



We Dig Our Ancestors

CHULA VISTA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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CVGS Blog: <http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>



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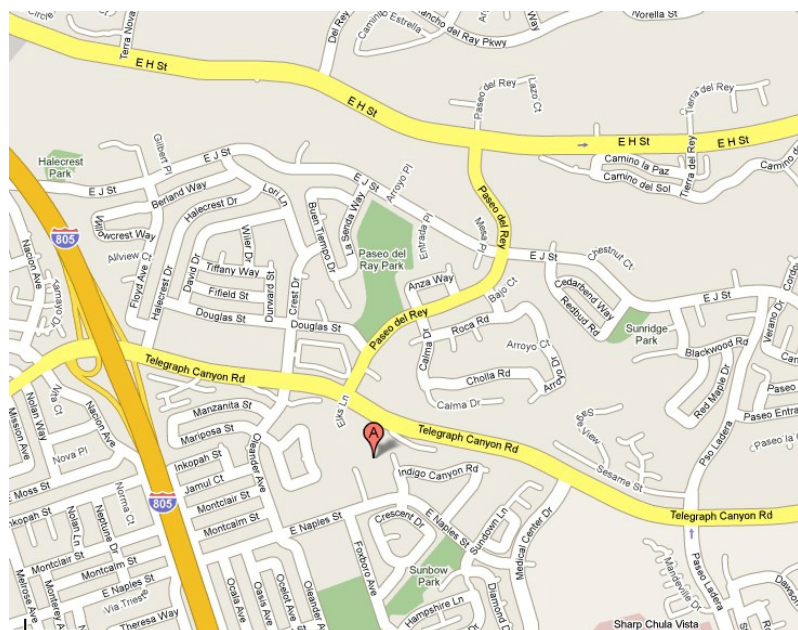
Providing Genealogy Activities in South San Diego County

August 2009

CVGS ANNUAL PICNIC

Wednesday, August 26th, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Elks Lodge Picnic Area – 901 Elks Lane, Chula Vista



The annual CVGS picnic will be in the Elks Lodge Picnic Area. From Telegraph Canyon Road, turn south on Elks Lane, go up the hill, turn left into the parking lot, and then turn right around the building to the picnic area and the upper parking lot.

Please bring your own food and beverage, plate, cup, napkins, utensils, etc.

Bring a wrapped “white elephant” gift exchange via a raffle drawing.

The Program will be members sharing the “Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness” that have been helpful to their research.

The Picnic is always a fun time of sharing with our society colleagues.

Contact John Finch (phone 619-426-4906, or email jan27@cox.net) for more information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dave and Pat Martell
Janice Nevills

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|
| August 26 Picnic at Elks Lodge | 1 | Computer-Related Genealogy News | 5-6 |
| President’s Message | 2 | CVGS Donations to Chula Vista Library | 7 |
| July 29 Program Review | 2 | CVGS Ahnentafel Program | 7 |
| Research Group News | 3 | Research Trip Summary | 7 |
| Computer Group News | 3 | What Attracted Our Ancestors to the New World | 8 |
| CVGS General Society Meeting Minutes – July 29..... | 4 | San Diego Genealogy Events | 9 |
| CVGS Board Meeting Minutes – August 5 | 4 | Genealogy Days in Chula Vista | 10 |

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gary Brock

Well, it is summer and it's hot. Many are on vacation or planning for family get-togethers and reunions around the country this summer. Our annual Society picnic is coming up on August 26 at the Elks Lodge picnic area just off Telegraph Canyon Road here in Chula Vista. I am looking forward to hearing all the interesting stories of "Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness" which is the theme of this year program. If you are planning to attend and have a story to tell us please contact Barbara Ibaibarriaga, 477-4140 or John Finch, 426-4906 so they can get you on the slate of presenters.

Getting together with family and friends is always a good chance to hear and tell stories or relate legends about various characters, and their activities, who make up the family. We have probably all heard a legend or two which in some cases you were able to prove true but just as likely could be proven not so true. Telling our family story is a great way to get started in genealogy. Trying to get together all the information for the story requires doing some genealogy.

