

# THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 30, No. 4

April 2012

## April Program

### Using the Family History Library Catalog

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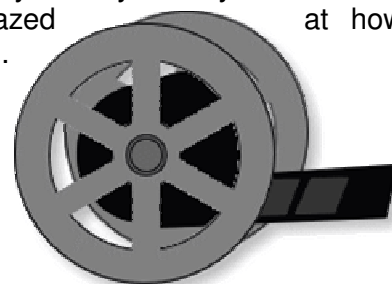
### Using online film ordering

**Speaker: Robyn Echols**



Robyn Echols, Director of the Family History Center in Merced, will be showing us how to navigate the card catalog of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. It's online and it's free and you will be amazed at how much you can find when you know how to search.

Microfilms and microfiche can be ordered online now. Robyn will explain how, once you have found that microfilm with your great-grandparents' marriage record, you can order it online.



If you have never used the online card catalog, you need to learn how and Robyn is the perfect teacher.

**12:00 Noon     Saturday**

**21 April 2012**

**Gracey Room, Merced County Library**

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

## Message from the President:

Dear Friends,

Spring is in the air and along with the rain, we had a nice group of members and a visit from the "Friends of the Library" of Hilmar at the March meeting who were here to hear our speaker, Jacque Meriam, Library Director of the Merced County Library, speak on the upcoming budget for the county library system. One of the the "Friends" also signed up as a new member while they were here.

Our guest speaker, Jacque Meriam, gave a detailed survey of the library budget and received many probing and inquisitive questions from the general members and especially from the three "Friends of the Library" of Hilmar. Because the library budget is being deeply impacted by the recent decision by the State of California to withhold redevelopment funds, many services are in jeopardy of being cut. The library gets 32% of its budget from redevelopment funds. The library needs our help! Give of your time by volunteering at the library to catalog books, repair books, taking over some of the duties of the library assistants etc. and, if you can, give a consistent monthly contribution so they can depend on you and more, spread the word amongst your friends and people you meet. More on this later.

After the meeting a small group suffered the weather to trot over to the Merced County Courthouse Museum to see the awesome exhibit: "Women of Merced County."

A note on the tour of the Family History Center: I hadn't been to the FHC in many years and am delighted to say its very nice and I found it an easy learning curve to learn the Family Search system and it is a fount of resources for all your searches. If you haven't done this before you will be pleasantly surprised and there is always a helpful instructor present.

So, we'll see you at the April meeting with Robyn Echols who will entertain us with more insights into the wonderful world of the Family History Center.

Stephanie McLeod, President

## Mark your Calendars!

Fresno County Genealogical Society

1940 Census – Where Were You?

Melissa Scroggins, speaker

Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 6:15 p.m.

Sarah McCardle Room, Fresno County Central Library

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cafcgs/Files/monthly\\_flyer.jpg](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cafcgs/Files/monthly_flyer.jpg)

## SUTRO LIBRARY IS MOVING!

It's not very far from their old building but maybe not as easy to get to with regard to parking lots. The library closed on March 12 to begin the move. They will be open in their new location, on the campus of San Francisco State University, sometime in May. For a map of the new location & more information about hours, etc., check out <http://www.library.ca.gov/about/SutroMove.html>.

## Welcome to our new member:

Barbara (Rafatti) Ellington

Barbara is researching the names Rafatti, Collins, Baker and Crouse.

## DEAR ABBY:

'I have always wanted to have my family history traced, but I can't afford to spend a lot of money to do it. Any suggestions?'  
Sam in California.

## DEAR SAM:

'Register and run for public office.'  
Abby

## Reminder!



It's time to pay your dues – see the form at the end of this newsletter  
Individuals are \$20.00; a family living at the same address is \$30.00 per calendar year. A monthly newsletter is sent to each address. You may choose to have it sent as an attachment in the PDF format by e-mail or by regular mail. Please note any corrections to name, address, email address or phone number and mail to MCGS, PO Box 3061, Merced, CA 95344. Membership dues are also accepted at the meeting.

## Seeking Information about Early Wagon Train Travelers By Karen and Rick Albright

During our research on many of the early residents of Merced County, the question has continually arisen concerning how each family arrived here. We have several clues, however finding lists of early wagon trains to our area remains elusive.

