

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

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June 2016

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

MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

June 18, 2016

"Quilt of Souls"

Presented by

Phyllis Lawson

The author will discuss the difficulties of tracing her Grandmother Lula Horn's (1883-1986) lineage through research and using DNA. She will share how this woman who raised her impacted her life as well as those lives around her. Her grandmother was a quilter who made quilts from the clothes of her ancestors and friends who had passed on. Each piece of clothing told the story of their life and death. These stories are chronicled in the author's memoir, "Quilt of Souls".

About the speaker: In addition to a career in the military, Phyllis Lawson worked as a professional counselor for the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia. She resides in Florida.

MEETING LOCATION: CITY OF MISSION VIEJO COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL, 200 CIVIC CENTER, MISSION VIEJO, CA (ACROSS FROM THE LIBRARY) RESERVATIONS: 949-830-7100 X5101 (SEE DETAILS PAGE 3)

Safari News

~Bill Bluett

The Huntington Beach Library will be our destination for the June 22nd safari. We will leave the LDS Church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. This library has a nice genealogy collection of over 18,000 books, maps, some micro-fiche, etc. They do not have computers for searching online in the genealogy area. So, you might bring a laptop if you have one. You may bring lunch or utilize the library sandwich, snack, and beverage area. Don't forget \$\$ for your driver. There are no plans for dinner on the way home. Contact Kathie Mauzey – famhistory@juno.com (Bill Bluett will be on vacation) to reserve a spot. Go to their research page on the internet to find out additional information regarding all their holdings at:

www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/government/departments/library

President's Message

By David Flint

Common-law marriages may not have been so common. I recently finished reading a book about the history of marriage law in England, and I learned some new information about a subject I thought I was already familiar with. It turns out that I, along with many other people over time, have accepted a number of myths about how marriages in England, and the laws relating to marriage, actually worked.

The book is Marriage Law for Genealogists: The Definitive Guide by Rebecca Probert. The author is a Professor of Law at Warwick University and a leading authority on the history of marriage laws in England and Wales. The author's thesis is that a new book on marriage law for family historians was needed to correct the common myths and mistakes about marriage found in existing resources. Her own research overturned many common misperceptions about marriage in England, and she provides examples of how "even the best genealogy books and websites repeat basic errors of law". The book covers the period 1600 to the present, and is limited to the law of England and Wales.

I recognized some of the common misunderstandings she set out to correct, and admit to being guilty of passing some of them along in my own talks on English genealogy research. That has now been corrected, and I will be updating my notes on marriage for any future talks on that subject.

The most common mistake about marriage in England relates to so-called "common-law" marriages: the belief that before Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1753, all that was required to create a valid marriage was an informal exchange of consent. Many well-known genealogy resources repeat this myth, including a reference book I consult regularly, and have recommended to others. In fact, Professor Probert's own research of English marriage records and case law shows that very few couples lived together without the benefit of a formal marriage ceremony. The author asserts, "It was never possible, either before or after 1754, to enter into a common-law marriage". It's interesting to note that Black's Law Dictionary, a recognized U.S. resource, defines a marriage as a civil contract requiring the consent of the parties. However, it also states that "consent alone will not constitute marriage; it must be followed by a solemnization ..." which appears consistent with English law.

The second most common mistake is the belief that any marriage that did not fully comply with the Marriage Act of 1753 was void. An overarching concept the author explained was the difference between the mandatory aspects of marriage law in England and those that are merely directory. "If a particular requirement is mandatory, then a failure to comply with it renders the marriage void. If, though, it is only directory, then the marriage will still be valid even if it is ignored." For example, the Marriage Act of 1753 included many details "that were only directory; it did not matter how, or even whether a marriage was registered" and would still be considered valid if the marriage conformed to the mandatory requirements of the Act. "While the 1753 Act made certain requirements (i.e. banns or license, and being married in a church) mandatory, others (the place of marriage, registration, and witnesses) were only directory."

Another interesting issue in English marriage law is the restriction on marriages between individuals within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity (i.e. between blood relations) and affinity (i.e. between in-laws). The first degree of consanguinity prohibited one from marrying a parent or child; the second degree a grandparent, grandchild or sibling; and the third degree uncles and aunts, or nieces and nephews. However, marriages between cousins have never been invalid under English law.

