

# YVGS FAMILY FINDERS



Yucaipa Valley  
Genealogical Society

Established 1982

YUCAIPA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

[www.yvgs.org](http://www.yvgs.org)

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

Sponsored by The Yucaipa Branch Library

September 2011—VOLUME 29 NO. 9



## COMING EVENTS

1. Saturday, September 10, 2011

*Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society Workshop and Meeting at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 31785 Yucaipa Blvd., Yucaipa 12:00 Workshop and meeting combined. Show and Tell from members. Bring your latest genealogical discoveries and/or stories and share them with everyone.*

*Come join us!*

2. Wednesday September 7 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. in the Hemet Public Library conference room. For more information inquire in the Heritage Room or call (951) 765-2372

*Topic: Getting Started—Basic Steps in the Research Process*

3. Wednesday September 21, 2011 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. in the Hemet Public Library conference room. For more information inquire in the Heritage Room or call (951) 765-2372

*Topic: Basic Computer Skills for Genealogy Software—PAF (GEDCOM) and Rootsweb*

4. Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.,

*Family History Research Class at the Redlands Family History Center, Wabash and Fifth (Stake Center High Council Room)*

*Topic: An In-depth Look at New Family Search*

*Speaker: Karen Strong*

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	Betty Marcum

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*The Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society, Inc. meets at 1:00 P.M. on the SECOND Saturday of each month at the Prince of Peace Lutheran 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.*

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***What you missed!***

Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society  
General Meeting Minutes  
Saturday August 13, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 P. M. by President Floyd Ferguson, who also led the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer, Marg Polich, gave her report. It was approved for audit.

The working Balance : \$ 588.47.  
The checkbook balance: \$2592.86

The Treasurer's report will be filed with the minutes, and is always available for the membership to see at the meetings, or by contacting Marg Polich.

Floyd reported that he had turned the keys back at the old meeting site and that we left on good terms.

Floyd briefly updated the membership on the Website. Earl Giddings is to be given the OK to directly connect

our Web mistress, and add a section "Graves" with the proper page in "Find-A-Grave."

Floyd told the membership that P.O. Box needs to be updated with each new board.

Wireless capabilities for our meetings were given. The best deal seemed to be \$49.95 per month, but it has a 2 year contract. More checking will be done before a final determination is made.

Doug Wesfield was our speaker. He is an author and Publisher on American History. It was a very interesting talk.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 P. M. by President Floyd Ferguson.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Sue Wolfe,*  
in the absence of the Secretary



## 52 Weeks to Better Genealogy

*Editor's note: 3rd 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; 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.*

Amy Coffin's motto:

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

### Challenge 38

Week 38: Investigate [Second Life](#): a 3D virtual world community. Check out the presentation [What is Second Life?](#) This learning tool has all the appearances of a video game, but there actually are vibrant genealogy social communities and discussions within the network. Genealogy Wise maintains a group of [Second Life genealogists](#) and a calendar of upcoming discussions. You do not have to join Second Life for this challenge. The goal is just to give genealogists exposure to this type of genealogy learning tool. If you have a blog, you may jot down your impressions of Second Life if you wish.

### Challenge 39

Week 39: Brush up on good genealogy writing tips. Whether you're planning to write your family's history or simply ask questions online, good writing is a skill that will benefit your research needs. Check out these web sites and tips on honing your writing skills: Board for Certification of Genealogists® "[Good Genealogical Writing](#)," About.com's "[Writing & Publishing Your Family History](#)," Cyndi's List [Writing Resources Page](#), and Quintessential Careers™ "[Online Discussion Group Networking Do's and Don'ts](#)." Bloggers, do you have anything to add to these links? Share some of your writing tips with your readers.

### Challenge 40

Week 40: Investigate how to order an SS5. When someone applies for a Social Security Number, he or she fills out form SS5. When that person (or any other with a Social Security Number) dies, the public can request a copy of the SS5. This document can be a genealogy gold mine of information including parents' names, applicant's address and occupation at the time

of filing, and birth date. Halfway down the page of the SSA's Guide to the Freedom of Information Act is information on requesting a deceased person's SS-5 application. Check out the [mail-in request form SSA-711](#) and the [online form SSA-714](#) (both are PDF format and require Adobe reader to view). This week's challenge is to explore the ways to order a SS5. You do not have to actually order one unless you want to. If you are participating in this challenge from outside the United States, you may investigate how to order a similar type of document from your own government. If you write a genealogy blog, share with readers information you have found through requested SS5 records.

