SUNDAY’S PROGRAMS 2 PM

August 8, 2010 - JUDY COOK

What was Grandpa Thinking? Sources to find motivations of our Ancestors
Author of If This Land Could Talk, Homesteading on the Northern Plains

Library open 12:00 till 5:00 Program starts at 2:00 p.m. PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society, 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA

Up coming programs
Library open 12:00 till 5:00 Program starts at 2:00 p.m

September 12, 2010-ALICE VOLKERT
The Digital Camera for Genealogists Professional Genealogist COLBY family researcher

For Los Angeles area residents, it was a jolt to learn we will not be able to do genealogical research at the Central Library on Sunday. “The Central Library will remain on a fixed schedule—Tuesday through Saturday. Libraries will be open five days a week. Starting July 1, at least 101 employees in the Library Dept will be laid off. “...they hope to minimize the latest round of cuts by preparing a dual-track, five-day schedule for branch libraries. For example, a library that is to be closed on Saturday would be near a branch that would be open on that day.” Los Angeles Times

I'm putting out a call again for articles about any information you received through the society that helped you find an ancestor. Don't think it has to be long—in fact, a paragraph will do. The articles or short paragraphs will go in the Periodical. Ed.

We had an excellent speaker named Caroline Braxton Rober at our monthly meeting last month. “Analyze & Organize are Keys to further your Research was her topic. It is here that I know a lot of people fall down. My husband is looking at Ancestry.com on his computer right now and seven people have put in the wrong place of birth for an ancestor of his and I know the right place because I saw it on a microfilm in Salt Lake City. She says to “Gather ALL the records available for time, place & surname”. I know, it sounds like a lot of work and time involved, but you want it right. “Use all the records—together they may lead to the information you need. Some records are harder and more cumbersome to use, but don’t skip. Write yourself a research report EVERYTIME you have researched that family.” And, here is one that will probably seem strange but good: “Transcribe all the documents, especially Deed and Probate Records, even Histories.” You can read something and it doesn’t go to the brain unless you write it out yourself.” And, of course, she mentioned keeping “a good system for documenting and organizing your documents...keep a research log...make a chronological listing of all sources found...update records after every search.” If we all follow her advice, look at what we can accomplish. And have CORRECT information. My husband is learning today about how much misinformation is out there!

We recently attended the Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree 2010 in Burbank, near our IGS society library. As always, too many classes opposite each other, but I got smart, finally, after years of attendance, I checked to see which classes had good notes in the syllabus. Some classes are just too good to ignore and some notes in the syllabus a sketchy. There were several I want to pass along to you, but are copyrighted, and so I won’t be able to. I will go through and see what I think you would find helpful, and if there is no copyright I will cover as much as space permits. Ed.

KALENDER

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Here's a quick run-down of something that may help you. Joy Fisher, at Jamboree gave tips on penny postcards. Say you have a postcard without a postmark. Here is a chronology of what to look for. "Private Mailing Cards 1898-1901; Undivided Back Postcards 1901-1907; Divided Back Postcards 1907-1915; Real Photo Postcards; White Border Postcards 1915-1930; Linen Postcards 1930-1945; Chrome Postcards 1939-present." Fisher included a website for you to look at for more information: <http://www.usgwarchives.net/special/ppcs/info.html> SCGS Jamboree 2010

Here is “Dollarhide’s Five Rules: Essentials for Successful Genealogical Research”. This session was based on “A reprint of an article, “Five Essential Rules for Genealogy”, in the Genealogy Bulletin, No. 56.” I am sure you know of William Dollarhide’s work. He is one of the “go to people” in genealogy. Here are the rules. “Rule 1: Treat the brothers and sisters of your ancestors as equals.” I have heard people say they ONLY follow their line; bad idea! “Rule 2: Never accept just one document or just one source to prove something”. This is advice I have been hearing from many speakers lately. “Rule 3: Never trust a published family history or genealogical compilation”. At the Jamboree, Gary Boyd Roberts was at the table next to our IGS table and I had some help from him on my husband’s charts he copied in SLC at the Temple library. Everything was fine up to a point, and then one family he knew was wrong and he eliminated all of them. “Rule 4: Never trust secondary sources”. I realize this is old advice, but someone may not have heard it. It goes back to finding the original source and then following Rule 2. “Rule 5: Prepare your genealogy so others can read it”. And here Dollarhide talks of “Applying the Rules”. He hates being the one to tell you bad news, but he knows you’ll benefit from them. “For example, if you have only obtained a death record for your grandfather, you new need to get death records for grandpa’s brother and sisters….If you do this, I can almost guarantee that you will learn something new. If you can think of other documents that may be available for the same event, e.g., a person’s death, by acquiring other records relating to the death, you will almost certainly learn more information than by having only a single source.” He man knows of what he speaks. SCGS Jamboree 2010

I am writing this on July 4th and just heard an interesting item on the TV show “America, The Story of Us” on the History Channel. Do you know when and why Standard Time came about? It’s a great story. We have five railroads going cross country. When the country was being settled after the railroads went in, there was a town every eight miles along the tracks. People used to set their time by the sun and that made a total of 8,000 times across the country. It made it impossible to schedule railroad schedules. And so, on November 18, 1883 Standard Time was established with four time zones. Pretty neat! The book “Freedom, The History of Us” by Joy Hakim, has remarkable history stories about America. I have a copy and highly recommend it. Read it along with grandchildren. Ed.

