

April 2013

Discover Your Family History



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The SDGS Newsletter is published each month except January. Submissions are welcome. The editor reserves the right to edit for space, clarity, and succinctness.

April 13, 2013
Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Nancy Loe



Nancy's presentation at our April meeting will be *Finding Hidden Materials in Libraries and Archives* and *Managing Your Digital Research Environment*. *Finding Hidden Materials in Libraries & Archives*, will explain how to locate genealogical materials held in manuscript collections in libraries and archives worldwide, using online archival portals and digital finding aids. You will learn how archival materials are prepared for public use, including where family records are located in digital finding aids; effective search terms and strategies; specific URLs for institutional, regional, and worldwide archival portals and gateways; and how to search across multiple institutions to locate family history records.

Managing Your Digital Environment for effective research is essential. This session presents simple, effective, and demonstrable strategies for naming and organizing digital files for quick retrieval, and using online tools to help you stay organized. Professional archivists manage vast amounts of paper, visual, and digital records, so archival concepts can help. Topics covered include using controlled vocabulary to organize and retrieve your records, file-naming conventions for scanned documents and downloads; file folder structure; authority files; and using metadata to label your family photographs. □

Review of March Meeting
by Randy Seaver

Our scheduled speaker, Elyse Doerflinger, was unable to be with us due to illness. Del Ritchhart and Randy Seaver adeptly filled in as our presenters for the day for which we are most grateful.

In the first hour Del Ritchhart presented a case study titled "The Enigmatic Mary O'Malley: Lessons Learned in Reconstructing Her Life." Mary was Del's grandmother, born in 1886, and when he started his research he did not know her parents' names or where she was born. Del gradually gathered information from home sources, census records, a state birth certificate and probate records to discover her birthplace and parents' names (Walter and Elizabeth (Earhart) O'Malley). There were other potholes like surname spellings, the mother died, the father abandoned the children, a guardian appointed, and an aunt raised her. Mary married in 1911, and they lived in Las Animas, Colorado but the children were born in Denver. The father married again, had children, and went to prison for bootlegging. Gradually, Del put the story together, unraveling other mysteries about Mary's inheriting land with her brother, her mother's adoption, a story about Mary knowing the "Unsinkable Molly Brown," and Mary visiting her father before his death in 1937. Del found the land in Mason County, Illinois where the Earhart and O'Malley families lived in the 1800s. Del found 7 generations of ancestral families, and solved all of his mysteries.

Del shared these lessons learned: read through the stuff you have many times, remember that spelling was inconsistent, structure your research plan and review it often, put your tree on the Internet and queries on message boards, contact local genealogy societies for assistance, keep records of all of your correspondence, maintain good research logs so that you know what you've looked at. (See page 2)

President's Message

I love our Saturday monthly meetings and getting hugs and handshakes and meeting visitors and new members. I love reconnecting with members whom I haven't seen since last month. I love the looks on the faces of folk who walk up to me to eagerly share helpful websites they have found, successes they have had with research, how the information of a previous speaker had helped with their research and just general excitement about coming together with a common interest. Anyway, I love our Saturday monthly meetings.



We appreciate our volunteers! We presented certificates of appreciation to Charles McPherron, Janet Mayfield and Pat Allen. Please see the website for a photo and a short write up about these volunteers.

Another member has donated to our society through matching grant money from their employer for hours volunteered to SDGS. If your employer or past employer and company has this plan, please remember our society with your matching grant for volunteer hours.

Good news about the move of our library holdings to the San Diego Public Library (SDPL). The move of our holdings is scheduled for mid-June with the opening of the SDPL approximately July 27. See the SDGS website for specifics. See the article on this page about the sale of duplicate books starting April 16.

Thank you to Randy Seaver and Del Ritchhart for filling in on short notice due to Elyse Doreflinger's illness. We wish her well and we enjoyed information and enthusiasm of our fill—in speakers.

Congratulations to an extremely excited Paula-Jo Cahoon (photo at right) who won the Research Trip to Salt Lake City and the Family History Library at our January Annual Meeting and Luncheon. Our September Seminar is being planned with Karen Clifford.



