

# THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 30, No. 1

January 2012

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## Installation of Officers & Annual Beginners Program



**Do you know who your great-grandparents were?**

**Would you like to find out more?**

**Don't know where to start?**

Come join us at our annual program for beginners. Learn how to get started with a free packet of materials, forms and tips for beginners.

12:00 Noon    Saturday  
21 January 2012  
Gracey Room, Merced County Library

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

## Upcoming programs for 2012:

Month	Program	Speaker(s)
February 25	Beginners Program, Part 2	<b>Note that the February meeting will be held one week later than usual, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, because the library will be closed on our regular meeting day due to their holiday schedule.</b>

### A Word from your President:

It's a new year and we have a new President of our Society, Stephanie McLeod. I really appreciate the dedicated board members Michle Burroughs, Sharon Darby, Robyn Echols, Lois Jimenez, & Roberta Saling, who have served with me, most of whom are serving another year. I appreciate how generous they were with their time and effort and am certain they'll continue that for Stephanie. I'll be taking Roberta Saling's position as Past President. Hopefully I can assist Stephanie as much as Roberta has assisted me.

We've needed to be a little flexible with our meetings this year, changing time, location and dates, but thankfully our members and speakers usually managed to find the meetings anyway. Map study, perseverance, patience and "searchability" are qualities which benefit genealogists.

A **Part One Beginners Program** is scheduled for January 21<sup>st</sup> – bring a "newbie" to this "getting started" meeting. On February 25<sup>th</sup> we'll hold Part Two which will be a more "hands-on" workshop. This could assist both those new to genealogy and those who might need help breaking through "brickwalls".

I encourage everyone to take an active part in our Society, new ideas or old ideas revisited are welcome and will help to keep our society interesting and growing.

Happy New Year!!

Shari Stetson

**Ancestry.com** is no longer available at our public library due to budget cuts.

**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.

### 2012 Slate of Officers:

President: Stephanie McLeod

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Lois Jimenez

2d VP: Rosalie Heppner

Secretary: Robyn Echols

Treasurer: Sharon Darby

Our new Past President will be Shari Stetson. Michle Burroughs remains as Hospitality and Anne Field continues as Newsletter Editor. The installation ceremony will take place as usual at the January meeting.

Our new president, Stephanie McLeod, has served as president once before, in 1991, so many of our members will remember her.

### November Meeting

Members who attended the November meeting heard Cath Madden Trindle speak on Scotch Irish research.

### Reminder!

The DAR Bible project deadline is the end of January. If you have a Family Bible that you want included in this project, contact Karen Theofanides before January 25<sup>th</sup> 2012:

## December Potluck

We had a good turnout for the December potluck. It was held in the Doris Cochran Room instead of the Gracey Room due to a scheduling error.

The meeting was short. A slate of officers was presented for 2012 and voted upon with all in agreement.



**MCGS** has a website at [www.rootsweb.com/~camcgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~camcgs)  
The website is maintained by Alma Stone.  
Alma also runs a Merced County Genealogy website at [www.mercedgenealogy.com](http://www.mercedgenealogy.com)

## Upcoming Events

### **The History of the Amish People**

Speaker: Suzanne Woods Fisher  
Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society

The program will be Friday, 20 January, 2012, in the US Bank at the Rossmoor Shopping Center in Walnut Creek,  
1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

Commodore Sloat Chapter National Society  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
and  
Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-Day Saints  
present the  
31st Annual Genealogical Seminar  
Saturday January 28, 2012  
8:00 AM to 3:30 PM  
1024 Noche Buena at Plumas Avenue, Seaside CA  
**ANCESTOR ROUNDUP 2012**  
Keynote Speaker: Claire V. Brisson-Banks  
"The Perfect Social Media: Family History & Genealogy"

Sessions cover the following topics: New England Research, Native American Sources, British Parish Records, Local Land Records, Naturalization, Immigration, Lineages Societies & more

For More Information, call Serita Sue Woodburn, 831-899-2121 or email [seritasue2@comcast.net](mailto:seritasue2@comcast.net)

