

YVGS FAMILY FINDERS



Yucaipa Valley
Genealogical Society

Established 1982

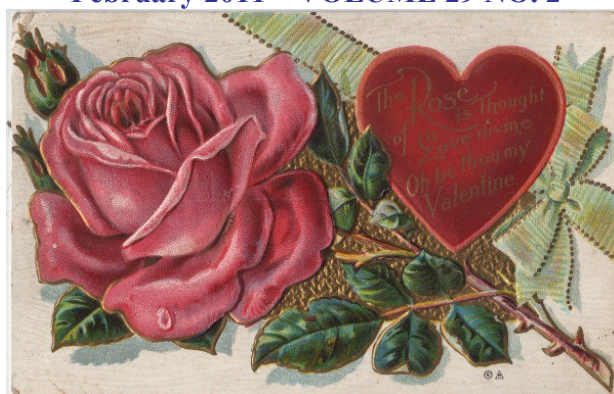
YUCAIPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

www.yvgs.org

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

Sponsored by The Yucaipa Branch Library

February 2011—VOLUME 29 NO. 2



President's Message:

Do we read the story of or do we put the events of words? In our efforts to find the details of our ancestor's lives, we thrill to find a single entry in an old family Bible, the line proving a marriage in the late 1700's. Maybe we are lucky enough to find some military discharge papers that give us a physical description of an ancestor that lived and served their country a hundred and fifty years ago, and in our mind we add the details of how that person may have looked. We may even study the community where they lived, and get a glimpse of the town and the personalities our ancestors would have considered a part of their everyday life.

Now let's fast forward a hundred years or so to sometime around 2111. I cannot even begin to imagine the data base or the information retrieval system being used, but someone is poking around in some old files, something called a 'website,' or maybe a 'genealogy data base,' and they come across a few pages of writing about you, their 3rd great grandparent.

Here is my challenge to you – this month is Valentine's, so take a few minutes and write down a couple of paragraphs of the people and things you have loved in your lifetime. Maybe start with some memories (and details) of your parents and grandparents, then a few lines about someone special in your life. If you are a parent, give a couple of lines to each one of your children, their birth and what characteristic about them sparks a smile on your face. Then maybe a line or two about a favorite place to visit, music you love, or food that is special on the taste buds. Before you know it, you have a couple of pages! Now, don't forget to share it with family, add it to a family web page, and for sure include it as part of your personal page in your genealogy data base. Finally, sit back and think forward to that person who is getting interested in their family history and finds your little gem. Go ahead, be a little envious of the technology that left them that little picture to help with their genealogy, and then get back to the dusty books and sketchy archives that we lovingly call genealogy research. ...That's your home work for this month.

At the meetings we look forward to a variety of speakers this year. Business for February's meeting: there are a couple of positions that we need to fill on the board; we would love to have you volunteer. And several of the workshops will help us with our Civil War research as we remember the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the War Between the States. I look forward to seeing each of you at the monthly meetings.

Floyd X. Ferguson.

our lives as written by others,
our memories in our own

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Floyd Ferguson
Vice President Juanita Marshall
Secretary Jamie Daniel
Treasurer Marg Polich

APPOINTED CHAIRS

Parliamentarian Jamie Daniel
Corresponding Secretary Jamie Daniel
Librarian Ruth Bishop
Editor Jamie Daniel
Hospitality Sue Wolfe
Welcome Terry Brown
Membership Marg Polich
Publicity VACANT
Sunshine Barbara Thomas
Historian Barbara Cogorno
Ways and Means VACANT
Website VACANT

The Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society, Inc. meets at 1:00 P.M. on the SECOND Saturday of each month at the United Methodist Church in Yucaipa. YVGS annual membership fees are \$20.00 for individuals or \$25.00.00 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.

What you missed!
Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by President Floyd Ferguson, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Twenty members were present, as well as one guest, Dee Austin.

The corrected minutes of the December meeting were read by Secretary Jamie Daniel. The minutes were approved as corrected.

