



**CHULA VISTA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
FAMILY HISTORY GAZETTE**



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*We Dig Our Ancestors*

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CVGS Web Site: <https://chulavistagenealogysociety.wildapricot.org/>  
CVGS Blog: <http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>

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*Providing Genealogy Education in South San Diego County*

February 2021

**Wednesday, 24 February 2021, 12 noon**  
**CVGS General Meeting (in a Zoom Video Conference)**  
**John Finch on "The DNA Dynamic"**

Before COVID, my Wednesday morning study room newbies were arriving with a DNA analysis and with the question, "what do I do with this, now?" The DNA phenomenon has introduced another tool or resource never before available. It can confirm or deny relationships; it can connect to relationships long inactive; it can suggest potential close relationships, thereby breaking your brick walls. I hope to examine some of these DNA Dynamics and how you may apply it to your research success.

John has been a member of the Chula Vista Genealogical Society for over twenty years and has served as Library Coordinator, Program Chair and President (2004 -2006 term).

Born and raised in Idaho, he retired from the U.S. Navy, 1980, and San Diego County Probation Dept., 1999. He is married, with three sons, eight Grandchildren and four Great grand kids, so far.



John developed an interest in his own family history at a very young age but did not begin an active pursuit of research until after retiring in 1999. Now, he spends several hours each week researching family and awaits reopening of the Chula Vista Library to schedule Wednesday morning sessions to assist new and seasoned researchers.

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## President's Message – by Karen Smith



February is one of my favorite months. As a retired teacher, I oversaw a few dozen Valentine card exchanges. For years I sent or gave Valentines to family members and some special friends. I still send them to my two youngest grandsons. The romantic notion of Valentine's love has also been a part of my genealogical discoveries.

Before I studied my family, as I grew up, my parents were a model couple, completely devoted to each other. For very different reasons, my mother and father had struggled in life before they met one another and that seemed to make them even more devoted to each other. I believe that is not always true for everyone, so I felt blessed to grow up in a house where love was expressed frequently, both between my parents and for and among my siblings. Of course there were rivalries, but in the end, my brothers and I were a team.

When I inherited a few hundred letters in the late 1970s, I found more romantic stories. They did not all end that way. For example, my grandmother's cousin (a handsome fellow) sent her love poems for quite a few years before her marriage to my grandfather (an unhappy marriage for her) was arranged. I found them so preserved in her trunk when she died at the age of 88. The night before my parents married, my father wrote a romantic poem, telling my mother of his hopes and dreams for their life together. My oldest brother was born on Valentine's Day and my father wrote a beautiful poem to memorialize his joy in the birth of their first child. My mother gave me all of these items when I was about 30.

When my aunt was away for her first year of college, she saved all of the solicitous letters her parents sent to her. I recently found letters my mother sent to give me encouragement during college and in the early days when I was married with three small children.

I hope that some love, family love or romantic love finds its way into your February or the story of your family.

### **Please Note: All CVGS Events at Chula Vista Library Are Canceled Until Further Notice!**

The Chula Vista Civic Center Branch Library and the other branches of the library are closed until the prohibition on meetings of groups of people and distancing from others are lifted.

The latest word that we have is that the Chula Vista Library branches may open by September or October 2021.

**Consequently, all CVGS in-person meetings are canceled.** We will try to have Zoom online video conferencing meetings for the Board of Directors, the Research Group, the DNA Interest Group, and the General Meetings with a speaker. See page 3 of the June 2020 Newsletter for Zoom program details, or contact Randy Seaver (email [randy.seaver@gmail.com](mailto:randy.seaver@gmail.com)).

## CVGS Program Review – Diane Hall's Trip to Scotland

The January 27 program speaker was Diane Gould Hall on “**My Visit to Scotland: What I Did Right and What I Did Wrong.**” There were 38 in attendance – 23 CVGS members and 15 guests – in this Zoom meeting.

**Diane** has 158 ancestors with Scottish roots, and she wanted to visit ancestral homes in Dundee and Aboyne, research at several repositories, and sightsee in Edinburgh and St. Andrews. Before she and her husband went, they studied maps and brochures, reserved B&Bs, and Diane did research on the ScotlandsPeople website to determine which towns, churches, ancestral homes, cemeteries, and repositories to visit.

