



# San Diego Genealogical Society

# Newsletter

May 2006



Vol. 39, No. 4

## We're Going to Salt Lake City June 18 -- 24

The Society's annual Spring trip to Salt Lake City and the Family History Library is filling up quickly. If you have been procrastinating in making your plans or haven't yet decided to go, **now is the time for action!**

This is your chance to visit the world's largest genealogical library with other Society members -- many of whom make this an annual event. If you have just begun researching or are a '1st timer' to SLC, this is a unique opportunity to learn from our experienced members. Not only is the pricing unbeatable but you will be visiting SLC at the best time of year. And while the library will keep you busy most of the time, there is so much more to see and do in SLC (even for your non-researching family members). You won't want to miss this trip.



Our group will be staying at the downtown Red Lion Hotel. It offers all the resort hotel amenities including two full service restaurants, nightclub, private balcony views and fitness center. Every room features a high speed data port and wireless Internet access, large workstation, coffee maker, iron and hair dryer. There is complimentary buffet breakfast and airport and library shuttle service. What more could you ask for!

So, fill out the registration form included in this newsletter (or on our web site) and mail in with your fee today. The June 1st deadline is approaching fast. Don't be left behind!

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## May 13th Monthly Meeting St. Andrew's Church, noon

*DNA & Genealogy:  
What You Can Learn About Your  
Family Through DNA Analysis*

*Forensic Genealogy:  
Photo Identification*

**Colleen Fitzpatrick**, Ph.D, author of *Forensic Genealogy*, is an expert on optical laser measurement techniques with years of experience at NASA, National Science Foundation and the Dept. of Defense. She is also an avid genealogist.

Forensic scientists and genealogists share similar goals. Applying their methods can lead to unconventional discoveries from surprising sources to better understand how our ancestors lived.

In her discussion of DNA, Colleen will explain what DNA can tell you about the history of your surname and how to place your family in historical context. Everyone will enjoy her 'DNA in the News' and 'Weird DNA' stories.

In 'Photo Identification', she will discuss different approaches to use when looking at old photographs. How to date by what camera was used, whether pictures were from the same roll and matching items in photos with a particular time period will all be explored. Even how something missing from a photo can help you identify it.

She will present solutions to the weekly photographic quizzes offered on the website: [www.forensicgenealogy.info](http://www.forensicgenealogy.info).

You won't want to miss this program!

## President's Message.....

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.

### 2006 Board of Directors

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Comments and suggestions can be e-mailed to the editor at [steelquist@aol.com](mailto:steelquist@aol.com) or left on the Library answering machine, 619-588-0065.

## *2006 Yearbook Available, Combination Lock Change*

The Society's 2006 Yearbook is now available. If you did not request and pay for mailing, you can pick it up at our monthly meetings together with your membership card and new library combination. **The library combination lock will be changed on May 15th.** Make plans to get your Yearbook and new membership card today.



### *Welcome to Our New Members*

We want to welcome the following new members to the Society (listed with researching surnames).

**MAYFIELD, Janet** -- GARCIA, ALLEN, CAMUS, RODRIGUEZ, WILLIAMSON, DEL RIO, ROGERS, CHAVEZ, GOLDIE.

**SMITH, Carl** -- LUNDGREN, MacDONAGH, MORRISON, SMITH, LYSAGHT, ENGREN, RYAN

### *When You Shop at Ancestry.com.....*

Remember the Society is an affiliate. So log on to Ancestry through our web site and we receive a commission on your purchases and it doesn't cost you a penny more! [www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs/)

There is no doubt about it, the Internet has fundamentally changed the way family historians do research. It has created an explosion of information and sources to expand our searches far beyond what has ever been possible before.

