



May Seminar Planned

The San Diego Genealogical Society together with the Computer Genealogical Society of San Diego will be sponsoring an all day seminar in May. Our speaker will be nationally known author and blog host, Dick Eastman.

You probably already know of him from 'Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter' and his 'Encyclopedia of Genealogy' or have attended his presentations at national conferences. His fresh approach to genealogical research focuses on new technology and will certainly offer something for every family history researcher.

The May 12th event will be held at our regular meeting site, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and will feature a catered buffet luncheon. Be sure to mark your calendars and look for the meeting announcements and registration form in coming Newsletters. You won't want to miss this exciting event.



Rummage Sale Scheduled

The Society will be having a rummage sale on Saturday, June 16th. So, start going through your re-sellable items and setting them aside for the Society. All items must be in working order. We will not be accepting computers, monitors and TVs (CRTs) or shoes.

This year, rather than collecting items at our library and having to transport them, our members will be able to deliver them directly to the selling location where they will be priced and stored until the sale day. Look for further announcements and instructions in coming Newsletters.

This is your chance to clear your clutter and organize your life while helping your Society -- everybody wins and your donations are tax deductible. Ask your neighbors and friends to help as well.

Feb. 10th Monthly Meeting

St. Andrews Lutheran Church, noon

Land and Court Records:

The Co-joined Twins

with Penny Feike

Researching land and court records go hand in hand -- in fact, one should not be undertaken without the other. Both are primary cornerstones for genealogical research but are often overlooked due to inexperience and access limitations.

Penny will look at researching deeds using the various indexes as well as plat maps, tax assessments and mortgages. Land records available in bounty lands, donation land claims, grants, patents and warrants will also be explored. Court research will focus on probate records and civil, appellate, state and Federal District Court resources. If you feel you could use some help in using these records, you won't want to miss this meeting!

Penny is certainly no stranger to the Society. Whenever she gives a talk, we always get many requests to have her return. A Society member, she has been researching for more than 40 years. She has taught and worked at the Family History Center in San Diego where she has helped many researchers over the years improve their skills. As a professional genealogist, she does U. S. and international research, as she puts it, 'anyplace that uses the latin alphabet'.

Her extensive knowledge and recall is always amazing (including citation of book call numbers). If you have heard Penny before you know what a treat this will be. And if you haven't, be sure not to miss it.

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.

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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.



Annual Meeting Awards

In addition to great seminar presentations, our annual meeting acknowledged the work and dedication of the Society board members and many, many volunteers who work so hard to make your Society so successful. The new board members were introduced and installed in office. New honorary, life and premium level members were also acknowledged.

This year the **President's Award** was presented to **Joan Carter**, 2nd VP, for her tireless work in fund raising and sales. She came in with many new ideas and successes to help raise money for the Society. Thanks, Joan, for a job well done!

This year, a special **Life Achievement Award** was presented to **Karna Webster**. A 25 year member, Karna has produced the Society's Leaves & Saplings quarter journal for the past 20 years. She has also headed many other activities including the annual rummage sales. The Society is deeply indebted and grateful to Karna for all her work over the years and her many contributions to the community.

There were many prize drawings throughout the day including two DNA test packages. The grand prize, a 4 night stay at the Plaza Hotel in SLC was won by **Frank Cirincioni**. Congratulations Frank!

The Meaning of Life.....

Live your life as an exclamation, not an explanation.

President's Message.....

Happy New Year! Your Society has already planned some great events for 2007. Our May seminar should be a stellar event and more trips are coming. We have a great year to look forward to.

The New Year is also a time for those 'resolutions' -- I trust that you have made and are sticking to yours. It is not too late, however, to make some genealogy resolutions to keep your research on track and ensure a successful year of discoveries. Here are some things you may want to do to break-in the New Year.

First, make sure you have a solid protection plan for your computer files. We all know how important this is but I am sure not everyone is ready for the inevitable hard drive crash. Just ask yourself if you would be safe if your hard drive crashed tomorrow or a virus erased all your files. You should have multiple backups (on magnetic, optical and offsite media) that will protect you from fire and other disasters as well. If all this makes you nervous, you probably need to do something about it. Enough said.

Next, do you have a plan on what is going to happen to all your research if you step off the curb and get hit by the proverbial truck? Be sure you have plans for what to do with all your paper files as well as your computer files. Have written instructions of what is to be done with your GEDCOM files, family photos, etc. Make sure they are easily accessed and clearly identified. Unfortunately, not everyone may value them as much as you and it would be a shame to have them just 'disappear.'

