

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 34, No. 07

JULY 2016

July 2016 Meeting



**Happy
Birthday
To Us
Anniversary
Show-and-Tell
Celebration
--with cake!**

1:00 p.m. Saturday

July 16, 2016

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

May Meeting: Kathy Burrows ADOPTIONS

140 million Americans are affected by adoption. Kathy Burrow, whose family has experienced adoption, shared her insight into the adoption process and how it affects those involved.



She points out almost everyone knows someone who has a hole left in their heart due to adoption. It is important when working with those touched by adoption and the records to be kind and considerate. Take care when talking to people involved.

- A person was adopted, not is adopted
- Adoption is not a condition; it is a process
- Use “birth mother” and “birth father” rather than other terminology
- Parents “make plans.” They do not give their children away.

When there has been an adoption, the birth certificate will be amended to show the adoptive parents as the parents of the child. The certificate may or may not show on it the birth record was amended.

Adoptions are governed by state laws. When involved in an adoption search, become familiar with the laws in which the adoption took place.

Look for the earliest record for the child. That will be the state the adoptee will work with. Look for a birth certificate, an amended birth certificate, hospital records, family records (Someone someplace usually knows something.), look for court documents (court decisions and decrees are public records), the home study of the family before the adoption was approved, medical records.

Use Facebook, Google search, yearbook searches, classmates.com, reunions.com and e-yearbooks.com to look for names of prospective parents. Look for name changes and divorce papers.

Kathy gave a detailed presentation with information an adoptee might use to try to locate birth parents. She also gave possible avenues for

those who are searching for adoptions in their ancestral lines. She suggested that the most helpful websites for learning how to research adoptions may be found on the following:

- FamilySearch Wiki (It replaces the print *Handybook*),
- G’s adoption Registry
- Cyndi’s List
- adoptionpuzzles.com
- abcgenealogy.com
- For ancestors who may have been part of the orphan trains, most of them came from the New York Foundling Hospital. Search their records

Also, look for records in the family Bible, delayed birth certificates, church-issued baptism, christening and confirmation certificates and baby announcements in the newspaper (usually about 4 weeks past the event)

*Learn more about Kathy Burrow at
www.katsmountain.com*

So, you have always wanted to be a newsletter editor...

By Robyn Echols

I was asked to take on the position of editor for *The Family Snoop* about two years ago. I did so with the understanding that I would serve through the end of 2016. Even though this is only July, December will come faster than people think when it comes to finding someone interested in being the next newsletter editor.

I will admit, being a newsletter editor is a time commitment. However, it is not as overwhelming at it may appear. Help is available for finding content for each month’s issues. And, it is only ten issues a year.

I came into the position with the belief that “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” I adopted the previous newsletter editor’s basic format. Yet, comparing my issues to past issues, I can see where I have added my own touches. As editor, you may do the same.

There are some of the seven pages that follow a pattern and don’t need a lot of effort other than to update them. The first page with minor edits also doubles at the meeting announcement poster. I create the image for the poster, update the information for the next month’s program and send a version of it to the programs committee and to be posted online. We

have a digital file with many genealogy related images for creating the poster.

The second and often part of the third page may be a combination of: a president's message, a summary of the program just presented, a summary of the program to be given by the upcoming speaker, the membership report, announcements of future meetings, and miscellaneous announcements.

In some issues you may be asked to include a form that will fill at least an entire page. The rest of the pages you fill with articles and images submitted by members and guests, reports of Society committee activities and announcements and articles you might glean from blogs and websites. For example, this issue includes an update sent to me by one of our members of the newest books now available in the Doris Cochran Research room. I also add short articles based on my own research.

I am a blogger, so my tendency is use a lot of photos. You will be shown a site for obtaining public domain photos to add to your articles. Also, members have been very supportive in making photos available. You will be shown other sites where you may obtain information to share in the newsletter.

The past page is a society information page that stays basically the same except for some updating dates and the monthly financial information which comes from our treasurer.

Once the newsletter is complete, a copy is sent to Sharon Darby for a final copy edit review and distribution. Also, A PDF copy of the newsletter is sent to Alma Stone, our web page editor, and it gets posted to the web page.

