

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

Vol. 21 No. 8

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

August 2014

Editor: Gary Schwarz

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

SOC CGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

General Meeting - 16 August 2014

"Preserving the Family Archives: What to Keep, What to Give Away, What to Throw Away"

Presented by

Nancy Huebotter

The treasures we have in our homes define our history, who we are, where we came from, what we believe, and more. Typically, this is evidenced by letters, documents, photographs, heirlooms, and other family artifacts. The value of these items usually escapes us until they are gone and not recoverable. However, knowing what to keep, what to give away, and what to throw away sometimes becomes a monumental question. This lecture is designed to assist you in looking at some options for preserving those treasures, while at the same time giving you some guidelines on how to preserve your family archives for posterity and the best practices for ensuring these treasures are safeguarded for years to come.

About the Speaker: Nancy Huebotter, a recognized lecturer on various genealogy topics, has spent over 40 years researching her family history. Along with her parents, Nancy researched, wrote, and published a family history book entitled, **Ancestors and Descendants of Thomas Carroll and Ellis Miller**, a 395 year history of her mother's lines. She is currently writing her father's biography, which she entitled **Not for a Nickel**. The story highlights his military service and subsequent imprisonment in a German POW camp during World War II. By profession, Nancy is in a 40-year career with Raytheon Company (formerly Hughes Aircraft Company) where she is a principal technical writer and an instructor. She spends her free time engaged in conducting family history research, volunteering at St. Jude Medical Center, reading, knitting or crocheting, or pursuing her dream of becoming a novelist!

Safari News

~Bill Bluett

There will be no safari trip in August. We will resume in September with a trip to the Los Angeles LDS Family History Research Center located on Santa Monica Blvd. in West Los Angeles. Watch for additional information regarding this safari in the September newsletter.

Don't delay! Reservations for the October Seminar will close once they reach 125.

July Meeting
~Mary Jo McQueen

Bill Bluett, who usually writes this article, is on vacation. Mary Van Orsdol who spoke on New Netherlands/New York research. Much of what she said will help researchers, no matter the location. New Netherlands Institute, New York Genealogical & Biographical, Holland Society of New York and Dutch Colonial Lists are some of the resources available. An important website is Digital Public Library of America.com, as is Olive Tree Genealogy.com. Carlsbad Library has a new and improved catalogue, which can be accessed at www.carlsbadca.gov/library/, click on "Genealogy". A copy of Mary's handout, which is a bibliography for researching The Dutch in the New World is available at the Docent Desk in SOCCGS Research Center at the library.

David Flint, acting president, advised that the state of the month was **Texas**. Persons researching Texas counties met at the break to discuss their particular interests. Counties represented were: **Bexar, Barbara Taylor; El Paso, Bob Lozano; Brown, Lorna Irely; Galveston, Margaret Luckman; Dallas, Patti Jo Liebenow**. Thank you to **Marilyn Ghery, Jessie Ellison, Tina Murtha, Ruth Sheean** and **Sheryl Boerlin** for providing refreshments.

Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions

Barbara Taylor was instrumental in helping a FaceBook user from New Zealand. This is a great example about how useful FaceBook can be in genealogy research. Here's how it went.

"Essentially, a lady joined our Facebook group and asked for help about getting info for a relative who died in 1972 in OC so we gave her local OC and CA info. Then we helped her locate the relative's daughter who died up in San Luis Obispo. Then, she asked if the places where her relative had lived in OC might still be standing and whether Google maps photos might be realistic so we looked them up on one of the real estate sites to check when they were built - Zillow.com I think. All of them were built before she lived there so the photos online are still accurate. Turns out the woman who asked, lives in New Zealand and had never done any US research before."

Arlene O'Donnell's great grandfather, **John Smith**, was hit and killed by a trolley car in 1912. He is buried in the Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. Arlene paid for a copy of the internment card, which came with a picture. She contacted the cemetery about the stone, which appeared to be sunken 12 to 18 inches below the ground. The stone has since been raised. Arlene has never visited this cemetery.

Joyce Van Schaack is making a trip to Indiana to meet with two cousins she met through her genealogy research and Find A Grave.

Linda McBride made a break through due to last month's speaker, Jean Wilcox Hibben. Linda found her great grandfather's immigration record with help from Wisconsin and Ohio City Directories.

Membership Update

~Mary Jo McQueen

There were 80 members in attendance at the July meeting. Two members who recently joined gave the surnames they are searching.

Dana Dear (dear67@gmail.com) **Houghtalin**, New York since before 1870; **Way** in New York since before 1800's; **Haight** in New York, **Capt. John Haight** fought in the Revolutionary War; **Siefermann, Sieferman** - New York, came from Germany in 1880 and **Reynolds**, New York, from Ireland 1800.

