

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 33, No. 01

January 2015

January Meeting

Beginner's Class



**Sponsored
by the
Programs
Committee**

**Tour the
Doris
Cochran
Room**

1:00 p.m. Saturday

January 24, 2014

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

WELCOME NEW OFFICERS FOR 2015!

In December, elections were held and new officers elected. Due to the recent changes in the By-Laws, the slate of officers looks a little different than it has in the past. We want to extend our thanks and appreciation to those officers who served in the past year. Also, we want to welcome our new Merced County Genealogical Society board.

- President - Greg Entriken
- President-elect - Bernadette Castaneda
- VP - Lois Jimenez
- Secretary - Stephanie McLeod
- Treasurer - Sharon Darby
- Membership - Margie Barnhart
- Hospitality - Michle Burroughs

Our new officers will be sworn in and start their terms of service with the January meeting.

President's Message for January



Dear Friends and Fellow Members,

The Christmas season is a time spent with friends and family. I find it kind of ironic to realize that to belong to an organization devoted to finding your family has become like a family.

The Christmas pot-luck was a lot of fun, good food, friends, and a transition of out-going officers with the election of new officers.

As the new president, I would like to introduce myself and give a brief background. I was born in Turlock, grew up in Denair, moved to Hilmar where I met my wife. We now reside in Delhi, and I work for a local company here in Merced.

I'd like to tip my hat to the out-going officers for a job well done, and to everyone else for helping to make this organization what it is today.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for January 24, 2015 which is the 4th Saturday in January. I look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,
Greg Entriken, President

Have You Tried Elephind?

Elephind can be a great **FREE** resource for anyone who wishes to search old newspapers. It can be found at elephind.com. It makes it possible for us to search all of the world's digital newspapers from one place and at one time.

- You simultaneously search across thousands of articles using key words and phrases.
- It contains 141,831,915 items from 2,704 newspaper titles.
- You can find a list of libraries that have contributed their archives on the site by clicking on "List of Titles." Clicking on any library's name displays the newspapers in that collection.
- Elephind.com is much like Google, Bing, or other search engines but focused only on historical, digitized newspapers. By clicking on the Elephind.com search result that interests you, you'll go directly to the newspaper collection which hosts that story.

Newspapers can be a great source of information. If we are fortunate enough to find articles about our ancestors, we can learn details about their everyday lives that cannot be found in the church or government vital records or statistical information-gathering records.

The text on Elephind was created by OCR (Optical Character Recognition). Like other OCR-created records, it has quite a few errors and false hits. One feature Elephind does have, though, is User Text Correction. You can see an error on a page and manually type in the correct text and add it to the database.

Elephind is not perfect but it can be a great tool in helping you locate your ancestors if they appear in the newspapers that are part of the Elephind collection. The best part is that the price is FREE.

You can try Elephind at <http://www.elephind.com>

(Most of the information for this article was taken from a post written by Dick Eastman on his "Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter," another great genealogical resource. His article was posted Nov. 8, 2014)

At Our November and December Meetings

In November, we enjoyed members and guests sharing some of their research finds with us.



Liz is a visitor who shared some of her family history of an ancestor who lived in Applegate, a community just outside of Auburn, CA. The ancestor worked in the inn. She asked everyone who stayed there to autograph a book she kept. There is a dress, portrait and signature quilt from this ancestor in the

