



San Diego Genealogical Society

Newsletter

July 2004

HAPPY 4th of July

Vol. 37, No. 6

Your Own WWII Memorial



This past Memorial Day, we all got to share in honoring our WWII lost soldiers and veterans with the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington DC. It was a moving and long overdue tribute to all those of 'The Greatest Generation' who not only fought in the war but also served the on the home front to support our troupes.

Yet there is more we, each and everyone of us, can do to honor those who made so many sacrifices. There is an online registry where anyone can 'register an honoree' - which includes anyone buried in ABMC (American Battle Monument Commission) overseas military cemeteries, memorialized on ABMC Tablets of the Missing, listed on the official War and Navy Department Killed in Service rosters held by the National Archives (NARA) or honored by public enrollment in the Registry of Remembrances. The web site is www.wiimemorial.com.

If this describes someone you know or are related to, you can add a personal remembrance by clicking on the "register an honoree" option and following the simple steps. It's important to note, however, that the site specifies that, any U.S. citizen who helped win the war, whether a veteran or someone on the home front, is eligible for the registry. This means that you are welcome to add Grandma if she served as a WASP or WAVE or even yourself if you worked in an aircraft factory or otherwise contributed to the effort.

The straightforward process allows you to upload an image if you'd like -- a nice touch, since seeing a photo somehow makes it more real, especially to those who were not born at the time. The registry is also searchable, so you can see if others have already

Monthly Meeting, July 10
St. Dunstan's Parish Hall

Annual Book Sharing & Ice Cream Social



This is our annual book sharing where members bring their prized collections of genealogy books to share with other members. Here you will find books that are most certainly not in the Society's or other local libraries. It is a rare opportunity to find those special books you've been looking for or, even better, that you never knew existed.

Even more valuable is the chance to find other members who are researching the same name, county, or township as you. Each year members find others with the same research interest and leave with a whole new wealth of knowledge and a new research 'buddy'.

It only works if you are willing to share. So, go through YOUR library and select some books that you value and bring them to the July meeting. Books will be arranged by subject for easy browsing. Be sure to put your name, address and phone number in them-- not only to be sure you get yours back but also so others know who brought them and who to contact to share research information.



With summer just three weeks old, this is also our ice cream social. It is your chance to get the best ice cream with your choice of toppings. Your most difficult decision will be whether to get two scoops or three (or is that four). The hot fudge, caramel and other goodies just seem to fall in place.

So come and cool off with some ice cream and do some serious research with books you won't find anywhere else. Big payoffs today, for sure!



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
1st Vice President.....Colleen Kline
2nd Vice President.....Antoinette Bertolas
Treasurer.....Harvey Keating
SecretaryTim McMaster
Acting Newsletter Editor.....Peter Steelquist

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



Beginning Genealogy Class Offered

The San Diego City Public Library, in conjunction with the Society, is offering a beginning class in family history and genealogy research. It will be held at the downtown Central library (820 E St.) on July 17th from 2 to 4 pm in the third floor auditorium. Society board members, Elaine Foulger and Phyllis Newton will be conducting the class.

It is intended for individuals with no prior experience and will cover; forms and methodologies used in research, major record types, computer software programs, Internet resources and an introduction to the Genealogy and California Rooms at the library.

If you know of someone who has expressed an interest in starting their family history research but isn't quite sure how, this is a perfect opportunity to get them started on the right foot. Flyers are available at our library and San Diego City branch libraries. This is the first time the Society has partnered with the library. Our mutual purpose is not only to promote interest in genealogy but also to provide exposure to the Society. All are welcome to 'come on down' and give Elaine and Phyllis moral support.

The Meaning of Life.....

Living with a saint is more grueling than being one.

President's Message.....

Your Society offers many valuable services to its members. I trust you enjoy and learn from our monthly Newsletter, our monthly meetings offer a wide range of topics presented by noted genealogy experts, our research trips offer you opportunities to visit different research sites with convenience and with the company of other researchers and, of course, there is our library.

The library is the major resource of your Society. It is the second largest genealogical library in San Diego County, containing almost 10,000 titles. For members, it is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is also open to the public and staffed every Thursday. There is plenty of safe, free parking and the building is air conditioned. The facilities include a computer for the CD collection, photocopier, microfiche and film readers/printers, and even a scanner. The Society devotes considerable time, effort and money to maintain this fine collection and the premises. By all accounts, it is an asset all our members can truly be proud of.

