



Founded 1955

Pomona Valley Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Volume 44

Final meeting on 11th of June 2016

**PVGS will host a panel of experts in areas of genealogy—
our very own members!**

**Many members will present a personal genealogical story
for us at the June meeting.**

**They may bring heirlooms, garments, books, certificates or other
items that once belonged to their ancestors.**



**There is just nothing like hearing a first-hand account of how
important information was discovered.**

PVGS Board of Directors 2016-17

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 1VP—Program Director — Connie Rodriguez — programs@pvgs.us
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 Director Research — Ann Stutsman — research@pvgs.us
 Nominating Committee — Karen McGuirk, Chairman,
 Members: Louise Melton, Bill Lemon

Appointments

Historian — Donna Zamora
 Newsletter Editor— Anne Larkin — newsletter@pvgs.us
 Research Chairman — Ann Stutsman — research@pvgs.us
 Webmaster — Bob Blair — webmaster@pvgs.us



Meetings: 2nd Sat .Sep-May Board Meeting — 1:00 PM Program — 2:00 PM
 Dues: \$20/person or \$25/family

**Remember when you traveled and could
 read the Burma Shave road signs as you
 headed for your summer vacation site?**

Here is one I remembered:

“Listen Birds

These signs cost money

So Roost a while

But don’t get funny.”

Maps, maps, maps!
 While driving in your
 air conditioned auto-
 mobiles this summer,,
 think about the travel
 of your ancestors.
 Check out the maps
 on page 6 to see how
 lucky we are today
 when traveling across
 our wonderful
 country.

Old Tavern in Machias, ME



*There was about one
 tavern per mile on the
 old National Road.*



It is no wonder that many of the ages of my very early ancestors
 often did not “match up.” Read page 7 to find an explanation for
 this. It’s not necessarily a flaw in our transcriptions. (Ed.)

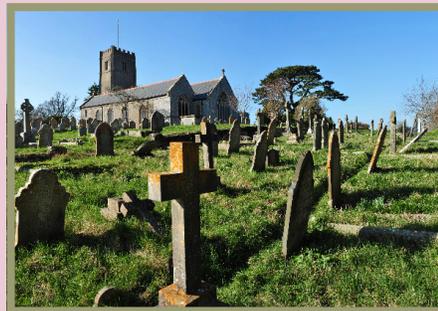
GOOGLE your summer research trip (and, maybe, vacation for the family)

Planning research trips can often be a chore. Which hotel to pick? Which restaurants are nearby? How close are nearby libraries?



Are there any historical museums? It can all be a bit daunting. We're all well-versed using Google Maps to route directions, but have you ever considered using Google Maps to also ease the burden of planning your summer research trip? If you like to

set-up an itinerary and plan your vacation around a few attractions, restaurants, or parks, **Google Maps can be very useful in reviewing their proximity to one another and pre-planning a walking route.** You may even find directions to those exciting graveyards where ancestors can be found.



New App Lets Students Discover History All Around Them

The new Clio App, developed by a professor at Marshall University, lets users find out what historical buildings, sites and events surround them.

Clio is free for everyone with new entries added daily by libraries, university faculty, historical societies, museum professionals and local historians. Help us connect everyone to local history! higherdedtechdecisions.com | By TechDecisions Staff

(from Member Bill Lemon)

COMPANY RELEASES THE WORLD NAMES PROFILER ONLINE SITE

A team of geographical researchers from University College London have created a website (Public Profiler) that provides an interactive map displaying the modern locations of surnames around the world. The site displays information involving 300 million individuals located in 26 countries, including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, India, Argentina, and a large number of countries on the European continent. The site allows a researcher to compare the relative frequency of a surname among countries, states, and counties. To visit the site and use its free World Names Profiler service, go to www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames/

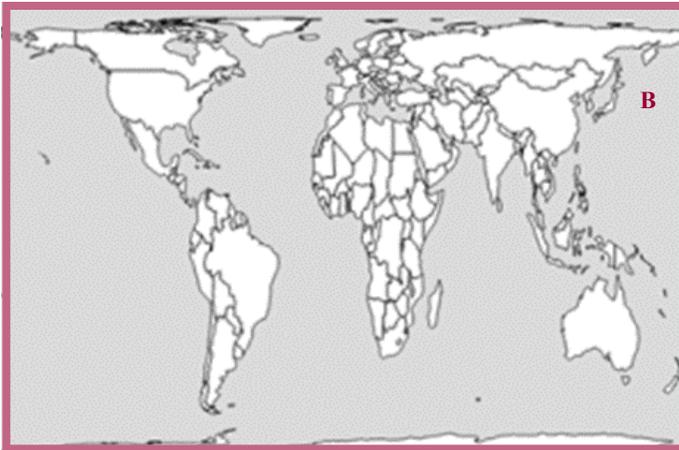
I love this site: One can easily input surnames and find these surname facts! (Ed.)



