

October 2013

Discover Your Family History



7343 Ronson Road,
Suite O
San Diego, CA 92111
858-279-SDGS (7347)
casdgs.org

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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.

October Monthly Meeting Speaker: Ce Ce Moore October 12, 2013

The topic of CeCe's presentation to our Society will be *Introduction to DNA Testing for Genealogy*. She is a nationally recognized expert on the use of DNA in genealogy and frequently speaks on the subject of genetic genealogy throughout the United States.

CeCe Moore is an independent professional genetic genealogist currently working as the genetic genealogy consultant on *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and *Genealogy Roadshow*.

CeCe has close working relationships with major genetic genealogy testing companies and loves to help others discover more about their family heritage through DNA testing. Her area of expertise lies in assisting others in understanding Autosomal DNA testing products such as 23andMe's Relative Finder, FTDNA's Family Finder and Ancestry.com's AncestryDNA. She participated in the beta testing for all three products and is considered an innovator in the use of autosomal DNA for genealogy, frequently consulted by DNA testing companies, genealogists, adoptees and the press.

CeCe's volunteer work includes: Lead Ancestry Ambassador for [23andMe](http://23andme.com); Moderator for the ISOGG DNA Newbie List; Advisory Board for the [Mixed Roots Foundation](http://MixedRootsFoundation.org); and Co-Director of the Global Adoptee Genealogy Project; Southern California regional Coordinator for [International Society of Genetic Genealogy's](http://InternationalSocietyofGeneticGenealogy.org); Volunteer Administrator for the Jefferson/Hemings, Proctor, Travis and the Adopted DNA Projects at [Family Tree DNA](http://FamilyTreeDNA.com); and Administrator for the ISOGG [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia.org). She is quoted on DNA in many important publications, newspapers, journals and blogs. Her blog <http://blog.23andme.com/tag/cece-moore/> made Newsweek's *Recommended Reading List* for DNA.

Lost Treasures Successes By Bonnie Fago

1. *Avvampato/Salinger Bible* This *Bible* originally belonged to Charles Avvampato and his wife Mary Salinger, who married in 1943 in Steelton, Pennsylvania. They had ten children and moved to the San Diego area in the late 1960's. My research began in late 2010, and included trying to find all the children of this couple. I messaged using Facebook, but had no reply. I tried again in July of this year, and was able to find one of the daughters in the Santee area, who wanted the Bible. At this time, no one knows how it ended up with the SDGS, but it could have been mistakenly donated to a charity after a move to another house.



Pictured receiving the Bible is Mary Jo (Avvampato) Martin, middle, her husband Felix N. Martin, left, and myself, Bonnie Fago, on the right.

2. *Anderson/Conger Letters* Helen Barber, Lost Treasures Committee Member, was assigned this project in October, 2012. This case consisted of three letters written between two high school-age friends in 1920. It was a challenge to find a descendant who would appreciate these letters. These were written in a time where the envelope only had a name and a city no street or zip codes! One friend moved from Danneburg, Nebraska to San Diego and the two wrote back and forth. The girl who moved to San Diego gives us a hint of how this city was in an earlier time as she explored her new surroundings. Helen researched the two friends and found a granddaughter of one (See page 4 *Lost*)

President's Message

Sorry this newsletter is late. Just returned from Nebraska where I attended a weekend celebration for my Aunt Marion's ninetieth Birthday.

Our general monthly meetings will continue to be held at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in La Mesa. Wednesday classes, computer user groups, and special interest groups (except when noted) will be held at the SDGS Center. When in doubt check the newsletter calendar or the SDGS website, casdgs.org. Our lease at Ronson Road expires December 2014 but we are requesting an early out of our lease. Some groups have been relocated to branch libraries, the Family History Center and others remain at the Ronson Road facility.



The request of the San Diego Public Library (SDPL) to house our books and materials was a financial lifesaver for SDGS. In a conversation with Miriam Gitchoff, our retired librarian, we agreed it is a bittersweet situation but still it was the wish and plan of SDGS Boards (under different administrations) and the membership for many years that this holding of SDGS books and materials occur.

Your Board of Directors is planning our society's new direction. Our education plan considers using the internet, meetings of groups and classes in different areas of the city and county for convenience, use of the SDPL and its branches, and other facilities.

In addition, members at the September meeting were informed of by law changes needed to enable us to use the new electronic membership registration, election process, registration for activities, and new format for the newsletter allowed us in the new format by the designers of our website.

Our constant is our solemn promise to pursue excellence in education as stated in the Irrevocable Dedication of our By Laws: "dedicated to charitable and educational purposes," and in our purpose: "to promote general interest in the related fields of genealogy, family history and heraldry through individual and group effort and in cooperation with other like-minded organizations. It will encourage the writing and publishing of books, papers, and presentations of genealogical interest. The Society will support and promote the stewardship of the San Diego Genealogical Society Collection at the San Diego City Public Library."

