



San Diego Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Nov. 2005



Vol. 38, No. 10

Annual All Day Seminar and Luncheon

January 14, 2006
Handlery Hotel

This year, our featured speakers for this all day event will be nationally known genealogists, authors and lecturers William Dollarhide and Leland Meitzler.

William Dollarhide has been doing genealogy research for over 35 years. In 1984 he founded *Genealogy Bulletin*, a bi-monthly magazine. He is also a contributing editor to *Heritage Quest Magazine*. He has authored 8 books, including the award-winning *Map Guide to the U. S. Federal Censuses*. He has lectured nationally to over 750 genealogical organizations.

He will present "Organizing Your Genealogy Papers" and "Forgotten Public Land Records"

Leland Meitzler founded *Heritage Quest* in 1985 and has since been with Sierra Home Corp. and ProQuest. He has done over 2,000 presentations to National, State and local genealogical organizations. This is the 21st year he has conducted tours to Salt Lake City.

His topics will be "Finding Women in Your Pedigree" and "Using Tax Records to Establish Relationships".

The meeting will feature a sit down gourmet luncheon with your choice of Sliced London Broil (with garlic mashed potatoes) or Grilled Halibut (with mushroom risotto), garden salad, vegetables, roll, Raspberry Ganache Cake, coffee and tea.

There will be drawings for many door prizes, including a hotel package for two in Salt Lake City.

November 12th Monthly Meeting
St. Andrew's Church, noon

Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors

by Penny Feike



Nothing can be more exciting and rewarding than finding your immigrant ancestors on a passenger list. Not only do you pinpoint their exact date

of arrival but also who they traveled with and other details of their emigration.

Until recently, however, these records were difficult to find and research. Penny will discuss passenger lists, both U.S. and foreign, and other finding aids that will help you find your immigrant and their relatives which is so important in telling their life stories. An extensive handout will be included. **Not to be missed!**

Whenever Penny gives a talk, we always get many requests to have her return. A Society member, she has been researching for more than 40 years. She has taught and worked at the Family History Center in San Diego where she has helped many researchers over the years improve their skills. As a professional genealogist, she does U. S. and international research, as she puts it, 'anyplace that uses the latin alphabet'.

Her extensive knowledge and recall is always amazing (including citation of book call numbers). If you haven't heard Penny before you have a real treat in store and those who have will be certain to attend.

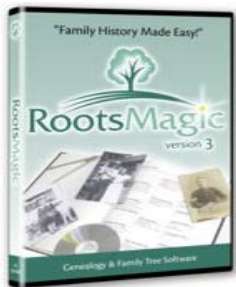
The Newsletter is published monthly, except January, by the San Diego Genealogical Society and mailed to all current members. Submission deadline for articles and announcements is the 15th of the month for the following month. Inclusion is based solely on the discretion of the Editor and/or Board of 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
2nd Vice President.....Phyllis Quarg
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.

RootsMagic Users Group



The RootsMagic users group will meet on 12 Nov 2005 at St. Andrews Lutheran Church. If you are a RootsMagic user or interested in the program this should be an interesting meeting. Chris Christensen will moderate the meeting in the classroom at 10 a.m.

prior to the monthly SDGS meeting. Chris will also have the latest version of the program if you need it. If you are not a registered owner the program will run with limitations.

RootsMagic is a popular genealogy software program with a growing user base. It is noted for being easy to use yet it is a very comprehensive family tree program. The program provides all of the required functions of keeping track of your family tree. You can create all of the standard genealogical reports for printing or saving as files for sharing with others.

Library Holiday Schedule

The Society library, normally open to the public on Thursdays, will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24th. It will also be closed on Dec. 22nd and 29th. Of course, our members can still use the library whenever they wish. Thanks to our volunteers who staff the library throughout the year. Your efforts are most appreciated. Happy Holidays to all.

President's Message.....

It is time again for annual membership renewal. I would encourage you to write your check and get it in the mail right away. With the holidays quickly approaching, it is easy to put it off and forget about it. So, before you continue reading this message, STOP and fill out the form, write your check and address the envelope. There, now that it is all take care of, aren't you glad knowing you can enjoy the holidays without worrying about it again.

