

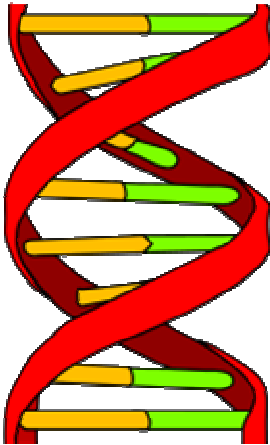
THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 30, No. 10

November 2012

November Meeting



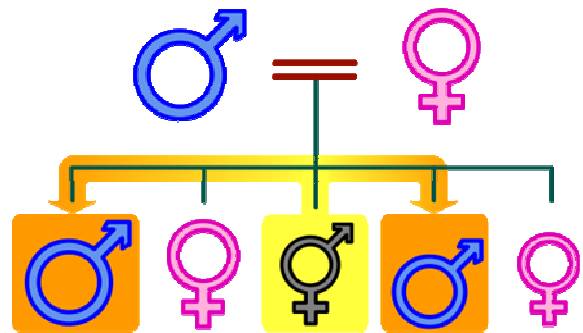
FROM DNA TO GENETIC GENEALOGY

Everything you wanted to know
but were afraid to ask

Speaker
Stephen P. Morse

You've heard about how your DNA can help you with your genealogical research, but aren't you just a little bit confused? Haplotypes, SNiPs, Mitochondrial DNA? What does it all mean and how exactly can it help you?

Stephen P. Morse, webmaster for his well-know website One-Step Webpages at www.stevemorse.org, will explain about genes, chromosomes and DNA in terms we can understand.



12:00 Noon Saturday

17 November 2012

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

MCGS Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~camcgs>

Message from the President:

Dear Friends,

If you didn't attend the October meeting with Barbara Washburn from the Fresno Family History Center, you missed an entertaining and eye-opening understanding of using message boards and mailing lists. WOW! What resources you can attain by these simple means! Present in its usage is the concept of helping each other out without expectations in return. Instead you get the warm fuzzy feeling that you did something to brighten the day of another fellow genealogy researcher. And you get answers that you could never have gotten any other way.

Which brings to mind. We really need some "new blood" to help run this enterprise. We need some readiness to try something new. It doesn't take much. A few days out of the year. Think of this as a prime way to get to know your fellow genealogists. Volunteer to staff the DCR room in the library which doesn't take much knowledge, just your presence, and you might get to pick others' brains while being of service. We need all of you to pitch in, otherwise the energies of the few will wear thin. Plus there will be plenty of opportunities to help when we start beginners classes and the workshops next year. So, please, think about this, take it to heart, talk or call one of us on the list of officers. I leave you with this cry: get a WARM FUZZY!

Thank you,
Pres. Stephanie McLeod

Mark your Calendars!

November 10

All-day seminar sponsored by the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County featuring Christine Rose, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Modesto Center Plaza. \$35 before Oct. 20, \$45 after. Send check payable to Jeff Wells, 3533 Highmore Ln., Modesto, CA 95357. For more information: http://www.cagenweb.com/lr/stanislaus/special_events.html

Our October meeting

There were 22 members and 2 guests present for the October meeting and program.

Our October Program:

Look Where? Mailing Lists and Message Boards

Our speaker, Barbara Washburn, explained to our group the how to's of mailing lists and messages boards, how they are different and how they can help us.

Mailing lists are by topic, surname or geographical region. If you want to join a mailing list, you must first

subscribe – it's free! Barbara discussed the Rootweb mailing list (www.rootsworld.com – click on the mailing list tab) in particular. Emails are sent by and to members and can be sent in the list mode: all the messages – or the digest mode: only the subject line is shown. She showed us several examples of how she found some very useful information on her ancestors by sending a message, mostly to a geographical location group such as a county your ancestor lived in. She explained the proper way to word a message and mailing list etiquette. Those on the mailing list who lived in that county were so helpful – answering questions, taking photos, and looking up an obituary.



Message boards differ from mailing lists in that you don't have to subscribe to see the questions and replies that people have posted. To ask a question or to reply you must be a member – also free at Rootsworld. You can search for surname message boards or by geographic location or topic. With a message board, members may not check them very often. If you post a message you might not get a reply for some time. It might even be years later when someone who has an answer for you finds your message. Good reason to use the same email for this purpose or keep it updated on the web page.

Sometimes you will want to use message boards and mailing lists using your ancestor's surname and other times you will have better luck using a geographical area. People can be very helpful. Ask politely to have that tombstone or obit copied. Be sure to thank the person who helped you and offer to reimburse in appropriate. And when others need help and you can help them, return the favor by helping someone else.

Attention Scottish Researchers!

In 2014 the people of Scotland will be deciding whether to stay as part of the UK or to become an independent nation after more than 300 years. Stay tuned.

