

# THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 31, No. 4

April 2013

## April Meeting



## Italian Research

Speaker: Richard Rands

Richard Rands is a professional genealogist residing in Mountain View. He has over 50 years of experience working on his own family history and helping others trace their ancestors. Richard is currently president of the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group, Director of the Los Altos Family History Center, and is the proprietor of Brute Force Genealogy.

12:00 Noon      Saturday

20 April 2013

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

**MCGS Website:**

**<http://www.rootsweb.com/~camcgs>**



## Message from the President:

Dear Friends, Spring is upon us, and if you are anything like me, there are numerous and sundry things to occupy your mind and body; pulling weeds, spring cleaning, visits to relative and the countryside, or illness and such. So, I hope you forgive me for not having a dedicated topic for this Snoop. I hope for you all a wonderful beginning of Spring, a happy Easter, a happy Naw Ruz, blessed days of Pesah and just enjoy LIFE!

As always, in your service,  
Stephanie McLeod, Pres.

## Our March Meeting

Steve Morse made a return visit to speak to the 26 members and three guests, this time about little known gems that he did not cover in his talk last November: From DNA to Genetic Genealogy. This talk was called Hodgepodge and he pointed out all kinds of useful tools on his webpage: [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org) – that's dot org, not dot com.



For those of you looking forward to our talk this month on Italian genealogy research, Steve mentioned the website **Italian Genealogical Group** (<http://www.italiangen.org/>) which you can use even if your ancestor is not Italian. This site has some death, marriage and birth indexes which I used several years ago to find my British ancestor's marriage. If you go down to Births, Deaths and other Vital Records on the One-Step Webpage, your results will include the Family History Library microfilm number which has the actual record.

Another item he mentioned which you might not know about, the Family History Library will provide you with

a photocopy from a book, microfilm, etc. for free. Their policy just changed in February and all copies will be digital now. For more information, see the item on this topic further down in the newsletter.

There is a whole section on One-Step Webpages for Calendars, sunrise, sunset, and maps. Here you can find Canadian Postal Codes, International Phone Codes, Latitude and Longitude, perpetual calendar, and calculating Easter. Calculating relationships, under the Vital Records section, was great fun. Press father three times and then press mother and then press sister. You will find your relationship to this person.

Steve Morse uses databases that are already online and makes it easier for you to search them. Check out his website for immigration and ship searches, census searching and more.

## Mark your Calendars!

April 9, 2013

Fresno County Genealogical Society, General Meeting, program: Hispanic Research in California, Speaker: Arleene Haywood, 6:15, refreshments, 6:45, meeting and program. Woodward Park Library, 944 E. Perrin Ave. (at Champlain), Fresno.

April 17, 2013

San Mateo County Genealogical Society. *Choosing Genealogy Software: How to figure out what YOU need*, with Debbie Shields. 7:30 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 2825 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA. For more info: <http://www.smcgs.org/>.

April 24, 2013

Sacramento Genealogical Society. Reunion for the MAC Special Interest Group. *Brainstorm solutions to users' problems, questions & explore ins/outs of the best Mac genealogy program*. 10:30 am to 12:30 pm - Family History Center, 2745 Eastern Avenue, Sacramento.

April 27, 2013

Sonoma County Genealogical Society's Spring Seminar featuring Barbara Resnick. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Santa Rosa, CA. \$30 for non-members, \$35 for admission at the door. For more info: [www.scgsonline.org/events.html](http://www.scgsonline.org/events.html).

April 23, 2013

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County. American Land Records: The How and The Why, with Janet Lancaster and Millie Starr. 6:30 p.m., at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto, CA.

Do you have **Lutheran ancestors**? If yes, you might want to check out Dear Myrtle genealogy blog for Wednesday, March 27, 2013. Archives.com has just published millions of Lutheran church records – births, marriages and deaths. The article gives lots of information on these church records, which have never been online, and then takes you on a search for one of Mr. Myrt's ancestors, complete with screen shots and other useful information. Check it out: <http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/>

### News from FamilySearch

Among the 2.7 million indexed records and images just added in mid-March are over 800,000 county marriages from Georgia (U.S.), 1785-1950. FamilySearch is always busy indexing records and adding images.

There is always something new being added, so just because you searched for something last year, don't suppose that you won't find it this year.

At <https://familysearch.org/node/1933> you can find some of the recent additions to the FamilySearch digital records. To find current, completed and future indexing projects: <https://familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing>

## ~~~~~ Publications for Sale Prices cut!

- 1850 MARIPOSA County Federal Census, includes Merced County
- 1890 MERCED County List of Registered Voters
- 1855-1915 MERCED County Marriages
- Early MERCED County Naturalization Records 1861-1949
- 1883-1918 MERCED County Coroner's Book.
- 1877-1896 MERCED County Funeral Book. .
- WINTON Cemetery
- PLAINSBURG Cemetery
- SNELLING Cemetery
- 

Check our webpage for order form and details  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~camcgs/Books\\_for\\_sale.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~camcgs/Books_for_sale.htm)