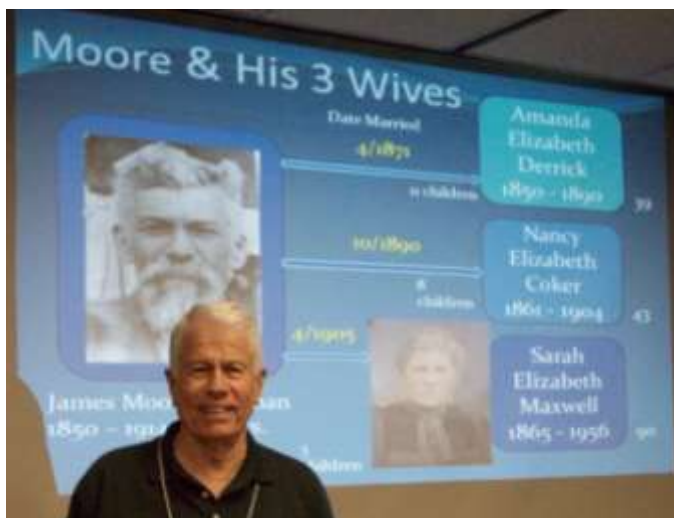
Auburn Historical Society collection housed in the old jail building.



Amy De la Torre shared a copy of a relative's wedding portrait from about the 1930s that was "colorized" using the Costco restoration services.



Shari Stetson shared some of her newspaper research.



Darrell Scoggin shared a PowerPoint history of his ancestor, James Moore Coleman. He is descended from the third wife.

Rosalie Heppner spoke of an Arkansas ancestor who died in the Civil War while serving the Union Army. His widow and child moved



to Springfield, Missouri. She believed the widow died in an old soldiers' home. She learned they were taken in by a reverend

who lived across the street from Abraham Lincoln. She also spoke of the Frenless home. 65 children died there in January 1865, mostly of jaundice or yellow fever. She shared with us several artifacts from her collection, including a carpet bag, little boys clothing and photos.

Anne Field displayed a family locket. She had been working to identify the photos inside.



Lois Jimenez shared a walrus tusk gavel used by one of her ancestors.

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For our **December** meeting, we held an election of officers and enjoyed a delicious pot luck lunch.



Upcoming Programs for 2015	
February 21	Beginner's Program, Part 2 - Anne Field will give a presentation on how to organize our genealogy information
March 21	"Germans from Russia Pre-WWII" by Pam Atherstone
April 18	"Finding Lost Cousins & Living Relatives" by Barbara Washburn
May 16	TBA
	Join us and invite others to join with us!

How I Began My Genealogy Quest **Vaune A. Newvine**

My interest in genealogy was sparked during a trip to Italy where my mother's entire paternal side still lives. But, my actual research findings started with my father's side.

A few years after traveling to Italy, I was looking through pictures at my parent's house. There was an old album from the mid to late 1800's. One of the photographs was of my two great uncles (the Peabody brothers of Livingston County, New York) dressed in their Northern Army Civil War uniforms; one holding a handgun. Their young fresh faces showed me that the photo was probably taken shortly after their official enlistment at the county seat on February 10, 1861. Just a few years later the picture would have shown a very different image.

On July 1, 1863 Albert H. was wounded in his right calf on the first day of the Battle at Gettysburg. He was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corp. on February 15, 1864. On August 19, 1864, Nelson was captured by the Southern Army at Weldon Railroad, VA. He died of starvation on January 19, 1865 at the Salisbury Prison in North Carolina. All other personal details of these two incidents are lost to history. These facts, written down in our family's genealogy files, were verified when I did my own research. When I put "Civil War, NYS" in my search engine, The New York State Military Museum and Veteran Research Center site was the one that yielded an abundance of resources for Military and Naval Affairs starting with the Revolutionary War.



*Manassas, Va. Men of Co. C, 41st New York Infantry.
Photo taken by Timothy H. O'Sullivan Library of Congress
[photo not of author's ancestors]*

Each New York State Infantry Unit of the Civil War has digitalized copies of its official record books that can be found at the site. From our family records, I knew which unit my great uncles had belonged to so I was able to find the information about their service. The website also contains soldiers' stories, medical personnel's findings (found in digitalized images of various newspapers), plus too much more to mention here.

I also found that my father's sister and their first cousin had done extensive genealogy work on the Peabody and Trautlein families, my paternal side of the family, which is contained on a CD and in paper form. But there was little to go on concerning the maternal side of my family--the Italian ancestors—which leads me back to where I started. Research never seems to go in a straight line.

