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# S F V G S

## BULLETIN

San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society  
March 2009

DATE-TIME: Friday, March 20, 2009, 7:30 P.M.  
At the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce room  
In the Chatsworth Train Station  
10038 Old Depot Plaza Road, Chatsworth, CA.

**Speaker: Jon Schweitzer**

Topic: "Land Research - United States"  
"

Please join us as Jon discusses:

- \* The reasons for using land records in our genealogy research
- \* Resources in the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center
- \* The links on the Internet that will teach us more about land research
- \* Where to find the land records and how to obtain them
- \* Land survey systems and maps Land Research - United States

Jon Schweitzer is a lecturer and consultant at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center (LARFHC) in Los Angeles, CA. He has been doing genealogy

research for 18 years. In addition to these activities, he has developed 75 Self-Help Red 3-Ring Notebooks at the LARFHC. Jon is also an experienced Website designer and webmaster of many Web sites including the official Website for the LARFHC. He has been a project engineer, manager and director in the aerospace industry. He has also been a general contractor and is now retired.

Guests are welcome. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

For information, call John Lindsay at  
(818) 349-0878.

Yvonne DuVernet

## Membership

Thank you to Donna Ford and Sylvia Keller for their membership renewals. We would also like to thank Sylvia Keller for providing us with an email address to send the bulletins and upcoming notices. We also would like to thank Southern California Genealogical Society for providing an email address so we may send them our bulletins.

We are pleased to welcome a new member: Corona Genealogical Society and thank them for providing an email address so we can receive and send bulletins to one another.

We welcomed guests, Barbara and Tony Saucedo, to our November meeting where we heard a captivating talk by **Nancy Kilbourn** on the "Powhatan Indians and Pocahontas"

Sue

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## HOSPITALITY

### REFRESHMENTS

No February meeting.

Ad and Lovicy Lockwood will bring refreshments for our March meeting.

Evelyn Acuña  
Hospitality Chair

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## NOTES TO MEMBERS



Beverly Brown died Sunday, January 18, 2009, after a 37 year battle with cancer. She will be sorely missed by our Genealogical Society.

Bev Brown got the key for us to open the Town Hall every month and usually was the one who returned it the next day. She was the one who went to the Points for Profit meeting and was responsible for getting the check for money earned. That meant adding up all the receipts we gave her. She always helped set up the room for the meetings—always helped in any way she could. We will surely miss her. There was a celebration of her life at her son and daughter in law's home today February 28, 2009.

Donna

## Pioneer Cemetery

California State Historic Landmark 753, L.A. Historic Cultural Monument  
586, 14451 Bledsoe Street, Sylmar



The cemetery is located at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Bledsoe Street in Sylmar, and covers just under four acres of what once was part of Senator Charles Maclay's ranch.

SFVGS has donated a memorial brick to this site.

The following is a short history of the monument.

Established around 1870 as Morningside Cemetery, it operated continually until it was abandoned—the last person was officially buried there in 1939. There were approximately 750 graves, many belonging to Native Americans, and purportedly veterans of both the Civil War and World War I. In addition to many prominent citizens of the day, there were many young children who died of influenza and others who died in floods caused by the St. Francis dam disaster.

In a surprise turn of events that began with the recording of a quit claim deed, ownership interest of the Pioneer Cemetery in Sylmar has been given to the San Fernando Valley Historical Society by the family of the late Carolyn Riggs, longtime member and supporter of SFVHS. As related by Jim Gulbranson, SFVHS President, he was approached by members of the San Fernando Women's Club to discuss how the Society might help preserve the non-sectarian cemetery that is said to be the second oldest cemetery in the San Fernando Valley.



