



March Monthly Meeting Location Change

Our usual meeting location, St. Dunstan's Parish Hall, is not available for our March meeting. We will be having our meeting at a **new** location, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 8350 Lake Murray Blvd. (at Jackson Dr.) It is centrally located and easy to get to. There is plenty of parking adjacent to the hall (with no steps). It is air conditioned, has a public address system, a full kitchen and comfortable chairs. It will be a wonderful location for our meeting. As usual, our meeting will begin at 12 noon.

Directions: Coming west-bound on I-8, take Jackson Dr. north to Lake Murray Blvd. Turn left and pull into first driveway on your right.

Going east-bound I-8, take Lake Murray Blvd. north to Jackson Dr., make a left hand U-turn, pull into the first driveway on your right.

Rummage Sale May 21st.

The Society is planning its annual spring rummage sale. It will again be at the La Mesa Historical Society McKinney House, 8369 University Ave., La Mesa. This event helps raise much needed funds to support your Society.

Now is the time to start going through your garage, closets, back yard, etc. to find those old treasures, forgotten keepsakes, unused tools and appliances, books..... anything that sells. Electronic items must be in working order. However, no clothing, TVs or computer monitors. Donated items may be left in the library storage area after April 1st. For pick-up or more information, please phone: Antoinette Bertolas (619-224-6594), Lynne Robinson (619-444-1690) or Karna Webster (619-463-1029). Thanks for your help!

Monthly Meeting, March 12

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

8350 Lake Murray Blvd

(at Jackson Dr.)

'Allen County Library' Do you know what this renown library has to offer? If you have ever thought of going there, you need to hear this talk. Wendy has first hand research experience there and can greatly increase your success. Sign up for our April 24th trip at the meeting.

'Buried Treasure: Lost in Print' Can't find your ancestor but know they were there? This overview to the many ways that most official records were indexed during the 19th century just may lead you to those hidden records.

Wendy Elliott, PhD, is a professor of history at California State University, Fullerton. She is Vice President for Administration for the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and served as their National Conference Chair for the 2002 conference in Ontario, California. Wendy also serves on several committees for the National Genealogical Society (NGS). She is former President of the California State Genealogical Alliance as well as former President of the Southwest Oral History Assn. Wendy is an internationally known genealogical teacher and speaker and has lectured at national conferences throughout the U.S. She is also an accomplished writer, having just completed 5 chapters for Ancestry's new 2nd edition of the 'Redbook'. She co-edited and authored chapters for 'The Library: A Guide to the LDS Family History Library'. Her numerous genealogical research articles have appeared in a wide variety of genealogical publications.

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.



Beginner's Workshop Offered

The San Diego Genealogical Society Study Group is conducting 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, resources available in the various libraries, finding historical documents and searching on the Internet.

The last of 3 meetings will be on Mar. 15. The same workshops will be offered on Mar. 26. for those unable to attend on Tuesdays. The meeting 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. The session 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 this session.

The Meaning of Life.....

Evaluate yourself by your own standards, not someone else's.

Presidents Message.....

As with all volunteer groups, membership is our 'life's blood'. We exist solely for the benefits of our members. That is why it is so important that we not lose sight of our goal: "to foster and promote interest in genealogy and related fields." Our monthly meetings, seminars, trips, publications and library all support this goal for our members and the San Diego genealogical public.

In recent years, however, we have seen a gradual but steady decline in our membership numbers. While we can debate the cause -- growth of the Internet and computer genealogy, other organizations, more family demands, aging population, etc. -- the outcome remains the same; we have less revenue to support the Society. While we are able to meet expenses, we **must** take action now to reverse this trend.

This will require an effort from all our members, not just the Board and Directors. All it would take is for every current member to bring in just one new member. With 80 million Americans expressing an interest in their family history, this is not unreasonable. We all need to promote our Society to others, both to genealogists and the uninitiated. Your 'word-of-mouth' endorsement of your Society is usually all it takes. Begin by mentioning last month's speaker or articles in the Newsletter (see the article starting on pg. 6 on fostering future genealogists). Your interest in the subject will become contagious. But most important, ask them to come to a meeting and to join in order to find out more about genealogy. It won't happen unless you ask. Please, take a moment right now to think of one person you can talk to. And, now, take action! **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Do you know groups that would like to have a speaker on genealogy or a beginning class on how to start? The Board is looking for outreach opportunities, so please let us know.

