



**CHULA VISTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 3024  
Chula Vista, CA 91909-3024

**NEWSLETTER**

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cacvgs2/index.html>

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December 10

Holiday Luncheon See flyer page

Come one, Come all!

Enjoy the lunch, catch up with all the latest news about your friends and fellow members, win prizes and generally have a great time.

We will install our officers for the 2009-2011 term, be there to give them encouragement and a good start for their term of office. Our society continues to grow, but it can only do that if members step up to assist in the many and varied activities we all enjoy.

The lack of participation by members has destroyed many an organization, don't let ours be one of them!

**LAST CHANCE TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP AT A DISCOUNT !!**  
**\$15.00 BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2007**

**NO RESEARCH GROUP IN DECEMBER**

There will be NO Research Group on Wednesday, 10 December, due to the Holiday Luncheon.

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November Review

**"Heirloom Discovery Day"**

The most enjoyed and anticipated [Chula Vista Genealogical Society](#) meeting of the year is the November meeting when we have member sharing. For three of the past four years, we have had Georgie Stillman, ASA, a professional appraiser of heirlooms, artifacts and ephemera, review and evaluate items brought in by the members to share. Her expertise in evaluating and appraising silver, China, glass ware, furniture, artworks, quilts and samplers was tested thoroughly.

We had about 30 people at our meeting, and Georgie worked her "magic" on us once again. For each item, the member shared what they thought the heirloom was, and the provenance of the heirloom. Then Georgie told the member and the audience about the article's origin, materials, manufacture, marks, probable customer status, and an approximate value.

We had ten CVGS members bring their heirlooms for discussion and appraisal.

\* Gary Brock presented a large framed picture made from cutouts from seed catalogs and greeting cards, all pasted down overlapping each other. Georgie called this "Victorian Lady Art", she thought it really unique, and probably made in the 1880's, based on the frame.

\* Ann Stevens brought a Seth Thomas mantle clock, which Georgie thought was from the 1880 to 1910 time frame. She mentioned a transition period after the Civil War when hand manufacturing moved into machine manufacturing and said the clock's age was based on that.

\* Virginia Taylor had a green carnival glass vase, which was probably created in the 1950's. The color helps make it a little more valuable.

\* Susan Zimmer displayed a wedding dress from her husband's grandmother. Georgie said it was a muslin dress from the 1890 to 1910 period. Because of the perfect condition of the dress, Georgie gave a valuation of \$800 - \$1000 and gave her special instructions on how to store it.

\* Susi Pentico showed a small art deco pottery piece from her New England ancestors, and Georgie said it was a Hull piece.

\* Nancy Smith presented a 4th edition "American Woman Cookbook" from 1941.

\* Bobbie Lane showed her Bavarian glass bell, which Georgie said was pressed glass from the 1920-1930 time frame. --continued on page 6

Genealogy Rule #23: Locating the county where your ancestor lived is the first step in finding records about the time he was hauled into court for shooting his neighbor's dog, threatening the census taker with a shotgun, or making illegal corn whiskey behind the barn.

#### A 90-Percent Chance

Since the first colonists came to this continent, land ownership has always been an important part of our American society. As an example, nine out of ten adult white males in America owned land before 1850. Even today, the figure is more than 50 percent.

With this nearly universal coverage before 1850, and since genealogical research starts getting more difficult about that time, it's a wonder that family historians are not using land-ownership records more often to solve their genealogical puzzles.

For instance, did you know that there is a surname index to virtually every land owner in America since the early 1600s--an index that is more complete than any head-of-household census index ever compiled? And did you know that you have a 90-percent chance of finding your ancestor in that land-ownership index? The land-ownership index is not combined into a single name list. There are thousands of them. Usually called a "Grantee-Grantor" index, they can be found in the courthouse of any of the 3,141 counties in the U.S. Together, they comprise the largest index naming residents of the U.S., particularly for the period 1629 to 1860.

There are few indexes used by genealogists that offer a 90-percent chance of finding the right person. Even today, a modern telephone directory gives the names of only those households with a publicly listed telephone number. A recent study in Los Angeles County, California, for instance, revealed that about 20 percent of the telephone numbers are unlisted numbers. Yet there is a surname index for Los Angeles County that gives the names of 90 percent of the heads of household of that county during the 1850s and later.