Old Familiar Map of the World (Mercator's map)

This particular map^A uses the Mercator projection, the most popular map projection today and almost certainly the one you with which you are most familiar.

The Mercator is not the most popular map projection because it is necessarily the best one. Its popularity is a historical legacy that has persisted since the 16th century, a time when maps were important tools for ocean navigation.



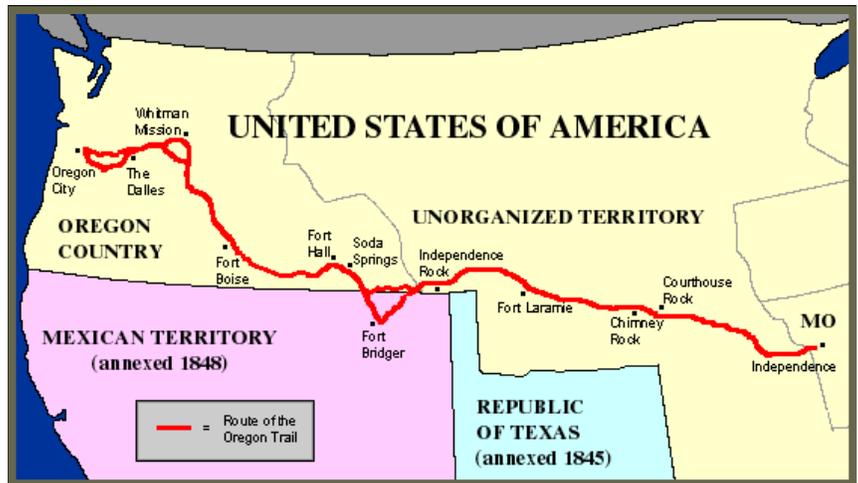
When you imagine the world by the size of each continent^B and where they sit in relation to each other, chances are your mental image looks like this. But as familiar as this picture of the world may seem, this “normal” map is actually quite strange.

All map projections have strengths and weaknesses. The Mercator is accurate with respect to angles. Lines of constant compass heading appear as straight lines on the map. In other words, if a ship sails in a constant direction according to its compass, Mercator will show its path as a straight line. This feature is not true of all map projections, and it is clearly an important one for navigation.

However, it comes with a cost. The Mercator's biggest shortcoming is its inaccuracy with respect to size. And in case, size matters. Mercator gives an inaccurate picture of the world. **What makes the Mercator projection particularly controversial is that it makes Europe and the United States look much larger than they really are, giving them more prominence.** Likewise, it takes prominence away from Africa, South / Central America, and everywhere in Asia except for Russia.

*These maps are taken from (“Your World Map is Hiding Something” — Metrocosm)
Also, check out the very interesting migration map at this site.*

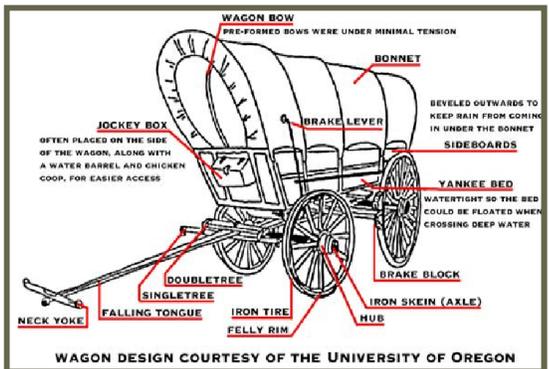
Oregon Trail — Historic trails criss-cross Wind River Country, taking advantage of the easy access South Pass provides over the north-south barrier formed by the Rocky Mountains and the Continental Divide. Native Americans used this corridor for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans, but it wasn't until a party of fur trappers outfitted by John Jacob Astor and known as the **Astorians** discovered" South Pass in 1812 that its importance to America's western settlement became apparent. Learn more about the historic trails by visiting the Bureau of Land Management's interactive map..