President of Genealogy Research Associates and Geoff Rasmussen, Program Developer of Legacy Family Tree. Watch for the announcement and flyer soon.

Mark your calendar! The July monthly meeting is our ice cream social. Please bring cookies. Sundaes will be \$2.50.

Dr. Diane McClure-Lott

Wednesday Library Classes 10 am

April 3 DNA Test Sites Understanding the Results with Martha Stead

April 10 Computer Basics with Dave Tooley

April 17 Researching Baja California with Ceasar Castro

April 24 Brick Walls Brainstorming with Kitty Taylor

There is no charge for these classes. Donations are accepted to cover expenses. Space limited to 15 participants. Please call (858) 279-7347 to register.

Welcome New Members

Elizabeth Rietow

Mariam Hutzelman

Barbara Ivory

Jeanne Pisor

New members as well as established members are asked to fill in surnames, locations, and dates on the surname link on the SDGS website.

Book Sale April 23, 24,25

Now that you have your new membership card you may use your code to enter the library at your convenience to take a look at the books in the duplicates area that will be for sale. The books for sale will have a green dot on the spine of the book. If you are interested in buying one or more of these books, just leave a note for a library staff member or leave a note in the book

Then on April 23, 24, 25 you may return to the library from 10am to 2pm to purchase the books you want. On Saturday, April 27 the library will be open from 9am to noon for other societies to visit and buy books. Members may also buy books on that day.

If you are interested please contact our librarian, Miriam Gitchoff at mgitch@cox.net. She will contact you with our list of duplicates available.

(Review continued from page 1) In the second hour, Randy presented "Exploring FamilySearch.org the Very Best FREE Genealogy Website." He methodically went through every menu item on the FamilySearch home page, explaining the options available to researchers. The "Learn" tab has two very useful resources: the "Research Wiki" with over 70,000 education articles on almost every topic, and the "Research Courses" which has over 500 online educational videos. The Family History Library "Catalog" link permits several ways to search for items, and there are links if the item has been digitized. He spent time in the Historical Record Collections, describing the different search methods, search filters, and the range of available collections. Not all collections are indexed – many have to be browsed as if it is "digital microfilm." Lastly, Randy described the FamilySearch Family Tree, a connected tree for everyone to contribute to, with sources and discussions to draw conclusions. This tree is now available to every registered user of FamilySearch. □

Genealogy Searching Then and Now

(Continued from last issue)

by Randy Seaver

Genealogy software became available in the 1980s with Personal Ancestral File, and then other programs were developed over time to automate the data entry process, to make charts and reports, etc. By 1999, Family Tree Maker was the most popular software program, and was “improved” every year.

Researchers corresponded with other researchers found through the LDS Ancestral File, other LDS resources, or through genealogy periodical/magazine articles and queries. They exchanged information by handwriting or typing information, and in some cases by photocopying their charts or copied records. By the 1990s, personal computers were used to create reports and charts that could be sent via letter, or via email, to correspondents.

How long did it take to obtain certain records before 1999?

Obtaining a census record before 1999 involved searching one or more microfilms one image at a time at the FHC, eventually finding the family of interest, and transcribing or abstracting the census information. If I was lucky, there was an index to help me. This often took one to six hours depending on how many microfilms I had to search.

Obtaining a Massachusetts vital record (between 1841 and 1895) before 1999 at the FHC involved ordering the Index film, finding the person in the index film with volume and page number, then ordering the correct volume with the record, and finding the record of interest, then transcribing, abstracting or photocopying the information. This task took at least six weeks to complete.

