

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 31, No. 6

June 2013

June Meeting

American Migration Paths and Trails up to 1850

Speaker: Kathy Burrow



A look at the migration paths and trails of the United States before 1850. Knowing which trails were popular, the pitfalls of those trails and the land they covered may help find a lost ancestor. This class discusses the various migration paths and trails when they existed and why knowing this information is important to the researcher.

12:00 Noon Saturday

15 June 2013

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

Message from the President:

Dear Friends,

Our speaker for May, Rosemary Cappodicci, gave a very informative talk on Portuguese research. If you go to yawiki.org you can access some further interesting facts of our area. Did you know that, more than 6% of Merced's population is of Portuguese descent? Or that a large portion of this population lives in the NE. quarter of Merced and flows out to the NE portion of the foothills here. Gustine is home to one of the states largest Portuguese fiestas, called "Our Lady of the Miracles Celebration", a fiesta both religious and cultural and held on the 2nd Sunday of September. Some Portuguese name you might recognize are: Brasil, Texeira, Viera, Silva, Rocha, Ornellas, Parreira, Souza, Costa, Furtado, Pombo, Cordes, Castro, Salles, Fagundes, Correia and others. There are more Azorean Portuguese in the San Jouquin vally than there are the Azores.

Father's Day is June 16th. And what better way to celebrate Father's Day is a gift of a framed paternal pedigree chart to show your hard work and love for your father, or your son or grandson, if they are fathers. Or a composite photo display, nicely framed, to show paternal lineage. And considering the last pres. message concerning the relationship of the X chromosome, you might find a way to show X relationship between the father's mother, the father and the son, but not the grandson as his X is related to his fathers mother, the grandfather's wife. Gets mind boggling doesn't it? Anyway, be creative, give a gift of your research.

Remember, July is our Birthday Month. Time to share your family research, plan ahead, bring some of your old photos of yesteryear if you have any. They are always fun and entertaining to look at.

In your service, Stephanie McLeod, Pres.

Mark your Calendars!

June 7 -9, 2013 (Friday through Sunday)

Southern California Genealogical Society. 2013 & 44th Annual Jamboree. Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA. For more information: <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/Jamboree/index.htm>

June 18, 2013

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County. "Out of Auschwitz – Lost and Found." Speaker Dr. Irit Goldman. 6 p.m. ice cream social, 7 p.m., program. Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Telle Center, 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto.

October 19, 2013

Fresno County Genealogical Society. 10th Annual Genealogy Seminar, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Speaker: Denise Spurlock. An event flyer will be available in late June.

October 26, 2013

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County. 2013 Seminar: Genealogical DNA, speaker: Katherine Hope Borges. Details still to come.


Our May Meeting

There were 18 members and 16 guests at our May meeting. Our speaker was Rosemarie Capodicci and her talk was on Portuguese Research. Rosemarie has traced her Portuguese ancestry back several centuries and had lots to tell us about where to search and how to read the records. A handout listed various websites for searching for Portuguese ancestry – in mainland Portugal, in Hawaii, in Madeira, but mostly in the Azores.



After going over some of the websites and what we might find there, she went into the main part of her talk – the records themselves, what information they might contain and how difficult they might be to decipher. All the records are in Portuguese, of course, and all the records in the Portuguese archives are church records – baptisms, marriages and burials. Because paper was hard to come by, as well as expensive, the earlier records contain a lot of abbreviations. Each priest had his own way of writing down the records and the best way to cope with the abbreviations and shortcuts was to start with records about 1911 and work backwards. This will help you familiarize yourself with the names of the towns, the names of the churches and what the wording of the records might look like. A great help in reading the old records is a pdf document that covers handwriting and the alphabet as well as genealogical terms and abbreviations. Among other things, it gives you the Portuguese words for marriage, husband, wife, parish, church, etc. Because you will not be able to find this on the new FamilySearch website, the link is: <https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/9/95/Basic-Portuguese-Paleography-2.pdf>. Another useful link will give you a list of the many abbreviations that are used in the documents: <https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/9/95/Basic-Portuguese-Paleography-2.pdf>.