In looking at our sign-in sheets, I wonder why our prized library is not used more. I venture to guess that there are some members who have never visited our library. What a shame! If you haven't visited the library lately, why not? It has so many resources you will never find on the Internet or at any other local library. Perhaps you are not sure where to start -- well then, drop by on a Thursday for an orientation and research help. Could it be that you don't think you'll find anything there? I seriously doubt that! Our periodical collection alone is worth the visit (see PERSI article in last month's newsletter). There is also the Inter-library loan service available to members. What an outstanding opportunity to further your research without leaving town.

You may not know this but our library regularly gets visits from individuals and groups from out-of-town who realize the importance of our collection. Many leave with important new finds and broken down brick walls. This could also happen to you just by visiting YOUR library. I encourage you to set a date and plan on going to the library. Why not bring a friend or call another member and meet them there -- you'll have more fun and be able to help one another. Don't miss out on an opportunity that's right in your own back yard. I look forward to seeing you there!

Peter Steelquist
President

Hamburg Passenger Lists by Joan Lowrey

These important indexes and lists cover the period from 1850 to 1934 (excluding 1915-19) and include non-German emigrants who left from the port of Hamburg, including Russia, Poland, Scandinavia and others. Among other information, they contain age, place of birth or last residence, family members, occupations, religion, destination, etc.

There are two types of lists; direct - those that went directly from Hamburg to their overseas destination and indirect - those that went to other European ports (e.g. Hull for sailing out of Liverpool). From 1854-1910 these two lists are separate with earlier and later lists combined. Some are typed while others are on hand written cards.

The indexes are available at the Family History Center (notebook on reference shelf) or online at FamilySearch. At the meeting, handouts outlined the various indexes by years, number of rolls for both direct and indirect indexes and lists and the advantages and disadvantages of each. There are a total of 494 films in all. Examples of film records were shown. Maps were also displayed which depicted the various inland routes taken to Hamburg. The migration experience was compared to how we travel today in terms of non-stop, first-class vs. coach, cost of overnight accommodations, etc.

Other sources were also covered including; Germans to America (incomplete), Hamburg Ship Directory 1850-1874, and New York Passenger Lists. Also cited was Genealogy.net at www.genealogienetz.de/misc/emig/ham_pass.html (see below for update).

The presentation revealed how vital and important these records are and how relatively accessible they are for researchers. That said, in the second part of the program, case studies were presented that showed some of the difficulties and pitfalls when using these lists, particularly when compared to other resources. Problems with handwriting, conflicting dates, different ship names and expatriated emigrants returning can all be confusing.

In follow-up to her presentation, Joan Lowrey provided the following update;

Index to Hamburg Emigrants Passes 2 Million Mark

The project to index all persons who emigrated from the Port of Hamburg, Germany, from 1850 to 1934 has passed the two million mark with the entry of Nochem David Goldfarb, a 17-year-old Russian worker from Odessa who left Hamburg on May 13, 1908, on the "City of Leeds", taking the indirect route via Grimsby to

Philadelphia. The Internet site at <http://www.linktoyour-roots.hamburg.de/> now has all emigrants from 1890-1906.

The 1906 data was just added last month. It can be anticipated that the 1907-1908 data will take up to a year to be placed on the Internet site because the data must be verified and then integrated into the active database.

The index provides basic information about the emigrant: name, country/state of origin, approximate age, and destination. The search engine does not allow soundex searches. Use the wildcard feature which is explained on the search page to find name variants. I found at least six variants of Tartaski by searching for any person whose name started with "Tart" or "Tarat". For a fee, you can receive an abstract of the entire entry from the ship's manifest. The cost for an abstract is \$20 for 1-3 persons, \$30 4-10 persons, \$40 for 11-20, \$50 for 21-30 persons. Because it is an abstract rather than the actual manifest, each member of a family of three on a specific page would have his/her own abstract. Therefore, they would count as three persons if you requested information about all three. Funds are used to support the Internet site.



