



San Diego Genealogical Society

Newsletter

March 2006



Vol. 39, No. 2

We're Going to The Los Angeles Public Library

April 22nd is the date, so mark your calendars and plan on joining us. Its been two years since our last trip and many members have asked us to repeat this popular trip.

So, why should you want to go to the Los Angeles Pubic Library? Lets count the ways.....

The LAPL has approximately 45,000 genealogy titles, including more than 10,000 genealogies. Included in the collection are;

City Directories – 5,000 rolls of microfilm covering U. S. cities from 1861-1960 and microfiche for earlier years. About 1,200 paper directories, L. A. City directories from 1872 to 1942.

Family Histories – A 10,000 title collection not duplicated elsewhere in California with about 20% not in the Library of Congress.

Immigration Records – Passenger arrival lists of ships docking in San Francisco, Boston and Philadelphia. New York indexed ship records between 1820 to 1846.

Local Histories – Make up a large part of the genealogy collection and include detailed histories at the county level, cemetery records, probate records and town histories.

Military Records – Complete rosters of soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War. Also, several hundred unit histories of military units from WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

Newspapers – All Los Angeles Times 1881 - , Herald Examiner, New York Times 1851 - , Times of London 1785 - , San Francisco Chronicle 1869 - , Chicago Tribune 1849-1998. Shorter runs for others, e.g. Boston Globe, Denver Post.

Going there just to get their library card to access their online data bases is reason enough to join us. Register today, limited bus seating.

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March 11th Monthly Meeting

St. Andrew's Church, noon

'Publishing Your Family History'

with Joan Lowrey

Like most genealogists, you have spent years compiling your family history. You probably have thought of publishing it to preserve it for your family and future generations -- but, like most of us, the thought of taking on the project just seems overwhelming.

Come and learn how to create your book. You will find out how to manage the data, plan the layout, handle images, privacy issues and copyright concerns. Joan will also cover software and word processing techniques, numbering systems (Ahnentafel, Henry, etc.) as well as getting your book printed and bound.

Speaker: Joan Lowrey is a professional genealogist, author and lecturer, specializing in German and U.S. research. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the San Diego Genealogical Society, and numerous other organizations. She is a past-president of the German Research Association and former editor of *The German Connection*. Since June 1985, she has published a flyer, "Genealogy - Upcoming Events, Classes, Opportunities," listing all San Diego County genealogical events for the month, and posts this information on www.cgssd.org and is co-author of 'A Guide to Selecting Genealogy Software' and 'A Guide to Genealogy Software'. In 1998, The California State Genealogical Alliance awarded her a Distinguished Service Award for contributions and services to the genealogical community.

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.....Elaine Foulger
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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.

'Trash to Treasure' Sale

As announced last month, the Society is sponsoring a 'Trash to Treasure' sale on April 29th. This is where members can rent a table for \$10 and sell their own items -- crafts, used items, clothing, resale items, etc. - - with 10% of total sales going to the Society. As it will be held indoors, no furniture or large items. We provide the location (New Frontier Mobile Home Park in Santee) and do the promotion. You just sell your stuff. The Society will also be selling items. We are collecting used non-genealogy books, used music CDs, DVDs, and pre-recorded VHS tapes. So, clean out your music and tape collections and see what you have to donate to the Society. Please bring them to the library or to our monthly meetings (labeled 'Trash to Treasure'). We will also be selling small potted plants. If you have a green thumb and want to start rooting cuttings, please do so and we will sell them. Please phone member Joan Carter (619-443-3679) to rent a table or to let her know you will have plants to donate. This is truly a 'win-win' opportunity for everyone. Event details in our April Newsletter.



The Meaning of Life.....

Only an Aunt.....
Can give hugs like a mother
Can keep secrets like a sister
And share love like a friend.

President's Message.....

Your Society exists only because of the volunteer efforts of many members who donate their time in so many ways. While some are always 'on hand' and willing to help out with whatever needs done, so many others help out in ways that don't take a great deal of time or commitment. Some give an hour a month to help dust at the library or help at the monthly meetings. It really doesn't take much to make a difference.

