

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

Vol. 21 No. 12

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

December 2014

Editor: Gary Schwarz

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

SOC CGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

Please Note: If your mailing label date reads 2015 dues are payable by January 1, or at the January meeting.

"It's Time for the Annual Holiday Party."

**Members are Cordially Invited to SOCCGS'
Annual Holiday Luncheon**

December 20, 2014

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

(Regular Meeting Location - Please Note Time Change.)

You are Invited to Bring:

**Genealogy/Holiday Items and Stories to Share
Canned or Non-perishable Food Items Brought
Will be Donated to South County Outreach.**

The Luncheon is Being Catered.

Your Executive Board is Providing Desserts.

INSTALLATION of 2015-2016 OFFICERS

The following elected officers will be installed at the general meeting preceding the Holiday Luncheon: President David Flint, Vice President Arlene O'Donnell, Recording Secretary Patricia Weeks, Corresponding Secretary Marilyn Kowalski, and Treasurer Mary Jo McQueen.

Safari News

~Bill Bluett

There will be no safari trip planned in December. We will resume in January with a trip to the Los Angeles Public Library located in downtown Los Angeles. Watch for additional information regarding this safari in the January newsletter.

President's Message
Thank you for two wonderful years!

~Francie Kennedy

Dear SOCCGS Members,

This year was the 20th Anniversary of our Society! We held a fabulous program with a slide show retrospective created by the Anniversary Committee (Patty Weeks, Herb Abrams, Mary Jo McQueen, and Bill Bluett), and cake! Here are a few of the highlights of the past two years...

The online survey members responded to in early February, 2014, guided the next steps in the evolution of the Society. Mini Classes and 4th Friday classes are now a regular feature of our offerings, along with a growing number of Special Interest Groups. Our still-new Facebook pages are growing in "Likes". The speakers every month continue to be stellar. Our annual October seminar is always a success, and this year Josh Taylor's appearance resulted in the seminar being sold out a month ahead of the event, which has never happened before! We had fun eating together at Carrows, Farrell's, and CPK, and the latter two gave a portion of the proceeds to the Society. The Board completed one of my main goals, shortening the election process. We revised our bylaws and standing rules to reflect this, and made other appropriate updates and clarifications, also. I thank all the members of the Board for your hard work, dedication, and imagination, bringing these activities into being!

Being asked to be the next President, back in late 2012, was unexpected and exciting. The experience of being the President of this amazing organization for the past two years has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Thank you, everyone.

~ Francie

Beginnings of Internet Genealogy

~Francie Kennedy

[Online internet tools are rapidly increasing the amount and speed that we obtain genealogical research information. The link below directs us to an article written in 1984 reminding us how much more is available today, thirty years later.]

Wow! We are living in amazing times. <http://www.americanancestors.org/genealogical-computing/>

Family History Library Catalog

~Herb Abrams

To get ready for my trip to Salt Lake City next April I have been searching the Family History Library Catalog to see what I might find there. In doing so I found that a lot of the information is online. For instance, for my Lawrence County Tennessee families, I found that wills and probate records are online. Here is the way that I found those records:

1. Google "familysearch" (without the quotes) to get to the Family Search site.
2. In the drop down menu under "Search" click on "Catalog".
[If you don't get a drop down menu while hovering over Search, expand your window to full screen.]
3. Do a place search on "Lawrence Tennessee".
4. Click on "United States, Tennessee, Lawrence - Probate records".
5. Now click on "Probate Records, 1829-1942".
6. Now I see a message "**Tennessee, Probate Court Books are available online, click here**".
7. Of course I clicked there and I find a message "Browse through 628,641 images".
8. A list of all the counties in Tennessee appears and I click on "Lawrence".
9. Wow! Not only probate records but wills are also shown. I click on "Wills, 1887-1919, Vol. C".
[If you didn't already sign-in, you will be prompted to do so, allowing you to see the images.]
10. The first few pages is an index and I find D. C. Legg, my great grandmother's third husband.
[You have to do some math to get to the will. The book's index page numbers don't quite match Family Search's page numbers.]
11. The will lists the names of his sons and some of Kissiah's kids from her second husband but not Kissiah, the person whose death date and place I have yet to find. Maybe I will find her in SLC.

