

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 35, No. 3

MAY/JUNE 2017

May 2017 Meeting



FamilySearch
Wiki

By:
Robert Givens

WIKI

1:00 p.m. Saturday

May 20, 2017

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

President's Message:



The message that I try and get across, we all will be ancestors in the future, with that in mind, we need to grow. We discussed several things at the board meeting. When you come to the next meeting

we are doing away with the refreshments, between our business meeting and program. You will still have refreshments, but when you come to the meeting, please help yourself the first thing. In other words you can come and go as you please, coffee, tea, hot cocoa or whatever Howard and Judy set up for us. We do know Lois's deviled eggs are a sure thing, she made that point at the meeting.

The County Librarian was a no show, so we got off to a slow start trying to chase her down. That needs to be said. We changed the refreshment time, you can munch down all during the meeting. Be sure and come to the meetings, to see how it works out. Howard and Judy had some good ideas.

We have a microphone so you can hear me now, so now you can hear. We had a long board meeting, but a lot of accomplishments were made. So see you at the meeting, we may even have a chance for you to win \$.

I am open to any thing that you want to say, make sure you check with me directly so I can place you on the agenda.

Wayne Wallace, President

Meeting Attendance

March Membership: Attendance Final Count:
36 Members + 7 Guests for a total of 43.

Welcome, new member: Carolynn Petersen

February Membership: Attendance Final Count:
22 Members + 6 Guests for a total of 28.

Total Members: 86 active

A reminder to all members:

**DO NOT remove books
From the Doris Cochran
Research Room.**

**They may only be used in this
room.**

**Two books from the new
Choctaw series were missing
as of April.**

**If you borrowed them for your
research, or you know who
did, please return them.
Thank you for protecting our
research library resources.**

March Speaker:

James M. Baker, PhD, CG

**Finding the Most Challenging Ancestors
with DNA Tests**

Dr. Baker has been an active genealogist for the past 15 years. In 2011, he completed the Board Certification of Genealogists (BCG) requirements to become a Board-Certified Genealogist, with a specialty in German genealogy research. He also specializes in Midwest US, early American and DNA.

Dr. Baker gave an excellent presentation on how he used Ancestry DNA tests to locate some hard to find ancestors. In his presentation he explained centiMorgan (cM) Scores. Here are some major elements to take into consideration:

- You will find many matches arranged by cM scores
- Among those matches, many have posted their family trees.
- Many of the matches have “shared matches.”
- Ancestry DNA has an option to select “surname matches.”

He offered the advice to “Place” your top tier matching people into sub-family groups, or different ancestral lines.

A large portion of his presentation dealt with case studies and how he made genealogical progress using DNA results.

April Speaker: *Kathy Burrow* Rootsweb.com 101



Kathy began by pointing out that Rootsweb is now owned by Ancestry. Some of the features that used to make Rootsweb so popular have been incorporated into Ancestry's program. An annoying trait that has resulted in using this program will often

refer the user back to Ancestry.

However, there are still many features of great value left.

The primary purpose and functions of Rootsweb is to connect people to that they can help each other and share genealogical research. There are many ways they do this:

- **message boards** – both surname and locality
- **free websites** – (our own website for the Merced County Genealogical Society is through Rootsweb, but you can use this site for your own family genealogy website.)
- **World Connect - Family Trees** – Share your research with others and encourage them to share with you. Always do an advanced search to locate your particular family.
- **Look-ups** – Offer to do look-ups plus you may be successful in finding others who will do look-ups for you

Be aware that most information on Rootsweb is transcribed. This is not a resource for digital copies of original documents.

Other features:

- The Root-L Library
- The Books We Own Library
- World GenWeb Project – You may add your family tree as a GEDCOM. Others may look at it, but not download it. You may update it, or take it down. Unlike with Ancestry, you still own your tree and can manage what you do with it.

Kathy's favorite part of the Rootsweb program is the U.S. GenWeb Project. She suggests we go to the archives, pick a state and search by name and county.

Kathy also offered some tips for using Rootweb, although they are excellent suggestions for all your research:

- Keep a research log
- Bookmark favorite sites
- Cut and paste information into a program off the Rootsweb site
- Use "Snipit" to capture photos, images, etc.
- Take an occasional break from your research – drink some water, take a walk, etc.
- Work on only one family at a time.

The Minnick Family

Over the next few issues we will feature information from the Minnick family line of our member, Stephanie Minnick McLeod. In our sharing last November, she mentioned the interesting history of this family that has been traced back to the 800's. The name was originally spelled Muench and was often pronounced as Monk. When the family came to the United States, the spelling was changed to its current spelling, Minnick, because that is how the family pronounced it.