Our fall seminar is, in part, presented to celebrate Family History Month and this year is centered around "Writing Your Family's Story." How's that for a smooth segue? The seminar is scheduled to be presented at Fredericka Manor here in Chula Vista on Saturday, October 24 and is designed to stimulate the residents of the Manor to start thinking about genealogy and their family's story.

I firmly believe there are many residents of the Manor who would dearly love to do some genealogy and maybe write their version of their family's story. I also believe that many of those same residents find such a project daunting if not impossible at their age. So we need some helper. As part of the design of the program we are planning to reach out to family and friends of the residents and maybe some Society members to come, get involved and help the interested residents get started. They can act as mentors, keeping the spirit level up, gain access to internet resources and maybe even some library research.

One of the most important activities of the helpers could be to act as interviewers and collect live verbal material. Portable, all solid-state voice recorders are readily available nowadays that can record tens or even hundreds of hours of dialog for \$20-50. The recorded material can then be transcribed, edited and made a part of the final product.

(continued on Page 9)

PROGRAM REVIEW

July 29, 2009

Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation Presentation

The program at the [Chula Vista Genealogical Society](#) meeting on Wednesday, 29 July was about the Gaslamp Quarter in downtown San Diego. The speakers were Melissa Trew on "*The History and Culture of San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter*" and "*Every Building Has a Genealogy*" by Dan Haslam. The talk summary and brief biographies of Melissa and Dan are posted in [San Diego Gaslamp Quarter Program on Wednesday, 29 July](#).

Melissa's talk summarized the [Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation \(GQHF\)](#) activities, including the William Heath Davis House Museum where GDQHF has their offices; Walking tours of the Gaslamp Quarter; The "Fallback Festival" in November, the ShamRock celebration on St. Patrick's Day, Private Party Rentals, and the "History of the Gaslamp quarter" exhibit - then and now under development. The two-hour walking tours are Saturdays at 11 a.m., and visit several refurbished Victorian era homes in the Gaslamp quarter.

Dan's talk was about the history of several of the buildings in the Gaslamp Quarter, including the William Heath Davis House; the Yuma Building (probably the most famous brothel in San Diego for many years); the Old Spaghetti Factory; the Keating Building (which served as the offices for the Simon & Simon TV detective show in the 1980's); the Cole Block; several more.

The history of the Davis house has been traced to around 1850 when it was built and furnished with items brought around Cape Horn from Portland, Maine by Mr. Davis. It first stood at State and Market Streets, was moved to 11th and G Streets in 1873 and then to its present location at 410 Island Street in 1984. It was refurbished at that time. While at 11th and K, it served as a County Hospital and charged patients \$1 per day. Dan says that the house is haunted, and it is on the Ghost Tours conducted by local companies.

This was a fun and interesting program about walking on downtown San Diego's wild side, from a historical perspective. As Dan noted, respectable persons never went below Broadway at night. Some native San Diegans have always wondered what happened in the Stingaree and other areas below Broadway. The area was the haunt of many US Navy sailors over the years!

The Gaslamp Quarter is thriving now with many restaurants, hotels, stores, and shops over a 16 block area between 4th Avenue and 6th Avenue, and between Broadway and Harbor Drive. There are 94 buildings on the National Registry of historical buildings in this area. The Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation is trying to preserve and redevelop some of San Diego's heritage.

RESEARCH GROUP NEWS

The [Chula Vista Genealogical Society](#) Research Group met on Wednesday, 8 July with 12 in attendance.

Randy started the session by describing the SCGS Genealogy Jamboree events he attended, and passing the syllabus and program around for the group to see.

Shirley described her activities and the sessions she attended. She heard Paul Nauta, Wendy Elliott, Lisa Alzo, Chris Child, Leland Meitzler and Lisa Louise Cooke during the conference. She showed her spreadsheet with 20 Eber Sweet persons, listing birth, death, parents and spouse, in an effort to keep them all straight. She worked also on her Wright family in NY.

Virginia has uploaded her tree on OneGreatFamily, and received a query about her brickwall Robert Dunlop. She has found a Dutch ancestor in her Bland family line, and is learning a lot from her ancestor's California diary from 1856.