Let's take the 1840 census as an example. In 1840, the names of the heads of household are all that are shown. But if you were to look at the Grantee/Grantor index for the same county, you may discover that one household could have more than one landowner. Say you find in the census that the head of household is John Smith, Jr. But what you don't know is that living in the same household is John Smith, Sr., and maybe even John Smith, III, and each of them owns a piece of property. Only John Smith, Jr. is listed in the 1840 head of household census, but the Grantee/Grantor index lists all three landowners.

We genealogists eventually recognize the significance of land ownership as we attempt to locate records of our ancestors. But, at first blush, we may not see the importance of land records because they do not seem to give us the vital genealogical facts we are after, i.e., names of parents, dates, children, and so on.

But genealogists who dig deeper into the land records will discover that land grants and deeds can provide evidence of

the places where an ancestor lived and for how long, when he moved into or moved out of a county, and, in many cases, a surprising amount of detailed information about a person.

#### Why Land Records?

Here are three good reasons why land records are valuable for genealogical research:

1. **The Odds Are Good.** Since 90 percent of the adult white male population owned land before 1850, land grants and deeds provide an excellent way of finding an ancestor in local records. Deeds are recorded at the county level; when property is sold, a deed is recorded at the local courthouse. It is a protection to both buyer and seller that the land being transferred is properly recorded. There are exceptions, such as a deed held by a private party and never recorded--which is every title insurance agent's worst nightmare. But deeds are almost always recorded at the courthouse of the county wherein the land is located.

2. **Land Records Are More Complete than Other Records.** Land records such as property tax lists, deeds and deed indexes, and the written transcripts of real estate transactions all go back further in time than any other type of record we use in genealogical research. The earliest records in Europe, other than those recorded for the royal courts, are land records. For example, the Domesday Books--which are property tax lists--were gathered for William the Conqueror in the 11th century, and they are the earliest English records in which a common farmer or tradesman may be listed by name. Certain Scandinavian land records date back to 950 AD. In America, land ownership has always been important, so much so that whenever a courthouse was destroyed by fire or natural disaster the deed records--proof of land ownership--were reconstructed by local authorities soon after. For example, deed records were reconstructed for several counties after General Sherman's troops burned courthouse after courthouse in the South during the Civil War.

3. **Land Records often Reveal the Name of a Man's Wife.** The English common law system of "dower rights" for a widow was followed in the American colonies and continued into the 19th century. Dower rights entitled a widow to 1/3 of her husband's estate upon his death. No written will had to specify that amount. As a result of the dower rights of a married woman, early land deeds almost always mention the name of a man's wife because she had a legal interest in any land being sold or purchased. In fact, a woman had "veto power" over the sale of land by her husband. Under the English system, a married woman could not own land in her own name; but with her dower rights, she could veto the sale of the land. Many early deed transcripts will include an affidavit in which a wife was interviewed privately by the court clerk to determine whether or not she was in favor of the sale.

## General Society Meeting Minutes, November 26, 2008

The meeting called to order by Randy Seaver at 12:30 PM  
**Officer Reports:** Accept minutes as published. Motion by Nancy Smith, second Joan Largey; approved. Treasurer's report approved as published, motion by Paul Price, second by Phyllis Learned. Membership: 24 members + 3 guests present. Virginia: current membership 93. She reminded people to renew membership for 2009

Connie Ottinger talked about upcoming programs: Wed, Dec 10, Holiday Luncheon; Installation of Officers South Chula Vista Library; Wed, Jan 28: Ken Kramer: San Diego & South Bay History; Wed, Feb 25: Susi Pentico: Lost Colony of Jamestown

**Committees: Cemetery/Historian:** Susan Zimmer: volunteers have finished one section of La Vista Cemetery; Shirley Becker has finished recording 1869 records; are reviewing contract; need more new volunteers.

