

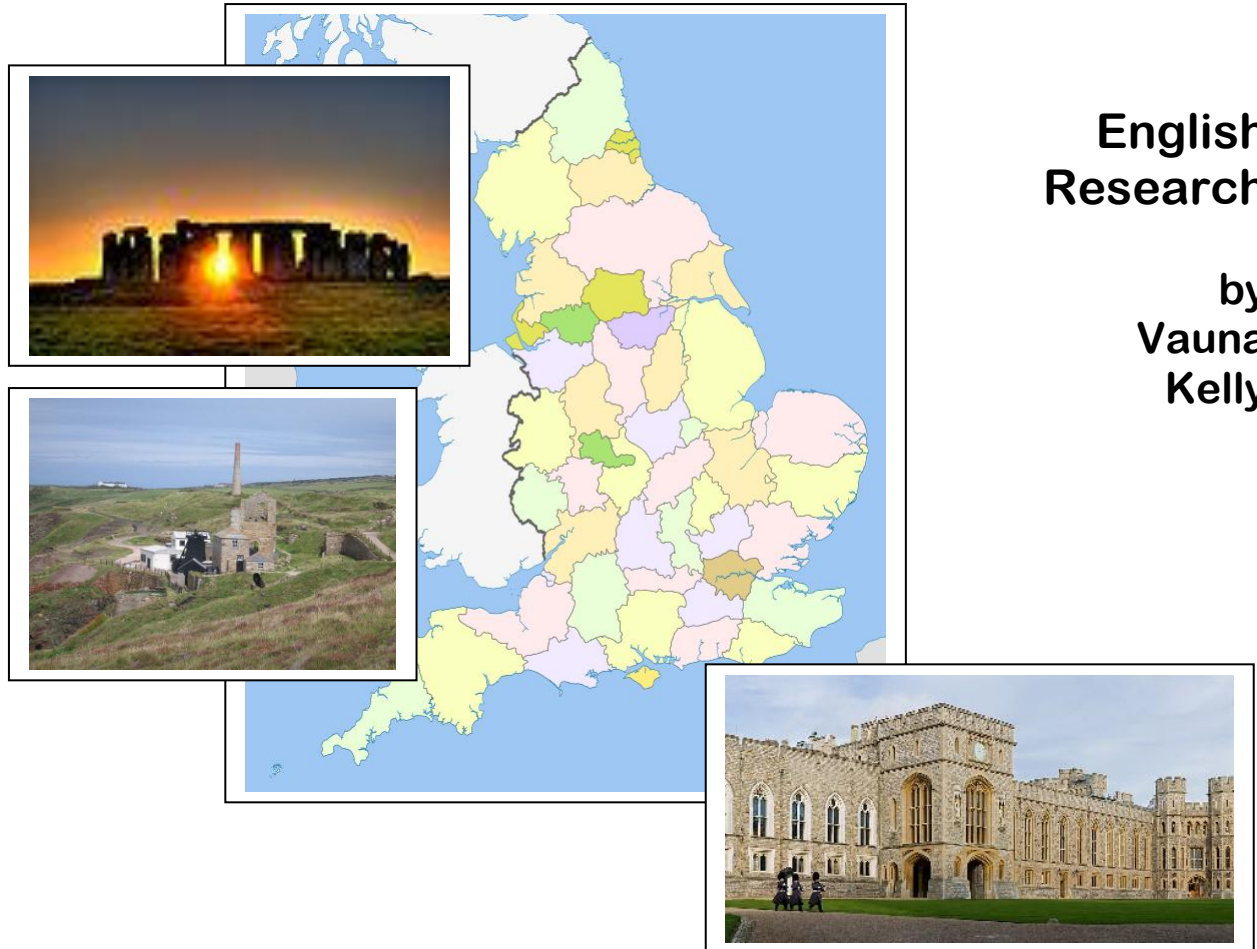
THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 33, No. 4

APRIL 2015

April Meeting



**English
Research**

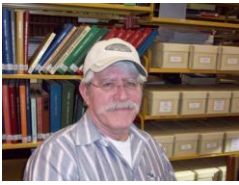
**by
Vauna
Kelly**

1:00 p.m. Saturday

April 18, 2015

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

President's Message



Dear Friends and Fellow Members
Thank you Pamela for sharing your story and that of your ancestors, and possibly that of ours ---- who knows ?!