And—ta-da!—here is my offer. Since I am already a monthly contributor to several blogs, for at least the next year (2017), I am willing to prepare a monthly article complete with photos to fill at least one page for the newsletter, possibly more. Or not. It depends on the wishes of the incoming editor.

Please think about being our next editor. When our president comes around to ask if you are ready to serve in this position for the next few years, I hope one of you will step forward and say, "Yes!"



June Meeting Attendance

Membership:

Attendance Final Count: 22 Members + 7 Guests for a total of 29

Total Members: 83 active; 1 renewal; 0 new members.

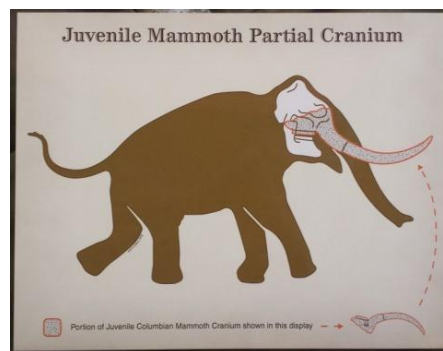
Fossil Display at the Merced Main Library

By Robyn Echols

If you are interested Merced County history—really old Merced County history—be sure to visit the fossil display in the children's section of the Merced County Main Library.



These fossils were discovered during the freeway construction of State Route 99 between Plainsburg and Arboleda Roads.



You will see bones of the early inhabitants of the area including mammoths, horses, camels, bison and dogs.

If you are looking for places to take visiting family and friends, consider this exhibit. It will be available most of the summer during regular library hours.

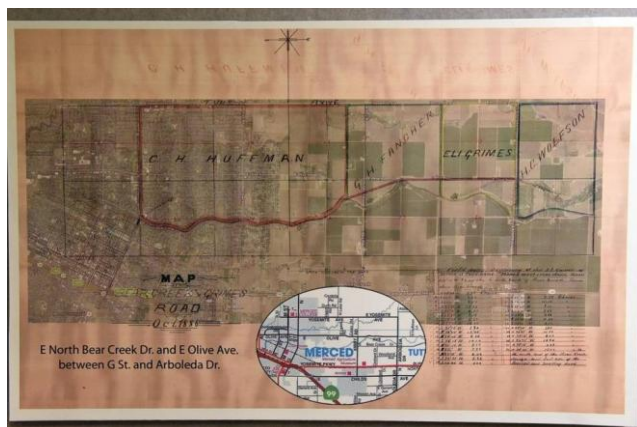


Merced County Courthouse Museum & “Let’s Google That Old Road”

Another “must see” display available in Merced this summer may be found in the Merced County Courthouse Museum from now until October 2, 2016.

By combining Google Earth technology into the study of old hand-drawn road maps of Merced County from 1855 to 1899, the exhibit will bring a new level of understanding of demography, geography, and settlement patterns of this county in the second half of the 19th century.

Visitors will be able to look at old maps of Merced County streets and ghost towns and compare those maps to the current street maps available on Google.



Map of E. North Bear Creek and E. Olive Ave. between G St. and Arboleda Dr. (Courtesy of Merced County Courthouse Museum)

Some maps in the display date back to 1868. Some small towns existed back when travel was by horse or horse-drawn wagon. Once the railroad came through, travel time was cut. Many of these old towns disappeared. [Editor’s note: as a retired rural mail carrier, I often wondered about the origin of Athlone Road. Also, I recall receiving mail on my route addressed to the town of Red Rock.]

Information about the towns of Merced County, including some of the county’s ghost towns, may be found in the book titled *Towns of*

Merced County authored by Herb Wood. A copy may be found in the Doris Cochran Research room in the Merced Main Library.

This display may be particularly valuable to those who have ancestors who settled in Merced County.

Admission to the museum is free, and it is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

For more information, go to
www.mercedmuseum.org
or call 209-723-2401.

New Book List

MCGS June 2016-by Anne Field

These books, and others that were on the cart to be entered in the system, were finished and returned to the DCR instead of to me and they were shelved before I could get the names of all of them for the book list. So these books are on the shelves, not on the new books rack, and there are more new books that are not on this list.

