



San Diego Genealogical Society

Newsletter

June 2006



Vol. 39, No. 5

We're Salt Lake City Bound

It is still not too late to sign up for our Salt Lake City trip. There are still a few rooms available at the Red Lion Hotel for our group. But the deadline is June 1st, so you need to act NOW!

The registration form is available on the Society's web site (www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs) but you should also contact Phyllis Newton (619-582-8932, sampan1@cox.net) to confirm.

The inclusive dates for the trip are June 18 thru 24. The hotel package includes 7 nights lodging, free buffet breakfasts, airport and library shuttle service. The first-class hotel features private balcony views of downtown and surrounding mountains, 2 full-service restaurants, nightclub, outdoor pool, whirlpool and fitness center. Rooms have high-speed internet access, large workstations, coffee maker, iron and hair dryer.

Room costs per person are \$175 (quad), \$204 (triple), \$263 (double) and \$486 (single). Transportation to and from Salt Lake City is not included.

Don't miss this chance to visit the world's largest genealogical library with Society members at unbeatable prices. For many this is an annual event and new members or 'first timers' to SLC will certainly benefit from their experience. Don't be left behind. Sign up today!



Address Change Reminder

If you are moving, please remember to notify our Membership Chair, Jackie McMaster (jmmcmaster01@gmail.com) of your new address. Even though the post office will forward your mail, it costs the Society additional postage for your address correction.

June 10th Monthly Meeting St Andrew's Church, noon

"Our Inventive Ancestors"

*"Crossing A Continent:
Migration Between
The Revolutionary and the Civil War"*

Did any of your family come to the Midwest via the Erie Canal? Was your great-grandfather wounded by one of the accurate rifles of the Civil War? Did great-great-grandmother Clarissa cook in a fireplace or on a stove? Find out how your ancestors lives were altered by the key inventions, discoveries, and engineering achievements of their time.

In the second part of her program, Kathleen will present *"Crossing a Continent: Migration Between the Revolution and the Civil War."* She will explore more of the why's and wherefore's that took the people of the United States from a narrow strip of land along the Atlantic to the width of an entire continent - all in less than a century. Together these two talks will expand your view of your brave and enterprising ancestors who embraced the multitude of changes between the 1770's and the 1860's.

Kathleen Roe Trevena has been doing genealogy for 30 years, enjoying both her own ancestors and ancestors she "borrows" from her friends. She has lectured throughout Southern California on names, migration patterns, occupations, Colonial research, and various historical topics of interest to genealogists. In her spare time, Kathleen manages a documentation group for a large software company in Costa Mesa.

Presidents 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 or left on the Library answering machine, 619-588-0065.



Islam and DNA Testing

The Arab Times, April 16, 2006

KUWAIT CITY: Using DNA fingerprinting technology to identify genealogy is against Islamic Sharia and will lead to social problems by disintegrating many families, Al-Anba quoted several Islamic preachers as saying. Dean of the Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Kuwait University Dr Mohammed Al-Tabtabaei said "Islam does not allow the use of DNA fingerprinting to prove genealogy and no family can reject any of its members based on results of such tests." He said Islam does not allow linking the crimes of fathers to sons as each of them is accountable for his own actions, adding "although security departments can use DNA fingerprinting for issues related to national security, this technology should not be used as a tool to identify the family tree of anybody."

Dr Ahmed Al-Hajji, a Fiqhi expert, said "if there is no other strong proof, DNA fingerprinting can be used to identify maternal relationship if two women claim to be the mother of the same child. However, this technology cannot be used to prove paternal relations." The Islamic Juristic Group (IJG) said "DNA fingerprinting can be used only in criminal investigations and not to identify the genealogy of anyone. In case of disputes over a newborn baby or lost child such tests can be used to identify the parents of the child."

It takes a lot of work to keep your Society running smoothly. While some of the work is done by the board members, a whole lot more is done by many non-elected volunteers who don't get the recognition they deserve. There are so many things that need to be done and many of these dedicated volunteers have been 'working in the wings', some for a number of years, to make sure the Society operates successfully. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for all they do to make our Society work.

