



# CHULA VISTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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*We Dig Our Ancestors*

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Volume 19, Issue 7

*Providing Genealogy Activities in South San Diego County*

July 2009

***“The History and Culture of San Diego’s Gaslamp Quarter”*** by Melissa Trew,  
and ***“Every Building Has a Genealogy”*** by Dan Haslam  
General Meeting Program

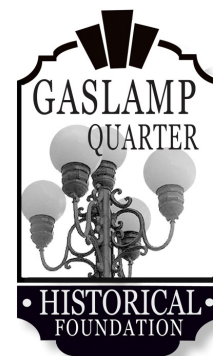
**Wednesday, 29 July 2009, 12 noon to 2 p.m.**  
Chula Vista Civic Center Library Auditorium

**The Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation (GHQF)** is the non-profit organization which oversees the 16½ block historic area in downtown San Diego as curator and operates the William Heath Davis Museum.

**Melissa Trew is the Executive Director of the GQHF.** She is dedicated to promoting the history and culture of the Gaslamp Quarter. With her twenty years of experience in public school education and her MA in Library and Information Systems, Melissa uses her knowledge to transform organizations into high fidelity institutions that improve the capabilities of all personnel, develop a community of trust and interaction among all stakeholders, and perpetuates a culture of high achievement beyond the organization.

As Director of Operations at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hawaii, Melissa ensured financial stability for innovation and change as well as created an organizational infrastructure that promoted transparency and flexibility. As the principal of Central Middle School in Honolulu Hawaii, Melissa established a culture of commitment toward authority, responsibility, accountability, and self management for the campus.

**Daniel Haslam serves as Director of Development for the GQHF,** which celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006. Dan regularly speaks to groups about GQHF, writes extensively for the Foundation, writes grants and leads walking and historical tours for GQHF. Dan grew up in rural Vermont and has lived in San Diego for the past eight years. Prior to moving to California, Dan practiced law for twenty years in Tucson, AZ and Washington, DC. During this time he also served as a professional golf club manager (1990-94) for the oldest golf club in Vermont. In addition to his work for the GQHF, Dan consults as a guide and downtown redevelopment specialist for the Centre City Development Corporation, which is the downtown redevelopment arm of the city government.



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gary Brock

My, how time flies when you're having fun. Here we are with half of the year in the past already. I decided to look back over what has happened for the Society so far this year and found that we have been pretty busy.

First we started out the year with the Chula Vista City Council and the Library management having difficulties getting budget matters under control. We were warned that there may be additional cuts in library access and services. Now, six months later, we are informed that the Library's Civic Center branch will have new hours starting July 6 and will be closed on Friday and Saturday. The new hours are 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday. It appears that none of these changes will affect our Society meetings except we may start our meetings a little earlier, say 11:30 a.m. and of course we will not be having any further Saturday functions at the Library.

Second, at the beginning of the year we found ourselves with one unfilled position on our Board of Directors. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Program Chairman position remained open, in spite of much pleading and cajoling on my part, until May when Barbara Ibaibarriaga stood up and said "I'll do it." Bless your heart Barbara. We all thank you. And thank you to John Finch for a great job in the interim.

In March the board took up proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Society. After some spirited debate, wordsmithing and hard work a final version was approved for presentation to the membership for adoption at the May meeting. The revised Bylaws were adopted by the membership at the June meeting. You can find a copy of the new Bylaws on our web site at [Chula Vista Genealogical Society Resources page](#).

In May the society was asked to provide a speaker at a luncheon at Fredericka Manor here in Chula Vista. Pam Journey agreed to be the speaker. We were invited to the luncheon and those who were interested were treated to a guided tour of the facility. The board is currently working on plans for our fall Saturday seminar to be presented at Fredericka Manor.

Finally, in late May the Society presented the first of what we hope will be an annual scholarship award. The \$250 prize was awarded to Amy Hocza at the Cap and Gown Scholarship Assembly at Chula Vista High School. Amy is a delightful young lady, full of energy and enthusiasm and a very accomplished student, Salutatorian class of 2009. She is headed to UCLA for her undergraduate work and aspires to become a neurosurgeon.

