



Allen County Library Trip Deadline Extended

The sign-up deadline for the Society's trip to the Allen County Public Library trip to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, has been extended to March 1, 2005. Many have expressed great interest in visiting the 2nd largest genealogical library in the world but could not plan that far ahead. Now, with the holidays behind us, mark your calendars and make your travel plans to join the Society in Ft. Wayne from April 24 to May 1, 2005. For more information, check out the article about the library on page 7 and the enclosed trip registration flyer. This is a unique opportunity to visit this renowned library with your fellow Society members.



Annual Luncheon A Great Success

Even the threat of rain didn't keep eager genealogists away from our Jan. 8th Annual Seminar and Luncheon. In fact, we had the highest attendance ever! And they weren't disappointed by the excellent presentations by Dr. George K. Schweitzer.

His talk on 'Frontier Religion and It's Genealogical Effects', done in a frontier preacher's costume, really brought home the importance of religion in the settling of America. He pointed out the historical significance of various religions sects, how they differed, their contributions and how and where they settled in this country. The audience truly 'saw the light' with his clear and concise presentation.

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

DNA and Genealogy

by Everett Ireland

Ever wonder what DNA testing and research projects could do for you? Our ever popular speaker will explore the different types of testing, how to plan a research project, interpreting results and the future role of DNA research.

Mr. Everett B. Ireland is a professional genealogist, lecturer and has been an active genealogist for over 14 years. He serves in a number of genealogical organizations including the Association of Professional Genealogists and the California State Genealogical Alliance. He specializes in Southern California and Midwest America genealogy, primarily 18th and 19th Century research.

Your Family Medical History

by Susan Pentico

Your family health histories may be the most important part of your genealogical research. Our speaker found out first-hand when her first born son almost died! With genetics playing an ever bigger role in medicine, come and learn how to expand your medical history research and add critical information to your genealogy. Member Susan Pentico has been doing genealogical research for over 40 years. She is a Host on AOL for Genealogy, the Golden Gate Forum and has taught genealogy at the Lemon Grove Library. She is a frequent speaker at the Chula Vista Genealogical Society and other venues. She has extensive research experience in the mid-Atlantic region.

The Newsletter is published monthly (except January) 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.

2005 Officers

President.....Peter Steelquist
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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.



New Yearbook Publication Delayed

The deadline for membership renewal is now past. However, it appears that a number of members have forgotten to send in their renewal. We will be contacting those individuals to be sure they are not left out of our 2005 Yearbook.

With the new Yearbook, we also change the combination on the lock to the Library door. Due to this delay in the Yearbook, we will not be changing the combination on the lock until after March 1st. Please look for notification in the March Newsletter. For those who requested and paid for Yearbook mailing, it will be mailed as soon as it is available.

We are looking forward to an exciting new year of programs, trips and other events that will help you enjoy and improve your genealogy pursuits. Our library continues to grow with book and monetary donations to improve our collection. If you have not visited the library in a while, you will find many new publications and resources to help in your research. Why not plan on stopping by on a Thursday and get a tour and expert help with our unique collection. And if you have any suggestions for speakers, topics, activities or trips you would like to see the Society do, please contact the newsletter editor.

President's Message

As we begin another year, I want to personally thank you for your membership in the Society. Without your ongoing membership, involvement and support, the Society would not be the premier genealogical organization in San Diego.

I and the Board are committed to bringing you the best genealogical experience possible in our meetings, seminars, trips, publications and at our library. All this requires the work of many, many volunteers who work hard, often behind-the-scenes and without recognition, to make it happen. We all owe a great deal of thanks to them for the unselfish giving of their time, effort and money. The Society would not exist if not for their generosity. At our Annual Luncheon, we have the opportunity to thank and recognize but a few of these giving individuals but there are many more who deserve our appreciation. On behalf of the Society, THANK YOU to all who have volunteered this past year to help. We couldn't do it without you.

As in any organization, there is always more to do. One of our biggest challenges is recruiting new members. Almost all genealogy organizations in San Diego and nationwide are facing declining membership.

