

# THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 30, No. 6

June 2012

## June Meeting



As your newsletter goes to press on June 2d, our program for the June meeting has yet to be determined.

Watch your email for information about the upcoming meeting and check our web page, below, for the latest information.

Also, think about helping out by joining the Program Committee. Your new ideas and fresh thinking would be a big plus.

12:00 Noon     Saturday

16 June 2012

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

**MCGS meets every 3d Saturday except in August, at 12:00 noon  
Gracey Room, Merced County Library, 2100 O St., Merced**

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

### **1940 U.S. Census update**

As of June 1st, the indexing being done by volunteers at the free FamilySearch.org for the 1940 U.S. Census is about 52% complete. The following states are complete: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming. There are several other states that are nearly done and others that still need much work to be done. Shari Stetson, one of our members, is one of those volunteers. You could be one too. Check out the web page to see the progress being made or to volunteer your services:  
<https://familysearch.org/1940census/>.

## Message from the President:

Dear Friends,

Our May meeting was a lively presentation by Susan Hammari, titled "What I learned about German research cause I was bored". One of the important things I learned was that it is important to know some German and that German spelling is very diversified. Thank you for the handouts, Susan. So, I was thinking, what if your research covered multiple languages? Say, you have relatives from France, Spain, Norway or some Middle Eastern country. You might have to learn French, Spanish, Norwegian, Arabic, or Hebrew. Pretty soon, you're multi-lingual! Would it not be a practical and useful tool to have one Universal language? Although English is becoming a universal language by necessity, it would be a good thing to have one specific language designated as *the* universal language for the whole world, to be taught from Kindergarten (a German word) on up. Think how much easier it would be to get things done, esp. in researching in other countries. Something to think about and encourage. But until that happens, I guess, I'll have to learn German, because my patriarchal line is from the Palatinate region in southwest Germany.

Hope to see everyone June 16<sup>th</sup>; until then have a nice summer. Remember to volunteer, our library depends on YOU.

Stephanie McLeod, President

## Mark your Calendars!

June 9

Merced County Historical Society 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

A Community celebration in the Courthouse Park

June 12

What's New at the Family History Center

Fresno County Genealogy Society

Speaker: Dennis & Gloria McCauley

6:45 p.m., Fresno County Central Library, 2420 Mariposa,

Fresno, CA. More info:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cafcgs/>

July 26

Sutro/National Archives Research Trip

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

Fresno County Genealogical Society

October 6

Fresno County Genealogical Society Annual Seminar

Speaker: Linda Serna

9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Woodward Park Regional Library, Fresno

More info:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cafcgs/annual.htm>

## Our May Meeting

Members at the May meeting enjoyed what they said was an excellent presentation on German research. The speaker, Susan Hammari, from Stanislaus County, shared her pitfalls and experience, giving general information, various resources, what to look for in German records, courses available at the Family History Library online and more. We were able to hook up to the internet finally and the speaker went to the FHL website to show where to find things. A portion of her handout is included in the newsletter.



## Get Inspired!

If you missed any of the programs from **Who Do You Think You Are? (NBC)** or **Finding Your Roots (PBS)**, all is not lost - you can still view them. You can find both series on Netflix – look under the titles above; the programs are combined on two or three DVDs. The NBC series is available at Comcast On Demand. Or, watch them online: <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/video/> - make sure to watch the full episode, not just the preview. You can make them full screen. Many celebrities have been done, including Paula Deen, Jason Sudeikis, Reba McEntire, and Rashida Jones. For Finding Your Roots:

<http://video.valleypbs.org/searchForm/?q=finding+your+roots>.

Celebrities researched include Sanjay Gupta, Martha Stewart, Adrian Grenier, John Legend, Barbara Walters, Cory Booker, Condoleezza Rice, Branford Marsalis, and Cory Booker.

## Highlights from Susan Hammari's handout on German Research

Helpful resources at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) – click on “Learn” at the top

**Research Courses:** 15 minute to one hour online instruction with visuals

- Building a German Genealogy Library
- German Research
- German Script Tutorial
- German Town of Origin
- Germany Beginning Research Series Lesson 1: Getting Started
- Germany Beginning Research Series Lesson 2: Learn about Historical Background
- Germany Beginning Research Series Lesson 3: Using Maps, Gazetteers and Websites

**Research Wiki** – over 3000 research articles written by others about various topics – use the search bar to narrow the search – type in Germany.

- German Word List
- German Emigration & Immigration
- Internet Resources for Locating Your 19<sup>th</sup> Century German Emigrant
- ... and many more

### German Sources:

- **Emigration Papers:** Emigration records were kept on a county seat, (Kreis/Oberamt), level. All legal emigration required governmental permission with specific documentation along with an obligatory payment of a 10-20% moving away tax. Undocumented emigration during the 19<sup>th</sup> century is estimated to be around fifty percent. Passports were not usually required until around 1900.
- **Port Records:** Of all of the ports used by German emigrants, only the Hamburg Passenger List 1850-1934, (with some gaps during WWI), has survived. Only fragments exist of records of other ports.