Dick is going to Chicago and Wisconsin for a vacation later in July. He's going to see his kids, cousins, buddies, attend a reunion and do some research in Dane County WI. He got lots of good advice about preparing for the trip and going to different repositories.

Gary is recovering from his computer hard drive crash, and has installed the Windows 7 beta and says "it is different."

Dave helped his 11 year-old grandson with a family tree project. They studied in the library, worked in his family tree program, and created a report with family photos and charts from RootsMagic. His grandson got an "A" on the paper and his presentation. Dave hopes his grandson continues to be interested in family history.

John did more work in www.FindMyPast.com in the 1911 census for his daughter-in-law's family. He had more success with his Patrick family in North Carolina - he found some land records in Rowan County in 1762 and in Davie County in 1792, including a map with his William Patrick shown. He also contacted Bear Creek Baptist Church and got some cemetery pictures, but not of Patrick graves.

Marcia found a USA Today article about the "Terrible Legacy of Eugenics" and shared it with the group.

Pat talked to our June speaker, Joan Lowrey, who helped her obtain a record of Pat's ancestor in a New York Immigrant Savings Bank ledger for 1867. It listed the Irish home counties of the couple, their residence in New York City, and more.

(continued in next column)

COMPUTER GROUP NEWS

The Computer Group meeting of the [Chula Vista Genealogical Society](#) was well attended on 15 July - there were 12 in attendance and all available computers were taken. With the library time change, we can now get in early and set up so we can start right at noon.

While Gary was getting his laptop setup, Randy demonstrated the Genealogy Wise social networking site (www.GenealogyWise.com) and recommended it to members.

Gary hooked his laptop into the projector, and we watched the Genealogy Gems YouTube video of Randy Seaver's interview with Lisa Cooke at the SCGS Jamboree (see www.YouTube.com/GenealogyGems to watch it yourself). Then Ruth told the group about her blogging experiences.

Gary has a developer's copy of Microsoft Windows 7 and Internet Explorer 8 on his laptop, so he went through the Start menu, the File Folder setup, the browser options, etc. This took most of the time period, but the time was well spent as an introduction to the next Windows operating system and browser. Gary said that he liked it much better than Windows Vista.

The Flash player is still not installed on most of the library Computer Lab computers. This really limits the access to many genealogy web sites these days, including FamilySearch Record Search, Footnote, GenealogyWise, and other websites.

RESEARCH GROUP NEWS (Concluded)

Neva noted that researchers can find information about cemeteries by Googling the town name and a specific cemetery, or use just the town name and the word "cemetery." She described her experiences trying to get a Colorado death certificate for her long-deceased grandfather - she needed to show her relationship to the deceased with documents.

Randy shared his experiences with www.GenealogyWise.com, www.LiveRoots.com, and his search for the family of Ben Kaber.

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

GENERAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES – JULY 29, 2009 (HIGHLIGHTS)

The meeting was called to order by Gary Brock.

Officer Reports: President Gary asked for telephone tree volunteers. June minutes were approved as published, and the Treasurer's June report was accepted as published. Vice-President (Membership) Virginia Taylor reported: 30 members + 5 guests present; one new member; current membership=94.

Upcoming programs: Wed, August 26: annual picnic at the Elks Lodge from 10:30-2:00-theme will be "Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness" (flyers available); 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;

Committee Reports:

Cemetery/Historian: Susan Zimmer reported La Vista Cemetery Committee progress; looking for more volunteers to work on Tuesdays.

Library and Books: Bernice Heiter would like to know about books that members are interested in having her purchase; CVGS has bought 2000 books over the years, and Bernice wants to make sure the collection meets the needs of the members.

Public Relations: John Finch reported that he is working on a postcard to advertise the CVGS and to promote sign-ups by new members. He is also looking for people to share the "random acts of genealogical kindness" they have encountered that have helped them further their genealogical research.

Newsletter/Research/Queries: Randy Seaver is interested in any newsletter articles people would like to submit. Research trip to Carlsbad Library was good; 8 people went and experienced some successes.

Old Business: Plans for the Fall Seminar are progressing: Oct 24, at Fredericka Manor (with free lunch); goal is to help residents get started in genealogy or at least get started in telling their stories; still working on the design of the program, but there will be a speaker talking about how to write your family story.

