DESERT DIGGINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE HI-DESERT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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President's Message 🧳

Bill Luther

The Hi-Desert Genealogical Society has officially entered the Morris Press Cookbooks 14th annual Community Cookbook Contest with our publication "Timeless Taste". We surpassed the 75% sales criteria during the last general meeting on 21 August. That was the last hurdle for qualification in order to enter this year.

The cookbook has proved to be an outstanding fundraiser, as well as an impressive publication. Kudos to all those who participated in the books creation, those who submitted recipes, and to all who supported by purchasing copies.

Finalists in the contest will be contacted in mid-October and announced on the Morris Press website by November first. Winners will be announced in January 2014. The cash award for First place is \$5000, Second place is \$2000, and Third place is \$1000.



Inside This Issue

- 2 Library Update NARA's new Online Access **Upcoming Speakers**
- 3 Top 25 of 100 Websites PBS Series Genealogy Roadshow
- 4 Upcoming SCGS Webinars Editor
- Re-opening A.V. Library
- 5 Newest Gen. Records on the net
- 6 Rare Bible Rescued Poem
- 7 A New Way to Find Obits If You Could See Your Ancestors

NARA's new Online **Public Access**

Out With the Old and In With the New:

Michael Leclerc's Genealogy News

30 Jul 2013

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has long been working to make it easier to access the materials in their collections. A decade ago NARA launched the Archival Records Catalog (ARC). Now the time has come to say goodbye to ARC.

ARC provides descriptions of the permanent holdings in NARA facilities. The descriptions are quite detailed. Here you will find information on the federal department or agency that created the record set and a description of the records. This can include why and how the records were created, which is important information. Knowing this will help you understand what information is in the records, and why certain information is not in the records.

Another bit of important information is the provenance of the material. Nowadays materials usually go straight from agencies and departments directly to NARA. But it doesn't always happen this way. And, more importantly, this path is not historically true. Remember that NARA was not created until 1934. Prior to that, federal agencies and departments were responsible for storing and maintaining their own records. This was followed with varying degrees of consistency.

Many records were lost or destroyed in the pre-NARA period. A perfect example of this the 1798 Direct Tax. This was a federal tax paid directly by citizens to the government. The funds were used to pay for the quasiwar with France. Unfortunately, the tax schedules were not turned over to the federal government. Few schedules are known to survive. In 1844 William Henry Montague (one of the founders of the New England Historic Genealogical Society) was appointed a clerk at the U.S. Customs House in Boston. One crisp autumn day he arrived at work to discover the janitor setting up

continued on pg 2

Library Update

Changing of the guard!!

Ann Minter

Your Hi-Desert Genealogical Society library continues to thrive, but will be unavailable from August 2nd until the San Bernardino County Library, Apple Valley Branch completes their upgrade. At this time, I do not have a re-open date, but the council was told it would take about one month. I hope to have additional information about this at our August meeting.

We have a number of new books going on the shelves shortly after the library re-opens.

This Land Was Theirs; A Study of North American Indians, Wendell H. Oswalt, Fourth Edition, Mayfield Publishing Company, Mountain View, CA ©1988 and Early Families of Cornish, Maine by Robert L. Taylor, Picton Press, Rockport, Maine which were donated by Ralph Wareing on behalf of Camilla.

<u>Dating Old Photographs</u> 1840-1929; Editor Halvor Moorshead; Family Chronicle Publication;

<u>The Source</u>; <u>A Guidebook to American Genealogy</u>, Third Edition, Ed. By Loreto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, ©2006

Wills & Inventories of Bexar County, Texas, 1742-1899, Compiled by San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society.

We received two sets of quarterlies worth reviewing for Pennsylvania and North Carolina:

<u>The Pennsylvania Traveler Post</u>, a quarterly of Pennsylvania Ancestors and Their Descendants Today and those of Surrounding States

<u>The Guildford Genealogist</u>, The Guildford County Genealogical Society of North Carolina.

I hope you will find some of these worth researching for information about your families or their communities.

If you have any questions please feel free to email Ann Minter@gmail.com or call: 760-490-3222

"I have not failed. I've just found ten thousand ways that won't work." **Thomas Edison** -

paper and kindling for fires to warm the offices. The paper caught Montague's attention, and he examined it closer. This inspection revealed it to be the actual 1798 Direct Tax for Massachusetts and Maine (which as part of Massachusetts at the time the tax was taken). He immediately ordered the janitor to cease setting fires. He managed to save most of the surviving pages, and arranged to have them put on deposit at NEHGS, where they remain to this day.