During the trip, she managed to find the locations of ancestral homes and cemeteries and took many photographs. One of the major repositories was closed for a Bank Holiday so she did not get to visit there. The General Register Office in Edinburgh was open and she was able to spend several hours there.



The video of the presentation and Diane's handout are available on the CVGS website in the “Members” section – click on “Recorded Zoom Meetings” and select the 28 January links.

### Stay up-to-date on CVGS Activities

Visit the CVGS Website: <https://chulavistagenealogysociety.wildapricot.org/>

Visit the Chula Vista Genealogy Cafe blog: <http://CVGenCafe.blogspot.com>

The Board Meeting minutes and General Meeting minutes are now posted on the CVGS website. Check them out at <https://cvgenealogy.org> on the “Members” tab.

## January 20<sup>th</sup> DNA Interest Group Review

The January 20<sup>th</sup> DNA Interest Group meeting on Zoom had 19 in attendance. In the first hour, Randy discussed:

- MyHeritage launched their new Genetic Groups – see <https://blog.myheritage.com/2020/12/myheritage-launches-genetic-groups/>
- Ancestry DNA is shutting down their DNA Health Testing – see <https://eogn.com/page-18080/9860981>
- FamilyTreeDNA and Gene by Gene merge with myDNA – see <https://eogn.com/page-18080/9848682>
- Randy discussed how to use DNA Painter to make your DNA chromosome map – which segments are from which ancestors. DNA Painter has a good article at <https://blog.dnapainter.com/blog/painting-a-match-every-step/>.
- Randy demonstrated the process of using DNA segment data from DNA matches with a known common ancestor and “painting” them onto a map of his autosomal chromosomes. He also showed his in-work chromosome map – he has 26% of his chromosomes painted from 32 DNA matches on MyHeritageDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, 23andMe, and GEDmatch. Unfortunately, AncestryDNA does not provide DNA segment information for DNA matches.

In the second hour, the attendees shared some of their DNA-related activities, and asked questions.

- Marshall noted that if your parent has done a DNA test, they likely will have higher shared DNA with DNA matches than you do.
- Karen S. noted that PBS had shown a *Nova* program about DNA.
- Vernon is working on his DNA Painter chromosome map.
- Ray has found information about DNA matches on Newspapers.com
- Daryl has found newspaper article on GenealogyBank.com.

The next DNA Interest Group meeting will be on Wednesday, 17 February at 12 noon in a Zoom online video conference hosted by Randy Seaver. Members can register on the CVGS website and receive an email with the link to JOIN the meeting. Also, an email invitation to all CVGS members will go out on 15 February with the link.

### Want Up-To-Date Genealogy News?

Randy Seaver publishes “Genealogy News Bytes” every Tuesday and Friday with links to genealogy news articles, new or updated online record collections, genealogy education opportunities (conferences, webinars, podcasts, video), DNA success stories, and more. See an example at <https://www.geneamusings.com/2021/02/genealogy-news-and-education-bytes.html>

Dick Eastman publishes genealogy news and technology articles daily on his Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter – check for updates at <https://eogn.com/page-18080>.

Randy writes a weekly “Best of the Genea-Blogs” post every Sunday, which contain links to genealogy blog posts that he enjoyed and learned from, including several other “pick posts” by geneabloggers in Arizona, Canada and Australia. See an example in <https://www.geneamusings.com/2021/01/best-of-genea-blogs-week-of-24-to-30.html>.

Randy also passes lists of useful genealogy and DNA blog post and videos to members via email.

## **Spotlight on Daryl Hern, CVGS Researcher, Community Volunteer, and Horsewoman, by Patricia Diane Godinez**

Hi! I am Daryl Christine Erwin Hern – Just like actress Daryl Christine Hannah! My parents are Willis “Bud” Erwin and Beverly (nee Smith) Round, both deceased. I was born in El Centro in the Imperial Valley where my parents followed my maternal grandparents. My grandparents had moved there from San Gabriel, California, to live below sea-level which in those days was thought to be helpful for people with high blood pressure like my grandfather. I am the first of 4 girls and my name would have been Daryl whether I had been born a boy or a girl! A large portrait of us four girls, which I still have, was done at Schofield’s Photography Studio in El Centro and was an award winner.