Irish Autosomal DNA Research Presentation

~Barbara Taylor

Presentation by Dr. Maurice Gleeson (was given August 2014) on Irish autosomal research. It's about an hour long and has tips for anyone interested in DNA testing or Irish research. It's filled with humor. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5CQsmu8HMA&feature=youtu.be>

November Meeting

~Bill Bluett

Our president, **Francie Kennedy**, gave our group a wonderful presentation on the tools that can be used on Google and Google Chrome. She had great tips on how to refine your genealogy search and store your documents and information. Another important tool Francie pointed out was how to find all the old newspapers that Google used to have on their "News Page". They're still there. We just needed to know the correct link in order to find them. And, don't forget to use Google Books when working on your research. Tens of thousands of books are online just waiting for us to find the information we are looking for. Her last topic touched on creating a "Family Map" showing the trail of your ancestors. A map could also be utilized for planning a trip or recording where you have been when vacationing or researching ancestors. Great job, Francie. During our break, there were great refreshments provided by members of our society: **Pat Christiansen, Noel Jensen, Karyn Schumaker, MaryEllen Syer, and Joyce Van Schaack.**

Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions

~Bill Bluett

Barbara Taylor went on to our new subscription website NEWSPAPERS.COM for the first time and found ancestral information within the first 10 minutes.

Pat Christiansen found where her maternal grandfather (who was married 4 times) is buried. A woman in an Ohio library helped track down the location to the Washington City Cemetery in Fayette County which had an uncle's gravesite as well.

Diane Hearne has finally published the book she has been working on for 13 years. It includes over 500 pages of her ancestral writings and 240 pictures. Good job, Diane!

Arlene O'Donnell has returned from a successful genealogy trip to North Carolina and surrounding areas. She unearthed the buried grave marker of her 2nd great-grandmother that was found in pieces. A new headstone is being made with key portions of the old grave marker inset into the new stone. Quite an accomplishment for Arlene to undertake.

Victoria Crayne has been notified that she has received a response to an old message she posted years ago on Ancestry.com. She cannot find the response and has even tried calling Ancestry several times with no help to date. Anyone have any suggestions for Victoria?

Pat Nostrome has received an e-mail from a **Timmy Kelly in England** regarding a post she put on Rootsweb many years ago. He has forwarded information to Pat on a family she has been researching for quite some time. It's great to get information from "across the pond".

Virginia Dunk was on Ancestry.com and found several "family trees" already created with her grandfather's name included. One of the contacts turned out to be a second cousin once removed. That person lives in **Alaska** and they have communicated on the phone. Virginia has been in touch with this person's uncle and he is of Virginia's generation. Apparently, there is an annual family reunion on the 4th of July in **Las Vegas, New Mexico**. Her Alaska cousin helps coordinate the reunion. So, Virginia is going next year.

Membership Update

~Mary Jo McQueen

We welcome the following new members in November:

Sara Gordon, Lake Forest, CA; **V. J. Blue**, CA Downey; **George & Shelia Franklin**; Laguna Niguel, CA.

Dr. Charles & Denise Fischer, Mission Viejo, CA, hnlax@aol.com. Denise is searching for **Pebbles** in Perth, Scotland & Canada; **Bruce** in Perth, Scotland; **Gray** in Riverside, Minnesota; **Fischer** in New Jersey & Germany.

Four recent new members are sharing their Surname Searches.

Dick & Sally Brown Irvine, CA dick.brown@dslextreme.com. **Sally: Tanner** (Michigan), **Ahlers** (Minnesota & Germany), **Watson** (Michigan); **Dick: Glenn S. Brown** (Boston), **Earle Zeal, Edna Baker, Six Killer, Cherokee.**

Sheila Hansen Mission Viejo, CA harryhanson@mac.com. **Laird**, Wisconsin/South Carolina; **O'Dell**, Missouri 1800 – 1920; **Wood**, John 1829 – 1881; **Golverk**, Morris; **Hall**, Louis 1890 – 1967.

Fieona Heringer Irvine, CA fheringer@me.com. **Heringer & Cottman** (Newport, Kentucky & Germany), **Pepitone** and **Riviere** (Orleans, Plaquemene and St. Bernard Parishes, Louisiana and France)

Sonia Appell, Laguna Woods was a guest at the November meeting.

