

Ancestors West



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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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: 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).

Dues are payable annually beginning on July 1st of each year:

Active (individual) - \$40; Family (2) - \$60; Friend - \$50;

Donor - \$75; Patron - \$150; Life - \$1000

Meetings: *First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance Ave. at State St., Santa Barbara, California*
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 has been argued cogently that the Internet is the most significant invention of our time. Most of us have been profoundly impacted by it in one way or another. Most of the impacts, but certainly not all, are positive in the ways they have changed how we live. The impact on genealogical research has been extremely pervasive.

Immediacy is one of the Internet's most positive attributes. We can know when something happens literally moments afterward, and it can be known all over the world even a few moments later. Internet and its e-mail capabilities allow us to maintain close contact with our friends, promulgate our latest ideas, and share our research or pictures of our grandkids with relatives we've never met.

We can retrieve and exchange information better than ever, and the amounts of available information is virtually limitless. You may find someone out there who seeks the same bit of genealogical trivia as you. I wonder how many brick walls have been broken by traveling the "information super highway"?

Online forums and chat rooms allow us to contact our information sources as if we were talking over a coffee table. We can scan old family photographs without the slightest damage and transmit them thousands of miles away in the twinkling of an eye. We can purchase all manner of products with the click of a button, after, that is, we have plugged in a credit card number. Who would have ever guessed, even 20 years ago, that so much information could be gleaned, or transactions conducted, so easily and so quickly? Who would have ever guessed then the full capabilities of the Internet we enjoy today – and who among you would venture to prognosticate what the Internet will look like 20 years from now? Certainly not me!

And thanks to armies of organized and individual transcribers, rooms full of automatic scanning ma-

chines working 24/7, and cadres of genealogists in societies worldwide, ever more information is being assembled and made available so fast, that we must almost monitor our "favorite sites" daily or we fall behind.

Regrettably, some of the Internet's greatest assets are also its biggest shortcomings. Much stuff and nonsense exists on the Internet, some placed there intentionally, some through ignorance, some by accident. "Garbage in, garbage out" so they say. In many instances we might spend our time better elsewhere than spending precious time sorting hard facts from all the misinformation.

Perhaps it is fair to say that the Internet seems to have transcended the hobby itself, taking people away from the real hands-on, eye strain activity of cranking microfilm readers in darkened libraries, turning pages in musty books, writing postcards to all the Blenkinsdorps in some small village in a far off country. Many genealogical novices believe all genealogical knowledge resides on the Internet, is accessed via Google, RootsWeb, Ancestry.com, or Family History.org, and all that is necessary to find the birthplace of great grandmother Jones is to plunk her name into one of these search engines. If only it were so easy, and who knows, maybe one day it just might be!

All in all, our research is improved by the Internet, however, and as long as we are constantly wary of its pitfalls, it will continue to do so. Its greatest value to genealogists is instant connections to people. We may meet previously unknown relatives, make new friends, remain in touch with old ones, and broaden our horizons in ways we could never have believed possible. Access to people and instant communication with them truly make the Internet the most significant invention of our time.

Arthur Gibbs Sylvester, President

FINDING A DEATH DATE

Submitted by Cari Thomas, SBCGS Member
<western37@cox.net>

Locality and Surname mailing lists are prime sources for self-education. Not only can one discover information of geographical peculiarities specific to where YOUR ancestors and their families lived — and/or meet up with others researching YOUR specific family name — but one often reaps the genealogical expertise of researchers far away. For instance:

A very knowledgeable researcher from Pittsburgh recently responded to a query on the Allegheny County mailing list (PAALLEGH-L) from a frustrated researcher who was trying to find a death date via a non-existent obituary index.

Among her comments, Suzanne M. Johnston included six excellent alternate methods for finding an unknown DOD. With her permission, I include her suggestions here, along with my own additional comments.

“1) Check for a PROBATE FILE, which would give a date of death.”

If you find there was no will probated (at the Register of Wills in Pennsylvania), also check for intestate, administrations, and/or guardianship records, which often are found in actual court records (Orphans Court in Pennsylvania.)

Examples: As part of the 10+ documents in his intestate proceedings was “A true and perfect inventorey and consionable Apraisment of All and Singuler the goods and Chattles Rites and creadits of William McQuoid at the time of his death” filed 28 May 1808 in Cumberland County PA; that is the closest date so far found, of the intestate death of my immigrant William McQuaid.

The only indication of the date of death for William McQuaid’s last wife (name unknown) is also found in the Intestate proceedings. From the “Administration Acct of the Estate of Willm McQuade, dec’d, filed at Cumberland County PA, 18 Nov 1810:

‘8. By cash to David Agle [Ogle ?] - for cof-fins for Intestate & his wife who died a short time

before him per Rect \$10.00.’

“2) Search CITY DIRECTORIES until the name disappears; then you at least have an approximate year of death or date when they left town.”

Be alert to the possibility of the wife showing up notated as “widow of;” however, do not assume that non-appearance in a directory is an absolute indication of death. As Suzie notes, the family may have left town, or simply not been included in the directory for that year. Check, if possible, several years after the first non-appearance to see if the person re-appears.

Example: Philadelphia (PA) City Directories
•1862: Page 826: “Richmond Cornelius, foundryman, 1326 Ogden”

In Aug 1862 CR enlisted in the 119th PA Vols; on 3 May 1863, he was MIA at Salem Church, VA, in the Battle of Chancellorsville.

•1866: Page 613: “Richmond Ellen, gentlewoman, 8 Java Pl.”

8 Java Place is the address for Cornelius’ widow, Ellen Crispin Richmond, in her Civil War Widow’s Pension application.

“3) Determine LAST RESIDENCE and check CEMETERIES IN THAT VICINITY.”

Be sure to check both church and secular/civil cemeteries in the locale of last residence, but also think outside the box (so to speak!). People were buried in the most unexpected cemeteries!

Example: Merma McClenathen tells of an ancestress whose death and burial could not be documented in OHIO where the family lived for generations before and after her death - even though they knew the date of death. When the truth was revealed, the widow had traveled down the Ohio (of course between censuses) to live with a daughter in Indiana, had died and was buried in INDIANA!

Burials were accomplished quickly in earlier times, particularly in hot days of summer; or burials could be delayed by the frozen ground in win-

ter. Drowning victims were usually buried where recovered.

“4) FOLLOW THE CHILDREN of the individual and find where they are buried; your person may be in the same cemetery, perhaps without a tombstone.”

—or with a different name! Example: Great-grandmother Christina was the eldest child of Johann and Maria Langheinrich. By 1874 the parents and all eight children had emigrated from Thuringia, Germany, but Johann died three weeks after arriving in Pittsburgh. While Christina, her husband Georg Bauer and children are buried at St. Peter’s German Lutheran Cemetery in the East End of Pittsburgh, her parents are not. When Carolina L. Stoehr (Christina’s youngest sibling) and her family were found buried at W. Liberty Cemetery on the South Side of Pittsburgh, parents John (1814-1874) and Mary Longhenry (1817-1893) were found as well.

“5) If you know the CHURCH DENOMINATION, you can find the closest church to their residence and perhaps locate church records which would give a date of death.”

Example: Having found a possible 1830 census listing in NYC for my Miller family, I searched for German Lutheran Churches nearby. Reading the microfilmed records, I came across both the baptism and death of the first bearer of the name Jacob in the family of Friedrich and Maria WILD MÜLLER/MILLER who had emigrated from the Alsace to NYC in 1828:

Baptism: St. Mathew’s German Lutheran Church, NYC NY: “6 October 1834: Parents Frederick Muller, Maria; Child—Jacob born Octob. 1. 1834; Sponsors—Mother & Jacob Faerber & Maria Hildebrandt.”

Death record: St. Mathew’s German Lutheran Church, NYC NY: Interments, 1834, Pg 138: “Jacob Miller, infant son of Fredk Miller, aged 8 days October 7 1834”

“6) MARRIAGE RECORD for second marriage might give date of death of first wife. Her obituary might give cemetery; if not, her death certificate should. His

grave may be in the same cemetery. Or if you can find death of second wife, he could be buried with her.”

To go along with this, Civil War Widows’ Pension files for a second (or later) wife, often will give the death date for a first wife. The second wife had to prove her marriage was legal, before a widow’s pension was awarded.

These are only six suggestions for possible sources of death dates. Be open to more, and don’t get stuck thinking the only places to search are obituary indexes particularly when indexes are non-existent!

Better yet, when you find an unindexed set of records for a church, school, town, city or county, do your part for the world of genealogy; create the index yourself and then share it!



LOCAL BREVITIES

*from the Santa Barbara Morning Press
December 21, 1928*

County Auditor Albert T. Eaves was confined to his home yesterday with a severe cold.

* * * * *

Katherine T. Cate, Carpinteria, filed oath of office as a member of the county welfare commission in the county clerk’s office yesterday.

* * * * *

A legitimation, certifying that Caroline Marie Woll, Lillehammer, Norway, was the widow of Proesten Hans Woll, mentioned in the will of the late Astrid A. Kimball, was filed in the county clerk’s office yesterday.

* * * * *

Notice of Louis E. Fisher of intention to sell his rights and title in the Channel Poultry company to C. W. Bedford was filed in the county recorder’s office yesterday. The sale will take place on December 26 in the Bank of Italy, 600 State Street.

USING THE SANTA BARBARA MISSION ARCHIVE-LIBRARY

sbmal.org

By Dorothy Oksner, Editor

Researching in the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library is open to serious researchers who wish to document their California Hispanic and Indian ancestry. There is a genealogist available by appointment to assist in finding aids and to guide a family historian through the mission registers. The Archive-Library is located at the Old Mission, 2201 Laguna St., Santa Barbara, California 93105. Phone 805-682-4713, ext. 152.

Some of the useful tools to use in researching include the following:

Special Collections:

De la Guerra papers

California Mission Documents (see sbmal.org)

Mission Marriage Investigations 1800s (unindexed)

Marie Northrop's *Spanish-Mexican Families of Early California*, Vols. 1-3

Bancroft History - <http://www.1st-hand-history.org/Hhb/HHBindex.htm> (the complete set)

Federal Census for Santa Barbara 1870, 1880

Federal Census for San Luis Obispo 1870 typed

Padrones (Census) for:

Santa Barbara 1790, 1834, 1837

Monterey 1808, 1833, 1836

Rancho San Ysidro, Salinas 1833-34

Branciforte 1828

San Jose de Guadalupe 1790

San Francisco Presidio, Los Angeles, Monterey,

San Jose de Guadalupe, San Diego, 1790

Mission Registers:

Baptisms, marriages and burials for the Santa Barbara Presidio, Santa Barbara Mission and Our Lady of Sorrows Church that include Indians. In addition, mission registers from many of the other California missions are available.