The Treasurer's report was given by outgoing Treasurer Arlene Allsopp. There is currently \$2004.42 in the checking account. The Treasurer's report was accepted and filed for audit.

Juanita Marshall was accepted by unanimous vote for the position of Vice-President.

Juanita Marshall proposed a motion that the Vice-President fill speakers for February through January, so that the incoming Vice-President would have the first month of the year to begin finding speakers. The motion was seconded by Joe Swetich and was carried.

Standing committee reports:
Editor: 35 newsletters emailed and 21 sent through U.S. Mail.
Librarian: Will start to update what is currently available.
Membership: Only 19 members have paid their dues renewals so far.
Website: Betty Marcum volunteered to check with the webmaster to see what updates are needed.
Hospitality: Sue Wolfe sent a sign-up sheet around to finish filling in for 2011.
The Financial Review Committee, consisting of Betty Marcum, Barbara Firestone, and Glenda Page filed their report, stating that the records provided by the Treasurer, Arlene Allsopp were well maintained, detailed and balanced.
Arlene Allsopp moved to accept the revised 2011 budget. Jamie Daniel seconded. The revised proposed budget for 2011 was unanimously accepted.
After the break, the 50/50 drawing winner, Pauline Brigham, donated the proceeds back to the Society. This month's speaker, Jean Wilcox Hibben presented a detailed and interesting talk: "Civil War Research— Learning About your Union Veteran Ancestor".
The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Daniel
YVGS Secretary



52 Weeks to Better Genealogy

Editor's note: 2nd in a series I came across while doing research on the Internet. It is written by Amy Coffin, who has a blog called The WeTree Genealogy Blog (<http://wetree.blogspot.com>). I was intrigued by her series, Jump Start Your Genealogy Blog, so I contacted her about using her material. It turns out her series 52 weeks to Better Genealogy is a better fit for us (very few of us maintain a blog), so I am sharing this with you instead. I will publish 4 or 5 challenges a month until we have all 52. As a wonderful side note, it turns out Amy is a 5th cousin of mine. I hope to exchange family information with her this year. Nice to have a professional in the family!

Amy Coffin's motto:

If genealogy is boring, you're doing it wrong!

Challenge 6

Online databases at your public library: Search your library's web site and see if your card grants you access to online databases. Libraries (even small ones) often have wonderful online tools including genealogy databases, historical newspapers and more! Take some time to play with these little perks that come with a library card. You just may get some help in your own genealogy research and gain some free research tools to boot. If you don't know how to access online library databases or you're not sure if your branch has them, ask a librarian for guidance. If you have a blog, discuss which databases (if any) to which your library subscribes.

Challenge 7

Play with Google Maps. This is a helpful tool for determining the locations of addresses in your family history. Where your ancestral homestead once stood may now be a warehouse, parking lot or field. Perhaps the house is still there. When you input addresses into Google Maps, don't forget to use Satellite View and Street View options for perspectives that put you right where your ancestors once stood. If you've used this tool before, take some time to play with it again. Push all the buttons, click all the links, and devise new ways it can help with your personal genealogy research. If you have a genealogy blog, write about your experiences with Google Maps, or suggest similar easy (and free) tools that have helped in your own research.

Challenge 8

Discover online map collections. Historical maps are wonderful tools for historical research. Fortunately for genealogists, many map collections are located online. Some of the more prominent collections are the [American Memory Collection at the Library of Congress](#), the [David Rumsey Map Collection](#), and the [Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection](#) at the University of Texas at Austin. Take some time to browse each of these collections. You may also want to check the library web site of your local university (or one near your ancestral home) to see what

maps they have online. If you have a genealogy blog, write about any special maps you find during this activity.

Challenge 9

Pick five genealogy blogs and read them every day. Meeting new people and networking within the online genealogy community is a great way to expand your own research and experience. Reading the blogs of others will help you get to know others. Try to find some blogs that are out of your area of expertise. Lists of genealogy blogs can be found at Geneabloggers.com and Genealogy Blog Finder. If you already subscribe to many genealogy blogs, find five new ones that are "outside the box," perhaps in history or archives. If you have a genealogy blog, write about the blogs you discover and introduce others to them. <http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blogs/>



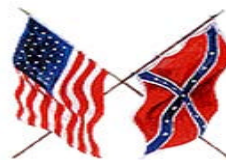
Don't forget!