Some say this is due to the impact of the computer, the Internet and instant access to information. While these certainly are contributing factors, to me this is even **more** reason to join and belong to a genealogical society. With all the information (and mis-information) out there, how does the beginning or experienced genealogist know what to believe? The answer is in learning the solid fundamentals that form the foundation of good and proven research methodology. Our Society has always strived to promote this through our meeting speakers, seminars and publications. Personally, I don't know where else someone turns to get this absolutely necessary perspective of genealogy. It is certainly one thing you don't get through the Internet! Now, this is where you can help. We need to bring in new members. The best way to do this is by word-of-mouth. It is you telling your friends, both genealogists and non-genealogists, about your hobby and how important the Society is in learning more about genealogy.

With 80 million Americans expressing an interest in genealogy, many are just waiting to find out how to get started. You can be the inspiration that sparks their interest and gets them going on the right path. So, talk about your favorite hobby and become an unabashed ambassador for your Society. By doing so, everybody wins! Thank you.

Peter Steelquist, President

Google To Access 5 Major Libraries

Google is trying to establish an online reading room for five major libraries by scanning stacks of hard-to-find books into its widely used Internet search engine. The ambitious initiative recently announced gives Google the right to index material from the New York public library as well as libraries at four universities: Harvard, Stanford, Michigan and Oxford in England.

The Michigan and Stanford libraries have agreed to submit all their material to Google's scanners. The New York library is allowing Google to include a small portion of its books no longer covered by copyright, while Harvard is confining its participation to 40,000 volumes so it can gauge how well the process works. Oxford wants Google to scan its books originally published before 1901.

Scanning books so they can be read through computers isn't new. Both Google and Amazon.com have programs that offer online glimpses of new books while an assortment of other sites for several years have provided digital access to some material in libraries scattered around the country.

Google's latest commitment could have the biggest effect yet, given the breadth of material the company hopes to put into its search engine, which has become renowned for its processing speed, ease of use and accuracy.

"It's a significant opportunity to bring our material to the rest of the world", said Paul LeClerc, president of the New York Public Library. "It could solve an old problem: If people can't get to us, how can we get to them?" Librarians are excited about the prospect of creating a digital record for the reams of valuable material written before computers were conceived.

"This is the day the world changes," said John Wilkin, a University of Michigan librarian working with Google. "It will be disruptive because some people will worry this is the beginning of the end of libraries. But this is something we have to do to revitalize the profession and make it more meaningful."

Scanning the library books figures to be a daunting task, even for a cutting edge company such as Google, whose online index of 8 billion Web pages has revolutionized the way people look for information. Michigan's library contains 7 million volumes, about 132 miles of books. Google hopes to get the job done at Michigan within six years, Wilkin said. Harvard's library is larger with 15 million volumes. All of that material will be off limits until Google shows it can scan the material without losing or damaging anything, said Harvard professor Sidney Verba, who is director of the university library.

San Diego City Library Genealogy Dept. Update

The Central branch of the San Diego City Public Library recently retrieved two important collections from the basement. They assure us that the books will be available on rolling carts in the Genealogy Room indefinitely. One of these is the "Doomsday Books". When William, the Duke of Normandy, conquered England in 1066, much of the land was granted to his followers. A survey was commissioned to report back how much each landowner had in both land and livestock and how much it was worth.

This edition of the "Doomsday Books" was printed in 1983 in Great Britain. The Olde English version is printed on one side and a more readable translation on the opposite side. Each of the 34 volumes is divided by counties and there is also a supplemental volume 35 called the Boldon Book. There is an index of names but keep in mind that surnames were not commonly used during this period.

The second collection worth noting is the published "Pennsylvania Archives". The library has 96 of the 138 volumes including the 12 volumes of Colonial records. The archives consist of early Pennsylvania government records such as military, tax, land, naturalization, marriage, ship's passenger lists, and numerous other records of interest to historians and genealogists. There is a guide available which is kept on the cart in a green binder.

The library also has a complete set of the American Genealogical Biographical Index (AGBI). There are only about 170 libraries in the United States that have this huge collection. Elsewhere it is readily available on CD_ROM and the internet, but for those who prefer a hard cover book.....it's here. Also worth mentioning is the collection of Lineage Books of the National Society of the DAR.

Parking downtown on a week day is challenging at best but there is free parking on Saturday and Sunday at the Five Star Parking lot on the SE corner of Broadway and Eighth Street. Also, the trolley stops a few blocks away.

Thanks to Society member and SDPL volunteer Charlotte Zaino for submitting this.