Peter Steelquist, President

Library Combination Lock to Be Changed

The combination lock to our library will be changed on Sunday, March 13th. Membership cards with the new combination will be available at our March meeting along with the new Yearbook. For those that paid for mailing, they will go out immediately after the March meeting.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, it is still not too late. You can mail in the form (available on the Society's web site - www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs - and your name will be published in an addendum sheet. Questions? phone Membership Chair, Donna Swink (619-443-4176).

Our first session, **DNA and Genealogy**, was presented by Everett Ireland. He explained the 'nuts and bolts' of DNA and how it relates to genealogical research. He defined the terms and different types of DNA research used. He detailed the planning of a DNA research project and the importance of defining what results are sought. He then presented the test results from his own DNA research project, showing where matches were and were not found relating to his surname project. He further explained why there may be a 'non-paternity event' (divorce, adoption, out-of-wedlock birth, assigned surnames, etc.). He went on to explain the generational implications of DNA research and the 'most recent common ancestor'.

He concluded this fascinating presentation with the future role of DNA research in genealogy. He mentioned the importance of preserving the genetic history of probable relatives and ancestors as well as saving DNA samples for future generations. He noted also the 'black side' of DNA research; preserving your medical privacy as well as the potential of governmental abuses.

Society member, Susan Pantico, talked the second session about **Your Family Medical History**. She highlighted the importance of keeping your family medical history with the story of her son's near death experience due to allergies. She related how the medical profession was not proficient at diagnosing his symptoms and causes which were finally revealed in a family medical history that traced them back several generations on both side of the family. The presentation was made even more poignant with the revelation that, had this been known, perhaps different marriage and birth decision may have been made. It certainly provided everyone present with some food for thought.

Susan then told of her own family physical characteristics involving bent-inward little fingers and a second toe that was longer than the big toe and webbed. These traits were found in most of her family along with a characteristic gait. She noted that this was widely found in the extended family and was prevalent in her hometown where members could be identified as they walked in town. This was tied into the DNA topic as perhaps a key indicator, along with surname studies, for inclusion in a DNA project.

Countering the need for privacy noted in the first session, Susan pushed for the need to openly pursue and divulge family medical histories as a needed tool in preventive and diagnostic medicine. As genealogists, the need to survey the illnesses and causes of death of our ancestors can provide important medical prevention and treatment clues that could save and extend our lives and those of our future generations. If medical history is not already a part of your genealogical research, it certainly should be. Thanks, Susan, for the important reminder.

Headstones, tombstones, grave markers, and monument and mausoleum inscriptions have all been a cornerstone of genealogical research. They were 'carved in granite' (or other stone) and meant to be a permanent record of the deceased's existence. Some are plain, simple with few words while others are huge building edifices bearing a wealth of information, both symbolic, historic and literary. For centuries, genealogists have sought them out and made rubbings, sketches and photographs to document the information they provide.

With the advances in technology, it is not surprising that there are now new ways to immortalize the memory of the departed. Here are a few new means you can use to not only memorialize the recently deceased but also to provide a genealogical tribute to your ancestors who died long ago.

Occasionally we find headstones that contain a likeness of the deceased. And if the weather and elements have been kind, it might even bear a reasonable likeness. Now you can have high resolution, digital photo images, in color or black and white, high-fire glazed onto oval ceramic plaques that can be applied to the monument's surface. This process ensures clarity and durability and they are guaranteed for life [who's life?] against fading and deterioration from weather.

The cost? They start at \$129 for a 2 ¼ x 2 ¾ b&w (\$194 for color) and go up to \$253 for a 5 x 7 b&w (\$376 for color). To find out more, visit: www.funeraldepot.com/portraitsizechart.html.