Merced County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 3061, Merced, CA 95344  
for more info: 209-723-9019 (Lois)  
to order: [Sto4us@aol.com](mailto:Sto4us@aol.com)

~~~~~

## Upcoming Programs 2013

|         |                                                |                     |
|---------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| May 18  | Portuguese Research                            | Rosemarie Capodicci |
| June 15 | American Migration Paths and Trails up to 1850 | Kathy Burroughs     |
| July 20 | MCGS Birthday celebration & Show & Tell        |                     |

### Websites for Beginners: USGenWeb – [www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

If you are a beginner, or even a long time researcher, the USGenWeb site is a webpage worth knowing and using. On their homepage, you are greeted with: *Welcome to The USGenWeb Project! We are a group of volunteers working together to provide free genealogy websites for genealogical research in every county and every state of the United States. This Project is non-commercial and fully committed to free genealogy access for everyone.*

USGenWeb has been around since 1996 when a group of genealogists decided to create online resources for the various states. The organization is by state and then by county. Every state website is run by a state coordinator, sometimes with assistants. Every county website is also run by a coordinator. All of these people volunteer their time and you will notice that some counties are up for adoption – meaning that they need a coordinator.

Most of the state webpages will provide a list of counties as well as a map of counties which link to the county webpages. Some of the states and some of the counties are better and more useful than others. Take a look at the Allen County webpage in Indiana for an example of a nicely run county webpage. Right at the top they have all kinds of links which help you quickly find what you might need. Some webpages just give you a list of links to other webpages and are not especially helpful.

Good county websites will give you information and links to county newspapers past and present, cemeteries, obituaries, vital records, military records and census information. For a fabulous example of good cemetery

information, check out Gibson County, Indiana. Over 55,000 burials are listed, most with photographs. The burials are arranged by township and then by cemetery and are cross-indexed by the names of those buried.

There is also a USGenWeb Archives Project which provides actual transcriptions of public domain records on the Internet. There is a lot out there, from census records, Civil War soldiers and marriages to newspaper and tombstone projects. Volunteers have made public data available in a web format which is a huge help. This is searched by state or by county and these projects can be accessed from the main USGenWeb page, clicking on Projects and then on the Archives Project.

Check out the Tombstone Transcription Project and go to Merced County. There you will find that several cemeteries have been transcribed and some have photos. This would be a good site to search if you have not found your ancestor at Find A Grave. You can also sign up to be a volunteer, helping to add information to the website. There are other projects but information is scant in some cases.

The Merced County GenWeb page is maintained by John Reeder. Our society webmaster, Alma Stone, has a Merced Genealogy webpage also. Check her page out at <http://www.mercedgenealogy.com/> and look at the difference between the two webpages. If you find that a GenWeb page for your county of interest seems to have a lack of information, search the web for the county, state and "genealogy" and you may find another webpage that is useful. Historical Societies and Genealogy Societies put up pages. Sometimes your area will have a regional webpage that has more information than GenWeb county you are researching.

A good genealogist does not rely on only one or two sources. Branch out and you will find that there are many good resources on web sites that are free. USGenWeb is one of those.

Anne Field

### **FamilySearch's Photoduplication Service**

Can't get to Salt Lake City to print out an image you need? Sometimes when you are searching in FamilySearch.org, you will find an indexed record but no image. If you have the information about the image FamilySearch can provide you with a copy. You must provide them with an email address or have your items sent to a Family History Center where you can print them. More details about this service, where to send your request, what details you must include, etc., can be found at the FamilySearch.org blog. After you get to the Blog, search on photoduplication. The article will come up in a brief format, so click the title to see all the details.

Patrons should request copies by emailing their request to [Photoduplication@familysearch.org](mailto:Photoduplication@familysearch.org). All requests MUST include the following information:

- ✓ Film or Fiche number, Item number, Name of Individual(s) referred to in the record, Title of the record, Name of parents, spouse, grantor, grantee, etc., Event type (Birth, Death or Marriage), Complete event date and place, Event place (county, parish, township, etc.), Volume or page number, Registration or Certificate Number, Any other information that will help us locate your record.

The following article is from **Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter** and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

Oregon House Bill 2093 contains wording that, if passed, will restrict family members and genealogists from accessing records that have been previously available to them. In Section 33 of the proposal, ORS 432.121 will be amended to allow the issuance of records only "when 125 years have elapsed after the date of live birth, 75 years have elapsed after the date of death or fetal death or 100 years have elapsed after the date of marriage, domestic partnership, dissolution of marriage or dissolution of domestic partnership." **The deadline for input is April 8<sup>th</sup>!**

NOTE: This proposal will change today's rules:

Death records become available after 50 years; Marriage become available after 75 years; Birth records become available after 100 years.

The full text of the proposal may be found at <http://landru.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measures/hb2000.dir/hb2093.intro.html>.

**The Family Snoop** is published on the first day of each month except Aug and Dec. 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 May 2013 issue is April 20, 2013.**

**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.

Dues are \$20 per year for an Individual or \$30 for a Family living at the same address.

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](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                                                        |
| Secretary                       | Robyn Echols                                                        |
| Past President                  | Shari Stetson                                                       |
| Membership                      | Open                                                                |
| Hospitality                     | Michle Burroughs                                                    |
| Publicity                       | Open                                                                |
| Programs                        | Michle Burroughs, Rosalie Heppner, Stephanie McLeod & Shari Stetson |
| Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i> | Anne Field<br>mcgsmail AT annefield DOT net                         |

#### **Family History Center**

[www.familysearch.org](http://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](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.  
Free admission.

#### **Merced County Genealogical Society**

**P.O. Box 3061  
Merced, CA. 95344**

#### **Monthly Financial Report Feb 2013**

|                                              |                           |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Income:                                      | 827.12                    |
| Expenses:                                    | (598.92)                  |
| Checking Total                               | <u>\$3,901.04</u>         |
| Savings Account                              | 3,862.08                  |
| CD-9 months; matures on 07/20/12             | 5,824.70                  |
| CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/12             | <u>5,640.81</u>           |
| <b><u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u></b> | <b><u>\$19,228.63</u></b> |

