



San Diego Genealogical Society

Newsletter

April 2004  Vol. 37, No. 3

Los Angeles Public Library Bus Trip, Saturday, April 24



Haven't signed up for the SDGS Los Angeles Public Library bus trip yet? If not, here is what you will be missing.

The LAPL has approximately 45,000 genealogy titles, including more than 10,000 genealogies. Included in the collection are;

City Directories – 5,000 rolls of microfilm covering U. S. cities from 1861-1960 and microfiche for earlier years. About 1,200 paper directories, L. A. City directories from 1872 to 1942.

Family Histories – A 10,000 title collection not duplicated elsewhere in California with about 20% not in the Library of Congress.

Immigration Records – Passenger arrival lists of ships docking in San Francisco, Boston and Philadelphia. New York indexed ship records between 1820 to 1846.

Local Histories – Make up a large part of the genealogy collection and include detailed histories at the county level, cemetery records, probate records and town histories.

Military Records – Complete rosters of soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War. Also, several hundred unit histories of military units from WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

Newspapers – All Los Angeles Times 1881 - , Herald Examiner, New York Times 1851 - , Times of London 1785 - , San Francisco Chronicle 1869 - , Chicago Tribune 1849-1998. Shorter runs for others, e.g. Boston Globe, Denver Post.

April 10, 2004 Meeting with June Hanson

at St. Dunstan's Parish Hall

'Emigration From England: Why They Came' & 'English Records Research: What's There and Where to Find Them'

June will explore the reasons our ancestors came to America during the 17th and 18th centuries. She will examine the changing social structure there and how it affected their occupational, religious, economic and political lives.

In the second part of the program, she will reveal the important research records in England and how to access them in your research.



June Hanson is a past President of BIGRA (British Isles Genealogical Research Assn.) and is currently the England/Wales Interest Chair. Formerly, she was England Section Chair for the British Isles USA Society in Los Angeles.

Born in England, graduated from Occidental College in Los Angeles, an MA in French from Indiana University, she taught at San Diego State and in the Grossmont High School District. Participated in a Fulbright Teaching Exchange in France and taught at a Women's University in Japan. Currently teaches genealogy at Foothills Adult School, Oasis and elsewhere.

President's Message

Most regrettably, our Newsletter editor, Nancy Hendrickson, has asked to step down from her role due to the heavy demands of her business. We all most appreciate Nancy's efforts in producing our Newsletter this past year and will miss her professional quality work for the Society.

Until we find a replacement for Nancy, I will assume the job of temporary editor. If you would like to get involved in your Society and provide a valuable service to our members, here is a great opportunity to do so. With today's computer software products, newsletter publishing is easier than ever. With very little experience, anyone with basic computer skill can produce professional quality results. If you are interested or want to find out more about helping out with the Newsletter, please phone or e-mail me.

With this change, the Board has also decided to publish the newsletter on a monthly basis. This will ensure timely notification of our events and provide greater value to our members. We will be enhancing the content to include new library acquisitions, introduce new members, follow-up on events, personality 'spotlights' (success stories, travel experiences, etc), calendar events of regional interest and feature articles on genealogy. I would ask that all our members keep their eyes and ears open for items that might be of interest to our membership and to contact me by phone or e-mail (steelquist@aol.com).

I would also like to make a 'call for writers' to submit articles for our newsletter. Everyone has a success story, research trick, travel tip, humorous antidote, heartwarming story, etc. that they can share with others. If you would prefer to have someone else write it for the Newsletter, please contact me. We can all help make our newsletter a better experience for everyone. And making it better starts with you. So, please contribute.

Best regards,

Peter Steelquist



The Newsletter is published monthly by the San Diego Genealogical Society and mailed to all current members. Submission deadline for articles and announcements is the 15th of the month for the following month. Inclusion is based solely on the discretion of the Editor and/or Board of Directors. Members are encouraged to submit materials for publication, subject to copyright provisions. Please contact the Editor for guidelines.

2004 Board of Directors

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Comments and suggestions can be e-mailed to the editor at steelquist@aol.com or left on the Library answering machine, 619-588-0065.



Saddam Hussein Genealogy Revised

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (Vol. 8 No. 51 - December 22, 2003) reports that the Iraqi Genealogy Authority has deleted the name of Saddam Hussein from the list of noble offspring whose lineage stretches back to the Prophet Muhammad. It seems that Saddam had forced a number of genealogists to create a family tree for him to claim that he had a noble pedigree. The descent from Muhammad was published, even though proof seemed to be lacking. With Saddam now safely removed as a threat, the genealogists are now rejecting the genealogies published when the dictator was in power.