Stephanie's father, George Norris Minnick, Jr. was born in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California on 13 Jul 1922. He joined the navy on 1 Oct 1942 in the middle of World War II. He married his first wife shortly after the end of the war. The marriage which produced Stephanie ended in divorce. He remarried and he and his second wife had three children. George Minnick, Jr. passed away in 2001 in San Bernardino, San Bernardino, California and was buried at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California.

Her father's naval service must have had an influence on her since when she became an adult, she joined the U.S. Navy. Later she became a nurse.

[include resources for finding WWII service records and grave info for national cemeteries.]

Obituary Committee Report

The obituary committee wishes once again to express their thanks to Ila Chastain for all the work she performed in collecting Merced County obituaries. They are still working on organizing and indexing these obituaries.

Some Websites from the Beginner's Class

www.familysearch.org – The genealogy website of the Family History Library: digitized records, library catalog of books, microfilms, and more.

www.ancestry.com – subscription-based, probably the best known genealogy website. May access it without charge at a local family history center.

www.archives.com/ - Over 2.5 billion vital and historical records, now under the Ancestry umbrella.

www.genweb.org – The US GenWeb Project, with Websites for each state and county, is run by volunteers. Some have more information than others, but most have databases that are useful, maps of the state and counties, links to other useful websites.

www.ukgenweb.com/ - GenWeb for the United Kingdom

www.worldgenweb.org/ - GenWeb for the world.

www.findagrave.com – Excellent site for finding cemetery information, mostly U.S. Gravestone information.

www.fold3.com/ - a subscription site under the Ancestry umbrella, focus on military records. Also available at a family history center.

www.genealogybank.com – A subscription site for searching historical newspapers with a focus on the U.S.

www.mercedgenealogy.com/ - The Merced County genealogy page by one of our own, Alma Stone

www.americanancestors.org – American Ancestors, the website of the New England Historic Genealogical Society

<http://ma-vitalrecords.org/> - Massachusetts Vital Records Project, a huge database of birth, marriage and death records in the Massachusetts Town Records.

www.freebmd.org.uk/ - Free BMD, the Civil Registration index of births, marriages and death for England and Wales, a volunteer site, free to search

www.freecen.org.uk/ - FreeCin, an online searchable database of the 19th century UK census returns. A sister site to FreeBMD.

www.freereg.org.uk/ - FreeReg, the other sister site of FreeBMD, with free internet searches of baptism, marriage and burial records, transcribed from parish and non-conformists registers of the U.K.

www.genuki.org.uk/ - UK and Ireland Genealogy

www.findmypast.com – A subscription based website with lots of databases, census records, etc. There are also other sites for Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

www.cyndieslist.com/categories/ - Cyndi's List, the go-to website for genealogy. This website links you to other websites by all kinds of categories.

<http://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumForm.shtml> – Census enumeration forms 1850-2000, with questions asked by later census takers, plus sample forms, with all the fine print at the top of the columns, 1860-

www.castlegarden.org – A database of information on 11 million immigrants to the U.S. from 1820 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened.

www.ellisland.org – Look for your ancestors who came to this country at the Ellis Island immigration center at the Port of New York.

www.gravelocater.cem.va.gov/ - National Gravesite Locator, from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Look for burial locations of veterans.

www.abmc.gov – American Battle Monuments Commission, a database of armed services personnel buried in American burial grounds in other countries.

www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm - Civil War: Soldiers and Sailors Database, with information about the men who served in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War as well as battles, regiments, cemeteries, prisoners and more.

SOFTWARE:

<http://www.toptenreview.com/software/home/best-genealogy-software/> - Best genealogy software 2016

http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/windows_genealogy_software - Genealogy

software for PC [there are underscores “_”, not dashed, between the words of the above web address.]

<http://www.toptenreviews.com/software/home/best-mac-genealogy-software> - Software for MAC



For an interesting blog post on DNA communities, try this site:

<http://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2017/03/28/ancestrydnas-genetic-communities-are-finally-here/>

Here is the introduction and some excerpts from that post:

- Today (March 28, 2017), **AncestryDNA** launches a new tool called “Genetic Communities.” Genetic Communities (GCs) are groups of test-takers who are connected through their DNA because they descend from an identified recent and distinct population of ancestors (somewhere around 1750 to 1850, in my experience).
- I’ve compiled a PDF of the 300 or so Genetic Communities, with the associated hierarchy. It can be downloaded by clicking [HERE](#). Feel free to use and share. [Hyperlink is on the original blog post.]
- Most people will have at least one GC. You’ll find your GCs on your main DNA page, right below your ethnicity estimate summary.
- You do NOT have to have a tree or a paid subscription [to Ancestry] to get Genetic Communities. However, there are benefits to having a tree linked to your DNA results when using GCs (the tool will pull in people from your tree onto the map where you are exploring a GC).
- Be sure to see the Genetic Communities Help and Tips section here: <https://www.ancestry.com/cs/dna-help/communities>.

