
DESERT DIGGINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE HI-DESERT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 33, Issue 2

April-June 2012

President's Message

Happy holidays!

Monika Hall

Hello Hi-Desert Genealogical Society. Genealogy is tracing your family roots. You want to know your family lineage and history. Genealogy is exciting and fun. It's great to know your past. It makes your future bright, when you know where you came from.

I want to wish all the Dad's in our society a Happy Father's Day on June 17, 2012. Happy 4th of July. I want to wish all our members, to have a beautiful summer. Summer is the time to travel and have fun. Enjoy it everyone.

So far this year our society has had exciting topics and great speakers. Please invite your family and friends to come out to our General Meeting on the third Wednesday of each month, except for the months of November and December. Take care everyone.

Thank you. ☺

Inside This Issue

- 2 **Library Update**
HDGS News
- 3 **Welcome New Members**
Facebook 101 and 201
- 4 **Upcoming Speakers**
Website Update
- 5 **News from the "Beacon"**
Writers Group?
- 6 **Library of Congress**
New Mexican Source
The War that made America
- 7 **Book Sale, Revolution**
NGS Magazine review
Editor's Corner

New Look, New Editor

A changing of the guard



Bill Luther

The last issue of "Desert Diggings" announced the retirement of Ann Minter as the Newsletter editor. Ann served this publication and the Society as Editor for over five years. We thank her for her service and know she will bring the same attention to detail as she assumes her new Council position as Secretary.

As your new editor, I will try to keep this newsletter informative and relevant to what is happening in the world of Genealogy and Family History. You can help by passing along, news and information that is worth sharing with others.

E-mail me at ancesgen@verizon.net. 

The Benton Donation

Books, Books, Books



If you have been attending meetings or watching facebook or the website, you are probably aware of the major book donation HDGS received on 7 April of this year. If not, it is worth mentioning here. Mrs. Blanche Benton was the donor of her husband's (Homer G. Benton) genealogical collection of books, consisting of; 151 hardbound, 260 softbound, and over 800 periodicals and newsletters. Included are a film reader and 272 rolls of film (mostly PA newspapers). A collection this large is varied in scope and subject matter. While the central theme is "the Brethren in America", there are volumes with subject matter in general research, immigration, 1880 census, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, and a host of others. A complete listing of the collection is available in PDF format on our website, <http://www.cagenweb.com/hdgs/books.html> on the Library page "the Benton Donation".

continued on page 2



Library Update

New A. V. Library Manager

Jackie Fielder

Our library staff has been very busy moving the Periodicals together. Thanks to Felicia Macomber, our new Branch Manager at the Apple Valley Library, we have been given more space. Felicia and her husband John live in Hesperia and plan to attend our meetings

*New Branch Manager, Apple Valley
Library...we have more space*

when time allows. John recently graduated and has his Master's Degree in Genealogy / Library Science. He also gives classes and works three days a week at the Perris Public Library.

I want to give a big thanks to The Apple Valley Friends of the Library they have order 4000 more security tags for us!

Here is just a short list of new books being added to our shelves.

- Huguenot Emigration to America (2 Vol. in one); Baird*
- A Handy Guide To Record-Searching In The Larger Cities Of The United States; E. Kay Kirkham*
- History of Gallatin, Saline, Hamilton, Franklin and Williamson Counties, Illinois*

MORE TO COME!!!!!!

If you have any questions please feel free to email me, fielderj@verizon.net or call: Phone 760-246-7033 ☎



The Benton Donation

continued from page 1

These books will slowly migrate into our library collection as we acquire more shelf space. In the meantime, if there is a specific Book you are interested in, contact me at: ancesgen@verizon.net and we can set up a viewing time at my home (where the books are currently stored) or I can take it to the A. V. Library during my normal shift on the fourth Thursday of the month 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Thank you Blanche for thinking of The High Desert Genealogical Society. These publications will be put to good use. 📖



HDGS News

- **Installation of officers** for 2012-2013 took place during the General meeting on May 16th. Nick DeRose did the swearing in honors. The board remained the same with the exception of Secretary.