(continued on page 9)

## PROGRAM REVIEW

June 24, 2009

*"Did They Really Come On That Ship?"*

with Joan Lowrey

Joan Lowrey's presentation covered eight case studies of passenger lists and indexes that demonstrated one or more of the following problems:

- \* Some entries on passenger lists may be crossed out because the passenger didn't make the boat. However, they may be indexed in passenger list databases.
- \* Some index entries may provide wrong date of arrival. You can use several resources to try to find the correct date and find the passenger list entry.
- \* While a ship may have originated in one port, some passengers may have boarded at another port.
- \* More than one resource should be reviewed to obtain all possible information about names, ages, relationships, birthplace, etc.
- \* Persons not born in Germany (or earlier German entities) may not be listed in the book *Germans to America*, even though they boarded the ship in Germany.
- \* Some online passenger lists may be duplicates of an earlier passenger list of the same ship because of errors by providers, enumerators, or indexers.
- \* Different passenger list indexes may spell names differently. Search by ship (if known) or first name.
- \* Persons may have sailed on one ship, and then boarded another ship in another port before landing in the USA. The departure list and arrival list may not match.
- \* The [Castle Garden web site](#) has more passenger records than those that arrived at Castle Garden between 1850 and 1890. The records on the website before 1850 and after 1890 may not reflect the actual arrival location.

For her case studies, Joan used the book series of *Germans to America*, the [Ellis Island](#) and [Castle Garden](#) websites, the [Ancestry.com](#) USA passenger lists collection, the Hamburg departure lists on [Ancestry.com](#), and newspaper articles (especially [The New York Times 1851-1980 archive](#)). The San Diego Public Library in downtown San Diego has a complete collection of *Germans to America* in the Genealogy Room. Unfortunately, the Chula Vista library does not have this resource.

Joan's case studies demonstrated how poor the handwriting on the lists was, and how poor some of the indexes are. Experienced genealogists know and understand this, and learn how to work with all of the available resources but novice researchers often expect perfect indexes and easily readable lists. This was a well-done and useful presentation because it showed that the records and indexes are imperfect and that traditional resources can be used effectively with online resources to solve passenger list research problems. This is one of Joan's specialties and her counsel should be heeded!

## RESEARCH GROUP NEWS

The Research Group meeting on 10 June 2009 had nine in attendance. We tried to get a wireless signal on the laptops from the library but failed miserably. We shared information instead:

- Shirley B. printed out a working pedigree chart (7 wide, 3 tall 8.5 x 11 sheets) and pieced it together. She identified several research opportunities from the chart - Sweet, Robbins, Shelmandine, Graves and several other surnames - all from upstate New York in the 1800s.
- Dick said "if you don't do anything long enough, something will show up in your mailbox." He received a letter from a cousin providing articles about his grandfather in Wisconsin. Another letter from a man in Wisconsin contained images from a 1908 Sears Catalog for a 9 room Kit House for \$1995, which Dick's grandfather ordered and built.
- Ruth is "up to here in genealogy, and loving it," working 8 to 12 hours a day finding ancestors and adding to her family tree. She learned in the past month that this is a life project, and is hooked. She bought a 40 x 25 family tree chart from ancestry to give to her father for a birthday present. Ruth also found out that her mother's gravestone in Napa has wrong dates on it and wants to fix it.
- Dorothy is back to genealogy after a 10-year hiatus. She searched for death dates and places for her Norgaard grandparents in San Diego, got the dates from the [www.vitalsearch-ca.com](http://www.vitalsearch-ca.com) site, but couldn't get the death certificate at the Chula Vista office of the County Recorder - she will have to go to the San Diego office. Dorothy also visited the Danish house in Balboa Park last Sunday and had a great time.
- Joan is "waiting for an epiphany - her brick walls are still standing firm." She volunteered to help a friend obtain a 1934 death record in New York - the group said she should contact the New York State Archives.
- Randy mentioned that his OASIS class is finished, that he is reviewing RootsMagic 4 on his blog, and that RootsMagic 4 seems to have the easiest-to-make source citations.
- Susi is working on filling in blanks and sources in her database, and is enjoying her Facebook Friends. We found that five of the attendees were on Facebook.