Obtaining a land record or probate record before 1999 at the FHC involved ordering the Index film, finding the probable entry(ies) in the Index film with volume(s) and page number (s), then ordering the correct volume(s) with the record(s), finding the record(s) of interest, then transcribing, abstracting or photocopying the information. This task often took six to 15 weeks to complete, depending on how many microfilms had to be ordered to obtain complete land or probate record entries. □

Name Origins

by Julie Helen Otto, NGHS Genealogist

ROWENA (f): In his *American Given Names* (1979), George R. Stewart writes, “[Rowena] occurs in the twelfth-century writings of Geoffrey of Monmouth. Since those writings are fictional, the name may be considered his coinage. Sir Walter Scott used Rowena for the Anglo-Saxon heroine of *Ivanhoe* [1819]. From that novel it was adopted for real women, and enjoyed some use in the middle nineteenth century. It is an example of what we may call a ‘Romantic’ name.” In Augusta, Maine, Vital Records to 1892, Rowena A. Tobey of Vassalboro and John F. Saben were married on September 5, 1872. In the 1850 census, 689 women and girls named Rowena were listed; in the 1940 census, 7,811 were enumerated. □

Suicide of an Alexandrian:

Alexandria Gazette 1895

by Gloria Osborn

George Baier, a well-known saloonkeeper of this city, was found dead in lower Fairfax County yesterday. Baier left here early Thursday morning for a hunting trip, taking a gun and pistol along. That was the last seen of him alive by his wife or friends. Yesterday, Mr. Church, who is employed on the Hayfield farm, south of this city, saw a man sitting on the ground with his back against a haystack. Upon approaching he said the man was dead. His gun was leaning against the stack and he had a pistol in his hand with which he had evidently shot himself. Baier was unknown in the neighborhood and no one who at first viewed the body could identify it. Upon looking in his pockets a copy of the *Alexandria Gazette* was found with the name “George Baier” written on the margin. Justice Kerby finally took charge of the body and held an inquest on it, the verdict of which was that the deceased committed suicide. Baier having been missing since Thanksgiving Day, when the news of the finding of a body at Hayfield reached this city this morning the missing man’s family and friends were apprehensive lest the body should prove to be his. The description given of the dead man was that he was a German, weighing from 160 to 170 pounds, nearly six feet high, sandy mustache and fairly well dressed. All this could have been said of Baier, and those who knew him who subsequently looked at the body identified it as his. Mr. B. Wheatley went after the remains and they were brought to his home in this city this afternoon. The deceased, it is said, had been acting in an erratic manner for some time.

Friends of George Baier claim he met Foul Play:

It is rumored the George Baier whose dead body was found by a hay stack on the Hayfield farm in Fairfax County, on 30 Nov, 1895, did not commit suicide, as was first supposed. His friends say that when he left home Thanksgiving Day to go gunning that he had on several very handsome and valuable rings and that when the body was found they were gone, therefore, they suspect foul play. The matter will be thoroughly investigated.

One Big Happy Family

Bruce Feiler *Parade* magazine February 17 2103

When a team of psychologists measured children’s resilience, they found that the kids who _____ were best able to handle stress.

Possible answers were: a) ate the same breakfast every day, b) knew the most about their family history, c) played team sports, d) attended regular religious services.

Answer (b) the more children know about their family’s history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives and the higher their self esteem. The reason: these children have a strong sense of intergenerational self they understand that they belong to something bigger than themselves and that families naturally experience both highs and lows. □

Grave Stone Inscription Source Unknown

It isn’t the date on either end that counts
But how they used their dash
For that dash between the dates
Represents all the time they spent alive on earth
And now only those who loved them know
What that little line is worth

Citing Your Sources Resources

From *Ancestoring's Ask a Genealogist* blog

by Michele Simmons Lewis

Read my post [The Basics of Citing Your Sources](#) to get background information. See Tom Jones' excellent seminar [Seeing the Forest AND the Trees \(and Their Leaves\): Mastering the Craft of Genealogical Documentation](#). If you are intimidated by Elizabeth Shown Mill's book *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace* then Tom's webinar is for you. You will understand WHY you cite things the way you do and Mills' book will make more sense and you will realize its value.

Resources that will help you with *Evidence Explained* are:

[Evidence Explained Homepage](#): Everything you ever wanted to know about the book is here—including some preview pages, reviews, quick check models, and FAQs. On this page you will also find the [Evidence Explained Forums](#). There are three boards, Citation Issues, Evidence Analysis Issues and Record Usage and Interpretation. Elizabeth Shown Mills as well as other experienced researchers frequent the boards. If you have a question related to one of these three categories you will get an answer.