Ellis Island Ship Arrivals: 1892-1924

Stephen P. Morse's project to compile a complete list of every ship arrival at Ellis Island from 1892 to 1924 is complete. It can be accessed at <http://stevemorse.org/ellis/boat.html>. For each arrival the database has the microfilm roll, volume, frame, date, ship-name, and ports. Now, for the first time, there is a searchable list of every ship arrival along with links to the associated manifest pages. This means you can now search for persons not found in the Ellis Island Database because of misspelling or mis-indexing if you know the name of the ship on which the immigrant came. The list consists of a total of 84,000 ship arrivals.

The work was done by a team of over 50 volunteers who read through every one of the 3700 rolls of Ellis Island microfilms from 1892 to 1924.



Study Group

The Study Group does not meet in July and August. The next Study Group workshop will be on Tuesday, September 21, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon in the San Diego Genealogical Society Library. The topic will be California Research.

Genealogy On e-bay

If you thought that www.e-bay.com was just the worlds largest auction web site and haven't explored it to help you in your genealogy research, you are missing a vast resource of material that you may not find elsewhere. While it can be a little daunting at first, it has excellent search capabilities that will help you find what you are looking for and many things you didn't even know were there.

So, how do you get started? When you first log in, the screen prompts you with 'What are you looking for?'. This is fine if you know exactly what you want. But above in the menu bar is 'Browse' and 'Search' options that provide the real muscle to e-bay.

'Browse' lets you limit the search categories. Selecting this takes you to a new page. At the bottom right, you will see the option for 'Everything Else' and 'more'. Choosing this takes you to a sub-menu where you will find the category, 'Genealogy' with 7 sub-categories. Recently I clicked on 'Genealogy' and it came up with over 5,300 items! That's a lot of items to look through one by one, as fun as it might be.

However, clicking on the 'Search' box takes you to tabs for 'Basic Search' and 'Advanced Search' Here you have options to enter exactly the parameters to find what you are looking for. While there are too many options to discuss here, do take the time to explore them and experiment with how they can work together to help you zero in to find what you want. Keep in mind that you are trying to match what the seller has listed in his description

So, what kind of things can you find on e-bay for genealogy? While the list is endless and limited only by your imagination, but here is a short list to start you off.

Recently, a search for 'family bible' came up with 185 items, some with photos and listing names inscribed (click on item description and scroll down). 'Yearbook' produced 5,007 hits, 'City Directory' yielded 116 items, 'Old photo' came up with 2,610 listings. Try limiting your search by including city, year, surname, etc. Also, know that 'photo' is different than 'photos' as a search criteria.

As examples of some of the items you'll find; old photos with named people, places and events (usually less than \$10). Find an old postcard of your ancestor's home town, while maybe not a photo of your WWI soldier, perhaps one of his unit or battleground or even an entire photo album. There are many CD-ROM copies of original books (out-of-copyright), including county histories, surname books, etc.,

including the photos, that are every word searchable (usually about \$10). Also database CDs (e. g. FTM) starting for as little as \$0.99 You'll also find maps, genealogy books, family group sheets, software and other genealogy related products. I recently even found a 2 hour consultation with a professional genealogist.

As you will find, things change fast on e-bay. You will want to come back often to search for new listings. Keep a list of your search words handy to make it easy to do repeat searches (cut and paste saved typing). And don't forget the obvious - enter your not-too-common surnames or home town and see what comes up . You'll never know what you will find.

In order to purchase on e-bay, you need to register. It is easy to do, just follow the prompts. You can usually pay by credit card or set up a PayPal account. The seller will let you know payment options, shipping and terms of sale. You can even e-mail sellers with questions or for additional information. Buyers and sellers are rated by past transactions so you can see their track record. You can also see what other items they have bought and sold. Many are bona fide retailers who want your repeat business. In addition to auction pages, there are e-bay stores with items listed at set prices. Check out 'buying tips' under Welcome New Users for a good introduction to e-bay.

Now that you have been introduced to the possibilities of genealogy on e-bay, go try it out and find a whole new approach to genealogy research. Watch out, it can be addictive!



Memorial.... cont. from page 1

left remembrances about your brother or old high school buddy. In fact, if you've got a high school reunion coming up, leaving remembrances for any classmates who gave their lives would be a fitting tribute.

Incidentally, one of the fields you can enter is "source"-your information. You can enter both your name and relationship to the individual you've chosen to honor. As you may or may not be aware, the U.S. Army is in the process of locating families of many of the soldiers who served in Korea and WWII, and this site is one of the first resources consulted in the attempt to trace their families.