### What can be found in German records:

#### Marriage records:

- usually the bride's place of living
- remarriages after death of wife- usually about 6 months if there were small children
- if wife previously married her previous husband is listed not her father
- If a father's name is not mentioned in a marriage record for the groom, the chances are very good he was married before.
- little r. and l behind the name- in the record it refers to their religion Reformed and Lutheran

#### Birth Records:

- child's name, sex, date, time, place, father's name, age, occupation and residence- mother's maiden name, age, marital status
- sometimes: religion, residence and age of god parents
- stillborn: was either born dead- or died the day of birth
- todegeboren- born dead sometimes listed- but it also can mean died soon
- stillborn infants not always listed in the death records, some pastors list only in the death records and not the birth
- posthumus: 1. child was baptized following his death..2. Child was baptized following the death of his father
- When baptized, children were usually given two or more given names. In most of Germany, the child was normally called by the first name given at baptism. In some areas, however, it was more common for the child to be called by the second name. For example, if the first two males born in a family were named Johann Christoph and Johann Friedrich, they were usually called by their second given names. If an elder child died young, the parents frequently reused the deceased child's exact name on the next born child of the same sex.
- Some children received as many as four or more given names at baptism. Multiple given names were often the names of parents or other relatives. Many of these names were frequently dropped as the child matured. Thus, a person's later records do not always use the name he or she was given at birth

- Gaps in records - may not have had a pastor. Chances are good they visited a nearby church in another town.
- Missing birth record: Check the confirmation records - sometimes they will tell you where the baptismal record is- or they might mention the towns of the sponsors/ god parents

#### Death Records:

- birth, spouse, parents, date, time & place of death, birthplace, residence, occupation marital status, name of parents number of children and by sex, all marriages

#### Confirmation Records:

- usually at the age of 14 could vary- check to see what the pastor is doing not all pastors keep these records

#### From Rick and Karen Albright:

Did Susan Hammari's presentation on German family research at the May 19 meeting of the Merced County Genealogy Society start you thinking about your own Teutonic heritage? If so, you may be surprised to find many helpful resources on the shelves of the Doris Cochran Room – just a few steps from where Ms. Hammari spoke - downstairs at the Merced County Library's main branch in Merced. Here is just a sampling of the books in the DCR that could prove helpful in looking for your German ancestry:

- ***German-English Genealogical Dictionary***, by Ernest Thode, published in 1992. REF 929.103 Thode.
- ***A Guide to German Parish Registers – Baden, Bavaria, Wuerttemberg***, by Johni Cerny, published in 1988. REF 929.343 Cerny.
- ***German Maps & Facts for Genealogy***, by Uncapher and Herrick, published in 2001.
- ***Rhineland Emigrants – Lists of German Settlers in Colonial America***, by Don Yoder, published in 1985.
- ***Kurpfälzische Auswanderer vom Untern Neckar***, (Palatine Emigrants from the Lower Neckar River Region) by Werner Hacker, published in 1983. This work in the German language lists those who departed for North America from what is now largely the Baden-Wuerttemberg federal state of modern Germany.

The last three reference volumes above are recent acquisitions that have not yet been processed but they are on a shelf in the DCR and available for use.



#### Salt Lake City Research Trip

Several of our members went with the Stanislaus County Genealogy Society on their annual trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. They spent a wonderful week in this genealogical treasure trove, spending their days researching and their nights in the hotel next to the FHL.

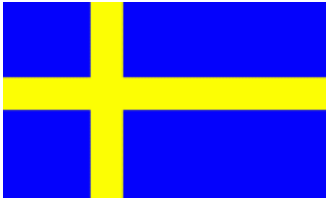
Next year's trip is scheduled for April 14 to April 21, 2013, so mark your calendars now! The price is right and you are in good company. This year's group had 23 participants; the photo at left was taken at the end of their week.

L-R front row: Roberta Saling, Karen Albright, Lois Jimenez and Arleene Haywood. Back row, from left: Susan Benes, Rosalie Heppner and Rick Albright.

#### Family History Writing Contest

Root Cellar is accepting submissions for its 2012 Family History Writing Contest. The deadline for entries is 1 Aug 2012. The purpose of the contest is to foster interest in telling the stories relating the experiences of your family. Root Cellar accepts factual articles about family or local history, character sketches, or memoirs. The contest is open to members and non-members alike. Last year we had submissions from across the nation. Prizes include six month membership to Ancestry.com's World Edition, Family Tree Maker 2012 software, year's membership to Fold3, admissions to Root Cellar's seminar and society memberships (Root Cellar thanks Ancestry.com and Fold3 for their generous donations). For complete information, [download our brochure:](http://www.rootcellar.org/upload/files/RC%202012%20Writing%20Contest%20Announcement.pdf)

<http://www.rootcellar.org/upload/files/RC%202012%20Writing%20Contest%20Announcement.pdf>



## SWEDISH RESEARCH VIA ARKIVDIGITAL

By Rick and Karen Albright

If your ancestry includes immigrants from Sweden, using the Arkivdigital website can place at your fingertips Swedish church records that closely resemble census returns in the United States.

