

# THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 30, No. 5

May 2012

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## May Program



### What I Have Learned about German Research Because I was Bored

Speaker: Susan Hammari

Susan doesn't claim to be a professional researcher in German genealogy but she knows a lot and is eager to share what she knows. Over the past twenty years, while working at the Family History Center in Modesto, Susan learned how to read enough German to make her way through German records; she has read books and articles about German research and attended classes to improve her skills in that area. Susan will share some of the "oddities" that she has found in researching her German lines as well as how to get "across the pond."

12:00 Noon     Saturday

19 May 2012

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

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

**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.**

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

## Message from the President:

Dear Friends,

Exploring and recording your genealogy is a tremendous service to the world of humanity. Without *you* all those intimate details of the lives of your ancestors and of your own will be lost to the future unless *you* do something about it now.

While pondering the portent of world events which seem to be tearing the social fabric of our nations apart, rather see the beginnings of forces building toward a world commonwealth; genealogy is a stepping stone in that process. The study of genealogy is increasingly engaging the imagination of people. We look backwards to see who we were and how we came about. DNA studies, as shown on the popular TV shows, "Who Do You Think You Are?" and "Finding Your Roots," are enlightening us, that we are all a part of one human body, related to each other going way back to East Africa. Genealogy is helping us to see that are not separate individuals but links to each other, made up of the gene pools of many millions of people all over the globe. Until this last century, no one grasped that fact so thoroughly as we do today.

As world economics and world politics unfold in a dual process of tearing down and building up, the world itself is turning into a huge melting pot of intermingling nations and peoples. A time will come when everyone will be a combination of every component piece of humanity. We are helping to save all those forgotten and lost details of the everyday lives of our ancestors and ourselves by recording our histories. Genealogy is a valuable tool to write that account and the mechanics of merging ourselves into the future.

"Ye are all the leaves of one tree, the flowers of one garden, the waves of one sea" and truly, eventually, we will all be one people, one world, one big family. Peace be upon you.

Stephanie McLeod, President

## Meeting Notes

We had 19 members and 6 guests at our April Program. 70 members have renewed their membership and 40 have not yet renewed. Marg Block, whom many of you remember, and who is living in Illinois now, sent in a life-time membership along with a short newsy letter. A card was passed around for members to sign which will be sent off to Marg. Hello, Marg!

A new laptop has been purchased by the Society which will be used when we have guest speakers, when we put on our own programs. It will allow us to

be connected to the internet at the library so that we can present webinars at our meetings.

With budget cuts being made to our county library, we need to provide more members from our organization to staff the Doris Cochran Room, especially on Wednesdays. If no member is present to open and staff our genealogy library, the library will remain closed. Volunteers do not need to come every week. Pick one Wednesday a month or pair up with someone and take turns staffing our library every other month. Contact Shari Stetson, 358-7719, for more information.

**You DO NOT NEED to be an expert researcher!  
We are looking for people who are willing to keep the room open on Wednesday afternoons.**

## Mark your Calendars!

The California Genealogical Society and Library

A Day With the Photo Detective

Maureen Taylor, speaker

Wednesday, **June 6**, 2012

8:30 – 3:30.

Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA

Early Bird Price \$48 for seminar and lunch

<http://cgsphoto.weebly.com/>

Climbing Your Family Tree with Family Search

Presenter:

Amanda Terry, Senior Data Specialist for Family Search

Saturday, **5 May** 2012, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Fresno West Stake Center

3375 West Sierra, Fresno, CA

Questions, contact: Barbara Washburn (559) 277-2678

No registration required.

Fresno County Genealogical Society

Military Records as Revealed in Census Records

Speaker: David Paul Davenport

Tuesday, **May 8**, 2012, 6:15 p.m.

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

Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree

**Lights, Camera, Ancestors! Spotlight on Family History**

**June 8-10**, Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel in Burbank.

<http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/>



### Our April program

Robyn Echols presented the program at our April meeting. Robyn is not only our secretary but serves as the director of the Family History Center in Merced. So she was well qualified to give a talk on the Family History Library catalog and ordering microfilms online.

