



DNA Discount for Society Members

The Society has partnered with FamilyTree DNA, the largest DNA testing service, to offer our members substantial discounts on DNA testing.

By signing up through our group program, members can save up to \$80 on the 67 marker Y-DNA test. The public price for this test is \$349 but our members pay just \$269. The 12 marker Y-DNA test cost is \$99, for a \$50 savings. In addition, the Society receives a small commission for every member who signs up.

DNA testing as a genealogical research tool is becoming more important every day. By comparing test results, you can find out if two people are related, determine if they descend from a common ancestor, find out who with your surname is related, prove or disprove a research theory and even find and confirm new individuals in your family tree.

FamilyTree DNA has tested over 100,000 individuals and facilitates over 4,200 DNA Surname Projects. That's why 9 out of 10 genealogists choose to test with Family Tree DNA. Visit their web site to find out more about DNA testing and the full range of their services. Also see our June 2004 Newsletter for a detailed article about DNA testing.

After ordering and returning your test kit, they will send you your results by e-mail and regular mail. You will also get a certificate and report. You can even track the progress of your test on their web site.

Ordering your test kit could not be easier. A form is included with this Newsletter (and on our web site). You can also log on to the Society's Project Order page at: www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.aspx?code=R29472&special=true or by phoning FamilyTree DNA directly at 713-868-1438 (be sure to mention SDGS).

If you have been thinking about adding DNA testing to your genealogy research tool kit, now there are even more good reasons to act today. For our members, the saving here alone more than pays for two years Society membership. Non-members can join and get these terrific rates as well.

Sept. 8th Monthly Meeting **St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, noon**

Jean Wilcox Hibben Presents:

Deduction vs. Induction

&

Breaking the Ties That Bind

Does your family history meet the 'proof' and validity standards of sound genealogical research? Our first topic looks at the types of proof used to assess the validity of findings in the field of family history research. The differences between original (primary) research and hearsay (secondary) accounts will be clarified, as will the benefits of using the Genealogical Proof Standard. Come and find out if your research 'makes the grade'.

The second presentation will explore one woman's story of leaving family to settle in new frontiers. The paper trail she left behind will be examined following the narrative presentation.

Jean Wilcox Hibben trains Family History Consultants and volunteers at the FHC in Corona. A retired college professor, she is pursuing a doctorate degree in folklore and now spends 'more time with her dead relatives'. She also translates old German records. An accomplished guitarist, she often uses music in her lectures and workshops to bring together her two loves: folklore and genealogy. Visit her web site for more info: www.circlemending.org.

Last with us in April 2006, her talk 'Elizabeth: The Story of a German Immigrant' was truly memorable. **Be sure not to miss this meeting!**

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

President.....Peter Steelquist
1st Vice President.....vacant
2nd Vice President.....Jim Reynolds
Treasurer.....Candice Booth
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Acting Newsletter Editor.....Peter Steelquist

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 with researching surnames. Please introduce yourselves to them at our next meeting. THANKS for becoming members

Marshall, Anne -- Bryan, Ezekiels, Grant, Shearer, Lulley, Taylor, Fitzpatrick
Lenington, Janet -- Nolan, Gale, Bratley, Sexton, Fessenden
Fermil, Vicki -- West, Smith, Cole, Wyatt, Bentley, Moore, Dortch, Harrison, Dunaway
Boaz-Lutnick, Andria -- Papanos, Clift, Panagiotopoutlou, Rogers, Young, Alcorn, Vasilokostas, Northway

Souplantation Success

Thank you to all who came to the Souplantation on July 17th for our fund raiser. We had well over 60 members and friends show up which generated almost \$120 in revenue for the Society. Best part is that it didn't cost our diners a penny more and everyone had a great time.

Our thanks also to Garden Fresh Restaurant Corp. (parent company of Souplantation) for providing this opportunity for non-profit organizations like ours. Next time I hope we have an even bigger turnout. Thanks again everyone for participating.

Presidents Message.....

In reviewing the board positions up for election, it occurred to me that many of our members, particularly those new to the Society, may not know what jobs are available and how their skills could help. After all, we are an all volunteer group and everyone needs to help to make us successful.

Let me briefly run through the board positions and what their responsibilities are.

1st VP - handles promotional activities for monthly meetings, seminars, special events, etc. Prepares and distributes flyers to local venues and other societies.

2nd VP - heads up fund-raising events and other revenue generating activities. Helps prepare the annual budget and financial records audit.

