

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 37, No. 4

JULY/AUGUST 2019

July 2019 Meeting



**Birthday
Meeting
&
Member
Show & Tell**

1:00 p.m. Saturday

July 20, 2019

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

2100 "O" Street, Merced

Presidents Message



Hello Dear Friends, it's the middle of the month and next month, July, is our Birthday celebration. We will be 36 this year. Many of us are getting old and having health problems. Some have passed. Which brings to mind... that we need to assert ourselves to reach out to the younger generation, any friends or acquaintances that you have, and discuss the fun of genealogy and the help they would get if they joined our society. I feel that we need to reach out to schools and other organizations to give simple instruction on how to get started, emphasizing that it's a grand way to learn history starting with your own family. We just need someone to volunteer to do that.

Speaking of volunteers, it's not too soon to think about becoming our next President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Hospitality coordinator, membership person or volunteer to sit in the Genealogy room a Wednesday or Saturday from 1-4. We are a Family and need to stick together, supporting each other in order to exist. That said, I look forward to the rest of the year as the end of my Presidency nears and hope to see you at rest of our meetings.

In YOUR service, Stephanie McLeod, President.

Meeting Attendance

May: Members 21 + 3 Guests totaling 24.

June: Members 21 + 3 Guests for a total of 24.

(No, the above is not a typo. We were nothing if not consistent with our attendance those two months.)

Total Members: 68 active (June)

Welcome to our new members: Beverlee Gurel, Bernice Vigil and Cathy Von Sivers

Meetings for 2019

Date	Program
May 18	PERSI: The Periodical Source Index from over 8,000 genealogical & history societies. By Kathy Burrow
June 15	Organizing your Stuff. <u>Boy, we all need this!</u> Anne Field
July 20	Birthday Meeting
August 17	NO MEETING
September 21	Getting The Most From: FamilySearch.org & Family History Centers. By Kathryn Marshall, FamilySearch Wiki Program Team member
October 19	1850's - Researching family in Mariposa County named "The Mother Of Counties": The state's largest county was ceded over time to form all or part of 12 other counties. - Mariposa Museum & History Center - John C. Freemont and the movable Rancho Las Mariposas Land Grant. By Tom Phillips: Historian, & Past President of the Mariposa Museum & History Center
November 16	Ancestry.com: Navigate the Bells and Whistles and see how to get the most out of the new <i>ThruLines, & Tags</i> , plus DNA, Photos, Messaging, and More! Also the Cousin, Uncle, Aunt, & Grandparent Relationship Chart. By Darel Scoggin
December 21	Annual Holiday Potluck

Live Web Links

Just a reminder that web links in our newsletter and attachments can be clicked on to go to the website, if you receive the email version.

A Little Genealogical Humor:

Two women were talking at a high-society party.

"My ancestry goes all the way back to Alexander the Great," one said. "How far back has your line been traced?"

"I'm not sure," the second woman replied. "All our records were lost in the flood."

May Speaker: Kathy Burrow

PERSI: The Periodical Source Index from over 8,000 genealogical & history societies.

By Kathy Burrow



In May, we enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Kathy Burrow on the topic of PERSI: the Periodical Source Index and how it can help us with our genealogical research.

This index is assembled and maintained by the Allen County Public Library in Indiana. It refers to thousands of magazines, newsletters, journals and other periodicals in their collection from the U.S., Canada, Britain, Ireland and Australia. There are over 2.7 million entries, a treasure trove of genealogical information.

June Speaker: Anne Field Organizing Your Stuff



Take time to organize. You don't have to do it all at once.

Reasons why it is important to organize your genealogical documents...