We're selling *Stater Bros.* gift cards at the meeting.

The Society receives a percentage back from Stater's...and everyone needs groceries! The money we make from the cards is paying our bills for the society: meeting place, speakers, printing, coffee, etc.



2nd workshop of the Year
Civil War Workshop February 12, 2011
at 12:00 P.M. before the meeting



If you have ancestors either side

one or more who fought on of the Civil

War bring the name, and if known, the Regiment, State, Unit or Company as well as the date mustered in and the date of discharge of your ancestor. We will create a master list so that we can share information and guide the workshop discussions. Floyd will have more information at the workshop.





Thank you Jamie Daniel and Sue Wolfe for the delicious goodies you shared at the January meeting. Refreshments for the February meeting will be provided by Barbara Firestone and Betty Marcum.

Sue Wolfe, Hospitality



Lincoln Shrine to Hold Open House

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine/s 39th annual open house is 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Sunday. The event features the unveiling of "And the War Came" a new exhibit focusing on the sesquicentennial of the beginning of the Civil War. The open house also features Civil War re-enactors and hourly presentations by Lincoln presenter William Peck Fiddle Bill Bell and his Civil War quartet will perform, and the shrine staff will serve refreshments. For children, there will be Lincoln Shrine balloons and a Lincoln Log play area.

(The Lincoln Shrine is located on 125 West Vine Street, Redlands; behind A.K. Smiley Library)



Turn Your Family Tree Into a Personalized Memory Game

Online family tree builder and genealogy website MyHeritage.com has created a virtual family history memory game. No, it isn't a pop quiz on your family tree, but a matching competition similar to *Concentration*.

To create the game, you must register for a free account and upload a GEDCOM file to the site. Users can then automatically generate personalized picture cards of close relatives and ancestors based on their family tree.



Following the same rules as a typical memory game, users can play online against other family members or solo against the clock. With a webcam option, players can even include a live picture of themselves in one pair of the cards.

from *Genealogy Insider/Genealogy fun.* and the FHC Redlands Newsletter



They Came from Some Place Else.

Find them at the
42nd Annual Southern California

Genealogy Jamboree

Friday, June 10 through Sunday, June 12, 2011

Los Angeles Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and
Convention Center

Burbank, California

Jamboree is the regional event that looks like a national conference, with over 50 speakers and over 130 different classes.

Last year's Jamboree was the second largest genealogical event in the United States, and we expect the 2011 version to be another record breaker.

Online registration for Jamboree will open on January 1, 2011.

Please meet the Jamboree 2011 speakers. Many of these speakers are long-time members of the Jamboree family, while others will be fresh faces. All bring their joy for genealogy, experience in teaching, and passion for sharing their knowledge with others.

Lisa A. Alzo; David Armstrong, MA; Ron Arons; Biff and Nancy Barnes; Kerry S. Bartels; Warren Bittner; Charlotte Bocage; Mike Booth; Jana Sloan Broglin, CG; Tony Burroughs, FUGA; Bruce Buzbee; Christopher Child; John Philip Colletta, FUGA; Lisa Louise Cooke; Rick Crume; Schelly Talalay Dardashti; William Dollarhide; Amy Fellner, JD; Tami Glatz; Bennett Greenspan; Jean Wilcox Hibben, PhD, CG; Janet Hovorka; David Lambert; Nancy Loe; Thomas MacEntee; Janis Martin; Margo McKinstry, AG; Leland Meitzler; Kory Meyerink, AG, FUGA; Anne Miller, PhD; George G. Morgan; Steve Morse, PhD; Joanna Mountain, PhD; Dave Obee; Gena Philabert Ortega; Chris Pomery; Geoff Rasmussen; Jennifer Shaw; Drew Smith, MLS; Lou Szucs, FUGA; Maureen Taylor; Carma-Lu Thompson; Cath Trindle, CG; Tom Underhill; Patricia Van Skaik; Sam Ward; Joel Weintraub, PhD.

