

Saddleback Valley Trails

South Orange County California Genealogical Society

Vol. 11 No. 11 Editor: Mary Jo McQueen November 2004

P.O. Box 4513, Mission Viejo, CA. 92690

Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Mission Viejo Family History Center Institute Building, 27978 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo, between Medical Center Drive and Hillcrest Drive. Membership is open to anyone wishing to join. Yearly membership fees are \$20 per calendar year for individuals, \$25 for joint membership. SOCCGS is not affiliated with the LDS Family History Center.

NOVEMBER 20 MEETING

The program previously announced for November has been canceled due to illness. We will, instead, have a “member-participation” event. Sorry, I don’t have more details at this time. The newsletter must go to print! Be assured that an informative and fun meeting is being planned. Please bring your questions and genealogy tips to share.

CALENDAR

The annual holiday party and installation of 2005 officers will be December 18. A special holiday program is being planned with the usual yummy goodies and door prizes.

GENEALOGY SAFARI

The October 27 trip to Burbank was canceled and has been rescheduled to November 10. We will research that day at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library. This is usually one of our favorite and most fruitful trips. There will be no safari in December. Please make your reservation in advance, by calling Janet or Mary Jo. We will leave the parking lot at 9 a.m. Please be sure to bring \$ for gas and dinner. Go to the SCGS Library’s website and check out what they have to offer the genealogical community.
<http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/>

SEE’S CANDY SALE!

THE ANNUAL SEE’S CANDY SALE IS HERE! Ways and Means Chairman, Leon Smith will have brochures and order forms at the November 20 meeting. All orders must be turned in at or before that meeting. Remember, your check must accompany the order.

SEMINAR

Nearly 100 persons were in attendance on October 16 to hear Leland Meitzler and Bill Dollarhide. Their topics were well received. Both are entertaining and very knowledgeable speakers. Lots of door prizes were given away and Thelma Hoffman won the afghan that was so generously donated by Jeanne Wallace of the Mission Viejo Rotary Club. Most of us added books and CDs to our libraries from the wonderful selection brought to us from Salt Lake City by Heritage Creations. I want to say a special thank you to all of the members who worked to make this event possible, you know who you are! And of course, thanks to the many members who attended. We were also supported by several people from surrounding societies, as far away as Victorville and San Diego. I am overwhelmed by the number of you who have been so generous with your compliments. I think we have a great group!

~Mary Jo McQueen

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2005 slate of officers as announced by Ann Browning, chairman is as follows: President, Mary Jo McQueen; Vice President, Bill Bluett, Recording Secretary, Sandy Crowley; Corresponding Secretary, Patricia Weeks and Treasurer, Mary Jo Nuttall. Candidates may be nominated from the floor at the November meeting, before the election is held. Prior consent of those nominated must be obtained. Ann Browning, Bunny Smith and Bill Bluett are members of the committee.

**To arrive at a just estimate of a renowned man's character
one must judge it by the standards of his time, not ours.**

~ Mark Twain

NEW MEMBERS

This month we welcome three new members. We are so fortunate that our organization is growing. Joining us are **Linda Parsons**, Laguna Beach and **Pat & Wayne Haight**, Laguna Niguel.

Linda is searching for MCGILL, GATES, TUTTLE, BRUBAKER & BURFORD in Ohio; CONRAD and MCGILL in Indiana.

NEW DOCENT!

BRUCE JEWETT has volunteered for the 3-5 shift on the first Sunday of every month.

Thank you, Bruce!

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!

It is great fun to use the new high-speed wireless internet access in the genealogy section of the Mission Viejo Library. A definite perk for being a docent! Please call Janet, 496-8418 or Mary Jo, 581-0690 if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

THINGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME:

- 1) My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
- 2) My mother taught me RELIGION. "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
- 3) My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL. "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
- 4) My mother taught me LOGIC. "Because I said so, that's why."
- 5) My mother taught me MORE LOGIC. "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
- 6) My mother taught me about STAMINA. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
- 7) My mother taught me HUMOR. "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
- 8) My mother taught me WISDOM. "When you get to be my age, you'll understand."
- 9) And my favorite: my mother taught me about JUSTICE.
"One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!"

TOSSING HAGGIS

When you think of Scotland, you think bagpipes, kilts, tartans, and Scotch whisky. Do you think "haggis?" The Scottish national dish is a traditional pudding made of the heart, liver, etc., of a sheep, minced with suet, oatmeal and seasoning, then boiled in the stomach of the animal. Scottish descendants who have sampled it have been known to suffer stomach quivers and even "toss" it after a few bites.

