



Newsletter

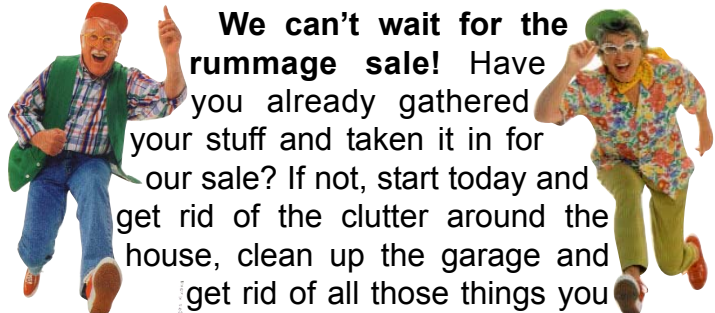
June 2007

Happy
Fathers
Day



Vol. 40, No. 5

Rummage Sale Coming



We can't wait for the rummage sale! Have you already gathered your stuff and taken it in for our sale? If not, start today and get rid of the clutter around the house, clean up the garage and get rid of all those things you haven't used in awhile. It will not only make you feel better but also help your Society. But hurry as the sale is coming up very soon on **Saturday, June 16th**, so act today!

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 cleaning now and get your things ready. Ask your friends and neighbors to help out too. Everything donated helps raise money for the Society. Thanks for helping.

Can Recycling Helps

Remember, your Society collects and recycles aluminum cans. Help protect our environment and raise money for the Society. Your friends and neighbors can help too. Just bring them to the library or to our monthly meetings. Please, join in to help -- everyone wins with this.

June 9th Monthly Meeting St Andrew's Lutheran Church, noon

Overcoming Obstacles to Finding Your Ancestors

&

Less Commonly Used Resources

Our problem-solving styles and our assumptions, thoughts, and beliefs often make it difficult for us to find our ancestors. While these factors can have a negative impact on our research, recognizing them and learning how to overcome them will result in solving more of those brick wall situations and being more successful in our research.

Solutions to brick wall situations are often found by using one or more of the less commonly used resources in genealogy. Learning what these resources are, where they are found, and what types of information might be found in them, along with real-life examples, will help us to find more of our ancestors.

Anne J. Miller began her genealogical quest 19 years ago. She is particularly interested in combining historical resources with genealogical resources to provide a more comprehensive understanding of people and their lives. The focus of her historical research is primarily Southern California.

She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists as well as national and local genealogical and historical societies. She teaches for the Temecula Valley Genealogical Society and volunteers at the Murrieta FHC.

She is a licensed psychologist with a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona.

Learn how to break through your brick walls!

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.

Welcome Our New Members

The following have recently joined the Society. Please introduce yourselves to them at our next meeting. THANKS for becoming members.

BARBER, Helen -- Arnold, Graves, Harmison, Fink, Cox, Barnes, Butts, Bryant
BECKER, Shirley--Clancy, Wright, Miller, Plue/Plough, Lindsey, Pearsall, Graves, Sweet.
CRUZ, Barbara -- McGrath, Niemi, Atkins, Maki, Keating, Horton, Kenny, Korpela
FIXMER, Kathleen -- Snowbeck, Lill, Hagen, Mandelke, Guttormson, Mathiasdatter, Rossmeissl, Kiowalski
HOFFMAN, Marilyn -- Bagwell, Cope, Ferguson, Hill, Saxon, Ray, Duty, Pengelly
McBRIDE, Penny -- Childers, Beard, Brown, Bass, Orr, Roberts
McLAUGHLIN, Rosemary--Coleman, Faith, Sumpter, English, Dunley, Heffernan.
SHANKS, Stephanie -- Cochran, Mixon, Birch, DuBois, Crosby, Rentz

The Meaning of Life.....

Everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

President's Message.....

It is clearly apparent from the success of our all-day May seminar that genealogy is alive and well in San Diego. We had a record turnout and actually had to turn late registrants away! The hall was packed with 186 enthusiastic attendees -- some coming from as far away as Arizona and Imperial, Orange, Los Angeles counties and even San Francisco! Even more encouraging were the 45 or so non-members (of either society) that signed up.

We made a concerted effort to publicize the event and get the word out to other societies, the media, blogs, research venues, etc. which really paid off. But this all underscores the fact that there is really a strong interest in genealogical research and education. When we put on quality programs like this, it gets people excited and interested in pursuing their family history research. I am sure we will attract a number of new members from this meeting.

