

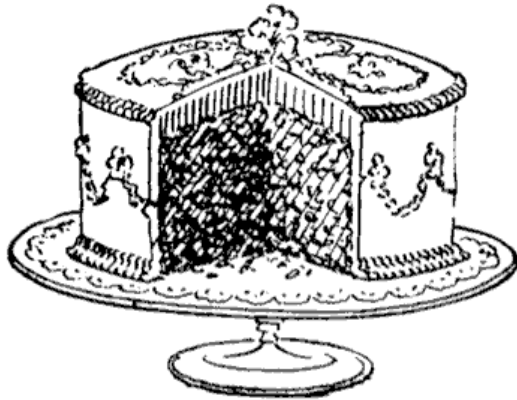
# THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 31, No. 7

July 2013

July Meeting



Annual Birthday Celebration

&

Share & Tell

Come and celebrate at our annual birthday party  
Recognition for 5-year, 10-year, etc., members  
Recognition of our founders and past presidents

Bring an item for share and tell:

- a special research find
- a family heirloom
- an old family photo
- a cemetery visit
- etc.



12:00 Noon     Saturday

20 July 2013

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

## Message from the President:

Dear Friends, Here it is July already. How time flies! Our speaker for June , Kathy Burrow, is always delightful to listen to and her talk on "American Migration Paths and Trails up to 1850" gave us an image of life without highways or decent roads. Remember that was only 163 years ago. Must have taken forever to visit old friends and to keep in touch.

Some interesting days for July are "World Population Day", on July 11th, and "International Day of Friendship", on July 30th, both designated by the United Nations. Both could be honored by mediating on the developing unity and diversity of the world's populations, how they got there, and realizing in our research and the research of other fellow genealogists that we are all a microcosmic reflection of that journey in ourselves. I know that in my own family, the Braswells go back to England, then to 6th century kingdom of Ulster, through a aristocrat from Spain and then who knows, maybe the Moors.

Another way to honor the International Day of Friendship is to share your research with a selected group of friends, like my monthly luncheon date with some of the nurses I used to work with or over coffee with a close friend or with someone of another heritage that you might interest in genealogy. We need to work on getting the younger generation interested in their families because I think this promotes community building. I am always inviting persons I meet to come to the meetings and learn something new.

We will see you at the September 21st meeting as there is no meeting for August due to summer vacation.

In your service, Stephanie McLeod, Pres.

## Our June Meeting

There were 16 members and five guests at our June meeting.

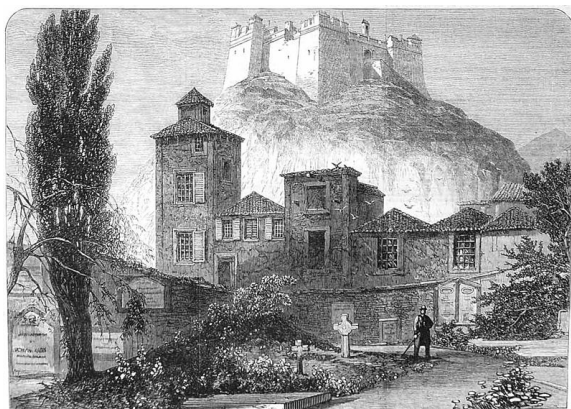
Kathy Burrow gave a presentation on **American Migration Paths and Trails up to 1850**. Along with a handout, she gave a link to a list of migration maps that will be useful when you are trying to figure out how your ancestors got from New York to Illinois – or elsewhere:  
[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/US\\_Migration\\_Trails\\_and\\_Roads](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/US_Migration_Trails_and_Roads)

Our next meeting is our annual Birthday meeting. Bring something to share – story or item.