- 970.3 Bow - Choctaw by Blood: Enrollment Cards 1898-1914, vols. 7 & 8
- 975 Phi - White Slave children of Colonial Maryland and Virginia: Birth and Shipping Records, by Richard Hayes Phillips.
- 941.5 Gre - Clans and Families of Ireland, by John Grenham
- 973 Sco - British Aliens in the United States During the War of 1812, compiled by Kenneth Scott
- 941.5 Mac - Irish life in the seventeenth century, by Edward MacLysaght
- 974.801 Tur - Pioneers and Patriots: “Over the Blue Mountain,” formerly Berks and Northampton, now Schuylkill County Pennsylvania, compiled by F. Richard Turnbach
- 973 Mil - Migration, Emigration, Immigration, vol. 2, by Olga K. Miller
- 973 Kot - City Directories at Sutro Library, 2d ed., by Elizabeth Gorrell Kot
- 973 Ste - The Vital Record Compendium, compiled by John D. and E. Diane Stemmons
- 929.4 Hoo - Family names how our surnames came to America, by J. N. Hook

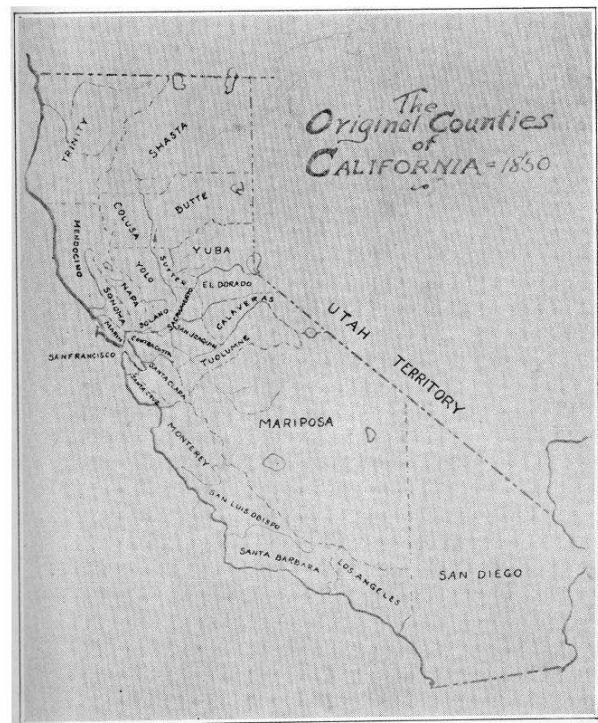
List of California Extinct Counties

California has counties that no longer exist. They were created by the state, provincial, or territorial authorities and many were established and disbanded in the nineteenth century. County boundaries have adjusted very little since the nineteen hundreds. In order to find your records, it helps to know in which county the locality was located at the time the record was generated. Pay attention to where the courthouse records went if the county was eliminated or combined with some other county.

- **Branciforte County** was one of the original 27 counties adopted by statutes of 1850, but soon after that the legislature changed the name to Santa Cruz County.
- **Coloma County** was a county proposed by a committee of the California Constitutional Convention. Before the statute was adopted, the legislature changed the name to El Dorado County.
- **Coso County** was approved by the State Legislature which designated territory in Mono County and Tulare County to be in the new county with the county seat at Bend City. Coso County, however, was never organized. In 1866 mostly the same territory was created as Inyo County.
- **Fremont County** was a county proposed by a committee of the California Constitutional Convention. Before the statute was adopted, the legislature changed the name to Yola County and later changed the name to Yolo County.
- **Klamath County** was created on **1851** from the northern half of Trinity County. In 1857 Klamath County lost significant territory to the newly formed Del Norte County. In 1875 Klamath County was abolished and its territory was divided between Humboldt County and Siskiyou County. Territory which at one time was in Klamath County is now in Del Norte County, Humboldt County, Siskiyou County, and Trinity County.
- **Mount Diablo County** was a county proposed by a committee of the California Constitutional Convention. Before the statute was adopted, the legislature changed the name to Contra Costa County.
- **Oro County** was a county proposed by a committee of the California Constitutional

Convention. Before the statute was adopted, the legislature changed the name to Tuolumne County.