The first thing you need to know is where to find the online catalog for the Family History Library: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). This is a catalog of all the materials that are housed in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City – otherwise known to genealogists as Mecca. The library houses books, microfilm and microfiche. The books cannot be loaned out but most microfilm and microfiche can. These cover records from all over the world and one can find baptisms, deaths, burials, marriages, wills, land records and

much more. These records are in the process of being digitized and some of them can already be found on the website, some with images and some that are just indexed. If you find your ancestor in one of the indexes, you can order the film to see the actual image.

Ordering the films to be delivered to your local Family History Center is much cheaper than going to Salt Lake City, especially if you live far away. To order a film online, you will need to sign up for an account. This allows you to keep track of which films you have ordered, their status, and to choose a Family History Center where you want to view the records. To find out how to set up an account and how to go about ordering, go to [www.familysearch.org/films](http://www.familysearch.org/films) and then click on the User Guide.

It costs \$7.50 plus tax to order a film; this comes to \$8.18 if you have it sent to the Family History Center in Merced. The Family History Library hours and address are noted elsewhere in *The Family Snoop*. Volunteers are happy to help you at the center.

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***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 annfield 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 June 2012 issue is May 18, 2012.**

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### Needed!

Members to volunteer to serve on the Program Committee. This is the group that chooses the topics for our programs and contacts the speakers. It is one of the best committees to be on as you are in the thick of things. There are now four members on the committee, and we would like to see someone new, with fresh ideas, join the group.

Remember! This is your Society and it takes all of us to make it run smoothly.

## The 1940 Census

Shari Stetson suggests this useful site for finding the enumeration district for your ancestors in 1940 New York City. The New York Public Library has digitized the 1940 New York City phonebooks. By locating your ancestor in the phone book, you can convert the NYC street address to an enumeration district number. Then you can search for your ancestor by enumeration district. An ED – or enumeration district – was “an area that could be covered by a single enumerator (census-taker) in one census period.” EDs can be different sizes depending on population density. Check out this site if you are looking for someone in New York City in 1940: <http://directme.nypl.org/>.

The 1940 census has been digitized from over 4000 rolls of microfilm. Several sites give you access to the 1940 census, including FamilySearch.org, FindMyPast.com, Ancestry.com, and, of course, the National Archives website: [1940census.archives.gov/](http://1940census.archives.gov/). At this site one can find census maps and descriptions to locate an enumeration district, browse census images, and save, share and download images. To learn more about the 1940 census, click on their *get started* link.

Indexing is taking place at several organizations and web sites but it will be awhile before the indexing is complete.

For more information about the 1940 census check out the FamilySearch webpage below as well as their wiki webpage. Archives.com, Ancestry.com, FindMyPast.com and MyHeritage.com also have access to the census. Access is free for now at websites that usually charge, but will remain free at FamilySearch.org. There is a wonderful article in the May/June 2012 issue of **Family Tree Magazine** all about the 1940 census.

<https://www.familysearch.org/1940census/>

[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United\\_States\\_Census\\_1940](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Census_1940)

## News from CSGA – California State Genealogical Society

*from the March/April 2012 newsletter*

### News about California Genealogy Libraries

In the sad news department, the library of the East Bay Genealogical Society is closing in May. With the retirement of their long-time librarian, Lois Kline, who has served for 30 years (wow!), and lacking a replacement, the society has decided to close its library and offer/donate their collection to other local societies or individuals. The library had been sharing space with the Mayflower Society.

### The Hemet-San Jacinto Genealogical

**Society** reports they now have about 17,500 books and quarterlies in the Duffin Heritage Room at the Hemet Public Library. The library provides the free space in exchange for the society staffing the collection. Visit them at the library at 300 E. Latham Ave., Hemet. The library is open Wednesday through Saturday. Library phone number is (951) 765-2440.