## DEWEY DECIMAL NUMBERS ALPHABETICAL LIST OF STATES

| Melville Dewey grouped states by region:   |       |
|--|-------|
| North eastern states   | 974   |
| South eastern states   | 975   |
| South central states   | 976   |
| North central states   | 977   |
| Western states   | 978   |
| Pacific states   | 979   |
| Additional decimal places are used to indicate counties within the state sections. |       |
| Alabama  | 976.1 |
| Alaska   | 979.8 |
| Arizona  | 979.1 |
| Arkansas   | 976.7 |
| California   | 979.4 |
| Colorado   | 978.8 |
| Connecticut  | 974.6 |
| Delaware   | 975.1 |
| District of Columbia   | 975.3 |
| Florida  | 975.9 |
| Georgia  | 975.8 |
| Hawaii   | 996.9 |
| Idaho  | 979.6 |
| Illinois   | 977.3 |
| Indiana  | 977.2 |
| Iowa   | 977.7 |
| Kansas   | 978.1 |
| Kentucky   | 976.9 |
| Louisiana  | 976.3 |
| Maine  | 974.1 |
| Maryland   | 975.2 |
| Massachusetts  | 974.4 |
| Michigan   | 977.4 |
| Minnesota  | 977.6 |
| Mississippi  | 976.2 |
| Missouri   | 977.8 |
| Montana  | 978.6 |
| Nebraska   | 978.2 |
| Nevada   | 979.3 |
| New Hampshire  | 974.2 |
| New Jersey   | 974.9 |
| New Mexico   | 978.9 |
| New York   | 974.7 |
| North Carolina   | 975.6 |
| North Dakota   | 978.4 |
| Ohio   | 977.1 |
| Oklahoma   | 976.6 |
| Oregon   | 979.5 |
| Pennsylvania   | 974.8 |
| Rhode Island   | 974.5 |
| South Carolina   | 975.7 |
| South Dakota   | 978.3 |
| Tennessee  | 976.8 |
| Texas  | 976.4 |
| U.S.   | 973   |
| Utah   | 979.2 |
| Vermont  | 974.3 |
| Virginia   | 975.5 |
| Washington   | 979.7 |
| West Virginia  | 975.4 |
| Wisconsin  | 977.5 |
| Wyoming  | 978.7 |

## The English Cemetery in Funchal, Madeira



Somewhere in my bucket list for the past many years has been a visit to Funchal in the island of Madeira. When I have mentioned that to people their first thought is of Madera, down Highway 99, another Valley city. Madeira is an island west of Africa, and is part of Portugal. I have been to several places on genealogy quests, but never out of the country. By the time you read this, I will have visited there.

One of my ancestral English lines, the Millers of Liverpool, were a family of ship brokers, shipping agents and ship owners. My third great grandfather was a Brazilian shipping merchant, Joseph Dundas Miller, 1792-1847. He and his wife, Elizabeth Tomlinson, lived in Bahia, Brazil, for several years. Bahia, now know as Salvador, was the first colonial capital of Brazil and one

of the oldest cities in the Americas. Their first five children, including my great great grandfather, were all born in Brazil. They returned to Liverpool in the early 1830s. Joseph may have continued to travel to Brazil and other ports of call on business because in 1847 he died in Funchal. The only account of his death that I have found was one line in the *Liverpool Mercury* newspaper:

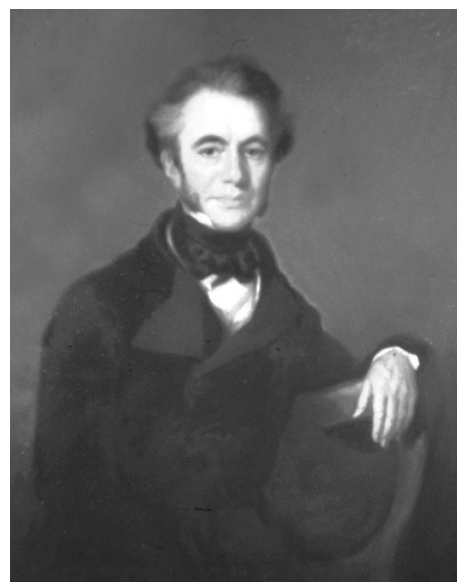
*DIED: Oct 30 at Madeira, Joseph Miller, Esq., of this town.*

According to my aunt, who had been researching the Miller family history, he was buried in Funchal, the largest city and capital of Madeira. I don't know what he was doing there nor how he died. I have never found a death certificate. Ten years ago when I was delving into his death and burial, I found that there was an English cemetery in Funchal and assumed that he was probably buried there. But being a good genealogist, I couldn't just assume, I wanted to know! In digging around, trying to find out all about the cemetery, when it was begun, whether there was a burial register, etc., I found a very interesting bit of history.

