

# Saddleback Valley Trails

**South Orange County California Genealogical Society**

Vol. 19 No. 12

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

December 2012

**Editor: Gary Schwarz**

Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Main Mission Viejo LDS Church Building, 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 check the mailing label on this newsletter.*

*If the date is 1/1/2013 dues are payable by January 1.*

**December 15, 2012 Holiday Gathering**

**Note: Time is 10:30 A.M.**

It's time for our annual Holiday Gathering. We will meet in the LDS Chapel for a brief business meeting including the installation of the elected Executive Board Officers for the coming year. Then, you, the members, will be the program. We would like you to briefly share any special holiday stories. An item can be accompanied with your story, if you so desire. Ornaments, a family book, or scrapbook, are just a few suggestions. We will have some tables set up so that members in attendance can enjoy viewing what you have brought. Take time from your busy holiday schedule to relax and enjoy the refreshments and holiday cheer. Advance notice would be appreciated if you would like to share something with the group, please contact Bill Bluett in advance by phone at 949-492-9408 or email [billbluett@cox.net](mailto:billbluett@cox.net). We hope to see you on December 15th.

**Don't forget the December meeting will begin at 10:30 AM - not 10:00 AM.**

### ***2013 Executive Board Elections***

At the November meeting the following members were elected to serve for the coming year: President - Francie Kennedy; Vice President - David Flint; Recording Secretary - Patricia Weeks, Corresponding Secretary - Marilyn Kowalski, Treasurer - Mary Jo McQueen. They will be installed on December 15.

### ***Safari News***

A reminder, no Safari is scheduled for December. Our next Safari will be in January of 2013, when we travel to the Los Angeles Public Library. Additional details will be in the first issue of the newsletter, January 2013.

### ***Sign-In***

Please remember to sign in on arrival at the monthly meetings.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

~Bill Bluett

I had a pleasant surprise this past month when I revisited one of my favorite websites. Last January, I gave a brief presentation regarding FREE genealogy sites that would be of interest to most researchers. One of those sites is [Historical Newspapers Online](#). Just go to [Google](#) and put the name in. It should be the first website listed. This is a site provided by the University of Pennsylvania. Earlier this year, this website included 26 states with 43 links to historical newspapers. I revisited the site recently and could not believe how much they have expanded the number of states and links to various newspaper websites. There are now 45 states listed along with Washington D.C. and the Virgin Islands. The number of links has increased to over 320 websites. And, it's all free! Thank you, University of Pennsylvania! Some states have as many as 20 to 30 listings to from which to select. Approximately half of the states have a link to [Chronicling America](#). This is a "Library of Congress" website that is FREE and has "historic newspapers" for 25 states and Washington D.C. Now you actually have two websites linked together for newspaper research. How great is that!

I immediately started searching the areas where my ancestors had been located to see if any new information might be uncovered. I begin searching in New York where my **Paddock** and **Stowell** ancestors resided. These are the family lines that enabled my mother to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.). There are 26 websites listed for New York and I was able to find some additional obituaries for some of the brothers and sisters of my great-great grandfather, **Eugene Stowell**, who served in the Civil War. Nicely detailed obituaries are always so helpful and usually give additional information that will give good clues for further research. And, that is exactly what the obituaries I found contained; lots of additional information about the person and the family.

Next, I moved on to the Midwest and selected the State of Iowa which has 20 websites listed. I found several newspaper articles regarding family reunions in **Iowa City** in the 1940's and 1950's. All of the attending families were listed with their place of residence. Many had traveled from out of state to attend the event. The **Eimen**, **Reynolds**, and **Osborne** families still have reunions today. My wife (Helen) and I have had opportunities to be at some of those gatherings in recent years. Other articles found were a few more obituaries, school and church activities, and a human interest story about Helen's father, **Seth Eimen**, when he retired from farming. So, the Iowa families are well documented in a number of local newspapers on this particular website.

The West Coast States is another area I searched. Washington, Oregon, and California included many articles regarding the **Bluett** families. They initially came to the "gold rush" country in California about 1852. I found an interesting article about one of my great-great uncle's sons (**Wesley Bluett**) in an 1873 **Sacramento** newspaper. The boy (about age 15) went squirrel-hunting early one morning. He set his gun down on the ground with the muzzle leaning against his left side. He didn't put the hammer down and it went off while this 15 year old was lighting a CIGAR! The shot and wadding plowed through his left side tearing a piece of flesh 3 inches long and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch wide. The charge then passed out through the rim of his hat after grazing his cheek and forehead. A **Dr. Hunt** tended to his wound which was very painful, but, not too serious. This kid was one lucky dude! Wesley did live to be nearly 50 years old. He even served in the Spanish-American War in 1898-1899. Wesley died in **Marysville, California**, as a result of a fall from a motorcycle in 1910.

