



# San Diego Genealogical Society

# Newsletter

May 2004  *Happy Mother's Day!*  Vol. 37, No. 4

## Going to Salt Lake City?

Your most productive time in Salt Lake City should be the days and weeks before you get there. With the ability to access the Family History Library Catalog online, you should be totally prepared to concentrate on your research and not looking up film numbers, books, IGI, Ancestry File and other online sources. But there are several other things you should be doing to get ready.

Before your trip, you should map out your specific research objectives. You should already have looked up the available resources and know where they are located in the FHL. Review the library floor plan on FamilySearch.org and schedule your research so you spend less time running around and more time at the film readers and in the stacks. Try to group similar film numbers together to minimize 'foot time'. And because you looked up your film numbers in advance, you already have requested, via e-mail, the "vault" films that can take up to three days to retrieve.

It goes without saying, you should have already exhausted the resources of your local FHC. If possible, don't spend your precious time looking through one reel of film after another at unindexed records. Those can be ordered through you FHC at viewed leisurely when you are home. You should be concentrating more on records that are only available in Salt Lake City. Many of the family histories and surname books have not been filmed and can only be accessed in Salt Lake. They are now located in the FamilySearch Center, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, not the FHL, and each site has different operating hours. Of course, being prepared, you knew that and have already scheduled your time accordingly.

## May 8, 2004 Monthly Meeting at St. Dunstan's Hall

### *"Planning For Your Research Trip" and "Methodology: Going from Clue to Clue"*

"Planning For Your Research Trip" will teach you the fine points of how to prepare beforehand for your trip, what to take and what to look for. Whether you are going back to the old homestead, to Salt Lake City or elsewhere, you will learn many valuable tips.



"Methodology: Going from Clue to Clue" Sounds elementary, right? Here you will learn some of the steps a professional genealogist uses in conducting a research project. From starting, organizing, analyzing, follow-up and how to keep your research moving forward.

Caroline Braxton Rober has been 'doing' genealogy for over 34 years. She is a Professional Genealogist, lecturer and author. A member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, she serves as Technical Director for the Orange Co. FHC and is treasurer of the Southern Calif. Chapter of APG.

She is a native Californian, wife, mother and grandmother. She credits her grandmother with sparking her first interest in genealogy more than 45 years ago. Her fields of research expertise include Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Luxembourg.

## President's Message

Dear Members,

With this issue of the Newsletter you will notice additional content and articles. There are more items of interest on genealogy and research techniques as well as experiences of your fellow members.

One of the most valuable assets of our Society is our members. Many have years of genealogical experience and learning that can, and should, be shared with others. These include travel experiences like Colleen and Shirley's beginning on page 8 in this issue. I know you will enjoy reading the humorous account of their travels.

I would venture that every member of the Society has something they have discovered or learned that would benefit other members. I would encourage you to take a few minutes and write down a research tip, travel experience, genealogy 'find' or other item to share with your fellow members. You never know who else in the Society may have the same research interest as you or be able to help you further your research. So, please, do yourself and our other members a favor and share your experiences. If you don't think you can write it, get a friend to help. After all, it doesn't have to be a lengthy masterpiece to be effective and beneficial. A short paragraph may be all that is needed. So, help your fellow members and share your genealogy secrets. Everyone wins!

Best regards,  
Peter Steelquist

## Volunteers Needed

The Society is looking for volunteers to help with the following duties;

**Newsletter Circulation:** Help fold, label, sort and mail monthly newsletter. Deliver to bulk mail PO at Carmel Mtn. Ranch. Approx. 4 hrs. per month.

**Newsletter Editor:** Compile monthly newsletter, write and edit submitted articles, take to printer and deliver to library for mailing. Approx. 15 hours per month. Experience with publishing software. Please contact Peter Steelquist for questions and interest.

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

President.....Peter Steelquist  
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Comments and suggestions can be e-mailed to the editor at [steelquist@aol.com](mailto:steelquist@aol.com) or left on the Library answering machine, 619-588-0065.



## *Rummage Sale 'Last Call'*

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.

There are only a few days left! **The deadline for donations is May 12th.** Your donations may be dropped off in the storage room at our library. Please mark bags or boxes "Rummage". 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.



## *The Meaning of Life.....*

When you're right, no one remembers. When you're wrong, no one forgets.

## *Interlibrary Loan Service for SDGS Members*

Some of the most important sources of information about family history appear in locally published newspapers. County, city, and even small community newspapers published can be important sources to learn not only about your family, but also about local, community, and regional history. Thanks to our recently acquired microfilm reader and printer the San Diego Genealogical Society Library can now offer this service to our members. Newspaper microfilm, and other selected microfilm items, are available for borrowing through interlibrary loan. The cost of this service may include a fee charged by the lending library plus cost of postage and insurance. The Society does not charge a fee for this service. However, the films must be used only at our library.

