

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

Vol. 20 No. 09

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

September 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.

SOC CGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center

September 21, 2013

WHERE TO LOOK WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK

Presented by
Connie Moretti

This program is based on the concept of identifying clusters and using them to solve problems in your personal genealogy research.

About the Speaker: A Torrance native and third-generation Californian, Connie Moretti claims to have done genealogy all her life due to a story-telling grandmother who enrolled her in the Covered Wagon Club at Knott's Berry Farm in the 1940's. Retired from 30 years as an educator, Connie is the former editor of the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society Newsletter; has taught beginning internet and computer genealogy classes for South Bay Adult School, is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, United States Daughters of 1812, and is past President of the California Division and past Historian General of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She learned about land records, one of her particular genealogical interests, while earning a California Real Estate license. She is the author or co-author of four genealogy or history related books, including the award winning *Brigadier General Tyree H. Bell, Forrest's Fighting Lieutenant*. Now working as a genealogy professional with a specialty in American lineage, she has traveled extensively for research, especially in Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Indiana, Tennessee, South Carolina, and California. She lectures on a variety of genealogical topics for genealogy seminars and organizations and on a variety of genealogical and patriotic topics for civic groups.

Safari News
~Bill Bluett

Come join us on September 25th and take part in our safari. We will be traveling the Los Angeles Family History Center on Santa Monica Blvd. in West L.A. Go to www.larfhc.org, where you can search for books, film and fiche available at this destination. This will enable you to better plan your day. The car(s) will leave the LDS parking lot at 9 a.m. Bring a brown-bag lunch, \$\$ for your driver, and then enjoy dinner at "Earth, Wind, and Flour" on the way home.

Presidents Message
~Francie Kennedy
Proposed Changes to the SOCCGS Bylaws.

This proposed change will be voted on by the members at the September 21, 2013 general meeting:

Article VII –Nominations and Elections

Section 4. Term of Office

A. The term of office shall begin immediately following the installation of officers at the December general meeting and shall continue for a period of one year or until successors are appointed as provided.

Change “Article VII, Section 4, A.” to read:

Section 4,

A. As of the election in December 2012, the term of office shall begin at the January executive board meeting following the installation, and shall continue for a period of two years.

Thus, the current officers will serve until the end of 2014.

Patricia Christiansen, Parliamentarian

Meet Your Board
The Life and Times of your Board Member
~ Bill Bluett

I was born in **Bell Gardens, California**, and grew up in the greater **Los Angeles** area, mainly in south central L.A. and the **Lynwood/South Gate** area. My alma maters are Lynwood High School, Compton Jr. College and Long Beach State College (Cal State Long Beach). In 1962, I met my wife, **Helen**, in Las Vegas. I'll share that story with the group at a later time. She and two nursing school classmates were on their way to California (from Iowa) to look for work as registered nurses. They settled in the L.A. area where Helen and I began dating. In 1965, we were married in her hometown of **Oxford, Iowa**. Our first home was in **Diamond Bar (near Pomona)** where we began raising our family. We have a daughter (**Heather**) and a son (**Matt**). In 1976, my employer, the Fluor Corporation, relocated from Los Angeles to Irvine. So our family headed south and we settled in **San Clemente**. This proved to be a great place in which to raise our kids and an excellent location to retire. I did retire in 2001 and began enjoying volunteer opportunities with my church (**San Clemente Presbyterian**) and in the local community. I became involved with the **San Clemente Historical Society** at that time. I actually joined **SOCCGS** a couple of years earlier in 1999.