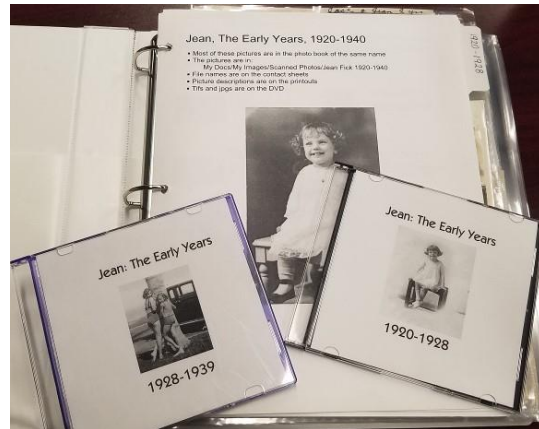
- You can find something you know you have
- You don't duplicate your efforts
- Your genealogical information will make sense to someone else when you are gone.

When people first start, they fill out pedigree charts and family group sheets. Once they start accumulating documentation to verify the truth of the information, then they need to organize.



Set up your organization and then keep things in order. There is no right or wrong system. Use a system that works for you.

- Most people organized by surnames, next by topic such as types of documents.



- Others organize by color coding based on the grandparent lines.
 - Blue-paternal grandfather
 - Green-paternal grandmother
 - Red-maternal grandfather
 - Yellow-maternal grandmother.
- If you organized by color, then you also want to use those colors for your file folders as well as your binders. Instead of purchasing colored folders and binders, use large colored dots on plain manila folders or white binders. You can also use a color strip down the binder spine. Within each binder by family,
- Organize by topic.
- Use a separate binder for the children, or at least separate tabs.

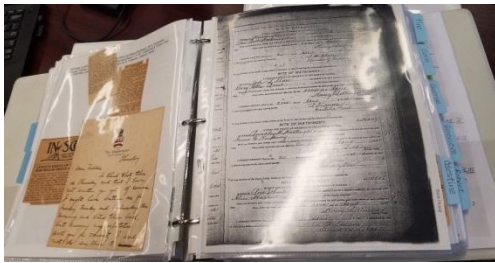


- For tabbed dividers within your binders, use Avery index tabs and attach them to a sheet protector, Or, buy index tabs that extend. Wilson - Jones makes oversized insertable tab dividers.

Organize on your computer.

- You can use Ancestry Family Tree or FamilySearch FamilyTree
- You can use your own genealogy software alone or in addition to the above.
- Organize your digital files the same way you do paper files. When you save your digital files, keep the extension, such as, docx, jpg, etc.
- Keep your genealogy file under my documents.
- Organized by surnames, then dates (Birth year-Death year).
 - First name
 - Group sheets

- Census
- B. M. D.
- Photographs
- Children of above



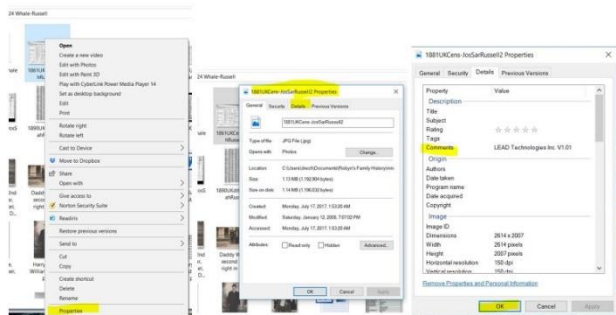
When you download a file to keep for source document, change the name to what makes sense to you. Keep the extensions.

Save Source information for all your documents.

- Important you record when you received your information and where it came from.
- Make a note if there is no source.

Source your digital files:

- **Right click** on your document
- Go to **Properties, Details**, and leave your comments under Comments.



To share your digital pictures, create a document with two columns-one with the thumbnail, and across from it the description.

Backup your digital files often. Anne uses a Western Digital Passport for backup. Also, consider carbonite.com which is an online backup service for \$5 a month.

Organize photographs:

Write on the back of a photograph the names of the people in it and date. Write lightly using a pencil, or you can buy a special pen for photographs at a stationary store.

On older versions of Adobe Photoshop, you can add a canvas to the scan, and then put details on the canvas.

When storing print photographs, store your negatives behind the photograph.

Another tip: Do not frame and mount original photographs on your wall. Make quality photocopies of your pictures for framing. Keep your originals in a dark,



acid-free, dust and moisture-free, and preferably fire protective container.

