



TIDBITS

Newsletter of the West Valley Genealogical Society
Serving Northwest Maricopa County, Arizona

Volume 36, Issue 4, April 2008

Interim Editor, Dorothy Sprague

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

by Dorothy Sprague

Welcome to Volunteer Appreciation Month! April is very special for our Society and Library. This is the time to say "Thank You" to all the folks who assure that our organization is available to us all.

On April 14th at 12:30 before our monthly meeting, a special Volunteer Appreciation Dessert will be hosted by the Board.

Please consider this your invitation to attend as honored guests if you have volunteered during 2007 and 2008! And all those who have benefited from the good work of these people, please attend and express your heartfelt thanks to them.

Dessert and beverages will be provided. Bring a sack lunch if that fits your schedule better. Be prepared for an enjoyable visit with good friends!

The Long Range Planning Committee has been working for over a year. Many of you submitted your thoughts and dreams to them. A number of your ideas can be implemented very quickly and have been turned over to the Board and committees for implementation.

Here are a few already activated: Reports in *Tidbits* on success of fund raisers (aluminum cans, rummage sales, etc.); classes about "google" and the internet, genealogy software programs; "calling cards" for publicity purposes. And soon – news about the retirement of "The Ugliest Sign In The Valley!"

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Bob Herschleman

Please welcome new members to our organization: Frank Cannon, Judy Berndt, Karen & Karel Bunsness, Susan R Syquia, Kathaleen Williams, Priscilla Claypool, Linda Housh, Suzanne Brayer, Donna Allen, Sharon L Duncan, Judy Robinson, Beverley I Ruskowsky, Bonnie Milam, James A Coil, MD, Delbert May, Wanda Jacoby, and Mary Jo Johnson.

As of March 11, we have 482 members. As we move into the time of year when people leave our desert area, please E-mail me any change of address for your *Tidbits* and *Desert Tracker*. Bulk mail is not forwarded or returned.

WVGS Library:

12222 N. 111th Avenue
Youngtown, AZ 85363-1225

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
9am to 4pm and Tuesday nights, 6 to 9pm

Closed Monday and Wednesday for classes/meetings

Telephone: 623-933-4945

Website: <http://www.azwvgs.org>

Monthly Meetings: September through May

Doors Open at 1:00 pm 2nd Monday of each month

First Presbyterian Church 12225 N. 103rd Ave., SC

CIRCLE APRIL 14 ON YOUR CALENDAR MELANIE STURGEON -- SPEAKER

Melanie Sturgeon is an avid genealogist and family historian. Her presentation, "Paper Trails Through the Archives" uses materials from the Arizona State Archives to show genealogists the kinds of records they will often find in the State Archives where their ancestors lived. Many genealogists do not understand the difference between a library and archives. As a result, they have never set foot in government archives. They rely on printed books, websites and a few types of county records.

As the Director of the Arizona State Archives, a Division of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records and with a PhD in history, Melanie has a background to help fellow genealogists.

Mark your calendar now for this informative program to be presented April 14, 2008, at the West Valley Genealogical Society membership meeting. Bring a neighbor, a friend, and learn something new.

MISSION STATEMENT (Revision)

Approved by Board of Directors April 2, 2007

The Society and its Library invite, welcome and help persons who are interested in genealogy—regardless of race, creed, sex, age, disability, or national origin. Our goals are to provide access to reliable research sources using the best technology practices, provide quality educational opportunities, encourage collaborative research, promote scholarly publication of research by the Society and its members, and archive and preserve genealogy records.



Barbara Stenberg and Meldon Wolfgang III

SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR

Congratulations to Barbara Stenberg, Wanita Zarumba; Penny Chaille; Mickey Dunlap; Katharine Thanos; Judy Crawford; Jean White; Dorothy Blum; Diane Herschelman; Ada Sullivan, Liz Wright, and Sally Pavia, on their much appreciated efforts to produce a wonderful day.

Mr. Wolfgang was a wonderful speaker who gave us many new ways to research our histories. Many of the attendees will be spending their time following his suggestions. Already folks are reporting their successes.

