



San Diego Genealogical Society Newsletter

May 2007

Vol. 40, No. 4



Rummage Sale Coming



Our rummage sale will be here before you know it. This is a great opportunity for you to get rid of the clutter around the house, clean up the

garage and get rid of all those things you haven't used in years. You will also be helping your Society. The sale will be held on **Saturday, June 16th.**

This year, rather than collecting items at our Library, member Candice Booth has graciously agreed to collect the items at her home, the site of the sale. To donate, all you need to do is give her a phone call and set up a time to deliver the items. You can call her (or her husband Ray) at 619-440-0144. Their address is: 451 S. 3rd St., El Cajon, CA, 92019. Please phone between 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

We will not be accepting TVs or computer monitors. All mechanical and electrical equipment must be in working order. Clothing is fine but no shoes please.

So, start your spring cleaning now and get your things ready. Ask your friends and neighbors to help out too. Everything donated helps raise money for the Society. Start today and thanks for helping.

Salt Lake City Trip Leaves Soon

Our annual Spring trip will be from June 3 to 10, 2007. The flyer and reservation form are included with this newsletter.

If you have not been to SLC before or joined one of our trips, you are missing out on a most rewarding and unique opportunity. Not only will you be researching with fellow members who 'know the ropes' but will benefit from the best pricing around.

So, don't miss out on another opportunity to research in the world's largest genealogical library -- and with friends and fellow members. Sign up today!

May 12th All Day Seminar 9:00 am St. Andrew's Church

A Day with **Dick Eastman** & **Buffet Luncheon**

Your registration must be received by May 7th to ensure your seat at this momentous event. Be sure to complete and mail in the enclosed registration flyer today along with your check. Time is running out, so don't miss out.

Our speaker is internationally know lecturer, author and editor of the widely read 'Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter'. In a rare Southern California visit, he will be discussing four topics that will certainly be of interest to family historians of all levels.

- ▷ **'Grandpa in Your Pocket'** -- A demonstration of various new gadgets.
- ▷ **'The Internet -- The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'** -- Many great and new things the Internet has to offer.
- ▷ **'Google for Genealogists'** -- Maximize your results in using the world's most popular search engine.
- ▷ **'Putting the Genes in Genealogy'** -- Help your family fight or neutralize inherited diseases.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The full-course buffet luncheon alone is worth price! So, don't put it off, mail in your registration form and check today. See you there.

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.

2007 Board of Directors

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Comments and suggestions can be e-mailed to the editor at steelquist@aol.com or by phone at 619-296-4456.

Library Donors 'Thank You'

Our library would not be the valuable resource it is without the generosity of our members and friends. The following people have been most generous in making book and other media gifts since July, 2006. The Society and the San Diego genealogical community 'Thank You'.

Our library continues to grow and improve because of your giving. It is most appreciated. Our special thanks to Audrey and Ed Ward for their many treasured donations. THANK YOU ALL!

Jeanne Cady	Gloria Osborn
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Please excuse us if your name was omitted. Some books have yet to be catalogued.

Leaves & Saplings Sought

Do you have old issues of our Leaves & Saplings journal you don't need. If so, editor Marna Clemons would like to have them to complete some full sets (particularly vol. 12 and prior). Please give her a call at: 858-486-6099. Thanks.

President's Message.....

I want to thank you and all our members for your continued and ongoing support. After all, we couldn't be the premier San Diego genealogical society we are without you. THANK YOU!

It is encouraging that our membership revenue has increased this year. This is not only due to new members joining but also to current members who have graciously decided to join at higher membership levels (Gold, Silver, Platinum). This has enabled us to keep our regular membership fee as low as possible to attract new members -- the life blood that keeps us going.

As more and more people become interested in finding out about their ancestors, we only hope they realize that Society membership is one of the most important keys to their success. I don't know where else beginners can go to get the basic building blocks of research knowledge. And it also serves as a source of continuing education that enhances all skill levels. Just speaking for myself, I learn something new at every single meeting.