For your family, put your genealogical information in a usable form such as a print book or a website. Break your information up into small segments. Family members not interested in family history are more likely to read something

short and concise as opposed to a large book. Investigate blurb books for homemade books. You are able to download the template and work on your own computer.

www.Blurb.com



Don't Let Cursive Handwriting Become a Genealogical Curse

By Robyn Echols



I recently taught a small class of high school students how to help others do their family history by searching records on Ancestry.com. I explained how sometimes that source will have records available in small, more obscure collections that you cannot find on FamilySearch.org. For an example, while in Ancestry, I led them to an 1812 marriage record for one of my ancestors. Here is how the conversation went:

Me: Not only can you see the information that is indexed, but by going to the original record like this one, you sometimes can find additional information that was not indexed.

Student A: I cannot read that.

Me: You can use this slider bar to the right to enlarge the digital image. Of course, a lot also depends on how neat the handwriting of the person who wrote the information was.

Student A: No, I can't read it because it is in cursive. I've never learned to read or write in cursive.

Student B: Me neither. They tried to teach us cursive when I was in the third grade. After that, they forgot about it and said we didn't need it.

Me (looking at the document): I can see this is going to be quite an issue in coming years. This clerk actually had very neat handwriting. He used abbreviations for names, like this Marg^t for Margaret, but otherwise, this is very easy to read. When I started getting really interested in genealogy, I attended classes on how to read old English and German handwriting. People your ages and younger will need to learn how to read and write in basic cursive just to read the original documents that weren't typewritten.

(end)

Yershaw	Ann	Yershaw	70-281
Yershaw	Ann	Yershaw	80-350
Yershaw	Ann	Yershaw	90-117
Yershaw	Arthur	Yershaw	90-330
Yershaw	Arthur	Yershaw	90-362
Yershaw	Arthur William	Yershaw	90-118
Yershaw	Arthur	Yershaw	90-25
Yershaw	Edmund Lord	Yershaw	80-46
Yershaw	Edwin	Yershaw	90-130
Yershaw	Edwin	Yershaw	90-45
Yershaw	Elisha	Yershaw	80-44
Yershaw	Elisha	Yershaw	80-30
Yershaw	Elisha	Yershaw	80-23
Yershaw	Elisha	Yershaw	80-77
Yershaw	Elisha	Yershaw	80-350
Yershaw	Elisha	Yershaw	80-350

Can your children or grandchildren read this?

Be aware. They stopped teaching school students how to read and write in cursive even longer ago than I realized. If you want your children and grandchildren to be able to research basic original records written in cursive handwriting, you need to either transcribe as many handwritten documents as you can yourselves, or be ready to hunt up some of those lined pulp paper tablets with the cursive letters in upper and lower case on the cover so you can instruct your children and grandchildren about a skill the schools are no longer teaching.

More Alta California Genealogical Sources

(From notes taken at Susan Skilton's April, 2019 presentation on Alta California)

(Part 1 was published in the April-May, 2019 edition of The Family Snoop.)

Most land grants in Alta California were awarded to soldiers who served in Alta California in recognition of their service. Foreigners could also apply for land grants.

Two famous people who were given land grants were John Sutter, who held the land now in Sacramento, including where the American and Sacramento Rivers join. The other is John C. Fremont, who received the Rancho Las Mariposas, which was a 44,387-acre Mexican land grant, located in Mariposa County, California.

Rancho Panoche de San Juan y Los Carrisilitos, a 22,175-acre land grant, included parts of Merced County. It was given in 1844 to Julian Ursua and Pedro Romo.

The following are the relevant websites and book for doing genealogical research in Alta California during this time period:

* Los Californios-www.loscalifornianos.org/

* Online Archive of California, University of California-
<https://oac.cdlib.org/>

* The Huntington Library Early California Population Project- <https://www.huntington.org/ecpp>

* SF Genealogy (some mission records)-

www.sfgenealogy.org/sf/sfdata.htm

* Ancestry.com (some mission records, 1852 California census)

* Google Books

* National Parks Service De Anza Trail-

<https://www.nps.gov/juba/index.htm>

* Web De Anza- www.anza.uoregon.edu/

* The works of Hubert Howe Bancroft, Thomas Workman Temple, and Dorothy Mutnick

Help, Please!

