

Ancestors West



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

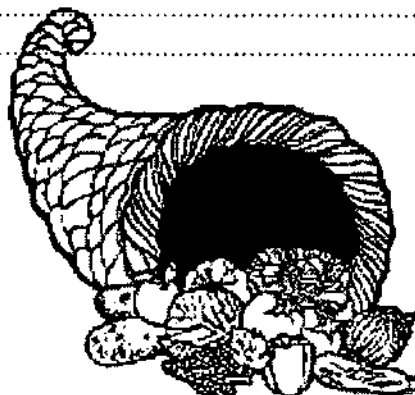
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SUMMER 2004

Volume 30, Number 4

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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Articles of family history or of historical nature are welcomed and utilized as space permits. If materials are to be returned, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Be sure to add your name to copy being submitted.

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Established in 1972, the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society incorporated as a nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization in 1986. Its aim is to promote genealogy by providing assistance and educational opportunities for those who are interested in pursuing their family history.

Library: Sahyun Library at the SBCGS facility, 316 Castillo St., Santa Barbara.
Hours: Sunday 1-4 P.M.; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 A.M. -3 P.M.
Phone number: (805) 884-9909

Membership: Benefits include *Tree Tips* (monthly newsletter) and *Ancestors West* (quarterly).

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Regular monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month except August. Meetings begin at 10:30 A.M. and are preceded at 9:30 A.M. by sessions for Beginners, Help Wanted, and Computer Help

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It seems like I am always getting extra motivated in response to columns that I have seen in past issues of *Ancestors West*. Case in point resulted from the recent articles in *Ancestors West* dealing with the Veterans History Project. These articles brought to mind last May's wonderful television coverage of the National World War II Reunion held in Washington D.C. and the truly heart-wrenching stories so many of the veterans had to share.

But after reading the articles in *Ancestors West* I began to realize that I too have access to stories from several veterans. Both of my uncles served in World War II. One was stationed with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific while the other was fortunate to stay at home as an instructor.

My husband was only 18 months old when his father was killed during a U.S. Marine assault on Palau Palau. My husband never knew his father, but he has an uncle, who also served with the Marines at Saipan and Iwo Jima, and he has stories to share. And come to think about it, I also have a business associate who served in the Vietnam War as a captain on a submarine and I'll bet he too has lots of stories to tell.

I went to the Library of Congress website at <www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/> and ordered the VHP Field Kits right then and there; it was really easy to do. As soon as they get here I plan to get started preserving these fabulous resources before it's too late. I hope you too have been motivated to spend a little time to save these stories for future generations so they can learn about our veterans from the veterans' own stories.

Please help if you can, either by collecting the

stories or telling them, they are a precious resource that would be a shame to squander.

Thanks,

Michol Colgan President

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Having just returned from a two-week tour of my ancestral homeland, Ukraine, I am still floating on Cloud 9. Meeting new third cousins in Toronto in preparation for the trip to Ukraine, and then meeting more cousins in Ukraine, has given me so much to think about. I think I have fallen in love with Ukraine and its people. I'm obsessed. I have purchased two large history books on Ukraine, I search the Internet constantly for news about Ukraine, I have joined two Ukrainian Lists for genealogy, and I will soon begin to learn the art of psyanky (egg decorating), Ukrainian cooking, and Ukrainian embroidery.

On October 31, 2004, Ukraine elected a new president. As of this writing, the outcome is not yet known. Third cousin, Andrey of Toronto, has gone to Kiev/Kyiv to help monitor the elections. I am anxious to learn what he has observed. The two leading candidates are complete opposites. One leans toward Russia, the other towards the West.

Bohdan Yurkiv has a nice website for Ukraine at <www.bohdanyurkiv.cityslide.com> with photos and links to maps, and history. For Ukraine researchers a good List to join is through Yahoo at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Galicia_Poland-Ukraine/>.

Dorothy Okšner

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PLEASE NOTE:
CORRECTION**

Volume 30, Number 1, Fall 2003/Winter 2004
should have been numbered 1 & 2.

RESEARCHING ACROSS THE 49TH PARALLEL

(first in an occasional series on Canadian genealogical research)

By Michel Cooper Nellis, SBCGS Member
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I became interested in Canadian records when I began to research my husband's Canadian roots. Bryan Clifford Nellis was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on March 18, 1946. Both of his parents were born in Winnipeg as well. His father, Clifford Douglas Nellis, was born March 12, 1923, and his mother, Olga Swystun, the daughter of Polish/Ukrainian immigrants, was born on September 18, 1924. Though we knew the names of Bryan's grandparents and great-grandparents, we knew little else of their history.

As a researcher accustomed to American resources, I began my research back in 1995 the usual way, first asking questions of surviving family members, then becoming familiar with Canadian records. These records, like American records, are created at the federal, provincial (state), and county levels. Census records seemed to be a key resource for locating family units and a likely place to start my research. Very quickly I learned some fine points about researching Canadian censuses.

Point #1 – The Canadian census is enumerated in years ending in 1 rather than 0. For all practical purposes, the first major censuses were taken in 1851 and 1861 covering Canada East (Quebec), Canada West (Ontario) and, to a lesser degree, the maritime provinces. After Canada became a federation in 1867, the first national census for the four original provinces known as Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia was taken in 1871. The future western provinces and territories would be included in the census of 1881.

Point #2 – Census enumeration in Canada is not conducted by counties within the provinces. Rather the census is conducted by districts composed of some or all of each county. Bryan's grandfather had been raised in the town of Sydenham in Ontario, yet when I consulted a map

of Ontario, I found a Sydenham in two different counties! With the help of Bryan's uncle, I was able to correctly identify the correct Sydenham located in Frontenac County. Unfortunately, Frontenac County was not its own enumeration district, and at the beginning of my research, I did not know in which district this county was located.

Point #3 – No national index exists for Canadian census research beyond the one listing the heads of households for the 1871 census. This particular index was of no use to me as I needed a later one to find a family with a son named Oliver Clement Nellis (Bryan's grandfather) born in 1889. I wasn't even sure if "Clem" had been born in Frontenac County, but it was a place to start.

Point #4 – Census records are available for research if they are at least 100 years old. Thus the most recent year available in Canada is 1901. Compare that to the 1930 census, the most recent one available for United States research.

While in Salt Lake City at the Family History Library in 1996, I decided to tackle this research in earnest. I located the Frontenac County books of which there were only a few. I happened upon a slim edition titled *1901 Census Heads and Strays Index, Frontenac County Townships* compiled by Russ Waller. With a sense of growing excitement, I turned to the N's and found Jacob Nelles enumerated in the district of Addington (also the name of a county neighboring Frontenac). He was married, he was born in the USA (!) in 1856, and he was living in the township of Loughborough in Frontenac County. When I finally located the reel of film for the 1901 census, I found Jacob enumerated with his wife Martha and their ten children including Oliver. All except Jacob were born in Ontario. Jacob was born in Pennsylvania and his occupation was listed as a miner. What a surprise to learn Bryan's Canadian roots began in America!

Now that I had a district to search, I was able to locate the 1881 census. I did not find Jacob and Martha Nellis (Nelles). However, on the 1891 census I found Jacob and Martha enumerated with their four sons, including Oliver, the youngest. All were living in Loughborough.

I then began to search marriage records for Jacob Nellis and Martha. Ontario marriage records

are wonderful and are indexed back to 1873. With a little effort, I was able to locate their marriage which took place on June 29, 1883 in the County of Leeds, Ontario. Martha's maiden name was Vancoughnet and she was 17. It also listed her parents' names. Jacob was 27 and his parents' names were listed as well. Suddenly I had the names of Bryan's great-great grandparents!

Ontario also has an extensive index of birth and death records. Although I was unable to find a birth registration for Oliver "Clem" Nellis, I did locate some for his siblings. I was also able to locate Jacob's death record. He died in 1906 of Bright's disease, a lung ailment probably very common among miners.

