



Pomona Valley Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Volume 44, Issue 1

September 2015

POMONA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:

"AMERICA: LAND OF THE FARM, HOME OF THE PLOW."

Board-certified genealogist, **Jean Wilcox Hibben**, will present "America: Land of the Farm, Home of the Plow" at the September 12th meeting of the Pomona Valley Genealogical Society. The presentation will explore how farmers have been the backbone of America from the first settlers until present day. Without these important people, and their families, there would not be food to eat....yet people frequently use the phrase, "My ancestors were **JUST** farmers." Just farmers!? Farmers have always played a critical role in the survival of America. Learn about the farming profession along with how to locate records of these important ancestors.

Understand the vital role your farmer forefather AND foremother....and all their children played in your family's history, and the history of the United States. Also to be discussed will be how American and its language have been influenced by the agricultural industry.

Jean has been involved in family research for over 35 years. She is currently the 1st Vice President of the Corona Genealogical Society and is a member of the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Genealogical Speakers Guild (where she serves as Vice-President), she serves as the Western Regional Representative to the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors, and she is the Parliamentarian for the California State Genealogical Alliance. She was a lead researcher for the 2013 season of the *Genealogy Roadshow*, seen on PBS. Dr. Hibben obtained her bachelors and master's degrees in Speech Communication and holds a doctorate in folklore. Jean is a national speaker who presents informative and entertaining presentations. She is a monthly contributor to the on-line magazine, GenWeekly, and a frequent writer for other genealogy publications.

NEW PVGS Board of Directors 2015-16

President — Pat Henny — president@pvgs.us
 1VP—Program Director — Connie Rodriguez — programs@pvgs.us
 2VP —Membership Director — Loretta Barker — membership@pvgs.us
 Secretary — Freddie Watson — secretary@pvgs.us
 Treasurer — Raul Rodriguez — treasurer@pvgs.us
 Director Collections/Archivist — Richard Piepho — publications@pvgs.us
 Director Hospitality — Valerie Greenbeck — hospitality@pvgs.us
 Director Ways & Means — Betty Goldberg— waysandmeans@pvgs.us
 Director Research — Ann Stutsman — research@pvgs.us
 Nominating Committee — Anne Larkin Chairman,
 Members: Karen McGuirk, Doug Neely

Additional Appointments

Newsletter Editor— Anne Larkin — newsletter@pvgs.us
 Extension Classes — Richard Piepho— publications@pvgs.us
 Research Chairman — Ann Stutsman — research@pvgs.us
 Historian — Esther Neely
 Webmaster — Bob Blair — webmaster@pvgs.us



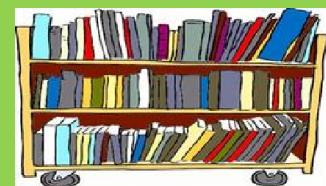
Meetings: 2nd Sat .Sep-May Board Meeting — 1:00 PM Program — 2:00 PM
 Dues: \$20/person or \$25/family

 Be sure to pay your dues so that you will receive our newsletter with information about speakers and tips for your research.



*Iowa Farmers circa 1886
 5 sons, father, 1 helper
 (Anne's grandfather on left...)
 (hard work)*

PVGS Board Member, Betty Goldberg will have a cart of books for sale by PVGS. You may find the very book you need for your research..



Library Corner — Richard Piepho

Weather of the past can add depth to your family history story. "Everybody talks about the weather," said Mark Twain, "but nobody does anything about it." David A. Norris wrote in his article for "*Internet Genealogy*": "...they can do something with a great array of historical weather records and data. Documentation of blizzards, storms, droughts, tornados, and other extreme weather events can confirm or add to old family stories, or perhaps create new angles for understanding the lives of past generations."

Check out the following articles (found in PVGS collection) for further help in your story writing about your ancestor's weather conditions and how these conditions would have affected their lives.