Do you have an hour or two a month you could give to your Society? Please see 'Library Notes' on the next page for some suggestions. But there are also less formal ways you could help. If you appreciate this newsletter, could you write and submit an article? Perhaps you have made a research discovery that would benefit other members or found a web site that you would like to share. Even if you don't feel you could write it yourself, e-mail the Editor with your suggestions. Your ideas and insights would undoubtedly help our other members.

Another way we can all 'volunteer' is to help a beginner get started in family history research. Most people are interested in discovering their past but simply don't know how or where to start. You could be the one to show them and develop their interest -- and the proper way to do credible research. Offer to bring them to one of our monthly meetings or take them to our library. You could offer to take them to the FHC on your next visit. Most importantly, ask them to join the Society.

There are countless other ways to help as well. Even if you don't drive there are plenty of ways to help from home. You could assist others with online research, help our 'Leaves & Saplings' committee type material for publication, assist in database compilation (e.g. the El Cajon Cemetery project) -- and the list goes on.

Of course, the Society will always need people who can volunteer to serve two years on the board. Some of these jobs need special skills -- accounting, database management, public speaking, etc. If you could help, please don't wait for the nominating committee to ask you. Get involved so that when the board position is up for election, you are there and ready to help. It really doesn't take much to make a big difference. The friends you meet and work with will make it all worthwhile. If for no other reason, consider giving back to your Society for all that others have done to help you.

Next time you have an extra hour and are wondering what to do, please consider helping out your Society. You may even consider turning off the TV for an hour or two and helping out. You and the Society will be much better for it. Thanks.

Peter Steelquist, President

LIBRARY NOTES.....by Anna Acosta

At the January meeting I purchased the new book by William Dollarhide "New York State Censuses & Substitutes". What a great reference book! Because I have done research in New York State I was aware that the State took a census in between the Federal Censuses from 1825 through 1925. This book tells you about each of those censuses, then tells you about each individual county. The book has boundary maps from 1683 to 1915 and gives examples of the Schedules and Extraction Forms. Film numbers are provided and is a quick way to find the film you need to order. If the film is in Salt Lake City the book tells you that also. Anyone going to Salt Lake should look at this book if you will be doing research in New York.

I also purchased the CD of Library Resources referred to by Leland Meitzler. This is a list of U.S./Canada SURNAME FOLDER INDEXES listed by Surname, then Library or Repository, and by State. As you may be aware, small hometown and city libraries quite often have folders of pedigree charts, group sheets, obits, etc. that have been donated. The addresses are given for all the repositories so you can write to see if the family is the one you need information on. I was surprised at what I found on just one of my surnames. These items will be catalogued shortly and on file. Enjoy!

In addition we need helpers at the library. Especially needed is a volunteer to spend 3 hours ONE THURSDAY A MONTH from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (This is not asking for your commitment every week). Just one day a month.

Additionally we need a few people to come in once-a-month, at your convenience, to dust one or two rows of books. AND we need someone to come in once-a-month to vacuum and dust in the front entry and in the conference room, as well as mopping the bathroom floors.

Those who have been doing this job say it only takes 1 - 2 hours. Many hands make light work and it takes many hands to keep our library a pleasant place to visit. PLEASE HELP!

Call me at home please, 858-271-9287.

Thank you and see you at the library.

Anna

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Our outgoing Program Chair, Elaine E. Foulger, would like to thank the following people for helping make the January luncheon and seminar a success. The event would not have run so smoothly without their help. Please join the Society in our appreciation to these dedicated volunteers.

Program Design: Bonnie Fago

Table Centerpieces: Phyllis Newton

Raffle Tickets: Shirley Brace, Candice Booth

Registration: Joan Carter

Registration Table: Joan Carter, Anna Acosta

Book Sales: JoAnn Cornelius, Paula-Jo Cahoon

Friday Unpacking and set-up: Shirley Lamendola,

Colleen Kline, Jim Kline, Peter Steelquist, Bob Cosgrove

Saturday Packing and dismantling: Colleen Kline, Shirley

Lamendola, Charles Schroeder, Peter Steelquist, Larry

Shaw.



