

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

July 2009—VOLUME 27 NO. 7



COMING EVENTS

1. Saturday, July 11, 2009 at 1:00 P.M.
Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society
meeting at the Yucaipa Branch Library.

Speaker: Patti Hacker

Topic: "Dating Old Photographs"

Come join us!

2. Sunday July 26, 7:00 P.M. at the
Redlands Family History Center, Wabash
and 5th Ave, Redlands.

Topic: French-Canadian Research

Speaker: Terry Carlson

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Earl Giddings
Vice President	Ruth Jarmusz
Secretary	Karen Morlan
Treasurer	Marg Polich

APPOINTED CHAIRS

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

The Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society, Inc. meets at 1:00 P.M. on the SECOND Saturday of each month at the Yucaipa Branch Library, 12040 Fifth Street, Yucaipa, California. 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.



August Meeting

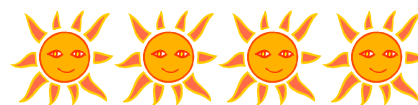
Well, it's not really like "Show and Tell" from elementary school...but our

August meeting will be a time of sharing for everyone.

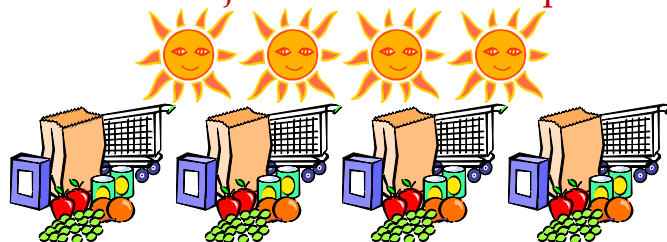
We already have two speakers for sure from our own society who are going to share some of their family history, and some of their finds with all of us. You don't have to speak—you could bring a display of some kind. For instance, do you have interesting original (or copies of) documents you would like to show us? Do you have terrific pictures or textile that might be interesting for the rest of us to see? By all means, bring them

If you have something, anything, that you want to share, please contact one of the board members by **July 31st**. We would like to be able to coordinate this, and have tables set up for display.

Think about it...we all have interesting stories passed down. Wouldn't you like to SHARE?



If you know of anyone who needs a little sunshine, or someone who would benefit from a card, please contact Barbara Thomas, our Sunshine Chair. She cannot do her job without our help!



Good News! Buy your Stater Bros. gift cards and take them home with you!

We're selling *Stater Bros.*

Gift cards at the meeting.

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



Classes for 2009

Redlands Yucaipa Multi-Stake Family History Center
All Classes Sunday evening 7:00p.m.
Redlands Stake Center High Council Room

July 26 Topic: *French-Canadian Research*
Speaker: Terri Carlson

August 23 Topic: *Internet Research*
Speaker: Annette Spaulding

September 27 Topic: *New FamilySearch*
Speaker: Dianna Rounds

October 25 Topic: *British Research*
Speaker: Dawna Lund

November 22 Topic: *Using Notes & Sources*
Speaker: Annette Spaulding

Family History Center

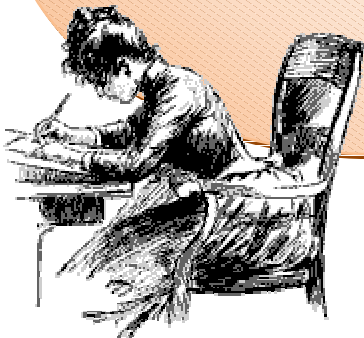
Located at 5th and Wabash in Redlands
Hours:

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

Tuesday, Wednesday, Sunday
6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

New Thursday Hours:
Groups by appointment
only.

FHC Telephone Number:
909.794.3844



A brief selection from the Old Parish Registers

Please note that the spelling and grammar of these extracts are exactly as they appear in the Registers - we haven't forgotten to spell check the page!

As the testaments remind us, nothing is more certain than death, and nothing more uncertain than the time and manner thereof...

