



San Diego Genealogical Society Newsletter

Sept. 2004 **LABOR DAY** Vol. 37, No. 8

Family History Fair Coming

The LDS Escondido South Stake is planning a Family History Fair on Oct. 16, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be 35 workshops and other displays. SDGS will have a table there to promote the Society.

There is no cost for the class presentations. Box lunches and class syllabus will be available for purchase. Pre-registration is required by October 1, 2004. Find out more at: www.familyhistorfair.org

Family History Seminar Planned

The Southern Orange County Genealogical Society is planning a family history seminar on Saturday, Oct. 16, 2004 from 9 am to 3:30 pm. It will be held at the Mission Viejo City Hall, Saddleback Room, 100 Civic Center Dr., Mission Viejo.

The featured speakers are; **William Dollarhide** who's topics are 'Forgotten Public Land Records' and 'Using Deeds to Trace the Trails of Your Ancestors'. **Leland Meitzler** will speak on 'Locating Your Ancestor's Family When All You Know is the State' and 'Finding Births, Marriages and Deaths Prior to 1910'.

Preregistration must be received by Oct. 13. The cost is \$20 with a box lunch available for \$5. Registration forms are available at the SDGS Library. For more information phone (949) 581-0690.

With professional speakers of this quality, you may want to get a group together and car pool to the meeting. If you are planning on driving or want to see about joining a car pool, phone or e-mail Roberta Levy, our Society's Special Events Director (858-565-0383, rclevyca@aol.com) and she will try to coordinate.

Monthly Meeting, Sept. 11
St. Dunstan's Parish Hall, 12 noon

Annual Book Auction & Pot Luck Luncheon



The Society's popular Annual Book Auction is your chance to acquire great genealogy books, periodicals and other publications at very reasonable prices.

You may want to arrive early to preview the books. Our auctioneer, Anita Milner, will keep things lively and be sure you are well entertained. In addition to being a professional genealogy teacher and lecturer, Anita is a stand up comic, having appeared at the Improv and The Comedy Store and on TV's 'America's Funniest People' and 'CBS This Morning'. She celebrated her 60th birthday performing stand up comedy in Debbie Reynolds' Lounge Show in Las Vegas. Her book, *The Tub And Other Ramblings* is found in bathrooms across America. She is the funniest and most entertaining speaker we have each year. Don't miss out on all the action and humor.



In addition to good books and entertainment, we also eat well. If you attended last year's pot luck, you know what fine cooks the Society has. Plan on bringing your favorite dish to share with others. Be sure to also bring serving utensils for your dish as well as a place setting for yourself (as good as the food is, probably leave the sterling flatware at home). Bon appetite!

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

2004 Board of Directors

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



Society's Needs List

You can help your Society by financially 'adopting' a need or event. You can do so on a one-time, multiple or ongoing basis. Your underwriting generosity will go a long way to help your Society meet its ongoing expenses. Please contact the Society's Treasurer, Harvey Keating (phone: 619-475-7061, e-mail: adelaide1@sbc-global.net) to find out how.

Here are some of the ways you can help.

Monthly newsletter printing and postage:.....	\$225
Monthly library rent.....	\$1,355
Monthly Library utilities.....	\$185
Monthly Library telephone.....	\$30
Quarterly Leaves & Saplings.....	\$230
Annual Yearbook printing.....	\$400
Monthly meeting hall rental.....	\$50
Monthly raffle prizes.....	\$50
Annual insurance premium.....	\$1,220

With their approval, benefactors will be acknowledged in our newsletter. Thank you for your generosity.



The Meaning of Life.....

A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.

Presidents Message.....

To a number of our members, this newsletter is all they see of our Society. With its news of the Society, local genealogy happenings, informative articles and humorous stories, it alone is a good reason to be a member. But there are many more reasons and benefits to being a member of the Society that we need to remember.

Our **library** is the 2nd largest genealogy library in San Diego County (behind Carlsbad). It has almost 10,000 titles, many of which you will not find elsewhere in Southern California. In addition to its book collection, it has many journals and periodicals, CD ROMs, microfilm and fiche, and a surname verticle file collection. It is open 24/7 to members and is air conditioned. If you have not visited it lately, I would suggest doing so as many new titles are added regularly. If you want a guided library orientation, go on a Thursday.

