

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 32, No. 7

July 2014

July Meeting

Visiting the Azores

Roberta Saling & Anne Field



Did your parents, grandparents or great grandparents come here from the Azores? Lots did, some during the California Gold Rush and several thousand after the Capelinhos Volcano on the island of Faial erupted in 1957.

You may want to learn more about your ancestors, see where they lived and what life is like there now. The air is clean and clear, the pace of life is slower, the people are friendly and there are outdoor cafes all over.



Two of our members visited the Azores last summer. Come and hear about their trips, how they got there, where you might stay and what to expect.

12:00 Noon Saturday

19 July 2014

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

Message from the President:

Dear Friends,

July is our birthday month. Happy Birthday to all of you in the Merced County Genealogical Society!! We are 31 years old! The non-profit group was organized in 1983 by seven ladies meeting together to talk about genealogy. They were all friends and decided to form an organization, dedicated to researching genealogy. Of all the ladies who started the ball rolling, only Rosalie Heppner is still a member. Carolyn Limas, Helen Green, Bea Anderson and Diane Kauth have passed away. Barbara McKee moved to Idaho and Harriet Ledford found other interests soon after.

In 1986, we became incorporated by the then Secretary of State of California, March Fong Eu. By-Laws were adopted on August 15, 1987. The Doris Cochran Genealogical Research Room was opened for business in January of 2007. Before that our collection was in the Stoddard Room. Since its inception, so many different people have been responsible for keeping our society alive. There is a long list of many names of members who have been President, Secretary, Treasurer, *Snoop* editor and other jobs such as serving as hospitality person for our meetings, volunteering in the research room, responding to genealogical inquiries from outside the area, planning and booking the speakers and programs for the year, and various projects ongoing in the research room. It really takes a community effort to keep things running effectively. Like people... we are really the cells in a body. Nothing happens without the help of other cells, not if you want that body to live. So, lets keep on living and involving ourselves in keeping this body alive, don't let it die.

Again, Happy Birthday to us all and many more. I look forward to seeing you at the July meeting to celebrate and to enjoy another very good program.

In your service,
Stephanie McLeod, President, MCGS

A Word From Your Editor

This is my last issue.....as your editor of *The Family Snoop*. I want to thank all those who have given me tidbits and news items and articles to fill the pages and share with others. I learned a lot while doing the newsletter – actually I started doing another newsletter at the same time – and I had plenty to learn.

I finally figured out how to stop and start a “section” so that I could have two columns in one part of the newsletter but then switch to one column mid-stream. I learned to not use too many fonts in one newsletter and so kept it mostly to one font with its variations.

I learned how to find other societies on the internet not far from home to see what programs and seminars might be of interest to our members. And I learned where to find images to use that were not under copyright. This has helped me out on my webpage also.

I learned that many of our members still get the newsletter via snail mail – very sad, because the newsletter in color is so much better. You can view our past issues on the MCGS web page thanks to our webmaster, Alma Stone:
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~camcgs/family_snoop.htm. Getting the newsletter via email saves on clutter in your house, something we all need less of.

I also learned that the Program Committee works hard to bring good programs to our Society. Two of our Program Committee people, Michle and Shari, take the time to go to seminars in other places, find good speakers and possible future programs and then make contact.

I learned that there are many hardworking members who keep the Society running smoothly. Many of these people will need to be replaced by other members come December. You could be one of them. Being a member of the Board helps you know what is going on behind the scenes and you will get to know the movers and shakers that way.

I will still be working on your behalf after July. Charleen Renteria and I had been going through the hundreds of books donated to us from Stanislaus County Genealogical Society several years ago. Our job was to ready the books for cataloging into the library system, make sure we did not already have the books and pass on those we did have to other nearby genealogy libraries. This process slowed to a crawl with Charleen's illness and then her death and I will now have more time to spend on this. I also work with Rosalie Heppner in the DCR on the 5th Wednesday of the month, when there is one.