Drawing: In the drawing Myrna Goodwin and Neva Bridwell each won 2 tickets for a walking tour of the Gaslamp Quarter.

Program: Melissa Trew, Executive Director of the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation, talked about the development of the historic Gaslamp. Dan Haslam, Director of Development, talked about how "Every Building Has Its Genealogy".

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Stevens, Secretary

BOARD MEETING MINUTES -- AUGUST 5, 2009 (HIGHLIGHTS)

Meeting called to order by President Gary Brock. All Board members were present!!! Guest: Ruth Himan

President's comments: Gary received a letter from Dr. Jesus Gandara, Sweetwater School District Superintendent, thanking CVGS for its \$250 scholarship. Ralph Zahn donated a book; Bernice will process it and will write a note of thanks on our behalf. Gary also received email from Joan Lowrey who is giving away laser printers and toner, in case anyone is interested.

Officer Reports: July meeting minutes approved. Treasurer's report accepted as presented. Membership is now at 94; with 1 new member. Virginia introduced Ruth Himan, a new member who would like to be involved. Virginia thought that she could serve as the Sunshine Committee Chairperson (someone who would send cards to ill members, those who have had a death in the family, etc.). Gary appointed Ruth as Sunshine Committee Chairperson. Randy moved, Bob seconded motion to appoint the Sunshine Committee Chairperson as a voting member of the Board; motion carried.

Upcoming Programs (Barbara): Wed, August 26: annual picnic at the Elks Lodge from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Wed, Sept 30, Seth Mallios, professor at SDSU, talking about San Diego cemeteries; Sat, Oct 24: Seminar at Fredericka Manor, buffet lunch and Susan Walter on "How to Write Your Family Story"; John reported that there is a \$2 per person charge for the picnic; CVGS will pick up this cost.

Committee Reports:

Library Books (Bernice): 9 boxes of genealogy papers from the Chesley Cox collection need a new storage location; Ruth has room so Gary will organize the transfer.

Ways and Means (Bob): A free lunch at the fall seminar seemed to be the preferred way to go; Board agreed to put out a "donations appreciated" basket.

Cemetery Projects/Historian (Susan Z): Shirley has completed the 1869 List of Burials; need a volunteer to double-check the information. Drawer 1 at the cemetery is almost finished.

Public Relations (John): working on postcard. He has received estimates ranging from \$150-\$249 for 1000 cards; will check the possibility of a smaller number of cards.

Old Business:

August picnic: Program will include white elephant gift exchange (maximum value \$10), a book sale, and a live auction (thanks to donations from Randy).

(concluded on page 7)

COMPUTER-RELATED GENEALOGY NEWS

New or Updated Databases at www.NewEnglandAncestors.org (\$\$)

- *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, Volumes 22-31
- *The American Genealogist*, Volumes 19-23
- *New Netherlands Connections*, Volume 12
- *New England Historical & Genealogical Register*, 2008
- Massachusetts Vital Records – Marriages, 1911

New or Updated Databases at www.Footnote.com (\$\$)

- United States 1930 Census (97% complete) FREE through 31 August 2009. Go to <http://go.footnote.com/1930census/>
- Texas Death Certificates, 1890-1976 (Updated, now 52% complete)

New or Useful Web Sites

- Iton County NY History website has FREE access to some historical newspapers and photographs – see <http://www.fultonhistory.com>.
- The Canadian Naturalization database contains references to about 200,000 people who applied for and received status as naturalized Canadians from 1915 to 1932. – see <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization-1915-1932/index-e.html>
- FamilyLink.com launched a new social network for genealogists at www.GenealogyWise.com. Members can contribute to forums, write blog posts, join surname, locality or subject groups, etc.
- The LDS FamilySearch.org site has Word Lists for Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish at http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/research/type/Word_List.asp
- The LDS FamilySearch.org site is creating a Research Wiki (meaning many people can contribute) at http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/research/type/Word_List.asp. Check it out!
- “Seeking Michigan” website has 1897-1920 death certificates online at <http://seekingmichigan.org/discover-collection?collection=p129401coll7>

New or Updated Databases at www.Ancestry.com (\$\$)

- England/Wales FreeBMD Indexes Updated (W)
- US Virgin Islands Records (US)
- Passenger and Immigration Lists Index 1500s-1900s Updated (US)
- Selected US Naturalization Records – Original Documents 1790-1974 Updated (US)
- Jewish Family History Collection expanded (US, W)
- Social Security Death Index Updated (US)
- Many Canadian, Australian and German books (W)

Ancestry.com modified their Record Image pages (11 census databases so far) to include the source citation and indexed information on the same screen. They also added a Member Connect feature to aid users in contacting others with the same ancestors.