Aluminum Can Recycling Helps Your Society

The Society continues to collect your empty aluminum cans for recycling. By bringing them to the monthly meetings or leaving them in the storage room at the library, you are not only helping the environment, you are also helping your Society. So, please, collect your cans (and those of neighbors, relatives and friends) and give them to your Society. SDGS Newsletter, Vol. 38, No.1

Our Research Trip to Germany

By Ed and Gale Schaffroth

This article describes our genealogy research trip to Germany during September of 2004.

Anna Acosta and Dona Ritchie [Society members] helped to guide and inspire my fledgling interest in my family search. They always took time to answer my questions and sometimes raised more questions than I wanted. Also I thank the entire staff at the San Diego Genealogical Society for developing and maintaining a viable source of important information in the world of ancestry search.

My wife, and I wanted to find relatives of my great grandparents (Rinkers and Wilkes) who are from Germany (one document said Prussia). The document which proved most helpful was great grandfather's civil war records. It provided dates, events, birth and death places and personal descriptions (from the medical records) of him and his wife. It also gave places of birth for both of them. The place of birth appeared to be 'Lenn, Germany'. It took awhile to decipher the correct spelling to be 'Leun' which is pronounced 'Loin'. We found it on the map and discovered that it is a village about 70 km north of Frankfurt.

Anna Acosta had a map of Germany dated 1895 on which we were able to locate 'Leun'. We also looked for Worscha, the birth town of my great grandmother, Agusta Wilke. We were not able to locate it before leaving for Europe. According to one clerk in Germany, the town no longer exists.

Anna helped locate the addresses of the civil records offices I needed which I took with us. We sent letters to a couple of the *civilstadt* offices and received a reply from one of them. They had no information but suggested we look elsewhere.

The tourist offices were our first stop for directions to the *civistadt* office. Getting there often it required riding a bus or tram or a long walk.

The clerks in the *civilstadt* offices were mostly helpful. If a clerk seemed somewhat disinterested we found that if we just stood there and did not walk away they tried harder. The fact that we came from America to search for our German ancestors motivated some of them to go out of their way. When we gave them a specific piece of information, they would try to find it. They brought us genealogical documents and books. They asked questions, made suggestions and gave us other leads to work on.

Most of the time there are no receptionists as you walked through the door. We looked at signs on doors and walls and asked for the 'most helpful person'. We found that we often asked any person who was walking through the area and usually they tried to help. Smiling and saying
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excuse me and explain what you're looking for brought us results.

We found it helpful to obtain information such as hours of operation, and the name of a contact at a particular office. One office directed us incorrectly to a church record office which took about 2 hours and 3 train changes. The records of our particular interest, were in Dusseldorf which was 4 hours in the opposite direction.

One clerk at a tourist office who spoke excellent English helped us locate the telephone numbers and addresses of about 15 Rinkers in the area. One Rinker family lived in Leun so we went there. We asked a woman in a clothing store for directions to the address we had. We telephoned the Rinker number and the lady who answered couldn't understand me and she hung up. We decided to go to the house. We felt a little awkward standing in front of the house as we got up courage to knock on the door. The door was around back so around we went, knocked on the door and waited. An older woman answered and somehow through Gale's ear for the Germanic language and the woman's willingness to try to communicate, we made progress. Soon we were invited into their kitchen. She and her husband showed us his genealogy chart of his mother's side of his family and we showed pictures trying to make connections. We never did make a solid connection as apparently they are from a different branch of the Rinker tree.

A few days following our arrival at home we received a letter from the grandson of the couple we visited. He offered to assist with our search. He is interested in his American relatives. Genealogists everywhere seem to love assisting others in their search

'It feels good' (it makes no difference in my day to day life whether I know that my paternal great grandmother was born in Germany, came to America and had 9 children), but I can't help feeling a little more complete, more proud & a little more comfortable with details of how they survived a very poor existence.

What we learned;

- ◆Do your homework.
- ◆Take documents and photographs.
- ◆Take addresses and telephone numbers of the civil offices you might visit.
- ◆Be ready with a few specific questions to help get started.
- ◆Mistakes happen. Be patient and try again.
- ◆Practice your patience and willingness to survive a few awkward moments of silence in front of strangers.
- ◆Obtain names and addresses of those who assist you and write thank you notes.

We hope to return and meet relatives one day.

[Thanks to Ed & Gale for sharing their experiences from which we can all learn. Do you have a travel experience to share? ...Editor.]