And apparently, the word is getting out. Month-over-month, we have more visitors (non-members) to our monthly meetings. Some of this is due to our publicity efforts, some by word-of-mouth from members and even from returning former members. It is most encouraging to see our efforts paying off. But we still could be doing more.

The highest recommendation we can get comes from our members. As you talk to relatives and friends who may not know the joys and satisfaction of researching their ancestry, please be sure to tell them about all the learning activities your Society offers. Your enthusiasm will be contagious. Devote a little time to become their personal genealogy 'mentor'. Start off by showing them their families in the U. S. censuses, their Ellis Island records, the emigrant ship manifests and other online digital records. If that doesn't get them hooked, I don't know what will.

Next, offer to bring them to one of our meetings. As they may not be adventurous enough to come on their own, having you as a guide will certainly make them more receptive. And while at the meeting, be sure to introduce them to some of our other members. Just talking about surnames and locations they are researching will certainly generate new leads.

So, again, thank you for your continued membership and support. You can make a difference not only in your financial support but in bringing in new members. You know how much being a member means to you, so tell others. Everyone wins.

Peter Steelquist, President

Genealogy For The People

There are many user-contributed databases on the Internet -- WorldConnect (rootsweb.com), OneWorldTree (Ancestry.com), Ancestral File (FamilySearch.org) -- just to name a few. However, there is a new player to the field with a somewhat different approach.

Noktree.com was launched in January 2007 as a totally free online database with millions of records (and growing daily). What is different about this site is that they allow **all** of its users the ability to add and edit individuals and families. Not only can you add individuals manually or by GEDCOM uploads, you can also edit information submitted by others. This unique capability not only increases the amount of information available but also makes it more accurate, they claim. It makes collaborative research much easier and the dynamic database is always changing. You can also find others who are contributing to your family lines and contact them directly. What better way to find living cousins.

The theory is that by allowing everyone the ability to contribute and edit, it increases research efficiency and to build off each others research. However, if you are concerned and worried that someone could change or remove your family records, you should know that all versions of individuals and families are stored and can be reverted or restored at any time.

Noktree.com provides this free service as a means for people to exchange their research and takes no ownership of the content or ideas uploaded to their site. It is paid for by on-site ads. Currently the site contains 2.3 million individuals and 733,471 families.

This collaborative approach to research is not new. Wikipedia Encyclopedia (see May 2006 Newsletter) has used this approach for years. They claim that by having multiple users accessing and updating records, it enhances the content and improves its accuracy. As more people use it, it becomes 'self-policing'.

So, while this and other online databases are invaluable in helping to finding your ancestors or sharing your research for others to find, the caveat here should be 'user beware'. Always keep in mind that these are only finding aids and still require that burden-of-proof and rules of sound documentation be applied.

But certainly check it out at www.Koktree.com and read the "How-To" section. This free resource could just be the ticket to whole new discoveries.

The Meaning of Life.....

When I die, I want to die like my grandfather who died peacefully in his sleep -- not screaming like all the passengers in his car.

Meeting in Review..... April 2006

WorldCat is the union catalog of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). It contains over 67 million records from more than 55,000 member libraries around the world. It references books, periodicals, articles, sound recordings, visual materials, computer resources and maps.

Robyn Gage, Catalog Librarian for the San Diego City Public Library, gave us a brief history of OCLC and then described the three search types -- basic, advanced and expert -- available on WorldCat. She recommended the 'advanced' mode as it has limiters like 'and', 'or', 'not' that can help filter results. Results can be further limited by author, date, document type, language, subject and even library.

While WorldCat can be accessed at their public site, www.worldcat.org, better searches can be conducted through a subscription site, usually libraries, like the San Diego City Public Library (www.sandiego.gov/public-library). It does require a library card number and can be accessed from your home computer. There is also a tutorial for genealogists that can be found at www.oclc.org/workdcat/genealogy.

