from outer space and dropped here with no explanation and no record of their true origin. Some of us have ancestors who seem to appear in one Census and disappear in the next, with no record of their existence before or after we found them. Those are cases where we suspect the space aliens dropped them off and then came back to get them. While it may seem that there is no other satisfactory explanation, of course I'm joking, and there are more rational explanations than aliens from outer space for why we hit those brickwalls.

It's often just a matter of more education. Sometimes it helps to ask someone with more knowledge or experience in that subject area and get their advice on what to do to work your way around the brickwall. The important thing is not to get discouraged and let it blunt your enthusiasm for continuing your research or your interest in genealogy.

This article is not going to offer specific ways to overcome brickwalls. There are many resources available to help you with that. The main point is to let beginners know that you will encounter brickwalls -- we all do -- and to encourage you to not be put off when you do bump into one. You need to find a way to work around the brickwall. It may take some time and can be frustrating. As a beginner we are often very enthusiastic when we start out, even excited with our early progress; and then we might come to a screeching halt and not know what to do next. That's the value of being part of a group like ours – where you can ask each other for help – talk to others with more experience in similar situations – and see if you can get some direction on next steps to take. You can also visit the Mission Viejo Library genealogy desk and talk to one of our docents to see if they can help, or attend one of our special interest groups. We may be able to direct you to someone with just the right information you need to get back on track.

Genealogy Tip Of the Day <http://genealogytipoftheday.com> Posted June 3, 2015

What is a Maiden Name? Researching women in the United States is compounded by the fact that researchers need the woman's "maiden name," the surname of her biological father. In some cases what the researcher thinks is the "maiden name" may actually be a step-father's last name, the mother's last name, an adopted father's last name, or the last name of a previous husband. All things to consider.

October Seminar

~ Bill Bluett, Seminar Chairman

Our 14th Annual Family History Seminar was another great success. We had approximately 127 folks in attendance. And again, nearly 85% were members of SOCCGS. Other guests traveled from neighboring counties to attend. Our program began with the "Presentation of the Colors" by the South Coast Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution. **Leon Smith and Jerry Hereford** (in costume) lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, our society vice-president **Arlene O'Donnell**, gave a big welcome to all our guests. Our keynote speaker, **Dick Eastman**, began with a complete rundown on the MOCVAO website in his first presentation and encouraged us to check it out. His next presentation covered "e-books" and how to download them - many for free! After lunch, Dick's topics included organizing your files and "backing them up" on a regular basis (a good reminder to all of us). Did you remember that all his slide presentations are online? Overall, everyone enjoyed Mr. Eastman's humor as well as his technical knowledge that was evident in each presentation. During the course of the afternoon, tickets were drawn for door prizes. **Jim Thordahl** organized the door prize table. The following folks helped him pass out gifts: **Barbara Wilgus, Francie Kennedy, Sharon Keener, and Jack Naylor**. Congratulations to **Gwen Barry** of San Clemente, the winner of our "Grand Prize", the **Ancestry World Explorer** one year subscription! Gwen is a member of our SOCCGS Society. And, of course, congratulations go out to all the other lucky winners of "door prizes" and additional gifts that were provided by ANCESTRY.COM. The food and refreshments were under the direction of **Barbara Heebner** and **Sue Lamond** with assistance from **Mary Jo McQueen** 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 again 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 **Joan Rambo**) for covering that 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 **Kathie Mauzey** and **Pat Weeks**. And, the jewelry tables were very successful thanks to **Jo Ann Minnig, Karyn Schumaker, Pat Christiansen, Barbara Nash, and Roxanne Burg**. Our SOCCGS genealogy table answered many questions regarding our Society's activities and class schedules. **Gary Schwarz, and Arlene O'Donnell** covered that table. **Jack Naylor** filled in for **David Flint** at the "Legacy" table. David gives classes regarding the "Legacy" software each month. Sitting right across from Jack was **Sheila Larson**. She had available information for folks interested in the "Family Tree Maker" software. So, we had dueling softwares sitting at one large table across from one another. I don't know who won. You'll have to check with Jack or Sheila. And, as we do each year, 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 number of great pictures during the event. Of course, I cannot leave out our parking crew **Bob Lozano and Mike Bresnan** for being available at the last minute. At the front door, we had **Mary Jo Nuttall and Naomi McCabe** at the registration table and **Francie Kennedy and Tina Murtha** greeting guests as they arrived for the event. Finally, I must say that all our volunteers did a superb job in setting up and hosting this event. It seems to get easier each year. I would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to everyone who assisted in putting the seminar together. **Over 30 volunteers!** You all did an excellent job! We certainly do have a great group of folks. With that said, we will do it again next year!