Peggy Morphew gave Meldon a tour of our Library before the seminar. His letter to her included: "I enjoyed seeing your extraordinary collection of research resources, especially your periodicals collection. Keep up the fine work!"

GLASS DISPLAY CASE

maintained by Sally Pavia

In March, we enjoyed the display titled "Days Gone By." Members George and Jean Cheney loaned us their collection of sock darners and arrowheads, from the 1800s, found on family farm in Indiana.

Please contact sallypavia2001@yahoo.com if you have something to share.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Richard Hudnall and Dorothy Blum who each won two tickets to the Peoria Broadway Palms dinner theatre production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Arlene Sampson, winner of the Scavenger Hunt. She received a copy of the *Handy Book*. The Scavenger Hunt is a part of the Problem Solving Class, and is an exercise in using our Library to find information. Jean White is the Instructor.

CONDOLENCES

Erv Leifheit's mother passed away in March. Our sympathies go out to him and his family.



Life Member Dwight "Pinky" Forrester passed away January 30. Our sympathies go to his family.

BLAINE HEDBERG VISIT

Blaine Hedberg of the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center in Madison, Wisconsin was our speaker at the March Membership Meeting. We had many visitors interested in their Norwegian ancestry.

Blaine's very informative talk on the Center's work and the many on-line sources for research was extremely helpful.

On Saturday and Tuesday he conducted one-on-one sessions with over twenty people researching their ancestry. Many stayed through numerous sessions to pick up more tips on research.

Blaine's visit was arranged by our member David Hardy. Thank you, David; it was a wonderful gift.

WEBSITES TO EXPLORE

❖ A GoodSearch.com hunt for "Washington State Archives" brought up the following:

<http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov>.

Included here were records for Births, Census, Deaths, Frontier Justice, Institutions, Land, Marriages, Military, Naturalization, Plats/Surveys.

Historic census records contained county demographic information from Washington State from 1847 through 1910. As each census was conducted independently, the data fields vary widely from one census to another.

Try searching for the archives from any state where you have people. You could be surprised.



CALENDAR

- Apr 3 Genealogical Research in Immigration and Naturalization Records
Lunchtime Family History Lessons, at Carnegie Library, downtown Phoenix
- Apr 12 SunMacs Computer Club 9:00-10:30 am
Mitzi Schireman speaker, open to public
- Apr 14 12:30 Volunteer Appreciation Dessert
1:30 WVGS Membership Meeting
Melanie Sturgeon, Speaker
- Apr 17 Research Brown Bag Evening
5:00-9:00 pm - \$3.50 donation
Beverage and dessert provided



LIBRARY REPORT

Peggy Morpew, Library Administrator

Many, many thanks to all of our donors: Margaret Baker, Carol Daly, Vera Elgin, Family History Library-Salt Lake City, Connie Forrest, The Master Genealogist Users Group, Lorraine Harpur, Peggy Morpew, Dorothy Nicholson, Sally Pavia, Walter Penrod, Nancy Reed, Kathy Roselman, Dee Snook, Dorothy Sprague, Town of Oyster Bay, Florence Weber, Jean White, Helen Wiant, Floyd Wickenkamp, Shirley Woodward, & Virginia Wurtz.

