

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

Vol. 20 No. 12

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

December 2013

Editor: Gary Schwarz

Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Main Mission Viejo LDS Church Building, 27976 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, between Medical Center Drive and Hillcrest Drive. Membership is open to anyone interested in genealogy. Individual membership fees are \$20 per calendar year, joint membership \$25.

SOCCGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

**Please check your newsletter label.
If it reads 2014, dues are payable in January.**

"It's Holiday Time"

You are cordially invited to SOCCGS'

Annual Holiday Luncheon

December 21, 2013

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

(Regular meeting location - Please note time change.)

Members are invited to bring items and/or stories to share.

The luncheon is being catered.

Your executive board is providing desserts.

Safari News

There are no safaris scheduled during December. On January 22, 2014, the safari destination will be the Los Angeles Public Library. Hope you can join us at that time.

"SOCCGS Saddleback Valley News" Project

~Herb Abrams

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

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

Here is the test to find whether your mission on Earth is finished: if you're alive, it isn't.

~Richard Bach

Also the test of whether your genealogy work is finished.

President's Message

~ Francie Kennedy

It's a Wonderful Society!

Please come to the December Holiday lunch on Dec 21st at 10:30 a.m. This is a great chance to relax and enjoy a meal in the company of people who really understand your enjoyment of this consuming activity, pursuing genealogy and family history research. Great conversation, good food, and like-minded people!

As the family historian, you may have an interesting and unique memento of your heritage and the history of your family. Bring it! There will be "show and tell" tables in our dining area, and other members will be interested to see what you bring, in this informal setting. Scrapbooks, photo albums, medals, memorabilia of all sorts are interesting to us!

Looking back at the past twelve months, I am so pleased with what the Society has done to enrich our experience. This year we have expanded the scope of programs to include mini-sessions before the meetings, Fourth Friday classes to explore topics in depth, three special interest groups, two Facebook interfaces, and a partridge in a pear tree. Just kidding... we went to Farrell's and held an Open House! We had TWO huge features in the newspaper! Membership is up and growing! We are having a good time, and learning so much.

In January, the Board will have an in-depth meeting to plan next year's activities. I hope to get that long-awaited survey sent out to you during December, to inform the Board's discussion. Feel free to send me your suggestions and ideas directly: writefrancie@gmail.com. Thank you to each & every SOCCGS member for making this Society such a wonderful experience for all of us.

Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions

Bill Swanson is searching for Andrew Hanson (Hansen?), the grandfather on his mother's side of the family. He found him in the 1920 census in Montana. But, nothing additional can be found beyond that point. He has looked in some City Directories. No luck. Some suggestions given to Bill include: newspaper research, local societies, the Allen County Library catalog, the L.A. Public Library for city directories, and the USGenWeb site for the county in Montana he is seeking.

Pat Christiansen has received her mother's ashes from her sister (who sent them to her in the mail). What does she do with them now? Pat says that you can make arrangements to have any number of relatives ashes placed in your own casket when you pass away. Thanks for that piece of information, Pat. We'll keep it in mind.

Arlene O'Donnell attended her uncle's funeral service at Arlington Cemetery in August. She has eight 1st cousins and they were all in attendance following behind the horse-drawn caisson. She pointed out that those who are considered "Warriors and Patriots" are buried at Arlington and wives of those individuals can be interred in the cemetery as well.

Jim Thordahl has been working on his sister-in-law's genealogy and has discovered that her 8th great grandmother (with the surname ESTE) was involved in the Salem Witch Trials and was the last one to be hung.

Melbourne Pittman has heard a lot of stories at family gatherings over the years. So, she decided to write down any stories that she can remember and put them into files on the computer. Her stories cover a period of time from 1929 to 2007!

Joyce Van Schaack says that the Saddleback College "Friends of the Library" needs volunteers for their organization. Consider checking them out.

Melissa Cottrell agrees how important it is to share stories at family gatherings. By doing so, some family members may learn something that they did not know.