The web site, <http://heritage.scotsman.com>, is dedicated to Scotland's history and Scottish culture. They would like you to share your stories of your family's past. In their 'Heritage & Culture' feature, they want to publish your personal tales, research findings, letters, etc. under a section titled "My Story".

It could be one story or a brief outline of how your family came to be where it is. Perhaps you recall a story from your great-grandfather. It's up to you what you want to write.

They are asking that it be no more than 500 words and be submitted via e-mail (heritage@scotsman.com). Visit their web site for additional details or story ideas. What a great way to get your story told and perhaps find new ancestors.

Heritage Creations Files Chapter 7

In early February, Leland Meitzler announced that Heritage Creations, publisher of Heritage Quest Magazine and Genealogy Bulletin, is filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. The announcement came as a shock to the genealogical community.

Mr. Meitzler founded Heritage Quest in 1985 and sold it to AGLL in 1991. In 2003 he bought back Heritage Quest Magazine and much of Heritage Quest's retail operations from ProQuest. At the time it was in financial difficulty but Mr. Meitzler was confident he could turn it around.

The two magazines have a substantial subscriber base and he is hopeful that they can find a new home. According to his purchase contract the magazines revert back to ProQuest ownership.

Mr. Meitzler will continue to publish his popular blog, www.GenealogyBlog.com and operate his 'Christmas Tour' to Salt Lake City.

As our members will recall, Mr. Meitzler was a speaker at our 2006 Annual Luncheon in January.

'Legacy' Travel Sweepstakes

Have you upgraded to new Legacy 6.0 yet? If you haven't, there is now an added incentive to do so. Millennia Corp. is sponsoring a drawing for users of Legacy Family Tree 6.0 Deluxe edition. The winner will get to choose between a 7 day Alaska 'Legacy Cruise' or a 7 day Family History Library research package in Salt Lake City. Both include round-trip airfare and accommodations. Visit their web site at www.legacyfamilytree.com for details and entry form. Use your Legacy 6.0 customer number to enter online, one entry per number. The last day to enter is May 31st with winner to be announced on June 1st. If you haven't seen all the new features of Legacy 6.0 Deluxe yet, be sure to visit their web site. Good Luck!

Luck 'O The Irish

We all look forward to St. Patrick's Day when everyone is Irish and we all can add the "O" to our names. Recently, I came across some web sites that should be of interest to anyone with Irish ancestry.

One site, www.ireland-information.com/heraldichall/irishsurnames.htm, documents common Irish names, their Gaelic equivalent, their meaning and coat-of-arms. While some of the names ring proud in their meaning (Moore = majestic, O'Brien = high, noble, MacDonald = world mighty), others are a little less flattering (Kennedy = helmet headed, Campbell = crooked mouth, Buckley = cow heard). Visit the site for a list of 100 popular names as well as a good introduction to Irish research.

Another interesting site is 'The Irish in New York City', www.irishinnyc.freesevers.com. It provides an excellent historical perspective of the Irish that lived and migrated through New York City. It has detailed histories of some of the famous (or notorious) neighborhoods - Bowery, Hell's Kitchen, Five Points, and Tenderloin - and historical events like the 1863 Draft Riots. It has news snippets from both NYC and Ireland and a statistical section (in 1860 the Irish comprised 25% of NYC). There is also a surname database and lists. If you have NYC Irish, you will definitely want to visit here.

And if you have traced your Irish back to the 'Emerald Isle', you will want to visit 'Ancestor's At Rest' www.ancestorsatrest.com/ireland_genealogy.shtml, an extensive listing of death records for Ireland. Here you will find cemetery and parish records, county listings and helpful research articles and tips.

But, if you just want to find out more about St. Patrick's Day, visit www.st-patricks-day.com and get ready to celebrate!

Meaning of Life.....

The older the fiddle, the sweeter the tune.

