

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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November 2016

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 19, 2016

"A Potpourri of Genealogical Successes"

Almost hidden secrets of your fellow genealogists!

The Speakers: Francie Kennedy, Bill Bluett, Arlene O'Donnell, Barbara Taylor.

Francie: Free Access to Paid Websites! Did you know you have access to over \$1000 worth of genealogical subscriptions? If you are only using Ancestry, you are limiting your discoveries. You may be surprised at the rich information contained within other paid sites.

Bill: All the news that's fit to print and more...I read the newspaper, but what am I missing? Was your ancestor famous or not? Are you only searching for obituaries? There is so much more...

Arlene: Our deceased ancestors have so much to say! Where are the clues hidden that tell their story? Oh, those hallowed grounds...

Barbara: What a find! That illusive Family Bible! Why sharing our successes is so important!

Come listen to your fellow genealogists share their techniques and resulting successes! Simple solutions to chipping away at those brick walls.

Mini-Class 9:15-9:45 before the November Monthly Meeting – "Using RootsMagic's Certification with FamilySearch.org as a Frugal Man's Ancestry.com" presented by Gary Schwarz. All Mini-Classes are held in the classroom to the left of the kitchen.



President's Message

By David Flint

I'm sure we are aware that we each learn new and different things about genealogy in different ways. Some of us like to go to lectures on genealogy topics that interest us. Some like to attend all-day seminars, such as our annual seminar last month, where we have the opportunity to hear a prominent speaker talk about topics we want to learn about. (By the way, wasn't Lisa Louise Cook's program fantastic?) Others prefer to join a discussion group, such as one of our special interest groups that focus on the genealogy research of a particular country, nationality or region. Others like to read about the geography, history, customs and culture of an area we are researching.

On a recent safari trip to San Diego, some of us were talking during the drive, and the topic of history and historical fiction as a genealogy resource came up. Someone was saying how she found a lot of good background information in a series of historical fiction books that related to a period in American history when some of her ancestors were living. I happened to mention that I also enjoy reading both regular history as well as historical fiction, and we agreed that the topic might make a good article for the newsletter – so here it is.

My theme for this article is how many of you may have previously read (or may be currently reading) a work of historical fiction that, in addition to capturing your interest for sheer reading enjoyment, also provides some well-researched background on the life and times of a period in history when one or more of your ancestors lived. Some of us decide after finding a new ancestor in a place we don't know much about, that it would be useful to read something about the time in history of that place to gain a perspective on what it might have been like for our ancestor to have lived in that place at that time.

One approach is to find and read a good history book or article that applies. But for many of us, reading historical fiction can provide just as much useful historical background information, and with the addition of a good storyline set in the context of actual historical events. A good example might be reading a rather dry history of the Middle Ages. A different, and perhaps more engaging option, would be reading Ken Follett's novel *The Pillars of the Earth* about the building of a cathedral in a fictional town in England during the 12th century. I'm not suggesting that we all have English ancestors in the 12th century, but you get the drift.

Perhaps you are enjoying the second season of the PBS television series "Poldark" which is set in Cornwall, England in the late 1700's. You might have started by reading the series of historical novels by Winston Graham from which the television series is adapted. It gives a good background on life in that part of England in that period, and you could learn as much or more from reading the Graham novels.

Perhaps you had ancestors who traveled the Oregon Trail as part of the western migration in the 1800's and found a novel about living and traveling on a covered wagon that really appealed to you. Or maybe you are a train buff and discovered that you had an ancestor who worked on the transcontinental railroad during the 1860's. Wouldn't you want to read all about that to find out what your ancestor's life was like in that time in America's history?

A few weeks back I was listening to some radio travel broadcasts in preparing for my recent trip to Europe. A woman called in to the radio station during one interview and said that she was planning a visit to Prague in the Czech Republic. She explained that she liked to read historical fiction as part of her own travel preparation and wondered if the tour guide being interviewed could recommend such a book relating to Prague. Interestingly, the guide recommended a book by our former U.S. Secretary of State and U.N. Ambassador, Madeline Albright, who was born in Czechoslovakia. The book, *Prague Winter*, tells the story before her family came to the United States, living in Prague during the German invasion and occupation of Czechoslovakia, and her journey to find her own family history after she discovered her Jewish heritage. I'm still reading the book, and it's a thoughtful view into the lives of an occupied people during WWII, family discoveries and living history. Just the kind of stuff that appeals to genealogy researchers.