With red-hot summers in the Valley, swim team was my passion, and with all the agriculture and the California Mid-Winter Fair there, I raised two sheep in 4-H and showed them. After a move to Brawley, I graduated from Brawley High School, married a Hern soon after, started a family, and attended Imperial Valley College. We moved to San Diego in 1974, with a 4 year old daughter and a one year old son. I worked as a bank teller in La Jolla at the Wells Fargo on Balboa Avenue, when it was robbed by the Stopwatch Gang! (Very scary.) When my children were in high school, I decided to pursue my goal since childhood to be a teacher. So I went back to college to SDSU, took every Spanish course they offered, and got a bilingual teaching credential!

I got to teach for 22 years in National City, mainly 4th, my favorite grade with its California History. In the meantime, I found my current partner, another teacher, and now we have combined families of 4 grown children and 8 grandchildren between us. Thankfully, two of my aunts, one on each side of the family, started some genealogy research in the 1970’s and 1980’s. I inherited the 1970’s records for my mother’s side including partially complete hand-drawn family trees going back three generations and correspondence between my aunt and 2 cousins from St. Louis, where many family members are buried. For my father’s side, that aunt is 85 and still living, and along with sharing her memories, she let me photocopy her records, many of which she found information for by traveling to court houses in Illinois.

So, due to her joining the CVGS about 3 years ago, I have been inspired to build upon my two aunts’ work using today’s technology. Martha “Mattie” Belle Pangburn Myers is my most intriguing relative. She is my maternal great grandmother who she got to meet. What a pioneer life she and the family had! Born in Illinois in 1871, she married at 15, gave birth at home in Arkansas, moved across the country to Colorado, with her husband and 4 children, then on to San Francisco in a wagon, and was there during the 1906 Earthquake. She and great grandfather George ended up in San Diego in 1911 where he eventually worked for City Schools for 20 years. I have a photo of them circa 1920, having a picnic at the Sweetwater Reservoir which is close to where I live now.

Along with learning genealogy, I enjoy trail riding my 29 year old gelding Slick, doing Aquafit at the YMCA, beekeeping, volunteering at the Bonita Museum and serving on the Sweetwater Community Planning Group.

## From the CVGS Historian, by Susan Zimmer

Did you know that Chula Vista Genealogical Society published a members' cookbook in 1992? I found some financial records from that year for funding the project. Many organizations at that time were fundraising by putting out collections of member's best recipes. Personally I would love to see some of the recipes that Sandy Palumbo may have submitted.

Does anyone from the early days have a copy of it? If so, bring it to my attention, and we can share some of the contents.

### Former CVGS Member Olive Maye (Besecker) Lenane Passed Away

Olive Maye (Besecker) Lenane was born on May 1, 1927 and passed away on October 20, 2020 and is under the care of Glen Abbey Memorial Park and Mortuary.

Olive was a member of the Chula Vista Genealogical Society for the years 2010 to 2012, and served as Publicity Co-Chair in 2011-12 with Janice Nevills. She also served on the ByLaws Committee.

The Dignity Memorial website has a fantastic photo presentation, and a short video, of Olive's life. See it at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/bonita-ca/olive-lenane-9862396>

I was contacted by her daughters in mid-January because they found some genealogy books that Olive had used, and wanted them to find a good home. I drove over to the home on Country Trails in Bonita, talked to the daughters about their mother and her life, and came home with a box of 8 to 10 genealogy books. When the library re-opens, and we have a CVGS Librarian again, I will give the books to our Librarian to put on the shelf or to use as opportunity drawing prizes.