Weather in Genealogy - The Weather Report - 10 extreme weather events - by Maureen A. Taylor

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. 1815 The Great September Gale | 6. 1900 Galveston Hurricane |
| 2. 1816 The Year without a Summer | 7. 1925 Tri-State Tornado |
| 3. 1868-1869 Great Lakes Storms | 8. 1927 Mississippi River Flood |
| 4. 1873-1877 Locust Plagues | 9. 1933-1939 Dust Bowl |
| 5. 1888 Fierce Blizzards | 10. 1937 Ohio River Flood |

"*Family Tree Magazine*," Vol. 9, Issue 3, May 2008, pp 26-31

Weather in Genealogy—Tornados—tornado of 5 Mar 1919 in Eufaula, Alabama

"*Family Tree Magazine*," vol. 15, issue 6, Oct/Nov 2014, p 61

Weather in Genealogy - What Happened Before 1817? - by Jean Nepsund

"German-American Genealogy" Fall 2005, pp 3-5

Weather in Genealogy - Weather or not in the craziest Places - by Janet Elaine Smith

"*Heritage Quest Magazine*," Vol. 18, No. 2, Issue 98, pp 90-92

Weather in Genealogy—Yesterday's weather for today's genealogist—David A. Norris reveals how you can supplement our family history research with information about the weather of yesteryear.

"*Internet Genealogy*," vol. 9, no. 6, Feb/Mar 2015, pp 20-24

Weather in Genealogy—see also *FAMINE* (1816) "The Year without a Summer"

Publishing—*Internet Genealogy* for Feb/Mar 2015 has an article how to "Create your own Family History Book" using Apple's iBook Author for creating free and low-cost family history publications. This free program can quickly help you put your genealogical information together in book format, sharing it with friends and family, with no money and no publisher involved. This magazine is in the PVGS collection.

Publishing—*Family Tree Magazine* for Sep 2015 has an article about putting your family's story into print on pages 46-51. This magazine also in the collection.

Check the PVGS subject index for further publishing ideas.

How can I search the Census Records?

You can access census records many different ways:

Visiting the National Archives Building in Washington, DC or one of our regional facilities located in Anchorage, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Fort Worth, Kansas City, New York City, Philadelphia, Riverside, CA, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Visit State Archives or State Libraries.

- Contacting public libraries, historical societies, and other research facilities.

Purchasing rolls of the microfilm from us.

Using online services, such as ancestry.com which has digitized many census holdings from the National Archives. (Available free-of-charge at the National Archives facilities nationwide and through many libraries, otherwise by subscription.)

Check with the USGenWeb project to see if census records from your states of interest have been transcribed (free of charge). See both <http://www.uscensus.org/> and <http://www.rootsweb.com/~census/states.htm>.

Think about:

- **Exploring public library websites in areas of geographic interest.
- **Exploring state library websites in areas of geographic interest.
- **Exploring state historical society websites in areas of geographic interest.

"To copy from one book is plagiarism, to copy from three is research."

- | |
|---|
| September, 2 — Congress established U.S.Treasury (1789) |
| 5 — Continental Congress holds First session |
| 6 — Congress names "Grandparents Day" |
| 7 — Congress names Labor Day |
| 9 — Congress renamed our nation "United States of America" (1776) |
| 11 — Congress names Patriot Day |
| 17 — Congress names Citizenship Day |
| 18 — Congress establishes U. S. Air Force (1947) ...and names |
| 18 — POW/MIA recognition Day |



Library of Congress Railroad Maps 1836-1900

Collection Overview

Railroad Maps, 1828-1900, a subset of *Maps*, is a collection of maps that represent an important historical record, illustrating the growth of travel and settlement as well as the development of industry and agriculture in the United States. They depict the development of cartographic style and technique, highlighting the achievement of early railroaders. Included in the collection are progress report surveys for individual lines, official government surveys, promotional maps, maps showing land grants and rights-of-way, and route guides published by commercial firms.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/railroad-maps/file.html>

The history of 19th century America is, among other dynamics, a story of railroads. The burgeoning American rail network expanded the nascent country's economy, connected the coasts, and contributed to colonial dominance of Native lands. It was, in fact, one of the central concerns of both the federal and state governments for a number of decades. This site is packed with teacher-ready resources about how the railroads developed and their impact on various aspects of American life.

While the heart of the site revolves around using the 634 primary source materials that make up the Railroad Maps, 1828-1900 collection, the informative write up also covers five broad topics, including Railroad Transportation, Military Campaigns, Westward Expansion, Agriculture and Industrialization, Postal Service, and Tourism. There are also welcome analyses of songs, literature, and other topics related to the railroads, as well as links to related resources from around the Library of Congress website.

The library is open for academic research to anyone with a Reader Identification Card. One may not remove library items from the reading rooms or the library buildings.