Genealogy Tip Of the Day posted 27 Aug 2015

Take a Short Break Sometimes getting away from your research for a few minutes and thinking about something else can be the best "brick wall" breaker there is.

SOC CGS Research Center: Featured Books of the Month

“Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920” by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide. The county has always been used as the basic Federal census unit. Genealogical research in the census begins with identifying the correct county jurisdictions. This book shows all U. S. county boundaries from 1790 to 1920. On each of the nearly 400 maps the old county lines are superimposed over the modern ones to highlight the boundary changes at ten-year intervals. There is an index listing all present-day counties, plus nearly all defunct counties or counties later re-named. With each map there is data on boundary changes, notes about the census, and locality finding keys. There also are inset maps that clarify territorial lines, a state-by-state bibliography of sources, and an appendix outlining pitfalls in mapping county boundaries.

“State Census Records” by Ann S. Lainhart. State censuses rank with federal censuses as a major genealogical resource, but, because they were taken randomly, remain a much under-utilized resource in American genealogy. State censuses not only stand as substitutes for some of the missing 1790, 1800, 1810, and 1890 censuses (as well as many county and statewide enumerations lost or destroyed between 1790 and 1890) but also as valuable population enumerations in their own right. Many state censuses, for example, asked different questions than the federal census, so they record information that cannot be found elsewhere in federal schedules. This book shows the researcher what is available in state census records, when it is available, and what one might expect to find in the way of data, opening up a range of fresh opportunities for the researcher.

These books are on display at the docent desk in the genealogy research center at the Mission Viejo Library.

November Free Webinars

Legacy is presenting several free webinars in November: **Nov 4** Researching with Karen 3! – Karen Clifford; **Nov 11** Organizing Your Genetic Genealogy – Diahan Southard; **Nov 13** Bringing it All Together and Leaving a Permanent Record – Tom Kemp; **Nov 18** Mapping Madness – Ron Arons; **Dec 2** Stories in Stone-Cemetery Research – Gail Blankenau. Register at www.familytreewebinars.com

The Southern California Genealogical Society has two free webinars: **Nov 7** Building a Digital Research Plan - Cyndi Ingle; **Nov 18** Back Away From the Computer: You'll Find and Have More Fun Offline – Nicka Smith; **Dec 5** The Curious Case of the Disappearing Dude – Debbie Mieszala. Register at www.scgsgenealogy.com, click on programs and webinars.

New England Historic Genealogical Society: Nov 12 French-Canadian Resources at NEHGS – Rhonda R. McClure. Register at www.americanancestors.org

Seminar Ways & Means Project

The total monies raised at the Seminar:

Jewelry Tables - \$349.00

Book Table & Carts - \$151.85

SOC CGS Book Bags and Computer Mouse Pads - \$37.00

Heritage/Family History Scrapbook Class November 13, 1 to 4, Saddleback Room

“Let’s scrap some ancestors and their stories” at this fun event. This will be a class/workshop where you can watch, learn and/or work on a project. If you intend to “scrap” you need to bring some photos and/or items you wish to include on your page/pages. Some items will be provided, but if you have supplies please bring them. Come when you can, stay as long as you like, up until 4 pm. I am looking forward to seeing you. Questions? Mary Jo McQueen – maryjo.mcqueen@icloud.com

Writing Life Stories

~Jim Thordahl

There are no classes scheduled during November and December. The next meeting will be January 26, 2016.