Rosemarie then covered naturalization records, passports, Confession Rolls and various other records that would be of use such as Alien Registration records and fraternal organizations. Her talk was very informative and there was much discussion and many questions. Lots of people in the Merced area have Portuguese roots and this was a great topic for members and guests.

Upcoming Programs 2013		
July 20		MCGS Birthday celebration & Show & Tell
August	No meeting	
September 20	TBA	
October 18	Legacy Societies: speaker – Karen Theofanides	
November 15	TBA	
December 20	Annual Christmas Potluck	

You can use your SHARES card at FoodMax too!

Genealogy Roadshow Coming to Bay Area

Thanks to Sharon Darby for sending in this interesting piece of news. She found an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* which gives some basic information. More can be found at the PBS website.

Genealogy Roadshow, a joint effort of PBS and KQED, the Bay Area's PBS station, will begin filming in the Bay Area this coming July and appear nationwide this fall on your local PBS network. The show has been done previously in Ireland where it was a great success.

The show will spotlight four families – in San Francisco, Detroit, Nashville and Austin – focusing on those families that have “a historically significant story in their family.” Like *Antiques Roadshow*, local genealogy experts will research these family stories and reveal what they found to the families and to the national audience live on camera.

According to the PBS website, “Part detective story, part emotional journey, *Genealogy Roadshow* will combine history and science to uncover the fascinating stories of diverse Americans. Each individual's past will link to a larger community history, revealing the rich cultural tapestry of America.” The producers want to emphasize that “no matter one's heritage and background, everyone has a place in history.”

Genealogy Roadshow will be broadcast this fall, Mondays, September 23 – October 14, 9:00 – 10:00 p.m. To read more about this new program: <http://www.pbs.org/about/news/archive/2013/genealogy-roadshow-natl/>

Short Immigration History of Ancestors of Robyn Lynn Hobusch Drummond Echols

(This immigration history was prepared to help my granddaughter with a school assignment about family immigration to the U.S. By focusing on immigration, I learned more about several ancestors who came to the U.S., but never reached their desired destination prior to their deaths.)

This article, written by Robyn Echols, is continued from last month.

Schuster/Hobusch & Mueller/Miller Line

Friedrich Schuster, step-son of Carl Hobusch, immigrated to Salt Lake City, Utah in 1878 to join his mother's sister and brother-in-law. Andrew (Andreas) Gebhardt and Wilhelmina Schuster Gebhardt. He traveled as a child with his mother, Johanna Schuster Hobusch, and half-brother, Carl August Hobusch and was known as Frederick “Fritz” Hobusch once he arrived at Castle Garden, New York. The family was from Achen-on-Elbe, Germany (formerly Prussia). Joanna listed herself as a widow on records in Salt Lake City, but family tradition has it that she divorced or separated from her husband, Carl Hobusch, whom we believe never immigrated to the U.S. She also may have immigrated to escape the war and unrest that existed in Germany at the time.

Jakob Mueller/Jacob Miller originally of Wurttenburg, Germany who emigrated to Switzerland where he joined the Mormon church, became a missionary and suffered persecution while preaching in Germany. He immigrated to Cache Valley, Utah in about 1868 as a single adult man in charge of Swiss church members.

Elizabeth Wittwer of Bern, Switzerland immigrated to the Cache Valley, Utah as a single woman in September 1869 and was among the earliest Utah immigrants who arrived by railroad. She came for religious reasons.

Berntson & Hansen Line

Rasmus Berntson, age 29, born in Ljung, Goteborg, Sweden immigrated to Logan, Utah as a married man in 1863 for religious reasons. His wife was Laura Lundberg Berntson.

Christine Hansen born in Holmrud, Elsborg, Sweden immigrated to Logan, Utah in 1863 at the age of 13 with her parents, Olof Hanson and Marta Christine Larson Hanson and three sisters after the family suffered severe persecution in Sweden. Christine's maternal grandmother, Christina Olfsson, born in Holmerud, Sundals-Ryr, Alvsborgslan, Sweden also traveled with the family. She died in Fort Laramie, Wyoming while the family was crossing the plains to Utah. It is known that two of Olof's brothers also immigrated to Utah for religious reasons, but it is not known if they came at the same time as Olof and his family.

