

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 2016

Sharon Hawley- Crum

A photograph of a laptop screen displaying a presentation titled "How to Prepare a Digital Family History". The presentation features a collage of digital media including a portrait of a man in a military uniform, a CD, a DVD, and various family photos. In front of the laptop, there is a CD with a family photo, a DVD with a family photo, a USB drive, and a SuperTape tape.

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

March Speaker: *Kathryn Marshall*



Our speaker this past month gave us an overview of how maps can be a great family history resource. She spent the first part of her presentation telling us about how to use the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) site to locate land patents

owned by our ancestors. Oftentimes these patent records had additional information about relationships, such as when a father sells or transfers a property to a son for "love and affection."

Land for the original thirteen states and their break-off states (twenty states) was measured using metes and bounds. The other thirty states in the west are called Stateline States. Land was measured into townships and ranges.



You can send for the land entry case file, but you need the legal property description from the BLM site which is located at <http://gloreCORDS.blm.gov>.

She explained without a government or a treasury, the Revolutionary army soldiers were given land warrants, which the former soldier could trade for a land patent. Also, the first instance of land ownership after bare land was identified, surveyed and assigned to an individual was called a patent. Land transfer documents after that are deeds.

Kathryn also shared several sites for using maps for various genealogical purposes. Some of them are programs available for purchase; some are subscription sites, several available without charge at your local family history center:

- Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States: <http://dsl.richmond.edu/historicalatlas/>
 - Surname Distribution Maps: <http://www.ancestry.com>
 - Animap County Boundary Historical Atlas: <http://www.legacyfamilytreestore.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=ANI> [DLlegacyfamilytree.com/store](http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/store)
 - Centennia Historical Atlas: <http://www.legacyfamilytreestore.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=CND>
 - David Rumsey Map Collection: This collection has over 67,000 maps and images online, including rare 16th through 21st century maps from around the world. Export free images or pay for high quality print versions. His collection allows for overlays on Google Earth using Georeferencer. <http://www.davidrumsey.com>
 - David Rumsey's blog as a search portal for historic maps from five different map libraries in Europe and the United States: - <http://www.davidrumsey.com/blog/2012/3/4/old-maps-online-historical-maps-search-portal>
 - Google Earth: <http://earth.google.com/> See also: <https://www.google.com/earth/learn/> for tutorials.
 - earthpoint.us : a free website with some subscription features, use the free tool, *Township and Range grid on GoogleEarth*.
 - VirtualTrails.org (free)
 - Historic Map Works: available for free at family history centers
 - RootsMapper: <https://rootsmapper.com>
- See demo at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrSsFe9TyKU>

March Meeting Attendance

There were 28 members and 6 for a total attendance of 34. Total Members: 76 active; 19 renewals
Welcome to our newest member Irma Groden who is researching in Texas and Mexico.

MCGS Board Meeting:

The next Merced County Genealogical Society board meeting will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 1:00p.m in the Doris Cochran Research room, Merced County main library building.

April Speaker: Sharon Hawley-Crum, Ph.D.

"21 Century Digital Estate Planning: Are you prepared to pass on the keys to your digital kingdom?"

Life used to be so simple! Our records used to be found in binders or file cabinets, now we have a set of "digital assets" which we created and use daily. If you think this does not apply to you - you may be surprised to realize that your email account, use of a genealogical online program, an online retirement account, PayPal, Amazon, DropBox, or online bill payment program, just to name a few, fall into the digital asset category! We need to ask the question, "What will happen to these records if we become disabled or die?"

State laws granting rightful access to our caregivers or survivors are in their infancy. If arrangements are not made in advance, caregivers, family members or administrators may not be able to access our information and it could be lost forever. In fact, existing State and Federal laws could even put friends and relatives who try to log on to our accounts at risk of violating anti-hacking and privacy statutes.

Don't delay! Attendance at our April program will allow our speaker, Sharon Hawley-Crum, to outline a 5-step digital asset estate planning process. The more you do now to develop your digital asset estate plan the easier it will be later.