**Books:** Bernice Heiter (absent)

**Library Liaison:** Dearl Glenn reserved library facilities for January; direct special requests for library to Dearl.

**Newsletter/Computer:** Shirley Becker wants articles for newsletter. Computer group meets on 3rd Wednesdays; will meet in Dec.

**Public Relations/ Nominating:** John Finch thanked Art Roy & Phyllis Lerner for Nominating Comm work; thanked committee chairs for serving during the upcoming term. John reviewed the slate for election & asked for nominations for each position; hearing none, he moved that each person be nominated for respective positions: Pres-Gary Brock (second Barbara Ibaibarriaga), VP-Programs-no nominee yet, VP-Membership-Virginia Taylor (second Susi Pentico), Treas-Paul Price (second Shirley Becker), Sec-Ann Stevens (second Gary Brock); all elected. Installation at Dec meeting.

**Webmaster:** Gary Brock challenges us with passwords to access the monthly newsletter. He also requested pictures to update website & reported the Estate Papers Committee finished box 3 (out of 6).

**Hospitality:** Susi Pentico asks that people sign up to host monthly meetings and 2 seminars; also talked about food distribution for the Christmas lunch.

**Research:** Randy: no research group in Dec; planning trip to Family History Center on Sat, Jan 31

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Randy asked members to complete an interest survey to help direct programs and classes for the coming year; also mentioned Family History Fair on March 7 in Escondido.

**Drawing:** The book Our Family Heritage was won by Paul Price.

**Program:** Georgie Stillman captivated us with her ability to place items in historical context to give more meaning to family heirlooms.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Stevens, Secretary

## CVGS Board Meeting Minutes, December 3, 2008

Meeting called to order by President Randy Seaver at 12:15 PM. Present: Susan Zimmer, John Finch, Virginia Taylor, Wanda & Gary Brock, Shirley Becker, Dearl Glenn, Susi Pentico, and Bob Page. Excused absence - Ann Stevens, Bernice Heiter, Connie Ottinger

**Officer Reports:** Acting Secretary Susan: Nov meeting minutes approved, motion by Virginia, second by Wanda. Membership (Virginia): 93 members; 47 renewals. dues can be paid now: \$15 before Jan 1. Treasurer (Wanda) balance forward \$2160.75; expenses \$288.85; income \$419.45; bank balance \$2160.75; less cemetery project fund \$137.15; operating capital \$2023.60. Approved, motion Bob, second Dearl. Programs (Connie): Wed, Dec 10: Holiday Luncheon & Installation of Officers; Wed, Jan 28, Ken Kramer: San Diego & South Bay History; Wed, Feb 25, Susie Pentico Lost Colony/ Black History.

**Committee Reports:**

Library Liaison (Dearl): January dates approved; must wait for info re: library closures due to city budget cuts

Library Books (Bernice): absent

Cemetery Projects/Historian (Susan Z): will re-write proposed agreement with La Vista based upon legal input.

Webmaster (Gary): Website is current; still looking for old pictures for website; will continue the Password challenge of connecting newsletter password to genealogy. Estate Papers committee meets 2nd & 4th Mondays; trying to finish box 3 (of 6)

Opportunity Drawing (Bob): for Dec lunch, will have one ticket for door prize and another ticket for gift exchange.

Hospitality (Susi): re: Dec lunch; \$40 from petty cash to hospitality for expenses; more entree side dishes needed.

Newsletter (Shirley): newsletter on schedule. Computer Group meets third Wednesdays; will meet in Dec.

Public Relations (John): no report

Research (Randy): no new queries; no Dec research group.

**Old Business:**

1) Dec lunch: will honor past officers; Ann and Susan will invite them; program will include sharing a significant genealogical event, and installation of new officers.

2) April 25 Seminar: presentation in AM; problem solving questions in PM;

3) Cal State Genealogical Alliance-now getting newsletter; circulation list starting

**New Business:** ; 1) notebooks with necessary materials need to get to new officers;

2) need to think about 2009 budget; Board needs to bring budget estimates to Jan meeting;

3) 2008 reports to be made at Feb meeting;

4) received Ralph Zahn collection of papers (2 boxes and magazines donated)

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Zimmer Secretary ProTem



The Research Group meeting at the Library on 12 November today had 12 in attendance, including three visitors. We went around the table and everybody shared their genealogy highlights for the last month:

John Finch is still chasing birth certificates from England with some success. He found orphan records in Luzerne County PA that might have information about his 2nd-great-grandmother.