England & Seamons Line

William England at age 19 immigrated as a single man with two siblings and his parents, Daniel England and Mary Ann Medler England of North Walsham, Norfolk, England for religious reasons and arrived in the Iowa City, Iowa in 1856. They traveled 300 miles west with the Martin Handcart Company to Florence, Nebraska (Winter Quarters), seven miles north of Omaha. They were scheduled with the ill-fated Martin Handcart Company to continue west, but the family pulled out when William could not be found. The family stayed and worked as shoemakers for four years, and crossed the plains to Hyde Park, Utah in 1860. William married and left the following year, settling first in Hyde Park, Utah, then in Tooele, Utah.

Eliza Seamons immigrated as a young girl with at least three married siblings and their families, and two young siblings as well as her parents, Henry Seamons and Mary King Seamons of Suffolk, England, arriving in New York in 1856. The family immigrated for religious reasons. The family then moved to New Jersey to work and earn money to travel west, the married children going first. Eliza traveled with her parents to Omaha, Nebraska in 1859 where her father Henry died in early 1860. Mother Mary and children continued to Hyde Park, Utah in 1860, giving permission for 16 year-old Eliza to stay and marry William England. She and her husband then traveled to Hyde Park, Utah in 1861.

Doris Cochran Room Tidbits:

Our Society subscribes to several genealogy magazines. If you don't subscribe to any of these, take the time to have a look at some of their very useful articles. The magazines can't be checked out but it doesn't take long to scan an article and see if it might be useful to you.

Internet Genealogy, February/March 2013 issue, has a nice rundown on the latest new features of Evernote, the cloud-based, note-taking application that you might find helpful. Here is a program that allows you to put your notes online and access them anywhere.

In the same issue is an article, *Are Your British Deceased Online?* Finding the burial site of your British ancestor can be a daunting task but there are websites and databases that might make your search a little easier.

Family Tree Magazine, May/June 2013 issue, has several articles that might help you out:

- *Family History Freebies* – 41 genealogy apps, forms, images and software.
- *Conquer the Courthouse* – a nice summary of what you might find at a county courthouse that can solve a research problem: tax records, property records, estate records, vital records and more.
- *Hot Blog!* – the top 40 genealogy blogs of 2013
- *City Guides for Wilmington, Delaware, and New Haven, Connecticut*. The city guides give you a quick look at the city, what records are available and for what years; lists of websites, publications, and archives and

organizations. They have been publishing City Guides for quite awhile, so check back issues for other cities that have been done.

- *The Other Side of Jewish Genealogy* – if you have Jewish ancestry from Spain and Portugal, check out this article.
- *English and Welsh Civil Registrations* – Civil Registrations are the British birth, death and marriage records that have been kept at the national level since 1837 – a gold mine of information if you know where to look.
- *The Toolkit*: a review of RootsMagic 6 – one of the best genealogy software programs. If you have not yet purchased your genealogy software, find out more about this popular software.



Genealogy Inc webpage: <http://www.genealogyinc.com/>

If you have not been to the Genealogy Inc webpage yet, you need to have a look. It is full of useful information having to do with genealogy and it may lead to the answer you are looking for or, at the very least, a path to follow.

The site covers mostly U.S. genealogy but one can find UK Census forms under the menu link *Forms*. In addition to census forms you will find pedigree and other charts and forms, records, logs, etc. If you cannot read the tiny print on the census page which explains the various columns, you can enlarge these forms (pdf format) from Ancestry.com.

There is a list of national genealogy societies, libraries, & archives as well as information about cemetery research with a list of useful links. Ditto for military records and other topics.

Click on the top menu bar for *Maps*, <http://www.genealogyinc.com/maps/>, and choose a state under State Maps. You will find that you can look at the county formation map for the state by clicking on a year. Each time you add a few years, say in ten year increments, you will see how counties were added and divided. This has been done using the AniMap program, with their permission, and it is a great resource. *The Handy Book for Genealogists* gives you this information but not in a map format and not as visual. Back on the main *Maps* page, check out *Atlas Maps*. I looked at an 1822 map of the U.S.A. which showed all the rivers, mountains and other geographic features as well as the states and some cities. Something to look at if you are looking for migration paths and want an overall map.