To the north and east of Funchal lies Ponta do Garajau, a headland with spectacular views and a sheer drop. Tourists can walk a long path to the top, past the huge statue of Christ the Redeemer gazing over the Atlantic Ocean, and continue on to the farthest point. Long ago it was known to the British who lived there as the *Brazen Head* and, for some of them, it was their last stop on earth. Before the 1770s, local law forbade non-Catholics to be buried on the island. The country was Catholic and the ground was sacred. The British, being mostly non-Catholic, were taken up to the top of this point, after they died, and cast into the sea. If they were rich, they could hire a boat and take the body out to sea for burial. The corpses and coffins were weighted as they went to their final rest.

About 1770 the British were finally granted a spot of land where they could bury their dead. Located at 235 Rua de Carreira, in the historic section of Funchal, it is known as the English Cemetery, or the British Cemetery. According to one researcher, not that long ago the cemetery was in disrepair, overgrown and not a place one might want for their last resting spot. But several years ago the cemetery was cleaned up and now it is like a garden that tourists can wander through, a more peaceful, lovely place.

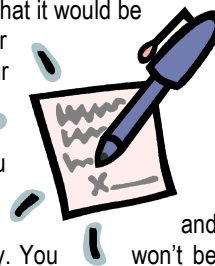
Luckily, Joseph Dundas Miller died in 1847 and was not consigned to the deep. After making inquiries, I found out that he is indeed buried there. I have been told that has no tombstone but that someone can show me where he is buried. I am thinking that maybe this gentleman deserves a tombstone.



Anne Field

## Request for submissions

Are you tired of hearing stories about my family? It's not that I don't have lots of ancestors and lots of stories. It's just that it would be nice to hear about someone in your family. Do you have an ancestor with an interesting story? A great grandmother who came over from Germany? A Thanksgiving dinner tradition that you would like to share? A story about your research trip to Indiana? Scotland? The old homestead? The family cemetery? It is just not that hard to write up something that other members of our group would enjoy reading. Robyn Echols sent in a nice piece on her immigrant ancestors – thank you, Robyn. I know all of you have family stories that you treasure, gravestones that you have unearthed, the story of your immigrant ancestor's journey to America. They don't have to be literary masterpieces and your editor can help with editing. You just need to sit down and put your thoughts and memories stories on paper – or on the computer – and send them to me. Then share the stories or memories with your family. You and I won't be sorry and we will be happy to read about your ancestors too.



Anne Field, Editor

**Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.**

## Backing Up Your Files

*This article ran some time ago but it is something that needs to be run at least once a year. There is nothing more frustrating than to have your computer crash and have no backup of your precious genealogy database and information.*

When was the last time you backed up your files? If you can't remember, then it's probably time. If you use a software program to record your genealogy, if you type genealogy correspondence, if you store pictures, web pages, or any other information that you do not want to lose, then you must Back Up! Back Up! Back Up!

Backing up your files to somewhere other than your computer is a must. If you have never done this, let's start with the basic information. Your genealogy program will have a backup process for you to follow which will allow you to back up the files on floppy disks, external hard drives, flash drives, etc. For most programs you can go to File and look in the menu list for backup. You must tell the program where you want to back up the file. If you are backing up on a floppy disk, just browse to the A drive here and start the backup.

There are other devices you can use to store your files:



A flash drive is handy and small – about the size of a pack of gum. They start at 512 MB and go up to 2, 6, 8 or more GB, plenty big to hold your files unless you are doing lots and lots of pictures. The 512 MB version is less than \$20 and prices go up from there. They plug right into a USB port. Flash drives act just like a portable hard drive, meaning that you can choose "save as" and then select the drive, or drag and drop files directly to the drive's folder.



A multiuse card works well, is small, comes in different storage sizes and can be the same as the one you use with your camera. You would use a card reader that plugs into a USB port on the front or back of your computer.



