



San Diego Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Oct. 2005

Have A Relaxing
Columbus Day!

Vol. 38, No. 9

January Luncheon Meeting Finalized

Our Annual Luncheon Seminar and installation of officers will take place on Jan. 14th at the Handlery Hotel. This year our program will feature nationally known speakers William Dollarhide and Leland Meitzler who will present four special seminar topics;

“Organizing Your Genealogy Papers”
“Forgotten Public Land Records”
“Using Tax Records to Establish Relationships”
“Finding Women in Your Pedigree”

With these quality speakers, you will not want to miss this program. Mark your calendars today and look for the flyer and program details in next month's Newsletter.

As in past years, the program will include a gourmet sit down lunch. Not to be missed!

We're Going to Salt Lake City

Again this year, the Society will have a fall trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Hotel accommodations will be right next door to the Library at the Best Western Plaza Hotel. Dates are Oct. 30th to Nov. 6th. Reservations and balance due by Oct. 15th.

This popular trip has become an annual event for some and is an excellent opportunity for new researchers or '1st timers' to SLC to learn the ropes from our experienced members. Our special rates and other amenities make this an attractive package. Make up your mind today to join them. For more information, phone Gloria Osborn, 619-298-2447. The flyer is available on our web site; www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs.

Special Seminar Meeting

October 8, 2005, 9:00 - 4:00

**St. Andrew's Community Center
8350 Lake Murray Blvd (at Jackson)**

**All Day Seminar and Luncheon
with Paul F. Smart**

In conjunction with BIGRA, we are proud to present this special seminar that will cover;

- ⇒ **Periodicals -- An Untapped British Genealogical Source**
- ⇒ **Research Sources on the Internet -- Colonial U. S. and British Isles Sites**
- ⇒ **Hidden Sources at FamilySearch.org**
- ⇒ **Family and Local History Societies in Great Britain: What Good Are They?**

Paul F. Smart, MA, SOG, AG, CGRS, joins us from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City where he serves as Outreach Manager. He has worked in the British Area at the Library for 23 years and teaches at Brigham Young University. **Come and get the 'insider information' on researching at the famous SLC library.**

Mr. Smart is former president of the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History. He does presentations in seminars world-wide and leads research tours to Great Britain. He is an Accredited Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Records Specialist as well as holding a Masters Degree in History.

The catered buffet luncheon will include carved honey-baked ham, baked boneless chicken breast, salad, vegetables, relish and fruit trays, choice of dessert and beverages. Because of the food service, **reservations are required by Sept 26th.** The cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members. A flyer is available on our web site: www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs. For information, phone Peter Steelquist at 619-296-4456.

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 Board of Directors

President.....Peter Steelquist
1st Vice President.....Colleen Kline
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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.

Local Author Search

The San Diego Public Library is searching for local authors who published a book in 2005. This is a great opportunity for San Diego's literary talents to be recognized. If you are a local author or know of one, please call the San Diego Public Library at 619-236-5847 and let them know. The deadline for submission is Dec. 1, 2005

The 40th Annual Local Authors Exhibit will run through the month of February 2006. There will be a special preview reception for the authors on Jan. 28, 2006. The publications will be displayed in the lobby of the Central Library located downtown at 820 E St., San Diego

Social Security Turns 70

Last month Social Security turned 70. Here are a few interesting facts.

Last year, 48 million Americans got benefits. Until 2004, even felons on the run were allowed benefits by law. A 2001 audit showed that \$31 million had been paid to the dead, mostly because of poor record keeping.

The tax rate for Social Security, including employer contribution was initially 2%. It is now 12.3%. In 1937, only the first \$3,000 of income was taxed vs. \$90,000 today. The average monthly retirement benefit is \$955; 40% of Americans over 65 reportedly would be in poverty without Social Security.

A legal secretary was the first person to collect monthly benefits. She paid \$24.75 (1937-39) in taxes to the program before retiring and got back more than \$22,000, living until 1975.

Presidents Message.....

Its that time again for our annual membership renewal. You will find the renewal form included with this newsletter. Please, take a moment right now and fill it out and mail it in together with your check. Don't chance misplacing it or putting it off with the holiday season fast approaching.

As an added incentive to get it in now, remember that your donation to the general fund will still count for our 'triple match' challenge (see pg. 6) if it is received before Nov. 1st. So, don't read another word until you stop and complete the renewal form and make out your checks (and don't forget to get them in the mail). Thank You!