With screen prints from actual searches, Robyn showed the library listing results as well as detailed library citations. She noted that searches of the particular library's web site should also be made as it may have items not included on WorldCat and may contain additional details.

Located materials can be ordered by inter-library loan (available to members through the Society). A phone call to the library is recommended as they may be willing to copy a citation or provide photocopies for little or no cost. Usually a SASE or small donation is appreciated. Also, local volunteers (like RAOGK or genealogical societies) may do look ups for you.

If you haven't used WorldCat, it can maximize your search results and find resources you otherwise wouldn't locate.

Our second presentation, by SDGS Board Member **Mary Card**, explored writing and publishing a family newsletter. She has been writing the 'Card Chronicle' for 11 years. It is a great way to find distant cousins and get research results you couldn't get any other way.

To get started, you need to create a database of family members. This is easy for genealogists. Next step is to get content to include. This can be done by phone or by mail questionnaire. It is important to find out who the key family members are and to seek them out.

Mary covered things that should and should not be included. She likes to announce births, graduations, marriages (but not engagements), deaths and also interesting stories, reunion tidbits, recipes, etc. She shies from divorces, criminal offences and other 'sticky' items, unless she gets permission first. (continued on pg. 5)

“CURIOSITY IS NOT JUST FOR CATS”

by Diane Altona

Editor: Member Diane Altona won 2nd prize in the GENEii Family History Writing Contest sponsored by the Southern California Genealogical Society with this story. She also won awards last year (see June, July 2006 Newsletters). Congratulations again to Diane for her excellent writing and most deserved recognition. Enjoy.

Mama and Grandma chatted as they folded clothes fresh from the backyard clothesline while I played with my doll on the floor of Grandpa and Grandma's living room. I paid little attention to what they were saying, but when the words “skeleton in the closet” hit my five-year-old ears, I reacted as I usually did, with a powerful curiosity. “Mama, do we have a skeleton in our closet?”

My mother's face registered her unease but her calm and immediate reply was, “I'll tell you about it when you're older.” And that was that. It was 1937 and back then, kids didn't usually argue with their parents.

Oh, I admit to having done a bit of surreptitious snooping, but in no closet in Grandpa and Grandma's house could I find anything that even remotely resembled a skeleton.

Eventually I forgot the episode and proceeded at the customary rate through the stages of growing up in Ohio, with frequent visits to Adrian, Michigan, and the home of my maternal grandparents, Carrie and Clarence Bayles.

At some point, when I had grown to an age Mama thought sufficient to comprehend such things, she told me about one of my male relatives reportedly having spent some time in prison after his wife caught him in flagrant delicto with the underage housemaid. It was then that I recalled the skeleton remark and asked her if that was what she and Grandma had been talking about.

“I can't imagine what that might have been,” she replied. “What that uncle did was no secret in the family, so it could hardly have been a skeleton in the closet. I just didn't tell you earlier because you were too young to know about such things, that's all.”

“Well,” I persisted, “you and Grandma were saying something about a skeleton in the closet and I asked if we have one and you said you'd tell me when I grew up.”

Mama laughed and shrugged her shoulders, obviously puzzled. “I'm sure I've told you all the family 'dirt' that I know about,” she said.

As I grew older, had children of my own and began to feel the need to learn with greater depth just who we all were and why, I dived headlong into tracing my genealogy. One of my Michigan cousins had made the same decision, so we collaborated by email and began to

piece together a picture of the generations that came before us. Phyllis is the daughter of my mother's brother and therefore we share one set of grandparents and so on.

Unless one is of royal blood, that genealogical picture is likely to be a puzzle that is missing some pieces. Ours was no exception. Not long into our research it suddenly dawned on me that although our grandfather Clarence had the surname Bayles, which he passed on to Phyllis' father and my mother, Clarence's mother had the surname Drake. Why we had never before questioned that glaring detail was more than a little befuddling.