The information needed to order films include: Name and address of the lending library, list of the cities or towns (counties or townships), titles, months, days, and years. State libraries are usually a good source for film and most information concerning ILL can be found on their websites. A list of state libraries may be found at [www.libraryspot.com](http://www.libraryspot.com) and [www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html](http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html). State Historical Societies are another source <http://web.syr.edu/~jryan/infopro/hs.html>. For those researching Missouri, the SDGS Library has a current catalog of film available from the State Historical Society of Missouri.

ILL forms are available for downloading on the Society's web site. For information or to request film please contact Lynne Robinson, 619-444-1690 or e-mail at [lynnrobinson@cox.net](mailto:lynnrobinson@cox.net)



## *Aluminum Can Recycling Helps Your Society*

The Society continues to collect your empty aluminum cans for recycling. By bringing them to the monthly meetings or leaving them in the storage room at the library, you are not only helping the environment, you are also helping your Society. So, please, collect your cans (and those of neighbors, relatives and friends) and give them to your Society.

## *Libraries On The Internet*

Those going to the Los Angeles Library on April 24th no doubt checked that library website before the trip. With our new microfilm reader-printed available for microfilm on Interlibrary Loan I was reminded that there are also books available for loan.

Probably most of you are aware that the National Genealogical Society's library, once housed in Arlington, Virginia, has been moved to the St. Louis County Library - Special Collections, and many books are available on loan.

Check it out at:

<http://www.slcl.lib.mo.us/slcl/sc/sc-genpg.htm>

For other libraries with online catalogs check the following sites:

Mid-Continent Library - in Independence, MO.

<http://www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/branch/ge/>

Newberry Library, Chicago, IL.:

<http://www.newberry.org/nl/newberryhome.html>

National Archives and Records Administration:

[www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov)

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution: <http://dar.org/library/>

Library of Virginia: [www.lva.lib.va.us/dlp](http://www.lva.lib.va.us/dlp)

Allen County Public Library - Ft. Wayne, IN: [www.acpl.lib.in.us/](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/)

This is the world's second largest genealogy library with lots of county histories and periodicals. (Creator of PERSI - the Periodical Source Index).

And of course;

Library of Congress: <http://catalog.loc.gov>



### *Your Society is an Ancestry.com Affiliate*

Whenever you make a purchase from or subscribe to a new Ancestry.com database, please be sure to log on the San Diego Genealogy Web site ([www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs/)) first and go through our link to Ancestry.com. This way, your Society receives a commission on what you purchase and it doesn't cost you a penny more! Be sure to tell you friends about this too as any purchase through our web site counts.

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One of the most important reasons for going to Salt Lake is to capitalize on their knowledge and expertise in foreign country research. Many of the staff there speak and read foreign languages and can decipher old handwriting. This benefit alone can save you many hours and increase your chances for successful research. But be sure to read the Research Guides (available at the FHC and FamilySearch.org) for your particular areas of research before you get there. Also review the online Research Helps. That way you will know what is available and know what questions to ask and not waste your and the FHL staffs' time.

The FHL personnel also provide consultation by phone and e-mail. They will answer your general questions or on specific areas of research. Use these numbers for help with research about: United States or Canada: 801-240-2364; British Isles, Australia, New Zealand: 801-240-2367; 801-240-2367; other international areas: 801-240-3433; FamilySearch: 801-240-2584. The e-mail address is: [www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHL/frameset\\_library.asp?PAGE=Email\\_fhl.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHL/frameset_library.asp?PAGE=Email_fhl.asp). They say 'getting there half the fun', but you will have more fun and better research success because you have prepared in advance and maximized your travel dollar.

**The deadline to sign up for our June 20-27 SLC trip is June 1st. Don't wait. Sign up now.**



## 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.

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 researchers.**



**Speaker:** Born in England, June Hanson is a BIRGA (British Isles Genealogical Research Assn.) past-President, and currently the England/Wales Interest Chair. She also teaches genealogy in San Diego.

**English Records Research:** June reviewed the United States records to use in tracing your ancestors to England. They include census, immigration, naturalization, land, cemetery, obituaries, etc. Once across the ocean, English research records include the national birth, marriage & death index beginning in 1837. Prior to the Civil Registration, vital records were kept in the church parish registers dating back to the 1500s. Researchers need to know the parish where they lived. English census records are available from 1841-1901 either on film, fiche or online. Many other records have been filmed for courts, land, military, cemeteries, newspapers, etc. Online resources include; [Ellislandrecodes.com](http://Ellislandrecodes.com), [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) (IGI), [genuki.org.uk](http://genuki.org.uk), [rootsweb.com](http://rootsweb.com), [pro.gov.uk](http://pro.gov.uk).

