The SCGS Virtual Surname Wall provides a worry-free way to post information about your ancestors online and find others who are researching your families.

As a participant, you would list general information, including surname, geography and time frame, for up to 10 family names. Surname Wall information will be maintained by SCGS and included in a searchable online database that will be accessible to the public at no cost on the SCGS website. Others can find you when using Google or other search engine, yet your personal identity is protected. SCGS cannot be responsible for incorrect or outdated information.

Your identifying information will not be displayed. Should we receive an inquiry regarding a possible family connection, SCGS will forward the requestor's contact information to you. Alternately, you can authorize SCGS to release only your email address or your full contact information.

There is no charge for this service, and the offer is open to the public. We encourage you to extend this invitation to your cousins, genealogy e-mail lists, other society members, and other family history acquaintances.

Participation in the project is your authorization to include your surname information in any printed or searchable online databases that may be developed.

We welcome family information from any geographic area, not just California, and not just from the US.

To participate in the Virtual Surname Wall, you will be asked for the following information.

1. **Your family surnames**, including any spelling variations.
2. **The geographic area(s)** in which they lived, or the migration path.
3. **The associated period of time**.

Of course, participation in the Virtual Surname Wall project is completely voluntary. If you have questions at any time about the Virtual Surname Wall, please contact us at scgs@scgsgenealogy.com.

To add your names to the SCGS Virtual Surname Wall database, type the following URL into your browser.
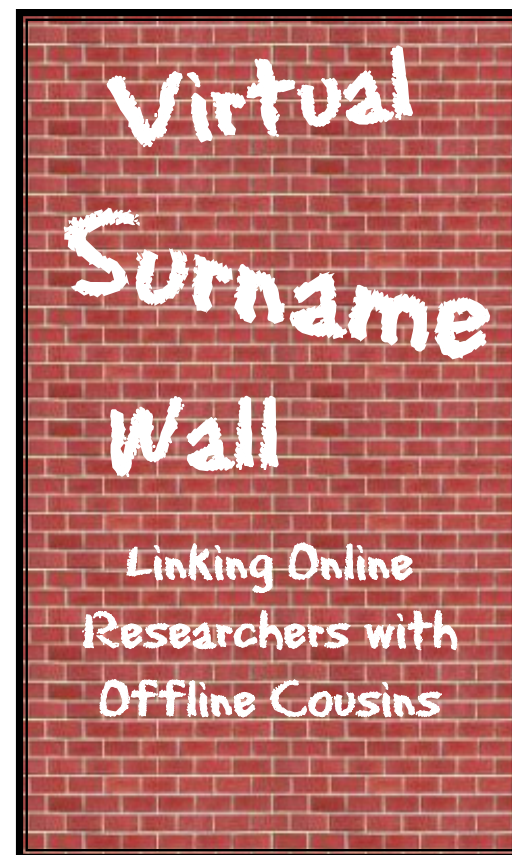
http://tinyurl.com/25cp4c

The URL will take you to the Virtual Surname Wall data entry screens on our partner site, SurveyConsole.com.

If you would prefer to submit your information by mail, complete the reverse side of this page and mail to:

SCGS Virtual Surname Wall
417 Irving Drive
Burbank, CA 91504-2408

Here's to finding lots of cousins!

Virtual Surname Wall

Linking Online Researchers with Offline Cousins

Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library

417 Irving Drive
Burbank, CA 91504-2408
818 843.7247 phone
818 843.7263 fax

www.scgsgenealogy.com
scgs@scgsgenealogy.com

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

Obviously, Dickens was not thinking of online genealogy when he wrote those words, but they certainly fit.

Why is it the Best of Times...?

- The internet provides an opportunity to reach thousands of people with a single posting or email.
- Messages remain available for years, ready to be seen by new cousins as the popularity of genealogy grows.
- Accurate information can be released to correct mistakes in electronic or print resources.

And why the Worst of Times...?

- Even before the advent of the internet, inaccurate data has haunted family historians. However, the speed and extent to which inaccurate data is distributed online is magnified many times over.
- Unethical or inconsiderate researchers have distributed another person's data without giving credit or citing the source.
- Concerns for privacy and methods to prevent identity theft discourage genealogists from placing information online.

So how do you take advantage of the Best of Times and avoid the Worst of Times? By adding your surnames to the Southern California Genealogical Society's Virtual Surname Wall.

VIRTUAL SURNAME WALL REGISTRATION

Name
Postal / Mailing Address
City, State, Zip Code
Phone Number
Email Address

Surnames	Geography / Migration / Area	Dates
Example: DINKEL	Oberhof > Neu Ulm, Bayern > Pinckney, Livingston Co., Michigan > Sioux City, Woodbury Co., Iowa	Abt. 1806 to present

I understand that SCGS will not be held responsible for outdated or incorrect contact information. My participation in this project provides my authorization to include my surname/geography/time period information in any publication, print or electronic, of Virtual Surname Wall data. You can also enter this information online at http://tinyurl.com/25cp4c

Indicate your preference below:

☐ SCGS should serve as intermediary, and not release any of my contact information

☐ SCGS is authorized to release only my e-mail address when an inquiry is received.

☐ SCGS is authorized to release all of my contact information when an inquiry is received.

_____
Signature   Date