A further variation included relations by marriage, which were within the prohibited degrees of affinity. "In the eyes of the Church, and therefore of the law, husband and wife became 'one flesh' on marriage, so the wife's relatives became the husband's (and vice versa) and remained so even after death." The degrees of affinity therefore prohibited one from marrying a former spouse's parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece or nephew. However, the prohibited degrees of affinity did not link one spouse's relatives to the other spouse's relatives. So, while a husband could not marry his deceased wife's sister, a marriage between a woman's sister and her husband's brother was allowed and perfectly valid.

The author points out that marriage law in England and Wales has always been "accommodating to unintentional mistakes, yet strict toward fraud and deception." Therefore, "the presumption of English law is always in favor of validity. ... English law has always placed the onus on the person challenging a marriage to show that it is invalid, rather than on the person wanting to prove its validity to show that it was properly performed." The law promoted certainty over marital status by making certain presumptions, and one of those is that a marriage was valid unless proven to be invalid, with the burden of proof on the one challenging the marriage.

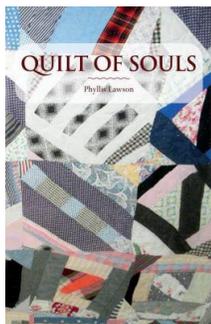
As for divorce, that was extremely rare, and, before 1857, only obtainable through a private Act of Parliament. Divorce was more commonly available after 1857, with adultery the sole ground for divorce. Even then, it was necessary for a woman to prove that her husband had also committed another aggravating factor, including cruelty, desertion, and incest. It was not until 1923 that the law allowed a wife to obtain a divorce on the ground of her husband's adultery alone.

There are many more aspects of English marriage law discussed in this book than I can cover within the limits of a single article. For someone like me, who does primarily English research, this was a very interesting read, although I recognize it won't appeal to everyone. However, it presents some important corrections to commonly believed errors about the law. It also challenges commonly accepted explanations for why researchers encounter difficulty finding those elusive English marriages. We usually just need to do more detailed research, and not assume those ancestors must have been in a "common-law marriage" that was not recorded. It turns out that no such marriages really existed legally. Those common law marriages were not so common.

May Meeting ~ Bill Bluett

Our speaker this month, **Joel Weintraub**, gave us a very entertaining presentation titled "MANIFEST DESTINY": NAMES AT ELLIS ISLAND. Joel went through the history of Ellis Island as well as the large number of documents that are available for researchers. And, many are online! Also, he discussed the so-called myth regarding name changing at Ellis Island. Very few immigrants actually changed the spelling of their name upon entry into the U.S.A. Some may have "Americanized" them later. Joel's handout gave us quite a number of references and websites to utilize when doing Ellis Island research for ancestors arriving in our country. Thank you, Joel, for a great presentation. Refreshments were provided by our members **Mike Bresnan, Lorna Irely, Edna Reid, and Bob Reilly**. And, many thanks go out each month to **Barbara Heebner** and **Sharon Keener** for coordinating this special time during our morning break.

June 18, 2016 Meeting – REMINDER ~Arlene O'Donnell



Our June speaker, Phyllis Lawson, author of *Quilt of Souls*, is being sponsored by SOCCGS and the City of Mission Viejo. If you have not yet read her memoir, you are in for a treat! **We will have our regular SOCCGS meeting at 10:00 AM in the City of Mission Viejo Council Chambers followed by our speaker at 11:00 AM.** Her book will be available for sale and signing at the conclusion. We expect a larger than usual attendance and want to give our SOCCGS members guaranteed seating. If you haven't signed up, please send Arlene O'Donnell an email (silkberry@aol.com) that you expect to attend the June 18 meeting, or call 949-830-7100 X5101 to make a reservation.

SPOTLIGHT on CHERYL LYMAN, SOCCGS HISTORIAN

Cheryl was born and raised in Arizona. Her grandparents on her mother's side were ranchers in the Wickenburg area. Her mother was born in Glendale, Arizona, and her father in Prescott, Arizona. Cheryl was raised in a small mining town called Bagdad; a place you escape from as soon as you are grown.

In 1974 Cheryl moved to San Diego, met and married her husband Abe, the same year. They had two children, Nicole, 38, and Joey, 36. Nicole manages the family owned café in San Clemente, the "S.C. Café." Cheryl and her husband (Abe passed in 2013) have been the owners for 18 years. Joey is a screen writer and lives in Los Angeles, but is home every weekend to help with the business.