Upcoming Programs		
2012	Program	Speaker
15 December	Annual Potluck	
2013		
January	Beginners Program, Part 1	
February	Beginners Program, Part 2	
March	One-Step Webpages: A Hodgepodge of Lesser-Known Gems	Stephen Morse
April	Italian Research	Richard Rands
May	Portuguese Research	Rosemary Capodici

From the Sept/Oct issue of the CSGA Newsletter:

Los Gatos history

The July newsletter of the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society featured an article about a website project called "Hooked on Los Gatos." It was begun as a collaborative effort between the Los Gatos Public Library and the museums of Los Gatos. The site includes photographs, maps, letters, postcards, scrapbooks, programs and audio and video recordings. There are links to about 100 collections. This sounds like an incredible website for those whose families came from that area. Probably worth a visit even if you're not from that area. The website address is:
<http://www.historylosgatos.org/cdm>.

Ancestors in Humboldt?

Do you have ancestors in Humboldt County? If you do and you're not a member of the Redwood Genealogical Society, you should be. Their wonderful quarterly, *Redwood Researcher*, is a treasure trove of information. Each issue is packed with data from burial records, newspaper articles, voter registers, obituaries and more. It's a terrific publication. Particularly fun are the news tidbits such as "The lady whose romance finger sparkles the brightest those days is Miss Frances (Brizard's office) Turner and the man who is responsible for the lovely diamond ring is Mister Elmer Miller." Enjoyable reading, even if it's not your family! Many thanks to the volunteers who put this publication together.

In Search of Gravestones...

by Anne Field

I'm a big fan of gravestone webpages, such as Find-A-Grave. I have found many people that I am looking for and information about when and where they died and where they were buried. Sometimes your ancestor is listed in a cemetery on the website with birth and death dates and only a photo of the cemetery sign. So disappointing! So sometimes a cemetery trip is called for.

I did just that this past August while on a trip to Illinois for my sister's 70th birthday. I have two sisters and neither of them are at all interested in genealogy. They have been good enough sports to let me drag them to cemeteries and search, even in the rain once. I arrived in Illinois a couple days before the rest of the out-of-town family arrived, and my sister, now retired, went with me from northern Illinois down into Indiana

Need a Professional?

The October/November 2012 issue of *Family Tree Magazine* gave some suggestions for finding a professional researcher who can help you to find something that you cannot find or do easily. They are experts (why we hire plumbers or tree trimmers) and know better than we how to look for something. Or maybe they are close to the courthouse or cemetery where you can't get to easily.

Try The Association of Professional Genealogists, <http://www.apgen.org/index.html>, to find a house historian, an heir specialist or to find an expert on adoption, the Civil War, or who lives in the area you are researching.

Genlighten is another website to try, www.genlighten.com. Items that researchers look up are priced by the type of project. You might find someone to look up an obit, go to a state archive for a document, go to the courthouse for a death certificate, etc.

And then there is Genealogy Freelancers where you can connect to a genealogy expert somewhere in the world who can help you with document translation, village photographs, various look-ups, etc. You sign up and post your project. Member genealogy specialists who are interested in your project will place a bid, you review the various offers and select one that suits you. You want a copy of your great grandfather's deed back in Pennsylvania but don't want to go there? This might be a lot easier.
www.genealogyfreelancers.com.

to Terre Haute. We passed many, many fields of corn, totally stunted and dry, on our way down and arrived in time to find a motel and go out to dinner. There were four cemeteries to go to the following day and several people to find.



We started with Roselawn Memorial Park in Terre Haute. Before leaving on my trip I had made a list of who was buried where, the location of the cemetery, the location of the tombstone in the cemetery – if possible – and found a map of one of the cemeteries, a huge help. There were only two gravestones to find in Terre Haute and they were not hard to find. Always remember to take a photo of the cemetery sign before you photograph the gravestones so that you know where you took the pictures of the gravestones. It can be easy later to get things mixed up. All the photos following the photo of the cemetery sign will be in that cemetery.

After Terre Haute we drove up the road to the town of Clinton. With a few emails I found out that the map of the cemetery, Riverside Cemetery, was only available on the wall of the sewer department office. I called Cindy as we came into town and she sent someone to meet us at the sewage dept. office (it smelled like you might expect) and within fifteen minutes a very nice man took me into the office and we located the sections of the cemetery that we were interested in. He offered to drive us right to that section since the sections were not marked the same way at the cemetery. He even helped us look and look and look for the gravestones of several members of a family before calling the local funeral home and finding out that that was the wrong area; we needed to look in a different area. The very nice man led us back into town to the funeral home where the funeral director looked up my names in the funeral register book. Each entry had quite a bit of information and, after asking, I was told, yes, I could write and get copies. We were short on time and did not have time to stay and make copies. The very nice man then took us back to the cemetery where we found most of the people we were looking for, all in a large family plot, and one other person in another section. There was one person we never did find and had to give up and move on.