Not in any particular order, we all owe our thanks to the Leaves & Saplings staff, Karna Webster and Marna Clemons for a great publication; our software user group instructors Jim Reynolds and Chris Christensen (also our webmaster). At our library, librarian Mariam Hutzelman; cataloguers Jane Huffman, Jean Jones and Margarette Davis; periodical indexers Twila Moore and Lynne Robinson; library volunteers Shirley Bracey, Charlotte Dunn, Nancy Hattox, Ken Jones, Jackie McMaster, Mary Schreiner, Bridget Slatten and Karna Webster; shelf attendants, Joyce Barner, Marie Boozel, Antoinette Bertolas, Georgia Callian, Barbara Davidson, Pam Journey, Twila Moore, Donna Trapnell and Jackie Webster; housekeeping Robert Cosgrove and computer maintenance Lance Dohe. At our monthly meetings; hospitality Adeline and Larry Shaw, opportunity drawing Shirley Bracey and all those who bring baked goods. For newsletter circulation Pat Allen, Barbara Cogburn, Bill Kinney, Jan Post, Larry and Adeline Shaw; queries Lynne Robinson; aluminum can recycling Ed Ward and Connie Reins and volunteer coordinator, Mary Harris.

As you can see, it is quite a list! And I probably have missed a few, so please excuse me if your name was omitted. As you probably noticed, several names appear more than once -- those that are always there and willing to do almost anything to make our Society a better place.

I know we all deeply appreciate all that they do, so please show your support and give a big 'thank you' next time you see them. Even more, you can show your thanks by pitching in and helping out yourself. There are always things that need to be done at the library, projects for Leaves & Saplings, articles needed for the newsletter -- and the list goes on. So, please, do what you can to support your Society and make it an even better experience for all our members. Like most things in life, the more you give the more you get back. Thanks everyone for doing such a great job.

Peter Steelquist, President

Civil War Photographs Online



Ever wish you could find photographs of your Civil War ancestors or the unit they served in? There are a number of online sites that let you search for photographs by name, state, units, dates, battles, etc. If you have not searched them, you may be missing out on finding a true family treasure of your ancestor's military past.

The largest collection is at the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Collection, which contains about 7,000 Civil War images. The collection can be word searched by 'any text' in the catalog record, by 'subject or format headings' or 'creators or others'. You can also limit the scope of the search to all, any or exact phrase. You can also browse or preview 5,000 images. This is definitely the place to start. (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/cwpquery.html>)

Another Library of Congress site, American Memory Collection, contains 1,118 selected photographs of Union and Confederate soldiers, many by Matthew Brady. There is both keyword search and browse by subject indexes. Photos are arranged by year and battles (with a nice timeline) but many individuals are not identified. The Hays album has over 200 soldiers listed by name. Purchases can be made by phone, mail or fax. A great site for just looking at the pictures. (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/cwphome.html>)

CivilWarPhotos.net (www.civilwarphotos.net) has over 1,000 Civil War images arranged in 32 categories, including officers & soldiers, groups, prisoners, casualties and city locations. Many soldiers are identified by name. By going to their home site, www.civil-war.net you can not only keyword search the photo collection but also many other Civil War databases, including regimental histories and official records.

The American Civil War Photographs Collection of the U. S Army Military History Institute (www.carlisle.army.mil/usamhi/PhotoDB.html) has a large collection from many wars (Mexican --1840s to Bosnia) that can be searched by keyword. Instructions and ordering instructions are available online.

Civil War Family Photographs (<http://members.tripod.com/~cwphotos/>) is a site where people can share their own Civil War photos. Arranged by Union and Confederate, then by state, many photos are identified and include detailed information. There is a e-mail link to the person who posted the photograph.

The Historical Image Collection (www.treasurenet.com/images/) has over 400 public domain Civil War

and West photographs arranged by subject and state. You can even bring up a high resolution photo on screen.

USA Civil War Photographs (www.usa-civil-war.com/Civil_War/cw_sites.html) site has 1,211 photographs arranged in four major Civil War categories (Leaders, Eastern Sites, Western Sites, Chronology) and then arranged by web pages. While a little difficult to navigate, it will keep any Civil War buff busy for hours.

NARA also has a collection of over 200 photographs online (www.archives.gov/research/civil-war/photos/) arranged by subject category.