For another project that will pay huge dividends, resolve to clean up your 'master files'. These are the citations used by your genealogy computer program for place names, source references, surnames, etc. By going in and viewing the lists, you will find typos, errors, incomplete names, multiple entries, incorrect field entries, etc. If you are still not sure what this is all about, see the 'Name' article in the Oct. 2006 Newsletter. This will ensure your data is of the highest and most professional quality.

And of course, your resolutions would not be complete without a commitment to help others. Plan on volunteering for your Society -- our Leaves & Saplings Committee needs help -- write an article for the Newsletter -- volunteer to work at the library. There are lots of things you can do. But don't wait to be asked. Get involved.

Last, but certainly not least, consider helping your Society financially. Our library rent and costs continue to rise and your donations go a long way in making sure we can 'keep the doors open'. Your generosity is most appreciated. Happy New Year

Peter Steelquist, President

Winter Salt Lake City Tour

by Phyllis Quarg

Snow on the Mountains, Christmas lights in Temple Square and hoards of people on downtown streets - this was the atmosphere for our December Salt Lake City Tour. As an extra bonus, the Genealogy Shelf Bookstore had a large selection of books available for sale in the hotel. Best of all, was the excitement of our tour members. We were a small group (fifteen people), but it seemed to me the percentage of people who made great finds was very high. But, even the few of us who didn't make a great discovery had a wonderful time, browsing the book shelves, playing on the Internet and taking advantage of all of the research tools available.

We had several newcomers to the Family History Library. Among them, sisters Marie Boozel and Joyce Barner, who spent most of their time on the British floor. In addition to confirming previously recorded information (and finding a few discrepancies), they found their third great grandparents and enough information about several other great grandparents to enable them to order birth, death and marriage certificates.

Margie Rose, a stranger not only to the Library, but also to our group, decided to join us even though her roommate and friend, Jonnie Wilson was unable to make the trip. She planned to enjoy a much needed relaxing week of vacation, reading in her room - after all, what could the library have that she hadn't seen before and of course she would be with a group of complete strangers. However, she found that she couldn't have been more mistaken. She found the SDGS group to be friendly and helpful and ancestors "just fell out of trees from the Family History Library's computers and research books." There was always help available and among other things she found a record of her great grandfather on the "lost" wagon train to the Willamette Valley, Oregon in 1853. She also found his Veteran's Pension number from the Indian Wars in Oregon.

Chris Christensen, as usual, spent most of his week in "Denmark" on the International floor. He found the birth and marriage of his third great grandmother, whom he had been searching for for over five years. He also found her parents, all four grandparents and even one set of her great-grandparents (his sixth great). After the excitement of this find, he relaxed the last two days by browsing the Internet. Searching for one of his more unusual Danish names, he found an excellent genealogy. By sending an e-mail to the submitter, he received a response informing him that they are cousins from two of their ancestral lines. So he not only found ancestors, but also living relatives.

One of the more exciting discoveries (certainly to me, since we had started researching together over twenty-five years ago), was Gloria Osborn's discovery of her

Broadhurst family in England. She had been certain they came from Lancaster, but this 1841 English census revealed them in Cheshire the year before their immigration to America. They had come from Manchester, with some of the children being born in Manchester and some in nearby Bolton. She was able to prove that her second great grandfather was John Broadhurst, not Samuel as her father had said. She found several of John's siblings and was able to go back two more generations. Now, if she can just find those darned Millers!

Nita Freer, now living in Arizona, found her German immigrant on a passenger list and learned his place of origin in Germany. It was disappointing to learn that the records have not been filmed, but there is help available. She was there with her mom, Virginia Anderson.

Donna Swink was disappointed to find that the location of the Swink family, which she had found, could not be located by the Library attendants. However, she did discover a great roommate in Joan Dittmer, who is not an SDGS member (yet, as Donna says). They attended four concerts and enjoyed the lights at Temple Square.

Pam Journey, with Gene assisting, found her third and fourth great grandmothers. She searched the first day - we all know how hard it is to find female lines - without success. Then at Gene's suggestion, she hired a professional researcher and both marriages were found within two hours and two new lines were added to her genealogy. The researcher's knowledge and expertise saved so much time that she was able devote the rest of the week to other previously planned research. In addition, her researcher turned out to be a cousin by marriage, having ancestors in the same Virginia county.

