

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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November 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

November 16, 2013

Using American Memory to Enhance Your Genealogy

Presented by
Gena Philibert

This presentation explores the Library of Congress website [American Memory](#) and discusses how these digital collections can help you find ancestors or add social history to your genealogy. Collections include maps, histories, ephemera, photographs and audio and video files.

About the Speaker: Gena Philibert-Ortega holds a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master's degree in Religion. Presenting on various subjects involving genealogy, women's studies and social history, Gena has spoken to groups throughout the United States and virtually to audiences worldwide. Gena is the author of hundreds of articles published in genealogy newsletters and magazines including *Internet Genealogy*, *Family Chronicle*, *GenWeekly* and the *WorldVitalRecords* newsletter. She is the author of the books, *From The Family Kitchen* (F + W Media, 2012), *Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra* (Arcadia Publishing, 2007) and *Putting the Pieces Together*. Gena is the editor of the Utah Genealogical Association's journal *Crossroads*. An instructor for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, Gena has written courses about social media and Google. She currently serves as President of the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and is a board member of the Utah Genealogical Association. Her current research interests include social history, community cookbooks, signature quilts and researching women's lives.

**If you don't have time to do it right,
When will you have time to do it over?**
~John Wooden

*-Don't let the excitement of a big find
make you postpone documenting each
piece of new data.*

You can never plan the future by the past.
~Edmund Burke

-Even so, for the genealogist the past is still fun.

Safari News

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

President's Message

~ Francie Kennedy

Groves of Trees

I am an only child of an only child, with an only child, so the recent parts of my family tree are quite sparse. Really great, but sparse! Hearing about friends' huge and extended families, I have wondered what it would be like to have so many siblings, and myriads of nieces and nephews, uncles, aunts and cousins, "collateral relatives" in our parlance. Just two generations back, all of my lines did have big families, so they had the experience of the extended family life, and produced lots of descendants, too. I have not met them yet, I am still tracing those.

I am so grateful for my one and only child. One perfect daughter! I never thought much past that, until she got engaged last year, and I began to get the idea I would be gaining a son. When my daughter got married last month, it was a big deal! I have not been to a wedding in years, let alone had a hand in planning and financing one. It was a fairy tale event, in the Avalon Ballroom on Santa Catalina Island – dreamy!

I finally got to meet my son-in-law's parents, delightful people from Tennessee. And guess what? His mother does genealogy! She has traced the surname my daughter now bears, back to before the Revolution! Learning this, I suddenly got the mental image of two huge groves of trees, two great lineages, coming together at this wedding, and joining into one greater forest of ancestors.

My daughter's family tree just doubled in size! Not her own literal genetic tree, of course, but all of the connections are there, doubled by marriage. The family extends and connects across the country and back into time, countless generations having this experience of wedding and begetting and connecting.

Mary Ellen Lytle

With great sadness we have learned that our Founding President, Mary Ellen Lytle, passed away October 2, 2012. Mary Ellen was born November 9, 1919 at Bowling Green, Ohio, the daughter of Fred L. Adams and Belle Marie Burgess. In 1944 at Long Beach CA. Mary Ellen married John Lytle. John passed away in 2006 and is buried beside Mary Ellen in Gig Harbor, Washington.

It was Mary Ellen who grew tired of traveling up to genealogy meetings at the Huntington Beach Library only to find that at times there was only standing room because the crowd was too overwhelming. She reckoned we probably had many interested in genealogy living right here in the Saddleback Valley region who felt the same way she did. So, Mary Ellen proposed we develop a society to promote genealogy research here. An informal word of mouth resulted in fifty two people showing up at the first meeting at Arby's in January of 1994. By the May meeting, there were over a hundred paying members. Mary Ellen had the vision of someday having a genealogy library here in Mission Viejo, and worked closely with the City of Mission Viejo in the planning of the present library.

Besides her activities as the first President of a new flourishing society, Mary Ellen also volunteered at the National Archives. In those days her side-kick was Eugenia Gannon, and their enthusiasm for helping researchers at the archives instilled many of us to also become volunteers.

If you wish to know more about Mary Ellen, she was the first on the board to submit an article of her interest in genealogy, which can be found at our site online, Vol I, Issue 2, August 1994, Saddleback Valley Trails. Included is her family tree.

October Seminar

~Bill Bluett, Seminar Chairman

Our Twelfth Annual Family History Seminar was a great success! We had approximately 120 folks present at our event. Registered guests were mostly from Orange County although some traveled from neighboring County areas. Our guest speaker, Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck, presented four most interesting topics that gave us valuable information as well as a number of items many of us were not aware of. There is no doubt that Lloyd has a commanding knowledge of so many areas of genealogy research. All those in attendance went away with a shopping list of resources and ideas for refining their own research techniques.