Council Members for the coming year are:

- President Monika Gibbs
- VP/Membership Pam Jackson
- Treasurer Bill Luther
- Secretary Ann Minter
- Librarian Jackie Fielder

Committee Chairs are:

- Programs Sharol Goates
- Opportunities Ralph Wareing
- Hospitality Diane Irwin
- Newsletter Ed. Bill Luther

We are in need of someone to do Book Reviews and another to take over as Historian. Any volunteers? ✉

- **Volunteer of the year:** two new names have been added to the plaque in the library for *Volunteer of the Year*; **Nick DeRose** for 2009-2010 and **Faye Painter** for 2010-2011. Each was awarded a certificate of appreciation by our Librarian, Jackie Fielder and a round of applause from our General Meeting in April. Thank you for your service. 🌟

Membership

Growing Membership



Pam Jackson

Family History

Greetings All:

We have been getting a good response from the notice that runs in the Daily Press announcing our monthly meetings. I have received telephone calls from a variety of folks – all have fun stories to share and are looking for help! Seems like we all have that ever present “block wall” with our families. Folks are also hearing about us via our volunteers at the Apple Valley Library. A big “thank you” to those volunteers.

Remember dues are now payable for 2012-2013

We had quite a few new members sign up in the month of May. We currently have a membership of 63 individuals and two organizations.

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

Membership

Remember, dues are now payable for the 2012-2013 year. You may “re-up” for next year in person at our June 20th meeting or mail to: P.O, Box 1271, Victorville, CA 92393. See you on the 20th ☺

New Members, Welcome

Linda Cirk: researching the Parke and Ferrin lines in New England

Donna Coapstick: researching the Mahan line in PA, the Van Dusen line in Europe and the Eddingsas line in Norway

John Freymueller: researching the Freymueller and Temple lines in Germany and the Kennedy line in Scotland and Northern Ireland

Barbara Richey-Romero: researching the Richey line in Ireland, Illinois, Oregon and Nebraska

Carolyn Simons: researching the Simons line in Iowa and MN, Crabtree in Ohio and Kentucky and the Fagan line in Illinois

David Skipton: researching the Skipton surname.

Diane Stueve: researching the Sterling line in Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi and Texas

Welcome to the Hi-Desert Genealogical Society family.

*"But those who came before us will teach you. They will teach you from the wisdom of former generations."
Author: Job 8:10, LB*

Facebook 101 and 201

Inter Valley Health Plan June Classes

Inter Valley's *Vitality Series* for June includes two classes for Facebook; 101 is conducted on June 27th from 10 am to 12 pm for those who do not have a Facebook page (you must have a current e-mail address). Later in the day Facebook 201 is conducted from 1 to 3 pm for those who already have a Facebook page and want to learn more advanced techniques.

You must RSVP in order to attend.

Call 800-251-8191 ext 625

If you are not on Facebook or are a “timid” user, here is your chance to get involved. Then, join us (High Desert Genealogy) on facebook. That is where you will get the most up to date information and share with others. <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ancesgen>



Road Trip !

Have you heard?

Mark your Calendars, next year's *National Genealogical Society* meeting will be held in Las Vegas, NV on 9 to 12 May 2013

Did someone say Carpool ? ☺

NGS Family History Conference 2012

A Look Back

Excerpts from an article by **Carolyn L. Barkley**

“Although the booth featured a wide array of many bestselling titles published by Genealogical Publishing Company and Clearfield Company, clearly the favorites this year were the several [Genealogy at a Glance](#) and [Quick Sheet](#) titles. These laminated four-page sheets are attractive because they provide concise, useful information, are reasonably priced, and best of all, weigh almost nothing, thus making them the perfect resource to include when preparing for a research trip.”