And while on the subject, I hope you reflect a moment on all you get out of your Society. Our Newsletter has timely and informative articles that keep you up-to-date on local and national events as well as new research tips and tricks. There are even interesting articles for non-genealogists.

Our monthly meetings always get rave reviews. The topics and subject matter from noted experts insure you are always learning new techniques and ways to improve your genealogical research. I don't know where else you could get such a wealth of knowledge on such a variety of subjects. And, they are truly an educational bargain compared to the \$30+ price tag for online classes. I hope you are attending every meeting you possibly can!

The Society sponsored trips provide you the opportunity to travel and research with fellow members at the best national repositories -- with amenities and pricing not available elsewhere. If you have an idea for a travel destination, please let our Special Events chair, Roberta Levy, know.

Our greatest resource, the library, has many unique treasures you won't find elsewhere. If you haven't visited it lately, you are missing out on many new acquisitions that could help you take your research to the next level. Here you will find the stuff you won't see on the Internet. I hope you are taking advantage of it. If you need some help using the library, visit on a Thursday when it is staffed by our trained volunteers. I'd venture to say that every member could find more of their family genealogical information by visiting our library.

But perhaps our most underutilized resources are our members. Each one has a vast collection of ancestors and research knowledge just waiting to be tapped into. As our October speaker, Paul Smart, pointed out, we all have connections to one another just waiting to be discovered. In fact, member Elaine Foulger found this out when she discovered a new 'cousin' sitting at her table. She would have never known had she not started talking and comparing notes.

So, take full advantage of your membership by renewing today. You have so much to gain.

Peter Steelquist, President

SDGS Newsletter, Vol. 38, No.10

Library Notes..... by Anna Acosta

I would like to remind our members, those who have recently joined, as well as those who have been members several years, that our Library is NOT a "lending" library. Recently it has come to my attention that several books are missing from the Kentucky and New Jersey sections in particular and a few other states are also missing volumes. This is particularly distressing to visitors who have checked our web-site and made a special trip to check our books. Will you PLEASE CHECK YOU BOOKS AT HOME to see if you accidentally removed one from our library? Then please RETURN IT or THEM - No Questions Asked!

We have a copier so you can copy pages from our books and other reference materials for using as your documentation. It would be a hardship for many if we had to remove the key pad on the door that allows you access 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Next, I would like to thank all those who answered my plea for volunteers on Thursdays when we are open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (except holidays). Thanks to Karna Webster, Ken Jones, Mary Schreiner, Shirley Bracey, Joan Carter, Charlotte Dunn and Nancy Hattox. If we have one more person volunteer everyone will have to only be at the library for 3 hours ONCE A MONTH! Several of our library volunteers travel a long distance to help out and it is truly appreciated. Remember, you can do your own research if no guests show up.

In September I spent 2 weeks in Salt Lake City attending the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference for 4 days and then using the Family History Library to do research.

The Conference was the best I have ever attended. First of all, the Salt Palace is a wonderful site for holding a conference - so spacious and well laid-out with really nice rooms, a convenient Exhibit Hall and luncheons held in rooms on the upper floor. There were so many good speakers and topics it was difficult to choose an agenda.

The first day I spent attending the various meetings held for society officers and am pleased to report we have one of the best slate of officers and well run societies in the country - so our members should feel lucky and grateful. Now some members are thinking ahead to the next conference to be held in Boston in 2006. I've already registered. A flyer is posted on the library bulletin board.

See you at the library. Anna

The Meaning of Life.....

Age and treachery will triumph over youth and skill.

Meeting in Review..... October 2004

Our all day seminar, co-hosted with BIGRA, featured Paul Smart from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. This brief review is not adequate to cover the wealth of information he presented. Extra handouts may be available at the Society's library.

He first surveyed British genealogical periodicals, both society journals or newsletter and other general sources. For a broad overview, he recommended "Family History News and Digest", published semi-annually, and PERSI, which surveys over 500 British family history periodicals. Also, "British Humanities Index", available at major libraries, includes genealogical periodicals. "Inventory of the English Records", a microfiche index of the periodical collection of the FHL is also of great value. Other sources are cited in his handout. He emphasized that while these are more difficult to use in research due to lack of indexes and availability, they can reveal untold benefits and need to be accessed whenever possible.