Rathen, 1798

Thomas Ogilvie born 2nd January 1798 died 21st September. 5th son, 10th child of George Ogilvie by Rebecca Irvine his wife. This infant is the only descendant of his maternal grandparents that is yet deceased, all their 6 children, 24 grandchildren being still living, whose joint ages amount to upwards of five hundred and twenty two years.'
(Rathen, Aberdeenshire)

Collessie, 1793

'Thomas Garrick died in Collessie 1793. He was in the practice of waling to Rossie and the other adjacent houses within a few months of his death. Was a soldier in the Duke of Argyle's Regiment in 1715. Married his second wife, a stout woman of about 50 years, in his 99th year, who died about 2 years ago.'
(Collessie, Fife)

Lethnot & Navar Parish Mort Roll, Forfarshire, 1755

March 25th Agnes Tod aged near a hundred a Cottars wife in Witten whose sight even on her death bed continued so strong that she could see to thread a needle, also retained memory & other senses unimpaired to the last.
(OPR 300/1 Fr 332)

Inveresk Parish, 20 July 1725

PATRICK SPENCE Workman & Margaret Dickson his spouse their son named: JAMES was Born the Twentieth day of July and Baptised the --- thereof.

Witnesses: William Cass & Andrew Hay Bap.
Privately in their house by Mr R.B.
(OPR 689/7, Fr 2211)

"This Marg. Dickson was executed in the Grassmercat of Edr. the 2d of September last for murdering her own child."

No collection of quotes from the Old Parochial Registers can be complete without some references to the "miscellaneous, heterogeneous and (to others) trivial things", as the Minister of Kirkmahoe described them before launching into a long description of the weather and crops in the parish, which are to be found intermingled with the records of baptisms and proclamations and burials including:

'Cure for the bite of a Mad Dog either in Man or Beast'

'Take rue small shorn, garlick stamped, mithridate or Venice Tryacle, syrup of tin or pewter. Boil all these in 2 quarts of stale ale in a pot close covered for an hour. Then strain it and give this liquor in the morning fasting and warm to a man or woman nine spoonfuls, to a beast cold, to an horse or cow eleven spoonfuls, to a sheep eight spoonfuls, to a dog four spoonfuls.'
(Dunning, Perthshire)

25th November 1779

'Being a day appointed by the synod for publick Thanksgiving in Commemoration of 1st - the goodness of divine providence in granting us a favourable season and a plentiful harvest: 2nd the Internal peace and tranquility which we in this part of the country enjoy in time of publick danger while war wages abroad and the sea coasts of this island have been threatened with Invasion: 3rdly the removal of our late fears for the repeal of the laws in being against property.'
(Dunning, 1779)

To find the age of the moon

'Add the Epact for March 1st for April 2nd, for May 3rd, for June 4th and July 5th for August 6th, for September 8th, for October 8th, for November 10th, for January 10th and February 2nd. Having added to the Epact the number for the month according to the rule foregoing, add thereto the day of the month for which the moon's age is required, these three sumes add thereto if less than 30 is the

moon's age, if more than 30 then: divide it by 30, the Re..... (this dissertation was never finished ...)'
(Eckford, 1790)

To ease the afflictions of Man
'Sold by George Reid, printer at bottom of Fisher's Land Close, Lawnmarket, first door of the stair, sells tincture of sage and Canada balsam for curing in women one of the most afflicting disorders to which human nature is subject and in Men the disorders from the passion of Giogenes.'
(Scoonie, 1775)

Even in the 18th century fallout was a problem...
'20th October 1755 On a Monday a very dark sky and yet the sun was seen mostly all day and there fell a Black heavy Dust upon the earth.'
(Sandsting and Aithsting, 1755)

...and global warming was affecting the weather
'1st December 1811 Sunday ½ Dairy
I preached at home today. It was a raw and windy day threatening rain, few in church - collection 5s. 2d. Mr Ewin, schoolmaster at Dalswinton village dined with me. I lent Mr Lancaster's book on education. It now begins to rain heavily (6 o'clock p.m.) and is likely to rain much. We have had a week or two of very fierce winter weather after two months of the most rainy and floody weather I have ever witnessed. The comet seems to me to have been the cause of the uncommon warm weather in the month of August and beginning of September and of the consequent very wet weather, and of the virial days immediately past, and the earth being so heated by the approach of this body, little frost may be expected till the new year be arrived.'
(Kirkmahoe, 1811)

Last thoughts....
And having given you such seasonal thoughts on the weather, we will leave you with these two gems - in the words of a Frenchwoman who wrote saying "I want to search for my family trunk".

Please search for B Henry Steward Wishart 7 July ? 1872 (at Silas Low ? - client's info).
(644/7 fr 1282) NOTE : Silas Low = GLASGOW



Interesting Story from the family of one of our society members. Can you guess who it might be?

Lewis Martin was born 10 August 1823, in Ephoratah, New York and died 6 August 1902, in Chester, South Carolina. The following was copied from two clippings taken from the *Muskegon Chronicle*, dated December 26 and 27, 1944.

