

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

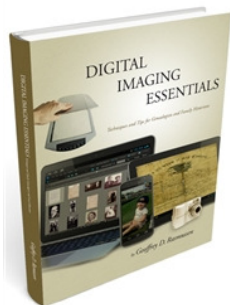
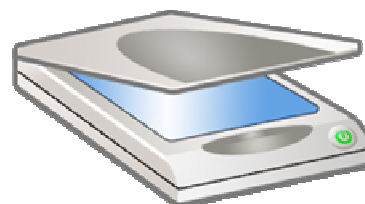
Vol. 31, No. 10

November 2013

November Meeting

Digital Images for Genealogists Scanning, Editing & Preserving Your Photos

Webinar: presented by Geoff Rasmussen



All of us have old family photos, marriage certificates, deeds, naturalization records, baptismal and other records and documents that reside in photo albums, file folders, and, worst of all, and old box. Scanning is the perfect solution for saving these items in a digital format. Not only do you have a backup of your grandparents' wedding photo, but you can share it with others, crop it, enlarge it, reprint it, and use it on a web page, a family tree or insert it into a biographical sketch in your word processing program. If you have never scanned or if you have a scanner and are not sure you are using it properly, you will want to see and hear Geoff's presentation. Geoff Rasmussen is the author of Digital Imaging Essentials, published last year, a comprehensive, easy-to-read guide, full of illustrated step-by-step instructions to learn how to digitize, organize, preserve, share, and backup your digital collections. One lucky person will receive a free copy of the book during the meeting.

12:00 Noon Saturday

16 November 2013

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

From Your Editor...

Those of us who attended the meeting in October enjoyed hearing Karen Theofanides explain what lineage societies are, how to join and why you might want to join. Karen, one of our members, has been very active in the past several years in the DAR and a few other legacy societies and was, as usual, very informative in sharing her knowledge.

Next up is the November program where our Program Committee will be trying out a webinar for the first time. This webinar is on digitizing documents and photos and covers all the various aspects of the topic: scanners, why scan?, how to scan, and the best methods for scanning and preserving our photos and documents. The webinar presenter, Geoff Rasmussen, has written a book on the topic, *Digital Imaging Essentials*, and one copy of the book will be given to one lucky attendee at the November meeting. Having scanned hundreds of photos and documents myself, having used them in my webpages, in my genealogy software and in books on my family, I know that there is always something new to learn. You won't want to miss this session.

Anne Field

Mark your Calendars!

November 2, 2013

Day of the Dead Candle Lighting at 5:30 p.m. in Hornitos, to place candles on the gravestones. See below for more information.

November 9, 2013

California Genealogical Society **Ancestry Day**
Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Francisco, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m..
A joint event with Ancestry.com. Watch this site for upcoming information: <http://californiaancestors.org/>

November 11, 2013

Women of the Mother Lode, presented by Isabelle Drown, Kristine Childress and Charlie Dyer.
Tuolumne County Genealogical Society. 7:00 p.m. at the County Library, 480 Greenley Rd., Sonora. On March 10th, 2014, their program will be on Irish Research; on April 14, 2014, the program will be on German research.

November 12, 2013

Writing Your Ancestor's Life Story, by Robert Givens. Fresno County Genealogical Society. 6:15: refreshments; 6:45: meeting and program. The meeting is free. 944 E Perrin Avenue (at Champlain) Fresno, CA

February 22, 2014

Genealogy Seminar. San Joaquin Genealogical Society. Sponsored by the California State Genealogical Society and the Jacoby Center for Public Service and Civic Leadership, UOP. 8:30 – 3:00, UOP Campus, Biological Sciences Bldg., 3312 N. Kensington Way, Stockton. See below in newsletter for more information.

Our October Meeting

We had one guest and 22 members for our October Meeting. We have 98 active members at the moment. Shari Stetson announced that the sign-up for volunteers to help out in the Doris Cochran Room was going well, with several members now signed up to volunteer. The DCR will have a library staff members at least through December, but volunteers will be able to help out when regularly scheduled volunteers are unable to be there on their assigned day. If you wish to add your name to the list, contact Shari. Also, Sue, who is usually the staff member in the DCR on Wednesdays and Saturdays, can show members how to work the computers and the new microfilm machine. Just drop in. There will probably be a future training session for volunteers, including long-time volunteers who need a refresher.