But with all the opportunity and benefits it offers, it also has created a whole new set of problems. Perhaps the most significant is the proliferation of incorrect information -- both by intent and by careless research. Some casual researchers believe the more relatives you collect the better and often don't take the time to properly research and document their results. Others simply collect surnames and submit them as an 'offering', resulting in needless confusion. Unfortunately, once put on the Internet, these questionable results propagate and find their way into legitimate sources (FamilySearch, Ancestry, etc.) by well intentioned researchers. As these sources are downloaded and uploaded repeatedly, they become more credible simply by numerical weight. Just because you see the same results ten (or 20, 50) times, does not make them more accurate or credible.

So, how does this impact you and the Society? Well, other than serving as a cautionary note, it also gets to the heart and purpose of the Society -- that of fostering the highest standards of education and sound research. Our monthly meetings bring you some of the best professional genealogists from throughout Southern California. You won't find this level of expertise and scope of topics anywhere else -- not even on the Internet! I hope you are attending every meeting you possibly can.

Our research trips -- to Salt Lake City and other research venues -- offer you the opportunity to do quality research you probably wouldn't do on your own. Just being able to go with your fellow members adds significantly to the learning opportunities. I would hope you are taking advantage of these whenever possible.

And perhaps the best but most underutilized resource of your Society is our members. Many have been doing research for many years and have accumulated a great deal of experience and expertise. Being able to learn from them to help in your research is an invaluable tool. Whether you know it or not, there are most likely several other members who are researching some of your same lines. Even sharing locality research knowledge could find you a gold mine. The only thing preventing this is finding them. And that entails talking with them. So, whenever you can, introduce yourself to another member. The rewards will far outway the effort. And, who knows, you may just find a new friend.

Peter Steelquist, President

# Funeral Cards

Obituaries are one of the primary records we use in family history research. They can provide a wealth of information not only about the deceased relative and their lives but may also contain information about their family, history, community, etc. In fact, obituaries are a unique source of information that cannot be found elsewhere.

But sometimes obituaries were not published or contain only minimal information. It often depended on a relative or the funeral home supplying the information to the newspaper. Also, the publication and content of obituaries tends to go 'in and out of style' over time. Today, for example, many newspapers charge fees to publish obituaries. Availability could also depend on whether the newspaper has survived or even being able to find the publishing paper. Thus, for many reasons, obituaries may not be available.

However, there is another, often overlooked, source for this information -- the funeral card (sometimes called mass, mourning or remembrance cards). These cards, usually printed on heavy card stock, were done by the family of the deceased to notify relatives and friends of their passing. Sometimes they were mailed out with the funeral announcement or handed out at the funeral. They were particularly useful in notifying out-of-town people who would not see an obituary. In addition to notifying the recipient of important information about the deceased, they were intended to be keepsakes and were often kept as memorial reminders of the deceased.

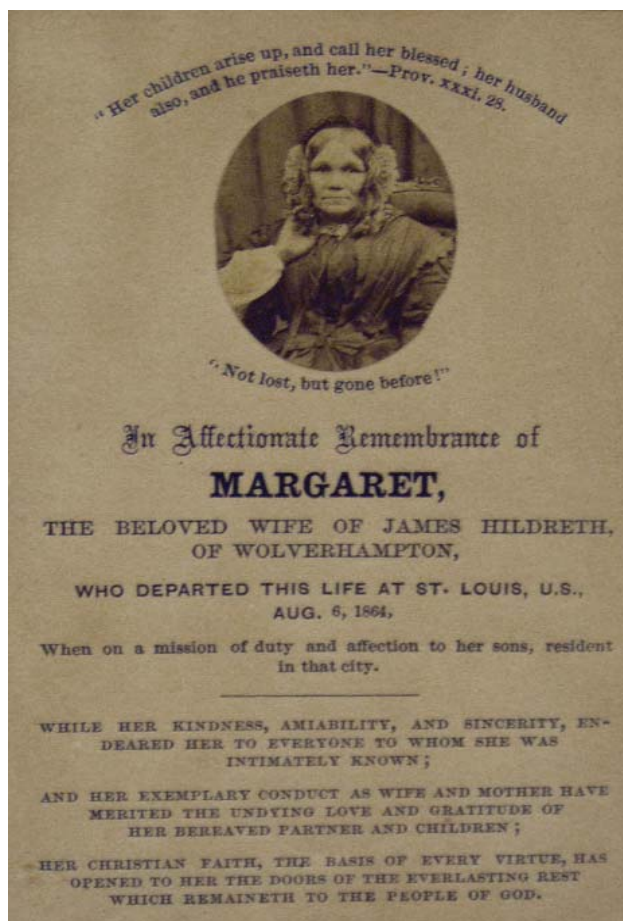
Funeral cards have a long tradition, both in the United States and Europe, dating back to the 1800's. They were particularly popular in Victorian times. They frequently contain information including birth, marriage and death dates, places of residence, maiden names of a wife, children's names, parents' names, occupations and other highlights of their lives. They may also contain funeral home and burial information and may even have a photo of the deceased. Some have symbolic graphics relating to the deceased or contain poetry or prose citations.

