

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 31, No. 8

September 2013

September Meeting

I do Genealogy –

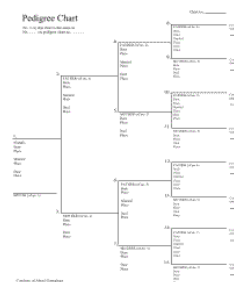
How Can FamilySearch.org Help Me Do My Research?

Speaker: Robert Givens



Come and learn about all the great features found at FamilySearch.org. You will be introduced to the many unique and free features of this outstanding web site. You will be shown the only online family tree that can be edited by all users. Learn how to search the fastest growing family history data base that grows by an average of 1.2 million records per day. You will also be shown how to use the Research Wiki to guide your research.

Robert Givens is a graduate of Cal State University, Fresno, and had a 39 year career in education as a teacher and an administrator. He has worked in Family History Centers for over 40 years and was the director of the Fresno North Stake Family History Center for eight years.



12:00 Noon Saturday

21 September 2013

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

Message from the President:

Dear Friends, At our July meeting, we had "Show and Tell". Many people shared with us their families, pictures and albums they have created. We really appreciate the contributions of our many members. It was truly inspiring and I hope we all feel free to bring more examples of our exploits at our next "Show and Tell".

At our Board meeting on the Friday before our July meeting, we met with our new head librarian, Diane Satchwell, who told us of her many hopes for the library and the many changes to staffing and the look of the library and the Doris Cochran room, where we have all of our books, computers, microfilm and magazines. Our ability to provide the services of past days may change or be added to, depending on the help of the members of our genealogy society. The library is to provide training to anyone able to volunteer to staff the room. We may have some help from the newly organized Merced University Historical Society to help out in the DCR room. As we have before encouraged you to step forward and volunteer, even an hour or two, we do so again with more urgent need. If we can't staff the room in a consistent manner, we may lose staying open two days a week and the library will opt. for an appointment system instead. This would make access to the materials very limited. We will try to keep you informed of changes from month to month. So please think again about being of service, every little bit helps.

As always, in your service,
Stephanie McLeod, Pres.

Mark your Calendars!

September 28, 2013

Finding Your Family Treasures, Fresno CA West Stake Center, 3375 W. Sierra, Fresno, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. No fee and no registration. For questions, call Barbara Washburn, 559.277.2678. Some of the sessions include Digital Cemeteries, Making Digital Records, Microsoft One-Note, Hidden Information in County Websites, and more. Our secretary, Robyn Echols, has a flyer for those who are interested.

October 12, 2013

Family History Day 2013 at the California State Archives. 8:30am to 4:30pm. Theme is **Emigration, Immigration and Migration**. The event is free. For a list of speakers, classes, etc.:
<http://familyhistoryday2013.blogspot.com/>

October 19, 2013

Fresno County Genealogical Society's **10th Annual Genealogy Seminar** featuring **Denise Spurlock**.

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Seminar is free but seating is limited, so reserve your spot right away. For more info:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cafcgs/annual.htm>

flyer:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cafcgs/Files/Seminar_Flyer.pdf

October 26, 2013

Genealogical DNA Seminar featuring **Katherine Hope Borges**. Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County, Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 1600

Carver Road, Modesto. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. For more information and directions:

<http://www.cagenweb.com/lr/stanislaus/2013%20GS%20Seminar%20Application%20&%20Directions.pdf>

November 9, 2013

California Genealogical Society **Ancestry Day**

Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Francisco, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m..

A joint event with Ancestry.com. Watch this site for upcoming information: <http://californiaancestors.org/>

Our July Meeting

There were 16 members and two guests at our June meeting to celebrate our 30th birthday. Our total membership is now at 97 members.



Diane Satchwell, our County Library Director, spoke to our group about the library budget, changes in staffing and other items of interest. Diane also spoke at our recent Board meeting. More details follow in our newsletter.

