

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 32, No. 2

February 2014

February Meeting

Beginning Your Cherokee Genealogical Research



Speaker: Bob Ringo

Mr. Ringo, who is 3/32d Cherokee himself, will outline the steps the Cherokee researcher should follow. He has been researching his own Cherokee ancestry for over twenty years and has lots of knowledge and experience. According to Mr. Ringo there are numerous records of individual Cherokees beginning in the early 1800s.

His presentation will cover the importance of Federal Census records as well as the various Indian rolls that can assist the researcher and will help you get started by using examples from his own work uncovering Cherokee records.



12:00 Noon Saturday

22 February 2014

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

Upcoming Programs 2014

March	TBA
April	American Migration Trails, Western United States – Kathryn Marshall

Message from the President:

Dear Friends,

Well, it's going to be an interesting year ahead with many changes for the library and for us. Due to lack of funds, the library is having to work with \$900,000 less money than the full allotment from the Redevelopment Agency this year. They have had to let 6 extra help people go and are working with one staff member less upstairs. As far as the Merced County Genealogical Society goes, we have a desperate need for a replacement for our dedicated Anne Field, who is the Snoop Editor. Other people in Board positions also need a break in their volunteering services. All are willing to show others the ways of their particular functions. If you like sharing and talking to members about what they are doing then this is your field!

We had a really big response to our beginners class. Nineteen members and twenty-eight guests were present at the January 25th meeting. One delighted guest even won our raffle for a genealogy book and went away beaming. We also received payment for new membership from several people. We also had our annual installment of the same officers as last year, and little thank you gifts for their services. The only thing missing were the divine deviled eggs of Lois Jimenez, our 1st Vice-President, who along with Robyn Echols, our Secretary, were otherwise engaged.

We hope to see you at our next meeting, where we will learn about Cherokee heritage and have some divine deviled eggs.

In your service,
Stephanie McLeod, Pres.

Mark your Calendars!

February 22, 2014

Genealogy Seminar. San Joaquin Genealogical Society. Sponsored by the California State Genealogical Society and the Jacoby Center for Public Service and Civic Leadership, UOP. 8:30 – 3:00, UOP Campus, Biological Sciences Bldg., 3312 N. Kensington Way, Stockton. See last month's newsletter for more information. No charge.
<https://sjgsseminar.eventbrite.com>

3 April 2014

Overlooked Military Sources will be the topic at the Vallejo Benician Genealogy Society meeting. The speaker will be Martha Wittaker, a retired librarian from the Sutro Library. 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the upstairs of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 734 Marin St., Vallejo.
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cagsv/events.html>

5 April 2014

Roots Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society
Spring Seminar featuring Geoff Rasmussen, Host of the Legacy Family Tree Genealogy Webinar Series.

Details to come:

<http://rootcellarramblings.blogspot.com/p/family-history-day.html>.

Our January Meeting

We had standing room only (well, almost) at our January meeting and our Beginners Program: 19 members and 28 guests for a total of 47.



Officers who were present at the meeting were sworn in during a short Installation Ceremony. A short meeting was followed by our program: Rosalie Heppner covered family group sheets and pedigree charts; Susan Benes spoke on census records as a major source of information; Michle Burroughs discussed obituaries, death certificates and cemeteries; Anne Field went over the importance of writing down your sources of information; and Shari Stetson provided the introduction and the finishing up where she touched on the difference between online trees and genealogy software programs for your own computer. Packets for beginners were passed out. Those who did not receive a packet (we ran out) can pick up one at the main desk of the Merced Library. A drawing was held and the prize of a how-to genealogy book was presented to one of the beginners.

Introduction to Microcomputers

At our January meeting, Howard Smith told the group of the introductory computer class that will be offered at The Tri-College Center in Merced. Introduction to

Microcomputers begins February 21 and ends April 11 and cover Windows software; the desktop, computer commands, internet browsing, email and more. The classes are on Fridays from 9 a.m. until noon. There are no registration fees. You can access the schedule of classes at <http://www.mccd.edu/programs/continued/schedule.html>, see page 5, or contact Merced College Office of Continuing Education, 381-6540 or noncredit@mccd.edu.

Howard, who volunteers at the Senior Center in Merced, also wanted to let people know that there are computers there and he will help you if needed. The Center has wif-fi and high speed internet and you can bring your own laptop or other device as well.

Welcome to new MCGS Members:

Alan Hensher, from Merced, searching Robidoux in San Bernardino Co. in the 1850s, and Bodie/Bodey in Tuolumne Co. in the 1850s

Ki L. Smith, from Merced, searching Smith, Thweatt and Lewis in Texas from the 1800s until present.

Donna Newman, from Merced, searching Newman in NC and GA, Statham in VA and GA, Sutton in NC and GA, and Scaff in SC and Ga.

Bernadette M. [DeCoit] Castaneda, from Merced, searching DeCoit in the Azores and Pires in Patterson, CA, both in the early 1900s.