The National Road was once the Braddock Road that George Washington had cut through the forest many years before - Cutting an approximate 820-mile long path through the states of Illinois,

My ancestors moved to Illinois in 1837 from New Hampshire. Could they have taken the National Road! Anyone else have questions about

Indiana, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, it was built between 1811 and 1834 and was the first federally funded road in U.S. history. Both Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson believed that a trans-Appalachian road was necessary for unifying the young country. On March 29, 1806, Congress authorized construction of the road and President Thomas Jefferson signed the act establishing what was first called the Cumberland Road that would connect Cumberland, Maryland to the Ohio River. The opening of the **National Road** saw thousands of travelers heading west over the Allegheny Mountains to settle the rich land



of the Ohio River Valley. It also became a corridor of moving goods and supplies. Small towns along the National Road's path began to grow and prosper with the increase in population. Towns such as Cumberland, Maryland; Uniontown, Brownsville, and Washington, Pennsylvania; and Wheeling, West Virginia evolved into commercial centers of business and industry. Uniontown was the headquarters for three major stagecoach



lines which carried passengers over the National Road. Brownsville, on the Monongahela River, was a center for steamboat building and river freight hauling. Many small towns and villages along the road contained taverns, blacksmith shops, and livery stables. The "Panic of 1837 caused construction to halt leaving the terminus at Vandalia, Illinois.



Surprising Note about the people of classical Rome and medieval Europe!!!!

As many as half of the people in classical Rome and medieval Europe did not know their age:

"The average numeracy and literacy of even rich people in the classical and medieval eras in Europe was surprisingly poor. **Aurelius Isidorus, a prosperous landowner in Roman Egypt in the third century AD, gave five known age declarations. No two of the declarations are consistent.** Clearly Isidorus had no clear idea of his own age. Within two years' time he gives ages that differ by eight years. Other sources show that Isidorus was illiterate.

"Isidorus's age declarations show a common pattern for those who are 'innumerate.' That is a tendency to round the age to one ending in a 0 or a 5. In populations in which ages are recorded accurately, 20 percent of the recorded ages will end in 5 or 0. We can thus construct a score variable H-which measures the degree of "age heaping," where $H = 5/4(X-20)$, and X is the percentage of age declarations ending in 5 or 0-to measure the percentage of the population whose real age is unknown. ...

"A lack of knowledge of their true age was widespread among the Roman upper classes as evidenced by age declarations made by their survivors on tombstones, which show a high degree of age heaping. *Typically half had ages unknown to their survivors.* **Age awareness did correlate with social class.** More than 80 percent of officeholders' ages were known to relatives. When we compare this with death records for modern Europe we find that by the eve of the **Industrial Revolution age awareness in the general population had increased markedly.** In the eighteenth century in **Paris** only 15 percent of the general population had unknown ages at the time of death, in **Geneva** 23 percent, and in **Liege** 26 percent.



"We can also look at the development of age awareness by examining censuses of the living. Some of the earliest of these are for medieval Italy, including the famous Florentine catasto of 1427, a wide-ranging survey of wealth for tax purposes. **Even though Florence was then one of the richest cities of the world and the center of the Renaissance, 32 percent of the city's population did not know their ages.** In comparison a census in 1790 of the small English town of Corfe Castle, with a mere 1,239 inhabitants, most of them laborers, shows that all but 8 percent knew their age. **The poor in England around 1800 had more age awareness than office holders in the Roman Empire.**

"Another feature of the Roman tombstone age declarations is that many ages were greatly overstated. We know that life expectancy in ancient Rome was perhaps as low as 20-25 at birth. Yet the tombstones record people as dying at ages as high as 120. In North Africa, 3 percent allegedly died at 100 or more. Almost all these great ages must be complete fantasy. In comparison, a set of 250 relatively prosperous testators in England circa 1600, whose ages can be established from parish records, had a highest age at death of 88. Yet the children and grandchildren who memorialized richer Romans did not detect any implausibility in recording these fabulous ages."

Gregory Clark, *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World*, Princeton, Copyright 2007 by Princeton University Press, Loc. 3246-85.

**Pomona Valley
Genealogical Society**

**P. O. Box 286
Pomona, CA 91769-0286**



Pomona Public Library is at 625 S. Garey Ave (corner Garey and 7th Streets, just south of Mission). 909 620-2043. Parking is free in the lot and on 7th - both sides.

PVGS meets at the Pomona Public Library on the Second Saturday of each month—September -May in the public Conference Room.

Our Board Meetings are held at 1:00 pm. Our General Meetings and Programs are from 2:00—4:00pm.