Secretary - Prepares minutes of Board meetings and maintains official Society records.

Treasurer - Maintains financial records of Society. Collects revenue, pays bills and manages bank accounts. Helps prepare annual budget and tax filings.

Program Director - With input from Board, secures speakers for monthly meetings and seminars, including program requirements.

Membership Director - Collects annual dues, manages membership database, new member welcome, ordering name badges and prints annual Yearbook. Helps with promotional activities for new members.

Special Events Director - Recommends, organizes and promotes special Society events (Salt Lake City trips, bus trips, library tours, etc.). Assists with fund-raising activities.

Historian - Collects and compiles Board records for annual report. Photographs society events as needed.

Director-At-Large - Sets up meeting hall for monthly meetings and seminars including audio-visual equipment, chairs, tables, etc. Assists with special events as needed. Helps maintain library equipment and facilities.

President - Presides at board meetings, monthly meetings and other events. Reviews and signs legal documents for Society, oversees financial operations and prepares annual report. Appoints committee members (except Nominating Committee) and handles Society correspondence.

Board members attend a monthly board meeting and are involved in other Society activities.

As you can see, none of these jobs are particularly difficult and really require very little time - most less than 5 hours a month.

So, if you have been putting off getting involved with your Society, I hope this brief overview has renewed your commitment to contribute back to the society. It really doesn't take much. Don't wait for the Nominating Committee members to call you. Give me a phone call or send me an e-mail and get involved. You'll be glad you did.

Thanks!

Peter Steelquist, President

SDGS Newsletter, Vol. 40, No.8

Elusive Relatives

by Susie Harris

About three weeks ago I decided to stop working on my Baldwin line. It was about time to let the dead lie peacefully. After all, I had done all I could do. Or had I?

But let me start at the beginning. I had started researching in 1997 after my mother died when I found 65 Civil War letters from my great-great-grandfather, Horace C. Baldwin, buried in her desk. In an effort to find out more about them, I contacted my aunt and uncle only to find that they had more of his original letters which they copied for me. I knew I had to do something to try and preserve these historical treasures.

I contacted the Escondido Public Library and learned how to properly conserve them. I spent the next two years transcribing all 165 letters. By then I knew I was hooked on family history research and I knew I needed to do more.

Horace had served in Company C of the Iowa 38th, so I contacted the Chickasaw County Genealogy Society and they posted the "Letters to Kate" on their web site. As the letters also mentioned Horace's father, Russell, from Lewis Co., New York, I contacted that historical society. They sent me lots of information including a complete Baldwin chart that took me back three more generations. I was so excited.

With additional research, I found that Russell had moved to Wisconsin and worked as a land surveyor and then to Illinois where he was a bookkeeper for a lead mine owned by Stephen Hamilton, son of President Hamilton. In the 1850 census I found his family but no Russell. Was he dead? No, I finally found he had gone to California as a 49er, working mines in El Dorado Co. With all these successes, I knew I was really hooked.

Looking further, I found mention of a Baldwin family bible. But, where was it? I contacted every library and historical society where my Baldwins had lived. No bible. Perhaps it had not come down with my direct line. I decided to see what I could find by researching Russell's brother, Edmund. With the Federal census and help from the state of Wisconsin, it was fairly easy to locate living descendants. I found Gordon W., born in the 1922, and looked him up in the telephone book. On Saturday morning I got up enough nerve to place the call.

Mrs. Baldwin answered and I explained who I was and why I was calling. She said they were having breakfast and could I call back in an hour. Fine. When I called back, a very stern Mrs. Baldwin said her attorney had advised her not to talk to anyone. She said she just didn't understand why anyone wants to do anything so stupid as to find old relatives and wondered what skeletons I was looking for. She added that her husband were very sick and, furthermore, she was not the first Mrs.

Baldwin. My hopes were dashed but I decided to mail her some of my paperwork and perhaps with more time to think about it she might respond by mail. After all, I was only looking for the bible. It was at this point that I decided to stop working on the Baldwin line as I had reached a dead end with no where else to turn.

Well, a week later, I received an e-mail from Gordon's sister Margaret. My information had been passed on to her and she had family information she had received from a great-aunt who was a librarian. She mailed me copies. She also gave me the name of another relative in New York who had done extensive research on the Baldwin line. I had hit a pot of gold.

Margaret's 'Baldwin History' listed the same 20 generations I had found plus another 24 generations back! It included the names of William the Conquer, Baldwin III Count of Flanders, Alfred the Great, Charlemagne, Charles Martel and ended with Pepin the Old, Mayor of Austrasia, born 560 and died 639 AD.