Our travels in more recent years have taken on a different focus since I joined our society. Vacations are now for pleasure - and research. Ancestral trails have taken my wife and I into many parts of the U.S.A. as well as “over the pond” to the **British Isles and Europe**. We plan to visit **Canada** one day, since both Helen and I have ancestors who spent some time in the **Ontario** region. My Irish ancestors on my mother's side, (**COLLINS and FALLON**), settled in Iowa not more than 100 miles east (in **Dubuque**) and 100 miles west (in **Winterset**) from where Helen's families settled (the **Iowa City** area) in the 1840's and 1850's. Her maternal ancestor's were **REYNOLDS** from **England** and the **EIMEN** family on her father's side came from the **Alsace/Lorraine** area. The **EIMEN'S** were **Amish/Mennonite**. So, it is possible that our ancestor's may have crossed paths in Iowa, but, we'll probably never know. It did seem to make sense that I should marry an Iowa farm girl. And, I did!

The **BLUETT** side of the family came from **Cornwall, England**. Their path to California started in **New Brunswick** in 1831, then to **eastern Pennsylvania**, and on to the **Grass Valley/Nevada City** area during the gold mining days in the 1850's. There are strong Cornish traditions and influence in these two communities even today. My, grandmother, **MOLLIE BLUETT**, was a **MORGAN**. Her father came from **Ohio to Oregon** in the early 1850's. Mollie's grandparents were **BENNETT** and **ARMELDA MILLION**. Bennett traveled from **Wisconsin** to the West twice: the first time for the “gold rush” in California without his family and a second time to take his family to **Oregon**. California had become “overly crowded”.

Genealogical Bio for Jim Thordahl

~Jim Thordahl

My interest in genealogy began when I was about thirteen years old. In the mid 50's (1950) a popular enterprise in Denmark offered research and publishing of family histories. My mother, Johanne Bjorn, (1899-1964) participated with her family to complete the Bjorn slaegtsbog [Family Tree]. My father, Niels, (1896-1981) purchased copies for each of their children. I struggle to translate the stories, but the data is manageable. My cousin in Denmark, Hanne Bjorn, a recognized genealogist, keeps the subsequent data current and filled me in on my father's family line.

Niels and Johanne met in Denmark, married in Canada and raised their eight children on a farm in Western New York. Their story, told from my perspective, is related in a book, "Niels and Johanne *from DENMARK*," which I published in 2007. A copy is maintained by SOCCGS at the Mission Viejo Library. Copies have also been provided to the Danish Emigrant Archives in Aalborg and Danish Immigrant Museum in Elkhorn, Iowa. Niels was a horse and cattle dealer and the farm supported that enterprise. I loved living on the farm and working on farms.

But duty called and so I joined the Air Force and stayed for over 26 years. Assignments took me to several States with years spend Overseas and kids born in Scotland and Germany. England, Libya, Korea, and Brazil were other assignments that provided adventure and enlightenment. After a short career in the California aerospace industry I left the workforce and took up genealogy for adventure.

With the Thordahl/Bjorn family research well complete, I have dedicated my efforts to my wife's family, descending from Nicholas Beaver (1824-1894) from France and my grandson's paternal line, William Shirley (1830-1907) from Ireland. Relying almost exclusively on internet accessible data I have had considerable success, solving the specific questions I had and distributing my research to family members and The Gowanda Area Historical Society in Gowanda, New York. You can read about Nicholas Beaver and William Shirley in the SOCCGS newsletter. My contributions to FindAGrave have created contacts that produced more results and helped others. With so much luck and reward, I guess I'll have to just keep working on genealogy.

Brick Walls & Genealogy Research Suggestions

~Bill Bluett

Joyce Van Schaack says our teammate **Ann Hagerty** is enjoying a casual life at Cedar **Cove in Corona del Mar**; she is enjoying a beautiful ocean view, great company and terrific meals. Last February Ann was honored at Saddleback College at the dedication of their newly renovated library for her twenty-seven years as librarian. During her tenure at the library and after her retirement Ann gave financial assistance to many students with scholarships. This week she was honored by "Friends of the Library" organization. Ann started the college volunteer group that raises financial assistance to the library and student scholarships. My guest at our Saturday meeting was **Bonnie Stephenson**. Arriving a little late she missed introductions. Bonnie was a research librarian at the college and spent ten years working with Ann. She is also a research genealogist. Bonnie assisted Ann with the "Friends of the Library." After retiring Bonnie still volunteers with "Friends of the Library" and invites any interested members to volunteer at the college. There are many other areas to volunteer at the college. Please contact me for more information as I serve on the Board of Governors at Saddleback: joycevanschaack@cox.net

P.S. - Wouldn't it be great to have a "Community Education" Genealogy Class at Saddleback College? We only need a certified genealogist that would be interested in teaching the class and we could check it out.