NEW BOOKS REPORT

by Sue Firth

- 1865 Kansas State Census of Pottawatomie
- 1895 Clay County Kansas State Census
- American Treasure, The Enduring Spirit of the DAR
- Black Residents of Tucson and Their Achievements, 1860-1900; A Reference Guide
- Border Settlers of Northwestern Virginia; Jesse Hughes and other 1768 to 1795 Scouts Trans-Allegheny; also see Microfiche 6,046,617
- Bridge to Light
- Carolina Scots; An Historical and Genealogical Study of Over 100 Years of Emigration
- Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Phoenix, AZ
- Cauffman Descendants in the Midwest
- Charles Blackley Family of Knox County, TN, Vol. 1
- Confederate General, Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4,
- Disciples of Christ; A History
- Early Lantana (FL), Her Neighbors - and More
- Early PA Land Records: Minutes of the Board of Property of the Province of PA; also see CD 512
- Edgar Cemetery, Edgar, Clay County, Nebraska
- Erin's Sons: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada, 1761-1853
- Farewell to Famine
- From Kent to Virginia
- Genealogical Writing in the 21st Century: Guide to Register Style and More*
- Hardin County, Kentucky, Marriages, 1793-1829
- Henry Family British Isles to AM. and Allied Families,
- History of Lancaster Conference of Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of PA and Adjacent States, together with the Histories of its Congregations
- Index of Register of Deaths - Town of Oyster Bay (1881-1920)
- Index to Naturalization Records of Shawnee County, Kansas 1865-1930
- Index to the Birth, Marriages and Deaths Chronicles Printed at St Marys Pottawatomie County, KS in Saint Marys Star (KS), 1884-1919, Vols. 1, 2.
- Irish Scots and the "Scotch-Irish," An historical and ethnological monograph with some reference to Scotia Major and Scotia Minor
- Jonesborough; The First Century of Tennessee's First Town 1776-1876
- Kentucky Places and People
- Marriages from Early Tennessee Newspapers 1894-1851

- Massachusetts and Maine Families, Ancestry of Walter Goodwin Davis (1885-1966) Vols. 1, 2, 3*
- Methodism in Holston (TN)
- Natchez Trace; A Pictorial History
- New York Essays: Resources for the Genealogist in New York State Outside New York City*
- Obituaries from Early Tennessee Newspapers 1794-1851
- Parklawn School Directory, 1964-65 (VA)
- Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy
- Presbyterian Church in The Old Southwest, 1778-1838
- Research Guide to Genealogical Data in Clay Co., NB
- Scots-Irish in Pennsylvania and Kentucky
- Scots-Irish in the Carolinas
- Scots-Irish in the Hills of Tennessee
- Shawnee County Kansas Cemeteries, Vols. 1 & 4
Townships of: Monmouth, Tecumseh, Topeka, Williamsport, Small Cemeteries in the City of Topeka
- Sheridan (MO) Centennial Book, 1887-1987
- Tennessee Civil War Veterans Questionnaires, Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5*
- The Penrod Family in Illinois
- Through A Glass Darkly, 100 Years - Clarklake Church (MI)
- Tie That Binds, The (Lundvig Family), Books 1, 2
- Ulster Emigration to Colonial America 1718-1775
- Union County Illinois Probate Records 1818-1845
- Western Women, Their Land, Their Lives
- Who's Who in Canada; registered 1975-76

* CDC Acquisition

** 50/50 Club Acquisition

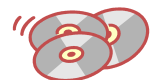
NEW PERIODICALS REPORT

by Joan Rentner

The Irish Ancestor
Sunnyslope Heritage (AZ)
Allen County Ancestors & Origins (OH)

NEW CD REPORT

by Marie Beernink



CD 10124 Effectively Tapping Into Local, County, State Historical Societies and Libraries

INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLE BACK IN ACTION

Nancy Reed found a new company that will take our used ink cartridges and pay WVGS a good price.

Bring them to the Library or the monthly meeting.

Thank you, Nancy



50/50 BOOKS REPORT

by Shirley Woodward

The Society pays one-half of the cost of these books; interested members donate the remainder. Members may suggest titles to be added to the list.

Donations for the following will be appreciated:

Kentucky Genealogical Index (4 periodicals) to 1980
Total Cost: \$90.00 Balance Needed: \$23.00

Ohio County, WV Index, Vol. 13, Part 6
Total Cost: \$63.00 Balance Needed: \$30.50

Ohio County, WV Index, Vol. 14 Part 7
Total Cost: \$65.00 Balance Needed: \$31.50

The Mennonite Encyclopedia, Vol. 5
Total Cost: \$95.99 Balance Needed: \$43.00

The Mennonite Encyclopedia – 4 Volume Set
Total Cost: \$275.00 Balance Needed: \$112.50

Female Index to Genealogical Index of First Settlers of New England
Total Cost: \$35.00 Balance Needed: \$12.50

Companions of Champlain: Founding Families of Quebec 1608-1635
Total Cost: \$22.95 Balance Needed: \$11.45

HELP WANTED

You will receive training

Library Aides: Welcome and assist members and guests to use our Library research materials. Call Deanna Hill: 623-566-2961

Time: 4-hour periods on a regular basis

Housekeepers: Assist in basic cleaning services at the Library. Men especially needed to do vacuuming. Contact: Billie Fold, 623-974-4152.