So, how do you find funeral cards? Unlike newspaper published obituaries, there is no single source. But fortunately, many of these cards were saved and are now being indexed and available to researchers. The first place to seek them out is your extended family. Many were saved in photo albums or scrapbooks. When you contact relatives, add the 'funeral card question' to your list of family history questions. Another important source is the local historical society where your relative lived. Historical societies have started to index them and you may find them on their web sites. Also check the community volunteer sites ([www.usgennet.org](http://www.usgennet.org), [www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org), [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)) and the compendium

sites ([www.linkpendium.com](http://www.linkpendium.com), [www.epodunk.com](http://www.epodunk.com), [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)) for their locality. Funeral cards may have been included in family records donated to libraries and archives. Be sure to check the finding aids for these repositories ([www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html](http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html), [www.archivegrid.org](http://www.archivegrid.org), [www.redlightgreen.com](http://www.redlightgreen.com), [www.libraryspot.com](http://www.libraryspot.com)).

Funeral cards have also become collectable. You will find them at yard and garage sales, swap meets and even on ebay! Some collectors purchase them for unrelated people. This has led to several web sites that have indexed them and made the images available online. GenealogyToday has amassed a collection of over 15,800 items and you can even upload images of cards you have. You can access them at: [www.genealogytoday.com/guide/funeral\\_cards.html](http://www.genealogytoday.com/guide/funeral_cards.html). Another site has cards from the U.K. ([www.ukgenealogy.co.uk/in-memorial.htm](http://www.ukgenealogy.co.uk/in-memorial.htm)). This site lists cards by surname or location ([http://ancestorsatrest.com/funeral\\_cards/](http://ancestorsatrest.com/funeral_cards/)).

Even if you have an obituary, it would be well worth your time to seek out a funeral card. And don't limit your search to the deceased's home town. The funeral card (photo below) for my 2nd great-grandmother who died in St. Louis, MO was found in an Alabama archive. Happy hunting.



## The Meaning of Life.....

A friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart

## *Library Notes.....* by Anna Acosta

A recent donation to our library is the Alden Williamson Genealogy by Joseph W. Alley, Publ. in West Virginia, in 1962. The book was inspired by a Gospel preacher, Peter H. Alley, born in 1826, died 1909, who traveled throughout parts of eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia and wrote an article about the Williamson family.

If you are descended from Alden Williamson, born about 1750 in New Kent County, Virginia, whose father came to America from Wales in 1720, you'll be interested in this book that records descendants through 6 generations. Check the index for allied family names.

If you have ancestors that resided in Giles County, Tennessee, you'll be interested in several books that were donated a few months ago by William Kenney, one of our very generous members.

And we are in the process of cataloging 5 boxes of books donated recently by Audrey and Edward Ward which include reference books, surname books and books about Virginia, the Carolinas, Pennsylvania (Lancaster), and Maryland to name a few places. Watch our Newsletter and check our library catalog at [www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs), later in the summer as these books are cataloged and added to our database. Recently, one of our members said to me they had not been to the library in some time and were surprised at finding new information. If you are doing spring cleaning and want to down-size your genealogical books, please remember us with your donations.