Dr. Diane McClure-Lott

Book Sale

Half price (1/2) on all books at the
October 12 meeting.

Wednesday Classes at 10am

October 2 Class: More Beginning iPad with Dawn Scully
October 9 Class: Computer Basics with Dave Tooley
October 16 Class: Genealogy on the Mac with Anne Alves
October 23 Class: Brick Walls with Kitty Taylor at Family History Center

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

Welcome New Members

Amy Chidester
Susanna Hakala
Heidi M Karc-Aurele
Carolyn Nash
Paula Sassi
Bethel and Timothy William
Hal Berry
Linda Rawlinson
Ann Stevens

New members as well as established members are asked to fill in surnames, locations, and dates on the surname link on the SDGS website. The more we add to the surnames page the better to share research options.

San Diego Genealogical Society Proposed 2014 Slate of Officers

President	Dr. Diane McClure-Lott
First Vice President	Paula Sassi
Second Vice President	Nancy Quandt
Secretary	Debra Anderson
Treasurer	Joan Orendorff
Director at Large	Ken Robison
Membership	Julia Zuffinetti
Historian	J. Paul Hawthorne
Programs	Dawn Scully
Special Events	Larry Klaasen

2014 Nominating Committee

Marie Boozel
Vickie Fermil
Nancy Nichols
Pending

SDGS Members viewed the slate of offices at the September Seminar. There were no nominations from the floor.

Introduction to Genealogy Workshop Coming to a Neighborhood near You!

This 2-hour workshop will be scheduled at varying locations throughout San Diego County. Check the SDGS website calendar for dates and locations. There is no charge to attend and workshops are open to the general public. Be sure to tell your neighbors and friends! Email sdgsclasses@gmail.com for more information, or to reserve a seat. (See attached flyer.)

Review of the September Seminar

From members in attendance

The family history seminar on September 21, 2013 consisted of two presentations each by Geoff Rasmussen, Legacy Family Tree Program Developer, and Karen Clifford, President of Genealogy Research Associates. In the morning, Geoff demonstrated *Digital Images for Genealogists and Technologists*, then discussed *Timelines and Chronologies*. In the afternoon, Karen charged us to *Slow Down and Pick Up Speed* and concluded by discussing *Pre-1850 U.S. Research Methodologies*. Both provided a wealth of information and left attendees with new thoughts to approach their research.

Starting the Digital Images demonstration, Geoff Rasmussen suggested being aware of what you are going to do with the data before you start to scan or digitize. This may save time and redoing your work (or being unable to fully use your images) in the future. Resolution and file format were explained. Resolution involves a choice of pixels, or dpi. A high dpi yields a better and clearer image that is more flexible for future uses, although it means fewer pictures per card. He recommended 300-600 pixels and the need to save, save, save. File format is choosing jpg, gif, tif and so forth, depending on your plans for using the data or pictures. Software choices such as Adobe Photoshop and Picassa (free from Google) were discussed and techniques for working with images demonstrated. A final suggestion: digitize all your old photos.

Timelines and Chronologies was demonstrated with Legacy software, but Geoff stressed checking for a similar feature in software you are using. A chronology report or timeline is a listing of events in table format. Elements to include: year of the event, event name, locality (displayed in reverse order of state, county, city or town), citation, transcription of the document, and age of the individual at the time of the event. In the example demonstrated the age appeared at the left of the entry. A review of an individual's timeline or comparison of several individuals timelines may suggest sources for needed documents to verify information or sources for documents not yet located. Methods for noting conflicting information were shown, such as alternate birth dates. For a guide to future research, be sure to include the source of each event or date. Historical timeline information may be included to add perspective on your ancestors lives. Some genealogy programs can automatically insert historical information; www.OurTimes.com; animap. The Newberry Library has reconstructed the "shape" files (geographic changes) for the entire US and this can be used online for free. Google: The Historical Atlas of the US can be used here, in Google Earth.

The afternoon began with Karen Clifford's challenge to *Slow Down and Pick Up Speed*. She noted it is important to realize that the statement of a "fact" does not necessarily mean it is proven. The process for research and proving a fact should include: set a goal, decide which source to use, locate that source, search that source, copy the information, evaluate the information, use the results and organize and reorganize. A "TO DO" list or Research Planner are methods to organize

how to continue. They can help decide on which sources to start with as well as to evaluate and reorganize your efforts. Karen pointed out you need to see the data chronologically to make the best use of the information given. The second portion of this presentation was a case study to identify the parents of a particular individual.