These census and vital records helped lay the groundwork to explore other records. In future articles I will describe land and tax records, the usefulness of the St. Albans crossing lists, immigration and naturalization records as they pertained to Bryan's Polish/Ukrainian grandparents, and records held in the prairie provinces and British Columbia.

[<<http://www.censusfinder.com/ontario-canada-census-records.htm>> -Ed.]



USING THE SSDI TO FIND A LOST COUSIN

By Charles Walworth, SBCGS Member

In recent years my interest has turned from finding dead ancestors to locating live cousins. One of my sources has been the Social Security Death Index ("SSDI"), which, unfortunately, leads to cousins only after they are deceased. Nevertheless, I have found the SSDI useful.

Seven years ago, I took it upon myself to update that part of the *Walworth-Walsworth Genealogy* by Reginald Wellington Walworth, 1962, pertaining to my great-great-grandfather, Jesse Walworth of Rome, New York. Since 1962 many of Jesse's descendants had died or moved and

many more births and marriages occurred. In about a year's time, and with considerable luck and help, I accounted for what I was confident were all 220 descendants, at that time, of Jesse Walworth, with a little background about each adult and some of the adolescents.

One descendant especially intrigued me: Marguerite Walworth, a second cousin once removed, was mentioned in the 1962 *Walworth-Walsworth Genealogy* by name only with no further information given. All I knew from her closest cousins was that supposedly she had risen to the rank of Lt. Colonel in the Air force in World War II; they had lost track of her years ago. One said, "She joked that she had two half brothers, and neither had the same father." My search through lists of military officers was fruitless. I tried the SSDI at that time with no success.

Several years later I tried the SSDI again and, lo and behold, Marguerite had died at age 81 in Sarasota, Florida. The local newspaper listed obituaries, and I learned the name of her next of kin, the widow of her half brother (not the one on the Walworth side). Marguerite had gone to Sarasota in 1968 to attend her brother's funeral and stayed on with her sister-in-law until dying in 1998. The sister-in-law kindly sent me some pictures of Marguerite, her file of military records, and notes made by Marguerite herself. A Walworth crest of arms drawn by Marguerite hangs in my study.

I drafted a page of information about Marguerite Persephone Walworth for the next version of my family history: how she entered the WAC as one of the early recruits in 1942, her leaving the service and being called back, her subsequent travels from the Pentagon to England and to Japan, and her advancement to Lt. Colonel when she retired in 1964. She had no family but enjoyed sailing and fishing and had owned her own boat. I feel a special kinship for Marguerite through all I have learned about her, thanks to the SSDI.



LOST IN RUSSIA...PART 3 — REUNION

By Valerie Renner Ingram

In our last issue, Spring 2004, Vol. 30, No. 3, Valerie described her journey to Russia to meet her half-brother, Adie, and half-sister, Emma, her father's first children whom he left in Russia in 1944. In Part 3, Valerie and her sister, Annie, are finally reunited with Emma and Adie.

Finally, just before 11 p.m., we reached Donets'k and Valya told us it was time to get off the train. As we were getting our bags ready, we heard a commotion outside but thought nothing of it. I was just starting down the corridor towards the door with two of my bags when Valya rushed past me with a big smile on her face, and right behind her was my very petite sister, Emma. I was tackled in the corridor and we kissed and hugged, and the whole while she was talking in Russian. Then she saw Angie coming out of the compartment and she raced to Angie but before I could turn around, I was tackled once more, this time by my brother, Adie. And of course, he was also talking in Russian. After Adie, it was my niece, Natalya, and then the conductor indicating we had to get off the train so it could leave. She looked very stern and pointed to her watch repeatedly.

Once we were outside the train, there was a mad dash to get our suitcases accounted for. Every time we turned around someone else had our bags, and short little Emma was constantly going after the ones that were bigger than she was. Everyone was talking at the same time, and it was total chaos. Adie had brought champagne and wanted us to toast our arrival right there and then. Valya convinced him that we should wait until we got to his house, where the women had been cooking all day and we had a feast awaiting us. In the van, on the hour-long ride to Kramatorsk from the train station, Emma sat between Angie and me, holding our hands with a death grip and smiling ear to ear. Adie sat sideways in the seat in front of us and talked to us the whole way back, and Marina was sitting next to Adie and tried to translate all that

was being said from all directions.

As we arrived at Adie's house, more people came out the gate to greet us. Our niece, Sveta, was the first and she came bouncing out like a rabbit, jumping for joy! Next was our sister-in-law, Anna, and then Valera, our nephew. We were ushered into the house and a great feast was started, with toasts every few minutes. After dinner, we presented everyone with the gifts we had brought for them, not knowing that the Black Hills gold locket we gave to Emma, that had a picture of our father and her mother in it, would cause such a stir the next day.

We stayed at my brother's house, which my father had first built as their summer kitchen, and they had lived in it while he was building their big house. Dad never finished the big house, though, as he had to leave before it was finished. This was the house that his wife, Lyuba, had to sell so that she could redeem her children from the orphanage. Adie had expanded on Dad's little summer kitchen by adding more rooms and made it into a good-sized house. David slept in one of the original rooms, and the old stove still stood in the square hallway that used to be the kitchen. In his yard, Adie still had an apple tree that Dad had planted when Adie was young. There were green grapevines with various types of grapes, and a huge vegetable garden. Another summer kitchen had been built, and Adie, his wife Anna, and Natalya slept in there while we slept in the house. And, of course, they had a guard dog named Jeff.

We were told that we had to be at the Kramatorsk Historical Museum by 11:00 in the morning for a special program. We didn't know that we were the special program. The city of Kramatorsk was honoring the Renner family during its 135th year celebration. There was the Assistant to the Mayor, a well-known poet, a veteran, and the museum director, and all gave a small talk in a room filled with reporters and television crew, and us. We were presented with flowers, souvenirs and booklets pertaining to Kramatorsk. Then the director began by telling of Lyuba's life with our father, Michael Renner, and how they had fallen in love, started a family, and were building a big house. Michael had earned the

respect of many people in the town of Kramatorsk and where he worked (the same factory where his son works today). Life was good for the Renners— until the war broke out.

They had been hearing rumors of what was happening to other Germans, and for a short while, Michael still felt safe far away from the Beresan area where he grew up. But, soon, people began drawing away from him, because he was a German, and no one came to him for help anymore. Everyone was afraid and it was obvious he had to leave while he still could, but his wife refused to go with him. We assume it was because her mother had just been widowed, and she didn't want to leave her and felt that she would be safe if she stayed behind, protected by the Ukrainian surname of her family. Finally, the day came and Michael boarded the train after saying good-bye to his wife and two small children. As the train started to pull away, Michael hung out of the doorway and shouted at his wife, that "if things got bad, sell the house!"

Life was hard for Lyuba Renner without her husband. She was scorned for having married a German, and not allowed to work at any but the dirtiest jobs, and not paid more than just a small token of what she should have been paid. It was hard to raise two small children without any money, and it was forbidden for any Germans to sell any property they owned. She was caught one night trying to collect some wheat that was left in a farmer's field after it had been cut and was beaten by the farmer. Another time she was caught trying to pick up some coal from around a train so that she could build a fire for the children to keep warm. She was arrested and held in jail overnight. When she returned home, Emma and Adie were huddled in a corner trying to keep each other warm. She got so frustrated that she broke apart

some kitchen furniture and built a fire with the wood. Soon, she could no longer feed them, so she had to put them into an orphanage so they would not starve. For almost two years the children lived there. Finally, Lyuba was able to sell the big house and use the money to support her children.