Our **monthly meetings** offer a wide range of interesting genealogy-related topics presented by noted experts. You can't help but learn new things that will help take your genealogical research up a notch. Events like our book auction provide members additional opportunities to improve their research material collections. And, amazingly, the meetings are free.

The Society offers a number of **trips** to regional libraries and events as well as Salt Lake City. You don't have to drive (or take out a home equity loan to buy gas) and are in the company of experienced, knowledgeable researchers who will gladly assist you. So, don't go alone or, worse, don't go at all, join us on our trips at bargain prices.

The Society **publications** keep you informed on interesting and important genealogical and local history subjects. Our quarterly Leaves & Saplings is a recognized journal of San Diego historical interest that helps document and preserve material that otherwise might be lost. Your society offers **research assistance** in various ways. Our library offers inter-library loan service free to members. Regularly study groups are offered on a variety of subjects at no charge. We also do query research for a small donation.

These are but a few of the many reasons you have come to value your membership in the San Diego Genealogical Society. I hope you will take full advantage of all the benefits of membership and let others know all we do to further genealogy research. Encourage others to join the Society so they can share in all these benefits.

I thank you for your continued membership and support and I look forward to seeing you at our many upcoming events.

Peter Steelquist, President

Library Notes

Oh boy, Oh boy! Its potluck time again. We have so many good cooks in our membership it is an event we all look forward to. AND, of course, we all look forward to the Book Auction. We have a lot more books and periodicals for sale this year thanks to the generosity of several of our members. So you all come join the fun! Recently three more members have donated portions of their personal libraries: Denise Kimball, Mary Shirer and Elsie Spry Davis. These are truly wonderful books and we look forward to adding them to our growing collection. As our space becomes more and more limited we ask that you DO NOT bring in "non" genealogy books or items for a future rummage sale until requested to do so.

We are fortunate and very grateful this year to have some new library volunteers: Georgia Callian, Antoinette Bertola, Bob Reese and Donna Trapnell. We could still use more of you. Someone to vacuum and mop once a month would be a blessing to us. It is unfortunate that all too often we rely on the same handful of people to keep our library going and I know some relief would be welcome. Sometimes we have only one or two visitors on Thursdays, when we are open to the public, so could use some alternates on that day. (We have two 4-hour shifts). Besides you would have time to do research for yourself and just might find something new. If you know how to fill out a pedigree chart and use the Dewey Decimal System you qualify! Don't be shy. We are a very friendly group and what's more fun than finding something for yourself than helping someone else fill in a blank?

See you all at the Book Auction on Saturday, September 11th.



2005 Literary Awards Contest Announced

The Connecticut Society of Genealogists has announced its 18th Annual Literary Awards Contest. Entries must be received by Feb. 15, 2005. The awards and categories are;

Grand Prize, \$1,000, New England Genealogy
1st Prize, \$500, New England Family History
1st Prize, \$500, New England Resources Publication
1st Prize, \$250, Fledgling Essay

Essays must have some relevance to New England (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT). The 'Fledgling Essay' is open to students in grades 9 - 12. Rules and entry forms are available at the SDGS Library or at their web site, www.csginc.org.

Student Family History Essay Contest

The Godfrey Memorial Library is sponsoring a Family History Essay Contest for all students in grades 4-12. It is an opportunity for students to learn more about their own families and to permanently preserve their family histories. Entries will be judged by grade level, completeness, style and presentation. All entries must be postmarked by Friday, Oct. 15, 2004.

The essay can be limited to the biography of one person or can tell the story of an entire family. Students are encouraged to contact relatives, visit libraries, cemeteries and repositories to gather their family information. Each essay should be the student's best work and represent his/her best effort in writing and historical research. The essay should include a copy of at least one document used to verify the essay, including census or vital records, newspaper articles, book entries, cemetery records, etc. Students may also include copies of photographs.