Howard J. Smith, Jr. & Judith L. [Sells] Smith, of Merced, searching Lang in Buffalo, NY, 1900-1945, Hempel in Goethe, FL, 1800s, early 1900s, and Sells/Zilch in Buffalo, NY, 1850-1945.

Genealogy Software Reviews

Some of the attendees at our January Beginner program asked about genealogy software

suggestions. Here are some websites with reviews for Windows and/or for Mac computers:

For Windows:

<http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com/>

Just for Mac:

<http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com/mac-genealogy-software/>

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/03/genealogy-programs-for-macintosh.html

Reviews for some free genealogy software, some of which you can later upgrade to the full or deluxe version:

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/05/6-best-free-genealogy-programs.html

<http://www.techsupportalert.com/best-free-genealogy-family-tree-software.htm>

Publications for Sale - Prices cut!

- 1850 MARIPOSA County Federal Census, includes Merced County
- 1890 MERCED County List of Registered Voters
- 1855-1915 MERCED County Marriages
- Early MERCED County Naturalization Records 1861-1949
- 1883-1918 MERCED County Coroner's Book.
- 1877-1896 MERCED County Funeral Book. .
- WINTON Cemetery
- PLAINSBURG Cemetery
- SNELLING Cemetery
-

Check our webpage for order form and details
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~camcgs/Books_for_sale.htm

Merced County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 3061, Merced, CA 95344
for more info: 209-723-9019 (Lois)
to order: Sto4us@aol.com



Its time to pay your Annual Dues!
It's that time of year again. Pay now before you forget.
A form is in this newsletter so you know how much and where to send it.

Looking for a new Editor!

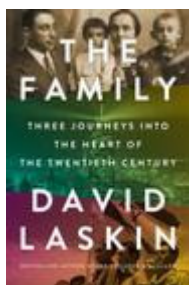
Your current newsletter editor, that's me, is going to bow out and our Society will need someone to take over this position. I plan to finish up with the July newsletter. There is no August newsletter and so whoever takes on the job will have that month off. If someone steps up in the next month or so, I will be happy to teach that person the ropes.

You have read in the previous issue about the positions of President and Secretary. Now you will learn about what you need to know and do for this position. I write the newsletter using an old edition of Microsoft Word – by old I mean the one that came with XP. All you need is a word processor program to come up with the newsletter. If you have a newer version of Word, which many of you do, you can convert the finished newsletter to a PDF document within the Word program. Then you send it off to Sharon Darby, who will then send it to the publisher. I put photos and graphics in the newsletter but you don't have to. Many other newsletters use none at all, so if you can type, you should be OK. If you want to put in graphics or photos, I will help you out.

The newsletter is not published in August and December and is generally sent to Sharon at the end of the month. A PDF copy of the newsletter is also sent to Alma Stone, our web page editor, and it gets posted to the web page. The position is not an elected one, but an appointed one. I am not required to attend the Board meetings, but usually do so I can keep up with what is going on.

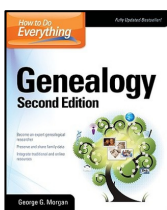
If you are interested in volunteering for this position or would like to know more, please contact me or Stephanie McLeod, our president. This is a good way to learn new computer skills since I will be glad to help you learn.

Anne Field



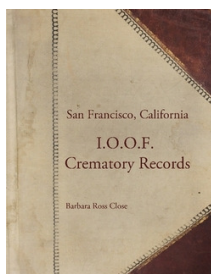
The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century, a new book by David Laskin, was written up in *Parade Magazine* this past December. Laskin, a journalist and author of other books, felt a need, as he approached sixty, to find out more about his Jewish roots. And he did. His grandfather's sister was not only the founder of the Maidenform Bra company, she was also forced to leave Tsarist Russia at age 19 for her revolutionary activities. She arrived at Ellis Island with almost nothing to her name but found work as a seamstress. The family came from a village in Belarus. One branch left for Palestine in the 1920s, one remained, and his branch ended up in the Lower East side of New York City. By 1920, the family had their own home in Brooklyn. Here is a book that should inspire you to not give up on your research, but to keep digging. Read the whole article online:

<http://www.parade.com/245805/davidlaskin/family-tree-author-david-laskin-reveals-the-risks-and-rewards-of-researching-your-ancestry/>



Wendy Rich was the winner of our drawing at the Beginner Program in January. She won a copy of *How To Do Everything: Genealogy*, by George G. Morgan. The book covers all sorts of topics that would be useful to someone just getting started, from pedigree charts and organizing your information to census documents and other great sources. Another good choice for beginners is the *Complete idiot's Guide to Genealogy*.

San Francisco Burials Index



In August of this year, the California Genealogical Society and Library's blog page at CaliforniaAncestors.org announced the reprinting of ***San Francisco, California, I.O.O.F. Crematory Records***. The book first came out in 2001 and is an index of eight registers of the now defunct Independent Order of Odd Fellows Crematory of San Francisco. The crematory was once located at the cemetery but was demolished in 1910.