Veterans Day Observance at El Toro Memorial Park

The 27th Annual Veterans Day Observance will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., at El Toro Memorial Park, 25751 Trabuco Rd., Lake Forest. Judy Deeter, Mission Viejo DAR and SOCCGS member, will be the mistress of ceremonies. The keynote speaker will be Mr. David K. Hayward, who was a 1st Lieutenant with the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. Mr. Hayward flew 53 combat missions as a pilot of a B-25 medium bomber in the China-Burma-India Theater of operations. He is also the author of "A Young Man in the Wild Blue Yonder" which chronicles his military experiences. Holocaust survivor, Charlotte Van Steenberg will also speak about her concentration camp experiences and what Veterans Day means to her in light of those terrible days. The program will include massed color guard, a wreath laying ceremony, honor guard firing salute, and music by John Huntington and Gene Smith. This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage and thank the men and women who have faithfully served in our Armed Forces. Admission is free and the event will take place rain or shine. For more information please call El Toro Memorial Park (949) 951-8244.

Passage Express Software

~ Jack Naylor

Check it out – Passage Express (PE) is a Multimedia Presentation software program for recording your genealogy data on CD/DVD ROM's. The program is provided free in Legacy. It **may** also work with GEDCOM, PAF, TMG and Family Tree Maker as noted on page 2:26 of the User Manual. This is a great way to provide your relatives with the results of your research. Please understand that PE has only been checked out on Legacy.

Editor Note – Jack gave a presentation of this software at the Genealogy Research SIG on October 2.

Recommended Websites

The following websites are recommended by member **Marlene Elster**:

- 1) A list of **5400 Facebook pages** for genealogists in pdf format and by state. It is searchable and it is wonderful. <https://moonswings.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/genealogy-on-facebook-list-aug-2015.pdf>
- 2) "**Hoosier Daddy**" is the story of a Michael Lacopo's search for his mother's true father using DNA in addition to all the regular search tools. This is in blog format and each "chapter" ends with a cliff hanger. It is compelling reading as well as a learning experience. Michael was a speaker at Jamboree so some members may have heard him. <http://roots4u.blogspot.com>

Recommended by **Kathie Mauzey**:

Genealogy Gophers <http://gengophers.com> Genealogy Gophers provides you with access to one of the world's largest collections of online, searchable, genealogy-only books and other family history publications without having to download the whole book first. Find your ancestors in 80,000 digital genealogy books for free.

See your name in print by recommending websites for the newsletter, send to SOCCGSNL@att.net

Calendar of Events

~Herb Abrams

SOCCGS member **Pam Steube** has been doing a great job creating the SOCCGS calendar and in the past she printed copies for the monthly meetings. We will no longer be printing copies for the meetings but the calendar will be on our website. Pam sends the calendar to me and I add hyperlinks and upload it the site. To get to the calendar from the home page (SOCCGS.org) scroll down and click on "Calendar". This will take you to the calendar for the current month. If you click on any event that is underlined it will take you to another web page that will give you more information about that event. There is also a link to the calendar from the "Coming Events" section of the website. A few copies will be printed and will be available at the genealogy desk at the Mission Viejo Library

Genealogy Search Tip of the Day <http://searchtip.genealogytipoftheday.com/>

Index to inactive pension claims from the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board – posted 30 Oct 2015

The Midwest Genealogy Center has an online index to inactive pension claims from the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board. Search results include first initial and last name and (usually) a month/year of birth and or death. <http://quicklook.midwestgenealogycenter.org/>

Update on the Salt Lake City Trip ~David Flint

We have a block of 25 rooms at the Downtown Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, and as of this writing, all of our rooms are sold out. If you are interested in making a new reservation, please let me know and I will add you to the waiting list as last year we did have cancellations. However, we will be able to accommodate changes only within the existing block of rooms we have already, and I do not anticipate that we will be able to obtain any additional rooms. The dates for our second annual trip are April 17-24, 2016.