### Finding Your Roots Is On PBS

The Henry Louis Gates, Jr. genealogy TV series, [\*Finding Your Roots\*](#), is in the middle of its' Season 7 run on the Public Broadcasting System (KPBS in the San Diego area – Channel 12 over the air, Channel 11 on Cox Cable) at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays nights. You can watch past episodes on the web site. The next three episodes are:

\* **Tuesday, February 9, 2021** - **Episode 4: *The Shirts on Their Backs*** with Tony Shaloub and Christopher Meloni

\* **Tuesday, February 16, 2021** - **Episode 5: *Write My Name in the Book of Life*** with Kasi Lemmons and Pharrell Williams

\* **Tuesday, February 23, 2021** - **Episode 6: *Country Roots*** with Clint Black and Roseanne Cash

## Upcoming Family Tree Webinars

These webinars are sponsored by Legacy Family Tree, and are FREE to watch live, and are FREE for a week after the live event. You must register to view them live at [www.familytreewebinars.com](http://www.familytreewebinars.com). A membership of \$49.95 per year enables the member to view any of the over 1,500 webinars at any time.

- Tuesday, 9 February, 11 a.m.: [Making the most of MyHeritage resources with the Help Center, Knowledge Base, and site settings](#), by Daniel Horowitz
- Wednesday, 10 February, 11 a.m.: [Chinese American Research: Challenges and Discoveries](#), by Grant Din
- Wednesday, 10 February, 5 p.m.: [Researching Your Maine Ancestors](#), by B.J. Jamieson
- Tuesday, 16 February, 5 p.m.: [A Family for Suzanne](#), by Ruth Randall
- Wednesday, 17 February, 11 a.m.: [Shoot Like a Pro: How to Record Quality Videos Using Your Mobile Device](#), by Elizabeth M. O'Neal
- Friday, 19 February, 11 a.m.: [How to locate an ancestor in Ontario, Canada West or Upper Canada \(when you don't know where they lived\)](#), by Janice Nickerson
- Tuesday, 23 February, 11 a.m.: [Bringing your family photos to life on MyHeritage](#), by Keren Dotan
- Wednesday, 24 February, 11 a.m.: [Polish genealogy online - portals and databases](#), by Kinga Urbanska
- Tuesday, 2 March, 5 p.m.: [British Genealogy Online: The Top English & Welsh Family History Websites](#), by Rick Crume
- Wednesday, 3 March, 11 a.m.: [La Madre Chiesa - Italian Catholic Parish Records](#), by Suzanne Russo Adams
- Friday, 5 March, 11 a.m.: [The Ten Percent: Free People of Color](#), by Nicka Smith

## Do You Have a Research or Family Story to Share?

Do you have a research or family story about an ancestor or your genealogy research, please send it to the editor as a PDF file and we will be happy to publish it. If you have a photograph or document image, that can be published too! Because we only are sending email newsletters, we are not limited to 10 pages.

As George H.W. Bush said: “You are our living link to the past. Tell your grandchildren the story of the struggles waged, at home and abroad; Of sacrifices made for freedom’s sake. And tell them your own story as well— because everybody has a story to tell.”

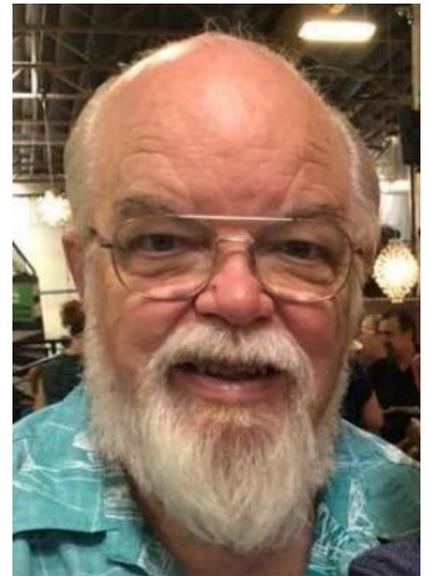
## Quotes To Ponder

- Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power. ~ George Washington
- In matters of style, swim with the current. In matters of principle, stand like a rock. ~ Thomas Jefferson
- You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was. ~ Abraham Lincoln
- Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care. ~ Theodore Roosevelt
- Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionaries. ~ Franklin Roosevelt
- The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened. ~ John F. Kennedy

