

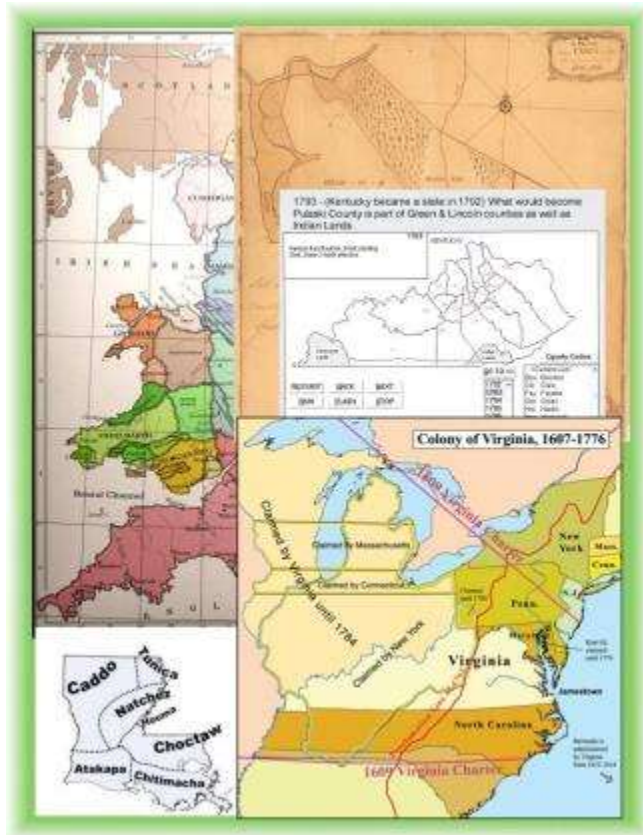
# THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 34, No. 03

MARCH 2016

## March 2016 Meeting



**Kathryn  
Marshall**

**Location,  
Location,  
Location**

**1:00 p.m. Saturday**

**March 19, 2016**

**Gracey Room, Merced County Library**

## February Speaker: *Stephen P. Morse, PhD*



Steve Morse is an amateur genealogist who has been researching his Russian-Jewish origins. Several years ago he developed some web-based searching aids which have attracted

attention worldwide. In Case Study: Genealogy of Renee Kaufman, he shared with us an example of one of his research subjects and the amount of information he was able to obtain after about four hours of research using Google and his one-step web pages which can be found [stevemorse.org](http://stevemorse.org). (Make sure it is dot org, not dot com.) This presentation demonstrated the importance of using collateral relative research to find information about your direct ancestor.

He summarized with four guidelines we should always keep in mind when doing research:

1. Names are never spelled the way you think they should be; try multiple variations.
2. The records you find may not be the right ones.
3. Some records are not findable; not all findable records are on the internet
4. Never trust a woman's age on the records.

Also, on the 1940 census, the circle with an "X" inside next to a name indicates who the informant is.

### Changes in Save Mart SHARES Program

By Sharon Darby

Save Mart is discontinuing the SHARES Card program as of April 1, 2016 and is transferring their fundraising to a company called eScrip.

In order to participate in the new program we will have to re-enroll as a charity with eScrip, which I am in the process of doing today.

Everyone to whom we gave a SHARES card will have to enroll in eScrip and provide their name, zip code, email address and their phone number, at the least. This can only be done online. We can enroll people into the program through our group but they will probably have to go online to finish setting up their account.

Each person is allowed to designate up to three charities to support BUT if they choose more than the Merced County Genealogical Society, their purchase will be split among those charities, thus reducing our income by two-thirds.

The topic of enrolling members in eScrip will probably be on the agenda for our March meeting.

### February Attendance

There were 36 members and 10 guests at our February meeting for a total attendance of 46. The current totals are 57 active members, 27 renewals and two new. Welcome to newest members Wayne & Sydna Wallace.

### MCGS Board Meeting:

The next Merced County Genealogical Society board meeting will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at 1:00p.m in the Doris Cochran Research room, Merced County main library building.

### This Month's Speaker: Kathryn Marshall

Go high tech with this demonstration of software and web sites that identify and map ancestral locations, allowing you to visualize exactly where your progenitors lived. Watch jurisdictional boundaries change over time in the US and Europe. Quickly find the family farm with township and range descriptions. Locate ghost towns, re-named locations, and maps that were contemporaneous with your ancestors. Display and share your ancestors' migration routes. Overlay antique and modern maps, and virtually walk the streets your ancestors walked.