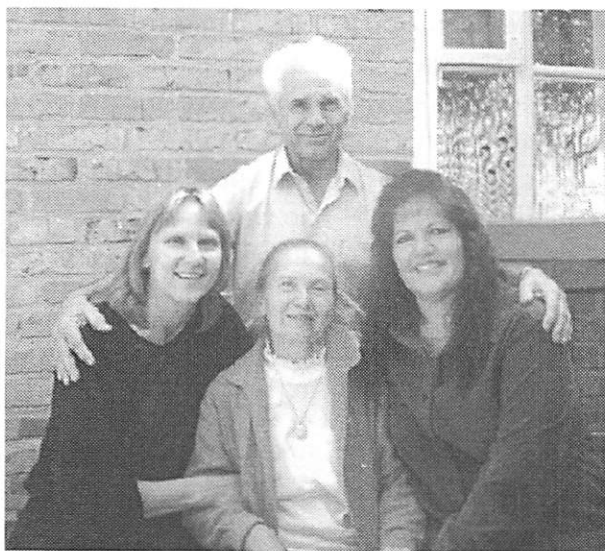
When the director got to the time when Michael left Kramatorsk, they asked me to take over and explain what happened from then on in his life, and how we were able to find our siblings all the way from America. With the help of Marina, we told the story of his immigration into Germany, his marriage and start of a new family there, and his new journey to the United States of America and how he lived his life until he died in 1995. There were a few women sitting in the

audience that had streams of tears running down their faces while the story unfolded. Every so often they would turn to where the family was sitting and nod and smile in our direction.

Questions from the reporters were answered, and then the Assistant to the Mayor told us that "the number of citizens in Kramatorsk has just increased by three, and the doors to their city would always be open to

those with good hearts." A World War II veteran was sitting in the audience, and he waited until last, then stood and told us that he had only seen Americans twice in his 85 years of life. The first time was when the war ended, and his unit had freed some American soldiers that had been captured by the Germans. They hugged the American GI's and gave them tobacco and chocolate. And now, he had met us. He wanted us to bring back his message for all the Germans living in America that they were not fighting against the German people back then, but against Hitler's Fascist Germany.

The presentation ended with many pictures,



ANGIE, EMMA, VALERIE, ADIE UNITED

and it seemed that every reporter wanted to see Emma's new locket. She was so happy, and Adie was just beaming. Their eyes sparkled, their heads were held high, and Adie's chest was puffed out with pride. The museum brought out champagne for toasts with chocolates and everyone had a good time. As we left the museum, Angie and I were arm-in-arm with our brother and sister—and on the way home, the first of many heart-to-heart talks began.

The next day we all went to Svjatogorsk by van. There's a very beautiful old monastery built into the side of a mountain there, with high gold-skinned domes and gold crosses glittering in the sunshine and with many tunnels underneath. A huge monument of "Artem" (one of their local war heroes) sits high up on the top of the next hill, with steps going all the way up. All of the women had to wear scarves on our heads, and wrap our jackets around our waists to resemble skirts before we were allowed to enter the courtyard. I climbed through the dark passageways with my family, lighting the way with a small flashlight from my bag, and we made it to the top of the monastery. The view was breathtaking as we looked across the river and all the way down the valley, as far as the eye could see. I was told that Artem's army even had a tunnel beneath the river that opened in the woods on the other side. Whenever the enemies came to look for Artem's men, they would use the tunnels to escape. It was a golden afternoon as we picnicked across the river and enjoyed each other's company.

We had brought along a copy of the video that we had made at our father's last birthday celebration, only a month before he died. Adie had a VCR, and we all sat together and watched as the whole family unfolded before Adie and Emma's eyes. Emma sat quietly with tears streaming down her cheeks as she finally saw her father as an actual living person and heard his voice again. Adie was quiet as well, mesmerized by what he was seeing on the television screen. It surprised Angie and me that they already knew all of our names and identified everyone correctly. They had been studying the family picture that I had sent to them shortly after they were found. The second

half of the video was of Dad's house, the last day we were in it. Mom had sold it, and we were doing the final walk-through. It was so full of life and laughter in the first half, and now all of a sudden the house was empty and cold. It was sad, and oddly enough, at the end of the recording, as my sister zoomed her camera into a close up of the front door from the street, Dad's faint image is seen standing in the doorway!

The following day we were visited by reporters from Donetsk. They had heard from other reporters in Kramatorsk about this wonderful and touching reunion that was taking place and wanted to write a feature story. We sat with them under Adie's grape arbor as they asked us questions (in English!) and we gave them answers. Emma had come without her locket, and they had asked to see it, so her grandson, Valera, was sent back to retrieve it. They took pictures of the locket together with the picture of my mother and father. It was then that Angie and I wondered if that locket was such a good idea. The last thing we wanted to do was put Emma into any sort of danger, and now all of Ukraine would know that she had it! We didn't realize it would draw this much attention.

Another day, the museum provided us with tickets to a concert, and following the concert was a huge fireworks display in the parking lot. That night, Angie and I spent the night with Emma and her daughter, Sveta, and her two sons. We stayed up very late talking, and after Marina finally left for her hotel, they gave us gifts to take home to everyone—so many gifts that the first thing we had to do when we got back to Odessa was find another suitcase.

Always when we were together we talked. We asked questions, they asked questions. We tried to put together our lives, and we tried to learn as much as we could about the times our parents spent together, and what happened when they separated. All of our meals took place with all seven of them, with the five of us. I've never in my life drank as much wine and vodka as we did there in Ukraine. And each meal always included numerous toasts. It was a very happy time, full of love given and love received. We came as virtual strangers to our Ukrainian family, but left fully

accepted and encased in each others hearts.

The last dinner we had together was very solemn. It was hard to be happy knowing we were leaving the next morning. Adie and Emma's eyes were now sad, and the smiles were hard to find. As we packed our bags that night, our hearts were heavy. We missed our families back home, but we just couldn't bear leaving our family in Ukraine. The next day, tears were everywhere, and the ride to the train station was very quiet. Saying good-bye to them was one of the hardest things we've ever done. They stood on the platform watching us in the window, and we stood inside the corridor watching out the window. Adie motioned for us to come back, and we motioned for him to come on board. He hesitated a minute and then picked up Emma around the waist and started forward. Emma hit him and struggled to be set down, and we all laughed. Then the train started to pull away and the family began walking with the train. We had all taken root in each other's hearts in only six short days.

The hardest part of saying good-bye was not knowing if we'd ever see them again. Emma and Sveta with her sons would like to immigrate, but only if they can come together. Natalya (Adie's daughter) was supposed to have returned with us for a visit, but her application for a Visitor's Visa was denied on Sept. 17th by the U.S. Embassy. They told her she was "young, pretty, and single... she only wants to come to get married and stay." It didn't matter to the Embassy that she had letters from all of us stating she was being invited to visit her uncles and cousins that she'd never met before in her life. Adie and his wife, Anna, would immigrate too, if their daughter Natalya came back from her visit from America telling them that she felt they would like living here. Will it ever happen? Will we ever have a Renner Family Reunion on American soil?

Weeks after we left, Valya returned to the Renner Chutor and brought juice and chocolates for the girl with the tumor (see *Ancestors West*, Spring 2004, page 6—Ed.) She found out then, that there was another part to the Renner house that we had totally missed that night we were there. The house was even bigger than we thought. And, she

was told that there was a Chutor cemetery on the far end which was still intact, and contained a RENNER FAMILY VAULT. Oh, how I wish I could return tomorrow.

When we left Ukraine, we spent two weeks in Germany visiting relatives and friends that had helped us in our research before we came home. A few days later at home, I received an e-mail message from a television station "ASTRA" in Donets'k that had heard about our story and wanted to air it on their program "*I Live, I Love, I Believe*" that was going to air on November 22nd. They had already contacted my brother and sister there, as well as Valya, and had interviewed them. They had a list of questions they wanted me to answer, and asked if I would send them the pictures we had taken of the Renner Chutor. A few days later, they asked if they could interview me live on air as the program was being broadcast. I agreed. Because the show had time restraints, they sent me the questions they wanted to talk about on the air, and asked for my answers so that the interpreter could "practice" and get the words right. At 5:20 a.m. on November 22nd, the phone call came, and we did the interview as we'd agreed. When they were thanking me for being "with them on the air," they also told me they had a surprise for me. The reporters had gone back to the Renner Chutor and interviewed the family there, and were given the silver inkpot that had been found in the wall. They asked that the reporters send this inkpot to me as a gift to add to my collection of mementoes of our trip to our ancestral homeland in Ukraine. They were also sending a video of the program to Adie, and he would have it changed to CD and a copy sent to us. I answered, *Spacibo*, thank you.