New/Updated LDS www.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:

- 1920 U.S. Census (21 states, 34% complete) (indexed, no images)
- Minnesota State Census, 1895 (indexed, no images)
- New Hampshire Birth Records, Early to 1900s (index and images)
- New York State Census, 1905 (browse images only)
- Quebec, Catholic Parish Registers 1621-1900 (browse images only)
- Mexico 1930 Census (8 states, 19% complete, browse images only)
- Spain Catholic Parish Registers – Avila and Gerona Dioceses (browse images only)
- England, Cheshire Non-Conformist Records, 1671-1900 (index only, no images)
- Argentina 1895 census (index and images)
- Argentina, Buenos Aires City census 1855 (browse images only)

COMPUTER-RELATED GENEALOGY NEWS

Interesting Articles from Genealogy Blogs (click on links)

- [It's 2014! Do You Know Where Your Data Is?](#) By Dick Eastman in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. (www.eogn.com)
- [Why retracing our African roots is so difficult](#) by Tony Burroughs on Anderson Cooper's 360 blog (<http://ac360.blogs.cnn.com/2009/07/17/>)
- [Why Cloud Computing Makes Sense for Genealogy](#) by Dick Eastman in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (www.eogn.com)
- [A Baby Boomer Remembers the Man Who Came to Dinner... Every Night](#) by Craig Manson on the Geneablogie www.geneablogie.net blog.
- [How To Get Kids Interested In Genealogy](#) by Elyse Doerflinger on [Elyse's Genealogy Blog](#).
- [Microfilm Scanning at the FHL and FHC](#) by Randy Seaver on the www.GeneaMusings.com blog.
- [Starting Your Family Tree: Advice from the Pros](#) on the Genoom blog (<http://blog.genoom.com>)
- [How Genealogists Use Social Networking](#) by Gena Philibert Ortega on the [WorldVitalRecords Blog](#).
- [Genealogy Societies Need To Look Toward The Future](#) and [Genealogy Societies Need To Look Toward The Future \(Follow-up Post\)](#) by Elyse Doerflinger on [Elyse's Genealogy Blog](#).
- [Where is my family's file?](#) by Schelly Talalay Dardashti on the [MyHeritage Genealogy Blog](#).
- [Top Ten Rules of Genealogy](#) by Michael Hait on the [Genealogy Wise](#) blog.
- [10 Truths About Genealogy](#) by Tami Glatz on the [Relatively Curious About Genealogy](#) blog.
- [More SCGS Genealogy Jamboree Audio/Video](#) by Randy Seaver on the [Genea-Musings](#) blog.
- [Taking on your Brickwalls](#) by Gena Philibert Ortega on [Gena's Genealogy](#) blog.
- [Online Digitized Collections for Genealogy](#) by James Tanner on the [Genealogy's Star](#) blog.

Randy's Top Ten FREE Genealogy Websites (concluded)

10) www.DeathIndexes.com. Joe Beine has collected links for free and commercial online death indexes. He also has pages for online [Birth and Marriage indexes](#), [Military Indexes](#), [Emigration and Immigration List Indexes](#), [Naturalization Indexes](#), [German resources](#), and several more.

Randy's Top Ten FREE Genealogy Websites

Miriam Midkiff posted a Forum article on Genealogy Wise titled [Your Favorite Free \(or Low-Cost\) Genealogy Resources](#). I made my own list:

1) [San Diego Family History Center](#). This local FHC has FREE access to Ancestry.com, Footnote.com, WorldVitalRecords.com, HeritageQuestOnline.com, Godfrey Library, Genline.com, and several other commercial databases.