I haven't received reports from other tour members but they may be like me. I had a wonderful time - could hardly tear myself away from the books, but made no progress toward solving my brick wall problems.

To summarize, I think we would all agree - it was a great trip and we're looking forward to next year.



'Irish Collection' Complete



The 'Irish Families Project', begun in 1978, is now complete with the publication of the set of 29 books. The collection focuses on Genealogy and Family History with over 40,000 surnames in the master index. The set, authored and edited by Michael C. O'Laughlin and produced by the Irish Genealogical Foundation, focuses on research in all 32 counties, with County Cork and Kerry comprising two volumes each.

It is available from www.irishroots.com where you can also find their 'Irish Roots Cafe', a Irish family heritage podcast and search their master index free online.

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Homestead Records Research

In the last Newsletter, you learned why the Homestead Act was so critical to the settlement of the U. S. and how your ancestor's lives were profoundly influenced by it. Now, you will find out what valuable information these records contain and how to research them to find records for your ancestors.

The paperwork required of homesteaders before they could obtain a patent, or title, to part of the public domain resulted in exceptionally detailed land records. Called land-entry case files, these records mention family members and witnesses as well as describe improvements made to the property, including houses constructed, wells dug, crops planted, trees cleared, and fences built. If the claimant died and a widow or heirs completed the homesteading process, a date of death is given and relationships are explained. Because military service could reduce the residency period, information regarding such service is often included. Resident aliens who had declared their intention to become citizens provided information about their naturalization process and even mentioned place of origin. Completed files contain naturalization and military discharge papers, if applicable. In other words, the land-entry case files of homesteaders are a gold mine of genealogical information.

Obtaining copies of homestead applications is not difficult. Perhaps the hardest part of the process is obtaining the legal description of the homestead, which is necessary to obtain the papers. Just knowing the county is not enough because the applications are organized by the land's legal description. The legal description should specify the quarter section (either Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, or Southwest) and the quarter by number (which should be between 1 and 3 except in rare instances). There should also be mention of the specific township (for example, township XX-XX west of the XX principal meridian-the XX numbers will vary depending upon the location of the county).

The legal land description of a homestead may be found in the General Land Office tract books. When a settler discovered an appropriate homestead site, he filed a claim with the local land office or the General Land Office in Washington by paying the necessary fees. Until 1908, these entries were recorded in tract books grouped by state, land office, and legal land description. (Patents filed after July 1, 1908 -- called serial patents -- were assigned consecutive numbers and filed numerically.) All the tract books (except Alaska's) have survived, and all the surviving tract books (except Missouri's) have been reproduced on 1265 rolls of microfilm available from the National Archives and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. At minimum, tract books include the name of claimant and the legal description of public land claimed. But if the researcher does not know the legal description of the property he is

seeking, the tract books can be difficult and time consuming to use. A researcher can often obtain a legal description of the land from the country recorder of deeds where the land was located. For detailed information about how to identify an ancestor's geographical location and discover the legal description of his land from the tract books, see E. Wade Hone, *Land & Property Research in the United States* (Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1997), which includes two helpful appendices: "Tract Book and Township Plat Map Guide to Federal Land States" and "Land Office Boundary Maps for All Federal Land States." This book is available at the Society's library.

Fortunately, some of these records are available online at the Bureau of Land Management's web site (www.glorerecords.blm.gov). More than 2.5 million records have been brought on line, and more than a thousand more are added each workday. Visitors to the Bureau of Land Management website can download both a legal land description of a homestead and an image of the patent. Of course, once the researcher has a legal land description, he can order a copy of the land-entry case file from the National Archives. Keep in mind that these online records are only for completed patents or deeds, not those of unsuccessful homesteaders land entries and only include post-July 1908 patents for the states of AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MO, NV, NM, ND, OR, SD, UT, WA & WY. Post-1908 homesteads for AL, AR, FL, IL, IN, IA, KS, LA, MI, MN, MS, NE, OH, OK, & WI are currently being added to the web site and if not found will need to be researched manually.

For pre-1908 files, seven states - AL, AK, AZ, FL, LA, NV & UT - have a name index. To order records from the National Archives (www.nara.gov), researchers must know the name of the homesteader, the state in which the land is located and the approximate date of entry. There are no pre-1908 name indexes for the western public domain states of CA, CO, ID, KS, MT, NE, NM, ND, OK, OR, SD, WA & WY. For these states, the researcher must provide the National Archives with the name of the homesteader, the state in which the land is located, the approximate date of entry, and either a legal description of the land or the name of the land office and the land entry file number.