While on the subject of membership, I want to remind you that new members are our 'life blood'. Without them, we will face financial challenges in the years to come. While we try to 'get the word out' through public notices, outreach efforts, classes, brochures, etc., we need to do more. And that is where you can help. There is no better 'advertising' than word-of-mouth. Each one of our members needs to be telling others about our Society. With more and more people interested in their family history, this should be an easy task. The next time you talk to someone about your hobby, simply mention how important society membership is. Unfortunately, too many now think they can get everything they need off the Internet. We need to educate them and tell them the many benefits to be gained by joining the Society. So, please, don't pass up an opportunity to be a spokesperson for your Society. In doing so, everybody wins.

While I am on my soap box, I also want to appeal to you to get involved with your Society. We have a great slate of incoming officers but I am somewhat dismayed by the number of members contacted by the Nominating Committee who couldn't manage some time to help out their Society. We all lead busy lives and have priorities to juggle with work, family, social life, travel, etc. But it does not take much time or effort to contribute to help run the Society. We're talking a few hours a month -- certainly less time that some spend watching TV every day! So, please consider what you can do to help out the Society -- a few hours at the library, helping at our monthly meetings, contributing to the Newsletter, taking on a fund-raising project, research for Leaves & Saplings or serving on the Board. It doesn't take much to make a difference and all you need to do is be willing to give a little of your time. So, please, consider what you can do and say YES. Your rewards and those to others will more that make it worthwhile.

Peter Steelquist, President

FHL To Index Microfilm on Internet

The LDS Church is undertaking an ambitious project to create indexes to the 2 million-plus rolls of microfilm from 110 nations held in its library collection. At the recent Federation of Genealogical Societies convention in Salt Lake City, they shared a 'sneak preview' of their plans and some of the new technology that will provide 'automated indexing' of the digitized film. Similar to what they have done with the 1880 U.S. Federal Census, the process will involve thousands of indexers worldwide - but now they have moved the whole process to the Internet.

Just when the first indexed information from the microfilms will become available online has not yet been announced. The first step is to digitize the microfilms. These images are then sent to volunteer indexers. The time required depends on the number of volunteers. Needless to say, it is a long term process, however, new advances in indexing software utilities and applications provide the ability to produce lots of indexes faster. Keep in mind that the 1880 census indexing was a 12 year project, utilizing thousands of volunteers.

The goal is to provide anyone with Internet access to records that were only available previously by manually viewing microfilm or microfiche records. This usually involved visiting the Salt Lake City library or using the worldwide network of 5,000 Family History Centers. When completed, this will not make the Family History Centers obsolete, however. Their role may evolve over time as many people will still need to learn how to get started and stay organized and they will still provide availability for those without Internet access. Plus, given the scale of this massive project, the FHCs will continue to be a mainstay for many years to come.

According to Paul Nauta, Manager of Public Affairs for FamilySearch.org, "It's an exciting time for family history. Those just developing this kind of research as a hobby will never have any appreciation for how far this industry has evolved, even in the past 10 years." [Ed: I don't think any of our members would disagree with that last statement!]



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!

BROWN, Agnes:

**TATE, Charlene: Taggart, Warren, Kathack,
Mills, Reeves, McRae, Komischke.**

Meeting in Review..... Sept. 2005

Gene Cheney, President of the Hemet-San Jacinto Genealogical Society, Director at the Hemet FHC and teacher at Mt. San Jacinto College, presented 'How to Decipher 16th - 19th Century Handwriting'. He first gave a short history of writing and education, emphasizing the phonetic basis of spelling and writing. He cited the influence of early Roman monuments on our shaping of letters - e.g. 'U' vs. 'V', 'J' vs. 'I', -- that is still evident in our writing today. This led to the interchangeability of some letters. The use of the quill pen led to other conventions in letter usage, particularly with curved shapes and letter combinations. Some letters could be written in different ways - the 'i' and 'j' when used together formed the long 'i' sound and was the basis of our current 'y' letter. He went into some detail about the 'English thorn' or 'th' combination. Writing examples were shown to see how these appeared in documents. Additional examples of the way the same letter could be written in different ways were demonstrated with the 'c', 's' 'ss', 'A'. These letters can not be reproduced here but his extensive handout showed many examples.