Arizona Roots?

The State of Arizona has posted, on-line, their actual birth certificates (1887-1928) and death certificates (1878-1953). They are indexed and printable at www.genealogy.az.gov. Check it out and encourage other states to follow. Great!

Thanks to member Jerry Smith for submitting this.

Ever Heard of Ezines?

Are you paying for paper genealogy magazines? Ever thought of subscribing to ezines for free? Well, they are out there. They all offer just a little bit more knowledge to you at your fingertips and you don't even have to go out to your mail box. Let me tell you about just a few of them.

If you are new to genealogy, I suggest that you take the time to explore some of the links that you read about in any of these magazines. The links themselves will be educational and might offer still other links that you might be able to use some day -- and it will give you experience working with different web sites.

One is RootsWeb Review: RootsWeb's Weekly E-zine (comes out each Wednesday!), circulation: 1,022,037+, <http://www.rootsweb.com/>, Editor: Myra Vanderpool Gormley, Certified Genealogist Editor. RWR-on@rootsweb.com -- adds you to the RWR Mailing List, RWR-off@rootsweb.com -- removes you from the RWR Mailing List, or you can go to rootsweb.com and see the ink in the upper left column and to Search/download all back issues of RootsWeb Review:

<http://e-zine.rootsweb.com/> Then there are two similar but different ezines. MISSING LINKS: A Magazine for Genealogists, circulation: 17,503+, <http://www.petuniapress.com/>, Julia M. Case Editor-at-Fault, and SOMEBODY'S LINKS NEWSLETTER: Genealogical Treasures Found, circulation: 17,436+, <http://www.petuniapress.com/>, Julia M. Case, Editor-at-Fault. SOMEBODY'S LINKS contains notices of genealogical treasures found, such as photographs, diaries, letters, and family Bibles.

Another is Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter - Standard Edition is available at <http://www.eogn.com>. A premium edition is also available for a fee. Though not an ezine, you can also go to Cyndi's list and subscribe to a mailing list (it is actually two mailing lists and you cannot respond to them...they are advisory mailings only) which allows only Cyndi to tell you what she has found as "What's New" AND "Link Activity" which tells which links that are already on her web page have been updated. Go here to learn more and subscribe; <http://www.cyndislist.com/-maillist.htm>. Cyndi's mailing list does not allow you to communicate on a list like ROOTS-M or gen-newbie. You receive info but you can't respond.

You can contribute information about your web sites and updates to your web sites but there are procedures to follow. Find those on cyndislist.com.

Then there is Ancestry.com's Ancestry DAILY news and Ancestry WEEKLY news. These you can subscribe to by going to the very bottom of rootsweb.com's home page --all the way down.

Finally, you can go to google.com and type 'genealogy +ezines +free' you will find that there are others that exist for free. Revise that to 'genealogy +ezines +free +STATE' and see if there is one for your particular STATE of interest or 'genealogy +ezines +free +SURNAME' and see if there is one for your particular SURNAME of interest.

While these, and others, may not replace your favorite paper genealogy magazine, they will certainly add to your knowledge and skill as a genealogist.....and you can't beat the price.



NGS Conference in Sacramento

The National Genealogical Society will be holding its 2004 Annual Conference and Genealogy Exhibit in Sacramento on May 19-22. This is only the third time in more than 20 years that it has been held in California.

This year's conference will have some exciting offerings for people interested in California history and genealogy. One of the featured speakers is J. S. Holliday, a noted California Gold Rush historian and author of "The World Rushed In: The California Gold Rush Experience" and "Rush for Riches: Gold Fever and the Making of California". His presentation is titled, "Far from Home and Family: The Origins of California's Risk-taking Culture". Dr. Holliday is an excellent speaker who makes history come alive.

Some other topics of California interest are; "California Gold Rush" and "Research Facilities in the Golden State" by Chuck Knuthson, "Did Your Ancestors' Siblings Take YOUR Family Papers to California?" by Sheila Benefict and "Using California Records to Find Southern U. S. Ancestors" by J. Mark Low. These are but a few of the more than 100 presentations and events planned for the conference.

Complete conference event schedule, exhibitor list and registration brochures are available at our library or by visiting the NGS web site at www.ngs-genealogy.org. Early bird registration is open until April 2nd.

Don't Rely On The Internet For All Your Genealogical Research

Too many researchers have come under the spell of easy on-line searching. Granted there is a lot of legitimate material available on-line but there is also a LOT of misinformation out there too.