Cheryl became interested in genealogy at a very early age; her father's family came to the United States from England in 1630 on a ship called, "The Lion." Since there was so much information on Richard Lyman and all of his descendants, she was spurred on to look for her own ancestry.

Quoting Cheryl, "Genealogy is not only interesting to discover, but gives you a sense of pride in knowing what your people accomplished and how you got where you are today."

Membership Update

There were 72 members in attendance at the May meeting. Of the 7 guests at the meeting, 2 became members: **Lillian Hobbs**, San Clemente, latindancer@aol.com and **Alice Kimbrel**, Laguna Woods, akquilter@gmail.com - researching Magnusson-Icelandic; Holmes-England.

Guests were **Royce Daniels** (Laguna Hills), **Tom & Elen Kimbrel** (Laguna Woods), **Judy Mandel** (Laguna Woods), and **John Zucco** (Lake Forest).

SOC CGS Research Center: Featured Books of the Month

The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy Third Edition

Edited by Loretto Dennis Szucs & Sandra Hargreaves Luebking

This new edition continues the tradition of the “genealogist’s bible.” Intended as a handbook and a guide to selecting, locating, and using appropriate primary and secondary resources, The Source also functions as an instructional tool for novice genealogists and a refresher course for experienced researchers. More than 30 experts in this field--genealogists, historians, librarians, and archivists--prepared the 20 signed chapters, which are well written, easy to read, and include many helpful hints for getting the most out of whatever information is acquired. Each chapter ends with an extensive bibliography and is further enriched by tables, black-and-white illustrations, and examples of documents. Eight appendixes include the expected contact information for groups and institutions that persons studying genealogy and history need to find.

The Handybook for Genealogists United State of America Tenth Edition **Published by Everton Publishers**

The 10th edition of Everton's Handybook for Genealogists is one of the most valuable genealogy bibliography collections currently available. It is an indispensable resource for any genealogist attempting to trace their heritage using the county record system of the United States.

The Handybook contains: well-researched histories of each state, state capital and the territories; descriptions and addresses for each state's major record collections and protocol for requesting vital records; information on researching records for nineteen foreign countries; complete contact information for libraries, repositories, and historical/genealogical societies; detailed county maps and over 120 migration trail maps;

The Handybook also incorporates an in-depth tracking system for every county in each state, including counties that no longer exist, to help genealogists determine which county records to research. This timesaving feature makes this volume the most comprehensive resource for county information in the United States available today.

June Free Webinars

Legacy is presenting several free webinars in June:

June 1– Get the Most from AmericanAncestors.org - Claire Vail

June 8 – Researching Your Washington State Ancestors – Mary Roddy

June 10 – Introduction to the Freedman's Bureau – Angela-Raji

June 15 – Ticked Off! Those Pesky Pre-1850-Census Tic Marks – Peggy Lauritzen

June 22– Digging Deeper in German Parish Records – Gail Blankenau

June 29 – Circles or triangles? What Shape is Your DNA? - Diahna Southard

July 6 – Navigating Naturalization Records – Lisa Alzo

Register at www.familytreewebinars.com If you miss the live Legacy webinar, recordings are in the archives and free to watch for the first 7 days after the broadcast.

Southern California Genealogical Society:

June 3-5 Genealogy Jamboree will have 14 FREE live streaming sessions. For information and registration: www.genealogyjamboree2016.com. Registration for pay-per-view- and free Jamboree sessions will remain open through **July 5, 2016** when the special archives will close.

June 15 - Finding a German Home Village Online – James M. Beidler

Register at www.scgsgenealogy.com, click on programs and webinars.

FamilySearch – For a list of monthly classes and webinars visit:

http://familysearch.org/locations/library_class_schedule

Parent's "Love Letters" Knock Down Some "Brick Walls"

~Bill Bluett

My wife, Helen, has a couple of shoeboxes full of letters that her parents wrote to one another while they were courting. They lived in rural Iowa on their parent's farms in the 1920's. The letters begin in late 1929 and continue up until the time they were married in July of 1933. There must be nearly 100 letters in each shoebox. The postage on the letters – 2 cents! Helen has always been a little reluctant to read through them. But, recently, she finally pulled them out of a dresser drawer and started to go through each one. And, they are starting to answer some genealogy questions that were "brick walls" to us. Helen's father (Seth) was raised in a Mennonite home. His parents had many relatives and cousins in Iowa, Illinois, and even up in Ontario, Canada. Helen remembers cousins visiting their farm at different times, but, could only remember some of the first names – not the surname. We have a number of photos of some of these folks visiting from Canada, but, never could figure out who they were. Helen's parents are gone now and we never did think to ask who these folks were. My father-in-law passed away in 1999 and that was pre-genealogy for me. My mother-in-law preceded him in death.