He then showed many famous historical signatures - George Washington, William Harrison, U. S. Grant - as how some of the letters were formed. Overheads of sample alphabets revealed the differences in 'set chancery, common chancery, court hand and round hand styles'. The differences were further illuminated with various surname examples.

This led to a discussion of how abbreviations were noted -- superscripts, underline, colon and line over - with examples of each. He also went into the many ways dates could be written that included Roman numerals, old vs. new calendar dates and abbreviations (i.e. xber for October) as well as how currency notations appeared.

Gene then helped us read through actual early documents using his earlier examples. It was most insightful. And just as we thought we were getting good at it, he introduced examples of German/Scandinavian Gothic script, but fortunately, that is for another lecture.

He did leave us with some general rules. Read for 'sense' (if it doesn't make sense, you probably made an error). Make a list of individual letters from phrases you know and then apply elsewhere. Also, keep in mind that transcribers and indexers may not have known how to read old documents and could have derived different spellings. His book recommendation on the subject is 'American Handwriting' by Sip Sperry.

His two hour presentation was fantastic but only scratched the surface. After all, he teaches a 16 week course on the subject. Those attending are now prepared to get the most out of early document research. If you missed this excellent session, the handout is most helpful and extras copies may be available at our library.

Accessing the 1911 Canadian Census

by Anita Henning

[Editor: In follow-up to our Aug. 2005 announcement article, here is a 'hands on' tutorial]

The Library and Archives Canada has recently added the 1911 Canadian Census images to their site at: www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911/.

If you have Canadian ancestors, and are able to find them in this census, you may find some interesting information about your ancestors. The 1911 Canadian Census listed each person living in the home, relationship to head of household, their marital status, the month and year of their birth, their age, citizenship, (including country of birth, or Province if born in Canada), year of immigration to Canada, year of naturalization, "racial or tribal orientation" (mine said Scotch and German, although the German had been born in the United States); nationality, and religion. (These are my first ancestors with the parents having two different religions, Catholic and Presbyterian.)

This census also includes occupation, and whether they were an employer, employee, or working on own account. It asked a lot of questions for those who were employed by someone else, including yearly earnings, and hourly wage. An interesting question included in this census was if a person had insurance -- life, accident, and sickness, and the cost of the insurance for that year. (I was surprised to find out my blacksmith ancestor had \$1000 worth of life insurance, for which he paid \$9 for the year in 1911.) Also included in this census were questions about education for those five and over, the language commonly spoken, as well as questions about disabilities.

The street address was also listed in one of the columns. For my ancestor family, it gives only the name of the street, no street number. Perhaps there weren't any street numbers yet in this little town. For my ancestor, this address column was blank, but when I read the headings at the top of the columns, I found that there was a column for their address. Upon further review, I found the name of the street listed only for the first person listed on that street. So, if there is no street name for your ancestor, just look above your ancestor's name, until you come to a street, which might even be on the prior page.

Unfortunately, there is no index to this Canadian census, and according to this internet site, there are no plans for an index. Therefore, it could be difficult to locate your ancestors, if you don't have a fairly good idea of where they lived in 1911. (My ancestors lived in a small town in Alberta, and it took me a couple hours

to find them in this census, but some of that time was spent figuring out how to access the census, and waiting for pages to load, due to my slow internet connection.) What you see on your computer monitor is a copy of the actual census pages; thus some pages are more difficult to read than others, just like the U.S. censuses on microfilm.

Trying to find my ancestors online in this census was a little confusing, so it's best to read the instructions, especially the ones about the census districts and sub-districts. (You know the saying, if all else fails, read the directions.)

If you know the district and sub-district or town you are looking for, you can click on "Search the Database" link which will take you to the "basic search" page. Here you can check the box for the Province or Territory that your ancestors lived in, and fill in the blank for the geographic location. (For me, that was the little town of Ponoka.) Then, clicking on "submit query". I was taken to a page which identified two sub-districts for those who lived in the town of Ponoka, and other farm areas nearby. It was a toss up as to which one would include my ancestors. (I had a 50-50 chance either way, but of course the first one I chose to look did not contain their names. But, being persistent, I continued looking, and eventually found them. At least they weren't on the last page of the 2nd sub-district.)