Andi Moore (a visitor) is visiting John from Northern California, and they are having fun chasing some of her ancestors in Tennessee using the census and vital records on Ancestry.

Dearl Glenn is still fighting his new computer - he thinks he's losing.

Jerome Warren (a visitor) has been working on his genealogy for awhile and has 2,000 persons in his database. He's looking for a place to get research tips and techniques - we told him he's at the right place. He wondered "how much work should you do on lines?" and Shirley said "as much as you want."

Charlene (a visitor) has been doing her research for about ten years, and has two local ancestors that she is researching.

Virginia Taylor received her mitochondrial DNA results from Ancestry - she is in the H haplogroup. She was cleaning a closet and found some treasures that her sister gave her some time ago.

Shirley Harper wondered why the 1900 US census index on Ancestry has changed. We explained that they shifted to the index generated by FamilySearch Indexing.

Phyllis Learned wondered if there were marriage records in Brook County VA (now WV) in 1820. We recommended checking the USGenWeb site and the LDS FHL Catalog. She mentioned the BYU family history TV program that is on digital cable channel 435 at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. No one else knew about it.

Shirley Becker received an envelope from her sister with their mother's birth certificate, and her SSN on the back of it. There was also a paper with the names of four Plue relatives - she wonders if they are still alive.

Dick McNulty is enjoying working with Family Tree Maker 2009 - especially the links to Ancestry.com. He gave a brief summary of his uncle's safecracking exploits for the group's amusement.

Nancy Yates wants to reorganize all of her paper files. We recommended the Sharon Carmack book about Organizing Your Family History Research.

Randy Seaver discussed the new Google Your Family Tree book and passed it around. He also described his adventures in New York City and on the Wholly Genes Conference and Cruise to the Caribbean, and passed the syllabus around.

Shirley Becker demonstrated her new genealogy filing system on her computer. She adopted Leland Meitzler's system that he described at the SCGS Genealogy Jamboree in June. The key is to have a fast scanner and a big external drive. She brought her 500 gb external drive

and walked us through the computer filing system.

Andi and John described Andi's research problem. She has 1880 and 1900 census data for her George Cory (born ca 1836 in VT) family in Dickson County, TN, and a marriage record in 1870 for George Cory and E.R. Pickett, but her grandmother was positive that Harrell was Elizabeth Rebecca's maiden name. It's made more complicated by two "Hessell" brothers living with the Cory family in 1880. We recommended looking for an earlier marriage of a Harrell to a Pickett, and looking for George Cory, the two "Hessell" brothers, and E.R. (or Elizabeth or Rebecca) with different surname spellings in the 1870 and earlier census records. We also suggested looking in online family trees to find more about the families, and looking in military records, since George was an "engineer" in the 1880 census - perhaps he was a former Union soldier and part of the Reconstruction effort.

Charlene had two problems to discuss: Her Willis Mills was born about 1820 in KY, but resided in IL, MO and TX in his life. She had a timeline with many names marrying Mills people in these places, but is not sure if they are all related or not, and if they are, how are they related? We suggested that she check online family trees and the USGenWeb county sites, and search probate, land and tax records to try to put families together. This sounded like a big kinship problem with several families moving together and inter-marrying. Her second problem is the William and Margaret (Reynolds) Taggart family - were they from Ireland or the Isle on Man? Charlene has found them in PA, IL and MN, last in the 1885 state census in MN. We suggested that their origin might be found in county history books, obituaries, naturalization records and death records.

This was a very lively session - it was fun to have several problems to challenge us.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Randy Seaver



Thank you all for your support during my two years as CVGS President. I'm not going away, just stepping sideways so that other talented people can lead this society. You see, I'm a firm believer in "moving up and out." Every society needs new people, new energy and new ideas in the leadership positions. CVGS has done this for two decades and it has worked very well.