I guess what I'm trying to say is there are a lot of interesting stories out there in print just waiting for us to find them. Some have verified what I've been told by family members over the years. Other articles tell me things that I would have never known about an

### **November Meeting**

**Nancy Huebotter** gave us a great presentation titled **Armchair Genealogy**. Her handout included a long list of internet websites that contain genealogy records. We were also reminded to contact or write county clerks and other repositories for helpful information – all from the comfort of your home! We thank Nancy for this most informative program. Members who provided refreshments were: **Pat Christiansen, Virginia Dunk, Ann Hagerty, and Joyce Van Schaack**.

**Once you get rid of integrity, the rest is a piece of cake.**     *- Good genealogy is never a piece of cake.*  
~Larry Hagman

## ***Toy Drive for Camp Pendleton Marine Children***

~Karyn Schumaker

It is that time of year again, the 6<sup>th</sup> annual SOCCGS Toy Drive. This year we are collecting for the children of the 1/11 Marines from Camp Pendleton. If you would like to participate, all you need to do is bring an unwrapped toy or a gift card to our December meeting. While gifts for any age are appreciated, the under twos and teens do not get as many gifts as the other age groups.

This Toy Drive has grown out of a family tradition my family started many years ago. We decided that we had as much as we needed, and we didn't really want more knickknacks to dust around, but we still enjoyed shopping at Christmas. So we started buying for toy drives and that evolved into my family adopting a family. We get together as a family to buy for our adopted family and make a day of it. We are now bringing that tradition to the next generation. My nephew is just starting to understand the concept. My niece not only understands the concept, she looks forward to coming to our yearly meeting to pick-up the toys and to deliver them to the recipients.

We chose the 1/11 Marines this year as a small thank you token for their sacrifices. While it may be a job for mom or dad, the whole family has to pitch in and help when their parent is deployed for months on end. It is rough on all of them. I wish I could do more, but this Toy Drive to help their families have a little brighter holiday is the least we can do for them helping our families have a safe one.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at (949) 248-0662. On behalf of the 1/11, thank you in advance for your contributions to this drive.

## ***Soka University Visit to Mission Viejo Library Genealogy Research Center***

~Jack Naylor – Coordinator

As usual, the students had a very diverse background. Students by name(parent origin) were: Frances Collins(CA,TX,KY), Lee Demetrius(CA), Anne Dinh(Hong Kong/Vietnam), Daniel Emirkhanian(IL, Lebanon), Victor Haynes(Brooklyn/Tokyo), Hiroaki Murakami(Tokyo), Elijah Price(CA/Germany), Sabrina Sadr(NY, Iran), Vinh Tran(Vietnam), Tam Troung(Vietnam), Jorge Viramontes(Mexico) and Malahat Zhobin(Afghanistan/Pakistan).

Herb was able to help Sabrina Sadr find her mother's family in the 1880 New York census. It showed that her great grandfather was born in Ireland and his wife was born in Canada.

Gary, working with Malahat Zhobin found that most if not all information on Afghanistan was about Americans in the war. Many civil and personal documents were destroyed by the Taliban. They did find a video interview of Malahat's mother's father, an Afghan poet when they Googled his name.

Bunny worked with Daniel Emirkhanian, his father's family was from Lebanon. They were really Armenian and were in America since the 1910's. They did find some birth and marriage indexes, census and immigration records back to when they came to America. Daniel's mother's side is Irish, also in America since the early 1900's. They were able to get his families back 3 and 4 generations. Bunny worked with Elijah Price, his mother's side was Italian and his father's side was German. Both lines were in America in the 1900's and he was able to find census and immigration until when they came to America. Bunny also helped Jerge Viramontes from Mexico. They were unable to find anything on either his or his mother's Morales line. He knew the area they were born in and it should have church records, but years ago the Bandits burned down the church and all the records.

Jim observed that the student's determination grew as "brick walls" rose. Even these barriers could not dampen their enthusiasm, highlighted by repeat calls home for further insight as to their family history, at the same time learning a bit of world history. The students whose ancestral heritage stemmed from Europe had great success. Those whose roots were in Japan or Southeast Asia had little success and devoted there effort to expand their knowledge of their ancestral homeland and the meaning or source of their surname.

