

YVGS FAMILY FINDERS



Yucaipa Valley
Genealogical Society
Established 1982

YUCAIPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

www.yvgs.org

P.O. BOX 32, YUCAIPA, CA 92399-0032

Sponsored by the Yucaipa Branch Library

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Message From The President

This month has been very quiet for me on the genealogy front. Not much inspiration to share. On a different note there is a subject that I have been thinking about – utilities and housing. The news about snow storms on the east coast and the welcome rain here on the west coast. Spring house repair and garden/yard preparation and then it hit me. There are some correlations between this subject and genealogy so here are a few thoughts that might inspire some ideas for your story lines. Utilities and housing – do you have some family stories about the first running water, having an indoor toilet installed (no more out house), how was the house heated, first telephone (gathering everyone around one phone and taking turns to talk to grandma), how many bedrooms, children sharing a bedroom. Was the first TV at home or at a neighbors. If you have access to local newspapers are there any articles about installation of utilities or road paving/repair? Many of these things are taken for granted now but within our generation or a couple of generations back all of these things were new and exciting to our recent ancestors. Now is the time to add these stories to our family research. Some day (if not already) our children or grandchildren will come up with, ‘What?! You did not have a large screen, color TV when you were little?’

When I was young I was fascinated by family stories about an Uncle building some of the road east of San Diego and being responsible to maintain it. He was not a road engineer but a farmer that lived nearby and had a pair of mules and a drag. He kept that section of the road in repair and now a freeway runs thru the area, maintained by the state and paid for by our gas taxes. He would have never thought about that even being possible. Now your challenge: sit down and write a couple of memories.

Floyd K. Ferguson, President YVGS



2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<https://www.facebook.com/yucaipavalleygenealogysociety>

The Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society, Inc. meets at 12:00 P.M. on the SECOND Saturday of each month at the Yucaipa Branch Library, 12040 5th Street, Yucaipa.

YVGS annual membership fees are \$20.00 for individuals or \$25.00 for families. This amount includes the monthly newsletter and free query privileges. \$10.00 will have our newsletter mailed to another society or individual out of the area.

The Editor and Society assume no responsibility for statements made by contributors. Misstatements of fact will be corrected upon receipt of proof of error.

Deadline for articles for the newsletter:

***The Thursday before the first Saturday of the month, or
April 2, 2015.***

Don't wait. If you have articles or pictures you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please send them, with the source, to yvgs.org@gmail.com

They will be printed at the first opportunity. Your editor, Marg. Polich

Thought for the Day

printed in EOGN.com Jan 15, 2015
If you continue to do what you have always done, it isn't really a New Year, is it?

What you Missed!

Yucaipa Valley Genealogy Society General Meeting Minutes February 14, 2015

12:00 workshop was our Book Auction.

The meeting was called to order by President Floyd K. Ferguson at 1:08 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Terry Brown.

Terry Brown reported that Juanita Marshall had passed away.

Terry Brown reported that the speaker for March would be Nancy Carlberg.

The minutes were read by Sue Wolfe and approved as corrected. Correction "Yucaipa Now" magazine is "Our Yucaipa".

The Treasurer's report was presented by Billie Wilkes. In January the General Fund had a net profit of \$623.50. The Treasurer's report will be filed with the minutes, and will be sitting on the check-in table for members to see, or a member can contact the Treasurer.

Membership: Marg Polich reported that only 16 members have paid so far for this year. She read the list of those who had not paid.

Hospitality: Barbara Firestone reported that she still needed refreshments covered for September.

Old Business: A list was passed around with suggestions for a research trip. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

Budget Committee: Sherry Todd reported that the committee met on February 3, 2015. The report will be presented next month when we will have more details from "Dining with the Dead".

Audit Committee: Charlene Fink presented the Audit committee report. Betty Marcum moved that we accept the Audit Committee report. Jean Erickson 2nd the motion. It was passed.

New Business: Floyd presented the idea to purchase a Banner for the Society to be used for community events and for advertising our society. Rachel Eugley made a motion to purchase a vertical and a horizontal banner, since the banners were ½ price. The colors would be red and white. Charlene Fink 2nd the motion. The motion passed.

The program was the Video "Faces of America" Part 3. After the video Floyd had members suggest what they learned from the video and how it could be used in their personal research.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 P.M. by President Floyd K. Ferguson.

Respectfully,
Sue Wolfe,
Secretary



*Thank you Martha Crites and
Jeanne Stellar for the February
refreshments. They were delicious.*

Barbara Firestone, Hospitality



Coming Events

*Saturday, February 14, 2015
Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society
Meeting at Yucaipa Branch Library,
12040 5th Street in Yucaipa.*

11:45 Workshop:

To be announced.

1:00 General Meeting:

Program Topic:

*"What's New in Genealogy on
Solving Dead Ends"*

Speaker:

Nancy Carlberg

*Saturday, April 11, 2015
Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society
Meeting at Yucaipa Branch Library,
12040 5th Street in Yucaipa.*

11:45 Workshop :

To be announced.

1:00 Meeting

Program Topic:

New Data on Her Family Research

Speaker:

Sue Wolf

By - Richard Eastman, eogn.com

Is There Any Such Thing as a Half-Cousin?

