

YVGS FAMILY FINDERS

YUCAIPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

www.yvgs.org

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

Sponsored by
The Yucaipa Branch Library



April 2008—VOLUME 26 NO. 4

President's Message

In recent years, there has been a lot of online discussion about the decline in genealogical society membership. Societies may lose membership and disband because of a lack of younger members, disinterest, personality conflicts or the simple fact that we live in an era where there are so many worthwhile activities that can take up our time, that we can become overloaded. I think that like me, many people have so much that they do and can do that at some point you have to say no to something.

Another reason that genealogical societies are said to be suffering from declining membership is because of the internet. The internet has brought genealogy into the home 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. While it is true that we can now do so much more research and education on the internet, I think that there are still benefits to visiting brick and mortar repositories and societies.

What I like about the Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society is that the opportunities it brings to us as family historians. Our membership has helped make our society stronger. The Board has made an effort in the last few years to bring to the society, speakers with a wide range of topics and expertise. We now have the opportunity to check out books within our society that were made available through the unfortunate closing of a Texas genealogy

society. These books are now being stored at member Earl Gidding's home and a list of available titles has been circulated. You are more than welcome to request a book or books at our next meeting or to contact member Earl Giddings to borrow one of the many titles. Just glancing at some of the titles he brought to our last meeting, there is really something for everyone. I was impressed to see so many on Mayflower ancestors. So those of you with this ancestry, check out what we now have.

Because of our members, we have these new books. Thanks to Earl who let us know about this opportunity and for another member, Barbara Cogorno, who volunteered to pay for those books to be shipped to us. And thanks to former member Ardith James, we have additional materials available to be checked out to our members.

This month, we have a great opportunity to learn more about the resources available to us at the Yucaipa Public Library and through the San Bernardino County Public Library system. Ruth Jarmusz, Reference Librarian at the Yucaipa Library will present "Useful Library Sources for the Genealogist". Last year Ruth provided us some great information on the genealogical collection at the library, including a list of the books we can check out. This presentation will provide even more information about the resources available through our county library system.

Have a good meeting, and I'll see you next month!

Gena

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jean Wilcox Hibben, today's speaker, announced that she is collecting family stories, whether true or not, for her dissertation on family stories and folklore. She gave out her card for those wishing to make contributions to her effort.

PROGRAM: Jean Wilcox Hibben gave a well received presentation on *Federal Census Records: Brick Wall Battering Rams*. Mrs. Hibben gave a wonderful PowerPoint that explained the idiosyncrasies of the various census' and suggestions for finding your relatives. A handout with excellent resources was given to those in attendance.

Next month's program will be the Head Reference Librarian for the Yucaipa Branch Library. May's program will be Sterling Quinn on On-line maps.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. by President Gena Ortega.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dee Chapman, Secretary.

**Deadline for articles for the newsletter:
Thursday**

Before the first Saturday of the month.

If you have articles, pictures or essays you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact the editor, Jamie Daniel, at:

P.O. Box 32

Yucaipa, CA 92399-0032

THANKS

A big thank you to Earl Giddings for storing our new New England Collection, donated to us by the Fredricksburg, Texas Genealogical Society. And thanks also to the volunteers who helped put the loose items in sleeves and binders. Besides Earl, Marg Polich, Barbara Firestone, Barbara Thomas and Jamie Daniel made short work of the folders on March 1st. It only took about an hour and a half to get everything done.

Now, we will need volunteers to index the folders...Two members have already started taking home folders to index. If you have a bit of extra time, we could really use the help!

COMING EVENTS

1. Saturday April 12, 2008 1:00 P.M.
Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society meeting held at Yucaipa Branch library.
Speaker: Ruth Jarmusz., Reference Librarian at the Yucaipa Library Topic: "Useful Library Sources for the Genealogist"
Come Join Us!
2. Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 10:30 A.M.
in the Hemet Public Library Conference Room. Topic: Scanning and Digital Photo Preservation.
3. Tuesday, April 22, 2008, 10:30 A.M.
in the Hemet Public Library Conference Room. Topic: Military Biographies
4. Sunday, April 27, 2008, 7:00 P.M. at
Redlands Stake Center High Council Room, 5th and Wabash. Topic: "Using the A.K. Smiley Library for Genealogy"
Speaker: Lorraine Estelle

"It is a desirable thing to be well-descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors."