See you at the library.

### *Related To A President?*

Could you be related to a President of the United States? The chances may be less remote than you think. Given that there have been 43 Presidents spanning 217 years, it could be possible without you knowing it.

Just so happens there is a database that has genealogical information about the Presidents. It contains 2,145 individuals, 1042 families and 768 surnames. There are even 141 unknown names (brick walls?) and 32 private records. You can search the database by surname or browse the entire list. It will also generate pedigree charts, lists, reports and date calendar. You can also create a 'clipping chart' of unrelated records.

So, where do you go to see if you have Presidential heritage? The URL is: [www.pgvhosting.com/demo/famlist.php?alpha=A&surname\\_sublist=yes](http://www.pgvhosting.com/demo/famlist.php?alpha=A&surname_sublist=yes)

### *The Meaning of Life.....*

I don't know who my grandfather was, I am much more concerned to know what his grandson will be.

## *Meeting in Review.....* April 2006

Jean Hibben's discussion, "Shaking the Myth: Proving/Disproving Family Legends", was based on her training in rhetoric and logic. She began by defining the basic common terms: myth, claim, premises, grounds/evidence and cogent. The first step in her approach is to determine if the event is probable, plausible or possible. As examples, she used actual Civil War stories from her ancestors.

She first broke down the story into its individual premises -- both what was and was not stated. She stressed the importance of being objective and keeping personal emotions out of the analysis. She then constructed a timeline of events and determined what elements were provable and which were not. Next she identified the sources of data to be used to prove (or disprove) the claim - e.g. census records, vital records, etc.

She outlined "ARG" analysis (Acceptability, Relevance, and Grounds) that is used in analyzing arguments. Here, once the case is formulated into premises, a conclusion or claim can be determined which is then 'tested' by this three-step analysis. She cited the criteria under which a premise can be determined to be 'Acceptable' (reasonable). However, in some cases a premise can be both acceptable and unacceptable. 'Relevance' is independent of the 'Acceptability' tests. Here, a premise is 'irrelevant' if it has nothing to do with the conclusion. The third element, 'Grounds', asks the question "What is missing from the evidence to convince me the story is true?" If the story passes most of the tests, it is determined to be cogent (likely to be true, good, solid). Her handout provided examples and had an excellent bibliography.

Jean's second presentation, "Elizabeth: The Story of a German Immigrant", began with her telling the story, in first person narration, of her emigrant ancestor. It was written by Elizabeth's granddaughter (Jean Hibben's grandmother). Everyone was spellbound as she unwove the tale.

Born in Germany, Elizabeth married and had five children. Her husband beat her to the point that relatives convinced her to flee and emigrate to America, leaving her children behind. She subsequently remarried and brought her children to her new home.

She then proceeded to analyze the events, using the above methodology, and presented her research findings of supporting evidence (passenger ship lists, census records, birth records, etc.) that led to how the truths and falsehoods of the story came to light.

Her computer projected images showing the original documentation were most impressive. In addition to 'proving' her story, it was a first rate example of genealogical documentation. Her presentation handout included many sources for German research.

# Do You Have Something To Say?

Do you have something interesting you want to let others know about? Most of us do, especially genealogists. Have you ever thought of setting up a blog? (What's that, you ask?). It is short for **web log**. It is basically an online journal or diary of your thoughts, news, events -- anything you want to communicate -- that can be read by others. It can be a very effective way of communicating with family, friends, teams, interest groups, etc. It could be for a surname interest group, your extended family genealogy updates, travel news, grandchildren updates, etc. Your blog could include photos and multimedia files and even be updated from your cell phone. The best part is that it can all be created in a few minutes for free!