So thank you all for your kind words of appreciation, thank you, Stephanie, for getting a column to me each month, and I will see you at the July meeting since I am one of the speakers.

Anne Field

Mark your Calendars!

8 July 2014

Let's Compare! – Which Genealogy Software is Right for You?

presented by Melissa Scroggins.
Answers to what to do with all the genealogy material you've gathered & Which program has the best user interface, easiest learning curve, best reports, sourcing, helps and more. Fresno County Genealogical Society. Woodward Park Library, 944 E. Perrin, Fresno. 6:15: refreshments; 6:45, program. Program is free and visitors are welcome!
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cafcgs/>

27 July – 4 August 2014

34th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Salt Lake City, UT
<http://conference.iajgs.org/2014/>

12 August 2014

Comparison of genealogy software programs

such as Family Tree Maker, Legacy and others.
General meeting, Calaveras Genealogical Society, 10:00 a.m., Calaveras County Public Library in San Andreas. For more information:
http://calaverasgenealogy.com/Calendar_of_Upcoming_Events.php

Welcome to new MCGS Members:

Dianna G. Curtis, from Atascadero, CA. Dianna is the Merced County State Coordinator for Genweb.

Upcoming Programs 2014

August	No meeting
September 20	Finding Branches of the Family Tree After the Holocaust - Irit Goldman
October 18	The 1820s Mountain Men - Scott Johnson
November 15	TBA



Our July meeting is our Birthday Celebration!

Who Do You Think You Are? begins a new season in July

The TLC network will start the new season on Wednesday 23 July at 9:00 p.m. If you cannot get TLC, you can watch the episodes after they have aired on the show's website: <http://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/who-do-you-think-you-are>

There will be six new programs featuring actors and actresses Valerie Bertinelli, Kelsey Grammer, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, and others.

Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates Jr. will premiere September 23 on PBS – check your program listings. Some of those featured: Sally Field, Ben Affleck, Tina Fey and others.

The Genealogy Road Show program is seeking stories for upcoming episodes. If you have a family story or legend you want checked out, read more at <http://www.grcasting.com/>.

Searching in Europe

The May/June issue of Family Tree Magazine, which you can find in the DCR, has an article, *Catch The Wave*, about websites that will help you in your European research. Lots of countries are covered and one of them may be what you need. Some of the sites include:

American Historical Society of Germans From Russia – www.ahsgr.org

The French Genealogy Blog – french-genealogy.typepad.com/genealogie

Polish Roots – www.polishroots.org

Greek Genealogy – <http://greekgenealogy.org/>

Danish Emigration Archives – <http://www.emiarch.dk/home.php3?|=en>

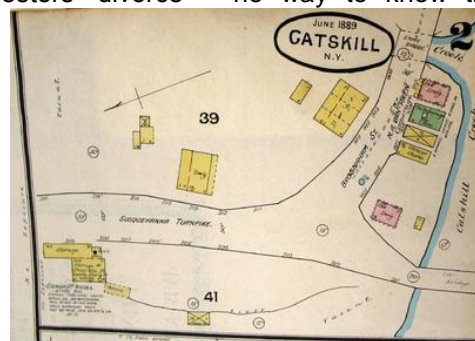
Taking a Genealogy Trip

There is nothing like a genealogy quest to rekindle your enthusiasm, to make you buckle down and get organized and to find the gravestone, the church or the courthouse in the place where your ancestor lived. It takes quite a bit of planning and is not always a relaxing pleasure trip. But the rewards can be great.

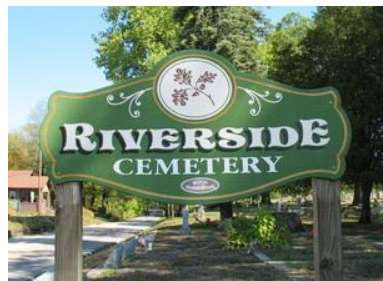


I have taken several trips and I will tell you from the start that I have almost always taken them alone. No one else has wanted to traipse through cemeteries, spend days going through local microfilms, or look through deeds at the courthouse. I have had some company on some of my trips. My older sister helped me walk through several graveyards in Indiana a couple years ago. And my daughter was with me when we spent four hours at the courthouse in Illinois copying as much as we could from a probate record file. This last was like winning the lottery as the probate file was not on microfilm and it told the sad tale of my ancestors' divorce – no way to know that otherwise.

