

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 32, No. 10

November 2014

November Meeting

- Share, Tell and Ask



Sponsored by the
Programs Committee
and presented by
YOU!

Please bring your
pictures, latest case
studies, genealogy
successes, brick walls
and questions.
Share with others.
Ask others for help.

1:00 p.m. Saturday

November 15, 2014

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

President's Message for November

Dear Friends,

All I can say is WOW! If you didn't get to our October meeting to meet Scott Johnson, a local enthusiast of re-enacting the history of mountain men and trappers, you



missed a thoroughly enjoyable trip to the 1820's. Scott himself, a colorful and visible example of a typical mountain trapper, was authentically dressed and provisioned with hand-made tools and a real rifle of those days, of his grandfathers. You can see Scott again at the annual Rendezvous of Mountain Men and Trappers to be held out at a ranch on Oakdale Rd. on May 8th, 2015.

I am very pleased that there are more people becoming members of the Merced Co. Genealogical Society. We now have 90 members, and remember we now have a \$10.00 membership for students. As I've said before, we encourage our young people to get involved before it's too late. One of the things my paternal grandmother did was keep a little booklet filled with names, dates and places, not especially well kept but with information I didn't have. I keep a small notebook, to keep in my desk drawer, and I put in it; when I come down with some health problem, when I started work, where I lived, where my children lived and moved to, etc. just whatever I want to record. I look back at it and add things and remember the past. Eventually, it will go to one of my daughters.... Just a thought.

And a note: My husband reads all kinds of news stories on the internet. He brought to my attention on Raw Story News, that the California based personal genetics company, 23and Me, who sell DNA kits, and Israel's My Heritage, is going to collaborate to enable people to discover their heritage, based on genetic ancestry and documented family history. See the story on www.rawstory.com.

Remember to come with all your genealogical goodies for our Ask, Show and Tell meeting on November 15th. Share the things you are researching or/and possessions of things past. If you have any genealogical questions, we may just have the answers.

This will be my final President's message as I have volunteered to be Secretary next year. I must say that being President for 3 years has been an enjoyable and growth inspiring position for me. Having never been in a position of officiating in a fairly large organization such as this, my capabilities and assurance have grown, especially standing up in front of a crowd of people I didn't know well initially and testing my ability to inspire and lead. It has pushed me to get to know others and to become apprised of and appreciate the abilities and activities of those, behind the scenes, doing all the work. I am grateful for all the help and patience of the members of the MCGS Board and for the patience and

tolerance of the general membership for any inadequacy in running the monthly meeting all these years. You are all great people! And Good Luck to the next President and the President- Elect., I will be with you to smooth the way. Thank you for allowing me to be your President.

Sincerely, Stephanie McLeod, Pres.

At Our October Meeting



Scott Johnson with muzzle loader

Last month we were privileged to hear from Scott Johnson about the hunters and trappers that lived in the West in the early 1820s. They were economically motivated by the market for beaver pelts used for felt hats. After the United States completed the Louisiana Purchase, the land west of the Mississippi opened up for exploration and the fur trade. John Jacob Astor started the

American Fur Co. which competed with the Rocky Mountain Fur Co. for trading for beaver pelts.

The first Rendezvous was held in Green River, Wyoming in 1825. The annual gatherings lasted for two to three weeks. The trappers brought their pelts and traded them for whiskey and supplies for the coming year. The fur companies signed on "company men" to assure their supply of pelts. There were independent trappers, but they were not assured that the fur companies would buy from them. Rendezvous were held until 1840. About that time, beavers were about trapped out and the styles had changed to silk hats. For a time, many hunters and trappers had difficulty finding markets for their pelts. Not long afterward, gold and other minerals were discovered. Mining replaced trapping as a major source of income in the West. Many former trappers turned to mining.

There were extremely few women of European descent in the West during this era. Only a few came with missionary husbands. If mountain men found wives, it was usually from among one of the friendly Native American tribes.



Powderhorn, char cloth holder, jil cup (for rum) and cloth patch & musket ball

There probably weren't any census-takers out west in the time of the Rendezvous, yet it is an interesting era in our country's history. Search for your trapper ancestors in later censuses and documents in the mining regions of the Rocky Mountains and further west.

Upcoming Programs 2014-2015	
December 20	Annual Christmas Party and election of officers
January 24	Beginner's Program, Part 1 - details to be announced
February 21	Beginner's Program, Part 2 - details to be announced
March 21	TBA
April 18	TBA

A New Collection of Depression Era Photographs at LOC

The Library of Congress has recently updated their collection of photographs from the Great Depression. Now more than 175,000 images from 1935 through 1945 which were taken by photographers of the government's Farm Security Administration are now available. Included with each photograph is the known data about the subject, including the date and location of the photograph.



Poor children playing on sidewalk, Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

The FEDERATION of GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES will hold their conference February 11-14, 2015 in Salt Lake City at the Salt Palace Convention Center. For details, see www.FGSconference.org.