Your Migration Secret Weapon-The New York State Census:

http://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2017/03/your-migration-secret-weapon-the-new-york-state-census.html

Some excerpts from that post:

- New York played a big role in the lives of migrating families. Families who originated in New England often passed through New York, often stopping there for a few years before moving on. New York residents as well joined the migration west heading to Ohio and beyond.
- The New York State Census was taken for the years 1825, 1835, 1845, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, 1915 and 1925. Not all counties in New York have extant records for all years but for 1855-1905 the coverage is very good with the exception of a few counties.
- If your family traveled west during the mid-nineteenth century be sure to check the 1855, 1865 and 1875 New York State censuses (available on Ancestry.com) to find the clues to solving their migration mysteries.

From the editor’s own migration history. Immigrants from Europe often stopped in New York, the biggest port of entry, and worked for several years to earn money to proceed west. They may show up in the mid-decade New York State Census.



Upcoming Programs for 2017	
May 20	Robert Givens: FamilySearch Wiki
June 17	Robyn Echols: Land and Women's Legal Issues in 19 th Century California
July 15	Annual Birthday Celebration – Member Show and Tell
	*** No meeting in August ***
July 1, 1:00p.m.	Next MCGS Board Meeting – Doris Cochran Research room, Main Library



MCGS New Book List, April 2017

359.96 Nin	1998 membership directory, by Marine Corps Association.
977.7865	Cemeteries, Benton Township, Des Moines County, Iowa. Iowa Genealogical Society
328.794 Ear	Early California records 1852-circa 1880 / Pomona Valley Genealogical Society.
979.457 Tin	History of Stanislaus County California : with biographical sketches of the leading men and women of the county who have been identified with its growth and development from the early days to the present / by George H. Tinkham, 1921. 2 vol. Another copy: 2 vols. in 1.
333.91 Macs	History of the Merced Irrigation District / by Kenneth R. McSwain, 1978.
929.7 Lar	Huguenot Pedigrees. 2 vol. in 1, by Charles E. Lart, 1989.
929.2 Jou	Journal of Clan Ewing. Clan Ewing in America, [1994-2008]. (periodical) see entry in catalog!
979.458 Los	Los Banos Cemetery burial directory : Merced County, 1970-2011. Los Banos Genealogical Society.
979.458 Mer	Merced County Genealogical Society surname index, 1992 / [compiled and indexed by Betty McCollum Padilla].
977.7865 Eig	Monroe County, Iowa 1850 federal census. Iowa Genealogical Society.
977.7865 Mon	Monroe County, Iowa census, 1860 federal index / compiled by Monroe County Genealogical Society.
977.7865 Mon	Monroe County, Iowa early marriages, 1845-1862, compiled by Monroe County Genealogical Society.
977.7865 Mor	Mortality schedule, Monroe County, Iowa for the years preceding the census of 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880. Iowa Genealogical Society, ©1986.
975.502 Pow	Powhatan County Virginia marriages, 1777-1810, The Researchers, 1990.
976.4 Stalkin	Stalkin' kin. Vol. XV, no. 2, San Angelo, TX, Genealogical and Historical Society. (periodical)

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 July/August 2017 issue is June 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	Wayne Wallace
President-elect	open
Vice President	Lois Jimenez
Treasurer	Sharon Darby
Secretary	Stephanie McLeod
Past President	Greg Enriken
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Hospitality	Howard & Judy Smith
Publicity	Open
Programs	Shari Stetson, Michle Burroughs,
Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i>	Robyn Echols robynechols AT gmail DOT com

Family History Center

<https://familysearch.org>
 1080 E Yosemite Ave Merced. 722-1307
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 am-4:00 pm.
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday evening 7:00 pm-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.

Combined Monthly MCGS Financial Report: February/March 2017

Income	1,060.34
Expenses	(376.30)
Checking Balance	\$5,398.20
Savings Account:	3,869.88
CD-9 months; matures on 9/22/17	5,870.86
CD-12 months; matures on 5/18/17	5,699.87
Total in Checking and Savings:	\$20,840.81

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