Even more hi-tech is the Memory Medallion. It is a weather resistant, stainless steel encased silicon chip about the size of two stacked quarters that enables the storage of multiple pages of text and/or digital images in any location without the need for electric current to preserve the information. Hyperlinks can even be incorporated into the device to connect the user to a customer designated web site that can have additional content about the honored individual.

The Memory Medallions work with a laptop computer or PDA (Personal Data Assistant) device operating on a Windows platform. The medallion is activated when an inexpensive read/write wand simply touches the Memory Medallion. The text and digital images are downloaded and can be read or 'listened to' using the free software. The stored information can then be printed, e-mailed or integrated into a database, presentation or scrapbook. The chip inside the medallion can hold enough data for one color picture and 5 to 10 pages of single-spaced text (about 600 words). For our members, the Memory Medallion cost, directly from the manufacturer, is \$295 which includes touch wand, software and installation materials. More information can be found at: www.memorymedallion.com.

Digital Photo Concerns

Imagine your children coming to get you because they found a dusty box with unusual looking, hollow cylinders inside. You look at it and explain that they belonged to your great-grandparents; that these cylinders were invented by a man named Edison and were the first type of musical records. People could even record their voice on it, you tell them. Unfortunately, as you go on to say, the machine that plays them is no longer around and can only be found in an antique shop, so they cannot hear what is on them.

Now fast forward in time and imagine that your great-great-grandchildren come running into their mother because they found a dusty box with unusual flat discs in them. Their mother explains that the discs belonged to you, her great-grandparents. That they were called compact discs and had music, pictures, and information on them. Unfortunately, as she tells them, the machine that reads them is no longer around. Even antique shops don't have them! So sadly she explains that they will not be able to see the pictures on the disc that has "Vacation 2004" written on it.

The message here should be clear - don't only rely on digital media to preserve your memories! Hard drives can crash or the equipment (and maybe the software) to read media such as CDs can become antiquated. Remember the early 5.25" floppy disks? Try to read one today.

Here are some suggestions:

- ❖ Review your digital photos and print out the best ones, i.e. the "keepers", on photo grade paper of the same brand as your printer or use an online printing service. Store them like you would any photo - in an archival scrapbook albums or photo storage boxes.

- ❖ Do back up your digital pictures on CD-R or DVD-R in case you have a hard drive crash. Use top quality CDs to get the best life. No one knows for sure how long CDs will last as they are a recent innovation. However, accelerated aging tests would suggest that 100 years is possible if stored in the dark in moderate conditions. But will anybody a hundred years from now have a CD drive to read it?

- ❖ Did you know that JPEG files lose image quality every time they are opened, edited, and saved? If you want to do a lot of editing, either work on a copy, or save it in the TIFF format, which does not experience this loss. However, opening or displaying a JPEG image does not harm it in any way. Nor does renaming a JPEG cause any image quality loss.

- ❖ Keep up on storage media changes. As CDs go the way of floppy discs, and they will, you will need to re-save your images on the new media.

- ❖ Consider using an on-line photo album service as a back-up option if you do not have a CD writer.

- ❖ Continue to use film photography, in addition to digital, for important events. While home printers and inks have vastly improved, a professionally finished picture will last longer. Photo paper and dyes used by your film processor are designed for long lasting color retention. As in all your family heritage preservation activities, think long term and make sure your descendants will be able to see them.

Library Notes..... by Anna Acosta

A PLEA FOR UPDATED PEDIGREE CHARTS

The San Diego Genealogical Society has kept and maintained 4-generation charts submitted by our members since our society was founded. As of this month we have two 4-drawer file cabinets full of charts!

New members are asked to submit their charts and are always welcome to supply updated or corrected information at any time. The charts and our surname card catalog are kept up to date thanks to Patricia Hotaling.

If you have updated charts (probably now on a computer) and either completing your information through the fourth generation and further, please submit them. More complex charts that are 3 or more pages, poster-size family tree charts, or written family histories are also welcome additions and will be maintained in your family file. If you can't remember what you submitted when you first joined, just bring in or send us a set of all your charts for replacement in your file folder. (Ladies, remember your file is under your maiden name). You might be surprised by one of our library visitors or members making a discovery and contacting you - it has happened. We look forward to receiving your extended family charts soon.