AROUND THE TOWN

LeRoy Mills of the Rollin'Mills, who gets his mail from Fremont but resides on his farm estate not far from Hesperia, has spent much time and rationed gasoline in obtaining the facts regarding a most interesting chapter of Newaygo county history.

"While very few of those now living here ever knew the principals of this story and fewer have ever heard of this ancient amphibian, all will recognize the landmarks, while the names of the principals are perpetuated in our community today by their descendants," Mr. Mills writes.

He writes:

Early last summer, while on a visit to our home, the wife's brother, E.L. (Bud) Lewis, 507 Wood Street, Muskegon, mentioned that 'Pat' Martin built an automobile in our neighborhood more than sixty years ago. Sensing a story and some interesting history, we began a search for the details that has lasted throughout the summer and still, while not entirely complete, has brought out the fact that we have a real "ghost town" in our community and the story of a man who was years ahead of his time.

After numerous inquiries, we ascertained that "Pat" or more properly "Pap" Martin was christened Lewis Martin. Borrowing a copy of "Portrait and Biographical Album of Newaygo County", copyrighted in 1884, from George D. Robertson, we read that Lewis Martin and his wife, Mary (Warren) Martin, of New York state, settled in Denver township in 1857, built a dam across a creek that has since borne his name, constructed a grist mill to use the power generated and went into the milling business. He later sold this mill to John Rooke.

From that on, the story has been brought back a few sentences here, a short sketch there, a name from one person, a location from another, many of the stories directly conflicting and needing referring back to others. By getting two or more of our relaters together and letting them iron out the discrepancies, all was brought back from memories of nearly three quarters of a century ago, of events which had become a faintly remembered legend. And so the following story finally brought out of the past of this ingenious man and the thriving business center which he founded and which, like its founder, has as completely disappeared from the earth. This settlement became known as "Old Denver" in the Eighties when the business center moved a mile south, which was also south of White River.

Those who went back so many years into their memories to help in bringing out this bit of pioneer history, and whom we wish to thank for their cooperation, are Clifford and Delbert Mansfield (Clifford and Delbert were cousins, Clifford was a grandson of Lewis Martin) of Hesperia; Thomas Kennedy, of Kennedy Lakes; Lynn Utley of McLaren Lake; George D. Robertson, of East Denver, and others.

After Mr. Martin disposed of his grist mill he constructed a carding mill nearby which he operated by steam power. Here, wool was carded and made into rolls, about three quarters of an inch in diameter and three feet long, from which yarn was made on the old family spinning wheel.

Around these enterprises there grew a thriving pioneer town, comprising, besides the John Rooke grist mill and the Lewis Martin carding mill, a blacksmith shop owned by James Tinney; a drug store operated by Florian J. Martin, son of "Pap"; a general merchandise store and a postoffice, by Milo Mansfield and a boarding house, operated by Mrs. Charles Stratton, while her husband was the village carpenter.

About fifty families lived about these business places. Being near and at the time when Michigan's forests were being floated down the waterways, we supposed that the town would have at least one saloon. But our informants are agreed that there was none. However, one of our contacts volunteered that the drug store furnished all the firewater necessary to get the sawlogs down the river.

It is said that Mr. Martin, wishing to travel in comfort in the winter, invented a sleigh with a little building on it, with a door and windows. Inside were seats and a stove to keep it warm so he could drive along, toasting his shins and gazing out through the windows at the passing wintery scenery.

He had long had a desire to visit California and planned, in his fertile brain, a vehicle in which he could go over land and water to his destination. Putting his plans into action, he enlisted the services of the village blacksmith, and so began the building the granddaddy of all amphibians. A hull was constructed, variously estimated to have been from four to five feet wide and between twenty and thirty feet long. Two wheels, the driving wheels, much like wagon wheels, were placed, one on each side, toward the front or bow, of the craft. These wheels had "fins" attached to the spokes and operated the craft as a "side-wheeler" while in the water. At the stern, a smaller "castor" wheel acted as rudder both on land and water. An upright steam boiler furnished the power. At first, Mr. Martin used one engine to transform this power into motion. But this lacked ability to move the craft and another engine was installed, coupling the two engines to the drivers by the use of a crankshaft. Although my informants may disagree on many things, they all agree that the craft had a smoke stack, around ten feet high. For they, as boys of this pioneer village, closely watched this stack for the smoke that would denote the steaming up for the maiden trip.