Update on Madeira

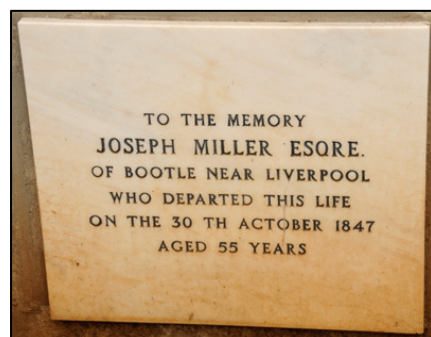
In the last issue, you read about my great great great grandfather, Joseph Dundas Miller, who died in Madeira in 1847. I went there looking for his grave without a tombstone. I am so glad I went – don't believe everything people tell you.

My daughter and I arrived in Funchal, Madeira, on a Wednesday afternoon, dead tired from along plane trip. We took a nap before venturing out for dinner later in the day. Thursday morning, first thing, we took a local bus from a stop very close to our hotel and rode into the old part of Funchal. We got lost – street signs are hard to find – but with help from the local fire department we found the English Church.



Kevin, the Church administrator, was extremely helpful and he left us in the small room with shelves of old parish registers. Using white gloves which Kevin had supplied, we finally found the right volume and finally the record we were looking for. Many photos later, and color scans by Kevin on his copy machine, we were directed to the English Cemetery down the road a short ways. We rang the bell and Carlos, the cemetery caretaker walking encyclopedia of the cemetery, looked in his records and cross references and then led us to one section of the cemetery – many sections divided by stone walls – where Joseph Miller was to be found. Carlos told us that Joseph had originally been buried outside what was now an outer wall of the cemetery. Years ago they put in a road – Rua da Carreira – and dug up all the bones of those buried where the road is now. The bones were reinterred within the many walls in the cemetery and the tombstones were placed on the walls.

We found Joseph's tombstone on one of the walls, in excellent condition for it's age, and were thrilled to know he actually had a tombstone, but not a grave. The civil records for the year he died are unavailable, so I don't know the cause of death or any other details, but this was more than enough for me. Joseph's wife died in Liverpool in 1852 and I have not yet found out where she is buried. Later that day, during dinner, we raised our glasses and toasted Joseph Miller.



The inside wall running along the Rua da Carreira showing the many tombstones that had once been on what is now the bricked street. The many walls inside the cemetery are covered with tombstones like this.

| Upcoming Programs 2013 | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| October | Legacy Societies: speaker – Karen Theofanides |
| November | TBA |
| December | Annual Christmas Potluck |

Labor Day 2013

September 2d is Labor Day, a holiday in the United States celebrating the social and economic achievements of American workers. Below are some occupations that might have appeared on a census back in the day that are unfamiliar to many of us. Note that there are no specialists or technicians – rather overused terms in today's workplace.

- Burgomaster – mayor
- Chandler – a candle maker
- Collier – coal miner
- Cooper – a person that made or repaired wooden vessels, especially barrels or tubs
- Draper – dealer in dry goods
- Exciseman - tax collector
- Faker – a person who dressed up black and white photographs by a hand in colour before colour film was available. Photographic assistant
- Farrier - a horse shoer -often referred to as a blacksmith
- Glazier – a glass cutter or window glassman
- Hodsman or hod carrier – a laborer who carried bricks or mortar in a hob
- Iron monger – a dealer in hardware made of iron
- Joiner – skilled carpenter
- Mercer – a cloth seller
- Puddler – wrought iron worker
- Scrivener – notary public; professional or public copyist
- Slater – roofer
- Victualler – a tavern keeper, or one who provided food to an army, navy or ship
- Wheelwright – a person who made or repaired wagon, coach or carriage wheels

Update on the Doris Cochran Room

Diane Satchwell, our County Librarian, came to our Board meeting in July to update us on changes taking place at the library.

First of all, there will no longer be an assigned library staff person in the DCR on Wednesdays. Because of budget cuts, cutting the funding for a genealogy position allows a small, 10-hour per week library to be open. Microfilms and City Directories are being moved to the DCR from the Microfilm and the Stoddard rooms upstairs. The goal is to keep the DCR open by appointment only unless our genealogy group can guarantee staffing on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. We are pretty sure that Saturdays will not be a problem, but cannot guarantee Wednesday afternoons unless we have more members who are willing to be available to staff the room when scheduled members are unable, for whatever reason, to be there on their assigned days. We do not have a pool of available substitutes nor a person who is willing to coordinate the staffing of substitutes when needed. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** In addition, all members who agree to staff the room, as scheduled persons or as substitutes, must go through a training to learn about the microfilm and city directories as well as any other duties that might be required. Please contact one of our Board members and volunteer! More information later on the training.