Periodicals:

California Historical Society Quarterly 1886-2004

Noticias-Santa Barbara Historical Society quarterly 1955-2005

La Campana, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation quarterly, 1981-2005

Hispanic American Historical Review, HAHR, 1993-Aug. 2005

Ventura County Historical Society Quarterly, 5/1962-12/2000, incomplete

Journal of San Diego History 7/1966-12/1996

American West, 5/1981-12/1985

News from Native California, 3/1987- Summer 1997

The Americas, quarterly review of Inter-American Cultural History, July 1944-Oct 2005

California Historical Society Quarterly, 6/1925-2004

Soundings (UCSB) 5/1969-1996

Masterkey, South West Museum, Indian Lore and History, November 1957-June 1983

California History Nugget, 1924-1940

Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology, Summer 1979-1993

The Indian Historian, 2/1965-9/1966

Antepasadas, Los Californianos, (limited issues from 1975-1985)

The library room contains over 8000 books ranging from histories of Hispanic countries and the Western United States, with a heavy concentration on California history and the California Missions, to volumes on science, engineering and agriculture.

* * * * *

THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY ONLINE DATABASE FOR EARLY CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS 1769-1850

The Huntington Library has developed an online database containing extractions from most all of the mission registers in California from 1769 to 1850. This free database contains baptisms, marriages and burials. The title of the project is The Early California Population Project. "For the first time ever, scholars and the general public alike will be able to access a database that delves into the historical records documenting the lives of some 110,000 Californians between 1769 and 1850." Most of the microfilms used were furnished by the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library.

The database is a little tricky to use, but with a little instruction and practice, it will become a valuable source for documenting your genealogy. It can be accessed at <http://www.huntington.org/Information/ECPPmain.htm>.

DITTMAN FAMILY MEMORIES

By Richard Dittman, SBCGS Member

CARL DITTMAN

Carl August Dittmann was born in Berlin Stadt, Brandenburg, Kingdom of Prussia November 7, 1825. His parents were Wilhelm Dittmann and Johanne Ohlbrecht. In his early teens Carl went to sea from Euckermunde as a cook's boy on Captain Ratmann's ship. In February 1842 he had risen to the rank of able-bodied seaman and was sailing on the *Martinet* under Captain Morton from Liverpool to Quebec and back. His next voyage (seeking warmer climes) was to the West Indies and back.

"CHARLEY BROWN"

On the following trip from Liverpool to Valparaiso on the English Brig Euphemia, while Carl Dittmann was signing on, Captain John Nightengale seemed to have trouble spelling Dittmann and is said to have exclaimed, "Aw hell, you're Charley Brown." The ship sailed on January 19, 1843. From Valparaiso they sailed to Honolulu arriving December 13, 1843. Carl Dittmann a.k.a. Charley Brown then sailed on the brigantine, Juanita to Monterey in January 1844. From Monterey he came to Santa Barbara that spring. He was probably the first German to take up residence in Santa Barbara.

"HAWAIIANS" IN SANTA BARBARA

The Californians responded more warmly to traders from the Sandwich Islands, "The Venice of the Pacific," than men from Boston. William Goodwin Dana was Captain of the Brig Waverly, the first ship flying the Hawaiian flag arriving in Santa Barbara (in 1826). He was one of five Americans to marry daughters of Carlos Carrillo. Dana married Josefa and Luis T. Burton married Antonia. Burton was a fur trapper and took up otter hunting with Captain Dana.

Later, Carl Dittman(n), the young adventurer, arrived in Santa Barbara, coming from Monterey after sailing there from Honolulu. He worked as a store-keeper for Captain James Scott in Santa Barbara in 1844. In April 1845 he joined Sparks, Nidever and Breck in the lucrative otter-hunting adventure.

Working their way up the coast in 1846, the hunt-

ers stopped in Monterey and found that the American Navy was in possession of the port. It was the first they knew of the war with Mexico. When they returned to Santa Barbara all in the party were arrested except Bill Fife (a Scot) and Charley Brown (a German). Charley Brown (Dittmann) never did take sides, and continued otter hunting. No one (except a padre or two at the mission) objected to his liaison with an Indian neophyte from mission San Luis Rey named Francisca Cascareña.

GOLD MINES AND CHILDREN

Carl Dittmann, also known as Charles Brown, left Santa Barbara in March 1849 and went to the Stanislaus Diggings. He returned to Santa Barbara after two months of successful gold mining. He had \$1030 which must have given Francisca Cascareña some satisfaction for she presented him with a son, Charles Brown, that same year. Dittmann bought a home, "Casa de Olive," on State Street from the estate of Captain Scott on August 9, 1850, as California was becoming a state.

Francisca Cascareña was born at Mission San Luis Rey about 1830. She was then 20 years old when she gave birth to her and Carl Dittmann's second child, a daughter, Maria Juana (Mary Jane) Brown, October 16, 1850. The census listed Carlos Brown of Prussia as the father. Again he had gone in search of gold in the Stanislaus diggings, but after four months he only earned \$500. The U.S. Census taken on October 29, 1850 lists Charles Brown, age 25, no occupation, born in Prussia, married within the last year (no date or place).

OTTER HUNTING AND THE LOST WOMAN OF SAN NICOLAS

John Nidever and other Americans were engaged in otter hunting near the Channel Islands when California was under Mexican rule and continued through the transition to U.S. control. There was competition from Aleutian natives brought to the California coast by Russians or possibly American ships involved in the lucrative pelt trade.

In an incident on San Nicolas Island in 1835, the Aleuts killed all the male natives on the island leaving only the women to survive. It seems likely the mission padres asked the American otter hunters to remove

the women from San Nicolas. John Nidever reported that Isaac Sparks, a man named Williams and another man from Los Angeles went to San Nicolas Island, gathered the women together and brought them to San Pedro. Some were taken to Los Angeles and some to Mission San Gabriel.

Before they left the island, one woman ran inland to bring her baby to the ship. They waited for her to return, but wind conditions caused them to sail without her. Circumstances prevented a rescue attempt for the "Lost Woman of San Nicolas."

Sixteen years later in 1852, Charles Brown (Carl Dittmann) joined John Nidever in an otter hunting expedition to San Nicolas Island. The year before, Nidever had seen signs of the woman's presence on the island. Now, he and Charles Brown began searching the area and found a basket and other signs of a person living there. They spent four days, busy hunting otters, and sailing conditions prevented them from searching the whole island.

They returned in July 1853. This time they set out to find and recover the woman if possible. Charles Brown finally found footprints in the sand and searching the area above the beach, he finally found the "lost" woman sitting in her shelter. She surprised him by "receiving him with much dignity and politeness, bowing and smiling with ease and self-possession."

She took possessions she thought appropriate (including blubber and a decaying seal's head) and joined the otter hunting party. She lived at their camp for a month while they successfully hunted otter, then she sailed with them to Santa Barbara. The "Lost Woman of San Nicolas" created quite a stir. Mission padres tried to find natives who might understand her language to no avail. Alas, she indulged in fruit to excess and would not eat her island diet of blubber to save herself. She delighted in children playing around her in Nidever's garden even as she dozed in the sun, losing strength day by day. She died four months after her rescue.

CHARLES BROWN (Dittman) and FRANCISCA

Seven year later, in the 1860 census, Charles Brown, age 36, was listed as an otter hunter and had \$2000 worth of real estate and \$1000 in personal property. His wife, Francisca Brown, was 30 and his two children, Charles and Juana Brown were ages 12 and

10. In a declaration dated April 11, 1861 and recorded April 25, Charles Dittman, also known as Charles Brown, was the father of Charles Cascareña age 12, and of Juana Cascareña age 11; their mother, Francisca Cascareña, was formerly of Mission San Luis Rey.

Francisca had died before the 1870 census, which showed Charles Dittman, age 46, carpenter, \$4000 real estate, \$350 personal property, born in Prussia, and Jane Dittman, age 19 living at home, born in California. Charles Dittman, age 21, was a day laborer and living separately.

On May 1, 1872 Mary J. Dittman, now 20, married Benjamin W.C. Brown in Santa Barbara. In May 1873, Carl Dittman gave his daughter, Mary Jane Brown, "in consideration of love and affection" a belated wedding gift of all the real property on the northwest side of Gutierrez Street between Anacapa and State Street, a half block from her childhood home. Mary Jane and Benjamin were married for eleven years and apparently had no children. Benjamin died September 7, 1883. Mary Jane (Maria Juana) Brown never remarried. In an interview in 1922 she told how her brother, Charles Dittman, had been an otter hunter. Later he became a sailor and was lost at sea in 1894 when his boat sank. He had given her an otter pelt she had saved and claimed it was worth \$7000. She died a widow in Santa Barbara June 8, 1929 at age 78 and is buried at Calvary Cemetery.

CARL DITTMAN AND MARGARET WHITFIELD

Carl Dittman married 2nd Margaret Whitfield, from Sydney, Australia in 1872. Her parents were originally from Ireland. She was only 25 years old, half the age of Carl. She was born September 21, 1848. They were married in Santa Barbara. They had eight children.

Margaret was only two years older than her step-daughter, Mary Jane Brown. It is interesting that Mary Brown was chosen as god-mother of Herman Thomas Dittman and Ludwig Carl Dittman, two of Margaret's children. Margaret and Mary had a long and satisfying relationship.

SANTA RITA (STUART)

Carl Dittman bought 40 acres from Charles Beckwith in the 1880s, perhaps early in 1888. A new Santa Rita school had just replaced the old school when the Dittmans arrived on the scene. Five of Carl and

Margaret's children were of an age to swell the class size for teachers Emma Day and John Curryer in 1888. The old Santa Rita School had been in session from as early as 1881 when E.F. Woods was teacher there.