## January 13<sup>th</sup> Research Group Review

**The January 13<sup>th</sup> Research Group meeting on Zoom had 24 in attendance. In the first hour, Randy discussed:**

- **RootsTech Connect 2021 is a FREE, virtual three-day, all-day – conference with classes from around the world. Register at [www.RootsTech.org](http://www.RootsTech.org). There are over 200,000 registered now.**
- **The SCGS Jamboree will have two sessions as an online conference with registrations fees. June 4-5 is Genetic Genealogy 2021, and June 11-12 is Genealogy Jamboree 2021. See [www.genealogyjamboree.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.com).**
- **The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) 2021 Conference is 1 April to 31 May and will be online with registration fees. There will be 3 live presentations and 60 recorded presentations. Register at <https://nergc.org/2021-conference-2/>.**
- **Randy received his second FOREVER box back with 29 more digitized 8 mm home movies. He invited his daughters into the FOREVER account so they can see the family archive of photos, home movies, and ancestral records.**
- **Several distant cousins have contacted Randy with an Auble family photograph, a Kemp DNA match and research on our brick wall, and a Dill cousin who saw a family obituary on his blog.**



**In the second hour, the attendees discussed their 2020 genealogy successes and challenges, along with what genealogy-related items they received at Christmas. Several attendees received genealogy or DNA books for Christmas, some received genealogy or photo restoration software, some found cousins in 2020. Others are trying to get organized, are delving into their DNA matches, are finding newspaper articles and obituaries online about their families, or are working on DAR or Mayflower Society applications.**

**The next Research Group meeting will be on Wednesday, 10 February at 12 noon in a Zoom online video conference hosted by Randy Seaver. Members can register on the CVGS website and receive an email with the link to JOIN the meeting. Also, an email invitation to all CVGS members will go out on 8 February with the link.**

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Video Archive ▾ Virtual Event 2021 ▲ London 2021 ▾ ☰ Menu

## Discover Your Story at RootsTech Connect

Join the world's largest family celebration for free to unlock your family's history and learn how to preserve the stories of your life.



rootstech CONNECT  
25-27 February 2021 | [rootstech.org](http://rootstech.org)

25-27 FEBRUARY, 2021

### Introducing RootsTech Connect: A Free Online Conference Experience

For the first time ever, the world's largest family celebration event will be entirely virtual and completely free. Get ready to celebrate shared connections with people from around the world. Connect with friends, your family, your past, and your heritage and homelands— all from the comfort of your home and in...

Hey there! Ready to register for RootsTech Connect? It's completely free and you can do so right h...

**Welcome New Members**

Current Membership (as of 2/1): 71

**New Members:**  
 Denruth Lougeay  
 Jane Furnish  
 Marie Hegwer  
 Karen Miller

**Karyn's Caring Corner**

Cards were sent to:

**Meeting Host Volunteers**

TBD

**We Need a Hospitality Chair!  
 Please volunteer!**

**Telephone Tree Volunteers**

Ana Castro  
 Carrie Holleron  
 Carole Sobke

**CVGS Society Officers**

|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| President:                        | Karen Smith     |
| First Vice-President, Programs    | Virginia Taylor |
| Second Vice-President, Membership | Carrie Holleron |
| Treasurer                         | Karen Polk      |
| Secretary                         | Ana Castro      |

**Committee Chairs**

|                                  |              |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Education                        | Susi Pentico |
| Historian                        | Susan Zimmer |
| Hospitality                      | Open         |
| Librarian                        | Open         |
| Newsletter Editor                | Randy Seaver |
| Research Group/DNA Group/Queries | Randy Seaver |
| Ways and Means                   | Carole Sobke |
| Webmaster                        | Gary Brock   |

**San Diego Genealogy Events**

**San Diego Genealogical Society**  
 ([www.casdgs.org](http://www.casdgs.org))  
 All Meetings on Zoom

**Monthly Program**

**Saturday, 13 February, 10 a.m.**  
**Speaker: Thomas MacEntee on**  
**“The Coded Census - Deciphering US**  
**Census Codes” and**  
**“1950 Census - Are you Ready?”**