The key for any society is to have a Board of Directors that has vision and energy, works well together as a team and enjoys the ride. Your Board has functioned extremely well during my term, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for doing their jobs with skill and exuberance.

I look forward to continuing as the Research and Queries chairman, making presentations once or twice a year, writing on the Chula Vista Genealogy Cafe blog (<http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>), and helping CVGS members and visitors with their research.

## November Password Challenge by Gary W Brock

Last month's password for the Newsletter was "may" and the challenge was to try to figure out why I would pick the word "may" as password for that month. The clue was "may" had a companion and together had nothing to do with a ship. Perhaps I should have included the name of may's companion which was "flower". Alright, so now we have two pals named may and flower. What do they have to do with Thanksgiving or November?

It comes from a so-called tradition of the President pardoning a turkey each year just before Thanksgiving. The turkey is usually presented to the President by the National Turkey Federation for a Thanksgiving feast but the President pardons the beast and it goes off to live out the rest of its natural life.

But is this a tradition or media propaganda? Did it really take place or is it an urban legends. It seems there may be a controversy as to just when the National Turkey started to be formally pardoned by the president.

Here are excerpts from an article I found when I Googled Thanksgiving:

### **Turkey pardon tradition may be tall tale**

**By MONICA HESSE**

*The Washington Post*

Oh, happy day.

The Thanksgiving presidential turkey pardon. It's a tradition, major newspapers have reported for years, that began in 1947 with President Harry Truman -- a sentimental reprieve from the man who had thumbs-upped two atomic bombs. "To paraphrase Harry today," Bush said, "you cannot take the heat -- and you're definitely going to stay out of the kitchen."

The photos of Truman pardoning his turkeys looked real enough -- live turkey, live prez, grandly extending his hand toward the tom's wattle in a gesture that surely said Emancipation! Liberation! Freedom!

Except it didn't.

The archivists at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Mo., have tried to set the record straight. Right there on the Web site is the statement: "The Library's staff has found no documents, speeches, newspaper clippings, photographs or other contemporary records in our holdings which refer to Truman pardoning a turkey that he received as a gift in 1947, or at any other time during his Presidency."

The turkey tale is the same over at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, where the records of the destination of each turkey in each year of the Ike presidency read, "Turkey to be dressed," then delivered to the president's table.

Rinse and repeat for presidents Gerald Ford, Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter.

Lincoln spared a turkey once -- it was meant for Christmas dinner, but his son Tad argued the turkey had as much a right to live as anyone, and Abe acquiesced. (Softie that he was, Lincoln also pardoned his son's toy soldier, Jack, a time or two, after he was "court-martialed" for falling asleep at his post.)

≈

Both Bill Clinton and the current Bush have referred to this story in their Thanksgiving speeches

John F. Kennedy casually spared a turkey on Nov. 19, 1963, just days before his assassination. When given a bird wearing a sign reading, "Good Eatin' Mr. President," Kennedy said, "Let's just keep him." It wasn't an official pardon, says Kennedy archivist Steve Plotkin: "It was probably offhand, purely spontaneous."

In 1987, Ronald Reagan deflected questions about pardoning Oliver North in the Iran-contra case by joking about pardoning the turkey Charlie, who was already heading to a petting zoo.

At some point in presidential Thanksgiving history, the turkeys presented annually stopped heading for the White House table and headed off to petting zoos. What does it matter, you may ask, whether those turkeys were officially pardoned? They lived anyway, for as long as their bloated, factory-fed bodies would allow.

But a pardon is a pardon and a news conference is a news conference, and just because something looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it is not necessarily a pardoned turkey. Somewhere along the way, someone got confused, or decided to puff the ritual up with some pardon-flavored stuffing.

But here, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, is the straight story, gleaned from the public papers of past presidents at the American Presidency Project:

The first officially pardoned bird debuted not in 1947 but in 1989 on the first presidential Thanksgiving of George H.W. Bush. "He will not end up on anyone's dinner table -- not this guy," Bush said. "He's granted a presidential pardon as of right now."

No one really knows why.