.....Irish proverb

Meeting in Review..... Feb. 2006

Patty Hacker, from the Hemet-San Jacinto Genealogical Society, provided us an in-depth study of how to date old photographs. Her masterful command of the subject was immediately evident and her insights opened many eyes to the secrets hidden in old photos. Many members brought their old photos which she evaluated.

In the first part of her presentation, she briefly reviewed the history of photography and the different types of photographs, how to recognize them and the time periods during which they were popular. She covered care, storage and restoration of the various types.

Her handout contained an 'Identification Key' to help identify photos by date. She also touched on the impact of the beginning of home photography (vs. professional studio) introduced by George Eastman in 1888.

Perhaps most intriguing was her on-screen examination of many different photographs, identifying both the image and non-image details that help date them. She cited examples of different types of card stock used, color of mounts, back-of-card styles, use and coloring of lettering.

In looking at image composition, she covered the background details and time frames of different styles and trends. These included use of drapery, columns, balustrades, furniture, painted murals, foliage, natural elements, etc.

She also examined pose characteristics from full-length, three-quarter length, head-and-shoulder shots, vignettes as well as straight frontal vs. angled poses. Most fascinating was her discussion of styles -- in hair, clothing, ornamentation and feature elements. For example, prior to 1865, women's ears were almost always covered by hair or bonnet, shoulders were not padded, high collars were worn. She explained the different styles in dresses and when (and in some cases why) they were popular (e.g. Dolly Varden). She also showed elements in sleeve types, necklines and fabric type. Her examples of hair styles was very revealing, particularly when put in historical perspective (thank goodness the 'teapot' went out of style).

While not as extensive, she discussed men's clothing styles -- coat length, waistcoats, tie usage, shoes, etc. (as today, not as fashion conscious as women). We also saw styles and trends in children's clothing (pre-school boys could be wearing dresses, so don't assume they are girls).

Patti noted that there are no 'hard and fast' rules for dating and that all elements -- print type, image and non-image elements -- all need to be taken into account together when evaluating old photographs. Even locating the photographer in city directories can be critical to dating. Her handout was most helpful (extra copies may be available in the library) and cited additional resources to help in dating and evaluating old photos. A great presentation!

Medical History Update



A most important benefit of doing genealogical research is the tracking of medical histories. When you get death certificates, the 'cause of death' information tells not only about your relative's health but also can reveal a lot about your own. As many diseases can have hereditary

implications, it is important for you to track these and keep records not only for yourself but also for your children and future generations.

When we last looked at family medical histories (Feb. 2005 Newsletter), we mentioned the "My Family Health Portrait", an online form that can be completed and saved to your own computer. This easy-to-use questionnaire lets you complete a three generation medical history and can also include siblings, aunts and uncles. Your privacy is insured as the information only saved on your own computer. If you have not yet used this site sponsored by the U. S. Surgeon General, please give it a try (www.hhs.gov/familyhistory).

While "My Family Health Portrait" is a good start, you will probably want to include other personal health information in addition to histories. This could include your allergies, medications, immunizations, lab results, medical images, past medical procedures, doctor and emergency contacts, eyeglass prescription, insurance information, medical directives, etc. You can create your own document using your word processor or copy sample forms available elsewhere (use Google to search for medical forms). You may also want to include a copy of your health care proxy (aka living will, advanced health care directive). When completed, be sure to save documents as html files that can be read by any computer without the need of any particular software package. Don't worry about making them look pretty or professional - hopefully they will never need to be used - but if needed, they could save your life

But completing these forms is only the beginning. You need to do more to make sure this information is available to medical personnel when needed. If something were to happen to you, would someone else know where this information is located? How about in an emergency or when traveling? Here are some additional steps you should take to make sure you are properly prepared.

First, save the documents on your computer desktop where they are accessible when your computer starts up (also serves as a reminder to update as needed). Also keep a copy on a floppy disk (backup file), clearly labeled, with your other important files. Save another copy on an inexpensive USB flash drive (aka thumb drive) and put on your key chain (clearly labeled as "Medical History" - emergency personnel are trained to

look for these and similar devices).