If you like [Evidence Explained's Facebook Page](#) you will see daily posting that include all kinds of helpful hints, questions answered and quizzes in which you can participate.

Here are a couple of helpful courses (FREE) from FamilySearch: [I Want to Learn More About Sourcing](#). This is a beginner class that gives you a great start. [ICAPGen Mentoring Class: Citing Sources](#) is a class for people seeking accreditation through ICAPGen and has good information helpful to anyone.

You can get citation questions answered on [Transitional Genealogists Forum](#). This is a Rootsweb mailing list with certified genealogists to answer questions. □

Policy Change Requesting Photocopies From Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah

From Family Search February 4, 2013

The policy for requesting copies from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah has changed. Requests for information copied from films, book pages, CDs, marriage, death or birth certificates, wills and/or deeds, etc. will be copied in digital format and emailed to patrons in a zipped PDF or JPG file format. There is no charge for this service if we are able to email information to patrons.

We can mail the information to the patron using the US Postal Service, or a patron can request that the information be emailed to their local Family History Center, where they can print the information

Patrons request copies by emailing their request to Photoduplication@familysearch.org. All requests MUST include the following information: film or fiche number; item number; name of individual(s) referred to in the record; title of the record; name of parents, spouse, grantor, grantee, etc.; event type (birth, death or marriage); complete event date and place; event place (county, parish, township, etc.); volume or page number; registration or certificate number; any other information that will help us locate your record.

Dear Randy: To Cite an Online Family Tree

from *Genea Musings* by Randy Seaver

Dear Randy:

I am new to citing sources. How do I to cite a family tree website like Myheritage, or a family member's website?"

Dear Reader:

I used the Family Trees, documented source template in RootsMagic to craft this source citation for a specific person and a specific Fact on a Family website, like on MyHeritage. "MyHeritage Family Trees", family tree database, MyHeritage (<http://www.myheritage.com>: accessed 14 December 2012), or (<http://www.myheritage.com/site-family-tree-1742741/randy-seavers-genealogy-research>). Randy Seaver's residence in 1944-1946; submitted February 2012 by Randall J. Seaver, [contact information for private use], Chula Vista, Calif. USA 91911.

The master source elements include: Database title: MyHeritage Family Trees Format: family tree database Website title: MyHeritage Website URL: <http://www.myheritage.com> The source detail elements include: Access date: 14 December 2012.

Tree title: Randy Seaver's Genealogy Research. (<http://www.myheritage.com/site-family-tree-1742741/randy-seavers-genealogy-research>)

Item of interest: Randy Seaver's residence in 1944-1946 [note: this is the specific event being sourced] Submit date: February 2012 Submitted by: Randall J. Seaver email address: rjseaver@cox.net [hidden in citation] Street address: 1154 Via Trieste [hidden in citation] City address: Chula Vista, Calif. USA 91911. You can substitute the information from another website with a family tree on it into the elements listed above.

Zap the Grandma Gap

by Janet Hovorka

review by Bobbi King

Ms. Hovorka wants to zap the gap between generations as she introduces her super-hero Grandma who is armed with the weaponry of storytelling and the will to leave her family the treasures of the past and help them prepare for the future.

This book is written in a casual style using the theme of the superhero, Grandma, in her many superpower roles. Each chapter takes on a theme of super Grandma with her power regalia making family history exciting, inviting the younger generation to experience the past and become inspired to appreciate their ancestors.

Gorgeous Grandma puts on her super goggles and frames the family photos throughout the house making family history an integral part of the home surroundings. Geek Grandma with her high-tech super gloves struts her stuff when she guides the family through the Internet towards their family history and finding cousins on the social media sites. Groovy Grandma's virtual helmet brings the historical context of her ancestors' times to life with the sights and sounds of their specific histories.