Jessie Fremont's journals detail her numerous travels West. At various times she came by ship around the Horn, the across-Panama route, and by land. Like Mrs. Fremont, did any of our Early Mercedians use one of the sea routes to California?

Tradition and common sense tell us that in order to survive the arduous overland journey folks needed to travel in groups, large groups. We have the facts about a few early Mercedians but no information about those who may have traveled with them.

Typically in the western movement of Americans neighbors picked up and relocated together to pioneer new areas. Was this tradition part of Merced's early history? If so, who holds the key to or where is the documentation on the identity of these groups?

The Snelling family's journeys were documented in books by descendant Jim McMillen. These records also indicate that William Snelling and others made several trips back and forth between Merced and Johnson County, Missouri during the time period 1849 to 1860. In addition to the extended family members of the Snellings, who else was on these journeys?

At 90+ years of age Susan Wilson was interviewed by Delilah Beasley and stated that the 100 ox-drawn wagons which brought Wilson and her children to Mariposa left Wayne County, Missouri in March 1853 and arrived at Miles Creek in December. Who were the other members of this train?

One well-documented wagon train whose captain was John Jordan and wagonmaster Alney T. McGee left Red River, Texas, in March 1850 arriving in San Diego on August 20, 1850. This train first brought Silas McGee and family to San Joaquin County. By 1870 Silas McGee and son Simon were residing in Snelling.

In addition to the wagon trains, Outcalt's "History of Merced County California" (1925) relates many early recollections of cattle drives to eastern markets from Merced. Did other pioneers travel with the cattle merchants on their return to California? Who were they?

We are seeking any information that you might have that would aid us in this quest to details about the journeys of these early Merced residents.

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***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 AT annefield DOT 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 May 2012 issue is April 21, 2012.**

## Census reminder!

With the 1940 census coming out this spring it's time to remind everyone to keep in mind the instructions given to the census takers – known as enumerators. The enumerators have a list of instructions relating to each piece of information that they enter in the census. One of the most misunderstood is that of the ages of individuals. In the 1930 census the enumerator is given the following instruction:

*Age at last birthday.*-This question calls for the age in completed years at last birthday. Remember, however, that the age question, like all other questions on the schedule, relates to April 1, 1930. Thus a person whose exact age on April 1, the census day, is 17 years, 11 months, and 25 days should be returned simply as 17, because that is his age at his last birthday prior to April 1, even though at the time of your visit he may have completed 18 years.

So if the census taker showed up at your family's house in 1930 in June, the new baby born into the family in May of that year would not be counted in the census since the child was born after the April 1 date. There is a different set of instructions for each census and you might find it interesting to read through the instructions for the different census years:

<http://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumForm.shtml>



### **Needed!**

Members to volunteer to serve on the Program Committee. This is the group that chooses the topics for our programs and contacts the speakers. It is one of the best committees to be on as you are in the thick of things. There are several members on the committee, but we would like to see someone new, with fresh ideas, join the group.

Remember! This is your Society and it takes all of us to make it run smoothly.

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### *A Note from your editor:*

If you didn't make it to the Women in Merced County exhibit at the Courthouse Museum, be sure to go. There you will see a picture of Doris Cochran – for whom the Doris Cochran Room is named. You can read a little bit about her life and why the room was named for this influential woman.

Plan on attending the April meeting to hear Robyn Echols speak on using the Family History Library Catalog at FamilySearch.org. If you have been researching for a long time and are very used to the old catalog, you may, like me, have resisted using the Updated FamilySearch Site. During the past year I have found myself using the new site more and more - I even got a log-in which sometimes lets me see images I cannot view otherwise. This site lists all the microfilms that have been digitized or are being digitized. Some microfilms are indexed with basic information and others have the basic information and an actual image. So, for the past month, I have been searching for baptisms, marriages and births in Lima, Peru, and have come up with some wonderful images full of very useful information. I would have had to order the film or go to Salt Lake City to get this information in the past, but now I can see the image and save it to my computer. You can search by name, location, date, parents' names and other terms OR you can search just by location. If you choose the U.S., you can see alphabetically by state all the microfilms that have been digitized so far. Some are indexed and others are just browseable images. The great thing is that the source microfilm number is provided. So in looking at indexed information, without the image, one

can see the microfilm number and then go to the old version of FamilySearch and look up the microfilm number to find out what is on the microfilm. If you click at the bottom of the screen you can get a printable version which is more condensed than in the new version. Copy and paste this information, along with what you are looking for and also the indexed information. Print it out and take it with you when you go to Salt Lake City or when you order the film and go to look at the microfilm. The best part of all is that the online information is free. Ancestry may have a lot, but there is a ton of records on microfilm that has never been digitized or indexed and if you aren't using the resources of the Family History Library you are missing things you cannot find anywhere else.