### Challenge 41

Week 41: Review message board posts that pertain to your genealogy interests, or in your local area. One of the best places to browse lists is the [RootsWeb index page](#) that's part of Ancestry.com. Use this week to browse some lists and see the types of questions that are being asked. If you're very familiar with RootsWeb, return to some of the lists you haven't visited in a while. Some queries are written better than others, so note what information you think is essential to a good discussion post. Blog authors can discuss any aspect of message boards and their posts with readers.



**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.



### Family History Center

Located at 5<sup>th</sup> 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



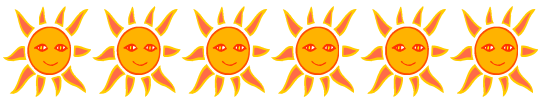
## Ideas for old Photos

~ *Ohana Insights Newsletter*  
Shirlyn Hoyt Allen gathered pictures of her mother, from family, and friends and created a book alone with a DVD for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The DVD also included songs "... I had heard her singing or humming around the house." Look for songs on the

Internet and download the files or lyrics. After completing this project, she not only returned the photographs to the owners, she sent a copy of the DVD to her siblings and offered to make copies of any photo they wanted. Shirlyn finished her work by addressing large mailing envelopes to each of her children, her mother's siblings, and friends. She then sorted through all her many duplicate photos and put them into the envelopes. At the end of the project, she mailed them. Having the envelopes ready to mail accomplishes both sorting and sending in one simple step, and having all her important pictures scanned also gives her the ability to use the scanned photos in other projects including computerized cards for many occasions.

Ms. Allen uses a website called OldFamilyPhotos.com (*don't confuse it with oldfamilyphoto.com, which has services for sale*) <http://www3.familyoldphotos.com/> to post photographs for identification and sharing. Part of the reason she likes this website is because it "allows the largest size pictures about 800-900K. Ancientfaces allows only up to 400K & DeadFred only allows up to 150K. I have been using these sites for years & have had hundreds of contacts from people who are related some way to my pictures. These contacts have had more info for me or have new pictures of relatives that I didn't have. Quite amazing!"

*Thanks to Marilyn Harrison for including this column in the Redlands Multi-Stake Family History Center e-newsletter*



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!



*"History remembers only the celebrated, genealogy remembers them all."*

*-Laurence Overmire*



## Surveying Local Cemeteries

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. We are continuing to transcribe all the cemeteries (not just Mt. San Geronio) in our area, and post pictures and obituaries where we can find them.

Please contact Jamie Daniel or anyone on the YVGS Board if you are interested. Just one morning taking pictures would be wonderful. We could use your help!



## September Meeting

Once again, we are going to be having our annual Show and Tell meeting. We had to change from August to September this year because of a conflict

in scheduling.

We would like to have as many people as possible contribute to this event, but we need to limit speakers to between five and ten minutes, depending on how many of our members want to participate.

**But Wait!** 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, textiles, or perhaps a collection of artifacts or antiques from your family that would be interesting for the rest of us to see? By all means, bring them. We have had some wonderful displays for the last two years, and we know there are many other members with something to share.

If you have something, anything, that you want to bring to the meeting, please contact one of the board members ASAP! 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?

—Laurence Overmire



*Thank you Paula Messer and Sue Wolfe, for the delicious refreshments you brought to the August meeting.*

*Barbara Firestone and Anna Mumper will provide the refreshments for the September meeting.*

*Sue Wolfe, Hospitality*



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

**Before the first Saturday of the month.**

**This next month (October), I need to have your articles by Thursday, September 29th.**

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

[jamedaniel33@gmail.com](mailto:jamedaniel33@gmail.com)

or

909 792-2962

or

P.O. Box 32

Yucaipa, CA 92399-0032

*Yucaipa Valley*  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

*Our website has a new feature! When you visit, be sure to click on Our Projects. You will be taken to an explanation, and then a headstone, with listings of the cemeteries in the area (and room for more!)*

*Check it out.*

*And many thanks to Earl Giddings for working this out and continuing to contribute to our ongoing cemetery and obituary projects.*

*“There is no such thing as an insignificant life, only the insignificance of mind that refuses to grasp the implications.”*

## **1940 U.S. CENSUS TO BE FREE ON ANCESTRY.COM**

Great news in this announcement:

PROVO, UTAH (August 17, 2011) – [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com), the world’s largest online family history resource, today announced that both the images and indexes to the 1940 U.S. Federal Census will be made free to search, browse, and explore in the United States when this important collection commences streaming onto the website in mid-April 2012.