Winning essays will be published by the Godfrey Memorial Library and each winner will receive a copy. Every student will receive a Certificate of Recognition. What better way to get a child interested in family history. Why not encourage your child, grandchild and other family members to get creative and involved in their family history. Visit their web site at:

www.godfrey.org



Preserve Your Genealogy Manuscript

I want to remind you of a long-standing service of the Allen County Public Library. For many decades, individuals who have not had a desire to officially publish their genealogical work have sent an unbound "master copy" to their Historical Genealogy Department. In exchange for the privilege of allowing them to make one photocopy for their collection, they provide the compiler of the work with one complementary, bound photocopy for your collection in addition to returning the original master.

It is a great way to make sure your work is preserved and available for future generations of researchers. In addition, having a copy at their library ensures your work is secure from any disaster that might, heaven forbid, befall your personal library.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this service, just mail your unbound "master copy" to Steve Myers, Assistant Manager, Historical Genealogy Department, P. O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270. Include a note that simply reads, "Photocopy Exchange Program."

Visiting Your Immigrant Ancestor's Homeland

In the first part of our program, Phyllis Quark covered some of the basics on traveling abroad and finding and using a genealogical guide. Do all the research you can do here before going on your trip. Research all the microfilms and holdings from the Family History Library and other sources regarding your ancestors in their homeland. Save your valuable time abroad to research records that aren't at home. Be familiar with the areas you will be visiting. Read guide books and maps, study local history and find out what was happening at the time they emigrated. Try to locate living descendants and contact in advance. They may provide you with a wealth of information and have special insight of the homeland. There are various types of genealogical tours available, from general guided group tours to individually planned and privately escorted. Some will be flexible and let you make your own plans while others are all inclusive and set up appointments at archives, pay admissions, furnish drivers, translators, etc. Use the Internet and genealogy magazines to find travel companies that meet your needs. Phyllis' handout listed companies that offer European genealogical tours.

The cost of a genealogical tour is more than made up by the time saved in having a planned itinerary by someone with local knowledge and expertise. Also, the rich experiences and 'doors opened' by a knowledgeable guide go far beyond what you could ever do on your own.

In the second session, she related her experiences of her recent tour to Denmark. The guide took her to the local churches where her ancestors were baptized, towns and homes where they lived and points of local interest. They stayed at local inns and hotels and most meals were included in the package. Her 'group' consisted of just three people. They all had ample time to do their own research and visit their ancestor's sites. Phyllis shared photos of some of the special sites she visited. She had such a rewarding experience and is planning to take a second guided trip to Denmark



Your Collateral Lines

In time BC (before computers) when family group sheets and pedigree charts were hand written or typed, documenting your collateral lines was almost out of the question. Only when there was a 'brick wall' was it considered necessary. Even after the advent of computers, doing collateral line research was not considered a good practice because it took up so much space on limited capacity 5 ¼ and even 3 ½ inch floppy disks (remember those?).

But times have changed. Today, with almost unlimited storage capacity, there is no reason or excuse not to research your collateral lines. If you concentrate only on your direct lines, you are missing rich family information and invaluable clues to further your research. Also, stop and think who you are really doing all your genealogy research for. It is certainly not for past generations -- they don't care. But how about all the future generations who will be looking back? By documenting your collateral lines and bringing them current, you will ensure that all these future searchers will be able to locate their, and your, extended family genealogy.

Not only will you meet some really fascinating people in your research, but you will also provide a wealth of information on your direct line relations. Families rarely did things in isolation. Often, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews were involved. Many important life events, like emigration, were undertaken by entire families. Just knowing when your direct line ancestor emigrated is not enough. Was he or she the first to do so, or perhaps the last? Which relatives stayed behind? Many family events take place just after the death of important family members. Finding out how these affected the rest of the family provides important clues to marriage, property and migration patterns.

Collateral line research also provides information on family naming patterns. This can be so important when other, more concrete information, is lacking. Tracking occupations within families can also provide invaluable clues. Many sons, for example, were apprenticed to uncles or other relatives. This may lead you to other family relations. Also, don't overlook illnesses in your collateral lines - both physical and mental. They can often form patterns that can link families.

Doing collateral line research will cause you to think more broadly about your family, where they lived, why they did what they did and give more insight to your direct line ancestors you otherwise would miss. It could lead you to find the all important family papers, pictures, diaries, letters, wills, land records and even, perhaps, the family bible.