- **Pautah County** was created on 1852, an act to be effective when the United States Congress ceded to the State of California the territory described, in what is now the State of Nevada. The County seat was to be Carsonville. California never acquired the territory and the act creating the county was repealed in 1859.
- **Redding County** was a county proposed by a committee of the California Constitutional Convention. Before the statute was adopted, the legislature changed the name to Shasta County.



List of California Counties with Burned Courthouses

The damage to California courthouses considerably has a bearing on genealogists in just about every way. Not only are these types of historic buildings torn from all of our lifetimes, so are the archives they stored: marriage, wills, probate, land records, among others. Despite the fact that they have already been placed on microfilm, computers and film burn as well. The most tragic aspect of this is the reason why almost all of our courthouses were destroyed was due to the result of arson. In some cases, not all the

records were damaged or lost. The following is a list of the California counties which have experienced a loss of records due to courthouse fires, floods, earthquakes and theft.

- **Amador County** – The courthouse destroyed by fire in 1862. Some records were destroyed.
- **Del Norte County** – The courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1948. Some early records were destroyed.
- **El Dorado County** – A fire in 1910 & 1920 destroyed most courthouse records. For probate records prior to 1951, write County Museum, 100 Placerville Drive, Placerville, California 95667; for probate after 1951, write to Judicial Section, 495 Main Street, Placerville, California 95667.
- **Inyo County** – The courthouse was destroyed by an earthquake March 26, 1872. On June 30, 1886 a fire broke out in a vacant building in Independence and destroyed thirty-eight buildings. Although the county records and most of the furniture were saved, the courthouse was one of the buildings destroyed.
- **Lake County** – The courthouse in Lakeport burned down in 1867. All earlier records were destroyed.
- **Madera County** – A fire on Christmas Eve 1906 destroyed the upper floors and tower of the courthouse.
- **Nevada County** – The first courthouse was damaged by fire in 1856. Fire again damaged the courthouse in 1863.
- **Sacramento County** – The first courthouse, built in 1851, became the Capitol in 1854 and was destroyed in a fire that same year.
- **San Francisco County** – The courthouse and all records were destroyed in the great earthquake and fire of 1906.
- **Santa Clara County** – A fire quickly spread through the courthouse on May 18, 1931, causing extensive damage.
- **Shasta County** – All courthouse records were destroyed in the great fire of June 14th, 1853
- **Sierra County** – A fire in 1947 destroyed the courthouse building. No records were lost
- **Sonoma County** – The courthouse was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake. Minor record Loss.

- **Sutter County** – The courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1871. A second and larger courthouse, completed in 1873, was also set on fire.

47th International Convention of the American
Historical Society of Germans from Russia

“Before the Storm”

July 11-16, 2016

Hilton Concord Hotel

1970 Diamond Blvd. • Concord, California

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

The evolution and life of Germanic colonies from
1763 to 1916

in the Volga, Black Sea and Ukraine areas of the
Russian Empire

To reserve a room, call (925) 827-2000 or toll-free at
1-800-826-2644. Reserve a
room online at <http://www.hilton.com>. Use the code
AHG. The AHSGR group
rate is \$119. Register for the convention online at
www.ahsgr.org.

(For more details, see the June, 2016 issue of *The
Family Snoop*.)

The Fresno County Genealogical Society
annual seminar will be held Saturday, September
17, 2016 from 9 am-4pm (registration at 8:30)
at the Clovis Veteran’s Memorial District
building in Clovis, California. The featured
speaker will be Kathryn Marshall.
Register at seminarfcgs.eventbrite.com

Workshop topics:

- Understanding Early American
Settlement Practices to Direct your
Research
 - Pre-1850 Quest for Colonials
 - Researching European Ancestors
 - Intermediate Land Records
-

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 September 2016 issue is August 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
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 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: May 2016

Income	237.33
Expenses	(31.00)
Checking Balance	\$5,361.74
Savings Account:	3,868.29
CD-9 months; matures on 12/26/16	5,857.30
CD-12 months; matures on 5/18/16/	<u>5,680.92</u>
Total in Checking and Savings:	<u>\$20,768.25</u>

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