

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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

March 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.
SOCCGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

General Meeting - 15 March 2014

"SOCCGS Twentieth Anniversary Celebration"

In January 1994 a small group of genealogists led by Mary Ellen Lytle formed the South Orange County California Genealogical Society. There were 50 members in February when the society officially came into being. By May the membership had increased to 100.

The program at this month's meeting will comprise performances by founding member, Pat Weeks, and three former and the current president. We will celebrate the past, present and future of our amazing organization.

Prior to the program the regular meeting will be held, including brick walls/genealogy moments and introduction of new members and guests.

Please come and enjoy a day celebrating genealogy at its best!

Refreshments? Of course!

Safari News

The Southern California Genealogical Society Library in Burbank will be our destination on March 26th. We will leave the LDS Church parking lot at 9:00 A.M. You might bring a lunch with you. If you don't, there are a few eateries within short walking distance. This library has a large book collection as well as computers and CD's for researching. Also, this is an excellent location for French-Canadian research. We will make sure that they have a knowledgeable docent available for this type of research. Don't forget \$\$ for your driver. There will be plans for dinner on the way home. Contact Bill Bluett to reserve a spot. You can search their library catalog before the trip by going to: www.scgsgenealogy.com/catalogMain.htm.

FAMILY HISTORY SCRAPBOOKING CLASS

Friday March 28, 2014, 1 to 4 pm -

Saddleback Room - Mission Viejo Civic Center

Reserve your space now in this fun and informative class.

Contact: Mary Jo McQueen - 949-581-0690 or mcqueenmaryjo@aol.com.

Suggested Items to bring to class:

All/any of the following: Pictures, newspaper article, certificate, short story, or any other items you might like to use. Each participant will take home one scrapbook page.

Presidents Message
~Francie Kennedy
Q & A from the Membership Survey

Thank you very much for replying to the survey. Seventy-one people responded to some or all of the questions – this means a lot to the Board! We received a great deal of valuable and constructive feedback. If you have not yet weighed in, it is not too late to share your thoughts. To participate, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FWF98CY>.

Ideas for speakers' topics, mini-sessions, and 4th-Friday classes were phenomenal, and will keep us busy for the foreseeable future! Thank you for all of those ideas, and if you have thought of more ideas since you answered the survey, send them to Francie or David: writefrancie@gmail.com, or davidflint@cox.net.

Members reported learning about SOCCGS from flyers at the Reader's Festival, from other genealogy groups, and other libraries and archives, including the Family History Center and NARA. Be sure to keep an extra brochure with you (at all times ☺) to pass along to a friend - that was the #1 way people learned about us!

Some of the questions you asked:

- **Is the monthly calendar on our website?** Yes! To find our web site, Google "SOCCGS", and our web page is the first result. Scroll down to "Coming Events", and click on the calendar link. Double-check with the organizer of an event to make sure nothing changes. Our Facebook page is another great way to keep up to date. Go to Google and search for "Facebook South Orange County" – we are the first result and you do not have to be logged in with a Facebook account to see the page.
- **What is the brick wall section of the monthly meeting all about?** This is an interactive section of the monthly meeting, when members can share some aspect of their research about which they are feeling stuck or "brickwalled". Other people can then offer hints about resources to check and approaches to take to get around the seeming barrier. with the group. You never know who might help, and how that breakthrough will come.
- **I use Heritage Quest at home with my library card from Carlsbad. Can we get access to Ancestry from home in a similar manner?** No, The Mission Viejo Library cannot license Ancestry that way. Ancestry Library Edition is limited to use in the library. Mission Viejo Library Computers, SOCCGS computers and patron computers can only use Ancestry when connected in the library.
- **I am not too familiar with what there is at the Library. Will there be another Open House?** Yes, probably in June. Check Facebook, the Calendar, or the Newsletter for the date.
- **Will you upgrade the old computers at the library?** Yes! It is already in the procurement process.
- **Is it possible for SOCCGS to have a library card to access databases at other libraries?** No, Library cards are issued to individuals, not to organizations. Take advantage of the Safari trips to Carlsbad and Los Angeles, and get a free library card there when you go!
- **What are the Fourth Friday classes?** Fourth Friday classes are new! In late 2013, the Society decided to offer a variety of classes in addition to the monthly meetings, to be held at a regular time and day each month – the fourth Friday. These provide in-depth training and education on a range of topics, from databases to research techniques, and other family history-related activities. The Mission Viejo library is closed on Friday mornings, so we have the genealogy area to ourselves for the classes. Most classes begin at 10 a.m., and we gather early by the front door of the library to escorted through the library right at 10 am. Classes are advertised at the meetings, included on the calendar, our website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocccgs/Mar%202014.pdf> , posted on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-Orange-County-California-Genealogical-Society/567245949960695?hc_location=stream), and blasted via email in Herb's meeting reminder messages.
- **Can individual members write biographies for the newsletter?** Yes, we welcome historical stories; memories; reminiscences; articles about family, heritage, research techniques and tips. Feel free to send a photo also. Articles may be edited for length and content.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide feedback and ask questions – please keep your comments coming!