### The Whittier Area Genealogy Society

reports their book collection is getting a makeover. The collection has a new home in the corner of the first floor of the Wardman Library at Whittier College, 13406 Philadelphia St. at Painter in Uptown Whittier. The catalog is available online under the Whittier College library catalog at <http://library.whittier.edu/>. Hours vary so please call first at 562-907-4247.

**The Roseville Genealogical Society** now has their genealogy library located at the Carnegie Museum in Roseville open for members and the public. They currently have close to 800 interesting and helpful books, box files with numerous collections of interesting and informative information, and numerous microfiche. The library is open to our members and the public on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. They have a complete listing of books and box files at: [www.librarything.com/catalog/rgsca.org](http://www.librarything.com/catalog/rgsca.org). The microfiche list is available at the library. The Carnegie Museum is located at 557 Lincoln St. in Roseville.

### The High Desert Genealogical

**Society** library is located in the Apple Valley Branch Library at 14901 Dale Evans Parkway in Apple Valley. The phone number is 760-247-2022. The society library is open every day and staffed twice a week for those who need assistance. The staff hours are Tuesday, 1 pm-3 pm and Thursday, 10 am to noon. Books are for inhouse research only.

## ***FIRE SALE!***

Merced County Genealogical Society Publications from past years are going on sale at a 40% discount! Contact one of the Board members for further information. Prices listed below are the old prices. \$15 books, now \$9; \$20 books now \$12; \$25 books now \$15.

1850 MARIPOSA County Federal Census. (includes Merced Co.) . \$15.00

100 pages, indexed by surname. In 1850, Mariposa County contained all of the central and southern San Joaquin Valley.

1890 MERCED County List of Registered Voters . . . . . \$20.00

Pages indexed by surname, grouped in precincts, is used to help replace the 1890 census that doesn't exist. Information provided consist of Voter's Name, age, birthplace, occupation, naturalization and register date.

1855-1915 MERCED County Marriages. . . . . \$20.00

Contains Marriage books A, B, C, 1 & 2 Indexed by Groom and Bride including ages!

Early MERCED County Naturalization Records 1861-1949 . . . \$20.00

Listed alphabetically, information consist of Country of Origin & allegiance, date of birth, port of entry, date of entry, naturalization date record volume and page petition # and certificate #.

1883-1918 MERCED County Coroner's Book. . . . . \$15.00

Individuals indexed; lists name, date, cause of death, and, any remarks.

1877-1896 MERCED County Funeral Book. . . . . \$15.00

Indexed by surname; lists names, ages, sex, race, origin, cemetery and grave location, death and burial date, physician, and any remarks.

WINTON Cemetery. . . . . \$25.00

Individuals indexed, read by section with entire headstone inscription. (read in 1993)

PLAINSBURG Cemetery . . . . . \$20.00

Alphabetized, read from the Old Record Book, contains Last residence, birth and death dates, sex, cause of death, and information provided by name.

SNELLING Cemetery. . . . . \$25.00

Contains row and plot # with entire headstone inscription.

### **Reminder!**



It's time to pay your dues – see the form at the end of this newsletter  
Individuals are \$20.00; a family living at the same address is \$30.00 per calendar year. A monthly newsletter is sent to each address. You may choose to have it sent as an attachment in the PDF format by e-mail or by regular mail. Please note any corrections to name, address, email address or phone number and mail to MCGS, PO Box 3061, Merced, CA 95344. Membership dues are also accepted at the meeting.

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### **NEW HOURS!**

The Family History Center in Merced has a new schedule – the new hours:

Tuesday and Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thursday: 10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Tuesday night: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 209-722-1307.

**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>

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. Admission is free.

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, Charleen Renteria & Shari Stetson
Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i>	Anne Field mcgsmail AT annfield DOT net

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

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#### Monthly Financial Report March 2012

Income:	361.90
Expenses:	(267.18)
Checking Total	<u>\$3,407.30</u>
Savings Account	3,860.33
CD-9 months; matures on 07/20/12	5,814.96
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/12	<u>5,627.88</u>
<b><u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u></b>	<b><u>\$18,710.47</u></b>

# 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.**