Perhaps the most difficult part is deciding what you want to put on your blog. Some people use it as a way to organize their thoughts and share their viewpoint. Others seek worldwide audiences with news and to promote their own creative content. Whatever your aim, you can control who can access your blog and whether or not you invite reader comments. If you can type, you can create a blog -- no technical skills are needed, no html or other specialized computer languages.

The first thing to do is to find a hosting service. There are many free ones available. The largest is [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) (sponsored by Google). In just three easy steps, you will be up and running. You create your account (username, password, email, etc.), name your blog and then choose a design template. That's it! You're ready to start typing. You can save your comments as a draft for later revision or post immediately. You can also fine tune your blog settings and formatting (all fully explained). Now all you have to do is to let others know your blog address and begin to share your information. Other free blog hosts services include; [www.livejournal.com](http://www.livejournal.com), <http://spaces.msn.com>, [www.crimsonblog.com](http://www.crimsonblog.com), [www.eponym.com](http://www.eponym.com) and [www.mindsay.com](http://www.mindsay.com). Some fee based services include [www.typepad.com](http://www.typepad.com), [www.squarespace.com](http://www.squarespace.com), [www.godaddy.com](http://www.godaddy.com), [www.solidload.net](http://www.solidload.net). With fee services, you usually get your own domain name, free software and enhanced services and storage.

As you would probably guess, there are thousands of blogs already out there devoted to genealogy. You may already be keeping up on breaking news (<http://genealogyblog.com>, [www.genealogyandhow.com](http://www.genealogyandhow.com), <http://blog.eogn.com>), or using locality or surname specific blogs (use Google's blog search to find specific sites). So what can you do with your blog? The possibilities are endless. How about sharing those old family photos, transcribed letters, diaries, journals, etc. With your

genealogy software, you can create charts and reports of your ancestors and post for others see and provide help. If you are an artist, writer or photographer, why not share your creative work with others. Post your vacation experiences and photos for family and friends to see. Once you get started, it will take on a life of its own. So, now that you know how easy it is, why not start yours today. Have fun and keep on blogging.



## Los Angeles Public Library Trip Recap

The bus was nearly full on April 22nd as we headed north to research at the Los Angeles Public Library. Most had researched the online card catalog prior to boarding and were in ready anticipation of making major breakthroughs. We arrived minutes before the 10 a. m. opening and once inside wasted no time in 'hitting the stacks'.

Some went on the 30 minute tour of the genealogy section to orient them to the holdings. It was an all day frenzied search of the stacks, viewing microfilm, looking at city directories and making new discoveries. The book return carts were overflowing in no time.

For many this was a return visit and they were satisfied with just 'filling in the holes' in their research. Others made major finds in the library's vast collections.

Member Jim Hutchenson had been searching for 12 years for his grandmother who's father had died before she was born. He found her using her mother's third husband's surname in a book he could only find at the LAPL.

Members Joyce Barner and her sister Marie Boodel found their Bradshaw ancestor on a WPA extract of a ship's passenger list giving all the details of his origin and destination, even who had sponsored him.

Virginia Taylor found her Thomas Dunlap's immigration citation, 1802 naturalization and burial information extracted in a book at the library.

Candice Booth discovered that her Hall ancestor had stopped off and settled in Ohio before he went on to Michigan which opened up a new research opportunity. Even just being on the bus led to research 'finds' for some. In talking, Phyllis and Stephanie found they shared the same Dutch 'Schenk' line. Peter even found a shared connection with his Emery line going back to the 2nd signer of the Declaration of Independence, Josiah Bartlett. The bus even took an unexpected 'home tour' of Carlsbad and Orange Co.

For many, going just to get the LAPL card was worth it as now they can access their vast online databases from home. So, plan on going on our next trip and jump-start your research.

# Canadian World War I Draft and Volunteer Papers Online

by Anita Henning

The Archives Canada website contains a free database and forms for Canadians who volunteered, or were drafted during World War I: [www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/02010601\\_e.html#database](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/02010601_e.html#database).