## **The BASH**

**02 Mar 2013** Sat 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – OCCGS presents "The Bash"; Central Library, Huntington Beach, CA; The library is large and has seven meeting rooms and a theatre. The meeting rooms can seat approximately 50 people for each speaking session and the theatre has over 300 seats. There will be 4 speaking sessions. Seven Southern California speakers will give talks on various genealogical subjects. Scheduled to speak are: Barbara Rennick, Jean Wilcox Hibben, Gina Philibert Ortega, Randy Seaver, Linda Serna, Norma Keating, and Dawn Thurston.

**My definition of a redundancy is an airbag in a politician's car.**

~Larry Hagman ( 1931 - 2012 )

*-For genealogists, it is multiple backups in multiple locations.*

### **Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions**

**David Flint** shared about his vacation in 2007 to visit family in Ohio, New York, and St. Marys, Ontario, Canada, where he lived as a young boy. He met a woman at the local library that had gone to school with him in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She was in touch with some of his missing family in St. Marys. This year, David met up with one missing relatives that was touring the U.S.A. and they met for dinner in Hollywood.

**Pat Weeks** mentioned the fact that the Orange County Register recently had an article about **Kaskaskia, Illinois**. She has ancestors that lived in this small Southern Illinois town.

**Barbara Taylor** received an e-mail through Ancestry.com from a family that had in their possession an 1856 hymnal of interest to her. Read her article later in this newsletter.

**Verl Nash** has a granddaughter that lives in Medford, Massachusetts, which is where the composer of "Jingle Bells" (James Lord Pierpont) lived when he wrote the song in 1850.

**Kathy Mauzey** expressed to David Flint that she has visited St. Marys, Ontario, Canada, as well.

### **Beginning Genealogy Class**

~Jack Naylor - Coordinator

SOC CGS will offer a "Beginning Genealogy Class" starting in January 2013. It will be a two hour class limited to four students and will cover forms, sources, evidence, organization and the programs on SOC CGS computers at the Mission Viejo Library. The class will be available to anyone with a Mission Viejo Library Card on a first come first serve basis. A library application can be obtained at the check out desk. Mission Viejo residence is not required to obtain a library card.

Pre-class homework will be to locate some of the source documents that you have, for example: birth, marriage and death certificates, to bring to the class. We will review these for the evidence they contain.

Follow-on classes are being developed leading to specific User Group formation. We currently have a Legacy Users Group that meets monthly at the Mission Viejo Library.

Jack will attempt to coordinate class date and time for the January Class to his, the library and enrollee schedules as enrollment progresses.

Enroll by calling Jack Naylor at 949-586-6689

### **Genealogical Software SIG**

~Jack Naylor

Results from polling members on the question "Would you be interested in attending a Users Group on your genealogy program." The results were:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 - Ancestral Quest       | 2 - Legacy Family Tree (in addition to our current members) |
| 0 - Family Tree Builder   | 1 - PAF   |
| 12 - Family Tree Maker    | 2 - Reunion   |
| 0 - Genbox Family History | 1 - RootsMagic  |
| 1 - Gramps                | 0 - The Master Genealogist                                  |

Please provide with your name and we will contact you on details of the first meeting.

### **The Hymnal**

~Barbara Taylor

I was recently contacted by two women on Ancestry.com who had found a book that had belonged to their mother/grandmother and they thought I might be interested in it. It had two names hand-written in it: Cynthia Maria Smith and Frances E. Smith of **Norwich, Vermont**. **Cynthia Maria (Egerton) Smith (1821-1899)** was my great-great-grandmother, and **Francis E. Smith (1851-1925)**, her son, was

my great-grandfather. The little book, which I now have, was a hymnal and song book published in 1856. Cynthia's husband, **Rev. Ambrose Smith (1820-1862)** was a clergyman and Pastor of the Congregational Church from 1852 until his death. The book is in intact, with good pages (776 of them), though the cover is a bit warped. The women, who found the book in the back of an old bookcase, said their mother/grandmother had lived in Norwich Vermont for many years, though they didn't know why she had the book or when or where she might have gotten it. They were glad to find the family it belonged to and I was very glad to receive it.