Immediately after the show aired, the station's telephones began to ring with calls from all over Ukraine. Ethnic Germans that were still living there wanted to know if they could also get help in finding their roots or their lost families. The director of the program has promised their help in Ukraine if we would agree to help through the channels that are available to us here in the United States. The wheels are in motion. As Aubrey Marthaller has pointed out to me, "There are no

such things as coincidences, miracles do happen.” We need one more—that our Ukrainian family be allowed to immigrate to the United States of America.



NEW BURIAL SITE FOR 727 SOULS WILL BE BLESSED

I-279 EXCAVATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TESTS FINALLY OVER

By Patricia Lowry, Post-Gazette Architecture Critic
Pittsburgh, PA Tuesday, October 28, 2003

At 10 o'clock this morning, in an old Swiss-German cemetery at the edge of a plateau overlooking the Allegheny River, the remains of 727 people will be recommitted to the earth.

A granite cross marks the new graves at Troy Hill's Voegtly Cemetery, where the Rev. Doug Patterson of Smithfield United Church of Christ will lead a recommitment service this morning.

It has been well over a century since their bodies were buried, 16 years since they were discovered under a North Side church parking lot, a year since they were reinterred at Troy Hill's Voegtly Cemetery. Since 1987, they have traveled from their not-so-final resting place to the GAI Consultants archaeology lab in Monroeville and to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Some of their teeth and bone marrow was sent to England for DNA analysis.

With the granite gravestone in place, it is time for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to put these peripatetic souls to rest, with a religious service befitting their Christian faith and German heritage.

“We have to keep thinking these were not just bones but people,” said Patricia Remy, Penn DOT's local environmental manager and the woman who wondered what could be learned from the Voegtly graves.

The discovery of the cemetery provided a relatively rare opportunity for insight into the

population, settlement, welfare and burial practices of early American immigrants. Few historic-period cemeteries have been excavated as archaeology sites in America because living relatives almost always oppose it.

“In this case, even the church couldn't identify who was in the cemetery or how many,” Remy said. Elders of the disbanded congregation endorsed a historical and archaeological investigation, one that would eventually yield the largest number of 19th-century graves ever studied archaeologically in America.

Unearthing the past

On June 3, 1987, a backhoe operator was carefully excavating near East Ohio Street for the highway construction project that would link I-279 with Route 28. Standing by, as required by state and federal law, was archaeologist Ward Sutton, who had been monitoring the excavation because the site could have historical significance. But that day, Sutton discovered something unexpected in the layer of soil peeled off by the backhoe: fragments of bones.

“A layperson probably would have walked right by them,” said Remy. She called in Dr. Joshua Perper, then Allegheny County coroner, who confirmed what Sutton suspected: These were human remains. But whose?

Remy and Sutton knew there had been a church on the site; Voegtly Church was sold to Penn DOT for \$148,000 in 1984 and demolished the following year.

“We thought maybe this was a few scattered bones of forgotten people when they moved [the cemetery] up to Troy Hill,” Remy said. “But every day we revealed more and more graves.”

Archaeologists watched as the backhoe operator peeled away thin layers of earth. When they saw a darkening of the soil indicating a decomposing coffin, they would begin excavating by hand. By mid-July 1987, they suspected there may have been as many as 300 burials, but a couple of weeks later it was clear the number would be much higher.

By the end of September, as many as 50 technicians and osteologists, working 10-hour

days six days a week under the supervision of archaeologist Diane Beynon Landers, had removed, documented, numbered and packaged the remains of 727 graves. They had been found on less than a half-acre of land under an asphalt and gravel parking lot that the church had paved in 1950.

Clearly the cemetery had never been moved. But why had the church eliminated all trace of it from the face of the Earth?

Life in Swiss Hole

In 1817, Nicholas and Elizabeth Voegtly (pronounced FECKly) sent their oldest son, 21-year-old John Jacob, to America to scout a location for resettlement of their family. He chose the neighboring cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny. Five years later, the Voegtlys, their children and neighbor Heinrich Richenbach and his family emigrated from Basel, Switzerland. The families already were related by marriage; Nicholas Voegtly Jr.'s wife was Heinrich's daughter, Mary. The next year, the Voegtlys and Richenbachs purchased from James O'Hara 161 acres on the north bank of the Allegheny, just east of the existing German neighborhood on Allegheny City's east side.

Known as Schweizer Loch — "Swiss Hole" — because of its low-lying land, the neighborhood soon became a lively mosaic of houses and businesses. By 1840, Nicholas Jr. and his brothers owned and operated the Banner Cotton Mill a few blocks south of the family compound. The immigrant families and their businesses, cemented by intermarriages and a common faith, prospered. Schweizer Loch hummed with a lumberyard, sawmill, flour mill and, to make all that work go down a little smoother, John Straub's brewery.

Ever mindful of life's spiritual side, the families attended the German Evangelical Church at Sixth Avenue and Smithfield Street. But in 1833, they and other German-speaking Swiss immigrants formed their own congregation, the First German United Evangelical Protestant Church, at the corner of East Ohio Street and Church Alley (now Ahlers Way, opposite the Sarah Heinz House.). Because the small brick building was built on a three-quarter-acre lot donated by Nicholas Voegtly

Sr., everybody called it the Voegtly Church.

Nicholas Voegtly Sr., who died in 1852, and his wife, who died two years later, were among 823 churchyard burials recorded between 1833 and 1861. When the congregation purchased land for a new cemetery on Troy Hill, the Voegtly family moved the bodies of Nicholas and Elizabeth there. Everybody else in the church graveyard stayed put.

Building on bones

In 1849, the first church was razed and a red brick one erected, a modest, temple-front Greek Revival building with brick pilasters rather than columns. That same year, a schoolhouse was built next to the church, but by 1883 a three-story parsonage was on that site. The graveyard was behind both buildings.

Thirty-eight years later, in 1911, the congregation built a Sunday school addition at the rear of the church. The 1987 excavation showed its foundation was dug through 15 graves.

"Evidence suggests that this disturbance would have been obvious to the architects and builders; distal ends of human fibulas were found cemented into the foundation walls, and broken tombstones, plastered together like a deck of cards, were used to form support pillars for the addition," Landers writes.

There is no evidence that church members knew of the cemetery disturbance in 1911. Exactly how and why the cemetery was neglected and abandoned over the next 40 years was never determined, but old urban church cemeteries traditionally have been vulnerable in the competition for land.

By 1911, the Voegtly Church congregation had assimilated to a point where it was beginning to lose its institutional memory. Services in English were introduced in 1913, and by 1926 Voegtly Church had been renamed the Pilgrim Evangelical Church of Pittsburgh. In 1950, the old cemetery, where there had been no burials for almost a century, was paved and graveled.

The church burial records, written in archaic

(727Souls Continued on Page 18)

ALLEN COUNTY LIBRARY FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

By Jim and Marj Friestad, SBCGS Members

Fort Wayne, Indiana, home of the largest genealogy periodical collection (and PERSI), is an easy town to traverse and has a city library you should not miss if traveling in the Midwest.

The library shares a four-story building with a museum and has been temporarily relocated to this site, which is between two and three blocks from the permanent library that will be undergoing major renovations for at least the next year. There is adequate parking within easy walking distance. But beware: parking at the building is only for drop off and pick up, but we could find no signs in the lot that pointed that out.

You enter the Allen County Library into a guarded reception area. Clearly marked directions inform you that the genealogy information can be found on the third floor, accessible by an elevator.

Upon arriving on the third floor you will see a resource desk directly ahead manned by a friendly librarian who informs you of the method of finding materials. There are 39 stacks, at least 30 feet long that contain books, periodicals and city directories. All periodicals are bound into hard cover books and are filed with the genealogical books. To the left as you enter there is a display of papers for each state that guides you to the stack numbers for different counties. We are sorry to report that the book numbers you get from PERSI and their Web Site are not directly transferable to the book numbers in the stacks, but one quickly learns how to use the many computers to aid in finding information. The stacks are open, which we understand was not the case before the move to this location.