While these are the most complete collections, others may be available online that focus on individual units or battles. Be sure to use your favorite search engine to find more. Other collections may not be online and require you to search at local archives and historical societies. Also keep in mind that some Civil War photos have never been cataloged and remain in private hands. When contacting relatives of known Civil War soldiers, be sure to ask if they know of any photographs.

Not sure your relative fought in the Civil War? A good place to start looking is the 1910 Federal census (column 30). Also check the index to *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation Of The Official Records Of The Union And Confederate Armies*, 128 volumes, at the Society library (only complete set in San Diego County). This will also provide details on unit histories, battles fought, etc. to help with clues to finding photos in the databases.

Now that you know where to start, finding that photo of your Civil War soldier may be within reach. What a treasure to add to your family legacy.



Heritage Creations, Leland Meitzler Update

In March 2006 we reported on the bankruptcy of Heritage Creations (Heritage Quest magazine). Its creator and editor, Leland Meitzler (our 2006 Annual Luncheon speaker) has announced that he has signed a contract with Genealogy Online, Inc. (aka Everton Publishers) to become Managing Editor for 'The Genealogical Helper' magazine, his former competitor, that has been around for nearly 60 years. The July/Aug 2006 issue will be his first edition.

Perhaps even more noteworthy, the folks at Everton have agreed to honor subscriptions and committed ads for the issues of Heritage Quest that were not published.

Congratulations to Mr. Meitzler on his new job and kudos to Everton for stepping up to honor the old commitments. This is great news for the 'Helper'.

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Easy Google Genealogy Searcher

Since we last looked at the Google search engine (June 2004) as a genealogical research tool, *Genealogy Search* has come along and invented 'a better mouse trap'.

Their web site is designed just for the genealogist. Want to learn some things you probably had no idea Google could do? The Easy Genealogy Google Searcher puts advanced Google features on one page with suggested keywords and advice about how each feature is useful for genealogy searches. Learn the many possibilities Google offers for genealogy research and become a genealogy Google expert.

Here are just some of the things the Easy Google Genealogy Searcher can help you do to make your genealogy searches more effective:

- ▶ Find hard-to-search-for surnames that are common English words such as Day or Black.
- ▶ Find surnames that are also first names such as Andrew or John.
- ▶ Find obscure (but valuable to you) genealogy sites that are buried deep in Google results.
- ▶ Use Google's built-in Calculator to convert dimensions found on old documents to modern dimensions.
- ▶ Use Google as a dictionary to look up meanings found in old documents.
- ▶ Use the Google image search to find photos of ancestors or other genealogy related images
- ▶ Use Google Search by Location (in the US) to restrict your search to a particular geographic area to find all the cemeteries (or churches, or historical societies, etc) in a particular town.
- ▶ Use 'Google Search by County' to do genealogy research in another country. If you cannot read the language of the webpage, click on the translate link next to the search result.
- ▶ Search the Google phone book for one address or for a blanket search of a surname for possible relatives in a town.

The Easy Google Genealogy Searcher includes tips, suggestions & links, all with genealogy searching in mind. Be sure to click on the "How is this Useful?" search tips by each specialized Google search.

To use these 'new and improved' search features, go to: www.searchforancestors.com/google/searcher.html and become an instant expert.

Aluminum Can Recycling

The Society continues to collect your empty aluminum cans for recycling. Bring them to the monthly meetings or leave them in the storage room at the library. Collect your cans (and those of neighbors, relatives and friends) and give them to your Society. Help support our library!

Meeting in Review.....May 2006

Although the meeting got off to a late start due to our speaker, Colleen Fitzpatrick, getting stuck in I-5 traffic, it did not diminish audience enthusiasm.

Her first presentation, 'DNA & Genealogy' looked at the subject from the genealogists point of view rather than that of a biologist. While she did have to go into a few basics of DNA research, she focused more on the results and how we use them. Her web site, www.forensicgenealogy.info, has a lot of supporting information and tools to use in evaluating DNA results.

She noted that DNA augments the paper genealogy trail but does not replace it. Solid research is still the cornerstone for genealogical study. And while 'paper genealogy' can be subject to human errors, DNA research is not. She briefly touched on security and privacy concerns noting the proven track record of the major companies involved in the field.