Paul next covered 'Computerized Resources for British Research'. Using a LCD computer projector, he displayed actual web sites in real time, showing many hidden treasures of genuki.org, one-name.org, freebmd.rootsweb.com, proni.gov.uk and many others sites (see handout). He mentioned a number of non-genealogy related sites that can benefit British researchers. He also did an extensive review of FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service, showing the 3 search types (Ancestor, Keyword, Custom), how to order family history resources, PAF, etc.

After our most excellent catered buffet luncheon, he covered FamilySearch Internet. He shared, again live online, many of the features and hidden resources of the LDS site. Even experienced users in the audience were commenting -- 'I had no idea you could do that'. It was truly an eye-opener where he revealed many of the nuances of the various record databases and search criteria.

He concluded the program with 'Family and Local History Societies in Great Britain'. He covered the various types of societies and discussed their different types of records, publications, meetings, projects and web sites. The Federation of Family History Societies acts as a umbrella organization. It is important to find organizations that share your ancestors interests -- whether it be by surname, geography, religion, professions, etc. Consider joining these societies to broaden your general knowledge as well as to find other resources and researchers in your areas of interest.

It was quite a day and everyone came away with a renewed focus on their research -- whether in the British Isles or U. S. With such a good turnout, we hope to do more seminars and all day events in the future.

Does Your Research 'Make the Grade'?

If you are not using school records in your genealogical research, you are missing out on an extremely important resource. In addition to the expected materials - enrollment cards, yearbooks, report cards, social & sports activities, school newspapers - you may find other treasures - applications for admission, medical reports, administrative records, etc.

So, how do you find these records? Well, like most investigations, it begins by determining a time and place. Given the birth date of the child, figure out what years they would have been in elementary, secondary, high school and college. Knowing the address where the family lived (from census, city directories, letters, etc.), you can find the nearby schools. While it is most likely they attended the school near their home, don't rule out that they went to a 'special' school or maybe a private one. Current and period maps can be very helpful as they usually show school locations. If you know where siblings attended, that can be a starting place as well. For older schools, check county histories.

The best place to start looking for records is the school district -- either city or county. Check the phone book or web sites to see if they have a records center or archive. If not, check with administration. Perhaps they can tell you which school the child attended. For private or religious schools, check for current addresses or affiliated institutions.

Just writing a letter can yield unexpected results. Ask for transcripts, school or yearbook photos, registration cards, etc. (of course, send SASE and offer to pay for copies). While modern school records may be protected by privacy laws, family members may be able to get copies, particularly if the former student is deceased (a copy of the death certificate may be helpful). Also ask about alumni associations as they may have class lists, yearbooks, know of living classmates, etc. Next, you will want to check with local, county, state and university libraries. They may have archive records, yearbooks, administrative records, etc. You will also want to check with the local and county genealogical and historical societies. And don't forget the county clerk and recorder's office as they may also have important documents.

There are a number of online resources you will want to check. Many alumni associations and reunion committees have web sites. Do a search engine (e.g. Google) query. There is even a special web site for these organizations (www.classreunionsearch.com). Several sites let you and others register your school (www.reunion.com, <http://schoolnews.com>, www.classmates.com). There are also a number of sites devoted

to yearbooks - either with posted photos or abstracted listings -- www.deadfred.com (see June 2005 Newsletter) has pre-1936 yearbooks posted, Darilee's Yearbook (www.geocities.com/Heartland/2236/yearbookindex.html) lists more than 3,200 yearbooks that she will check for you. Some sites offer yearbooks for sale -- www.yearbooks.bravepages.com, www.gogo-mag.com, and of course, www.ebay.com (currently 1203 offered). You will also want to check local and subject message boards, Cyndi's List, www.linkpendium.com, USGenWeb, Rootsweb (a 257,158 alumni database), NUCMC (see May 2004 Newsletter), etc. for school related resources.

If you haven't been identifying and researching your family member's school ties and records, you are missing out on rich sources of information that can help you add to their life stories. Make it a habit to list dates and schools attended and 'go the extra mile' to find to find their school records. After all, schooling helped shape our lives and tells a lot about who we are -- things your future generations will want to know.



