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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.

### San Diego Genealogical Society A Family History Seminar **September 21, 2013**

*For the Benefit of SDGS Education and  
Scholarship Program*

**Presentations:**

*Digital Imaging Essentials*  
*Legacy Family Tree Insights*  
*The Research Cycle—Successful  
Genealogists' Secret to Success*  
*Pre-1850 U.S. Research Methodology*  
**Register online using your credit card.**  
**Click here.**

<http://events.constantcontact.com>

Speakers: Karen Clifford, President,  
Genealogy Research Associates



Geoff Rasmussen, Legacy Family Tree  
Program Developer



9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Marina Village Captain's Room  
1936 Quivira Way  
Registration Fee:  
\$40 Members/\$45 non-Members

Includes: seminar, welcome coffee/tea,  
danish,  
Door Prizes and Buffet lunch.  
Free Parking

### Review of August Meeting by Randy Seaver

At the August 10 SDGS meeting, Mary Van Orsdol gave two presentations.

In the first presentation, *Library Skills for Genealogists, or How to Use the Carlsbad City Library Genealogy Collection Effectively*, Mary noted that we genealogists collect people, places and records. The records need to be understood—who created them, what, when, where, and how were they created, where are they now, and how can we access them? She then described the Carlsbad City Library Genealogy Collection, which has over 25,000 surname and locality books and many national, state and local periodicals.

Presentation Two: *New Netherland Research*. This is the first talk I've heard devoted to this topic, and I was fascinated by the breadth of information available. Mary described the time frame and geopolitical events of the 17th century, described the Dutch naming conventions, and then described the Dutch and English record groups available for researchers. Mary generously made her 13 page syllabus on the subject available to attendees. The syllabus contains information for Dutch naming conventions; Dutch Reformed Church records; New Netherland civil records; New York colony civil records, including town records, marriage records, land records, probate records, lists of inhabitants; New Jersey civil records; collected genealogies; Research Guides; Organizations and Journals.

Mary's syllabus materials are available in Members Only of the SDGS website.

### Welcome Members

Kathryn Askin  
Lori House  
Kathlyn Jenson  
Joseph & Joyce La Fleur  
Janice Yokoyama

## President's Message

Through diligence and patience (some 20+ years) I have found another cousin on my mother's side. As you all may know, the Dutch family of Lott was literally given to me as someone in the family became a Mormon and fleshed out a tremendous amount of information and sources. I continue to verify sources with trips to the Family History Library, Los Angeles Public Library and Allen County Public Library, and internet.

It is my side of the family that eludes me. I am first generation American and all roads across the pond lead to Romania, Hungary, and Croatia. In these countries it is not easy to just walk into an archive and find materials. Romania, politically, has enormous internal problems and not even the LDS can get information from Romania. In Croatia and Hungary I have used a professional researcher. Language is an additional issue. Although I have found information for my mother and her ancestry from the record of her birth and reels of microfilm and my father from a few delicate documents, I have not broken the walls for my side of the family. In this photo please find Franjo Krauze, a cousin twice removed. We sat for hours in his home drawing out crude family trees and



looking through photo albums. Through circuitous routes and side ways researching, I found Franjo, his wife Ana, and their son Ivan. Luckily, Ivan spoke English, since it is a requirement in Croatia from kindergarten to high school. I wish I could say I found a plethora of information, but I did not. Family history and following family ties were in the past not encouraged by the government. Franjo did not even know of the cousin he had in Munich, whom I visited last summer. We should not expect Europeans to have the zeal that we have for family history and genealogy study and research.

My last weeks in Europe were spent with the Horvath and Wagner families in Budapest, Hungary. We spent three days in northern Hungary, one day each in Eger and Szeged experiencing wonderful food and wine. Did you follow me on facebook?

