

# Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

Vol. 22 No. 12

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

December 2015

Editor: Kathie Mauzey

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

## IMPORTANT!!!

**Please see the newsletter mailing label to check the month and year your dues are payable. The date is directly after your name. Most are due 1/2016. Members who joined this year will have dues payable on the anniversary of the month they joined. Thank You.**



## "SOCCGS' Annual Holiday Luncheon"

December 19, 2015

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

(Regular Meeting Location. Please Note Time Change.)

Members are invited to bring:

**Genealogy/Holiday Items and/or Stories to Share.**

**Canned or Non-perishable Food Items, which will be donated to the South County Outreach Food Bank.**

The Luncheon will be catered.

The Executive Board will provide Desserts.

**Important! Please Note:**

**Herb Abrams will send an email to members several days before the luncheon. Please respond to this email whether or not you plan to attend. This is so we can plan for the correct amount of food. We don't want anyone to go away hungry. ☺**

## President's Message

By David Flint

If you attended our November 21 meeting, you already know this bit of news. But for those who were not at that meeting, I wanted you all to know that Mary Jo McQueen and her husband Bob will be moving out of the area and going to Ogden, Utah. She expects to be here until around March of next year. Losing Mary Jo is a big deal for our society, and she will be hard to replace.

Mary Jo has been a SOCCGS member since 1997, and has held nearly every position we have. She has always been there to provide support to our society. When I joined the society in 2007 Mary Jo was still the newsletter editor, a job she held for seven years, in addition to serving as Treasurer. Those of you who have worked with her know that she is a dynamo, and has left her mark on our society in so many ways. She feels that one of her most important contributions to our organization was when she served as President and introduced the hospitality function to our meetings, getting people to socialize with each other and share their experiences. I can say from attending meetings at many other societies that SOCCGS is known as one of the friendliest genealogy groups around Southern California, and we have Mary Jo McQueen to thank for that.

She may be short in stature, but Mary Jo has some big shoes to fill. She is involved in many informal aspects of our society operations, as well as her formal role as Treasurer. She has been responsible for recommending many of the people who served as board members in the past, as well as current board members, myself included. I know she will be missed, and I hope that you will join me in letting her know how much we appreciate the contributions she has made to our society over so many years of service. I'm sure she would like to hear a story you remember involving her, or a memory you can share to show your thanks.

I also want to announce that, with the board's approval, I appointed Bill Bluett at our November board meeting to fill Mary Jo's unfinished term as Treasurer, effective on her official resignation date. Bill will start working with Mary Jo right away so that we can have a smooth transition when Mary Jo leaves. So thanks and congratulations to Bill for being willing to take on that very important responsibility.

Looking ahead to the holiday season in December, I hope you will join us for our holiday gathering on December 19. As is our custom, we will not have a speaker for our December meeting, and instead we will gather for a luncheon provided by the society, with desserts prepared by the members of the executive board. (Yes, I will make my mince pies again this year.) Please see the details for time and location on the front page of this month's newsletter. Our meeting will start at 10:30 instead of our usual 10:00 a.m. time. I also invite you to bring something to share with our members. If you have something you treasure from your past that reflects your own memories of Christmas, please bring it and share it with the group. Tables will be provided at the back of the room to display things brought by our members.

I look forward to seeing you at our December meeting, and please accept my sincere personal wishes to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### Safari News

~Bill Bluett

There will be no safari in December. Our next destination will be the Los Angeles Public Library. Check your January newsletter for additional details regarding our upcoming journey to Los Angeles.

### Genealogy Research Special Interest Group

~Mary Jo McQueen

The **Genealogy Research SIG** will not meet in December. The next meeting will be January 8. Information for that meeting will be in the next newsletter and sent, via email, the week of the meeting.