You will also want to print out paper copies of the documents to keep with important papers and to give to your doctor. You should also give a copy to a non-family relative or friend. This becomes particularly important because of "ICE" - which stand for 'in case of emergency'. On your cell phone directory, enter the initials "ICE" as the name and this relative's or friend's phone number. Medical and emergency personnel are trained to look at cell phones for this and will phone to get your medical history and other information should it be necessary.

Other health notification preparations you should consider include a medical alert ID wallet card available free by visiting www.medids.com/free-id.php. This is a 'fill in the blanks' form that you print on your home printer. No information is collected or stored. Benchmark this site and redo as needed. In addition to the thumb drive option noted above, there are similar commercial products available that offer more comprehensive services (VitalKey -- \$25 plus \$9/mon., MedAlert - \$85 plus \$20/yr., MurChip - \$90). Visit their web sites to find out more about them.

Your family's and your own medical history is important information that should not be ignored. Take the time to properly document it and be sure it is readily available, should it be needed. After all, it could make the difference between life and death.



Can You Pass 'The Death Test'?

Ever wonder when you will die or what will kill you? While the subject may seem a little morbid, Harvard University's math department has developed a test that will help you find out. Based on research begun over five years ago, the online test claims to be highly reliable.

As you might expect, you answer questions regarding your and your family's health history. There are also questions related to diet, lifestyle, activities, etc. While some of the questions may seem a little strange, they aim to get to underlying behavior. They will even e-mail you your profile of what they learned from the test (however, they do not reveal their methodology).

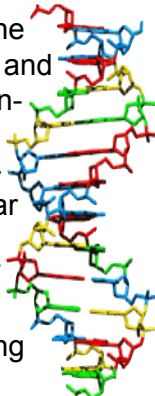
To take the test, visit their web site at: www.okcupid.com/death. While interesting to contemplate, it is probably best not to make any life-changing decisions as a consequence. Chances are you will beat the odds anyway. Give it a try and share this site with your friends. You may improve your health just by taking the test.

The Meaning of Life.....

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Are You Ready for Molecular Genealogy?

So, what is molecular genealogy? It is the application of DNA analysis techniques and population genetics to the task of reconstructing unknown genealogies from the genetic and genealogical information of living individuals. The Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation of Salt Lake City is building the world's largest database of correlated genetic and genealogical data. The SMGF database pursues the following objectives;



- ◆Build the public database by collecting DNA samples and corresponding genealogies from throughout the world
- ◆Make the information useful to genealogists by allowing public access to the database while maintaining the privacy of contributors
- ◆Help people get past "brick walls" within their genealogies by providing information about specific ancestors to whom they are biologically related
- ◆Create analysis tools to enable genetics to be used in new ways for genealogical research

They have already collected over 50,000 DNA samples and associated four-generation pedigree charts from volunteers. Up to 170 genetic markers (specific regions of DNA) on all the chromosomes are analyzed for each individual. The corresponding pedigree chart is also extended by staff genealogists as far as genealogical databases allow. Extended pedigrees currently include over one million ancestral records.

The database will be released in stages. When each portion is ready for public release, free access will be available through the SMGF Website. The first database release, comprising paternal-line (Y chromosome) genetic data and corresponding genealogies, included data for more than 13,000 individuals and hundreds of thousands of ancestors.

How can you participate in this study? First of all, participation is free, voluntary and confidential. Individuals with a minimum of four biological generations of pedigree information are eligible to participate in this study by submitting a small DNA sample together with a copy of their family tree. DNA is labeled to protect participants' privacy and then correlated to the genealogical information found on the pedigree charts for ancestors born prior to 1900. Once all of the information is entered, the process of correlating the genetic and genealogical information begins. This involves a significant amount of mathematical and statistical analysis by computer, and clustering of the data by genetic similarity. The SMGF web site will suggest possible biological ancestors, based on genetic similarity between you and

contributors to the database. As subsets of this large genealogical/genetic database become functional, they will make them available to the public free of charge. Keep in mind that due to their status as a research institution and privacy issues, they cannot give you information back about the results of your own genetic test. However, your DNA sample and pedigree will be included in their database so that others may find common ancestors they share with you. If you have your DNA genetic markers provide by a commercial genetic testing lab, you can use them to search the SMGF database. Also note that only paternal lines are currently available for search. Thus, females will need to search using the genetic profile of their father or brother. As they build the database, however, they are adding a large number of non-paternal-line genetic markers which will become available to search in the future.