Use Your Senses When Viewing The Census

by Elaine Edwards Foulger

When looking for your family in a census record you must keep in mind the possibility of different spellings of a name. On the census report the name is only as good as the spelling ability of the census enumerator. The name on the census also depends upon whether or not your ancestor had a foreign accent and if the census enumerator clearly understood what was told to him.

Recently I was looking for two families in California and another family in Indiana. In California I was searching for John H. Herbst and Moses M. Feder. I found Moses M. Feder in the 1880 San Francisco census with his name spelled Moses M. Feder, age 42, with his wife Esta age 38.

I could not locate the family in the 1870 California census yet I knew the family was in California before 1860. I began checking the census index for every man named Moses in California in 1870. Finally, after a search of several pages of indexes I found Moses M. Fuler. I looked at the census page and there was Moses M. Feder age 34 with the wife Esther age 29, both born in Prussia and living in Colusa County, California. The person who indexed the name could not read the writing of the census taker. On another 1870 census index the name Feder was indexed as Feeler. In looking for the family in 1860, I applied the same technique and found Moses M. Feber, age 23 born in Prussia, living with his brother Samuel Feber, age 21, born in Prussia and living in Colusa County. In that case the census taker had written the wrong name, transposing the "d" to a "b".

Searching for John H. Herbst also proved to be a challenge. I found two enumerations for John H. Herbst in 1880. One was in Hueneme Twp., Ventura County; Henry Herbst, age 29, b. Russia with his wife Dora, age 24, born in Prussia. The other listing for Henry Herbst, age 32, wife Dora, 25 born in Prussia was in Saticoy Twp., Ventura County, California. Though the dates of birth were several years apart, the names of the other family members and places of origin were the same.

Locating the Herbst family in 1910 was even more of a challenge. Before we had on-line census indexes I went through every 1910 soundex card searching the John H. Herbst and his wife Dora. I suspected the family lived in San Francisco however, I could not find a soundex card for the family. When Heritage Quest published the on-line index for 1910 I went through the index for San Francisco looking at every name John. After many pages of the name John, I struck pay dirt. I found John H. Herbat. When I looked at the 1910 census, there was John H. Herbst with his wife Dora in San

Francisco. That was another case of the person doing the indexing who could not read the handwriting on the census.

As one last example of bad spelling is the name Dixon. I was searching for Joseph Dixon with his wife Malinda. What I found in the 1870 census was Joseph Direen with a wife Malinda. The location in Indiana and names of other family members agreed with my previous research on the family. In that case the census taker did not write the last name correctly on the census.

This serves as a reminder that the information on a census report can have incorrect name spellings and incorrect ages. The census data is only as good as the person giving the information to the census enumerator. When searching for your family in the census records keep in mind that names, spellings, dates and places of birth depends upon who gave the information, and how the enumerator wrote the data.



Your Family Tree Could Save Your Life

Some of the biggest health advances are in genetics -- and finding the best ways to help patients may lie in knowing their family health histories. Top killers like stroke, diabetes and cancer are produced by genetic and non-genetic factors, so having family with those diseases can heighten your risk. The Surgeon General wants Americans to compile a family health history and is even offering a free computer program to help guide you along. Go to www.hhs.gov/familyhistory for the new "My Family Health Portrait."

Americans know that family history is important to health. A recent survey found that 96 percent of Americans believe that knowing their family history is important. Yet, the same survey found that only one-third of Americans have ever tried to gather and write down their family's health history.

This program will help you organize your family tree and help you identify common diseases that may run in your family. When you are finished, the tool will create and print out a graphical representation of your family's generations and the health disorders that may have moved from one generation to the next. That is a powerful tool for predicting any illnesses for which you should be checked.



The Meaning of Life.....

People will not look forward to their posterity who never look backwards to their ancestors.

Passport Applications: Your Road to Riches

Don't think our ancestors traveled much? Think again. Just because you find them every ten years in the census records, doesn't mean they stayed put. While travel was far more difficult and often took months, our ancestors did travel both across the US and abroad more than we might think.

In the early years of America, individuals carried passports when traveling from state to state or into Indian territory. Records of such early passports may be useful to genealogists if his or her ancestors settled in the area that eventually became Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Some of these documents have been published. Mary Givens Bryan transcribed the passports issued by the governors of Georgia between 1785 and 1820, for example, which were printed in two special publications of the National Genealogical Society.