So, here's my request. If you have enjoyed reading a work of history, or historical fiction, that you found interesting and provided some useful background about an area or time in history related to your ancestors, please let us know about it and how it helped you with your research. If you would be willing to write a little blurb about it for the newsletter, that would be great. It doesn't have to be a long article, and it would share your knowledge with our members. If the writing part doesn't appeal to you, let me know about the book or article you read, and I will see if we can get the information out to share with our members so that they can benefit from your experience. Please share your knowledge and experiences with others so that we can all learn from what you know. Thanks, and I'm looking forward to reading all about it.

Safari News
~Bill Bluett

There are no safaris scheduled during November and December. On January 25, 2017, the safari destination will be the Los Angeles Public Library. Hope you can join us at that time

October Seminar
~ Bill Bluett, Seminar Chairman

Our 15th Annual Family History Seminar was another great success. We had approximately 128 folks in attendance and about 80% were members of SOCCGS. Some of our guests traveled from neighboring counties to attend. **Mary Jo McQueen** came all the way from Ogden, Utah! A few others may have traveled from out of state as well. This was the first time we held our event in the Mission Viejo City Council Chambers and I have to say that it was quite comfortable. And, the huge display screen was a nice plus for viewing. Our program began with the "Presentation of the Colors" by the South Coast Chapter of the Sons of the Revolution. **Leon Smith** and **Mel Butler** (in costume) lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, our society president **David Flint**, gave a big welcome to all in attendance. I then introduced our keynote speaker, **Lisa Louise Cooke**, who began with a presentation which covered 10 tech tools that can enhance your genealogy research. Her next presentation gave us tips on how to successfully research surnames. Later in the morning, the first round of raffle tickets were drawn for door prizes. **Jim Thordahl** organized the raffle prize table with the assistance of **Francie Kennedy** and a few other folks. After lunch, **Lisa Louise Cooke** gave two more presentations. One focused on newspaper research and the other covered ways to inspire non-genealogists in your family. A few more gifts were raffled off in the afternoon. The final drawing was for the Ancestry gift. Congratulations to **Dave Koons**, the winner of our "Grand Prize", the Ancestry World Deluxe one year subscription! And, of course, congratulations go out to all the other lucky winners of "raffle prizes". I must mention that our seminar speaker brought a wealth of information with her in the form of books, eBooks, and other helpful genealogical materials for our guests to purchase. Lisa's daughter, **Hannah**, handled the sales at their table.

The display tables and food were in the Saddleback Room about 80 paces down the outside walkway north of the City Hall entrance. The food and refreshments were under the direction of **Barbara Heebner**, **Sharon Keener**, **Gayle Meldau**, and Barbara's other daughter **Linda**. **Mike Bresnan** picked up the ice for our coolers and the "box lunches" at the Corner Bakery Café. **Jack Naylor** and the "kitchen crew" handed out the lunches. They were superb as they always have been in past years. Coffee, tea, water, muffins, and bagels were complimentary throughout the day. There was always a buzz of activity around the vendor tables. **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 **Judy Davin**. And, the jewelry tables were very successful thanks to **Victoria Crayne**, **Karyn Schumaker**, **Noel Jensen**, **Donna Rathman**, and **Judith Bryant**. A nice display of Avon Jewelry was donated by a friend (Nancy Miller) of Victoria's. Our SOCCGS genealogy table answered many questions regarding our Society's activities and class schedules. **Gary Schwarz**, and **Marilyn Kowalski** covered that table. **Karen VerWayne** filled in for David Flint at the "Legacy" table. Don't forget that David gives classes regarding the "Legacy" software each month. Sitting right across from Karen was **Sheila Larson**. She had information available for folks interested in the "Family Tree Maker" software. So, we had competing software sitting across from one another. Our DAR/SAR table was handled by **Ann Marie McCann**. One new table was added this year to the Saddleback Room. **Pat Christiansen** headed up the "Writers Class" table with examples of many stories that our members have written about themselves or ancestors. Technical support in the Council Chambers was given by librarian **Jennifer Frye** and **David Flint**. **Pat Weeks** and **Herb Abrams** helped cover the registration table and **Barbara Taylor** and **Marcia Roy** were greeting guests as they arrived for the event. **Bob Lozano** and **Gil Gillis** were at the parking lot entrance guiding the arrivals into the proper parking spaces. Finally, I must say that all our volunteers did a superb job in setting up and hosting this event even though it was a little more of a challenge this 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. I'm already looking forward to Annual Seminar #16 next year!