Just a reminder that the MCGS board meeting is on Monday April 13th at 1 pm in the Doris Cochrane Room and the MCGS general meeting is Saturday April 18th at 1 pm.

Vauna Kelly is scheduled to be our guest speaker on "English Research"

Hope to see you then

Sincerely, Greg Entriiken, President

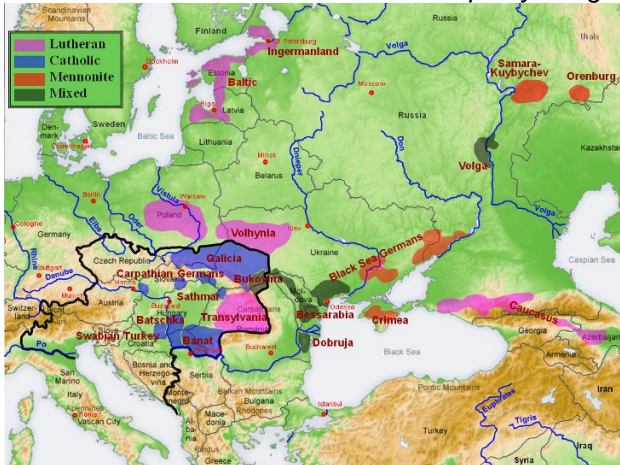
March Meeting: Pamela Atherstone Spoke on Germans from Russia

Pamela Atherstone is the great-granddaughter of German-Russian immigrants and an amateur genealogist focusing on Russians of German heritage. Later in life she discovered a deep interest in the undocumented lives of her ancestors left behind in Russia following the Revolution of 1917. Research and study led to the writing of her first novel, *...Like Footprints in the Wind*. At our March meeting, Pamela shared with us how she performed her research for her German ancestors who came from Russia.

Germans from Russia Time Line

Early 1700s: a German Lutheran church was established in Irkutsk, Siberia. Most of these Germans were probably associated with trades such as mining, lumber, etc., the professions such as medicine or legal, as well as the arts.

Settlement of Germans in Eastern Europe by Religions:



1762: Sophie Fredericke Auguste von Anhalt-Zerbst, a German native of Stettin, displaced her husband Peter III and took the vacant Russian imperial throne, assuming the name of Catherine II, better known as Catherine the Great.

1762 and 1763: Catherine published manifestos in inviting Europeans, (except Jews) to immigrate and farm Russian lands while maintaining their language and culture to farm and develop the vast steppes. Germans responded large numbers due to poor conditions in their home regions, continued to migrate into Russian territories after Catherine's death. Other Germans, especially those in Volhynia, because of cheap land. They could keep their religion (Mennonites, Hutterites, Roman Catholic, Lutheran), and their native language, teach German topics, not Russian in their elementary schools and their young men were exempt from the Russian military draft.

1763-1768: More than 25,000 Germans established 104 colonies on the banks of the Volga and Karaman Rivers.



Germans plowing field in Russia

1786: Mennonites from West Prussia begin immigrating to Russia. The 1772 Partition of Poland threatened their military service exemption as conscientious objectors. Their settlements were established primarily in the Tauria region of South Russia.

1803: Alexander I reissues Catherine's manifesto. The manifesto renews the invitation to foreigners to settle New Russia. The Black Sea Germans respond to the invitation in great numbers. So many responded that, in 1804, a restrictive decree is issued that requires future immigrants to have families, possess at least 300 guilders worth of cash or goods, and be skilled in farming or handicrafts. - See more at: http://www.ndstudies.org/articles/the_germans_from_russia_follow_the_timeline#sthash.aMdqeKta.dpuf

1804-18: Colonists endure a long and difficult journey either overland or by river. Between 1804-1812, colonists were unable to make the trip by way of the Danube River because of the Russo-Turkish War. In 1817, thousands

died of disease and exposure as the inexperienced colonists took barges down the Danube.

1830: The Polish Insurrection Brings about the immigration of many Polish Germans to Bessarabia, and some to the Volga region.