***From the November/December 2011 CSGA Newsletter:***

In September, Sue Roe, the president of CSGA – California State Genealogical Alliance – of which our society is a member, attended the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference as a delegate. She went to hear David Rencher speak on the topic of “**How Will Our Society Survive?**” which was about how the “information age” has caused a need for societies to change if they are to survive. Some questions that each society should ask are:

- Where do we stand today? What is our compelling offering?
  - Why do we exist? What is our purpose? Do we still serve that purpose?
  - Has our mission changed with the times? Or have we stayed the same?
  - What if our society went out of business? Would anyone notice?
  - What do we offer that would compel someone to join?
  - Can our information come from another source?
  - Does it have to cost? Should we look at our dues structure? How can we keep our costs low?
  - What important services can we provide?
- A. Communicating?  
B. Connecting?  
C. Publishing?  
D. Collecting?  
E. Instructing?
- How can we expand our reach?
  - What can we offer for our distance members? Could distance members sit on our board?
  - How do we market our society?

Maybe this is a topic that we, The Merced County Genealogical Society, might want to think about. Are we fulfilling our mission? Are we a busy, enthusiastic society, actively promoting family research, encouraging others and providing instruction? Are we preserving documents, records and other materials and making them available for all? Below are our purposes and objectives which can be found on our webpage.

**The purposes and objectives of the Merced County Genealogical Society:**

1. To promote interest in genealogy, biography, and related history;
2. To provide instruction in research techniques stressing accuracy and ethical reporting of evidence, proof and documentation;
3. To promote the accumulation and preservation of manuscripts, documents, records, family histories and other genealogical and related historical material;
4. To encourage and assist in the compilation and publication of genealogical material; and
5. To provide the means for sharing genealogical information.

*Something to think about!*

**MCGS meetings are now held at noon, not 1:00, on the 3d Saturday of the month. The library now closes at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday so our meeting time was changed. 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.**

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

Family History Center [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

1080 E Yosemite Ave Merced. 722-1307

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00am to 4:00pm

Tuesday and Wednesday 7:00pm to 9:00pm

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 be ordered.

Merced County Library [www.co.merced.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=77](http://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](http://www.mercedmuseum.org)

21st & N Streets Merced

Wednesday through Sunday - 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Admission is free.

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County [www.cagenweb.com/lr/stanislaus/gssc.html](http://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
1st Vice President	Lois Jimenez
2nd Vice President	Rosalie Heppner
Treasurer	Sharon Darby
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Programs	Michle Burroughs, Rosalie Heppner, Charleen Renteria & Shari Stetson
Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i>	Anne Field mcgsmail AT annefield DOT net

Merced County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 3061  
Merced, CA. 95344

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Monthly Financial Report: February 2012

Income:	361.90
Expenses:	(267.18)
Checking Total	<u>\$3,108.22</u>
Savings Account	3,860.17
CD-9 months; matures on 07/20/12	5,813.73
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/12	<u>5,625.25</u>
<b><u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u></b>	<b><u>\$18,407.37</u></b>

# Merced County Genealogical Society

## Membership Form

Print page, fill in your information and mail to:

Merced County Genealogical Society  
PO Box 3061  
Merced, CA 95344-1061

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code & Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*The Family Snoop* Newsletter delivered by [check one]: Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Annual Individual Dues: \$20.00

\_\_\_ Annual Joint\* Dues: \$30.00

\_\_\_ Lifetime Individual Dues: \$200.00

\_\_\_ Lifetime Joint\* Dues: \$300.00

Note! Joint\* members must reside at the same address.

**Make check or money order payable to Merced County Genealogical Society.**