At present, several service organizations, including the San Fernando Valley Women's Club, Native Daughters of the Golden West, Sylmar Women's Club, VFW, Sylmar Lions Club, and the Sylmar Chamber of Commerce have been involved in keeping up the cemetery. Longtime SFVHS member, Edith Reber, 92, has been a volunteer

caretaker of the cemetery for the last 30 years—she who spoke to our Society last year about the cemetery. Currently, the site has about 15 monuments remaining, 30 bases for others that have been destroyed or removed. Jim said he would hope to contact the 500 families whose names are on a plaque inside the cemetery and encourage them to replace the markers and give new respect to their family members who've been buried there for so many years. Jim also would like to find the missing gravestones, which local vandals have taken.

The master plan for the cemetery would include landscaping with native plants and provision for visitors who may wish to take self-guided walks once the cemetery is reopened to the public. Jim met with Carolyn Riggs' daughter and she agreed to sign over the property to the Society, allowing access to her mother's research and notebooks on the history of the cemetery that she collected over the years. "This is a major project for SFVHS, but an exciting one," said Jim. "We've got a lot of work to do to appeal to various groups, keep everyone interested and to make sure those who've worked so hard are still involved in a very big way."

From: <http://www.sfvhs.com/PioneerCemetery.htm>

## MEETINGS

### Southern California Genealogical Society

We are so lucky to have SCGS with all of its resources nearby and available. They have been generous to us by highlighting our meetings from time to time. The costs of DNA tests are greatly reduced if you are a member, and many genealogical meetings are held there.

On March 13th they are starting a new RootsMagic support group. RootsMagic will be presenting their newest release and will compare it to the old version we have been using. SCGS now has a members-only section of the web site for use in the library. Visit [www.scsgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com) for details on web use and much more.

### JAMBOREE

**Here's the news you've been waiting for:** The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree lecture schedule is now on line and available for download at:

[www.genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com).

Jamboree will be held June 26-28, 2009, at the Burbank Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Burbank, California.

On Friday morning, we will continue the tradition of offering several free sessions. This year, Tom Kemp will conduct a special Genealogy Librarians' Boot Camp. Last year's Beginning Genealogy session has been expanded into two sessions of three hours each. And the very successful Kids' Family History Camp will help to bring the youngest generation into the study of family history. You'll hear more about all of these activities, as well as several other special events, in the coming weeks.

This year's Jamboree will feature over 100 sessions conducted by more than 50 genealogical experts. We have expanded into the Marriott main hotel for all three days, which will increase our seating capacity substantially.

Jamboree is shaping up to be another exceptional event. The schedule and speakers are subject to change. We expect to have a very special announcement regarding the Friday Night Ban-quet speaker very soon.

The Jamboree website will be up in the next few days, and I'll let you know when you are able to register online. The registration form can be downloaded from the Jamboree blog page now if you prefer to register by mail.

We'll continue to issue important updates through this Rootsweb mailing list. To be sure you receive all of the up-to-the-minute updates for Jamboree, register on the Jamboree blog to get updates delivered directly to your email inbox.

Leo Myers and Paula Hinkel  
Co-Chairs, Genealogy Jamboree  
Southern California Genealogical Society

### Genealogical Society of Hispanic America (GSHA)

It is exciting to hear from so many researchers anxious to get details about the 2009 Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Annual Meeting & Genealogical Conference. Highlights: Reserve June 19-21, 2009. And, it's official. We are returning to the Sagebrush Inn & Conference Center in Taos, NM. No word yet on speakers, but I have requested that the conference committee keep me in the loop so that I can keep you in the loop. I anticipate that as soon as they have at least one

speaker set, they will let me know so we can spread the word. And as further details are available I can get the word out to you.

Donie Nelson  
Genealogical Society of Hispanic America  
PO Box 9606  
Denver, CO 80209-0606

## “Who Do You Think You Are?”

Filed in Celebrity Genealogy, Television on Jan.27, 2009

The American “Who Do You Think You Are?” Premieres on NBC April 20

Lisa Kudrow “Who Do You Think You Are?” is finally coming to America. The series, patterned after the hit BBC series (now starting its sixth season) is starting on NBC April 20. We now know that the series will feature Susan Sarandon, Sarah Jessica Parker and Lisa Kudrow. Kudrow is the executive producer. The series will also first feature Kudrow’s ancestry. I haven’t located any information on other celebs who may be on the series - YET. NBC says, “Additional celebrity names will be announced shortly.”