**Emigration From England:** The main impetus for emigration was to improve their lives and better transportation technology. Early religious groups left not so much avoiding persecution but to freely express their religious beliefs. It was a chance for them to own land, improve their standard of living, and break the social class binds. Religious groups, the Quakers, and later the LDS, recruited converts to come to America. With the rise of the industrial revolution, many journeyed to escape deplorable living conditions, demand for their trade, and to establish land inheritance.

With the development of the steam ship, passage to America became less perilous and more affordable. This coincided with the opening of the west, providing far greater opportunities. While some came for adventure (and gold), most were escaping the confines of the British social system. The first came from southern England where established ports made transportation easier and later from the industrial north. As many as 1/4 emigrants later returned to England.

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## Free World Place Finder CD

Now you can own an enormous geographical database of over 3.3 million place names from around the world free of charge. With the *World Place Finder* CD-ROM, you can look up towns and cities, counties, countries anywhere in the world and find the correct format for each place, as well as the exact longitude and latitude.

The database was developed as a resource for genealogy research program called *World Place Advisor*, which was released earlier this year by Progeny Software.

The database is too large to offer as a download, but the CD-ROM can be ordered online or by telephone. For a limited time, Progeny is making this database available for free. The only charge is \$6.00 for shipping and handling.

Included on the CD is an evaluation version of Progeny's new product *World Place Advisor*, which offers a taste of their valuable genealogy program.

*World Place Finder* can be ordered online at [www.progenysoftware.com/placefinder.html](http://www.progenysoftware.com/placefinder.html) or by calling toll-free, 800-565-0018.



## With Age Comes Wisdom

A survey released last month found that older Americans are more likely than other age groups to act prudently when it comes to spam. More than 34 percent of younger Internet users click on links in the junk e-mail messages, but only 23 percent of Americans ages 65 and older did, according to an online survey of 1,000 adults conducted by market research firm Applied Research for Symantec, a maker of anti-virus products. Clicking on a link tells spammers the e-mail address is active and exposes people to fraudulent schemes. CBS MarketWatch



## Welcome to Our New Members

We want to welcome the following new member to the Society. Please introduce yourself to Robert at our next meeting. Welcome to the Society!

**Robert Holland** - researching surnames: Bailey, Dougherty, Gilmer, Griffin, Johnson, McDougal

## The Story Tellers: We Are The Chosen Ones

My feelings are that in each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors, to put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.

To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called as it were by our genes.

Those who have gone before cry out to us: Tell our story! So, we do. In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors you have a wonderful family? You would be proud of us! How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why do I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference, and saying I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bones and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it.

It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.

It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us. That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do. With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are them and they are us.

So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take their place in the long line of family storytellers.

That, is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones.

.....by Della M. Cummings Wright

Thanks to member Diane Altona for submitting this.

## *Library Notes*.....by Anna Acosta

The library has been a busy place for several weeks. At the end of March we entertained a group of twelve from an Orange county Genealogical Society. Those on hand to help were:

Lynne Robinson, Diane Altona, Karna Webster, Nita Freer, Robert Cartledge and myself. The group brought brown bag lunches, we furnished coffee and donuts, and it was an enjoyable day. All but one visitor found new information - some quite a lot - so it was a busy time for all of us. The group left a generous donation and the wish to return. Thanks go to all the volunteers who helped make the day a success.

Finally, we have a working microfilm reader-printer. Thanks go to all those who made generous contributions for making this machine purchase possible. Check out Lynne Robinson's article on Interlibrary Loans to learn the rules and regulations involved. There are new forms and a new way they are available.

More wonderful news! Diane Altona, our Thursday morning library volunteer, took a Third (3rd) Place and an Honorable Mention in the Southern California Genealogical Society's 2003 Writing Contest! The only San Diego writer to win anything. She found the news and awards waiting when she got home after the regular meeting on Sat. April 10th. She is probably still walking on air and I know all our members are happy for her and proud to have her as a member of our Society. Congratulations Diane!

There is still time to sign up for the NGS Conference in Sacramento on May 19 - 22. Know at least 3 of our members are going. Check out the wonderful sessions and workshops offered by going online at [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org).

Additionally, thanks to a donation by Marna Clemons, before the end of May we will have a new telephone answering machine in the office so we can at last understand messages left when the office is closed.

We have a new combination on our keypad on the back door. As always the number is printed on your membership card (front side). Your new card and Directory have been available at the March and April meetings. If you were unable to get to the meetings, and would like to pick up your's at the

library, they are locked in the office and can be picked up there any Thursday 10 am to 4 pm or you'll need to make arrangements for a different day.

We need more volunteers to come in and dust book shelves once a month (after the monthly meeting you'd be close by). Georgia Callian and Donna Trapnell have accepted this challenge but we need a couple more. It is so easy to just expect the same handful of members to keep the library running. Many of you work full-time but surely there are some who could give an hour or two once a month. Won't you please give me a call at 858-271-9287.