Modern passport applications filed between 1791 and 1905 are now maintained in the Diplomatic Records Branch of the National Archives. Although passports weren't required by law during that period, except during the Civil War, many individuals secured them for the protection they afforded. Immigrants traveling home often obtained passports in order to avoid the military draft in their home country.

Passport applications dated between 1810 and 1924 are kept in bound volumes at the National Archives, and indexes are available for the years 1830-31, 1850-52, 1960-1923. They have also been microfilmed and are available at the National Archives and at the FHL (2,095 microfilm reels).

While the earliest applications were simple letters of request, expired passports, birth certificates, certificates of citizenship or similar documents may be on file with them. After the Civil War, passport applications were more detailed. Information usually includes the applicant's name, signature, residence, age, personal description and the names or number of family members traveling with him. If he or she were a naturalized American, the date and place of his or her naturalization is given. Early passport applications for naturalized citizens also include birth dates, the name of the vessel and date and port of arrival, and the length of their uninterrupted residence in the United States.

Information about an ancestor who traveled and applied for a passport before 1925 can be obtained from the Diplomatic Records Branch of the National Archives by submitting his or her name and residence and the place and approximate date of application. If the records are located, a nominal fee will be charged for copies.

The Passport Office (Department of State, Washington, DC 20524) maintains passport applications filed since 1925. To request information from these records, an

ancestor's full name, the date and place of his or her birth and at least an approximate indication of the time and place of application must be supplied. In some cases an approximate birth date may suffice. The location of an ancestor's application may be facilitated by also supplying the passport number, if known, information on whether he or she was included in another's passport, and any possible variations in the spelling of the individual's surname. If the individual whose passport application is being sought is still alive, he or she must sign the request or be over 100 years of age. If he or she is deceased, a death certificate is required. For more detailed information visit their web site at: http://travel.state.gov/passport/services/copies/copies_872.html

The amount of data contained in these applications varies. In addition to the information supplied in pre-1905 records, more recent passport applications may identify the applicant's spouse and may include the names, birth dates and birthplaces of children if they were included in the passport. If the ancestor filed an application in 1915 or later, a photograph is also included.

Information from passport applications is sometimes very helpful to genealogists but will be available only if the ancestor was a citizen and sought a passport. Before World War I, the U.S. Government required passports only for travel to certain countries. And keep in mind, they may have applied for a passport even if they didn't travel abroad. You won't know until you check.

For additional online and offline information and online indexes, visit <http://naturalizationrecords.com/usa/passports.shtml>.



2005 Membership Recognition

At our Annual Seminar and Luncheon, your President, due to the excitement of his surprise recognition, forgot to mention the special membership achievements for 2005.

We would like to recognize the following who have attained 25 year membership:

Mary Harris, Irene Hoskins, Phyllis Mc Williams, Dorothy Sack, Patricia Teaze and Rosemary West.

Our new Honorary Member (25+ year members who have reached age 80) include:

Marion Newcomb, Dorothy Sack and Mary Walsh.

Congratulations to you all and **Thank You** for your long-standing membership and support of the Society.

The Meaning of Life.....

Every man is his own ancestor, and every man his own heir. He devises his own future, and he inherits his own past.

H. F. Hedge

Why Visit the Allen County Public Library?

Just in case you haven't heard, the Allen County Public Library has the second largest Genealogy Department in the world. With the Family History Library in Salt Lake City considered the *mecca* for genealogical research, the Allen Co. Public Library is surely the genealogical *nirvana*. Unlike the FHL, the ACPL genealogy materials don't circulate. You need to visit there to revel in its resources.

So, what makes this library so important? Organized in 1961, it contains more than 317,000 printed volumes and 314,000 items of microfilm and microfiche and the collection grows daily. Among the holdings are more than 50,000 volumes of compiled genealogies, representing works already done on American and European families, ranging from brief typescripts to well documented multi-volume works. Nearly 5,000 genealogies on microfiche and numerous family newsletters complement this collection. You will also find 45,300 R.L. Polk directories dated 1964 to the present, with significant earlier runs for some cities. The department also holds many directories for smaller cities and rural areas produced by other publishers and the microform collection dates from 1785-1935 for some 320 cities. In addition, there are nearly 200,000 printed volumes of U.S. genealogy and local history publications. There are also extensive holdings of Federal, state and territorial censuses, passenger lists and military records. Check out a more complete list on their web site at: www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index.html.

