

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 31, No. 5

May 2013



May Meeting

Portuguese Research

Speaker: Rosemarie Capodicci

Rosemarie Capodocci has spoken to our group before, but it's been awhile and we think it is time for her to refresh our memories. There are lots of people of Portuguese descent in our area and you may be one of them.

Our speaker, from the Monterey Bay area, has been doing Portuguese research for many years, is an active member of a Portuguese genealogy group and will help you get started on finding your Portuguese ancestors.

12:00 Noon Saturday

18 May 2013

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

MCGS Website:

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



Message from the President:

Dear Friends, I've been meaning to share with you excerpts from an article I came across having to do with DNA and how some of your traits come down to you from your ancestors. It's very intriguing, and it would be a fun exercise in imagination to trace back what you think you are, to your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents through the patterns of your X and Y chromosomes.

So, from this article, posted in Psychology Today, Sept/Oct. 2011, and from the book, *The Imprinted Brain* by Christopher Badcock, PH.D, we glean the following:

"Female mammals get X chromosomes from each parent. Males receive an X from their mother and a Y from their father. Sons express their mother's X in all the cells of their body, but do not pass this X to their sons. The X chromosomes in the female are a random mix of the genes from both of her mothers X's and do not correspond as a whole with either of her mother's X's. By contrast, the X a woman inherits from her father is twice as closely related to his daughter as is her mother." So here we have one X(F) and another X (a mash of her mother's X's and her father's X which is really her paternal grand mother's X(PG). "Any X gene in a mother has a 50/50 chance being inherited by her daughter but every X gene in a father is certain to be passed on to a daughter. When it comes to grandparents, women are always most closely related to their paternal grandmother and less related to their paternal grandfather." How does this work out in your family? That's the fun. Trace it back.

Again we realize, we are all in a big soup of chromosomes and DNA, changing ,merging, and regrouping to form US. We are the snowflakes of the world, each a creative effort, of infinite variety, no two of us alike and yet so alike. The more we understand these underlying patterns of our makeup, the more we accept each other no matter what our external appearance looks like. Shalom.

Anyone who would like a copy of this article, let me know at steph.37@netzero.com and I will mail you a copy or send it E-mail.

In your service, Stephanie McLeod, Pres.

Mark your Calendars!

May 14, 2013

Fresno County Genealogical Society, General Meeting, program: *Indentured and Incarcerated*, Speakers: Radley Reep and Melissa Scoggins, 6:15, refreshments, 6:45, meeting and program. Woodward Park Library, 944 E. Perrin Ave. (at Champlain), Fresno.

May 25, 2013

California Genealogical Society & Library. *Hard Drive Organization: Making use of your computer file folders*, with Tim Cox. 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at the Library, 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland. For more info: <http://www.smcgs.org/> - events are listed in the right

hand column. You need to pre-register for this event and space is limited. (510) 663-1358. Email: Events@CaliforniaAncestors.org.

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.scsgenealogy.com/Jamboree/index.htm>

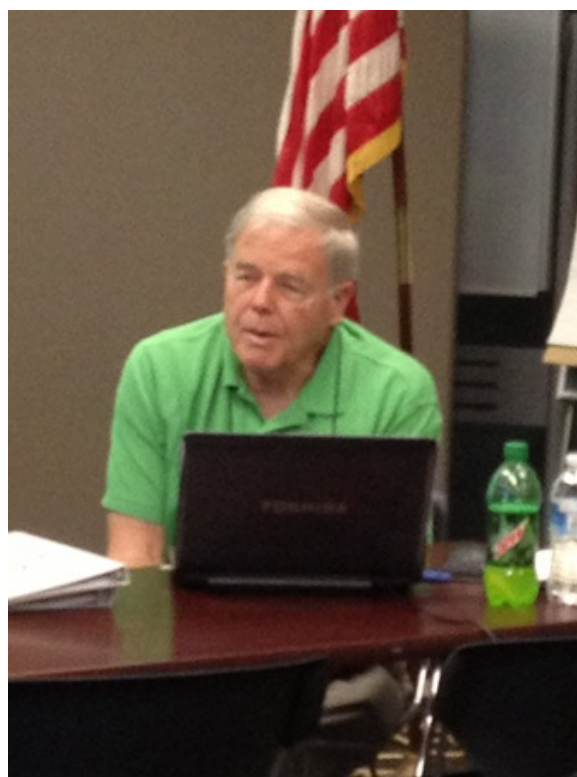
October 19, 2013

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 April Meeting



Introduction to Italian Genealogy was the program for April. Richard Rand, from the Bay Area, presented the program to ten members and eight guests. His talk covered civil vs church records, name discrepancies, location realignments, and getting help from local societies. There were lots of questions and answers. See the article later in this issue by Robyn Echols about Richard's presentation.