February Meeting

Gena Philibert-Ortega gave us a wonderful presentation regarding the topic on “**Finding Social History in Digitized Books**”. There are many websites, mostly free, that give you an opportunity to find tens of thousands of books that are digitized in their entirety and searchable by topic, location, or surname. Gena gave us list of more than a dozen websites to search. You just may find a book that will help you to break through any “brick walls” that you have encountered. Don’t discount this great feature that the Internet provides the researcher. We thank Gena for a wonderful presentation on this topic and how it has helped her in research. We would also like to thank the members who provided refreshments. They were: **Diane Hearne, Sue Lamond, Mary Jo McQueen, and Marilyn Kowalski.**

Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions

Virginia Dunk discovered that she shares an ancestral family from New Mexico with our January guest speaker, Linda Serna. Virginia has now found her great-great grandfather from this family which dates back to the early 1600’s. Also, she has found an excellent book on Amazon.com regarding her ancestors.

Wendy Goodall found a website that gave different variations of spellings for surnames. She didn’t save the website and cannot find it. Does anyone know what this site might be?

Arlene O’Donnell mentioned the Beginning Genealogy Class that we hold and if anyone is stuck with a particular “brick wall”, come to the class. Also, she reminded the group about the Orphan Train author that will be at the library on February 23rd. Hope you didn’t miss this event.

Mary Jo McQueen had a Saddleback Valley News reporter interview her regarding her interest in the Orphan Train story. In February of 2010, Mary Jo gave our society a presentation on this topic.

Joyce Van Schaack praised the Mission Viejo Chapter of the DAR for all that they have accomplished over the years. They now have over 160 members and had a New Membership “tea” on February 23rd. Guests were welcome. Did any of you attend?

Membership

SOCCGS is off to a great new year. There were 89 members and 3 guests attending the February meeting. All three have joined the society. In all we welcome six new members.

Sally & Dick Brown, Irvine, CA - dick.brown@dslextreme.com - Looking for: TANNER, WATKINS, SIXKILLER.

Denise Hibsich Richmond, Laguna Woods, CA - denisedigsroots@yahoo.com - Looking for: BROWN, Southwest Ohio; CLARK, Adams Co. Ohio; KENDALL, California, Kansas, Kentucky; HIGSCH/HUBSCH, Prussia, California, Wisconsin; GISCNMAN, Minnesota; HUTSON, Iowa, North Dakota, California

Dotty Wilson, Laguna Woods, CA - dwilson@comline.com - Looking for: STURGIS, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kansas; BARKER, Kansas, South Dakota, Iowa and New York; SENTER, New Hampshire, Kansas; STORROW, Kansas.

Melynda Patterson, Mission Viejo, CA – melyndapatterson@cox.net - Looking for: FULLER, PARSONS, DOTY, FRANKLIN, ADCOX, PRICHARD, HOWTON, TROVER, HARPA.

Linda McBride, Irvine and **Kathryn Doe**, Laguna Beach.