The next CVGS Research Group meeting will be on Wednesday, 8 July, in the Chula Vista Civic Center Library Conference Room at 12 noon.

## CVGS MEMBERS AT JAMBOREE

Four [Chula Vista Genealogical Society](http://www.chulavistagenealogy.com) members, and two CVGS "friends," attended one or more days of the Southern [California Genealogical Society Jamboree](http://www.southernca.org) on 26 to 28 June 2009 at the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and Convention Center. There were about 1,500 registrants for this conference, which is the largest regional conference on the West Coast.

Three CVGS members (Shirley Becker, Susi Pentico and Randy Seaver) and one "friend" (Mary Kanta) went on the early AMTRAK train on Friday morning, arriving before 10 a.m. at the convention center, and returned on the 4:25 p.m. train on Sunday, arriving back in San Diego at 7:50 p.m. The train trip was organized and sponsored by the [San Diego Genealogical Society](http://www.sandiegogenealogy.com), which handled all reservations and arrangements - what a fun thing to do! CVGS member Ruth Himan and "friend" Ann Diffley drove up together on Saturday and drove home on Sunday.

There were over 100 educational sessions and several special events over the three days, plus the exhibit hall where commercial vendors showed and sold their wares. Many Southern California genealogical societies had exhibits also. In addition to the educational opportunities, one of the highlights of every conference and seminar is the chance to meet and talk with other genealogy enthusiasts. It was great to meet and listen to world renowned genealogy speakers and to be able to talk to them in the exhibit hall or hotel lobby.

There was a Facebook face-to-face meeting on Saturday afternoon in the convention center area. Here is a picture of Susi Pentico (in red) and Pam Journey (in blue, from SDGS) talking to Bruce Buzbee (of RootsMagic), and Shirley Becker (in plaid with her back turned) talking to Jackie MacMaster (of SDGS).



Randy has shared some of his experiences at Jamboree, along with many photos mainly from the genealogy bloggers events, on his <http://www.geneamusings.com/> blog.

Susi has a summary of her weekend on her blog at <http://susischattyperformances.blogspot.com/>

## CVGS GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 24, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Gary Brock.

**Officer Reports:** President Gary reported that he and Susi Pentico attended the Chula Vista High School awards assembly where Amy Hocza received her \$250 essay award from our group. She wants to be a neurosurgeon, and Gary is confident that she will use the money well.

May minutes were approved as published, and the Treasurer's May report was accepted as published.

Vice-President (Membership) Virginia Taylor reported: 28 members + 5 guests present.

**Upcoming programs:** Wed, July 29, Melissa Trew will talk about the historic Gaslamp Quarter and Dan Haslam's topic will be "Every Building Has Its Genealogy"; Wed, August 26: annual picnic at the Elks Lodge from 10:30-2:00-theme will be "Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness" (more information to follow); Wed, Sept 30, Seth Mallios, a professor at SDSU, received a grant to study the cemeteries of San Diego, and he will talk about what he found; Wed, Oct 28, Randy Seaver will talk about going on genealogy vacations; Wed, Nov 25, Georgie Stillman will be back with her local version of "Antique Roadshow"; and in December, we will have our holiday lunch.

**Newsletter/Research/Queries:** Randy Seaver reminded those present that the webpage now provided open access to the current newsletter.

**Old Business:** Amendments to the CVGS Bylaws: Gary reported that the amendments to the CVGS bylaws need to be approved (motion at last meeting to postpone consideration of the amendments to the bylaws until the June meeting). Motion up for discussion; vote taken; motion carried.

**Drawing:** Marcia Mautner won an LED lighting system in the drawing.

**Program:** Joan Lowrey provided lots of good information on her topic "Did They Really Come on That Ship?" She went through several of her case studies and explained the research that went into finding answers to her questions. The resources she gave our members to use in finding our own ancestors will certainly help answer some of our questions. Joan's talk was very well received!

**Meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.**

Respectfully submitted, Ann Stevens, Secretary



## CVGS BOARD MEETING MINUTES -- JULY 1, 2009 (HIGHLIGHTS)

**Meeting called to order** by President Gary Brock at 12:10 PM. Present were Barbara Ibaibarriaga, Virginia Taylor, Paul Price, Shirley Becker, Dearl Glenn, Ann Stevens, Wanda Brock, Randy Seaver. Absent: Susan Zimmer, Bernice Heiter, Susi Pentico, and Bob Page  
**President's comments:** Gary announced that the finalized version of the Bylaws is now on the website; he also gave the secretary a copy for her files.

**Officer Reports:** June meeting minutes approved as corrected (correction was in the spelling of Margaret Kazner's name). Membership is now at 91. Treasurer's report accepted.

**Upcoming Programs:** Barbara has programs lined up through November, and will start working on 2010.

She indicated that our Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting may be at Fredericka Manor, with Marsha Seff talking about "How to Write Your Family Story." Gary said that it would be good if the relatives of those living in the Manor could be contacted so that they could come and learn how to do oral interviews so that those at the Manor could tell their stories. Fredericka Manor would provide a free lunch to attendees.

John said that the honorarium for the July meeting would be used to buy a society membership to the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation, which would also entitle the society to receive two tickets to the Fallback Festival on Nov 1. John thought that these would be a nice door prize at one of our upcoming meetings.

**Committee Reports:**

**Newsletter/Research/Queries:** Randy has a Research Trip to the Carlsbad Library is scheduled for Sat, July 25.

**Cemetery Projects/Historian:** Susan will be using the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in July to meet with her committee.

**Public Relations:** John has been working on the design of a postcard for people to send to CVGS for more information (or the postcard could be quickly filled out and handed in at meetings or seminars).

**Old Business:**

**August picnic:** to be held on Wed, Aug 26 from 10:30-2:00 PM, Elks Lodge in Chula Vista; members should bring their own food; map and additional information to be sent to members. Theme: "Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness." Sign-ups for those who want to speak will be solicited at July's general meeting. White elephant gifts will be exchanged (maximum value \$10). We will also have a live auction of donated books and software.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.** Respectfully submitted, Ann Stevens, Secretary.

## COMPUTER-RELATED GENEALOGY NEWS

### Commercial Database Providers with Discount Rates

- The **New England Historic Genealogical Society** ([www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org)) has \$60 Annual Membership for NEW members through 31 July (regularly \$75 per year).
- [www.Footnote.com](http://www.Footnote.com) has a \$59.95 annual rate for Renewal subscriptions through 31 July (regularly \$69.95 per year, \$79.95 after 1 August 2009)

### New or Useful Web Sites

- The Biblio web site at [www.biblio.com](http://www.biblio.com) has used, rare and out-of-print books available. This site has over 50 million listings and is used by used book dealers and store owners. A check of "genealogy" in the Subject field revealed over 31,000 matches, many of them for \$1.
- The California Digital Newspaper Collection at <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/> has over 200,000 pages of California newspapers spanning the years 1849-1911.
- The 101 Best Websites for 2009 were listed, in ten categories, by *Family Tree Magazine* at <http://familytreemagazine.com/101for2009>
- There are County Formation Maps on the <http://www.familyhistory101.com/> web site. These County Formation Maps use the [Animap](#) system (by permission of [Goldbug](#), the [Animap](#) providers) and are probably the best online resource for finding how states and counties developed over the years from colonial to modern times.
- The 1911 England and Wales Census is available at <http://www.1911census.co.uk/>. You can search the index for free, but images are pay per view.
- 19<sup>th</sup> century British Library newspapers are online at <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs>, provided by the British Library, in partnership with JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) and Gale, part of Cengage Learning.
- There are hundreds of Irish genealogy databases at [IrishFamilyResearch.co.uk](http://IrishFamilyResearch.co.uk). Most of these databases are searchable, and some are free to access. Others require a small membership fee to access the information. Available databases cover every Irish county, including directories, cemetery transcriptions, census records, surveys, maps, and more.
- A searchable index for millions of Alien Registration Files, compiled since 1940, is available at [www.uscis.gov/genealogy](http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy).