I went on a trip to Texas a couple years ago and spent most of my nights at the homes of cousins I had never met who shared old family photos and documents and stories. I was on my own at the research libraries and cemeteries, but enjoyed my evenings with my cousins. I went to Florida, Texas and Alabama on another trip where I visited with more cousins, found a family Bible I didn't know existed, took lots and lots of cemetery photos and pored through microfilms of old Pensacola newspapers for obituaries, births and marriages. My trip to Brooklyn, Connecticut and Catskill, New York, were all on my own except for a visit with friends in Manhattan. More cemeteries, deeds and newspapers to comb through. Being by myself, I could spend as much time as I wanted.



I came home from each trip with loads and loads of photos and photocopies and notes, some of which I still need to deal with. Since then, three of the people I visited have died and I am so glad I did not put off my trips. There is nothing like seeing the town where your ancestor lived even though it is quite different now, with stoplights, fast food joints and motels.



Don't feel intimidated and don't wait for someone to go with you. Just do it! You need to plan in advance. Find out where the cemetery is and check to see if it is always open or has a locked gate. One I went to was locked on the weekends. Will the cemetery office be open while you are there? Does the courthouse have the records you want to see? Is there a historical society or a genealogy library? What days and hours will they be open? Does a local library have microfilms of newspapers? Do they have old city directories? Can you look at their catalog online before you go? I spent several days at the University of West Florida in Pensacola and realized that classes and finals had just finished. Their hours were different but I had the microfilm readers to myself. I was lucky. They might have closed down for a summer break.

Take your camera, have extra batteries and cards. Take photos of the name of the cemetery before you take the photos – you will be thankful you did later on. Take a laptop or a tablet and a scanner if you can. Small clippers and a whisk broom can be a big help at a cemetery. A cemetery office usually has cemetery or burial records. I found out at a cemetery in Brooklyn that, even though the tombstone had only my great great grandfather's name and his mother's name on it, his adult son and an infant son were also buried there. It's worth paying for the records if you have to. Most of the things I found, photographed and copied were not on Ancestry, nor or FamilySearch.org. These are the things you can only find by going to your ancestor's city or town. So, get going!

Anne Field

Finding Merced County Cemeteries

Below are some websites with information on cemeteries in Merced County. Not all cemeteries have been transcribed, nor have they all been photographed. Anyone out there interested in filling in some of the gaps?

Alma Stone's Merced County web page, Merced Genealogy

http://www.mercedgenealogy.com/Merced_CO_CEMETERIES.htm

Lists cemeteries in Merced County. Some links have only a photo of the cemetery; some have lists of names and other info; some links are not working

Find A Grave – Merced County

<http://www.findagrave.com>

25 cemeteries listed for Merced County. Some graves are photographed and some just have gravestone information. Cortez is listed but has no burials are recorded.

Roadside Thoughts.com

www.roadsidethoughts.com

This is not a genealogy site - more of a community site - but has a *Genealogy Helper* link

Pick a state, then a community – I chose Merced. You will see various facts and information about Merced.

Look for the link at top for *Genealogy Helper*

<http://roadsidethoughts.com/ca/merced-xx-merced-genealogy.htm>

Scroll down to *Cemeteries Near Merced...*

Some cemeteries will be in nearby counties. There is a google map for each cemetery to show its location; you can zoom in to see more or less.

There are 11 cemeteries listed.

US Genweb - Merced County page

<http://www.cagenweb.com/merced/cem.htm>

Several cemeteries are listed with transcriptions for some and links to *Find A Grave* for others.