Ancestry.com wants us to create trees and not do individual searches?



The Dear Myrtle blog posted some controversial changes in the way that people can search at Ancestry.com. According to Myrt, she thinks the changes mean that Ancestry wants users to have an Ancestry Member Tree.

www.geneamusings.com/, shows the changes that took place during April with discussions that make some people wonder what's going on. Have a look at <http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/2013/04/ancestrycom-wants-us-to-create-trees.html>

A family tree can wither if nobody tends it's roots

The article, with images and references to Randy Seaver's blog article at Genea-Musings,

Upcoming Programs 2013

June 15		American Migration Paths and Trails up to 1850	Kathy Burroughs
July 20		MCGS Birthday celebration & Show & Tell	

Notes of Italian Research Presentation given by Richard Rands

Richard Rands gave a presentation titled "Introduction to Italian Research." He started with a brief history of the nation we now know as Italy. For centuries, before the nation was unified into Italy in 1861, it was a collection of individual duchies, each their own nation. Records from the pre-unification era will be found within the duchy, or region, not in a national archive.

The Council of Trent in 1543 mandated that the Catholic Church keep records of baptisms, marriages and burials. The early records are hard to find and read since they were made in a pre-paper era and recorded on parchment. When Napoleon invaded Italy, he required civil registration of births within 2-3 days of the event, marriages and deaths. This period lasted from 1806 until 1815. After Napoleon was driven out in 1815, the northern countries of Italy discontinued civil registration out of mistrust for government since they believed that the registration process was mostly a means to collect taxes and determine who would be eligible to serve in the military. The south of Italy continued civil registration

It is important to exhaust all research resources in the United States before beginning research in Italian records due to lack of central repositories over there. Care must be taken because it is very easy to follow someone else's ancestry. One characteristic of Italians that differ from the English, Scandinavian and German immigrants is that they did not leave Italy early in the nineteenth century to escape war or because of lack of farmland. They came later and most did not come to the U.S. with the intent to stay. Often the father and maybe the oldest son came, then returned home for a brief visit, or one would go back to bring the rest of the family over. There will be more records of letters back home to family members and multiple ship crossings for visits. Also, even though U.S. land distribution encouraged a pattern of individual land ownership and separatism by requiring people to live on their land, Italians were used to living in villages and going out to work in the surrounding farmland. They continued that social pattern by organizing Italian societies and sponsoring Italian-language newspapers.

Some characteristics of Italian research are rigid naming patterns, relatively few surnames, fewer given names, the use of saint's names, the use of nicknames and the frequency of the name Maria, even among males. Men named Maria often changed their name to Mario when they immigrated to the U.S. The first son was named for the paternal grandfather, the second son for the maternal grandfather and the third son for the father or a favorite uncle or deceased family members. Exception: the grandfather may pass the honor to a deceased son. The first daughter was named for the paternal grandmother, the second daughter was named for the maternal grandmother and the

third for the mother or a favorite aunt or family member. A grandmother may pass the honor to a deceased daughter or ask that the child be given a saint's name. If a child died in infancy, the name may be used for the next child of the same gender to preserve the naming pattern.

Always search by the complete name since Italians rarely had a single first name and were often known by their combined given names on the records. It is also important to know the approximate birth date and the birth place down to the commune (town, province). Names were often anglicized when Italians came to the U.S. In a family with many similar names (lots of Marias), they may have been called by a nickname. Women often used their maiden names for formal activities outside the family circle. When searching on ship passenger lists and immigration records, look for the wife using her maiden name instead of her married name traveling with her husband and/or children who will carry the surname of their father.

Italy was one of the first nations to have photography, far earlier than in the U.S. Look for family photographs. Other places to look for records are among records kept by family members, census records, passenger lists, naturalization records and passport applications. Even though passports were not required in the U.S. prior to the 1940s, those who traveled frequently often applied for one. Other sources are newspapers, local histories, obituaries, cemeteries and ethnic societies.