Watch for more information on the Jamboree in coming newsletters.



Surveying Mt. San Geronio Memorial Park

Would you like to help survey, take photographs and transcribe the local cemeteries? The Society is now in the process of trying to survey the Summit Cemetery District in Riverside County. Please contact Jamie Daniel or anyone on the YVGS Board if you are interested. We could use your help!

February Speaker for YVGS

Nancy Carlberg Topic: "Names"

Nancy Ellen Carlberg has been a professional genealogist since 1975, and an amateur researcher since 1965 beginning when she discovered that her brother had muscular dystrophy. While attempting to find out if it showed up anywhere on the family tree, she became addicted to the research.

She worked in Salt Lake City for 2½ years as a professional genealogist for a company and on her own. During this time, she had the opportunity to do research in the records of 25 different countries, in almost as many languages.

This was followed by 2½ years working for Alex Haley, which began just after Roots aired on television. She worked on gathering background material for Roots II, Queen, and a mini-series for television, Palmerstown, USA. During this time period, she traveled over 250,000 miles by air and drove all over the eastern part of the U. S.

For Alex, she tracked down information on a family that came from Ireland, went to Philadelphia, then to Tennessee, and finally to Alabama. By 1840, this was one of the richest families in Alabama. Alex was working on a mini-series that would take the family from 1780 in Ireland, through life in the early days of Tennessee, through the Civil War and the Reconstruction. Because of his death before it was completed, the actual story as he envisioned it has yet to be completed. He and his wife, Dr. Myron Elizabeth Haley, were sticklers for accuracy in the background information they presented. Nancy spent the time tracking down all of the descendants of the family, locating furniture, the silverware, glassware, china, paintings, and even the family cookbook and the family Bible. In addition, she spent nine weeks in the Library of Congress answering questions such as "What would an Irish washerwoman use to do her laundry in 1790" and "How would you set the table for the Irish gentry in 1780" and "How far apart would you plant a row of cotton in Alabama in 1830". She was able to visit libraries and archives in 18 states tracking down information.

In 1985, she began to write books. She has written over 65 books, listed at the end of this article, plus five family histories. She has 218 books started on her computer. In 1986, she started her own publishing company, Carlberg Press.

She takes tour groups to Salt Lake City and the British Isles. She has been to England 20 times, to Ireland 11 times, to Scotland 12 times, to Wales 13 times, to France once and to Switzerland once. In addition to genealogy, she uses the time overseas to visit thrift shops, herb gardens, and used book stores. In addition to genealogy, her hobbies include collecting information on the Home Front in World War II, collecting general homemaking information, reading British mysteries, needlepoint, and photographing herb gardens.

She is a member of the Anaheim Evening Optimist Club (currently President), the Orange County California Genealogical Society, the British Isles Family History Society- U.S.A. (Past President, Program Vice-President 2009-2010), the Sons and Daughters of the Pearl Harbor Survivors, and the Southern California Writers Association. She has been a Brownie Leader, Cub Scout Camp Program Director, tour guide for high school students, and advisor for the Camp Fire Girls. She has been listed in several different Who's Who volumes, including the 2004 Who's Who.

She has a Master's Degree in Library Science and a California Elementary Teaching Credential.

She feels that genealogy research is very important, especially for young people, because, by finding out how our ancestors actually lived, we will discover that life is getting better rather than worse and that there is not a single ancestor with whom we would trade places. Her advice to genealogists:

- Don't be in a hurry. What you don't finish, someone else will.
- Make sure that it is right. It is better to do five generations correctly, than 20 generations with a lot of errors.
- Have patience. The record you need may not be ready for your use yet.
- Never give up, the answer will be there eventually.