Karen Theofanides, above, was our October speaker. She explained to members what legacy societies are, how you can become a member, and what the benefits of belonging to a society might be. There is more information below about her talk.

Upcoming Programs 2013	
December	Annual Christmas Potluck
2014	
January	Beginners Program
February	TBA

Dia de los Muertos – Day of the Dead – Candle Lighting

Celebrate All Souls Day, Saturday, November 2d, at the annual Candle Lighting ceremony in Hornitos, in Mariposa County. Meet in the Plaza at 5:30--The candle lit procession starts up the hill around 6:00 and candles are placed on the gravestones. The way is lit by luminarias and is quite spectacular. Bring a flashlight and wear sturdy shoes – this is a cemetery and the ground is uneven. Come early to visit an art gallery exhibit set up in the old Pacific Saloon just the the Day of the Dead. Join the town after the procession for refreshments in the Golden Stag Hall. The event is put on by the Hornitos Patrons Club.

http://www.hornitospc.com/Candle_Lighting.html



Genealogy Seminar - San Joaquin Genealogical Society. The February 2, 2014, seminar is sponsored by the California State Genealogical Society and the Jacoby Center for Public Service and Civic Leadership, UOP. The seminar runs from 8:30 – 3:00, UOP Campus, Biological Sciences Bldg., 3312 N. Kensington Way, Stockton. There will be door prizes and a free gift for each person who attends. Registration is free but is required to receive the handout packet. Register early; seating is limited to 180: <https://sjgsseminar.eventbrite.com>. Bring a lunch or dine at a nearby restaurant, or at the cafeteria on campus. If you have questions or need to register by phone, please call Sheri Fenley at (209) 373-6847 or send email to sherifenley@gmail.com. There are four sessions:

“Family Stories: Genealogy Beyond Just The Dates” by Linda Serna

Tell your family stories! Linda Serna shows how your documents and pictures can be supplemented with other information to round out the full story. Linda uses three examples to illustrate how you can do this: an ordinary family, a family who intersects with history, and an unusual life. As part of the research team for PBS’s “Genealogy Roadshow” and Vice President of Programs for the Orange County Genealogical Society, professional genealogist Linda Serna

“Fun Tools To Help Genealogists Work Smarter” by Tim Cox

Maximize your use of available technology to organize your genealogy research with this informative and entertaining session by Tim Cox. Tim serves as Education and Events Coordinator for the California Genealogical Society and Library and has been a family historian and genealogist for more than twenty five years. An APG member living in San Francisco, Tim speaks frequently on technology and organization.

“Researching Your Mexican Ancestors” by Letty Rodella

Currently, over thirty percent of Californians claim Mexican heritage. While many of those ancestors left traces of their lives in documents located in the United States, eventually this genealogical quest leads to research in Mexico. Letty Rodella has spent thirteen years pursuing her Hispanic ancestry to findings dating from the 1500s. As President of the Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research, she works to educate others in how to research their Hispanic roots.

“Reconstructing Family Information When You Start With Almost Nothing – A Case Study” by Janice Sellers

Who hasn’t faced a dilemma like this? Professional genealogist Janice Sellers draws from her thirteen years on staff at Oakland FamilySearch Library and her focus on assisting genealogists with challenges of ethnic research to present this case study. With twenty years background in the publishing industry, Janice also serves as editor of The Galitzianer, a quarterly newsletter focused on Jewish research; The Baobab Tree, journal of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California, and ZichronNote, journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, as well as her own blog, Ancestral Discoveries.

The DAR

Most genealogists have heard of the DAR, but how much do we know about it? I listened to Karen Theofanides' talk about lineage societies now know a bit more. Many of us think of it as an institution that can help us with our genealogy research – but the organization is much more than that.



The Daughters of the American Revolution is a lineage society, meaning its members' ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War or who helped the cause of American independence. It was founded in 1890 at a time when Americans were in a very patriotic mood, interested in the history of their country and who wished to honor the memory of their ancestors who helped serve the country at its very beginning. Their objectives at the time, and today as well:

Historical: to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence

Educational: - to carry out the injunction of Washington in his farewell address to the American people, "to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge, thus developing an enlightened public opinion..."