Well, according to the letters, when Helen's father was 20 years old, he went on a vacation in the summer of 1932 with his parents (**Peter and Anna Eimen**) and a younger brother and sister. I think Seth turned 21 on the trip (August 22nd). They drove from Iowa to Indiana, Ohio, Niagara Falls, and on to Ontario, Canada, visiting families in each location. And, the letters that Helen's dad wrote to his "sweetheart" during that trip gave the full names of many of the folks that they visited! Yes, Helen's father kept writing and mailing letters all through the trip. We have several photos of one particular cousin from Canada by the name of Reuben. He visited the farm in Iowa on a few occasions and we always wondered – who is Reuben? Well, now we know! His name is **Reuben Baechler**. I've found him and all the related families in Perth and Oxford County, Ontario, Canada on ANCESTRY.COM. Some of the other surnames are **Roth, Zehr, and Gingerich**. Even today, there are many Mennonite families that still reside in that region. It is the location where Helen's great grandfather was married in 1863. I have looked up several of the related surnames on the Canadian "white pages" on GOOGLE and it looks like Helen and I need to take a vacation/genealogy road trip to this region in search of cousins that are still living. The towns we would target are Tavistock, Shakespeare (where Helen's great grandparents were married), and Stratford. Next summer, we may take a Canadian Rail Trip from Vancouver to Toronto, visit Niagara Falls, rent a car, and head for Tavistock. Sounds like a plan to me.

P.S. – Now Helen and I have a task ahead of us. The letters need to be put in chronological order and scanned. I don't think we need to transcribe them. The handwriting is very legible. Maybe a booklet could be put together with additional information and comments. All kinds of possibilities are "looming in the wings". Helen and I will have to think this one through.

From Our Members

Free Fill-in Ancestor Chart

Sheila Bamberg alerted us to this site. This site has interactive PDF charts that are FREE to download fill out and print on your home computer <http://misbach.org> click on "Free PDF"

Pedigree Chart This is your traditional pedigree chart. It holds up to 6 generations in the familiar standard format. The one difference being that this chart has room for one generation of descendants.

5 Generation Pedigree Chart This 5 generation chart contains space for the spouse of the starting person as well as the children of the starting couple.

Family Group Record Sheet A very popular chart among genealogists. It provides space for up to 8 children.

There are other charts available on this site

Genealogy Tip of the Day <http://www.genealogytipoftheday.com>

Pictures of Ancestral Buildings? Posted 14 May 2016

Don't neglect to take pictures of buildings that might have been a significant part of your ancestor's life: their home, barn, church, school, etc. Do not always assume the buildings will be there forever and you can "always get a picture." But in small towns make certain you get the "right" church. No matter how small the town, there can easily be more than one local denomination.

FREE Historical Photo Sites for Family Historians
Reprinted from CrestLeaf.com (and WAGS Newsletter April 2016)

If you're like us, you love flipping through old family photo albums to discover more about your family's history. And if you've been fortunate enough to interview your elderly or extended family members, they've likely divulged some fun and interesting stories behind those photos that you've happily added to your family tree. In addition to your old family photo albums, there are other great places to find old photographs, including historical photo websites you can use for free! Whether you're looking for a specific family member, or wish to find old photos of your ancestral hometowns, these 10 free historical photo sites will allow you to search for and discover more about your family's history online.

1.) Ancestor Search – Photo Search Engine An interactive directory of the best, free genealogy and historic photo search engines. Search top world-wide and specialized databases. To search for photos, enter a surname and discover long-lost ancestors.

2.) Ellis Island Passenger Ship Search If your ancestors immigrated to Ellis Island, you should use this passenger ship photo search tool by Steve Morse. Find pictures of the ships that brought your immigrant ancestors to America by searching the official Ellis Island website as well as other passenger ship databases.