Vanessa Milburn pointed out to us that Civil War Pension files can be ordered using form NATF 85. But, they are still in the legal custody of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA).

Lareen Bell asked Herb Abrams if he could help her find her great grandmother's maiden name. After a period of time on the computer, Herb came up with the name on the "Find a Grave" website. As it turned out, Agnes Carson's maiden name was LAWLOR. Lareen was so elated that she has joined our society.

What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day.

~Phyllis Diller

November Meeting

Our speaker Gena Philibert-Ortega walked us through The Library of Congress's website focusing on the American Memory Collections which houses rich sources of images, interviews, history, maps, and documents. Navigating The Library of Congress website can be difficult but with Gena's guidance we were able to view sources pertaining to genealogy and also of general interest .

Ralphs Community Contribution Program

Check your *Ralphs Rewards* account, among other information; you can see what your share of this amount is. Then take a bow as we all applaud to render a big "Thank You."

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

Obscure Colonial Occupations

~Mickie Dempsey

The other day when looking up the definition of "say weaver", I came across this incredible site. If you click "about us", you'll discover the origin of the group that provides the definitions of some pretty obscure occupations of colonial times.

I thought this sight might be of interest to newsletter readers.

http://www.averymiller.com/definitions/occ_def_s.html

Writing Life Stories

~Jim Thordahl

SOCCGS is starting a new program: a "Writing Life Stories Group." Autobiography writing groups are popular throughout America. Our group will focus on genealogical aspects and personal experience to add narrative to our family data with stories of family history or comparison of our lives to our ancestors' lives. Participants will record their memories and write their life story. A key point of our guest speaker in November was building interest in our family history by adding narrative to our data.

About twenty SOCCGS members have participated in orientation meetings for this writing group process. Now they are ready for "Phase II" – getting to work. All SOCCGS members are welcome to join the group. The first monthly meeting is scheduled for January 8th at 10AM to noon in the Saddleback Room. Some time will be devoted to organization and then attendees will be invited to read their first life story. Please contact Jim Thordahl for further information – jimandbonniethor@juno.com/ or ph 492-5334.

Salt Lake City Trip with Fellow SOCCGS Members

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

Help Wanted at the Library!

~Bunny Smith

Your Library is in need of a volunteer in the Genealogy Section to take one of two Sunday's, the second and fourth, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. We are also looking for volunteer substitute docents who can sit in for a permanent docent who is on vacation or can't make their shift.

The Library docent hours are as follows:

Monday - Thursday 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday from 10:00am - 4:00pm

Friday and Sunday 1:00pm - 4:00pm

The Library also needs volunteer docents to cover the Monday through Thursday evening shift (4:00pm to 7:00pm). Currently only the Tuesday shift has a docent until 7:00pm. So if you are able to drive in the dark and want to volunteer, my contact information is on page seven of the newsletter.

I am also a regent of the Mission Viejo Chapter of the DAR, so contact me for information regarding the DAR.

The Life and Times of Your SOCCGS Board

Definition of Genealogy: Because of them, I am

~Marilyn Kowalski, Correspondence Secretary

How does anyone become enthusiastic about history & deceased relatives? Genealogical research does! It makes a person curious to search and find clues bringing on a greater awareness of family. My experience with genealogy has been an intermittent effort, finally becoming more directed after retiring from a 40 yr career in Geriatric Nursing.

I was about 8yrs old, when the genealogy bug took a bite of me. It probably occurred in the 1950's, at grandpa and grandma **Reher's** house, in **Grand Island, Nebraska**. I would sit on the floor at the feet of my grandmother, and her three daughters listening to their talk about family. These gatherings of our family, held about every other year, were to become for me a source for my family's history. Other years, despite living apart far distances (CA, CO, NE, and OH) family communication continued with long letters. There was never a shortage of news.