Yes, it can be complicated and is easy to avoid but the results will prove more than worth the effort. Remember, 100 years from now and beyond, many future relatives will be thanking you for taking the extra time and effort to look beyond your direct line ancestors and leaving a trail for them to find. So, don't ignore all those brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews. Bring them into your family and reap the benefits.



The Meaning of Life.....

Spend less time worrying who's right, and more time deciding what's right

Preserving Your Family Tree

You have spent years and considerable expense compiling your family genealogy. You certainly want to leave it as a legacy to your family and to other researchers who will continue your work for future generations. But, how can you be sure all your hard work will be preserved and not lost or thrown out when you are gone? In this electronic age, the best assurance is to upload a GEDCOM file to one of the online databases where it will be preserved and available to others. However, there are a number of important things you need to consider before doing so.

First and foremost is the nature of the company or web site. Many are commercial businesses that want to profit from your work. They may want to sell your information to others or charge access or subscription fees. Also, once uploaded, you may lose control of how it may be used and the ability to change, update or remove your data. You need to be cautious and read 'the fine print' very carefully to protect your rights. In addition, you want a service that will be around for many years to come, not a 'here today, gone tomorrow' operation. While there are many such services out there, here are a few of the popular free sites you may want to consider. For more information, visit their web sites.

Rootsweb's WorldConnect currently contains 345 million people in its database and is supported by Ancestry.com. In submitting your GEDCOM file(s), you maintain total control. You set up a user code and password to gain access and to make changes. You also set the parameters for how the display screen looks, viewer ability to download, how living individuals appear and if you want your notes or source information to be included. You, and others, can leave 'Post-em' notes for anyone in your file. Others viewing your file can send you e-mail, if you choose. After a submitter dies, Rootsweb can add a 'deceased' note and the family or executor, with the user code and password, can change the e-mail address or even remove the files, if desired (you may want to leave such instructions in your 'Genealogical Codicil' as described in the July 2004 Newsletter). The URL is:

<http://worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/>

Ancestry's World Tree lets you upload your GEDCOM file but, once submitted, it can't be changed or deleted, however updates can be submitted in another file upload. Ancestry will remove all information, except the name, of living individuals and retains the right to 'reproduce, compile and distribute' your files. While their site is copyrighted, it does not apply to your GEDCOM file and does not limit you from publishing, selling, giving or otherwise distributing your own family information. All submitted information can be selectively

downloaded by anyone from World Tree and they may provide your name, e-mail and mailing address so that others may contact you. Currently, World Tree contains 341 million names, 3.6 million surnames in 348,156 databases. The URL is:

<http://www.ancestry.com/trees/awt/main.htm>

The LDS FamilySearch's 'Share My Genealogy' allows you to permanently preserve your family history in the Pedigree Resource File and share it with others (not to be confused with TempleReady which is for LDS members). A copy of your GEDCOM file(s) will be preserved in the Granite Mountain Records Vault, located near Salt Lake City. They will also be published in a CD-ROM which can be used at Family History Centers or purchased at near cost. Submitted files may also be included in Ancestral File and made available on the Internet (currently they are not available online). Among the stipulations in the Terms of Agreement, once submitted, files become their property and can not be retracted or returned but that does not limit your right to publish, sell or give the information to others. Also, for every living person mentioned in your file (even in notes), you must get permission from them to submit or they must be deleted from the file. Preparing your GEDCOM file needs to be done in your genealogy program prior to creating your file. 'Share My Genealogy' does not have any capability to format or change your GEDCOM data.

The URL is: **http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Share/Preserve/frameset_preserve.asp**

While you may have already published your family research in book, CD-ROM or web site formats, that is no guarantee that it will survive and be available to future researchers. For a no cost 'insurance policy', consider submitting your work to one or more of these or other services that will preserve your hard work and family legacy for generations to come. It also provides an opportunity for others to contact you and further your research. As an added bonus, you will have a permanent backup copy should anything happen to your files at home.

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.

September 21: **California Research**

October 19: **Military Research**

Come and learn from experienced researchers.

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Finding Obituaries

To genealogists, a good obituary can be a gold mine of personal and family information. They can provide rich information and insights not easily found elsewhere. They can help define family relationships and locations, particularly useful after the 1930 Federal Census.