**FREE!!!**

(SDGS Invites CVGS Members –  
 see future email to register)

**North San Diego County Genealogical**  
**Society ( [www.nsdcgs.org](http://www.nsdcgs.org) )**  
 All Meetings on GoToWebinar

**Monthly Program**

**Tuesday, 23 February, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Speaker: Nancy Loe on**  
**“Finding Scottish Ancestors Online”**

**FREE Spring Seminar Webinar**

**Saturday, 10 April, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**  
**“Pajama Genealogy, or How I Spent**  
**My Pandemic”**  
**with 6 NSDCGS Speakers**  
**Register at <https://register.nsdcgs.org>**

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**Upcoming Conferences**

**RootsTech Connect 2021**

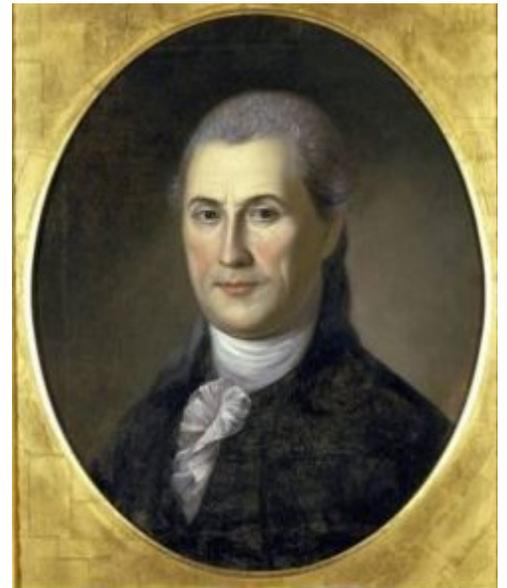
**25 - 27 February 2021**  
**Virtual – Worldwide – FREE**  
**Registration:**  
<https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

## Samuel Huntington, by Laurine C. Curtis

Although for my first 12 (the most formative) years, I grew up a Midwesterner, my husband is a Mainer through and through. No surprise, we lived in Maine for 28 years to raise our family. Fruit not falling far from the tree, our middle daughter chose to attend four years of college just 10 miles from home before moving to the Big Apple. However, after completing law school and practicing there, she relocated to Connecticut where she has lived and worked more recently, growing deep roots in the greater Norwich area. Unbeknownst to us, generations of my mother's Huntington ancestors once lived in that same region. A certain Samuel with whom our daughter shares a set of grandparents (8 generations removed) was a lawyer as is she. I was struck with finding his likeness in portrait on FindaGrave (a familiar face!) and was moved to comment...

### Knot in Time, By LC Curtis

“He has her same steely stare,”  
     my daughter's husband  
                                 quipped over text.  
 That look of confidence  
     while considering each  
                                 and every angle...I agreed!  
 Her ancestral uncle  
     eight generations removed  
                                 once lived and practiced law  
 where she lives and works now.  
     A coincidence,  
                                 and quirky alignment  
 of genealogy with geography?  
     Or, perhaps, an intersect between souls in time  
                                 beyond our ken...  
 some copying mechanism  
     of replication at play  
                                 within our double helix strand.”



**SAMUEL HUNTINGTON 1731-1796:** Signer of the Declaration of Independence from Connecticut. Some historians also consider him the first President of the United States. Samuel studied law books in his spare time, and at age 22, he passed the test to practice law in Connecticut. A few years later, he moved to Norwich, Connecticut, where he set up a law practice, and married Martha Devotion, a minister's daughter. Shy and quiet, and not much of a speaker or writer, Huntington won the respect of his neighbors for his fairness and hard work. He was elected to the Connecticut Legislature in 1764, and eight years later, was made a judge. He was elected to the Second Continental Congress in late 1775, and took his seat early the next year. He represented Connecticut in the Second Continental Congress from 1776 to 1781, serving as President of the Congress from September 1779 to July 1781.