Pre-1850 U.S. Research Methodologies was Karen Clifford's second presentation. She noted it is helpful to use the NUMC (National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections) which is

online Library of Congress. Be sure to read the instructions for its use before starting a search. Difficulties include fewer records online, less direct information, lack of experience with older record sources, the history and customs of different areas and an inability to read the handwriting! Arrange your data in chronological order, study the work of experts for the area of research, and check the history of that area. Karen suggested several source books, such as *Genealogy Research Methods and Sources*, *The Handybook for Genealogists*, and genealogy books for specific areas, *The Source or Digging Deeper Using Essential Pre-1850 Records*. Links to the latter are on www.karenclifford.com. A very important part of Pre-1850 research is realizing the changes in government units that keep records. (Also, see above about the Newberry Library and The Historical Atlas of the U.S.) **Eleanor**

From Geoff's Presentation

- * Tips about how to use Adobe Elements to edit photos, including the auto levels, clone tool and band aid.

- * How to use Picassa to create a "face movie."

- That there is a camera card that has wi-fi built in (who knew?)

- * That I need to use the Research Guidance built into Legacy. It is powerful and very useful.

- * That I need to go back to my AniMap program and use more of the tools it offers, such as searching for cemeteries or churches near a particular location.

From Karen's Presentation

- * That Familysearch.org has a "books" section that can be very useful.

- * That there is a National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) site that contains information about various towns, who married people in that town, archived letters and lists of colleges and much more.

- * How to use sources from pre-1850 such as tax lists, local census records, local histories and more to locate ancestors.

Diane

I found the presentation by Geoffrey Rasmussen on *Digital Images for Genealogists* was fascinating. He showed numerous techniques for preserving and enhancing our family pictures. I



already knew that cell phones had GPS devices located within them but never realized this feature could be used with photography. His book *Digital Imaging Essentials* is a must for every genealogist. Can't wait to try his techniques. **Julia**

Serendipity Strikes Again by Del Ritchhart

Well known actor and genealogist Hank Jones has an interesting presentation wherein he gives great examples of the role of serendipity in genealogy research. My story isn't of "Hank Jones caliber," but I hope it makes for interesting reading. I recently read Randy Seaver's Genea-Musings Blog, which I do every day, and was interested in his account of finding some very helpful data on one of his ancestors by checking the "Suggested Records" column that appears whenever you do a search and open up one of the records for an individual. For instance, when I searched for census records for Spear Dean it listed the 1850 census. When I then select that census and click on "view record," the census record will appear and a column titled "Suggested Records" will also appear at the right edge of the screen if there are additional records in the data base. In this case there were eight additional records that all appeared to be valid records for Spear. I looked at the records and felt that I was already aware of them, but I did notice one that I thought I would take a look at Texas, Marriage Collection, 1814-1909, and 1966 to 2011. When it opened up, it correctly listed his spouse as Sarah M. Jones and at the top of the "Suggested Records" list was the following: Sarah M. Dean, U. S. Confederate Pensions, 1884-1958.

When I opened the document I was convinced that this was indeed my gggrandmother thus Spear Dean, my gggrandfather, must have fought in the civil war for the South. I had never known this before. I knew he lived in Texas and I remember going through the men's ages of major paternal and maternal lines to see who might have been in all the various wars, but I must have missed checking on Spear.

I was elated with this information, but had some errands that had to be done that day, so I took about ninety minutes for that purpose. When I returned home, I checked my e-mail to see what might have come in of interest. *Family Tree Magazine--101 Best Genealogy Websites for 2013* caught my eye as the title of one of my e-mails, so I continued to open it to look at the list. They broke their list into several categories, so I examined a couple before selecting the Best US Genealogy Websites of 2013. As I scanned down the list of sites in that category, number was Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System. Since it had a hyperlink, I clicked on it and it took me to the site--aren't hyperlinks great!

Up came the site with an explanation about the database and then by clicking on the soldier's photo, it took me to a very simple search box in which I entered just the name, Spear Dean.

Much to my surprise the screen opened up with the details about which Regiment and Company he belonged to, his rank, and the film (microfilm) number. It had another hyperlink for the regiment which took me to a page with more details about

their involvement in the war. It appears they were still in existence at the time the South surrendered.

I still need to explore more to find out the dates of his service, which I am surprised the records didn't show, and more about the campaigns in which he was involved.

However, I am elated that I now have this new information that came about because I happened to read about "Suggested Records" in Randy's Genea-Musings blog, I then happened to choose Spear Dean to try out the "Suggested Records" feature, and I happened to then choose to investigate the Texas Marriage Collection, which then listed "Sarah M. Dean, U. S. Confederate Pensions, 1884-1958" at the top of the "Suggested Records" column. Additionally, when I went back to recreate the events to make the screen shots, I thought I had used Sarah M. Jones as the entering search argument when I found the pension file. I tried all combinations of her name: Sarah M. Jones, Sarah Marshall Jones Dean, Sarah M. Dean and Sarah Dean, but couldn't replicate the chain of events. Only when I remembered that I had chosen to look at the Marriage Collection while researching Spear Dean did the Confederate Pension appear in the "Suggested Records" column!