The DCR is in need of a couple small tabletop book racks to hold the new books. The ones we have are just not sturdy and deep enough to hold some of the books - like the size of phone books. This is a picture of what I am



thinking of. If you are into woodworking and are able to make something like this, please let me know.

*** Anne Field mcgs at gmail.com

Come Prepared for Our July Meeting

Are you planning to share your latest genealogical find or project with us in July? Wonderful! However, we also want to highlight it in our next issue of *The Family Snoop*. It will be a big help if you will please print off the Show & Tell Questionnaire on the next page, complete it, and give it to the *Snoop* editor at the meeting. Please write or print clearly. Your editor can read cursive, but not hieroglyphics. *smile*

The Family Snoop Show & Tell Questionnaire

If you share something in one of our meetings, please complete this form and return it to ***The Family Snoop*** editor, Robyn Echols. Please WRITE or PRINT **CLEARLY**. Robyn is no good at deciphering hieroglyphics.

Your first and last name, as you wish it to appear in the Snoop & your telephone number:

Describe the artifact/family history article shared:

What is the relationship to you of the relative who originally owned this artifact (or about whom you are sharing)?

Write a paragraph or at least one sentence about how you came by this item, what it means to you, and anything else of interest.

Please hand the completed form to Robyn Echols or email a copy to robbynechols@gmail.com.

The Family Snoop is published bi-monthly. It is sent in .pdf format and in color to members who choose to receive it by email. Those who choose USPS Mail delivery will receive black and white copies several days later than email recipients. Back copies can be requested from Treasurer Sharon Darby and will be emailed in .pdf format. **Send items, articles, stories, etc., for the Sep/Oct 2019 issue by August 25th to drechols45 at comcast.net.**

Dues are payable in January for 2019

Dues are \$20 per year for an Individual or \$30 for a family living at the same address.

Merced County Library

Doris Cochran Research Room

Wednesday & Saturday: 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

**We need volunteers to help keep it open!!
PLEASE VOLUNTEER!**

Merced County Genealogical Society

PO Box 3061

Merced, CA. 95344-1061

President	Stephanie McLeod	
Vice President	John Barnhart	
Secretary	Barbara Lindenberg	
Treasurer	Sharon Darby	
Membership	Margie Barnhart	
Hospitality	Howard & Judy Smith	
Past President		
Programs	Shari Stetson, Michle Burroughs, Susan Brower, Darel Scoggin	
<i>The Family Snoop</i> Editor	Robyn Echols	

Family History Center

<https://www.familysearch.org/>

1080 E Yosemite Ave Merced. 722-1307

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10:00 am-4:00 pm
7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Free access on their computers to Ancestry.com 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

<http://www.co.merced.ca.us/77/Library>

2100 O Street Merced 209-285-7642

Fax: 209-726-7912

Monday ~ Thursday: 10:00 am-6:00 pm

Friday – Saturday: 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Sunday - CLOSED

Merced County Courthouse Museum

<http://www.mercedmuseum.org/>

21st and N Streets

P. O. Box 3557

Merced, CA 95344

Wednesday ~ Sunday: 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
Free admission

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

<http://www.cagenweb.com/stanislaus/>

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
April 2019/ May 2019**

Income	207.97
Expenses	(229.60)
Checking Balance	<u>\$5,539.39</u>
Savings Account:	125.21
CD-9 months; matures on 6/19/19	CLOSED
CD-12 months; matures on 5/18/19	CLOSED
CD-2-Yr, matures on 5/20/21	<u>16,011.91</u>
Savings Balance	<u>\$16,137.12</u>

Total in Checking and Savings: \$21,676.51

****NEW ADDRESS** MCGS Website: <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~camcgs/>**