Need to contact other libraries in areas you are researching? Try www.publiclibraries.com. Click on state and then town of interest. Click on "ask the librarian" or "contact us". Remember, if you see a book that you think might have information you can use, you can ask the librarian to send you a copy of the index to see if your family is included. (Don't forget to send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your fee and request).

The Family History Library doesn't have every book and record so its worth checking the holdings in other libraries. You can find links to state archives and libraries, many of which have online catalogs at the COSHRC Directory of State Archives www.coshrc.org/arc/states.html. All catalogs are not as genealogy specific as the FHL so you may need to check by surname, place (town, county, state), history and record types.

If you are interested in more specific web sites for other large libraries check out the June/July 2004 issue of NGS Newsmagazine at our own library.

Census Research 101

Are you getting the most out of your census research? There is more to it than just looking at the census pages and copying the information. Now, with almost all U.S. Census enumerations available online, it is even more important to know what you are looking at, why it is there (or not) and what does it really tell you. Here are some suggestions for getting the most from your census research.

Know your census forms. When viewing the census pages, whether online or film, it is vitally important to know what is being asked in each heading. Most often, you don't have the entire page image viewable at one time and, depending on the year, some of the information may carry over to the next page. Also, the column heading print is small, faint, out-of-focus and likely unreadable. Different census enumerations ask for different information and in a different order. For all these reasons, you should have paper copies of the blank census forms in front of you for reference when researching. Not only will it help to make sure you know what you are looking at but it will help be sure you record it accurately. You can even transcribe the information directly onto the blank form. Free, downloadable census forms for every census year are available at: www.ancestry.com/save/charts/census.htm , www.genealogy.com/00000023.html , with spreadsheet fill-in forms available at: www.censustools.com/census/download.html .

Do you know what all the abbreviations stand for? Enumerators were recording a lot of information and, by necessity, had to abbreviate. There were prescribed abbreviations they were to use, and while most did so correctly, some could become very inventive. Don't assume you know what an abbreviation means. It could be the mistake that leads you down a wrong path. To look up census abbreviations, check:

http://genealogy.about.com/od/us_census/f/abbreviations.htm or for a more complete listing check the NARA database at: <http://eire.census.gov/mod-perl/ssd/Glossary> . And just because you see some letters, don't assume they are an abbreviation. They could be the enumerator's or a statistician's initials.

Enumerator's Instructions. For every census enumeration, detailed instructions were provided to the census takers. Understanding these instructions will help you interpret the information correctly. For example, in the 1860 census, under column 11, enumerators were instructed to put a dash if the person was married within the last year. If you saw a dash, would you read that as an affirmative answer? In the 1930 census, detailed instructions covered work type and pay type (e.g. working on own account) abbreviations. Knowing these differences would help further define a relatives' occupa-

tion. To look at the instructions for every census year, visit: www.ipums.umn.edu/usa/voliii/tEnumInstr.html .

What are all those other marks? From 1850 to 1880, census marshals were required to make three copies. One copy was to be deposited locally, one filed at the state level and one was sent to the federal government's Census Bureau. With few exceptions, it was the federal copy that was filmed and distributed by the National Archives and used for the digitalized online images. The federal copy was used as well to tally social and economic characteristics of its population. Thus, statisticians added many marks to the original pages to prevent tallying errors. While most marks were made in places and ways that are clearly extraneous, some were added in columns that were also used by the enumerators. For the genealogist, great care must be used in interpreting these 'tick marks'. Finding a mark in a particular column might lead you to the conclusion that your ancestor or a family member was a mulatto! Comparison of pen and ink type, handwriting, over writing etc. must be used to try and determine the intent. Also, sometimes data was 'corrected' on the census after-the-fact by another person. For example, a person's sex designation could be changed based on their first name. The person making the change may have then initialed the change (again, not to be confused with an abbreviation). In short, don't assume that all the writing on the census was done by the enumerator. Be careful and look closely.