A couple things I should mention are that when I researched Cynthia, I found that she had two younger sons which I didn't have in my family tree yet. One, **Lyndon Ambrose Smith (1854-1918)** moved to **Minnesota** and became Lieutenant Governor for one term, then Attorney General for the state until his death. Another, **Justin Harvey Smith (1857-1930)** was a historian, history professor at Dartmouth College in **Hanover, New Hampshire** and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1920 for his 2 volume book, The War with Mexico. He wrote many other books.

### **Ways and Means – Seminar**

~Jim Thordahl

Another successful facet of the South Orange County California Genealogical Society's 2012 Seminar was our fundraising. There were three components to this effort. **1) Jewelry:** Donated items of jewelry were presented on an easily accessible display table that caught the attention of many bargain hunters. Donations ranged from original handcrafted items to classical costume jewelry and attractive necklaces. Appreciation goes to all jewelry donators and the jewelry table volunteers whose efforts shined as brightly as their sparkling goods. The volunteers were Jo Ann Minnig, Noel Jensen, Lee Kraft and Karyn Shumaker. The jewelry sales garnered a tidy sum of \$463. **2) Books:** Bunches of "bookworms" browsed through the book nook and added to their research and reading pleasure to the tune of \$161 into our treasury. Thanks go to the many book contributors and the experienced and capable volunteers who prepared and served in the book nook. The volunteers were Eileen Merchant, Pat Weeks, Kathy Mauzey and Bunny Smith. **3) Genealogy Table:** This component was staffed by and our thanks go to two knowledgeable genealogy researchers in the persons of Marilyn Kowalski and Gary Schwarz. They offered free advice, bookmarks, and National Archive pamphlets. They also sold SOCCGS "beginner pamphlets" and the last of our personalized totes to collect \$34.

Thanks also to Mary Jo McQueen, who lent her guidance to the overall effort.

### **"The Dust Bowl"**

~Gary Schwarz

Cindy (my wife) and I had been watching a couple of programs on PBS created by Ken Burns: "The Civil War" and "The Dust Bowl". I have not been able to find out if they will be showing again far enough in the future for this notice in the newsletter to be beneficial. Ken Burns created these films from archive photographs and films, and added the narration. He also included interviews of living people in the case of "The Dust Bowl" film.

**Barbara Taylor** had also been watching "The Dust Bowl" and commented, "Some of our members who have/had family in Oklahoma [, Colorado, New Mexico, and Kansas] in the 1920-1930s might be interested in this PBS movie "The Dust Bowl" by Ken Burns, to be broadcast on PBS TV (Nov 18 and 19). See local listings for details.

The segments are also online now and will be available for a couple weeks. <http://video.pbs.org/program/dust-bowl/>. The programs are also available as a DVD.

There are also profiles of everyone in the movie with photos and stories about their experience on the website. I know a couple friends (of the Forester family) who were interviewed for the movie."

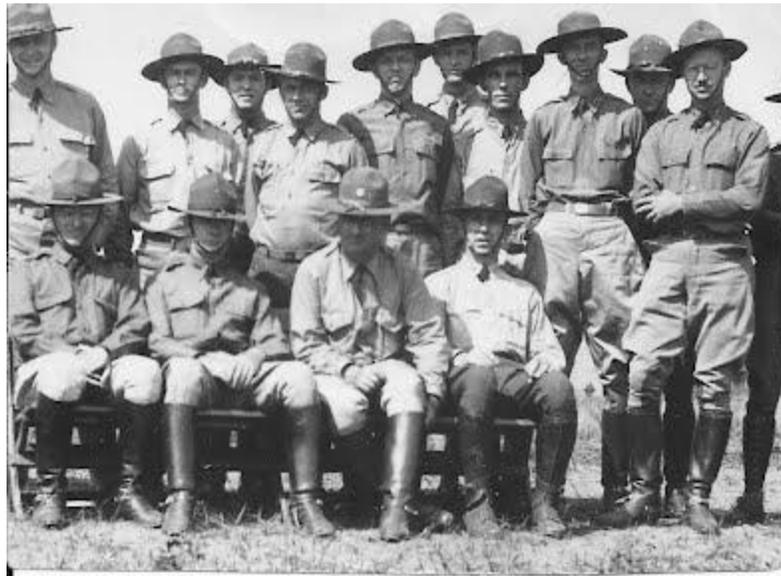
Having friends that were interviewed must make the show even more interesting for Barbara. My father-in-law lived in Eastern Kansas at that time and came over to our house on Thanksgiving Day. I wanted to call him up after the first half of the film, but Cindy said wait until Thanksgiving to talk to him. He was between six and fifteen years old during the dust bowl era. He didn't remember much, but he did say that his father said, "This red dirt is from New Mexico."