Fitting Puzzle Pieces Together: Prussians in Kansas - Part 2

By Michele Moore

Fitting puzzle pieces together, and learning that a good part of Prussia wound up in Kansas. (For part 1, See the February 2016 issue of The Family Snoop.)

Johanna Czirr Schmanke died at a young age leaving behind her husband, Albert, and three children. Losing Johanna was hard on the family, but Hanna Buttenhoff proved to be a great stepmother, and their farm just southwest of Alma prospered. Albert probably planted plums, and he did plant apples, as it was Hanna's oldest daughter Martha's job to slice the apples thin in the fall and dry them for winter.



Martha, fourth child of Albert Schmanke, first of his second wife, Hanna.

Hanna Schmanke also made a lot of German-style cookies such as pfefferneusse each Christmas season. Martha later preferred to make the butter-based cookies more popular in the United States, but she liked to make poppy-seed cake, soaking the seeds first.



Albert & Hanna Schmanke with Hanna's step-children, including Albert's only son, Edward, and her daughter, Martha in front. The hat on Hanna's lap was hand-painted on by Michele's mother to cover a damaged portion of the portrait. Dresses were sewn by Hanna.

At first the children went to a school that taught in German in the morning and English in the afternoon. Later they switched to the regular town school.

Since Hanna was not talkative and saw few non-Germans, she never did learn English well. My mom Lauren visited in Alma about 1929 and talked and talked happily to her and she said at intervals, "Ist dot so?" Hanna was a talented seamstress. She needed no patterns. She eye-balled the pictures in mail-order catalogs and what she saw in store windows and used them for inspiration. A good lady.

After Martha the Schmanke had three more daughters, Albertina, Bertha and Frieda. Frieda, born in 1902, was a preemie, so small her parents could slip a ring over her hand like a bracelet. She hung in there and grew to adulthood. She became a vegetarian because chicken slaughter disturbed her. It was Martha's opinion that vegetarianism was the reason Frieda only lived to be sixty years old.

More puzzle pieces: Mom remembered a pair of old great-aunts dressed in old-fashioned German country dresses. One lacked a nose, no doubt due to cancer. Who were they? Could they have been Hanna's aunts?

The following picture was taken about 1908. Edward was away working to save up for his farm, perhaps already in Alta Vista to the southwest. The older daughters, Anna and Emilie were still at home. They became talented seamstresses and eventually went to Rochester, NY to be tailors.



Albert & Hanna Schmanke with Hanna's daughters and step-daughters

Hanna's parents (born 1835 and 1836) were also from Prussia. They arrived in America May 8, 1869 on the *Borussia*, "Zwischendeck" class. (I think that is the bad part of the ship-steerage.) On board were five children, Albert, age 5; Hanna, age 4; Robert, age 2; Otto, age 1; and Herman, and infant. Measles broke out on board, but they all managed to get to Alma where two more children were born to this family. Even with having very little cash until the farm was a going business, being in the green hills of Alma made the hardships worth it, even though he had very little cash until his farm was a growing business.

Martha, my maternal grandma, remembered Indians in black braids and colorful blankets sometimes coming to ask for food. Her kindly mother fed them. Later, in Ellinwood, Kansas, Martha and family lived near the railroad tracks and hobos sometimes came for food. Martha found something for them to do and then gave them a sack lunch.

There were real cowboys, she recalled, who drove cattle from the Flint Hills. They would stop for awhile since Albert rented pasture to them.



*Daughter Bertha, left, with Hanna and Albert Schmanke. Man in back is unknown to the author.
To be continued*

Changes in Save Mart SHARES Program

Save Mart has discontinued the SHARES Card program as of April 1, 2016. Now to continue using your purchases at Save Mart and affiliated stores, we must sign up with eScrip. eScrip will monthly donate up to 3% of your shopper qualified purchases to the participating organizations, up to three organizations, for which you have signed up. Any funds earned will be divided evenly between those organizations.