“The most popular of the *Quick Sheet* topics proved to be [The Historical Biographer's Guide to Cluster Research \(the FAN Principle\)](#) (Genealogical Publishing Co., 2012), which quickly sold out thanks to its being mentioned in various speakers' lectures. In this title, Elizabeth Shown Mills shares her view that “to prove identity, origin, and parentage, [a researcher should] study individuals in the context of their ‘FAN Club’ Family, Associates, and Neighbors.”¹ If you don't have a copy of this title, you are missing out on an interesting concept and methodology that will certainly prove helpful in your brick wall research.” ...

I will now search Mocavo before, not after, Google.

“One great exhibit hall feature is the opportunity to attend twenty-minute presentations on genealogically-related products. My favorite demonstration was Michael LeClerc's presentation on [Mocavo](#). I'm going to save my comments on this genealogy search engine for an upcoming blog article, but suffice it to say that I will now search Mocavo before, not after, Google.”

“The [annual NGS Family History Conference](#) provides a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills, be exposed to new resources, reconnect with friends, meet new people,”...”add to your home library, update your software – and eat well. I'm already looking forward to the 2013 conference in Las Vegas.”

Carolyn's complete article can be found at:

<http://www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com/> ☺

Upcoming Speakers

Bios and topics

Sharol Goates

June 20 *Google Forms and Google Docs*

William Luther:

Most of you know Bill as the current Treasurer of HDGS. He also assumed the duties as Webmaster of our website and recently added Newsletter Editor to his repertoire. He holds a B.S. in Applied Mathematics and an M.S. in Management Science (Multinational Corporations). He has been doing research since 1999 and tries to keep current with new technologies and methodologies used by today's genealogist. He enjoys teaching and has aided others in getting started in their research.

As a member of the Writers Group of the SCGS, he has been published in the "Searcher" and is working on a biography of his gg-grandfather, a Civil War Veteran.

July 18 *Family History Information Through The Back Door*

Jean Wilcox Hibben: (Board Certified genealogist)

Jean has been involved in family research for over 30 years. She is a member of the National Genealogical Society and several others. She teaches a weekly genealogy class for the Career Development program of the Soboba Band of the Luiseno Indian Tribe and is a volunteer at the Corona Family History Center, where she trains Family History Consultants. She has a master's degree in Speech Communication, worked as a professor in the field for 13 years but left to pursue her passion of family history and folklore. She holds a doctorate in the latter.

Jean is a national speaker in both areas and is known for her entertainment, as well as information. Two quotes from Jean are: "Who we are is a compilation of our experiences and associations as well as our biological connections. When we understand our ancestors we can better understand ourselves. By doing this, we can complete our personal family circles." Her other quote: "My goal is to assist others in their efforts to connect generations (past to present), completing the family circle."

Aug 15 *Family Search Update*

JoAnne Williams:

Joanne is a past president of Hi-Desert Genealogical Society and is on, at least her fifth Mission in the Genealogical Department, of the Church of JESUS CHRIST of Latter Day Saints. She has done research

on her own family for many years and has helped others in their research. She is very knowledgeable of all the new things coming out from Salt Lake City to help in our research. She lost her husband to cancer and a daughter to cancer. She travels all over the world, taking at least one grandchild at a time with her. She has even gone on an African safari. She is loads of fun and entertaining to listen to. 🎧

Website Update

What's New, what is under construction.



Our website is still in a state of flux. I have updated and revamped the majority of pages. All the Info is up to date and I will do my best to maintain it. This, as well as our facebook page, is where you should look for the most current information. The Newsletter is only published quarterly so dated information is not as relevant unless posted way in advance. By the time I glean information from other newsletters, it is too late to post in *Desert Diggings*. It will, however be posted under Happenings on the website.

http://www.cagenweb.com/hdgs/genealogical_links.html

One page that needs work is the Library page. I am trying to convert our non digital form of book inventory into an excel file that I can convert to PDF and upload to the library page. Then, anyone can access and download or print our book inventory. I have already scanned over 60 pages of inventory and converted to Word. Ann Minter, thank you for helping me with the cut and paste process. A concentrated effort will be made to complete the process by the end of July. The Benton Donation list has already been uploaded for access.