US GenWeb Tombstone Transcription Project

<http://www.usgwtombstones.org/california/merced.html>

Some of the cemeteries have links, transcriptions and/or images.

Click on the Winton District Cemetery photo icon – this is Lorraine Richard's wonderful page of transcriptions and photos.

Interment.net

www.interment.net

Choose a state and then a county.

Only five cemeteries listed.

Remember! Family lore is just that.

You need to prove it. Don't be surprised if it doesn't hold up.

A Woman's Maiden Name

Finding a woman's maiden name can sometimes be a challenge. Here is one possible way you might try. When I was searching for my ancestors in Bermuda, I came across a book published in 1993: *Early Bermuda Wills, 1629-1835*, by Hollis Hallet. It wasn't cheap but I bought it and am glad I did as it is out of print now.

This wonderful book indexes every name in every will and estate document with an emphasis on people, not property. At 692 pages, there are a lot of names. I was using this to find the father of my ancestor, Catherine, Trimingham Brent. Various family histories and trees had either left her out or had named her father as a Trimingham who had died before she was born or as the daughter of her brother. I knew she was born in Bermuda and that the family had been in Bermuda since the 1620s. In this book she was indexed under Catherine Brent, dau of John Trimingham who died in 1735. That was a Yes! moment but not my Aha! moment. That came a little later.

Because Bermuda was an island, the families there intermarried quite often and the family lines get quite tangled with the same names coming up over and over again – there are ten John Triminghams born before 1800. The usefulness of the index is that it notes the relationship of the person being indexed to the will or estate: a witness to the will, executor of a will, the widow of the deceased, the son-in-law, daughter, grandson, etc. With each entry the will book information is given. So before I even saw the actual will, I knew who Catherine's father was. It also helped me find who a widow remarried after her first husband died when she was mentioned in the second husband's will. A couple examples from this "worth the price" book:

Trimingham, Mary Jane, dau of late Deborah Murray (niece of Miss Angelina Perot)

Godfrey, William, mariner, Bite Finger Bay, Pembroke Parish, gs of late Richard Stammers (of Bite Finger Bay); ch: William, Edward, Lover, Peter
bro-in-law John Ingham, sis-in-law: Hannah Trout, Ruth Sherlock
exec: Col Francis Jones, Paget Parish
wit: Richard Stammers, Joseph Underwood, Benjamin Wood.

...and my daughter Catherine Brent... - the actual will that I found in Bermuda.

The moral of my tale – my aha! moment - is to look for indexes to will books and probate records that record every name mentioned. This is not always possible because often they are indexed by the name of the person who died, but if you are lucky, as I was, you may find that elusive maiden name.

Index of Veterans Interred in Orange County, California

http://www.occgcs.com/projects/civil_war/cw_index.html

This web page, from the Orange County California Genealogical Society, indexes nearly 900 names. Data includes name, birth date and place, cemetery and military information.

Romania & Bulgaria

The latest issue of **Family Tree Magazine** (July/August 2014) – available in the DCR – has an article on finding your ancestors in Bulgaria and Romania. Lots of great websites, organizations and archives are listed. The article covers administrative divisions, civil registration, church records, censuses and a map, in color, showing the provinces.

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 2014 issue is August 21, 2014.**

MCGS meetings are held at noon, on the 3d Saturday of the month. The library closes at 5:00 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 383-1009
1st Vice President	Lois Jimenez 723-9019
2nd Vice President	Rosalie Heppner 358-5298
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Secretary	Robyn Echols 358-2461
Past President	Shari Stetson 358-7719
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Hospitality	Michle Burroughs 383-4112
Publicity	Open
Programs	Susan Benes, Michle Burroughs, Rosalie Heppner, Stephanie McLeod & Shari Stetson
Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i>	Anne Field 357-8672 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 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 May 2014

Income:	278.82
Expenses:	(130.50)
Checking Total	\$4,812.90
Savings Account	3,864.47
CD-9 months; matures on 10/8/14	5,835.63
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/15	5,654.97
<u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u>	<u>\$20,167.97</u>

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