Sign up for eScrip by going to www.eScrip.com/shares for more details. (make sure you spell it eScrip without the "t", not eScript.)

Link your SaveSmart and Shares accounts together using the your same telephone number. Once your new eScrip account is set up, you enter your telephone number at the time of purchase to credit the system with your purchases.

[Note from the editor: I just signed on to eScrip and set up my account. Once I put in the right web address, it was fairly painless.]

Obits Project

MCGS is looking for volunteers to work on an obituary project. We have been given about twenty years worth of clipped obituaries and an index database to go with them. There are several steps to getting these ready so that they can be useful to others. One step needs members who can go online and copy some names and dates using either Word or Wordpad. If you feel comfortable going online and using either of these program, please let me know. This can be done whenever you have time at home, at any hour and can be done at your convenience. If you feel more comfortable working

with pen and paper, sorting, organizing, then there is other work that needs to be done. If you can work an hour a week, that would be great. Two hours, even better. Whatever works out for you. This is a big project and many hands make light work. For more information, please contact Anne Field

Four Generation Chart Project

The genealogical society is focusing this year on strengthening the four generation chart program for its members. We ask all members to print off as many four generations charts as you need, fill them out and bring them to the next meeting. The officers will continue to accept four generation charts.

Here is how the program works. Complete the chart with the surnames, date ranges and localities of your ancestors. Circle the number(s) of the ancestors you are researching right now. As these charts are turned in, a record will be made of where you are searching so if you wish you may contact and share locality research information with others. Also, as the book committee makes decisions on which books to buy for our collection in the Doris Cochran Research room, it will be helpful to know where our members are focusing their research.

If you are searching beyond your great-grandparents, you may wish to use the name of a parent or grandparent in the number one position on the chart. Make as many copies of the chart as you need to get your family information back to your years of research. (Example: If you are researching your 3rd great-grandparents in Virginia, start your chart with your grandparent who is their descendent in the number one position.)

A four generation chart is included on the next page for your use.

Upcoming Programs for 2015	
May 21	Gathering Four Generation Charts
June 18	Kathy Burrows will speak on the topic of adoptions
July 16	Birthday month – member Show and Tell
	Join us and invite others to join with us!

Ancestral Chart



Chart No. _____

No. 1 on this chart is
the same person as No. _____

On Chart No. _____

BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
PLACE
DIED
PLACE
NAME OF SPOUSE _____

BORN
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
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PLACE

BORN
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DIED
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BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
PLACE
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PLACE

BORN
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

CONT. ON CHART _____

CONT. ON CHART _____

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CONT. ON CHART _____

CONT. ON CHART _____

CONT. ON CHART _____

Form # F120

<http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/ancestral.htm>

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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 robynechols AT gmail 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 2016 issue is April 25th.** 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 Saturdays, **BUT WE NEED SUBSTITUTE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP KEEP IT OPEN!! Please Volunteer!**

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

President	Greg Entriiken
President-elect	--
Vice President	Lois Jimenez
Treasurer	Sharon Darby
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Programs	Susan Benes, Michle Burroughs, Rosalie Heppner, Stephanie McLeod & Shari Stetson
Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i>	Robyn Echols robynechols AT gmail DOT com

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 4:00 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 through Thursday – 10am to 6:00pm
 Friday & Saturday - 10:00am to 5:00pm

Merced County Courthouse Museum

www.mercedmuseum.org
 21st and N Streets
 P. O. Box 3557
 Merced, CA 95344
 Wednesday through Sunday - 1:00pm to 4:00pm.
 Free admission.

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

www.cagenweb.com/lr/stanilaus/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: Oct/Nov 2015

Income	210.23
Expenses	<u>(287.99)</u>
Checking Balance	\$5,415.48
Savings Account:	3,867.66
CD-9 months; matures on 03/31/16	5,851.93
CD-12 months; matures on 5/18/16	<u>5,675.88</u>
Total in Checking and Savings:	<u>\$20,810.95</u>

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