Below each of these two sub-districts is a clickable link which says: "associated images". Clicking on that link, I was taken to a list of all the pages for that sub-district. For each of the two sub-districts for Ponoka, there were 17 or 18 census "associated images" (ie census pages). Here is where I had the choice to view the census pages in either PDF files or Mr Sid files. If you don't have Adobe Acrobat reader or Mr Sid, the site contains information and links to these free programs. Just click on the "Archivianet" link near top of page and then 'Canadian Census - 1911'. With Mr Sid or Adobe Acrobat reader on your computer, clicking on each page #, starts the rather slow (for me) download of that page. Fortunately, I was able to find my ancestor family on the 3rd page of the second sub-district. Thus, after scrolling through about 20 census pages, I was able to find my ancestor family on the 1911 Canadian Census, and find out some interesting information about this family.

If you are unable to locate your town or sub-district as above, there is another way to find the sub-district you need in order to find your ancestor family. Go back to the 'Archivianet' link and under 'Introduction and Contextual Help', click on "census districts and sub-districts", then select the Province (for my ancestors it was the Province of Alberta). You then have to choose a district. Clicking on the district, (Red Deer for me), brought up a list of 128 sub-districts, most of them identified by the township and range. Red Deer was farming coun-

try. Even from this long list, I was easily able to identify the two that contained Ponoka.

If you only know the Province and district they lived in, but are determined to find your ancestors, you can get all the associated pages for the sub-districts within that district (by using the basic search page, and just the name of the district, e.g. Red Deer), and you will get a long list of all the sub-districts. Then, by clicking of each of the several associated pages for each sub-district, you can look at each page until you find your ancestors (sort of like browsing the U.S. Census Record microfilms). Although it may take some time to find your ancestors in this census, the results could bring you a fuller picture of your ancestor family.

[Thanks to Anita for contributing such a timely and in depth review of this new Canadian resource.]

South Orange County Bockstruck Seminar

The South Orange County Calif. Genealogical Society is sponsoring an all-day seminar with Lloyd Bockstruck on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2005.

The topics will include: 'Newspaper Genealogy', 'Lesser Used Genealogical Records', 'Identifying Maiden Names of Females', 'Finding Substitutes for Birth & Death Records'. For more information, visit their web site at: www.rootsweb.com/~casocccgs/, or phone 949-581-0690. Cost is \$20 plus \$6 for box lunch.

San Francisco Web Site

Do you have San Francisco ancestry? If so, you must visit 'San Francisco Genealogy' web site at www.sfgenealogy.com. It is an extensive collection of Bay Area resources and links that will prove invaluable to anyone with family connections there.

There are many online databases that include vital records and indexes, cemetery lists, census data, city directories, club and society registers, school records, hotel guest lists, passenger lists, military rosters, land records and much more. Most of them are free.

It also has information on and links to other area research repositories and sites as well as online research guides. The site has its own search engine that looks at multiple databases, including over 23,300 surnames on file. You can even search to find out if your relative served time at Alcatraz or died in the 1906 earthquake! In addition, there are a number of volunteers that will do online lookup requests in books and databases they own.

Even if you don't have a San Francisco connection, there is an extensive collection of online photograph collections that are most fascinating and will keep you busy for hours. This site, created by Pamela Wolfskill and Ron Filion, is a major California resource and should not be overlooked in your family research.

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'Family History Hour' Radio Program Returns



DearMYRTLE (aka Pat Richley) has returned to the airwaves with her 'Family History Hour' weekly radio program. And now it is better than ever.

The broadcast is now recorded and is available 24/7 with the click of your mouse. On the program, she interviews leaders in the field of family history on

timely topics, products, web sites, books and other things of interest to genealogists. Other program features include 'MightyMouse Tours' which focus on 'hands-on' web techniques and searches. The programs can even be downloaded and played on your .mp3 player. You can access the 'Family History Hour' as well as other features and articles at: www.dearmyrtle.com. You will probably want to make this a regular listening event so bookmark this URL.

So, who is 'DearMYRTLE'? Pat Richley is a computer consultant and, since 1992, has worked as a part-time instructor at Manatee Technical Institute in Bradenton, FL. She is the author of "The Everything Online Genealogy Book" (Adams Media, 2001) and is celebrating her 10th year writing as DearMYRTLE. Pat serves as editor of the Manasota Genealogical Society's Cracker Crumbs Newsletter, gives genealogy "how-to" seminars locally and nationally, teaches at her local genealogy computer group and recently accepted the position as a regular contributor to Everton's Genealogical Helper Magazine.