When complete, more than 3.8 million original document images containing 130 million plus records will be available to search by more than 45 fields, including name, gender, race, street address, county and state, and parents’ places of birth. It will be Ancestry.com’s most comprehensively indexed set of historical records to date.

[Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) is committing to make the 1940 Census free from release through to the end of 2013, and by doing so hopes to help more people get started exploring their family history. As this census will be the most recent to be made publicly available, it represents the best chance for those new to family history to make that all-important first discovery.

“The release of the 1940 U.S. Census will be an exciting event for any American interested in learning more about their family history,” said [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) CEO Tim Sullivan. “By making this hugely important collection free to the public for an extended period, we hope to inspire a whole new generation of Americans to start researching their family history.”

“[Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) is working to make the 1940 Census a truly unique interactive search experience...as well as the starting point to help new users easily get started on the world’s leading online family history resource. After finding that first family connection in the 1940 Census, we believe new users will be able to make amazing discoveries by searching our 7 billion digitized historical records, exploring the 26 million family trees created on Ancestry, and collaborating with our nearly 1.7 million subscribing members. We think that 2012 is going to be a great year of discovery for all family historians.”

## Contacting Funeral Homes and Local Societies

Whenever possible, try to get a copy of the original death certificate, particularly for a family member long gone. When I obtained the 1897

New York City death record for my great-grandfather whose surname was believed to be Cohen, I discovered that recorded on the certificate was the original family name of Aronowsky. Recently, when checking the 1874 census records from Kovno (Kaunas) Lithuania, I discovered the entire family, their approximate years of birth, along with two siblings of my grandmother who were previously unknown to us.

### Genealogy Tip of the Day

Genealogy Tips By Michael John Neill

19 August 2011

### Census Taker Assumed Entire Household Had Same Last Name?

If the members of a household were not all the children of the same father, keep in mind that the census taker might have simply assumed everyone in the household had the same last name, whether they did or not.

Step-children might be listed with the step-father's last name, even though he never adopted them at all and they never used his last name. Grandchildren enumerated with grandparents might be listed with the grandparent's last name, even though they never actually used that name.

*This is the month our Society appoints a nominating committee to find volunteers for the coming year. The following poem might help some of you review your personal situation.*

## Job Responsibility

by Charles Osgood

There was a most important job that needed to be done,  
And no reason not to do it, there was absolutely none.  
But in vital matters such as this, the thing you have to ask  
Is who exactly will it be who'll carry out the task?  
*Anybody* could have told you that *everybody* knew  
That this was something *somebody* would surely have to do.  
*Nobody* was unwilling; *anybody* had the ability.  
But *nobody* believed that it was their responsibility.  
It seemed to be a job that anybody could have done,  
If *anybody* thought he was supposed to be the one.  
But since *everybody* recognized that *anybody* could.  
*Everybody* took for granted that *somebody* would.  
But *nobody* told *anybody* that we are aware of,  
That he would be in charge of seeing it was taken care of.  
And *nobody* took it on himself to follow through,  
And do what *everybody* thought that *somebody* would do.  
When what *everybody* needed so did not get done at all,  
*Everybody* was complaining that *somebody* dropped the ball.  
*Anybody* then could see it was an awful crying shame,  
And *everybody* looked around for *somebody* to blame.  
*Somebody* should have done the job  
And *Everybody* should have,  
But in the end *Nobody* did  
What *Anybody* could have.

# 2011 Ancestry Novemberfest

# FOLLOWING THEIR FOOTSTEPS

Annual Family History Fair Co-Sponsored by  
The Redlands-Yucaipa and Highland Family History Centers

**Saturday, November 5, 2011**

**8:30 am | Registration**

**9:00 am | Keynote Speaker - Kerry Bartels**

Archives Specialist, The National Archives at Riverside

**9:30 am-12:45 pm | 18 Classes to choose from**

**Free of charge | Public welcome**

For more information call: 909-794-3844 (leave msg.)

or email: [ca\\_redlands@ldsmail.net](mailto:ca_redlands@ldsmail.net)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
7000 Central Avenue  
Highland, California 92346





## ONE SMALL TWIG



Here I sit penning my thoughts into rhyme  
As my mind flashes back into distant time  
Where my loving family often held hands  
And frolicked over the family farm's rolling lands.  
Now we have all scattered with each in his place  
Attempting to keep up with life's hectic pace.  
We now live lives of our own individual choice;  
But at family reunions, we again gather and rejoice.  
As I think back of our family's love and devotion  
I'm filled with fondness, admiration and emotion  
Which makes me so proud to be  
One small twig of my treasured family tree.

*Author: Edith Bastin  
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