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FAMILYSEARCH announced that it now supports upload of audio files to the Memories section of the FamilySearch website. The section already supports photos, stories, and documents.

Audio recordings are handled much the same way as photos. Recordings can be uploaded, tagged to memory persons, attached to tree persons, titled, described, and stored in albums. They will be preserved in the state of the art archive facility owned by the LDS Church.

German Digital Church Book Portal Now Online



To date, about 35,000 (25%) records out of 140,000 individual church books in Germany have been digitized. Most of the German Protestant regional church bodies are participating. Catholic archives, other churches and civil registrations may join later. You can use Google translator since the entire web site is in German. There will be a fee. You can access the site at <http://www.kirchenbuchportal.de> and at <http://www.kirchenbuchportal.de/inhalt.htm>

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From Stephanie McLeod:

I Googled it. It's so amazing what you can find! If you go there you can find one of several sites telling you about what happened at that time but I found the **Census Map Data** site on one. It gives you the ability to see the whole United States, county by county and breaks down the census by male/female and by 4 or 5 racial types. It was very enlightening

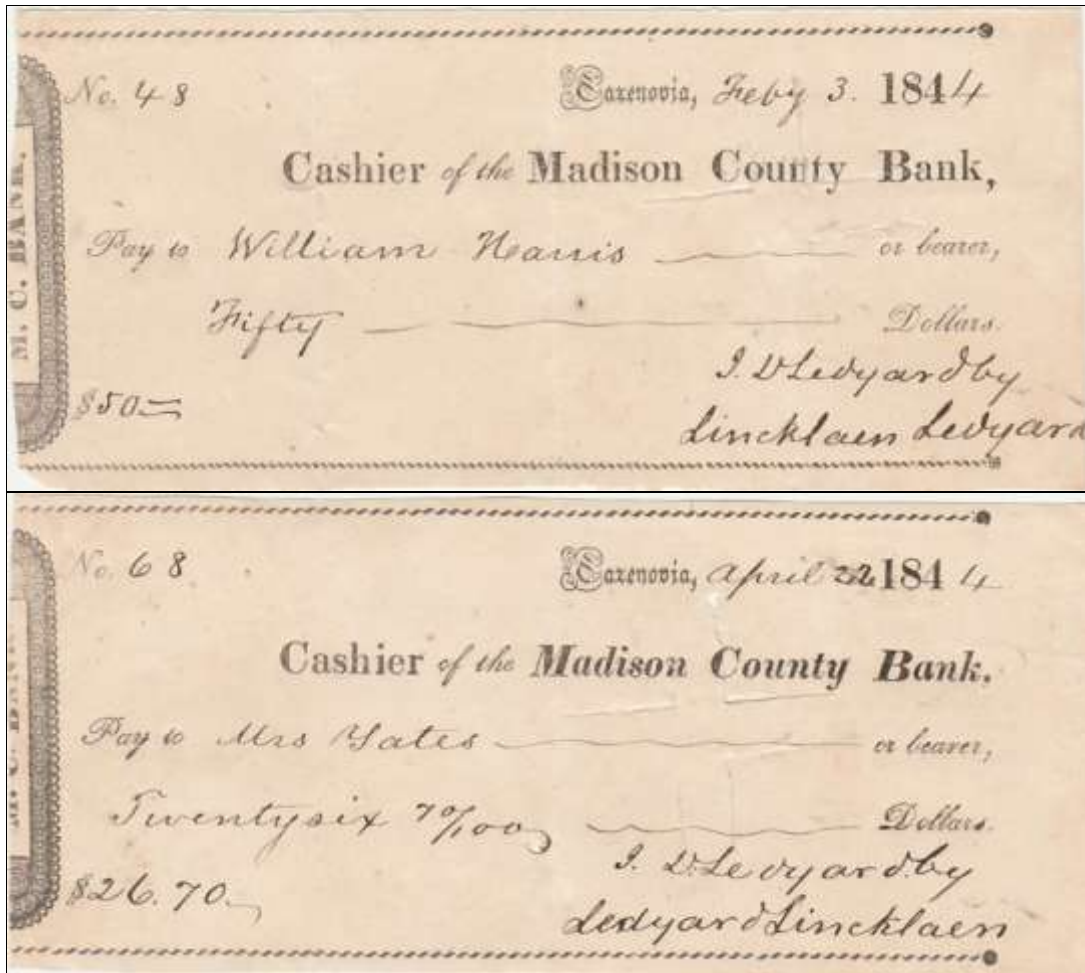
https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/outside_sources.htm

|

<https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/datamapper.html>

<http://www.census.gov/data/data-tools.html>

One Mystery Creates Another



Take a good look at the two checks illustrated above. Notice anything unusual? Check number 48, is dated February 3, 1844, drawn on the Madison County Bank, Cazenovia, New York, to William Harris, in the amount of \$50.00, signed J. D. Ledyard, by Lincklaen Ledyard. Check number 68, is dated April 22, 1844, drawn on the Madison County Bank, Cazenovia, New York, made out to Mrs. Yates, in the amount of \$26.70, signed J. D. Ledyard, by Ledyard Lincklaen! Here's the story behind these documents.