The I.O.O.F., the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is an organization of men and women who believe in a supreme being who have come together in their communities and follow the basic guidelines of friendship, love and truth in their daily lives, hoping to make a difference in the world. The organization began in 18th century England and in North American in 1819. Members belong to Lodges which aim to improve the lives of themselves and others, help those in need, extend sympathy and aid, and by organizing charitable projects that benefit the less fortunate.

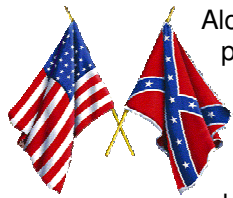
Included in their good works is the directive to bury the dead and I.O.O.F. cemeteries are found throughout the United States.

The cremation records are indexed, there are about 10,000 of them, covering the period from about 1895 to 1911. Abstracts give the deceased's name, birthplace, sex, date of death and age, place and cause of death and whether an obituary is available in the original record. The book can be purchased at the Society's Lulu Bookstore: <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/CAancestors>.

Doris Cochran Room Update

Stephanie McLeod, our president, announced the **new rules for member use of the DCR** at our January meeting. Members will no longer be allowed to get the key (a master key) to go into the DCR whenever they want – which we did do in the past. Now that the microfilm, city directories and other items have been moved into the DCR, no one, even members, should be in the room alone. If you wish to use the room you may come in on Wednesdays from 1 – 4 p.m. or Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m. If you need to use it at another time you can check with the library staff to see if there is someone who can be down there with you while you are there, or they will contact one of the Board members to see if one of them can be with you in the DCR. Thanks so much for your cooperation.

Civil War Tree Project



Along a highway stretching from Charlottesville, Virginia, to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, a tree-planting project is taking place. The group Hallowed Ground is working to plant a tree for every soldier who died fighting during the Civil War – 620,000. The road from Charlottesville to Gettysburg is just one part of a larger route, with 108 trees that were to be planted before winter. Rather than building another monument, the group wants the trees to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. A \$100 donation will plant one tree and people have donated trees to remember their ancestors who fought in this war.

Working with groups such as the National Park Service, Ancestry.com and Fold3, an interactive map will be created that will allow anyone to find a tree dedicated to an individual soldier by using a smartphone app. There will be a variety of trees – eastern redbuds, red sunset maples, willow oaks, cedar and more – very colorful. When completed, the project will be the largest man-made pathway of trees on the globe, stretching 180 miles north to south over three states.

<http://www.hallowedground.org/Get-Involved/Plant-a-Tree/About-Living-Legacy>

A Note from your Editor...

The states of New England are not the only states with records that go way back. Town records were kept in New England – births, marriages, deaths and other very useful sources of information – are available for most of the states in New England. If you have Massachusetts ancestors, like I do, count yourself lucky. I have ancestors from Louisiana and Florida going way back and am so thankful that the French and Spanish kept such wonderful records. Two of my ancestors came over from France in 1720 to help settle the new French territory in what is now Louisiana. They are on three censuses taken in New Orleans in the 1720s. They are also listed on the manifest of the ship on which they emigrated. The French and Spanish took turns ruling over this area and the Catholic Church records are very good. Baptisms, marriages, burials – the originals in Spanish or French – have been transcribed and abstracted in English and can be a gold mine of information. My ancestor's family, who eventually moved up the Mississippi River to the Arkansas Post, a remote outpost on the Arkansas River, are witnesses in many of the baptisms and marriages that were recorded. When I looked at some of the original records, I found that the daughters in the family were all able to sign their names while the sons made their marks. My guess is that the daughters were sent down to New Orleans to board at the Ursuline Convent and learned to read and write. The Arkansas Post was a pretty rough place, lots of hunters and trappers and maybe not the best place to raise young ladies. Charlotte Reynes, below, was my ancestor Marguerite's sister.

Acta bautismal del bautizado Feligres de esta feligresia
quien adverte del parentesco espiritual y la fuerza de con-
uigo al padre no solo por ser *Charlotte Reynes*
padre juan con parientes de Arkansas

Merced County Genealogical Society

Membership Form

Print page, fill in your information and mail to:

**Merced County Genealogical Society
PO Box 3061
Merced, CA 95344-1061**

Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Area Code & Phone _____

E-mail _____

The Family Snoop Newsletter delivered by [check one]: Mail _____ Email _____

___ Annual Individual Dues: \$20.00

___ Annual Joint* Dues: \$30.00

___ Lifetime Individual Dues: \$200.00

___ Lifetime Joint* Dues: \$300.00

Note! Joint* members must reside at the same address.

Make check or money order payable to Merced County Genealogical Society.



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 March 2014 issue is February 21, 2014.**

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 SUBSTITUTE 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	Susan Benes, 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 December 2013

Income:	80.15
Expenses:	00
Checking Total	<u>\$3,688.39</u>
Savings Account	3,863.68
CD-9 months; matures on 1/11/14	5,832.02
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/14	<u>5,650.29</u>
<u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u>	<u>\$19,034.38</u>

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