Still need more reasons why you should go to the Allen County Public Library? There are thousands of volumes on the British Isles, England, Scotland and Ireland. Also Germanic genealogy including research guides, maps, emigration records and genealogies.

But perhaps most important is PERSI, the **PER**iodical **S**ource **I**ndex. This index, compiled by the department staff, contains over 1.7 million records in nearly 6,000 different journals and other periodicals in the U. S. and abroad. While you can access the index online, *all the articles cited can be found at the Allen County Library*. This alone could save you countless hours of research time. (See our June 2004 Newsletter for a detailed article on PERSI). It also has all the standard reference works including The American Genealogical-Biographical Index and the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections. Also available are computer databases, audio and video cassettes, governmental and legal references.

Not convinced yet? About 110,000 people visit the library every year and Fort Wayne is very genealogy friendly with many fine restaurants. But more importantly, you will be with a great group of friends from your Society who can help one another with their research and insure a successful trip. So, sign up today and don't miss this opportunity.

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Beginner's Workshop Offered

The San Diego Genealogical Society Study Group will offer a workshop; "Tracing Your Family Tree: How to Begin". Subjects will include how to fill out forms, organize your work, finding sources of family data, researching at home through correspondence, both traditional and by e-mail. Subsequent sessions will focus on resources available in the various libraries, finding historical documents and searching on the Internet.

Meetings will be on the third Tuesday of each month (Feb. 15, Mar. 15). The same workshops will be offered on the fourth Saturday of each month (Feb. 26, Mar. 26) for those unable to attend on Tuesdays. All meetings will be held at the Society Library from 10 a.m. to noon.

Material will be presented in an informal discussion format with focus on individual attention and problem solving. Sessions will be geared towards those beginning their genealogy research and those wishing to refresh their skills. Society members and non-members are welcome.

If you know anyone wanting to begin their genealogy research, this is an excellent opportunity. Please encourage them to attend. There is no charge for these sessions.



Library Gifts Appreciated

Since we last published our thanks to the donors of publications in August 2004 issue, we have received and catalogued many new additions, including several collections. The Society wishes to thank these members and friends who have generously donated items to enhance our library collection. We would not have such a great library without your help. THANK YOU!

Jack and Mary Arneson
Tamara J. Bentz
Mary Bowen
Jeanne Cady
Georgia Callian
Janice Camp
Frank Circinioni
Elizabeth Floyd
Charlotte Gibbs
Annette Hardenburgh
Mary Harris
Vernie Harville
Phyllis Hoke
Pam Journey
Jane Kahler
Lilian C. Kahler
Harvey Keating

Theresa M. Kelly
Denise Kimball
Jackie McGurk
Phyllis McWilliams
Jeanette Nelson
Gloria Osborn
Elise Patterson
Phyllis Quarg
Jim Reynolds
Mary A. Russell
Dorothy Sack
Mary Shirer
Ruth Steffey
Edward and Audrey Ward
Martha Wilson
Joyce Wisley

For his next topic, 'Scots-Irish Genealogical Research' he wore a frontier settler's outfit and put the Scots-Irish literally 'in their place'. While at times not too complimentary, he pointed out the historical reasons for their migration and settlement. It was amazing how many in the audience had Scots-Irish heritage (and as Dr. Schweitzer noted, the number who don't know). A most entertaining talk.

His last subject was 'Kissing Cousins and Pedigree Collapse'. It was a most enlightening exploration of why we don't have more relatives than we do. Through mathematical examples, he showed how the marriage of 1st and 2nd cousins can radically change our family trees.

At the conclusion, Dr. Schweitzer had a question-and-answer session. It was like having your own personal professional genealogist. He answered individual research questions, providing detailed information on additional resources and research tips.

At the luncheon ceremonies, the 2004 Society Officers and Board of Directors were introduced as well as the 2005 new Board members. The Committee Chairpersons were also recognized for their many contributions to the Society. All these volunteers do a tremendous amount of work to make sure the Society continues to provide a quality experience to all its members. They all deserve our heart-felt thanks for all that they do.

The President presented 'Certificate of Appreciation' awards to Pat Allen, who makes certain that our Newsletter gets out every month and to Lynne Robinson, who handles all the Society's query requests (generating significant revenue). The 'President's Recognition Award' was presented to Treasurer Harvey Keating for the high level of professionalism he has brought to the job. These are only a few of the many people who deserve our thanks.