### New/Updated Databases at [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com) (\$\$)

- 1861, 1871 and 1881 Canadian Census (W)
- US, Canada, UK Obituary Collections Updated
- Canadian Passenger Lists (1865-1935) Updated (W)
- US City Directories Updated (US)
- US School Yearbooks Updated (US)
- Many Canadian, Australian and German books (W)

### New/Updated LDS FamilySearch.org Indexing Projects (Free)

These databases are available for FREE at <http://pilot.familysearch.org/> - the LDS site for volunteer-indexed and browsable databases -- recently added or completed projects:

- Delaware Birth Records (1861-1908)
- Idaho Death Records (1911-1937) (no images)
- Massachusetts Death Records (1841-1915)
- New Mexico Death Records (1889-1945) (no images)
- Rhode Island State Census, 1915 (no images)
- Canada 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881 Census (no images)
- Campeche, Coahuila, Colima, Mexico Catholic Church Records (browse images)

### New or Updated Databases at [www.Footnote.com](http://www.Footnote.com) (\$\$)

- Los Angeles CA City Directories (ca 1884-1916)
- Dawes Enrollment Cards (1898-1914) (100% complete)
- *Florida Today* and *Poughkeepsie Journal* Historical Newspapers

### New or Updated Databases at [www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org) (\$\$)

- ACGS Index of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials (New York only)
- *The American Genealogist*, Volumes 14-18
- *New England Ancestors Magazine*, Volumes 4-6

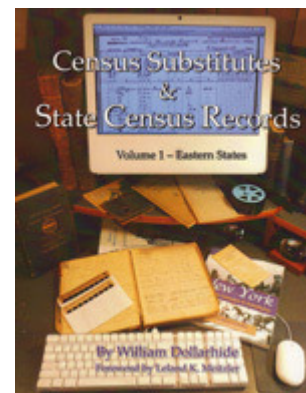
## COMPUTER-RELATED GENEALOGY NEWS

### Interesting Articles from Genealogy Blogs (click on links)

- [A Genealogy Blog Primer](#) by Thomas MacEntee on the [Geneabloggers](#) blog. Thomas created a primer on blogging for genealogy, and has a PDF version and a presentation version.
- [“The TRUTH is Out There...”](#) by Arlene Eakle on the [Arlene Eakle Genealogy Blog](#). Arlene lists some truisms and illustrates them by her own research examples.
- [How to Find a Loyalist Ancestor](#) by Lorine Schulze on the [Ask Olive Tree Genealogy a Question](#) blog. Excellent advice for finding your Loyalist ancestors.
- [Search Engines Can't Read Your Mind Or Your Images](#) by footnoteMaven on the [footnoteMaven](#) blog. fM has sage advice for naming and tagging the family photographs you post on the Internet so that search engines, and your cousins, can find them.
- [What I Want in a Family Tree Program](#) by Randy Seaver on the [Genea-Musings](#) blog. A list of wants and needs for genealogy software.
- [After I'm Gone - I Want My Genealogy Research To Live On](#) by M. Diane Rogers on the [CanadaGenealogy, or, 'Jane's Your Aunt'](#) blog. Diane shares her genealogical will with everyone, and has wise words for that "final tweet."
- [June 4th: Old Maids Day](#) by Arlene Eakle on the [Arlene Eakle's Genealogy Blog](#). Wise advice about those spinsters who helped their parents and saved the family history.
- [Google Wave is Coming; It's Undertow Will Claim at Least One Victim](#) by John Newmark on the [TransylvanianDutch](#) blog. An interpretation of Google Wave and the impact on the computer industry, based on watching the Google Wave demo.
- [The Problem with Primary Source Documents](#) by Lee Drew on the [FamHist](#) blog. Lee points out that death certificates, in particular, sometimes have erroneous information.
- [NARA Databases at Ancestry.com](#) by Randy Seaver on the [Genea-Musings](#) blog. The NARA databases are listed by Microfilm Series number.
- [Preventing Identity Theft with the SSDI](#) by Dick Eastman on the [Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter](#). Must reading for legislators and county recorders!

### Book Review: *Census Substitutes and State Censuses, Volume 1- Eastern States* By William Dollarhide

In this two volume series, author William Dollarhide identifies Census Substitutes, as well as State Census Records, for the United States of America. The substitutes are those name lists derived from tax lists, directories, military lists, land ownership lists, voter registrations, and other compilations of names of residents for an entire state, one or more counties of a state, or one or more towns of a county.