Not all records followed this fate, however. Many were turned over to NARA after it started operations. But understanding the path they followed to get there will help to understand why breaks may occur in the records.

In just about two weeks, on August 15, ARC will be shut down. The demise of ARC, however, does not mean that we will no longer have access to this information. That information is now available in the new Online Public Access (OPA). Many libraries, archives, and other repositories have moved to modern Online Public Access Catalogs (OPACs) in the last decade, so if you are used to working with those, you should have no trouble accessing the information in OPA.

The **NARA** blog is posting regularly about the switchover. And you can visit the **OPA** page directly for more help. Start exploring the vast treasure of records available to you from the federal government.



Upcoming Speakers



Sharol Goates

September 18, 2013; Workshop. Need help with something? Come to the workshop

October 16, 2013; Gena Philibert Ortega, I love Libraries: Using Google. Gena Philibert-Ortega holds a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies (Psychology and Women's Studies) and a Master's degree in Religion. Gena has spoken to groups throughout the United States as well as virtually to audiences in the United States and Europe. She is the author of hundreds of articles published in genealogy newsletters and magazines. Her writings can also be found on her blogs, Gena's Genealogy and Food.Family.Ephemera



Top 25 of 100 Genealogy Websites **□**

from GenealogyInTime Magazine

1	Ancestry.com	USA	pay
2	http://www.ancestry.com MyHeritage.com	USA	pay
3	http://www.myheritage. Find A Grave	com/ USA	free
4	http://www.findagrave.c	com/ USA	free
5	https://www.familysearc	ch.org/ USA	pay
6	http://www.geni.com/ Ancestry.co.uk	UK	
U	http://www.ancestry.co.		pay
7	Archives.com	USA	pay
	http://www.archives.com		1 7
8	GeneaNet	France	free
	http://www.geneanet.or	<u>g/</u>	
9	Genealogy.com	USA	pay
40	http://genealogy.com/	110.4	
10	MyFamily	USA	pay
11	https://www.myfamily.c		
11	Genealogy Bank http://www.genealogyba	USA	pay /gbpk/
12	Arkivverket Digitalarkivet		
	http://arkivverket.no/eng/c	•	
13	Newspaper Archive	USA	pay
	http://www.newspapera	rchive.co	
14	FindMyPast UK	pay	
	http://www.findmypast.		
15	Ancient Faces	USA	free
4.	http://www.ancientfaces		
16	Ancestry.com.au	Australi	a pay
17	http://www.ancestry.com	m.au/ USA	
17	http://www.familytreed		pay
18	MyHeritage.no	Norway	y nav
10	http://www.myheritage.	•	Pay
19	Ancestry.ca	Canada	pay
	http://www.ancestry.ca/		1 7
20	Fold3	USA	pay
	http://www.fold3.com/		
21	GenealogyInTime Magazine		
22	http://www.genealogyin		
22	Eastman's Genealogy	USA	free
23	http://blog.eogn.com/	France	DOM
۷3	Genealogie.com http://www.genealogie.com	France com/	pay
24	Genes Reunited	UK	pay
	http://www.genesreunit		
			_

25 Mocavo USA pay http://www.mocavo.com/

To see the complete list of **100 Top Genealogical Websites** go to:

http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/top%20100 %20genealogy%20websites%202013%20page1.html



PBS Series "Genealogy Roadshow"

Explores Roots of Everyday Americans

Paraphrased by Diane Haddad on Genealogy Insider

I learned a little more about PBS' upcoming Genealogy Roadshow series while at the FGS Conference last week.

The show, slated to air Mondays from 9 to 10 p.m. ET starting Sept. 23, will combine history and science to uncover the roots of everyday Americans. This season's participants come from four cities: Nashville, Tenn.; Austin, Texas; Detroit; and San Francisco.

Genealogy experts will explore unverified family history claims about connections to a famous event or historical figure (sounds to me like a genealogical version of "History Detectives") by using family heirlooms, records, DNA and local historians.

The experts will reveal many of the answers they discover in front of a live audience in a location relevant to the participant's family history.

"Genealogy Roadshow" hosts are Kenyatta D. Berry, a professional genealogist and president of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and D. Joshua Taylor, whom you've seen on "Who Do You Think You Are?" and who serves as lead genealogist atfindmypast.com. (Both have also appeared in the pages of Family Tree Magazine and been interviewed in our "Five Questions" column. Coincidence?)

"Genealogy Roadshow" is based on an Irish series of the same name.