Seminar Ways & Means Project

Total monies raised at the Seminar:

Jewelry Tables - \$315.00

Book Table & Carts - \$211.85

SOCCGS Mouse Pads & Wood Slats for Tote Bag - \$8.00

Raffle Prize Tickets - \$634.00

Total: \$1168.85! Thank you all for the overwhelming support given to our Society.

Attention All Cooks!

We need your help! In past years, the husbands of two of our members cooked the lasagnas for our luncheon meeting in December. When Mary Jo McQueen and Sue Lamond moved away earlier this year, we lost our cooks.

Each year we purchase six to eight large frozen lasagnas to serve our members at the luncheon in December. Those need to be baked in an oven for about two hours each in advance of the meeting. We need some volunteers who would be willing to help us prepare the lasagnas so that they are ready to serve at our annual Holiday Gathering. This year our luncheon will be on December 17.

If you (or your spouse) can help us with having someone at home in the morning before the luncheon who can bake some lasagnas in the oven, please contact me or Barbara Heebner. We need to make our plans for December soon, so please let us know if you can help.

Salt Lake City Update - 2017

~David Flint

It's time to start making your plans for our third annual trip to Salt Lake City. We have a group of 25 rooms reserved at the Salt Lake Plaza hotel for the last week of April 2017 (April 23-30). The hotel has made some changes for next year which required an adjustment in our costs for the trip. Beginning with our trip in 2017, the hotel will offer two different types of room – the Standard Room and the Deluxe Room at different rates. Next year's trip will be priced as follows: for a Standard Room \$475 per person Double occupancy, and \$800 per person Single occupancy; and for a Deluxe room \$525 per person Double, and \$875 per person Single.

Deluxe rooms have the following additional features compared to a standard room: larger room; city view; extra work table; separate sink outside the bathroom; upgraded coffees and bathroom amenities. All rooms will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Our room allocation from the hotel consists of both Standard and Deluxe rooms. When all Standard rooms are sold, new reservations will be accepted only for Deluxe rooms. You will therefore need to specify the type of room preferred at the time you make your reservation. Reservations for the 2017 trip are now open. The trip is expected to book up quickly, so it is advisable to make your reservation as early as possible to assure that you are able to get a room with our group.

Each reservation is for seven nights, Sunday to Saturday, at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel. In addition to your room, there are group events included such as orientation meetings, a banquet dinner with speaker, wine and cheese reception, one group buffet breakfast, and other group activities during the week. The cost of the trip is based on a fixed price per person, and there is no reduction in cost if you choose to stay less than seven nights at the hotel or to not participate in any of the group events.

To reserve a room for next year's trip you need to make a deposit of \$100 per person. Final payment is due no later than February 15. A flyer with all the information you will need about the trip is posted on our website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocgs/SLC2.pdf> . The flyer includes a tear-off reservation form to send in with your deposit. No reservation will be accepted without a deposit. If you have special needs, please check with me in advance so that I can find out if the hotel can accommodate them. If you have any questions about the trip or the accommodations, please contact me at davidflint@cox.net. We hope you join us next year for our third annual week-long research trip to Salt Lake City.

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

Every Time They Acquire and Un-Acquire posted 15 Oct 2016

If your ancestor owned property, make certain you obtain documentation of both land transfers, how they obtained it and how it left their possession. This may include deeds of purchase and sale or it may include: wills, intestate probates, heirship deeds, foreclosures, tax sales, etc.

Genealogy Research Special Interest Group

There are no meetings scheduled for November and December for the Genealogy Research Special Interest Group that meets on the first Friday of the month. The next meeting will be Friday, January 6, 2017.