Patriotic: to cherish, maintain, and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty.

These original objectives do not include the goal of providing the all of us with genealogical information. That came about as part of the membership requirement that members must prove their blood descent from an ancestor who fought in the Revolution or who aided in achieving American independence. So, if your ancestor participated in the Boston Tea Party, signed an Oath of Allegiance, signed the Declaration of Independence, fought in the war in an American privateer, or who was killed in the Battle of Brandywine, you have to prove this. Your family tree handed down in the family won't cut it. Nor can you use somebody's tree on Ancestry. Starting with yourself and going backwards to that ancestor or yore, you must produce documentation such as birth, death and marriage certificates, wills and other records that show how you descend from the ancestor in question. This requirement got many women interested in genealogy. Many years ago, documentation was not scrutinized as carefully as it is now. One hundred years ago many family genealogies were published and much of the information in these family histories were felt to be correct – harder to prove back then. So one must now be prepared to carefully document all the relationships that take you back to your Revolutionary ancestor.

My first encounter with the DAR was when I was researching my family history back in the 1970s. I came across a microfilm in Salt Lake City called Records of Saint Michael's Cemetery, Pensacola, Florida, compiled by Lola Lee Daniell Bruington. She had this published in 1938 for the NSDAR. This woman, apparently a DAR member, took the time to document the burials in the cemetery by recording the tombstones and she consulted funeral home and church burial records. She drew a map, provided translations of gravestone inscriptions that were in French or Spanish. Because that cemetery was full of my ancestors, I was extremely grateful to this woman who took the time to record this information for later generations since some of the tombstones are no longer there or no longer legible. This is just one of the many activities that DAR members take part in which contribute to our heritage and to society.



Members also install grave markers on the tombs of Revolutionary War veterans, they install battle monuments, they restore and maintain historic sites, they volunteer to help military veterans and active duty troops, they award scholarships and sponsor American history essay contests. So, although you need to do a bit of genealogy to become a member, you could find lots of activities to become involved in.

Constitution Hall, in Washington, D.C., is the District's largest concert hall and is owned by the DAR. Washington, D.C. is the site of the DAR Headquarters and the DAR Library, two blocks from the White House. The library holds one of the largest genealogical collections in the country. The DAR Museum has more than 30,000 items such as furniture, textiles, paintings, silver, quilts, etc., made in America or used before the Industrial Revolution.

Anne Field

Golden Nugget Library

I happened upon the webpage for the Golden Nugget Library's San Joaquin County Genealogy Databases this past week and thought it was good enough to share with all of you. The webpage is part of the Golden Nugget Library, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~npmelton/index.html>, which was established to furnish California databases for genealogical research. It is a work in progress, so check it out periodically. Currently the Golden Nugget Library has online; Social Registries, Articles, Directories, Argonaut Passenger's Lists, Government Rosters, Organization's Members lists, Church lists, 1906 San Francisco Earthquake Photos, 1870 Petitions and Links to Biographies among other things. The San Joaquin page was updated in August and has lots of high school yearbooks, city directories, cemeteries, directories of all kinds, elementary school class photos, military and newspaper links, organizations – Masonic, medical, dental, Knights Templar, etc., maps and other links. The Golden Nugget Library has other searchable county databases, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Merced, Santa Clara and many more. Worth a look.

Alma Stone does our Society webpage, but she also is the webmaster of a Merced County Genealogy webpage: **Merced County Genealogy & History:** Genealogy and History for the Towns and County of Merced, California: <http://mercedgenealogy.com/>. Check it out!

Legacy Societies

Karen Theofanides talk on lineage societies and the application process gave us a lot to think about. Karen is herself a member of the DAR, the Dames of the Court of Honor, United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Daughter of Union Veterans, among others.

There are hundreds of lineage societies and they include war, settler, ship, religious, colonial, nationality, royal & baronial, and family organizations plus reenactment groups. Most of us can find at least one group that we could join and possibly several.

Why join? The various societies offer access to certain resources (think libraries and databases), scholarships and a way to give service to your country or community. Members are educators, genealogists, and historians who promote civic duty, patriotism, preservation, who are involved in projects and who develop friendships. You can easily find these groups by searching the internet for lineage societies. At *Cyndi's List*, look for *Societies and Groups*.