Arkivdigital is a pay-to-use subscription service but the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, UT permits researchers at that facility to access the Arkivdigital Internet site *without* charge.

The types of records that can be searched on a computer via Arkivdigital include births/christenings, banns/marriages, deaths/burials, parish arrivals/removals, household examination rolls/clerical surveys, etc.

You will see digitized images of the original handwritten ledger pages for the records above, but ... they are *not* indexed. The pages are most easily searched when the user knows the province, parish and farm names associated with a particular family. If not already known, those details can often be found in the passenger lists of ships carrying immigrants between Europe and the United States and Canada.

All these records are in Swedish but there are resources for those who cannot read that language. One such pamphlet is "The Beginner's Guide to Swedish Genealogical Research" by Finn A. Thomsen, published in 1984 at Bountiful, UT.

Another valuable aid is the book "Cradled in Sweden" by Carl-Erik Johansson, first published in 1972 and originally sold by Everton Publishers of Logan, UT.

If you just know the village or town your Swedish ancestor called home, Google that name through the Internet and often you will find a Wikipedia entry detailing the parishes and administrative districts associated with that locality.

Most old-style Swedish surnames were based on the first name of the child's father and originally changed with each generation. For example, the male and female children of Olaf Svensson would have the surname Olafsson or Olafsdotter, but over time families began to adopt permanent or "frozen" surnames. Both naming styles are represented in these records.

A typical parish household record names the head of household and his wife (with maiden name!) and all inhabitants of their home. Birthdates are given and so are occupations. These records also include the draft dates for any sons called up for army or naval service.

Parish arrival/removal records are valuable for showing where a family member previously lived and/or where they were going, such as a different parish or North America. The latter information provides a time frame for searching shipping records or arrival lists at the ports of New York City and Canada.

The Swedish church records most helpful in connecting families between their departure from Sweden and arrival in North America will be those for the late 1800s and early 1900s, but many of these digitized ledgers reach all the way back to the late 1600s.

Arkivdigital claims to have 35 million images available and that the software works with Windows, MAC OS and Linux systems. Free use at Salt Lake City is the ideal situation, but users can try a free demonstration

of the service at home and then subscribe/pay for a variety of time periods such as one week, one month, three months, six months, one year or two years.

Subscription prices are in Swedish Crowns (SEK) but the website is available in English and it contains a dollar conversion function (costs vary with fluctuations in exchange rate). Visit [www.arkivdigital.net](http://www.arkivdigital.net) for more details on the services offered.

Also, we are told that staffers at the Merced Family History Center at 1080 E. Yosemite Ave., have successfully downloaded the Arkivdigital web page to their system and that it can be used there without cost. The Merced FHC is open to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is also open Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 o'clock. The telephone number for the Merced FHC is 209-722-1307.

Another online subscription service – the well-known [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) – has also recently added some Swedish records to that firm's impressive roster of digitized images from around the world. Those records for Sweden are not as extensive as the ones available on Arkivdital, but they *are* indexed.

Good luck with your research!

### National Archives at San Francisco Opens Immigration Files and Dedicates Tom Lantos Research Center



22 May 2012: Today the National Archives at San Francisco officially opened to the public over 40,000 case files on immigrants to the United States, and dedicated its research room to the late U.S. Representative Tom Lantos who was a leading force in having these files re-designated as records of permanent historical value."

"A rich source of biographical information A-Files may include visas, photographs, affidavits, and correspondence leading up to an alien's naturalization, permanent residency, or deportation. Some A-Files contain records consolidated from the older immigration Case file series currently open for public research in San Francisco." To read more about the contents of the case files, what file have been released and how to access them visit the [NARA website](http://www.nara.gov).

The A-Files, Federal immigration case files compiled since 1944, represent over 100 countries of origin. Those files that will be available at the National Archives San Francisco (San Bruno) come from the San Francisco, Reno, Honolulu and Guam offices of INS.

The above article on the immigration files comes from the CSGA Blog - <http://www.csga.com/Blog/> - where you can read more about the A-Files (Alien Files) and see more images.



### Merced County Historical Society Golden Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 9, 2012

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Official Program at 12:00 pm

Courthouse Park at 21st and N Streets

Free Pizza, Cake, Ice Cream, Anniversary Gift

**The Family Snoop** is published on the first day of each month. 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 AT annefield 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 July 2012 issue is June 21, 2012.**

**MCGS meetings** are now held at noon, on the 3d Saturday of the month. The library now closes at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday so our meeting time was changed. There is no meeting in August.

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!!**

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

#### **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.

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](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.

#### **Merced County Genealogical Society**

**P.O. Box 3061**

**Merced, CA. 95344**

#### **Monthly Financial Report March 2012**

Income:	500.14
Expenses:	(28.05)
Checking Total	<u>\$3,879.39</u>
Savings Account	3,860.49
CD-9 months; matures on 07/20/12	5,816.15
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/12	<u>5,630.42</u>
<b><u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u></b>	<b><u>\$19,186.45</u></b>