The difficult part is finding them. Even if you know where your relative lived and when they died, you need to know in which newspapers they could have been published, the date, and who has newspaper copies or microfilm. Fortunately, there now are many resources available on the web that can help you locate the newspapers and get copies of the obituaries. Here is a brief survey of some of the popular online resources and some other suggestions on how to get a copy of that all important obituary.

First, there are a number of web sites that have indexed collections of obituaries.

National Obituary Archive - Currently close to 59.7 million records, relies on funeral homes to submit information. Even permits you to submit and correct obituary information. URL: www.nationalobituaryarchive.com/

Legacy - Provides access to obituaries in over 175 newspapers. Primarily for more recent obituaries, name searches returns sources and full text obituaries. URL: www.legacy.com

ObitsArchive - This site searches 436 nationwide newspapers, some as early as the 1980's, by region, state and/or newspaper name. It will search by deceased name, publication date or text keyword. The results screen provides a list of names, newspapers and publication date. To get the actual obituary online, you need to be a subscriber (single article \$3.50, 30 day \$14.95, 90 day \$29.95). You can use the site to find the obituaries you need in advance of subscribing or then use other resources to get the obituaries you need. A good 'finding tool'. URL: www.newsbank.com

The Obituary Depot - This indexing project currently has over 375,000 obituary citations for the U.S., Canada and Australia with 1,000's added daily. You search by state, then surname. Results provide name, age, DOD, newspaper name and publication date. It also provides link to newspaper web site. URL: <http://www.daddezio.com/obituary/index.html>

Ancestry: Obituary Collection -- This collection contains recent obituaries from hundreds of newspapers. It scours the Internet daily and extracts obituary facts to its database. It provides source information and links to the full obituary text. Multiple search criteria let you do wide range or narrow searches. URL: <http://www.ancestry.com/search/obit/> (This requires the basic Ancestry.com subscription but is available for free at the Family History Center).

While not specifically for obituaries, there are a number of online newspaper archives that will have obituaries, particularly good for older publishing dates. There are

too many papers to describe in detail but do visit them to see what they have. Some are by subscription and others are accessible online through libraries or other sources.

Ancestry.com: Historical Newspaper Collection -- More than 6 million pages from over 400 different newspapers across the US, U.K. and Canada dating back to the 1700's, all full-text indexed. This requires a special subscription but is available for free at the Family History Center or any branch library of the San Diego City Public Library.

ProQuest Newspapers - Covers 564 U.S. and international newspapers, with some beginning in the 1980's. Includes the San Diego Union (2000-current), LA Times (1985-current), Chicago Tribune 1985-current), New York Times (1851 to current). Can select individual or multiple newspapers to search. Available online with your San Diego City Library card or at any branch library.

Godfrey Library - Available for \$35 annual fee, it provides access to NewspaperARCHIVE Elite with over 400 newspapers, New York Times (1851-2001), Los Angeles Times (1881-1984), Washington Post (1877-1988), African American Newspaper Collection, Pennsylvania Gazette 1728-1800, Pennsylvania Newspapers (1819-1870). Together with its other research databases, a bargain for the price. URL: www.godfrey.org

Some sites of local newspaper interest are;

Utah Digital Newspapers URL: <http://www.lib.utah.edu/digital/unews/>

Colorado's Historical Newspaper Collection - URL: <http://gunnison.aclin.org/Archive/skins/CHNC02/navigator.asp?skin=CHNC02&BP=OK&AW=1091930696359>

Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1841-1902 - URL: <http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/Archive/skins/BE/navigator.asp?AW=1091930575890>.

Additionally, there are also several sites that have volunteers who will go to their local libraries and look up and copy obituaries (and other genealogical information) for you.

Rootsweb Obituary Lookup Volunteers - Volunteers are arranged by state and then county (there are also some international volunteers). They list their search limitations and provide their e-mail addresses. Be patient and courteous, they do so out of the generosity of their hearts. URL: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~obit/>

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness - Another group of volunteers who will look up obituaries, take photos of tombstones, copy public records, etc. both in the U. S and internationally. They state what they can do and provide e-mail address.