OK, so Great-grandma Viola Jane Drake had been married before to some man named Bayles. Who was he, what was his first name, and why hadn't anyone ever mentioned him? Of course now that Phyllis and I were delving into our family history, all the people who could answer that question had died. That's a genealogical corollary to the infamous Murphy's Law.

The time came when Phyllis and I needed to do some onsite research. We knew that some of our ancestors had lived in the village of Hudson, Lenawee County, Michigan. We heard that the library there had a genealogy room, so we drove the 19 miles to the pretty tree-lined streets of Hudson and the handsome stone building that perhaps housed keys to our ancestors' lives. The librarian pointed across the main room to a door near the corner. “That's the genealogy room.”

Not much larger than a modest-size walk-in closet, the genealogy room had what seemed to us no logical filing system. Rather, it appeared to hold books and papers, most likely donated by Hudson citizens, random and vaguely genealogical material the harried library staff hadn't known what else to do with. On one side of the room sat a microfilm reader. While Phyllis looked at a few books, I opened and riffled through papers in file drawers, and after a short time we decided there wasn't much of interest to us.

Then, as we started toward the door to leave, I spotted a covered cardboard shoebox on the top of the filing cabinet. Having never lost my inquisitive nature, I opened the box to find that it contained 3x5 file cards in alphabetical order. The cards bore names of people, dates of death, the edition of a Michigan newspaper in which their obituary could be found, and the number of the microfilm on which the obituary could be seen.

“Hmm,” I said to Phyllis, “I wonder if there's any name in here that we recognize. Let's see, Bates, Battenberg, Bayles. Here's a Charles Bayles. I wonder if he's a relative of ours.”

Phyllis found the roll of microfilm and as she cranked the film, we looked for the obituary for Charles Bayles. We were not at all prepared for what we found. Rather than a standard obituary, there were three newspaper articles about the death of Charles Bayles, listing his

parents. They were the names we already knew to be Grandpa Clarence Bayles' grandparents. Although it did not name Charles Bayles' surviving wife, it did say "he leaves a wife and three children." That had to have been our Great Grandmother, Viola Jane Drake, and her three boys, Clarence, Frank and Marshall Bayles.

But it was the cause of death that made our eyes nearly pop. Great-grandpa Charles Bayles had hanged himself "by the neck" in jail in nearby Coldwater, Michigan, on the night of August 5, 1888. Each newspaper article gave lurid details about his "dissipation," his love for rum, and most of all, his method of suicide. One article mentioned that he had been a furniture finisher by trade. It was little consolation to us that the newspaper proclaimed him "apt and industrious except when intoxicated which was altogether too often."

According to the articles, he had tried to reform but he was powerless to stop drinking and was repeatedly jailed. He finally let it be known that he "would rather die than return to prison."

Our genealogical puzzle now had another important piece in its proper place. But, who'd ever have thought that my curiosity would find that the skeleton in our family closet had a rope around his neck?

My mother died in 1977 and never knew of our discovery, but I can just imagine her shaking her head and laughing, saying, "Oh, I thought I had already told you about THAT skeleton."

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Check Out University Libraries

Unless you are a student or faculty of San Diego area universities, you can't check out their books -- at least until now.

The San Diego County Library system has joined a consortium with the four major universities -- called The Circuit. With a San Diego County Library card, you can now check out books from these universities (UCSD, SDSU, USD, CSU-SM) and have them sent directly to your closest county library branch.

All it takes is a County Library account number and you can access the roughly 7.5 million materials at these university libraries, all without charge. Just log on the the web site, <http://circuit.sdsu.edu/screens/mainmenu.html> and select material by author, title, subject, word, genre, number (LOC, Dewey, OCLC, etc.). There is even a separate search screen for children's and biomedical books. The 'Help' screen explains how the entire system works.

So, if you have ever been frustrated by not having access to these great collections or put off trying because of travel or parking limitations, it just got a whole lot easier. Thanks to the County Library for making this all possible.