Roger Catlin compares the PBS series to “African American Lives,” which was first presented to the public three years ago by Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. Read his comments in the January 27, 2009 edition of the Hartford Courant by going here: [www.pbs.org/aalives2](http://www.pbs.org/aalives2).

Plan to be in front of the small screen on April 20 - at 8 p.m. Eastern Time!

## GREENLAND ' S MELTING SEA ICE

In a normal summer, Greenland's northern and eastern coasts should be ringed by an ice belt 30 to 40 miles wide. The drifting ice acts like a shock absorber, dampening the strength of the North Atlantic waves. "It takes a lot of wave energy to move the ice, and normally water along the coast is very calm," says Danish archaeologist Bjarne Gronnow, of the National Museum in Copenhagen. But in the past five years, the sea ice has all but disappeared. Without its floating frozen shield, Greenland's coast is being pummeled by storm surges originating hundreds of miles away. When

Gronnow visited the region last summer, his team was barely able to land their zodiac rafts on the beaches because of waves almost 10 feet high. The effect on the island's heritage has been catastrophic. Hardest hit have been sites associated with the Thule culture, people closely related to the Inuit of Northern Canada who first migrated to Greenland around 2,000 years ago. The Thule were formidable hunters and whalers, and their villages were built close to the shore. Today, Thule houses made of stone and turf with whale bone rafters are disappearing quickly, along with buried tools and artifacts. "A meter per season will be tumbled down to the beach and washed away," Gronnow says. "It's not a slow process." Older sites along the coast are also in danger. As the Arctic warms up, archaeologists fear the frozen turf that covers Qeqertassussuk, a 4,500 year old settlement where evidence for the earliest settlement of Greenland was found, may be melting. Gronnow, who excavated the remote site for the first time in the 1980's, is headed back this summer, and he is not optimistic. "I've been working in Greenland for 30 years now," he says. "I can see with my own eyes how it has changed." <Archaeology>

Cae

## RESEARCH NOTES

I thought you might find these sites good for finding books you may need for your research:

<http://isbn.nu/welcome.html>

<http://www.bookfinder.com/>

<http://www.addall.com/>

<http://www.fetchbook.info/>

<http://www.vialibri.net/index.php>

[www.Alibris.com](http://www.Alibris.com)

Sue

## ORTSSIPPENBUCHER-VILLAGE LINEAGE BOOKS

In Germany, "town lineage" books are called dorfsippenbucher, ortssippenbucher, familienbucher and various newer titles. These books are the printed alphabetical listings of surnames for one specific place. They usually are listed after the surname chronologically by marriage date with cross reference to father or further family if a person had no children. If known, a cross reference to a spouse's town is useful if not of the same place. Putting families together for a village or town using the parish records and sometimes civil records is a wonderful source to further your genealogy. All you need

is a place! There are about 50,000 parishes in German and 350,000 parish registers. Only hundreds of these books have been published, but if one is yours, BINGO! This is an ongoing project by individuals, State Genealogical Societies, and even towns. The IGS has at least a couple hundred volumes, marked in Blue on our shelves. People often find "their people" in those books and are incredibly excited. That very thing happened for a lady new to researching one day when Lee was staffing the library and had shown her how to use the books.

Cae

## BehindTheName.com

Last night one of my friends had her eighth child (Yes, here in Utah, there are lots of BIG families)! No name had been previously selected for this new 7 pound 3 ounce baby, and as I am writing no name has been selected. However, the seven siblings and proud father have put forth many suggestions for a name. Unfortunately, none have quite fit. So, what's in a name? Many people select a name for their children based on the etymology and history of the name. For example, the name "Melissa" means "bee" in Greek. This was the name of a nymph that cared for young Zeus in Greek mythology. It is also the name of the fairy who helps Rogero escape from the witch Alcina in Ludovico Ariosto's poem Orlando Furioso (1516). As an English given name, Melissa has been used since the 18th century. The name "Whitney," my name, comes from a surname which was originally derived from a place name meaning "white island" in Old English. (I was not named based on the etymology of my name!).