Good luck needs no explanation.

-Don’t we envy genealogists with good luck?

~Shirley Temple Black (1928-2014)

Have you been to the Mission Viejo Library lately?

~Bunny Smith – SOCCGS Librarian

You are missing all the wonderful programs that the SOCCGS pays for. The latest is AniMap. Have you looked to find the place where one of your ancestors lived only to find the town is no longer there? Have you ever wondered where it was? Well AniMap will help you. You only need to type in the town name and the approximate date and the program will do the rest. You may even find that the town stayed in one place and the county line moved around it. Bring your brickwalls to the library, one of our eager docents will be glad to assist you.

If you are excited about genealogy and interested in helping others get started on their family research. Now is your chance! The Library is looking for some helpful researchers to volunteer as substitutes to cover the summer vacations of the regular docents. Please contact Bunny Smith.

Congratulations to our newest docents, Melynda Patterson and Gary B

Cousins, Cousins, Everywhere!

~ Barbara Taylor and Sheila Larson

Sheila writes:

I was doing some research on Ancestry.com a couple of weeks ago and got a notification that a member had posted a document relating to a common ancestor. When I opened it up, it said, that Barbara Taylor had posted the document. I thought, wouldn't that be a coincidence if it were the same Barbara Taylor that is in our group. I sent her a message, asking if she was BarbaraTaylor7777, and she responded, "Are we cousins?" Turns out, we are!

I am a first cousin six times removed from Loammi Baldwin, Revolutionary War patriot. **Loammi Baldwin (Sr) (1744 - 1807)**, born and died in Woburn, MA, was called "the father of civil engineering" and with his sons, built the Middlesex Canal near Boston as well as forts to protect the city from the British. Their home, originally built in 1660 and expanded in the 1800s, still stands in Woburn, Massachusetts.

Barbara writes:

Loammi's first wife was **Mary Fowle (1747-1786)**, daughter of **James Fowle (1720-1793)** and **Mary Reed (1726-1790)**; Mary was my first cousin five times removed. Loammi's second wife was **Margery Fowle (1767-1799)**, daughter of **Josiah Fowle (1731-1805)** and **Margery Carter (1730-1812)**; Margery Fowle was my third great grand aunt. Mary and Margery were first cousins. Loammi, both wives and all their parents were born and died in Woburn, Massachusetts. Both Mary and Margery Fowle are descended from **George Fowle (1610 - 1682)** who came from England to Massachusetts about 1638.

I attended my first SOCCGS meeting after I contacted someone on Ancestry.com about an ancestor shortly after I moved back to California in 2011. It turned out that former member **Tom Corning** is my eighth cousin once removed and we share many ancestors from Massachusetts.

I was researching my ex-husband's grandparents in North Carolina, trying to find out their relationship to the person who married him, Felix Absher. I sent a message to a woman who had Felix in her family tree and it turned out she lived in Orange County, California. We had lunch and got to be friends, so I invited her to join our group. That is my distant cousin by marriage - member **Arlene O'Donnell**.

When I did DNA on FamilyTreeDNA last summer, I recognized one person's email address on a match -- our own librarian **Bunny Smith**. Bunny's husband **Leon Smith** and I are cousins, though we have not yet figured out who our common ancestors are.

At the December 2013 holiday meeting, I won the door prize - a book called "Matilda's Story: The California Years" by our member **Jacquelyn Hansen**. As I was reading the introduction, she thanked **Robert Hoadley** for his help on one part of the family. Robert is related to the son of Jacquelyn's great grandmother and Robert is also my cousin, discovered via DNA. We share at least four ancestors with Robert's mother - three of them known on my side from Massachusetts and one or more on my ex-husband's side, yet undiscovered.

When **Jack Naylor**, our membership chairperson, says, "You may meet a cousin in our group." He is not kidding!!

