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# DESERT DIGGINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE HI-DESERT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 34, Issue 4

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## President's Message

Bill Luther

The holiday season is fast approaching. A time to give thanks, a time to reflect on past seasons, and a time to enjoy with friends and family.

This past year has been trying at times. The re-opening of the renovated Apple Valley Library on 9 Sept saw the removal of our valued genealogical book collection (currently in storage). We also lost dear friends with the passing of Royce Avery on 19 Sept and June Bergstrom on 28 Sept.

On the bright side, production and sale of our cookbook *Timeless Taste* was not only a publication success but a great fundraiser as well. Membership is up as is attendance at general meetings and we are sound financially. We have a few challenges ahead, but with challenges come opportunities. I am optimistic about our future.

Wishing you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a joyous Holiday season,

*Bill Luther*

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### **Birthday Wishes**

Faye Painter	22-Nov
Jakki Lutz	30-Nov
Carolyn Simons	3-Dec
Valarie Warrick-Durette	26-Dec
Richard Lutz	10-Jan
Linda Campbell	18-Jan
Ralph Wareing	21-Jan

## Christmas Luncheon

*Saturday December 14; 1:00pm to ???*

Our Christmas Luncheon is being held at Los Domingos Restaurant, on the northwest (NW) corner of State Highway 18 and Apple Valley Road. The restaurant is in the back area of the shopping/business center. The address for the restaurant is: 17790 Wika Road, Apple Valley, California 92307. Wika road is the street that parallels North of Highway 18 at Apple Valley Road.

Arrivals begin at 1:00 pm., meal at 1:30 pm. Saturday, December 14, 2013. We will be ordering from the menu as we arrive.

The reservation number must be set by November 10, 2013. If you wait past that date you are not guaranteed a seat with the rest of the group. The restaurant will be happy to seat you in their main dining room.

Since we are "dark" in Nov and Dec, this is our last opportunity to get together as a group, this year. Please don't forget to call Ann Minter at 760-490-3222, leave a voice message with your name, number and how many will be attending or email [ann.minter@gmail.com](mailto:ann.minter@gmail.com) & leave the same information. Hope to see you there!

## SCGS Receives Award of Merit

*Congrats to SCGS!!*

This past August, at the annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies in Fort Wayne, SCGS received an Award of Merit **"in recognition of their vision in conference planning and creating year-round benefits for a global audience."**

The award, which was presented by FGS president D. Joshua Taylor, was accepted by SCGS vice president Paula Hinkel on behalf of the Society. "It was such a wonderful surprise to receive the award. It's very gratifying to know that the Society's hard work has been recognized



# Library Update

*Currently in Storage*

**Ann Minter / Bill Luther**

The re-opening of the Apple Valley Library on 9 Sept saw the removal of our valued book collection. Prior to the reopening we were notified on Wed. Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> that we had to remove 65 boxes (18x18x16) of books by Friday Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Not much notice. This was done at the request of Leonard Hernandez County Librarian and Felicia Macomber, Apple Valley Librarian. Of our 3500 books a few hundred were “Cherry Picked” to augment the Reference Section of the Library. In order to keep the collection intact, members of HDGS removed the remaining books.

Knowing where we came from and remembering our heritage is an important part of who and why we are. For an individual to decide what is important for the community, based on what is pleasing to the eye, is a sad state of affairs. The community has lost a great research asset due to the callous disregard for the past by a few individuals.

We are currently working with County District Supervisor R. Lovingood and his staff in acquiring new space for our collection.

If you have any questions please feel free to email [Ann.Minter@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.Minter@gmail.com) or call: 760-490-3222 ☎

## Number One Genealogy Book on Amazon.com

***Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques***

by George G. Morgan and Drew Smith

The book is 224 pages of up-to-date and highly organized methods and techniques to show you how to find the elusive details to round out your genealogy research. You’ll get past the brick walls that have stumped you and see how to move beyond basic types of genealogy resources. The book covers a variety of software programs and specialized genealogy tools and shows you how to create an online genealogical research log to preserve data found and organize it in ways to help you understand what you’ve uncovered. Nearly every form of modern social networking is addressed as is using DNA records. This practical, in-depth guide provides the next level of detail for anyone who wants to expand beyond the beginner tactics and techniques.