The Book Review page is outdated and many of the links are inoperable. Anyone want to volunteer to do book reviews? If you have read a book and you would like to share, do a review and e-mail it to me. If we cannot keep this page relevant, we should delete it.

The Obituary page needs work. Can someone educate me as to why this page exists? Is anyone continuing the transcription of obituaries? I feel this page can be better utilized as a page for the Victorville Cemetery Records that have appeared in *Desert Diggings* on occasion. 📄

"In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage, to know who we are and where we came from."

Author: Alex Haley

From the March/April 2012 "Beacon"

National Archives Puts Popular Records / Workshops Online For First Time!

The National Archives has launched online videos of its most popular genealogy "How To" workshops. These popular workshops led by National Archives experts are available on the National Archives YouTube channel:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives> 

Swedish American Genealogist Now Online & Free!

This quarterly journal is devoted to Swedish American biography, genealogy, and personal history. This is available to the Public – Free of Charge! The journal was founded in 1981 by Niles William Olsson and is currently edited by Elisabeth Thorsell. This collection contains issues published as recently as 2007, and is part of the Carli Digital Collections.

Carli also includes a collection of Historical Society; Newsletters as well as other collections.

<http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/index.php> 

From the May/June 2012 "Beacon"

News from the Torrance Family History Center

Provided by: Lorna Rice

Are you wondering which of the State 1940 Census have been indexed? How about which states are available to index? Family Search has a neat visual map that shows the progress being made on the Community Census Project. Go to Family Search.org and click on the 1940 Census Community Project Illustration in the top right hand corner. The link will take you directly to the map. If you hover over the state, a pop-up will show you how much of the Census is complete. If you fill in the blanks, you can find out if the county or city you want has been completed. If you click on the state, a scroll-down on the page, you will hit a thumbnail history for the state, a list of prominent people on the census, as well as a list of organizations and Gen. Societies who are indexing that site. There are also links to state specific websites, databases, and Wiki articles that will be helpful in your research.

Continued on page 6

"If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten; either write things worthy of reading, or do things worthy of writing." -- Benjamin Franklin -- May 1738

Writers Group

Who is up for it?



You have gathered all the facts and research data, now, what will you do with it? I don't know about you, but not too many in my family are interested in reading family group sheets, pedigree charts, marriage and death certs, etc. They do like to read stories.

As a former member of the SCGS writers group, I have written several short stories and two self published books, "*The Kollbergs of Sweden*" and "*Radar, My Companion, My Friend*" reviewable at:

<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/250169>

I do not consider myself an author but I am a story teller. Which, after all, is what we aspire to be as Genealogists. Finding our ancestors is one thing, telling their story is another. I was asked once, "Why do you write?" My reply, "I write to tell the story of a young British wagon driver who worked for farmer John Kenyon in the early 1800's and married the farmer's daughter." "I write about two brothers, Union soldiers, huddled in a trench at Cold Harbor on 3 June 1864; one of them will not survive the day, but his unborn daughter will go on to form a chapter of the women's auxiliary of the GAR." "If not me, who will tell the story of a young handsome Swedish soldier, a bit of a playboy who, when he had two women with child at the same time in different villages, bailed and headed North to start a new life and family?" I also write snippets of my own life, important events, life lessons, etc.

The writers group in Burbank has a wonderful facilitator in Jean Snow. Her assignments stir up the brains grey matter. It is amazing what one can remember when a trigger is released. I have asked her permission to use her assignments as a catalyst to start our own writers group here in the high desert. I am trying to solicit space from local libraries as a meeting place.