"About San Diego"

Are you interested in San Diego's history? Even if you or your ancestors weren't born here, there are many fascinating stories and lots to learn about our city's heritage. And now there is a half-hour television show devoted to it. "Ken Kramer's About San Diego" started earlier this year and is broadcast every Sunday at 6 p.m. on NBC (channel 7/39).

Mr. Kramer and the program are not new to San Diego, however. He began telling stories about San Diego on KSDO-AM radio during the morning and 'drive-time' afternoon broadcasts back in 1985. For the next 14 years, it was a daily listening mainstay for thousands of San Diegans, winning "Golden Mike" and San Diego Press Club and other awards. In 1995, Mr. Kramer brought his historical video vignettes to NBC 7/39 which are still broadcast on the "News at 11" each Friday night (and repeated on the Saturday and Sunday morning news). They have won four Emmy Awards.

In addition to watching this excellent program, there is more "About San Diego" on their web site (www.nbc.sandiego.com/aboutsandiego/index.html). Not only does it list past programs but you can take a 10 question history quiz and look at viewer submitted photos of current and old San Diego. Want more? You can sign up to get a daily e-mail quiz question as well as submit your own photos. There are also links to many other San Diego history related web sites.

So, if you have San Diego ancestors or just love the stories of 'old' San Diego, don't miss this award-winning program.



Family Newsletters

continued from pg. 3

However, there is a cost of time, effort and money involved. Mary does two newsletters a year. That entails long distance phone calls to get caught up on things, getting content from various sources (she has become an ardent collector), writing and editing copy, printing (over 100 copies) and mailing costs. While Mary gladly bears the cost, she does get some donations that help defray the expense.

There are many rewards, in addition to the research findings, from doing a newsletter. It helps bring the extended family together and increases attendance at family reunions (as Mary said, "just to find out what they look like"). But sometimes, it is just the simple 'thank you' she gets that make it all worthwhile.

The Meaning of Life.....

A mother holds your hand for a while and your heart forever.

Year of Destiny.....

It was the end of an era. Our 'Manifest Destiny' had finally been realized. The railroads spanned the country. The Indian wars were all but over. The great cattle drives were gone. The Wild West was tamed. With the Homestead Act of 1862, the Government had sought to settle western lands with the lure of free land. By 1889, there were relatively few land claims remaining. That year, however, Congress passed the Indian Appropriations Bill which opened 1.9 million acres (about 3,125 square miles) and at noon on April 22nd, the Oklahoma Land Rush was on.



The lands that occupied the Indian Territory (today Oklahoma) were set aside for the "Five Civilized Tribes" (Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, Seminole) "for as long as the stars shall shine and the rivers may flow". Over the years, pressure mounted for Congress to open the reservation lands to homesteading and settlement. In 1887, the Dawes Severalty Act was passed which divided existing tribal and reservation areas into 160 acre plots, one plot for each head of household. The law was meant to hasten the 'civilizing' process of Native Americans. After the land was allotted to each Indian household, there were still thousands of acres of land left over. The tribes were convinced to cede roughly half (the western portion) of their lands to other Indian tribes that had been moved to Oklahoma. Before the 'unassigned lands' were filled, the Creeks and Seminoles were convinced to sell 1.9 million acres to the U.S. It was this land, that includes all or part of Canadian, Cleveland, Kingfisher, Logan, Oklahoma and Payne counties, that was put up for grabs, literally on a first come, first served basis.

As April 22nd approached, people began to gather. Most were from Kansas and Missouri but people from all over the country and abroad came - an estimated 50,000 in all vying for less than 12,000 homesteads. Even single women and widows were eligible and several hundred joined in. While most were farmers, there were also tradesmen, professional men, common laborers, capitalists and politicians who all joined in for the opportunity to settle the long-withheld lands of the Indian Territory. They mostly massed in 'Boomer' camps and at the Kansas border towns to await the fateful day, the day after Easter Sunday.