This little black box is a Western Digital Passport, an external hard drive. They can store 60 GB to 320 GB, depending on the model you choose. This is more expensive than the first two choices but holds a lot more. I store all my pictures and other files on one of these and it fits in my safe deposit box – and I have a small box.



You can store your files on an external hard drive that is not as compact as the Passport. The one at left is the Western Digital "My Book" storage drive. Their capacities range from 320 GB to 1 TB (terabyte – way more than you probably need). Both of the Western Digital external hard drives connect to the computer with a USB connection. If your computer is older and does not have many USB ports, you may have to unplug something else using the port while you do your backup. Check with your computer tech person, if necessary.

When you are in your genealogy program, and it asks where you want to back up your file, you will need to browse to the USB drive where your device is plugged in. Don't know how to do that? Ask for help!

You can also find your genealogy software data files in file folders, depending on where you save them on your computer. When Family Tree Maker backs up files there are three files which end in .FTW, FBC, and FBK. Mine are in a file folder under Family Tree Maker, in the folder My Documents. Some programs may put them in other folders. If you know the name of the file, you can find it by **right-clicking** on Start and clicking on Search. Type in the part of the filename that you know; tell it to look in your C drive (or whatever you use as your main drive); it should be able to find it and show you the path (folders) where it is stored. You can highlight or select these files and drag them to the flash or other external drive in Windows Explorer. You can drag any other files such as correspondence, research logs, notes, etc. that you have on your computer in the same way. If you want to know how big a file is you can always right click on a file or folder and then click on properties and you can see the file size.



Another option is to burn the files to a CD or DVD for storage – they are inexpensive and hold up to 700MB of data and photos. Recordable CD-ROMs can only write a CD once. Rewritable CD-ROMs can write a CD, erase it, and rewrite on it again. If you have a CD or DVD burner on your computer, it probably came with a program for burning files to disk. Use the data burning option.

Once you have backed up your files, you may want to keep a log of your backups – what you backed up and when. Then you should take the backup and put it somewhere outside your home (1<sup>st</sup> choice), perhaps in your safe deposit box, or give a copy to one of your children for safe keeping. If your house burns down, you will still have your files. If you leave it in your house and your computer is stolen or crashes, you will have a backup of your important files. If you have never had your computer crash, count yourself lucky. If you have, you will know how time-consuming and difficult it is to try to restore your files, if you can. Save yourself a big headache and take the time to Back Up!

| Upcoming Programs 2013 |   |
|------------------------|---|
| August                 | No meeting                                    |
| September              | TBA   |
| October                | Legacy Societies: speaker – Karen Theofanides |
| November               | TBA   |
| December               | Annual Christmas Potluck                      |

## Collateral Family Lines

What is a collateral family line and what does it mean for my genealogy research? A collateral family line is a line of descent from an ancestor, say a great grandparent, which is not your direct line. Your great grandparents might have had several children. One of them would be your grandparent. The rest of the children would become your great aunts and uncles. Your grandparent had your parent and that person would be a first cousin to the children of his or her great aunts and uncles. By the time you get to your generation, you probably know your first cousins or something about them. But second cousins? By your generation, unless you live in the same area and have family get-togethers, you might not know your second cousins. Families tend to lose track of one another after a couple generations. If you are researching your family, it might be important to you to track down these relatives – your collateral lines. My grandmother was the last of thirteen children. I knew the names of her brothers and sisters and the names of their children but had no contact with most of them for a long time. When I finally visited one of these cousins, the granddaughter of one of my grandmother's oldest sisters, there in the living room was the family Bible. I did not even know it existed. And inside the Bible was a goldmine of information.

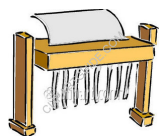


When you go back even further in time it is even more likely that you have no personal contact with your third and fourth cousins. These are the people that you might, if you are lucky, find on Ancestry.com or other websites because they put up a family tree. Even if you don't make contact with a live descendant in a collateral line, you might find a will, a marriage certificate or an obituary that will open a new avenue of research or give you a name you didn't have before. When parents got older they often used to move close to one of their children. One of those children, your collateral line, might be listed in Find A Grave and you might find your direct ancestor in the same cemetery. When we first start researching we tend to ignore lines other than our direct lines. If you find yourself with a brick wall, start looking at those other lines because one of them might hold the clue you are looking for.