The application process for many of these societies is very similar but they differ in requirements and some are more particular than others. You will usually need to fill out a form and pay an application fee, anywhere from \$15 to \$250; some groups require yearly dues.

Application forms will usually have you show your descent from an ancestor who can be proven to have been in the War of 1812, on the Mayflower, or who lived in colonial Maryland, for example. Contact the organization to see if your ancestor has already been done by another descendant – it will make it easier. In some groups, you need not be a direct descendant; being a collateral descendant will do. That means you might descend from a line related to the soldier, etc.

The process of documenting your proof for each generation includes proof that the society will accept. Proof might come in the form of birth, marriage or death records, tombstones, obituaries, Bible records. The DAR requires original records for the first three generations going backwards. This means you must provide your birth certificate which shows your parents names; your parents' marriage certificate, their birth certificates, etc.

Keep a copy of all the records that you are sending in, along with all your correspondence, in a file where you can access it easily. The DAR has published lineage books which you can consult to see if your ancestor has already been entered; you can also find this information online. For a small fee they will send you more information.

It's that time of year again when some of our officers bow out and others take their places. Serving as an officer doesn't always take a lot of time and, in serving, you get to know others in our group and share your expertise – or learn something new. Don't be shy. We would love to have you serve in some position in the organization and, when you volunteer, you will be helped in your new job by others. We won't leave you out on a limb. Our society is run by volunteers and we need everyone to help out in some way. Right now we could use someone to serve as Membership Chairperson. This duty is being split at the moment into two areas: our treasurer receives the checks and keeps track of the members and their contact information. The other duties include putting out the membership board at each meeting, recording the number of guests and members attending the meeting and keeping the name tags in order and up to date. This is a job that could be done by two people who agree that one or the other of them will show up at meetings. So if you can't make every meeting, your co-chairperson could be there. If you would like to serve in this or in any other capacity, please contact one of our Board members. **YOU ARE NEEDED!**

Doris Cochran Room Volunteers

The following members volunteer their time in the DCR on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. If you would like to be a backup volunteer, please contact Shari Stetson. Our meeting date is usually the 3d Saturday but that changes when a Monday holiday closes the library on the weekend.

Week	Wednesday	Saturday
1 st	Rick & Karen Albright	Michle Burroughs Shari Stetson
2d	Roberta Saling Anne Schaefer	Michle Burroughs Shari Stetson
3d	Lois Jimenez Eleanor Carlos	MCGS meeting
4 th	Lorne Weber Susan Benes	Michle Burroughs Shari Stetson
5 th	Anne Field Rosalie Heppner	Michle Burroughs Shari Stetson

Who did we think he was?

This past September, a member of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County and a McHenry Museum research, Janet Lancaster, surprised everyone by turning up evidence that Robert McHenry, well known in Stanislaus County, was not really Robert McHenry. Turns out he was Robert Henry Brewster, a descendant of one of Mayflower passenger William Brewster. After deserting from his Army regiment in 1846, he morphed into Robert McHenry, settled in Stanislaus County, becoming one of the early pioneers in the area.

In today's paper, in Jeff Jardine's column, there was an article about a man, Harry Richmond, whose wife left him one day unexpectedly – no reason, no note, no explanation – taking their 6-month old son, Ron. Unbeknownst to Harry, his wife remarried a man named Smith and little Ron was brought up by his stepfather. He knew himself as Ron Smith. Sixty years later Harry, a World War II veteran, was contacted by his son, Ron, and they reconnected after all that time. Sadly, Ron died two years later never having told his daughters about his real father. One of his daughters happened upon a Christmas card after her father's death and this led her to her grandfather, Harry Richmond.

Both of these stories deal with a person's change of name. Unlike women, whom we expect to change their name when they marry, we tend to assume that a man's name is his name and that his surname is that of his father, his grandfather and so on. Dealing with name changes like this, whatever the reason, presents a real challenge to the researcher. Have any of you had an experience like this in your family research? If so, please let me know.

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 October 2013 issue is September 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 September 2013

Income:	285.79
Expenses:	207.00
Checking Total	<u>\$3,405.24</u>
Savings Account	3,863.20
CD-9 months; matures on 1/11/14	5,829.82
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/14	<u>5,647.44</u>
Total in Checking and Savings:	<u>\$18,745.70</u>

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