There's a new meaning to "tossing haggis," however. The "Christian Science Monitor" (3 January 2004) reported that Scotland has haggis-tossing federations and a World Haggis Hurling Championship competition. The game was invented, they say, in the Scottish village of Auchnaclory

where wives delivering haggis lunch to their husbands who worked across the river would toss it rather than wade across the cold

water. So if you record that your Scottish ancestor was "tossing haggis" or was a "haggis hurling champion," you may need an explanatory footnote.

And, here's probably more than you ever want to know about haggis:

<http://www.gumbopages.com/food/scottish/haggis.html>

Thanks to: Rob Roy Ratliff

(Previously published in RootsWeb Review: Vol. 7, No. 7, 18 February 2004.)

**My Great-great-grandfather must have been someone special
because on his death certificate the cause of death was
"By visitation of God."
(Ray Lines of Kempston, Bedford, England - rootsweb.com)**

MAKING IT FROM SCRATCH

~ George G. Morgan

I love words. That's a pretty good thing, considering that I'm a writer and an editor. However, the older I get, the more "Aha!" moments I have about words and phrases in our idiom or vernacular. Some of these have their roots in antiquity, while others came along more recently from regional, ethnic, and/or cultural beginnings.

One of the expressions that struck me last night was the one, "make from scratch." Certainly the expression has a history, and I'd like to explore it a bit in "Along Those Lines..." this week.

The Origins of the Expression

The dictionary is always a good place to start a word search and, if you're like me, looking up a single word in the dictionary is like eating a single peanut. It just isn't enough. The entry for the word "scratch" in the dictionary is a lengthy one, with many different meanings. Take a look for yourself! You can scratch yourself, as in using your fingernails. You can scratch yourself by accidentally tearing your skin. Or you can scratch yourself, as in withdrawing from a competition. You can scratch yourself a note, such as hurriedly jotting down a piece of information (just like the census enumerators often did?). You can raise some scratch, as in money or cash. Perhaps you enjoy racing, in which case the scratch line is the threshold for the beginning of the race. You can be up to scratch, as in meeting a standard. These are just a few of the many definitions of scratch.

Making something from scratch is defined as creating something from the beginning, with nothing having previously been done. You might make a meal from scratch, for instance, in which every dish is made from basic ingredients and where no prepared mixes, canned goods, or other "store-bought" components are used.

Our Colonial Ancestors Were Really Up to Scratch

It is important to place our ancestors into context in order to understand them. That means studying history, geography, social mores, religion, government, economics, agriculture, military science, and a variety of other subjects.

When we study history, we always learn about how our predecessors lived and worked. I think the emphasis is on "worked." Over time, new inventions and techniques come along that are supposedly "labor-saving" or "improved" ways of doing something. While this may be a good thing in some cases, it may compromise the quality in others. As an example, I remember from my childhood that my aunt and grandmother had dairy products delivered by the "milk, butter, and egg man" from out in the country. Milk came in glass bottles with cream on the top, and the butter came in round, one-pound cakes—and butter has never tasted as good since "store-bought" came along!

Our Colonial ancestors were a courageous (or foolhardy) lot. They chose to leave the familiarity of the places where they were born and had lived to embark on a journey to another place. They did so to better themselves and the lot of their families. This often meant a struggle for survival and building a completely new life—from nothing. The land had to be cleared and trees cut and prepared to make building materials. Even wooden pegs were individually fashioned and fitted to construct a dwelling or storage shed or barn. The people worked together as families and as a community, often beginning with nothing in order to "scratch out" a minimal existence in the wilderness. They planted and raised crops from seeds and cuttings. The produce was harvested and eaten in season, with some commodities stored in hand-dug root cellars and others cooked and preserved in containers.

Other crops were raised to feed livestock. Horses, mules, and oxen were essential to help work the land and move people and loads. Cattle were raised for beef and milk; pigs were raised for pork; and chickens and other fowl were raised for eggs and meat. Meat was quickly prepared for immediate consumption or preserved for future use. Salt was vital for the preservation of meats. Without salt, you could not survive, and some persons living near salt water distilled salt "from scratch." Imagine having to make even the salt you used

for your food preparation and preservation! There was no quick trip to the supermarket for a package of chicken, a package of frozen vegetables, a bag of salad greens, a box of an instant potato casserole, and a carton of milk.