Linda McBride (lindamcbride222@gmail.com) **Chekouras, Nickolai, DePrince, Cywinski and Corrigan**.

Email correction: **Gary Frederickson**: (gary9b797@verizon.net).

Seminar Door Prizes

Ways and Means Chairman, **Jim Thordahl**, is requesting donations for the Seminar Door Prize Table. Items of a genealogical nature will be appreciated. Anyone wishing to donate please contact Jim at (949) 492-5334 or jimandbonniethor@juno.com.

Opportunities Available To SOCCGS Members

The Saddleback Valley News Project: Herb Abrams - There are still rolls of microfilm left to be indexed. Relive that old time feeling of genealogy research by cranking through a roll of microfilm on our microfilm reader or use the library's motorized reader. **Put The Saddleback Valley News Project on the front burner of your things-to-do-list.** Herb has put completed rolls online at the SOCCGS Website. They may be viewed at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casoccg/svvnvitals.htm> .

Writing Life Stories: Jim Thordahl - SOCCGS' Writing Life Stories Group meeting is held on the **fourth Tuesday each** month. The next meeting is on August 25, 10 to 12 in the Saddleback Room. (The Seminar location) 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.

Beginning Genealogy Class: Arlene O'Donnell - **Location:** Mission Viejo Library - Bill Price Room. **Date:** August 21st from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. RSVP to Arlene to verify schedule and required items to bring: 949-466-7178; email: silkberry@aol.com

Legacy User's Group: David Flint - The next SOCCGS Legacy User's Group will meet on Thursday, August 21st from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Saddleback Room in the Mission Viejo City Hall. For questions or more information please contact David Flint at davidflint@cox.net.

England Special Interest Group: David Flint –This group meets on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will be August 11, followed by September 8, October 13, November 10 and December 8, 10 am to noon. You may join in at any time. Bring your laptop, research notes and questions, and any suggestions for good English research websites to share. Contact David Flint at davidflint@cox.net.

Genealogy 4th Friday Classes: Bill Bluett & Bunny Smith will demonstrate **Fold 3** and **Newspaper Archives** on August 22.

Ways & Means

~Jim Thordahl

CPK fundraiser: Proceeds from our fundraiser at the California Pizza Kitchen restaurant in Mission Viejo on June 24th were \$219.90. Thanks to all our supporters. Forty flyers were submitted with the patrons "checks." In addition to enjoying fine food, the participants had a good time.

Ralphs Community Contribution Program: Ralphs has sent information that answers "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ's)." If you were not on the mailing list and would like to read the information, contact me and I'll get a copy to you. 949 492-5334; jimandbonniethor@juno.com.

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

October 18th Seminar

Following are the topics that have been chosen for the 2014 Seminar: "**Creating Your Personal Family History Website**", "**Going Digital: Organizing Your Research Files Electronically**", "**The Modern Genealogist: Timesaving Tips for Every Researcher**" & "**Successful Searching Online: Clustering for Genealogists**". **Use the form on page 6 to send in your reservation, or download one from our website.**

Seminar Jewelry Table

Jewelry Chairman, **Jo Ann Minnig**, is requesting costume jewelry from members to sell at the Seminar. This has been a very successful Ways & Means Project at past Seminars. She may be contacted at (949) 582-3682 or jbminnig@earthlin.net. Please bring donations to the August general meeting or they may be left in the Genealogy Section of the Library. Donations will be accepted at the meetings in September as well.

Recent Trips by the Editor

~ Gary Schwarz

I have taken a couple of trips during the past two months. The first trip included riding bicycles with family and friends from Passau, Germany to Vienna, Austria and then driving near the Rhine River through towns and villages from which my ancestors left to go to South Russia in the early 1800's. The second trip was to the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS) Convention in Spokane, Washington.

We had a relaxing bicycle ride through Austria with the Danube flowing smoothly at our side and lush green vegetation broken by dark green forested areas through which the bike path passed. It was "downhill" or flat since our direction on the bike path from Passau to Vienna was downstream. Our tour company booked hotels and transferred our luggage between them, so we always had a place to stay and a change of clean dry clothes at the end of each day. The hotels were wonderful and included a buffet breakfast to give us a good start in the morning. We even had an added unplanned adventure when a thunderstorm dropped pea sized hail on us. The hail was good because it didn't have much rain in it so we didn't get too wet, although one member of our party did end up with pea sized welts on her thighs.