If you are truly interested in documenting your family records and getting a look at original papers the old fashioned way of search is still the best. Of course this means you have to get away from your computer and go to a library, courthouse, cemetery, etc. We are fortunate to have so many resources available to us here in San Diego. One of the best is our own Genealogy Library in El Cajon. Other top resources would be the Family History Center in Mission Valley and the Carlsbad Genealogy Library. Also coming up on April 24, is the opportunity to take a bus trip to the Los Angeles County Library which in itself is mind-boggling.

I hear people comment that they went on line and found their entire family in less than an hour!!! GIVE ME A BREAK!!! What they have found, 9 times out of 10, is a tree full of undocumented information that someone has "guessed" at. Family Trees are usually just good for a "possible" lead to be used and nothing more. Look closely at the birth and death dates throughout these families and you will soon recognize the many errors or impossibilities that have been submitted as fact.

Make the effort to go to the library and spend some time in the books and films. Look through the Family History Center Library Catalog and see what wonderful films are available thru Salt Lake. You aren't going to see those County Court Records on the internet as well as wills, probate records, deeds, etc.

A great new film/fiche & book reader is now in the Family History Center that allows you to make your own CD. The charge is \$1.00 + \$1.00 for a blank CD. I made a copy of a 250 page family book from a fiche. Far less expensive than photocopying.

I am not saying that you won't find excellent information out there in cyberspace because we have all found something including newly discovered cousins all across the country and that is always exciting. I am saying, "don't rely on it for everything!"

Colleen Kline, 1st Vice President

Meeting in Review.....

Everett B. Ireland, CGRS

"Non-Population Census Records"
"How Courthouse Steps Take You Back in Time"

Most genealogists are all too familiar with the Federal population censuses, but few have utilized the 'non-population' census records for their research. Mr. Ireland reviewed the various census schedules and the gems of information they contain for adding to our family histories.



As the census takers were traveling around compiling the population census, they were also completing the 'occupational schedules' of manufactures, agriculture, mortality and social statistics. He showed us that by comparing one census with the next, we can track the growth (or decline) of the individual manufacturer's or farmer's production. As these schedules follow the population census, it is fairly easy to find you ancestor if they were involved in manufacturing or agriculture. He also pointed out that it may be more difficult to locate the repository of these census schedules than it is to use them.

Suggested uses include filling in for unavailable or unreadable population census schedules, determining one family line from another, determining the amount and type of crops and animals or manufactured goods and inventory in production. All this could really help 'flesh out' the lives of our ancestors. His handout included copies of the various non-population census schedules and a bibliography with pertinent web sites. This was certainly an eye-opener on how to use these under utilized resources.

Researching courthouse records is certainly one of the main sources for genealogists. Mr. Ireland reviewed the various records kept in courthouses -- probate, land records, tax assessments, civil actions, vital records, etc. He discussed the various finding aids available for these and lesser know records. Other repositories for these records include libraries (law, college, genealogical), historical societies and archives. He cautioned on use of secondary sources and proper etiquette when dealing with courthouse personnel. His bibliography included website URLs for courthouse research -- alone worth the price of admission.

Rummage Sale Scheduled

The SDGS Spring Rummage Sale will take place Saturday, May 15, 2004 from 8 am to 2 pm at the La Mesa Historical Society McKinney House, 8369 University Ave.

If you haven't started your spring cleaning, now is the time to go through your cluttered garage, crowded closets and kitchen cabinets and bring order back to your life. Your donations may be dropped off in the storage room at our library. Please mark bags or boxes "Rummage". **The deadline for donations is May 12th.** Got too much stuff to handle yourself? Phone our truck volunteer, Chuck Schroeder at 619-461-4071 to arrange for a convenient pick-up time. Your donations are tax deductible.

Be sure all electronic items are in working order. Due to environmental concerns, we can not accept computer monitors or TVs and, due to space limitations, are not taking clothing.

Please phone Nita Freer, 619-562-0687, or Karna Webster, 619-463-1029, with questions.

Thanks for your generous donations. They go a long way to help your Society.



Improve Your Genealogy with Study Groups

The Study Group is a 2-hour workshop in which we discuss a specific topic or area. After the discussion, we can provide mentoring should you have a "brick wall" situation in which you need help. We meet the third Tuesday of each month except July, August and December, 10 a.m to noon at the Society library.