Why I Have Genealogy Attention Disorder **Michael John Neill's Genealogy Website** **Rootdig.com posted September 20, 2015**

I think I have Genealogy Attention Disorder and it is not my fault. There are others to blame.

I blame my family.

Many of my ancestral families lived in the same rural areas for generations. This increases the chance that I am related by blood or by marriage to a significant proportion of the local population. It is common to search for one family in a record series and recognize another ancestral family name in that same record. And then there are always the last names of people who used to "live up the road." Who can't resist looking at that other document? Next thing I know it's three hours later.

I blame Elizabeth Shown Mills

One of Mills' key research suggestions is the FAN approach (documenting the friends, associates, and neighbors of your ancestor in order to learn more about your ancestor). It's a sound method and can help when records on the ancestor in question are inconclusive or lacking in sufficient detail. The problem is that this method requires the research to expand to *even more people*. And more names means more distraction.

I blame Cyndi Ingle

The creator of Cyndislist has made a site where I can go looking for one thing and end up four hours later looking at something totally unrelated to what I went there for in the first place. I also blame *Google*, *GoogleBooks*, etc. for the exact same reason.

I blame needing to learn about context

The Genealogy Proof Standard requires that a reasonably exhaustive search be conducted before a conclusion is reached. If a reasonably exhaustive search is good, it stands to reason that a totally and completely exhaustive search is better. That means even more items to distract me and cause me to lose my focus.

Genealogists are, by their nature, inquisitive. That's a good thing. The problem that reasonably researching an ancestor who died in Amherst County, Virginia, in 1820 probably should not morph into researching his great-great-grandson who died in the San Francisco Earthquake. Probably.

Take advantage of those reasons you have Genealogy Attention Disorder. Just try and keep your focus.

Tennessee Bible Records NEHGS The Weekly Genealogist, Vol. 17, No. 32

The Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) has made its collection of Bible records available on its website. Tennessee did not keep comprehensive records of births, marriages, and deaths prior to the twentieth century, so family Bible records are an important vital records resource. The Bible records featured in the digital collection are from TSLA's vertical files. The database is a work in progress and additional records will be added over time. The majority of the records date from the period between the late eighteenth century and the early twentieth century.

Searching: Currently the index includes Bible records for families whose surnames begin with letters A through J. (There are records available for individuals with surnames beginning with K through Z who appear in Bibles that have already been indexed. For example, men named Alexander Smith appear in the Criddle and Hadley family Bibles.) The database may be searched by surname or given name. A link to the complete list of all Bibles in the collection has been made available on the search page.

Browsing: The collection can also be browsed. As noted on the website, the "Bible pages are arranged alphabetically by the principal surname associated with the Bible." Click on the first letter of the surname (A - Z) to open a new page with the list of Bible records available. <http://sos.tn.gov/tsla>

Future Genealogy Events

Nov 6, 2015, 10-12:00-Mary Jo McQueen - Genealogical Research SIG - Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall
Nov - England SIG on hiatus. Next meeting is December 14th.
Nov 13, 2015, 1-4:00- Mary Jo McQueen – Heritage/Family History Scrapbook Class, Sdlbk Rm, City Hall
Nov 19, 2015, 10-12:00-Arlene O’Donnell - Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library
Nov 19, 2015, 11-1:00-David Flint – Legacy Users Group, Saddleback Room, MV City Hall
Nov 20, 2015, 10-12:00-Gary Schwarz – German SIG – Saddleback Room, MV City Hall
Nov - Writing Life Stories on hiatus. Next meeting is January 26th.
Jan 30, 2016 – WAGS Annual Seminar –Guest Speaker is Thomas MacEntee of Geneabloggers

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**SOC CGS Research Center, located at the
Mission Viejo Library, Marguerite Parkway at La Paz, (949) 470-8498
SOC CGS E-mail: cmvgs@netzero.net**

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Membership/Renewal Application

() New 1 Year: () Individual, \$20.00 () Joint Membership at same address, \$25.00

() Renewal Membership Number(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____ Make Check payable to: SOCCGS

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

I do not wish to share my personal information with other members.