

# THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 35, No. 5

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

September 2017 Meeting



**Capture,  
Repair  
&  
Restore  
Old  
Damaged  
Photographs**

**By  
Mike Cuchna**

**1:00 p.m. Saturday**

**September 15, 2017**

**Gracey Room, Merced County Library**

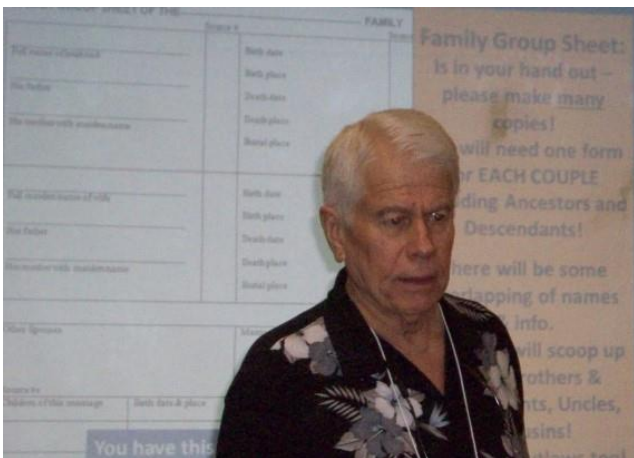
## July Birthday Celebration: Annual Members' Show-and-Tell



Above is a photo of the beautiful cake we enjoyed as we celebrated the thirty-fourth anniversary of the Merced County Genealogical Society. Special mention was also made of Rosalie Heppner, a thirty-five year founding member who has been involved in the process of forming the Society from the beginning.

In our meeting we talked about trying to get Wi-Fi in the DCR room and in the Gracie room. The suggestion was also made to contact Dorothy Leland, current Chancellor at UC Merced, regarding getting help from the students.

For the show and tell from our members, we enjoyed the following:



**Darel Scoggin** shared his presentation titled The Roots of a Family Tree begin with Love of Two

Hearts. This is the presentation he is planning to give for the Kiwanis Club. He asked to share it with us so we could offer feedback and so he could check the timing. Darel also went online to Ancestry and shared his DNA results. He talked about how the tests from other family members and their influence and how answers are available through the DNA. Ancestry reports show not only where ancestors come from, but where they migrated to once they arrived in the United States.

**Alison Scott** shared how she found some old items in an attic. They were bank records and canceled checks from the late 1930s. She does not know the family that they came from, but she hopes to find them. They live between Los Banos and Dos Palos.



**Jane Fournier** shared some notebooks. Her cousin made booklets for family reunions. She has 22 binders of all she has received over the years.

**Roberta Saling** talked of her trip to the family history library at Salt Lake. They now have



kiosks where one can put in a family tree and can see more information. You can take your picture with historical old buildings.



**Stephanie McLeod** told more about her father and the Minnick line. She shared a picture of her mother that was affixed to a metal backing.



**Susan Brower** shared how on her mother's mother's side they know they qualify to join the Daughters of the American Revolution.



The last name was Slocum. Some of her ancestors who stayed loyal to Great Britain went to north to Nova Scotia. Other members of the family in Massachusetts fought for the rebellion.

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### Meeting Attendance

**July Membership:** Attendance Final Count:  
24 Members + 1 Guests for a total of 25.

Welcome, new member: Carolynn Petersen

**No meeting in August.**

Total Members: 85 active

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## September Speaker: Mike Cuchna Capture, Repair & Restore Old Damaged Photographs



What do you do when you come across an old worn and weathered almost forgotten photo that needs now to be shared with your family? You can put your DIY hat on and produce results that you would be proud to share with your family. Mike will be teaching how at our September meeting.

### Nomination of 2018 Officers

The names of those who have been asked to serve on the nominations committee for 2018 will be

announced at the September meeting. This coming year the following positions need to be filled with new people: President and Vice President. Those currently holding the remaining elected positions have agreed to continue an additional year.

Although the editor of *The Family Snoop* is not an elected position, it also will need to be filled. Robyn Echols agreed to stay on for a year longer than originally planned, but she is done. Her last issue will be for November-December, 2017, although she is happy to help train the new editor. Her offer from last year still is good. If the editor wishes, she is willing to prepare for each issue an article at least one page in length including properly formatted images. However, this is definitely her last year taking full responsibility. If no one steps up to the plate, there will be no newsletters next year.