While Gen. McArthur eloquently professed, "old soldiers never die, they just fade away", I implore you not to let this happen to someone you know. As genealogists, we have a responsibility, duty and honor to record this for future generations. Please register your honoree today.

San Diego Public Library; Online Resources

Your San Diego City Library card will let you do a lot more than just check out books. Are you aware that the library has an extensive collection of databases, many of which can be accessed from your computer at home? By entering your library card number and the last four digits of your phone number, you can search a vast array of subjects and material. There are a number that are of particular interest to genealogists. Below is a list of some you may find helpful for genealogical research. Go online and check them all out!

Newsbank's 'Americas Obituaries and Death Notices': The largest and most comprehensive newspaper collection of obituaries and death notices. Currently has 323 newspapers, some going back to the early 1980's. Search by state, region, by name, date range, or text such as residence, occupation, hobbies, family members, or other personal information.

ProQuest Newspapers: Over 1400 newspapers and magazines, including SD Union-Tribune, LA Times, San Francisco Chronical, Seattle Post, NY Times, Chicago Tribune, USA Today and Wall Street Journal, every word searchable. Use the 'Select multiple databases' option to pick individual newspapers.

Biography Resource Center - Over 300,000 full and over 900,000 capsule biographies, plus related articles. Includes the Complete Marquis Who's Who®. Search by name, occupation, nationality, birth/death year or place.

History Online - Databases include: The History Study Center, a selection of historical Reference Works, including atlases, encyclopedias, biographical collections and research guides, a Journal Library provides access to top history journals which can be searched or browsed by issue, a picture library of over 3,000 images, a video library and the Web Gateway, an index of over 2,000 historical web sites.

InfoTrack OneFile -- Over 5,000 magazines and journals and some newspapers. Searchable by subject, journal, and keyword. Complete list with publication dates can be found under 'Title List'.

Biography and Genealogy Master Index Dec 2003 This database is a first stop index tool for learning where to look for biographical material on people from all time periods, geographical locations and fields of endeavor. Biography and Genealogy Master Index indexes any

print product that includes biographical information on multiple persons. It also acts as an index to other indexes.

The Columbia Gazetteer of the World -- A database of names, descriptions, and characteristics of over 165,000 places in the world. Users can search all the information- not just place-names-and segment it. While not accessible online from home, AncestryPlus is available on computer at any San Diego City Public Library branch.

So, if you thought your library card was only good for checking out books, go online and find out the vast resources available to you. The url is: <http://sdplweb.sannet.gov/online.asp>. And if you don't have a SDPL card, what more reason do you need to get one. You don't even have to live in the City of San Diego. Cards are free to applicants who reside within the State of California or own property in the City of San Diego. Visit your closest branch library to get one today.



Query

New member Hillary May **Jessup** is researching early San Diego families **MAGEE** (1784-present), **MAY** (1800-present), **LICHTY** (1900-present), **SCHLADATER** (1855-1930), **PEDRORENA** (1804-1950). She is seeking information in particular concerning her great grandmother Sophia Schladater May and Sophia's daughters born in San Diego; Sophie Agnis, 1884 and Louise May, 1886. Hillary is the daughter of Cliff May who designed many homes in San Diego during the 30's & 40's. Please contact: hillary@jessup1.com.

Remember, 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/ first and go through our link to Ancestry.com. In 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.

The Meaning of Life.....

Make it idiot proof and someone will make a better idiot.

Library Notes

As you noticed on page 1, it is time for our annual Book Sharing meeting. Last year the meeting was held at our library and participation was very disappointing because only 3 people brought books from their personal library. This meeting only works if you bring books from your home library to share. We would like to see everyone bring at least 1 book, if you have any, for your personal research area. It is exciting to discover another member is doing research in your area of interest. If you can, bring a half dozen books!

No one has lost a book to my knowledge by participating in this event, but we do ask that you make sure your name is in each book and that you bring a list of your books so you leave with what you brought. Our photocopier will be available for your convenience.

Ice cream with toppings will be on sale for your refreshment. And I'm sure drinks will also be available.

Additionally, pre-used paperback and hardcover books will be for sale as always, so bring a few extra bucks to this fund-raising (hopefully) event.

Bindery Order Being Prepared

We have several volumes at the library that are in poor condition, some actually falling apart, so its time to send them to be rebound.