Close to the reference desk are tables containing approximately twenty computers. During high peak hours, time on the computers is controlled. The computers also allow free access to the Internet and *ancestry.com*. In the same area are located long tables where the patrons may study.

There are carts available to allow patrons to collect books and keep them at the table. We were told you could mark these carts to keep books over night. After use, patrons place books on shelves at the end of the tables. Librarians file the books in the correct locations on the shelves.

One of the things we were not aware of before visiting the library was the large number of city directories available. The people at the reference desk were very helpful and it is a library we would recommend to anyone doing genealogical research, especially those doing research in the Midwest.

Visit the library's genealogy web site at
<www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index.html>



SURNAMES IN FRANCE AND ITALY

You may be familiar with
<www.geopatryne.com>, which shows the distribution of surnames in France. I just came across a similar site for Italy:

<<http://gens.labo.net/it/cognomi/genera.html>>

It isn't quite as helpful, since it doesn't provide the names of the individual communities, but it does show the province and the rough numbers in each place (1-5, 5-10, 10-50, 50-100, 100-500, over 500).

You can also change the display (Cambia mappa); the center option is closest to the color-coded maps from geopatryne. If you click on a particular section of the map you will get a new display showing just that area in greater detail, and you can then zoom in (up to 4x); you still don't get the names of individual communities but at least you get two-letter abbreviations of the capital city and other provincial capitals, making it possible to orient yourself using another map to try to pinpoint communities. I suppose the easiest thing would be to use this in conjunction with an online Italian phone directory, such as

<www.infobel.com/italy/>

Robert Behra, robert.behra@library.utah.edu
Submitted to the *Alsace-Lorraine List* at *RootsWeb*.

THE EL ROCKO GRANDE and SPHINX ROCKS IN MONTECITO



EL ROCKO GRANDE PHOTO 1



SPHINX ROCK BY BERKEY POSTCARD
PHOTO 2

*By John Fritsche, SBCGS Member
jcfritsche@cox.net*

In the late 1890s and the early 1900s Mountain Drive was a one-way dirt road, suitable for horses and buggies that led from the Mission to Sycamore Canyon. This road was very popular for the early tourists of Santa Barbara. Along Mountain Drive were several hiking trails for those who enjoyed hiking or riding horses. One trail was called La Cumbre trail and a branch of it originated just west of what today is called Coyote Canyon.

This trail brought visitors to a famous rock called El Rocko Grande, which was made famous for the views from its location of the mountains and ocean coastline. It had steps and a railing provided by the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce for those who wanted to climb it. The steps and railing were installed around 1906 according to a Chamber of Commerce publication. El Rocko Grande is located just below the present Gibraltar Road, which was constructed in the days of the depression. See Photo 1.

A less famous rock was one called Sphinx Rock. The M. F. Berkey Curio Shop on State Street apparently applied this name to the rock as a marketing tool for a postcard they commissioned to be printed.¹ At the time of the publication of the postcard there was great interest in Egyptian history due to the discovery and exploration of ancient sites in Egypt.

Two sepia tone pictures taken by an early photographer, William Higgins, whose professional name was that of his business – Brock-Higgins – are shown with the profile of the rock clearly visible.

The photos were acquired from postcards newly designed so that both address and message areas appear on one side and a picture occupies the other side. The fact that Congress authorized the new address and message format in 1907 indicates that the rock photos were taken in 1907 or later. See Photos 2 and 3. Berkey apparently obtained the rights to print colored lithograph postcards of the rock and apparently named it Sphinx Rock to help sell the card.² No other reference to this name has ever been found.

Above Mountain Drive and to the west of Coyote Canyon is a long horizontal outcropping of rock. Sphinx Rock is located in the outcropping. The rock is on private property, and this portion of the La Cumbre Trail has been abandoned for many years, making the rock inaccessible to the general public. The owner of the land does not want its precise location divulged due to the possibility of trespassers and vandalism.

The writer is indebted to a resident of Mountain Drive for the location of this rock. While the

two rocks have similar profiles, El Rocko Grande has been vandalized with white paint. The resident has stated there is no white paint on the rock shown in Photo 5.

A riddle of Santa Barbara and Montecito history has thus been solved as to the location of the Sphinx Rock.

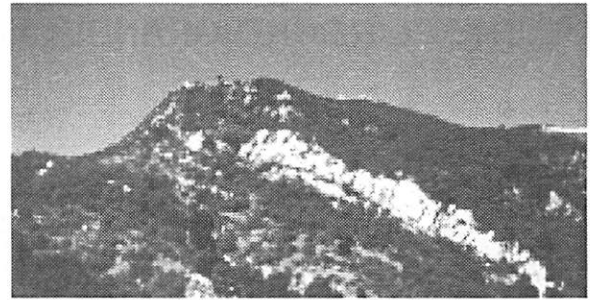
NOTES:

¹ The M. F. Berkey Company opened for business in 1906 according to the city directories as an Indian and Mexican Curio store at 32 State St. The photo of the first Curio Store, located at 32 State St. is courtesy of the Santa Barbara Historical Society. In 1908 thru 1910 it was known as the Star Shell Store at 210 State St. By the time of 1911 thru 1913 it was again known as The Curio Store at 627 State St. For the time of 1915 through 1917 the business became known as Berkey and McGuire and operated as The Curio Store at 627 State St. In the directories for 1917 through 1922, the business is again listed as M. F. Berkey but was now operating at 733 State Street. Beginning with the 1923 directory, there is no longer any mention of the Berkey business.

Moses Berkey was born on July 10, 1860 in Ohio and lived in Indiana according to the 1900 U.S. Census. He passed away at the age of 80 in Los Angeles on January 25, 1941.

Annie Abagael Humphrey, wife of Moses, was born July 7, 1863 in Oregon. She had been married before her marriage to Moses. One son, a Ralph Howard, is listed as living with them in the 1910 Santa Barbara Census. The 1910 U.S. Census lists Annie as working with her husband in the Curio Shop. Annie passed away on February 9, 1946 in Los Angeles at the age of 82. The death information for both Berkeys came from the California Death Index site operated by RootsWeb.

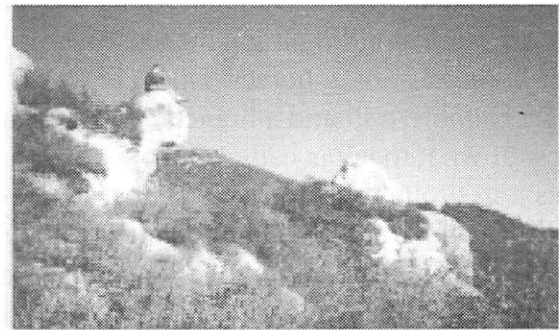
² The Brock-Higgins photographic shop was located in the 1100 block of State Street (San Marcos Building) and thus in close proximity to the Curio Store and M. F. Berkey. William Higgins was born 1856 in Canada as was his wife Marion. Both became citizens of the United States in 1896.



EL ROCKO GRANDE OUTCROP. PHOTO 5



BROCK-HIGGINS SEPIA PHOTO. PHOTO 3



PRESENT DAY SPHINX ROCK. PHOTO 4

William passed away in February 1930 and Marion passed away on January 20, 1931. Both are buried in the Santa Barbara Cemetery. For more on this notable photographer of early Santa Barbara, the reader is referred to the Summer 2003 issue of the Santa Barbara Historical Society's publication *Noticas* entitled "Santa Barbara Post-card Photography" written by Brian Burd.

All photos are in the writer's collection.