Family History Fair Coming

This year, The Family History Fair will be on Saturday, Nov. 5th, at the LDS Escondido South Stake Center, 2255 Felicita Rd. There will be 38 topics presented in the five concurrent, one hour sessions. There is no charge to attend but mail-in pre-registration is required by Oct. 31st. A full list of classes, instructors, schedule and registration form is available on their web site at: www.familyhistoryfair.org.

A printed syllabus is available for \$10 and a box lunch may be ordered for \$7 when you register. Sign-in begins at 8:00 a.m. with the opening session at 9:00 and the classes begin at 10:00. There will be an exhibit hall with area societies (SDGS will be there!) and other organizations of interest to family historians. Plan on attending -- it is a great way to improve your skills and the price is certainly right! See you there.

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Google Suspends Library Project

 In our February 2005 newsletter, we reported about Google's plans to scan millions of books and to make them available to everyone on the web at no charge. [Past Newsletters are available on the Society's web site.]

Google's plans sent shockwaves throughout the publishing industry as well as amongst librarians worldwide. Many expressed concerns about Google's plans to scan copyrighted books as well as those that do not enjoy copyright protection. Now it looks like the management team at Google has heard those concerns: the company is slowing down the project. Google revealed recently that the company will delay scanning copyrighted texts until November. Apparently, that gives the company time to work out agreements with several industry trade groups.

In a recent release, Google Print Product Manager Adam M. Smith said that company made changes to the project designed to better meet the needs of publishers. Google now allows both its publishing partners and other book publishers to upload a list of books they don't want included in Google Print. Publishers can also request that a book be removed at any time from Google's search results.

Smith wrote; "We think most publishers and authors will choose to participate in the publisher program in order to introduce their work to countless readers around the world. But we know that not everyone agrees, and we want to do our best to respect their views too. So now, any and all copyright holders - both Google Print partners and non-partners - can tell us which books they'd prefer that we not scan if we find them in a library. To allow time to review the new options it is offering publishers, Google will refrain from scanning any copyrighted books until November."

Donation Challenge A Great Success

Your response has been fantastic! A very big THANK YOU to all those who have made donations to the Society at the start of our 'triple challenge'. As we reported in our last Newsletter, a generous benefactor has offered to double the amount of donations made during this fund raising drive (up to a total of \$2000, \$6000 total to the Society). Your generous giving is most appreciated. However, we still need to raise more donations to take full advantage of this offer. So, please, mail your check, for any amount you can afford to give, to our Treasurer, Harvey Keating, 325 Kempton St. #305, Spring Valley, CA 91977. **Thank You**

New Officers Slated

Each November at our regular monthly meeting, we elect new officers to replace those whose two year term has ended. This year we are pleased to present the following members for your vote (* returning board members);

President -- Peter Steelquist*
1st VP -- Elaine Foulger*
Membership Chair-- Jackie McMaster
Program Chair -- Gloria Osborn
Secretary -- Tim McMaster*
Special Events Chair-- Roberta Levy*
Nominating Committee -- Karna Webster (chair), Joan Carter, Pam Journey, Willa Ramsay (alternate)

While not up for election this year, we are pleased to announce that Phyllis Quarg has accepted the appointment as 2nd VP to fill that position vacancy.

Our most sincere thanks and gratitude to the outgoing board members for their dedicated work and time given to promote the Society. Please join me in our appreciation to Colleen Kline (1st VP), Donna Swink (Membership) and Elaine Foulger (Programs) and to our returning board members, Tim McMaster and Roberta Levy. **Thanks for a great job!**

The Nominating Committee has no less a daunting job - that of searching new board members each year. Our thanks as well to outgoing committee members Barbara Cogburn, Bridget Slatten and Estella Sommerville.

As we say thanks to the outgoing board and welcome the new members, I want to remind our members that these individuals are just members like yourself who have agreed to share their time, talent and energy to help make your Society a quality experience for everyone. Please consider what you can do for your Society. Get involved and help out -- it really takes so little to make a difference. You will be working with a great group of people and get so much more out of your genealogy hobby. Your Society THANKS YOU.



Expensive Tombstone

A wife's husband died and left an estate of \$30,000. After she paid the funeral home and cemetery, there was nothing left, she confided to a friend.

The friend says, "How can that be?"