Hope to see you at the library.



## *LDS Moving From Microfilm To Digital*

When the use of microfilm first began in the 1930's it was thought the film would last 100 years and be a great solution for keeping records for a long time. Certainly it would take up far less space than paper records. But recently the images have begun to degrade, with the oldest films becoming unstable and even found to combust spontaneously. How many of us have had a brittle film break while we were using it? The films are proving to last only a few decades. As we all are aware the LDS has spent millions to house/store their films so they are available for everyone to use.

So LDS had pilot projects underway to move from microfilm to digital technology. Crews who travel the world with microfilm cameras will now take scanners and pc's into original depositories. Not only is the result a better end product, it is also less cumbersome and expensive. Additionally, digital technology requires only a fraction of the presently allocated space and produces a more flexible product. (Just consider how many records are stored on our CD carousel at the our library). Existing films will be converted to a digital format over the next few years with emphasis, as always, placed where demand it highest.

What great news for genealogists!



## *The Meaning of Life*.....

After all is said and done, more is said than done.

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## *Will Internet Queries Help?*

From my experience I have found them to be a lot of help. In 2000 I placed a query on GenForum stating that my G Grandfather was Robert William Hamilton of Smith County, Texas. I was looking for his father, Robert Hamilton, who was last located with his wife, Eliza McKinley Hamilton and 3 children, Sarah Jane, Isabella, and Robert W., on the 1840 Census in Putnam County, Georgia. From this one query I received an e-mail from Maggie, a cousin in Georgia, who was descended from Isabella Hamilton Wheeler, of Putnam County, Georgia. She provided me with information on Isabella's descendents. Maggie also told me that Robert W. and Isabella's older sister, Sarah Jane, who married Daniel Reddick 18 March, 1852 in Rome, Floyd County, Georgia raised Isabella's children after Isabella died 05 June, 1871 in Putnam County, Georgia. In 2002 I went to Rome, Georgia and obtained a copy of Sarah Jane Hamilton and Daniel Reddick's marriage license. I shared the information I had on Robert W. and his descendents. Maggie was glad to receive it. Still no word of the father, Robert Hamilton.

The same query on GenForum also put me in touch with Horace Hamilton of Stanton, Texas. His Grandfather, Horace Hamilton, was the younger brother of my Grandfather, Cullen Smith Hamilton of Jacksonville, Texas. Horace sent me information about his family and I shared my information with him. I always remember when I share information I have received from someone else to give them credit.

Continuing my GenForum searches I decided to look for the family of my Maternal Grandmother, Martha Babler Wiley. She was born in Black Wolf, Winnebago County, Wisconsin 22 October, 1885. Her parents were Oswald Babler Jr. and Mary (Maria) Koch. Oswald came with his parents, Oswald Sr. and Katherine, from Switzerland in the 1850's. Mary Koch was born in Wisconsin and her parents came from Bavaria. I looked at the Babler site and found Gary Babler who was looking to make a connection between Bablers in Wisconsin and Switzerland. I replied with the above information and he e-mailed me a paper showing the direct descendants of (Unknown) Babler. It goes ten generations back from Oswald Babler Sr. b: 16 September, 1849 in Elm, Switzerland to (Unknown)

Babler b. About 1540. The information was compiled by LDS Missionary Billeter after WW II. He realized the importance of recording this and made it his life's work. I was so excited to be sent information I might never be able to locate.

I went to Salt Lake City with the society in June 2001. I decided to try to locate my maternal Grandfather, Melvin H. Wiley, b. 16 August, 1875, Charlotte County, New Brunswick, Canada. I had very little information. I looked up Wiley's in Charlotte County, NB, Canada and found a William Wiley who married Louisa Leighton from Maine. There were three children, John, Anne, and Caroline. I phoned my aunt and she said that was Uncle John and Aunt Anne. I was on the right track. I continued using the New Brunswick, Canada census records and learned Hugh Wiley and Mary Malloch were Williams parents. I was on the right track. One evening I decided to look at newsletters from New Brunswick. In Newsletter Issue #9 October 1981 I found the following query. Q343 - WILEY/MALLOCH. Hugh WILEY m 20 July, 1827 Mary MALLOCK in St. Andrews Par Charlotte County, NB, Canada. Hugh came from Ireland in 1820. Mary was b in NB. Wanted any info about birth dates, birthplaces, & parents. Mrs. David Brown, Nepean, Ont. I decided since almost 20 years had passed that I wouldn't find her. I put off trying to contact her until the next the next April. I phoned her and we exchanged e-mails and information. She had information about the Canadian people and I filled her in on Melvin and his family.