CORDERO, A PROUD FAMILY HISTORY *Baja to Alta California*

By William E. Cordero II

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Reprinted from [http://www.somosprimos.com:sp2004-](http://www.somosprimos.com:sp2004-spjun04-spjun04.htm#CALIFORNIA)

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In 1768, at the Royal Presidio of Nuestra Señora de Loreto in Baja California, Mariano Antonio Cordero (second generation) enlisted in the service of his country, Spain.¹ Mariano was a "soldado de cuera" (leather jacket soldier). Mariano was eighteen at the time of his enlistment and was mostly likely schooled by his father, Miguel, he too a soldier for Spain. Miguel Cordero (first generation) had been a soldier for Spain since before 1733 and assigned to the *Esquadra del Sur*, with its headquarters at Todos Santos, on the southern west coast of Baja California.² Miguel married Angela Nunez before 1733.³ Mariano was born in San Jose del Cabo, Baja California around the year 1750.⁴ Mariano had two brothers, Francisco and Joaquin Ignacio, also soldados de cuera.

Prior to the Gaspar de Portola Expedition of 1769, Miguel Cordero was an integral part of the expulsion of Jesuits in Baja California. Although the expulsion was most likely predestined, Miguel because of his years of service was one of five soldiers who gave declarations to Captain Rivera y Moncada and Lt. Fernandez de Somera on September 16, 1766, regarding the behavior of the Jesuits.⁵ Miguel gave his age as 60 and was called literate,⁶ and his responses to the interrogation were hardly an indictment of any wrong doing by the Jesuits.

In 1771, Mariano Antonio Cordero along with nineteen other soldados de cuera, five cowboys, 60 mules and Captain Rivera y Moncada left the Presidio de Loreto in Baja California on a long, arduous journey to the Royal Presidio at San Diego de Alcalá in Alta California. On July 18, 1771, Mariano received his first issuance of supplies in Alta California at the Presidio de San

Diego.⁷ Mariano remained at San Diego for several years, a soldier in a new world, where the Kumeyaay Indians attacked the mission and presidio on several occasions. Mariano was listed as a *padrino* (godfather) and *soldado de cuera* in the baptismal records at Mission San Diego in 1773.⁸ The 1775 census lists Mariano at San Diego.⁹

In the year 1775, Mariano was transferred to the Presidio of San Carlos Borromeo de Monterey. It was while at the Presidio de Monterey that Mariano met his future wife, Juana Francisca Pinto, daughter of Corporal Pablo Pinto. It was the year 1776 and the Anza Expedition had arrived, March 10th, from the Royal Presidio of San Ignacio de Tubac (present-day southern Arizona) at the Presidio de Monterey on their way to colonize San Francisco. Mariano (age 26) and Juana (age 13) exchanged wedding banns on November 28, 1776, and without any disapproval of the marriage, Fray Francisco Palou married them on January 7, 1777. Theirs was the first marriage listed in the book of marriages at Mission Dolores, San Francisco (*Libro de Casamientos de San Francisco*). Mariano and Juana enjoyed a healthy marriage, having eight children in the span of twenty-eight years.¹⁰

On October 4, 1781, Jose Moraga at San Francisco listed Mariano as Cabo (Corporal) in a report.¹¹

In 1787, Mariano was listed as Corporal at Presidio de San Francisco.¹² Mariano retired briefly, November 1, 1789, only to re-enlist October 1, 1790, for a brief period at the Presidio Santa Barbara and retire again by 1791.¹³ Mariano made his living as a *sastre* (tailor) in his retirement years in Santa Barbara.¹⁴ Juana Francisca Cordero died April 2, 1814, age 48. Mariano remarried January 30, 1816, to Maria Gertrudis Juana Lucinda Alvarez, and they had two children together. Mariano died November 18, 1821, age 71, and was buried at the Mission Santa Barbara.¹⁵

Miguel's legacy would live on in his children and children's children. Mariano's sons would also become soldiers albeit for another country, Mexico. During the time of independence from Spain, Mariano's sons worked as soldiers in the

new militia for Mexico at the pueblos of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, and at Santa Ines.

The grandson of Mariano, Juan de Jesus Antonio Cordero (fourth generation), was born June 31, 1831. He would volunteer for the 1st Battalion Native Cavalry, California Volunteers, Company C, as a Private during the Civil War. Company C was made up of the best horseman around the Santa Barbara County area and served from August 10, 1864 to May of 1865. They were stationed at the Drum Barracks in Wilmington, Los Angeles County.¹⁶ Although the 1st Battalion Native Cavalry, Company C, saw little to no action during the Civil War, they were definitely a deterrent to any Confederate or Indian uprisings in the Southwest.

During the time from the end of the Civil War to the end of the century, bandits roamed and robbed civilians. Stories of bandits like Joaquin Murieta and Solomon Pico had many of the Santa Barbara citizens scared and on guard. Estanislado Cordero (fifth generation), son of Juan de Jesus Antonio Cordero, was a very smart and shrewd business man as a sheep shearer, contracting his services to the rancheros around Santa Ynez, Las Cruces, and Los Alamos, and had a plan to outsmart any would be robbers. Estanislado had the daily money earned sewn into the lining of a heavy overcoat worn by his young son, Adolfo (sixth generation), who would walk to the stage coach station, and catch the coach to Santa Barbara, where his mother, Petra Martinez Cordero, would “unsew” him out of his overcoat. In telling of the tale, many years ago, Adolfo would laughingly say in Spanish, “I was told to act like a dumb kid, dumb enough to wear a heavy overcoat on a hot day.”

In the following years, many Corderos served in the military of the United States of America.

Some wore the uniform of the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force, while others assisted the war efforts at home. Walter G. Cordero (seventh generation), son of Adolfo Cordero, was a blacksmith by trade, taught by his father. Walter was commissioned by the U.S. government to build ships at Bethlehem Steel in San Pedro, Los Angeles County, during World War II. Adolfo Cordero is credited with the ornamental iron work at the Santa Barbara Court House. And, Walter Cordero has his ornamental iron work all over Santa Barbara, i.e., El Paseo, Hope Ranch, Montecito, Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Mission Santa Barbara, etc.

The son of Walter G. Cordero, William Edward Cordero (eighth generation), dreamed of one day flying jets for the U.S. Air Force. After graduating from Loyola University (ROTC) in 1957, 1st Lt. William E. Cordero went to flight school in Mission, Texas. With a wife and a newly born infant (William E. Cordero II, ninth generation) in hand,



Estanislado Cordero

Lt. Cordero moved the family to Waco, Texas in 1960, where Lt. William E. Cordero graduated from Navigator School in 1961. Eventually, with the looming prospect of war in Southeast Asia on the horizon, Lt. William E. Cordero would be sent to the war in Vietnam. After completing an extended tour of war in Vietnam, Captain William E. Cordero, volunteered for one last mission on June 19, 1965. Like so many of William E. Cordero’s ancestors before him, duty to country, to protect and to serve was a way of life. Capt. William E. Cordero’s plane would be missing in the jungles of Southeast Asia in Laos

for the better part of four years. If not for a recon group happening by the wreckage of his B-57 bomber in 1969, he might still be missing. During the four years of being listed as Missing In Action (MIA), Captain Cordero made rank to Major. Major William E. Cordero, first Santa Barbaran killed in Vietnam, is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 46 in Arlington, Virginia. For the gallant

service to his country, Major William E. Cordero received the following medals; Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal, National Defense, Vietnam Service and Vietnam Campaign (posthumously).¹⁷



Major William E. Cordero

Since Miguel Cordero, there have been ten generations in the family line leading to my children (Britt-DeAnna and Liam Anthony). As with many of the other original families of California, our heritage is rich in its history, members of the family having served under three flags, from soldados de cuera, militia, ranchers, and every other walk of life that made California what it is today, the *greatest* state in the Union.

This brief family biography is dedicated to all my ancestors and descendants, especially my beautiful daughter, Britt-DeAnna, who, on March



Four Generations of Cordero's in 1959
back row-Bill, Walter, Adolph & Bill Jr.

19, 2004, was the victim of a tragic motorcycle accident and lost her life at the tender age of 21.

ENDNOTES

¹ Bancroft. *Pioneer Register*, page 10; Bancroft. *History of California*, page 296, note 27.

² Listed on 1733 Loreto Payroll. AGNM. *Californias* 80, exp. 53, ff. 442-443.

