

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 31, No. 3

March 2013

March Meeting

One Step Webpages

A Hodgepodge of Lesser-Known Gems

Speaker: Stephen Morse



Stephen Morse, nationally known speaker and author of the One Step Webpages site, will speak about a range of genealogical topics which range from problems with genealogical searches to problems with identity theft to problems with DNA.

12:00 Noon Saturday

16 March 2013

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

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

Upcoming Programs 2013

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April 20	Italian Research	Richard Rands
May 18	Portuguese Research	Rosemarie Capodicci
June 15	American Migration Paths and Trails up to 1850	Kathy Burrow
July 20	MCGS Birthday celebration	

Message from the President:

I came across an article in the paper that was intriguing and a good reason to research your family tree. It said, "When a team of psychologists measured children's *resilience*, they found that the kids who knew the most about their family histories were best able to handle stress. The more children know... the stronger their sense of control over their lives and the higher their self-esteem. These children have a strong sense of "intergenerational self" – they understand that they belong to something bigger than themselves and that families naturally experience both highs and lows.

Well, after reading this, I resolved to share my research with my grandchildren. One daughter has 2 boys of Mexican-Aztec heritage on their father's side and from another daughter, a 3 year old of reliable Cherokee and Chickasaw from her father and Choctaw on her husband's side. Before they get much older, I look forward to their learning that they are descended from some of the first colonists of America and the native peoples of North and South America.

Please consider sharing your research with your children and/or grandchildren, whatever their ages, while it can influence their early growth period. Maybe it will encourage younger people to get into Genealogy while resources are available to them.

As always, in your service,
Stephanie McLeod, Pres.

Our February Meeting

After our meeting, which included installing three of the officers who were not there at the January meeting, we presented Part 2 of our Beginner Program – **Genealogy Software Programs**.

Anne Field started off by showing members and guests two software programs: Legacy and Family Tree Maker. Both are two of some of the top rated



programs used by many genealogists. **Legacy** is only for PC but **Family Tree Maker** has a version available for the Mac. Anne went through the main screens of both programs as well as their various features.

Attendees received a handout listing the websites for the three programs that were shown, current pricing,

websites that reviewed both PC and Mac programs as of 2013 and some useful hints.



After a short break, Robyn Echols gave a powerpoint presentation showing the Rootsweb software program. Most software programs have the same basic features, but the three discussed had several features or

display screens that were unique. Members were encouraged to look at the software reviews, carefully go over features and information on the software web pages and talk to others who use a software program. The benefits of using a software program rather than just an online tree were discussed as was the issue of privacy. All good software programs will allow you to privatize your information before putting it on the internet so that living people have their dates and other private information removed. Also, all programs will have a feature allowing the user to export or import a GEDCOM file. This is a copy of the database that the user has created that is in a special computer format that allows one to import the data into a different software program – this is an absolute must. Genealogy software allows users to own their own data, rather than their data being owned by a website; it allows them to print out family groups sheets, pedigree charts, descendant reports, ancestor timelines, sources, photos and more. The software is much more versatile than just putting your data on a website. The presentations were both followed up with question and answer time.



It's that time of year again. Pay now before you forget.

A form is in this newsletter so you know how much and where to send it.

New Member:

Hilda (Parga) Miranda of Merced
Researching Parga in CA and Mexido, and Salazar and Miranda in CA, AZ and Mexico from the 1700s to the present.

And Way to Go, Rosalie Heppner! Rosalie, one of our founders, rejoined this year as a lifetime member. What a great idea – Rosalie never has to fill out the form and write another check.

Mark your Calendars!

March 16, 2013

Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society Spring Seminar featuring genealogical technology and social media expert **Thomas MacEntee**. 8:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. \$30 non-member, \$35 after March 1. Optional lunch, \$7. For more info: <http://rootcellarramblings.blogspot.com/>

March 19, 2013

The Second Trail of Tears – a Migrant Mother's Story. Speaker: Kay Sprague Ham. 7 p.m. Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County. Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver Road, Modesto.