Busting Out Two Irish Brick Walls -“Genie Buff” GenieBuffUSA@yahoo.com

After 40 plus years of searching, I just experienced breaking through the first of two “Brick Walls” because of collaboration. In most countries, you can research without having a “townland” [smallest geographical division of land in Ireland], but not so in Northern Ireland. Research there without one is literally “Dead in the Water”. The only progress I made was when I was able to “Jump the Pond” in 2007, finding an index to **Robert Lowry** and **Sarah Ann Greenfield**'s marriage, unexpectedly, right as I was finishing graduate school. This narrowed down (no pun intended) all of Northern Ireland to only one county – **County Down**, but the number of Lowry’s were in the hundreds, with no way to tie any of them to mine. Fortunately, I had the mother’s maiden name of Greenfield to strengthen my searches, but then there were many years where the trail went cold. I have learned that sometimes it is best to step away from a line and research elsewhere.

Back Story: (Bear with me – this all ties in together.) I had really great success with translations, etc., when I recently joined a “Danish Genealogy” group on Facebook. It was great to have help and from **Jim Thordahl** [also of SOCCGS] who helped translate. It was so great to not have to do it all myself. So, I felt inclined to try the same thing with an “Irish Genealogy” group on Facebook. I really hated to get sidetracked from my Danish families and all the success I was having there on those lines, but I felt pressed to try juggling both countries research at the same time.

I had no expectations at the end of September when I tried one more query on the FaceBook “Irish Genealogy” site. I have posted queries for these families for decades with no results. Two days later, I got a reply listing the christening record for their oldest daughter! Previously, I had both families located together in only about 6 parishes. I guess when the records are made available, mountains move because some kind lady had access to a paid database. On the christening record, it listed not only their townland, but also their parish!!! Good-bye BRICK WALL! She also extracted 16 Greenfield baptisms where **Eliza** was the only **Lowry** for about 25 years. With the help of the FaceBook group, we determined that parish must be the mom's, so I investigated researchers in Ireland to extract for me. Ireland is very “Scotch” (pardon the pun) with their records and keep them tightly held in local custody. But I found a miracle - a kind **Eddie Connolly** who was very reasonably priced, and who did a very thorough job of deciphering the smudged, faded and difficult handwriting on microfilm in the catacombs of the record office in **Belfast**. We were searching for Sarah’s baptism and parents, but no record was found. However, he did locate a document that *rarely* exists in Ireland: a marriage record! Almost all were destroyed in the fire of 1922 when the main record office burned. I had only expected to have the Marriage License Bond Index which listed only the **Dioceses of Connor, Down and Dromore**. That busted through the second brick wall.

This document was a gold mine:

1. I was reminded to always consider alternative spellings: **Robert Loury (Lowry)** was the groom, and **Sarah Green Field (Greenfield)** was the bride.
2. With her name listed as such, she never would have shown up on an index, not that there is one yet.
3. It stated that they were married by “special licence with consent of family and parents.” This creates multiple leads.
4. It listed “the 23rd day of Feb 1842” as the exact marriage date.
5. It listed witnesses as **Moses Greenfield** and **William Campbell**. Witnesses invariably lead to finding more family members, i.e. perhaps Campbell is the next generation’s maternal line.
6. It solidified what we had thought: Sarah was from **Drummiller** townland in the parish of **Aghaderg**.
7. And extra icing on the cake: It also listed the groom’s townland as **[Lisna-----] of the parish of Dromore!** This is only two parishes away from **Aghaderg**. Searching a parish map, the only possibility was **Lisnaward**. These church records are microfilmed and I have already ordered them. This means I will get to search myself the actual registers for this second parish! I am now collaborating with five new cousins who are involved through Ancestry.com in this research besides my faithful cousin, **LaVonne**.

Summary:

1. Keep “cluster” researching (collecting all those dots) because sooner or later, there will be records found that can connect them.
2. Everything happens at the right time. If I hadn’t had my open heart surgery etc. last spring, I would not have the blood flow to the brain now to cope with all the new data that is exploding.
3. If we don’t lose hope and keep plugging along on our other lines, when the time is right, the records come forth, usually through collaboration with others. And finally, have patience: *In time, grass becomes milk.*

Family Matters – From Start to Finish

~Diane Hearne

Retiring from teaching 14 years ago I did two things I'd been waiting for. I became a member of the Southern Orange California Genealogy Society where I began making new friends, going on safaris and listening to informative lectures once a month. Then I joined South Coast Writers where I made more new friends, read my essays, received suggestions, and listened to others' writing twice a month.