Weekly Genealogy Discussion Online

In last month's Newsletter we reported on the renewed "Family History Hour" weekly 'radio program'. Well, September also marked the launch of a new weekly 30 minute genealogy discussion titled "Genealogy Guys Podcast".

By logging on the web site, www.genealogyguys.com, you can play or download the audio file, a .mp3 file, that can be listened to on your computer or put on your iPod. The informative discussions will "make you a more savvy genealogical researcher" tout the hosts George Morgan and Drew Smith, both nationally recognized genealogical authors and lecturers.

Recent topics have included book reviews, interviews with other professional genealogists, conference reviews, new products, etc. Past broadcasts are also available on the site. You'll want to get in the habit of listening every week (available on Sundays). You can even 'multi-task' and listen while reading your e-mails or doing research. It's a great way to keep current on happenings about your favorite hobby. Be sure to tell your friends as well.

November Meeting Reminder

At our November meeting, we will be voting on the slate of incoming officers, the 2006 budget and the Board proposal for the building fund. Please plan on attending.

Genealogy Pox

WARNING: Very contagious to mature adults. No known cure

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaints as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has a blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at the mailman when he doesn't leave mail.

Frequents strange places such as: cemeteries, ruins and remote, desolated country areas. Makes secret calls, hides phone bills from spouse. Mumbles to self. Has strange faraway look in eyes.

TREATMENT: Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend Genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where they can be alone.

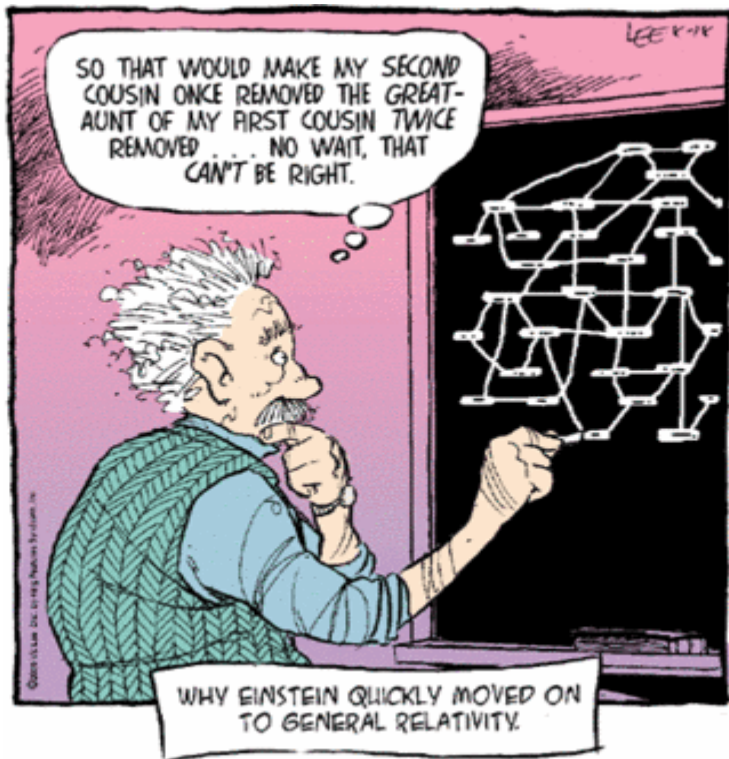
REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is - the sicker the patient gets, the more (s)he enjoys it.

.....Author unknown

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!

Smith, Olivia -- Starnes, Thomas, Rush, Long, Darling, Finks, Sampson
Willoughby, Jerry -- Elo, Brown, Meyers, Sleezer, Ziegler, Young, Shipman, Heller.



Video Tombstones

As an update to our March 2005 Newsletter article on "Hi-Tech Headstones", a new company, Vidstone, has announced plans to unveil new high-tech tombstones with embedded flat screen monitors that would allow visitors to play memorial videos of the deceased. They plan to show the Vidstone this year at the annual funeral directors convention.



The solar-powered Vidstone will play a video of the person's life at the touch of a button. It is available with a choice of 7, 15 and 22-inch screens. It features a 5 to 8 minute slideshow accompanied by music and prose, allowing relatives to record their most precious memories of their loved one.