However, it does make me wonder why we don't generate this level of enthusiasm with our other monthly meetings and related events. Clearly, the interest is there. The attendance at our regular monthly meetings is usually between 70 to 80 members. That is less than 25% of our total membership. With the program announcements in our monthly Newsletter, certainly everyone knows the date, time and speaker topics. And I don't think the program quality is any less than we had in May (other than not having a great buffet lunch).

Perhaps some have just become complacent about attending or lost some motivation to do their family history research. I certainly hope our May meeting gave some of our members a 'push' to attend more of our meetings and get their research 'back on track'. And in case you didn't attend our May meeting, I would encourage you to make a point of attending our next meeting. The topics alone should help you get fired up about resuming your research. Please, make the effort. And perhaps we also need to be more proactive in the community to get the word out to attract new members. This is where you can help as well. While it is commendable to 'talk up' your hobby to others who may only have a passing interest in family history, I think we could all be doing more. Lead by example and mentor them in their research. Even better, bring them to our meetings. What better way for others to learn they are not alone in their interest and that there is an entire community out there sharing their interest in genealogy. It will become contagious.

But it needs to start with you. So, please, make the commitment to come to our meetings -- and bring a guest. Thanks.

Peter Steelquist, President

Meeting in Review..... May 2006

Our combined meeting with the Computer Genealogy Society of San Diego featuring internationally known speaker, author and blog editor, Dick Eastman, was a huge success. We filled the hall to capacity to a sold-out, eager audience.

In his first presentation, "*Grandpa in Your Pocket*", we were treated with an array of the latest technological gadgets that can help with genealogical research. He surveyed laptop computers, including an ultra portable, fully functional one with an 8" screen. He then reviewed PDAs (Personal Data Assistants), explaining the different types and software. Next he looked at scanners, noting those that were most suitable for genealogical research and photo work. Digital cameras have come a long way and have many applications for genealogical research, including acting as photocopiers, capturing screen images and photo duplication.

He explained the various types and sizes of memory devices (thumb drives, micro SC, Compact Flash, etc.). He surveyed various GPS devices noting features, genealogy applications and online services. To close, he demonstrated how walkie-talkies can be used to make cemetery research easier.

In "*Internet - the Good, the Bad and the Ugly*", he started with a brief review of its history, noting that the Internet and the WWW are not the same thing. He touched briefly on the 'technology of sociability' and how the web is changing the way we as humans interact.

He cautioned that there is much mis-information on the Internet and that any information should be used as the basis for forming working research hypothesis, noting that nothing is fact until you prove it. He went on to cover some of the scams and 'flimflam artist' dupes, including fake genealogies. In closing, he cited that DNA in coming years will radically change both existing family connections and be able to take us back even further, however it will not replace solid scholarly research.

After a great hot, catered buffet luncheon by Cupid Catering, Mr. Eastman looked at the many ways Google can be used as a genealogical research tool. Everyone, even the most seasoned Google users, learned valuable tips. He first reviewed how Google performs searches and how to use 'operands' like "+", "-", quotes, etc. He also covered Boolean search techniques. Perhaps the most enlightening was his discussion of 'special syntax' searches. These can focus searches on specific parts of web pages and can be combined to be even more useful. He also mentioned some of Google's other features including maps, book search, and news groups to help in genealogical research.

In his last presentation, "*Putting the Genes in Genealogy*", he noted that there are two kinds of researchers - 'name gatherers' and 'family historians'. The later tries to find out who the ancestors really were

and how they lived their lives. Part of that includes their medical histories. Many family health conditions are passed down through the generations and can be critical in understanding and treating current day medical conditions. He even prophesied that in the future family historians will help to save lives.

He briefly touched on DNA research, noting that it is better at disproving rather than proving family relationships, particularly in what he called 'non-paternal' events. It could also potentially help disprove some long-held lineage society connections. He mentioned that some genealogy programs now have database fields for DNA markers which will help future researchers make long sought connections.



California State Archives Catalog Online



The California State Archives now has an online descriptive catalog for its 232 million documents. This treasure house of historical material has records relating to the first constitutional convention in 1849, land grant records of the Spanish

and Mexican era, campaign contribution statements, legislative committee files, original laws, and personal papers of many of the state's leading politicians -- just to mention a few.

Appropriately, the computerized system is named "Minerva", after the Roman goddess of wisdom who is featured on the official California State Seal. It replaces the state's paper-based method of keeping records. The cataloging of these vast holdings is not yet completed, so if you cannot find what you are looking for, please contact the Archives Reference desk at (916) 653-2246 or via e-mail at ArchivesWeb@sos.ca.gov. The Archives will update the catalog regularly and it will eventually include descriptions of all holdings.