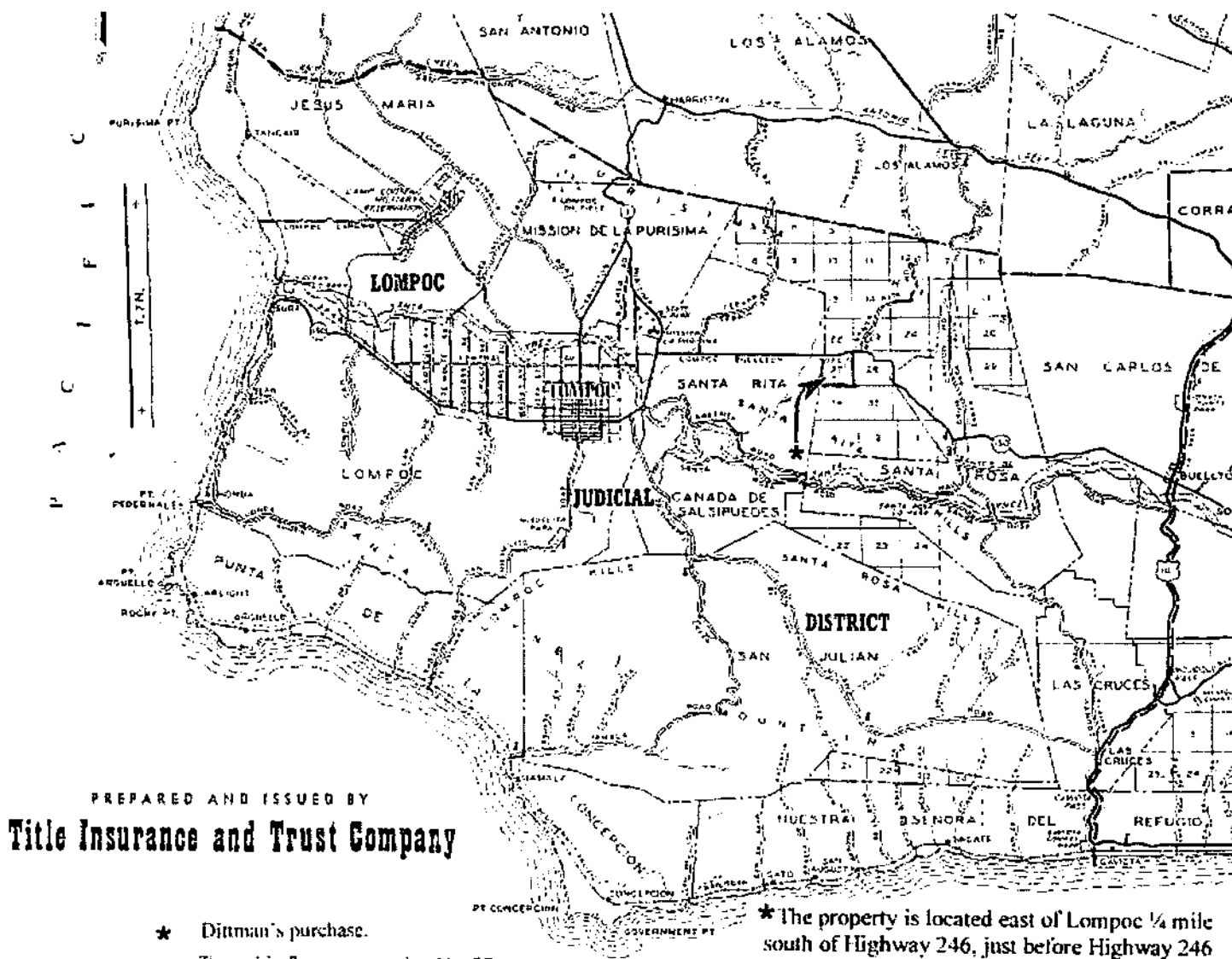
Settlers had contested with the Santa Rita Rancho over rights to government land between the Santa Rita and Santa Rosa Ranchos. The settlers hired a lawyer from San Francisco named James T. Stuart who successfully won the grant dispute in their favor.

They gave the name "Stuart" to the little village in his honor. A post office was established November 1885 in the settlement of Stuart in the home of George Ingamells, the first postmaster. His house was located near the Santa Rita schoolhouse on the old stage-coach road between Lompoc and Los Alamos. That

route apparently went up the Santa Rita road, over the Purisima hills and down Canyon de Santa Rosa to San Antonio Road. The Drum Canyon road became the route much later.

Carl Dittman died January 11, 1901 at age 75. Margaret Whitfield Dittman died March 19, 1931 at age 81. Both are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Lompoc, California.

This article was previously printed in the June 2005 issue of Lompoc Legacy, the quarterly bulletin of the Lompoc Valley Historical Society, Inc., and is reprinted here with permission of the LVHS and the author.



* Dittman's purchase.
Township 7, quarter section No. 27.

* The property is located east of Lompoc 1/4 mile south of Highway 246, just before Highway 246 intersects Campbell Road and bends toward the southeast.

BLACK SHEEP SAM

By Elizabeth Dake, SBCGS Member



"How much you got that says that bull can't be rode?" Sam demanded when the western Colorado rancher claimed his bull couldn't be ridden.

"Anything you want to put up," replied the rancher.

Sam, the lanky cowboy from Cheyenne, threw what money he had into his battered hat, and men who had seen him ride fearlessly begged for a chance to 'get in'. He could have been backed for a thousand, but the rancher withdrew at a hundred. Cattlemen knew a horned critter was more difficult to ride than a horse, especially when saddled, because of the looseness of the bovine skin. The bull at this cowboy contest in Denver, was duly cinched up, Sam climbed in the swaying saddle and made the ride of his life, without once 'pulling leather'.

Who knows where those earnings went ...bars? Whorehouses?

Sam was a product of his times. The great cattle herds spread on immense ranches throughout the West after the Civil War. On one such enormous ranch, near Cheyenne, Sam punched cows for owner U.S. Senator Warren, who more than once extricated young Sam from serious difficulty with the law. The open unfenced lands necessitated countless cowboys to round up cattle once or twice a year to be driven through miles and miles of open range to marketing centers (stockyards). There, boys would be boys, challenging each other to see who was best at cutting cattle or throwing a rope. With the advent of the railroads, the vast open rangeland became defined by barbed wire. Stockyards located on the railroads and railroad stock cars replaced the long cattle drives.

At Cheyenne, one such stockyard, a Union Pacific publicist watched ranch employees coaxing a reluctant horse into a stock car. The horse was winning the argument; a winning idea emerged: wild broncs + wild cowboys = entertainment = \$\$\$\$. The year before, 1896, had seen the first organized rodeo in Cheyenne, so when the publicist pitched the idea to the owner of the Cheyenne Sun-Leader, the outcome was a slam-dunk in 1897 for the first official rodeo, Cheyenne Frontier Days.

Through the various Wild West shows and perfor-

mances at Fourth of July celebrations and cattlemen's conventions, rodeo emerged as public entertainment between 1890 and 1910. Rodeo became recognized as a competitive sport; women competed in bronc riding or cow/pony events or trick riding. Florence was one of these women, performing until she had a bad fall, after which she never rode again.

In 1913 Sam performed in a vaudeville venue, gave a rifle exhibition shooting small paper targets while holding the gun in unusual positions; his wife Goldie held the targets between her fingers and even between her lips. As an expert roper, he also demonstrated the art of lariat and rope spinning. How the days of cow-punching had changed!



MASSACHUSETTS TOWN RECORDS

The Immigrant Genealogical Society Library has the complete set of Massachusetts Town Vital Records to 1850, which are easy to use at their library. Apparently Google Books has now digitized 50 of them and has posted them online on their web site. These are very basic Massachusetts records. <http://books.google.com/>

(Escondido G.S. Newsletter, July/August 2006)



SANTA CLARA CEMETERY INDEX

The Historical/Genealogical Society of Santa Clara County has created a database of burials in Mission City Memorial Park in Santa Clara. It cover burials from 1864-1997. Access it at: http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascchgs/mission_cem/cemindex.htm.

(CSGS Newsletter, July-Aug. 2006)

GREAT-AUNT MARY'S LEGACY

By Charles Walworth, SBCGS Member

Aunt Mary was my mother's mother's sister. When Aunt Mary died in 1945, I was her only living relative and her sole heir. Only years later did I discover other precious gifts that were to come to me from her.

My mother died shortly after I was born, and her mother, my grandmother, died a year before I was born. The remaining members of my mother's family lived 500 miles away in the farming community of Forestville, Chautauqua County, New York. I spent summers there on the farm with my grandfather, visiting my Aunt Mary and attending the annual family reunion that has now gone on for a hundred years. After my grandfather died in 1944 and Aunt Mary in 1945, I had little reason to go back to Forestville.

I did maintain contact with some second cousins in the area and many years later started to go back to attend the family reunion. I took my two sons to the reunion in 1980. Afterward, one of my cousins took us to meet next-door neighbors of my Aunt Mary who had lived in their home for over 50 years. I didn't remember ever having met them, but they were delighted to see me. They had stored in their attic, for 35 years, an oval glass-framed picture of a young Aunt Mary. She had entrusted it to them, cautioning that she "did not want it to be burned." They gave me the picture, which now occupies a place of honor in my home on the wall beside the front door.

Years later, perhaps around 1995, I was researching at the New England Historical and Genealogical Society library in Boston, Massachusetts, trying to establish whether my parents were indeed eighth cousins, both descended from Samuel Eldridge (1620-1677) of Kingston, Rhode Island. My father's line was clear but my mother's line was murky, dependent upon a series of Eldridge names listed in a genealogy without any documentation.

Finally, I turned to the library's manuscript collection and the William Henry Eldridge papers, 1911-1942. I picked a folder that looked promising and there, right on top, was a questionnaire answered by Aunt Mary, God bless her, and sent to Mr. Eldridge in the late 1930s. She listed her family from me back several generations, confirming the Eldridge descent.

I was 14 when Aunt Mary died – too young to have taken advantage of her knowledge — but 50 years later I found her information waiting for me in Boston.



WALWORTH COUNTY GENEALOGY

Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society
Research Library

*Submitted by Jim Friestad, SBCGS Member
ronjim@cox.net*

This library is located in Janesville, WI.

The Society houses records past and present for the Seventh Day Baptists. On the way of life and the people, they focus on the history of the Sabbath and of the Sabbath-keeping Baptists. SDB's originated in England in 1650. The first church was in Newport, RI in 1671. By the 1900's they had reached the west coast.

The Library serves as central depository and archives for the Seventh Day Baptist Church. The library is a good source for anyone searching relatives that were Seventh Day Baptist.

Some SDB's were in Walworth, WI. 1843. Joseph Crumb, Dr. Henry Clarke and Nathan S. Basset were Sabbath keepers. In 1843-44, Elders Stillman Coon and Daniel Babcock met with the growing group in Walworth. And in 1845, an SDB society was formed.

Stillman Coon was called to be the first pastor in 1847 after serving the church since 1843. By 1871 membership had grown to 175 and a new building was constructed by 1874.