Thirty-seven states conducted colonial, territorial, or state censuses that are extant and available for research today. Usually taken between Federal Decennial Census years, these records often contain unique information, and may even shed light on the lives of your ancestors that may have been on-the-move.

*Volume 1 - Eastern States* covers the:

- The Old Southwest -- Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi
- New England – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
- Mid-Atlantic States – Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
- The Old South – Kentucky, North Carolina, south Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia
- The Old Northwest – Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin
- The Central Plains – Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Dakota Territory/North Dakota/South Dakota

**William Dollarhide, *Census Substitutes & State Census Records - Vol. 1 - Eastern States*, Family Roots Publishing Company, 255 pp, Soft cover, Perfect bound, 2008.**

## 2010 Census Questions

The 2010 United States Census form is available to see in PDF format at

[http://2010.census.gov/2010census/pdf/2010\\_Questionnaire\\_Info\\_Copy.pdf](http://2010.census.gov/2010census/pdf/2010_Questionnaire_Info_Copy.pdf).

It is two pages, formatted to be folded so that the "page" on the right of Page 1 of the PDF is the top page of the folder, and the "page" on the left of Page 1 of the PDF is the last page of the folder.

There are 10 questions for the head of household:

1. How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment or mobile home on April 1, 2010. (fill in number)
2. Were there any additional people staying here April 1, 2010 that you did not include in question 1? (choose from list)
3. Is this house, apartment or mobile home -- (owned by you with a mortgage, owned by you without a mortgage, rented, or occupied without payment or rent). (choose from list)
4. What is your telephone number? (fill in blanks)
5. What is Person 1's name? (fill in blanks)
6. What is Person 1's sex? (check male or female)
7. What is Person 1's age and date of birth? (fill in blanks)
8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin? (choose from list)
9. What is Person 1's race? (choose from list)
10. Does Person 1 sometimes live or stay somewhere else? (choose from list)

The questions for Persons 2 to 6 are:

1. Print name of Person x (fill in blanks)
2. How is this person related to Person 1? (choose from list)
3. What is Person 1's sex? (check male or female)  
What is Person 1's age and date of birth? (fill in blanks)
4. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin? (choose from list)
5. What is Person 1's race? (choose from list)
6. Does Person 1 sometimes live or stay somewhere else? (choose from list)

For persons 7 through 12, they ask for:

1. Name (fill in blanks)
2. Sex (check male or female)
3. Age and Date of Birth (fill in blanks)
4. Related to Person 1? (check box yes or no)

## NARA in Laguna Niguel to Close in 2010

This notice was in the NARA Staff Bulletin No. 584, for May 2009:

"Moves and upgrades for our regional archives" by Adrienne C. Thomas, Acting Archivist of the United States

"Laguna Niguel - We are moving out of the massive Chet Holifield Federal office building, which formerly housed both the FRC [Federal Records Center] and the Archives, as well as many other Federal agencies. The Holifield building cannot be renovated to meet standards. In addition, visitorship and usage is low and does not justify the very high rent. Therefore, the archives will rejoin the FRC at its new facility in Riverside, which is about 50 miles from Laguna Niguel. The move is expected to be complete by spring 2010."

The new FRC facility in "Riverside" is located at 23123 Cajalco Road in Perris, CA 92570. The facility is described at <http://www.archives.gov/pacific/riverside/> with directions from Los Angeles and San Diego. The web site says:

"Maintains temporary storage records from Federal agencies and courts in Arizona, southern California, and Clark County, Nevada.

"The Federal Records Center is open to the public from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, by appointment only. Call 951-956-2000 between 9 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. weekdays, except Federal holidays, to schedule an appointment.

"Please note: There are no genealogical or historical research facilities available at this location."

The Court Records currently available at the FRC include Bankruptcy, Civil and Criminal Case files - see <http://www.archives.gov/pacific/frc/riverside/court-records/>

Surely they will be open to the public on a non-appointment basis after the NARA Laguna Niguel archival material is incorporated into their holdings.