Because he was President of Congress when the nation's first framework of government, the Articles of Confederation, took effect on March 1, 1781, Huntington has been called the first real President of the United States. In 1784, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Connecticut. Between 1786 and 1796, he served as Governor of Connecticut. He was still Governor when he died at the age of 64. [Biography by: Kit and Morgan Benson; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/2808/samuel-huntington> ]

## **What Attracted Our Ancestors to the New World** **by Dick Eastman (used with permission)**

I learned in school that our ancestors came to the New World in the 1600s in search of religious freedom. While I still believe that to be true, I now believe the full story is a bit more complex than the reasons given in grammar school textbooks. Religious freedom certainly was a motivation for Puritans, Pilgrims, Quakers, and others from England, but thousands of other immigrants were members of the established church in England and had no interest in other theologies. Immigrants from Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, and other countries had similar reasons. What motivated them?

Perhaps the simplest answer is that living in England or in the European continent was very difficult at the time. The upper classes lived comfortably, but the majority of citizens had difficulty eking out even a mere subsistence. Starvation was not unknown, and even those who did eat regularly had diets that most of us today would reject. Without refrigeration or modern canning techniques, even those with some financial security had monotonous diets in the winter and early spring. The thought of eating turnip soup three times a day for weeks on end seems appalling today but was common in the 1600s. The Irish more likely ate potato soup every day.

Fish and meat were available but often at prices that were beyond the reach of most city dwellers. Their country cousins perhaps had a slightly better diet of meats and vegetables that they produced themselves, but country dwellers typically lacked other comforts of life. In the winter, there was no available fresh produce, regardless of where you lived. The only vegetables that were available were the root crops that could be stored for months: potatoes, turnips, carrots, etc. Cabbage, while not a root crop, also stores well and was frequently available.

Perhaps today we do not appreciate the appalling conditions under which our ancestors lived. Imagine, if you will, a city on a warm summer day in which there were no sewers and no source of fresh water. The primary mode of transportation was by horse-drawn carriages and wagons, so horse manure was everywhere in the streets. Even so, the odor from human wastes must have been far stronger as chamberpots were typically dumped into the streets and alleyways. (Sewer pipes were largely unknown at the time.) Most residents did not bathe regularly, did not wash their hair, and never brushed their teeth.

Of course, modern medical care was unknown, and medical ignorance was universal. These people did not know why they breathed air, how the digestive system worked, why brushing one's teeth was important.

Most of England's water was heavily polluted. Most citizens did not drink water, instead preferring weakly-brewed beers and ales, even for children. At least the beers and ales were usually safe to drink, unlike the water.

There was relatively little in the way of forests for food or for lumber, as most forests had been cut years earlier for timber and for firewood.

Without proper food preservation techniques, we can assume that most of the food our ancestors consumed had a high germ count. Without clean living quarters or clean water, we can also assume that most of our malnourished ancestors were ill a high percentage of the time. It's a wonder that any of them survived and had descendants!

**(continued on page 12)**

(continued from page 11)

Speculators and adventurers of the time wildly advertised living conditions in the New World as a Utopian experience. While the claims were partially true, those with a financial interest in attracting new immigrants were quick to embellish the facts. After all, there were no "truth in advertising" laws at the time.

We now know that many of the early settlers starved to death or died of diseases linked to malnutrition. Within a year or so of their arrival on the New World. Yet the reports sent back to England spoke glowingly of fertile fields and forests that were full of game for the hunter. The seas were described as full of fish available to anyone.

William Wood in his 1634 book, *New England Prospect*, wrote:

Unlike England's undrinkable water, New England's is "so good many preferred it to 'beer, whey, and buttermilk and those that drink it be as healthful, fresh and lusty as they that drink beer.'"

Winters, he claimed, were milder than in England, summers hotter but "tolerable because of the cooling effect of fresh winds." Oh, and food was plentiful: "deer, available for the taking; raccoon, as good as lamb; grey squirrels, almost as big as an English rabbit; turkeys, up to 40 pounds."

Hmmm, have you ever eaten raccoon? Or squirrel? To the semi-starved residents of England, those meats must have sounded like a feast.