She primarily focused on Y-chromosome testing and results. Looking at mutations over time, she explained the difference between SNPs, or haplogroup, and STRs, or haplotype, and how they impact population groups.

In looking at results, specifically the number of differences in the markers in study groups, she noted that just looking at surnames is not enough as they can change for a number of reasons. She cited examples in her Fitzpatrick group study where there were significant differences, resulting even in Irish vs. Scottish divergences. In another example, she cited how some of the Fitzpatricks were descended from sailors shipwrecked on the west coast of Ireland from the Spanish Armada.

Tracking results, particularly with large surname studies can be difficult and confusing. Imagine looking at 80 results with 25 markers each -- a lot of numbers. A cladogram is a chart that can plot similar individual results and graphically map out groupings. Her web site provides examples and software to facilitate this.

In 'weird DNA' stories, she mentioned some rare cases where individuals can have 2 different DNA profiles -- one for blood, another for other cells. Sounds more like a CSI plot.

Her second talk, Forensic Genealogy -- Photo Identification, she mentioned clues to dating and identifying photographs. Backs of photos can have revealing clues in lab marks, batch numbers, pencil markings, paper marks that can help date and identify groups of photos. Photo details can reveal much -- and often by what is missing. She showed many examples, including one where the shadow cast by a ladder against a building told the time of day, month and year. There is a weekly photo quiz on her web site that further notes methods to identification.

At the meeting, sales of her two books went briskly. A lot of information was covered in too brief a time. A really great presentation.

WWI Draft Registrations,Revisited

Since the Newsletter last looked at the WWI Draft Registrations (Dec. 2004), things have changed considerably. Ancestry.com has upgraded their search capabilities and made using these records much easier to search and use.

If you have not used these records before, you are missing out on an invaluable resource for any male born between Sept. 1872 and Sept. 1900. Not only does this cover a lot of material missing due to the destruction of the 1890 census, it also provides critical information not found elsewhere. At a time prior to most birth registrations, it is one of the only places you will get the full middle name and exact birth date and place of the registrant. And unlike censuses and most other major record sources, the cards are filled out in the person's own hand which can be critical in avoiding reading and transcription errors. Some of the other questions asked also provide the street address, occupation and place of work, name and address of closest living relative and their physical description, including any deformities. One question asks for exemption status where they can cite reasons they should not be drafted -- which can include children's names and other dependents as well as health and other reasons.

With Ancestry's search form, you can search by first, middle or last name and include wild card characters ("*", "?") to help broaden your searches. If you don't find them this way, try reversing the first and last names or put middle or last name in the 'keyword' search box. Also, be sure to use all variant spellings and the Soundex search option. You can also search by locality (state, county and/or city) as well as birthplace. If you still can't find them and know their birthday, try using that, even partial dates, with other information to help filter through the database.

Still can't find your relative? You can browse by state, county and city. For larger cities and counties, they were subdivided into groups by draft boards of about 30,000 registrants. These are then divided alphabetically by the registrant's last name. In some locations, it may be necessary to browse several draft boards.

So, when should you use the WWI Draft Registrations? Because of these broadened search capabilities, you should use it for ALL males in your lines born between the applicable birth dates. You can access these records under military records section at www.Ancestry.com which is available by paid subscription or free at the Family History Centers and many libraries. Good luck and happy hunting.

The Meaning of Life.....

I think my ancestors had several "bad heir" days.

Library Notesby Anna Acosta

On Saturday, June 3rd our library will host to a group from the Chula Vista Genealogical Society. Several of our weekly library assistants will be on hand to help the visitors as needed. The group is bringing their lunch and are welcome to attend our monthly Family Tree Maker user group. The society has visited us before and we are happy to accommodate them. We are as pleased as they are when they find records to help further their research.

When we have a special group visit our library I always suggest that they check our website catalog to have a list of books, periodicals, etc. ready to go to work when they arrive. (Just as is recommended when we visit the Salt Lake City or Los Angeles libraries). A new catalog of books, manuscripts and family histories has been added to the website of the Southern California Genealogical Society located at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank, CA. The catalog holds information on over 30,000 genealogical reference items held in their library. This includes materials from every state in the United States as well as special collections for German, French-Canadian, Hispanic, etc. The catalog can be accessed at www.scgs-genealogy.com/catalogMain.htm. Check it out! Maybe we can plan a group trip up there in the future.