Both films provide genealogists with reasons for more recent family migrations, especially "The Dust Bowl".

## **Uncle Ed, “Le Bon Vivant”**

~Pat Weeks

Everyone has at least one of *those* uncles! I had two, but today I want to talk about one, **Edward Julius Rush**. He was born only a few years before my mother, and so I think he had a



true feeling for me, his little niece - the daughter of his little sister. Besides that, we meshed! We became close friends. Our humors ran the same way. I referred to him as “Le Bon Vivant” and his nickname for me was “Passpartout”, a word we never quite figured out, but it sounded great.

Uncle Ed doted on every find I made about the family. He reveled in our family histories, and besides that, he added a bit of spice to each family story. Ed, born 1906, was too young to be in the WWI but became very active in the army reserves during the 1930s. He joined the 35<sup>th</sup> Division Field Artillery (Missouri and Kansas) which

met at **Fort Riley, Kansas**. His Battalion Commander was Harry Truman. This field artillery was responsible for transporting troops and machinery by horse. The army was not fully mechanized until WWII. Ed would go to Fort Riley, probably once a month, wearing his jodhpurs, and ride horses. So every time the subject came up he would always say he was, “Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines”, and then burst into singing “when the caissons go rolling along”

I have a picture of him and the group including Harry Truman. An archivist at the Ziggurat urged me to send it to the Harry Truman library in Independence Missouri, and I received a very gracious thank you with identification of some of the others in the picture. To this day I am so thankful for the support and encouragement “Le Bon Vivant” gave to me during his lifetime, for sharing his enthusiasm, and for making my genealogy accomplishments so vivid and interesting.

## ***I’m My Own Grandfather***

~Barbara Taylor

I came across this in the '90's while doing research in a facility. I would like to share it.

“1920 - His Own Grandfather”

G. H. M., of Titusville, Pa., committed suicide the other day on discovering that he was his own grandfather. He left the following letter: "I married a widow who had a grown-up daughter. My father visited our home very often, fell in love with my step-daughter and married her. So my father became my son-in-law and my step-daughter my mother, because she was my father's wife. Some time afterward my wife had a son. He was my father's brother-in-law and my uncle, for he was the brother of my step-mother. My father's wife, who is my step-daughter, had a son. He was of course, my brother, and at the same time my grandchild, for he was the son of my daughter. My wife was my grandmother, because she was my mother's mother. I was my wife's husband and grandchild at the same time, and as the husband of a person's grandmother is his grandfather, I am my own grandfather."

## ***Clipping Tip***

~Ancestry.com – Mellany Irby

When you clip an obituary, be sure to include the banner at the top of the page giving the name of the publication, so that you will have the “where” and “when” the obituary appeared. This will help to pinpoint a date of death, in case none is given, and also contributes to a level proof.

**Orange County Jewish Genealogical Society**

02 Dec 2012 – Sun 1:30 - 3:00 PST; Barbara Rennick, “How Computers and Gadgets are Changing Genealogical Research”; Chabad of North Orange County, 19045 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA; Open to all, RSVP: Sandy Bursten, 949-854-8854 or Sandybee1@Cox.net

**Southern California Genealogical Society Webinars**

01 Dec 2012 - Sat 10am PST Daniel Horowitz; Sharing and Preserving Memories in a Digital Era.

19 Dec 2012 - Wed 6pm PST Schelly Talalay Dardashti, Jewish Genealogy 101

The live broadcast of each session is open to the public and FREE to all (space is limited to 1000 attendees). Webinars are recorded, archived, and available for the next twelve months day or night to SCGS members, in the members-only section of the SCGS website.

Info: <http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com/JamboreeExtensionSeries2012.htm>

Schedule: <http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com/storage/Extension/ExtensionSeriesTrifold.pdf>

**Surname List**



<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocgs/surnames.htm>

Members, please check your information on the SOCCGS Surname Website. If corrections and/or additions are necessary notify Herb at hvabrams@cox.net or (949-581-6292). New and old members are encouraged to add information by sending an email to Herb listing surnames, locations and years being researched.

**SOCCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**Mail List: [SOCCGS-L@rootsweb.com](mailto:SOCCGS-L@rootsweb.com)**

**SOCCGS Research Center, Mission Viejo Library**

**Marguerite Parkway at La Paz, (949) 470-8498**

**SOCCGS E-mail: [cmvgs@netzero.net](mailto: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) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: SOCCGS

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