There are no loudspeakers in the Vidstone. In order to maintain a quiet cemetery, family members would need to plug in headphones in order to listen to the slideshow. The 'VIDSTONE Serenity Panels' may be attached to almost any upright or slanted gravesite monument, including gravestones, mausoleums and columbariums. "What was once merely a figment of the imagination has now become a reality. Memories are no longer solely relived in your mind, but at your loved one's place of rest. While nothing ever completely replaces the gift of life and the joy that accompanies it, memories can now come one step closer to being as real and as lifelike as possible", boasts their web site. They are also being marketed for pet cemeteries.

For more information and ordering instructions, visit their web site at www.vidstone.com.


*Remember, Your Society is
an Ancestry.com Affiliate*

Whenever you make a purchase from or subscribe to a new Ancestry.com database, please be sure to log on the San Diego Genealogy Web site www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs/ first and go through our link to Ancestry.com. This way, your Society receives a commission on what you purchase but it doesn't cost you a penny more! So, before you purchase books, CDs or add another subscription database, log on to our web site first. Be sure to tell you friends about this too as any purchase through our web site counts. And with Christmas gift giving, what better way to shop for your favorite genealogists! Thanks.

San Diego County Obituary Research

By population, San Diego County is the third largest county in the state (2.9 million). With 4,526 sq. miles, it has 18 separate incorporated cities and 54 unincorporated communities. This diversity makes obituary research difficult as there is no single newspaper that covers the entire area. With so many separate communities, there are many small local newspapers that can not be found in any one central location.

Following is a survey of the county libraries, the newspapers they have and their policy for obtaining obituaries. If you know of other libraries or organizations with important newspapers for obituary research, please contact the Newsletter editor.

While most libraries provide this service for free, you may want to send a small donation. It will be most appreciated and insure they can continue to be able to help us. (Note: policies subject to change)

Carlsbad Public Library

Carlsbad Journal (weekly) - 1926-1993, index 1926-1990
North County Blade Tribune -- Nov 19, 1972 to Jan. 1989
North County Blade Citizen -- 1989-1995
North County Times - 1995 to current
San Diego Union - 1981 to current

No charge for limited research. Send SASE, date of death. Contact Info: Carlsbad City Library (South), 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92011

Chula Vista Public Library

Chula Vista Star News, March 1930 to March 2003, obits. indexed only for mid-1980s
San Diego Union, 1973 to current, no index, microfilm

No charge for limited research. Send SASE. Contact info: 365 F St., Chula Vista CA 91910. 619-691-5069, e-mail: DGolden@chulavista.lib.ca.us

Coronado Public Library

Coronado Eagle - Jul 1990 to Aug. 18, 1998, partial index
Coronado Eagle-Journal - Aug. 19, 1998 to current, indexed
Coronado Journal - 1887 to Jul 18, 1896, May 24, 1912 to Aug. 18, 1998, partial index
Coronado Evening Mercury - May 16, 1887 to Oct. 25, 1888, indexed
Coronado Mercury - Aug 21, 1888 to July 18, 1896, indexed

Strand - May 24, 1912 to Mar 13, 1920, indexed.

No fee for limited research. Send SASE, 0.15 per copy. Contact Info: 640 Orange Ave, Coronado, CA 92118, 619-522-7390

Escondido Public Library

North County Times (formerly Times-Advocate) 1888 to current, microfilm

No charge for obituaries (10 day search). Twenty minute free search for local history, copy costs. Contact info: 239 South Kalmia St., Escondido, CA, 92025, 760-839-4315
Research request form: www.ci.escondido.ca.us/library/pioneer/searchform.htm

National City Public Library

National City Record - 1882 to current (merged with Chula Vista Star News)
Lateral file index may contain additional biographical information

No charge for limited research, 0.20 per photocopy. Contact Info: 1401 National City Blvd., National City, CA 91950, e-mail: mary.allely@nationalcitylibrary.org

Oceanside Public Library

Oceanside Blade - Oct 27, 1892 - Oct 4, 1929
Oceanside Daily Blade - not indexed from 1929-1974
Oct. 28, 1929 - Dec. 31, 1934
Jan 3 1938 - Aug 5, 1938
Jan 2, 1941 - Aug 8, 1964
Oceanside Blade Tribune: Aug 10, 1964 - Jun 29, 1989
Oceanside Blade Citizen: Jun 30, 1989 - Nov 30, 1995
North County Times, Oceanside Edition: Dec 3 1995 - current Online obituaries: 2000+,
www.nctimes.com
Oceanside News, incomplete: 1926-1957

Some years are indexed on microfiche and a 1991-1999 index is available on library computer. Earlier newspapers may be available at the Oceanside Historical Society.