Two types of forms are available. Both types can be viewed, and printed, free of charge. The information contained in both forms is similar to the U.S. WWI Draft Registration Cards. The first form is the "Attestation forms of Canadians who volunteered for service in WWI." The second type of form available is "Particulars of Recruit Drafted under Military Service Act, 1917." If this second form is located, you can send for the military record.

I was able to locate the draft type form for a relative whose father had immigrated from the U.S. to Canada in the late 1890s. His only son, born in Canada in 1898, was drafted in 1928, at the age of 19. The top of his form read: "Particulars of Recruit, Drafted under Military Service Act, 1917". The form included the following information: his name, address, birth date, birthplace, that he was single, Catholic, that he was a machinist, listed his next of kin, and their address, prior military service, and the date and place of his medical examination. The bottom of the form gives his description, including his height and weight, chest expansion, eye and hair color, complexion, and noted that he had a birthmark on his right thigh. If he had other medical conditions, they would also be listed. Since his father was listed as his next of kin, I knew that he was my relative. Prior to finding this form, I knew only his name and birth date, so this draft form has given me new information.

Because I was able to locate his "draft" form, I can order his military record [30 cents/page], following the directions included on the website. According to the web site, the personnel files of CEF members [Canadian Expeditionary Forces], can consist of up to two or three dozen forms, dealing with enlistment, training, medical and dental history, hospitalization, discipline, pay, and discharge or notification of death, many of which are probably included in his file. The battles and exact postings overseas are not entered on these records, but the site suggests other way to get this information.

One other caveat, many of the Canadians who served during this war, served with the British forces, such as the Royal Flying Corp. Their personnel records are not in Canada, but are held in the relevant archives in England. However, I think there is a possibility they could have completed an Attestation as a Volunteer form before signing up with the British forces. There is more information on this site, as well as links to other sites with information about finding persons who served in WWI.

The site is a little confusing to navigate. When you get to the site, you can click on a help button to read some explanatory information. When you believe that you have found the correct person, click on the icon to the left of his name and you will be taken to another page that gives his name, regimental number and some reference numbers. You will need these if you wish to order his service record. There is a tip there that tells how to save the file and paste the information into your word processing program.

If you prefer to read and print the forms from the internet, I found that you can click on the icon to the right of the person's birth date, which will bring up a copy of the appropriate service form, which is too small and unreadable. If you hold your cursor at the bottom right corner of this form, a small box with arrows appears. When you click on that small box, the small, unreadable form will expand to be quite readable and clear, and can then be printed right from there.

Thanks to Anita for submitting this article.

## Missouri Death Certificates Online



The Missouri State Archives has recently made available an online death certificate database for records created after 1910 and over 50 years old. It now contains over two million records up to 1955. This database is searchable by name (first and/or last), year, month, county and has advanced features for name searches that permits 'starts with', 'ends with' and 'contains' features. Furthermore, you can view and print actual death certificate images for 1910 to 1920, with additional years added as images are made available. For death certificates images not yet available online, there is a pdf request form that can be filled in online, printed and mailed in to request printed copies of the actual certificates. Up to five certificates can be requested at one time. Best of all, the cost is only \$1.00 per certificate (not certified). The site also has links to additional sites for pre-1910 birth and death databases (currently over 185,000 records) and more current birth, death, marriage and divorce records. If you have Missouri ancestors, this site is a must! To visit the site, go to: [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/).

As more and more states and municipalities are limiting access to vital records, it is encouraging to see states like Missouri and Arizona (see April 2004 Newsletter) that make them available online for legitimate use. If you value this approach, please take the time to e-mail them and thank them for their efforts. It may encourage other states to follow their lead.

# Rewrite History

Ever wish you could rewrite history? Of course, nothing can change what has already happened but perhaps you could change the way it is told, from your own perspective. For family historians, this could mean including their ancestors in the important events in which they actually took place. Imagine putting them in the context of important battles, town histories, migration sagas -- almost any real event that forms the rich woven fabric of our history. And believe it or not, now you can.