- Uses proven research methods to go deeper and uncover elusive details
- Helps you to understand the details you uncover and keep track of data
- Covers a variety of software programs and specialized genealogy tools
- Offers multiple scenarios and examples to drive home the research methods explained

*Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques* is currently available in paperback as well as a Kindle edition (Anybody can read Kindle books—even without a Kindle device—with the free Kindle app for smartphones and tablets). As of 28 Oct., the Kindle edition is on SALE for \$16.50.

## What is MyGenShare?

*Reference and How To's*

MyGenShare is a comprehensive digital library for genealogists. The digital library's million-plus indexed resources includes articles, eBooks, ePeriodicals, historical maps, podcasts, slideshows, videos, a genealogy links directory, and genealogy search engines. It is not a database full of records and names. It is an extensive collection of genealogy how-to resources on the internet.

A quick look at the website [www.mygenshare.com](http://www.mygenshare.com) reveals a plethora of information that may boggle one's mind. I suggest you look at the top of the site and click on the “Quick Access PDF Guide”

You can access portions of MyGenShare content for free or choose from several subscription offerings. Many subscription options are offered, including Everton's Genealogical Helper Magazine Subscription. Each published magazine has been digitally prepared and separated into individual, easily accessible content articles. You can also view the content as a PDF in its original published format. You can explore the collection through a keyword search, or simply browse by topic to find answers to your questions. Search by year, topic, or family name, and uncover or rediscover one of genealogy's valuable resources, Everton's Genealogical Helper Magazine. The Premium subscription includes everything and is reasonably priced at about \$50 per year or \$5.75 per month. Compare your options. Use the 7-day free trial to access the premium content and start finding answers.

Whether you are a beginner or seasoned Genealogist, MyGenShare may be worth taking a look.



# Holmes Public Library

After listening to Gena Philibert Ortega at our last general meeting, I discovered this Library. I am still exploring.

The Holmes Library is committed to the development of genealogical resources for those researching the early families of Halifax Massachusetts as well as other parts of the country.

Visit our library's digital history collections. Digitization was federally funded with a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and administered by the Boston Public Library.

## Digital Books on Halifax History

Most of these files are hosted by the Internet Archive

*History of Halifax, Massachusetts* by Guy S. Baker.

*Town of Halifax: Yesterday & Today, 250th Anniversary, 1734-1834.*

*Records of the Church of Christ in Halifax, 1734-1834*

*The history of the Halifax Congregational Church of Halifax, Massachusetts :*

*Supplement to the history of the Halifax Congregational Church of Halifax, Massachusetts* (excel file): Containing early membership records based on Church Record books from the earliest records to 1900,

*Sylvanus Bourne: Halifax Massachusetts, 1839-1916: A Personal Memoir (1907)* as compiled by William D. Perkins.

*Children of Old Park's Tavern: A Story of the South Shore* by Frances A. Humphrey. Harper & Brothers, 1886

## SAILS Digital History Collection

The SAILS Digital History Collection is a searchable, Digital Library. The collection is an ever-expanding representation of the historical collections of the SAILS member libraries from southeastern Massachusetts and includes cemetery records from the town of Carver, postcards from West Bridgewater, Middleborough's cranberry collection, Rochester's Historic and Architectural Survey, amongst others. The inaugural collection of 100 photographs and maps from the Halifax Historical Society and Museum is represented in the SAILS Digital History Collection as well as more than 200 Halifax postcards. The SAILS Digital History Collection will continue to expand as libraries add their collections to the digital library.

<http://holmespubliclibrary.org/HalifaxHistory.html#HalifaxDigBks>

# RootsTech 2014



Registration is now open for RootsTech 2014, which will be held February 6–8, 2014 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

This annual family history conference, hosted by FamilySearch, is a unique global event where people of all ages learn to discover and share their family stories and connections through technology. Over the past three years, RootsTech has grown in popularity with attendees to become the largest family history event in the U.S.!