The widow explains, "Well, the funeral cost me \$6,500. And of course I made a donation to the church. That was \$500, and I spent another \$500 for the wake, food and drinks, you know. . The rest went for the memorial stone."

The friend says, "\$22,500 for the memorial stone? My God, how big is it?"

The widow replied, "Three carats."

Discovery of Kepno, Poland and Remagen, Germany

by Elaine Edwards Foulger

In late March and early April 2005, my son, Matthew, and I traveled for three weeks in Germany, Poland and Czech Republic. The main purpose of the trip was because I wanted to visit Kepno, Poland where my Cohn ancestors came from. Prior to World War II the town was known as Kempen, Germany and located about 40 kilometers from Wroclaw, Poland which was Breslau, Germany before the war.

I hired a driver and car in Wroclaw to take us to Kepno which was about an hour drive. We considered traveling by train, but were advised that the inter-city train was not safe for foreigners and lots of robberies occurred. Our driver, Merick, picked us up in a brand new 2005 full size Mercedes-Benz. Going by car was much easier, faster and more comfortable.

The current population of Kepno is about 35,000 and the buildings in the town are centered around a city square. The buildings were three stories tall and painted in subtle colors. The streets were cobblestone, very narrow, yet wide enough for a VW Beetle to drive through without running on the sidewalk. Matthew and I walked the entire town, stopping in shops to see their goods and warm up from the outside temperature which was in the low 30s and breezy. It was exciting to walk the same streets my ancestors had walked in the 1800s. While standing in the town square, now used as a parking lot, I tried to visualize the push carts laden with goods the merchants sold and traded in the market place.

We found the only synagogue in the town which was located two blocks from the town square. It was constructed of brick then covered in cream colored stucco. The building, which looked like it was constructed before the 1800s, had peeling stucco, that exposed the brick construction. The windows and doors were boarded up and the building had been stripped of its adornments. I imagine it had been boarded up since the Germans marched through Kempen in the late 1930s. I wonder why the Germans did not burn the synagogue as they had done in other towns. The grounds were not littered and the entire area was enclosed with a high chain link fence.

A few weeks later we visited Köln, Germany which is on the Rhine River. Matthew and I took a Rhine River cruise that I thought was the cruise where we would see the large castles high on the hills above the River. I was mistaken and later learned we were on the wrong part of the Rhine River to see the castles.

Our boat trip began in Köln and was supposed to take ten hours for the entire round trip. Though we did not see any castles, we cruised by picturesque landscapes and the river banks were dotted with small villages. I

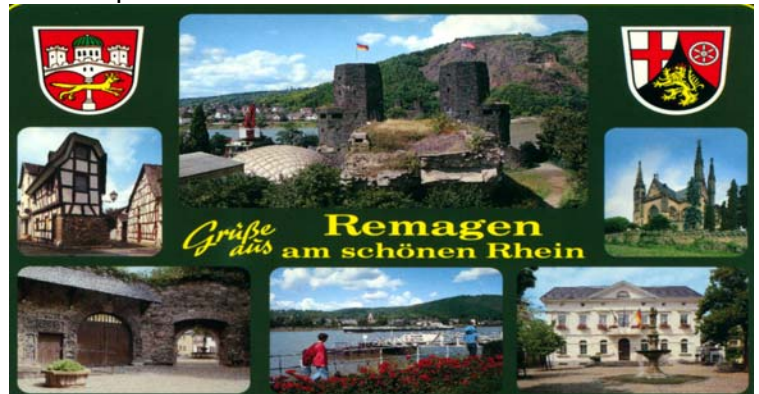
also saw trains running on both sides of the river which meant if we got off the boat we could catch the train back to Köln rather than wait for the boat to return to the dock and pick us up. After spending 4-5 hours on the boat we decided to get off at the next stop which was Remagen, Germany.

Remagen was a small town with narrow cobblestone streets, hills, remnants of a Roman fortress and a Catholic church dating back to the 1400s. There was little car traffic and we walked on the cobblestone streets and sidewalks the entire length and width of the town. We enjoyed meandering into all the shops. We bought a snack and ate it while sitting on the river bank overlooking the Rhine River. We spent about 2 hours in Remagen before we hiked three blocks uphill to catch the train to Köln.

After returning home, I was culling through the Oxnard Courier newspaper and found a letter published from Sgt. Nate Kujawsky dated May 17, 1919, Remagen, Germany. The letter was written to his parents, Marcus and Handel Kujawsky who lived in Ventura County, California.