-- Plutarch

Computer/Genealogy Group
Meets in the Conference Room of
Hemet Public Library

3rd Thursday of each Month

10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Free Sessions

Computer Display with

Projector on Screen

~Covers many genealogy procedures~

~Many Computer Usage Problems~

Group Representative:

Donna L. Senff-Mata

Call for information:

951-654-1796

donna.matal@verizon.com

New Year's Resolutions by Maureen Taylor

Editor's note: Last month, you may remember we read about March's resolution from Maureen. This month, we are continuing that series with the resolution for April.

April

Know any good jokes? April Fools' Day can be a reminder to find out about your ancestors recreational pursuits. Did they attend fraternal organization meetings, play in band, or belong to any local clubs? You can learn more about their leisure activities by interviewing family. My maternal grandparents and their extended family used to entertain themselves with musical evenings of song and dance. I know this because my mother and her sisters told me stories about them.

Editor's note: Since this is all Maureen had for April, her subject led me to remember seeing symbols on gravestones that denoted fraternal organizations. One I didn't know much about but see quite often in rural cemeteries was for "Woodmen of the World." The following is an explanation I found regarding this organization.

In 1883, a man by the name of Joseph Cullen Root organized a fraternal society in Omaha, Nebraska, called "Modern Woodmen of America". One of the benefits of being a member was that upon death, the other members would pass around a hat and donate money to the widow. Membership was limited to white males older than 18 years of age. Later when passing around the hat became more frequent and costly, Root decided to sell life insurance to members. Modern Woodmen of America became a fraternal benefit society.

Later, a women's auxiliary started up called "Royal Neighbors of America. Both the male and female organizations grew steadily and in five years, Modern Woodmen had a total membership of twenty-four thousand.

In 1899, several members had a "falling out" with the leaders of the society, and separated to form a new society under the leadership of Fred A. Falkenburg, and named it "Woodmen of the World". Shortly after, tensions were high in the new organization, and Falkenburg moved to Denver to form, "Woodmen of the World, Pacific Jurisdiction". Today, the three societies remain as insurance companies. Woodmen of the World created women's auxiliaries called "Woodmen Circle" and "Supreme Forest Woodmen", while the Pacific Jurisdiction created an auxiliary called, "Neighbors of Woodcraft", which still exists as an insurance company in Portland, Oregon.

(Ruth Icenogle)

And from Wikipedia:

One of the most enduring physical legacies of the organization may be the number of distinctive headstones erected in the shape of a tree stump. This was an early benefit of Woodmen of the World membership, and the headstones can be found in cemeteries across the nation. This program was abandoned in the 1920s for being too expensive.

The organization still exists, and has many and diverse interests. If you would like more information about Woodmen of the World, please see the following website:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodmen_of_the_World

"He who has no fools, knaves, or beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightning."

-- Old English proverb



Gena Philibert Ortega

Genealogist

Research~Writing~Presentations
Specializing in American Records

(909) 556-9003

yourfamilyhistory@hotmail.com

www.yourfamilyhistoryresearch.com

Public Library

www.hemetpubliclibrary.org

Classes in Computer usage for Beginners

Microsoft Excel

Microsoft Power Point

These are offered on a Sign up Basis, 7 people to a class. You sign up at the Reference Desk and leave your telephone number. When a class is filled, you will be called and told which days to come. They will be hands-on with laptop computers available. Larry Bowles, Leticia Bowles and Dan Atherstone offer instruction; all are quite knowledgeable.

Free Classes

Mr. Bowles is a certified genealogist



Family History Research Classes for 2008

Redlands Yucaipa Multi-Stake Family History Center

All Classes Sunday evening 7:00p.m.

Redlands Stake Center High Council Room

April 27—Topic: “Using the A.K. Smiley Library for Genealogy” Speaker: Lorraine Estelle

May 25—Topic: “Learning more about your LDS Ancestors” Speaker: Gena Ortega

June 22—Topic: “British Research”
Speaker: Dawna Lund

July 27—Topic: “Photo-editing your Pictures”
Speaker: Yvonne Gadbois

August 24 –New Family Search Speaker: To Be Announced

September 28—Topic: “Internet Genealogy”
Speaker: Annette Spaulding

October 26—To Be Announced

November 23—Topic: “Church Records”
Speaker: Shawn Price



Don't forget!

We're selling *Stater Bros.*

Gift cards at the meeting.

The Society receives a percentage back from Stater's...and everyone needs groceries!