Dr. Diane McClure-Lott

## Genealogy and Study Classes and Study

Unless noted, classes held at the SDGS Office at 10am  
September 4 Using iPads for Genealogy Research  
with Bonnie Cosgrove  
September 5 Mid West Study Group 1pm  
September 11 Computer Basics with Dave Tooley  
September 18 Researching Colonial New England  
with Susi Pentico  
\*September 25 10:30am Brick walls with Kitty Taylor at  
Family History Center Mission Valley

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.

## Tips from *Sound of Music* on Reading Old Documents

Mocavo.com Blog, August 14, 2013, Michael J. Leclerc

Images of original records are becoming more widely available every day. Being able to read and understand them will help you move your research in new directions. Whether the documents are from the 16th century or the 20th, you can learn to read and understand them. Here are three tips, from the Rogers and Hammerstein's classic *The Sound of Music*.

1. Read the Document Straight Through: When looking at a document for the first time, the temptation is to jump around looking for names, places, and other significant terms. This can work against you. You might miss significant information. Julie Andrews has been telling you for years "Let's start at the very beginning; a very good place to start." Read the document straight through. Even if you don't understand some of the words, you stand less of a chance of missing anything.

2. Understand the Hand: As Ms. Andrews also says "When you read you begin with ABC." Those of us over the age of forty who grew up in America learned either the Palmer Method (taught through the 1950s and 1960s) or the Zaner-Bloser Method (in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s). But there have been numerous hands through the centuries. The first step is to discover when a document was created. Then research what hands were in popular use at the time. Then you can look at alphabet books to help you read the handwriting.

3. Transcribe the Document: The best way to understand the document is to transcribe it as you read. Read through word by word, writing the words as you move through the document. If you can't read a word, mark it with an underline or capital X. You can go back and look at these later. As you read through the document, you will get more familiar with the handwriting of the scribe who created the document, and you may be able to recognize more letters as you go along. It may be frustrating as you move through the document, and on more than one occasion you will want to express your frustration as the nuns did "How do you solve a problem like this writing? How do you read a word and pin it down?" But if you keep going, it will get easier for you. The key to success is how the casts of *Sound of Music* won so many awards: practice. The more you repeat this process the more adept you will get at reading and understand(ing) original records

## "What Exactly is "Indirect Evidence?"

From GeneaMusings July 13, 2013 by Randy Seaver

There was a spirited discussion of the Transitional Genealogist Forum message board earlier this month. The first message I saw in July 2013 was by Michelle Lewis, titled "Direct and Indirect." There were many responses to this post that involved many of the best minds in the genealogy world.

Thomas W. Jones new book, *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, defines "Direct Evidence" as (page 14):

"...an information item that answers a research question all by itself. When we consider the possibility that an information item describes what occurred we are using that information item as direct evidence."

And "Indirect Evidence" as:

"...a set of two or more information items that suggest an answer to a research question only when they are combined."

The discussion of the TGF board quickly went to "it depends on the question being asked." Example questions and answers included (my interpretation, I hope I got them right!):

\* With a question of "How old was John Doe on 1 June 1850?" an answer of 49 years old is "Direct Evidence" (because it answers the question - it doesn't have to be exact, or correct).

\* With a question of "What year was John Doe born if he was age 49 on 1 June 1850?" (and therefore he was born in either 1800 or 1801), the answer would be "Direct Evidence" (because it answers the question, but not exactly).

\* With a question of "What was John Doe's birth date if he was age 49 on 1 June 1850?" The answer would be "Indirect Evidence" because it does not answer the question exactly.

\* With a question of "What is the birth date of John Doe if he died on 1 June 1850 and his age at death was 49 years, 4 months and 3 days?" the answer would be "Direct Evidence" (because this single piece of information provides enough data to permit calculation of an exact birth date).

With a question of "What is John Doe's birth date?" if a death certificate says the birth date was 29 January 1801, the answer would be "Direct."

Elizabeth Shown Mills added this in the discussion:

"If we assume that direct evidence gives a full answer and anything less than that is INdirect, then we have simplified both our expectations and our research. If we redefine INdirect as "something that addresses the question but doesn't give a full answer," then our focus--and our research methodology--stays at base level."