Coded messages. When viewing some of the 20th century censuses, you may see number codes written near the listed occupation. These were added after the census was taken and refer to specific occupations. For 1930, the first two digits categorize the type of work; last two digits categorize the industry. These can be valuable when the text is unreadable. You can look these up at: <http://stevemorse.org/census/ocodes.htm> . For the 1910 census, industry codes can be found at: <http://beta.ipums.org/usa/voliii/91indus.html> .

Now, having read 'Census Research 101', you should have a better idea of how to interpret what you find the U. S. Census. Hopefully this has put things in a little bit better perspective and will help you watch for the 'red flags' that can lead to incorrect conclusions and misread information. Happy and successful hunting.

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. This way, your Society receives a commission on what you purchase but it doesn't cost you a penny more!

SDGS Newsletter, Vol. 38, No.2

Keyword Search Is Back!

Do you use the online version of the Family History Library Catalog (FHLC)? For more than a year, the online version was without the keyword search option. It returned last month -- a reason for anyone doing research to cheer.

FHLC Keyword Search

The keyword search option cuts across all types of searches, those by place, title, and subject, in particular it looks at many data fields, including the notes describing individual rolls of film.

Suppose you have ancestors in a particular county and want to know about records of the poor. I know they may be listed under the county and/or the parish and within two or three subjects such as church records or poor-houses. Using a place search I need to examine any appropriate headings for the county and/or parish. Using a keyword search I type two words: '*county name, poor*' and read the results. Details provide the subject or subjects under which any entry appears, and I can follow a link to other related items. Not only does keyword search shorten the work, it provides pointers to other likely sections of the FHLC.

Such flexibility is really valuable for research because some classes of records fall within two or more levels of jurisdiction.

Think Before You Search

Deciding on good keywords for any library computer catalog takes some thought. The words can be many things: a person's name, a place name, a record type, an occupation, or religion. It can also be the agency responsible for creating a record, a record office name, or a society. What keyword(s) you select depends on the object of the search and how much you know. Be prepared to try different tactics and different words or combinations.

Success also depends on what options are offered by the computer catalog and the data fields the keyword search tool scans. Keep in mind there are different types of keyword searches;

-- keyword anywhere (using quotes for two or more words)

-- relevancy keyword (joining words with a plus (+) sign) They behave differently and produce different results. There are, for example, at least two ways to express the topic of the famine in Ireland. Using "Irish famine" as a keyword anywhere search and Ireland + famine as a keyword relevancy search. Results of the first were very specific and fourteen in number. Results of the second ran the gamut of perspectives on the famine and numbered over 9000 -- far too many to read. The relevancy type of search demands more specifics.

Keyword Searches Aren't Just for Catalogs

For name searching -- to combine a full name in quotes with the surname of a spouse -- is a type of keyword

search. When using Google, read their Basic and Advanced Searching advice and you will pick up useful advice. A basic search assumes entered words are linked by "and." It helps to think about names/words that are likely to appear on a Web page.

Quotes mean the words must appear together and a + sign tells the engine to be sure and watch for a particular common word or character. The Quick Tip example wanted Google to find two words together (first and last name) and another word (another surname) close by.

The value of the keyword search feature for the FHLC and other catalogs requires thinking carefully about the type of keyword options available. Searching is more productive when you know your tools and appreciate the ways in which keyword searches may behave. Don't be afraid to experiment, and be sure to read tips and help columns.



Your Future Family Historian

Just as there's more to genealogy than family group charts, there's more to discussing genealogy with young children than having them look at pedigree charts or fill out worksheets. Here are some suggestions for introducing young children to family history. Even if it doesn't create an immediate interest, it at least provides some suggestions for some family activities. And who knows, the seed you plant today just may grow into the budding genealogist of tomorrow.

Tell Stories -- Are there stories from your own past that could be told to your children? Not stories dripping morals and tales of walking to school through three feet of snow, but stories that a child can understand, appreciate, and that are appropriate for their age. Stories about ancestors when they were the same age as the child are more likely to make a connection. Try to tell the story from a child's point of view.