**Genealogy Search Tip Of the Day** <http://searchtip.genealogytipoftheday.com> 21 Aug 2015  
Oklahoma Newspapers Online. The "Oklahoma Digital Newspaper Collection" on the *Oklahoma Historical Society* website contains digital images of many newspapers across Oklahoma. Full text search is available. <http://gateway.okhistory.org/explore/collections/ODNP/>

## November Meeting

~ Bill Bluett

The guest speaker for our November monthly meeting was **Dr. Natalie Fousekis** from California State University, Fullerton. The topic was "Nuts & Bolts of Oral History". She gave some examples of some of the experiences she has had in conducting 1000's of interviews. Key points given were: preparation for the interview, the location and setting, the equipment used to record the interview, how to make the individual comfortable during the interview, and required follow-up after the interview has taken place. Dr. Fousekis' "handout" gave a list of key points to follow and a page with excellent resources to help you plan a successful interview! Thank you, Dr. Fousekis, for a most interesting and important topic that we all need to seriously consider with our own family members. Prior to her presentation, there were some great refreshments provided by five of our members. Our contributors were: **Pat Christiansen, Naomi McCabe, Joyce Van Schaack., Bunny Smith, and Barbara Taylor.**

## Brick Walls and Genealogy Research

~Bill Bluett

We didn't have time to share "brick walls" this month. But, our president David Flint, asked folks to stand up if they are doing research in the State of New York. There had to be at least a dozen in attendance that gave their name and indicated the county or counties in which they were researching. Then, David suggested that anyone with a common location of interest chat with one another during our refreshment break. I hope some folks took advantage of the opportunity.

## Membership Update

There were 61 members and 2 guests at the November Meeting. SOCCGS' most recent new members are: **Rod Davis**, Trabuco Canyon; **Dali Craig**, Laguna Beach; **Ronald Kula**, Laguna Woods; **Linda & Richard Erickson**, Laguna Beach and **Judy Rizzo**, Laguna Woods.

The guests were: **Lillian Hobbs & Patricia Sorensen**. Former Member, **Mary Bump** was also a guest at the meeting. We hope that she will rejoin the Society

## SOCCGS Research Center: Feature of the Month

The United States Geological Survey has developed topographic maps for each state and a finding aid of two publications for each state: "**Index to Topographic and Other Map Coverage**" and a companion "**Catalog of Topographic and other Published Maps.**" A topographic map accurately represents the natural and manmade features of the land. The shape and elevation of the terrain are portrayed by contour lines and specific features such as roads, towns, water areas, and vegetation are portrayed by map symbols and colors. There is a state map which shows the area for each local map. The Genealogy Research Center of the library has the booklets for several states. They are located in the file cabinet near the genealogy books on the wall across from the docent desk in the genealogy research center at the Mission Viejo Library. The USGS website has more information on the topographic map collection

## Whittier Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Seminar Saturday, January 30, 2016

Speaker: **Thomas MacEntee** is a genealogy professional specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogical research. Thomas has been involved with genealogy and family history for close to 20 years and for the past two years has dedicated himself professionally to various aspects of the genealogy industry.

Topics: 1) Genealogy Do-Over: A Year of Learning from Mistakes  
2) Successful Collateral and Cluster Searching  
3) After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research  
4) The Future is Now

Registration by Jan. 16 – WAGS member \$35; Non-member \$40; Lunch \$10  
After Jan 16 and at door \$45 For information [www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags](http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags).

## Great Reading for Genealogists

~Bill Bluett

Wouldn't you like to read a crime mystery novel where the main character is a Forensic Genealogist? A couple of months ago, Dick Eastman featured a young author from England in his "Online Genealogy Newsletter". His name is **Nathan Dylan Goodwin** from Hastings, Sussex, England. He has written several murder mystery novels with his main character, Morton Farrier, solving the crimes using his genealogy research skills. What more could you ask for? Your sitting right there with him in a number of research facilities as he sifts through documents to unravel information pertinent to his detective work. Goodwin's latest book is titled "**The America Ground**" which intertwines fact with fiction and makes for very interesting reading. The great thing about this book is how the main character uses research techniques that we are familiar with when working on our own genealogy. Can you imagine that - genealogy fans? I'm looking forward to reading the remainder of his novels in the near future. My relatively new Kindle and Amazon account has been very busy these past 8 months. So, be sure to check out Nathan Dylan Goodwin as well as the history of "The America Ground" on GOOGLE. It is an actual place that existed over 200 years ago near Goodwin's hometown of Hastings. It is an interesting story in itself. Let me know what you think. I would be interested to hear some feedback.