1861-63: Another wave of German immigration begins 'The abolishment of serfdom left a significant drain on the workforce and prompted the start of immigration to Volhynia. The second Polish Insurrection of 1863 brought more Polish Germans to Russia.

1873: The first group of German-Russian settlers in the Middle West arrives 175 men, women and children arrive in Yankton, Dakota Territory in one of the worst blizzards on record, the Easter Sunday Blizzard. After the storm, they find suitable land northwest of Yankton where Lesterville, S.D. is now located.

1874: Alexander II became Czar, he ended German exemption from service in the Russian Army and began a program of Russification. Anger over these broken promises prompted many Germans to migrate to the United States and take advantage of the Homestead Act provisions of 160 acres of land. Many migrated to the Great Plains states.

1874: A conference was called among the Germans in Herzog, Russia. Delegates chose to send representatives to investigate Kansas, Nebraska and Arkansas.

1775: The first group of settlers left for Topeka, Kansas. They were encouraged by the Kansas-Pacific Railroad to settle on land owned by the railroad in Ellis and north Rush counties. Later settlement took place in Russell county.

1881: Alexander III comes to the throne after his father, Alexander II, is assassinated Russification becomes the official policy, requiring school to be taught in Russian and business to be conducted in Russian. All of the rights of self-government once enjoyed by German colonists were lost.

Mid-1880s: Germans from Russia began arriving in north-central South Dakota. In North Dakota, they began homesteading the south-central part of the state (Emmons, McIntosh and Logan counties).

1914: World War I begins. The war caused severe restrictions on travel and ended the wave of German Russian immigration that had begun more than forty years earlier.

1915: Volhynian Germans are deported to Volga Region and South Russia. The deportation is a result of the advancement of the eastern front during World War I. The war caused further difficulties for Germans in Russia. Although they fought and died in the Russian military, they were accused of being spies and saboteurs. Innumerable Germans were sent to Siberia for "crimes against the state."

1916: Volga Germans ordered to be banished Because of internal troubles in Russia, the order was never carried out.



Germans in front of Lutheran church near Hazen 1914

1917: The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia ushers in the Communist regime. The revolution also ushered in a period of lawlessness. German villages were raided and robbed and Germans were murdered. Many Germans were driven from their homes and displaced to Siberia and Middle Asia.

1920-23: Period of famine in Russia claims hundreds of thousands of lives. Death by starvation in the Volga German colonies is estimated at 166,000, one-third of the population.

1928-33: Second period of famine again claims many lives in Russia. The dreadful famine that engulfed Ukraine, the northern Caucasus, and the lower Volga River area in 1932-33 was the result of Soviet leader Josef Stalin's policy of forced collectivization instituted in 1929. The policy had a disastrous affect on agricultural productivity. Soviet law required that no grain from a collective farm could be given to the members of the farm until the government's quota was met. Despite declining productivity, Stalin raised the quota in 1932 to 45%. The policy, and the methods used to implement it, condemned millions to death by starvation.

1939: Outbreak of World War II. Revoked the Romanian annexation of Bessarabia and agreed all ethnic Germans in the region would be resettled in Germany. As there was no place for them in Germany, many settled in western Poland.

1940: Russia revoked the Romanian annexation of Bessarabia and agreed all ethnic Germans in the region would be resettled in Germany. As there was no place for them in Germany, many settled in western Poland.

1941: War breaks out between Germany and Russia. The already planned displacement of all Germans in Russia was executed without exception. Men between the ages of 16 and 60 were sent to "Trudarmija," a special prison camp, where they were treated as enemies of the state. Their possessions were seized and they were not permitted to return to their communities.



Women preparing meals in labor camps

1945: The War is ended. In the years after World War II, about 70,000 German-

Russians were able to make their way to Germany. The German Russians in South Russia (today southern Ukraine) trekked out with the retreating German army during World War II. Most were deported back to Siberia, Russia. Others were evacuated to the central and east Asian portions of the USSR.

1991: The Fall of the Soviet Union brought major political changes and a significant immigration of more than 2 million ethnic Germans to Germany.