For those of you who are interested in knowing the meaning of your name, or for those of you who want to know the meaning of a possible name for your child, check out BehindTheName.com. This site provides the meaning and history of names from many languages and genres including English, Spanish, French, Arabic, , German, Indian, African, Italian, Irish, mythological, biblical, and more.

What does a name mean when you are searching for your ancestors? There are more than 1.6 million surnames in the United States. To add a little more confusion to the mix, the surname of your ancestor may have several variations. Some of your ancestors may have been known simply by their last name, or they may not have even known how to spell their name correctly! Plus, believe it or not, surnames didn't actually exist until about 1,000 years ago. Back then, there weren't as many people, and first and last names were just not necessary.

In searching for your ancestors, pay attention to naming patterns and situations where the name of the family member has been repeated. For example, your great, great, great grandfather could have been named Samuel, and your great, great grandfather could also have been given the name of Samuel.

An additional help source comes from <http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/genealogy/13006>.

In this article the author describes a common naming pattern prior to the 20th century.

- 1st son– father's father
- 2nd son– mother's father
- 3rd son– father
- 4th son– father's oldest brother
- 5th son– father's second oldest brother or mother's oldest brother
- 1st daughter– mother's mother
- 2nd daughter– father's mother
- 3rd daughter– mother
- 4th daughter– mother's oldest sister
- 5th daughter– mother's second oldest sister or father's oldest sister

Try to discover how your parents, grandparents, and great grandparents received their names. If you have children, take the time to write down the reason you chose the name of your child, and the meaning of the name.

**FROM: WORLDVITALRECORDS.COM**

## Watauga County, North Carolina

A History of Watauga County, North Carolina

In the decade preceding the Revolutionary War, frontier settlers migrated into the western parts of North Carolina, settling on lands along the Watauga River that belonged to the Cherokee Indian Nation. Many were Scotch-Irish who had traveled to the area through the Shenandoah Valley down the Great Wagon Road, while others were settlers who wandered westward over the mountains after the collapse of the Regulator movement in North Carolina. In May 1772 these settlers, led by John Sevier and James Robertson, established the Watauga Association, which boasted the country's first majority-rule system of government, and the first written constitution in America. The Watauga Association negotiated a ten-year lease with the Cherokees, and later purchased the land from the Indians. In 1776 the Watauga settlement was annexed to North Carolina, then was

ceded to the federal government in 1784, briefly comprised the State of Franklin, and finally became part of Tennessee when it attained statehood in mid-1796.

Although Watauga County, North Carolina, was not established until 1849 from the existing counties of Ashe, Wilkes, Caldwell, and Yancey in northwestern North Carolina, “all of Watauga County on the waters of Watauga River was once a part...of the famous and immortal Old Watauga Settlement of Sevier . . . .” In his *History of Watauga County, North Carolina*, John Preston Arthur provides an invaluable study of the origins and early settlers of this area rich in genealogical history. Arthur’s *History* not only covers the topics standard to such histories—the first settlements, Indian raids, churches, Revolutionary and Civil War activities, geological facts, legislative and other officers, population and agricultural statistics, place names, schools, etc.—but also peppers his narrative with innumerable names of early settlers, biographical sketches, and anecdotes about county residents. One chapter of the book deals with Daniel Boone, who according to local tradition, “hunted all through the mountains of what is now Watauga County during several years preceding 1769, and knew the country thoroughly.”