Obituaries are free to California residents. Out-of-state requests are \$10.00 pre name, with exact date-of-death. Obituaries primarily for Oceanside residents and may not include Vista, San Marcos or other east county areas. Contact Info: 330 N. Coast Highway, Oceanside, CA 92054, 760-435-5580, e-mail: public.library@ci.oceanside.ca.us

Ramona Pioneer Historical Society Guy B. Woodward Museum

Ramona Sentinel - 1894 to current

Research in person or by mail, \$25 fee. Other historical family records. Contact: P. O. Box 625, Ramona, CA 92065, 760-789-7644, www.woodwardmuseum.org

San Diego City Public Library

San Diego Union, Tribune (merged 2/2/1992)
Microfiche Index: 1851-1903, 1930-1980
CD ROM Index, full text: 1984-current
Online Index, full text (SDUT, NewsBank): 2000-current, see below
San Diego Evening Tribune, Dec. 1895 to Feb. 1, 1992
San Diego Sun (incomplete) 1881-1939
San Diego Herald
May 29, 1851 -- Apr 7, 1860
Jan 1, 1914 - Oct. 31, 1918
May 18, 1922 - Mar 1 1946

For limited number of requests, 1984+, transcription provided free. For pre-1984 and microfilm print, \$8.20 per copy. Need exact date-of-death, 5 day turnaround. For other than San Diego Union, need to specify newspaper to be searched. Contact Info: 820 E St., San Diego, CA 92101, 619-236-5835, press 5
E-mail: speccol@sandiego.gov.

San Diego County Library - El Cajon Branch

California Express Line El Cajon - Dec 1989 to Aug. 1996
Californian - Nov. 1981 to Aug. 1999 (became East County Californian)
East County Californian - 2002 to current
El Cajon Valley News - 1885 to 1899
La Mesa Scout - Jan 1930 thru Dec. 11, 1931
Jan 1935 thru Dec. 1935
1964 to 1972
San Diego Union - 1960 to current
Microfiche index, 1851-1861, 1868-1902, 1930-1980.

No fee for limited research. Send SASE.
Contact Info: 201 E. Douglas, El Cajon, CA 92020, 619-588-3718

San Diego County Library - Vista Branch

North County Times - 2002 to current.
San Diego Union Tribune -- 1965 to current, microfiche index from 1851.
Vista Press - Oct. 1926 to April 1995 (microfilm to 1973), not indexed.

No fee for limited research. Send SASE. Contact info: 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista, CA 92084, 760-643-5100

Online Obituaries

San Diego Union-Tribune
www.signonsandiego.com
Jan. 2000 to current, name, date search, full text.
Free to newspaper subscribers, abstract free to others, \$1.95 fee for full text.
Also available through NewsBank, full text, check your local library for availability

North County Times Newspaper
www.nctimes.com
Online obituary index, no fee or registration required
Jan. 1, 2003 to current, date listed on web site
Dec. 1999 to Jan 2003, advanced search page by name, date.

Other newspapers may have current obituaries online. Check their web sites for availability.



Yahoo and a global consortium have announced that they will be putting books online. Similar to 'Google Print' (see Feb. 2005 Newsletter), they will launch "OCA" (Open Content Alliance) in conjunction with several universities and two European archives. They are focused on providing open access to content while respecting the rights of copyright holders. Content will be hosted in a single, permanent repository and complete works will be searchable and downloadable for free by anyone.

By the end of this year its first collection of books will be available from the University of California's O'Reilly Media, a publisher of technology books. Also available will be collections from the National Archive in Britain and the European Archive. It will initially use a specially designed search engine but may later be available through the Yahoo search portal.