The Bush library is no help; staffers there are as surprised as anyone to hear that their president pardoned the first turkey. "Until this morning we didn't know that he started it," archivist Zachary Roberts says. He'd always thought, in fact, that it was Truman.

And Tuesday morning in the Rose Garden none of it mattered to May, who was content to huddle on his damask tablecloth and occasionally squawk.

Post-ceremony, the president said, both May and Flower would be "flown to Disney World, where they will serve as honorary grand marshals for the Thanksgiving Day Parade." He then wished them luck on their journey: "May they live the rest of their lives in blissful gobbling."

So that's the story behind "may" and "flower". I thought it was interesting how silly legends can get started even at the highest levels of government.



## 2009-10 OFFICERS ELECTED

Attendees at the November meeting society officers for the 2009-2010 term. Those nominated and elected were:

President - Gary Brock  
First Vice-President Programs - no nominee  
Second vice-President Membership - Virginia Taylor  
Treasurer - Paul Price  
Secretary - Ann Stevens

Thank you to John Finch, Art Roy and Phyllis Learned for their hard work on the Nominating Committee.

As you can see, there is no person in the First Vice-President - Programs position. The President may fill this position by appointment, subject to Board and Member approval. If you would like to volunteer for this position, or to serve on any society committee, please contact Gary Brock ([gary@brocksystems.com](mailto:gary@brocksystems.com), 619-475-4054).

continued from page 1

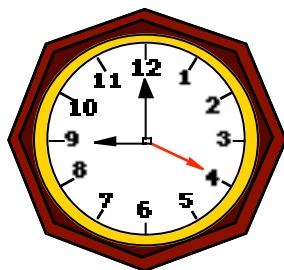
\* Phyllis Learned had 7 different hand-painted china tea plates - which Georgie dated to the 1890 to 1920 time frame. She also said they were probably made at a china painting school, a very popular hobby at that time.

\* Terry Stewart showed a small hand-painted clay pitcher which Georgie said she had never seen in that form. She thought it might be Hungarian., called it "Hard Victoriana" and said she would check the value as there were no markings.

\* Joan Largey showed her husband's grandfather's shaving mug, and his straight razor (still in the box with the price on it)! Georgie said the mug was from Pennsylvania in the early 1900's. Georgie said it was considered a very prestigious item as indicated by the colors used and the markings on the mug.

Georgie talked for 5 to 8 minutes about each item. Her style is informal, enthusiastic and interesting - she really enjoys seeing these types of heirlooms, artifacts and "stuff" because they are, in the main, from middle-class homes from the Victorian era and later. She is used to appraising high-end items for collectors and estates. It is fascinating to see an expert appraiser at work - the words seem to flow effortlessly and the audience is awestruck by the expertise and knowledge level.

Photos from the "Heirloom Discovery Day" are on the Chula Vista Genealogy Cafe blog online at <http://cvgencafe.blogspot.com/2008/11/photos-from-georgie-stillman-heirloom.html>



## COMING EVENTS

**Sat., Feb. 21, 9 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.**  
**HEMET SAN JACINTO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.**  
Seminar.

Speaker Jana Sloan Broglin.  
Pre registration: \$25; at door \$30. Optional: Lunch if registration postmarked by Feb 16: \$8.  
Flyer with details on the speaker, topics and lunch, map, registration form, at [www.hsjs.org](http://www.hsjs.org).

**Sat., Mar. 7**  
**2009 Family History Fair**  
ESCONDIDO FAMILY HISTORY CENTER.  
. Watch [www.familyhistoryfair.org](http://www.familyhistoryfair.org) for information.

**Sat., Mar. 28**  
**NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.**

Spring Seminar.  
Speaker: Kory Meyerink.  
***Where Did I Come From & How Did I Get Here?***  
Topics: "Principles & Pitfalls of Immigration Research," "Getting There from Here" and "Getting There When There's Nothing Here."  
Registration form available at  
<http://www.cagenweb.com/nsdcgs/springsem.html>.

**Fri.-Sun. June 26-28**  
**2009 Jamboree**  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. .  
Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel & Convention Center.  
NOTE: This is a date change, effective Sep 20, 2008.

