

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 32, No. 1

January 2014

January Meeting

Annual Beginners Program

How to Grow Your Family Tree



Do you know who your great-grandparents were?

Would you like to find out more?

Don't know where to start?

Come join us at our annual program for beginners. Learn how to get started with a free packet of materials, forms and tips for beginners.

Installation of Officers will take place at our January meeting



12:00 Noon Saturday

25 January 2014

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

Message from the President:

Welcome all, to the year of 2014! Can you believe we have reached all the way to the year 2014?

To many people of my age, this is akin to science fiction stuff spoken of in books from the 20th century. Well, it truly is amazing what discoveries and inventions have been made since the 19th since it was generally said by some, in the 1840's, that there was nothing more to be discovered or invented. Through some power beyond our finite minds, a light was turned on and the power to solve the worlds mysteries was ignited and amped up in mankind since that time. I'm not sure when the study of genealogy became official but I'm sure it fits into this surge to know the mysteries of our heritage.

With that in mind, I again encourage members to use the genealogy room in the library more often. There is a vast amount of resource material at your command. Do you know that we have several genealogy magazines that we subscribe to and they are full of historical background stories, articles and tips on how to work your genealogy resources, CDs, technical tools and books to buy, things that just might be the a solution to your roadblock. We also have microfilm stored there now and several computers and loads of books.

It may be, just to warn you, that due to lack of use and lack of people to man the room on Wednesdays and Saturdays, we will not be able to have access to the room except by appointment only and only when a librarian or society member is available to be there. We will be addressing this issue with the County Librarian, Diane Satchwell, Friday, January 17, when we have our Board meeting to which everyone is welcome. So it is in your best interest to be involved in the resources of this room.

Also with that in mind, I would like to ask everyone to think about becoming an officer. That means, a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership coordinator and Snoop Editor, as everyone in these positions needs a break or replacement. Please, seriously consider volunteering your services, because in October, we will be asking you for nominations.

I hope everyone had a good New Year's celebration. We look forward to a year full of rewards and insights in our genealogical journeys and we will try to do our best to provide good leadership and entertaining programs. Good luck and Happy New Year!!

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 below in newsletter for more information. No charge.

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 November & December Meetings

We had a total membership of 99 active members as of November. Our November program was our first Webinar and covered the topic of digital imaging for genealogists.

Our December meeting was our annual potluck as well as the reading of, and voting for, the slate of officers for the coming year. All officers will remain the same.



Welcome to new MCGS Member:
Sande (Sales) DeSalles, from Walnut Creek

Genealogy Seminar - San Joaquin Genealogical Society. The February 22, 2014, seminar is sponsored by the California State Genealogical Society and the Jacoby Center for Public Service and Civic Leadership, UOP. The seminar runs from 8:30 – 3:00, UOP Campus, Biological Sciences Bldg., 3312 N. Kensington Way, Stockton. There will be door prizes and a free gift for each person who attends. Registration is free but is required to receive the handout packet. Register early; seating is limited to 180: <https://sjgsseminar.eventbrite.com>. Bring a lunch or dine at a nearby restaurant, or at the cafeteria on campus. If you have questions or need to register by phone, please call Sheri Fenley at (209) 373-6847 or send email to sherifenley@gmail.com. There are four sessions:
“Family Stories: Genealogy Beyond Just The Dates” by Linda Serna
“Fun Tools To Help Genealogists Work Smarter” by Tim Cox
“Researching Your Mexican Ancestors” by Letty Rodella
“Reconstructing Family Information When You Start With Almost Nothing – A Case Study” by Janice Sellers



A Big Thank You to our officers, chairpersons and those in appointed positions for taking the time to serve.

At our last meeting, in November, the officers each gave a brief summary of what the duties of their office entail. It was felt that the general membership should be made aware of what tasks the various officers had to perform so that other members, learning more about the different positions, could decide whether they had the skills and/or interest to serve as an officer next year. Members are encouraged to volunteer to serve as an officer when openings occur. Right now we have part of the office of Membership Chairperson which needs to be filled and we have discussed before what that person would need to do. Right now various people are filling the position on a temporary basis but we could use a person willing to perform those tasks for the coming year.

Duties of the President and of the Secretary are covered in this issue. Duties of other officers will be covered in future issues. Our by-laws currently state that *The elected officers of MCGS shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Registrar and Hospitality Host or Hostess*. The lists of duties below are an informal summary, not the wording from the by-laws.

Duties of the President, currently Stephanie McLeod:

A. To preside over the monthly Merced County Genealogical Society meetings and the Quarterly MCGS Board meetings.

- Prepare an agenda for each meeting, asking officers for input.
- Call on a member to say the Pledge of Allegiance at monthly meeting.
- Ask for monthly reports from Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership chairpersons.
- Keep a record of old and new business to be addressed at the monthly meeting and any concerns to be addressed at the Board meetings.
- Know who the speaker will be for upcoming meetings and communicate with the Program committee on the list of speakers.
- Encourage participation by general membership in MCGS activities.
- Write a monthly President's message addressing concerns of the MCGS and encouraging positive attitudes of interest in genealogy, biography, and related history.
- Be aware of library politics and situation of the Doris Cochran room and its environs.
- Be in possession of the President's gavel and paperwork of the past presidents and the President's guidance manual.
- Have a copy of the MCGS By-Laws and be aware of the contents.

B. To be the official MCGS spokesperson (according to the by-laws of the MCGS).

- Meet and greet members and guest at monthly meetings.