March 23, 2013

Azorean and Portuguese Genealogy. Speaker: João Ventura. 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Demergasa Bava Hall, Rm. 167, CSU Stanislaus. Lunch, \$25, or on your own. Free event parking. For more info: <http://www.csustan.edu/cps/documents/GenealogyWorkshop2013.pdf>

April 27, 2013

Sonoma County Genealogical Society's **Spring Seminar** featuring **Barbara Resnick**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Santa Rosa, CA. \$30 for non-members, \$35 for admission at the door. For more info: www.scgsonline.org/events.html.

A Word from your Editor:

Stephanie brought up a subject in her President's Message on the topic of sharing the family heritage with young children – like your grandchildren and great grandchildren. Lucky are the sons and daughters who have someone in the family who tells the family stories. There is usually someone who will recount one or more family stories about a great grandmother traveling by train across the county, or a great great grandfather who went to Alaska to strike it rich in the gold fields.

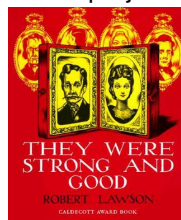
Your next step...

At our first Beginner programs we talked about using census records as one of the basic sources that genealogists use in their research. There is another great resource, one that is quite new compared to the census records and one that can really come up with great results.



Find A Grave, www.findagrave.com, a free website, probably lists more cemeteries and gravestones than any other cemetery/interment website. The cemetery information, gravestone information and photos and other information is put on the webpage by volunteers. Sometimes only the tombstone information is given for a person; usually that information includes a photo of the tombstone. And if you are really lucky, the volunteer has put a photo of

There is a book that might help you get started on such a project: **They Were Strong and Good**, by



Robert Lawson. In it, Lawson tells the story of his parents and his four grandparents. Though they were not famous, they were “strong and good.” This book won the Caldecott Award in 1941 but has come under some criticism lately as not being politically