For the entire article and a show teaser visit: http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2013/08/27/PBSSeriesGenealogyRoadshowExploresRootsOfEverydayAmericans.aspx



Upcoming SCGS Webinars

Southern California Genealogical Society

The webinar program is, drawing viewers from all 50 states and several foreign countries. The original webcast is free and open to the public. As a benefit of membership, SCGS members can access the webinar archive 24/7. Saturday sessions begin at 10am; Wednesday sessions start at 6pm (Pacific time). Sessions run 60 minutes of class, 30 minutes questions & answers.

Saturday, September 7 - George G. Morgan -Sidestep Genealogy: Brick wall research blocks are inevitable. That is when we must use our most creative research skills, and it is essential that we move to other family members and collateral lines. This lecture will make you stop and think about what alternative research paths you might use, and point you to new resources you may never have considered.

George G. Morgan is president of Aha! Seminars, Inc., and an internationally recognized genealogy expert who presents at local, state, national, and international genealogical conferences. He is the author of ten books and hundreds of articles for magazines and online publications, and is one of the Genealogy Guys podcasters.

Wednesday, - September 18 - Beth Foulk - Imported to America - Colonists for Sale (White Slavery)

Saturday, October 5 - Taneya Koonce - Genealogy News at Your Fingertips: From RSS Feeds to Digital Magazine Platforms

Wednesday, October 16 - Drew Smith - Effective Online Queries

Saturday, November 2 - Jean Wilcox Hibben, PhD, CG -Getting Family History Information through the Back

Wednesday, November 20 - Leland K. Meitzler -Mobile Capturing of Your Ancestor's Documents and Pictures

Saturday, December 7 - Gena Philibert Ortega -Women in WWII

Wednesday, December 18 - Tim Pinnick - Tips, Strategies, and Resources for the African American Researcher



"When a society or a civilization perishes, one condition can always be found. They forgot where they came from." -Carle Sandburg

Editor

Bill Luther



Since I have a life outside genealogy, I normally do not pay for annual subscriptions to the various genealogical sites. I buy for a given period of time and then I cancel for awhile. No one can do Genealogy 24/7. Let me rephrase that; I cannot do Genealogy 24/7.

However, when I recently received an e-mail from Ancestry.com offering me a six month US subscription for \$49 how could I say no! So they got me again. A distant cousin and I are trying to break through a brick wall concerning Gardner Luther and his wife Olive Churchill.

Another reason to justify starting and stopping subscriptions is the amount of material added to these various sites over a period of time. Ancestry continues to inform you of new material even if you drop the subscription. Last year they notified me about emigration records from England. I had been looking for the ship my grandfather and his family came to America on for over ten years with no success. So, I renewed my subscription and gave it a shot. Sure enough there they were leaving Liverpool in May of 1892 aboard the SS Samaria bound for Boston just like my great-uncle had told me when I was fourteen. Well, he could not remember the ship but he had the year correct. Funny how if you wait long enough the information you seek will become available.

So, even though I had no intention of re-entering the genealogical fray, here I am locked up in the search for my elusive paternal ggg-grandfather Gardner and his wife Olive. No marriage, death or birth for her. At least I have his birth. My cousin in MA is taking the tact of investigating the middle names of the children. We know two carry the middle name of their paternal grandmother's maiden name, Arnold. The others, Miller, Mandeville, Short, and Claremont remain a mystery, and we all enjoy a good mystery.

E-mail me at <u>ancesgen@verizon.ne</u>t.



Re-opening of Apple Valley Library 🕏

Felicia Macomber has notified me that the Library will re-open on September 9th with a celebration beginning at 5:30 pm. City dignitaries and others will be on hand for the celebration. She has asked me to invite all the members of the HDGS to attend. So, if you are free on the ninth from 5:30 to 9:00 pm come join us.



Newest Genealogy Records on the Internet

UK – The **UK** government has begun the process of digitizing and putting online soldier's wills from the World War I period. In total, wills from some 230,000 soldiers will go online. The records can be searched by surname and year of death and these latest additions cover the years from 1914 to 1921. This collection from the UK government also contains other soldiers' wills spanning the years from 1850 to 1986. There is a fee to see the record. [World War I Soldier Wills]

Ireland – FindMyPast.ie has added to their collection of Irish Petty Sessions Court Registers. These are records of petty crimes in Ireland, which we have talked about before (see below). The new additions include a further 2.5 million court records that span the years from 1828 to 1912. Many of the new records come from Galway, Roscommon, Westmeath and Limerick, with major further additions from Donegal, Waterford, Tipperary, Cork, Carlow and Kilkenny. With the most recent additions, this brings the total size of the collection to some 15 million records and spans the years from 1842 to 1913. Access is by subscription. [Ireland Petty Sessions Court Registers]