They came on horseback, mules, and wagons of every description. The government had even ordered 8 'land rush' trains to carry prospective settlers. The trains were ordered to go exactly 15 miles per hour -- the approximate speed of the average horse. They surrounded the Oklahoma Lands to await the noon signal. Thinly manned troops maintained surveillance. The largest accumulations of contestants were at the line north of Mulhall and Guthrie, north of Kingfisher, and at Purcell with others at independent sites and in small con-claves. At noon the signal was given and troops along the line blew reveille and others fired shots to start the greatest free land grab ever.

To secure a claim, the settler would determine its range and township from the surveyors' cornerstone markers and plant a stake bearing notice of his name and location. Some would immediately begin to make improvements such as digging a well or arranging logs or sod for a potential home while others would hurry to the land office to register their claim. The towns of Guthrie and Kingfisher, where the land offices were built, literally grew overnight into thriving communities. Oklahoma City quickly grew to a population of over 10,000 inhabitants. This growth also ignited a land boom in the cities and the immediate growth of commerce.

A number entered the run before noon to stake their claims (called 'sooners') while others by virtue of working for the railroad, the government or as U. S. Marshals filed early claims (dubbed 'legal sooners'). A number of 'sooner' claims were challenged in court with some losing their land claims.

In addition to the Land Rush of 1889, there were four other Oklahoma land runs:

- Sept. 22, 1891 to settle the Iowa, Sac and Fox, Pottawatomie and Shawnee lands (20,000 settlers, 6,100 lots)
- April 19, 1892 to settle the Cheyenne and Arapaho lands (est. 25,000 settlers, 400 lots)
- Sept. 16, 1893 to settle the Cherokee Strip Land (7 million acres, 100,000 settlers)
- May 3, 1895 to settle the Kickapoo lands

Even if your ancestors were not involved in the Land Rush of 1889, they could have been impacted by the great opportunities and resultant migration that it and later land runs created. If they lived in or even just passed through Oklahoma, they likely benefited from the prosperity it created. But keep in mind that even more people left empty handed and totally disillusioned. They found that all the prime lots were occupied or the soil was poor and water scarce. Food and provisions were in short supply and available only at a premium. Many returned to 'civilization' disappointed and broken. Many with claims later abandoned them, unable to successfully make a go of it. In fact, many more prospective homesteaders came and left than ended up filing claims and settling.

Given the sheer numbers involved, it is likely you had at least distant relatives that participated in this, the closing chapter of the settling of the West.

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.

California Alumni Association Membership Directory 1988	California Alumni Association	30 C153a
The German-Americans - An Ethnic Experience	Adams, Willi Paul	305.83 A219
Searching American Military Records	Carter, Fran	355 C323
Register of Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames of America	National Society of Colonial Dames of America	369 P415
Grant Takes Command	Catton, Bruce	929.2 G763
Nancy Hanks: Mother of Lincoln	Ludwig, Charles	929.2 H241
Ulster Pedigrees - Descendants in Many Lines, of James Orr and Janet Mc Clement wh	Jones, Ray A.	929.2 O75
TOOZE - Immigrants & Descendants In America	Minor, Carl W.	929.2 T672
A Genealogy of the Towner Family - The Descendants of Richard Towner	Towner, James W.	929.2 T745
The Complete Beginner's Guide to Genealogy, the Internet, and Your Genealogy Comp	Clifford, Karen A.G.	929.28 C637
The Family Tree Guide Book	The Editors of Family Tree Magazine	929.28 F198
Genealogy Online for Dummies	Helm, Matthew L. and Helm, April Leigh	929.28 H478
How To Do Everything With Your Genealogy	Morgan, George G.	929.28 M848
A Dictionary of Heraldry	Friar, Stephen (Editor)	929.6 F897
Scotland, From the Earliest Times to 1603	Dickinson, William Croft	941 D553
Gravestone Inscriptions - Ireland - County Down	Clarke, R. S. J. (compiled by)	941.5 C608
Ordnance Survey - Memoirs of Ireland:Parishes of County Down IV 1833-7	Day, Angelique and McWilliams, Patrick	941.5 D273V. 17
Ordnance Survey - Memoirs of Ireland:Parishes of County Down II 1832-4, 1837	Day, Angelique Day and McWilliams, Patrick (Edi	941.5 D273V. 7
The Story of The Irish Race - A Popular History of Ireland	MacManus, Seumas	941.5 M167
A Collection of 1851 Census Records - County Cork, Ireland	Masterson, Josephine	941.95 M423
Burgstadter Familienbuch 1575 - 1900 (Family names in German)	Schmitt, Norbert	943 S355
Emigration to New England on "The Lyon" in 1632	Corley, John (Researcher/collater)	974 C799
Index to Edgar Wood's History of Albemarle County in Virginia	Goodman, Roger L. (compiler)	975.5482 W874g
Index to Death Records - Spencer County, Indiana 1852-1920 Inclusive	Indiana Work Progress Administration (compiler)	977.231 I39
Harvest of the Sun, An Illustrated History of Riverside County	Brown, James T.	979.453 B878
Family, Friends, and Homes	The Chula Vista Historical Society	979.498 C559f
Early Solana Beach: Recollections by George C. Wilkens & Robert "Chuckles" Hernan	Schwartzlose, Richard (Editor)	979.498 S399