Later in the day, 20 lucky tickets were drawn for door prizes. Congratulations to Mr. Robin Bowers of Huntington Beach, the winner of our Grand Prize, the Ancestry World Deluxe one year subscription! And, of course, congratulations go out to all the other lucky winners.

The food and refreshments under Mary Jo McQueen's direction were excellent and very nicely displayed. Our "Corner Bakery" lunches were superb as they always have been in past years.

There was always a buzz of activity around the vendor tables. I would like to thank the "Association of Professional Genealogists" (Hal Horrocks, OCCGS President) for having an informational table. We had Betty Kreisel Shubert (Hollywood Fashion Designer) at a table. And, our own Jackie Hanson, author of many wonderful books (Matilda's Story, Susan's Quest, etc) had a sales table with all her works. The SOCCGS book sales and the jewelry tables were very successful. And, our SOCCGS genealogy table combined forces with our new genealogy class sign-up table and answered many questions regarding our Society's activities and class schedules. Included in those activities is David Flint's "Legacy" table. He gives classes on "Legacy" as well. And, we always give a big thanks to Leon and Bunny Smith for providing our DAR/SAR table.

Finally, I must say that all our volunteers did a superb job in setting up and hosting this event. Now, I would like to give a big "THANK YOU" to everyone who assisted in putting the seminar together. Each of you did an excellent job! We had a few anxious moments with the microphone glitch, but Herb Abrams came to the rescue. Our seminar just wouldn't happen if we didn't have such a great group of volunteers. With that said, we will do it again next year!

Message received from Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck – October 21st, 2013

Thank you and the others in your society who made my time in Orange County so rewarding. I did realize that I failed to tell them that a Scottish woman never takes her husband's surname so even their tombstones would reflect that practice.

I reached home at 5.30 p.m. (Sunday evening). Our overnight low was in the 40s and today's temperature is in the low 70s so we are both enjoying Mother Nature's bounty.

Very best wishes, Lloyd

Ways & Means

~Jim Thordahl

Farrell's Ice Cream Social

On September 24 SOCCGS held a fundraiser at Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour at the Shops in Mission Viejo. A portion of sales to patrons who presented the SOCCGS fundraiser flyer goes to SOCCGS. Our share is \$39.10. In addition, a member of our board donated \$20 to SOCCGS in tribute to the hardy souls who braved the enticement of sweet flavorful delicacies served in dramatic fashion – Farrell's signature style. Everyone enjoyed their food and fun and at least one participant ← shamelessly made a pig of himself by gobbling down a double banana split. He duly acknowledged his status with requisite oink-oinks in tune with Farrell's playful teasers.

At the Seminar

Two successful Ways and Means Projects at the October Seminar garnered \$515.80. Sales at the Jewelry Table were \$375.55 and \$140.25 at the Book Table.

Thank you to the volunteers who set up and manned the tables all day. The generous shoppers are also much appreciated.

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.

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.



Un-puzzling County Boundary Changes

~Submitted by Kathy Mauzy

from an article in Family Tree Magazine eNewsletter Online

Tip of the Week: Online Tool for Un-puzzling County Boundary Changes. Your ancestors may have appeared to move without actually ever physically moving. This happened when their county boundaries changed. Ohio, for example, had 10 counties in 1803 and 73 in 1830, and today it has 88. Changing county boundaries meant a different jurisdiction and location for your ancestors' records.

You can use the Newberry Library online Atlas of Historical County Boundaries (<http://www.newberry.org/atlas-historical-county-boundaries>) to view the counties in your ancestral state on a date you designate. You also can view a county-by-county log of boundary changes in each state. Go to the site and get started by clicking the link next to "View this resource:" - "The Atlas of Historical County Boundaries".

Billion Graves vs Find A Grave

~suggested by Herb Abrams from article at LegacyFamilyTree.com 10 Nov 2011

Description of the two processes for entering data into Find A Grave and Billion Graves:

Find A Grave

- Take a picture of the tombstone
- Upload the pictures from your camera to your computer
- Login to Find A Grave and click Add Burial Records
- Click on the Family and Friends link
- Add the transcription information
- Resize the digital image so it is no wider than 1200 pixels
- Modify the file size (adjust the jpg compression) so that it is no larger than 750kb
- Manually upload the image to the newly-created or existing memorial page

Billion Graves

- Take a picture of the tombstone with your GPS-enabled smartphone
- When you are done, click on the upload button
- Login to BillionGraves.com and add the transcription. Either you or other online volunteers can do this

Pros/Cons

From my [Geoff Rasmussen] initial experience, I really want to use Billion Graves because the process is so much faster. Light-years faster. But Find A Grave has been around for 16 years, has over 71 million records, and over 800,000 volunteers have participated. In fact, searching for the surname Brown on Find A Grave returned 172,650 records. The same search at Billion Graves returned just 2,695. I should also mention here that another new smartphone app called RestingSpot is trying to do the same thing. A search for Brown there returned just 12 results. Another negative for Billion Graves is that you cannot upload photos from your computer. They have to be taken with their smartphone app.