In my assignment of Direct or Indirect Evidence to source citations that provide information about an exact date (day-month-year), I've been using "Direct" for information that states a specific day-month-year, and "Indirect" for information that requires additional information to determine a specific day-month-year.

My practice has been to assign "Indirect" to the first four examples above if the question was "What is John Doe's birth date?" My view was that I needed more information to determine an exact day-month-year in the first three cases, and that I need to make a calculation in the fourth case (since there were two different pieces of information - a death date and an age at death). I find age at death quite a bit in the Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1915 collections and use

them to determine birth dates. Some gravestones list a date of death and an age at death also.

Is a death record that includes both a death date and an age at death one piece of information or two? I've been treating it as two, but it seems like it's one now to me. Am I quibbling over a small point?

The purpose of the assignment of the term is to help the researcher evaluate all of the available evidence and apply the Genealogical Proof Standard to draw a soundly reasoned conclusion that answers the question at hand.

Elizabeth Shown Mills summed it up nicely with: "Success with a BCG [Board for Certification of Genealogists] portfolio doesn't hinge upon learning textbook definitions or knowing what label to apply to something. What makes us successful is (a) the ability to recognize evidence that doesn't jump off the page and slap us in the face; and (b) the ability to use that unobvious information to solve a problem."

I encourage interested readers to read the entire thread of responses. The TGF <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/search?ao p & path = TRANSITIONAL - GENEALOGISTS=FORUM> message board is one of the best freely available forums to ask questions and receive answers from knowledgeable and respected genealogists.

### New Magazine: Discover Your Ancestors

Friday, June 28th, 2013 | [Business News](#)

A new genealogy publication has recently appeared in the U.K. with two versions: the annual print magazine, *Discover Your Ancestors*, and the monthly electronic magazine, *Discover Your Ancestors Periodical*. The two are described as, "Perfect for those starting out or for those with more experience who have hit a brick wall."

*Discover Your Ancestors* consists of two products – an annual print "bookazine," *Discover Your Ancestors*, and for those who can't wait a whole year for the next issue, and *Discover Your Ancestors Periodical*, a 20-page monthly online digest packed with stories, case studies, social history articles and research advice. Authors include: Sue Wilkes, Emma Jolly, Lynn Palermo, and Stephen Halliday.

Launched on 1st May, *Discover Your Ancestors Periodical* is a monthly digital magazine is delivered electronically to subscribers. In contrast, the annual printed magazine, *Discover Your Ancestors*, is available to purchase at more than 4,000 newsagents worldwide including WHSmith in the UK, Barnes & Noble in the USA and Chapters in Canada. The printed version contains more than 160 pages of in-depth social history articles, research advice, places in focus, case studies and how to features.

### An Hungarian Saying

Let's save our memories

Let's collect our old historical fragments

Not to get lost forever

Without them the past would be emptier.

The present would be poorer and the future would be less.

Visit SDGS website [casdgs.org](http://casdgs.org)  
 View San Diego County genealogy events at: [www.cgssd.org/events.php3](http://www.cgssd.org/events.php3)