Wikipedia is an open source, online encyclopedia. At its simplest, it is defined as "a neutral and unbiased compilation of notable, verifiable facts". Anyone (you don't even have to be a registered user) with access to an Internet-connected computer can edit, correct, or improve information throughout the encyclopedia. Begun in 2001, it has rapidly grown into the largest reference website on the Internet. The content of Wikipedia is free, written collaboratively by people from all around the world. It is owned and managed by the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation. In addition to the multilingual general encyclopedia Wikipedia, the Foundation manages a multi-language dictionary and thesaurus named Wiktionary, an encyclopedia of quotations named Wikiquote, a repository of source texts in any language named Wikisource, and a collection of e-book texts for students (such as textbooks and annotated public domain books) named Wikibooks. Wikijunior is a subproject of Wikibooks for children.

Because Wikipedia is an ongoing work to which, in principle, anybody can contribute, it differs from a paper-based reference source in some very important ways. In particular, older articles tend to be more comprehensive and balanced, while newer articles may still contain significant misinformation, unencyclopedic content, or 'vandalism'. Users need to be aware of this in order to obtain valid information and avoid misinformation which has been recently added and not yet removed. Currently there are 1,075,004 articles and 1,241,978 registered user accounts.

So, how do you use Wikipedia? First of all, it can be a great tool for learning and researching information. However, like all sources, not everything in Wikipedia is accurate, comprehensive, or unbiased. Keep in mind that an encyclopedia is intended to be a starting point for serious research, not an endpoint. Though many casual inquiries will be satisfied merely by referring to Wikipedia, you will learn more by accessing the print and online resources referenced there.

You search Wikipedia with a searchbox. By default, it searches for 'any word'. To search for 'all words', put a "+" preceding the words and to exclude, use a "-". To search for a phrase, put it in quotes (" "). Boolean

searches are also possible, using words including "AND", "OR", and "NOT". Other search criteria can be found on their "Searching" tab. You can also browse the content by subject categories.

When you find an article you want, the page will contain text links to other related subject pages, definitions, photos, audio and other content. To edit a page, simply click on the "edit this page" tab. This will bring you to a new page with a text box containing the editable text of the original page. You should write a short edit summary in the small field below the edit-box. You may use shorthand to describe your changes, as described in the legend, and when you have finished, press the Show preview button to see how your changes will look. You can also see the difference between the page with your edits and the previous version of the page by pressing the 'Show Changes' button. If you're satisfied with what you see, press the 'Save Page' button. Your changes will immediately be visible to other Wikipedia users.

Wikipedia has some guidelines for editing. First, always use a neutral point of view, because Wikipedia is not a soapbox. Cite sources, so others can check and extend your work. Most Wikipedia articles currently lack good references, and this continues to be Wikipedia's single greatest criticism -- that it is not a reliable source. You can add links to your article from other articles. After making a new page, it's a good idea to use the 'What Links Here' feature to check the pages that already link to your new page. Make sure that all the links are referring to your page in the right context. Before making edits, you may want to view the tutorial and 'play' in the practice "sandbox".

So, what might you consider editing? Well Wikipedia has some guidelines under "What Wikipedia Is Not". For example, under 'genealogical entries', "biography articles should only be for people with some sort of fame, achievement, or perhaps notoriety. One measure of achievement is whether someone has been featured in several external sources (on or off-line). Relatively unimportant people may be mentioned within other articles." (There is also a proposed genealogical/biographical dictionary project.)

And if you can't locate an existing article that is pertinent to your ancestor or research, you can create a new article. Go to "Start a new article", create a title and begin typing. If an article already exists by the same title, it will be displayed and can be edited.

Even if you don't want to edit or write an article, you should be using Wikipedia as a primary research site. Unlike other online encyclopedias, it may contain additional content not available anywhere else. So, bookmark [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org) and consider changing history - or at least adding your part to it.

