

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 33, No. 8

SEPT 2015

September 2015 Meeting



Wills & Probate

By
Janet
Sellers

1:00 p.m. Saturday

September 19, 2015

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

July Birthday Party: "Show and Tell" by Our Members Told Us a Lot

Those who didn't make it to our July birthday celebration and Show and Tell by our members missed an interesting and informative time. As we entered, we were able to view a



sample of the book collection currently in the Doris Cochran Research room.



Two of the notebooks also available in the DCR room are the society's book committee records and

the Surname List.



We are all asked to contribute to and update the surname list with family names for which we are conducting research. If another member is also searching the same surname and/or locality, it makes it easier to learn that information and share resources.

Stephanie McLeod shared some information and pictures about her husband's side of the family. The McLeods are from the

Isle of Skye and have a lot of Viking DNA. Mother Skully was from Northern Ireland.

Rosalie Heppner did some autosomal DNA testing several months ago. Her father was born in 1911 in the University of Iowa hospital and given up for adoption.

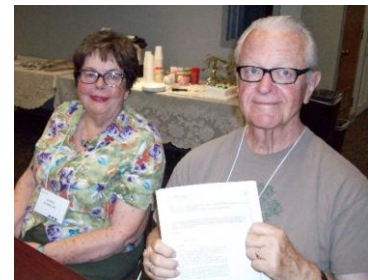


When he moved to California, his mother gave him his adoption papers. Rosalie and her mother were interested in locating the birth parents in order to continue research on that line, but ran into resistance. It was an interesting success



story for DNA research, one I hope she will write up in more detail and submit to the *Snoop* at a later time.

Karen and Richard Allbright share with us a newspaper article about the 1876 death of Della Dora (Tingley) Lombard. As they pointed out, they wrote in a different style back in the day, and we would never see anything

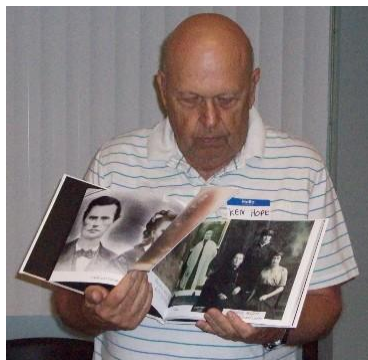


written like this in our newspapers today.

Michele Moore shared with us about her recent research



success, much of it done on Ancestry.com. She passed around numerous family pictures for us to enjoy, many she found on Ancestry.



Ken Hope, a new member, shared with us a family history book he organized and had printed through Costco's book service. It is a reasonably-

priced service and the photos turned out beautifully.



Karen Souza shared information on her 3rd great-grandfather. She found information by Googling his name. Some she found on Google Books.

Nancy Tinsley brought an



old copy of *Weekly Reader* which her great-aunt had saved because that issue had printed her great-aunt's poem. She also

brought with her a sample of pillow covers she has made featuring family portraits.

Amy De la Torre brought a 1948 elementary school class photo which contains the only childhood photo she has of him. She had an enlarged individual print of him made from the class photo.



With DNA research mentioned several times during the meeting, Stephanie McLeod also shared that she had hers done in an effort to locate her lost half-brother. Her parents were divorced before she was born, and she never knew her half-sibling.



• **Membership at our July 2015 Meeting:**

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- There were 23 members and one guest at our July meeting.
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• **Board Meeting**

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- The next scheduled Merced County Genealogical Society board meeting is October 10, 2015.

Upcoming Programs for 2015	
August	No Meeting
September	"Wills and Probate" by Pamela Sellers
October	open
November	"Blog Your Family History" by Robyn Echols
	Join us and invite others to join with us!

We Are Family!

By Michael Gleason



Vendor booths at the 2015 Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree

If you haven't experienced the excitement and educational opportunities afforded by attending a major genealogical convention, you don't know what you are missing! In early June, I was able to attend the 46th Annual Genealogical Jamboree, held in Burbank California by the Southern California Genealogical Society (<http://genealogyjamboree.com/>). It was amazing! I attended as a vendor and spent all three days on the floor talking to genealogists, vendors, volunteers, bloggers, and presenters.



This year's event opened on June 4th, with a special Genetic Genealogy: DNA Day Plus. Genetic genealogy is a new field to me and I was stunned to find that virtually all 24

of the special talks, events and training sessions were booked up early. During the show, I was able to talk to the folks at FamilyTree DNA, and discovered that DNA Genealogy is a popular, and acceptable, means of being able to expand one's ability to search for your origins and relatedness. Adoptees find that this is a great way to learn more about their biological parents and heritage, while those who have hit a "brick wall", may find insight into how DNA matches might help them focus their search to those geographical areas where they have the highest percentage of DNA matches. DNA can also be a time saving means of solving, proving or exempting existing genealogical research.