The system lets you search by keyword, title, ID number, creation date and record level or any combination of these to help narrow the search. It can be accessed at <http://minerva.sos.ca.gov>.

Next time you have a California historical or genealogical query, be sure to ask Minerva.

The Meaning of Life.....

Be brave. Even if you're not, pretend to be. No one can tell the difference.

WorldVitalRecords Now at FHC

Started in June 2006, WorldVitalRecords now boasts over 100 million names and growing. Founded by Paul Smart, who helped found Ancestry.com, the online site offers over 500 databases containing collections of vital, land, immigration, and military records; newspapers, international databases, and a collection of reference material. Its specialized collections include Everton's Online Library (including Genealogical Helper Magazine 1946-2006), Quintin CD-ROM Library and SmallTownPapers® Collection.

It was recently announced at the NGS Conference that the entire WorldVitalRecords collection will now be available free at the LDS Family History Centers worldwide. The current home subscription fee for this service is \$48 for two years, which includes Everton Handybook for Genealogists and AncestralQuest 12 genealogy software.

In addition, the FHCs will also provide free access to FamilyLink.com -- a new social genealogical web site that enables individuals to connect with genealogists from more than 1,600 cities in 34 countries. This will enable researchers to contact individuals in cities they are researching to obtain expert advice and resources from people who live there to assist in their research. You can find out more about these great resources at www.WorldVitalRecords.com and www.FamilyLink.com.

In an unrelated announcement, FHC patrons will now also have access to the premium databases offered by the Godfrey Memorial Library of Middletown, CT. Normally accessible only with a \$35 annual fee, these resources contain unique hand-written archival documents not available elsewhere which are now being digitized. The library also produces the American Genealogical-Biographical Index, or AGBI, which is the equivalent of more than 200 printed volumes. This database contains millions of records of people whose names have appeared in printed genealogical records and family histories.

The Godfrey Memorial Library (see Dec 2004, Feb 2006 Newsletter) has long been valued as the best bargain for online research. This partnership will now make their collection available to researchers worldwide.

In yet another announcement, the FHCs will add Kindred Konnections (www.kindredkonnections.com) and Heritage Quest Online (www.heritagequestonline.com) to their already vast array of free databases. Even more reasons to visit your FHC. They just keep getting better.

The Meaning of Life.....

Don't assume malice for what stupidity can explain.

Google Warning

Google is warning web users of the increasing threat posed by malicious software that can be dropped onto a computer as a web surfer visits a particular site.

The search giant carried out in-depth research on 4.5 million web sites and found that about one in 10 web pages could successfully "drive-by download" a Trojan horse virus onto a visitor's computer. Such malicious software potentially enables hackers to access sensitive data stored on the computer or its network, or to install rogue applications.

Google's report, "*The Ghost in the Browser: Analysis of Web-based Malware*", published in early May, said the rise in web-based malicious software has been aided by the increasing role that the Internet plays in everyday life, along with the ease in setting up web sites. The full, rather technical report can be seen at: www.usenix.org/events/hotbots07/tech/full_papers/provos/provos.pdf.

In a more troubling comment, "seventy percent of Web pages hosting rogue software are found on legitimate sites targeted by hackers."

So, if you aren't already doing so, be sure to use updated anti-virus software and do weekly scans, use firewall software (particularly if you have high-speed Internet access), scan e-mail and instant messages and run anti-phishing scans of web sites as you visit them. Even if your Internet service provider boasts full protection, be aware and take precautions.

Ancestry.com Debuts U. S. Military Collection

Just before Memorial Day, Ancestry.com launched their new U. S. Military Collection. Normally accessible only to subscribers, it will be available free to the public through June 6th (D-Day).

The collection spans more than 300 years of U. S. Military history and contains 90 million names, including more than 650,000 who have been lost and 1.4 million service members wounded in battle. It covers every major U. S. war and conflict from the Revolutionary War through Vietnam and includes burials through 2006.

There are over 740 separate databases which can be searched individually or as a group by name, country, years, conflict and keywords (e.g. regiment, battle, etc.). In addition to some already familiar databases (WW I Draft Registrations, WW II Enlistments), new additions include newsreel motion pictures, Stars & Stripes Newspapers, Marine Corps. Muster Rolls, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System and many more.

Don't miss the opportunity to research this new collection for free until June 6th. What a great new resource.