³ Listed on 1733 Loreto Payroll. AGNM. *Californias* 80, exp. 3, ff. 19-24.

⁴ Information given in 1790 re-enlistment at Santa Barbara.

⁵ AGNM *Prov. Int.* 7 exp.11.

⁶ AGNM *Prov. Int.* 7 exp.11.

⁷ AGNM *Indiferente. D. Guerra, legajo 3, tomo 161D.*

⁸ Bautismos hechos desde mediados del año 1771 hasta mediados de 1773 por los PP. Nuevos Ministros Fr. Franco, Dumetz y Fr. Luis Jaume [Letter 3 April 1773 to Fr. Serra].

⁹ Bill Mason's 1790 Census Book.

¹⁰ Bancroft. *History of California*, vol. 1, p. 296, note 27. Witnesses: Jose Raymundo Carrillo, Jose Bonifacio de Estrada, Juan Maria de Olivera, Jose Ignacio de la Higuera.

¹¹ *Report of Jose Moraga*, San Francisco, October 4, 1781.

¹² Archives of California. LIV. Provincial State Papers. Sacramento, 24-25.

¹³ *Benecia Military Records*, vol. 18, page 90 (Eldredge copy).

¹⁴ *Padron of Santa Barbara*, 1790, Eldredge papers. The Bancroft Library, p. 92.

¹⁵ *Santa Barbara Burials*, Northrup, II p. 52.

¹⁶ California Adjutant General's Office. *Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion. 1861-67....* Sacramento, State Office, 1890.

¹⁷ www.sdit.org. Organization founded by Anthony P. Cordero, son of Maj. William E. Cordero.

¹⁸ Bancroft. *Pioneer Register*, page 10; Bancroft. *History of California*, page 296, note 27.

¹⁹ Listed on 1733 Loreto Payroll. AGNM. *Californias* 80, exp. 53, ff. 442-443.

²⁰ Listed on 1733 Loreto Payroll. AGNM. *Californias* 80, exp. 3, ff. 19-24.

²¹ Information given in 1790 re-enlistment at Santa Barbara.

²² AGNM *Prov. Int.* 7 exp.11.

(Continued on the following page)

²³ AGNM *Prov. Int.* 7 exp.11.

²⁴ AGNM *Indiferente. D. Guerra, legajo 3, tomo 161D.*

²⁵ Bautismos hechos desde mediados del año 1771 hasta mediados de 1773 por los PP. Nuevos Ministros Fr. Franco. Dumetz y Fr. Luis Jaume [Letter 3 April 1773 to Fr. Serra].

²⁶ Bill Mason's 1790 Census Book.

²⁷ Bancroft. *History of California*, vol. 1, p. 296, note 27. Witnesses: Jose Raymundo Carrillo. Jose Bonifacio de Estrada. Juan Maria de Olivera. Jose Ignacio de la Higuera. (First marriage listed in the *Libro de Casamientos* of San Francisco).

²⁸ *Report of Jose Moraga*, San Francisco, October 4, 1781.

²⁹ Archives of California, LIV, Provincial State Papers, Sacramento, 24-25.

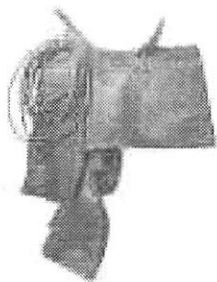
³⁰ *Benecia Military Records*, vol. 18, page 90 (Eldredge copy).

³¹ *Padron of Santa Barbara*, 1790, Eldredge papers, The Bancroft Library, p. 92.

³² *Santa Barbara Burials*, Northrup, II p. 52.

³³ California Adjutant General's Office. *Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-67....* Sacramento, State Office, 1890.

³⁴ www.sdit.org. Organization founded by Anthony P. Cordero, son of Maj. William E. Cordero.



(First marriage listed in the *Libro de Casamientos* of San Francisco).
(**Lost Souls** Continued from page 11)

German script, were deteriorated and illegible, and there were no other written records or maps identifying the graveyard.

"The fact that there was a cemetery associated with the Voegtly Churchyard had become lost to the collective consciousness of the congregation," Landers writes.

In 1959, church elders were told their buildings lay in the path of the East Street Valley Expressway. In 1972, the parsonage was razed. In

1975, with the death of Flora Voegtly, the church lost contact with its namesake family. By 1980, the tiny congregation was meeting in the Sunday school addition to conserve heat. Twenty-one people came to the last service on Nov. 4, 1984; the church was demolished in 1985.

Closure

With the publicity surrounding the cemetery dig, relatives and other Pittsburghers came forward with church histories and other information. Researchers also combed local historical societies, museums and libraries. One document that surfaced, translated in 1989, was the church's death records, listing the 823 individuals buried in its graveyard. Of 774 people whose sex was known, 365 were females and 409 were males. The 151 individuals for whom cause of death was listed died from cholera, tuberculosis, typhoid, scarlet fever, smallpox and other diseases. Four died in childbirth, one fell into boiling water, one was kicked by a horse and one fell from a roof while building a house.

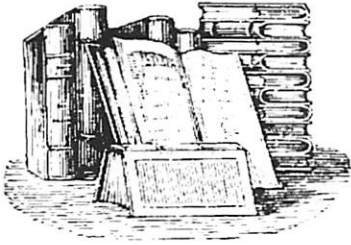
Of the 799 for whom ages were given, 569 were under 20, 311 were less than a year old and 44 had been stillborn.

The skeletal remains of 544 people could be aged with some accuracy, reports Smithsonian anthropologist Douglas H. Ubelaker. For those who had reached at least the age of 20, the average age at death was 35.4 for women and 37 for men.

All of the coffins were six-sided and wedge-shaped. Seventy-five coffins, most belonging to children, were painted red; some had faded to a rosy pink. Because the bones of children deteriorate more rapidly than those of adults, most of the children's coffins contained only the objects that had been buried with them, such as shoes, a bell and a whistle.

By comparing coffin style and hardware ornamentation with the dates on coins found with the deceased (over the eyes or in the hand), archaeologists identified an early period of initial settlement (1833-1840) and a later period of assimilation (1840-1861). The plain and painted coffins of the early period, made by a cabinet-

(**727 Souls** Continued on Page 26)



NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Compiled by Ted Denniston

Editor's Note: What follows is a list selected from the publications recently catalogued. To keep the list a reasonable length, we have excluded school yearbooks and reunions, dictionaries, Who's Who books, city directories, telephone books and other publications of lesser genealogical interest. All publications, however, are listed in the Library Catalog.

GENERAL

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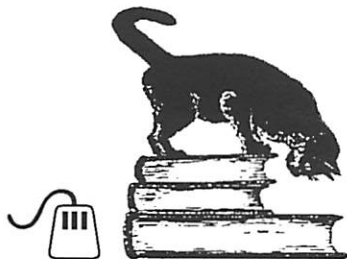
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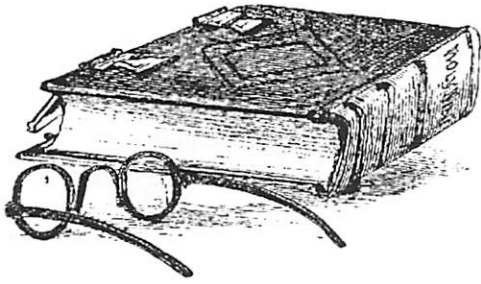
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BOOK REVIEWS

Ted Denniston, Editor

Oregon Donation Land Claims. Abstracted From Applications by Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon. Genealogical Forum of Portland Oregon. c1960. Softcover, \$10/Volume from Genealogical Forum of Portland Oregon, P.O. Box 42567, 1505 SW Gideon St., Portland, OR 97242

The Territorial Legislature of the Oregon Territory, formed in 1848, passed the Donation Land Act of 1850. Congress approved it on September 27 of that year. From Section 4 of the Act we read, "... there shall be, and hereby is, granted to every settler or occupant of the public lands, American half-breed Indians included, above the age of 18 years, being a citizen of the United States or having made declaration on or before the first day of December, 1850, and who shall have resided upon and cultivated the same for four consecutive years, and shall otherwise conform to the provisions of this act, the quantity of 1/2 section or 320 acres of land, if a single man, and if a married man, or if he shall become married within a year from the first day of December, 1850, the quantity of one section of 640 acres, one half to himself and the other half to his wife"

The legislation gave, without cost, 320 acres to every settler already in Oregon Territory. At this time (1850) the Oregon Territory, usually referred to as "Oregon," consisted of present day Oregon, Washington, Idaho, western Montana, and a small part of Wyoming.