As always, we will include the personal books any member would like to have them rebound at a very reasonable price (usually around \$15 unless it is larger than 8 1/2 x 11.) This special price is available because we need to send in a minimum \$250 order to get the favorable pricing offered to our library order.

If you have a book you would like sent in with our order please bring it to the July 10th meeting at St. Dunstan's OR call me so we can meet at the library where you can select the color for your new cover(s). Call me at home: 858-271-9287. We want to send in the order by the end of July.



Software Essentials

All Genealogists have their favorite genealogy software - PAF, Legacy, FTM, etc., but there are many other software programs and utilities out there that can help genealogists in organizing and presenting their family tree. Here are a few that you might find helpful.

Sharing your information can be problematical. Does the recipient have the right program to 'read' your file? Perhaps their software is not as current as yours? Maybe you don't want to send them 'raw' data that could be changed and forwarded on. A good solution is to send it as a pdf file. This is Adobe's Acrobat file format (Portable

Document Format). Files are small for quick downloading or e-mailing. While Acrobat is a great program, you may not want to shell out the several hundred dollar price tag. Fortunately, there is a no-cost program, '**Free Easy PDF 2.0**' that will do the trick, available from visage software. It can be downloaded from www.download.com.

Note keeping and record management is the backbone of genealogical research. But it always seems to take a back seat to doing research and is never is up-to-date. Here is a software program that will help. '**Bygones**' is a freeware genealogical note keeping program. It also has databases which may be used for related purposes, such as: creating an "index" of the information in your research notes, keeping track of genealogical correspondence and correspondents, creating time lines for your families, creating to do lists of pending research tasks, entering information on sources that are important for your family history research, entering information on the localities you do research in, entering spelling variations and soundex codes for your surnames, and for entering scanned maps, scanned family pictures, and scanned documents. It can be used on a notebook computer while researching in the field and/or on your desktop computer. Best of all, it is free. Find out more and download from: <http://home.utah-inter.net/bygones/>

Most genealogists are frustrated writers - more so because they never get around to writing their own life story to share with others and future generations. '**Personal History Writer**' is a nifty program that makes starting the task easy and takes the drudgery out of writing your story. It prompts you with reminders, or "memory joggers" which will stimulate your memory of events in all phases of your life. It is available for \$30 from <http://www.phwriter.com/>.

Another researcher has just sent you a GEDCOM file of your family line but you don't want to merge it with your files (smart!) without looking at it first. Before you import it into your genealogy program, view it first with '**GENViewer**'. This utility let you look at GEDCOM files directly or in other program's file formats. There is a 'lite' version and a trial version available for free. The full version is \$20. Check it out at: www.mudcreek.ca

This online utility will draw plat maps for you based on your metes and bounds data. More specifically, it only knows how to handle compass headings and degrees (i.e. "direction-number of degrees-direction-distance"). This system was used in most eastern states, and is used today by surveyors. This program does not handle public land descriptions, which were described with ranges, sections and townships. Try it yourself. Its free at: <http://genealogy.bearnip.com/deeds/deedplatter.html>.

Care and feeding of CDs, DVDs

You have faithfully saved your genealogy files, documents, photos, home movies and music to CDs or DVDs so you'll have them for years to come. But will you? It all depends on how you care for them.

Storage media is how we save and preserve our important records. Paper has been around for centuries and is very stable if properly cared for. Film, while relatively recent, will last a very long time. Newer magnetic media (cassette tape, floppy disks) is far less stable and will last only a few decades. Optical media -- created by laser light technology - is our current storage media choice but has some limitations that we need to be aware of. Let's examine the 'life' of CDs and DVDs and how we can prolong their use.

CD Biology 101

In a simplified view, optical media has three component layers. The polycarbonate substrate is the clear plastic layer that makes up almost all the thickness of a CD. It functions as the semi-rigid base material and provides disk depth necessary to maintain laser focus. It scratches easily, gets dirty with fingerprints and smudges which can interfere with the laser's ability to read the data. Next, the data layer is a very thin metal layer, usually aluminum, on which the data appears as marks or pits that either absorb or transmit laser light back to the laser photosensor. Covering this is a thin, protective lacquer layer. A label, printed surface or additional protective layer may be added on top of this.