Both my father and mother's families are many generations deep in Nebraska history, primarily in **Hall and Otoe Counties**. My maternal heritage is Germanic (**Reher/Heesch**). Our original family left Germany in the middle 1800's to escape conscription. By trade they were mostly farmers. After reaching the US, they followed other German immigrants who were traveling west, passing thru Ohio and Illinois and Iowa, in search of free and fertile farmlands. Nebraska met their needs. Within a couple of generations (they had very large families of ten to twelve children); they were successful farmers despite the terrible offerings of the Great Plains. Their first year they encountered a locust infestation, later drought, hurricanes and tornados made life far from placid. While they involved themselves in their farms and cattle, the new generations were being educated, becoming architects and builders, contributing to the local community growth.

My paternal family is not as well known, and efforts thus far in finding their path from Europe to the US are littered with brick walls. Numerous countries seem to have provided the **Still/Lowry** lineage. Dutch, German, Irish/Scots and English all have been found in the records so far. There is evidence of having been in the **New England** areas since the mid 1700's. They participated in the Revolutionary war.

My father's family was small by comparison with my maternal ancestors. Grandma **Minnie Lowry Still** and Grandpa **Claude Still** were fairly unknown to me. Minnie died at the young age of 29 of Consumption. My dad, **Raymond Still** was only about two years old when Minnie's family brought her to **Long Beach, CA** for treatment due to the sanitariums for TB and good weather. Grandpa Still was often an absent father during my dad's growing years. Claude sold and replaced fire extinguishers all over the state. He died in 1956 and my only recollection about him is my father sitting in the kitchen at our home in **Pacific Palisades, CA**, tearful over the phone call from my great aunt **Ethel Lowry** (Claude's sister) informing dad that grandpa Still had died. Later, as I continued my genealogical quest, my great aunt Ethel would turn out to be one of the more colorful people for the Lowry/Still legacy.

Never having had any training in searching for family facts and histories I have been fortunate that our family has left pedigree charts, family bibles and even a few small publications which keep my curiosity ongoing. Genealogy is not just looking at history and deceased folks. It's an ongoing tale in which I have a connection. What's not to be enthusiastic about that?

Gary Schwarz – Newsletter Editor

I'm Gary Schwarz and have served as SOCCGS newsletter editor board member for a couple of years. I was born in Nebraska and lived with my folks on a rented farm until I was 4 years old. I was raised in the Hawthorne area of Southern California. I graduated from Hawthorne High School at which notables - other than me - attended: The Beach Boys and George Harrison's second wife, Olivia Arrias. I attended El Camino Community College and graduated from California State University, Long Beach.

My interest in genealogy was first sparked by my maternal grandfather **Cleo Golding** when he responded to my question, "Grandpa, what's your name?" with "Puddintain, ask me again and I'll tell you the same." Although that spark to learn names lay dormant for many years, it would eventually be fanned to a comfortable fire because my grandmother **Adah Golding nee Phillips** came to live with us after my grandfather's death, bringing many old photographs, diaries, letters, postcards, family bibles and scrap books containing clippings from the Harvard Courier (Harvard Nebraska's newspaper) with her.

My addiction began when my grandmother died and I had all these documents to look through and began to get interested in the people I was reading about. I started my first pedigree chart sometime around 1980. I had gotten a book on genealogy from the library and it said to get a pedigree chart. Well,

when I went to the stationary store (I don't think there are any stationary stores anymore, are there?) and asked for a pedigree chart; they only had them for dogs. I eventually got hooked up with the Los Angeles Family History Center (where I got a 'people' pedigree chart) and the Orange County California Genealogical Society (OCCGS) in Huntington Beach. This was the start of my "the old fashion way" phase – writing family group sheets by hand, sending letters, and reading microfilm at the US Regional Archives in Laguna Niguel, and trying to find books with information about my family.

My first entry on a computer was on an Apple II computer using the PAF program I had purchased at the Family History Center in LA. I still use the last update of the PAF program (which the LDS Church discontinued support of this year) but now on a Windows platform, along with RootsMagic, Legacy, and Ancestral Quest.