## RESEARCH TRIP ON 25 JULY

We will go to the Carlsbad (CA) Georgina Cole Library on Saturday, 25 July. A carpool will leave from the downtown parking garage, leaving at 9 a.m. and returning around 3 p.m. Contact Randy for the carpool ([rjseaver@cox.net](mailto:rjseaver@cox.net), 422-3397).

## Using Rootsweb: *Evaluating Online Genealogical Data -- To Accept or Not to Accept?*

By Joan M. Young

If I had a dollar for every time I heard someone complain that an online family tree or database is "garbage," error-ridden, or sloppily compiled, I wouldn't have to worry about the state of the world's economy. Some researchers even claim that they would never stoop to looking at online user-submitted data (such as [RootsWeb's WorldConnect](#) database). Let's take a look...

### SHOULD YOU CONSIDER AND ACCEPT USER-SUBMITTED DATA?

Don't automatically discard user-submitted data. Information you find online, regardless of the source, may provide the very answers you need. I once found a will mentioned in a WorldConnect tree that provided the maiden name of an immigrant ancestor's wife I'd been seeking for years. The submitter sent me a copy of the woman's father's will which provided conclusive proof. Part of family history research is being a sleuth. Don't merely copy another researcher's files perpetuating errors. Verify and evaluate the evidence you find online.

### ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REVIEWING USER-SUBMITTED DATA:

1. Did the submitter include his sources? If so, how reliable are the sources? Is the data based upon a birth certificate, marriage record, deed, or other document with a relatively high degree of accuracy? Or, did Susie Submitter copy or merge the information from other files (possibly unsourced) she found online? Obtain original copies of the documents used as evidence where possible, especially if you have reason to suspect there may be an error, misinterpretation, or even a typo.
2. If sources are not listed, look for a contact address for the submitter so that you can ask about his evidence and conclusions. Once again, verify the information yourself.
3. Does the submitter's data agree with information you have already gathered or found elsewhere? Conflicting data requires a careful analysis to establish what the best evidence or the preponderance of evidence indicates. Look for the evidence recorded nearest the event it supports and provided by someone in a position to know. Consider whether the person would have had any reason to falsify data (such as a young bride claiming to be of marriageable age or a man wanting to show he is old enough to enlist in military service).
4. Is the data logical or are there blatant errors in the tree such as children born to women in their late fifties, marriages at age five, or other unlikely events or inconsistencies? Look for red flags such as a tree that links (or merges) two individuals of the same name without regard for dates and ages. Watch out for incorrect assumptions that two same name individuals in different locations are the same person, unless there is evidence to support a move from point A to point B. Genealogical leaps of faith connecting individuals or generations could well be erroneous.
5. Remember that finding the same information online in multiple databases doesn't ensure accuracy as others may well have copied or merged the information without verification.
6. Pay no attention to who submitted the data, but rather to the evidence itself. Even respected genealogists make errors occasionally and may not have access to all the information you possess.

### WHY WON'T ROOTSWEB (AND OTHER ONLINE HOSTS) REMOVE ERROR-RIDDEN DATABASES?

Companies such as RootsWeb are not the genealogy police or Judge Judy, and cannot be expected to evaluate the accuracy of data submitted (and owned and controlled) by family historians. Submitters have the right to be wrong.

### WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO COMBAT ERRORS FOUND IN ONLINE DATABASES?

1. Contact the submitter by e-mail when possible.
2. Add a Post-em Note (user-added note) indicating the error and any corrections and evidence you have.
3. Upload your own database so that researchers who find the incorrect data in a search will also find your file. The only database for which you are responsible is your own.

Previously published in *RootsWeb Review*: 10 June 2009, Vol. 12, No. 6

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(concluded from page 2)

So, with all of this plus our regular Research Group, Computer Group, Board and General meetings we have been a busy bunch and some of us have actually gotten some genealogy done. We have much more to come in the second half of the year. So stay connected, be a part of it all and I'll see you along the way. --- Gary Brock

## LEMON GROVE TALKS – Susi Pentico

On July 15th at the Lemon Grove Library, Susi will have an intensive review of two presentations at the SCGS Jamboree -- the "Son of Blogger" Event and William Dollarhide's presentation about Scot-Irish research.