One of my pet peeves is a term that I see online over and over: someone claiming to be a "half first cousin" or a "half second cousin once removed" or something similar. Sorry folks, but there is no such thing as a "half first cousin" according to legal dictionaries. However, the term is used by others. I know that lots of families use that term to refer to various relatives.

NOTE: I will describe references used in the U.S. It is possible that relations are described differently in other countries and especially in languages other than English.

Many people think that a "half first cousin" is someone who shares one grandparent with you but not both of them. For instance, my great-grandfather was married twice. He had several children by his first wife. The wife then died in childbirth, and great-grandfather later remarried and had more children by his second wife. I am descended from great-grandfather and his first wife. I recently met a man who is descended from my great-grandfather and his second wife. Some people would think that this other man and I are half-second cousins. "Half" apparently refers to the fact that we share only half the relationship because of our different great-grandmothers.

In fact, we are second cousins. Period.

In the United States, the standard reference for defining family relationships is Black's Law Dictionary. It is primarily a legal reference and is used by courts, lawyers, genealogical organizations, and many others.

Black's Law Dictionary defines first cousins as:

"The children of one's aunt or uncle." Note that it says "aunt **OR** uncle," not aunt and uncle. All that is required is to share one aunt or one uncle, not both.

Black's Law Dictionary defines second cousins as:

"Persons who are related to each other by descending from the same great-grandfather or great-grandmother." Note that it says "the same great-grandfather **OR** great-grandmother," it does not say BOTH great-grandparents. Second cousins need to share only one great-grandparent. If they share both great-grandparents, the relationship doesn't change; they are still second cousins.

Source citation: you can see an image of the appropriate page from Black's Law Dictionary at <http://blacks.worldfreemansociety.org/2/C/c0293.jpg>. That image is from an old version of Black's Law Dictionary but the definition hasn't changed since then.

Canon law (religious law, usually referring to the Catholic church, but other religions also have rules that may be referred to as Canon law) agrees with Black's legal definitions.

However, not all the experts agree. Elizabeth Shown Mills has tackled the problem in an article published in the Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly, June 2005 in *Navigating the*

Kinship Maze. She points out that the term "half cousin" does not appear in legal dictionaries but is commonly used by geneticists and others. Elizabeth doesn't make any claims as to what is correct or incorrect. Instead, she describes the use of the word by different groups, including legal, forensic, genetic, anthropological, and religious perspectives. She also adds in some words found in legal documents but not commonly found in genealogy, including cognatic descent, and cousin german (which has nothing to do with Germany).

All of these sources seem to agree on one thing: the terms great-uncle and grand-uncle are interchangeable. The only difference is local usage.

If anyone is interested in learning more about relationships, I strongly suggest reading Elizabeth Shown Mills' article, *Navigating the Kinship Maze*, available in the Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly, June 2005 at <http://historicpathways.com/download/navkinmaze.pdf>.

THE TAPESTRY OF LIFE.

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see
the farmer and his wife open a package.
"What food might this contain?" The mouse wondered.

He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap.
Retreating to the farmyard, the
mouse proclaimed this warning :
"There is a mousetrap in the house!
There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched ,raised her head and said,
"Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you,
but it is of no consequence to me.
I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him,
"There is a mousetrap in the house!
There is a mousetrap in the house!"
The pig sympathized, but said,
"I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse,
but there is nothing I can do about it but pray.
Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said,
"There is a mousetrap in the house!
There is a mousetrap in the house!"
The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you,
but it's no skin off my nose."
So, the mouse returned to the house,
head down and dejected,
to face the farmer's mousetrap
. . . Alone..

That very night a sound
was heard throughout the house
-- the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey.
The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught.

In the darkness, she did not see it.

It was a venomous snake whose
tail was caught in the trap.

The snake bit the farmer's wife.

The farmer's wife was taken to the hospital.

When she returned home she still had a fever.

Everyone knows you treat a fever
with fresh chicken soup..

So the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard

for the soup's main ingredient:

But his wife's sickness continued.

Friends and neighbors came to
sit with her around the clock.

To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.

But, alas, the farmer's wife did not get well...

She died.

So many people came for her funeral
that the farmer had the cow slaughtered
to provide enough meat for all of them
for the funeral luncheon.

And the mouse looked upon it all
from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

So, the next time you hear
someone is facing a problem
and you think it doesn't concern you,
remember

When one of us is threatened, we are all at risk.

We are all involved in this journey called life.

We must keep an eye out for one another
and make an extra effort
to encourage one another.

REMEMBER - EACH OF US IS A VITAL THREAD
IN ANOTHER PERSON'S TAPESTRY.
OUR LIVES ARE WOVEN TOGETHER
FOR A REASON.

One of the best things to hold onto in this world is
a FRIEND.

- Anonymous

If you wish to continue receiving the Family Finders Newsletter, please be sure you have paid your dues to the YVGS. Send to Billie Wilkes, Treasurer, P. O. Box 32, Yucaipa, CA 92399-0032. Marg. Polich, Membership Chairman, margcumonin@gmail.com