Thirteen years later I announced to my husband that I was going to review (again) my essays, put them in some sort of order and self-publish. I was surprised to see how much I had! I was lucky to have diaries, journals and letters written by several ancestors which formed the basis for quite a few of my essays. For people I didn't know as much about, I wrote imaginary letters asking them about their lives based on what I knew of the time in which they lived. I wrote some about my own life including sailing with our children, first proms and my jury duty experiences.

I had typed all the essays in Word and had scanned more than 200 photographs right where I wanted them in the text. I called a friend of a friend, Dariush Khansari who became my editor. If anyone calls Dariush, feel free to mention my name: 917-843-3545 or dariush@thesundaylab.com. Dariush deftly took my essays, put them on a disk which then magically converted my typing into the format of the printer! Later he asked me to rescan the photos at a higher resolution (600 dpi) which he cropped better than I had and even worked on some of the older ones to make them sharper. Anything which was not digital to begin with e.g. handwritten material, sketches etc. were scanned and converted to digital form.

My spelling and grammar were perfect, of course, but Dariush worked with me on the different fonts I wanted, layout and formatting, especially where to put the page numbers and the photos. I was thrilled with the cover he designed after learning my thoughts on another set of fonts and – very important to me – color. Very patient with my particular likes and dislikes, he made good suggestions throughout. The economics of this are highly variable, but I was thrilled with a professional looking bound paperback.

The reviews (okay, mostly from family and close friends) have been glowing and I'm quite pleased with my effort.

Find My Past and Newspapers.com at Mission Viejo Library

~Herb Abrams

Due to popular demand, SOCCGS has purchased a subscription to **Find My Past**. This website is based in England and has a huge collection of British records. They are now expanding to the U.S. and many other countries. This is the World Collection and is free of charge on the SOCCGS computers.

We have also purchased a subscription to **Newspapers.com** It is owned by Ancestry and has over 3300 newspapers from 1700s to 2000s. It is also free of charge on the SOCCGS computers.

Early Immigrants Go-To-America Shopping List

From: New England's Plantation

or

A Short and True Description of the Commodities and Discommodities of that Country.

by Reverend Francis Higginson, London, 1630.

A Catalog of such needfull things as every Planter doth or ought to provide to go to New-England

Victuals for a whole yeere for a man...

8 Bushels of meale
2 Bushels of Otemeale.
1 Gallon of Aquavitae
1 Firkin of Butter
2 Bushels of pease.
1 Gallon of Oyle.
2 Gallons of Vinegar.
Apparell.

1 Monmouth Cap.
1 Wast-coat.
1 Suit of Frize.
2 Paire of Sheets.
3 Falling Bands.
1 Suit of Canvas.
3 Paire of Stockings.
1 Paire of Blankets.
3 Shirts. 1 Suit of Cloth.
4 Paire of Shooes.
1 Course Rug.

7 Ells of Canvase to make a bed and bolster.
Armes.
1 Armor compleat.
1 Sword.
1 Bandilier.
60 Pound of Lead.
1 Long peece.
1 Belt.
20 Pound of Powder.
1 Pistoll and Goose shot.
Tooles.
1 Broad Howe.

1 Shovell.
1 Felling Axe.
1 Grindstone.
1 Narrow Howe.
1 Spade.
1 Gimblet.
1 Pickaxe.
1 Steele
Handsawe.
2 Augers.
1 Hatchet.
Nayles of all sorts
1 Whipsawe.
4 Chissels.
2 Frowes.
1 Hammer.
1 Broad Axe.
1 Hand-Bill.

Household Implements.
1 Iron Pot.
1 Gridiron.
Trenchers.
Dishes.
1 Kettel.
2 Skellets.
Wooden Platters.
Spoons.
1 Frying pan
1 Spit.
Spices
Sugar.
Cloves.
Mace.
Fruit.
Pepper.

Cinnamon.
Nutmegs.
Also there are divers other things necessary to be taken over to this Plantation, as
Bookes,
Nets,
Hookes and Lines,
Cheese,
Bacon,
Kine,
Goats

Using Facebook for Genealogy

~Barbara Taylor

Facebook offers a free, easy and fun way to learn, find help, give help to others, find new relatives and further your genealogy.

Our genealogy society has two Facebook pages – one with announcements and events, and one that is a discussion group. One page you “like” and other page you “join” – both types of pages are useful.

Our events page is <https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Orange-County-California-Genealogical-Society/567245949960695> managed by Sheila Larson. Connect with other members and find out about upcoming meetings, learning opportunities and projects. Any last minute changes to the schedule can be found on this page.