The library welcomes visitors but if you wish to do any research please call in advance so that they may get some of the records in advance.

Pastor Nicholas J. Kersten "Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society Research Library," 3120 N. Kennedy Rd., PO Box 1678, Janesville, WI 53547-1678. Phone # 1-608-752-5055. sdbhist@seventhdaybaptist.org.

Note: There is no longer a Seventh Day Baptist Church in Walworth.

DEBRA HAEBERLE'S INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY

Her incredible research to discover her family Part One

Taped and transcribed by S.A. Mendenhall

Last year I was fortunate enough to be in Jan Cloud's genealogy class to hear this amazing story. The speaker, Debra Haerberle, gave a powerful presentation about her family search. As a questioning child she craved grandparents, aunts, uncles, or cousins. As a young woman she traveled to the east coast to meet strangers. She continued her pursuit with determined curiosity. She put the piecemeal answers together, and she found a family. Since this was such an interesting story, class members, who heard her that day, encouraged me to write "Debra Haerberle's incredible discovery." This is the narrative heard that morning in Santa Barbara, California.

Debra Kaiser Haerberle stepped up to the front of the room, laid her precious binders on the table, and patted them gently. Her voice came softly as she tentatively sought the words to begin her story. As her large, brown eyes gazed shyly at us, she began by clearly saying she had no expectations in finding anything in genealogy. She had no clue where genealogy would lead her, how to approach it, or quite simply--what to do. As a child it had always disturbed her that she had no grandparents. Her mother, an only child, had always said she had no memories of her relatives.

Debbi's mother, Pearl May Scharf, was born January 10, 1931, in Bronx, New York. During the 1930's the Sharf family, Pearl, her mother, Devora, nee Stillman (Polish version, "Szelmann"), and father, Isidore (Izak) Sharf, moved away from all relatives and friends to California. Pearl was four years of age. Sadly, her father died when she was 12 years old, and her mother died when she was 15 years old, leaving her alone in City Terrace, California.

Debbi's family was a part of a large Orthodox Jewish community. The Orthodox Center, now closed, was in Los Angeles and the center of family activities. The people went there to be together, share their lives, their joys, and solve their problems.

At a young age Debbi was aware her family was different. She'd only known one grandparent, her

father's father, for a short time. He died when she was 13. Without grandparents, her parents were left to answer the standard childhood question, "where did I come from?" Debbi said, "There was always this empty space that I felt I wanted to fill ... I felt something was missing." She wondered where her mother and grandparents came from. What was known about cousins, aunts, and uncles? The answer she always got was, "Everybody died. Everybody died in the Holocaust." When Debbi was eight, she first read the *The Diary of Anne Frank* and saw the film. It left her with a lasting impression and deep sadness.

That was when she ramped up her questions to her mother. I would hound her and hound her; I wanted information she didn't know. Debbi felt her mother must know something, and then one day her mother did say, "Well, I think my mother had a sister, and I think her name is Shandra, or Shandall, or Shindall." She didn't ever have the exact name. "Well, where did they come from," to which her mother would say something like, "Oh, I don't know, Italy," or whatever country worked out for the day when Debbi asked, as if her mother wanted to avoid direct answers.

As years passed, an 18-year-old Debbi figured maybe she could find out something about her grandmother by going to New York. Having saved money from babysitting, she wanted very badly to go. Her mother had not seen or spoken to any relative since she was a teenager. Debbi still said, "I really want to go." Her mother found the phone numbers and called. "My daughter wants to come and visit." As if Debbi had known her mother's cousin, Sally (Graber) Laiken forever, Sally said, "sure."

Debbi was so nervous about her trip. Her first time on a plane and meeting strangers, she totally lost her voice. When Debbi arrived in New York, the first thing everybody did was to sit down around the table, and Debbi realized every one was whispering! Everybody whispered—because of her laryngitis, she was whispering. She found she was passed around from one cousin to another.

One of them was her mother's first cousin, Helen (Sharf) Schneider, and her husband, Phil Schneider. They lived in Bayside, in Queens. Debbi asked Helen if she had known any or had seen any of the family who had passed away. Helen told Debbi that she'd "seen relatives at weddings, bar mitzvahs and funerals

over the years; you always meet people.” “But do you know anything about Uncle Nathan?” Debbi asked.

Uncle Nathan and Aunt Celia were Helen’s parents, ages 87 and 85 years old, and they lived in the Bronx area. Since Uncle Nathan and Aunt Celia didn’t drive, Helen decided to take Debbi to meet them. For the first time Debbi met the oldest members of her mother’s family. She was so moved she forgot to ask where they had lived in Europe. Debbi just listened to them, her people who were connected to the past.

One evening Helen said, “I was once interested in learning about the family.” She had sat down with her father and wrote names of his family and the name of the city in which they lived. Opening the drawer in the china cabinet, she gave Debbi the list of names. Debbi said, “At that point I thought it would be really interesting to see what I could learn about these names.” Debbi wrote out in long-hand the details of her grandfather’s brother, Great-Uncle Nathan Sharf’s family. There weren’t any years specified, there weren’t any notable events, and there were a of couple births noted, but none for those from the old country. Debbi kept that piece of paper in her drawer from 1970 until 1997.

In 1993 Debbi went to the premier opening of Spielberg’s *Schindler’s List* based upon the Holocaust survivors’ memories. When Debbi left the movie that evening, she was more determined than ever to pursue her roots and find, if she could, a relative. The movie provided a profound change at the way she looked at the search possibilities.

She recalled her parents had a black satchel suitcase. She recalled looking through old photos and having no idea who was pictured. The suitcase followed her parents on their different moves, and eventually it dwindled down to just a handful of photographs. Debbi made a trip to her parents’ home; she asked to see those old pictures.

In an old manila envelope she discovered something quite exciting. There was another very thin-paper envelope with a return address for the Orthodox Center in Los Angeles, California. In that envelope was an onionskin sheet dated 1944 or 1946. Carefully opening the fragile envelope, she found an English transliteration of a marriage contract, but whose marriage contract? Next there was another envelope in which there was an original ‘Ketuba’ written in He-

brew from 1911. A Ketuba was a marriage contract for a Jewish marriage ceremony. It was her grandparents’ marriage contract! Debbi said she stood still, just stared at the translation. It mentioned a dowry. It mentioned the considerations her grandfather was to bring to the marriage. Suddenly she realized, she now had a town name from where her grandparents had come. They were married in “Izbica, Poland.”

In that same envelope with the marriage contract, there were six little black and white pictures. Of course the faces were complete strangers to Debbi. She asked her mother, “Do you know who these people are? I mean you have these pictures, do you have any idea who they are?” Her mother had no idea other than to say some must have been relatives, but she wasn’t sure. Debbi’s mother thought, “Well maybe, maybe they were my mother’s sister’s children.” But she didn’t know any names. Debbi contemplated how one puts pictures together with names. Her mother permitted Debbi to make copies even though it appeared to Debbi her mother hadn’t ever opened these envelopes. Debbi asked us, “Can you imagine in any one of the family moves that my mother had made, this document could have so easily disappeared along with who knows how many other photographs or letters? It would have been a real loss!”

As soon as she got home Debbi telephoned her mother. “You thought you had an aunt, your mom had a sister! Can you think harder what their names might be?” “Ugh! Again with the questions.” Debbi insisted her mother try to think, and she did; she came up with Chydal, for her mother’s sister, “maybe Chydal.” She also thought she married into the “Burnstein, Barenstein, or Burstein family, one of those names.” She added the little photographs and document copies to Helen’s list of names she had from 1969. For Debbi, a genealogy novice, the question was, “What in the heck do I do?”

To be continued in the next issue. What steps should Debbi take to connect the tenuous links?

email your suggestions to the editor at ox@silcom.com, with the

Subject: “Suggestions for Debbi.”

Responses will be printed in the next issue

VA ADDS MAPS TO ONLINE GRAVESITE LOCATOR

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy, July 04, 2006 Newsletter and is copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

The following is an announcement from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):

WASHINGTON – The grave locations of more than three million veterans and dependents buried in national cemeteries can be found more easily now because the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has added maps of burial sections online that can be printed from home computers and at national cemetery kiosks. The latest improvement builds upon a service begun two years ago, in which a VA online feature permits family members to find the cemetery in which their loved one is buried.

“This new map feature makes it easier for families, friends and researchers to find the exact location of a veteran’s grave in all national cemeteries and some state veterans cemeteries,” said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “It enhances VA’s service at national cemeteries, already highly regarded, and our commitment to them as national shrines and historical treasures.”

The gravesite locator, online since April 2004, <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>, helps veterans’ families, former comrades-in-arms and others find the cemeteries where veterans are buried. With the new online feature, people enter a veteran’s name to search, click on the “Buried At” (burial location) link and a map of the national cemetery is displayed, showing the section where the grave is located.

In a related development, VA recently added to its database the cemeteries in which 1.9 million veterans were buried with VA grave markers. These are mostly private cemeteries. This addition brings the number of graves recorded in the locator to approximately five million. Those with maps are in VA national cemeteries and in state veterans cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery if burials were since 1999.

Beyond the five million records now available, VA continues to add approximately 1,000 new records to the database each day. VA also plans to add

to its online database the exact locations of veterans’ gravesites in the remaining state veterans cemeteries.

In the midst of the largest cemetery expansion since the Civil War, VA operates 123 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers’ lots and monument sites. More than three million Americans, including veterans of every war and conflict — from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror — are buried in VA’s national cemeteries on more than 16,000 acres of land.

Veterans with a discharge other than dishonorable, their spouses, and eligible dependent children may be buried in a national cemetery. Other burial benefits include a burial flag, Presidential Memorial Certificate, and a government headstone or marker — even if they are not buried in a national cemetery. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the Internet at <http://www.cem.va.gov> or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1 800-827-1000.

Submitted by Cari Thomas.



CANADIAN RESEARCH LINK Saskatchewan Homestead Index

Thanks to the global Gazette, Canada’s online family history magazine, <http://globalgazette.net>, the Saskatchewan Homestead Index is online. This is a file locator database to the homestead files at the Saskatchewan Archives. It contains 360,000 references to those men and women who, from 1872 to 1930, under the terms of the Dominion Lands Act, took part in the homestead process in the area now known as Saskatchewan. The database can be searched by name, by land location or by additional remarks. For example, about name changes or the name of the legal representative should the applicant have died. Special grants, such as the Metis scrip can also be identified by searching the remarks field. <http://www.saskhomesteads.com/search.asp>.