Riding bicycles slowed you down, got you off the highway, and gave you more contact with the people. Riding bikes on the narrow cobblestone streets through towns was enjoyable. We were on a self-guided tour so it seemed that everyday part of the group would get separated and we'd have to make search plans to regroup. Kind of like "The Great Race" on television.

The seed idea for the trip for me was that a man named Friederich Schwarz left his home in Kupferzell, Germany with his family Jun 26, 1817 along with many other Germans from all over Germany to settle South Russia at the invitation of Catherine the Great. For some the path to Russia was down the Danube in Ulmer Schachtel (Ulm Box - barges that drifted down the river) from Ulm, Germany to Ismail which is part of the Ukraine today. Friederich Schwarz wrote a journal of their trip which included places



they stopped to resupply, show passports, layover to let storms pass, etc. He describes mishaps along the way and the deaths of two of his children probably from Typhus. It's possible that Friederich could be an ancestor of mine or a distant relative but I don't know. He did go to Russia about the same time as my ancestors did. I thought it would be good to see the countryside that Friederich travelled through, even though two world wars have been fought near the area, populations have changed, and dams and power generating stations have changed the flow of the river. Castles, palaces, churches, cemeteries, shops, restaurants and museums provide much to see on the leisurely ride along the bike path. You could see towns from a distance because every town had at least one church

with a tall steeple. In the small towns most every church had a cemetery adjoining it. The plots were outlined with stones, had a headstone, and within the stone outline had flowers growing. I had heard that in Germany and Austria that graves were only "leased", so being a curious sort, I started looking more closely at tombstones and saw that most had inscribed birth dates of the early 1900's or later. Although it was in the back of my mind, I never took the initiative to ask anyone there what happened to the remains when the lease expired. I did look it up on Google though. The link below provided me an answer, parts of which might be somewhat gruesome to some: <http://www.straightdope.com/columns/read/2248/do-cemetery-plots-have-expiration-dates>.

The second part of this trip was a mixed bag. I actually rented a car and drove in Austria and Germany. Driving the autobahn was like driving here on the freeway, pleasant enough, but driving in towns was described by my passengers as being like Mister Toads Wild Ride, afraid for their lives. Once I parked, everything became serene again. Maybe I didn't wait long enough after parking but none of my ancestors were able to contact me by ESP.

My next trip was to the GRHS convention held in the immaculately restored Davenport Hotel whose "heyday" was 1910 through 1945.

There were many sessions on new documents and research available; heritage and culture; and tips on researching German Russian sources. A session, "Leaving a Legacy and Not a Mess", presented by Donna Potter Phillips, President of the Eastern Washington Genealogical Society in the ambience of the restored Davenport Hotel could be the opening act for Nancy's topic this month. Her message in a nutshell: You are responsible for your stuff and if you don't put priority one on organizing it, it's a mess and messes are handled by your stuff's heirs with black trash bags and stored for posterity in a landfill. Another

solution to organizing your mess is to become extremely wealthy and have your mess consist of crown jewels or gorgeous works of art or ancient Egyptian artifacts and build spectacular museums to house them like the Hapsburgs of Austria did in Vienna.

What's in a Name?

~ David Flint

The answer, of course, is - everything! In writing a story for Jim Thordahl's "Writing Life Stories" special interest group, I was recently reminded of one of the early lessons I learned as a beginner in my own genealogy research.

One of my earliest genealogy research projects was to find the birth certificate for my maternal grandfather, **David Morecroft (1894-1918)**. My mother was only 14 months old when her father died in 1918. I had an obituary and other printed items relating to his death, so I had some details about him, even though my mother never really knew him because she was so young when he died. When I started doing genealogy research my mother was very interested in my finding anything about her father. She knew nothing about him from personal memory. What little she did know was from family stories, and we all know how reliable those can be!

My mother didn't know where her father was born, so she was not able to give me much help in knowing where to look for him. I searched for a long time before finding his birth certificate for New Coundon, County Durham, England. It took me forever to find him because of one of the classic mistakes we all make in our early genealogy research. That is being overly concerned about the spelling of a name. I knew about that as a concept from attending lectures and seminars, but I fell for it myself nonetheless.

My mother spells her maiden name M-o-r-e-c-r-o-f-t so that is how I searched for her father, with the same spelling for his surname. Even though I had found some of his ancestors in earlier census research with the name spelled M-o-o-r-e-c-r-o-f-t, for some dumb reason it never occurred to me to try that spelling for David's surname. Sure enough, the one time I tried searching with that spelling, I found him immediately, because his father spelled his name that way when David's birth was registered, so that's how his name appeared in the birth index. It was great news to finally find that birth certificate because it gave me other valuable clues for further research. The sad thing is that, by the time I found it, my mother had passed away. I regret that I wasn't able to give her the satisfaction of learning a few little bits of new information about her father. That was a hard-learned lesson, and a mistake I have not repeated.