3.) Family Old Photos Search this free historic photo archive that contains over 32,000 old photographs. Discover ancestors and the towns in which they lived. You can also search for your family surnames as well as old pictures of family members. There is even an option to add your own family photos.

4.) The Francis Frith Collection Explore your British roots by searching over 138,000 old photos of 32,000 UK towns and villages taken between 1860 and 1970. You can also sift through 1,700 local and nostalgic books, 27,000 old maps and close to 50,000 shared memories.

5.) Images of England Images of England allows you to view over 370,000 images of your English ancestors' villages. This digital library of photos includes England's buildings recorded at the turn of the 21st century. Find everything from gravestones, to historic houses, churchyard monuments and more.

6.) Library of Congress Historic Photos Flickr Project Explore this amazing collection of historic photos from the Library of Congress archives. These digital versions of popular Library of Congress image collections rely on the identifying information that came with the original photos. Because the text can be incomplete, viewers can add names, descriptions, locations and tags to make the images even easier for people to discover their ancestral roots.

7.) Military History Institute Photographs Did your ancestor serve in the United States military? If so, you'll want to explore this collection of photographs containing Civil War and Vietnam War soldiers. Other wars are also represented in this diverse collection.

8.) The National Archives and Records Administration This source provides excellent download quality of public domain historic images. The search engine (ARC) also offers detailed search queries to make finding images from government agencies even easier. From EPA photographs of 1970s Texas to the Labor Bureau's child labor images, you're bound to find something interesting about your ancestors here.

9.) National Portrait Gallery Search through over 100,000 portraits of historically significant Americans and other photographs by American artists. The gallery also contains images from the Catalog of American Portraits. Could you find a long lost ancestor here? There's only one way to find out!

10.) U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum – Photo Archives To aid in your Jewish genealogy research, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum offers searchable photo collections of historic photographs from the Holocaust given by institutions and individuals. Photos document anti-Jewish activities in Europe from 1933 to 1945.

Genealogy Search Tip of the Day <http://searchtip.genealogtipoftheday.com>

1883 German Atlas Posted: 14 May 2016

The 1883 German atlas, RAVENSTEIN ATLAS DES DEUTSCHEN REICHS, is online at the University of Wisconsin's website. <https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/German/Ravenstein/>

These are new postings of German material on *FamilySearch* in 2016:

[Germany, Prussia, Pomerania Church Records, 1544-1945](#)

[Germany, Hesse, Frankfurt, Civil Registration, 1811-1814, 1833-1928](#)

[Germany, Prussia, East Prussia, Königsberg, Funeral Sermons, 1597-1794](#)

[Germany, Mecklenburg-Schwerin Census, 1867](#)

Future Genealogy Events

Jun 2-5, 2016 – SCGS Genealogy Jamboree – Marriott Hotel, Burbank www.genealogyjamboree.com
June 3, 2016, 10-12:00-Sue Naegeli – Genealogy Research SIG – Saddleback Rm. MV City Hall
June 13, 2016, 10-12:00-David Flint - England SIG - Saddleback Room, MV City Hall
June 15, 2016, 10-12:00-Gary Schwarz – German SIG – Bill Price Rm, MV Library
June 16, 2016, 10-12:00-Arlene O’Donnell - Beginning Genealogy Class – Bill Price Rm, MV Library
June 16, 2016, 10:30-12:30 NEW TIME-David Flint - Legacy Users Group – Sdlbk Rm., MV City Hall
June 17, 2016, 10-12:00-Myrna Hamid – Ireland SIG – Saddleback Rm., MV City Hall
June 18, 2016, WAGS meeting – Naturalization Records: What you Can Learn From them” – Len Enlow
June 26, 2016, 1:30-3:30 OCJGS Meeting “Intro to Jewish Genealogy” Temple Bat Yahm (Cost \$5)
June 28, 2016, 10-12:00-Jim Thordahl – Writing Family History Stories – Sdlbk Rm, MV City Hall
June 28, 2016, 9:30-11:30, NSDCGS Meeting, Jeanette Shiel “A Case Study” Carlsbad Council Chambers
July 1, 2016, 10-12:00-Sue Naegeli – Genealogy Research SIG – Saddleback Rm. MV City Hall
Jul 30, 2016 – Genealogy Seminar with Cyndi Ingle, Yorba Linda, www.gsnooc.org

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**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**

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Membership/Renewal Application

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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.