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.



Anna Acosta Steps Down

It is with great regret and heartfelt thanks that we announce that our Library Director, Anna Acosta, is resigning because of health concerns. Anna has been managing the library for six years and has done a fantastic job in making our library an excellent research facility for our members and visitors.

Over the years, Anna has also helped in many other ways -- with research, classes, outreach efforts and more. She could always be relied on to step up and take charge of whatever needed to be done. Many of our members have learned how to do research because of her expertise and willingness to help. We will certainly miss her at the library but I know we will continue to see her at our meetings and other Society events.

Anna, on behalf of all our members, THANK YOU for all you have done for the Society. It is most appreciated. I am pleased to announce that Marna Clemons will be taking over as Library Director. She will continue in her role as Committee Chair for *Leaves & Saplings*. Our thanks Marna for taking on this important role for the Society.

Take Advantage of New Tax Credits

Congress passed a new pension law which allows for tax-free charitable transfers from IRAs in 2007. You can make a gift to SDGS from your IRA which will not be subject to tax. To qualify, the donor must be 70.5 years of age or older, the transfer must go directly from the IRA to SDGS and the transfer cannot exceed \$100,000 for the year.

For more information, refer to IRS publication 590 and your tax consultant or phone Society President, Peter Steelquist (619-296-4456). This is an ideal way to save on taxes and to help your Society. The law only covers gifts made in 2007 so don't wait.

'Footnote.com' Free Trial

If you have not checked out www.Footnote.com, you now have the best reason of all to do so -- a seven day free trial.

Footnote.com offers millions of scanned original source documents not available anywhere else. You can search their databases by name, date, place or topic. You can even browse their titles to find documents ranging from pre-1775 'Early America' to 1950s+ 'Post War'. Since partnering with the National Archives in January 2007, Footnote.com has digitized over eight million historical records. Each month an additional two million documents are digitized and added to the site. Footnote.com estimates that by the end of 2007 it will have made over 25 million digitized documents available on its web site. They have created powerful viewing and notation tools to help you view and annotate the documents as well as being able to share them with family and friends. You can even create your own 'story pages' and upload your own documents and photos. They even invite groups and societies to upload their collections to share with others.

There is even more good news. They have teamed up with FamilySearch.com to digitalize and make available the three million U.S. Revolutionary War Pension files which will be published for the first time online in their entirety. These original records will include muster rolls, payrolls, strength returns and other miscellaneous personnel pay and supply records of American Army Units from 1775-1783. FamilySearch (which will digitize the images), Footnote.com (which will create an electronic index of the records), and the National Archives Record and Administration (which will provide the historic records), are teaming to accomplish this end. As a part of this agreement, Footnote.com will be accessible for free in all FamilySearch operated centers worldwide. Check out their web site, take the brief 'Tour' video and sign up for your free trail. Be sure to visit often as it will only get better.

Year of Destiny.....

The year was 1825. After no presidential candidate received a majority of electoral votes, the United States House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams President of the United States. But this year would go down in history and have a profound impact on our nation for another reason - the opening of the Erie Canal.

While the construction of a canal linking the Hudson River in the East and the Great Lakes had been proposed as early as 1768, it was not until 1808 that the New York State Legislature funded a survey for a canal. On July 4, 1817, Governor Dewitt Clinton broke ground to start construction with \$7 million in state funding. It was considered the engineering marvel of its day, with some referring to it as the 'eighth wonder of the world' while others called it "Clinton's Big Ditch" or "Clinton's Folly". Nothing like this had ever been attempted before in the U. S. There were no trained engineers who had ever worked on a project of this scale and skilled labor was in short supply.



The sides of the cut were lined with stone while the bottom was covered with clay. This work required hundreds of masons, mostly German emigrants. The Irish formed a large part of the labor force as well. Work on the canal was perilous. Limestone had to be blasted with black powder that often resulted in accidents for the inexperienced crews. Over 1,000 workers died of 'swamp fevers' while working at the Montezuma Swamp (at the outlet of Cayuga Lake west of Syracuse).

When completed on October 26, 1825, it included 18 aqueducts to carry the canal over ravines and rivers, and 83 locks to accommodate the elevation rise of 568 feet from the Hudson River to Lake Erie. The canal was 4 feet deep and 40 feet wide and floated boats carrying 30 tons of freight. The opening day 'Grand Celebration' included successive cannon shots along the length of the canal which took 90 minutes to fire from Buffalo to New York City. Governor Clinton led a flotilla which took 10 days to make the trip.