While you may not have a detailed history of your own ancestor's growing up, your story can be interspersed with general facts and details of the time and place. Good examples could be the family's experience crossing the plains, growing up on the midwest prairie in a sod house, etc. Don't feel you have to limit the stories to your own family. Get books on related subjects and read passages that add to your experiences. As the story progresses, you can add other references to growing up (going to school, marriage, children, etc.). You can even incorporate 'visits' from other family members and historical events.

If your own children are too old, are there grandchildren or other young relatives who might be interested in such stories? Write the story and send it to the child (making certain it's wording and vocabulary are appropriate).

Perhaps the child can even make illustrations for the story and send those to you, creating a new memento based upon an old story. It's not important that the story be "literary" or written for publication. What is important is that it is shared with future generations.

Are your stories lacking details? While it's important not to make up details up entirely, a certain amount of liberty may have to be taken. There are many historical books and sources that may provide additional details about the immigrant's journey, pioneer life, etc. Maybe your grandfather did not speak English until he went to school, maybe your grandmother always made a special kind of cookies at Christmas, etc. There are many possibilities.

When using such stories make certain they are age-appropriate and do not frighten the child. It's okay for the story to have a moral, but don't overdo it. Scaring or causing needless anxiety in the children defeats the purpose of telling the story.

Omitting certain details from the stories you tell children may be necessary. It's probably not crucial to mention to a small child the fact that great-great-great-grandmother's first husband accidentally killed himself and her second husband left her after three months. Omitting details from a story you would tell a child is entirely different from your Great Aunt Myrtle who refuses to tell you as an adult anything about your relatives.

Use Pictures -- Children respond well to pictures, especially when a connection can be made to them.

Family group photos are great for making family connections, particularly if there is someone with the same name. Also, showing the same people in different photos helps them make connections. If you have particularly interesting old photos (historical events, interesting locations, amusing, etc.), provide the child with detailed descriptions and encourage him or her to share at school 'show n' tell' (take a photocopy, don't risk the original).

Old Letters - Do you have old family letters? These can make the family history come alive. Often, with perhaps a little prudent editing, these can make their ancestors seem like 'real people' who are living their lives just as we do and tell of their day-to-day experiences, particularly if it is from or to a child.

Vacation Experiences -- Genealogists love to take research vacations. While genealogical vacations are difficult enough with a spouse, they are even more problematic with small children. After all, you are there to do research, not compete with the nearest theme park. But don't hesitate to tell the child about your experiences on your research trip. Show them your photos, postcards and share your new finds. They, too, will get the sense of discovery.

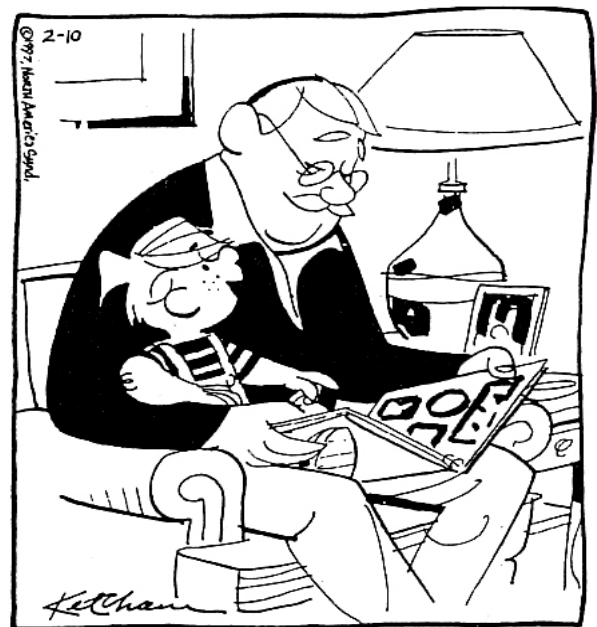
Signatures -- Children love to write their name. Do you have any of your ancestor's signatures? Make copies for the kids to look at. You can even discuss how the

ancestor made his or her letters. This can be especially interesting if the child has a relative who has the same first name as the child.

Don't Have Anything -- What if you don't have stories, photos, or other mementos upon which to base a story or activity? While making them up is not really an option (after all, you don't like it when relatives make up answers to your genealogy questions), there might be possibilities. It may be possible to learn details about the time in which your ancestors lived by reading and studying the era. There are books on history and everyday life that may provide relevant details.