While I realize that I have years of research ahead of me to 'prove' these family connections, none of it would have happened without a lot of work, persistence, luck and the kindness of many others. Another lesson I learned is to never give up. Often, things look their bleakest just before a major breakthrough -- which can come from the most unexpected sources. I hope you will find a little inspiration here to carry your research forward and lead to great successes.



'Safely Remove Hardware'

In last month's Newsletter, member Colleen Kline shared her SLC experience of not having captured copied data on her flash drive. Concerns from several of our readers have prompted this update.

When using any USB device (flash or thumb drive, external hard drive, etc.) users should ALWAYS click on the 'Safely Remove Hardware' icon in the lower right task bar on your PC (in XP, it looks like a green arrow pointing downward) . It will display all the devices connected to the computer and, by clicking on the appropriate device, let you safely then remove it. It will then prompt you when it is safe to remove the drive. This can help prevent scrambled data or system problems that might occur if you detach the device without permission.

When you copy or drag files over to a device, the files may not transfer immediately and may sit in a buffer area for a short time if the computer is busy doing other things. If you disconnect the portable drive without telling the operating system what you're doing, any files in the process of being copied could become damaged or corrupted. This also applies to a Mac as well.

Thanks again Colleen for your valuable lesson.

New Jewish Research Aids at FamilySearch

The LDS Church recently announced that they have made available three new online resources to aid with Jewish genealogical research.

A new web page at www.familysearch.org includes a Jewish genealogy database, a new research guide called "Tracing Your Jewish Ancestors" and information on thousands of Jews from the British Isles called the Knowles Collection, which builds on the work of the late Isobel Mordy. The latter links individuals into family groups, with more names added continuously, according to a press release. Free genealogy software is available to download, and the Knowles Collection is available as a file that can be viewed and edited through most genealogy software programs.

Users will be able to follow simple steps to identify an ancestor's birthplace or place of origin, usually a difficult task for many with Jewish ancestry. The research guide provides instructions on which records to search first, what to look for and what research tools to use.

Other Jewish family history resources at the site include links to relevant records and searchable databases, helpful guides and forms to view online or print, and online indexing projects, where individuals can register to volunteer or to see what databases are forthcoming.



What Is Your Real Age?

Ever wonder how the hundreds of decisions you make daily affect your *real* age? By completing simple questionnaire, you can find out how different factors can impact your biological age. For example, second-hand smoke can make your *real* age seven years older.

Log on to www.realage.com and click on "My RealAge Test" in the menu bar. You will be asked a series of questions regarding your health, lifestyle, medications, family health history, etc. Once completed, the site reports how much younger or older you are compared to your biological age.

But more important, it will also provide feedback on steps you can take to improve your real age and grow younger. The results are personalized just for you. The site has been reported on by many of the major news services, talk shows and nationwide newspapers. It was developed with input from medical experts and is recommended by all the major health associations.

Log on and give it a try. Just by answering the questions, you will gain insight on how to improve your health, well being and grow younger.

Meeting in Review..... August 2007

The tables were spread with all kinds of goodies -- a variety of fresh salads, wonderful entries including ribs, chicken, pasta, casseroles, and luscious desserts of cakes, pies, cookies and even mousse. The meeting began with lunch and everyone had there fill with much left over to temp us for the rest of the day.

The books tables were loaded with many rare and unique titles. In addition to many books for auction, there were some premium titles of mainstay publications and multi-set books that were bargain priced well below the prevailing Internet prices. There were also many periodicals and journals at \$1 per bundle as well as primary reference books and CDs priced at \$5.

Many people arrived early to preview the titles and plan their bidding strategy. With the opening gavel, bidding was fast and furious. A number to bidding wars ensued, driving up the prices to a competitive pitch. However, most items were still going at bargain basement prices. Our auctioneer, Anita Milner, kept things moving and adding her hilarious asides to keep the audience laughing throughout the day.

A seven volume set of Virginia vital records sold for a mere \$30 and a large map of Mississippi River plantations from Natchez to New Orleans (with owners named) going for \$30 as well. The best bargains were the many periodicals -- most of which are rare and out-of-print. The smart shoppers quickly grabbed up all they could use. For beginning researchers, the day proved to be a gold mine for basic research materials.