Does any member have a soldier from Illinois who served in the Union Army during the Civil War? You'll be interested in a new database online by the Illinois State Archives - the names of more than 285,000 names from the Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls. A lot of information other than just name and rank is included in the entries. Information was extracted from the first eight volumes of "Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Illinois". Access the index at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/data-civil.html.

If you're planning a trip this year as I am, hope you're making use of online catalogs and making your "TO DO" lists. It saves precious minutes when your time is limited.



We're An Albertson's Affiliate

Your Society has joined Albertsons supermarket Community Rewards Program. Up to 4% of your receipt total will be donated to the Society at no additional cost to you. But we need to register your card number to participate. Sign up at our monthly meetings or phone and leave your name and card number on our library answering machine (619-588-0065) Thanks!

Earl is Royal Fake

The Earl of Buckingham, 44 year old Christopher Edward Buckingham, is no royal heir. In fact, it turns out he is really Charles Stopford from Orlando, Florida, who had disappeared in 1983. The story started unraveling last year after Kent Police arrested Stopford for entering Dover on a fake passport.

A former member of a U.S. Navy intelligence unit, Stopford fled the U.S. after a parole violation threatened to put him back in jail for trying to blow up his employer's car with a pipe bomb. He traveled in Japan and Germany before settling in England. He took the Buckingham name of an 8 month old that had died in 1963 and used it to obtain documents to live as a British subject. He not only perfected a British accent but spoke fluent German.

While traveling in Germany, he met and married Judy Doe. They settled in Northampton, England, and had two children. As an IT consultant, he traveled often, and had an apartment in Germany. He introduced himself as Lord Buckingham, a real title extinct since 1687. He even used stationary with the Buckingham coat-of-arms.

After his arrest when authorities matched his passport to the Register of Deaths record for the real Buckingham, Stopford refused to divulge his true identity. He refused to see his children despite their requests to know the truth about their father's past (he had divorced his wife in 1997). He served nine months in prison over the false passport incident but remained in jail because he refused to reveal his true identity.

After relatives in Florida, who had conducted periodic searches for their missing brother, saw photos of the fake lord on the Internet and a story in The Times, they concluded it was Stopford. Fingerprints and DNA samples were sent to the US to confirm his identity. He has since been deported back to the US.

The British media have dubbed the man "The Real Jackal", an allusion to Frederick Forsythe's novel. A real 'Walter Mitty' character, Stopford was described as "very bright, very intelligent" by his family while Kent Police called him "delusional" and "mentally not the same as everybody else". In either case, he was more than a little lucky to have kept up the charade for more than twenty years.

So, next time you wish you could find royalty in your family tree, think again. You may uncover more than you really want to.

CA Divorce Papers To Remain Open

On May 17th, The California Supreme Court nullified a law that made it easy to seal divorce court records. The justices declined to review an appeals court decision, arising out of a billionaire's divorce case that declared the 2004 law "unconstitutional on its face".

While sensitive information -- financial assets and liabilities, post-marital agreements, etc. -- is often blacked out of the court records, the law in question allowed the entire documents to be sealed and did not give the judge any discretion.

The decision is an important victory for the public. It protects the Constitutional right to review court proceedings to determine if the court is operating the way it should.

Lawmakers have been weighing a less-restrictive law, but an Assembly floor vote was postponed indefinitely the prior week.



Sail vs. Steam

When we envision our ancestors' ship coming to America, we usually think of a beautiful sailing ship with billowing sails unfurled. In fact, by 1865, more than 73% of emigrants came by steamship, up from 46% only two years earlier. By 1867 the number rose to 93% and in 1869 it was 95%.

The steamship meant a much faster crossing (avg. 30 days by sail, 15 by steam), greater accommodation and increased comfort. The cost, however, was 30 to 50% more than by sail.



The Meaning of Life.....

We don't stop laughing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop laughing.

Obituary Faked

With deep sorrow, the residents of Waterloo, IA, read the obituary of Dan "D. J." Reddout, 17, who died Dec. 24, at the Mayo Clinic, of complications from surgery. It turned out, however, that the obituary was a fake. Authorities were notified after the teen was spotted at a restaurant by some family friends.