Whether attendees are just beginning their family history, an avid hobbyist, or an experienced researcher, RootsTech has something for everyone:

### Classes and Computer Labs

—Over 200 classes and computer labs taught by knowledgeable experts and enthusiasts in family history.

### Getting Started Track

—A track of over 30 classes designed to help beginners start their family tree. Passes start at only \$19.

### Developer Day

—A preconference event on Wednesday, February 5, for developers to innovate and collaborate with other engineers and family history industry experts.

### Expo Hall

—A huge expo with over 100 informative vendors and interactive booths where attendees can record a family story, scan a book or photo, or create a visual family tree.

### Family Discovery Day

—New! A day of free inspirational classes for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to learn more about strengthening family relationships across generations through family history.

### Pass Pricing and Early Bird Discounts

Various pass options are available, with pricing set to make RootsTech an affordable experience. Early Bird pricing discounts for a Full Access Pass (\$159) and a Getting Started Pass (\$39) are available until January 6, 2014.

To get more information and register, visit:

<https://rootstech.org/> ☺

# 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.

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

**Saturday, December 7** - Jean Wilcox Hibben, PhD, CG - *Getting Family History Information through the Back Door*

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

Archived sessions are available only to SCGS members.

## Land That I Love

*Family Search Blog September 13, 2013*

**By Courtney Connolly**

How did your ancestors feel when they arrived in America for the first time? What were they anticipating? What did they experience?

Arriving in New York City in 1893 aboard the SS Rhyndland, five-year-old Israel Beilin knew only that his family was fleeing danger in their native Russia. Among his few surviving memories of his former country was the memory of watching his home burn to the ground. Like many immigrants, the Beilins arrived virtually penniless, but that didn't stop young Israel from pursuing his passion in a country that dared its newcomers to dream big.

Years later, this grateful immigrant, now known to the world as Irving Berlin, penned the words to a song that expressed his heartfelt thanks for all that America provided to him.

In celebration of you, the faithful indexers and arbitrators who are helping America to remember the stories of its immigrant sons and daughters, we bring you this special narrative and performance of Irving Berlin's "God Bless America," by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

*Comment: watch this and remember our Veterans on Nov 11.*  
<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/land-love/>

## Editor

**Bill Luther**



I recently attended my 50<sup>th</sup> Hi-School reunion and struck up a conversation with a lady friend I have maintained contact with through Facebook. So, she knows my level of involvement with Genealogy.

We spoke about DNA testing. She is interested in what her origins, as well as her husbands, are. I offered to help her research her ancestors. Her response, "I am not interested in the details; I just want to know what we are". I was aghast! Here is a well educated woman, a teacher for over 30 years whose grandson asked the question "What are we?", and she is not interested in the detail! We dated, I thought I knew her, and she is not interested in the detail? I realize genealogy is not for everyone but how can one wonder what they are and not care about the detail? She and I will continue this conversation, if not for her, then for the grandson who asked the question.

I started to reflect on why genealogy is important and what made it important in my life. Genealogy certainly means different things to different people. However, there are some common threads that people share when looking toward the past. Some of the practical reasons why people get involved with genealogy are to:

- Validate Family Stories
  - Trace a Family Inheritance
  - Trace Land Ownership
  - Find Birth Parents
  - Prove Paternity
  - Fulfill a Religious Tenet
  - Understand a Community History
  - Preserve a Close Relative's Legacy
  - Preserve Family Traditions
  - Preserve Family Culture
  - Understand Family Letters
  - Understand a Namesake
  - Reconnect with Family
- And finally:
- Perpetuate a Family Legacy

My initial reason was to validate family stories. In 1999 my Mom was under hospice care at my sister's home in Arizona. Two of my Aunts were there to help with her care. During the last few days of Mom's life I listened to stories about the family for the first time; the grandmother who spoke funny (Quaker) who was raised by her grandmother over a pub in England; the

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Grandfather who remarried, traveled to America with his new wife and left three children with relatives in England never to be reunited. I heard about my grandfather's boat with the fake bottom so he could run liquor up the Tauton River during prohibition to make ends meet for a family of nine children. The stories intrigued me, I wanted to know more, and so my quest began.