These people were involved in an all-day, every day struggle to survive! You have to admire their courage and commitment, and you have to marvel that they DID survive at all, much less prosper.

The Bedspread

What really got me started on this search is what my Grandmother Morgan referred to as “a bedspread” or “coverlet,” but which was actually used in her house as a curtain. The living room in my grandmother's house was not used during the winter. As a cost-cutting measure, the living room was kept unheated. It was separated from the dining room and the rest of the house by a large curtain.

According to my grandmother, this piece of cloth had been made as a bedspread or coverlet by my Grandfather Morgan's grandmother sometime prior to the Civil War. Let me describe the piece to you, and you'll see another side of our ancestors' lives.

This textile was certainly “made from scratch.” It actually is two panels of fabric of different dimensions that have been sewn together to form one piece measuring roughly 90 by 120 inches. The material is made of coarse natural cotton fibers and wool dyed red and black. The design is something of a dark plaid and has been woven in regular pattern. But imagine for a moment how this thing was constructed.

The cotton was grown on the farm, harvested, and then carded. Carding involved using wooden paddles with teeth to comb the cotton, remove the seeds, and draw the fiber out into lengths. The wool was shorn from sheep living on the farm, and was washed, dried, and carded. Various colored dyes were made by boiling plants and/or insects in large vats of water, and straining the resulting liquid. The fibers were then immersed in the boiling dye, removed, and hung to dry. The next step was the tedious project of using a spinning wheel to convert the raw fiber into thread or yarn. Once spun, the thread or yarn was wrapped onto cards, spindles, shuttles, or into balls for storage and use.

Weaving fabric involved a loom. Cord was strung on multiple frames and the weaver moved a shuttle wound with one fiber back and forth between the two frames, interleaving the frames back and forth to weave the fabric together in the pattern he or she had designed. Most looms were hand-operated; few early home looms used foot pedals or treadles. Periodically the weaver used a beater to tamp the horizontal fibers down and even the rows. Ultimately, the weaver concluded the weaving and had to finish off the ends of the fabric to prevent raveling.

Scratching My Head

Making something from scratch—anything at all—seems like a pretty daunting task. When I consider the amount of work many of our ancestors put into everything they had to do in order to survive, I scratch my head in wonder. How could they do it all? The answer is, “They had to in order to survive.” When we say we are going to make something “from scratch,” such as when I make my cheesecakes “from scratch,” the implication is that it will be done with much attention to detail and will produce an extraordinary result.

Our ancestors really DID do many things “from scratch,” and I imagine the results were, in some cases, quite extraordinary. In other cases, the outcome might have been “make do” in order to just “get by.” Our ancestors really deserve our grateful respect and appreciation for all they accomplished. And for that reason, I think we all enjoy the family history research we do—for the stories, the traditions, the heirlooms, and for the sheer wonder at what our ancestors accomplished.

"Along Those Lines" Ancestry Daily News

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OLD NEWSPAPERS

(Clippings of the Day: Ancestry Daily News, MyFamily.com)

From the Arcadia Tribune (Arcadia, California), 27 March 1931, page 2.

"THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER" On Wednesday, March 4th, President Hoover signed an act of congress designating the historic song a national anthem. It practically has been such for many years, but no official act has so designated it. The anthem was written by Francis S. Key following the failure of the British attack on Ft. McHenry at Baltimore on September 14, 1814.

From the Helena (Montana) Independent of 14 March 1931, page 6.

A CRITICAL VALEDICTORY - The United States now has a legally designated national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," which lacks a good deal of being either national or an anthem. Its words commemorate an incident of the war of 1812 and its music is the air of a ribald foreign drinking song.

This is an odd kind of legislation to come out of the crowded, overworked short session of Congress, a session which had before it so much of genuine importance. America needed a legalized national anthem about as much as the well known cat needs the justly celebrated two tails....

The legalizing of the air will at least serve one excellent purpose. It will give super-patriots a chance to knock somebody's block off, when he fails to leap to his feet or snatch his hat off quickly enough with the opening of the first bars. Beyond that we can see no earthly use for the legislation.