### **Genealogy NOW!** ***Growing Your Family Tree***

San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society  
Saturday, February 4, 2012

A day-long seminar featuring nationally acclaimed author and speaker Dr. Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, Ron Arons, author of Wanted! U.S. Criminal Records and The Jews of Sing-Sing, and English research expert Apryl Cox, AG. Included in the event will be vendors, project displays, refreshments, a freebie table, and drawings for dozens of genealogy prizes and gift certificates.

for more information:  
<http://www.slocgs.org/>

## ***What Happens When You Think You Know...***

Sometimes it isn't what we don't know when searching for our ancestors, it's what we think we know that's the problem. I was researching my great grandparents, Christie and Josie Adney. The first thing that you're probably thinking is that I should have been looking for Christopher and Josephine. I had only been working on my genealogy about a year but I did know that much. I found Christopher in the 1930 census in Nebraska and both Christopher and Josephine on the 1910 and 1920 census in Nebraska. The census indicated Christie was born in 1866, Josie in 1871, and both in Wisconsin. This took my search back to Wisconsin. Christopher (born in 1866) was on the 1870 and 1880 census with his birth family. I didn't know Josie's maiden name but I found them listed together with my grandmother and her brother on the 1900 census.

I found the gravesite of Christopher, but I couldn't find Josie after 1920. At this point, I assumed she had died sometime between 1920 and 1930, but I kept getting hits on a Josephine Adney's death in California in 1941. Here's the problem, I "know" this couldn't have been my Josie--what would she be doing here in California all by herself and after her presumed death date? Further, I'm sure none of my family on any side was in California until after my dad and three uncles returned from the Pacific after World War II.

After much more searching and with no other leads on Josie, I finally decided to check into this "wrong" Josephine. (After all, eliminating what you know to be false is actually helpful!) So I'm off to my first in-person quest for a vital record; luckily it's a short drive to Stockton. I find the recorder's office, fill out the paperwork, show my ID, pay a nominal fee and get a copy of my "Josie's" death certificate. Yes! My Josephine McCormick Adney, daughter of John McCormick, born 1871 in Wisconsin, widow of Chris Adney, and buried in Tracy. She was there all the time, even though I "knew" it couldn't be her—I was happy to be so wrong.

When my children asked if I'd like to do anything special the next Mother's Day, I said "Yes, how about visiting my great grandmother's grave?" They turned me down but I did visit my Josie shortly thereafter.

Contributed by Shari Stetson



### **Our Society has a position that needs to be filled: PUBLICITY**

If you would like to take on this position, please contact one of the Board members. This position involves getting information out to the public by way of newspaper ads or by online events information. This need not take a lot of your time but would be of great help in getting out news of our meetings and other items.



### **Reminder!**

It's time to pay your dues

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.

Sample entries from **Merced County Delayed Birth Certificates**, published by our Society in 2011. There are six books of Delayed Birth records published in four volumes.

A combined index for all the volumes can be found on our Society's web page:

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~camcgs/2\\_delayedbirthscombinedindex%282%29.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~camcgs/2_delayedbirthscombinedindex%282%29.pdf)