correct. Keeping that in mind, read the book and then see if you can write up something about your parents and grandparents. Children can relate more when information about their ancestors is in a story format rather than just names, dates and places. We all can, actually.

~~~~~ Publications for Sale Prices cut!

- 1850 MARIPOSA County Federal Census, includes Merced County
- 1890 MERCED County List of Registered Voters
- 1855-1915 MERCED County Marriages
- Early MERCED County Naturalization Records 1861-1949
- 1883-1918 MERCED County Coroner's Book.
- 1877-1896 MERCED County Funeral Book. .
- WINTON Cemetery
- PLAINSBURG Cemetery
- SNELLING Cemetery
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Check our webpage for order form and details
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~camcgs/Books_for_sale.htm

Merced County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 3061, Merced, CA 95344
for more info: 209-723-9019 (Lois)
to order: Sto4us@aol.com

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the person, or an obituary. Sometimes children and spouses are listed, linked to a page with their burial information.

There are two ways to search. You can look for a cemetery and then search for a name within that cemetery; or you can search for a person by location. Knowing the county of burial is helpful but you can do a statewide search as well. At the home page choose the option **Search 94 million grave records** to search for a person, or choose **Search for a cemetery** to find the cemetery by name or by location. When searching for a person you can search by just surname and county. If you know their birth and death dates you can narrow the search further. If you don't find your person, leave out the dates. Sometimes your information may be different from what appears on the tombstone.

When searching for a cemetery you are asked to put in the name. If you don't know the name you can just put in the county and state and look through the list of cemeteries for one in the town or location where you think your ancestor might be buried.

You can leave a public message at a "memorial" – the website showing the deceased, his or her tombstone and any other information. Each person has their own memorial even if they share a tombstone. You can also sign up as a member and contact the person who did the memorial. Memorials are created by a person but then might be maintained by someone else. Usually when a direct descendant, say a grandchild, would like to maintain the memorial and the creator is not related, the creator will give the memorial to that person to maintain. Each memorial has its own unique number. If you have not used this website, you are in for a treat.

Another burial website is [www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net). A good New England cemetery website is at Ray's Place: <http://www.rays-place.com/index-c.html>, and if you are lucky enough to have burials in Gibson County, Indiana, there is an excellent website, part of the Indiana GenWeb, with photos and information at <http://www.ingenweb.org/ingibson/gibcem.htm>.

#### **Thanks to Shari Stetson for sending in the following useful online article:**

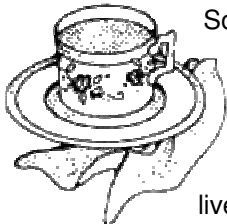
For those of you who want a genealogy software program for MAC, Dick Eastman's column for March 2, 2013: Genealogy Programs for Macintosh will give you a wealth of choices to choose from. He covers, among many others, Family Tree Maker for Macintosh 2, GEDitCOM II, Genealogy Pro, GenScribe, Gramps, Heredis, MacFamily Tree, and Reunion. Following the article, you can read the comments that users and followers of the column have added, giving you even more thoughts on the subject.

#### **From the CSGA January/February 2013 newsletter:**

Both the Assembly and the Senate reconvened on 7 January 2013 and already there is a long list of bills submitted. Reviewing the titles, I did not see anything that appeared to deal with records access or changes in vital records legislation. One change that has occurred is an increase in fees for California birth and death records. Based on Assembly Bill 1053 which was passed back in 2011, the fees have increased by \$2.00. So be sure to check the local recorder's office website for the correct fee when ordering a record from one of California's counties. Googling "county name vital records" should take you to an appropriate website. (Don't be fooled by commercial sites that seem to pop up first.)

from the *Legislative News* column by Peggy Rossi

#### **Something from the past...**



Some of you might remember the gift shop in Turlock called *Mistletoe and Roses* that sold lovely old-fashioned gifts, quilts and other items; they also served tea. That store, and one in Atwater, were owned by Lorne Weber, one of our members, and his wife Elaine. Those quilts and soaps and lovely gifts may be gone, but you can still enjoy Country Tea, High Tea and Afternoon Tea at the Down a Country Lane Tea Room in the Lane Furniture Store in Merced. Tea and scones or sandwiches are a part of the past that seems long gone. In our very busy lives it provides a nice time-out that all of us could use. Tea is served on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday. Reservations are required. Call for more information or to make reservations: 723-5263.

# Merced County Genealogical Society

## Membership Form

Print page, fill in your information and mail to:

Merced County Genealogical Society  
PO Box 3061  
Merced, CA 95344-1061

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Area Code & Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*The Family Snoop* Newsletter delivered by [check one]: Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Annual Individual Dues: \$20.00