Gia Lugo Overton - I joined SOCCGS in late December 2012 but Saturday was the first meeting I was able to attend. I am researching the following surnames: **Lugo, Espericueta, Holmes, Harris, Overton, Seymour, Everett, Meyer, Rheingans**. I was recently able to overcome a block in the Harris line thanks to help from someone I found through Google. I can now trace my mother's Harris line through to make us eligible to join the Daughters of the American Revolution! This is very exciting for me, as you may be able to tell! I currently am active on FindAGrave and BillionGraves, as well as ancestry.com and WorldConnect and RootsWeb. I look forward to being an active member with SOCCGS.

Karen Guth – attended.

August Meeting

Denise Spurlock's presentation refreshed our memories on reasons for including land records in our research. She also told us of the phases of land ownership from colonial times to the present and the two types of survey methods. She provided us with many sources including online resources to help with our land research.

There were 81 members and 10 guests in attendance at the August meeting. All but two of the guests joined the society. So far this year 21 enthusiastic genealogists have become members.

New Members: **Cynthia Broadhead**, Laguna Niguel, CA, cbbroadhead@cox.net

Chuck & Carleen Locke, San Juan Capistrano, CA, cncllocke@cox.net. They are looking for John Owen Sullivan - New England 1700, Richard Williams - Taunton, Mass. 1630.

Marilyn Murrey, Laguna Woods, CA, marilyn@comline.com, Marilyn is searching for Miller and Rubick - Both from Bridgeport, Conn.

Jimmy Vann, Trabuco Cyn. CA, jimmyvannmusic@gmail.com

Marguerite Mason, Laguna Woods, CA, marg.mason@gmail.com

Kathryn Richardson & Nan Carlson, Mission Viejo, CA, katyrichardson88@hotmail.com

Guests: Steve Aschenbrenner, Laguna Woods. Cynthia Broadhead brought her father, Edward W Behm, Capt. USN, Retired, who is 90 years young. **Karen**

Refreshments: **Schumacker, Mary Jo McQueen, Tina Murtha, and Noel Jenson**, provided the wonderful "goodies" we consumed during our refreshment break. Thank you all!

Ralphs Community Contribution Program

~Jim Thordahl - Ways & Means Chairman

It's that time of year again. Did you remember? Each year our participants in Ralphs Community Contribution Program must re-enroll in September. This year Ralphs sent SOCCGS a reminder, noting that there are two ways to enroll/re-enroll: on-line at www.ralphs.com or by presenting our scan-bar letter on your next visit to a Ralphs Grocery store. If you did not pick up a scan-bar letter at the August meeting, you can download a copy from our website or pick one up at the docent desk at the library. If you have the letter you used last year, it is still good.

The reminder from Ralphs also included the instructions for signing up on-line, initially and to re-enroll. The abbreviated instructions seem easy and have been updated to our website. I always have a copy for you at our SOCCGS meeting. In the long list of organizations supported by Ralphs, find SOCCGS by entering "South" for the first five letters of our name. Remember to "Save." If you have any questions or need help, call me (949 492-5334) or send an e-mail jimandbonniethor@juno.com.

Dorothy Prescott

A dear member Dorothy G. Prescott passed away 26 July 2013. Dorothy was an avid researcher and was a frequent visitor to the Mission Viejo Library Genealogical Research Center. She said many times that she was done, but would always come back to the library. She didn't have a computer at home but would come in to search that one new obscure website in Canada or Great Britain that she found out about from who knows where.