The current officers sincerely hope members who have not served the Society before will step forward and agree to fill one of these positions.

## Memorial Donation to Obituary Project

The officers are pleased to announce the Society has received a check for \$1,000 from Sherry Granger in memory of her husband, Jim Granger. After consultation with several Society members, Sherry decided that she wanted the donation to go to the Obituary Project, since Jim was the one that originally started it.

A past president of the Merced County Genealogical Society, Jim Granger will be missed. With this donation, the work he started in saving and making available obituaries will continue.

Upcoming Programs for 2017	
September	Mike Cuchna - Capture, Repair & Restore Old Damaged Photographs
October	(open)
November	Annual Birthday Celebration – Member Show and Tell
December	Jennifer McDonald – Descendancy Research
October 7, 1:00p.m.	Next MCGS Board Meeting – Doris Cochran Research room, Main Library

# When Your German Ancestor Research Takes You to Germany

## by Robyn Echols

*I recently had occasion to do some research on German guilds and crafts for a book I am writing. I quickly realized much of the information I found would be to those who have German ancestors. Keep in mind that while talking about life in what we know as Germany prior to 1871, meaning before Germany was united into one nation, there were several German-speaking nations or duchys, and there might have been some variation from one to another. Nevertheless, the following taken from the FAMILYSEARCH Wiki will help give a better understanding of a German ancestor's standing in society and where to search for records.*

### Understanding Occupations in German Research

([https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Understanding\\_Occupations\\_in\\_German\\_Research](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Understanding_Occupations_in_German_Research))

*This article presents an overview of German society between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries. It explains the positions of farmers and artisans in rural communities, and it shows how feudal controls, taxes, and other obligations affected their lives.*



Map of Western Europe, ca. 1500. There were as many large cities in the Italian peninsula as in all of the rest of western Europe.

Europe ca. 1500

**Occupations and “Social Standing”** - Occupations and “social standing” defined each person’s rights and obligations in pre-1900 German society. In accordance with Divine will, one was born into a

particular spot in society and expected to remain there and fulfill the associated roles. Upward social mobility was largely impossible. The feudal system was very stable and remained unchanged over centuries. A major shift occurred in the mid-1800s with advancing industrialization. The resulting “capitalist system” included a much broader base of farm laborers and blue collar workers, a larger middle class and a few nobles.

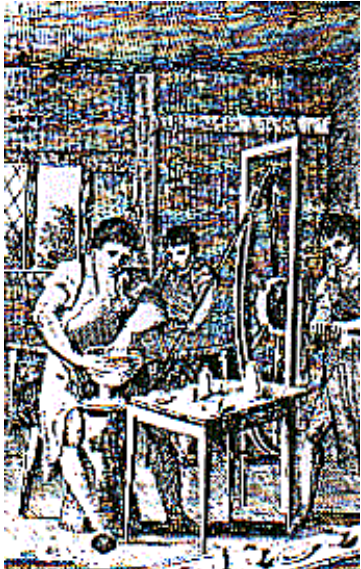
**Town Administration** - A village community included burghers with full citizenship rights (*Nachbarn, Bürger*) and “*Hintersassen*” or “*Einsassen*”, who had fewer rights. Here are some details about the village hierarchy prior to the 1800s:

- The top person in charge was the lord of the land—usually a nobleman, church, monastery, etc.
- The *Vogt* was usually appointed by the lord of the land.
- The *Bürgermeister*, or mayor, may be appointed or elected.
- The town council or “court” consisted of 7-12 men. These men exercised administrative, legislative, and limited judicial functions (those not involving capital punishment).
- The field overseer [*Feldwächter*] had to enforce the borders of the various field sections and conformity to planting regulations.
- The treasurer [*Kastenmeister*] and tax collector [*Zentgraf*] dealt with local finances and the contributions required to be paid to the various authorities.