This article appeared in Cheboygan Democrat newspaper on 24 January 1908, and featured 12 eligible bachelors in the city of Cheboygan, Michigan; one of which was my Great-Great Uncle Charles L. Smyth. 2016 is a Leap Year; unfortunately I had not found article till now, but found it amusing.

Submitted by Karen Smyth Dill

Young Men Who Would Make Good Husbands, and a “Hunch” or Two Regarding Their Good and Bad Qualities

This is Leap Year! Everybody knows that, but many of the Cheboygan young women do not realize how many attractive, young bachelors there are in the city, any one of whom would be considered a “good catch”. The girls should wake up to this fact and do it quickly, for there are only 842 more days in the year, and after that they will be obliged to take a back seat and await the pleasure of the young man.

In order that the task of selecting a husband may be made easier for the members of the fair sex, the Democrat is going to volunteer its services and publish a list of Cheboygan bachelors, who are open for engagements, most of whom are not married because they are too bashful to pop the question. Almost without exception, these included in the Democrat’s list would be glad to have someone to support them and the girls should “get busy” while the opportunity lasts. Not only will the Democrat publish a list of desirable bachelors, but the good and bad qualities of those included will be pointed out so that the “dear girls” will know just about what their prize packages will contain.

Young ladies who are attracted by any particular and are desirous of finding out something about his inside life are invited to send the names to the Democrat office, addressing communications to the Matrimonial Editor. If the editor doesn’t tell the truth about the young men included in the list, don’t mind – he will tell something. Those who don’t win out a husband will see what they are missing and those who do will see what they wish they had missed, so the information in either instance will not be wasted.

EDITOR C. L. SMYTH

Editor C. L. Smyth of the News, is the catch of the season! He is brilliant writer and great reader, a deep thinker and a deep breather, possessing every qualification for an all around good husband. His writing would be a great aid to the girl who is lucky enough to gobble up his affections for he can help her write cooking recipes, while not occupied with his arduous duties as president of the “Scoopers” Union. Editor Smyth, is a most able newspaperman and everyone is familiar with the fact that newspapermen make the best husbands, because they are home very little. They have passes to everything and sometimes a little money, and we have every reason to believe that Editor Smyth is no exception to the rule. If you marry Editor Smyth think of the fun you will have. Free passes to the theaters, passes on the railroads-maybe, influence enough to keep the name of your enemies out of the personnel column and once in a while a square meal. Best of all the girl that harpoons Mr. Smyth will be able to keep posted regarding all the latest and risqué gossip which is going around about her friends. If your best friend flirts with some other woman’s husband, unless it happens to be yours, you will know it. If Mr. So-and-So wanders home in the early hours of the morning in a state of innocuous desuetude and is obliged to climb up a lightning rod in order to get in, you will know it; if your girlfriend, who poses as a religious leader, goes out “for a little time” and gives us an excuse for her late homecoming that “the automobile broke down”, you will know that too. In fact the wife of Editor Smyth will know everything about everybody else, except her husband and she ought to have enough confidence to trust him—the merchants do. Perhaps the lucky girl may have to obtain credit from County Clerk Barrett to secure her marriage license so if the clerk will trust her surely she ought to trust her husband. For a husband Editor Smyth is without question a man of the right type. If you don’t like his type he will change it for you at the print shop, so in reality, as far as Editor Smyth is concerned, marriage cannot be called a lottery. If you don’t like the original package just change it. Personally Mr. Smyth is pleasant to meet and a friend of whom one may feel proud.

Editor’s Note: In the October newsletter Karen gave us the website for the Cheboygan Democrat.

Nominations for 2017-2018 Officers

Officers of SOCCGS are elected for a two year term. The following members have been nominated to serve on the Board for the 2017-2018 term:

President: Bill Bluett
Vice-president: Arlene O'Donnell
Treasurer: David Flint
Recording Secretary: Pat Weeks
Corresponding Secretary: Marilyn Kowalski

At the November 2016 general membership meeting, we will ask for additional nominations from the floor, and then hold the election for the 2017-18 term. In December, at our holiday lunch, the new officers will be installed. The new president will then appoint all of the Committee Chairs, and the new Board will have their first Board meeting in January 2017.