In March of 2006, my mother invited me to accompany her on a trip to Italy. We started with a ten day group tour ending in Venice. Her first cousin, whom she had never met before, picked us up by water taxi there which took us to a parking lot. Then he drove us an hour northwest of Venice to Rosa`. We stayed with him and his wife for a week. He and another Visentin cousin planned a large 'festa' (party in Italian) for us that 60 relatives attended. Needless to say, I do not remember many of their names. We were able though, to spend some time and get to know a few that lived near our hosts.

One cousin made a video tape during our trip there. Whenever I miss them, I am able to hear their voices and relive the things we did together. I put together a journal interspersed with pictures that chronicled our entire trip. I started emailing about three of the cousins when we returned. We also send holiday greetings to each other every year now. The journal, pictures, cards, and video will become my contribution to our family's story. The trip planted the seed which became my search to know more about the past.

But my Italian research didn't start in earnest until about four years after our trip to Italy. Two Visentin cousins were able to gather a little genealogy information for me, but most of the Cibello and Visentin family information has come from ancestry.com, ellisland.org, family photographs and stories, writing to the churches in Italy, sending for copies of official U.S. documents, researching historical facts from the eras and areas my ancestors lived in, and conducting phone interviews with my mother and her twin sisters. Unfortunately, my mother and I did not get to travel to where our Cibello roots are in Northern Italy. I do not know of any cousins to contact there either. But, about five years after our trip, when I wrote to the parish priest in Tarzo, Italy, he furnished me with sacramental information about my mother's Cibello grandfather.

I was able to put together a genealogy binder for my mother and her sisters. It took many hours over about two years to complete. But instead of just putting down the facts, the information from my relatives helped me put much of it into story form. My purpose was to bring my ancestors alive in a way and to make

for less dry reading. From the comments my mother and aunts have made to me, I have succeeded. I also shared the binder with the group here at the Genealogical Society at one of our meetings last year.



Frank (Francesco) and Linda Visentin with five year-old daughter, Angela

The one thing that I still don't know about is the 'why' of my Italian story. Why did they pull up roots and venture across a vast ocean to a new country? My mother supposes it was why so many others did—for a better life. My Nono Visentin was the only one from his immediate family to come to and eventually stay in the United States. My mother's Nono Cibello (her mother's father) came to the United States by himself and then his wife and three children joined him in Colorado about five years later.

To sever the physical ties with one's family, especially in my Nono Visentin's case, (Nono is grandfather in Italian), is difficult to say the least. He never shared the details of his decision making with his children, so *his* why will have to be left to my vivid imagination.

It is certainly desirable to be well-descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors.

- Plutarch

>> 2015 Membership Dues Are Now Payable <<

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 Student Dues: \$10.00
___ 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.

Please print the surnames, locations, time periods, etc. you are researching
so they may be included in an upcoming *The Family Snoop* Newsletter.

Surnames	Location	Times Period
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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

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 February 2015 issue is January 23, 2015.**

MCGS meetings are held at **1:00p.m.** on the 3rd Saturday of the month unless it that is a holiday weekend. 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 Entriiken 535-5088
President-elect	Bernadette Castaneda 725-1929
Vice President	Lois Jimenez 723-9019
Treasurer	Sharon Darby 723-5374
Secretary	Stephanie McLeod
Past President	--
Membership	Margie Barnhart 384-3744
Hospitality	Michle Burroughs 383-4112
Publicity	Open
Programs	Susan Benes, Michle Burroughs, Rosalie Heppner, Stephanie McLeod & Shari Stetson
Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i>	Robyn Echols 358-2461 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 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 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/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: Oct/Nov 2014

Income	270.63
Expenses	(246.86)
Checking Balance	<u>\$4,470.76</u>
Savings Account:	3,865.43
CD-9 months; matures on 10/8/14	5,840.02
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/15	<u>5,660.64</u>
<u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u>	<u>\$19,836.85</u>

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