

Spotlight

On California Genealogical Research Facilities

A series of articles about places to do research around the state

Huntington Beach Central Library

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This library is home to the Genealogy Collection of the Orange County California Genealogical Society. The genealogy collection is located in the basement of the library. It includes a large variety of books — histories, vital records, family genealogies, military records, periodicals, and more from all over the United States and some other parts of the world. Although books are the main feature, you will find a limited collection of microfilm and microfiche, a nice collection of maps, and a pamphlet file in this facility.

Although this library is located in Orange County, it does not specialize in Orange County. However, the following Orange County materials are available: Orange County histories, a small collection of Orange County directories (mostly from the 1930s and 1940s), several volumes of Orange County tombstone inscriptions, all of the back issues of the Orange County California Genealogical Society Journal (which contains

many Orange County records), and miscellaneous other items.

All of the books are listed in the Huntington Beach Central Library computer catalogue (which is located at <http://www.hbpl.org/>) but there is also an old-fashioned card catalogue available for the Genealogy Collection. Available equipment includes a photocopy machine, a microfilm reader, a microfiche reader, and a computer located in the genealogy area. Photocopies are 20 cents each.

The current library hours are: Sunday, 1 to 5 PM; Monday, 1 to 9 PM; Tuesday through Thursday, 9 AM to 9 PM; Friday and Saturday, 9 AM to 5 PM. There are volunteer workers from the OCCGS to assist you in the Genealogy Department during certain weekday hours. The OCCGS meets in the library on the first Saturday of every month.

This library also features ample free parking and a nice snack bar, conveniently located in the basement right outside the Genealogy Collection, making it a great place to come and spend the whole day!

If anyone would like to submit an article on another California research facility, please contact our Newsletter Editor, Peggy Rossi.

Society Burnout...

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We need societies now more than ever, and we need YOU more than ever.

When I first started doing genealogy in 1970, in many ways, I was lucky because the internet wasn't around. I had to do things the old-fashioned way, actually talking to living relatives, writing letters, visiting county courthouses, traipsing through cemeteries, etc. I earned my stripes.

But for those starting out today, the information overload more often results in intimidating potential genealogists to the point that they simply give up, having no idea how to make sense of the tens of thousands of search results received for even the most innocent of requests.

For the sake of the ancestors, and for the stories yet to be told, I implore you to take time, to find the energy, to help your society continue to grow and thrive.

Being a society Chair or President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, even Treasurer doesn't require a college degree, or a whole lot of time. Won't you please think about giving just a couple of hours a month to help keep the stories alive?

When I think about all the hardships my ancestors had to endure so that I could be here today – their resoluteness to never give up, to go on and build a life for their family – it is *their* stories that give me the strength to continue to volunteer so much of my time. And I'm sure it's the same for you.

There's a society out there that needs a fresh voice, new blood. I urge you to answer the call.

You can always contact me at: President@csga.com.

Lisa B. Lee, PLCGS