UC Merced Historical Society of Students will be trained to serve as volunteers as well. We hope to have one of these students come to one of our meetings and tell us what they are doing. They are serving the library in other ways as well.

The library has been applying for grants and has been successful at getting some of them. One grant would be to enhance the digitation of materials. Another grant would provide a projector and computer which we might be able to use for webinars. The library has also obtained 20 computers and will have a computer lab.

The Bookmobile will be started up again and will include visits to discontinued library locations, Head Start and assisted living locations.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for 1 November at 1 p.m. in the DCR. All members are welcome to attend.

From the July/August 2013 CSGA Newsletter

Legislative News

by Peggy Rossi, CSGA Legislative Watch Chair



Since the last newsletter, we had informed CSGA members through our mail list and blog about a bill in the California state legislature—AB 76—that would have allowed state agencies to make compliance with the Public Records Act voluntary. This could allow agencies to refuse or delay public access to records, only requiring them to state once a year at a public meeting that they would be doing so. The genealogical community along with many others, especially the media, raised strong objections to this bill. It had been passed as a trailer to the budget bill with no discussion or debate. The Senate and Assembly reacted to the public anger over this and decided to remove this item. On June 24, SB 71 was passed by the Senate concurring with the Assembly amendments that removed the Public Records Act provisions and on June 26 it was enrolled and sent to the Governor for signing, which he did on June 27 along with other budget-related bills. He vetoed AB 76 as that was the bill that had previously been sent to him with the provisions of concern included. His veto message is available at: http://gov.ca.gov/docs/AB_76_Veto_Message.pdf.

PAF being discontinued...

According to the Family Search Blog, beginning July 15, 2013, PAF will be retired and will no longer be available for download or support. PAF users should consider alternative products to meet their ongoing personal genealogy management needs. PAF, for those who don't know, is Personal Ancestral File, and has been a genealogy software program since 1984. For more information: <https://familysearch.org/PAF> and [D:\MCGS\Snoop\2013\Sept 2013\Personal Ancestral File \(PAF\) is Discontinued.htm](D:\MCGS\Snoop\2013\Sept 2013\Personal Ancestral File (PAF) is Discontinued.htm).

Reminder!

The PBS Series **Genealogy Roadshow** will air Mondays starting September 23 and running through October 14, 9 – 10 p.m. EST. The premiere season will feature participants from four American cities — Nashville, Austin, Detroit and San Francisco — who want to explore unverified genealogical claims, passed down through family history, that may (or may not) connect them to an event or a historical figure. These cities were chosen as American crossroads of culture, diversity, industry and history, with deep pools of potential participants and stories. Experts in genealogy, history and DNA will use family heirlooms, letters, pictures, historical documents and other clues to hunt down more information. These experts will enlist the help of local historians to add color and context to the investigations, ensuring every artifact and every name becomes a clue in solving the mystery.

Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.

Family Search Indexing Update

Family Search volunteers are busy indexing many, many records, with new ones being added all the time. Some indexing projects that have been recently added:

- U.S., Illinois—Soldier's Burial Places, 1774–1974
- Guatemala—Civil Registration, 1800–1900 [Part D]
- U.S., Tennessee—Deaths, 1956–1961
- U.S., Massachusetts, Plymouth County—Probate Index, 1881–1939
- U.S., Kentucky—Death Certificates, 1956–1961
- U.S., Indiana, Washington—County Marriages, 1811–1959
- Argentina, Arquidiócesis de Tucumán—Registros Parroquiales, 1727–1939
- Chile—Registros Civiles, 1885–1932 [Parte B]
- U.S., Massachusetts—State Vital Records, 1841–1920 [Part B]
- U.S., Georgia—Deaths, 1931–1940 [Part B]
- U.S., Oklahoma—Land Allotment Records of the Five Civilized Tribes, 1899–1907 [Part G]
- UK, Kent—Parish Registers, 1538–1911
- U.S., West Virginia—Will Books, 1756–1971 [Part D]
- Guatemala, Chiquimula—Nacimientos, 1929–2008 [Parte D]

Recently Completed Projects

Recently completed projects will be going through a final completion check process and will be published at FamilySearch.org in the near future.