**"Too bad all the people who know how to run the country
are busy driving taxi cabs or cutting hair."**

~George Burns

NEW AT THE SOCCGS LIBRARY

SOCCGS Book Purchases:

Ancestry Red Book: 2004 Edition

Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Vol. 14, Myles Standish

Natchitoches: Translated Abstracts of Register Number Five of the Catholic Church Parish of St. Francois des Natchitoches in Louisiana: 1800-1826 by Elizabeth Shown Mills

Map Guide to German Parish Registers: Kevan M. Hansen (Five books, all with full indexes of included towns)

Grandduchy of Hessen

Grandduchy of Baden

Mecklenburg Grandduchies of Schwerin & Strelitz

Grandduchy of Oldenburg & Province of Schlesweig-Holstein, Kingdom of Prussia

Kingdom of Wurttemberg I - Jagstkreis

Courthouse Research for Family Historians-Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures by Christine Rose

Norwegian Connections; From Arctic Fjord to American Prairie by Judy Jacobson: Families listed; Elde, Eidissen/Eidssaen/Eidassen,

Erichsen/Eriksen, Frostad, Furness/Furnaes, Gjertsen/Giertsen, Hemmingsen, Hendriksen/Hendrekson, Ingebrigtsen,

Jacobson/Jakobsen, Johansen/Johanssen, Pedersen, Rasmussen, Sagan/Gagen, Seversen/Severson/Sjursen, Simonsens, and

Wilsgard/Vilsgaard/Wielsgaard/Wilsgaard

The Barbour Collection:

Vol. 8 Danbury 1685-1847, Darien 1820-1851, Derby 1655-1852;

Vol. 10 East Hartford 1783-1853, East Haven 1700-1852, East Lyme 1839-1853;

Vol. 13 Franklin 1786-1854, Glastonbury 1690-1854;

Vol. 21 Killingworth 1667-1850, Ledyard 1836-1855, Lisbon 1786-1850

Ships of Our Ancestors by Michael J. Anuta: Pictures of 900 ships

**Heritage Quest Magazine & Genealogy Bulletin Subscription w/Heritage Quest Magazine, 1985- 1999 on CD-ROM, plus copies of HQ 2001-2004 and Genealogy Bulletin February 2003- August 2004

CD Purchases:

CD #14 Family Pedigrees: Everton's Computerized Family File, Volume 4, 1400s-present

Find one ancestor here and you might add an entire new branch to your family tree. Search whole family groups for valuable new details. You can discover an ancestor's name; dates and locations of birth, marriage, and death; residence; name of the individual who contributed the family group sheet to Everton Publishers; plus more.

CD #166 Church Records: Selected Areas of Pennsylvania, 1600s-1800s This CD contains the texts of **18 books** on early Pennsylvania church records, originally published by Family Line Publications

References to approximately 200,000 individuals. For each person listed, you will find information about an event in their life, such as a birth, death, marriage or baptism.

CD #170 Immigrants to the New World, 1600s-1800s: This collection represents nearly all of the articles that Harold Lancour identified in his celebrated *Bibliography of Ship Passenger Lists, 1538-1825*.

Sources: *New World Immigrants I, New World Immigrants II, Emigrants to Pennsylvania 1641-1819, Immigrants to the Middle Colonies, Passengers to America*. Each book is comprised of articles that originally appeared in genealogical periodicals such as *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, and The American Genealogist*

CD #196 Southeastern Pennsylvania, 1680-1800 Birth Index On this CD you'll find information on the births and/or baptisms of approximately 476,000 individuals who either resided in or were born in Southeastern Pennsylvania before 1800. These records, found in 213 church, meeting, and pastoral records, were originally published in a thirteen-volume set entitled Pennsylvania Births.

CD #201 Library Resources: U.S./Canada Surname Folder Index This Family Archive provides unprecedented access to an index of over 100,000 unique surnames. The information indexed was originally collected in surname folders at local libraries, historical societies, and genealogical organizations throughout the United States and Canada. Because the surname resources were collected locally, availability of this information has not previously been widespread. Sources for U.S. & Canada Surname Folder Index: Compiled over twenty years by Ron Bremer, the North American Surname Folder Index references mostly unpublished collections of genealogical information located throughout the United States and Canada.

CD #258 Philadelphia, 1789-1880 Naturalization Records This CD has information on more than 113,000 immigrants from nearly 100 countries, who settled in Pennsylvania. It lists information on the naturalization of individuals who applied for citizenship through Philadelphia courts system between 1789 and 1880. Information compiled in this Family Archive was originally edited by P. William Filby and produced as a book called *Philadelphia Naturalization Records*. That book was compiled from an eleven-volume index originally completed by the Work Projects Administration (WPA) around 1940.