Noting the problems Google had with copyright issues, Yahoo will get copyright holder's permission prior to putting the books online. And unlike Google, they plan on making their collection available to other search engines. While there are other online book sites (see June 2005 Newsletter), none approach the scope and have the corporate and international backing of OCA. You can access the site at: www.opencontentalliance.org.

The Meaning of Life.....

When someone hugs you, let them be the first to let go.
SDGS Newsletter, Vol. 38, No.10

Have You Been to ePodunk?

ePodunk provides in-depth information about more than 25,000 communities around the country, from Manhattan to Los Angeles, Pottstown to Podunk. Their listings also include geocoded information about thousands of parks, museums, historic sites, colleges, schools and other places across America. They truly bring you "the power of the place".

Founded by three journalists, the site delivers a wealth of information about counties and communities all across the country. It provides essential information on demographics, geography, history, attractions, cemeteries, famous people, records, housing, etc. It is just the background information genealogists need when researching the relatives and ancestors.

In addition to searching by name and browsing by state, you can also pull up a 'Genealogy Guide' to any community. It provides local research resources, online published material, listings of historical and genealogical societies, information on vital records, maps, photos, etc. -- in short, anything you need to know about the area you are researching. Their collection of vintage postcards alone will keep you fascinated for hours (and you can even send them to friends online).

Not only is this site invaluable for your arm chair researching, it can be indispensable for use when traveling. I don't know of any other site that provides you all the information you need at one place. They even bring you some off-the-wall statistics you may not have thought of (Falls Church, VA has the highest number of Starbucks stores per capita).

So, if you haven't used ePodunk, check it out. It will certainly become one of your favorites. You can find it at: www.ePodunk.com.

Leaves & Saplings Index Now Online

Our quarterly journal, 'Leaves & Saplings' is now listed on the Society's web site. For the first time, all the titles can be viewed at one place. The 'Table of Contents' for all 33 volumes (131 issues), published since 1973, are arranged in chronological order. This is a significant benefit for anyone with San Diego area ancestors.

For our members, topics of interest can now be easily located and the journal articles read in our bound volumes at the library. For non-members and distant researchers, past issues of interest can be identified and ordered through our web site.

The Society is most grateful to member Marna Clemons for her time and effort in compiling this most useful index. You can view it at our web site, www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs. Thanks Marna for a great job!

The Flour Sack

by Mabel Loch
From the Sawyer County (WI) Record

In that long ago time when things were saved,
When roads were graveled and barrels were staved,
When worn-out clothing was used as rags,
When there were no plastic wraps or bags,
And when the well and pump were way out back,
A versatile item was the flour sack!

Pillsbury's Best and Gold Medal too,
Names stamped proudly in purple and blue,
The string sewn on top was pulled and kept,
The flour was emptied and spills were swept,
The bag was folded and stored in a stack,
Oh, that durable, practical flour sack!

For a pillow, it was filled with feathers or down,
Or it could make a baby's sleeping gown,
It might carry a book and be a school bag,
Or become a mail sack, slung over a nag,
It made a very convenient pack,
The adaptable, cotton flour sack!

Bleached and sewn, it was dutifully worn,
As a bib, a diaper or a kerchief, adorned,
It was made into a petticoat, shirt or slip,
Granny braided rugs from its torn strips,
Yes, Mama ruffled curtains for our little shack
From that humble but treasured flour sack!

It mad a strainer for milk or orange juice,
To summon a person was a very good use,
As a sling for a strained wrist or a break,
Or to help Mama roll out a jelly cake,
Even as a window shade or to stuff a crack,
We used a sturdy, common flour sack!

It became a dish towel, embroidered or not,
To cover bread dough, help with pans too hot,
Or to tie up victuals for neighbors in need,
Men used it in the fields to carry the seed,
We could not do without it, that is a fact,
Oh, that absorbent, grand old flour sack!

Thanks to Anna Acosta for submitting this.

Family History Fair, Nov. 5th.

It may not be too late to make your plans to attend the Family History Fair in Escondido. While the deadline has passed to order a syllabus and lunch, check out the class schedule at www.familyhistoryfair.org. As there are always 'no shows' there will probably be some empty chairs.