Family History Center

Located at 5th and Wabash in Redlands

Hours:

Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

Friday - Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

FHC Telephone Number: 909.794.3844



Now is your chance! Some people think the same old faces run everything in this society, but the truth is...there are job opportunities open! This board needs your help. If you have a bit of extra time every month, we need someone to take charge of **Publicity**, and someone else to take over the **Ways and Means**, since Gena is President this year. When the nominating committee was looking for help last year, you didn't come forward—but you can now! Please don't make the same ones of us do all the work...we need everyone to be involved!

Editor's Note: Since I have spent most of the month of March fighting with the flu, I decided to include this poem in the newsletter. It isn't the same flu I had (I wish it were), but I thought you'd get a kick out of it anyway.

Generation Flu

There is a spreading epidemic called the Generation Flu, Which is passed down to children and acquaintances too, Once the disease of royalty, of peers and knights of old, It has spread throughout the universe, its seed to bring to fold.

It is a contagious virus with a great ferocious greed, For the tombstone and the graveyard, certificate and deed.

The victims of this virus have a great compelling urge To link their names unto your family, there is no known purge. They will even give you software if they find that you have none, For they feel a dire need for this disease to be passed on. They crave for a new surname, will search each surname list.

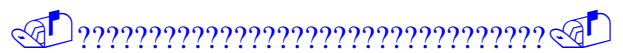
And will peruse each list a thousand times, lest a surname may be missed.

You will find them in a graveyard, perhaps groveling on their knees, Seeking long forgotten surnames which they then call roots and trees. A computer will make matters worse, they will surf the internet, Searching out those roots and trees to make this flu a greater threat.

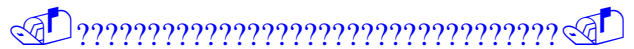
They cannot have a conversation without the need to add That yesterday they found a link to great grandfather's dad.

They are happy to converse with other victims of this flu, And ill often join their ranks to search in greater groups, It's true!
They look up parish registers, and search the census years. They talk about brick walls and of assigns and of their heirs. As the illness progresses you will see their manner change, You must never move their files or in their study rearrange.

Symptoms and Diagnosis
A faraway look, concentration, blank expression, aggravation,
A truly morbid fascination for graveyard jaunts as recreation,
There is no known cure for the generation virus, with its roots in the past with the pharaohs and papyrus,
The disease is not fatal but the symptoms will get worse,
Give the patient a quiet room, there is no need to nurse,



WHAT'S IN THE MAIL BOX?



The YVGS corresponds with other genealogy societies in different parts of the United States. We receive the following newsletters:

- Los Angeles WESTSIDE Genealogical Society*
- Patrick County (Virginia) Tracks*
- Northwest Iowa Rootdiggers*
- The Family Gathering (Morongo Basin)*
- Desert Diggings (Hi-Desert GS)*
- The Searcher (Southern California)*
- Past Finder (Hemet-San Jacinto GS)*
- Somervell (County, Texas) Settlers*
- CSGA Newsletter—California State Genealogical Alliance*
- The News and Notes (Southern California Genealogical Society)*

I no longer have the keys to the mailbox, and since Gena is traveling, I have no access to the mail... I will try to remedy this situation by next month, and hopefully, someone will be volunteering to write a little blurb about the mail we receive.

The mail will always be placed on the display case on the side of the meeting room. Please take the time to browse through what's there. **Remember, this Society gets mail addressed to all members. It's your mail!**



Please remember to bring your old cell phones and your used computer printer ink cartridges to the next meeting. Our society will receive cash back for recycling these items.

THE CURSE OF THE SEARCH

Some branches are broken, others snarled and bent.
Still many are missing, where could they have went?
But the trunk is still firm, the roots are down deep.
They hold many truths that still lay there asleep.
I'm searching the limbs for the secrets they hold.
For lost tales and stories that's never been told.
I'm looking for family that was lost in the ramble;
For truths about them for me to unscramble.
I may find a scoundrel and a wild renegade or two.
You'll find them in all families, that is really not new.
That fact that I found them, that's all that counts.
I feel I have gained something, my curiosity mounts.
I've got the taste of blood, there's no stopping me now.
I'll not rest nor will I laggard till I solve this somehow.
It may take some doing and a lot more of my time.
But I promise before I'm done it will all turn out fine.
When it all gets together and my rigorous quest is through,
I'll go back to my notes in hopes of finding something new.
The search bug has bit me, leaving me still in that frame,
For that thrill of the search is still embedded in my brain.

-- Fred Shanahan Shannon
fshan@northernnet.com

Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society
Gena Philibert Ortega, President
P.O. Box 32
Yucaipa, CA 92399-0032

FIRST CLASS

ISSN#1069-9333