### December Free Webinars

**Legacy** is presenting several free webinars in December: **Dec 2** Stories in Stone-Cemetery Research – Gail Blankenau; **Dec 8** Thinking about Becoming an Accredited Genealogist – Apryl Cox; **Dec 16** Pointing Fingers at Ancestors' Siblings – Breaking Down Brick Walls with Collateral Research – Marian Pierre-Louis; **Dec 18** What Happened to the State of Frankland – Using Tennessee's Pre-Statehood Records – J. Mark Lowe; **Jan 6** Tap Into Your Inner Private Eye – 9 Strategies for Finding Living Relatives – Lisa Louise Cooke. Register at [www.familytreewebinars.com](http://www.familytreewebinars.com)

**The Southern California Genealogical Society** has two free webinars: **Dec 5** The Curious Case of the Disappearing Dude – Debbie Mieszala; **Dec 16** Developing the Genealogy of an Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Community: A Case Study – Timothy Pinnick; Register at [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com), click on programs and webinars.

**New England Historic Genealogical Society:** **Dec 10** Atlantic-Canadian Resources at NEHGS – David Allen Lambert. Register at [www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org)

### SOC CGS Docent Profile – Bill Bluett

I retired in 2001 and began docenting shortly thereafter. At that time, our society had a small spot to the right of the library entrance where the magazines are currently located. The new south wing of the library was not completed until 2004. That expansion really opened up some space for our genealogical research library. I believe I have always had the Thursday afternoon shift. Originally, it was from noon until 2:00 PM and later expanded to 3:00 PM. I have accumulated approximately 2200 hours of service to date and have enjoyed every hour spent at the library.

It is a rewarding experience to help folks get connected with their ancestors. On a number of occasions, someone has come in for help and we have hit a key "jackpot" in their research. Some folks have been overwhelmed at what they have found - usually in a positive sense. That type of experience encourages many of our patrons to continue researching and hopefully become a member of our society. I believe that having a docent available each day during library hours is great for the community. Not all patrons are retired. Some are still working and appreciate the later hours and weekend shifts that we keep. Each week I look forward to my arrival at the docent desk. You never know what interesting experience might be in store on any given Thursday afternoon.

**Genealogy Tip of the Day** <http://genealogytipoftheday.com/> posted 7 Sep 2015

**Abstracts, Extracts, and Transcriptions** Abstracts pick and choose key elements of a document, without transcribing anything word for word. Extracts pick out short sections of a document, transcribing those sections verbatim. Transcriptions of a document include the entire document copied verbatim.

Abstracts, extracts, and transcriptions serve different purposes. Make certain you know which one you are using.

## Kindnesses

By Patricia Ann Dean Christiansen

A slightly tweaked title derived from the Tennessee Williams play, "A Street Car Named Desire," quoting Blanche DuBois' poignant line as she is lead away for confinement by a kindly doctor, "*I have always depended on the kindness of strangers.*"

The Christmas season evokes memories that are sometimes glorious or poignant and at the same time ... wonderful. While working on researching the lineage of a new 93-year-old friend, I realized that it was Christmas morning and I had not yet been to bed.

As I read some of the stories about his ancestors, some personal memories popped into my head. I decided that this was the ideal time to memorialize some of the kindnesses that others had given me ... true gifts of humanity that touch and turn on the faucet of tears to one's eyes and enhance the thumping of one's heart.

In 1993, many months after a brain tumor (meningioma) was removed from my head ... my husband patiently taught me how to drive the car ... we practiced in the parking lot of the Church that we attended until I got all the parts right and could take the test for reinstatement of my driver's license.

The neurologist had strongly suggested that I re-learn the skills that had been taken from me as a result of the surgery. Later, I learned how to type on my computer keyboard after having to read the User Manual to turn it on. No longer able to hit 125 words per minute, I gradually built up my speed from 10 words per minute to 85 after a few months.

My youngest daughter gave up the third year of her full scholarship to Columbia University to come home and take care of me while I recuperated. However, as a reward of that sacrifice on her part, she met Mr. Wonderful and after a few weeks they began dating; about a year later they were married and I was well enough to attend the ceremony. They now live in bliss and harmony in Estes Park, Colorado, and are the parents of five of my 29 grandchildren. I claim full responsibility for this union that was made-in-heaven and enabled it to have come about in my lifetime.

During this same period of recuperation, another daughter brought her four-year-old son with her to stay and cover some of the other bases needed during the healing process. Even my little grandson would tell me, "Use your left hand grandma, it's a good one too!" A stroke had affected my left side for a time and my arm would hang limp and appear useless unless I really put it to use.