The book is full of ideas for engaging the younger generation in remembering their past families. This is an easy-to-read book, and would be a good gift for folks who are not heavily invested in genealogy, but who could use a nudge reminding them of the value of family history and old stories.

DNA Testing Helps with Family Histories

Genealogists benefit from shrinking costs and expanding results, but privacy is an issue for some

February 18, 2013 by Lisa Black, *Chicago Tribune*

Patt Heise, of Palatine [Illinois], explains the migration routes of her ancestors. She used a home DNA test to help her discover her family history and connect with relatives. (Anthony Souffle, *Chicago Tribune*)

As she swabbed the inside of his cheek, Patt Heise assured her 84-year-old father that she wasn't crazy, just curious. She mailed off the saliva sample and waited for results. Her dad died a month later, too early to find out that DNA testing had revealed a list of potential relatives from all over the world and a migration chart dating back to Adam.

That would be "Genetic Adam," who lived between 70,000 and 140,000 years ago in Africa, scientists believe.

"People are really into genealogy or they think you are crazy and wasting your time," said Heise, 61, of Palatine, who acknowledges she is overwhelmed with the information but eager to use it to fill in her family tree.

"I really would like to see a book on *DNA for Dummies*."

Genetic testing has gone mainstream, with costs plummeting as private companies refine their techniques and improve the accuracy of results. For as little as \$99, anyone can order a do-it-yourself kit that comes in the mail, then submit their spit for analysis and receive results within six weeks.

Genealogy hobbyists liken the quest to track their family tree to a scavenger hunt, laden with clues, surprises and dead ends. For some, a snippet of genetic material has helped confirm a specific family tie or provide new leads when a paper trail has run cold. Others have blown up ancestral land mines along the way, shredding oft-repeated family stories or, as in Heise's case, discovering a notorious distant relative.

"I found out I was related to Charles Manson "eewww," Heise said, who hasn't been able to keep up with her email. Her account is filled with messages from strangers, one in German, asking about her family lineage because of DNA test results.

Recently, scientists used the technology to confirm the identity of a skeleton buried beneath a parking lot in England, as King Richard III, who died in battle in 1485. The scientists matched the bones to two living maternal line relatives. The University of Leicester conducted the analysis along with radiocarbon dating and a skeletal exam.

Not everyone is excited about DNA technology, as some remain cautious about privacy or simply don't see the need, such as Heise's dad. For others who are adopted or are trying to explain a gap in their family tree, the tests may provide a crucial breakthrough, experts said.

"I think people find it of use to them, personally, especially if they are searching for a form of identity they are able to uncover in this way," said Noah Rosenberg, associate professor at Stanford University's Department of Biology and expert in evolutionary biology and genetics. □

Guest Columnist

David Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS

So you've decided to go abroad to trace your family...

As genealogists, most of us either have gone, or plan to go overseas to visit the ancestral homelands of those we spent so much time researching over the years. When we go, expectations are high and the enthusiasm is palpable. To make sure that you get the most out of this perhaps "once in a lifetime" experience, you should consider what you would most like to accomplish! Is it to find the property where they lived—stand on the old homestead, find proof that they came from a particular parish or community, identify siblings, parents, identify living relatives/cousins, extend the pedigree several generations, visit the homeland area; learn the history; visit historic sites in the area.

If you're like most of us, the answer is "yes" to all of these. However, chances are very high that if you try to accomplish all of these in a single trip, you may fail to achieve any of them. This isn't meant to discourage you, rather it is intended to focus you on what you really want the most on the list above or perhaps you have a different objective altogether. Whatever the objective, remember that it drives the order of the places you visit and records you research in the process.

One of the benefits of research in the United States is that many archives accommodate evening and Saturday hours as well as early openings. Overseas, a good research day averages six hours of research. If you plan to spend two weeks overseas researching your family, this totals 50-60 hours. Think about how much time you've already spent researching this family and what you've been able to accomplish in that period. If you want to succeed at your research, choose which objective you most want to solve.