Police said James Snyder, who is the boyfriend of Reddout's mother, Mary Jo Jensen, submitted a death notice to the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier newspaper. Both Snyder and Jensen worked at Tyson Foods and started taking time off from work in December by claiming that the boy was hospitalized with an illness. As the scheme continued, Tyson officials were told the boy was on life support and had died. Snyder and Jensen even took several days off for funeral leave. Their employer told the pair they needed verification for their absences. The boyfriend eventually went to the newspaper and had a false obituary placed in the newspaper to satisfy their employer. The teen's mother said the fake obituary was caused by "bad communication" and that Snyder submitted the obituary after she told him her son was ill and she had joked about his death.

Snyder was charged with tampering with records and Jensen with being an accessory after the fact. The published obituary read as follows:

WATERLOO -- Dan "D. J." Reddout, 17 of Waterloo, died Saturday, Dec. 24, at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., of complications from surgery.

He was born April 26, 1988, in Waterloo, son of James Snyder and Mary Jo Jensen. He attended West High School. Survived by: his parents of Waterloo; grandparents, Vern and Edie Reddout of Iowa City and Glenad Tidaman of Waterloo; an uncle, Kevin Reddout of Cedar Rapids; and two aunts, Janet Reddout of Cedar Rapids and Sandy (Randy) Lee of Stout.

Graveside services were Tuesday at Osage Memorial Cemetery, Osage. Memorials may be directed to the family.

Some people will do anything to get out of work!

African American Studies Center Online

Oxford University Press announced a new online resource documenting the African American experience. With over 32 volumes, it provides cross-referenced access to the most comprehensive reference works in the field.

With more than 7,500 articles, it brings together the work of over 4,000 international scholars, covering the lives of over 5,000 influential men and women. It also has over 1,000 images, maps, charts and tables and timelines.

Individual subscriptions start at \$17.95 per month and will be available to schools, libraries and institutions. You can visit the site at www.oxfordaasc.com

Small Town Newspapers Online

While there are a number of sources for major city newspapers online, both current and archived, small town or regional papers can be difficult, if not impossible, to find. For the genealogist, however, these can be the most rewarding in finding detailed obituaries, marriage notices, family news, etc. Now, there is a web site that brings the small town newspaper to the internet. You get the news from all the best small towns including photos and ads. You can access it at <http://smalltownpapers.com>.

Whether it is your old home town or you are searching for long-lost relatives, you can view the actual images of more than 250 newspapers. From Aberdeen, Idaho to Woodville, Mississippi, the papers are listed alphabetically on the site. On the 'titles list' page, they are also arranged by state. Simply click the title and the front page appears. Clicking the front page brings up high resolution scan of the entire newspaper. All newspapers are updated every week. There is even a 'e-mail notifier' that will let you know when your favorite small town newspaper is live on the internet.

They have also started a searchable archive of newspapers from the 1800s to 2005. These can be searched by keywords, state, newspaper and year to narrow the results. When selecting a newspaper, it will show the years available.

If you have family living in small town USA, this site will definitely be of interest to you..... or you may just want to catch up on the news from your own home town. What a great site!

Thanks to Jackie McMaster for sharing this.



'Trash to Treasure' A Success

The Society's 'Trash to Treasurer' sales event on April 29th was a big success. Our THANKS to all those who donated books and other media which we sold as well as to those members who showed up to buy. There were some great items for sale -- bric-a-brac, tools, jewelry, hand-made hats & pillows, knit items, art work, etc. Even our coffee and muffins sold well.

Our special THANKS to member Jim Reynolds and the other New Frontier Park residents who worked so hard to make this such a success. Our appreciation to 2nd VP Joan Carter for helping to organize this event and Tim and Jackie McMaster, Candice Booth for their sales help. If you missed this, there may be another chance later this year.

GRANDPA, WE HARDLY KNEW YE

by Diane Altona

[Editor -- Member Diane Altona won 2nd place in the short story category in the Southern California Genealogical Society 2005 Family History Writing Contest. There were hundreds of entries worldwide and she was the only winner from San Diego. Congratulations Diane, great job!]