Our discussion group page is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/socccgs/> managed by Barbara Taylor and Arlene O'Donnell.

There are Facebook groups that span from Alabama to Alaska, Fiji to Finland, Wisconsin to Wales, and everywhere in between. There are groups that have a special focus like a specific ethnic group, a local area or a particular military event.

The very first genealogy Facebook discussion group I joined was in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. A member there is a librarian with the Carnegie Library who directed me to exactly the information I needed to order records about my father's family.

Our South Orange County Facebook discussion group has helped a lady from New Zealand with a great aunt who died in Orange County. We helped her find out how to get a California death certificate and once she had that, we were able to verify her burial location and took a photo of the gravesite in Lake Forest. We also helped her find out how to get local probate records.

When I found that there was not a group already for Nelson County, Virginia where my husband's family lived, I started one myself. It now has 72 members in just a few months. Two of those new members are previously unknown cousins of his. I found other distant cousins of mine in a group of New England ancestors that I joined.

There is a DNA Newbie group for people interested in DNA testing who don't know much yet. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dnanewbie/>.

There are many groups that help adoptees who are searching for relatives.

Last year, a genealogist, Kathryn Wilson, started a list of genealogy groups on Facebook as part of preparing a talk about using Facebook for genealogy. She now has a website that publishes the list (free) and updates it regularly. What started out as a few pages has now grown to 120 pages. Her list is available at <http://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>

If you can't find a Facebook group that already has what you want, you can start your own. And, make sure it gets listed on Kathryn's list.

If you don't already use Facebook, it's very easy to join. Go to www.Facebook.com and create a free account, then start exploring.

SOCCGS CDs

~Herb Abrams

We have added another computer dedicated to viewing our CD collection at the Mission Viejo Library. All five of our other computers have the Windows 7 operating system and were not compatible with some of the CD so we have installed an old Windows XP computer so we can still view those CDs. We have over 300 CDs in our collection and many of them have complete books included. For a descriptive list of our CDs see <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocccgs/CDDescrip.pdf>. For a list indexed by subject see <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocccgs/CDSUBJECT.pdf>. For an easy way to find these lists just Google SOCCGS and the first site that comes up is our site. Just click on the links near the top of our site to view the CDs.

“A pessimist complains about the noise when opportunity knocks.”

~Journal-Democrat, De Pere, Wis.

-Genealogists are loudest when opportunity knocks and are optimistic a brick wall is about to fall.

Future Genealogy Events

Dec 08, 10-12:00-David Flint – English SIG – Saddleback Room MV City Hall

Dec 10, 10-12:00-Mary Jo McQueen- Genealogy Research Sig; Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall

Dec 11, 10-12:00-Arlene O'Donnell–Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library

Dec 18, 11-1:00-David Flint – Legacy Family Tree User Group – Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall

Dec 28, 1:30-3:30pm-Ted Gostin – “Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor Online” – Orange Co. Jewish Gen. Soc. – Temple Bat Yahm, 1011 Camelback St., Newport Beach, CA - Info: www.ocjgs.org; (949) 423-3746

Jan 31, 2015 – Geoff Rasmussen – WAGS seminar.

Mar 21, 2015 – Judy Russell, the “Legal Genealogist” – NSDCGS in Carlsbad.

Jul 15-19, 2015 – 45th Annual International Convention - German Russian Heritage Society – Bismarck, ND – Info: www.GRHS.org

Jul 12-19, 2015 – 2015 AHSGR International Convention – American Historical Society of Germans from Russia – Billings, Montana – Info: www.AHSGR.com

SOCCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Mail List: SOCCGS-L@rootsweb.com



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

South Orange County California Genealogical Society Membership/Renewal Application

New Renewal Individual, \$20/yr. Joint Members, same address, \$25/yr.

Name(s) _____

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

**South Orange County California
Genealogical Society
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Change Service Requested

Time Dated Material

2014 Programs

December 20 - Holiday Gathering

2015 Programs

January 17 - Chris Jepson, "Orange County Archives"

February 21 - Mary Anne Vincent, "Civil War Topic"

March 21 - Mary Van Orsdol, "To Be Determined"

April 18 - CeCe Moore, "DNA"

May 16 - Randy Seaver "Genealogy and Cloud Computing"

June 20 - Jean Wilcox Hibben, "To Be Determined"

July 18 - Dr. Stephen Baird, "To Be Determined"

**South Orange
County California**



Genealogical Society