For information on speaking engagements, contact

Nancy Ellen Carlberg

1782 Beacon Avenue

Anaheim, CA 92804-4515

(714) 772-2849

E-mail: n_carlberg@hotmail.com

Books By Nancy

Genealogical:

Becoming a Professional Genealogist

Beginning African American Research

Beginning Irish Research

Beginning Overseas Research (general hints)

Beginning Swedish Research

Beginning Scandinavian Research (Sweden, Norway, Denmark)

Beginning English Research

Beginning Scottish Research

British Census Research

Cemetery Research

Census Research

Climbing the Family Tree with Nancy (general talk for beginners)

Courthouse Research

Dealing with the Calendar Change

Differences Between English, Irish, Scottish, and United States Research

Differences in Scandinavian Research

Easy Filing System

Family Secrets and Scandals

Finding Your Colonial Ancestors in England

Getting a Quick Start Up Your Family Tree 30 minutes at a time (Shortcuts to Genealogy)

How to Be a Perfect Genealogist (humorous talk)

How to Survive the Genealogy Bug without Going Broke
Interesting the Young in Genealogy
Jump Start Your Genealogy on the Computer
Land Records
Making Money with Genealogy
Medieval and Royal Research
Mid-Atlantic States
Midwest Research
Migration Routes
Monumental Inscriptions in the British Isles
Names, Nicknames, and Misspelled Names
New England States
Newspaper Research
No Vital Records? Now What?
Overcoming Dead Ends
Preparing in Advance to Visit a Genealogical Library
Protecting Your Genealogy
Quaker Research
Revolutionary War Research
Researching in Salt Lake City
Southern States
Special Collections and Indexes
Teaching Genealogy
Tracing Your Colonial Ancestor
Tracing Your Royal and Medieval Ancestor
Traveling in the British Isles to Find Your Roots
Traveling to England to Find Your Roots
Traveling to Find Your Roots
Traveling to Ireland to Find Your Roots
Using Maps and Gazetteers
Using Periodicals for Colonial Research
Using the 1790-1840 Censuses
Using the Los Angeles Family History Center
Using the Family History Centers
Using the Census Records on Ancestry.com
What I Learned Working for Alex Haley
Writing a Family History
Non-Genealogical:
Ecological Living on a Shoestring
Emergency Preparedness on a Budget
Frugal Living Hints
Make It Happen (Goal Setting)
Packing Light
Toy Making on a Budget
Travel Hints for the British Isles
Traveling on a Shoestring
Traveling to the British Isles on a Shoestring
Writing a Non-Fiction Book the Easy Way

**Deadline for articles for the newsletter:
Thursday before the first Saturday of the
month (this means Thursday March 3rd)**

*If you have articles, pictures or essays you
would like to contribute to the newsletter,
please contact the editor, Jamie Daniel, at:
jamiedaniel33@gmail.com*

or

909 792-2962

or

P.O. Box 32

Yucaipa, CA 92399-0032

Valentine's Day - Genealogy Style

by Lisa Shea

Valentine's Day is coming soon. If you're a genealogist, or have a genealogist sweetheart, here are some great ideas for the special day!

Take a look through your tree and find out which country (other than the one you're in) you're predominantly from. Then start planning out Valentine's Day activities based on those traditions!

Italy

In Italy Valentine's Day is celebrated as a Spring Festival and is held in the open air. The young would gather in leafy glades or ornamental gardens, where they would listen to music and hear poetry read, and then they would stroll off with their Valentine together into the gardens. This custom over the years has ceased and it has not been celebrated for centuries. In the Italian city of Turin it was customary for an engaged couple to announce their engagement on this day. For a while before the day shops would be decorated and filled with all sorts of bon-bons.

Germany

Germans LOVE flowers, and on Valentine's Day this was especially true. Large bouquets of gorgeous wildflowers would be chosen for that special someone. The flowers were less about the cost and more about choosing the favorites of the true love - to show you were paying attention to her specific affections and not just treating her like 'any girl'.

England

Victorian England was in love with elaborate paper Valentines which would be passed amongst family and friends. Create your own hand-made Valentine, and put in it a poem of your own writing! It's not about it being high-class poetry - it's about the poem being from your heart, and intended solely for the heart of your true love.