To request a case file for a pre-July 1908 homestead claim in an Eastern public domain state without a name index, the researcher must provide the National Archives with the name of the homesteader, the state in which the land is located, the approximate date of entry, the file number, and the name of the land office that issued the file. Except for homesteads in Iowa, this information may be obtained from General Land Office records posted at the Bureau of Land Management website (www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

Requests for copies of land-entry case files at the National Archives can be ordered online at:

<https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/> or submitted on NATF Form 84, which can be requested online.

The Homestead Act was pivotal to the migration and settlement of our country. The records it created can provide a genealogical windfall and greatly enhance your understanding of how your ancestors lived. Don't pass them by.



DNA Success!!

by Phyllis Quarg

2006 has been a very exciting DNA year for me, both in discovering and confirming some of my ancestral lines. I have had my DNA tested, but mitochondrial, or mtDNA, isn't much assistance in determining recent genealogical ancestry. It seemed I was out of luck as far as DNA help was concerned - unless I had an interested male relative.

I am so lucky. I have three such cousins (that I know of) and they produced some exciting results! First were my two "Busel" cousins. My first cousin, Don Boozell, who lives in Illinois and my fourth cousin once removed, SDGS member "Pete" Boozel who lives here in El Cajon. I have done extensive research on my Boozell/Busel line and in 2001 hosted a Boozel, Boozell, Boosel, Boozle reunion in York, Pennsylvania which Pete and Don attended.

In my research, I had discovered the origins of our family in a small village in Germany. My documented research proved we were all descended from Hans Busel (ca 1605). Our immigrant ancestor, Johan Thomas Busel, who arrived in York about 1760 had only two sons who carried the name forward John and Thomas. Don and I are descended from John and Pete from Thomas. I am sure that there were still some doubts that these scattered families with their various names could all be Busel descendants.

This year Don and Pete had their DNA tested at 37 markers and their DNA is identical!! Amazing and exciting?! The DNA and the paper research agree. Now I am hoping that some descendant of the English Busels will have their DNA tested. Hopefully this will prove my theory that the German Busels, in very early times, were English traders who settled in Germany. There is a DNA project on Family Tree DNA for people who think they might have English ancestry, so I am hoping Pete and Don will join.

My second exciting DNA discovery had to do with my Spencer ancestors and an unknown cousin. My fourth great grandfather, Joseph Spencer (1757-1832), has been one of my brick walls for over twenty years. I knew who his wife was and a lot about his descendants. He came from Virginia to Muskingum County, Ohio in the

early 1800s to be with his sons, but where was he born? Histories, censuses and other documents cited various birthplaces - Virginia, New York, Maryland, New Jersey, but I could find no evidence in any of them.

I had joined the Spencer Family Association when I first started researching the Spencers, but there was never anything relating to my family in their quarterly journal *le Despencer*, so I finally dropped my membership. In 2005, I decided to rejoin and learned of their Spencer DNA project. Last year in their list of members who were waiting for DNA results, was a descendant of Joseph Spencer born 1757! I couldn't wait for the next issue and logged on to Family Tree DNA, the site of the Spencer Project.

There it was - Joseph Spencer, born 1757, died in Muskingum County, Ohio with a son, Rev. William Spencer!! This was my Joseph - born in New Jersey. There were also several others with matching DNA in this group whose names I recognized from my Muskingum County research. In genealogy, one answer always creates another question, so I am now researching Sussex and Middlesex Counties, New Jersey for the family's origins before they settled there. I have a suspect in mind, who may take me to Scotland.

The moral of this story is, men, have your DNA tested - you never know who/what you may find and if you are a woman, just hope you have some neat male relatives like mine! If possible, join Family Surname Societies [see Dec. 2006 Newsletter] and be sure to check the Family Tree DNA Surname Projects (www.familytree dna.com)!

Free Online Storage

Ever wish you could have an online storage site where you could store your files and backups and access them from any computer with Internet access? Even better, what if it were free with no advertising.

Well, DropBoks achieves all this and is very simple to use. You can get one gigabyte of space (the equivalent of nearly 700 floppy disks) free of charge, although a one-time \$5 donation is suggested.

Imagine being able to upload your genealogy files, data backups, photos, etc. as a safe, offsite option to your other magnetic and optical file backups as further protection from hard drive crashes and computer viruses. When needed, you simply download the files to your hard drive. While not intended to be a 'file sharing' site, you can access your files from any online computer. It supports Windows, Mac, Linux and other operating systems.