Meet the Board

Mary Jo McQueen

~Mary Jo McQueen - SOCCGS Treasurer

"My Story" begins in a small Northwest Iowa town during the Great Depression. My parents, Fae Minor and George Emerick, were barely 21 years of age when I was born. The depression years were not kind to this young married couple. I was born at the home of my maternal grandparents, Mabel Sheldon and Cassius Minor. In 1936 my mother and I were living in a "sleeping room" above the pool hall while my dad was living and working at a CCC Camp.

Mostly, small town life was good to me. Two sets of grandparents and great grandparents lived and died there. I was the third generation of my family to graduate from Milford High School.

After college, with my husband, Bob (Some of you know him as the SOCCGS' cook and baker.) I lived in South Dakota and Colorado before locating in California. Two children and five grand children later the genealogy allure got me.

I joined SOCCGS in 1997 and began searching for a Revolutionary War ancestor so I could join the DAR. Little did I know that genealogy would take over my life. Finding one RW soldier led to five as well as

four who participated in the Civil War. Should you be interested, my family information can be found at Ancestry.com. Search "Cassius Blake Minor."

As a SOCCGS member I have served as president, vice president, newsletter editor and currently as treasurer. Some of the nicest people and friends I have met are my fellow genealogists.

SOCCGS Historian-Parliamentarian

~Patricia Ann Dean Christiansen

Once in awhile a person gets to wear two hats in an organization; that is my claim to fame. I am currently the SOCCGS Historian (digital camera user and maintainer of the scrapbook) as well as the Parliamentarian (with Robert's Rules of Order-Revised and bell-ringer at refreshment time at general membership meetings), both at the ready.

However, personally, I revel in the opportunity of being my family's self-appointed family historian. All kinds of things get dumped on me in the name of historical significance. Doesn't matter; I accept them all ... my house is now a museum of sorts ... the artifacts does entertain the grandkids each time they come for a visit and on occasion I get to talk about the good old days to anyone who will listen.

Born in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio in 1932, I enjoyed the years there with my two younger sisters **Barbara** and **Nancy** (who are still living). We were so close in age (three babies in 42 months) that our mother said it was like "raising two sets of twins" ... new math. In 1939 our family moved to Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. Our father, **John William Roy Dean**, was a petroleum engineer and a supervisor of acquisitions with Standard Oil of Ohio. Columbus was a more demanding area of growth and suited our dad's organizational talents.

With the onset of World War II in 1941, the draft started taking so many eligible men that every facet of the oil industry was drained of trained personnel. Our father was deferred from the draft because of his skills in the oil industry and his ability to fill in for those called up to serve.

Our mother, **Rebecca Irene Shultz Dean**, was a stay-at-home mom who donated her services to the Red Cross and other related causes directed toward the war effort. We had a Victory garden, she taught others how to do them (her father was a farmer); mother had a knack for organizing benefits and was able to sell hundreds of dollars, possibly thousands in Savings Bonds.

Eventually, mother, my sisters and I relocated to Phoenix, Arizona in 1943. Officially it was for reasons of mother's health; unofficially it was because my parents decided to separate and eventually divorced.

It is said that a person changes professions every ten years. I guess you could say that for me as well: I have been in the entertainment field; worked in publishing newspapers; secretary/typist in an engineering office; active as a paralegal and office administrator in the law field; and most rewarding of all as a wife (married over 50 years) and mother of seven ... foster mother to five others.

Now that I am a widow and the children are all married and gone, I volunteer in the community; am more active in my church; and revel in the time that I have in which to do genealogical research. The twenty-nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren in my life make historical events all the time.

Writing Life Stories

~Jim Thordahl

SOCCGS' Writing Life Stories Group kicked off the New Year in a successful first meeting. Eight members joined in forming a nucleus for group support in writing individual stories of their ancestors, themselves or their genealogical adventures. At the second session in January the group grew to 13 participants. Many stories have now been presented. The stories contained emotion, tributes, memories, family data and historical insight. They created plenty of discussion, ideas and supportive comments, the hallmark of this group process.

The group selected the **fourth Tuesday for a monthly meeting**. Check the schedule on the SOCCGS calendar. There is always room for more storytellers. Begin writing the stories you want to preserve and join this group at any session. Call me or send an e-mail if you have a question; jimandbonniethor@juno.com /949 492-5334.