RootsWeb Review: August 2, 2006.

SAN FRANCISCO MERCHANT SEAMEN FORGOTTEN IN DEATH

Mariners' cemetery buried in debris, used as parking lot

Carl Nolte, Chronicle Staff Writer
cnolte@sfcronicle.com

Saturday, November 25, 2006—San Francisco Chronicle

In a little valley ringed by trees on the edge of the Presidio of San Francisco is a lost cemetery containing the graves of hundreds of merchant seamen, buried years ago and forgotten.

The graves are unmarked and the names of many buried there are unknown.

The cemetery itself, located just beyond the closed Public Health Service Hospital near 15th Avenue and Lake Street, is invisible. The graves, which once had neat wooden headstones enclosed by a fence, were buried under 16 feet of debris from excavations of a missile site in the 1950s.

A parking lot was built at the same time over one corner of the graveyard and a tennis court over another.

And then the cemetery was forgotten—literally covered up.

Now, archaeologists from the Presidio Trust, which operates the former Army post, are looking into the lost cemetery with an eye to explaining it to the public.

It is an eerie spot, even now. The cemetery is located behind the derelict and abandoned hulk of the old hospital, which looks a bit like a shipwreck. Its windows are broken and the walls are covered with graffiti. There is not a single sign explaining what lies under the weeds in the little valley of the dead.

It is a story waiting to be told, said Jennifer McCann, an intern who works in the Presidio Trust archaeology office. "It is just waiting to be interpreted to the public."

The cemetery had its beginnings more than 130 years ago when the U.S. Treasury Department leased land at the Presidio to set up the San Francisco Marine Hospital, which took care of the health needs of merchant mariners.

The hospital opened in 1875. In 1881, the adjacent cemetery was first mentioned in records of the Marine

Hospital Service. Burials continued there for at least 31 years, or until 1912.

Those years marked the high tide of San Francisco as the greatest port on the Pacific Coast. The city's docks were full of sailing ships and steamers. It was what is called the Age of Sail, a time now regarded with fondness and nostalgia.

However, in those days, sailors were outcasts, men with no families, who worked long hours under brutal conditions. A look at the cemetery records of the Marine Hospital shows that most of the dead were young. Many were in their 20s.

Most of the deaths were the result of respiratory diseases, like tuberculosis. "I think probably dampness and hard labor killed them," said McCann, who has been studying the records most of this year. "If you found someone in his 50s in this hospital, he was thought to be really old," she said.

McCann said various estimates put the number of graves from 200 to 800. "My guess is between 600 and 700 people are buried there."

In the spring of 1896, the San Francisco Call newspaper ran a feature article on "the almost unheard of" sailors' cemetery. "A desert spot," the paper said, "a valley dreary with stunted growths and hummocks of half-tamed sand dunes."

Here lay "men who sailed into the port of San Francisco and never sailed away again through the Golden Gate," the Call said, "rough sailors who are now God knows where."

San Francisco had four, and sometimes five, newspapers in the era of the Marine Hospital, but the graveyard was never mentioned again in the public press. One reason might be that 80 percent of the dead sailors were foreign. Most had no families; the sailor's grave was a pauper's grave. "It seems likely that most of these men have no living descendants," McCann said.

In 1912, the country's marine hospitals were re-named Public Health Service Hospitals.

In 1931, a new hospital building replaced the 1875 facility. Photographs from the 1930s show the cemetery with rows of wooden tombstones.

In 1952, the hospital expanded and money was appropriated to move the cemetery, but apparently this was never done. "Instead, they built a new wing," said McCann. "It was easy to kick over headstones." Then

the cemetery was covered with debris.

By 1981, the hospital had been ordered closed.

John Sammons, the facility's last chief of environmental technology, said he remembers seeing a certificate in the files that said the graves had all been moved. He didn't believe it. "It doesn't surprise me at all that the cemetery is still there," he said.

The Army, which got the land back from the Public Health Service, found that the old cemetery was called Landfill 8.

"I noticed a cemetery on an old map," said Sannie Osborne, a Presidio Trust archaeologist who was working for the Army Corps of Engineers in the '90s. "I borrowed a backhoe and a backhoe operator, and did a small excavation," Osborne said. "We found two coffins."

"Due to the extremely embarrassing nature of the discovery," McCann wrote in a report she did this summer, "it was kept very quiet."

The Army marched out of the Presidio in 1996, and the old military base was turned over to the National Park Service and the nonprofit Presidio Trust. The two organizations started looking into the historical past of the old post. And when McCann, who is studying for her master's degree at San Francisco State University, was assigned as an intern, the story of the graveyard was brought to light.

Now, says Jody Sanford, a public affairs specialist for the Presidio Trust, the plan is to develop a scenario to open the area for public viewing and put up signs to explain the Marine Cemetery with an appropriate memorial. The abandoned Public Service Hospital may be turned into housing.

But the old sailors will not be moved. "We do not plan to exhume them," Sanford said.

They will remain in what historian Matthew Brady called "the fo'c'sle of the dead."

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GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY CENTER, INC.

Under the guidance of professional genealogist Arlene H. Eakle, a corporation has been formed and a large building has been purchased in Tremonton, Utah

to house genealogical materials that might otherwise be lost to researchers in the future.

The Genealogical Library Center, Inc. already houses the Sherwood Collection. This is 6-1/2 tons of British Isles professional history and locality files, plus a 50,000 entry cards index to German church book records. There are 12 file drawers of American professional research files, the Hollingsworth Collection, many Virginia databases and files, all worthy of being permanently preserved.

Often family researchers' records face a family decision after the researcher's death, as to what to do with the accumulated collection. The Genealogical Library Center, Inc. offers an open door to such collections. Many genealogists might like to make such a donation, before their family decides to dump them.

You may contact the Genealogical Library Center, Inc. at 56 West Main Street, Suite B., Tremonton, UT 84337. If you wish to talk to them, call (800) 377-6058, or e-mail to <researchmyfamilytree@yahoo.com>.

(Clark Co. NVGS, *The Prospector*, July '06)



MISSOURI DEATH RECORDS ONLINE

The Missouri Death Certificate Database is a database of digitized Missouri death certificates online. It begins with records created in 1910 and will include all those now over 50 years old.

The Death Index is complete for 1910 to 1955. The digitized images presently online cover 1910 to 1920. You can search the database at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>.

The database can be searched by first name, last name, county, and year/month. If the digitized image is not yet online, you may order a photocopy of the certificate from the MO Archive Reference Desk. (Lake Co. IL G.S. *Quarterly*, Jan-Mar '06)

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ARCHIVES

These archives include various military records, including Pennsylvania National Guard Veterans' Card File, 1867-1921; World War I Service Medal Application Cards and Mexican Border Campaign Veterans' Card File. <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/overview.htm>.

For best results spend some time learning how to use ARIAS (Archives Records Information Access System) to search its 1.5 million records. <http://www.digitalarchives.state.pa.us/>.

COLORADO STATE ARCHIVES

These online indexes include some unique items, such as voter registrations, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Enrollment Index, inheritance tax, and old-age pensions. <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/>.

See the indexes and search the historical records at <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/hrd/index.htm>.

(Ventura County Genealogical Society Newsletter, October '06)



WISCONSIN TOMBSTONES

The Wisconsin GenWeb (WIGenWeb) Tombstone Photograph Project now has more than 56,000 photos online. It includes 56 of the state's 72 counties with more than 600 cemeteries represented.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/wi/cemetery/>.



PROBLEMS IN CANADA?

Tracing your ancestors in Canada—a guide (PDF file) is available. See: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy/022-607.001-e.html>.

A CHRISTMAS EVE LETTER FROM A DOUGHBOY IN GERMANY IN 1918

“Saarburg, Germany
Christmas Eve, 1918

Well, maybe you think I wasn't glad when the armistice was signed. I was on my way to the front lines that morning. I was only a half mile of it when they stopped us. We had been relieved for two days and were just going up to take our place again. I guess the whole world was glad. After you know about our experiences, you will know what it meant to me.

I don't think (no, I know) we won't live in Chapin any more. [This little town in Illinois where he had grown up and married had but 300 people.] I am going to St. Louis to live. There isn't anything in Chapin for a fellow. I've seen too much of the world now to stay there anymore. I haven't seen much of the world, but enough to spoil me from living in a small place again.

Well Sis, I'll ring off and I am hoping Santa Claus will be good to you all tonight.

Love, Ray” [Bridgman]

Jayne Craven Caldwell found this letter from her uncle, Ray Bridgman, among her aunt's belongings.



AUSTRALIA PASSENGER LIST

Unassisted Immigration to Victoria.
Index of inward passenger lists for British,
foreign and New Zealand ports, 1852-1923

You can search this list for names of passengers who boarded ships to Victoria, Australia from overseas ports (including New Zealand) between 1852 and 1923. These passengers were unassisted, meaning that their passage was not subsidized by government. The results screen displays some detail on each person found and a reference to the microfiche copy of the complete lists. The Port code (B, F or N) indicates which series of microfiche to look at and does not necessarily indicate the passengers' nationality. http://proarchives.imagineering.com.au/index_search.asp?searchid=23.

Previously published in RootsWeb, Review: 26 July 2006, Vol. 9, No. 30, Submitted by Cari Thomas

IN A COUNTRY GRAVEYARD

By Jayne Caldwell, SBCGS Member

In a graveyard near the mountain
In the valley by the sea,
There's a tombstone of a child
Buried beneath a gnarled oak tree.

On it is carved the date he died—
'Twas eighteen seventy-seven.
Master Fish was only six
When called by God to heaven.

O'er a hundred years have passed
Since Tommy laughed at play,
And life in Carpinteria
Has grown richer day by day.

The valley has grown, the people changed;
That is as it should be.
But not the graveyard near the mountain
In the valley by the sea.

This poem was first published in the Carpinteria Historical Society's Grapevine in 1978, and is reprinted here with permission of the author.



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ZELMA AND JAMES

By Jayne Craven Caldwell, SBCGS Member

I haven't the vaguest idea how I came to have these five letters. I only know that I probably "rescued" them. They are actually expressions of love written by a young man to a girl who stole his heart the instant he laid eyes on her.

Let me share with you their correspondence written in a day before automobiles, radios and movies. Their lives were simple, and I doubt young people today could believe the way it was then, nor the naivete of that time almost a century ago.