The sign up process takes only seconds and does not require any personal information other than your e-mail address (which becomes your user name). No name, address, credit card number, etc. are ever requested. So, where can you find this almost 'too good to be true' service? At www.dropboks.com. What have you got to lose?

SDGS Newsletter, Vol. 40, No.1

It would be impossible to give you a complete description of periodicals and their use in this article, I do hope to introduce you to a new research resource. While you must discover the value of periodicals for yourself, here are some reasons to get you started.

Periodicals offer family histories and genealogy, pedigrees, abstracts from a variety of records (including land and probate), cemetery records and inscriptions, obituaries (I found a black edged death card that was delivered to friends and relatives informing them of the funeral of an ancestor in the South but the card was in the possession of a descendant in Oregon), vital records, maps, transcripts of family Bible records (wasn't I lucky I had paid attention to those siblings so I knew I had correct family member?), passenger lists, immigration information, and histories of localities the periodicals represent. These are only a few examples of what can be found in periodicals.

To find periodicals for your area of research go to the LDS website www.familysearch.org and check the research outlines available for each state. The outline will include the bibliographic citation, a short explanation about the resource and a call number to locate the periodical at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

The source I use most often is the valuable index called the Periodical Source Index (PERSI). The indexing is by subject, family surname and locality. Don't forget to check by State as well as town or city, region and topic. PERSI can be accessed in major genealogical libraries in the United States or online through a library that has access to Heritage Quest or Pro Quest, such as the Carlsbad Library. It is worth the trip to Carlsbad to apply for a library card so you can have access from home.

Some of the information found in periodicals MAY NOT be accessible anywhere else, so it is important to consider examining these resources along with your other book and records research.

Family History Fair Coming

This year, The Family History Fair will be on Saturday, March 3rd, at the LDS Escondido South Stake Center, 2255 Felicita Rd. The keynote speaker will be author, lecturer, teacher and FHL staff member, Kory Meyerink.

There will be numerous topics presented in the concurrent, one hour sessions. There is no charge to attend but pre-registration is required. Check their web site, www.familyhistoryfair.org for program information and online registration. Syllabus and lunch will be available by advance sale. In addition to the lectures, there will be an exhibit hall with area societies (yes, SDGS will be there!) and other organizations of interest to family historians. Plan on attending -- it is a great way to improve your skills and the price is certainly right! See you there.

Our Annual Seminar & Luncheon with **Nancy Ellen Carlberg** was a resounding success. Comments afterwards were glowing with praises noting her 'fresh approach' and 'new perspective' on genealogical research. Her wit and humor kept the audience entertained while her four presentations only left everyone wanting more. Her command of the subjects was evident by the fact that she seldom even looked at her notes. Throughout her presentations, she shared her research insights and tips that can only come from experience.

In discussing differences in English, Irish, Scottish and U. S. research, she noted the need to understand cultural differences. Scottish records are the most complete and easiest to research. Much is available online. Irish records, on the other hand, are less available and more difficult to research and English records are somewhere in between. She cited the difficulty in using census indexes as much of the recent work has been done in Sri Lanka and language limitation have marred the results. Many of the records available for a fee in the native countries are available for free at the Family History Library. Do all available research in the US before going abroad.

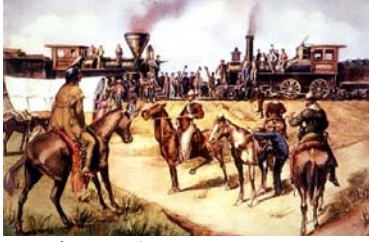
In exploring 'Midwest Research', she emphasized the need to use maps to follow boundary changes and migration routes. Early records may exits at the original county level, not where the county is today. She noted the importance of contacting the genealogical and historical societies in the areas as many records may not be published or indexed. In rural areas, vital records events may have delayed filings -- sometimes by years -- so always check later dates for possible birth, marriage and death events. State censuses and Federal Census mortality registers can provide greater details and should always be sought. Income tax records exist during and after the Civil War and should be checked.

Her insights in working with Alex Haley were most interesting. She worked on a number of projects in addition to 'Roots'. She used her experiences to share gems of research advice that we all could use and learn from. For example, always research the manuscript collection at the library first as these are the original documents you won't find anywhere else. Also, thrift stores and antique shops may know the local history no one else does. Be sure to talk to everyone.