The Oregon Donation Land Claims are a list of these claims, presented in such a way that finding genealogical data pertaining to mid-century Oregon settlers is made relatively easy. The material is presented in five volumes and a Geographic Index: All volumes are indexed.

Volume I lists the first 2500 claims filed in the Oregon City Land Office. Claims are listed sequentially by number (1-2500). The number of each claim is followed by the name of the applicant, the precise location of the claim, the applicant's birth date and place of birth, and the name of his wife (and previous wives and their birth date and place). An index lists every name referenced to the claim number.

Volume II presents information just as in Volume I but covers claims 2501 to 5289.

Volume III is an index that lists in alphabetical order the name of each claimant, land office, certificate number (claim number), number of acres, township, range and section. The certificate numbers are the claim numbers. The claimants listed in the index generally agree with those in Volumes I and II but there are many exceptions. A thorough inspection of the information shows that the person who originally made the claim is not necessarily the possessor of that claim for all time. Another family member, for example, may replace the original claimant.

Volume IV contains abstracts of claim applications filed in the Oregon City, Roseburg, and Dalles Land Offices that did not receive a patent.

Volume V supplements Volume I. Maiden names of the women listed in Volume I were usually not given. Volume V succeeds to a large extent in rectifying this shortcoming.

Geographic Index for Volumes I & II lists the political regions from which each applicant came. The regions included states and counties of the United States, Canada and its provinces, and European countries. For example, under WISCONSIN, Crawford Co. is listed DLC 4013. Going to Volume II, which contains claim numbers 2501 to 5289, reveals the abstracted material for

Granville C. Thurman.

(727 Souls Continued from Page 18)

The introductory material in each volume was a great help to the reviewer in understanding the historical background of this period and how to use the books. The compilers and writers of the Genealogical Forum of Portland, Oregon, deserve kudos, however belated, for this fine series.

Reviewed by Ted Denniston

Thousands of Idaho Surnames. Softcover, Genealogical Forum of Portland Oregon. 1980-1987. Softcover. \$5/Volume from Genealogical Forum of Portland Oregon, P.O. Box 42567, 1505 SW Gideon St., Portland, OR 97242

Six volumes contain the thousands of Idaho surnames referred to in the title. These books list the names of applicants whose Federal Land Applications were rejected. Varying amounts of information follow each applicant's name and can include: date of application, age of applicant, birth place, size of family, date claim settled, death date if applicable, and exact location of claim.

Volume I lists land application data from the Coeur d'Alene Land Office.

Volume II lists the same from the Hailey Land Office.

Volume III lists the same from the Idaho Land Office.

Volume IV lists the same from the Boise Land Office.

Volume VI lists land application data from the Blackfoot and Lewiston Land Offices and miscellaneous information such as duplicate certificates of patents approved, naturalization records, military records and genealogical data mixed in with rejected claim material.

The rejected claims bear dates beginning in 1869 to well into the first half of the 20th century.

Reviewed by Ted Denniston

maker, often gave way to the professional undertaker's coffin, decorated with ornate handles and a ribbon-like copper wire and fabric trim unique to the Voegtly cemetery.

A year ago, the numbered remains, reunited with their grave goods, were packed into 200 cardboard boxes. The boxes were placed inside 25 concrete vaults and buried.

This morning's recommitment service will be led by the Rev. Doug Patterson, pastor of Smithfield United Church of Christ, which revolved from the Voegtly congregation's mother church. It will include German prayers, a German hymn and a blessing of the graves. After the 20-minute service, those gathered will walk to nearby Grace Lutheran Church for coffee and doughnuts.

Among those attending will be Dorothy Davies, who was baptized at Voegtly Church 80 years ago but has no relatives among the 727 reinterred.

"Isn't it funny how you remember things? I can remember that church so plain. It was painted white [inside]. It was very stark. The pews were wooden and the floor was bare," Davies said.

"And everybody dressed up, you know, the hats and the gloves. And the men wore suits and ties and hats and the children were dressed up in their Sunday best."

Remy and others who worked on the \$500,000 project also will be there for a moment of closure.

"I like to think that we handled them respectfully and did what was appropriate and added to the knowledge, extracting the right amount of information in a dignified and respectful manner," Remy said. "But it's not an experience I want to live through again. I wonder, when I meet my own end, if I'll be meeting 727 people."

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Submitted by Cari Thomas, SBCGS Member

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SBCGS PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

Order publications listed below from the Society's Sahyun Library. SBCGS, PO Box 1303, Goleta, CA 93116-1303. attention: Emily Aasted.

The Great Register 1890 - Mono County, California. Male Surnames in the Mono County Election District. 18 pp.. \$5.00 p&h \$3.20

The Great Register 1890 - Mendocino County, California. Male Surnames in the Mendocino County Election District, 102 pp.. \$12.00 p&h \$3.20

Santa Barbara Newspaper Extracts, 1868-1880. Surnames extracted from newspapers, indexed. 100 pp.. \$12.00 p&h \$3.20

The 1888 Santa Barbara City Directory. 90 pp.. \$10.00 p&h \$3.20

The 1895 Santa Barbara City Directory. 90 pp.. \$10.00 p&h \$3.20

Roots, Recipes, & Recollections, a collection of recipes and stories presented by The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. pub. 1999. 187 pp.. spiral bound. \$10.00 p&h \$3.20

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2004

November 19, Friday. Blue-Gray Luncheon. Santa Barbara Club. Program: Melissa Meisner, Civil War Preservation Trust, Washington, D.C. Reservations: Jan Cloud, 965-7423

November 20, Saturday. Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance at State, Santa Barbara, CA. Program: My Favorite Places in Santa Barbara, County. Guest Speaker: Sally Cappon, South Coast Beacon writer and SBCGS Member. Help groups begin at 9:30; general meeting begins at 10:30. Park in upper lot off Constance. See our website for program details at www.cagenweb.com/santabarbara/sbcgs/

DECEMBER 2004

November 20, Saturday. Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance at State, Santa Barbara, CA. Program: A favorite Christmas season program of members' stories. Help groups begin at 9:30; general meeting begins at 10:30. Park in upper lot off Constance. See our website for program details at www.cagenweb.com/santabarbara/sbcgs/

JANUARY 2005

January 10-14 in Salt Lake City, Utah
2005 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy is offering ten different courses focused on specific research topics.

including a course on tracing Spanish ancestry, titled Researching Romance Language Areas. The Institute will be held 10-14 January 2005 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Each course provides many hours of instruction from nationally known, experienced teachers, with easy access to the Family History Library, the world's largest genealogical repository, for personal research. For more information and registration, please visit our website at www.infouga.org/institute.html today or email us at institute@infouga.org.

January 29, 2005, Saturday. Conejo Valley Genealogical Society's annual seminar will feature Wendy Bebout Elliot speaking on four topics:

Finding Wives' Names

Using Land and Tax Records

Problem Solving

Lost in Print: Buried Treasure in Indexes

and a bonus class by Ken Lynch on Internet Resources.

And yes, there is such a thing as a Free Lunch, because our registration fee will include a gourmet catered lunch.

Details at www.rootsweb.com/~cacvgs/

MAY 2005

May 13 and 14, 2005 - Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree and Resource Expo 2005 at the Burbank Hilton in Burbank, CA. For more information visit the website at www.scsgenealogy.com.

May 18-25, 2005. SBCGS sponsored research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Contact Jim Friestad for information, 964-0227

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society
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