There are a lot of records in the Salt Lake City LDS Library. That is one place that has census records for Canada. ....Phyllis Newton



### *Query:*

Searching for parents of Amelia/Emily/Nancy HINDERLITER born 3 October 1919 (birth record not found) died 25 December 1997 in Texas, married BORCHARDT about 1947 in Maryland. She was placed in an orphanage in SAN DIEGO at age three; a contract stipulated she was not to be adopted. She left the orphanage at age 21. Desire LOCATION of this orphanage which originally may had been in or near La Jolla, later moved and thought to have been called San Diego Children's Home. Please contact Barbara Borchardt, P O Box 321, White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002 or Lynne Robinson, lynnerobinson@cox.net.

# *Our Search For Dead People*

By Colleen Ford Kline and  
Shirley Palmer Lamendola

By way of introduction, Shirley and Colleen are cousins who have always been interested in genealogy. We also had this strong urge to get out of town for an indefinite amount of time. We didn't want to cook, clean or be responsible for anyone else. We finally came to the conclusion that the only excuse we could come up with to "Get out of Dodge" was to search for our illusive dead relatives! And, of course, we're not going to find them in San Diego!

This is our story and we hope you not only enjoy it, but learn a lot of things about "what not to do while researching". We did do a few things right but, unfortunately, we discovered that we weren't too bright about how, when, where and why to look for these missing members of our family.

We actually ended up doing two such trips and, even after the fiascos of the first, we came to the conclusion that we didn't do much better on our second trip! We did, however, have a wonderful time on both trips and are still speaking to one another. We also continue to claim each other as a relative and, more importantly, as a friend.

Our first trip began on 10 May, 1998. Appropriately, it was Mother's Day as we waived a fond farewell to our families.

The first major decision to make was whether to head east or west. We decided that east would be better because if we went west the trip would only last one day! Our first stop, after a short gambling adventure in Mesquite, Nevada, was Salt Lake City. At that time, Salt Lake City was preparing for the 2002 Olympics and every entrance and exit to town was being worked on.....all at the same time! This was the first highway problem we would encounter. Neither of us had ever been to Salt Lake City so we were a little bit "geographically challenged"! However, we did manage to find our hotel.

Next it was time to unload the car. Okay, how many suitcases do two traveling gypsies need in their search for dead relatives? Well, there is no way to eloquently describe the amount of "stuff" we had in those suitcases! Our poor unsuspecting bellhop is probably still recuperating from the damage suffered

trying to haul four hundred pounds of clothing, food, notebooks. to our room! Needless to say, he received a generous tip!

We settled in to our room and were ready for the first assault on the family history center. The "big" find in Salt Lake City was that we discovered what the "G" stood for in our Grandfather, Samuel G. Wilson's name (as well as all of his siblings) It was Gibson. Shirley even called her mom to let her know. Our lunches consisted mainly of bottled Starbucks and Rice Krispy bars. On our last day in the library the fire alarm went off and everyone had to evacuate the building. Maybe we were making too much noise eating our Rice Krispy Bars! We spent one week in Salt Lake City and then it was time to pack up the car and head for Denver. I'm sure the bellhop was glad to see us go!

One thing you may not be aware of, there is a lot of flat country when you get past the Rockies, with miles and miles of nothing to look at. When we got to Salina, Kansas we encountered our first of several severe storm warning watches on TV. We made it to Topeka, Kansas on May 19th and went directly to the Kansas State Historical Society Genealogy Library. This is where I made a major discovery (actually, Shirley found it, but I'm the one doing the typing!). In looking through Kansas newspapers, Shirley found an article telling about Joseph Hooper, of Kansas City, who fell from a wagon in July, 1898 and was killed. Not too good for Joseph, but it really made me happy to finally find something of value! Joseph was my great grandfather.

We left Topeka for a short drive to Kansas City, MO, where we stayed with my cousin. Kansas City is where my father was born. My cousin took us all over Kansas City. We even saw the house where the Ford family had lived way back when. It is not exactly the place I would want to live in now, but in it's day it was probably quite decent. We also went to the Platte County Historical Society where I met a lady who had helped me in my research. We then went to the cemetery where I found the gravestone of Joseph Hoper, which gave his Civil War regiment. That, of course, led me to obtaining all of his Civil War pension papers. I must mention that, on a previous trip to Kansas City, my cousin had taken me to a cemetery in Park City, Platte County, MO, where I found my gggrandfather and gggrandmother's graves.

We left Missouri and headed up hwy 35 to Iowa,

where we spent the weekend visiting my son, Dennis, and his family.

Now we are heading into uncharted roads that we have never been on and have no itinerary from here on. We are flying by the seat of our pants, which, by the way, are getting broader as we speak.