Caring for your CDs

Many things can effect the condition and stability of optical media. Dirt and scratches primarily effect the substrate. Occasional fine scratches will typically not affect the focus of the laser but deep ones can cause tracking errors that may not be corrected by the equipment's error detection and correction coding system. Scratches in the direction of the track are worse than those going from the center of the disk outward. Fingerprints and smudges can cause more errors than scratches and overwhelm the error correction coding system. Cleaning this layer should be done carefully. First try a dry cotton cloth, wiping from the center of the disk outward (NOT in a circular motion). Avoid paper products or anything abrasive. If excessively dirty, try rinsing with water first. If needed, use commercially available water-based detergent formulated for optical media (or as an alternate, isopropyl alcohol or methanol).

The data layer can be damaged by oxidation, moisture, heat and sunlight. Oxidation of the aluminum diminishes

its reflectivity, making the disc unreadable by the laser. The substrate layer is susceptible to moisture which can be absorbed into the disc and react with the data layer. It can also accelerate delamination of the media. Heat can cause warpage of the substrate and UV light can make the dye used in CD-R media deteriorate and become less transparent - all of which prevent the laser's ability to read the data

Most vulnerable to damage is the label side of the media. Because the reflective metal of the data layer is so close to the surface, it can be damaged very easily. A slight indentation or pinhole in the metal from a scratch, pen, marker or other sharp object will destroy the reflectivity of the metal and the readability of the data by the laser. Even scratches that do not reach through the thin protective lacquer coating may ultimately expose the metal to moisture and air pollutants.

Care should be used in the labeling of all optical media. Water-based, permanent ink, felt tipped markers are recommended, although alcohol-based markers may be used. Hard tip markers and certain solvents can cause damage. Use of adhesive labels, while adding additional protection, is discouraged for optical discs destined for long term storage (more than 5 years). Labels could delaminate and interfere with disc drive operation. Labels should also not cause drive imbalance in the spin of the disc which could occur if full labels are partially removed or small labels applied. The safest place to label the media is in the clear inner hub which does not contain data.

While optical media is fairly durable, it can be damaged by improper usage. Bending the disc, such as pulling it from a jewel case, can cause stresses, small fractures of the substrate and bowing.

Storage

Optical discs should be kept in individual storage containers until used and returned immediately after use. These, whether jewel or slimline cases, protect the discs from rapid environmental changes, airborne contaminants and other foreign material. To properly remove the disc from the case, press down on the hub tab while holding the outer edge of the disc with the fingers and lift up.

Discs kept in a cooler, less-humid environment and not subjected to extreme environmental changes should last longer. Ideal storage conditions are temperatures between 50 and 70 degrees and 40% to 50% relative humidity. Factors that affect life expectancy include disc type, manufacturing quality, condition before recording, quality of recording and handling and maintenance.

As recording media changes with new technologies, long term storage will require recorded content be migrated to new media as available. This will ensure that it is retrievable with available technologies and not lost to obsolescence.

Our Adventures And Misadventures to the NGS Conference

by Anna Acosta

Months after making hotel and conference reservations Elaine Foulger and I were finally off to Sacramento. We had decided to take a week and include time for personal research. Elaine got a new Volvo last December so this was to be a 'shake-down' road trip. This car has more features than I can remember and almost all would be tested - including the rain detector.

So early Sunday morning, May 16th, we headed north. The first decision made was to take the toll road north of San Juan Capistrano that ends just east of Harbor Blvd. on the 405. Although this was a new experience for Elaine, I had taken this road several times before, especially when going to the National Archives in Laguna Niguel.

By noon we were ready for a rest stop so Elaine elected a short detour to the Danish community of Solvang. My how that little town has grown since I was last there. We walked around a bit - had to do some shopping - and after a short stop at the Family Coat-of-Arms store for a picture we found a satisfactory bakery...if you've been to Solvang you know they abound. We had a good chuckle over the number of people going into the Coat-of-Arms store.

Onward up highway 101 to Daly City (following an 1-1/2 hour delay to go about 15 miles due to rubberneckers) where I had us going in circles and doing U-turns. I did say this was a test drive, didn't I? What a blow to my reputation as a good navigator. Had to ask for directions, but reached the hotel before dark. Didn't take too long after dinner for us to fall asleep.