Since 1902, American libraries have been able to request books and other items through interlibrary loan from the Library of Congress if these items are not readily available elsewhere. Through this system, the Library of Congress has served as a "library of last resort", according to former Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam. **The Library of Congress lends books to other libraries with the stipulation that they be used only inside the borrowing library.**

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Other families or cultures. For example

- Giovanni becomes John
- Zbigniew becomes Charles
- Dimitrios becomes James, Jim
- Sandeep becomes Sandi, Sandy
- Grun becomes Green
- Concetta becomes Connie
- Schmidt becomes Smith

If you know the origin of the name (i.e., German, Swedish), ask someone who knows the language to pronounce the name. They will be able to apply pronunciation rules for the original language and give you a chance to phonetically spell the name as census taker might have done, translate the meaning if what Americanized, and/or provide insights as to how the name might be spelled in the original language.

Never assume that the surname you are researching has stayed the same through the generations or even through a life time. Census enumerators, priests, doctors, lawyers, school teachers, tax collectors, and any other persons with need to write down your family name probably had some input on how it was written. I have learned that for every record I find, I should not be surprised if my name is spelled differently.

For example one researcher found the following:

- Reardin was found in a land record
- Rairdon was found in a census
- Rarden was found in a church record
- Rardin was found in a court record
- Reardin was found in a military record

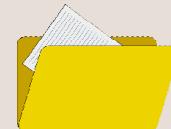
consider looking for names that have been Americanized to help with pronunciation or to set themselves apart. I actually have one record where my surname is spelled four different ways in one paragraph. (*taken from D. Eastman's newsletter*)

Johannes to John



Guenther to Ginter

Anne's great-grandfather—
young emigrant
from Prussia
Occupation —
wheelmaker.



SALT LAKE CITY UTAH—A total of 82,039 volunteers helped to [“Fuel the Find”](#) during FamilySearch’s Worldwide Indexing Event, held August 7-14, 2015. Though short of the goal of 100,000 participants, the effort produced a number of remarkable achievements, among them an 89% increase in non-English language indexing activity. Volunteers produced more than 12.2 million indexed (transcribed) and 2.3 million arbitrated (reviewed) records during the weekly event As with all records indexed by FamilySearch indexing volunteers, those indexed during the global event will be made freely searchable at [FamilySearch.org](#).

A bit of California History

Throughout history, Point Sur has been a navigational hazard, to which many shipwrecked captains can attest. In the 1880s, lighthouses and lightships provided invaluable warnings to the many ships that traveled close to shore, especially during rough weather when protruding headlands could provide them with much-needed shelter. It took mariners 11 years of petitioning the U.S. Lighthouse Service Board before money was allocated for Point Sur in 1886. Three years later, on August 1, 1889, the lightstation keys were turned over to the first keeper. He and three assistants staffed the lighthouse and fog signal 24 hours a day.

The four keepers and their families lived an isolated life. The trail to Monterey was long and often treacherous, so trips were rare. The U.S. Lighthouse Service provided a horse and wagon to get mail and supplies from Pfeiffer's Resort (now Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park).

Each family was allotted a garden area for fresh vegetables. Bulk supplies such as coal, firewood, animal feed, and some food came on a 'lighthouse tender' about every four months. One function of these long, broad ships was to service remote lightstations inaccessible by land. The tender would anchor south of the lightstation and send in a 20-fowhaler towing a skiff, both loaded with supplies. The sacks and barrels were hoisted in cargo nets to a platform at the base of the rock. They were then secured to a flat railcar and winched up to the dwelling area using a steam-driven donkey engine.



The Hunt for Heirs of a Photographer's Collection Potentially Worth Millions

Here is a genealogy story in the making. Vivian Maier was an amateur street photographer whose brilliant work catapulted her to worldwide fame only after her death. The negatives of her photographs are now probably worth millions. Vivian had no children so the fortune should go to her closest relative: her long-lost brother Charles. However, he died nearly 40 years ago in a small town in central New Jersey. It is unknown if he had any children.

Genealogist Ann Marks, a former executive at Dow Jones & Co., said she hoped that going public with the information would prompt those who may have known Charles to come forward and shed more light on the Maier family history, perhaps staving off what could be a protracted legal fight in the slow-moving probate court. "To me the search to find heirs is as interesting as Vivian herself," Marks, 57, said from her Long Island home.

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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.*