Mama always winced when Grandpa Brown came to visit, remembering bruises from the times before. He'd come striding into our living room and wrap one substantial arm around Mama, pulling her to his side, at the same time declaring she was his "little Elvy." He loved big, this tall, hearty man whom tactful people described as "portly." Grandpa was my father's father, an enthusiastic hugger who left blue marks on Mama's arm where his fingers made what my father called "a lasting impression."

Grandpa was married twice. His first wife, Maggie, the mother of his four children, died when my father was a teenager, and Katy, the second wife, came along when Grandpa was a middle-aged man. I remember little of her except that she was from Texas and sounded that way. My mother liked her, my father hated her. It wasn't until much later that I learned why, that he was afraid she'd run off with Grandpa's money. She never did.

Meals were what Grandpa Brown lived for, meals that were as hearty as his hugs -- thick steaks and rich gravy, fresh-baked bread slathered with butter, mashed potatoes swimming in more butter and gravy, and pies for dessert with crust the way only lard pastry can flake, accompanied by coffee heavy with cream skimmed off the top of the bottle of milk. No thought of diet for Grandpa. Finally, he'd push back from the table and light his cigar, first nipping off the tip, puffing to catch the flame from the big wooden kitchen match and then, gazing off into some distant place only he could see, blowing smoke that rose to seek the heat from the old-fashioned crystal chandelier over the dining table.

He loved music. The viola was his chosen musical instrument, and in retrospect it seems to me to have been an odd choice, a delicate instrument in those big hands. When he was a young man he played in the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, from 1920 until 1924. I have a treasured black-and-white photo of the orchestra with a serious-faced viola player in the second row who would become my grandfather some ten years later. I never had the privilege of hearing him play because by the time I was born, he no longer made music. I didn't know it then, but he'd written in his will that I was to inherit that beautiful instrument.

In the first decade of the 1900s, Grandpa marched in the band at Camp Perry, near Toledo, playing trumpet, almost certainly because playing a viola would have required his standing still. I'm a bit unclear as to his Army career, but I suspect it was in the National Guard.

I have a black-and-white photo of him, standing at attention in his World War I type uniform, stern but jaunty in sturdy military boots, white gaiters, jodhpurs and jacket, most likely olive drab. A white criss-crossed bandolier and belt are situated a bit too high on his body, having had to allow for the convex curve of his ample belly. A white cap of the sort an officer might wear is planted square on his head, hiding the fact, I know, that he was bald by then. Clearly, he was getting jowly and double-chinned, the way I remember him best.

Nepotism, perhaps, played a part in Grandpa's choice of career. His much older brother, my Great Uncle Stillman P. Brown, was Assistant Superintendent of Mail in Toledo, and Grandpa's career was as a postal worker. My father followed that tradition some years later, also at the Toledo Post Office.

When I was very young, our family often spent Christmases at Grandpa's big house in Toledo, on Parkdale Avenue, joined by my two aunts and an uncle, their spouses and kids, amid a noisy chaos of gift-opening and cousins quarreling over each other's new toys. Vague memories filter back to me of those holidays, but one memory stands out: Grandpa trying to console me, drying my tears with his enormous white handkerchief when one of my more rambunctious cousins broke my precious new doll's china tea set.

There's another memory of Grandpa Brown that haunts me, the last memory I hold. I can still see him, gray-faced, lying in a darkened room at his house, incense burning on a table in the corner, its heavy sweetness covering what I was told was "the smell." Grandpa was dying at home, in the last stages of cancer, in a time when chemo and radiation were not options. I was nine and in those innocent times death was a new concept for me but somehow I understood that Grandpa would no longer be coming to hug his "Little Elvy" or dry my tears. In tracing back through time and generations, I've learned that Grandpa came from pioneering New England stock, Vermonters who migrated to Boston and New York and finally Ohio, making modest marks in the history of those places. I feel pride in knowing that they helped, in their small way, to build this country.

However, I was not prepared for one last piece of information, an account my cousin told me that her mother, Margaret, Grandpa's youngest child, had related. When she was about four years old, Margaret had wandered into her parents' bedroom to play. She opened a trunk in the closet and had a great time trying on the clothing she found inside. When Grandma Brown found her, Margaret was wearing the pointed white hood of a Ku Klux Klansman. Grandma snatched it off Margaret's head, hid it back inside the trunk and made Margaret swear never to tell anyone about it. Whether it is family legend or the truth, I may never know.