Dorothy had ties to New England. She and her husband Norman were planning a trip back to Connecticut last year, but she got ill and had to cancel the trip. Although ill she was still able to get some family histories she researched back there to Connecticut society libraries.

Dorothy was born 8 July 1929 in Montreal, Canada. Interment was at Loma Vista Memorial Park in Fullerton, California.

Using FamilySearch.org Website for Genealogy Research

Jeri J. Steele

The link below is to an hour long YouTube video overview of the FamilySearch.org website. It was brought to our attention through David Flint by Legacy Family Tree user and User Group attendee, Don Yenche. David mentioned that he knows that not everyone is comfortable using Family Search and thought that this might be helpful. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnElkcJ8LYI&list=TL8tMksgHe7DE>

Family History Scrapbook Class
4th Friday 27 September 2012 10 am - 1 pm

Mary Jo McQueen will conduct this fun and informative class. You will learn the basic knowledge you need in order to put together your own Family History Scrapbook. The class will be held in the Genealogy Department of the Mission Viejo Library.

Please sign up with Mary Jo either by phone or email by the September 21st general meeting.. A supply handout will be available at that time.

Legacy User's Group
~ David Flint

The next SOCCGS Legacy User's Group will meet on Thursday, September 19 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. (The group meets on the third Thursday each month.) 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 demonstrations on how to use the Legacy program, as well as discussion of specific questions or problems from those attending the meeting. Feel free to drop in and out of the group as you like. 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.

Local Events

22 Sep 1:00–3:00 pm; OCJGS; Jewish Genealogy Detectives, How Books Contain Valuable Clues for Researching Our Ancestors; and introducing Our Library Resources; Temple Bat Yahm, 1011 Camelback St., Newport Beach, CA 92660; Presenters: Rabbi Benzi Saydman, “Jews of Kaisiadorys Region of Lithuania” by Rolandas Gustaitis; Sandy Bursten, " Where once we walked" second edition; Joel Weintraub, "Following the paper trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide" by Jonathan Shea and William Hoffman. Our vast library of books, which are available on loan to members for research, will also be on display. Meetings are free to members of OCJGS. A \$5 donation is requested from non-members at their second meeting. RSVP to Sandy Bursten. (sandybee1@cox.net)

28 Sep – Time To Be Determined; Grand Opening of San Diego Genealogical Society's new location, 330 Park Boulevard, San Diego - www.casdgs.org

05 Oct 9:00am-4:00pm; North San Diego Genealogical Society Fall Seminar

Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad CA 92008, USA

Cost: \$10 for members. \$15 for non-members

“The Next Big Step: Presenting Your Genealogy as a Book; Case Studies”

- Wayne Anderson: “Sharing Your Family’s Story: From Database to Book”
- Pat Hall: “My Rogers Family Journey”
- Marianne Meth: “My Family and How I Shared Their Story”
- Richard Cavallaro: “Developing a Blueprint for Your Book”

For further information on the seminar contact Tom Gordinier tgordinier35@gmail.com (760) 435-2536

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 library will be closed September 1. The user group meeting will resume on Sunday, October 6, 2013.

Bring your laptop, your questions and become a part of the group by calling or emailing Sheila Larson at 949-436-0500 or lighthouse1212@yahoo.com.

Beginning Genealogy

~Arlene O'Donnell

Location: Mission Viejo Library - Bill Price Room. **Dates:** Oct 17th 10:00 a.m. -12:00 noon; 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

Successful Hunt for a Family Cemetery!

~Barbara Harley

My husband and I just got back from a trip to Ohio and Pennsylvania. We went for a burial ceremony in a rural cemetery near **Manns Choice, Pennsylvania**. His Uncle **Dutch's** (died at 98 in January) ashes were being put in the ground near their vacation home, where others in his family are buried. We enjoyed the time visiting with his cousins and their families for 3 days. We stayed a day after everyone else left.