I think James Pizinger was probably in his early

twenties and behaved as every other young man in his peer group. When he wrote to Zelma Cooper on January 16, 1916, it was from Hill City, Kansas, which is in the northwest quarter of the state and in Graham County, and he was visiting his brother. His letter starts "Dear Girlie" and ends with, "answer soon with a beautiful picture for me, with a letter. Your friend, James."

Apparently he is not making much romantic progress because on November 5th (ten months later) his salutation is "Dear Friend," and he is now in Olmitz, Kansas. "Have been thinking of you all day so thought I would write to you. You are the first young lady I have cared to write to. I never could find out what your last name was, so one day when I was in Olmitz, I asked Uncle Wilson and he told me. I think I met your sister one day in Olmitz. She married one of the Wilsons. What made me think she was your sister was that she looked so much like you. If you were as anxious to hear from me as I am to hear from you, you will answer at once. Please answer soon. Your friend, James."

Four weeks later, on December 8th (he's still calling her "Friend") he wrote, "I received your letter a few days ago.

I wasn't looking for an answer. I thought you would not write to me. . . If you come out here again we will have a good time taking pictures. I have a 'One-Minute' camera and have taken a picture of everything in reach but YOU, and if you will come out I will have one of you. Answer soon. James."

The day after Christmas he put two one-cent stamps on an envelope and mailed another letter to Zelma in Eskridge, Kansas. "Dear Friend. I received your card. Uncle Wilson brought it out." (Does this suggest that James lives on a farm? Probably so!) He continues, "The first thing he told me was this: 'I got a letter from that girl you are writing to. She asked me about a thousand questions about you, wanting to know if you meant everything your wrote.'" He added, "My uncle did not mean one thing he said. I guess he was just trying to see how much he could torment me."

Evidently since Zelma had not written to Uncle Wilson, she assumed some other girl had! James had some explaining to do. In January 1917, he wrote, "I haven't written to any other girl but you. No one wrote

to Uncle Wilson. He was trying to get me mad but had poor luck. Answer soon. James.”

How did this little story end? This is a cliff-hanger. Did Zelma of Eskridge, Kansas and James Pizinger of Olmitz, Kansas ever get beyond exchanging pictures and his calling her “Friend?” Will we ever know? Since Zelma saved his letters, I would like to think it all ended in wedded bliss, and hopefully some of their descendants (if they did indeed marry) are reading this little story. (If so, they may have the letters by getting in touch.)

Eskridge is 195 miles east of Olmitz, Kansas. Eskridge is 37 miles west of Topeka. It all happened in a quiet time long ago. Their story is another page in America’s “passing parade.”



RAYMOND D. HUCKA **SANTA BARBARA DAM BUILDER**

Biggest job of Raymond D. Hucka’s 18 years in hydraulic construction was as a partner in the \$1,500,000 project for the Montecito Water District. But his first experience with dam building was on the Magalia Dam in 1916.

He almost lost his life there. A heavy cloudburst one night floated the trees which had been felled on the site. The engineer came to Hucka’s home and got him out of bed. With Bert Lusk, he worked to remove the debris that collected across the spillway, and Hucka slipped and fell into the water and almost drowned.

Ray was born in Lake City, Iowa, and when he was 8, his parents moved to Nebraska. He married the former Grace Lounsbury in Aurora, and they moved to Amhurst to make their home where he was in the cattle and hog business. Their son, Harold, was born there.

Mrs. Hucka suffered from hay fever and asthma, and the doctor urged them to move to another climate. They decided on California, when one of their neighbors mentioned he learned they were selling land around Richvale. But after they arrived in Chico in 1911, they bought 80 acres in Paradise on the Ed March place instead. Before the year was over, their daughter Alene was born.

The work on their ranch was diversified, and

Ray Hucka did hauling for him and neighbors. With a good spring wagon and team of horses, he would load firewood and make three to four trips to Chico every week, returning with fertilizer, hay and feed. He recalls driving down the Honeyrun, braking the wagon down the grade; it was hard work for horses and driver. There were no paved roads in Chico then, and when it was raining the roads were terrible. It was a welcome sight when paving was laid by Hindu labor.

After the Magalia Dam was completed, Ray Hucka went to work on the San Pablo Dam in 1917. The Huckas had sold half of their Paradise land to the Hammas, and later sold the rest to a Mr. Patton.

Many lost their lives in the typhoid epidemic at San Pablo due to the polluted drinking water. Then the flu epidemic came during the first World War, and that also killed a lot of the men.

Hucka also worked in the filter plant at El Cerrito. Another year was spent on the Priest dam on the Hetch-Hetchy system.

He agreed with his wife it was not good for her and the children to follow him from job to job, so in 1920 they bought a home in Richmond. Ray would come home to his family as often as was possible, but contract work stretched his visits home months apart.

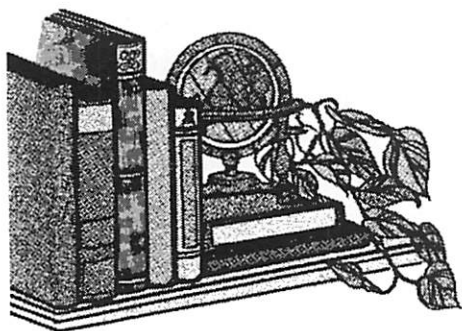
There was a time limit set on the building of the U.C. Memorial Stadium in Strawberry Canyon. Every day over cost the construction company \$1000. This meant they had to work seven days a week, including Sundays. However, they had to stop Sunday working, as they were told it set a bad example for the students. This cost the company \$20,000 in penalties.

A tunnel was built to take care of the flow of the creek running through the canyon, and the stadium was built over it.

A change for a while from hydraulics came when Hucka worked on the 1,300-acre City Terrace subdivision in Los Angeles, which took about two years. A 2,000,000-gallon water reservoir was built, but work was mainly on street grading and surfacing.

Another hydraulic fill job was the San Leandro Dam in Redwood Canyon. That winter floods brought everything down on their work, including bridges. The crew spent an entire night drilling holes around the dam to keep it from washing away.

(Hucka- Continued on page 84)



NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Compiled by Gary Matz

NEW IN THE LIBRARY (8/06/06)

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.

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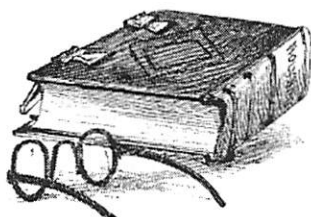
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BOOK REVIEW



“Getting Started in Genealogy Online,” by William Dollarhide, published by GPC, Inc., 2006. \$12.95, 64 pp. Softcover.

William Dollarhide has done it again, creating a small gem, just 64 pages long, not only aimed directly at the newcomer to the joy of genealogy, but also toward those of us who have been at it a while. For everyone, the text is wonderfully simple and direct.

The book begins with what the author calls “a unique seven-step system for gathering facts essential for any genealogical project. . . .” While the individual steps are not new, it is the addition of prime and specific online sources for these steps that makes the book unique, to me. These resources are so basic that long-timers may have forgotten about them, but every newbie should become aware of them.

“Where to Find More” online is next. Rather than a long list of smaller sites (many of which may be obsolete by the publishing date), each of these URLs is for an extensive and enduring site. Dollarhide’s excellent definition of each site will help each newbie understand what they can find there. Included are also sections on Gen software, and National/Regional Archives. It would not be surprising to me that each reader will also find something new to them here.

The third section has state resources, and picks up

some of the lesser known libraries and special collections found around our 50 as well as the expected state libraries and archives. Again, these are locales which are stable and nicely identified.

The following chapter on “Research Help for the Addicted” includes resources and information on Professional Researchers, Genealogical Magazines, Reference Books and online Newsletters and Blogs. Subscription sites and magazine costs are mentioned; one must remember these prices will become obsolete as the years pass. However, all of these resources are of value and will provide help for both the new and the seasoned addict.

The final seven pages, hard copy forms of pedigree, group, and family data sheets, are for newcomers to family history research; and are specific to those either computerless or not yet with a computer genealogy program. Dollarhide first shows a completed sample of each, then provides an appropriately clean form with permission to photocopy.

The book is missing one section I’d like to have seen: getting started in international genealogy online. Instead, with the exception of two mentions of Canada, there is little other than genealogy within the States. Then again, the U.S. truly is the starting point for those born in the U.S.A.!

What really drew me to pick up and begin this book was the size. Sixty-four pages—and especially well-written ones—make it an easy read and surprised me with some great but forgotten web sites and information. A nice little gem. Recommended.

Reviewed by Cari Thomas

USING ROOTSWEB: Making Most of Queries

Have you ever posted a query on a RootsWeb mailing list or message board and just watched it sit there and never receive a reply? There may be any number of reasons that you have not received answers to your questions or been unable to obtain any assistance. First, perhaps there actually is no one out there reading the list or board who knows the answer to your most elusive genealogical query—not yet at least.

Be patient.

However, there are also other reasons, problems you can readily overcome, that could explain why no one is replying to your posts.

By far the most common reason for lack of a response to your plea for information is that you have not provided sufficient data in your query for anyone to assist you or to spot a possible connection to their own research. If you are asking for a lookup, provide a specific source you would like someone to check. Include what you know about your ancestor—his name, when and where he lived, and the names of other family members. Clearly state what information you hope to learn. For example, if you want to learn the ancestor's parents' names, say so. If you're looking for his wife's maiden name, say so.

If you have already searched specific records for the information you hope to learn, include what resources you have already checked. For instance, if you have looked at the 1880 census, include this fact so that lookup volunteers won't waste their time repeating efforts you have already made.

Don't get hung-up over the spelling of your ancestor's name when posting a query and don't be "stuck" in the mire of family lore that the SMITHs were English. They may have been German and someone may point you to matching SCHMIDTs they found in various sources. Look into the possibility that the lookup volunteers may have broken down a brick wall for you and don't be hardheaded when it comes to considering any and all options suggested.

Make certain you have posted your query on the most relevant board or list possible. You won't find experts on Irish townlands and the resources available for them on a list for Boston, Massachusetts, just because your Irish ancestors immigrated to Boston and because you happen

to already subscribe to that list. Always make sure your message is pertinent to the discussion on a list or board because that is where you will find the experts and lookup volunteers who have access to the resources for your area of interest.

Another bugaboo is a subject for your post which doesn't provide any reference to the content included in the message. Most people who follow lists and boards lead busy lives and quickly scroll through the posts in search of a few messages where they can offer assistance. Posts with uninformative subjects such as "searching," "genealogy," "my great-grandfather," and "help" don't attract the attention of the very persons who may well have information for you. A subject such as "Seeking the parents of Abraham SMITH of Boston, Massachusetts, 1790-1865" does.

