

Tree Tips

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Researching the World

November 2008

Volume 24, Number 11

Joel Weintraub — a Double Feature: Finding Your Stealth Ancesters in the Census and Steve Morse's "One-Step"

November's program on November 15 features two educational programs presented by **Joel Weintraub**, PhD, who has worked with Stephen P. Morse to develop "One Step" utilities to access and search over 150 databases, including US Census data.

9:30 a.m.: A Behind-the-Scene look at Steve Morse "One Step"

Stevemorse.org is considered one of the top genealogy websites today and it is free to the public. Launched in 2002 as a database aide for finding immigrant passengers who passed through Ellis Island, today it deploys its unique web-based utilities to help sift through over 150 web-based sites. Joel will discuss the history of the US Census section of stevemorse.org, and take us through a large city example (New York City) to demonstrate how to search for addresses on the U.S. censuses. You are encouraged to visit Steve Morse One Step site (<http://www.stevemorse.org/>) and look at the various options (and FAQs) in the "US Census and Soundex (1790-1940)" folder before this presentation.

11:00 a.m.: Finding your ancestors when name indexes fail

After discussing some basics of the federal census, with examples from the upcoming 1940 Census (available in 2012) and hands-on exhibits, Joel will discuss why some people can't be (easily) found on the census. He will provide search techniques for getting the most out of name indexes. When census name indexes fail, or before name indexes are produced for some censuses (like the upcoming 1940 census, or the past NY State censuses), then an experienced researcher should consider using geographical search

techniques for finding people. The last part of his presentation will discuss such geographical tools on the One Step website for searching large and small communities. As an example, we will see how to find the enumeration district number for Santa Barbara from 1880 through 1940!

After retirement as a Professor of Biology at Cal State Fullerton, Joel became interested in genealogy. A native of Manhattan, New York, Joel started transcribing streets within census districts in 2001 to help researchers search the 1930 US Census (released in 2002). David Kehs and Stephen Morse joined him in this venture in 2002 and together they have produced a large number of online census searching utilities for both the Federal and New York State censuses for the Morse One Step website. Joel regularly volunteers at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Laguna Niguel, California. Joel was honored with several teaching awards and he's regarded as an engaging and informative speaker.

Specialty groups will not meet on November 15 ; please note that this outstanding program begins at 9:30 AM

Leave a Legacy!

Please keep the Society in mind when considering planned gifts. Planned giving can take many forms, including providing life income and tax advantages to the benefactor. Board member and attorney John Woodward has offered to consult on a confidential, free-of-charge basis with any Society member who would like to explore the options. Call John at 805-963-2330.

Interest Groups

Illinois Interest Group

The Illinois Interest Group will meet May 4, 2009, at the Sahyun Library, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. For further information, please call Joan Jacobs (682-9524) or e-mail her at rsjacobs3@cox.net.

Civil War Research

For help with Civil War Ancestor research, contact Bob Duncan at 684-5640 or nacnud34@cox.net.

Cornish Interest Group

For information on the California Cornish Cousins, call 687-8257 or 687-5403. New members always welcomed.

American Scandinavian Foundation

Members are invited to contact Evelyne Houdek if they have Scandinavian heritage or are interested in Scandinavia. (Evelyne Houdek, 684-7736, or gghoudek@aol.com)

The **Potter Cemetery** adopted by our Society 10 years ago needs attention. Can you spare 2 hours on a Saturday or Sunday in November to clean it up? Needed are weedwackers, hoes, and rakes to do the job. Please call or email **Michel Nellis** 964-6688 or mnellis3@verizon.net for more details or if you are willing to help.

Half and Half Book Buy Program

Pennsylvania Births, Philadelphia Co., 1644-1765, by Humphrey. Primarily church records from a variety of sources such as published works, manuscripts & original records on microfilm were used for this book. Alphabetically arranged, birth or baptism dates are given with parents' names. Cost: \$40; 1/2 cost: \$20. Needed: \$20.00.

Wilson Co., TN., Deeds 1853-1875, Vol.3., by Partlow. The earliest deeds of Wilson Co., are located in the Register's Office @ the Court House in Lebanon. The Co. Archives also has microfilm copies. These abstracts are every name indexed. Cost: \$34; 1/2 cost: \$17. Needed: \$17.00.

Colonial Families of Maryland, Bound & Determined to Succeed, by Barnes. Between 1634 & 1777 thousands of people were transported to MD. This book traces 102 servants & convicts & their descendants to at least the 3rd generation. Four servants were women and female lines were traced when possible. Indexed, & bibliography. Cost: \$34; 1/2 cost: \$17. Needed: \$17.00.

Raking the Ashes, Genealogical Strategies for Pre-1906 San Francisco Research, by Peterson. The disastrous earthquake & fire of 1906 destroyed many of the city's records, public & private. This book will assist genealogists in finding those elusive documents. Checkout this website for help in the meantime! Photos! www.sfgenealogy.com Cost: \$24; 1/2 cost: \$12. Needed: \$12.00.