But for months they were disappointed, for Mr. Martin would merely be steaming up to test out some newly-conceived idea, sometimes retained or taken off and modified, but more often rejected. It was said that the inventor had considerable trouble in getting his two engines to rotate in the same direction and synchronized to exert continuous power.

But, after months of planning, building, altering and rejecting, the craft was steamed up for her "take-off." Surrounded by all the village boys, and as many of the men who were idle, the craft began its demonstration.

Here again, memory after three score years is not too certain. Some say that the craft did negotiate the sandy pioneer roads under its own power, while a grandson of the inventor says that, because of the smooth, steel-tired drivers, the tiller wheel at the rear of the craft, which ran in the soft dirt between the wheel ruts of the road, together with the depth of the White River sand, the combination was too much for the tractive power of the vehicle, and the frequent use of a yoke of oxen was required to keep the craft under continuous motion. However, they finally arrived at their destination.

Mr. Martin planned to make the "shake-down" cruise on Perry Mansfield's sawmill pond, a half mile down the river, which was considerably larger and deeper than his own. And again the memories of the observers vary widely on the results of this launching. Some say that the craft circled the pond a few times and then sank, while others are just as certain that she made her cruise all right and was brought back to the bank by her skipper, although the weight of the boiler and engines made the craft cumbersome and unwieldy. But this trip was the only one the craft made. It

was taken back to the village and dismantled and the boiler and engines were taken to Hess Lake and installed in a much larger hull and used on that lake for some time.

Later Mr. Martin did make the trip to California, but not in the manner he had planned. After spending some time in the west, he went to St. Paul, South Carolina, where a daughter lived, and died and is buried there. Year of death 1902.

December 27, 1944

LeRoy Mills of the Rollin' Mills of Newaygo County today writes the concluding chapter of his research involving the "ghost Town" of Old Denver and the fact that more than 60 years old, Lewis Martin, Newaygo pioneer, dreamed and built an amphibian that he hoped would carry him to California. The trial flight proved the amphibian lacked something.

Today, Mr. Mills pays a visit to the "ghost town". He writes:

A few days ago, with the Missus, we drove over to the home of George D. Robertson and, taking Mr. and Mrs. Robertson with us, we went to the location where, surrounded by a thriving pioneer village, this ancient amphibian was conceived and constructed by this ingenious pioneer and found that Old Denver was indeed a ghost town. A few boulders in the bed of the stream, an earthen ridge on each bank, told where the dam had once been; a few rotting pieces of timber shows the location of the old grist mill; no trace could be found of the other village enterprises and, of the homes that once clustered about these enterprises, no trace at all remains unless it be a small part of the Martin homestead. In a recently built house, Mr. Albino Yob now lives on the land taken up by Mr. Martin, a couple of other houses are in sight, but the village has as completely disappeared from the earth as has its founder, "Pap" Martin.

As we followed the course taken by Mr. Martin on the "shake-down" trip with his crude amphibian, much of it was through sand, loose even now with the packing of rubber tired vehicles that occasionally travel that road. Some of the road now has a gravel roadbed which even Mr. Martin's vehicle could probably have navigated satisfactorily. As we passed the site of the pond where he tested its aquatic ability, we could see where flood waters had, years ago, cut through the side of the pond forming a new bed for the stream and draining the pond to its original swiftly flowing brook. Fair sized elms seemed to be growing where the craft had slowly puffed its way around the pond so many years before.

As we drove home over hard surfaced roads, in a vehicle that could easily equal the speed of an express train, we pondered over the invention and demonstration of that ancient amphibian that had crawled along the nearby roads nearly three-quarters of a century before, of the thriving pioneer village, now, in truth, a ghost town and of its founder, "Pap" Martin, a man with an idea that was far ahead of his time.

Footnote:

It is stated in the first article that Milo Mansfield operated the post office and general merchandise store. I believe this may be a mistake, the reason is that Milo had been completely deaf and barely able to speak since childhood, the result of a childhood disease. I remember him that way when I was small. I believe it was Miles Mansfield who operated those two businesses. He later went to Hesperia and opened a general merchandise store there.

Milo was John's son, so was a nephew of Miles.

Remus Starr

An amateur genealogical researcher discovered that his great-great uncle, Remus Starr, a fellow lacking in character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows. On the back of the picture is this inscription: Remus Starr; horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, Escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged 1889.

In a family history subsequently written by the researcher, Remus's picture is cropped, scanned in as an enlarged image, and edited with image processing software so that all that's seen is a head shot. The accompanying biographical sketch is as follows:

Remus Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.

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ISSN#1069-9333