Russia

Holiday of lovers - St. Valentine's Day - February 14: Christian martyr Valentine was condemned to the capital punishment by Roman pagans but even in such cruel conditions he didn't stop thinking of his lover-the jailer's daughter. He sent her a message full of love and tenderness. This holiday, inherited from the Western culture, is now very popular in Russia.

Poland

In Poland this day of love and devotion has been celebrated for only a few years and is recognized as a pleasant though commercial custom. On this day all those in love, mutually or not, send one another colored hearts, cards with wishes and offer small gifts. Sending flowers, an age-long expression of devotion, is also very popular. The 14 February is also the day when people, both young and the slightly older display their feelings. Happy smiling couples visit cafes and restaurants, walk around holding hands and so forth. Tradition requires that cards and wishes be anonymous. Shy people also use the 14 February to display their feelings by sending a card with printed heart or poem to divulge the strength of their feelings. On St. Valentine's Day in this country, though it is supposed to be for those in love, cards are also sent to family members and friends and acquaintances that are held in certain affection.

Scotland

In Scotland Valentine's day is celebrated by having a festival. At the festival there is an equal amount of young unmarried (single) men and young unmarried (single) ladies who get together, each of them writes on a piece of paper their name or a made up name, this is then rolled up. The names are placed in two hats, one for the men's and one for the ladies. They then have to draw a piece of paper out of the hat. Both may end up with two Valentines, but the young man is supposed to stick with the Valentine who has chosen him. This having been done, the company splits up into so many couples. Gifts are given to the young ladies and the young ladies would wear the name of their Valentine over their heart or on their sleeve.

There might also be a dance and at the end of the festival there might even be a lot of marriages or romances. There is another Valentine's tradition where the first young man or woman who chances to walk by you in the street or elsewhere will be your valentine. In Scotland, Valentine's gifts were given by both parties--in the form of a love-token or a true-love-knot.

Ireland

Valentine's Day in Ireland has several traditions. From the olden times, St. Valentine is connected with the concept and emotion of love. Ireland as a country is very picturesque. And there are several holiday spots which are packed with people wanting to spend their Valentine holiday in peace and privacy.

For those who want to spend the Valentine's Day in some remote and beautiful place, Ireland offers many such luxuries. Several hotels arrange special Valentine's Day packages which are appreciated by the couples. Most of the tourist places in Ireland are in their pristine glory. Gently sloping beaches, rocky cliffs, laid back villages and quaint towns all add to the glory of Ireland. It is a very good destination to spend the Valentine's holiday and without doubt, many Irish also seem to think the same way.

The towns and cities of Ireland see the global way of celebrating the Valentine's Day. The Valentine's cards, Valentine's flowers and Valentine's gifts are bought and given with great passion and received with passion too! Valentine's Day in Ireland is a delightful mix of the traditional and the modern.

Denmark

The Danish Valentine's day card known as a lover's card came in the form of a transparency. When held up to the light showed a picture of a lover handing his love a gift. In Denmark, people swap poems and candy snowdrops. As well as some people send love notes--not serious love notes but, laughable notes which are called gaekkebrev which are also referred to as joking letters. On the gaekkebrev, the sender signs his or her name in dots. If the receiver guesses the correct name then the sender will get a candy egg at Easter time.

taken from <http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art7901.asp> BellaOnline's Genealogy Editor: Tina Sansone Valentine's Day - Genealogy Style Guest Author - Lisa Shea

The love of our family flows strong and deep, leaving us memories to treasure and keep.
~Anonymous

Family History Center

Located at 5th and Wabash in Redlands

Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday

6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

FHC Telephone Number: 909.794.3844

With Great and Sincere Appreciation



It's time to recognize someone who has given countless time and resources to our society. Since

the month he joined, he has worked tirelessly to make Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society a better organization.