Not only was this a great opportunity for our members to pick up real bargains but also helped raise money for the Society. Our thanks to all the volunteers who helped organize, sort, bundle and box the materials and deliver them to the meeting hall. Fortunately, there was far less to take away. And thanks to all our bidders for the generosity. It was a really fun day.

Call for Papers

The Southern California Genealogical Society is sponsoring their 8th Annual Family History Writing Contest. Entries must be received between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, 2007.

Cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$200 will be awarded for stories up to 2,000 words. They are looking for non-fiction articles that describe family or local history and capture a family and capture a family experience or the character of a locality; or character sketches or memories that give a sense of an individual's character and personality. There is a \$10 fee for each entry.

For more information, visit their web site, www.scgs_genealogy.com. SDGS member Diane Altona is a past winner. Good Luck!

Footnote.com To Add ACPL

In the June 2007 Newsletter we reported on Footnote.com and their millions of scanned original source documents (now over 15 million!).

They recently announced that they have partnered with the Allen County Public Library to digitize millions of historical records and make them available online for the first time. The largest public genealogy library in the U.S., the ACPL collections feature unique American and International records including family histories, city directories, military records and historical newspapers. With this agreement, all the records digitized by Footnote.com will be made available to the library for free and online to Footnote.com members. This is in addition to already extensive record collections from NARA, the Pennsylvania Archives, FamilySearch, the Center For Research Libraries and other archives. The ACPL content should be a valuable addition to their already extensive collection.

The seven day free trial offer announced in June is still available. Browse their titles and take a guided tour at www.footnote.com. There are many other features that make this site really useful and an outstanding research tool.



'RootsWeb' New Manual

If you are not using www.RootsWeb.com regularly in your research, you are missing out on a great free online resource. One difficulty, however, has been navigating around the site and finding all its hidden treasures.

A new guide to RootsWeb has recently been published. In it, you will learn how to put your family tree online, locate valuable research resources, create successful message board posts, search effectively, connect with other users, and much more. The guide also features success stories from members of the RootsWeb community.

The 132 page publication, *The Official Guide to RootsWeb.com*, written by Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG, and Tana Pedersen Lord is available in paper format (\$12.95) and an e-book version (\$7.95). It can be purchased at www.therootswebstore.com. The guidebook gives you a great look at RootsWeb's history and its many features. The tips and tricks will help you realize the full potential of the world's largest, free genealogy website.

The Meaning of Life.....

Think big thoughts, but relish small pleasures.

'OpenOffice' Just Got Better

In April 2006 we reported on OpenOffice, the free office suite of computer programs that includes a word processor and spreadsheet, presentation, graphics and database programs. It emulates the functionality of Microsoft's Office programs: Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Publisher and Access.

Well, since teaming with Google, the product has gotten even better. Google now offers Sun Microsystems commercial version of OpenOffice, StarOffice, free as one option of their "Pack" download. The same download on Sun Microsystems' site costs \$70. The only difference is there is no technical support for the Google version.

So, how do you get this great bargain? Log on to www.Google.com, select 'more' on the menu bar, then 'even more'. This brings up their complete list of additional programs. At the bottom right is an icon for "Pack". Clicking here takes you to their 'productivity' download screen that includes StarOffice and many other free fully-functional programs, guaranteed to be spyware free. You can pick from the radio buttons which software you want to download. The easy-to-follow instructions lead you through the simple download process.

You can expect all the same functionality from these programs as from MS Office. Most of the menu choices are identical along with the key shortcuts and advanced features. They have even made some improvements. While StarOffice has its own default file format, all files can be saved in Office or most other popular software extensions.

You can pay Microsoft \$500 to download their Office Professional that includes all these same programs or get StarOffice for free. And in case you haven't heard, MS Office 2007 has a new look to their interface that is getting very mixed reviews -- perhaps another reason to stay with a proven product. (OpenOffice has had over 100 million downloads).

The price is right even if it is only to take it for a test drive. I think you'll like it.

Supermarket Affiliate Programs

If you have a Ralphs or Albertsons market club card and have not signed up with the Society's affiliate program, please phone our answering machine (619-588-0065) and leave your name and 11 or 13 digit card number. You don't pay a penny more and the Society gets a small rebate on all your purchases. If you shop at Food-4-Less and don't have a card, phone and let us know and we will mail you one.

Its a great fund-raiser for the Society. THANKS

At The Library.... by Marna Clemons

If you have been to the San Diego Genealogical Society's library you undoubtedly noticed what a serene and wonder filled place it is. It is certainly a delightful setting in which to conduct your genealogical research. There are literally thousands of books, periodicals, pamphlets, maps, CDs, microfiche and other family history research material. It is a fabulous collection more than 60 years in the making.