2) [Carlsbad \(CA\) Georgina Cole Library](#). This public library has a wonderful collection of printed books and periodicals, plus free access to Ancestry, Footnote, WorldVitalRecords, New England Ancestors, Heritage Quest Online, NewspaperARCHIVE, and several other commercial databases.

3) www.FamilySearch.org. The FREE LDS FamilySearch site has legacy databases - International Genealogical Index, Ancestral File, Pedigree Resource File, 1880 US Census, 1881 UK and Canada censuses, the Genealogy Research Guides, Family History Library Catalog, and more; the [Record Search Pilot](#) has all of the released Family Search Indexing projects, all for free access at home. The [BYU Family History Archive](#) is part of the FamilySearch "family" too.

4) www.Rootsweb.com. This FREE site has some [online record databases](#), including Death Indexes for Social Security, California, Kentucky, Maine and Texas. The [WorldConnect family tree database](#) is valuable. Other useful resources on Rootsweb are the [Mailing List Archives](#) and the [Rootsweb/Ancestry Message Boards](#).

5) www.USGenWeb.org. There is a separate web page for each state, and for each county in each state. There are [several different volunteer projects](#) (e.g., USGenWeb Archives, Tombstone Transcription Project).

6) www.FamilyTreeLegends.com/records/. This site has some records in vital records, military, land, court and probate, biography and history, geography and reference categories.

7) www.CyndisList.com. Cyndi's List has the best organized collection of genealogy links on many subjects.

8) www.FindAGrave.com and www.Interment.net. These volunteer cemetery transcription and photograph websites are very useful.

9) www.OliveTreeGenealogy.com. Lorine Schulze has a fine collection of small databases and links to other free and commercial databases, concentrating on immigration, Canada and northeastern US states.

(continued in left column)

CVGS Donations to Chula Vista Library – April 2009

Donated by Shirley Becker:

- Delorme Mapping, Upstate New York City Street Maps. 912.767 DEL
- Scott, Kenneth, comp. New York State Census of Albany County Towns in 1790.
- Central New York Genealogical Society, Six Generation ancestor Tables: Bi-Centennial Project, Book One, Book Two, Book Three, Book Four, Book Five. 929.3767 CEN

Donated by Susan Pentico:

- Gambleton, Philip Katcher, The Mexican-American War. 973.626 GAM

Purchased in Memory of Bonnie Rundle:

- Anuta, Michael J., East Prussians from Russia (in Wisconsin) 929.3775 ANU

Purchased with CVGS Funds:

- Nelson, William, Documents: Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, Volume XXII Marriage Records. 929.3749 NEL
- Deboek, Guido, Flemish DNA and Ancestry: Includes Flemish DNA Project. 929.206 DeBO
- Punch, Terrence M., Erin's Sons: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada 1761-1863, Volume II. 929.3417 PUN
- Smith, Franklin Carter & Emily Anne Croom, African-American Ancestors. 929.3735 SMI
- Barnes, Robert W., Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759. 929.3752 BAR
- Linn, Jo White, Surry County, North Carolina Wills, 1771-1827. 929.3756 LIN
- Nuckolls, Benjamin Floyd, Pioneer Settlers of Grayson county, Virginia, 929.3755 NUC
- Keeler, Roger, Civil War Soldiers from Washington County, Maryland. 929.3752 KEL
- Holmes, Frank R., Directory of the Ancestral Heads of New England Families, 1620-1700. 929.374 HOL
- Tepper, Michael, ed. Passengers to America: A Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register. 929.373 PAS
- Russell, George Ely & Donna Valley Russell, Ark and Dove Adventurers (Maryland). 929.3752 SOC

If you would like to donate books or periodicals to the CVGS collection, or request that CVGS buy certain books, please contact Bernice Heiter at (619) 422-8778 or email at BandBCA@cox.net.

CVGS AHNENTAFEL PROGRAM

Once in awhile, a researcher in another place does a search for an ancestor and finds one or more names in the Ahnentafel reports submitted by CVGS members. There are at least 15 ahnentafels on the CVGS website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cacvgs2/Ahnentafels/sindex.html>. That is the surname index list - click on a letter and then on a surname to see an ahnentafel.