You can also go into State Maps from the website's home page by clicking on one of the states on the map. Going into the state this way will bring you all kinds of information on the state you are looking at: a map with all the counties, a list of counties, facts and figures for the state, how to search for state, local and vital records and other useful links. At the top of a state's page are links for archives and societies, court records, military records, state publications and more. If you click on the link for census records you will find a list of censuses taken for the state and many links to census records.

Under the *Encyclopedia* link on the main menu bar are all kinds of goodies, such as Terminology & meanings of genealogical abbreviations (do you know what Admon. means?), Early illnesses and diseases (can you define "brain fever"), Early occupations (what is an ale tunner? or a capillaire maker?), Genealogical terms (Legatee? Obiit sine prole? Terrier?), Common nicknames (Gus?, Lige?, Nabby?), Tombstone symbols, phrases, objects, etc. (Tempus erat? Fugit Hora?) and other useful information.

When your brain is exhausted, click on the menu link *Humor* to recover:
Trees without roots fall over.
So many ancestors! So little time!

Newberry Library's Atlas of Historical County Boundaries

<http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>

An online resource you will find very useful - an interactive map of the United States, similar to Animap software, allowing you to set a date (year) and see where the county boundaries were at that time compared with the current county boundaries. Although similar to AniMap, you can't plug in cities, just counties. You can also choose to look at an index of counties showing when the county originated and which county it came from or whether it was an original county and then subsequently divided. You can also view a chronological history of the state's county boundaries – a historical record of the divisions and when they were made and where. If you are still new to genealogy and don't see how this might be handy, you eventually will. I might find a tombstone with my ancestor's name and his dates of birth and death. The cemetery might be in Orange County now but you don't want to just put that down as your ancestor's place of death. Depending on when your ancestor died, the county might have been in a parent county of Orange County, say Hillsborough County. That would be the place of death, not Orange County, if the date of death occurred before the county split into more than one county. Some software programs will warn you when you put in a county with a date before the county was formed.

A Note from your Editor: I received this email from a cemetery in Brooklyn where my ancestor is buried. I thought all of you would find it of great interest:

Dear Descendants of Civil War Veterans,

For the last year, the VA's Headstone and Markers Program, which for more than a century has been marking the graves of American veterans, has, in effect, been shut down. Veterans of the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and other service whose unmarked graves have been located by researchers continue to lie in unmarked graves because of a new, and inappropriately restrictive, regulation. This is wrong. It should not be happening. Please go to our website, "**Mark Their Graves**," <http://www.marktheirgraves.org/petition/> and sign our petition to change this. And contact anyone you know who may be interested in supporting this effort.

Thanks!

Jeff Richman, Green-Wood Cemetery Historian

Two Blogs of Note:

Eastern Washington Genealogical Society Blog

Genealogical news from Spokane, Washington, USA, and the Inland Northwest

<http://ewgs-spokane.blogspot.com/>

Lots of interesting articles with a long list on the right of past article topics. If you have ancestry in this part of Washington State you will find some of the articles useful. I found the following stories, among many others:

Cemetery Story from Port Angeles

Steamboats and Genealogy in North Idaho

Indexing Project for Washington State City Directories

Genealogy Tip of the Day

genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com

Michael John Neill's website features a genealogy tip every day. You can check out the tips by going to his website or subscribe and have them emailed to you every day. Below is his tip for 18 April 2013:

Only Children With No Descendants

Only children with no descendants can leave interest estate settlements, especially if they die with enough property to require probate and neglect to leave a valid will. Their property typically will be distributed to their first cousins, or depending upon the family structure, even more distant relatives. The records of that estate settlement could be a gold mine. Do you have a cousin who died in this situation? It may be worth your time to search for their estate records

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 July 2013 issue is June 20, 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 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, 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
 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 April 2013

Income:	80.16
Expenses:	(127.26)
Checking Total	\$3,761.85
Savings Account	3,862.40
CD-9 months; matures on 07/20/12	5,826.16
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/12	5,642.70
Total in Checking and Savings:	\$19,093.11

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