We are now heading to Columbia, MO and the Missouri State Historical Society's Library located on the bottom floor of the University of Missouri Library. Beautiful University that was built in the 1850's. This is where Shirley found another major discovery in a book titled The Harrison County West Virginia Heritage. Lo and behold there was an article on another of our family by the name of Gain. It definitely straightened out the Gain family and the likelihood of cousin marrying cousin. Could this explain why we have found cousins in "institutions" and even so far as being called "idiotic" by a census taker.

May 27, we leave Columbia with the intention of staying and doing some sight-seeing in St. Louis. We stopped on the Mississippi River by the St. Louis Arch, had a drink on the river front. After looking at the surrounding area we made a joint decision that we didn't want to stay in St. Louis. Looking back now, that was one of our missed opportunities. We had to take a forty mile detour to get out of St. Louis due to road work to cross the Mississippi. We went through four states in one day: Missouri, Illinois, Indiana & into Kentucky. We didn't take the opportunity to see where the Louisville Slugger Bats are made because we felt we had to head on to Frankfort Co. and Woodford Co, KY. Oh Well, looking back now we realize we had all the time in the world to do that but in our haste to get on with our search we screwed up.

We chose a hotel that was on the highway between Frankfort and Versailles in Woodford Co. After going to the Historical Society in downtown Frankfort. Shirley was driving and got us lost but we didn't fight or make accusations. We were in that area for two nights. Colleen got us lost in Woodford Co but there again, we didn't argue or have a disagreement. Saw some beautiful horse farms and now know why Kentucky is called the Blue Grass State. Found some good things in Frankfort & at the Woodford Co. Historical Society. So far on the trip we have only been to states and counties, where the Fords lived but, there again, Shirley is a very patient woman (more so than me) and knew that her time was coming.

When you are traveling like we did you always worry about what to do on a weekend because the libraries and historical societies are closed so we took this opportunity to drive down the Blue Grass Parkway to Nashville, TN. On the way we stayed in Elizabethtown, KY. There was a problem with contaminated water, which we didn't discover until after we had drank ice tea and brushed our teeth. Question ----should we worry or just go on and take our chances at finding a restroom. Brave and maybe not too bright, having no other choice we continued on. No bad effects noted.

Upon arriving in Nashville we noticed that through pure luck our motel was adjacent to the Opryland Hotel. We spent 3 hours wandering thru the hotel. It is huge and absolutely magnificent. Took a tour of Nashville and saw Dolly Parton's home. Lots of boarded up windows in Nashville as a result of a recent tornado. Glad we weren't there at that time. So far, we have been on the road for 15 days. Gas prices have ranged from 99 cents per gallon to \$1.31. We have stayed in some pretty decent motels and never had a problem finding a room. We have also learned by now to stop at the State Run Welcome Centers along the road. There are lots of brochures with coupons for discounts at restaurants and motels. We have also had pretty good weather (when Shirley is driving). It has been duly noted that when the weather is bad and there is roadwork Colleen has been driving. We would definitely recommend that if you see a Cracker Barrel Restaurant - don't drive by, be sure to take time to eat there. SOOOOO GOOD!!

OK here we go again, this time we are headed for WV. Shirley can hardly contain herself because we are finally getting into the part of the US where our mothers were born. Of course to do this we had to go back up the Blue Grass Parkway and go thru Lexington, KY on the Man of War turnpike. Our first night was spent at Cross Lanes, outside of Charleston, WV. A severe storm passed thru during the night. Woke up to bright sunshine and blue skies and headed for Ravenswood, Jackson Co., WV the hometown of our mothers, the Wilson sisters, Mary Merle & Evelyn Winifred. It sits right on the Ohio River where our grandparents had a bakery in town. Took lots of pictures but failed to get one of the house the Wilson's lived in. ANOTHER BOO BOO!! We did manage to meet and visit with the local town historian, of sorts. Her name was Sue Miller and she was about 89 years old. She

had a picture taken in town and the bakery was in the background. It had been torn down since then. We left Ravenswood and headed toward Parkersburg, Wood Co., WV where we hit some pretty heavy traffic into town on a 2 lane road. We found a motel and the next day I decided to have the good old Taurus checked out. Seemed to be steering kind of strange. Yep, you guessed it, had to have repair work done. Needed a new rack & pinion (whatever it is - it's crucial to steering) This was where we found out about WV hospitality. While the car was being worked on a mechanic drove us into the Courthouse in Parkersburg and told us to call him when we were ready to be picked up. We spent a lot of time going thru those great old record books and found marriage and death records. What fun to look at the original court records not just copies. One of the things we found was the address where Samuel Gibson Wilson & Jennie Virginia Harris were married. Shirley told the man who picked us up about it and, bless his heart, he drove us down the street to the address. HOWEVER, it was the only vacant lot on the entire street. Oh well, that's how it goes. Picked up the car and full of cheery thoughts of what we had found we were looking forward to our next stop in Clarksburg, Harrison Co, WV. Ah, but Mother Nature strikes again. More severe storm warnings & tornado watches. We didn't want to take any chances so we quickly drove to the closest restaurant and ordered food to go knowing full well we wanted to be a safe place when the tornado hit. The restaurant was packed and people just kept coming in. We were thinking to ourselves, don't these people watch the news. There is a storm and tornados heading this way and they don't seem to be aware of it. We waited for a long time for our food to go and decided we could have sat down and ordered in quicker. As we sat in the safety of our room the only thing that went by was a little wind. No wonder those people didn't seem to care. Their weather forecasters aren't any more accurate than ours.