C. To notify all Directors of forthcoming Board meetings.

D. To appoint all committee chairpersons except the auditing committee.

E. To present the Board's recommended budget and schedule of fees and dues for the ensuing year by no later than the March meeting

Duties of the Secretary, currently Robyn Echols:

1. I take minutes at each Society meeting and each Board meeting. They are brief notes, which I keep to bullet points on a single page. I prefer to take minutes directly onto my laptop, using the previous meeting document as a template, so that once the meeting is over, the minutes are finished.
2. I create a pdf documents of the minutes (very easy to do with Windows 7 or higher) and send them by email to the officers and the *Family Snoop* editor. I try to do this within a few days of the meeting.
3. Before the next meeting, I make 3 copies of the minutes. One copy I read and then it goes into the minutes binder along with the financial report I receive from the treasurer, one copy goes to the president and one copy is available for the public to read.
4. I keep the binder up-to-date with copies of all the minutes (I usually print the Board meeting minutes on colored paper so they are easy to locate in the binder.) Also, there is a digital recorder available so that if I am not able to attend a meeting, the meeting can be recorded so I can do the minutes later.
5. To date, I have not been asked to help with correspondence.



The Midwest Genealogy Center

<http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy>

We have all heard of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City; and Sutro Library in San Francisco; and the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. But have you heard of the Midwest Genealogy Center?

The Center is part of the Mid-Continent Public Library system and it opened in 2008 in Independence, Missouri. The center's 52,000 square feet of space houses almost three-quarters of a million on-site materials.

They have over 17,000 genealogy and local history books available for interlibrary loan and you can search their catalog online to see if they have an item you are interested in. Not every library loans their books. Besides the on-site materials there are several online databases for use in the library including newspaper and genealogy sources such as The Washington Post, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and other newspapers. You can access the Genealogy Bank database, Sanborn Maps, ProQuest obituaries and more.

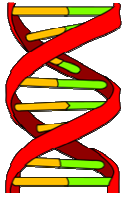
There are military records, state and county records, Native American records and genealogy periodicals. On their website you can find and print 4 and 6 generation pedigree charts, family group sheets, research logs and a research checklist – very useful.

In addition to research materials, there is the opportunity to set up time with an expert. Do you have any brick walls? If the answer is yes – and it almost always is – staff members and volunteers at the center are there to help you with your research questions. There is, at the Center, a free program called Appointment with a Genealogy Consultant. A forty-five minute time can be set up to help you with your genealogical question. Visit their website to find out more about this welcome service.

And they will do research for you! They have a list of “for-hire” researchers, by topic. Check their research policy for more information: <http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/genealogy-research-policy>.

So, if your travels take you to Missouri, plan a stop in Independence. If you are researching ancestors in Missouri, this might be your next trip.

A Head's Up



The Food and Drug Administration issued a warning to the DNA testing company, **23 and Me**, to suspend its sales of the *Saliva Collection Kit and Personal Genome Service*. DNA ancestry tests are not the problem, but the company's interpretation of test results with regard to a person's health profile and risk of disease is cause for concern. The FDA said that the testing products were being sold without “marketing clearance or approval” – a violation of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. 23 and Me, a Silicon Valley company, has said that it would comply with the FDA's demand. Customers can pay to have their DNA ancestry analyzed and can also get their raw genetic data, just not a health report that might tell a person that their genes predispose them to particular diseases or conditions, etc. Meanwhile, for those of you who want to trace your DNA ancestry, you might try FamilyTree DNA, <http://www.familytreedna.com/>. We had a good speaker on this topic a while ago, Katherine Hope Borges from Stanislaus County. To read through the interview she did with Roots Television, go to <http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com/2008/07/21/tgg-interview-series-vii-katherine-hope-borges/> on the web page The Genetic Genealogist. For more background on 23 and Me, how the company started and what their goals were, check out the 2007 article by Thomas Goetz in Wired Magazine back in 2007: http://www.wired.com/medtech/genetics/magazine/15-12/ff_genomics?currentPage=all

From Your Editor...

Never having watched a webinar before, I attended the November meeting wanting to see what one was like. This one was done by Geoff Rasmussen and lasted just under two hours. The topic covered digital imaging for genealogists. I am pretty proficient working with digital images but I still learned a couple new things.

Those of us at the December potluck enjoyed a variety of treats and good company. Now we are looking forward to the annual Beginners Program in January. Even if you are not a beginner, we hope you attend and give encouragement to those who are.

Anne Field

CSGA Tidbits

The following came from a mailing list email from the California State Genealogical Alliance mailing list on 19 December:

Congress passed the budget yesterday and included in it is a restriction on access to the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). The bill reads:

"The Secretary of Commerce shall not disclose to any person information contained on the Death Master File with respect to any deceased individual at any time during the 3-calendar-year period beginning on the date of the individual's death, unless such person is certified under the program established under subsection (b). . ."

It could be worse as access was not completely cut off but it will make it more difficult to find folks who died recently, particularly for those who do heir searching, etc. Go to <http://www.legalgenealogist.com/> and read today's entry for more details on that.

I went on to FamilySearch this morning and copied off all SSDI entries for deaths from 2010 to 2013 for my more unusual family names (obviously Smiths would be too much). There is nothing in the bill that says what is already out there must be removed but it could end up being interpreted that way so it might be good idea to access what you can now. This bill will take effect immediately upon the President's signature.

Peggy Rossi
CSGA Legislative Watch Chair

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 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 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	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 November 2013

Income:	270.35
Expenses:	29.58
Checking Total	<u>\$3,608.24</u>
Savings Account	3,863.52
CD-9 months; matures on 1/11/14	5,831.28
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/14	<u>5,649.33</u>
<u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u>	<u>\$18,952.37</u>

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