<p>SWANSON, RUSSELL FRANKLIN            2805 Encinal Ave., Alameda, CA            Male, born 31 Jan 1916, Irwin, Merced Co., CA            Father KNUTE JOHN SWANSON            Mother EMMA MARIE BROBERG            Affidavit: Olive Brady Winters, sister            Affidavit: Rodney G. Swanson, bro.            Documents: Child's birth certificate (2)            date filed 7/5/1961</p>	<p>state file #123134             born Sweden            white            born Sweden            white             book 2, page 568</p>
<p>HARRISON, MYRON LESLIE            Male, born 19 Jan 1908, Merced, CA            Father JAMES THOMAS HARRISON            Mother ZILLAH ALVIRA HOFFMAN            Affidavit: Juanita K. Gaspar, aunt            Affidavit: Josie Hoffman, aunt            Documents: Child's birth certificate            date filed 6/29/1961</p>	<p>state file #123083             born Herndon, Fairfax Co., VA    white            born Yolo Co., CA                white             book 2, page 567</p>
<p>CAPIDONICA, MARIE            424 Adams St., Coalinga, CA            Female, born 18 May 1905, Merced, CA            Father MANUEL CAMPIDONICA            Mother MARY PINASCO            Affidavit: Rose L. Guest, sister            Documents: Marriage certificate, Child's birth certificate            date filed 6/29/1961                             signed/ Marie C. Bishop</p>	<p>state file #123084             born Genoa, Italy            Italian            born Genoa, Italy            Italian             book 2, page 566</p>
<p>RAMOS, EVELYN CECILIA            105 Salinas Rd., Watsonville, CA            Female, born 2 July 1903, Merced, CA            Father MANUEL RAMOS            Mother ISABEL FREITAS            Documents: Marriage certificate, Child's birth certificate, Baptismal certificate            date filed 6/20/1961                             signed/ Evelyn Cecilia George</p>	<p>state file #122953             born Azores Islands    white            born Azores Islands    white             book 2, page 565</p>



We will no longer be publishing the August and December issues of The Family Snoop. We don't meet in August and have no December speaker. Everyone needs a break and we are no exception.

Your contributions to the newsletter are very welcome – more than welcome in fact! Please consider writing up something about one of your ancestors, an exciting discovery, a web site that you love or an upcoming program or seminar. We would love to hear from you.

## Research Notes

### San Joaquin County Public Library Obituary Index File, 1850-1991

This collection, now available at FamilySearch.org, consists of images of index cards located at the San Joaquin County Public Library in Stockton, California. The index cards contain clippings of obituaries from various San Joaquin County and Stockton city newspapers. There are over 167,000 images which can be browsed or you can search by sections of the alphabet. What you will see is the actual image of the obituary as it appeared in the newspaper.

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1929846>  
or go to

familysearch.org, search by RECORDS, then by USA/CANADA. When the A-Z list comes up scroll down to California, San Joaquin County

### Mocavo.com – a search engine for genealogy

You might want to try this fairly new search engine which limits your searches to genealogy sites only. This free search engine searches thousands of genealogy sites. This helps eliminate those searches on a regular search engine that bring up all kinds of commercial and other websites that have nothing to do with genealogy.

### San Mateo County Records, 1856-1967

Among the many records being added at FamilySearch.org are the San Mateo County Records. These records include marriage intentions, naturalizations, deeds, patents, homesteads, and military service discharges. This collection is still being added to and has more than 647,000 images. Most of these are land records at the moment, such as deeds and patents, but other records may be mixed in with them. The grantor/grantee indexes are at the beginning of the list, before all the land records.

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1878749>

### California History Room, California State Library

A Selected Guide to Sources for Genealogy is available for the California History Room of the California State Library in Sacramento. Information on newspapers, genealogical society newsletters, Pioneer Card File, San Francisco death index and many other useful genealogical resources are covered in the guide and available in the California Room. Located at 900 "N" Street, Room 200, the Room is open Monday – Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information: 916-654-0176, [cslcal@library.ca.gov](mailto:cslcal@library.ca.gov), [www.library.ca.gov](http://www.library.ca.gov). The guide can be found online at <http://www.library.ca.gov/calhist/pdf/genealogyguide.pdf>

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**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.**

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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@annefield.net

**Deadline for the February 2012 issue is January 21, 2011.**

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	Shari Stetson
1st Vice President	Lois Jiminez
2nd Vice President	Rosalie Heppner
Treasurer	Sharon Darby
Secretary	Robyn Echols
Past President	Roberta Saling
Membership	Open
Hospitality	Michle Burroughs
Publicity	Open
Programs	Michle Burroughs, Rosalie Heppner, Charleen Renteria & Shari Stetson
Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i>	Anne Field

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

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Monthly Financial Report: November, 2011

Income:	219.72
Expenses:	(147.68)
Checking Total	\$2,751.33
Savings Account	3,859.70
CD-9 months; matures on 10/24/11	5,810.12
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/12	5,617.54
<b><u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u></b>	<b><u>\$18,038.69</u></b>