You’ve heard of “The Gang That Couldn’t Shoot Straight”. Well, analogous to that, here’s another. “A gang of German bank robbers trying to blow open an ATM machine used too much explosive and destroyed the entire bank. The blast reduced the bank building in the village of Malliss to rubble and damaged cars more than 100 yards away, yet the targeted ATM machine was left completely intact. “Something evidently didn’t work the way the robber’s wanted it to,” said a police spokesman.” Duh! The Week, June 11, 2010

One of the best presentations I saw this year at the genealogical Jamboree was given by Jean Wilcox Hibben, PhD, MA, CG. We have had Jean speak on several occasions at the society library. Her talk was titled, “Shaking the Myth: Proving/Disproving Family Legends”. I was especially taken in by the way she presented to her audience a myth and proceeded to take it apart. We in the audience were asked for what we thought along the way. It really jarred the old brain and had me thinking about it the next day. Her idea of using something developed by Trudy Govier, a Canadian philosopher, was later augmented by the late Dr. Michael Alexander of Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga, CA. It is called “A*R*G* analysis, “a method of analyzing arguments”. Here’s how it works. “This involves first outlining the argument in a set of premises, culminating in a conclusion or claim, then proceeding with a 3-step analysis to determine whether or not an argument (or, in our situation, a family legend) is cogent (cogent=likely to be true, good, solid). Three variables are assessed in analyzing the argument, *A*CEPTABILITY*, *R*elevance*, and *G*ROUNDS*. Here is how you use the analysis. “For the */acceptability/* test, check each premise, independent of the others. Acceptable = reasonable.” Going further with this, “When analyzing the premises, if they are not acceptable, then they are probably unacceptable.” Here is the next step. *R*elevance*. “Keep in mind that ‘A premise is relevant to a conclusion if the truth of the premise makes the truth of the conclusion more significantly likely.” And here is the conclusion: “(*adequacy of) Grounds*. Look at the entire argument/ story; Ask yourself, “what else is needed for me to believe this claim? Be objective….Be honest.” I realize some of these demands are hard because we may want so much to believe something is true. And here is the part where you have to give yourself up to truth. Jean asks, “Is it Cogent? If the argument/story passes most of the tests, it is determined to be cogent. If it fails most of the tests, it is not cogent. If the tests are inconclusive, the cogency is questionable.” Hibben has a blog you may want to visit: <www.cirlemending.blogspot.com> SCGS Jamboree 2010

Have you heard about “StumbleUpon” <www.StumbleUpon.com> That wiz of a girl, Elyse Doerflinger, who spoke to us at the library in May, gave us this information. StumbleUpon is “Social Bookmarking”, meaning “Your bookmarks are shared with everyone”. Now isn’t that a nice thing to do to help others when you find something great?! And it helps you because it “Enables access to bookmarks from any computer with an internet connection”. You might be far from home but can access a computer at a hotel or campground or library and get information at home. It will “Easily organize bookmarks with tags (keywords),” And get this, “Stumble recommends websites based on your interests and keywords”. This is like having a personal assistant at your beck-and-call! Stumble also has a “Downloadable toolbar available for easier bookmarking”. I know, I know, it all sounds too good to be true, but try it. Thanks again Elyse!
If you have an ancestor you think was still alive in 1880, here is some great information you may not know. "...that wonderful 1880 federal census...indexed for our use by the Family History Library...covers the entire nation....You find in the records the last name, first name, age, sex, race, marital status, occupation, relationship to the head of household, state or country of birth, National Archives microfilm number and page, and FHL microfilm number." If you go to the microfilm, you will find “...street number and house number in cities, whether an individual was married with the year, the number of months an individual was unemployed during the census year, whether an individual was sick or temporarily disabled...by what cause, whether an individual attended school during the year...and can read and write.” Wow, now that’s what I call a Census! And here’s something you might use to find a woman’s maiden name. “If her first name is known and she was born before 1880 but was living in 1880, and the birthplace (the state, county or town)...is known, a search can be done for a woman born in an exact or estimated year....” To find an ancestor who disappeared “...between pre-1880 and post-1880, the nationwide index can be checked (or a smaller number of states) for that person’s name somewhere in the U.S.” AND check THIS OUT!! “Especially useful in German research, the ‘Neighbors’ tab reveals names of people who lived in the same area as your ancestor.” We know that often people traveled from Germany together. Since with German names different spellings may occur “because of the common interchanging of D, B, and P; K and C; V and F; and others”, you may want to enter “...the common characters of the name...with ‘wild cards’ that complete the spelling.” Der Blumenbaum, SGGS, Vol. 26, No. 4: April, May, June 2009