URL: <http://www.raogk.org/listing.htm>

Some other similar sites with fewer volunteers;

Gene Angles -URL: <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~angels/>

Genealogy Helplist - URL: <http://www.helplist.org/>

Don't forget to contact the local library where the person died. They usually have the microfilmed newspapers and may offer a look up service for free. Check out their web sites and e-mail them your request. Some may charge a small fee but what library isn't worth a donation of support.

Also, use your favorite search engine (Google, Dogpile, etc.) and type in our relatives' name. You may be surprised with what you find. And, don't forget to do an image search as well.

With all these resources, you are more than likely to locate those all important obituaries. But if you still can't find one, keep in mind that some just never got published. Good hunting!



The Photograph: Labeling

[Editor: This is a first in a series of articles on care of photographs.

You were so pleased when you inherited those old family photo albums and boxes of loose photos from your aunt. The only problem is that none of them were labeled and no one knows who most of the people are and where, when and why they were taken. Other than being nice to look at, you are so sorry now that grandma never took the time to label them properly.

So now, don't let this happen to your prized family photographs. Make an appointment with yourself to sit down, preferably with the entire family, to label your family photos. This can be a major project, so you may want to set aside only an hour or so per session. Here are some tips on how to do so properly.

For loose photos, try to arrange them by date and events so that the context is preserved. For paper based prints use a soft number 2 pencil that is not too sharp so as to not make an impression on the photo. Don't use a ball point pen or permanent ink marker as these can damage the photos. For RX photos (more recent photos with a plastic based backing) pencil may not work well. For these, use an acid-free ink pen found at art supply stores intended for this purpose.

What information should you include? Certainly write all the basic information - who, what, when, why and where - about the photo. Also include other information which adds special meaning, e.g. noting favorite dress or jewelry, pets names, make and model of car, house where born, etc. Print legibly. Avoid nicknames, relationship titles (e.g. Uncle Bill) and other cursive comments that

may not be known by future viewers. You can never provide too much information (even though a picture, they say, is worth a thousand words). For group photos, try to name everyone. If there are too many, try outlining every individual on tracing paper placed over the photo and writing names on tracing paper.

For photos that are in albums, if they can be safely removed, label them on the back. Then, type out captions on acid-free paper using your word processor. You can type the line length that fits the photo size or fits to appropriate page spacing. Cut out captions and, using acid-free, archival quality adhesive, mount on album page (which should be acid-free paper). Use the least amount of adhesive necessary to secure. Don't use Scotch tape. If photos can't be easily removed from album, don't risk damaging them. Type out captions and place in album as above. If your photos are in one of those 'magnetic', sticky page photo albums, remove them all, throw away the album and get a new acid-free album (those old photo albums emit harmful chemicals which will harm your photos over time).

Digital photos printed on ink jet printers require special care. Avoid exposing them to sunlight as it will quickly fade the photos. To help preserve them, consider using a Krylon spray product called 'Preserve It'. Be sure to keep backup copy of your digital images so you can reprint, when needed. Also, remember to convert stored digital files to new storage media as it becomes available to prevent equipment obsolescence.

When your labeling project is complete, give yourself a gold star. Now your grandchildren and relatives will know all about your prized photos and why they are important to you.

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 your friends about this too as any purchase through our web site counts.

Welcome to Our New Members

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

Margaret Elmgren
Hillary Jessup
Edward Schaffroth

Joan Semler
Willaim Woock

Statue of Liberty Reopens

by Anna Acosta

The Statue of Liberty, which has been closed since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, was reopened to the public in August. The observation deck on the pedestal is now open but the public will not be allowed inside the statue itself.

When I was too young to ask questions, or even know to ask questions, my paternal grandfather told me he had climbed up the stairs in Lady Liberty's arm to look out from the base of the flame and also looked out the windows in her crown. Several years later the arm became so weakened that visitors were no longer able to climb to the torch. When I was at the statue in 1971 the arm was still closed so I was unable to experience the same view. Of course, the view would not have been the same at all. I had been doing family research by that time and discovered how my farmer grandfather in Indiana got to New York. He had been serving in the Spanish American War and was discharged in New York.

Although it has been 18 years since we celebrated Liberty's 100th birthday maybe its time to review the history of the statue and the reason it exists.