As a surprise award, the Board presented to President, Peter Steelquist, a 'Leadership Award' plaque and, from their own funds, several restaurant gift certificates. The recognition is most appreciated.

Throughout the day, many door prizes were raffled off with lucky winners getting restaurant certificates, museum passes, See's candy, books and subscriptions. The grand prize, a six night hotel stay in Salt Lake City, was won by Society member Anita Henning.

Congratulations Anita!

The Society wishes to thank the many members who worked to make the annual luncheon such a success. Most particularly to Program Director, Elaine Foulger, who worked diligently with the hotel to ensure a flawless event. Also to Bonnie Fago for doing the program, Harvey Keating for handling reservations and accounting, Phyllis Newton for providing the table centerpieces and the volunteers who handled table sales. And to Dr. Schweitzer for providing free copies of his genealogical guide books on Missouri and Massachusetts.

My New Year's Genealogy Resolutions

The New Year is traditionally the time to make our resolutions for improvement in the coming year. And those for your genealogy hobby should be high on the list. Here are a few of your editor's, in no particular order, that might help you with yours.

❖ **Clean up the master lists** in my computer genealogy program. Most programs store place names (and other information) in master lists so the information doesn't have to be repeated, thus saving space. But, how many times do we have the same information entered differently. For example, 'San Diego, San Diego, CA' could also have been entered 'San Diego, San Diego Co., California' or other variants. The programs have an edit mode where you can go in and correct and merge these duplicate names. It is also a good time to correct typos and spelling errors.

❖ **Edit my notes and citations.** Over the years as I improved my documentation skills, I have noticed some early entries that are deficient or missing. Good time to 'clean up my act' and do it right.

❖ **Identify people in family photos.** We all have important photos but don't know all the people in them. Ask 'who might know' and contact them. Send them a photocopy of the picture or scan and e-mail it to them. Look at other family photos to see if they might be identified. From family information, make a list of possible candidates.

❖ **Scan family photos and other documents** and link to my genealogy program. Also put copies on CDs or DVDs and send to other family members. There are programs that let you label photos and view them on television.

❖ **Transcribe old letters and original documents** to share with others. They can be added to notes, e-mailed, added to web sites and given to archives. Share the wealth!

❖ **Write my biography.** If I don't do it, who will? It is also a great legacy for the family and a source for my eventual obituary.

New Year's resolutions are just idle ideas unless they are carried out. Writing them down and sharing them with others is a good motivation to get them done. How about yours? It's not too late to get started.

Rummage Sale Planned

The Society is planning a rummage sale on Saturday, May 21, 2005, so start cleaning out your closets and garages and gathering salable items. We will begin collecting and pricing items the beginning of April. If you can't hold items until then, please phone Karna Webster (619-463-1029) and we will try to find storage space. More details later.

Origins of Saint Valentine's Day.....

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday?

The history of Valentine's Day -- and its patron saint -- is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite?

Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men -- his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial -- which probably occurred around 270 A.D -- others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'christianize' celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia festival. In ancient Rome, February was the official beginning of spring and was considered a time for purification. Houses were ritually cleansed by sweeping them out and then sprinkling salt and a type of wheat called spelt throughout their interiors. Lupercalia, which began at the ides of February, February 15, was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at the sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would then sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. The boys then sliced the goat's hide into strips, dipped them in the sacrificial blood and took to the streets, gently slapping both women and fields of crops with the goat hide strips. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed being touched with the hides because it was believed the strips would make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would then each choose a name out of the urn and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. The Roman 'lottery' system for romantic pairing was deemed un-Christian and outlawed. Later, during the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February -- Valentine's Day -- should be a day for romance.

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers in all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings. Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began to sell the first mass-produced valentines in America.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.) Approximately 85 percent of all valentines are purchased by women. In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.



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SDGS Event Calendar

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

Feb. 9 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7:00 pm.

Feb. 12 -- Monthly Meeting, DNA, Family Health Histories, 12:00 noon

Feb. 15, 26 -- Beginning Genealogy Workshop, Society Library, 10:00 am - noon. 2nd meeting

March 9 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7:00 pm

March 12 -- Monthly Meeting, 'Allen County Public Library', **St. Andrew's Lutheran Church**

March 15, 26 -- Beginning Genealogy workshop, Society Library, 10:00 am - noon. 3rd meeting

April 24 - May 1 -- Allen County Public Library Trip. Sign-up by March 1st.

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