Sunday afternoon we went looking for my relatives buried in a small family graveyard on a farm in Black Log Valley, near **Orbisonia, Pennsylvania**. I'd found mention of it online. Posted by 2 ladies in 1971 were: directions, "up this little road, across a wooden bridge; park and walk about a mile..." and a listing of who was buried there of maybe 30 or so graves. I actually didn't think we'd find it! We did find the little bridge (no longer 'wooden') and a dirt road. We drove up the dirt road, passed a 'private property' sign, but saw no graveyard.



We were sitting in the rental car, wondering what to do, when 2 guys in a pickup truck drove around us. My husband stopped them and asked if they knew of a cemetery nearby. They did and pointed giving the direction, "walk along the field, by the trees, and you'll see the trail to it, thru the trees." We didn't see any 'trail' and kept walking 'til we came to another dirt road. We walked uphill to a farmhouse driveway. We walked up to a group of people standing outside the farmhouse, told them we were lost, looking for the **Bolinger Family Cemetery** and did they know of it? They responded with, "Yes, it was on the property, and their son still mowed the path to it!" They

walked us to the steep uphill path and we found it! I could hardly believe it! My GGGG Grandfather **John Bolinger(1784-1867)** and wife **Margaretta(1785-1853)** are buried there along with several of their sons and families, and many infants and young children. The earliest death was 1848. Many of the stones were almost unreadable from lichen, mold, etc. After the trip, I was thinking I should have had a soft brush or something to clean the stones a bit. I'm not sure what easily transported supplies I might have brought to help clean the stones without damaging them.



I've started putting some of the gravestone photos, that we've taken, online at Find-A-Grave under Bolinger Family Cemetery, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. bmharley@verizon.net **South Orange**

BillionGraves.com

~David Flint

When you take a photo on a smart phone using the BillionGraves app, it can capture the GPS coordinates for the grave location, automatically send the photo to their website, and make the information about your photo available to be indexed and annotated by you or someone else. While there are many more photos waiting to be indexed than are posted right away, it occurred to me that by going online and indexing photos taken at local cemeteries, society members can participate in a beneficial project even if they don't have a smart phone and can't walk cemeteries taking photos.

County California Genealogical Society '2013' Seminar Registration

Saturday, October 19, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Doors Open 8:00 a.m.)

City Hall, Saddleback Room, 100 Civic Center Drive, Corner La Paz & Marguerite

"Settlers, Soldiers, & Overcoming Brick Walls" featuring Lloyd Dewitt Bockstruck

**Pre-registration must be received by October 16 / Tickets at the door \$25.00, no lunch.
(Seminar information & registration form also available on SOCCGS website.)**

Name(s) _____ **Registration:** _____ @ \$20.00

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

Address: _____

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

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

**Mail to: SOCCGS, P.O. Box 4513 Information: (949) 492-9408 or Mission Viejo, CA
92690-4513 <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casoccg/>**

SOCCGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President – Francie Kennedy <writefrancie@gmail.com>
- Vice President/Program Chairman - David Flint <davidflint@cox.net>
- Recording Secretary – Pat Weeks <dppatty@cox.net>
- Corresponding Secretary - Marilyn Kowalski MA M_Kowalski@sbcglobal.net
- Treasurer - Mary Jo McQueen <mcqueenmaryjo@aol.com>
- Historian - Pat Christiansen <patcopy@cox.net>
- Hospitality - Barbara Heebner <bheebner@cox.net>
Sharon Keener <slkeener@yahoo.com>
- Librarian - Bunny Smith <leonbuny@pacbell.net>
- Membership - Jack Naylor <jigsaw1948@cox.net>
- Newsletter Editor – Gary Schwarz <Gary_Schwarz@sbcglobal.net>
- Parliamentarian – Pat Christiansen (<patcopy@cox.net>
- Publicity/Webmaster - Herb Abrams <hvabrams@cox.net>
- Seminar & Safari Chairman - Bill Bluett <billbluett@cox.net>
- Ways & Means – Jim Thordahl <jimandbonniethor@juno.com>

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