What you may not have realized during your peaceful experience at the SDGS library (when you popped in at any time of the day, any day of the year, at your own convenience, and probably had the whole place to yourself) is what goes on 'behind the scenes' by a large group of dedicated volunteers whose efforts go into making your time at the library so enjoyable and fruitful. The periodical collection of the San Diego Genealogical Society is maintained by Lynne Robinson and Twila Moore. Together they process the hundreds of new periodicals that come into the library each year. They do the intake processing, cataloging, periodical database management, filing and maintenance of our very large and impressive periodical collection. Spend a little time browsing the periodicals and you'll surely find something of value to your genealogical research.

Bridget Slatten completes the many steps to prepare each new book for inclusion in the collection. The Librarian, Miriam Hutzelman, assisted by Pam Journey, assigns Dewey decimal numbers to new books and finishes the paperwork in preparation for cataloging. Jane Huffman does the catalog data entry, prepares the new card catalog cards and manages the database for the library's huge book collection. Jean Jones assists with new book spine labeling and the card catalog cards. Peter Steelquist publishes new additions to the library's collection in the SDGS Newsletter periodically. Keep an eye on those newsletter columns for details about new library material of interest to you.

Each Thursday, when the library is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. there is a volunteer staffing the library to assist visitors and SDGS members alike. These dedicated people volunteer to be at the library on a regular basis, one Thursday per month for three hours. They are a wealth of genealogical research knowledge and experience ready to help. The Thursday volunteers are Ken Jones, Bridget Slatten, Karna Webster, Jackie McMaster, Shirley Bracey, Joan Carter, Bonnie Frank, Charlotte Dunn and Mary Schreiner. If you happen to drop by the library on a Thursday, be sure to let these folks know that you appreciate them being there.

The thirteen aisles of books and periodicals in the library don't stay as organized and clean as they do on their own. Each aisle has an assigned SDGS member who has volunteered to come in once per month.

These volunteers dust the books, check for proper filing, align the books and re-file items that have been used by patrons. These are the people who make sure library materials are where they are supposed to be and ready for you whenever you would like to access them. The volunteer shelf readers are Twila Moore, Liz Gaskell, Barbara Davidson, Georgia Callian, Peggy Steinmetz, Jackie Webster, Vern Howe, Donna Trapnell, Antoinette Bertolas and Bonnie Frank.

There are quite a few activities taking place at the SDGS library that you might not be aware of. Lynne Robinson, assisted by Peter Steelquist, answers queries sent to the Society by genealogists requesting research assistance. Lynne and Peter do look-ups for these genealogists as a service of the Society - often the requesters respond by making a donation to the Society in appreciation for the help. Lynne Robinson is available to facilitate interlibrary loans for SDGS members. Bridget Slatten processes the new member pedigree charts (there is a special card catalog in the library of current and past member research surnames to help researchers connect with others researching the same surname). Twila Moore files new card catalog cards for all the new material added to the collection each week. Currently tackling those projects that come up from time to time at the library are Pam Journey, Vern Howe, Nancy Hattox, Joy Walsh and Rick Tompkins. Lance Dohe maintains the library's computers and network. Chris Chistensen maintains the office computer with our card catalog databases and provides software support. Chris also maintains the Society's website where access to the library's collection database is available online [<http://www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs/librdb.html>]. We have Bob Crosgrove to thank for keeping the library in tip top cleanliness - he gives the library a good once over each month.

These are the people who are working diligently to maintain the San Diego Genealogical Society library as a valuable resource for the Society, its members and the community. Over the last sixty years many others have contributed their time, energy and financial resources to make the SDGS library the magnificent resource that it is. To each of them, past and present - we express our sincere gratitude.

Vehicle Donation Program

If you have a vehicle you no longer need, consider donating it to the Society and get the maximum tax deduction allowed.

Our partner, Action Donation Services will handle all the details. Nothing could be easier. Phone member Jim Reynolds (619-562-2235) or ADS directly (866-244-8464) for more details.

Great way to help the Society and get rid of that old vehicle.

Year Of Destiny.....

It is seldom that a single isolated event can change the course of history. What happened on 24 Jan 1848 would not only change our nation forever but would impact people around the world. That event was the discovery of gold at Sutter's Fort. By March of that year the news was published in the San Francisco newspapers and by August in the New York Herald. In December, President Polk confirmed it worldwide with his announcement in Congress. The Gold Rush was on.