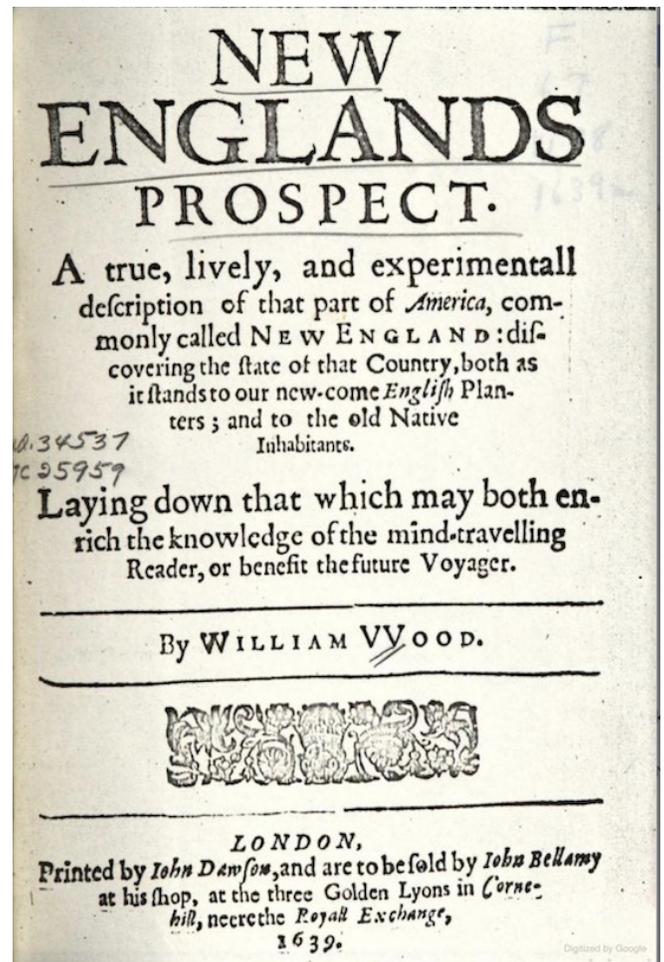
You can read William Wood's book, *New England Prospect*, on Google Books at: [https://www.google.com/books/edition/New\\_England\\_s\\_Prospect/chF3xjKvGMcC?hl=en](https://www.google.com/books/edition/New_England_s_Prospect/chF3xjKvGMcC?hl=en).

I have focused on the people and the lifestyles of England simply for convenience; those records and books are easy to read for modern-day English speakers. However, the lifestyles and the motivations were similar in Ireland, Scotland, and all throughout Europe.

In fact, some of our ancestors did make the difficult trip over the Atlantic for religious freedom. However, probably a much larger number made the trip for adventure and for greater financial opportunities. More than a few made the trip with the hope of being able to eat regularly. After all, life was none too pleasant in "the Old Country." Many believed that life would be much better in the New World.

I certainly am glad that they made the trip!

[Originally posted at <https://www.eogncom.wildapricot.org/page-18080/10035593>]



**GENEALOGY DAYS IN CHULA VISTA**

- **Wednesday, February 10, 12 noon – Research Group Meeting**, in a Zoom video meeting
- **Wednesday, February 17, 12 noon – DNA Interest Group Meeting**, in a Zoom video meeting
- **Wednesday, February 24, 12 noon – General Meeting: John Finch on “DNA Dynamics”** in a Zoom video meeting
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- **Wednesday, March 10, 12 noon – Research Group Meeting**, in a Zoom video meeting
- **Wednesday, March 17, 12 noon – DNA Interest Group Meeting**, in a Zoom video meeting
- **Wednesday, March 31, 12 noon – General Meeting: Debby Warner Anderson on “My Great-Grandmother's Letters”** in a Zoom video meeting

All CVGS Meetings are held in online Zoom video meetings unless otherwise noted.  
Please register on the CVGS website.

I sent that 'Ancestry' site  
some information on my  
Family Tree.

They sent me back a pack  
of Seeds,  
and suggested that I  
just start Over.

**Remember me in the family tree;  
my name, my days, my strife.  
Then I'll ride upon the wings of  
time and live an endless life.  
~ Linda Goetsch**