So, who is game? Interested in joining a writers group? I am willing to act as facilitator with the help of Jean Snow. If you are interested, e-mail me at:

ancesgen@verizon.net 

Library of Congress

More to it than books


I have run across a few articles concerning the Library of Congress recently; several in various newsletters, another given to me by Nancy Werger from a website "Bella Online". All are dealing with the fact that the Library of Congress is NOT only concerned with books. The collection grows every week with databases, pictures, maps, newspapers, and a myriad of other media and information. One writer's favorite area is the "Today in History" database. Just visit the archive and enter a date. There is a collection of Podcasts, Webcasts, and iTunes as well. All the reviewers encourage the reader to look at the digitized Historic Newspapers Collection.

If you have never been to the website, or if it has been awhile since your last visit, take a look, you may be surprised at what is happening at the LOC.

<http://www.loc.gov/index.html> 

A New Mexican Source

From the Immigrant Gen. Soc. Newsletter (March 2012)


Many are aware that Ancestry.com has Mexican census records for review, but how would a person with Mexican ancestors find the descriptive sources that would tell something of how they lived? Thanks to an article in the "arts & Books section of the Christmas Day *L.A. Times*, it just so happens that the National Autonomous University of Mexico is planning on placing its entire collection of research materials on the internet at "Toda la UNAM en Lines." This includes photos, newspapers, student theses, legal opinions, and other items that can be expected to name ancestors. Go to: <http://www.unamenlinea.unam.mx> for a web page introducing the project. 

These battles sound incredible to us. I think that posterity will doubt if such things ever were,—if our bold ancestors who settled this land were not struggling rather with the forest shadows, and not with a copper-colored race of men. They were vapors, fever and ague of the unsettled woods. Now, only a few arrowheads are turned up by the plow. In the Pelasgic, the Etruscan, or the British story, there is nothing so shadony and unreal.

Henry David Thoreau

News from Torrance

Note the tiny camera icon next to the state. That indicated that browse able images are online, so you can still look for family members if you know where they might have been living in 1940.

And if you are having trouble getting into indexing, come by the Family History Center and we will walk you through the registration, and help you to successfully navigate your first downloaded batch. 

The War That Made America

The French and Indian War (1754-1763)




With the fourth of July around the corner, I did a search for something on or about the Revolutionary War. Instead I discovered this documentary done by PBS. For those with Colonial Ancestors, this may be of interest.

From the Website: "The War That Made America" brings to life a vastly important—but often misunderstood—period of American history, a period that set in motion forces that would culminate in the American Revolution. The dramatic documentary tells the story of the French and Indian War (1754-1763), which began in the wilderness of the Pennsylvania frontier and spread throughout the colonies, into Canada, and ultimately around the world."

http://www.wqed.org/tv/specials/the-war-that-made-america/index_12.php

This is a great website, containing Historical Notes, a Flash Timeline, Biographies of key figures, and a list of Additional Readings, both published and online. There is a media center where you can view program promos, music and maps that were used during the series.

The documentary is available through PBS, Amazon, eBay, and others. You pay a few dollars more from PBS but also support them. I have the Revolutionary War series produced by them and it is outstanding. I know very little about the French and Indian War. For instance, a young 22 year old George Washington led a British patrol and his Indian allies into the Pennsylvania back country. Read what happened that day in May 1754 on the website. It was the beginning of the French and Indian War. 

NGS Magazine *Inside April-June 2012*

What's in the latest issue?

“Stop Thief! A Plagiarism primer” by Debbie Mieszala

Anyone who plans on writing from research material should read this article. It defines the differences between Copyright and plagiarism. One is a legal matter the other is an ethical one. Not published or out of print does not mean it is up for grabs. The internet has only clouded the issue. We all dealt with this as kids doing book reports and essays. As adults we need to be acutely aware of the concept and make every effort not to offend. Good reading, take a look. ☹

“The 1940 federal census” by Constance Potter and Diane Petro

All the buzz on the net and most any other genealogical periodical is the release of the 1940 Census. This article is a brief dissection of the census. It affords a little more detail into the various columns that appeared in this census for the first time on record. It is a brief article that explains what one can expect to find in the 1940 census. What new questions will it unlock? ☹