History of Western Iowa (14 counties) 1882, Buena Vista, Carroll, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Harrison, Ida, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Sac, Shelby, Woodberry, Scanned & Formatted by Don Lawse.

History of Winneshiek & Allamakee Co., IA, 1882, Scanned & Formatted by Don Lawse.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN...?

- All the girls had ugly gym uniforms?
- It took five minutes for the TV warm up?
- Nearly everyone's Mom was at home when the kids got home from school?
- Nobody owned a purebred dog?
- When a quarter was a decent allowance?
- You'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny?
- Your Mom wore nylons that came in two pieces?
- All your male teachers wore neckties and female teachers had their hair done every day and wore high heels?
- You got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, and gas pumped, without asking, all for free, every time? And you didn't pay for air?
- And, you got trading stamps to boot?
- Laundry detergent had free glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box?
- It was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents?
- They threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed. . .and they did?
- When a 57 Chevy was everyone's dream car...to cruise, peel out, lay rubber or watch submarine races, and people went steady?
- No one ever asked where the car keys were because they were always in the car, in the ignition, and --the doors were never locked?
- Lying on your back in the grass with your friends and saying things like, "That cloud looks like a .."
- And playing baseball with no adults to help kids with the rules of the game?
- Stuff from the store came without safety caps and hermetic seals because no one had yet tried to poison a perfect stranger?
- When being sent to the principal's office was nothing compared to the fate that awaited the student at home?
- Decisions were made by going "eeny-meeny-miney-moe"?

- Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming, "Do Over!"?
- "Race issue" meant arguing about who ran the fastest?
- Catching the fireflies could happily occupy an entire evening?
- It wasn't odd to have two or three "Best Friends"?
- The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was "cooties"?
- Having a weapon in school meant being caught with a slingshot?
- A foot of snow was a dream come true?

(Thanks to Euegenia Gannon for passing this along.)

**And, do you remember
Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys, Laurel and Hardy,
Howdy Dowdy and the Peanut Gallery,
The Lone Ranger, The Shadow Knows,
Nellie Bell, Roy and Dale, Trigger and Buttermilk.**

If you can remember most or all of these, then you have lived!

WORLD WIDE WEB

*Civil War - This list provides definitions of some of the more obscure terms that will be encountered when researching Civil War era documentation" <http://www.civilwarhome.com/terms.htm>

*The Lives & Times of our Ancestors in Iowa Newspapers!! <http://www.IowaOldPress.com/>

*Online Searchable Military Indexes & Records <http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/military.html>

*Dictionary of the Scots Language <http://www.dsl.ac.uk>

*Your daily genealogy coffee break. Up-to-date Headlines From Around the Internet brought to you by Leland Meitzler & Heritage Creations. <http://www.genealogyblog.com>

*More Things to Know, Events & News. <http://news.genealogyblog.com/>

GENEALOGICAL EVENT CALENDAR

January 8, 2005 - San Diego Genealogical Society will host Dr. George Schweitzer. There is information and a registration form at www.rootsweb.com/~casdgs/events.html or email eefoulger@earthlink.net

February 26, 2005 - Seminar featuring Fr. Gary Shumway, Whittier Area genealogical Society. For information: hergwerk@earthlink.net. Flyers are available at the SOCCGS docent desk.

DR. SCHWEITZER is coming to Hemet in 2005! More information to follow.

CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGY SOCIETY WINTER SYMPOSIUM

This seminar will be held on February 12, 2005 at the Orange Family History Center. Anyone with ancestry in the area of what is now the Czech Republic and Slovakia will find this of great interest. For further information go to: <http://cgsi.org/news.asp?intNewsID=62>

GENEALOGICAL WORKSHOPS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

24000 Avila Road, 1st Floor East, Laguna Niguel, CA
(949)360-2641, ext. 0

Nov. 10 Naturalization & Immigration Records
Nov. 16 Introduction to Genealogical Resources

Class size is limited, so call to reserve your place.
All workshops cost \$7.50, payable at the door.
Workshops begin at 9:30 a.m.

South Orange County California Genealogical Society Membership/Renewal Application

() New () Renewal () Individual, \$20/yr. () Jt.. Members, same address \$25/yr.

Renewal Membership Number(s) _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address: _____

Make check payable to: SOCCGS (South Orange County CA Genealogical Society) Check No. _____

Mail with application to: SOCCGS, P.O. Box 4513, Mission Viejo, CA 92690-4513 Date Rec'd _____



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