At that time, there were about 150,000 Indians living in California and close to 14,000 others - mostly Californios, American easterners and some Europeans. The first people to reach the gold fields were locals. San Francisco went from a growing city of 1,000 to a mere 100 almost overnight. Soon, people all along the west coast flooded in. As word got out, people from Mexico, Central and South America and even Hawaii made the journey. By the end of 1848 an estimated 6,000 Argonauts had come to California, with only about 500 traveling overland from the East. Some of these "forty-eighters," were able to collect large amounts of easily accessible gold-in some cases, thousands of dollars worth each day.

By the beginning of 1849, word of the Gold Rush had spread around the world, and an overwhelming number of gold-seekers and merchants began to arrive from virtually every continent. The largest group of 'forty-niners' were Americans, arriving by the tens of thousands overland across the continent and along various sailing routes. Many others came from Latin America, particularly the Mexican mining districts of Sonora. Thousands of Australians and New Zealanders came as did gold seekers and merchants from Asia, primarily China. The first immigrants from Europe began arriving late that year mostly from France but also Germany, Italy and Britain. It is estimated that almost 90,000 people arrived in California in 1849 -- about half by land and half by sea - and perhaps 50,000 to 60,000 were Americans. San Francisco grew to a population of 25,000. By the end of the Gold Rush in 1855, it is estimated at least 300,000 gold-seekers, merchants, and other immigrants had arrived in California from around the world.



But unlike other large migrations, these settlers were different. Many had not come intending to stay. They were here to seek their fortunes and return home. Many from the East had left their wives, children and extended families at home and planned on returning with their new-found riches and prestige. But most returned home disillusioned and penniless. Others had sold their land and all their possessions to make the trek and were broke, unable to return home. Some had sought refuge and remedy from poverty or feudal suffrage while others saw the chance to break the ties of family and servitude and to 'reinvent' themselves. Only a few realized their dreams. It was estimated at the time that "out of every 100 persons who have gone to California, fifty have been ruined, forty no better than they would have been had they stayed at home, five a little better, and four still better, and one has made a fortune." But the longer term impact did not happen in the gold fields. The discovery of gold propelled California's growth and hastened statehood. The wealth and population increase led to significantly improved transportation between California and the East and the development of cities and commerce along the way. It opened up shipping with the completing of the Panama Railroad in 1855 and accelerated overseas travel and migration. The diverse emigration had an immediate effect on the cultural development of the entire nation that has lasted to this day.

But the impact was not only felt in California. Many areas in the East, particularly on the growing frontiers, lost significant segments of their populations -- primarily the young men of means who could afford to make the journey. It became the 'brain drain' of its day. This loss impacted the local economies and the re-distribution of wealth within many families. Many farms were abandoned for the lure of wealth in the West and many miners simply never returned. Many foreign emigrants also saw this as the opportunity to escape the privations in their own countries, whether it was the Irish potato famine, economic recessions or the failure of the revolutionary movements in Europe.

But perhaps even more significant, it embodied the ideal of the 'American Dream' -- that by hard work and good luck, anyone could prosper and make a new beginning in this, the great land of opportunity. And that was the impetus that brought many of our ancestors West whether they struck it rich in the gold fields or not and became its lasting legacy. In fact, many more found wealth as merchants and tradesmen supporting the mining efforts, along with the massive land speculation that accompanied the huge population growth.

So, even if your ancestors never stepped foot in the gold fields, their lives were inexorably changed by the discovery of gold and the ensuing Gold Rush. No other event in the 19th century had more long-lasting reverberations. It not only transformed California, it transformed America, making the American Dream the Golden Dream.

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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

Sept. 1 -- FTM Users Group, Society Library, 10 a.m. to noon

Sept. 5 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7 p.m.

Sept. 8 -- RootsMagic Users Group, St. Andrew's, 10 a.m. to noon

Sept. 8 -- Monthly Meeting, Jean Wilcox Hibbins, "Deduction vs. Induction", "Breaking the Ties That Bind"

Oct. 6 -- FTM Users Group, Society Library, 10 a.m. to noon

Oct. 10 -- Board Meeting, Society Library, 7 p.m.

Oct. 13 -- RootsMagic Users Group, St. Andrew's, 10 a.m. to noon

Oct. 13 -- Monthly Meeting,

Oct. 28 - Nov 4 -- Salt Lake City Trip. See flyer.

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