Letter from the gold fields.....

This is a letter written by 33 year old William Pratt **Bushnell** to siblings James Addison & Helen **Bushnell** in Oregon. They came west from Missouri in 1853. By 1860, he was a farmer in Lane Co., OR. Maria is his wife and Watters their 5 year old son. His experiences are like most who sought but never found their fortunes in the gold rush era.

Smith Flat, Siera Co Cal

Nov 22d th 1856

Dear Brother & Sister

I take my pen to drop you few lines to let you know that wee are as well as usual or as well as could be expected in such a cold changeable mountaineous and unchristian part of the world as this is for it has been snowing for the last 3 days & is at it yet & I dont know as it will ever stop. The snow is 2 or 3 feet deep now & wee expect it will bee 5 or 10 feet here they say wee have some rains and awful storms this fall but not enough to give us any watter yet. I have been working down in Runaka Creek for the last 4 or 5 weeks wee have not had half watter enough to wash with but if this snow goes of f with a rain it will drive us out for awhile certain. I have not made anything yet nor dont expect in this country if I make enough to keep us in grub it is all I expect & will be very well satisfied. I managed to do it so far & have got some provisions laid in for winter for everything is generally verry high here in the winter I have got about 10 cords of wood & 4 cords more paid for but cant get it now.

Wee received yours of Sept 21st some 4 weeks ago was glad to hear from you & that you were all well. You think this is as good a country as that. Well if that is no better than this for a poor man I shall wish myself back in old Pike. This is a good mining country for them thats got plenty of money. It takes money to make money. These are nearly all deep or tunnel diggings. It has taken from 2 to 4 years to run some of these tunnels in to pay dirt & a great many of them never found any pay dirt or any gold & it takes money and labor to run them in. There is no surface diggings about, except in some of the creeks & they are pretty deep & verry hard to work. Wee have about 10 feet tunneled tuilings to wash off before we can get any thing. The gold is all on or in the bed rock. The creek has been worked over once or twice but we find some places that they have missed or could not work on account of watter so we pick up a little occasionally. We make from 2 bits to 20 dollars a day. Well I have averaged little over 3 dollars a day for the last 3 weeks. It is course gold. The man I work with found a 9 ounce lump last summer & there was one taken out below that weighed 1005 ounces. We may possibly find some smaler ones.

Sunday morning Nov 23d - I commenced this last night but did not get through. It was snowing as hard as you ever saw it. This morning it is quite warm and pleasant but it will snow some more yet before it gets through. I expect if it snows much more it will be hard times up here this winter. Well I haven't much of interest to write & cant write so you can read it.

I expect you have 30 or 40 acres of land under fence & a good house in a good climate & every thing plenty. I am glad you are doing well for I have about given up all hope of ever more than making a living in this country. I don't intend to stay up in these mountains longer than next spring if I can help it. If I can't get up there I want to get down in a little warmer climate. I have got a pretty good house & kitchen & wood shed & a garden but water is scarce so the garden is not worth much. You want me to hurry & make my pile & come up there. If I dont come up there until I make my pile I dont think you will see me soon but don't know what I shall do yet. I will work in the creek as long as I can make small wages. I dont want to work in a tunel for 4 dollars day as it is very dangerous to. There has been a good many cripled this fall in them.

Well I have no more to write now give our love & best wishes to one and all. Maria is verry anxious to get up there to see & bee with you all. Watters goes to school now. We have a small school here it cost about \$5 a month a scallor. He is gone to Sunday School now. Florence Maria is beginning to run around. Weell it is snowing again as hard as ever. I dont know how you get this. I will have to send by express. I think write & give all the news & believe me ever your bro

Wm P Bushnell

P. S I had like to forget there is a man here that came out with us who wants you to send a description of the country in general how a man can do with a small capital & co. & the price of land & whats the prospect of getting a small farm & the price of stock & Co.

adios

adios

[Editor: William is my 2nd great-grand uncle. He died in 1886 in San Francisco.]

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

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

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

Nov. 12, RootsMagic Users Group, 10 a.m., St. Andrews Church

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

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

Jan. 11 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7:00 p.m.

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

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