To find out more about molecular genealogy and DNA research, visit their web site at: <http://smgf.org>. You can request a free participation kit, search their database and view database statistics. So, if you have not stepped into the genetic pool yet, here is a great - and free - way to get started.



*Robertson
Register*
HISTORICAL
PHOTOGRAPHS

Recently, while I was visiting a dear friend in Atlanta, I had the good fortune to meet and have a long chatty lunch with lively and personable Judith Robertson, a genealogist with a "mission." She has taken on the archiving, matching and identifying thousands of photos of ancestors, taken before 1900 for the most part. Photos are hers and those of anyone willing to share via email images. Some are already identified; some are those old mystery photos that turn up in nearly everyone's collection, maybe ancestors, maybe not. When a match is made, the owner is contacted. Anyone can easily search the archives and maybe find an ancestor. After lunch she took my Atlanta friend and me to her office, a modest sunny room with at least four computers and a huge number of 3-ring notebooks and archival CDs. It was clear to me that she is very well organized and dedicated to her project, sponsored by Atlanta's Emory University. She welcomes all scanned and/or digitized photos. Originals remain the property of the owner.

Her straightforward home page at <http://robertson.ss.emory.edu/antjr/> explains her approach. Unlike far too many online services, she charges NO FEE, saying that it is her "legacy" to us, the genealogists.

Thanks of member Diane Altona for submitting this.

Do You Have Irish Royal Blood?

Geneticists have identified Ireland's most successful alpha male. As many as one in 12 Irish men could be descended from Niall of the Nine Hostages, a 5th-century warlord, according to research conducted at Trinity College Dublin. Niall, who was head of the most powerful dynasty in medieval Ireland, may have left a genetic legacy almost as impressive as Genghis Khan, the Mongol emperor who has 16 million descendants after conquering most of Asia in the 13th century.

Researchers at the Smurfit Institute of Genetics at Trinity estimate there could be as many as 3 million men worldwide descended from Niall. The highest concentration of his progeny is in northwest Ireland, where one in five males have inherited his Y chromosome.

The High King at Tara from 379 to 405, Niall founded the dynasty Ui Neill, which means descendants of Niall, who ruled Ireland until the 11th century. He reputedly made raids on the coasts of Britain and France, including one that netted St Patrick, then a slave called Succat, who was brought to Ireland.

Niall is said to have subdued his enemies by taking them hostage and he established small kingdoms in Wales and France, where he was eventually killed. His children were also powerful kings, particularly in the northwest.

The Trinity study examined the Y chromosome, which is passed unchanged from father to son, in males around Ireland. Laoise Moore, a PhD student working on the Wellcome Trust-funded project, took DNA samples by mouth swab from male volunteers and recorded the birthplace of their paternal grandfather.

Dan Bradley, who supervised the study, analyzed the genetic fingerprints of the samples and found the same Y chromosome in 8% of the general population, with a cluster in the northwest where 21% carried it. This unexpected anomaly reminded the geneticists of the similarly common Y chromosome found in central Asia and believed to be Khan's.

They calculated that the most recent common ancestor was likely to have lived about 1,700 years ago. Coupled with the geographical distribution centered on the northwest, this pointed to the Ui Neill dynasty.

The researchers then checked genealogical records, which recorded the relationships between different Irish families over centuries. Katharine Simms, head of Trinity's history department, provided the geneticists with a list of modern surnames linked by genealogical tradition to the Ui Neill dynasty. They included; O'Gallagher, O'Boyle, O'Doherty, O'Donnell, O'Connor, Cannon, Bradley, O'Reilly, Flynn, McKee, Campbell, Devlin, Donnelly, Egan, Gormly, Haynes, McCaul, McGovern, McLoughlin, McManus, McMenamain,

Malloy, O'Kane, O'Rourke and Quinn.