April 20 -- Southern States: Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia and Kentucky

May 18 -- Deep South: North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana

June 15 -- The Midwest: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Come and learn from experienced experts.

continued from page 1, Los Angeles Public Library Trip

Periodicals – Over 600 titles, many with long backfiles. Many are indexed individually or in PERSI, which is available at the Society library or on Ancestry.com (also at LAPL).

Telephone Directories – Microfiche U. S. directories from 1976- , some paper directories prior to 1976, L. A. phone books back to 1900.

Vital Records – Numerous indexes including CA Marriage 1960-1986, death and marriage for Nevada, Texas and other selected states. Over 200 book indexes at county or city level and many books of cemetery records.

Map Collection – One of the largest in American public libraries with 80,000 maps, 2,000 atlases and 1000 gazetteers.

Still not convinced you need to visit the Los Angeles Public Library.

Their computer online databases include Ancestry +Plus, Biography and Genealogy Master Index, Biography Resource Center, City Directory Index, California Index, and more.

To prepare for your trip, you can search the online card catalog at www.lapl.org and be ready to 'hit the stacks' running when you arrive. You can also search PERSI before hand (available at the Society Library, FHC, Ancestry.com) and be ready to dive into the vast periodical collection.

There are many restaurants close by the LAPL for a quick (or leisurely) lunch and we will be stopping on the way back at the Hometown Buffet for dinner. With all this in store, how could you not join the Society for a great day in LA! [See you on the bus.](#)



Welcome to Our New Members

We want to welcome the following new members to the Society. Please introduce yourself to them at the next meeting. A warm welcome to you all.

Garren Gerschoffer
John Henderson
James Rhodes
Beverly Spaeth

Nancy Hattox
Suzanne Marback
Gloria Sharkey
Sheila Taipale

San Diego County Genealogy Events

View calendar of events online at:
www.cgssd.org/events.php3

From Research to Manuscript to Publishing a Genealogy

by Elaine Edwards Foulger

Where do I end my research and begin writing my book? When do I know where to stop the research?

Those were the questions I asked myself many times. I asked people who had already published how they knew when it was time to stop researching and begin writing. I attended a seminar on How to Publish Your Genealogy, yet I was not ready to make the leap from the comfortable research mode to the write →edit →rewrite →and re-edit mode.

In June 2003, my ideas changed when I took a trip to Fullerton, California to meet a couple of cousins whom I had never met. One was Louise, who was 90 years old, as sharp as a tack, and a first cousin to my dad. The other cousin was in his 70s. They expressed enthusiasm for my genealogy project and Louise handed me three travel diaries her parents had written on their car travels from Fullerton to Corvallis, Montana and back.

The first diary was dated 1912, the second 1918 and the third was dated 1926. As I began to transcribe the diaries I became fascinated by the descriptions of the scenic countryside as the family traveled at 35 miles per hour in their Studebaker. A days drive was from Fullerton to Ventura which also entailed fixing the four tire blowouts.

I also found a travel diary my grandparents had written during their vacation travels from San Diego to New York City and back in 1936. All the diaries had the costs of food, gas, and lodging whether it was a campsite, or in later years a motor lodge.

After I transcribed the four diaries and put together a photo album of the families I decided it was time to stop doing research and write a combination oral history with a genealogy. I not only used the newly found diaries, but family stories garnered from several family members and newspaper articles.

I read articles on formatting Word properly to achieve the best results for a bound volume. And I worked with different fonts to find the best for readability. The result of my endeavors was 266 pages of text and 32 pages of photo layouts all bound in a hard cover book.

A Poem.....

The Family Loop

Many, many years ago
When I was twenty three,
I got married to a widow,
Pretty as could be.

This widow had a grown-up daughter
With flowing hair of red.
My father fell in love with her,
And soon the two were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law
And changed my very life.
Now my daughter was my mother,
For she was my father's wife.

To complicate the matters worse,
Although it brought me joy.
I soon became the father
Of a bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became
A brother-in-law to dad.
And so became my uncle,
Though it made me very sad.

For if he was my uncle,
Then that also made him brother
To the widow's grown-up-daughter
Who, of course, was my step-mother.

Father's wife then had a son,
Who kept them on the run.
And he became my grandson,
For he was my daughter's son,

My wife is now my mother's mother
And it makes me blue.
Because, although she is my wife,
She's my grandma too.

If my wife is my grandmother,
Then I am her grandchild.
And every time I think of it,
It simply drives me wild.

For now I have become
The strangest case you ever saw.
As the husband of my grandmother,
I am my own grandpa!

.....Anonymous