In 'Protecting Your Genealogy', have a plan of what to do with all your paper as well as computer records. Don't rely on family and friends when you're gone. Make sure things are organized and that records are in different media formats that won't become obsolete. Share your research results (and photos, etc.) with family regularly.

Her many book titles sold quickly and additional offerings were included in her handout. A great day of learning for everyone.

Year of Destiny.....



It was the year 1869 that forever changed the cadence of our nation and finally brought the concept of 'manifest destiny' to its full realization. This was the year the transcontinental railroad was completed.

While the idea for a rail line spanning the nation was proposed as early as 1832, it wasn't until March of 1853 that Congress approved surveys for various transcontinental railroad routes. After years of heated debate, Congress passed the Pacific Railway Act in 1862 which authorized the building of the railroad with Union Pacific building west from Omaha and the Central Pacific building east from Sacramento.

The Act provided loans of either \$16,000 in the plains, \$32,000 in the Great Basin and \$48,000 through the mountainous terrain for each mile of track laid. In addition, the companies were given public lands on each side of the track, which, when completed, totaled 33 million acres of free land - larger in size than the state of Pennsylvania.

The construction of the railroad got off to a slow start due to the Civil War and lack of investors. The first spike was driven in 1863. The Union Pacific, which had flat terrain, initially raced ahead laying eight miles of track in a single day. The Central Pacific, going through the Sierra Nevada mountains, sometimes averaged only a foot a day! However, later on they would lay 10 miles in a day (that's 3,520 rails, 25,800 ties and 28,160 spikes). The railroad was built almost entirely by hand by the Irish, German and especially Chinese immigrants as well as former Union and Confederate soldiers and freed slaves. It took six years with the final spike being driven at Promontory Summit, Utah, on May 10, 1869.

The 2,000 mile stretch from Omaha to Sacramento now joined to make a true 3,500 mile transcontinental railroad from New York to California. The first train service began five days later from Omaha and was scheduled to take 4 days, 4 hours and 40 minutes. The fare was \$111 for plush, first class, \$80 for a few lesser amenities and \$40 for immigrant class with no amenities. By comparison, travel overland by stagecoach cost \$1,000 and took 5 or 6 months and involved crossing rugged mountains and arid desert. Sea travel around the tip of South America or crossing at the Isthmus of Panama could take months and was dangerous and expensive.

With time, train service improved. Normally, the trip would take 5 days and cost \$150 for a first-class sleeper. In 1876, our nation's centennial, the Transcontinental Express traveled from New York to San Francisco in a record breaking time of 83 hours and 39 minutes. In 1881, a second transcontinental railroad was completed, linking the Southern Pacific with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe in New Mexico Territory. By 1893, the Great Northern marked the completion of the fifth transcontinental line and the American frontier disappeared.

The impact of transcontinental travel had a profound influence on our nation. The railroads founded many new towns and encouraged mass migration, not only to California but also in the settlement of the Great Plains. In the ten years between 1870 and 1880, the population of California grew 54.3%! People could now afford to travel and take advantage of new lands opened up by the Homestead Act and promotional land offered by the railroad companies. It also opened up the markets in the East to western agricultural products, coal and other raw materials for industry. Freight could now be sent west in a fraction of the time and cost.

While the opportunities and wealth created by the advent of the transcontinental railroad can never be fully realized, we only need to look at our ancestor's lives to realize its consequences. Was this the impetus that changed their lives - and yours? As a case in point, my great-grandfather came to San Diego in 1887 from St. Louis. The advertised train fare of \$1 was offered by land speculators, eager to lure new buyers. He saw a lucrative new market here for his printing business and set up shop. It certainly would not have happened without the railroad and the new markets they opened.

So, next time you wonder what motivated your ancestors to move 'out West', it just may have been the expedient, affordable travel created by the transcontinental railroad and the opportunity for a new beginning.

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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

Feb. 3 -- FTM Users Group, Society Library, 10 a.m. to noon

Feb. 7 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7 p.m.

Feb. 10 -- RootsMagic Users Group, St. Andrew's, 10 am. to noon

Feb. 10 -- Monthly Meeting, Land & Court Records, Penny Feike, noon

Mar. 3 -- FTM Users Group, Society Library, 10 a.m. to noon

Mar. 7 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7 p.m.

Mar. 10 -- RootsMagic Users Group, St. Andrew's, 10 am. to noon

Mar. 10 -- Monthly Meeting, New England/Netherlands Research, Gene Cheney, noon

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