Take a photo of the gravestone and then take a photo of where that gravestone sits in the cemetery so that it might be located again more easily – a tree, a big monument, a fence around the family plot, etc., all help you to find the gravestone again.

We headed west out of Clinton towards Illinois looking for a small cemetery not far from the border, Spangler Cemetery. We spent twenty minutes looking before we realized that the old section was hidden from sight and up on a nearby hill. Despite looking very hard for three gravestones from the 1800s, one I very much wanted to find, we had to give up and head north. I later found out (do your homework) that there was a cemetery transcription, which I found at the Family History Library on microfilm, that was done in order by row. If I had had this information, I could have looked for all the names that came before and after my ancestor's.



We stopped for a quick lunch on our way north to Hammond, Indiana, where my grandfather's brother and his wife are buried. They are not on Find-A-Grave and I really wanted photos of their gravestones. I had mapped out the route to the cemetery and we arrived there in the late afternoon. We had to make a stop first at a Culver's – if you have never been to a Culver's, well, you might not understand. They have a flavor of the day, soft serve custard. My sister is addicted. At the cemetery, I went in to the office and they gave me a map and circled the section we needed to find. It took a bit of looking as a big wind storm had been through a few days before and there were fallen trees, and debris. But we found George and his wife Aunt Bea who had, many years before, corresponded with me and given me lots of good family information. If you know where Hammond,

Indiana, is, you will know what we had to face at 5:00 as we drove away from the cemetery. To get home, we had to drive through the rush hour traffic of Chicago. My sister is an expert at finding her way on back roads to avoid traffic and we made it home in time for her to go and babysit her grandson and for me to greet my sister and her family who were arriving that evening.

Planning ahead is crucial. Find out all the people that you need to find who are buried in a particular cemetery. Find out where in the cemetery they are buried – if you can, row or section. I made calls to cemetery offices ahead of time and/or connected with someone who could help me on the spot. Take several photos of each gravestone. Sometimes the angle of the sun is not what you want but try not to let your shadow fall on the tombstone. Take a whisk broom, if you can, to remove debris and clean up the stone. Don't pour water on it to clean it as this will make it turn dark and it won't dry quickly. Better to have a little dirt on it. I like having my own photos of tombstones because I can then use them on my genealogy webpage without having to worry about copyright. Even if you don't use them for that purpose, they are good to have and they are a very good source in your search for fact about your ancestors.

The Family Snoop is published on the first day of each month. It is sent in .pdf to members who receive it by email. Back copies can be emailed to members as attachments. Send items, articles, stories, etc., to mcgsmail@annefield.net

You can choose to receive the Family Snoop via email in a pdf format – get it sooner and in color. Contact Sharon Darby, our treasurer. **Deadline for the Nov 2012 issue is Oct. 20, 2012.**

MCGS meetings are held at noon, on the 3d Saturday of the month. The library closes at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. There is no meeting in August.

The Doris Cochran Research Room is open 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays, **BUT WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP KEEP IT OPEN!! Please Volunteer!**

MCGS Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~camcgs>

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

www.cagenweb.com/lr/stanislaus/gssc.html

Click on their newsletter to read online or download. Information about bus trips and programs offered throughout the year that may interest you.

President	Stephanie McLeod 383-1009
1st Vice President	Lois Jimenez 723-9019
2nd Vice President	Rosalie Heppner 358-5298
Treasurer	Sharon Darby 723-5374
Secretary	Robyn Echols 358-2461
Past President	Shari Stetson 358-7719
Membership	Open
Hospitality	Michle Burroughs 383-4112
Publicity	Open
Programs	Michle Burroughs, Rosalie Heppner, Stephanie McLeod & Shari Stetson
Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i>	Anne Field 357-8672 mcgsmail AT annefield DOT net

Family History Center

www.familysearch.org

1080 E Yosemite Ave Merced. 722-1307
Tuesday, Wednesday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm,
Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday evening, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Free access on their computers to Ancestry and other programs. Take along your flash drive to save and download. Volunteers are there to help you and microfilms can now be ordered online.

Merced County Library

www.co.merced.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=77

2100 O Street Merced 209-285-7642

Fax: 209-726-7912

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:30am to 5:00pm

Tuesday and Thursday - 10:30am to 6:00pm.

Saturday - 9:30am to 3:00pm.

Merced County Courthouse Museum

www.mercedmuseum.org

21st & N Streets Merced

Wednesday through Sunday - 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

Free admission.

Merced County Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 3061

Merced, CA. 95344

Monthly Financial Report Sept 2012

Income:	57.02
Expenses:	(376.77)
Checking Total	<u>\$2,820.13</u>
Savings Account	3,861.29
CD-9 months; matures on 07/20/12	5,821.09
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/12	<u>5,636.13</u>
<u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u>	<u>\$18,138.64</u>

**MCGS meets every 3d Saturday except in August, at 12:00 noon
Gracey Room, Merced County Library, 2100 O St., Merced**