Veterans Day Observance, El Toro Memorial Park

The 28th annual Veterans Day Observance at El Toro Memorial park will be held on Friday, November 11th, at 11:00 a.m. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Doug Milliken, a Vietnam Veteran, who served as a Sergeant in the U. S. Army. Mr. Milliken now volunteers with the Freedom Committee of Orange County and is author of "Testimony of the Protected." The program will include massed color guards, wreath laying ceremony and honor guard firing salute. Special music will be performed by John Huntington. For further information: www.occemeterdistrict.com and at bottom of welcome page click on "view our newsletters."

Genealogy Speaker Series, Laguna Niguel Library

Colleen Greene will present "Digging Deeper with Mexican American Church & Civil Registration Records" on Saturday, November 5, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. Laguna Niguel Library, 30341 Crown Valley Pkwy, Laguna Niguel, phone 949-249-5252, www.ocpl.org

November Free Webinars

Legacy is presenting several free webinars in November

Nov 2 – Analysis and Correlation: Two Keys to Sound Conclusions – Chris Staats

Nov 9 – Publishing a Genealogy E-Book – Thomas McEntee

Nov 16 – Dating Family Photographs – Jane Neff Rollins

Nov 18 – Nature & Nurture: Family History for Adoptees – Janet Hovorka and Amy Slade

Nov 30 – Multi-media Story Telling – Devin Ashby

Dec 7 – Becoming a Genealogy Detective – Sharon Atkins

Register at www.familytreewebinars.com If you miss the live Legacy webinar, recordings are in the archives and free to watch for the first 7 days after the broadcast.

Southern California Genealogical Society:

Nov 5 – Weaving the Research Quilt – Barbara Randall

Nov 16 – The Ancestor Deep-Dive: How You Can Find Out Everything There Possibly is to Know About Your Ancestor – Tammy Hepps

Dec 3 – The Case of the Broken Link: Decoding the URL – Cyndi Ingle

Register at www.scsgenealogy.com, click on programs and webinars.

Illinois Genealogical Society (ISGS)

Nov 8 – Principles of Effective Evidence Analysis – George G. Morgan

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4021548811025038081>

FamilySearch – For a list of monthly classes and webinars visit:

http://familysearch.org/locations/library_class_schedule

Ancestry.com - Check out Ancestry Academy for free courses

Do you have ancestors from Pennsylvania? Check out the Philadelphia Inquirer 1860-1922 at Newspapers.com, one of our newspaper subscriptions available at the Genealogy Research Center at the Mission Viejo Library.

Future Genealogy Events

Nov 4, 2016 – Genealogy Research SIG - No meeting scheduled for November and December.

Nov 5, 2016, OCCGS – Jean Wilcox Hibben – BEWARE! The Enchanted Forest: Perils & Pitfalls of On-line Trees, Huntington Beach Library, for information: occgs.com

Nov 6, 2016, OCJGS – Janice Sellers – Finding Females in Your Family Tree www.ocjgs.org

Nov 14, 2016, 10-12:00-David Flint - England SIG - Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

Nov 16, 2016, 10-12:00-Gary Schwarz – German SIG – Bill Price Rm, MV Library

Nov 17, 2016, 10-12:00-Arlene O’Donnell - Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library

Nov 17, 2016, 10:30-12:30-David Flint - Legacy Users Group - Saddleback Rm. MV City Hall

Nov 18,, 2016, 10-12:00-Myrna Hamid – Ireland SIG – Saddleback Rm., MV City Hall

Nov 20, 2016, OCJGS – Warren Blatt – Introduction to Polish Jewish Genealogy www.ocjgs.org

Nov 22, 2016, 10-12:00-Jim Thordahl – Writing Family History Stories – Saddleback Rm, MV City Hall

Nov 22, 2016, 9:30-11:30 – NSDCGS program “Once Upon a Time at an Antique Store: Telling the Story of Mrs. E. G. Stetson – Gena Philibert-Ortega, at Carlsbad City Council Chambers <http://nsdcgs.org>

Jan 28, 2017 – WAGS Seminar – Michael D. Lacopo, DVM, featured speaker, www.WAGSWhittier.org

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SOC CGS Website: www.socccgs.org



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 _____ Date _____

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.