"We found that the frequency of this variant, this Y chromosome, was much higher in this group," said Bradley. "That was the clincher - the Ui Neill, this group that held sway and power in Ireland, seemed at some stage to have had a single patrilineal ancestor. "It's another example of a linkage between prolificacy and power. It confirms these medieval genealogies."

Among those who carry the distinctive pattern of Y chromosomes in their genes, indicating probable descent from the warlord, is Bradley himself. "I'm from the northwest, so it is not that unusual," he said. "One in five of the people I would meet on the street at home would also be descended."

When international databases were checked, the lineage also turned up in roughly one in 10 men in western and central Scotland. About 2% of European-American New Yorkers carried similar Y chromosomes.

"Given historically high rates of Irish emigration to north America and other parts of the world, it seems likely that the number of descendants worldwide runs to perhaps 2-3 million males," according to the paper, which has been published in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*, which is also where the study showing Khan's genetic dominance appeared. About one in 50 New Yorkers of European origin carry the genetic signature linked with Naill.

Niall reportedly had 12 sons (some say 14), many of whom became powerful kings themselves. One was Conall, after whom Donegal (Tir Chonaill) was named, while Tyrone (Tir Eoghain) was ruled by Eoghain. Other sons were powerful in the midlands and all but two of the High Kings at Tara after Niall were his descendants. Some historians, however have tended to view the Ui Neill as a political construct, doubting their genealogical claims of descent from Naill and even whether Naill existed at all. Dr. Katherine Simms, a Celtic historian at Trinity College who advised the geneticists and is a co-author of their report says the findings "appear to confirm that the Ui Neill really did come from a common ancestor."

Salt Lake City Trip Planned



The Society's spring trip to Salt Lake City will be from June 18 to 25. This year we will be staying at the Red Lion Inn which features complimentary buffet breakfasts, in-room data ports, pool, hot tub, fitness center and airport and library shuttle service. It is centrally located downtown on the free TRAX trolley line, has two in-house full service restaurants and spacious rooms with views.

So, mark these dates and look for the additional details and flyer in next months Newsletter.

Letter from the Civil War.....

The letter was originally transcribed by the Great-grand niece of M.V. Edwards and found in the Edwards file in the Held-Poage Memorial Home and Research Library, Ukiah, California. The Held-Poage Memorial Home is under the direction of the Mendocino County Historical Society

Letter from Martin VanBuren Edwards (North Carolina) to his brother Joseph Green Edwards (Mendocino County, California)

April the 5, 1866

Dear Brother and Sister

I seat my self this morning to inform you that I am well and truly hoping these few lines will come to you and find you and all the well and doing well.

I received you very kind and ---?-letter that was ritten Feb. the 6th. I was very much pleased to hear form you all and very sorry to hear that you has so much bad luck for the last few years. one must bare with trouble and disease in the world for it is the world of trouble at best it seems to me that I have had more than my share. This Civil War came in about 5 years ago. During that time our Mother died and of a Cancer I was pained about her death in about 6 months after her death Father died I was in the army time of his death He died with Smallpox as you have been informed. I when I heard of his death I applied to the Colonel of our redgmet for a furlow it was granted and I came home and stade 2 months during that time something had to be done with the goods and chattes (think cattle) that be longed on the premises. I my self administered the estate of our Father and had a sale March the 25th 1863 everything brout a very good price Negros baut from one thousand to --?-thousand dollars. Hear? is the great misfortune it was in Confedret money and the money went up the Spout and the Negroes went free and so we lost all.

"good by to fortune good by forever"

Thanks to member Elaine Edwards Foulger for contributing this.

Nest Heads by John Allen





Pshaw! Quit Bellyachin' -- These ARE the Good Ol' Days

We are groaning under the burden, the newspaper tells me, of having to do too much for ourselves. Where once smiling cadres of clerks, tellers, attendants and cashiers would perform services for us, now we labor incessantly at pumping our own gas, banking at ATMs, checking ourselves out at the supermarket, reserving hotel rooms and buying airline tickets on our computers, and other forms of self-service toil.