### Telephone Tree Volunteers

Page 1 – Marcia Mautner – 619-227-2733

Page 2 – May Stone – 619-585-3395

Page 3 – Betty Hampton – 619-423-2415

Alternate: Barbara Ibaibarriaga – 619-477-4140

### Refreshment Hosts

July 29: Susi Pentico, Betty Hampton

August: Picnic – Bring Your Own!

### CVGS Society Officers

President:	Gary Brock
First Vice-President, Programs	Barbara Ibaibarriaga
Sec. Vice-President, Membership	Virginia Taylor
Treasurer	Paul Price
Secretary	Ann Stevens

### Standing Committees

Cemetery Steering Committee	Susan Zimmer
Computer Group	Shirley Becker
Estate Papers	Gary Brock
Historian	Susan Zimmer
Hospitality	Susi Pentico
Librarian – Books	Bernice Heiter
Library Liaison	Dearl Glenn
Newsletter Editor	Randy Seaver
Research Group/Queries	Randy Seaver
Parliamentarian	Bob Page
Public Relations	John Finch
Ways and Means	Bob Page
Webmaster	Gary Brock

## San Diego Genealogy Events

Saturday, July 11 – 12 noon to 2:30 p.m.

**SAN DIEGO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

12 noon: **Annual Auction and Potluck Luncheon, with Peter Steelquist.**

Location: St. Andrews Lutheran Church  
8350 Lake Murray Blvd, corner Jackson Dr.  
( <http://www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs/> )

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Tuesday, July 14, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

**NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY -- COGG**

9:30 – Social Hour

10:00 – Program: *"Digital Books"* by Mary Van Orsdol

Location: City Council Chambers  
1250 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad  
( <http://www.cagenweb.com/nsdcgs/> )

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Saturday, July 18, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

**COMPUTER GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO**

9:00 – User groups – Legacy, RootsMagic.  
SIG: Web-Based Genealogy

10:15: Announcements,

Program: *"FamilySearch: the old, the new and the future"* by Ann Montgomery

Location: Robinson Auditorium complex at UCSD San Diego (see map at [www.cgssd.org](http://www.cgssd.org))

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Tuesday, May 26, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

**NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

9:30 – Social Hour

10:00 – Program: *"Deliveries in the Rear! Getting Family History Information Through the Back Door"* by Jean Wilcox Hibben

Location: City Council Chambers  
1250 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad  
( <http://www.cagenweb.com/nsdcgs/> )

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Wednesday-Saturday, Sept. 2-5, 2009

**FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES**

Location: Little Rock, Arkansas  
( <http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org> )

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See all upcoming San Diego genealogy programs online at <http://www.cgssd.org/events.php>

**GENEALOGY DAYS IN CHULA VISTA**

- **Wednesday, July 1, 12 noon – CVGS Board Meeting, Library Conference Room**
- **Wednesday, July 8, 12 noon - Research Group Meeting, Library Conference Room**
- **Wednesday, July 15, 12 noon – Computer Group Meeting, Library Computer Lab**
- **Saturday, July 25: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Research Trip to Carlsbad Georgina Cole Library**
- **Wednesday, July 29, 12 noon – General Society Meeting, Library Auditorium**  
Topics: *The History and Culture of San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter* by Melissa Trew  
and *“Every Building Has a Genealogy”* by Dan Haslam
- **Wednesday, August 5, 12 noon – CVGS Board Meeting, Library Conference Room**
- **Wednesday, August 12, 12 noon - Research Group Meeting, Library Conference Room**
- **Wednesday, August 19, 12 noon – Computer Group Meeting, Library Computer Lab**
- **Wednesday, August 26, 10:30 a.m. – Annual Picnic, Elks Lodge Picnic Area**

All CVGS Program Meetings are held in the Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library, 365 F Street, Chula Vista. Contact John Finch, [jan27@cox.net](mailto:jan27@cox.net), 619-426-4906 for details.

Visit our Web Site – <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cacvgs2/>

and Visit the Chula Vista Genealogy Café blog – <http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>.

Chula Vista Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 3024  
Chula Vista CA 91909-3024

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