Plan your visit to the SOCCGS Research Center (Genealogy Section, Mission Viejo Library)

~Mary Jo McQueen

There is an amazing genealogy research center available at the Mission Viejo Library. It is a place near and dear to my heart – SOCCGS Library/Research Center.

Before you begin researching at the library go to the SOCCGS website. You will find a complete subject and title index of the books and CDs and Docent hours. You may also set up a time for personal research help. Call Bunny (949) 472-8046 or Mary Jo (949) 581-0690 to make an appointment with a docent who has expertise in your area of research.

The society is subscribed to a number of excellent websites, which are available on SOCCGS computers: Genealogy Bank, Newspaper Archives, Heritage Quest, British Newspaper Archives, World Vital Records, New England Ancestors (NEHGS) and Fold3.

Ancestry.com is also available, due to the generosity of the City of Mission Viejo Library.

Google “SOCCGS” to find the website in a jiffy.

Beginning Genealogy

~Arlene O’Donnell

Location: Mission Viejo Library - Bill Price Room. **Dates:** Mar 19th 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

Review of Computer Basics Class

~David Flint



COMING SOON

A new class will be starting soon - Review of Computer Basics. This class will review the basics of using a personal computer, with a focus on the Windows operating system. We will review the various components of your computer system and how they function together; discuss file management, including how to create, copy, edit, rename and delete files; using storage devices; changing your desktop wallpaper and screen saver; how to create shortcuts on your desktop screen, and many other handy tips and tricks to get better use of your computer.

This class will be presented in two sessions of two hours each, for a total of four hours. We will meet on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 5 and March 12 in the Saddleback Room in the Mission Viejo City Hall across the plaza from the library. Bring your laptop computer to the class to get the full benefit. For more information and to register for the class contact David Flint davidflint@cox.net.

**It's a very important thing to learn
to talk to people you disagree with.**

~Pete Seeger (1919 - 2014)

-To get that one great piece of info

you may need to talk to disagreeable ones.

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. The next meetings March 2 and April 6

Bring your laptop, your questions. You can just show up or call/email Sheila Larson at 949-436-0500 or lighthouse1212@yahoo.com.

Legacy User's Group

~David Flint

The next SOCCGS Legacy User's Group will meet on Thursday, March 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Saddleback Room in the Mission Viejo City Hall. In January, we began reviewing the Legacy 8.0 version released November 2013. For question more information, contact David Flint - davidflint@cox.net.

Ralphs Community Contribution Program

~Jim Thordahl

Supporting our Society through Ralphs Community Contribution Program is as easy as **one - two - three**. 1) Get a *Ralphs Rewards Card* at your favorite Ralphs grocery store; 2) pick up a Program scan-bar letter at our monthly meeting; 3) the next time you shop at Ralphs present your scan-bar letter to the checkout clerk. Ralphs will donate to SOCCGS an amount relative to your qualifying purchases. Your participation will be greatly appreciated and help support all the services we provide. BTW: You can also print out the scan-bar letter from our website or sign up on the Ralphs website. Instructions are included on our website. If you have a question, e-mail or call me: jimandbonniethor@juno.com, 949 492-5334

Future Events

Mar 1 8:00am-3:30pm;OCCGS 2nd Annual Genealogy Bash and Book Faire; Huntington Beach; More info: http://www.occgs.com/mtg_event/bash/bash.html

5 Mar 7:00pm Roger Lustic - Hundred Germanies—A Hundred Jewish Histories – Jewish Federation & Family Services, O.C., 1 Federation Way, Irvine, CA 92603, \$5.00 members, \$10.00 non-members.

23 Mar - 1:30pm Hal Horrorks - *How To Find Your Ancestors Using Immigration & Naturalization Records* - Temple Bat Yahm, 1011 Camelback Street, Newport Beach

Jun 6-8 2014 Southern California Genealogy Jamboree and Family History and DNA Conference; More info: <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/>

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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