We had an email come in last month from a person who is a third cousin of one of our members. She also happens to be a matrilineal descendant of a purported Native American ancestor of my member colleague. They are already in contact as a result of the CVGS Ahnentafels and will, hopefully, help each other out. If they have the mitochondrial DNA test done, it will benefit both of them, and several other cousins too.

We don't get many matches from these ahnentafels, probably because we have so few. They are not difficult to make with genealogy software (except for Family Tree Maker, which won't make a clean ahnentafel list!), and they are text files so they are easy to add to the web site. Gary, our Webmaster, has a neat indexing program to create the Surname index that leads to a given Ahnentafel. Just think how many people we could connect if we had 100 ahnentafels, or a thousand online.

It's great to see our web site, and our effort to create and publish the ahnentafels online, pay off with cousin connections.

RESEARCH TRIP SUMMARY

Eight CVGS members went on the research trip to Carlsbad's Georgina Cole library, including four who had never been there before. Several attendees reported successes in finding family information from books or periodicals on the shelf, and from the microfiche collection.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES -- AUGUST 5, 2009 (CONCLUDED)

Fall Seminar planning: Ruth shared some of the materials that she has been working on, including a letter to the families of those at Fredericka Manor. Barbara said that she would like to have members available to answer questions. Susan Z suggested members doing a demonstration interview; and Gary asked for us to send him some of our favorite interview questions.

.Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM. Respectfully submitted, Ann Stevens, Secretary

What Attracted Our Ancestors to the New World -- by Dick Eastman

I learned in school that our ancestors came to the New World in the 1600s in search of religious freedom. While I still believe that to be true, I now believe the full story is a bit more complex than the reasons given in grammar school textbooks.

Religious freedom was a motivation for Puritans, Pilgrims, Quakers, and others, but thousands of other immigrants were members of the established church in England and had no interest in other theologies. What motivated them? Perhaps the simplest answer is that living in England was very difficult at the time. The upper classes lived comfortably, but the majority of citizens had difficulty eking out even a mere subsistence. Starvation was not unknown, and even those who did eat regularly had diets that most of us today would reject. Without refrigeration or modern canning techniques, even those with some financial security had monotonous diets in the winter and early spring. The thought of eating turnip soup three times a day for weeks on end seems appalling today but was common in the 1600s. The Irish more likely ate potato soup.

Fish and meat were available but often at prices that were beyond the reach of most city dwellers. Their country cousins perhaps had a slightly better diet of meats and vegetables that they produced themselves, but country dwellers typically lacked other comforts of life. In the winter, there was no available fresh produce, regardless of where you lived. The only vegetables that were available were the root crops that could be stored for months: potatoes, turnips, carrots, etc. Cabbage, while not a root crop, also stores well and was frequently available. Few people could afford to purchase large quantities of these vegetables, so the little that a typical citizen could afford was frequently supplemented with water and served as soup. After all, soup was more filling than a few ounces of turnips or cabbage.

Perhaps today we do not appreciate the appalling conditions under which our ancestors lived. Imagine, if you will, a city with narrow streets on a warm summer day in which there were no sewers and no source of fresh water. The primary mode of transportation was by horse-drawn carriages and wagons, so horse manure was everywhere in the streets. Even so, the odor from human wastes must have been far stronger as chamberpots were typically dumped into the streets and alleyways. Most residents did not bathe regularly, did not wash their hair, and never brushed their teeth.

Of course, modern medical care was unknown, and medical ignorance was universal. These people did not know why they breathed air, how the digestive system worked, why brushing one's teeth was important, or why clean water was desirable. Most of England's water was heavily polluted, and there was relatively little in the way of forests as they had been cut years earlier for timber and for firewood.

Without proper food preservation techniques, we can assume that most of the food our ancestors consumed had a high germ count. Without clean living quarters or clean water, we can also assume that most of our malnourished ancestors were ill a high percentage of the time. It's a wonder that any of them survived and had descendants! Speculators and adventurers of the time wildly advertised living conditions in the New World as a Utopian experience. While the claims were partially true, those with a financial interest in attracting new immigrants were quick to embellish the facts. After all, there were no "truth in advertising" laws at the time.