“Targeted research plans” by Patricia Walls Stamm

Those of us who have been doing this for awhile (genealogical research) tend to use something similar to what is discussed in this article. For those of you who are just starting, take heed. Travel is time consuming and costly. You want the trip to be as productive as possible. Patricia defines what a plan is, what goes into it, planning, goals, objectives, and how to manage them for the best results. It is my experience that the preplanning is as important as the trip, if you are to be successful. This article deals with the preplan activity. Remember to schedule a little “just for fun time”. All research and no fun is too close to a business trip. ☹

Family History Center

In the LDS Church located on the corner of Bear Valley Road and Ridgecrest. For more information call 760-243-5632

Library hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday 9 A.M. until 9 P.M.

Friday 9 A.M. until 5 P.M.

Saturday; 2nd & 4th 10 A.M. until 2 P.M. ☺

American Revolution Books On Sale

Not long to act. The Sale ends June 5th

My new hobby is black powder weapons; discovered while doing research on the Civil War and my GG-Grand-father. This has exposed me to a whole new series of websites. One of the better ones is; *Track of the Wolf*. They specialize in Muzzle loading guns, kits, parts, accoutrements, rendezvous gear & primitive Americana. They also carry books and currently they are having a sale on books of the revolution. They include patterns, weapons used, soldiers of the various armies, swords and blades, and muskets of the revolution as well as the French and Indian War and the brave men who wielded them. If you are a history buff it is well worth a look. ☹

<http://www.trackofthewolf.com/newsletter.aspx/8E57068FC4C246C9> ☹

“People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors.”
-- Edmund Burke

Editor's Corner

That's a wrap

It has been a busy couple of months for me, from the acquisition of the Benton books, Web updates, yearend reports, and the completion of this, my first edition of *Desert Diggings*. It is my intent to keep this Newsletter entertaining as well as informative, maybe with a brief story on occasion from our writers group, or anyone else who wishes to contribute. We all have Genealogical stories to tell. What better forum than here?

I am hosting a couple of tables at Genealogy World during SCGS's upcoming Jamboree. One is English Research @ 9:00 am and the other is Sharing Your Family Stories @10:45 am. Both are on Friday June 8th. It you attend Jamboree this year; send me a note on what you learned, what stood out, etc. Your notes should make interesting reading in our next issue.

Throughout this issue I have used *famous quotes* as fill. I leave you with the following from: Ellen Goodman of the *Boston Globe*.

“This packrat has learned that what the next generation will value most is not what we owned, but the evidence of who we were and the tales of how we loved. In the end, it's the family stories that are worth the storage.” ☹

HI-DESERT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Membership

New and renewing members; \$20.00 Couples; \$30.00
Corporate memberships; \$25.00
Please make checks payable to HDGS.

Available Resources

The Genealogy Books belonging to the Society are located
in the Newton T. Bass Apple Valley Branch Library
14901 Dale Evans Parkway,
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Website

<http://www.cagenweb.com/hdgs/>

Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/ancesgen/>

HDGS Meeting

The HDGS meets at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of
every month except November and December at:
Victorville ELKS Lodge, No. 1877
14041 Hesperia Rd., Victorville, CA 92392
Non-member visitors are welcome at all meetings.

Council Members are:

President	Monika Gibbs	monigibbs@hotmail.com
VP/Membership	Pam Jackson	djandpj@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Bill Luther	ancesgen@verizon.net
Secretary	Ann Minter	ann.minter@gmail.com
Librarian	Jackie Fielder	fielderj@verizon.net

Committee Chairs are:

Programs	Sharol Goates	kicsusa@msn.com
Opportunities	Ralph Wareing	ralphw6390@aol.com
Hospitality	Diane Irwin	thirwin@aol.com
Newsletter Ed.	Bill Luther	ancesgen@verizon.net
Book Reviews	Need Volunteer	
Historian	Cherie Volger	cevolger@aol.com
	Need replacement Volunteer	

Note:

Quotes: Family Tree Quotes <http://www.familytreequotes.com/>
Clipart: VintageKin.com www.vintagekin.com/

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