Shortly after the War Between the States ended in April 1865 a Frenchman, Professor Edouard Rene Lefebvre de Laboulaye, who was an expert on the history of the United States, gave a dinner party. As always, in any country, international events and politics were subjects of conversation. The guests recalled how the French had sent soldiers, arms, ships and money to help the U.S. gain independence from Great Britain during the American Revolution. There were remarks on the long-standing friendship between the two nations and their shared ideals of freedom. After all, between 1789 and 1792, the French also fought for their freedom in the French Revolution, overthrowing King Louis XVI.

As the party continued, the group decided it would be a good idea for France to give the U.S. a gift of friendship to commemorate the U.S.'s 100th birthday. It was quickly decided that an appropriate gift would be a grand statue. And so began the 21-year labor of love that turned a surprising idea into the most powerful symbol of freedom in the world.

At the dinner party was a 31-year old French sculptor, Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi. It would become Bartholdi's obsession to see that dream become a reality. In the late 1860s, Bartholdi designed a massive lighthouse for the entrance to the Suez Canal. He called it Egypt Carrying the Light to Asia. Although the lighthouse was never built the model showed how the Statue of Liberty might look. Actually, Bartholdi made six clay models, changing many details, until he was satisfied with a design that symbolized Libertas, the ancient Roman goddess of freedom. He designed the statue to resemble his mother,

Charlotte, a dignified older woman.

After the Franco-Prussian War ended in 1871, Bartholdi was asked by Laboulaye to travel to the U.S. to see the country and find out what people thought about the idea of the statue. Armed with a sketch of the statue Bartholdi traveled from coast to coast to meet with many prominent Americans to gain support for the project, but no one was willing to finance the project. When Bartholdi's ship entered New York harbor, he looked ahead and saw Bedloe's Island guarding the entrance and immediately knew he had found the perfect home for the statue. During the War of 1812, Fort Wood had been built on this island in the shape of an 11-pointed star.

Many other people were involved in this vast project. Richard Morris Hunt, who had studied architecture in Paris, was known for building mansions for the rich and famous of New York. He designed Liberty's pedestal to follow the 11-point star walls of old Fort Wood. The \$1000 he was paid was donated to the statue's building fund.

Bartholdi hired Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel to design the inner metal frame to support the statue. At that time Eiffel was a well-known engineer for his railroad building and it wasn't until 1885 that he was commissioned to build his most acclaimed work, the now famous Eiffel Tower, for the Paris World's Fair of 1889.

William Maxwell Evarts was chairman of the American Committee of the Franco-American Union which raised money for the pedestal and it was he who formally presented the Statue of Liberty to the American public at Bedloe's Island on October 28, 1886, ten years after that 100th anniversary of our independence.

Many others were involved in raising money for this project, one being Joseph Pulitzer, but I would like to end this article with information about Emma Lazarus, a New Yorker of Portuguese-Jewish descent, who was an outspoken activist for the fair treatment of Jewish immigrants in the U.S. She had written her most famous poem in 1883 to raise money at an auction to help pay for the pedestal for Bartholdi's statue, "Liberty Enlightening the World." She died 4 years later, in 1887, of cancer, at the age of 38. The poem was not mounted inside the pedestal until 1903, where it remained virtually ignored for more than a generation. It was not until the 1930's that the poem was rediscovered, and with it the growing recognition that is expressed the statue's true intention. Finally, in 1986, the plaque was moved to an introductory exhibit in the statue's pedestal. In Emma Lazarus' poem, the statue is a replacement for the Colossus of Rhodes, the great bronze monument to the Greek sun god that was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. (It stood in the harbor of Rhodes until it crumbled in an earthquake in 226 B.C.) Not a warrior this time, but a woman honoring an idea, and it is that idea that makes it a wonder of the modern world. Some

of your ancestors may have emerged onto the deck of a ship to see the statue standing tall, lighting the way and welcoming immigrants to the land of liberty. For those of you who may never have read the entire poem, enjoy!

THE NEW COLOSSUS

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed sunset-gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome, her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin-cities frame.

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she,
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore;
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

[Editor: Thanks to Anna for contributing this article to reminds us all what an important symbol of freedom our statue is to the world.]



People Over 40 Should Be Dead.