Avoid abbreviations. Was that abbreviation CA intended to mean California or Canada? Also, include complete information about locations. If you are posting a message on the SMITH message board and you include the fact that your SMITHs once lived in "Montgomery," you are not making it clear to the reader whether you mean Montgomery, Alabama; Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, or one of the 17 other U.S. states with a Montgomery County. Or maybe you are referring to Montgomeryshire, Wales? Always be specific when mentioning a locality and spell it out.

Finally, once you have created a rough draft of your board or list post, review it carefully and try to put yourself in the position of the reader on the receiving end, someone who knows nothing about the ancestors you are describing. Make sure the data and query would be understood by a "perfect stranger" because one of them just might turn out to hold the answer for which you were searching or might possess a publication in which they could find the answer for you.

Post good queries and you will get good answers.

Mailing lists: <http://lists.rootsweb.com>

Message boards: <http://boards.rootsweb.com/>

Previously published in RootsWeb

Review: 15 November 2006, Vol. 9, No. 46.

Submitted by Cari Thomas, SBCGS Member

MAKING THE NEWS

By Penny McCracken

Many people probably already know this, but it is a new discovery for me! I was telling a friend about a time in 1951 when my father was working in a tunnel project in Santa Barbara, California. The tunnel blew up and my father was slightly injured.

He had been warning them for months that some safety regulations were being ignored. They didn't listen, and sure enough, it blew up. He didn't come home and finally, I had to ask the landlady at our small auto court/converted apartments if I could use her phone. I called the police, and asked (in my 11-year-old little girl's voice) "Sir, has there been an accident at the Tecolote Tunnel?"

Dead silence for a second, then the policeman asked carefully, "Why are you asking, little girl?"

"Because my Daddy isn't home—and he works there."

He asked me if there was an adult nearby and then asked me to give her the phone. I heard her say "Oh! Oh. Oh, my goodness. Yes, I will watch her."

Then she gave them our address. A police car showed up soon and the nice cop gently told me my father had been slightly injured, but would be home tomorrow—they were keeping him overnight just to make sure that he was OK. The lady gave me dinner and I slept in our apartment. A large, gentle dog always slept at my side and nobody could have hurt me with her around.

Dad came home the next day. He had helped a few men out and was as haunted looking as I've ever seen—before or since. But he returned to work the next day with a broken tailbone.

As I related this, I suddenly slapped my own forehead, and said "Hey, if a tunnel blew up, I bet the newspapers wrote about it!"

I contacted the Santa Barbara library. The lady only took a few minutes to find the items and she copied and mailed them to me. My father's name was in two of the articles. They are now in my album—a nice narrative to add to the genealogy.

So, if you can think of an event in your life that was fairly dramatic, I'll be willing to bet that you can find newspaper accounts of it.

[Ed.—Our member Helen Rydell was the lady who furnished Penny McCracken the copies and did the look up.]

BCR



Left to right: Alex Grzywacki, Tad D. Campbell (Commander - Dept. of California & Pacific) Tom McCullough, Everett Lee, Bob Duncan and Bill Stewart. Photo by Susan T. Cook

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA & PACIFIC Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War William T. Sherman Camp 28, Robert E. Duncan, Commander

The William T. Sherman Camp 28, of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) or Santa Barbara County was established on July 24, 2006. The camp certification and installation of officers was held on December 2, 2006.

Officers are: Commander - Robert E. Dumcan, Sr. Vice Commander - G. Thomas McCullough, Jr. Vice Commander - Alex F. Grzywacki, Secretary-Treasurer - Roger M. Knox, Camp Council - Everett R. Lee, David J. Pettitt and William J. Stewart.

For information regarding future meetings and events please go to their web site at <http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/sherman28.html>.

Submitted by Alex F. Grzywacki, SBCGS Member

From the Santa Barbara Morning Press
 Thursday, May 14, 1936

SANTA BARBARA G.A.R. POST ONCE NUMBERED 318 MEMBERS

As the three surviving members of the Starr King post of the G.A.R. participate in the 69th annual department encampment for the G.A.R. posts of California and Nevada, being held in Santa Barbara this week, memories of the Starr King post, when its membership was large with more than 300 Union veterans of the Civil War who have passed through its ranks into eternity, are being revived by the reminiscences of the veterans and their sons and daughters. Today the surviving members of this once large organization are C.A. Storke, Abraham Hess and George Ricketts.

The names of these 318 departed, once members of the local post of the G.A.R., are:

Adams	Clarendon E.	Bond	H. C.
Aiken	W. H.	Bond	C. S.
Allaire	Frank	Booth	Robert L.
Anderson	Francis M.	Bottger	Henry
Anderson	Al	Bourquin	A. L.
Andrews	James H.	Brant	D. S.
Armstrong	E. H.	Brentner	Leander
Armstrong	H. J.	Brickelsby	Robert
Avery	Charles	Brobeck	Joseph
Axtell	J. D.	Brome	Joseph A.
Babcock	J. D. C.	Brooks	A. T.
Backus	Samuel	Brown	C. A.
Bacon	A. W.	Brown	Charles F.
Badger	D. W.	Caldwell	Arthur B.
Bailey	Wallace W.	Calhoun	Norman
Baker	S. F.	Campbell	D. N.
Baker	John H.	Canfield	J. N.
Balch	Edward	Carman	William L.P.
Barker	Frederick I.	Carpenter	J. W.
Barnholtzen	Dominick	Carrillo	Juan J.
Barrick	John	Carter	W. D.
Barstow	H. B.	Chamberlain	J. C.
Bates	Joseph	Chapman	L. A.
Beach	W. E.	Cheeny	Frank
Berri	E. D.	Cheeny	R. H.
Blanchard	M. O.	Chittenden	Richard H.

Chittenden	H. H.
Churchill	J. W.
Clark	Edwin B.
Clark	C. M.
Clark	I. M.
Cleale	J. A.
Cole	Edward W.
Cole	Ferninand W.
Colley	E. C.
Conover	R. E.
Cook	Edward H.
Coppersmith	Lewis
Cormack	A. W.
Corow	A. J.
Culbertson	Linda
Daily	E.
Darrow	Henry
Davidson	R. V.
Davis	Alfred
Davis	Samuel M.
Davis	G. H.
de Penhort	A. J. M.
Depue	Theodore
Dewing	F. A.
Dillon	Hiram
Doty	H.T. E.
DuBois	Louis P.
Durfee E.	C.
Eakman	J. B.
Edgar	Thomas
Emery	J. M.
Endley	J. W.
Fairbanks	H.
Fast	Salathia
Fields	A.W.
Fisher	Benjamin
Flint	Rockwood
Fluehe	August
Foote	Alfred H.
Forbes	Anson
Forbes	J. M.
Ford	Henry C.
Forsyth	George
Foster	J. G.
Fox	Ben F.
Francis	J. K.
Fuller	J. W.

Fullington	Jackson	Keehm	Harry	Myers	Samuel
Gale	Walter	Kime	David	Naylor	Steve
Gillette	Edward	Kinevan	Patrick	Nicholas	S. C.
Gillingham	William H.	King	J. H.	Nichols	Henry H.
Gordon	A. J.	Kirchner	Peter	Norcross	John C.
Gordon	G. W.	Klett	Julias	Norton	George A.
Gourley	E. T.	Knighten	William A.	Oaks	Charles O.
Grable	H. W.	Knox	S.B. P.	Orcutt	J. H.
Granger	J. R.	Kreger	H. H.	Orr	William
Green	Richard S.	Kyle	H. O.	Packard	Eben I.
Griffith	Edwin	LaFaetra	R. E.	Palmenter	F.
Grubb	John	Lane	Felix	Parker	Morris
Guernsey	F. M.	Leaming	Mack J.	Parker	Morris
Hardesty	J. N.	Lemmon	Leon W.	Parmenter	Lucas
Hardy	Isaac B.	Lillie	Gilbert B.	Peck	Wright H.
Harmer	J. S.	Lindig	Julius	Penfield	E. H.
Harner	J. S.	Lockard	E. T.	Pensinger	Jacob
Harrington	John	Low	W. S.	Philbrook	F. T.
Hartwell	W. H.	Lucas	A. B.	Pickett	John
Hassinger	J. C.	Lymer	R. H.	Pico	Joseph R.
Haverly	William J.	Lyon	T. H.	Pierson	W. N.
Hayman	Albert	Marble	M. S.	Plopper	R. S.
Haynes	Charles	McBratney	W. C.	Pook	A. A.
Heltman	S. R.	McCalister	Isaac	Pool	Joseph
Hemenway	Levi A.	McCarthy	F.	Porter	V. H.
Hempstead	H. A.	McDavid	William	Porter	A. N.
Herrick	Ezra A.	McDonald	A. W.	Post	John H.
Herrick	Rodney L.	McLean	W. F.	Potter	J. A.
Hess	Abraham	McLean	William T.	Prescott	Leroy
Hesse	G. C.	McLean	T. G.	Prescott	G. N.
Hildebrand	J. H.	McNulty	J. M.	Price	S. S.
Hildebrand	J. F.	Merrill	William H.	Proctor	Henry
Hill	Ruben W.	Merry	F. H.	Pry	J. C.
Hill	D. G.	Mikel	John	Radford	William
Hill	Isaac J.	Miles	W. R.	Reavis	Harrison M.
Hixon	George C.	Miller	Thomas C.	Reynolds	J. S.
Hoit	Edward M.	Miller	B. H.	Reynolds	Ambrose
Hopkins	S. U.	Mitchner	David	Rice	J. H.
Howard	James H.	Mockley	John	Ricketts	Leander
Hunt	C. C.	Moore	P. L.	Ricketts	George
Hunt	R. O.	Moore	Eli B.	Rizor	J. S.
Ingamels	George	Morgan	James	Roberts	W. H.
Jackson	J. H.	Morris	W. B.	Rolph	B. H.
Johnson	George U.	Morris	J. H.	Rood	Nobel D.
Johnson	George	Mosher	Lewis	Ross	Charles
Jones	Edgar E.	Mulligan	William	Rouse	Gaylor
Jordan	H. L.	Muzzall	H. W.	Rowe	Ben S.