Amen, I said to that. I, too, long for the kind of personal service you got in the good old days. Specifically, the kind that newspaper columnist Burt Lancaster got in the 1957 movie "Sweet Smell of Success," when he could hold up a cigarette and grandly order Tony Curtis, "Match me." Newspaper columnists don't get that kind of service any more, at least in my experience. I must have moaned for the good old days too loudly, though, for I awakened the spirit of my great-granddad.

"What are you bellyaching about, boy?", great-granddad wanted to know. The rigors of modern life, I told him. Everything's becoming self-service these days, with fewer people waiting on you. "so what kinds of things are you serving yourself with?", he asked.

Well, I said, there's a growing number of do-it-yourself checkouts, at department stores and supermarkets and fast food restaurants.

"Lordy, son, is that all? I heard tell you can go into these stores and walk out with a chicken that's not only been killed, drawn and plucked, but even been fried for you already. If that's not somebody providing a service for you, I don't know what is."

But it's hard, I told him, having to learn to follow all these new computerized instructions. "I'll tell you what was hard. You wanted a ham sandwich, the first thing you had to learn was how to butcher a hog. If you could invent a computer that could do your hog-butchering for you, now that would be something."

But, I told great-granddad, you had some people performing services for you back then. That was the era of the legendary courteous gas station attendant, who cleaned your windshield and checked your oil while he pumped your gas.

"Yes, if you could afford a automobile. Some of us still had to rely on Old Dobbin, and when you had to fuel your horse up you put the oats in the feed bag yourself. Speaking of Old Dobbin, I sure could have used some emission controls, if you get my meaning."

I played my trump card. When great-granddad wanted to make a phone call, a real live operator would assist him. He never found himself up a telephone decision tree, at the mercy of eerie mechanical voices explaining your options to you and ordering you to press 1, 2, 3 or 4, or reach for a star and go pound yourself, or whatever.

"Pshaw!" exclaimed great-granddad. "You ever have to shovel your own coal?" Coal? What coal? "Coal for your home furnace. The fellow dumped it down the chute into your bin, but then you had to stoke the furnace yourself. And boy, was it a pain when you got a clinker. You got the electric company and the oil company and the water works performing all kinds of services for you.

"Next, he continued, "I suppose you'll be complaining because the iceman doesn't come around any more with ice for your icebox. And obviously you've got somebody to iron shirts for you." My shirts don't need ironing, I allowed. They're wrinkle-free fabric.

"Wait until I tell great-grandma about that. She had to spend hours at the ironing board. At least she could listen to Helen Trent and Oxydol's Own Ma Perkins on our Atwater Kent radio while she ironed. That's what's eating up all your time, boy, sitting like a bump on a log watching television."

It was hopeless. Obviously I could never make great-granddad comprehend the stresses and demands of modern life.

But if you had been a newspaper columnist, I said in desperation, you could have had Tony Curtis lighting your cigarettes for you. "In my day, Tony Curtis was too young to play with matches." great-granddad snorted. "And I had to roll my own".

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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

Mar. 4 -- FTM User Group, Society Library, 10:00 a.m. -- noon

Mar. 8 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 11 -- RootsMagic User Group, St. Andrew's, 10:00 a.m. -- noon

Mar. 11 -- Monthly Meeting, "Publishing Your Family History", Joan Lowrey, noon

April 1 -- FTM User Group, Society Library, 10:00 a.m. -- noon

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

April 8 -- RootsMagic User Group, St. Andrew's, 10:00 a.m. -- noon

April 8 -- Monthly Meeting, "Shaking the Myth", "Elizabeth -- German Immigrant", Jean Hibben

April 22 -- Los Angeles Public Library Bus Trip, see flyer

April 29 -- 'Trash to Treasure' Sale

June 18 -- 24, Salt Lake City Trip, see flyer

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