According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 40's, 50's, and 60's, shouldn't have survived. Here are the reasons why.....

Our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paint.

There was nothing to stop us from sticking a fork in an electrical outlet.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets. (Not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking.)

As children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, seat belts or air bags.

Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. Horrors!

We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank soda pop with sugar in it, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died from this.

We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps

and then rode down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the street lights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day.

No cell phones. Unthinkable!

We did not have Playstations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels on cable, video tape movies, surround sound, personal cell phones, personal computers, or Internet chat rooms.

We had friends! We went outside and found them.

We played dodge ball, and sometimes, the ball would really hurt.

We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents.

There were accidents. No one was to blame but us. Remember accidents?

We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it.

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate worms and mud pies, and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside of us forever.

We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rang the bell or just walked in and talked to them.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.

Some students weren't as smart as others, so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. Again, horrors!

Tests were not adjusted for any reason.

Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected.

The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law. Imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all. And you're one of them!

Congratulations.

Thank goodness we had the luck to grow up as kids, before lawyers and the government regulated our lives, for our own good...

Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?Author unknown



The Meaning of Life.....

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks

Why We Celebrate Labor Day



Ever wonder why we celebrate Labor Day? It is different from every other holiday we celebrate in that it doesn't honor a specific person or event. Celebrated on the first Monday in September, it signals the unofficial end of summer and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers.

The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The idea was proposed by Matthew Maguire, secretary of the Union. They appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic. By 1885, the Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow their New York example and celebrate a workingmen's holiday, changing the day to the first Monday in September.

With the rise of the union movement, the idea caught on. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed in 1885 and 1886. While the first state bill was introduced in New York, it was Oregon that passed the first state law on February 21, 1887. Later that same year, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York all created Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making it a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

So, how did Labor Day become a national holiday? The year 1894 was an election year and President Grover Cleveland needed to appease the nation's workers. This was a time of great economic depression. With orders for railroad cars declining, the Pullman Company was forced to lay off hundreds of workers. Those who remained on had their wages cut, however the rents and living costs in the company controlled town remained the same. So, the employees walked out. The American Railway Union, led by Eugene V. Debs, came to the cause of the striking workers with a nationwide boycott of trains with Pullman cars. Rioting, pillaging and burning of railroad cars soon ensued. Non-union workers joined in.

The strike became a national issue was declared a federal crime. President Cleveland deployed 12,000 troops to break the strike and on Aug. 3, 1894 it was declared over. The President seized the opportunity for conciliation. Legislation to create a national Labor Day holiday was rushed unanimously through both houses of Congress and the bill arrived on Cleveland's desk just six day after his troops ended the strike. He was not reelected.

Originally, the holiday was conceived as a celebration by street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. Over the years the emphasis has changed to recognize the economic and civic significance of the holiday in speeches by prominent men and women. Today, with less than 12% of the American workers belonging to unions (compared to 50% in the 1950's), Labor Day represents a national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

Frank and Ernest



New At The Library

The following items have been cataloged since last month's newsletter and are now available in the library. Our sincere thanks for the many generous donation. Thanks, also, to our library catalog volunteers.

San Diego Genealogical Society
1050 Pioneer Way, Suite E
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619-588-0065

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SDGS Event Calender

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings held at;
St. Dunstan's Parish Hall, 6556 Park Ridge Blvd., San Diego

- Sept. 8: Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Society Library
- Sept. 11: Reunion/Generations Users Group, 10:00 am, St. Dunstans
- Sept. 11: Monthly Meeting, Book Auction, pot luck luncheon, 12:00 noon, St. Dunstans
- Sept. 21: Study Group: California Research, 10:00-noon, Society Library
- Oct. 6: Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Society Library
- Oct. 9, Reunion/Generations Users Group, 10: am, St. Dunstans
- Oct. 9: Monthly Meeting, with Penny Feike, 12 noon, St. Dunstans
- Oct. 17: North San Diego Family History Fair, Escondido, pre-registration by Oct. 1 required.
- Oct. 19: Study Group: Military Research, 10:00 am-noon, Society Library
- Oct. 24 - 31: Salt Lake City trip, Best Western Plaza Hotel

View All San Diego County Genealogy Events at: www.cgssd.org/events.php3