# THE GENERATIONS MYSTERY

by Barbara Koska Timm

First, may we agree on some basics? Am I correct when I say that it takes two biological parents to produce one offspring and likewise four grandparents and so on and so forth? Excellent! And, for the sake of illustration, may we agree that a generation spans approximately forty years? Thank you. Now, let us establish some criteria and enter some data:

## GENERATION ANCESTORS

- 1 That's me!
- 2 My two parents
- 3 My four grandparents (double the previous entry)
- 4 My eight great-grandparents (double again)
- 5 My 16 gggparents
- 6 My 32 ggggparents
- 7 My 64 gggggparents
- 8 My 128 ggggggparents
- 9 My 256 gggggggparents
- 10 My 512 ggggggggparents
- 11 My 1,024 gggggggggparents
- 12 My 2,048 ggggggggggparents
- 13 My 4,096 gggggggggggparents
- 14 My 8,192 ggggggggggggparents
- 15 My 16,384 gggggggggggggparents
- 16 My 32,768 ggggggggggggggparents
- 17 My 65,536 gggggggggggggggparents
- 18 My 13,1072 ggggggggggggggggparents
- 19 My 262,144 gggggggggggggggggparents
- 20 My 524,288 ggggggggggggggggggparents

So, in barely 800 years it has taken five hundred twenty-four thousand, two hundred eighty-eight souls to make little old me. Amazing! How many would it take from Christ's time? From Moses' time? I have heard that we were heading toward a population explosion. No, most definitely not! We have come from one! If Stephen Hawking is listening, I'd like your take on this. You seem to be pretty good with numbers!

## *Civil War 'Angel of Mercy' writes.....*

"I received this original letter from my mother who received it from her mother. The subject is Coleman Mitchell who volunteered for service and joined the 84th Illinois Volunteers, July 30, 1862. He died of wounds received at Stones River (Murfreesboro, TN) on April 3, 1863. He was 19 years old. His unit had 228 killed or wounded out of 350 engaged."

[Editor: Thanks to member Bill Woock for sending in this poignant family letter.]

Hospital No. 16 Nashville Tenny.  
March 27, 1863

Mrs. Nancy Mitchel,  
Dear Madam

I was requested to write to you to inform of your sons sickness, he was wounded through the lung. I suppose you heard of that. The Doctor told me he could not possibly live about a week since he was taken with the measles. I have just come from there, he is no better this morning, he suffers a great deal. He does not eat or drink anything but Milk Punch any thing warm hurts him, creates such a pain in his stomach. I don't know whether he thinks he will live or not. I don't dare tell him for fear it will hasten his death. I don't know hardly what to write to you. It is very painful for me to write such sad news but thinking you would like to know. I felt as though it was my duty. This dreadful war how many homes it makes desolate. There are several other ladies beside myself here to care for the sick and wounded soldiers who have left their homes to defend our rights & liberties. God grant that they may all come home safe. Ours is a mission of mercy, we cook little dainties for the sick & talk to them & cheer them up as much as we can. If you wish to hear from your son I'll 'write often as possible hoping you will receive these few lines. God grant you strength in this hour of affliction.

Yours with respect  
Direct (Miss) Sarah E. Bodeman  
Hospital No. 16  
Nashville  
Tenny

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

May 6 -- FTM User Group, Society Library, 10:00 a.m. -- noon

May 10 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7:00 p.m.

May 13 -- RootsMagic User Group, St. Andrew's, 10:00 a.m. -- noon

May 13 -- Monthly Meeting, 'DNA & Genealogy', 'Forensic Genealogy', Colleen Fitzpatrick, Ph.D

June 3 -- FTM User Group, Society Library, 10:00 a.m. -- noon

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

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

June 10 -- Monthly Meeting, "Our Inventive Ancestors", "Migration Between the Wars", K. Trevena

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

**View All San Diego County Genealogy Events at: [www.cgssd.org/events.php3](http://www.cgssd.org/events.php3)**