The Erie Canal made boom towns out of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Rome, Utica and Schenectady. Between 1820 and 1850, Rochester exploded from 1,502 to 36,403 and Buffalo ballooned from just over 2,000 to 42,261. Today, nearly 80% of upstate New York's population lives within 25 miles of the canal. It also made an immense contribution to the wealth and importance of New York City and the state as well as promoting a surge of nationalism.



The Erie Canal was the first transportation route faster than carts pulled by draft animals between the Eastern Seaboard and the western interior. It cut transport costs into what was then the wilderness frontier by about 95% - mostly of finished, manufactured merchandise. Likewise, the freight rates from Buffalo to New York were \$10 per ton by canal, compared with \$100 per ton by road. In 1829, 3,640 bushels of wheat were transported down the canal from Buffalo and by 1837 this figure had increased to 500,000 bushels and to 1 million in 1842. It also brought travelers and freight to New York City, taking them away from other ports such as Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, soon making it the busiest port in America.

In addition to trade, it also brought people into the Old Northwest. A significant number of settlers came directly from Europe to New York and traveled on the canal to the Great Lakes. Between 1840 and 1845, 300,000 immigrants landed in New York City but its population increased by only 80,000. But many who moved west were not new to the country but were farmers from New England and New York who saw the opportunity to trade their small tracts of rocky, fruitless soil for a larger quantity of fertile land. The canal offered them inexpensive travel to the frontier.

This migration brought with it expanded agricultural production and economic development. Wheat production in the west expanded exponentially from 14 thousand bushels in 1826 to 8 million in 1840 and market prices increased by 100%. As its legacy, the Erie Canal had made the west accessible as well as valuable and facilitated the 'Big Push' of American expansion. The canal was one of the most profitable ventures in American history. It also played an important role in the Civil War - not because it was involved in any battles but because it secured the support of the territories of the Old Northwest and their loyalty to the Union. It also helped curb the power of slavery by reducing the dependence of the industrial North on the agriculturally dominant South.

So, as you think about your ancestors in 1825 and the years that followed, consider how their lives were impacted by the Erie Canal. Even if they didn't venture west, their lives and livelihood were certainly changed by the economic prosperity it brought to the nation and that altered our history forever.

Join the Society for Dinner



As a fund-raiser event, your Society is scheduling a dinner night at the Souplantation restaurant. On Tuesday, July 17, 2007, anyone presenting the coupon below will have 15% of their food and beverage receipt donated to the Society -- and, best of all, it doesn't cost you a penny more!

Simply show up at the Souplantation, located at 9158 Fletcher Pkwy., between 5 and 8 pm on July 17th. You can bring the entire family as well as relatives, grandchildren, neighbors, etc. Anyone can participate as long as the coupon is presented when paying at the cash register. Make plenty of copies and give to your friends. Coupons are also available on our web site, www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs.

There is no Society program, no speaker or other activity -- just dinner. So, if you have been putting off taking family and friends to dinner, what better chance to indulge everyone while helping your Society -- and at most reasonable cost. However it is only valid for one night. Why not phone other Society members and plan on meeting them there. Everyone wins with this one, so clip the coupon today and mark your calendar. Let's have a big turnout. Everyone has fun at Souplantation! See you there.

SCGS Launches Virtual Surname Wall

In conjunction with the 38th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree on June 8 - 10 in Burbank, the Society unveils a new service to help families connect with their cousins from around the world.

Similar to what they have done for years at their conferences by posting notes on the walls and on index cards, the online system is free and open to the public. Researchers may submit up to 10 surnames, together with their geographic areas or migration path and the associated period of time. SCGS will maintain the Surname Wall information which will be included in printed or searchable free online database that will be accessible on their web site (www.scgsgenealogy.com). They welcome family information from any geographic area, not just California.

Your contact information will not be displayed, either in print or online and you will have the option of asking SCGS to serve as intermediary or authorizing SCGS to release your contact information should they receive an inquiry regarding a possible family connection.

Beginning this summer, you will also be able to search the site for your cousins. What better way to 'reach out' and find others who are researching your lines. And, best of all, it's free. Our congratulations to SCGS for undertaking this most worthwhile project.

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

June 3--10, Salt Lake City Trip

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

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

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

July 7 -- FTM Users Group, Society Library, 10 a.m. to noon

July 11 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7 p.m.

July 14 -- Monthly Meeting, Historical American Flags, Ice Cream Social

July 17 -- Dinner at Souplantation fund raiser -- see article, clip coupon

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