(The source of much of this time line came from the Germans From Russia Heritage Collection at the North Dakota State University Library - See more at: http://www.ndstudies.org/articles/the_germans_from_russia_follow_the_timeline#sthash.aMdqeKta.dpuf)

German from Russia Research

Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe:
<https://www.sggee.org/>

AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
<http://ahsgr.org/index.htm>

AHSGR is dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation and dissemination of information related to the history, cultural history and genealogy of the Germanic Settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants. Some of the information is available in the AHSGR Library and vault and as time and resources are

available is being made available for research on the Internet. (Fee)

"Russian Archives" in *Research Russian Roots* at <http://www.mtu-net.ru/rrr/russia.htm> [Updated July 8, 2005].
Family History Research Wiki:

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page

Under **Search by place or topic**, use search terms **Germans from Russia**



Germans in Russia traveling by covered wagon

Family History Library: The Family History Library has acquired German-Russian records from archives in Russia, Ukraine, and other sources. These include:

St. Petersburg Lutheran Consistory, including parishes near St. Petersburg, near the Black Sea, in Bessarabia, and Volhynia; 2. Bessarabian Lutheran settlement church records; Volhynia Lutheran church records (see complete list at [SGGEE](#)); Bukowina and Galicia (formerly Austria) some church records; Library of Congress collection of Berlin Document Center films

The Volhynia, Kiev, Podolia (VKP) database: Has been updated to include data from the Tutschin (Tuczyn) kantorate. This data includes 2,418 births, 828 marriages and 418 deaths. Post 1885 records from the Rozyszcze FHL microfilms

North Dakota State University Libraries Germans from Russia Heritage Collection
<http://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/>

Germans from Russia Heritage Collection
Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/ndsu.grhc>

On Pinterest:
<https://www.pinterest.com/giftofgracethx/germans-from-russia/>

Germans from Russia in Kansas
<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/germans-from-russia-in-kansas/12231>

Upcoming Programs for 2015	
April 18	"English Research" by Vauna Kelly
May 16	TBA
June 20	"Finding Lost Cousins & Living Relatives" by Barbara Washburn
	Join us and invite others to join with us!

New Books in the MCGS genealogy collection - March 2015

		974.812 SAC	Matricul of the Augustus Ev. Luth. congregation of New Providence, Pennsylvania, usually called the Old Trappe church, 1729-1777 ... Part 1. Baptisms.
284.17 MAU	Lutherans on the mountaintop : in West Virginia and western Maryland / B.B. Maurer and Mary Miller Strauss.	975.1 CLA	Index to Delawareans in the Index of Revolutionary War pension applications / by Raymond B. Clark, Jr.
943.512 STE	The Frisians in Schleswig-Holstein / Thomas Steensen ; edited by the Frisian Council ; [translated into English by Dirk Hansen].	975.1 CLA	Kent County, Delaware, wills and administrations, 1680-1800 : an index / by Raymond B. Clark, Jr.
948.9 DAN 973 AME	The Danish genealogical helper. American-Swedish handbook / editor, Holly Johnson; layout editor, Tom Lewis; compiled by Elise Peters, Jamie Olson	975.1 WRI	Delaware newspaper abstracts / F.E. Wright.
		975.1 HAN	The reconstructed Delaware state census of 1782 / edited by Harold B. Hancock.
973 WEL	German immigration to America in the nineteenth century : a genealogist's guide / by Maralyn A. Wellauer.	975.2 BAR	Gleanings from Maryland newspapers / by Robert Barnes. Vol. 3: 1786-1790
974 CRA	1671 Census of the Delaware , by Peter S. Craig	975.4 HAG	Brief sketch of the erection and formation of the state of West Virginia from the territory of Virginia , by John Marshall Hagans.
974.8 HAW	Lancaster County Pennsylvania quarter sessions abstracts : (1729-1742). Book 1 / edited by Gary T. Hawbaker.	975.485	The personal property tax lists for the year 1787 for Randolph County, Virginia [now West Virginia] / by Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Speakman Love.
974.8 LUT	250 year history of Christ Little Tulpehocken Church, Jefferson Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, 1730-1980 / Herman M. and Jennie M. Lutz.	975.5 CLE	Virginia Wills before 1799 , by William M. Clemens
974.8 MACG	Pennsylvania : from wilderness colony to national leader / Michael R. McGough.	975.5 SCH	The personal property tax lists for the year 1787 for Hampshire County, Virginia (now West Virginia) / by Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Speakman Love.
974.8 HAY	Listing of inhabitants in 1785, Fayette County, Pennsylvania / compiled by Allen Hays.	975.5 SCH	Virginia genealogical research / by George K. Schweitzer.