Of particular interest to genealogists are biographical sketches of the following prominent Watauga County families: Adams, Baird, Banner, Bingham, Blackburn, Blair, Brown, Bryan or Bryant, Cable, Coffey, Cottrell, Councill, Critcher, Davis, Dugger, Eggers, Elrod, Farthing, Franklin, Gragg, Greene, Greer, Grider, Grubb, Hagaman, Hardin, Harman, Hartley, Hayes, Hodges, Holtzclaw, Horton, Ingram, Isaacs, Lenoir, Lewis, Linney, Lovill, McBride, McGhee, Mast, Miller, Moretz, Morphew, Norris, Penley, Perkins, Presnell, Reese, Rivers, Sands, Shearer, Sherrill, Shull, Smith, Story, Swift, Tatum, Tester, Thomas, Todd, Trivett, Tugman, Van Dyke, Vannoy, Ward, Watson, Welch, Wilson, Winebarger, Winkler, Woodring, and Yountz.

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## Ages from Court Records

Ages from Court Records, 1636 - 1700: Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk Counties, Massachusetts

From thousands of court cases in Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk Counties, Massachusetts, dating from 1636 to 1700, Melinde Sanborn has extracted the names of all deponents and witnesses whose ages are given in the court records of those counties. Depositions provided in early court records are among the richest sources of personal information surviving from New England’s first century, and Ms. Sanborn argues that “so many people in

early New England were deponents for one reason or another that no biography or genealogy can be complete without a search through court records to see if a pertinent deposition exists.”

For this early period, the single most useful bit of evidence included in the depositions is the age of the deponent. While most depositions vary in quality from being virtually useless to providing corroboration of marriages, wills, and deeds, ages alone provide incontrovertible value to the genealogist. Sometimes the age of a deponent was very important to a particular case. Men over sixty, for example, were often brought into court to support the claims of the ancient boundaries of litigants’ property. Likewise, many older women who were experienced midwives were called upon to offer opinions on the timeliness of a birth in a fornication case.

Also, one of the most common errors in genealogical work is confusing two or more individuals of the same name. If “senior” or “junior” or “tertius” is not used, it is very difficult to assign events to the correct individual. Frequently, fathers and sons with the same given name came to court together, but with stated ages they are easily differentiated. Men with the same name and of the same generation can be another problem, but again a deposition with a specific age given can make all the difference. With this index—which lists the names and ages of 11,000 deponents, and the year and source of the court records—researchers can quickly determine whether it is worthwhile to track down the original court record.

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## First Settlers of New England, Volume 1

A Genealogical Dictionary

This is the basic genealogical dictionary of early New England settlers, giving the name of every settler who arrived in New England before 1692 regardless of their station, rank, or fortune. Alphabetically arranged for each, it gives the dates of his marriage and death, dates of birth, marriage and death of his children, and birthdates and names of the grandchildren. According to the author, “nineteen twentieths of the people of these New England colonies in 1775 were descendants of those found here in 1692, and probably seven-eighths of them were offspring of the settlers before 1642.”

Owners of this series will also want to purchase the new *Female Index* to “*Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*,” which indexes all the females scattered throughout Savage’s four volumes by both maiden and married names.

“Probably the greatest work on genealogy ever compiled for the New England area.”—P.W. Filby, *American & British Genealogy & Heraldry*

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## Ancestry World Archives Project

At the California State Genealogical Alliance annual meeting on 21 Feb 2009, those in attendance unanimously voted to become a sponsor in the Ancestry World Archives Project. You can find information on the project at: <http://community.ancestry.com/project.ashx?pid=31193> The Southern California Naturalization Indexes sponsor is the Southern California Genealogical Society, also a member of CSGA. AS CSGA PROJECTS chair I would like to encourage all members of member societies to help out on the project. You can give as little as five minutes.

What is in it for CSGA -

1. permanent recognition on the Ancestry web site whenever anyone accesses this index
2. The digital images to put on our members only web page.
3. Satisfaction that we are in fact helping make California records accessible to researchers.