\_\_\_ Annual Joint\* Dues: \$30.00

\_\_\_ Lifetime Individual Dues: \$200.00

\_\_\_ Lifetime Joint\* Dues: \$300.00

Note! Joint\* members must reside at the same address.

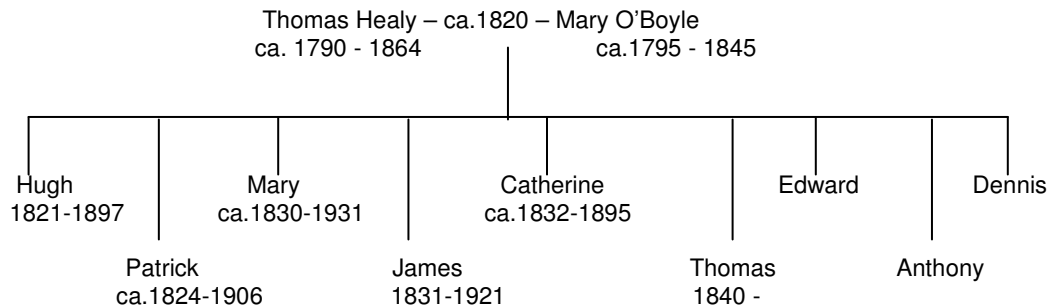
**Make check or money order payable to Merced County Genealogical Society.**



## Writing Up a Family History

The Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County had a nice article in their last newsletter about the Third Annual Family History Writing Challenge and asking members to pledge to begin to write their family histories during the month of February. Not sure if the website will still be up in March, but if you are interested: <http://familyhistorywritingchallenge.blogspot.ca/p/challenge.html>.

Although it would be great to find something like this in your family papers,



it would also be nice to find something like this below, an excerpt from a much longer family history written by a grandson of Thomas and Mary and passed down in the family:

*Grandfather Healy was a highly educated man. He could speak and write four languages, English, Irish, Greek and Latin. He was intended for the priesthood, but things were much the same in Ireland at that particular time as they are at present in Mexico [1936], and there was a price on the heads of all Roman Catholic priests if caught saying Mass. They dug tunnels under the ground where priests would say Mass, and under no consideration could they send the children to Parochial schools. Father and all of his brothers and sisters got their education in this way: Grandfather Healy had two first cousins, Father Martin Hastings and Father James McDonough, who stayed in Grandfather Healy's home continually for seven or eight years, gave Father and all his brothers and sisters their education, the same as though they had gone to parochial school, and better.*

When we take the time to sit down and write out something besides birth, death, marriage, number of children, etc. and write what we know about one of our ancestors in a narrative format, it makes it much easier to picture the ancestor and much easier for other family members to become interested in the lives of their ancestors. We may not know very much, but by adding to our research, little by little, we can liven up the story by including things of interest that we find. In with the probate papers for Celina Pierce Stewart, sister of my ancestor, was a note of payment owed for burial clothes - \$3.50 spent on a white vest. In the probate papers of my ancestor, Jarvis Pierce, I found the divorce papers ending his marriage to my great great great grandmother. According to the statement in the divorce papers, she loaded up her possessions in a horse-drawn wagon and left for Missouri, telling Jarvis not to try and find her or she would have her brothers go after him and kill him.

I have written up several biographical sketches of various ancestors for my web page and find that the more you write, the easier it gets. With a computer, it is much easier to revise when you find out new information. A distant cousin found my web page and told me about Charlotte Jardelat and Joseph Reynes' move to Paris and their deaths and burials there. I had been looking forever for their deaths in New Orleans. So it was easy to add that piece of information once I found it. I have since found their deaths recorded in Paris on FHL microfilm.

*Charlotte (Carlota), the oldest daughter, was born 8 February 1766 at the Arkansas Post on the Arkansas River, a French, and then a Spanish, military outpost. She was baptized at the same time as her brother, Pierre, on 20 July 1766. She married Joseph Reynes 24 January 1786 in New Orleans. Joseph and Charlotte lived in the French Quarter of New Orleans at the corner of Toulouse and Chartres Streets. Their first house burned down in 1790 and in 1795 Joseph built another house on the same spot. The building now houses the Chartres House Cafe. Joseph and Charlotte had one child, Joseph Jr., born in 1793. Joseph Sr. kept a mistress, Marie Louise Constant, a free woman of color, a common practice at the time, not far from the house where he and Charlotte lived. In 1815 Joseph and Charlotte moved to Paris so their son could get a good French education. Charlotte died there on 22 September 1817 and Joseph died several years later on 24 June 1824. They are buried in the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris.*

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 April 2013 issue is March 22, 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.

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>

#### **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<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.

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

**P.O. Box 3061**

**Merced, CA. 95344**

#### **Monthly Financial Report Jan 2013**

|                                              |                           |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Income:                                      | 860.12                    |
| Expenses:                                    | (30.55)                   |
| Checking Total                               | <u>\$3,672.84</u>         |
| Savings Account                              | 3,861.93                  |
| CD-9 months; matures on 07/20/12             | 5,824.03                  |
| CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/12             | <u>5,639.94</u>           |
| <b><u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u></b> | <b><u>\$18,998.74</u></b> |