975.5 SCH **The personal property tax lists for the years 1786, 1787 (partial) & 1788 for Monongalia County, Virginia : also fourteen petitions submitted to the General Assembly by Monongalian residents in 1784, 1785, 1787 & 1788 /** by Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Speakman Love.

975.5 SCH **The personal property tax lists for the year 1787 for Harrison County, Virginia (now West Virginia) /** by Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Speakman Love.

975.528 SCH **The personal property tax lists for the year 1787 for Loudoun County, Virginia /** by Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Love

975.528 SCH **The personal property tax lists for the year 1788 for Loudoun County, Virginia /** by Netti Schreiner-Yantis and Florene Love.

976.9 SKE **East Kentucky cemeteries /** compiled and printed by Joe R. Skeens. Vol. 5

977.1 FER **Ohio lands : a short history.**

977.1532 OAK **Oakdale cemetery, Marysville, Union County, Ohio /** copied by members of Union County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society. Vol. 1 & Vol. 2

977.1532 DAR **Darby and Jerome townships, Union County, Ohio, cemeteries /** recorded by members of the Union County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society, 1981 and 1982.

977.1532 LIB **Liberty, Paris, Taylor, Washington townships, Union County, Ohio, cemeteries /** recorded by members of the Union County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society.

977.1532 UNI **Union and Allen townships, Union County, Ohio cemeteries /** recorded by members of the Union County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society.

977.1532 YOR **York Township cemetery records, Union County, Ohio /** compiled by members of the Union Co. Chapter of the Genealogical Society of Ohio.

977.1532 DOV **Dover, Jackson, Leesburg, Millcreek townships cemetery records /** recorded by members of the Union County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society.

978.15 HOL **Pioneer cross : Swedish settlements along the Smoky Hill Bluffs /** Thomas N. Holmquist ; [consulting editor, Linda K. Hubalek].

979.458 CAB **Merced Falls, an early industrial center /** by Delores Cabezut-Ortiz.

Gene-somnia: When you really should go to bed, but you stay up and do genealogy instead.

The Spanish Flu Should Have Been Called the Kansas Flu

In March of this year, Fold3 featured a blog post about the start of the Spanish Flu in March on 1918. What I found interesting about this flu is that it did not start in Spain, as we would suppose based on the name given to what became a pandemic but it actually started in Kansas.

Called the Spanish Flu because of the highly publicized outbreak in Spain, it actually began in Haskell, Kansas. where it spread to Camp Funston and from there to the rest of the world. Wartime conditions, like troop movements and overcrowded cantonments, accelerated and aggravated the spread of the virus, which proved to be much deadlier than the normal flu, in part because of a particularly tough strain of pneumonia that often accompanied it.

Membership at our March 2015 Meeting:

Attendance final count: 26 Members, 6 guests
Renewals [not including the March meeting]: 10
Total: 75 active and 45 inactive
New [since last *Family Snoop*]: 1

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 2015 issue is April 25, 2015.**

MCGS meetings are held at **1:00p.m.** on the 3rd Saturday of the month unless it that is a holiday weekend. 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 Entriken
President-elect	Bernadette Castaneda
Vice President	Lois Jimenez
Treasurer	Sharon Darby
Secretary	Stephanie McLeod
Past President	Shari Stetson
Membership	Margie Barnhart
Hospitality	Michle Burroughs
Publicity	Open
Programs	Susan Benes, Michle Burroughs, Rosalie Heppner, Stephanie McLeod & Shari Stetson
Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i>	Robyn Echols 358-2461 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 & N Streets Merced
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: February 2015

Income	625.36
Expenses	(209.98)
Checking Balance	\$5,582.44
Savings Account:	3,865.90
CD-9 months; matures on 10/8/14	5,842.17
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/15	5,663.43
Total in Checking and Savings:	\$20,953.94

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