American Prisoners of War Held at Bermuda, Cape of Good Hope and Jamaica, During the War of 1812, by Baker. Records compiled from the British Admiralty @ the PRO. Includes Marines, merchantmen, & sailors held during this conflict. Much info given! Cost: \$40; 1/2 cost: \$20. Needed: \$20.00.

Portrait & Biographical Album of Lake Co., IL, Pub: 1891. Contains full page portraits & biographical sketches of prominent & representative citizens. Biographies are indexed. Includes the US Presidents, & IL State Governors. Cost: \$84; 1/2 cost: \$42. Needed: \$42.00.

Members pay 1/2 –
Book Fund pays 1/2.

Please send contributions to:
SBCGS, c/o Louise Matz,
P.O. Box 6103, SB 93160

Suggestions welcomed!

SPECIAL THANKS TO MEMBERS
WHO MADE CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE HALF & HALF BOOK BUY
PROGRAM!

Laurine North Dinah Mason

Handy Hints for Genealogists

Preservation Tip of the Month Repairing Tears by Becky Schipper

There are two types of tears, clean cut and bevel. Clean cut tears require tape to hold the two sides of the tear together. Beveled tears have overlapping surfaces that can be bonded together with adhesive.

Mending with Transparent Tape (Clean Cut Tears): Use Document Repair Tape, Filmoplast Tape, or Scotch #811 Magic Removable Tape. These tapes are *not recommended* for rare books or valuable documents, which should be repaired by a conservator. Cut tape 1/4 in. longer than the tear. Center it over the tear. Rub with a bone folder working toward the outer edge of the item. If the tear goes to the edge of a page fold a minute amount of tape over the edge.

Mending with Adhesive (Bevel Tears): Always use a pH neutral adhesive. Place a piece of wax paper under the document or page being mended. Lift one side of the tear and brush a thin coat of adhesive onto the exposed edge. Align the edges of the tear. Wipe away any excess adhesive. Place a second sheet of wax paper on top, weight it and let it dry. (Submitted by Jan Cloud)

Here's a great site for researching Lakawanna county in Pennsylvania. They've recently added some data bases, one of which is the marriage index. As they state, there are lots of typos but if you search carefully you may find a person you've been looking for. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~palackaw/index.html> (Submitted by Rosa Avolio)

Adventurers of Purse and Person by Melissa Shimkus

After "The Lost Colony" disaster at Roanoke, James I authorized a charter to the Virginia Company to create two colonies in the New World. The first colony, Jamestown, was established in modern day Virginia. The second, Popham, was established in modern day Maine, but was vacated within a year. After a second charter was granted for the Jamestown colony in 1609, the Virginia Company was renamed The Treasurer and Company of Adventurers and Planters of the City of London for the First Colony in Virginia. To provide royal control of the growing colony, Jamestown was transferred to the Crown on June 26, 1624. Upon transfer, the Crown requested a muster be completed to determine the condition of the Colony. That muster was taken between January 20 and February 7, 1624/25. The total population at the time was 1,232 individuals. The muster provided the following information: colonist name, home location, names of family members, names of servants, passenger ship and year of arrival, amount of food and livestock, amount of ammunition and guns, and number of houses and boats.

Four hundred years after the founding of Jamestown, the fourth edition of "Adventurers of Purse and Person, 1607-1624/25" was released as a three volume set (975.5 J4AA). The new edition provides a transcription of the 1624/25 muster, followed by information on up to six generations of the descendants of those early colonists, arranged alphabetically by surname. More than 10,000 citations lead to sources for the material provided on the descendants, so a researcher can locate verifying documentation.

Between 1607 and 1624, while Jamestown was under the control of The Treasurer and Company of Adventurers and Planters of the City of London for the First Colony in Virginia, more than 7,000 individuals settled in Jamestown. On the census for 1624/25, 1,232 people were left in the Colony. The 4th edition of "Adventurers of Purse and Person, 1607-1624/25" provides a thorough record of some early inhabitants of Jamestown and the six generations they produced, from Jamestown to the Revolutionary War. It is an excellent starting point for those with very early connections to Jamestown settlers.

Our library has Vols. 3 & 4 of this series in our library: 3rd Ed. 975.5/D2/Dor & 4th Ed. 975.5/D2/Dor/v. 1 & v. 2

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Several months ago I threatened to keep you updated about my DNA adventures, and so I shall. But first some background.

I thought it would be interesting to learn what a DNA analysis would tell me about my deep ancestry, if it might point toward some more recent cousins, and because I am the last of the male line of my family.

I signed up with FamilyTreeNA because of how it is tied in with National Geographic's genome project. I chose the 37-marker option because it provides more information to compare with others.

Sure enough, the low probability matches started to come in almost immediately. At last count I share 12 markers with 4 people and 25 markers with one person who also has the same 37 markers as I, a fellow with a German e-mail address, and would you believe his last name is the same as mine? According to FamilyTree's DNA statistics, he and I have a 90% probability that we have a common ancestor within the last 350 years or so, and / or within the last 12-15 generations. I know we have none in the last 11 generations.

In my last missive on this topic, I said that he did not answer either of my two emails of inquiry even after a lapse a several months.