- See more at:

http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResource s/NewGenealogyRecords/newest_genealogy_records on_the_internet.html#sthash.kFlbOJcr.dpuf

US - The Troy New York Irish Genealogy Society has launched a new database of the State Street Burial Ground in the city of Albany. The city opened the burial ground in 1801 to alleviate the overcrowded churchyards and private family graveyards in the city. It was located at the eastern end of what is now Washington Park. This new database contains roughly 3,700 burial records indexed by last name. Access is free. [State Street Burial Ground]

US – FamilySearch.org has added another 128,000 indexed records to their Iowa County Marriage collection. This collection spans the years from 1838 to 1934. It is now approximately 86% complete. One nice thing about Iowa marriage records is that the maiden name of the bride is often listed along with the names of both sets of parents and the birthplaces of both the bride and groom (see image below). This collection can be searched by name. Iowa genealogy records can be hard to find and this is a welcome addition. Access is free. [Historic Iowa Marriage Records]

UK – Ancestry.co.uk has added a new collection of non-conformist records that span the period from 1567 to 1970. In the UK, non-conformists were people who were not members of the Church of England, which was formed by the 1559 Act of Uniformity during the reign of Henry VIII. Non-conformists included Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Quakers (any remaining Catholics and Jews were not considered to be non-conformists).

The General Register Office collected a large number of these nonconformist records in 1837 when the new civil registration system for birth, marriage and death records was created in the UK (see A Date Guide to English Genealogy – Part II), and again in 1857 when the government removed further rights from churches regarding the official collection of birth, marriage and death records.

Please be aware that between 1754 and 1837, only Church of England and Quaker marriages were considered legal. If your ancestor was Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic or Jewish they may very well have had a second marriage ceremony in an Anglican Church. This was often done to effectively legalize their marriage under UK law. The advantages to doing this included the right to hold public office, the right to vote and the ability to pass significant assets to descendants via probate. Thus, if you are looking for lost marriage records, try searching Anglican records first.

This collection at Ancestry consists of some 2.5 million records. Access is by subscription.

[UK Non-conformist Birth Marriage Death Records]

- See more at:

http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResource s/NewGenealogyRecords/newest genealogy records on the internet.html#sthash.OENIRWiI.dpuf

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 (call to confirm):

Tuesday; 9 am to 5 pm, Thursday; 9 am to 8 pm Friday; 9 am to 1 pm, Saturday; 10 am to 2 pm Hours provided by answer machine Classes on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings to be announced. ☺

Rare Bible rescued from trash

By Trent Toone, Deseret News Via Family Search Newsletter

SAN DIEGO — An old Bible rescued from the garbage more than 40 years ago recently emerged as a priceless family history treasure for one California couple.

Elder Ed Jones and his wife, Sister Dawna Jones, serve as family history missionaries and directors of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints FamilySearch Library in San Diego. While going about his regular duties one hectic Monday morning, Ed Jones received a phone call that has greatly blessed his life.

The woman on the phone identified herself as Gwen Whitlock. She wanted to know if the library would accept the donation of an antique family Bible.

Ed Jones informed her that donations are not generally accepted because the library is short on space, but if the Bible contained genealogical information, the library was interested in examining it. At that moment, Dawna Jones heard the conversation and intervened.

"As all good wives do, she grabbed the phone out of my hands and proceeded to talk to the lady," Ed Jones said. "Yes, absolutely, please bring it in,' she said."

The following day Whitlock came and hoisted a very worn, 12-by-18-inch book that weighted around 15 pounds on to a table.

The rare Bible itself was a treasure. It was compiled by the Rev. Joseph Knight and published in 1815. It included the Old and New Testaments, as well as the Apocrypha. It also contained illustrations and a collection of beautiful etchings.

"It looked like it had weathered at least two world wars," Ed Jones said. "We were quite interested."

As they turned the pages, the Joneses discovered a more priceless and personalized treasure. Inside they found ornately handwritten genealogical records going back into the 1700s. When Dawna Jones saw the last name "Hammond," her jaw dropped in disbelief. The names, dates and information belonged to her husband's direct English ancestral line.

"It just blew our socks off," Ed Jones said. "I knew there was a hole in the line, and ... this (information) closed that hole. I didn't have to look it up on the pedigree chart, I just knew. It was literally the biggest blessing we have ever received in family history. It was phenomenal."

Ed Jones' mother joined the LDS Church at age 87 and spent her final years doing family history work. Dawna Jones had assisted her mother-in-law and knew what was missing.

"I always thought my mother-in-law's work was the most we were going to be able to do," she said. "But when we found this Bible, it was like she was right there, saying 'Here it is, it's all yours."