My dad's side of the family are Germans from Russia. I don't remember how I found that out. I guess I was still in the names and dates mode at that time or I would have documented my source. I read an article in the LA Times about Germans from Russia which told about the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR). The AHSGR along with the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS) are the source of mountains of documents about my ancestors. My Schwarz pedigree contains the names: **Schwarz, Kauk, Knodel, Ochsner, Walter, Gries(s), Kieffer, Hofmann, Böehler, Gemar, Baer, Grotz, Trautmann, Weisskopf, May, and Laubach.**

My mom's ancestors are mostly English and Irish. A lot of this research was done reading microfilm at the Family History Center in the evening and on the first Saturday of the month at the regional archives (It has since moved from Laguna Niguel to Riverside). Later I was using www.familysearch.org to get clues for who and where to search. My Golding pedigree contains the names: **Golding, Brown, Wicker, Linville, Darby, Marks, Jones, Phillips, Miller, Huffer, Stevens, Seymour, and Sterns.** They lived in **Clay Co., Nebraska; Carroll Co., Illinois; Shelby and Howard Co., Indiana; Hamilton Co., Ohio; Stokes Co., North Carolina; Bradford Co., Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and Connecticut.**

I've moved into the 21st Century and use library versions of Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest, Footnote, and other subscription online genealogy services at the Genealogical Section of the Mission Viejo Library for 'FREE'. Google, USGenWeb, and other non-subscription services have also provided more 'meat' to the names, dates, places of my first beginnings of genealogy.

Surname List, Address Changes, Membership Renewal, and More

We are all approaching the time to review our plans for next year. A few things to put on your list:

- Review your entries on the **surname list** at the website and notify Herb of updates and additions.
- If you are expecting an **address change**, notify Herb. If you move without notifying us of your new address, your newsletter comes back from the USPS with a 55 cent charge.
- Plan to renew your **membership** early.
- Remember to **sign-in** on arrival at the monthly meeting.
- Plan on attending some **classes** and user group sessions during each month.

Future Events

Dec 22, 1:30-3:00 PM – **OCJGS** – presents: Family Research in Poland - Temple Bat Yahm, 1011 Camelback Street, Newport Beach - RSVP www.ocjgs.org/ or Email - info@ocjgs.org, or Call [\(949\) 423-3746](tel:9494233746)
Feb 6-8, 2014; Registration open for **RootsTech 2014**, at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. This is an annual family history conference hosted by FamilySearch

Beginning Genealogy

~Arlene O'Donnell

Location: Mission Viejo Library - Bill Price Room. **Dates:** Dec 12th 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Bill Price Room (due to holidays). **Class Size:** 4 Maximum

Requirements: Bring one document e.g. birth/marriage/death certificate, obituary, or any document pertaining to your family. This is a class for those interested in starting their search for their ancestors.

This class is given by the South Orange County California Genealogy Society. There is no charge for the class; however, we request that you RSVP. There is also a signup sheet at the docent's desk in the Genealogy Room. Call for details: 949-466-7178; email: silkberry@aol.com

The Family Tree Maker User Group

~Sheila Larson

The Family Tree Maker User Group meets on the first Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Bill Price Room of the Mission Viejo Library (across from the public computer area). The next meetings will be on Sunday, December 1, 2013 and January 5, 2014. The purpose is for users to share their collective knowledge of the program and pick up some tips.

Bring your laptop, your questions and become a part of the group. You can just show up or call/email Sheila Larson at 949-436-0500 or lighthouse1212@yahoo.com.

Legacy Beginners Class

~David Flint

A new beginner's class on how to use the **Legacy Family Tree** genealogy software program will be starting up in January 2014. This is an eight-hour class presented in four two-hour sessions. The class will provide a detailed overview of the Legacy Family Tree program, with lectures, live demonstrations, printed handouts, and question-and-answer sessions. Dates for the class meetings are being scheduled now, so if you are interested in this class, please contact David Flint at davidflint@cox.net for information. More details will also be supplied in the January Newsletter.