While we all wish we had stories and accounts of all our ancestors, unfortunately we do not. Maybe that's why you should encourage your relatives to tell you such stories and why you should write down such stories yourself. So that your kids will be able to tell them to their own children. After all, don't we all wish our great-grandparents had done that? At least your future family historians are set on the right path. Have fun and good luck.

DENNIS THE MENACE by HANK KETCHAM



"Boy, GRANDPA, I'VE SURE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO LOOKING BACKWARD WITH YOU."

Welcome to Our New Members

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

Lillian CHAMPAGNE, researching DANSEREAU, DESILETS, ROUX, AUGER, LeBLANC, AUGER, TURNEL

Ronald REINS, researching; ERB, O'NEAL, REAM, O'RONAGHAN, ASKIN, McCLOSKEY, McDONALD

Genealogy is Lifelong Learning

Family history research is a never-ending quest for information. Regardless of how recently you began your search or how long you've been researching, you are continuing to learn more and more. But this does not happen by accident. You need to develop and expand your own 'genealogical continuing education plan'. By doing so, you stay 'ahead of the curve' in new technologies, information access, new and improved resources and updated research findings. Here are a few suggestions on how to enrich your lifelong learning.

Be Open to New Materials

As genealogists, we are usually focused on very particular and detailed research problems and sometimes don't step back and look at the 'bigger picture'. By doing so, we can expand our research horizons and get a broader perspective and additional potential sources. When researching online database warehouses (Ancestry.com, Rootsweb.com, Google, etc.), take some time to look at document types that have little or no applicability to your own ancestral research. Not only will you find new databases just recently made available but you may find connections to your research you may never have considered. Also, as more and more records are now being indexed and scanned documents made more readily available, you may only find them by 'stumbling' across them. This can work the same as 'searching the stacks' at a library as apposed to just using the card catalog. You can reap big rewards.

Self-Study Opportunities

All of our research, discovery, and analysis educate us just a little bit more. Some materials may need clarification and explanation, and that's where some self-study comes in. There are plenty of books in the library and on the market today that provide descriptive insight. The most current ones include up-to-date, quality web sites that expand on the books' text or offer online indexes--and even images--to point us toward primary or secondary sources. The three best new books on the market today, all published in 2004, are: "Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources," third edition, edited by Alice Eichholz; "How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy", by George G. Morgan; and "Courthouse Research for Family Historians", by Christine Rose. Not only are these expert reference books, they will provide you with excellent guidance on a wide variety of research stumbling blocks.

There are many online self-study programs available. The National Genealogical Society offers an intensive home study course: "American Genealogy: A Basic Course." Learn more about the course at (www.ngsgenealogy.org/eduhschool.htm). Other online course study include The International Internet Genealogical Society

(www.iigs.org/university/index.htm), Genealogy.com Online University (www.genealogy.com/university.html) and www.MyFamily.com Genealogy Training Workshops. RootsWeb offers a broad collection of genealogy subject reference guides for free (<http://rwguide.rootsweb.com>), BYU has free classes (<http://ce.byu.edu/is/site/>) and www.FamilySearch.org offers Research Helps documents on worldwide research. There are also many audio and video tape classes available. Further your search for other sources on www.cyndislist.com.

Genealogical Society Events

Don't forget about the resources in your own back yard. Your Society has programs, seminars and research trips throughout the year. Take advantage of them. Sign up for our Allen County Library or Salt Lake City trips. But perhaps the greatest Society resource is our members. Many of these 'genealogy addicts' can be invaluable sources of information and learning. Talk with them and get to know them. It will take your genealogy to a new level. There are other local genealogical societies as well. Check out the entire area meetings schedule at www.cgssd.org/events.php3. Also, join distant genealogy societies in the areas where your ancestors lived. The journals, newsletter and other publications may open new doors for you.