I am a sucker for technology (and a bundling discount), so, after talking to FamilyTree DNA, I had all three of the popular DNA searches done. The Y-DNA-paternal line, the mtDNA-maternal line, and the autosomal DNA, inherited from both mother and father,

provides a breakdown of ethnic percentages. All told, genealogical DNA is a complex field of study, with lots of caveats, and its own set of rules and guidelines when it comes to defining a “match”. It takes 10 weeks to get the results of all three tests back, and I hope to be able to share the results, and what they mean, or might mean, in a future article.



June 5-7 drew more than 1600 attendees to the traditional portion of the Jamboree, which included speakers, classes, society tables, book sales from the SCGS Library, commercial booths, free document scanning by Ancestry.com, and a technology hall. One of the pluses of the Jamboree is that while some of the specialty workshops and tours cost money, the speakers and presentations are free, on a first-come, first-seated basis. There is also no cost for the convention floor or access to the vendors and information booths! The SCGS also reserves a block of rooms at the Burbank Airport Marriott, where the convention is held, and by booking a room early, through the SCGS website, you can get a significantly cheaper rate than booking through the hotel. In addition, they provide a roommate matching service if you want to share a room.

While the hotel has an excellent restaurant, several less expensive alternatives are available at a nearby food court, located directly across the street from the hotel. This means that you can keep your meal costs to a minimum and still enjoy all that the Jamboree has to offer.

Keeping things lively throughout the show are the friendly volunteers from the SCGS, who handled the drawings for door prizes, which totaled almost \$15,000 this year, answered questions, sold raffle tickets, and generally keep things flowing. A large screen monitor set up in the lobby of the convention area allowed them to show videos and stream live programs to the attendees. As a result, one of the highlights this year was at 1PM on Saturday, when about 200 of the Jamboree attendees met in the lobby. The volunteers tuned the monitor into the live Global Family Reunion in New York, and joined those in New York to sing “We Are Family”, along with Sister Sledge.



It was incredible to see the vast array of speakers, 66 in total, giving 140 different presentations, on a variety of subjects. Some of the topics covered were Ethnic Research, Homesteading California,

Institutional Records, The Changing Borders of Eastern Europe, Google Tools and Procedures for Solving Family History Mysteries, Researching a Civil War Prisoner of War, Irish Databases, English Databases, Polish Databases, Finding Your Roots In Mexico, and many others. The nice thing about the Jamboree is that they put the information on line early enough for you to be able to look at all three days of speakers and topics and plan your trip accordingly.

The vendors' booths had representatives from all of the major players in the genealogy world. Several of these, such as Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, FamilyTree DNA, and RootsMagic, My Heritage, and Documenting Your Past (shameless plug), had presentations going on in their booths at regular intervals, to introduce people to their products. Anyone with a need for photo preservation, portable scanners for oversize items, a new or improved family tree format, magazines, self publishing or pretty much anything related in any way shape or form to genealogy could find it here.



In addition, a large variety of booths were set up to offer free information and assistance to those who needed it, such as:

The Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, Daughters of the American Revolution, Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Liberty Chapter, Daughters of 1812, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Jamestowne Society – 1st California Company, French-Canadian Heritage Society of California, Sons of Norway, Nikkei Genealogical Society, Immigrant Genealogical Society, International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), Antelope Valley Genealogical Society, The Conejo Valley Genealogical Society, Ventura County Genealogical Society, ArkivDigital Online (Swedish online records), The British Isles Family History Society, California African-American Genealogical Society (CAAGS), California State Genealogical Alliance, and the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America. No matter your ethnicity, background or heritage, you were sure to find someone here to represent it.

I encourage everyone to try to attend a major genealogy show at some point in their research. You will have the opportunity to hone your skills, discover new resources, receive assistance with brick walls, and attend presentations given by some of the foremost experts in the world of genealogy. But best of all, you will get to hang out with hundreds of like minded individuals who share your passion!

*MCGS member Michael Gleason is the founder and owner of **Documenting Your Past** in Atwater, CA*

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 October 2015 issue is September 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 Entriken
President-elect	Bernadette Castaneda
Vice President	Lois Jimenez
Treasurer	Sharon Darby
Secretary	Stephanie McLeod
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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 & 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: June & July 2015

Income	130.48
Expenses	(517.76)
Checking Balance	\$5,416.85
Savings Account:	3,866.70
CD-9 months; matures on 10/8/14	5,846.05
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/15	5,668.74
Total in Checking and Savings:	\$20,798.34

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