### CLASSES OF RESIDENTS

*Bürger* or neighbors were citizens with full rights. In order to become a *Bürger*, the applicant had to be the legitimate son of a *Bürger*, have a good moral reputation, meet other conditions, and pay a fee, the “*Bürgergeld*.” Out-of-town applicants had to provide proof of legitimate birth, proof that they could support a family and proof of a certain amount of personal property, and sometimes procure affidavits of good moral character, etc. The town council decided who could become a citizen and set the fee to be paid. Citizens’ rights included a yearly gift of firewood and occasionally wood for building, as well as a right to graze cattle on the village meadow. *Hintersassen* or *Beisassen* usually had no real property in the town, and had fewer rights than *Bürger*. They did not get the free yearly wood

allotment and could not graze their cattle (if they had any) on town property. Taxes paid in kind, money, and unpaid labor varied among the social classes, according to social standing, income, and property owned.



#### **CRAFTSMEN -**

Craftsmen, such as weavers, tailors, shoemakers, bakers, carriage builders, glass blowers, etc., were among the village “middle class.” However, most of them also farmed some or had at least a garden to help feed their families. In many cases, even the pastor and the teachers did some farming.

Artisans were limited in their mobility. For example, if a town already had two tailors, and the town council felt that a third one was not needed, no other tailor would be permitted to become a citizen in that town. He may not even be allowed to just live there as a *Hintersasse*. Thus, many craftsmen either came back to their home town to take over a relative’s shop, or they married a daughter from a family in the same trade. Some married far away from home, perhaps in an area they had visited during their journeyman years.

Young boys were apprenticed to a master tradesman after confirmation (age 12-16). The apprenticeship lasted several years. The father paid a fee to the master. At the end of this time, the master gave the young man a “*Gesellenbrief*” or journeyman letter. The journeyman spent from 2-4 years, depending on the trade, traveling the country and working for various masters. Upon his return, he produced a “master piece,” which was judged by all the master artisans of his trade in the area, and he was then able to become a master himself. Guilds allowed only those of legitimate birth to join. In many areas, especially larger towns, membership in a guild was required in order to practice a trade.

**INNKEEPERS** - Inns were a social center in every community. The innkeeper was a highly respected member of the community. Inns often have names

such as “the Crown,” “the Stag,” “the Lion,” etc. The townspeople were required to patronize the inn and buy certain amounts of alcoholic beverages on social occasions, such as family events and Kirmes. Conversely, certain members of the community, notably the pastor and teacher, were often forbidden to frequent the inn.

#### **“DISHONORABLE PROFESSIONS” -**

Dishonorable professions included those dealing with social taboos, such as crime, illness, death, and “earth.” Included were bath house owners, prostitutes, executioners, bailiffs, weavers, potters, charcoal burners, castrators, grave diggers, and many others, depending on the region. They married within their class and had no upward mobility.

*(Continued)*

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#### **MyHeritage Acquires Millennia Corp. and its Legacy Family Tree Software**

Israel-based genealogy website MyHeritage announced in early August, 2017, that it has purchased Millennia Corp., developer of **Legacy Family Tree software** and the **Legacy webinars** program. Here is what this will mean to those genealogists who use Legacy as their database program:

Legacy Family Tree software will continue to be offered. The next version (10), now underway, will feature optional syncing with family trees on the MyHeritage website and with the MyHeritage mobile app.

Legacy Family Tree already syncs with the FamilySearch unified Family Tree, but it's currently the only one of the top genealogy programs that doesn't sync with a website that allows members to keep their own, limited-access family trees.

MyHeritage has its own software, a free program called Family Tree Builder that syncs with MyHeritage online trees and with the MyHeritage app. This program will continue to be offered, but the program offerings may be streamlined in the future. Legacy Family Tree customers will receive discounts on MyHeritage services and DNA kits, and MyHeritage will keep offering Legacy Family Tree webinars. All Millennia employees will be retained as employees of MyHeritage.

*(This information was taken from the Family Tree Magazine blog for August 4, 2017.)*

**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 November/December 2017 issue is October 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
Membership	Margie Barnhart
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](http://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](http://www.mercedmuseum.org)

21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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	160.34
Expenses	(486.77)
Checking Balance	<u>\$5,017.77</u>
Savings Account:	3,870.20
CD-9 months; matures on 9/22/17	5,875.32
CD-12 months; matures on 5/18/18	<u>5,703.67</u>
<b>Total in Checking and Savings:</b>	<b><u>\$20,520.96</u></b>

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