Time: 1-hour period each month, 7 am, Monday

Media Aides: Assist members in use of our computers. Share your knowledge of our software and be willing to learn to operate the other media components of our Library. D. Sprague, 623-933-4945.

Time: 4-hour periods on a regular basis.

Speakers: Represent WVGS at other associations & make presentations on our behalf. Contact: Bill Hill. Time: As necessary. azbil@cox.net

DONATIONS NEEDED

Vacuum Cleaner

Our housekeeping crew needs a new vacuum; must be in good working order. Contact Billie Fold at 623-974-4152.

Windows XP Home Edition (with license)

Computer Committee needs this for use on a donated computer. Contact Dick Wickenkamp at 623-544-9844.

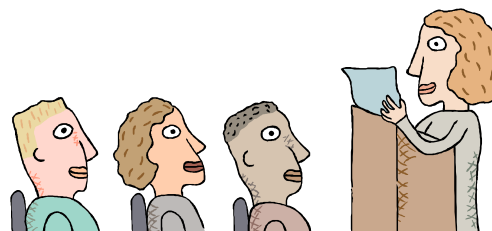
2008 SPRING CLASS SCHEDULE

by Karla Bartel

Registration for classes that are held at the WVGS Library can be done at monthly meetings or at the Library. **Checks must be made payable to the instructor** or you must have exact cash.

Apr 18 (Fri) **Novice Genealogy**
10:00-12:00 am \$7 mbr. / \$9 non-mbr.
Barbara Stenberg (Incl \$1 for handouts)

Apr 1, 8, 15, 22 (Tues) **Beginning Legacy**
9:30-11:30am \$24 mbr. / \$32 non-mbr.
Geoff Rasmussen



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)

ADOPTION: 4th Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 pm

AFRICAN – AMERICAN: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30-8:00 pm

DNA: Sat. Apr 5th, 1:00-3:00 pm

FRANCE/ CANADA: 3rd Thursday, 11:00 am-12:30 pm

GERMANY: 3rd Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am

INDIANA: 4th Friday, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

JEWISH: 3rd Saturday, 9:00-11:00 am

LEGACY: 1st Saturday, 10:00am-12:00 pm

MARYLAND: 1st Friday, 1:00-3:00 pm

MISSOURI: 2nd Friday, 10:00am-12:00 pm

OHIO: 4th Friday, 1:00-3:00 pm

NORWAY: 2nd Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 am

QUAKERS: (new) 1st Friday, 9:30-11:30 am

POLAND: Tuesday, Apr 1st, 10:30am-12:00 pm

SWEDEN: 3rd Thursday, 1:00-3:00 pm

All interest groups are open to the public (a donation is requested) and meet in the multi-purpose room of the Library. You may register your request(s) for other special interest groups at the Library. You will be notified when they are formed.

FINDING A LOST ANCESTOR THROUGH A “SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP”

by Wanita Zarumba

I joined the German Special Interest Group like many others—hoping to learn from others in the group and perhaps to share some special piece of information from my research efforts. The group was small and politely listened as each of us presented our particular dilemmas.

My situation wasn't too unique, after all my German grandfather had come to the U.S. about 1890 (still not definitely confirmed), married my grandmother in 1891, was naturalized in 1896, fathered six children in Chicago, supporting his family as a carpenter, and died in 1933--all of this relatively recent history. However, when I started researching the family in about 2000, none of his children were still alive. His grandchildren didn't know much about his emigration or his parents or even if he had any siblings. Relatives from my grandmother's side of the family had no specific information, and were researching their own family with little result. I had gathered some family information from my mother in the 1970's. Unfortunately none of that included much detail about her parents, other than they had emigrated from Germany.