Well, voilà,, I received his answer this week together with a PDF copy of his book about his family history—all 350 pages of it!

He opined that his previous replies may have gone into my SPAM bin, a possibility I never considered. Most SPAM that is directed to me is automatically rerouted to a dead box, and there it sits. I never look at it, so the lesson here is this: If you aren't getting e-mail from people who say you should, check your SPAM box.

The 350-page book is mostly in German, some French, some Italian, and some English. It lacks a great deal of information because all the family records were burned in an estate fire in 1937. I have not studied his book in detail yet, but it seems not to go back beyond his great grandfather, born Buffalo, New York, in 1864. Yet family lore says he descends

from an Englishman, Nathaniel Sylvester, who immigrated to the Colonies in the 17th century from about the same part of England as my ancestor allegedly came from. Nathaniel settled on Shelter Island, Long Island, NY. He is in Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org, but so far, a gap of about 5-6 generations exists in the time period 1680 to 1860.

The upshot of my DNA study, then, seems to be if I am to learn if the German fellow and I are 13th or 14th cousins or more, then I have to research his family backward and forward from Shelter Island around 1700 and backward from Erie, NY, in the 1860s at a time when I don't need any other distractions. Like many genealogical riddles, however, this one is obsessive. There is just enough information to tantalize, not enough to be certain and then there is the intriguing DNA result. Maybe I'll have some answers for you in a forthcoming letter after I work out this man's genealogy for him.

See you in the Stacks!
Arthur Gibbs Sylvester
President

Upcoming Programs

20 December 2008

SBCGS's "Holiday Share" program is always a festive annual favorite. This year's theme is, again, "My Favorite (Family History) Things":

Please consider sharing your favorite family:

- Photo(s); maybe even one that needs identification?
- Holiday Ancestor story
- Memorabilia (medal, ornament, quilt, diary)
- Heritage Holiday treats
- Genealogical "gadget" or website
- Project – Pedigree chart, scrap book, memoir in progress

Contact Mary Hall at mehall2@cox.net if you'd like to share a story or photo and we'll make sure you are added to program.

Library Note

• **SBCGS Sahyun Library Hours**

316 Castillo Street

Phone: 805-884-9909

Sunday: 1–4 PM

Tuesday: 10 AM–3 PM

Thursday: 10 AM–3 PM

Friday: 10 AM–3 PM

• **LDS Library Hours**

2107 Santa Barbara St.

Phone: 805-682-2092

Wednesday: 10 AM–6 PM

Thursday: 10 AM–6 PM

Friday: 9 AM–3 PM

Saturday: 9 AM–12 Noon

Calendar

Board Meeting

Friday, Nov. 14, 8:30 AM, at the Sahyun Library

General Meeting

Saturday, November 15, 9:30 AM

January 2009 General Meeting

Changed to 4th Saturday, Jan. 24

Strategic Planning Meeting

Saturday, February 7, 2009

For more information, contact Art Sylvester

Mark Your Calendars

The general meeting in January will be held on January 24, 2009



One of two overflowing tables at the Heritage Potluck and Barn-Raising. Thank you, all participants, for your attendance, help, and delicious dishes.

For Information, Call:

President:

Arthur Sylvester, 967-1742

Head Librarian:

Don Gill, 967-7236

Librarian Scheduling:

Jim & Marj Friestad, 964- 0227

Newsletter Address Corrections:

Susan Ramsey, 967-1670

Book Buy:

Louise Matz, 967-7353

Vice President, Membership:

Diane Nelson, 964-4181

Ancestors West:

Dorothy Oksner, 684-3048

ox@silcom.com

Adult Ed Genealogy Classes:

Jan Cloud, 965-7423

Louise Matz, 967-7353

Cari Thomas, 965-5523

Sales Table:

Emily Aasted, 687-6097

Vice President, Programs:

Mary Hall, 687-7403

Publicity:

Gary Shumaker, 687-0065

Tree Tips: Please e-mail contributions to Diane Sylvester, fjordhest@cox.net; Deadline: 3rd Sat. of the month

Did You Know . . .

that we have generous members? You bet!

The Book Committee spotted an eleven volume series on "The Colonial Records of North Carolina" (Second Series) that they thought would make a valuable addition to our library collection. Knowing his keen interest in North Carolina research, we contacted our member, Dr. Frank Kendrick, and discussed our interest in this series. Frank immediately said that he would support the purchase as a gift to the library. Wow!

The series has just been cataloged and should be on the library shelves soon. (975.6/N2/COL/v. I - v. XI). Five of the volumes pertain to North Carolina Higher-Court Records, 1697-1730, while two others contain records from the Church of England in North Carolina: Documents, 1699-1763. Lots of names mentioned here! Many of those heading south passed through North Carolina during these years and whether or not they purchased land, their names may show up in records such as these. Have a peek—maybe your ancestors are hiding here!

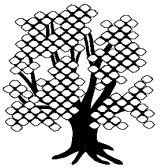


SB Co. Genealogical Society Web Page:

www.cagenweb.com/santabarbara/sbcgs/

Library e-mail address:

sbcgs@msn.com



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1303

Goleta, CA 93116-1303

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