COMPUTER GROUP NEWS by Shirley Becker

The planned program got shot down right after it started, it seems that those sites that use Flash player for their information can not be accessed through our computers. Luckily our members are an adaptable group and we quickly shifted to a review of catalogs and web sites that could be accessed to search online books and other data. [rootsweb.com](http://rootsweb.com), of course, received intensive use.

Their were new people present so they were busy writing web sites and suggestions for looking for items on the net. The main idea now and at any other time is to focus on the item you are researching and not get seduced into wandering off onto another web site that might have information on another line. It does not matter how good the data seems to be, if it isn't what you started searching for you are accomplishing nothing. Write down the promising URL and when you start researching for that person, go to it.

Remember in any search FOCUS is the key.  
See you December 17th.

## COMING EVENTS

**Wed., December 10, 11:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**CHULA VISTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY:**

Holiday Luncheon  
South Chula Vista Library,  
4th and Orange, Chula Vista

Contact: Randy Seaver, 619-422-3397, rjseaver@cox.net  
#@#@#@#@#@#

All Associations and societies are having their annual  
Holiday festivities this month. They will resume normal  
schedules after January 1st  
#@#@#@#@#@#

**Sat., January 10, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**SAN DIEGO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY:**

Annual Seminar and Luncheon.  
Guest speaker  
Lloyd Bockstruck.

Registration form with all details at the URL listed below.

**Reservations must be received by January 5.**

Location: Handlery Hotel and Resort, 950 Hotel Circle  
North, San Diego (Mission Valley)  
Contact: Gloria Osborn, 619-298-2447,  
globob22@yahoo.com

Event URL: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casdgs/>  
#@#@#@#@#@#

**Tue., January 13, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY:**

Business & Sharing  
Business Meeting and Sharing.  
Case Study: "Solving a Bavariaan Puzzle," by Gordon  
Hoard.

Location: Community Room, Cole Library,  
1200 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad.  
Contact: Margaret Read, 760-757-0528 or  
marread@aol.com  
#@#@#@#@#@#

**Sat., January 17, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**COMPUTER GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF SAN  
DIEGO:** Meeting

10:30 - Announcements followed by program:  
**"How to Make a DVD of Your Family History  
Research Experiences"**  
by  
**Del Ritchhart**

He will show how to use photos and video clips to assemble  
a DVD documentary.

Location: Robinson Auditorium complex at UCSD, La  
Jolla. See a link to maps on our home page at  
[www.cgssd.org](http://www.cgssd.org).

Contact: cgssd-board@ucsd.edu  
#@#@#@#@#@#

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Many good wishes to all those who have  
birthdays this month

### TELEPHONE TREE VOLUNTEERS

Page 1 **volunteer needed**  
Page 2 May Stone 585-3395  
Page 3 Betty Hampton 423-2415

Each one will call one page of the roster to remind us  
of meetings and special events, if any. If you do not  
wish to be called please notify your caller.

### REMINDER

January Host

Virginia Taylor

February Host

Joan Largey  
Barbara I



### MEETINGS

Our next **General Meeting** will be held on **Jan 28  
2009** at 12:00 noon.. It will be in the auditorium of the  
Main Chula Vista Library at 365 F Street.

**Board meetings** are held the **first Wednesday**  
of the month at 12 noon in Room C1 in the library.  
Members welcome.

The **Research Group** will meet on **Jan 14** at 12:00  
noon in room C2, the conference room.

The **Computer Genealogical Group** will meet on  
**Jan 21** at 12:00 noon in C1, the computer room.

**Estate Committee** meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays  
at noon

## Ancestry Quick Tips

### Shadow Boxes Versus Memory Wreaths

Memory wreaths are a great idea, but difficult to dust. A dust-free way of displaying items on your wall is to use shadow boxes. You can buy them at most craft stores, there are several different types and sizes.