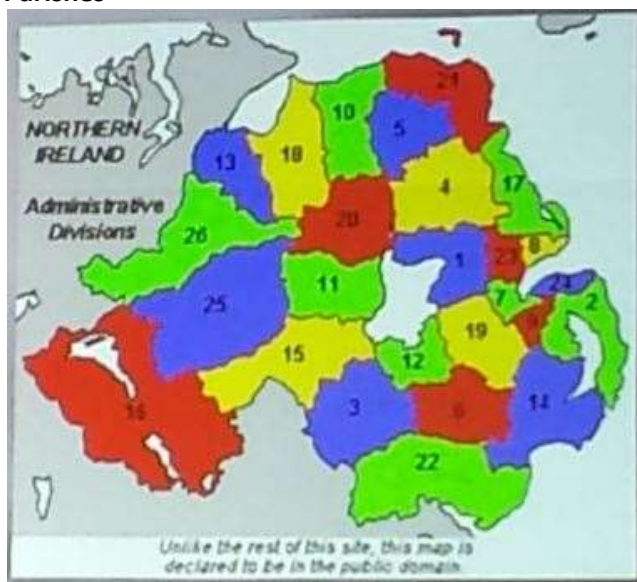
## March is Irish Research Month



Traditionally, March has featured Irish research tips. In keeping with that, we will pass along some of the information shared with us by Lewis M. Ruddick, editor of the

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County's newsletter, *Stanislaus Researcher*. This is just a sample of the information he shared. If you are doing research in Ireland, make a point to attend one of his presentations on Irish research.

### Counties, Districts, Townlands, Unions and Parishes



**Northern Ireland** is divided into 26 administrative units called **districts**: Antrim, Ards, Armagh, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Castlereagh, Coleraine, Cookstown, Craigavon, Derry, Down, Donagannon and South Tyrone, Fermanagh, Larne, Limavady, Lisburn, Magherafelt, Moyle, Newry and Mourne, Newtownabbey, North Down, Omagh, Strabane.

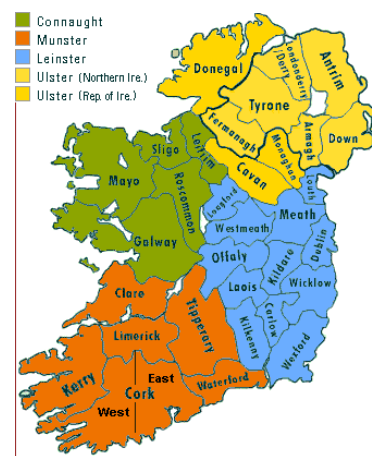
Historically, **Northern Ireland** was divided into **6 counties**: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone, but they were abolished in 1973. They are generally used by the public when referring to areas.

Under the **Poor Law Act of 1838** Ireland was divided into “**unions**” without regard to county boundaries and usually centered about large market towns. By 1850 there were 163 poor law unions. **The Local Government Act of 1898** adopted the poor law

union as the basic administrative division. They were subdivided into 829 registration districts and 3,751 district election divisions. Townlands were now

arranged according to these divisions.

A **townland**, or bally (Irish: Baile Fearainn) is a small local division of land used in Ireland. The townland system is of Gaelic origin. Most have names derived from the Irish language and most are believed

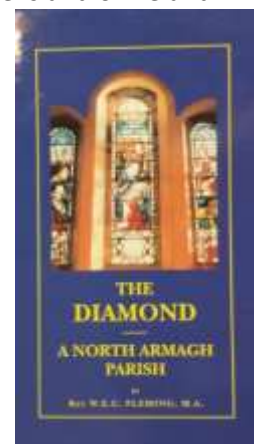


to pre-date the Norman invasion. Some townland names and boundaries are derived from Norman manors and plantation divisions. Later ones were created by the Ordnance Survey. There are currently 61,402 named townlands on the island of Ireland.

Beginning in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the **civil parish**, which grew to 2,508 in number, was used extensively in various surveys. It would frequently break both barony and county boundaries.

The Church of Ireland parishes were mostly established during the 17<sup>th</sup> century prior to 1871 by the Church of Ireland. They largely coincide with the boundaries of the civil parish and retain the civil parish name. Use maps of civil parishes to help identify relevant Church of Ireland registers.

Between 1856 and 1914, 4 million people emigrated from Ireland, the majority of whom went to the United States, and were **Roman Catholic**. Due to the Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Roman Catholic Church had to adopt its parishes to the new structure centered on towns and villages. Because of the church's numerical strength it was able to set up a parish network that included within it every townland in Ireland, although it did not always correspond with either the names or the boundaries of the civil parishes. Sometimes a civil parish can be



subdivided into multiple Roman Catholic parishes and can cross county boundaries.

### Resource Books

Use **A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland** to



identify **Presbyterian** congregations in the Province of Ulster.

**Griffith's Valuation**, this important record source is a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century survey of Ireland. It is organized by poor law union, parish, barony, and county, including maps of each county. The book will help

locate the current location of various records. Wills probated before 1858 are organized by diocese, and after 1858 by probate district. It will help a research locate the specific location of parish records, marriage license bonds and census records.