We now know that many of the early settlers starved to death or died of diseases linked to malnutrition. Yet the reports sent back to England spoke glowingly of fertile fields and forests that were full of game for the hunter. The seas were described as full of fish available to anyone.

William Wood in his 1634 book, *New England Prospect*, wrote: "Unlike England's undrinkable water, New England's is "so good many preferred it to 'beer, whey, and buttermilk and those that drink it be as healthful, fresh and lusty as they that drink beer.'"

Winters, he claimed, were milder than in England, summers hotter but "tolerable because of the cooling effect of fresh winds." Oh, and food was plentiful: "deer, available for the taking; raccoon, as good as lamb; grey squirrels, almost as big as an English rabbit; turkeys, up to 40 pounds."

I have focused on the people and the lifestyles of England simply for convenience; those records and books are easy to read for modern-day English speakers. However, the lifestyles and the motivations were similar in Ireland, Scotland, and all throughout Europe.

In fact, some of our ancestors made the difficult trip over the Atlantic for religious freedom. However, probably a much larger number made the trip for adventure and for greater financial opportunities. After all, life was none too pleasant in "the Old Country." Many believed that life would be much better in the New World. In some cases, they were correct. I certainly am glad that they made the trip!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gary Brock (concluded)

But here is the rub. Who among us are experienced interviewers? Professional Journalists are trained to acquire the answers to the five “Ws” which are Who, What, Where, When and Why. The first four Ws are of a factual nature and are the elements needed for accuracy in the story. These elements, while necessary, are usually not what provides for exciting, page-turner narrative. It's the Why that can bring life to the story and make the reader want to continue. Here the interviewee gets to inject some of his/her own logic, philosophy, opinion and personality into the story.

So to get a good story we will need interviewers with good questions. I am proposing that we collect, organize and publish a set of effective questions that we can make available to interviewers. If you have had an occasion to sit with elders in the family and ask questions about the people, places, times and things that were important in your family's story and you found a specific question or two that yielded great results, send them to me by e-mail. I will attempt to compile a list of all the unique questions and make them available at the seminar.

In the meantime a happy summer to all.

Gary Brock - gary@brocksystems.com

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

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

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| Cemetery Steering Committee | Susan Zimmer |
| Computer Group | Shirley Becker |
| Estate Papers | Gary Brock |
| Historian | Susan Zimmer |
| Hospitality | Susi Pentico |
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| 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 |
| Sunshine Committee | Ruth Himan |
| Webmaster | Garv Brock |

San Diego Genealogy Events

Saturday, August 8 – 12 noon to 2:30 p.m.
SAN DIEGO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

12 noon: Program: “*The Civil War: Reliving the Past*” with Tom Helmantoler

1 p.m.: Ice Cream Social

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

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Tuesday, August 11, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon
**NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY
 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY -- COGG**

9:30 – Social Hour

10:00 – Program: “*Updating your Genealogists Toolbox: Excel 2007*” by Dorothy Miller

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

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Saturday, August 15, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
**COMPUTER GENEALOGY SOCIETY
 OF SAN DIEGO**

9:00 – User groups – Legacy, MacIntosh
 SIG: Digital Images and Scanning

10:15: Announcements,

Program: “*How You Get There Does Make a Difference*” by Barbara Renick

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

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Tuesday, August 25, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon
**NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY
 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

9:30 – Social Hour

10:00 – Program: “*Oh Brethren, Where Art Thou? And “I Didn't See THAT Coming*”
 by Tom Gordinier

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

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Wednesday-Saturday, September 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, 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**
- **Wednesday, September 2, 12 noon – CVGS Board Meeting, Library Conference Room**
- **Wednesday, September 9, 12 noon - Research Group Meeting, Library Conf. Room**
- **Wednesday, September 16, 12 noon – Computer Group Meeting, Library Comp. Lab**
- **Wednesday, September 30, 12 noon – Program Meeting: Seth Mallios of San Diego State University on *San Diego Cemeteries*, Library Auditorium**

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, 619-426-4906 for details.

Visit our Web Site – <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caevgs2/>
and Visit the Chula Vista Genealogy Café blog – <http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>.

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