I was left to recalling situations from my family experiences—dating to the late 1940's when I remembered my mother corresponding with and sending “Care” packages to her uncle and his family in the Soviet controlled zone of Germany. After searching through a couple of boxes of family photos and other memorabilia, I found two letters—one dated 1965 confirming the death of Mom's Uncle Eduard at the age of 79 and a portion of second letter dated 1980. Only the 1965 letter included a return address.

I did remember they had a son--Edgar--and recalled a story my mother had told of a letter from Germany telling her that Edgar was to be confirmed (about 1948), and while his parents had been able to obtain a suit for him, they did not have any ties. My Dad had passed away shortly before this letter and Mom still had all of Dad's clothing—so she packed up an assortment of his ties and sent them off to Germany. *(Keep reading for how this anecdote relates to the end of my story.)*

The advice from the German SIG Group was to send a letter to the last address I had with instructions to forward it, if the party had moved. In May, 2007, off went my letter. About 2 months later, my letter was returned as undeliverable. When the German SIG met again in September, I relayed to them my

continuing problem. One of the SIG members asked to what town I had written—I replied Buetzow. She indicated her husband's cousin and wife lived in Germany and they were in frequent contact by e-mail and she would inquire of their knowledge of that town.

Much to her and my surprise, her husband's cousin's wife had previously lived in Buetzow. Also, she planned to visit in that area (some 4 hours drive from her current home) and would be willing to try and locate them. The trip was imminent and we scrambled to get her the name and address. She visited the address, with no result, and then went door to door trying to find someone who might remember the family. After several contacts she encountered a person who remembered the family but didn't know where they had moved. However, he referred her to another person in the town, who had been friends with the family. One inquiry later she found the friend and was able to obtain a current address. Within about two weeks of this exchange of e-mails, I had a current address for Cousin Edgar.

On October 16, 2007, I sent my letter off to Warnow, Germany. I was quite apprehensive—would he remember our family, would he be interested in communicating with me? Much to my delight on November 25, 2007, he sent an e-mail expressing his interest in sharing information and included information about his wife, Rita, and two daughters—Karin and Petra. His father's brother, Albert, died in 1942. Albert's children Bruno and Hildegard were also deceased. Hildegard had never married, and Bruno had only one son—Gerd, who is now more than 60 years old and also not married. He indicated they had lost contact during the split of Germany.

He ended his letter with a P.S.: “I had the finest tie of all the pupils in the class.”

Do consider joining a SIG Group or forming one that will bring together others with a common interest. The results can be amazing!



West Valley Genealogical Society
12222 N. 111th Avenue
Youngtown, AZ 85363-1225

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Dated Material

Please Deliver Promptly



2008

YOU CAN HELP, TOO

Use: GoodSearch.com
GoodShop.com

GoodSearch.com works much like Google, but we receive a penny for each of your searches. Read the instructions on the home page and be sure to enter "West Valley Genealogical Society" in the lower box so we will receive the credit.

Recycle: Aluminum cans
Ink Cartridges
Cell Phones
Drop these off at the Library

Put these numbers in your wallet:

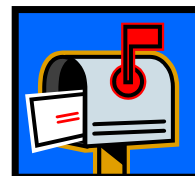
Office Max Perks #001274-8337
Staples Rewards #04050 4355-5
Safeway eScript ID #151055488
Basha's Thanks Program #23643

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!

Results:

Summer Special Interest Group Sessions: Consult the May *Tidbits* for dates and times. Also, remember some of the regular SIGs continue to meet during the warmer days.

Tidbits by E-Mail: Enough people think this would be a good idea for WVGS to do a trial issue as soon as we learn the process.



Send your opinion: e-mail pres@azwvgs.org, or drop a note in the mail or at the Library.

Your comments are a valuable resource.