SDGS Vehicle Donation Program

The San Diego Genealogical Society has partnered with Action Donation Services to offer a vehicle donation program to our members and the community. As a non-profit organization, donations of cars, trucks, RVs, planes, heavy equipment, etc. are tax deductible and the Society benefits as the net sales proceeds go directly to us.

Action Donation Services maximizes the sales proceeds, and thus the donor's tax deduction, by promoting the best sales venue for the vehicle. Working or not, vehicles may be repaired and sold retail, at auction or for recycling. Best of all, they handle all the paperwork for the title transfer and IRS reporting. All it takes is a phone call. Nothing could be easier.

So, if the thought of selling or trading in your old vehicle seems like too much hassle or you just want to help out your Society, please make a donation. To find out more, phone Society member Jim Reynolds (619-562-2235) or ADS directly, toll free, at (866-244-8464). Your friends and neighbors can help too as all donations help the Society. And keep us in mind for future donation opportunities. Everyone wins with this.

The Meaning of Life.....

Life's too short to wear cheap shoes!

Ancestry.com Free Searches

In last month's Newsletter, we announced that the LDS Family History Centers had stopped providing free access to Ancestry.com. So, unless you subscribe to their collections (U.S. \$155/yr., World \$300/yr) you may find your research options have become severely limited. But all is not lost.

Keep in mind that Ancestry.com offers many databases for free. You can browse their 24,400 database listing where these are flagged with a 'Free' sign. And keep in mind you can still do a general search that will returned limited information as a 'teaser' to get you to subscribe. But even better, Ancestor Search has created a web page that lists the free sites and has links directly to them (www.searchforancestors.com/ancestryfreebies.html).

Also keep in mind that Ancestry.com has additional foreign web sites for the UK, Canada, Australia and Germany (see links at bottom of their U.S. home page), which contain additional free records.

Many libraries (both San Diego City and County Libraries) provide free access to Ancestry Library Edition for in-library use that includes records from the U. S. Census; military records; court, land and probate records; vital and church records; directories; petitions for naturalization; passenger lists and more.

To lower costs and still have full access, you could start a research group with other Society members and share the cost. Society membership pays.

So, where there's a will, there's a way!

San Diego Genealogical Society
1050 Pioneer Way, Suite E
El Cajon, CA 92020-1943
619-588-0065

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

May 9 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7 p.m.

May 12 -- All Day Seminar with Dick Eastman, see flyer

June 2 -- FTM Users Group, Society Library, 10 a.m. to noon

June 6 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7 p.m.

June 3--10, Salt Lake City Trip, see flyer

June 9 -- Monthly Meeting, 'Overcoming Obstacles', 'Less Common Resources' -- Anne Miller

June 16 -- Rummage Sale, see article, pg. 1 this issue.

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