State and National Conferences

These events typically offer multiple learning tracks of related topics, such as Technology and the Internet, British Isles Research, German Research, and United States and regional research, to name a few. The numbers and diversity of the attendees is usually broader, offering plenty of opportunities for networking. In addition, there are vendors present who offer books, software, research tools, and other wares, and you can certainly pick their brains between sessions when the exhibit area is open. The National Genealogical Society's annual conference this year will take place in Nashville, Tennessee, on 1-4 June 2005 (www.ngsgenealogy.org/Nashville.htm); the Federation of Genealogical Society's (FGS) annual conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on 7-10 September 2005 (www.fgs.org). Check the FGS website under the link for Calendar of Events (<http://fgs.org/fgs-calendar.asp>) for a list of many upcoming genealogical conferences.

There is a wealth of resources available to pursue your own continuing education program. If you haven't made any New Year's resolutions yet, why not take advantage of one or two -- or more -- of these learning opportunities. Your continuing education makes you a better, more effective researcher. I hope you're impressed with all that is available and are inspired to get out there and get learning!

The Meaning of Life.....

A family tree can wither if nobody tends its roots.

Why We Celebrate St. Patrick's Day.....



On a day when everyone is Irish, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17 -- his religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for thousands of years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink, and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army. Over the next thirty-five years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies, like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

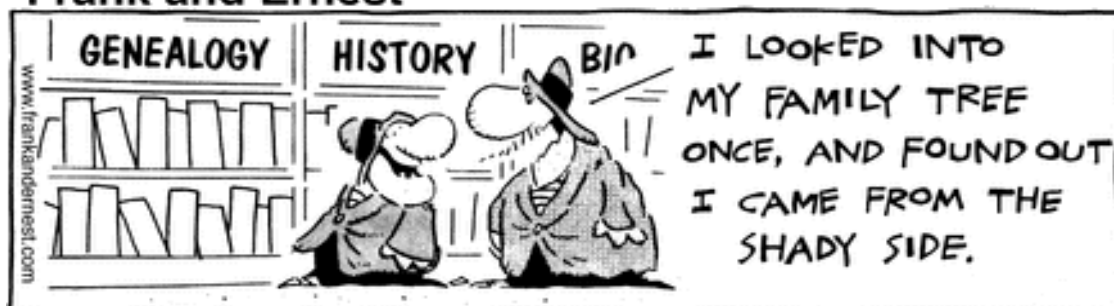
Up until the mid-nineteenth century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class. When the Great Potato Famine hit Ireland in 1845, close to a million poor, uneducated, Catholic Irish began to pour into America to escape starvation. Despised for their religious beliefs and funny accents by the American Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. When Irish Americans in the country's cities took to the streets on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate their heritage, newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk, violent monkeys.

However, the Irish soon began to realize that their great numbers endowed them with a political power that had yet to be exploited. They started to organize, and their voting block, known as the "green machine," became an important swing vote for political hopefuls. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates. In 1948, President Truman attended New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in America.

Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by people of all backgrounds in the United States, Canada, and Australia. Although North America is home to the largest productions, St. Patrick's Day has been celebrated in other locations far from Ireland, including Japan, Singapore, and Russia.

In modern-day Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious occasion. In fact, up until the 1970s, Irish laws mandated that pubs be closed on March 17. Beginning in 1995, however, the Irish government began a national campaign to use St. Patrick's Day as an opportunity to drive tourism and showcase Ireland to the rest of the world. Last year, close to one million people took part in Ireland's St. Patrick's Festival in Dublin, a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions, and fireworks shows.

Frank and Ernest



San Diego Genealogical Society
1050 Pioneer Way, Suite E
El Cajon, CA 92020-1943
619-588-0065

Address Service Requested

**Dated Material
Deliver Immediately**

NONPROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN DIEGO, CA
PERMIT # 1083

SDGS Event Calendar

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

- March 5 -- Family Tree Maker Users Group, Society Library, 10:00 am - noon
- 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 2 -- Family Tree Maker Users Group, Society Library, 10:00 am - noon
- April 6 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7:00 pm
- April 9 -- Monthly Meeting, Orphan Research, Margaret Reed, St. Dunstan's
- April 24 -- May 1 -- Allen County Public Library Trip. Sign-up by March 12th.
- May 21 -- Society Rummage Sale

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