Rowen	Frank A.
Rundell	L. L.
Rush	A. B.
Russell	Charles
Sallada	W. H.
Sample	Samuel
Sanborn	Charles G.
Sawyer	Ira B.
Schoonover	J. C.
Searles	C. P.
Seely	Samuel S.
Seely	F. W.
Selover	Alex
Senteney	Francis M.
Senter	John
Shanklin	W. E.
Sheffield	Eugene S.
Shoup	A. L.
Silvester	C. S.
Smith	R. D.
Smith	W. C.
Smith	Clark T.
Smith	James W.
Smith	T. H.
Soboranos	M. G.
Southwick	Gilbert W.
Spellman	John
Spring	W. F.
Squier	Oliver P.
Stadler	John
Standish	M.
Stanley	Nicholas
Staples	Joseph
Stauffer	Henry W.
Steckle	Samuel S.S.
Stoddard	Henry
Stoddard	C. S.
Storke	C. A.
Taylor	L. A.
Thomas	W. H.
Thompson	C. A.
Thompson	T. G.
Tilson	J. P.
Turner	Chauncey L.
Turner	F. M.
Van Winkle	Henry W.
VanDenburg	John

VanOrnum	A. A.
Vottier A.	G.
Walcott	John
Walker	George H.
Walker	George R.
Walker	W. B.
Wallen	Charles E.
Walton	J. W.
Warren	A. H.
Waters	William G.
Wathington	William
Watts	John
Webb	Edward W.
Webster	L. T.
Webster	Arthur
Wilcox	George H.
Williams	L.
Williams	J. H.
Wood	Delos
Wood	Harvey
Wyatt	George M.

(Hucka- Continued from Page 67)

His most interesting job, the Montecito project, comprised the Buell Dam, the Juncal Dam and the 11,000-foot tunnel through the Santa Inez Canyon. This was for the millionaire colony just outside Santa Barbara. It was not in the Santa Barbara district, so they had to supply their own water.

The head dam, or the Juncal, was the main project, and the Buell Dam was secondary. Geologists mapped out three places where a tunnel could run. The builders, Ray Hucka and Ed Taylor, were not on contract, and money was no object. The site chosen for the tunnel showed plenty of water, but better rock to work with. The dirt taken out of the reservoir was used to build the hydraulic-fill Buell dam on the coast side of the mountain range. This dam was used to store water for the summer months during the construction of the head dam.

Hucka related how a railroad was built for hauling materials, since a truck couldn't get within six miles of the tunnel portal. The mountain ranges were 4,000 feet high. A rock plant was built at the end of the tunnel for the purpose of lining it. It was then moved and set up again near the head dam at Juncal to provide the aggregate for construction of the main dam.

A few families lived at the site, and the railroad operated a 5 o'clock Saturday special train out for shopping in town. About 50 were aboard the train one Saturday night when the motorman lost control coming out of the tunnel into the first switchback. He tried to use compression, but could not get into gear. He used the brake, but the train began speeding up and going faster. Straight ahead was a hill of dirt about 10 feet high, and beyond, about 50 feet down, was the Santa Inez River. The train hit the hill and went over it.

When the people on the train realized it was running away, some jumped off. Those who jumped clear, saved themselves, but others missed the bank and rolled under the wheels. Those who stayed with the train were hurtled over the hill, down the steep incline almost to the water's edge. Hucka jumped clear, getting a badly bruised leg.

They ordered out another train and



telephoned for ambulances to get the injured out. Three ambulances and private cars took them off the flat cars, and the injured filled the Santa Barbara hospital. Some were seriously injured, a few permanently, but there were no fatalities.

Mrs. Hucka and the children once came down from Richmond to visit her husband, and the women of the camp prettied up his cabin for her coming, and there was quite a celebration in her honor. However, Grace Hucka had the scare of her life when it was time to leave. They advised her against taking the foot path, but had her ride the hoist up the incline. She and Alene lay on the flat car and were hoisted up by cable from the valley level. She didn't dare look over the side for fear of falling 300 feet into the canyon. She was frightened enough, but suffered even more from the indignity of having to travel up feet first.

When the Juncal job ended, Ray Hucka went home with his family in Richmond to rest up. About this time, he was called in to investigate the Placerville Irrigation project, which fell through for lack of funds. This system was proposed originally to irrigate the pear lands of the area, and many lost their holdings through the failure to install the system.

The worst job he ever was on was the Livermore tunnel on the Hetch-Hetchy system. Ray said he never was an underground man, and there was bad air in the tunnels. About two miles from the Alameda portal they broke into an old river channel. The muck filled up 1600 feet of tunnel. Ordinarily in driving tunnels through, they used mucking machines, but the stuff that came out of the old river was muddy and sticky with big rocks and boulders, and the machines couldn't handle it. They had to take the muck out by hand.

Another job, with the city of Los Angeles, was a year's work at the Parker Dam, building a road from the railroad station to the dam site. A metropolitan water system was proposed, taking in Long Beach and nearby cities, and \$220,000,000 was voted, but that was during the depression, and they were unable to sell the bonds. However, they had water rights from the Colorado River that had to be held. Hucka's company was sent up to hold the rights for the

district until such time as they were financially able to take the work over.

About this time Ray Hucka decided he had had his fill of construction and hydraulic fill jobs. He attempted one more fling of work away from home at 29 Palms camp. However, the heat of 126 in the shade stopped him. His wife and son drove him there, but he almost beat them home to Richmond.

In Richmond he worked with the Certaineed Products Corporation for 15 years as still man. He retired in 1948; they sold their home, and returned to Paradise to live in the new house they built off Clark Road. Their daughter Alene is Mrs. Robert Carr, living nearby, and their grandson is Raymond. Their son, Harold, his wife and another grandson, Alan, live in Lynwood.

[Ed.—Raymond D. Hucka was born in Iowa on May 25, 1883. In the 1930 US Census he is a lodger living at the Juncal Dam Site and working as a Foreman. He died October 7, 1962 in Butte County, California. His mother's maiden name was Desart.]

This unsigned article was originally printed in the Genealogical Goldmine, the quarterly of the Paradise Genealogical Society of Paradise, California (Butte County), in Vol. 27, No. 1, Spring 1994, and was discovered by one of our members who wished to remain anonymous.



EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY WEB SITE

1st-hand-history.org in Reedsport, Oregon, has digitized books that can be accessed online free. While many of the history books on this site concerns the Northwest Territories and American Indian history, the complete 39-volume set of the Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft is here. This work includes the histories of Mexico, California, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico. The volumes were originally published from 1883 to 1890. You will find them at:
<http://www.1st-hand-history.org/index.htm>

INDIAN TERRITORY CENSUS RECORDS - OKLAHOMA

Q. Is there a way to check the census of the Oklahoma Territory? My grandfather was born there in 1870. I can't find his parents' names.

A: Acquired as part of the Louisiana Purchase, Oklahoma was originally established as a home for the Native Americans. The largest forced removal from elsewhere in the United States to Oklahoma took place from 1825 to 1842, and is known to many as the "Trail of Tears."

Over the next few decades, the land that became Oklahoma was Indian Territory. It was set aside for the Five Civilized Tribes: Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole. Some other Native American tribes were allowed to temporarily move into the area in order to hunt on some of the land.

After the Civil War, there was an increase of European settlement (primarily railroaders, soldiers and some cattlemen) on this land reserved for Native Americans. None of these individuals was supposed to be there, as the area had not yet been opened up to settlement by whites. It would not be until 22 April 1889 that the government would start allowing homesteading on what was previously known as the "Unassigned Lands."

Because of this history, the first real census to be taken for Oklahoma Territory was the 1890, which was destroyed by fire. Therefore, the first census in Oklahoma Territory is the 1900 census. Because this census recorded people who resided in Oklahoma Territory as well as Indian Territory, people with Native American ancestry whose ancestors were on Indian Territory at the time have a good start on their research.

There was one additional attempt to enumerate those living in Indian Territory who were not Native American. The 1860 census includes a schedule for the "Indian Lands" that can be found on the microfilm after Yell County, Arkansas. Unfortunately this is too early for your research, unless you know of older siblings who may have been born at the time.

If your grandfather did have siblings, that may be the necessary route to follow in determining the names of the parents. Look for marriage records, death

records and obituaries. Also, if you haven't tried this yet on your grandfather, you should.

One final word about the 1870 census. The 1870 census did not list relationships. The first census to list the relationships of those enumerated in a given household was the 1880. Therefore, it is pure speculation on our part when we assume that a household is made up of a father, mother, and children. While this is certainly going to prove to be the case in most instances, there will be those times that we are led astray by such an assumption, so just be wary when working in the pre-1880 censuses when it comes to relationships.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OKLAHOMA TERRITORY

This OK GenWeb site has maps from pre-1915 period to 1972, and includes Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw and Choctaw Indian Territory.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~okgenweb/maps/maps.htm>

Oklahoma Land Openings 1889-1907, and more at <http://marti.rootsweb.com/land/oklands.html>.

Just google "Oklahoma Territory" and you will find endless listings for Oklahoma genealogical research.



ARCHIVE GRID

ArchiveGrid offers unparalleled access to archive records and finding aids. It allows researchers to search for archival collections around the country to find collections pertaining to particular subjects. Most historical resources are not available online, but this site will allow access to finding aids to save time in on-site visits. The site is accessed only by subscription but should be available through public and university libraries. www.archivegrid.org

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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

JANUARY 2007

January 27, Saturday. Santa Barbara County Genealogy Society Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance at State, Santa Barbara.

Program: Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD. will discuss DNA and Forensic Genealogy. See her web site <http://www.forensicgenealogy.info/>

FEBRUARY 2007

February 17, Saturday. Santa Barbara County Genealogy Society Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance at State, Santa Barbara.

Program: Eve Savage will present: The Past, Present and Future of the Census. She will be discussing the changes in how the census is accessed as well as its value in today's world of genealogy. Mrs. Savage is part of the LDS staff in LA.

MARCH 2007

March 16-17, Utah, Provo: Dick Eastman and Alan Mann will be the featured speakers for the 2007 Computerized Genealogy Conference For more information <http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwcompu/>.

MAY 2007

May 2-9, SBCGS Members will be traveling to Salt Lake City. Email Jim Friestad for more information at Ronjim@cox.net.

AUGUST 2007

August 15-18, FGS/ACPL Conference in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Grand Wayne Center is adjacent to the Allen County Public Library. Hotel room rates under \$100 per night. See www.fgs.org/2007conf/FGS-2007.htm

OCTOBER 2007

October 8 - 12, Utah, Salt Lake City: The Seventh Annual British Institute, sponsored by the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History, has been announced. The institute is a week of study in various areas of researching British Isles with an opportunity to research in the Family History Library. Go to the society's Web site <http://isbgfh.org> or send an e-mail to isbgfh@yahoo.com.

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