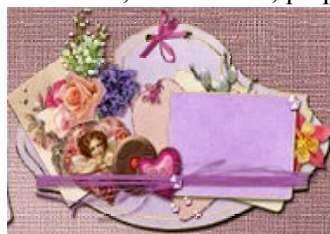
Earl Giddings has served as President, helped reorganize our library holdings, started (and has done much of the work for) our Findagrave survey project, completely revamped our website, started the monthly workshops before our meetings, helped set up our meeting site every month, and many other contributions to make our society run smoothly.

Earl is continuing to help us in some of these areas and we deeply appreciate his continued help behind the scenes

Valentine History

Long before modern technology yielded talking greeting cards and email salutations, romantics found a way to express themselves with paper valentines. Just because they were made of paper, often by hand, doesn't mean they were simple, however.

Many of the first American valentine crafters used not only ink and paper, but adorned their creations with sketches, watercolors, pinpricks and cutouts to make them more interesting and personal. Sometimes natural elements such as bark, feathers and dried flowers were used along with scraps of cloth, yarn, ribbon and even locks of hair. Occasionally semiprecious stones and jewels found their way into a valentine composition.



The earliest valentines were sealed with wax and made their way to the recipient through hand delivery. If the greeting was anonymous, it would be left where the intended would surely find it.



The History of Valentine Cards



It seems that the writing of special notes and letters for Valentine's Day gained widespread popularity in the 1700s. At that time the romantic missives would have been handwritten, on ordinary writing paper.

Papers made especially for Valentine greetings began to be marketed in the 1820s, and their use became fashionable in both Britain and the United States. In the 1840s, when postal rates in Britain became standardized, commercially produced Valentine cards began to grow in popularity. The cards were flat paper sheets, often printed with colored illustrations and embossed borders. The sheets, when folded and sealed with wax, could be mailed.

The American Valentine Industry Begins

According to legend, an English Valentine received by a woman in Massachusetts inspired the beginnings of the American Valentine industry.

Esther A. Howland, a student at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, began making Valentine cards after receiving a card produced by an English company. As her father was a stationer, she sold her cards in his store. The business grew, and she soon hired friends to help her make the cards. And as she attracted more business her hometown of

Worcester, Massachusetts became the center of the American Valentine production.



Vintage Valentines

Remembering Romance From Days Gone By

By Kimberly Powell

While romantic Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, when lovers said or sang their valentine verses, the first paper valentine is usually attributed to the imprisoned Charles, Duke of Orleans, who in 1415 fought his lonely confinement by writing romantic verses for his wife. By the sixteenth century written valentines had grown popular across much of Europe. Miniature works of art, the earliest Valentines were handmade, and usually lavishly embellished with ribbon, cutouts, flowers, gold leaf, and other pretties. These beautiful valentines were then



hand-delivered, as the cost of sending mail prior to the mid-1800s was far beyond the means of the average person.

Commercial valentines first found their way to the European marketplace in the late 1830s when advances in printing and die-cutting technology made possible mass production of elaborate cards. Possibly

responding to the Victorian culture which discouraged direct expressions of love, sweethearts began to buy cards for each other on a scale unprecedented for any correspondence item in history.

In America, Esther A. Howland of Worcester, Massachusetts, is credited with being the "Mother of the American Valentine." In 1847, she began making elaborate, lacy handmade valentines in her home, using one of the first assembly lines, building her business into sales of \$100,000 a year.

In 1847! Her Valentines were unique - with multi-layered effects, colored paper set beneath intricate lace, and verses included on the inside of the card. These beautiful Valentines sold for as much as \$30, at that time often enough to purchase a horse and buggy.



From the mid-1800's to the early 1900's, many people sent comic valentines known as Vinegar Valentines or Penny Dreadfuls. As their name implies, these cards sold for a penny. They were not beautiful, ornate or romantic, quite the opposite. The artwork was comical and poor and they featured bawdy or insulting verses. Most often they

were sent anonymously to people who were not liked. (Fat Woman/You try to do all that is the rage,/Although you're fat and carry weight for age./If you would do as we advise/You'd act more consistently with your size).

