

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 32, No. 4

April 2014

April Meeting

COMINGS AND GOINGS IN THE GOLDEN WEST

Resources for Tracing California's Settlers and Sojourners

Speaker: Kathryn Marshall



Do you have California pioneers in your ancestry? Our ancestors came to California for all sorts of reasons, including the Gold Rush, the building of the railroads, the Civil War, the Dust Bowl, and the lure of Hollywood. Where and how to find information on these men and women?

Kathryn Marshall, Director of the Lodi California Family History Center, is a frequent speaker at conferences and workshops. She has edited historical reference books, written biographical sketches of pioneers and is currently writing a history of the first shipload of American families to reach California after the Bear Flag Revolt. Kathryn is going to help us figure out the best places to go to find traces of our California ancestors.

12:00 Noon Saturday

19 April 2014

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

Mark your Calendars!

3 April 2014

Overlooked Military Sources will be the topic at the Vallejo Benicia Genealogy Society meeting. The speaker will be Martha Wittaker, a retired librarian from the Sutro Library. 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the upstairs of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734 Marin St., Vallejo.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cagsv/events.html>

5 April 2014

Roots Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society **Spring Seminar** featuring Geoff Rasmussen, Host of the Legacy Family Tree Genealogy Webinar Series.

<http://www.rootcellar.org/>

TOPICS:

- * Timelines and Chronologies: Secrets of Genealogical Success
- * Googling Around with Google and Other Fun Technology
- * The Latest in Digital Imaging for Genealogists
- * What's New in Legacy 8

26 April 2014

2014 Spring Seminar, Sonoma County Genealogical Society, featuring Donna Moughty on four topics, including your family health history and finding the origin of your immigrant ancestor. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Harry A. Merlo Theater, Hwy. 101 at River Rd., Santa Rosa, CA

<http://www.scgsonline.org/events>

10 May 2014

Spotlight on the Latest German Research Tools, seminar presented by Kory Meyerlink. Sacramento German Genealogy Society. 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 11427 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks, CA.

<http://www.sacgergensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=7>

20 May 2014

Where There's a Will, There's a Way, Using Probate Records to Help You Find Those Elusive Ancestors, presented by Vi Parsons. Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society, 1 p.m., LDS Church, 3275 Cedar Ravine, Placerville, CA Visitors welcome.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cargdgs/meetings.htm>

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Its time to pay your Annual Dues!

It's that time of year again.

Pay now before you forget.

A form is in this newsletter so you know how much and where to send it.

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A word from your editor...

Someone at our March meeting brought up Irish research and the fact that there are no records back beyond a certain date. This is not true, of course. Some records have been lost at the Public Records Office during the Irish Civil War, and Catholic baptisms were not recorded until the early 1800s because the Catholic Church had been outlawed. I was lucky when researching my Irish ancestry back in the late 1990s because my grandfather's older brother had written a short history of the family when he was in his 70s. He was ten when he came with his family on the ship to New York and although he got some of his facts wrong – the name of the ship, for instance – he gave us the names of the little towns where they lived. From that we could find the parish and the parish church. Parish churches held the records and the baptismal and marriage records from about 1840 were on microfilm at the Family History Library.



The Tithe Applotment Books, recording land taxes and serving as a census substitute of sorts, covered the early years of the 1800s. Griffiths's Valuation was a "head of household" census of land occupiers and owners taken between 1840 and 1860 to determine what amount of tax each person should pay to support the poor. Back in the 1990s, if you did not know where in Ireland your ancestors came from, you would have had an enormous task. There were indexes which helped you find out where certain surnames were found in the Tithe Applotment, but if your name was O'Brien, good luck! I think that some indexing has probably been done since those days and it might be easier to narrow down your searching now. Irish Civil Registration began in the 1860s and those indexes led me to the death of one of my ancestors in 1864. There are lots of good books on Irish research, so don't give up.

One of my great memories of my time researching my Irish ancestors was going through some Tithe Applotment books at the Family History Library. These were huge books, maybe fifteen inches by twenty inches high, and very

old. When I came back a couple years later and went to search these books again, they were gone! There was a note saying they had been taken away to be filmed because they were full of bookworms. Bookworms! Something to strike fear into the heart of every librarian, including myself. They were great old books.

And, with regard to the article elsewhere in this issue about the Library of Congress, the book that my aunt and I wrote on our Healy and Hope family of County Mayo was duly sent to the Family History Library and to the Library of Congress. I have never heard from someone who found it there, but it is nice to know it's there, waiting.

Anne Field



YouTube Online Help for Genealogists

www.youtube.com

One of our members alerted us at the last meeting to YouTube videos that can help us in our research. It's free and you do not need to join or log in. These are not professional videos but you will find them helpful with lots of topics.

To see hundreds of titles for help in using Ancestry.com, in the YouTube Search box type in AncestryCom without the period. Two examples:

Citing Your Sources Can Be Fun <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uDxnLFz9UHC>

Researching Newspapers to Find Genealogy Gold <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK0t-XFE09o>

To find help using Picasa, the free photo software, type picasa into the search box.

Historic Oregon Newspapers

<http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/>



During our March meeting, Nancy Tinsley shared some lucky finds that came from a University of Oregon Libraries website featuring historic Oregon newspapers. you can search and access complete content in these newspapers that have been digitized as part of the Oregon Digital Newspaper Program (ODNP).

At the top menu you can choose to look at a list of titles; or you can just search by date or keyword. When you find something you can zoom in to read the item. Save the whole page as a pdf document and you will have the date of issue and can see the whole page. You can then zoom into the item in the pdf

You can save it as a jpg using a scissors tool which allows you to "clip out" the section of the page that you have zoomed in on. Then you can print the page, which has the source information embedded at the top, or you can download the image. The saved image is small but big enough to read.