We went to the old Courthouse in Clarksburg where the elevator operator had to open the grill before the doors would open and he a little pull down seat for himself and used the old hand operating device to go from floor to floor. This was a really old courthouse. We also went in the Harrison Co. Genealogy Society, which was housed in Waldomore Mansion. The library was upstairs and

it was beautifully preserved old home that was pre civil war. Had another rewarding day as far as research goes so we decided it was time to take a break and find a mall. On the way to the Millbrook Mall we passed the cutoff to the FBI buildings. Had no idea they were even there. Ate in the food court in the Mall and when we left it was dark and raining. This made for another harrowing drive (as usual Colleen was driving). Unknown territory, rain and dark aren't conducive to a non-stressful trip.

We have now hit the halfway point of our trip and the furthest point east we plan on going on this trip. Went to Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants Library and Andrew " Stonewall" Jackson's Mill just outside Weston, Lewis Co., WV. In the town of Weston is a very large old state mental hospital. We learned at a later time that our great grandmother, Sarah McNemar Wilson, had two sisters who died there. As I mentioned before another member of the family had been classified as idiotic on a census so Shirley and I are now getting quite concerned about the stability of our relatives. WE THINK THAT WE ARE BOTH FINE!!

We headed back to good old Kentucky and guess what - some more rain - but this time Shirley was driving. We are heading for Paducah, KY. Why would anyone make a point of going to Paducah KY you ask. There is a lot of interesting stuff in Paducah aside from the fact that across the Ohio River in Metropolis, IL is a GIANT STATUE OF SUPERMAN!!! It is just a matter of chance that Superman overlooks a casino boat that went out on the river for about two hours at a time. This is also where the Ohio & Tennessee Rivers join. Along with history about Lewis & Clark, Clara Barton and a Quilt Show the flood wall was covered with beautiful murals depicting the town's history.

June 7th we started serious driving towards home. We passed lots of tobacco fields, went thru three states (KY, MO & AR) spent the night in Alma, AR. On the way we think we passed a dead armadillo. This may be more than you wanted to know but it was different than a skunk and it peaked our interest. Doesn't take much to entertain us.

On June 8th there were predictions of severe thunder storms and this time the weatherman was right!!! It even started out as heavy rain. We had breakfast in the home town of Troy Aikman, Henrietta, OK. We had 15 minutes of sun and then all hell broke lose. OF COURSE, COLLEEN WAS

DRIVING!! This was a white knuckle trip and we couldn't even see thru the windshield. Highway 40 is full of 18 wheelers and they were just flying by us. Finally found an exit and we immediately pulled off the road. At that point I found out that the windows were fogged up on the inside and I should have had the defroster going. No wonder everyone was passing us!!! THEY HAD CLEAR WINDOWS!!

We spent two more nights on the road and then a very long day of driving from Albuquerque, NM to Laughlin, NV. Spent two nights in Laughlin, spent our leftover gas money and then went home where we were greeted by assorted loving family. Reality strikes - back to cooking, cleaning and all that good domestic stuff.

We covered a little over 6,400 miles in 34 days. Before we started out we put \$400 in an envelope just for gas. When we got to Laughlin we still had \$150. Try and do that today. Guess what - we did another trip two years later, went further were gone for 49 days covering over 7,000 miles. Here is the really BIG SURPRISE - we are thinking of doing a 3rd trip. We really do get along together.

[Editor: I really want to thank SDGS Board members Colleen and Shirley for sending in a great story. If you have an interesting adventure, please write it up and send it in. Our members would enjoy



## *Do You NUCMC?*

So, what is NUCMC (pronounced "nuck-muck")? Well, it is short for National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections. It is a free-of-charge cooperative cataloging program operated by the Library of Congress. You can search for manuscript papers, letters, diaries, family bibles, log books, accounts, photographs, etc., of individuals, families or the records of organizations. NUCMC searches records that are submitted by libraries and archives from throughout the United States and the world. It contains descriptions of approximately 72,300 collections located in 1406 different repositories.

NUCMC began cataloging in 1959 and published 29 printed volumes from 1959 to 1993. In 1986, it began using the RLG (Research Libraries Group) data base to produce its published catalog. Thus, for material cataloged since 1986, searches can be done online at NUCMC while items cataloged prior

to this must be searched for in the book catalogs located at most major libraries. And since you probably don't know when an item may have been cataloged, a search must be done of both.