Monday morning we were up early for a trip to Colma. The town was created when all the cemeteries were moved out of the city limits of San Francisco. I'm not sure why or when this "city of the dead" was established. We've all been to cemeteries I'm sure, but this was a most unusual experience - where else can you find all ethnic cemeteries in such close proximity? All the headstones in the Chinese cemetery were red; all the Greek tombstones were topped with a Greek cross.

Elaine is 7th generation Californian with ancestors who were here before the Gold Rush and in several different counties. She had lists of people in specific cemeteries and other names with burial places unknown. She had been in contact with three particular cemetery offices so was expected. All three offices were at Jewish cemeteries and Elaine needed to have records searched as well

as locating the burial sites for pictures.

At the first cemetery 'Hills of Eternity' the office secretary pulled out many books and file cards and enjoyed the search as much as Elaine. After about 3 hours we were off to take pictures. Incidentally, this is a popular tourist stop as Wyatt Earp is buried here. I was anxious to try out my new digital camera. After the first family plot was photographed and we were on the way back to the car, I looked back to check a name and promptly fell off a low curb. A groundskeeper told us his father had told him a cemetery was a quiet, safe place to work unless someone reached up and grabbed your leg, so you can guess how startled he was to have someone yelling at him for help. I only skinned my elbow and knee, but was really most worried going down that I would damage my new camera.

On to the 'Home of Peace Cemetery'. Interestingly, the Conservative and Reformed branches are buried in separate cemeteries. In this cemetery Elaine's family was in the mausoleum. This is the same area in which Levi Strauss is buried. At the far eastern edge of the cemetery were many large crypts in the Greek temple style.

The third site was the 'Salem Cemetery'. It had the oldest headstones. We are visiting graves of very prominent families so the stones were very large. (We learned the price today would be \$7000 and up). Many of the stones were inscribed in Hebrew and will need translating. It was in this cemetery that Elaine accidentally discovered the gravesite of a great-great-grandmother. It was a very emotional time, as well as being a stone with previously unknown information. Elaine truly believes that this grandmother wants her story told.

The personnel at all the cemeteries were very helpful and really got involved helping find the tombstones. Wherever we wanted to go the sprinklers were on an Elaine appreciated the help in being guided around the areas. Incidentally, it was nice to see how much Elaine's gifts of See's candy in thanks (not a bribe) were appreciated at the three sites. Finally, about 4 p.m. we were able to hit the road to Sacramento since we wanted to get there before dark.

After checking in at the Sheraton we headed out for a restaurant. We met a couple of ladies from Atlanta, GA and they joined us for dinner. They both work at the Georgia State Archives. One lady said her father had gone to school in San Diego so Elaine was able to tell her what schools he had attended. I learned to not hold out much hope for finding information in one particular county i've been researching.

Tuesday morning we were anxious to get to the California State Library. What a blow to learn the minimum taxi fare is \$10.00. I'll tell you right now Sacramento is not a cheap place to visit. The food is very expensive. Businesses must think all visitors make salaries comparable to our government representatives or the companies looking to do government business. Anyway, I got in

an argument with the taxi driver over the location of the library and we walked off. Deciding to walk we called and got directions and crossed over the Capitol grounds on a short cut. Elaine said not only did the taxi driver want a ridiculous fee but would have taken us to the wrong library.

Well, this day was just a profitable as Monday had been, with many dates filled from early death records, City Directories and newspaper articles. One article Elaine found described a society wedding of her ancestor with a home ceremony and reception with 200 guests. Also, found a history book with a picture of a great-grandfather she had only read about. Another successful day! What a great library to visit. The personnel was prepared for the influx of visitors due to the conference and still were very patient and helpful. Did discover that no digital cameras are allowed in this library. One of the first sessions I attended at the conference was for librarians and they said to always ask if cameras are allowed.

The NGS Conference was great! All the sessions (well, almost all) were filled with useful information. The best thing about these genealogical conferences is to hear professionals you haven't heard before. Next, it's nice to see old friends and talk with them again on a mutually interesting subject. Nice to talk with speakers we've met before like Lloyd Bockstruck from Dallas and Leland Meitzler, editor of Heritage Quest. Some people even discovered new cousins and many of us made connections with people in other areas of the U.S. to our mutual benefit. It was a surprise to run into Jonnie Wilson from our own society and we were at the same table for the NGS banquet on Thursday, where we all enjoyed hearing John Colleta.