The following is a list of websites helpful in Italian research:
Pursuing our Italian Names Together (POINT) www.point-pointers.net
Italian Genealogical Group www.italiengen.org
The Italian Genealogical Society of America www.italianroots.org
Ancestry.com
Familysearch.org/search or, to go directly to the site for Italian research:
Familysearch.org/search/collection/list#page=1&countryId=1927178
Wiki.familysearch.org

To help with Italian records research, search for - in quotes - "Italian genealogical word list" and "Latin genealogical word list" in familysearch.org. Learn how dates were often recorded by checking for a list of Latin dates and times.

When starting your research in Italy, keep in mind that government changes prompted emigration. Know the local geography, government and history of the area of study and identify the repositories. In Italy, the government divisions are regione (state), provincial (county), commune (city) or frazione (village). Know your records by checking the Family History Library catalog and the web sites as well as the stato civile (civil registrations) for birth, marriage and death records, the archivio comunale (city archives) and church records for baptisms, marriages and burials. At the time of civic records, it was required that marriage banns were published and posted on the door of the city hall for at least two weeks prior to the marriage. Be aware that the name of the church may not be the same as the name of the parish. Another source of records may be the courthouse records.

For more information about Richard Rands and his other presentations, visit Silicon Valley Computerized Genealogical Group at svcgg.org. On YouTube, search for svcgg for other video presentations developed by Richard and his wife, Janet Brigham.

Submitted by Robyn Echols

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.)

Brown & Fox Line

Edwin Brown as a child, along with eight siblings, came to the United States with his parents, Jonathan Lewis Brown, Jr. and Sarah Cousins Brown as well as his paternal grandmother, Frances Mary Green Brown. Also with them were Jonathan's sister Elizabeth and her husband and their 4 children. The family immigrated from Worcestershire, England to the U.S in about 1851 for religious reasons. Family members

worked about three years to earn money for the trip across the plains, then traveled to Salt Lake Valley, Utah arriving in the Little Cottonwood area (now Murray) Utah in 1855.

Desdemona Fox born in Birmingham, England immigrated as a young child to the United States with two siblings born in England and a baby brother who was born on the ship and died on the trip across the plains as well as her parents, George Sellman Fox and Mary Elizabeth Jones Fox. They came to Salt Lake City, Utah for religious reasons.

Mary Sellman Fox was a widow. Her daughter Charlotte was the first in the family to immigrate to Utah after they joined the LDS Church and answered the call to immigrate to Zion (Utah) to gather with church members there. Next, in 1849, Mary Sellman Fox immigrated to the United States with her other daughter, Mary, with the intention of ending up in Utah. They stayed for awhile in Council Bluffs, Iowa. A death record for Mary Selman, mother of George Sellman Fox, born in Oxfordshire, England shows her buried in Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1850. Our direct ancestor of her children, her son George Sellman Fox and his family, came a year later.

Whale & Russell Line

Henry Whale as an adult single man immigrated to Salt Lake valley, Utah with his parents, John Whale and step-mother Julia Hannah Neal Whale, along with his maternal grandfather, Job Neal and Job's second wife, and three of Henry's siblings. The family immigrated for religious reasons. The family was originally from Birmingham, England and ended up in Little Cottonwood (now Murray), Utah.

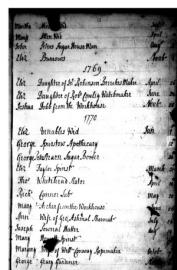
Sarah Russell immigrated in 1880 to Salt Lake City, Utah from Birmingham, England as a single woman in order to marry Henry Whale. She did not come for religious reasons, nor did she change her religion.

This article, written by Robyn Echols, will be continued next month.

FamilySearch – What's New?

Have you looked at FamilySearch.org recently? I went on the other day and found the old page gone and a new one in it's place with a clean look and a nice font. You have several choices: Fan Chart, Photos, Family Tree, Search, Indexing and Help. If you want to search, go right to the top and click on Search, otherwise it is two click to get there. Then you will see the previous search page with blanks to fill out to search or a map and list at the bottom to search by location. At the moment I am choosing to go in by location, clicking a county at the bottom of the page. This is because I found zero results for the surname Spurstow when I entered it above and put it the country as England. I put in no other information and came up with *no records found*. I know there are records because I have found them before! So I choose to click on UK and Ireland at the bottom of the search page instead to see a list of the records that are available online. If I go to England, Cheshire Parish Registers, put in just the surname Spurstow and search, I get many pages of Spurstows. Don't know why none are found using the other search method, but I think they will eventually work this out. When I find records that are useful to me, I copy and paste them into a Word document and work on them later. If I am lucky enough to find an image, I save it to my computer and check it out later also. If you want to know where the information actually came from – often a microfilm that has been indexed and/or digitized – the microfilm number is often given in the indexed information as GS Film. Take that number, go to the FamilySearch **catalog** in the menu bar, click on film numbers, put in your number and it will take you to the microfilm information. Check out the film notes to see what might be on the film. You can order the film to see the actual record or you can go to Salt Lake City and look at the microfilm there.