Grandpa, we hardly knew you at all, did we?

New At The Library

The following items have been cataloged since last month's newsletter and are now available in the library. Our sincere thanks for the many generous donations. Thanks, also, to our library catalog volunteers.

TITLE	AUTHOR	CALL NUMBER	LOCATION
German Through Conversational Patterns	Rogers, R. Max; Watkins, Arthur R.	435 R728	Microfiche
German Made Simple	Jackson, Eugene; Geiger, Adolph	438 J12	Shelf
Twenty Censuses Population and Housing Questions 1790-1980	U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of	929 U56	Oversize
The Life and Times of John Beebe	Beebe, Clifford	929.2 B414t	File Cab.
Rev. Peter Bulkeley	Jacobus, Donald Lines	929.2 B934J	File Cab.
An Index of Place Names in The Doty-Doten Family in America	Doty, Donald R.	929.2 D732i	Shelf
Lovell Lineage	Editor: Sharon Lovell Geren	929.2 L899	Shelf
Mead Family Index to Persons Mentioned in History and Genealogy of the	Wicks, Mrs. Clifford P., Jr.	929.2 M479i	Shelf
Remembrances of a Pioneer	Patton, Jane Cade	929.2 P322	Shelf
The Temple of Limestone - A History of Boehms Chapel 1791 - 1991	Sangrey, Abram W.	974.815 S226	File Cab.
Folk Finders	Luzerne County Historical Society	974.832 F666	Shelf
The Heritage of Montgomery County, Alabama	The Montgomery County Heritage Book C.	976.147 M787	File Cab.
Montgomery Genealogical Society Quarterly	Montgomery County Genealogical Society	976.147 M787	Census
The History of the Blountsville Methodist Church - Alabama	Sutton, Marlys R.	976.172 S967	File Cab.
The Pioneers of Winnebago and Boone Counties, Illinois : who came before	Rowland, Katherine E. (C.G.)	977.331 R883	File Cab.
The Patriot Souvenir Edition □ Carrollton, Illinois	Cunningham, Eileen Smith	977.384 C973	File Cab.
Family Tree Talk	Muskegon County Genealogical Society	977.457 M985	File Cab.
The Pipost	St. Croix Genealogical Society	977.541 S136n	Shelf
Twig Talk	Muskegon County Genealogical Society	977.547 M985n	File Cab.
HENDERSON, Then and Now 1852 - 1994 : In The Minnesota River Valle	Deis, James, Editor	977.633 D325	Shelf
Marking the Past	Ventura County Historical Society	979.492 V465	File Cab.
News & Notes	Southern California Genealogical Society	979.493 S727n	File Cab.

My Elusive Kinsman

Author unknown

Alas, my elusive kinsman
 You've led me quite a chase
 I thought I'd found your courthouse
 But the Yankees burned the place.

You always kept your bags packed
 Although you had no fame,
 And just for the fun of it
 Twice you changed your name.

You never owed any man,
 Or at least I found no bills
 In spite of eleven offspring
 You never left a will.

They say our name's from Europe
 Came state-side on a ship.
 Either they lost the passenger list
 Or granddad gave them the slip.

I'm the only one looking
 Another searcher I can't find
 I pray (maybe that's his father's name)
 As I go out of my mind.

They said you had a headstone
 In a shady plot
 I've been there twenty times,
 And can't even find the lot.

You never wrote a letter
 Your Bible we can't find
 It's probably in some attic
 Out of sight and out of mind.

You first married a Jackson
 And just to set the tone
 The other four were Sarahs
 And everyone a Jones.

You cost me two fortunes
 One of which I did not have
 My wife, my house and Fido ~
 Gosh, how I miss that yellow lab.

But somewhere you slipped up,
 Ole Boy, somewhere you left a track
 And if I don't find you this year
 Well ~ next year I'll be back!

San Diego Genealogical Society
1050 Pioneer Way, Suite E
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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

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

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

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

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

July 8 -- Monthly Meeting, 'Crazy San Diego Place Names', Leland Fetzer, Ph.D

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