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

September 2 and 16	Writers Group 10am Contact Diane Altona <a href="mailto:daltona@san.rr.com">daltona@san.rr.com</a> ,
September 3	Reunion User Group 12–2pm Contact: Anne Alves <a href="mailto:fansv@cox.net">fansv@cox.net</a>
September 4	Class: 10 am Using iPads for Genealogy Research with Bonnie Cosgrove <a href="mailto:sakdog@hotmail.com">sakdog@hotmail.com</a>
September 5	Mid West Study Group 1:00pm
September 6	Library Sale for Members only 10am-3pm
September 7, 8	10am-3pm Library Sale of furniture, equipment, books (1/2 price), maps
September 11	Class: 10 am Computer Basics with Dave Tooley <a href="mailto:DJSJ2143@aol.com">DJSJ2143@aol.com</a>
September 14	FamilyTree Maker for PC's Group 10 am Contact:Dave Tooley <a href="mailto:DJSJ21643@aol.com">DJSJ21643@aol.com</a>
September 18	German Interest Group 1pm Family History Library Bonnie Cosgrove <a href="mailto:sakdog@hotmail.com">sakdog@hotmail.com</a>
September 18	Class: 10am Researching Colonial New England with Susi Pentico
<b>September 21</b>	<b>Family History Seminar Speakers: Karen Clifford and Geoff Rasmussen Marina Village (SEE FLYER)</b>
September 25	Legacy Computer User Group 6pm Reuben Marchant <a href="mailto:mmarchant@gmail.com">mmarchant@gmail.com</a>
September 25	Brick Walls Brainstorming 10:30am Family History Center with Kitty Taylor
September 26	Ancestry.com User Group 11am Family History Center Contact: Carole Sobke <a href="mailto:cjsobke@cox.net">cjsobke@cox.net</a>
September 27	San Diego County Interest Group Contact: Martha Stead <a href="mailto:mstead2@cox.net">mstead2@cox.net</a>
September 28	Roots Magic User Group 10am Contact: Chris Christensen <a href="mailto:rjchris47@yahoo.com">rjchris47@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Save the Date: Upcoming Events</b>	
November 2	Research Trip to Los Angeles Public Library Contact: Diane Lott <a href="mailto:jefflott02@xox.net">jefflott02@xox.net</a>
January 11, 2014	Annual Meeting Speaker: Lisa Louise Cooke



**San Diego Genealogical Society**  
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# San Diego Genealogical Society A Family History Seminar For the Benefit of SDGS Education and Scholarship Program



Register online now using your credit card.  
Click here. <http://events.constantcontact.com>



**Karen Clifford**, President, Genealogy Research Associates  
**Geoff Rasmussen**, Legacy Family Tree Program Developer

**Saturday, September 21, 2013**  
**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Marina Village—Captain's Room**  
**1936 Quivira Way**

Registration Fee: \$40 Members/\$45 non-Members  
Includes seminar, welcome coffee/tea/ danish,  
Door Prizes and Buffet lunch. *Free Parking*

## **Presentations**

*Digital Imaging Essentials*

*Legacy Family Tree Insights*

*The Research Cycle—Successful Genealogists' Secret to Success*

*Pre-1850 U.S. Research Methodology*

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If paying by check, make payable to: **San Diego Genealogical Society**  
Mail lower portion to: **SDGS C/O Del Ritchhart, 17544 Plaza Otonal, San Diego, CA 92128**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Requirements: Vegetarian, Vegan, Other \_\_\_\_\_

# San Diego Genealogical Society Research Trip to the Los Angeles Public Library Saturday, November 2, 2013



Register Now. Click Here: <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/>

**Michael Kirley genealogist and librarian** has agreed to work this date especially for our group's visit. Join us to explore the extensive family history resources of the Los Angeles Public Library!

Depart 7:30 am San Diego Veteran's Administration Building (8810 Rio San Diego Drive)  
Depart 8:00 am Carlsbad Cole Library (1250 Carlsbad Village Drive)  
Arrive 10:00 am Los Angeles Public Library  
Depart 4:30pm Los Angeles Public Library  
Arrive 6:30pm Carlsbad Cole Library  
Arrive 7:00pm San Diego Veteran's Administration Building

#### Cost

SDGS Members: \$40.00    Non-Members: \$45.00

**Registration must be received by October 10, 2013**

No refunds after October 10, 2013

For more information:

Contact: Diane Lott at [jeff01@cox.net](mailto:jeff01@cox.net)

If paying by check, make payable to **San Diego Genealogical Society**

Mail with completed lower portion to:

**SDGS Special Events/Los Angeles Public Library Trip  
C/O Diane Lott 2161 Clematis Street San Diego, CA 92105**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Depart and return to Carlsbad Cole Library [  ] check for yes.