Update on the Salt Lake City Trip

~David Flint

Planning for our trip to Salt Lake City next year is nearing completion. We have a block of 23 rooms at the Downtown Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, and as of this writing, all of our rooms are sold out. If you are interested in making a new reservation, please let me know and I will add you to the waiting list. The trip is still eight months away, and it is possible that we might have a cancellation. However, we will be able to accommodate changes only within the existing block of rooms we have already, and I do not anticipate that we will be able to obtain any additional rooms. At this point we have a total of 40 people who will be going on the trip, which is April 26 to May 3, 2015.

Two New Groups Are in the Formation Stage

The Mac User's Group will begin meeting in September. Day and date are yet to be determined. If you are interested please contact Mary Jo McQueen at (949) 581-0860 or mcqueenmaryjo@aol.com. The four people who signed up at the July meeting do not need to sign up again. We will finalize our plans after the August general meeting.

Special Interest Group - Genealogy Research – This group is intended to follow the Beginning Genealogy Class conducted by Arlene O'Donnell. Any member who wants to further his/his research skills is welcome. More information will follow at the August meeting and in the September newsletter. Questions should be directed to Mary Jo McQueen.

To live, a man needs food, water, and a sharp mind. *–A reminder for those going to*
~Louis Zamperini (1917-2014) - subject of the book, Unbroken. *Salt Lake.*

“Brick Walls Are Resolved”

~Pat Christiansen

Two brick walls were resolved for me when a librarian at the Carnegie Library in Washington Court House, Ohio, woke me from a nap. I had dozed off in a comfortable wing-back chair. The details are as follows:

My paternal grandfather, Frank Albert Dean, was married four times. Numerous attempts were made to find when and where he died and was buried.

Wife #1 died leaving an 18 month-old little boy, the youngest of six children. Frank hired a widow (Bessie) with a young son (Harlan) to work for him. He married Bessie, Wife #2, thinking that would be cheaper than paying a housekeeper; Bessie died and now he had not only a funeral to pay for, but also a stepson along with his own boy.

Frank hired Lucy whose children were grown; Frank married Lucy, Wife #3; Lucy died. Now, he had another funeral to pay for.

Wife #4 was Della (aka Pearl). They moved to Florida where Frank became ill and wasn't expected to live. Della called around amongst Frank's relatives and my cousin, Anne Marie Nelson McCracken and her husband, Norman, went to Florida and picked up grandpa. Frank died in 1955, in Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio, at Anne's home, but was buried in the City Cemetery in Washington Court House, Fayette County, Ohio (a driving distance of about 100 miles).

An off-duty librarian at the Carnegie Library in Washington Court House took me to the cemetery and showed me not only Frank's headstone, but also the headstone of Robert Turnepseed, his daughter Dorothy's husband. Two quandaries solved.

**I saw my wife at a pool, flipped over her
and 14 days later we were married.**

*-They were married 57 years. Wow!
I always thought of him as a bachelor.*

~James Scott Bumgarner (James Garner, 1938-2014)

About Joshua Taylor

In 1995, at a young age, Joshua discovered his passion for genealogical and historical research. Now, more than 15 years later, he devotes much of his time to promoting and exploring the convergence of history and genealogy through his activities as a research, speaker, and author.

Born in Logan, Utah, Joshua currently resides in Boston, Massachusetts and is the President of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Data Strategy Manager - United States and Canada for findmypast.com.

We look forward to hearing Mr. Taylor's presentations at the October 18th Seminar.

SOC CGS '2014' Seminar Registration

Name(s) _____ **Registration:** _____ @ \$25.00

_____ **Box Lunch:** _____ @ \$9.00

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____ **Total:** \$ _____

Telephone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Mail to: SOC CGS, P.O. Box 4513

Information: (949) 492-9408 or 2014

Future Genealogy Events

August 9 - GSNOC Seminar One Day Seminar with Henry "Hank" Jones, JR., F.A.S.G. Fullerton, Public Library and Conference Center, <http://www.gsnocc.org/gsnocc-seminar.html>

September 27 - San Diego Genealogical Society Seminar, Cyndi Ingle from Cyndi's List, <http://casdgs.org>

October 18 – SOCCGS Seminar featuring **D. Joshua Taylor**.

January 31, 2015 – Geoff Rasmussen – WAGS seminar.

March 21, 2015 – Judy Russell, the "Legal Genealogist" – NSDCGS in Carlsbad .

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

South Orange County California Genealogical Society Membership/Renewal Application

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

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