## **“Who Do You Think You Are?” is being revived...**

The Learning Channel (TLC) has taken over the former NBC program “Who Do You Think You Are?” and filming is already taking place. There will be eight new one-hour programs, the first one being broadcast on July 23 – this month. Among the celebrities whose ancestry will be traced will be Christina Applegate, Cindy Crawford and Zooey Deschanel. For more details:

<http://news.yahoo.com/tlc-brings-nbcs-think-back-grave-004835246.html>



If you print out your newsletters when you get them by email, or if you get your newsletter by snail mail – remember to shred them when you are done – at least the back page that has our email addresses and/or phone numbers. Thanks!

## **MyHeritage.com**

Recently one of our members ran into me in Target and asked me a question about a genealogy program he was using. The program allows him to publish his family tree to the web and it will match his ancestors with those found in other trees and allow the tree owners to connect. The other tree owner had ancestors and information that probably are a match to his ancestry. The other tree owner wanted to know if he could add our member's tree to his.

The program he is using is MyHeritage.com – which I knew nothing about. He could not really tell me much detail about the program except that he paid for it, downloaded it and he thought it resided on his computer and that he was backing it up to his hard drive. He wanted to know if it was a good idea to let the “relative” add (merge?) his, our member's, tree. Realizing that I knew nothing about this company and it's software, I did a bit of digging online.

MyHeritage.com is one of the larger online tree websites, providing free genealogy software and the ability to share your tree online, privately or publicly. The software is called Family Tree Builder (for Windows) and it is free – to a point. You are limited to 250 people in your tree and you are limited in what the software can do. Buy the Premium version, for \$6.25 per month and you can add up to 2500 people. Buy Premium Plus at \$9.95 per month and you have no limits. If you want to keep your tree online, the payments will continue, just as on Ancestry.com. (I have my own webpage and web address and do have to pay annually for this but I have full control over the page). You must have a paid membership in order to access any of the matches found with Smart Match.

The website also has a search program which allows you to do research, as many other software programs do. It will import and export gedcoms. Users can add photos and other family memorabilia, create calendars with birthdays and anniversaries, coordinate family events and share with other family members. You can put up your tree, with photos, and allow other family members to view family trees and charts. There are free mobile aps (iPhone, iPad, and Android) for accessing the site.

The program allows Smart Matching – what our member was referring to. I told our member that sharing information with his “relative” is always a good idea, but I would be very careful allowing someone to merge my data with theirs or vice versa. Even though you are pretty sure you have common ancestors, you lose control when you add information from others in a merge. How good is their documentation? Is it sourced properly or did they copy and paste from someone's website? One of the reviews of the program's features – *Build a family tree visually – add thousands of people quickly* – raised a red flag for me. Careful researchers do not add thousands of people quickly.

Not having downloaded the program nor even seeing member's pages, charts, trees, etc., I can't really tell you much more. However, it seems to have gotten good reviews. It is not one of the top genealogy software programs, but it does allow you to put your tree online easily and share it with others. For some people, this is a big plus. My web pages are all done in basic HTML and most genealogists don't want to have to learn how to do that plus set up a domain, a webpage and an FTP program to upload their photos and files. My advice would be to try it out if you want your tree online. Try the free version and see what you can do. Then opt for the paid versions and see what you can do. If you decide you like it, great! If it is not to your liking, you don't have to keep paying. If any of you have put your family up on this website, let me know and tell me what you think and I will share your opinions.

Anne Field

**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 September 2013 issue is August 17, 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 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<br>mcgsmail AT annefield DOT net                         |

### Family History Center

[www.familysearch.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 March 2013

|                                       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Income:                               | 327.63                    |
| Expenses:                             | (128.42)                  |
| Checking Total                        | <u>\$3,961.06</u>         |
| Savings Account                       | 3,862.56                  |
| CD-9 months; matures on 07/20/12      | 5,826.90                  |
| CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/12      | <u>5,643.66</u>           |
| <b>Total in Checking and Savings:</b> | <b><u>\$19,294.18</u></b> |

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