In the letter Nate told his parents that since the fighting was over he expected to leave Remagen May 27th and be home sometime in July. He said he had received a letter from his brother Abe, who was also serving in Germany in another division, and they expected to return home together. Nate said he had sent home a German helmet and Abe was bringing home a German gas mask as a souvenir.

What amazed me was I had just visited and explored the town of Remagen when I could have disembarked at any number of towns along the Rhine River. Nate and Abe Kujawsky, the sons of Marcus Kujawsky and Handel Cohn Kujawsky, were my cousins. Though Nate and Abe were born in California, Handel Cohn and her parents were born in Kempen, Germany, the town I visited in Poland. I think Marcus and Handel were married in Kempen, although I have yet to find the marriage record. Visiting the town of Kepno, Poland (Kempen, Germany) was planned but visiting Remagen, Germany was purely serendipitous.



The Meaning of Life.....

Every person that you meet knows something you don't - learn from them.

Sailing to America in 1831.....Part 5, final

[Editor -- In his letter dated 29 Dec 1831, Curtis Casson wrote to his uncle John Peacock in Durham, England about his voyage to America aboard the ship *Sheffield*.continued from last month's Newsletter

As soon as we landed I went to seek lodgings called at three places and they all asked me three and half dollars per week, and going into the fourth I saw a parson who seemed to look very hard at me, I went up to him and asked him if his name was not Bealby, he told me it was and that he was sure he knew my face but could not call me by name, when I told him who I was he told me I need not seek for lodgings I should go and stay at his house as long as I pleased, and he was sure I should not pay a farthing if I chose to stay twelve months. He has a very large glass paper manufactory and keeps a very large inn, he also has several houses in the city, it is only across the north of Hudson river. Where the ferry crosses the river it is about three quarters of a mile wide. William tells me he is acquainted with all the millers in this part of the country and that he can get me a situation at any time, have not yet seen any of the mills. The people in this country are sad hands for their bellys, the very lowest class of people here have either fowls or steaks to their breakfasts and tea always, but that is not to be wondered at for there are no game laws here, a person has nothing to do but take his gun and dog and he may get as much game in a few hours as will keep him and his family a week. I posted all the letters yesterday. I also wrote to R. Braithwaite telling him a little about his lady. The rivers are froze here a full month sooner this year than has been known for the last ten years. Albany is one hundred and sixty miles from New York the steam boats run up in eleven hours.

The far is \$2. There we eight shillings in a dollar, twelve and a half cents in a shilling, six and a quarter cents in a sixpence, one hundred cents in a dollar. I am so fond of the country that I have no desire to see old England again. I must now endeavor to make money as fast as I can. Thou thought a great deal of the New Market at Liverpool, but it is a mere nothing to the market at New York. I think it is at least three times the size and such a show of everything as I think almost never was seen. The rivers being froze the Algonauin could not go up to Philadelphia so she put in at New York, she sailed up the river with us. Both the ham and beef which I had was so extremely salt that there is hardly any eating at all, out of all my eggs there was only four sound ones the rest were all rotten. Several of the steerage passengers were out of provisions some time before we landed, but I had plenty but nothing of any consequence left when we landed; they were out of several things in the cabin ten days ago the steward came to me to inquire if I had any mustard, I had an ounce which I had not touched. I told him he might have it, but I must have good pay, for there was no mustard to be had on the Atlantic, so he gave me a duck. I hope thou will write as soon as possible and direct for John R. Willis, Cherry Street New York, for me. If Williamson be in the harbour, I should like you to send this letter for her to see. I intend to write her by the _____. Please give my regards to my kind master to John Whitman, Wm Pearson, Jim and ??? John Ragg and wives - John W. Braithwaite Sr. and Jr. and in short the whole concern and accept my very dear love for yourself in writing the last few lines I cannot help shedding tears. There is very little difference between man and master in this country, all sits down to same table. I was walking a little out of the city yesterday and was overtaken by a Justice of the Peace in his slay, he stopped and make me to ride which I did and a very nice man he was. The people in this country are uncommon civil and well educated. The women are extremely handsome, very dressy, one half of the inhabitants are colored I cannot say black because they are most of them cross bred. I expect thou wont say my letter is a very short one I remain with love they affectionate though undutiful nephew.