[To this date, it doesn't appear that the processes above have changed significantly. The number of records has probably grown.]

Top Ten Technology Tips

~ David Flint

A friend recently sent me a link to a YouTube video showing a presentation by David Pogue about 10 top time-saving tech tips (try saying that fast three times) for computer, web, smart phone and camera users. The link is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoTo-2vu9m4> and it shows you some very simple tips for short cuts that you may not have seen demonstrated anywhere else. Check it out! There is likely to be at least one that is new to you. A gift certificate for free attendance at our next mini-class if you already knew all 10 tips before seeing the video.

**Treat your password like your toothbrush,
Don't let anyone else use it and get a new one
every six months.** ~Clifford Stoll

*-Check old sources for new info
every six months, but let everyone
else know about the updates.*

We Are The Chosen
~ Della M. Cumming ca 1943

My feelings are in each family we are called to find the ancestors.
To put flesh on their bones and make them live again,
To tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.
To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead,
Breathing life into all who have gone before.

We are the story tellers of the tribe.
We have been called as it were by our genes.
Those who have gone before cry out to us:
Tell our story.
So, we do.
In finding them, we somehow find ourselves.

How many graves have I stood before now and cried?
I have lost count.

How many times have I told the ancestors
you have a wonderful family, you would be proud of us?

How many times have I walked up to a grave
and felt somehow there was love there for me?
I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts.
It goes to who I am and why I do the things I do?
It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever
to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen.
The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh.

It goes to doing something about it.
It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish.
How they contributed to what we are today.
It goes to respecting their hardships and losses,
their never giving in or giving up.

Their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.
It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a Nation.
It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us
That we might be born who we are.
That we might remember them.
So we do.

With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence,
Because we are them and they are us.
So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family.

It is up to that one called in the next generation,
To answer the call and take their place in the long line of family storytellers.
That is why I do my family genealogy,
And that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones.

A smile is happiness you'll find right under your nose.
~Tom Collins

-*"Movember" moustaches to promote
men's health can be under men's noses.*

Membership

We added ten new members during October. Six of them attended and joined at the Seminar. We welcome them and trust that their SOCCGS membership will bring them many genealogy rewards.

Melissa Bergier, Coto de Caza; **Dana Dear**, Mission Viejo; **Sue Naegeli**, Rancho Santa Margarita; **Lana Lambert Fitz**, San Juan Capistrano; **Hal Horrocks**, Costa Mesa; **Shirlee B. Koons**, Mission Viejo; **Gary Baier**, Mission Viejo; **Jennifer Frank**, San Juan Capistrano; **Darryl Speers**, Mission Viejo; **Robert E. (Bob) Sellards**, Laguna Woods.

Margaret Coggins Dana Point, CA, pegcoggins@gmail.com, who joined last month, is searching Robert BREEZE, b. 1754 - North Carolina, d. 1825 Indiana; m. 1775 to Hannah DONALDSON Orange Co., NC., d. 1820 Indiana, and Richard SANDERS, b. Oct. 28, 1755, NC, d. 1836.

Any of the new members who wish to have surnames posted in a future newsletter please contact Membership Chairman, **Jack Naylor**. Contact information for all board members is in the newsletter.

“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.

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 meeting will be on Sunday, November 3, 2013. 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.

Beginning Genealogy

~Arlene O'Donnell

Location: Mission Viejo Library - Bill Price Room. **Dates:** Nov 14 and 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

Legacy User's Group

~ David Flint

The next SOCCGS Legacy User's Group will meet on Thursday, November 21 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. 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. 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.

Future Events

Nov 24; 1:30-3:00; Jewish Surnames Part II, How Jews Around the World Got Their Names;

RSVP: email - info@ocjgs.org or call (949) 423-3746

Feb 6-8, 2014; Registration open for RootsTech 2014, at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. This annual family history conference, hosted by FamilySearch

Articles for Our Newsletter

~Gary Schwarz

Newsletter Article submissions should be submitted by the Wednesday after the monthly meeting. The articles should be a text or MS Word attachment, emailed to the editor and have a Subject line: "SOCCGS Newsletter Article – article title or description" e.g. "SOCCGS Newsletter Article – "Changing My Search Strategy Helped Me Find My Grandpa John". If you have a typewriter hardcopy article, I will accept that too, but it may take a while to get it digitized to go into the newsletter. Typical articles might include: information about a website new to you that helped in your research; how you made a new connection in your research; a one or two page biography of one of your ancestors (I will also place pictures in your article, if you attach a digitized image of photograph, painting or drawing in your submission); a description of a genealogical trip that proved to be fruitful to your research; a special technique you use in your research that you feel might be beneficial to fellow researchers; a feature of genealogical software that helps you in your genealogy.

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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