Elaine and I decided we had absorbed about all our brains could take so we decided to skip the final session on Saturday and head on down the road. Besides, we had done all the damage we could buying books at the Exhibit Hall.

Another decision - to take highway 99 or 5. We wanted some fresh cherries and peaches. Highway 5 finally won as we both wanted to have dinner at Pea Soup Andersons just north of Los Banos. There wasn't as much truck traffic as we had anticipated, thank goodness. After spending the night near Bakersfield we headed home Sunday. Around the area of LAX a truck in the lane to the right of us blew a tire. Wow, that stabilizer really works well - I did say this was a road test, didn't I? That was the last excitement until some rain drops fell in Laguna Niguel. What a great car! What a great traveling companion! And what a memorable conference. I'll share some of the interesting things I learned in later columns.

[Editor: Thanks to Anna for contributing this humorous and informative article. The two of them must have left a lasting impression at the conference -- and all parts between.]

What's In A Name?

by Phyllis RICKARD (Adrian, Lenawee Co., MI)

In my family there is a 3-syllable German name - Colpetzer. That's one of the spellings. The C can be a K; the p can be a b; the z can be a c or s. Any vowel can be any other vowel. Then there were the people who heard Cole Betzer and recorded the name as Andrew C. Betzer instead of Andrew Colpetzer. For Andrew's father, George, I have found 6 different spellings - two of them were Holpritzer and Caulpretzer. I have two documents where Andrew has all his syllables - a transcript of his German-speaking church's baptismal records (it's spelled with the K) and the first piece of land he bought in Michigan (Colpetzer). Everything else says Andrew C. Betzer. And just to complicate things, in the 1880 census, the census taker gave him his brother's given name of William. In 1870 the census taker gave them the last name of Boyer.

It gets worse -- when he died they put his brother's name, William, on the death record!!!! All the info in the death record matches the information carved on Andrew's headstone. His brother, William, lived about a mile and a half away and didn't die until 1905. Andrew died in 1894. AND William managed to hang onto all three syllables! It took me years to figure out this mess.

Truthfully, I never made any progress at all until in desperation I called everyone in the Hillsdale County phone book who had all the syllables. One of the men directed me to his sister. They were grandchildren of my Andrew's brother William as well as great-grandchildren of my Andrew! In the cemetery where they are buried there are Betzers, Calbetzers and Colbetzers side by side on the same lots! This woman had the personal knowledge and lovely obits, etc. to get this mess straightened out! I was able to help her, too, because I knew who some of the people were that she had the names for but didn't know where they fit. With the mess in MI straightened out I was able to use some of her clues and piece together other information in OH and PA.

In my computer, they get whatever name they used. In my filing cabinet I don't care what name they used - it all goes under BETZER-MI or BETZER-PA or BETZER-IN or BETZER-OH. My gr-grandmother's maiden name was Betzer. Her father was Andrew.

[Published with permission. Thanks to member Diane Altona for submitting this.]

The Meaning of Life.....

Organized people are just too lazy to look for things.

Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament

While we spend countless hours researching and assembling our family histories, we should spend a little time thinking and planning for the future of those family histories. What will become of all of the files, books, photographs, family mementos, computer programs, etc. etc. that we have acquired or lovingly put together over the years? Have you talked with your children or a close relative? Too many of us have seen precious family material go up for auction or sitting in showcases at a local antique mall. Below is a "model" for a codicil to your last will and testament. Speak to your family and to your attorney. They will likely appreciate that you have thought to do this.

To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor:

Upon my demise it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession, including but not limited to books, files, notebooks, photographs or computer programs for a period of two years.

During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories. [If you know whom within your family or friends are likely candidates to accept these materials, please add the following at this point: I suggest that the persons contacted regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but not be limited to *[and then list the names of those individuals at this point, with their addresses and telephone numbers if known.]*

In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations of which I have been a member and determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials. *[List of organizations, addresses and phone numbers at bottom; include local chapters, with their addresses, phone numbers and contact persons if available as well as state /national contact information and addresses]*

Please remember that my genealogical endeavors were very important to me and provided me much happiness; and these endeavors consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore it is my desire that the products of these endeavors be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future.

Signature _____

Date _____

Witness _____

Date _____

Witness _____

Date _____

[Thanks to Harvey Keating for submitting this. From *Fairfield Trace*, Spring 2004]