This daughter's specialty was to keep me on track with physical therapy. When it was time for her to return to Northern California and rejoin her husband she left her cat Neisha with me as a companion. Whenever I would rest and fall asleep, Neisha would be on one side of my pillow purring softly to reassure me that I was not alone. With Neisha in the home, I learned one day what the phrase, "hocking-up a hairball" meant; I thought Neisha was having a seizure and dying as I became a witness to this feline phenomenon.

When the doctor encouraged me to contact my former employer and return to work on a limited basis, a friend who worked nearby, would come after he got off work, pick me up and drive me home. At this time I was not yet allowed to drive and a daughter would take me to work for the few hours I was there to answer phones and set appointments for my lawyer boss.

More recently, when life-threatening sepsis had invaded my system, I had so many good people looking after me that it again makes my soul resonate with appreciation. The antibiotics that were pumped into me 24/7 for five days in the hospital; then on a less stringent schedule in a skilled nursing facility eventually manifested themselves in a searing side effect ... "uber diarrhea." This caustic condition literally scalds the skin off of your bum and is extremely painful.

Except for the first year of my life, I can truthfully claim that more folks in my four months of confinement have seen and cared for my bum than in the 80-plus years since my birth. Such acts of gentleness and consideration ... knowing that I was extremely uncomfortable ... were always present. And, by the way, not all caregivers are women.

The nurse who was to have come the day after I was discharged was given the wrong address and never made it. Then there was the woman, whom I met, who turned out to be an emergency room RN; it was she who brought me food my second day home. When she saw my distress, she told me of her skills and took care of my needs ... and then after removing nitrile gloves and washing her hands ... served me my supper. Recollections of how good people are if given a chance and recognized with appreciation and sincerity for their efforts brings to mind this slightly altered quotation from Scrooge's Tiny Tim, "*God bless them every one.*" Compiled: Christmas Day, December 25, 2014

## Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter, November 11, 2015

### 1) Rediscovered Leather Trunk Contains Thousands of Letters from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

Talk about the Dead Letter Office! A 300-year-old linen-lined trunk filled with over 2,600 letters that were mailed out—but never received—between the years 1680 and 1706 has recently been discovered in The Hague, Netherlands. The extraordinary collection contains letters from all manner of society, including aristocrats, merchants, lovers, actors, musicians, and even spies. At least 600 of the 2,600 letters have never even been opened. Historians are now taking a closer look. An international team from Leiden, Oxford, MIT, and Yale are taking part in this project. You can read more about the historians' study of the letters in a web site called *Signed, Sealed, & Undelivered* at <http://brienne.org> and especially at <http://brienne.org/press-kit>.

Note: Stated in the website there are unique letters sent between Huguenot family members.

### 2) Library and Archives Canada Updates Naturalization Records Database

The Library and Archives Canada Blog has announced:

Library and Archives Canada is pleased to announce the release of a new version of the online database Naturalization Records, 1915-1951. The nominal index has been extended with the addition of more than 68,000 names and now covers the years from 1915 to 1944, inclusively. Work is ongoing to extend the nominal index to 1951, and volunteers are welcome to help. Those interested should write to [Cdn-Nat-Coord@jgs-montreal.org](mailto:Cdn-Nat-Coord@jgs-montreal.org)

This database is one of the few Canadian genealogical resources specifically designed to benefit researchers having roots other than British. The reference numbers indicated in the database can be used to request copies of the original naturalization records, which are held by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. The Naturalization Records, 1915-1951 database is available at <http://goo.gl/a6Ra35>

## Searchable Databases-New Jersey State Archives

NEHGS Weekly Genealogist Vol 18. No. 32 12 Aug 2015

The New Jersey State Archives now offers fourteen searchable databases on its website, including:

### Marriage Databases

There are two marriage indexes in the collection. The index to Colonial Marriages 1665 through 1799, can be searched by first and last name of the bride or groom, places of residence, and year of marriage. The index to marriage records filed with the Secretary of State between May 1848 and May 1878 contains nearly 150,000 records and can be searched by groom/bride name, county of registration, and year of marriage.

### Death Records

This index to deaths recorded with the state's Department of Health between June 1878 and June 1893 currently includes more than 400,000 records. Records through December 1900 will be added as they are completed.