Upcoming Programs 2014	
May 17	Calling In the Pros: Northern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists panel presentation: Janice Sellers, Sheri Fenley, Corey Oiesen
June 21	Where There's A Will There's a Probate - Vi Parsons
July 19	Visiting the Azores – Roberta Saling and Anne Field



Our March Meeting...

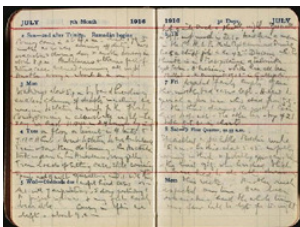
We had twenty-one members and five guests at our March program: **Share, Tell & Ask**. Many of those attending had something to share, all of it very interesting and inspiring: a photo collage of a mother, a family history written by hand, Swedish ancestors, an Italian family who went to Colorado and then to the coal mines in Pennsylvania, a grandmother's family's journey from Missouri to California – recorded on tape, a grandfather's drafting tools, an unusual flat kaleidoscope which is held up to the light, and a very old, very fancy, framed baptismal certificate. Also family finds from archival newspapers from Oregon, a Hamilton family going back to Scotland, binoculars from World War II belonging to a grandfather in the U.S. Navy, the family tree of a man with three wives and over twenty children, research on a Smith family (not an easy name to search), a ship manifest of ancestors coming from Russia to Texas and a great grandfather's old Russian passport which had seen better days, stories of California ancestors going way back, including trail building in Yosemite, and tales of a family who went prospecting for gold in Australia and on the way back

home a great uncle born at sea. So many stories, so much research, and much to pass on to other family members.

Help Needed

Operation War Diary: Reports from the Front

<http://www.operationwardiary.org/>



An ongoing cooperative effort to glean data, describe diaries and tell the stories of the British Army on the Western Front during the First World War. The British Archives are digitizing the diaries and you could be a "Citizen Historian" to make information accessible to academics, researchers and family historians.

War diaries were kept by individual soldiers to provide an accurate record of operations for preparing the official history of the war as well as to collect information that would help make improvements in preparing the army for war.

The diaries are full of all kinds of detail, both general and personal that would give the family researcher a fascinating look into the day to day lives of the men and women who took part in the war a century ago. Check out the website for more information.



Did you know that the Library of Congress has one of the best collections of U.S. and foreign genealogical collections in the world? More than 50,000 family genealogies and 100,000 local histories can be found in the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room in the Thomas Jefferson Building of the library.

A recent post at the Library of Congress Blog urges us to write our family history and send it to the Library of Congress. The best way to preserve your family history is to write it down. This way you are providing a story of your ancestors' lives, not just a pedigree chart. And as you write, document your resources and cite your sources. By writing it down, citing your sources and sending a copy to the Library of Congress, others in the future will be able to continue and build upon the work you have done. We would all like to think that what we are finding will interest others and that someone will be thrilled some day to find out what we spent years researching. Writing it down gives it a life beyond ourselves; citing our sources makes the information more credible and saves future researchers from having to confirm the names, dates, etc. Sending it to the Library of Congress provides a wider audience for our work.

To read more, check out the Library of Congress blogs:

<http://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2014/01/write-your-family-history-and-send-it-to-the-library-of-congress/>

<http://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2013/12/start-a-holiday-tradition-trace-your-family-genealogy/?locir=blogloc>

Mac Genealogy Software

the latest issue (Feb/Mar 2014) of *Internet Genealogy* – available in the DCR – has an article reviewing nine genealogy software programs for Mac users. If you are thinking of buying software for the first time, or changing from what you use now, you will want to have a look at this.

Web Guides for Ancestry.com, Archives.com, Find My Past and more...

The latest issue (Mar/Apr 2014) of *Family Tree Magazine* – available in the DCR – fills most of its pages with a really great round-up of web guides for some of the most popular genealogy web sites: Ancestry.com, Archives.com, Archives.gov (NARA), FamilySearch.org, Find My Past, Fold3, Library of Congress and others.

If you find yourself at a loss when you go to these websites – how to search? what do they have? – then you will find these guides very helpful. There are lists of shortcuts for each program – faster ways to get right to what you want, such as how to get to the message boards in Ancestry or the wiki in FamilySearch. There are quick tips for each website, lists of their major content collections, search strategies, membership options and much more.

From the FamilySearch Blog

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/rootstech-2014-video-presentations-online/>

If you didn't make it to RootsTech 2014, and I will assume you didn't, you can still benefit from all that went on there. Nineteen speakers have been recorded and made available so that you can watch them at home. They are available on the Roots Tech website - <https://rootstech.org/about/videos/> - or from the link above. Many, many topics, some of which cover *Introduction to DNA*, *Genealogy in the Cloud*, *Do It Yourself Photo Restoration*, and *A Beginners Guide to Going Paperless*.

New Online Training now available at the Learning Center on FamilySearch.org

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/whats-courses-learning-services-2/>

Courses in Swedish, Czech and Danish research, finding places in the former German areas of Poland, using the Dutch website *Whowaswho*, and several courses in Spanish on various topics.

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.



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 2014 issue is April 21, 2014.**

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 SUBSTITUTE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP KEEP IT OPEN!! Please Volunteer!**

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

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

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	Susan Benes, 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.

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.

Monthly Financial Report February 2014

Income:	683.12
Expenses:	(343.27)
Checking Total	<u>\$4,650.85</u>
Savings Account	3,863.99
CD-9 months; matures on 10/8/14	5,833.43
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/14	<u>5,652.12</u>
<u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u>	<u>\$20,000.39</u>

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