In 2004 my son and I found the pub (The Swan Inn) in Chapel en le Frith, Derbyshire where Mary Hannah Hibbert was raised by her grandmother, Hannah. George Fidler's one regret in life was that he never reunited with the children he left behind, but I know their story too.

As I investigated my paternal side I discovered my connection with Colonial America and the Plantagenet family of English Royalty through Mary Abel, my eighth g-grandmother, wife to Elder Samuel Luther, son of Capt. John Luther who emigrated from Dorset, England in the 1630's. I continue my search now to perpetuate the Family Legacy. A legacy filled with commitment, a sense of duty and rich in history. I want my grandchildren to know and to feel that connection to the past and those ancestors who persevered to make this world a better place for those who followed.

The practical side of genealogy is easily understood. There is also a philosophical side to genealogy. That basic human curiosity of where do I come from, why am I here, where am I going; three questions that all major religions seek to answer. Each of us is the end product of generations that have come before. A glimpse at those generations helps answer the what and more importantly the who am I.

"Genealogy is history on a personal scale. It helps satisfy a deep need to understand how we fit into the broader world around us. Genealogy is more than just a collection of single family threads passing through time. It truly is a journey of many lifetimes woven together from the past, the present and (from our perspective) the future."

Reference material and the above quote are from an article in *Genealogy In Time Magazine* "Why Genealogy is Important"

E-mail me at [ancesgen@verizon.net](mailto:ancesgen@verizon.net). 

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

## Encyclopedia of Genealogy

a service of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

The Encyclopedia of Genealogy serves as a compendium of genealogical tools and techniques. It provides reference information about everything in genealogy except people. Look to the Encyclopedia of Genealogy to provide explanations of how to look up your family tree, explanations of terms found in genealogy research, including obsolete medical and legal terms. It will describe locations where records may be found. It also will describe how to research Italian, German, Polish, French-Canadian, Jewish, Black, Indian and other ancestors. In short, the Encyclopedia of Genealogy will serve as your standard genealogy reference manual.

The Encyclopedia of Genealogy is created by genealogists like yourself. In fact, YOU can help by adding content: your own knowledge and expertise can help others. If you see anything in this encyclopedia that is incorrect, YOU can change it! If you see anything that is incomplete, YOU can add to it! If you note anything that is missing, YOU can add it! This encyclopedia will succeed because people like you contribute nuggets of information. When enough "nuggets" are added, the Encyclopedia of Genealogy will become a gold mine.

**NOTE:** This encyclopedia is not a place to find all the ancestors of John Doe or all the descendants of John and Mary Smith. The World Wide Web already has many online message boards and databases that perform that function well. Instead, the Encyclopedia of Genealogy serves as a clearinghouse of genealogy techniques: where to find records, how to organize the data found, what the terminology means, and how to plan your next research effort.

Visit our Contribute information page to find out how you can edit an article, or experiment in the sandbox.

<http://www.eogen.com/> 

### 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. ☺

# 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 no longer located in the Newton T. Bass Apple Valley Branch Library

## **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	<a href="mailto:ancesgen@verizon.net">ancesgen@verizon.net</a>
VP/Membership	Bobbi Thrugstad	<a href="mailto:cahus4118@verizon.net">cahus4118@verizon.net</a>
Treasurer	Carolyn Simons	<a href="mailto:simplesimons@verizon.net">simplesimons@verizon.net</a>
Secretary	Barbara Richey Romero	<a href="mailto:rombl@aol.com">rombl@aol.com</a>
Librarian	Ann Minter	<a href="mailto:ann.minter@gmail.com">ann.minter@gmail.com</a>

## **Committee Chairs are:**

Programs	Sharol Goates	<a href="mailto:kicsusa@msn.com">kicsusa@msn.com</a>
Opportunities	Ralph Wareing	<a href="mailto:ralphw6390@aol.com">ralphw6390@aol.com</a>
Hospitality	Diane Irwin	<a href="mailto:thirwin@aol.com">thirwin@aol.com</a>
Newsletter Ed.	Bill Luther	<a href="mailto:ancesgen@verizon.net">ancesgen@verizon.net</a>
Book Reviews	Need Volunteer	
Historian	Needed	

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