### Early Land Records

This index to New Jersey's early land records from 1650 through 1801 includes more than 22,000 land records and more than 70,000 name entries. (It should be noted that after 1785 most deeds were filed with the county, rather than the state.) Search by last name, first name, location, county and years.

### Supreme Court Case File, 1704-1844

This index of 54,871 Supreme Court case files held at the New Jersey State Archives can be searched by last name, first name, role in case, county, case type, and year.

### 1885 Census

This database indexes the 1885 census for Passaic County and Atlantic City. While all records in the database include the first and last name of every person listed, the entries for Atlantic City also include age, sex, and race. Search by first name, last name, and place of enumeration.

### Additional Resources

There are three indexes to military records: Civil War Service Records 1860-1865; Civil War Payment Vouchers 1861-1865; and World War I Deaths: Descriptive Cards and Photographs. Three databases index photographs in the following collections: Dept. of Agriculture Photographs, New Jersey National Guard Photos, and Federal Writer's Project Photographs.

Researchers may order copies of records from the search results for a fee.

## Future Genealogy Events

**Dec** - Genealogy Research SIG on hiatus until January.

**Dec 14, 2015**, 10-12:00-David Flint - England SIG, Saddleback Room, City Hall

**Dec 17, 2015**, 10-12:00-Arlene O'Donnell - Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library

**Dec 17, 2015**, 11-1:00-David Flint – Legacy Users Group, Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

**Dec 18, 2015**, 10-12:00-Gary Schwarz – German SIG – Saddleback Room, MV City Hall

**Nov** - Writing Life Stories on hiatus. Next meeting is January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Jan 2, 2016**, 10am – OCCGS Meeting, Guest Speaker Cheri Mello, Understanding Basic DNA and  
12:30pm Sources for Reverse Genealogy

**Jan 30, 2016** – WAGS Annual Seminar –Featured Speaker is Thomas MacEntee

**Mar 5, 2016** – OCCGS Genealogy Bash – Featured Speaker is Lisa Louise Cooke.

### **SOC CGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President – David Flint <[davidflint@cox.net](mailto:davidflint@cox.net)>

Vice President/Program Chairman – Arlene O'Donnell <[silkberry@aol.com](mailto:silkberry@aol.com)>

Past President – Francie Kennedy<[writefrancie@gmail.com](mailto:writefrancie@gmail.com)>

Recording Secretary – Pat Weeks <[dppatty@cox.net](mailto:dppatty@cox.net)>

Corresponding Secretary - Marilyn Kowalski <[MA\\_Kowalski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MA_Kowalski@sbcglobal.net)>

Treasurer - Mary Jo McQueen <[maryjo.mcqueen@icloud.com](mailto:maryjo.mcqueen@icloud.com)>

Historian - Pat Christiansen <[patcopy@cox.net](mailto:patcopy@cox.net)>

Hospitality - Barbara Heebner <[bheebner@cox.net](mailto:bheebner@cox.net)>

Co-Librarians - Bunny Smith <[leonbuny@pacbell.net](mailto:leonbuny@pacbell.net)>

Judy Davin <[judydav@aol.com](mailto:judydav@aol.com)>

Membership - Jack Naylor <[jigsaw1948@cox.net](mailto:jigsaw1948@cox.net)>

Newsletter Editor – Kathie Mauzey <[SOCCGSNL@att.net](mailto:SOCCGSNL@att.net)>

Parliamentarian – Pat Christiansen <[patcopy@cox.net](mailto:patcopy@cox.net)>

Publicity/Webmaster - Herb Abrams <[hvabrams@cox.net](mailto:hvabrams@cox.net)>

Seminar & Safari Chairman - Bill Bluett <[billbluett@cox.net](mailto:billbluett@cox.net)>

Ways & Means – Jim Thordahl <[jimandbonniethor@juno.com](mailto:jimandbonniethor@juno.com)>

Extra Classes Coordinator – Patti Liebenow <[pbashor@hotmail.com](mailto:pbashor@hotmail.com)>

**SOC CGS Website: [www.socccgs.org](http://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](mailto:cmvgs@netzero.net)**

#### SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

##### Membership/Renewal Application

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

( ) Renewal      Membership Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Make Check payable to: SOCCGS

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

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