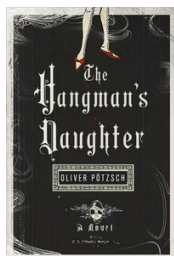
- U.S. (Community Project), New York, New York—Passenger Lists, 1942–1957 [Part I]
- Brasil, Rio de Janeiro—Cartões de Imigração, 1900–1965 [Parte 3Y]
- U.S., Indiana, Vigo County Marriages, 1811–1959
- U.S., New York—Marriage Licenses, 1908–1935 [Part C]
- New Zealand—Immigration Passenger Lists, 1871–1915 [Part 2E]
- UK—WWI Service Records, 1914–1920 [Part 2]
- New Zealand—Passenger Lists, 1871–1915 [Part 2F]
- Brasil, Rio de Janeiro—Cartões de Imigração, 1900–1965 [Parte 3W]
- U.S.—Index to Volunteers of the War of 1812, 1812–1815
- Brasil, Rio de Janeiro—Cartões de Imigração, 1900–1965 [Parte 3Z]
- Canada, Ontario—Marriages, 1869–1927 [Part D]
- U.S., Oklahoma—Land Allotment Records of the Five Civilized Tribes, 1899–1907 [Part F]
- U.S., Massachusetts—State Vital Records, 1841–1920 [Part A]

To see a list of Ongoing Projects: https://indexing.familysearch.org/projtab/current_projects.jsf?lng=en-US

For more collections added: <https://familysearch.org/node/2136>

For more about indexing: <https://familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing>

Good Read...



I just finished reading *The Hangman's Daughter* this summer and liked it so much I read the next book by the author, *The Dark Monk*. Oliver Pötzsch, a German television screenwriter, is a descendant of the Kuisl family of Bavaria. Jacob Kuisl was a hangman in the 1600s, as was his father, his grandfather, and great grandfather. It was a family occupation, and although an important one, the hangman and his family were shunned by most of the townspeople as it was a dirty occupation. The first book revolves around Jacob, his headstrong daughter, Magdalena, the town physician's son, Simon Fronwieser, and the local midwife, Martha Stechlin, who is accused of practicing witchcraft after children are found murdered in the town. The historical mystery provides details about life in a small remote town in Bavaria at a time when the devil was ever present,

herbal remedies can bring accusations of witchcraft and medical practice was primitive. At the end of the second book, *The Dark Monk*, the author tells about his descent from this family and all about the locales and buildings, monasteries, town halls and churches, that he writes about, some of which you can still go and see. Be thankful that you didn't live at that time and also be thankful that the author has written more books involving this family.

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 mcgsmail@annefield.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 October 2013 issue is September 20, 2013.**

MCGS meetings are held at noon, on the 3d Saturday of the month. The library closes at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. 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 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays, **BUT WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP KEEP IT OPEN!! Please Volunteer!**

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

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

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| President | Stephanie McLeod |
| 1st Vice President | Lois Jimenez |
| 2nd Vice President | Rosalie Heppner |
| Treasurer | Sharon Darby |
| Secretary | Robyn Echols |
| Past President | Shari Stetson |
| Membership | Open |
| Hospitality | Michle Burroughs |
| Publicity | Open |
| Programs | Michle Burroughs, Rosalie Heppner, Stephanie McLeod & Shari Stetson |
| Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i> | Anne Field mcgsmail AT annefield DOT net |

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 1:00 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, 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
 21st & N Streets Merced
 Wednesday through Sunday - 1:00pm to 4:00pm.
 Free admission.

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

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.

Monthly Financial Report June 2013

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Income: | 40.16 |
| Expenses: | (307.14) |
| Checking Total | \$3,694.08 |
| Savings Account | 3,862.72 |
| CD-9 months; matures on 07/20/12 | 5,827.62 |
| CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/12 | 5,644.59 |
| Total in Checking and Savings: | \$19,029.01 |

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