You can also search the catalog by location – Cheshire, England – and see a list of subjects, just like in the old catalog. There are 48 church records listings for Cheshire and I can click on all of them to see more information. Some of them are digitized and online and you can go directly to them.



So far, so good. The old catalog is still there by the way, at https://familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp.

New to me, and probably to you, is the Family Tree option. I did have a look at this – you must have a login and password (pretty easy to set up an account) and be logged in. The site wanted me to put in tree information for myself but instead I searched for my great grandfather. Someone had put in some basic information. There were no

sources and some of the info was wrong. If you click on a person, you can see who put in some of the information. In most of the cases for the tree I was looking at, it was added by FamilySearch – not sure how. To read more information about working with the Family Trees, you can go to <http://broadcast.lds.org/eLearning/fhd/Community/en/FamilySearch/FamilyTree/pdf/familyTreeUserGuide.pdf> and see Using the FamilySearch Family Tree, a Reference Guide (April 2013). It is very helpful.

Clicking on Photos and Stories on the main page brings you to a page where you can add photos. To see what some people have done, click on one or more of the photos that are shown at the bottom of the page. Look at the one with the girl and the horse. Then click on albums to see the Nephi Lowell Morris family album. This will give you an idea of what you can do.

Indexing is another choice on the main page. This is where you volunteer your time to help index records and help other people out. There are about 133,000 plus volunteers at the moment indexing records that will help someone in their research. You can look at the list of current indexing projects, such as New South Wales, Australia, Cemetery Transcripts. The list is by country – lots of projects for Brazil and Italy as well as the UK and the USA. You can find out more about it by clicking on the indexing link on the main page.

For one person's take on these changes (not exactly a thumbs up), you can read the Dear Myrtle blog: <http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/2013/04/thoughts-on-familysearch-redesign.html>

And where is the wiki link for FamilySearch??? It's not on the main page! But searching diligently, I found it at https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page.

For a more in depth look at the new FamilySearch page: Look at Randy J. Seaver's Genea-Musings: <http://www.geneamusings.com/2013/04/familysearch-unveils-their-new-website.html>



<http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/>

Are you looking for ancestors in Missouri?

The state of Missouri has done a nice job of digitizing many of its records. Every week more information is added. Check out the Missouri Death Certificate page, <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>. You can search the index by first name and last name, county, and by year and month. Once a name is selected, a digitized image of the original certificate can be retrieved. There are more than 2.2 million death certificates in the collection. Post 1910 deaths have a searchable database with images. Information for pre-1910 and other vital records information can be found at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/bdrecords.asp>.

While you are on the main page for Missouri Digital Heritage – death certificates, check out the link at the bottom of the page for the State Historical Society of Missouri's Newspaper Search for births, deaths and marriages: <http://shsofmo.org/store/newspaper-search.html>. While you are on the Society's page you might want to join: <http://shsofmo.org/store/membership.html> or purchase one of their many publications: <http://shsofmo.org/store/publications.html>. Under Collections & Research tab you can find Missouri State Censuses, under Census Records, and see a list of censuses that have been taken and where they can be found. Under the same Collections & Research tab you can find Missouri Place Names, 1928-1945, organized by county.

On the main page for Missouri Digital Heritage there is a tab for "Browse Collections." One of the collections is Genealogy where you will find all kinds of collections: Index to Selected Missouri Newspapers, German-Americans in St. Louis, Local Historical Society Newsletters, Missouri Birth & Death Records Database Pre-1910, Missouri Census Schedules from 1830-1940, Missouri County Plat Books, Missouri Land Records, Missouri Naturalization Records and much more. There is also a tab on the main page for Civil War Resources.

There is a lot of genealogical information online, much of it free, and you never know what you might find.

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 May 2013 issue is May 24, 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 March 2013

Income:	65.17
Expenses:	(157.26)
Checking Total	<u>\$3,808.95</u>
Savings Account	3,862.24
CD-9 months; matures on 07/20/12	5,825.44
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/12	<u>5,641.77</u>
<u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u>	<u>\$19,138.40</u>