Signed Curtis Casson

The land of Liberty

We had forty six steerage passengers and twenty five cabin passengers, there were about one hundred on aboard all together.

[Editor: Thanks to Tim McMaster for submitting this most interesting diary account of coming to America. The full text will be published in its entirety on our web site.]

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 donations. Thanks, also, to our library catalog volunteers.

TITLE	AUTHOR	CALL NUMBER	LOCATION
The New Schoffler-Weis German and English Dictionary	Schoffler, Dr. Herbert; Weis, Erich and V	438 S364	Shelf
A Modern Swedish English Dictionary	Danielson, Bror	439.7 D158s	Shelf
French and English Dictionary	Harrap's	440 J33	Shelf
How to Research Your Family History - A Primer	Burlo, Lois H.	929 B961	File Cab.
Getting A Quick Start Up Your Family Tree	Carlberg, Nancy Ellen	929 C278g	Shelf
The Genealogical Seminar "Harvesting The Family Tree" 1989	Hemet-San Jacinto Genealogical Societ	929 H488h	Shelf
Genealogical Societies & Historical Societies - in the United States	Konrod, J. (Editor)	929 K82	Shelf
Transcripts of Miscellaneous Taped Presentations - 1995 Conferenc	National Genealogical Society	929 N277st	Shelf
Using Maps in Genealogy	U.S. Department of the Interior	929 U58m	File Cab.
DAVIS FAMILY HISTORY	Doty, Jeanne (Cady)	929.2 C6825	Shelf
DAVIS FAMILY HISTORY	Doty, Jeanne (Cady)	929.2 D260	Shelf
The Growth of British Education and Its Records	Chapman, Colin R.	942 C466	Shelf
Chapters From the History of the Lehigh County Historical Society	Lehigh County Historical Society	974.827 L522c	File Cab.
Rural Ceemeteries of Mineral and Grant Counties of West Virginia	Mineral County Genealogical Society (cc	975.494 M664	Shelf
Missouri Genealogical Research	Schweitzer, George K., PhD, ScD	977.8 S413	Shelf
California's El Camino Real and its Historic Bells	Kurillo, Max; Tuttle, Erline	979.4 K96	Shelf
The Old Mission Churches and Historic Houses of California	Newcomb, Rexford	979.4 N538	Shelf
A Modern English-Swedish Dictionary	Danielson, Bror	439.17 D158	Shelf

Could you have passed the Eight Grade in 1895?

8th Grade Final Exam: Salina, KS - 1895

Grammar (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of Capital Letters.
2. Name the Parts of Speech and define those that have no modifications.
3. Define Verse, Stanza and Paragraph.
4. What are the Principal Parts of a verb? Give Principal parts of do, lie, lay and run.
5. Define Case, Illustrate each Case.
6. What is Punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of Punctuation.
- 7 - 10. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

Arithmetic (Time, 1.25 hours)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 feet long, and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3942 lbs., what is it worth at 50 cts. per bu., deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?
4. District No. 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
5. Find cost of 6720 lbs. coal at \$6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. long at \$20.00 per in?
8. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance around which is 640 rods?
10. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.

U.S. History (Time, 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
5. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, and 1865?

Geography (Time, one hour)

1. What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?
2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?
3. Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?
4. Describe the mountains of N.A.
5. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwolf and Orinoco.
6. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S.
7. Name all the republics of Europe and give capital of each.
8. Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?
9. Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.
10. Describe the movements of the earth. Give inclination of the earth.

Next time someone says their grandfather only had an 8th grade education, you now will have a greater appreciation for what that meant. For many rural children in 1895, this was their final year of school -- they were needed to help on the farm and support the family.

Source: Smoky Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina, KS.

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619-588-0065

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SDGS Event Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings held at;

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 8350 Lake Murray Blvd. (at Jackson Dr.) San Diego

Oct. 5 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 8 -- SDGS-BIGRA All Day Seminar, St. Andrews, **reservations required**, see flyer

Oct. 30 -- Nov. 6 -- Salt Lake City Trip, see flyer

Nov. 5 -- Family History Fair, Escondido, visit **www.familyhistoryfair.org** for details

Nov. 9 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 12 -- Monthly Meeting, Penny Feike, Land Records, St. Andrews, noon

Jan. 14 -- Annual Luncheon Seminar with William Dollarhide & Leland Meitzler, flyer coming

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