We have all heard the term "Better to be lucky than good." I think that may have been very true for me today, but to think there was a little serendipity involved makes it a little more intriguing!

The real lesson here, however, is take Randy's advice and pay close attention to the records in "Suggested Records" column whenever it appears. In the past I would give it a passing glance. I will pay very close attention to it in the future!*

(From page 1 Lost) who lived with this grandmother after the death of her father in an auto accident. She was thrilled to have these remembrances)of her ancestor.

3. *Thayer Photos* We had in our Lost Treasures Inventory two pictures which were marked as "Nellie and Ada Thayer", and "Cousin Ada Thayer". With only that bit of information, Helen Barber found that these two lived in San Diego as children. She researched the family and found a family tree online. The online tree submitter was related to these two girls and was happy to receive a piece of her family history.

4. *Stanley Photos* This was the first Lost Treasures project for Dorothy Yellin, a volunteer to the committee. She was very detailed and researched a voluminous amount of information on the Stanley family. This included calling a cemetery for more information for the gravesite of a descendent of George Stanley and his wife, Hannah Stanley, of Philadelphia, PA. These two were born about 1838 and the case consisted of two photo portraits, one of each of them. This couple had 3 children and Dorothy researched all, finding only one of the 3 had married and had children. She was considering her next step when she received an email from a person who said the cemetery gave her Dorothy's phone number. This person turned out to be the great-granddaughter of the Stanley's! This recipient stated that she was one of very few survivors of this line. Good job, Dorothy!

You live as long as you are remembered. Russian proverb

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

October 1	Lost Treasurers 9:45 am Contact: Bonnie Fago
October 1	Reunion User Group 12–2pm Contact: Anne Alves fansv@cox.net
October 2	Class: 10am More Beginning iPad with Dawn Scully
October 4	Family Tree Maker for Mac 10am Contact: Carol Jackson cjnest@cox.net
October 5	Family Tree Maker User Group 10am Contact: Dave Tooley DJSJ21643@aol.com
October 7 and 21	Writers Group 10am Contact: Diane Altona daltona@san.rr.com ,
October 9	Class: 10 am Computer Basics with Dave Tooley DJSJ2143@aol.com
October 12	10:00 am Monthly Meeting St Andrews Lutheran Church Speaker: CeCe Moore and 9:00 Education Class: Computer Genealogical Resources with Peter Steelquist
October 16	German Interest Group 1pm Family History Library Contact: Bonnie Cosgrove sakdog@hotmail.com
October 16	Class: 10am Genealogy on the Mac with Anne Alves
October 23	Legacy Computer User Group 6pm Reuben Marchant rnmarchant@gmail.com
October 23	Class: 10am Brick Walls Brainstorming at Family History Center with Kitty Taylor
October 24	Ancestry.com User Group 11am at Family History Center Contact: Carole Sobke cjsobke@cox.net
October 25	San Diego County Interest Group Contact: Mary Stead mstead2@cox.net
October 26	Roots Magic User Group 10am Contact: Chris Christensen rjchris47@yahoo.com
Save the Date: Upcoming Events	
November 2	Research Trip to Los Angeles Public Library Contact: Dr. Diane Lott jefflott01@cox.net
November 14	Introduction to Genealogy Workshop 10am Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Pkwy Reserve at sdgsclasses@gmail.com
January 11, 2014	Annual Meeting Speaker: Lisa Louise Cooke



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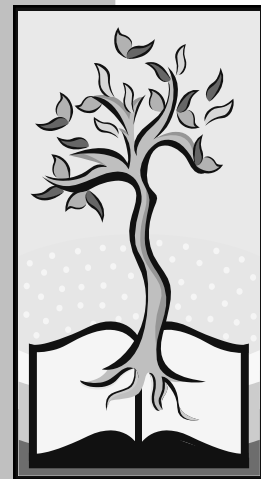
Introduction to Genealogy Workshop

Discover Your Family History!

Learn how to research your family tree! This 2-hour workshop will give you the tools you need to begin the search into your family history.

The San Diego Genealogical Society offers "Introduction to Genealogy Workshops" and other programs, open to the general public, at various locations throughout San Diego County. Check the Calendar of Events at www.casdgs.org for a schedule of classes, events and programs.

- How to Get Started
- Census Records
- Helpful Forms & Charts
- Online Research
- Identifying Resources
- Popular Software Programs
- Tips for Getting Organized
- Questions & Suggestions
- Handouts!
- Bring a notepad!



Thursday, Nov. 14

10:00 – 12:00

**Mission Valley Branch Library
2123 Fenton Pkwy.**

**LIMITED SEATING:
Reserve seat at sdgsclasses@gmail.com**

San Diego Genealogical Society Research Trip

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.

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

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.