Legacy User's Group

~David Flint

The next SOCCGS Legacy User's Group will meet on Thursday, December 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The meeting location is the Saddleback Room 1 in the Mission Viejo City Hall, directly across the plaza from the library. (The group usually meets on the third Thursday each month.) This monthly meeting provides a regular forum for anyone interested in learning about the Legacy Family Tree program -- whether you are a beginner or you are already using Legacy genealogy software. It is an informal meeting where you can share ideas and learn from other people who use Legacy. The meeting includes live demonstrations on how to use the Legacy program, as well as discussion of specific questions or problems from those attending the meeting. Feel free to drop in and out of the group as you like. Bring your laptop computer to the meeting to get the full benefit. For questions or more information, contact David Flint – davidflint@cox.net . See you there.

MEMBERSHIP

Eighty-one members and five guests attended the November meeting.

Two of the guests that joined in November:

Sue Lamond, Mission Viejo, CA jrlamond@aol.com. Sue is searching for HEAD in England & Michigan, ATKIN, RAE, LAMOND in Canada & Michigan.

Pam Steube, Mission Viejo, CA mzepam@cox.net. Pam is researching KNOELL/KNOLL – Germany & Czech Republic, RYAN – Ireland, STEUBE - Germany
Surnames for members who joined in October are as follows:

Sue Naegeli (no email): NAEGELI - Switzerland to MN, LEACH - England to New England to WI to MN, STUCKI - Switzerland to WI to MN, HUYCK - Holland to OH to IA, STRATTON - England to New England, KUTZLER - Germany to PA to WI to MN, PRATION - England to NY to Canada to WI to IA to SD.

Gary Baier gtbhiker@netscape.net, BAIER (German) and LIDDELL (Scotch/Irish) - Buffalo, NY.

Shirlee Koons sbkoons@cox.net, BARTKO, GUZZO, MRUZIK – Ohio, KOONS, BRYAN - Philadelphia

Other new members: **Joyce McLain** joycemclain@cox.net and **Steven Darke** sdarke@pacbell.net.

November guests who have not yet jointed are **Lareen June Bell**, Laguna Wood and **Kelli Robertson**, Ladera Ranch.

Please make the following corrections on the Membership Email List: **Marcia Roy** - marciarroy@gmail.com. **Ted Keyser** - keyser2@live.com **Wendy Goodall** - goodall_wendy@yahoo.com

Note: New members who have not had their surnames published in the newsletter, and would like to have, please contact Jack Naylor. Email address changes should be sent to Herb Abrams or Jack Naylor.

For a Jewish guy, I've recorded a lot of Christmas albums. ~Barry Manilow

Book Review

~ David Flint

The Family Tree Guidebook to EUROPE – Your Essential Guide to Trace Your Genealogy in Europe, 2nd Ed. For those with ancestors in Europe, you might want to take a look at this new book by Allison Dolan and the editors of Family Tree Magazine. This updated edition includes chapters on how to research your ancestors in various countries and regions in Europe, including England, Ireland, Scotland, Scandinavia, France, Poland, Italy, Russia and the Baltics, Spain, Eastern Europe and many more.

Each chapter is written by a contributor with expertise in the particular country or region, and you will recognize many of the names of contributors if you are familiar with the area or current national speakers and writers. In addition to specialized topics for each country or region, individual chapters are followed by a list of special resources such as organizations and archives, books, and websites for the area. Each chapter includes a map and timeline for the history of the region. For example, the chapter on the Germanic Region includes a special section about Germans outside Germany such as Baltic Germans, Bukovinans, Carpathian Germans, Danube Swabians, and Germans from Russia.

The chapters on each country or region are not as extensive as specialized books for individual countries, but they are current and topical. For example, I found some very good material and a couple of new tips in the chapter on England, even though I specialize in English research for my own family history. If you have ancestors in more than one European region, this may be the book for you. I bought my copy from Family Roots Publishing on sale for \$19.16 plus shipping (available now for \$26 plus shipping).

See the Family Roots Publishing webpage at <www.familyrootspublishing.com> for detailed information about this book. It's worth a serious look.

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

Mail List: SOCCGS-L@rootsweb.com

SOCCGS Research Center, 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) _____

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