D. Steinbach, Tucker, Ga.

### Family Tree on the Wall

I have a wall that is just begging for adornment. It's located above a spiral staircase that leads to the family room. It's a corner area and I had no idea what to do to liven it up, until three months ago. I have several pictures of family members and their houses, cars, and pets. So I decided to make a family tree wall. I started with my two boys across the bottom corner and branched up and outward. It is now the center of attention on my staircase. I went to flea markets, yard sales, and auctions and gathered any type of picture frame I could find, with or without glass. I did a little repairing here and there so as to maintain the look I wanted, leaving the frames in their somewhat tattered state. I then purchased matting and glass from a local hardware store. The pieces were assembled and labeled as to whom, what, and where. I now have a wall to remember and inspire me to do more research on my family.

The really best part is that now my husband and two sons are just as excited as I am with researching our history.  
Sue

### Use the White Pages

Look in the white pages (online at [www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com)) for family members that might still be living. Even if you have recorded that they have recently passed away, call the number anyway. The most you'll lose is a few cents. But you could gain a wealth of knowledge from another family member who has taken on the phone number.

I recently called my great-grandfather's half sister to ask her about him, as I've found almost nothing on him. I wanted to get pictures and any information I could get. Unfortunately, I found that his half-sister passed away 13 months ago. I did reach her daughter, though, who remembered my great-grandfather and promised to look for pictures. I am waiting to hear what treasures she has found for me!

Autumn Hayes Huryn  
Bothell, Wash.



## Should You Trust Everything You Find?

By Erin Rigby

As genealogists, we have to sort through a lot of information that we gather from various sources. As we do this, we need to wonder which of those sources we can trust. Humans created the records we use and humans are known for mistakes. We need to be wary of unreliable sources, especially those that fool us into thinking they are reliable. Here are some very helpful, very good sources that can be misleading. We should use them, but while doing so, know that you can't completely trust the information they provide. Indexes are a wonderful tool and speed your searching. However, they often misspell or omit names from the record. If you don't find the name you are looking for in the index, do not assume it's not in the record. Indexes aren't perfect, so don't give up when you can't find exactly what you are looking for. Once you've done your preliminary search check for odd spellings. This can be anything from a reversal of surname and first name to a simple transposition of letters. Names could be corrupted in the record, so take into account any variation in name spelling. For example, a heavy accent could impact what the person writing the record heard and wrote! Other things to look for are relatives or neighbors of the person as their information could lead you to the person.

The census is a great tool for genealogists, but is not completely accurate. Census takers got information however they could. For example, they may have talked to a child or the neighbor to get information about your family. The census is one of the best places to start your research, but don't let it be the end of your research or you may miss a lot of information.

Information from Ancestral File, Rootsweb World Connect, Ancestry's World Tree and other submitted genealogies can be an excellent place to begin your research. However, these family trees are submitted by humans. Many are riddled with errors. They contain made-up names, misinformation and extra people. There are many genealogies that contain errors like children older than parents, children born after the mother has died, and born before the mother could have children. These genealogies are a great place to start but do your own research and prove what they claim.

Genealogy forums, Web sites and Internet resources are great because they put you in touch with people working on your line. However, be careful, information on these forums come from people. Use them as another starting place for your continuing research.

All of these resources are a great place to start. They give you new ideas for research. Just be a little wary of what you are willing to accept as fact and verify all the information you gather from them.

*Erin Rigby has a B.A. in Family History/Genealogy from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Erin specializes in the Southern States and has research experience in the entire country.. She can be contacted at [airinjune@yahoo.com](mailto:airinjune@yahoo.com).*

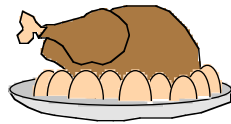
# HOLIDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON

**December 10, 2008**

The room at the Library where the Christmas party will be held has handicap access, so no one need stay home. There is unlimited parking near the Southwest entrance. The pot luck will be served starting at 11:00. Cleanup will start after the pot luck. We hope there will be volunteers to assist.



## ENTREES & BEVERAGES FURNISHED



It is requested that the following items be brought by the people with names beginning with these letters

Contact Susi Pentico 619 690 -1188 to coordinate items needed

### A - H Desserts



### I - P Entree Accompaniments



### Q - Z Salads



Please bring wrapped items for raffle.



Please bring groceries for donation to the Salvation Army and if you wish, unwrapped toys from infancy to teenage children