**Census of Ireland, 1901, Gen'l Topographical Index, Apha. Index Townlands & Towns of Ireland, Cahill & Corp. 1904.** This is the



best index of all the names for the various governmental subdivisions, and any serious Ireland researcher should purchase one if they find it available.

**Official Road Atlas Ireland**

### Repositories in Ireland



National Library of Ireland in Dublin

National Archives of Ireland – You may find Ordnance Survey Maps, both current and historical, of the areas you are researching here.



**PRONI** – Public Record Office of Northern Ireland



– <http://www.prni.gov.uk/index.htm>

Representative Church Body Library – Church of Ireland: One of the best resources if your ancestors were members of the Church of Ireland. To fully use their resources, plan to hire a professional researcher.



### Case Study: Johanna & Hanna Schmanke

by Robyn Echols with Michele Moore

It is fortunate Michele Moore had enough family records to correctly identify her “Hanna” Schmanke ancestor, for on Ancestry the two wives of Albert Ferdinand Schmanke were comingled as if they were the same woman, both known as Johanna or Hanna. One of the first clues that Ancestry had it wrong was the four children born after Johanna “Hanna” died. Although there is a note in the Ancestry Family Tree (new format as of March) there may be two wives, the second one being named Hanna, the details of the two were not precise. Ancestry shows:

**1882** Marriage to Hanna Johanna Schmanke

Children: Emilie Caroline b. 1882; Edward Albert b. 1883; Anna b. 1886; Martha b. 1891; Albertina b. 1896; Bertha b. 1898 and Frieda b. 1902

**1887** Death Johanna

**1900** Federal Census Alma, Wabaunsee, KS shows there being 18 years since the time of the first marriage for both Albert and Hanna, leaving the impression that they have been married to each other for eighteen years.

Part of the problem is individuals have contributed information to their family trees on Ancestry, but have not given their sources obtained privately. The Schmanke tree gives the locality and day-month-year of birth of many family members, but shows federal census records as their sources. The 1900 did ask for the month and year of birth, but no federal censuses asked for the complete date. By 1900, and especially by 1910, U.S. enumerators did not distinguish between the individual German nation-states that existed up until 1871, but listed the country of birth as Germany.



*Evangelical Lutheran Church, Alma, KS Oct. 4, 1916*

Since Albert and Johanna's generation were born in Prussia (Preußen), now Germany or Poland, those records are most likely to be found on church records. In Alma, the family attended the Lutheran Church. I know from my own Prussian research that many records of the Evangelisch (Lutheran) church in Germany are not online. It is necessary to hire a researcher or make a trip to the ancestors' birth locality to obtain them. Also, because of naming practices, including naming a child with three to five names to include the names of godparents, there are a lot of duplication of names.

Michele's earlier research identified Albert's first wife, Johanna W. Czirr. She was the mother of the three oldest children. In spite of the confusion caused by the 1900 Federal Census, Hanna. the second wife, Michele's direct ancestor, was the mother of the last four.

In this instance, one of the most helpful documents to straighten out these two wives and their children came from Find-a-Grave, and only because the person who submitted the information included clarifying details including the names of the children for each spouse:



*Albert Schmanke was buried with his first wife, Johanna*



*Headstone for Hanna Wilhelmina Schmanke*

Upcoming Programs for 2015	
April 16	Sharon Hawley-Crum – “Are You Prepared to Pass On the Keys to your Digital Kingdom?”
May 21	Gathering Four Generation Charts
June 18	Kathy Burrows will speak on the topic of adoptions
	Join us and invite others to join with us!

# >> 2016 Membership Dues Are Now Payable <<

## 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 Student Dues: \$10.00  
\_\_\_ 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.**

Please print the surnames, locations, time periods, etc. you are researching  
so they may be included in an upcoming *The Family Snoop* Newsletter.

Surnames	Location	Times Period
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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

**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 robynechols AT gmail 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 April 2016 issue is March 25th.** 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 Saturdays,  
**BUT WE NEED SUBSTITUTE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP KEEP IT OPEN!! Please Volunteer!**

**Merced County Genealogical Society**  
**P.O. Box 3061**  
**Merced, CA. 95344**

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Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i>	Robyn Echols 358-2461 robynechols AT gmail DOT com

### 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 4:00 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  
 21<sup>st</sup> and N Streets  
 P. O. Box 3557  
 Merced, CA 95344  
 Wednesday through Sunday - 1:00pm to 4:00pm.  
 Free admission.

### Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

www.cagenweb.com/lr/stanilaus/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: January 2016

Income	210.23
Expenses	<u>(287.99)</u>
Checking Balance	\$5,415.48
Savings Account:	3,867.66
CD-9 months; matures on 03/31/16	5,851.93
CD-12 months; matures on 5/18/16	<u>5,675.88</u>
<b>Total in Checking and Savings:</b>	<b><u>\$20,810.95</u></b>

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