NUCMC is actually comprised to two different databases - the RLG and OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, a nonprofit computer library service). Each must be searched individually. Once logged on, you can choose which catalog database to use. Each has a simple form to search by word or 'left-anchored phrase' (e.g. 1st significant word in a phrase). There are also advanced search forms for both. The results of your search query will reveal the number of records found and listing the author and title. To find out more about the item, click on 'More on this record'. It shows details about the collection including number of items, number of containers, linear shelf space and more detailed descriptions. Going to the bottom of the record tells you where the collection is located. Instructions on the search page will tell you how to find more information about the repository.

With this information, you can log on the repository web site or contact them and arrange to get copies of the information cited. If you are not sure this is the information you are looking for, a letter or phone call to the repository can help determine the exact content.

So, what can you expect to find on NUCMC? At our 2004 annual luncheon, Dr. Schweitzer cited NUCMC as one of the most underutilized genealogical resources. Now, let me tell you what I have found using NUCMC. For my g-grandfather, a Maine sea captain, I located his 1847 personal ship's log containing notes and doodles and yearnings about his wife (found in Pasadena CA!). For another g-grandfather living in England, I found letters he wrote to Abraham Lincoln instructing him on how to end the Civil War and handle reconstruction. And for a g-granduncle, I got a copy of his extensive 1864 plains-crossing diary! You never know what you may find.

If you haven't used NUCMC, you are missing a great resource. It is easy to use and can give you big rewards. So, where do you find NUCMC?

**[www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html](http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html)**

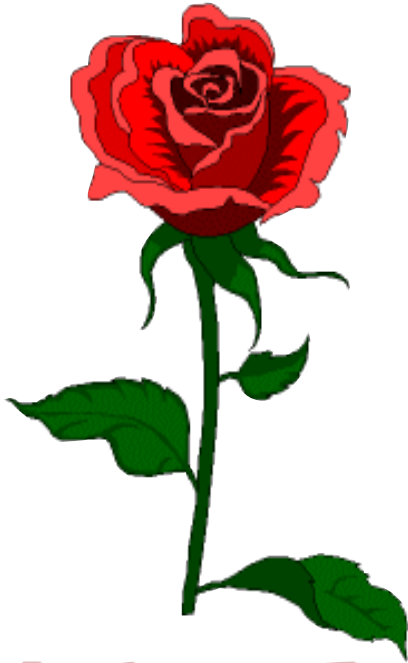
And now that you know, go NUCMC and NUCMC often. You won't regret it.

.....Peter Steelquist

## The Story of Mother's Day

The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. During the 1600's, England celebrated a day called "Mothering Sunday". Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent (the 40 day period leading up to Easter), "Mothering Sunday" honored the mothers of England.

# Happy



# Mother's Day

During this time many of the England's poor worked as servants for the wealthy. As most jobs were located far from their homes, the servants would live at the houses of their employers. On Mothering Sunday the servants would have the day off and were encouraged to return home and spend the day with their mothers. A special cake, called the mothering cake, was often brought along to provide a festive touch.

As Christianity spread throughout Europe the celebration changed to honor the "Mother Church" - the spiritual power that gave them life and protected them from harm. Over time the church festival blended with the Mothering Sunday celebration. People began honoring their mothers as well as the church.

In the United States Mother's Day was first suggested in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe (who wrote the words to the Battle hymn of the Republic) as a day dedicated to peace. Ms. Howe would hold organized Mother's Day meetings in Boston, Mass ever year.

In 1907 Ana Jarvis, from Philadelphia, began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. Ms. Jarvis persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia to celebrate Mother's Day on the second anniversary of her mother's death, the 2nd Sunday of May. By the next year

Mother's Day was also celebrated in Philadelphia.

Ms. Jarvis and her supporters began to write to ministers, businessman, and politicians in their quest to establish a national Mother's Day. It was successful as by 1911 Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state. President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day as a national holiday that was to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May. While many countries of the world celebrate their own Mother's Day at different times throughout the year, there are some countries such as Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, and Belgium which also celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

*According to the 1990 Federal Census, the ten most common names, in order, are as follows:*

### *Surname*

SMITH  
JOHNSON  
WILLIAMS  
JONES  
BROWN  
DAVIS  
MILLER  
WILSON  
MOORE  
TAYLOR

### *Women*

MARY  
PATRICIA  
LINDA  
BARBARA  
ELIZABETH  
JENNIFER  
MARIA  
SUSAN  
MARGARET  
DOROTHY

### *Men*

JAMES  
JOHN  
ROBERT  
MICHAEL  
WILLIAM  
DAVID  
RICHARD  
CHARLES  
JOSEPH  
THOMAS