Hey, you California residents out there. Here is something you can use that may be helpful. You may apply for a San Francisco Public Library eCard, free, and good for four years. You must have a valid California residential address. Apply at <http://sflib1.sfpl.org/selfreg/ecard> Here is what the library provides online in databases: “many newspapers and magazines, Sanborn Maps for California, 1867-1970, Encyclopedias, eBooks, current telephone directories, ‘History Resource Center: U.S. and World’. Go to ‘Articles & Databases’ on their main site: <http://sfpl.lib.ca.us> We have earthquakes but we have resources, too! Why don’t you check out the libraries in your states and see if they have a similar arrangement. Quest-ing Heirs Genea. Soc. Newsletter, Vol. 42, No. 3 –March 2009

After doing this newsletter for the last 1½ years, I am finally over my fear and dread of my computer. In fact, today, for the first time ever, I went to a website story and clicked on it. Wow—the Power! Here is what I read about and it will make any genealogist smile. Jeff Eisenberg wrote about a young basketball player with the improbable name. “God’s Gift Achiwa”. He is a 6-foot-9 forward at Erie Community College....The Nigeria native’s father is a minister....His name is the first thing that anyone asks about when they meet him,” said Erie Coach Alex Nwora. He said, “Achiwa doesn’t have a nickname though his teammates sometimes call him “Gift” for short.” ZagsBlog

Think you know your geography? Well, then, try these. Marilyn Deatherage passed them out at a meeting in the past, and they can stump even the ones of us who love maps, myself included. Go to <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/testmaps/canada.gif> I may have put the one for the United States in before, but for those who are new members, just change Canada to “usstates”. It is humbling! Ed.


Here is a website to help you with a task that we should all do, but few of us get around to doing: the timeline for our ancestors. We need to know the history of what was happening in their lifetime to explain why they did what they did. Here is a free online option: <www.ourtimelines.com> Also, there is “a program like Genelines that works with your genealogy software”. I don’t know about Genelines, but my husband just put the first one on his computer while I’m typing this and got a kick out of the events happening in his lifetime. Make “A list of facts and events about your family; Family photos, historical images, record scans; Important and interesting historical events and facts.” Ancestry – March/April 2009

Curt B. Witcher, MLS, FUGS, IGSF, The Genealogy Center Manager, Allen County Public Library was at Jamboree with a session titled, “Roll Call: New Sites and Sources for Military Records and Research.” Witcher said a startling thing: “Since the founding of our country, there has been some military activity or engagement in nearly every generation.” As a genealogist, we have to look past the tragedy of this and use the records created. He had a section called, “New Gems”. I am finally convinced that the way to find obscure information is to go online. Here is a site that will probably be important well into the future. “Internet Archives (IA) <www.archive.org>. Among many initiatives, a contemporary IA project is to scan all pre-1923, public-domain materials as well as collaborate on a database of 1924-1964 titles that are also in the public domain and able to be scanned. All works are complete and downloadable in several formats with most being full-text searchable. It can be one’s personal military library. This online collection continues to grow with contributions from the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, the Allen County Public Library and other university libraries in the United States and Canada.” Now, if that doesn’t excite you, take two aspirin, and go to bed! SCGS Jamboree 2010
The Week in Germany 07/09/2010

Click here to view the Newsletter online
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The__Week_in__Germany/TWIG__100709.variant=issue.html>

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Becomes Reality. IRENA, Established in Bonn in 2009, is the first international organization to focus on the expansion and global promotion of renewable energy. The IRENA Statute has now entered into force.<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2010/07/09__IRENA___official__PR.html>

As Immigration Increases, Further Improving Integration Policy. With nearly one fifth of inhabitants having an immigrant background, progress has been made both in terms of improving their language skills and in the fields of education and training. Yet the situation of many migrants both on the labor market and in the education sector remains dramatic. Report on integration:<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2010/07/08__Integration__PR.html>

Two Germans Called Özil and Khedira - Football is Just the Beginning ...Generation M gave a kick-start to this year's World Cup in South Africa and, at a stroke, changed Germany's image. No longer is "Germany" a collection of serious white men determined to destroy the opposition with almost scientific thoroughness. <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/GIC/2010/07/07__GenerationM__PM.html>

History of the Guest Workers – Immigration of Foreign Workers. Fifty years ago, the Federal Republic of Germany entered into a recruitment agreement for foreign workers. Social and political factors, such as a reduction in working hours, low-birth years, and later the construction of the Berlin Wall, contributed to the labor shortage. <History of the Guest Workers: http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/07__Culture__Lifestyle__Travel/01/03/Feature__3.html>

Immigrant Library Hours
Wednesdays . 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
1st & 3rd Saturdays .. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
2nd & 4th Sundays .. 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
Closed for major holidays.

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If publications desired by 1st Class mail $35.00

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Germany will play for third place against Uruguay on Saturday in Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth, after losing to Spain 0-1 in the World Cup semifinal match. <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/GIC/2010/07/07__WM_Semifinal__PR.html>

Who will be the champion and receive the title of "World's Best German Student"? From July 19 through August 1, 90 participants from 46 countries will vie for the special honor at the International German Olympics in Hamburg. Deutsche Sprache: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/GIC/2010/07/08__GermanStudent__PM.html>