Once you have chosen your objective, determine which record repositories hold your records of interest and plan your trip visiting those areas in the proper sequence. For example, if you are conducting a property search, you may start with tax records before deed records.

For those of you who attended the SDGS seminar in January and heard this presentation live, I hope that you have taken the chance to review your research and determine which objective you would most like to solve – and that you have gently broken the news to your family that you "get" to go overseas! □

"Many people have a missing relative and are searching for a connection," he said. "We see a significant trend where African-Americans are searching for understanding of the populations from which their ancestors originated."

There are no federal regulations that govern the direct-to-consumer ancestry tests, said Hank Greely, a Stanford law professor who specializes in the ethical, legal and social implications of new biomedical technologies. "Both state and federal regulations cover tests sold for health purposes," Greely wrote. "I would note that various false advertising statutes and regulations could be applied to genealogical testing and, frankly, I think some of the sites are not always very clear about what they can and cannot detect." *(Read part 2 in the next issue)*

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Visit SDGS website casdgs.org
 View San Diego County genealogy events at: www.cgssd.org/events.php3

Events Calendar Unless noted, classes held at SDGS Genealogy Center 7343 Ronson Road Suite O, San Diego, CA 92111

April 1 and 15	Writers Group 10am Contact Diane Altona daltona@san.rr.com ,
April 2	Reunion User Group 12–2pm Contact: Anne Alves fansv@cox.net
April 3	Class: DNA Test Sites Understanding the Results with Martha Stead
April 5	Family Tree Maker for Mac 10am Contact Carol Jackson cjnest@cox.net
April 6	Family Tree Maker User Group 10am Contact: Dave Tooley DJSJ21643@aol.com
April 10	Class: Computer Basics with Dave Tooley
April 10	Lost Treasures 1:00pm Contact Bonnie Fago ribbonbear@gmail.com
April 13	10:00 am Monthly Meeting St Andrews Lutheran Church Speaker: Nancy Loe 9am Genealogy Class: Census Records with Mary Card
April 17	Class: Genealogy of Baja California with Ceasar Castro
April 17	German Interest Group 1pm Family History Library
April 24	Class: Brick Walls Brainstorming with Kitty Taylor
April 24	Legacy User Group 6pm Contact rnmarchant@gmail.com
April 26	San Diego County Special Interest Group 10 am, Contact: Martha Stead mstead2@cox.net
April 27	Roots Magic User Group 10am Contact: Chris Christensen rjchris47@yahoo.com
Save the Date: Upcoming Events	
May 2	San Diego Jewish Genealogy Speaker Marian L. Smith 7pm Contact: Info@sdjgs.org
June 7–9	Southern California GS Jamboree in Burbank Contact: Chris Kramer chriskramerart@yahoo.com
September 8-15	Family History Library Salt Lake City Trip contact: Gloria Osborn



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San Diego Genealogical Society presents

Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree June 7-9, 2013

Take an enjoyable train ride to Burbank, California and stay at the Burbank Marriott Hotel for three exciting days of speakers, exhibitors, and special events!

PACKAGE: Jamboree Registration, Hotel (2 nights), and Amtrak

Early Bird registration expires May 1, 2013

Single: \$520.00 Double: \$375.00 Triple: \$320.00 Quad: \$290.00
(if sharing a room, secure your room mate)

Early Bird Price includes: Jamboree registration, 2 nights (June 7 and 8) at the Burbank Marriott Hotel, and an senior* round trip Amtrak train ticket from/to San Diego

* Senior (62+) Oceanside passengers discount available

\$25 fee for cancellations before June 1. No refunds as of June 1.

Preregistration: Now - May 1 (prices increase after May 1)

Optional Events	*Pre-Reg
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Banquet WDYTYA	\$70
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Breakfast with Joe Mozingo	\$38
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Evening Dinner	\$70
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Breakfast NEHGS	\$43

add \$20.00 (CD syllabus)

Name (as to appear on your name tag) _____

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Phone _____ Email _____

Total enclosed _____ Discounts: (Senior) yes ___ no ___ Oceanside _____

Make check payable to: San Diego Genealogical Society

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