As Whitlock initially observed what was happening, she was a little skeptical.

"How can that be? It was too good to be true for my brain to get around it," Whitlock said in a phone interview. "But as she continued to talk, I realized it was true."

Tears flowed as a small crowd gathered around to hear the remarkable story, Whitlock said.

"The fact that I gave it to someone in the Hammond family, which was what I wanted to do, it was such a miracle," Whitlock said. "We were all standing there crying, thinking, I can't believe this."

Whitlock's decision to donate the relic Bible to the San Diego FamilySearch Library came after she had safeguarded it for decades. A gentleman was strolling through a Southern California alley and found the Bible in a trash can. He retrieved it and gave it to the Whitlocks more than 40 years go.

"The challenge I give you as a genealogist is to reach beyond the vital statistics to a new world of understanding, both of your ancestors and of yourself. Preserve those details of your family in written form that will bring understanding to many others and truly enable their hearts - along with your own - to turn to their fathers. Someone has said that there is little point in digging up an ancestor if you aren't going to make him live. If that is true — and I believe it is — your job is not finished until you feel a bit of what he felt, have shared vicariously in his joys and heartaches - perhaps shed a tear with him in his sorrow, laughed at the humor in his life, and felt pride in his accomplishments."

Val D. Greenwood

A New Way to Find Obituaries

GenealogyInTime Magazine

GenealogyInTime Magazine has made another major upgrade to its free Genealogy Search Engine. The most recent enhancement is designed to make it quick and easy to find recent obituaries.

Now instead of searching all over the internet for an obituary of a friend, family member or acquaintance, the Genealogy Search Engine will find it for you. Simply enter the name of the person in quotes into the search box.

Many obituaries are indexed by the search engine within 24 hours of appearing on the internet. The Genealogy Search Engine also contains a significant number of older obituaries.

Most modern obituaries are handled by funeral homes. Obituaries appear without delay on the funeral home website or on a dedicated obituary website. In contrast, the traditional approach of looking for an obituary in a newspaper (even an online newspaper) has its limits. Many online newspapers require a subscription, not all obituaries appear in newspapers, and there is often a delay of several days before an obituary is published.

These issues are solved by the Genealogy Search Engine, which actively scans and indexes funeral home and obituary websites making it a convenient one-stop location to find recent obituaries.

There are several additional benefits with this recent enhancement:

- The Genealogy Search Engine can now be used as a people search engine. In many instances, family members listed in an obituary are older and many do not have a strong internet "footprint". In other words, these people are not very visible in normal internet searches. However, the Genealogy Search Engine will clearly pick them up.
- Obituaries typically list two or three generations of a family. Thus, finding a living person through an obituary will also often find other close family members. This is very useful when searching for distant living relatives.
- Obituaries are one of the few places on the internet where a woman's married name and maiden name are listed together. Thus, the large collection of obituaries indexed by the Genealogy Search Engine provides a

powerful new avenue of research for those difficult-totrack female ancestors.

GenealogyInTime Magazine continues to advance its mandate of using creative and innovative ways to help people find their ancestors. The Genealogy Search Engine and the Family Tree Search Engine search over 6 billion records. Both remain free thanks to the generous support of our readers.

- See more at:

http://www.genealogyintime.com/news/a-new-way-to-find-obituaries.html#sthash.3lqjK5AU.dpuf



"If you don't recount your own family history, it will be lost. Honor your own stories and tell them too. The tales may not seem very important, but they are what hinds families and makes each of us who we are"

-Madeleine L"Engle

f 'History remembers only the celebrated, Genealogy remembers them all" -**Lawrence Overmire**

If You Could See Your Ancestors

By Nellie Winslow Simmons Randall

If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row,
Would you be proud of them or not?
Or don't you really know?

Some strange discoveries are made In climbing family trees. And some of them, you know, Do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row,
There might be some of them perhaps
You shouldn't care to know.

But here's another question Which requires a different view If you could meet your ancestors Would they be proud of you?



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 Bill Luther ancesgen@verizon.net
VP/Membership Bobbi Thrugstad cahus4118@verizon.net
Treasurer Carolyn Simons simplesimons@verizon.net

Secretary Barbara Richey Romero rombl@aol.com

Librarian Ann Minter ann.minter@gmail.com

Committee Chairs are:

Programs Sharol Goates <u>kicsusa@msn.com</u>
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Hospitality Diane Irwin <u>thirwin@aol.com</u>
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Book Reviews Need Volunteer

Historian Pamela Clark hrlytoo@gmail.com

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address Label