What is in it for project participants -

1. CSGA members will have access to the images
2. Active participants - those that key 900 records [they can be any project if you like a little variety] in 90 days get access to ALL World Archive images
3. Active participants with Ancestry subscriptions get a 15% discount of their World subscription or 10% on a US subscription.
4. Satisfaction in helping make California records more accessible to researchers

Keying 5 records takes me about 3 minutes of time so becoming an active participant really would require less than 10 minutes a day or an hour a week and it can be on your time. I'll send out some pointers to working with the records in another email in the next day or two.

We will have a project page on the website soon, with links to pertinent information and perhaps a status report on the projects progress. Cat will send out a message when it is up and running. But in the meantime the Ancestry message below gives links to help you get started.

To get started, simply download the free Ancestry.com World Archives Project tool and follow the steps provided. Visit:

[www.ancestry.com/worldarchivesproject](http://www.ancestry.com/worldarchivesproject)  
(<http://www.ancestry.com/worldarchivesproject>) .  
<http://www.ancestry.com/s36809/t14334/rd.ashx>

All indexes created through the Ancestry.com World Archives Project will remain free and accessible on Ancestry.com. For any project that our organization sponsors, a digital copy of the index and images will be donated back to us. And by being associated with the World Archives Project, our organization will also receive exposure through free advertising alongside other partnering organizations fighting to preserve our past.

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## More Meetings

[The following taken from British Isles Family History Society —USA March/April 2009]

### Sunday, 22 March 2009

General Meeting (1:00—3:00 PM) “Southern California Genealogical Researcher Opportunities.”

How will you research while the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center is closed during construction. Nancy Ellen Carlberg, our recently installed First Vice President (Programs) will advise us about what records can be found in area libraries, Family History Centers and other depositories. Her information will certainly keep us going until the LARFHC reopens.

### Sunday, 26 April 2009

General Meeting (1:00—3:00 PM) “Using the British Records at the Orange Regional Family History Center.)

Beth McCarty will expand on what Nancy Ellen Carlberg told us in March, providing more details about a what is available at the ORFHC.

Beth McCarty is the director at the ORFHC, where she has volunteered for several years. She frequently speaks about British Research at area genealogical societies.

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# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



**Return to:**  
Editor, Bulletin  
18620 Chase Street  
Northridge, CA 91324

## Society PUBLICATIONS:

San Fernando Valley Vital Statistics,  
Newspaper Abstracts;  
Vol. I (1911-1925), *Vol. II (1926-1934)*,  
*Vol. III (1935-1940)*, *Vol. IV (1941-1945)*.  
*Guide to Revolutionary War Records in  
the L.A. Libraries*  
*Genealogical Holdings in the Mark  
Harrington Library*

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The San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society  
Mail Address: P.O. Box 3486  
Winneteka, CA 91396-3486

Member: Federation of Genealogical Societies  
California State Genealogical Alliance  
San Fernando Valley Heritage Network

**Web site:** <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~casfvgs>>

**ORGANIZED** in 1981 as a NON-PROFIT 501 (c) (3) organization, the Society exists to encourage genealogical research and interest in family history, to help others gather genealogical information, and to preserve historical and genealogical material.

**MEMBERSHIP** is open to anyone interested in genealogy. Dues include subscription to the S.F.V.G.S. Bulletin. Annual dues are:

**Individual:** \$25  
**Senior** (age 65 and older) \$20  
**Family:** \$30

The **Bulletin** is published monthly (except August and December) and includes announcements of speakers and other information of interest to members, including family queries.

### MEETINGS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Regular meetings are held the third Friday of each month, 7:30-9:30 P.M., at Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce room in the Chatsworth Train Station 10038 Old Depot Plaza Road, Chatsworth, CA.. The main feature of each meeting is a guest speaker presenting a program of genealogical or historical interest. Society business is conducted as needed, including announcements of activities of related societies. Refreshments are provided. Workshops, Seminars, and Classes are offered periodically.

## OFFICERS

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
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