John Lincklaen immigrated to the United States from Amsterdam, Holland in 1790. He worked for the Holland Land Company, which held land throughout New York State. In 1792, Mr. Lincklaen traveled to the central region of the state to survey

and inspect some of these properties. On this trip, Mr. Lincklaen camped on Lake Owahgena, and the following year, he returned to the spot where he'd camped and founded the village of Cazenovia, named for Mr. Lincklaen's boss, Theophilus de Cazenove. The name of the lake was also changed to Lake Cazenovia at this time.

John Lincklaen married the former Helen Ledyard of Aurora, New York, in 1797. Although they had no children of their own, in 1798 they took in Mrs. Lincklaen's 5 year old orphaned brother, and John Lincklaen's brother-in-law, Jonathan Denise Ledyard. Later, they also took in Mrs. Lincklaen's niece, Helen Ann Ledyard, and Mr. Lincklaen's nephew, Lambertus Wolters.

The original Lincklaen home, on the shores Lake Cazenovia, burned down in 1806, and in 1807 John Lincklaen began construction of Lorenzo, a Federal mansion designed to be fireproof. Both of the interior and exterior walls were brick, the ceilings were two inch thick plaster, and the fireplaces were lined with sheet iron. The home was completed in 1808 and, with its surrounding properties and farm, became the primary residence of the Lincklaen family.



The Lorenzo Mansion and its lands are now part of the New York State Historic Trust.

Jonathan D. Ledyard, (John Lincklaen's brother-in-law) was an extremely ambitious young man who served in the New York State Militia, saw service in the War of 1812, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1815. However, he never worked as a lawyer. Instead, he worked in John Lincklaen's land business. After the death of John Lincklaen in 1822, Jonathan took over the management of the Holland Land Company's affairs and eventually purchased their interests and properties, which amounted to approximately 150,000 acres, acquiring a staggering amount of debt for the time, of \$250,000.

Jonathan D. Ledyard married Jane Strawbridge of Philadelphia in 1819. Their first-born son, Lincklaen Ledyard, was born in 1820. The couple had two other sons, George S. Ledyard and Lambertus Wolters Ledyard.

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At the time of her husband's death in 1822, Mrs. Helen Ledyard Lincklaen placed the Lorenzo mansion on the market. However, due to the economic difficulties of the time, she found no buyers. She eventually sold the house and lands to J. D. Ledyard, for \$100. This wasn't the bargain it appeared, as the costs of operating and maintaining the properties exceeded the incomes. Mr. Ledyard was also managing the financial affairs of Mrs. Lincklaen, and in 1826, with her finances improving, she purchased the home and properties back from him, again for \$100, thus keeping the home in the Lincklaen name.

Mrs. Helen Ledyard Lincklaen, with no children of her own, named her nephew, Lincklaen Ledyard, the oldest son of J. D. Ledyard, as her heir. There was apparently a contingency that the woman he married be someone who Mrs. Lincklaen approved.

Helen Clarissa Seymour, a second cousin of Ledyard Lincklaen (her grandmother and his grandfather were brother and sister), was an acceptable match, and the couple was married on December 7, 1843.

The Lorenzo State Historic Site states that Lincklaen Ledyard changed his name at the time of his marriage to Ledyard Lincklaen. This appears to be supported by The National Portrait Gallery, which has a painting of Mrs. Lincklaen. With their listing of the painting they include all of her known names; Mrs. Ledyard Lincklaen, Helen Clarissa Seymour, and Helen Clarissa Seymour Lincklaen. This creates something of a dilemma.

In 1843, at the time of their marriage, Helen Clarissa Seymour married Lincklaen Ledyard, not Ledyard Lincklaen. Check no. 48 is evidence that he was still signing his name as Lincklaen Ledyard on legal documents, as of February 3, 1844. By an Act of the Legislature, on March 30, 1844, almost four months after his marriage, his name was legally changed to Ledyard Lincklaen, the name he used from that point on, as shown on the check dated April 22, 1844.

The name change was apparently done to preserve the family surname of Lincklaen, and to honor Helen Lincklaen as his benefactor. There is no record of Helen Clarissa Seymour ever having been Helen Clarissa Seymour Ledyard, or any mention of her name being changed as a result of the Act of the Legislature that changed his name.

So now you know why these two documents are signed, by the same man, with two different signatures. However, this raises a technical question regarding the legality of the marriage. Would a marriage to a man whose name didn't exist until four months later, be considered legally valid?

Ledyard Family Papers, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collection, Cornell University

(<http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/EAD/html/docs/RMM01912.html>)

History of Chenango and Madison Counties, New York: James H. Smith, 1880 (Google Books)

Magazine of American History, Volume 7, 1881 (Google Books)

Lorenzo State Historic Site

(<http://friendsoflorenzo.org/history.php>)

Lorenzo Collection, Syracuse University Library

(<http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/l/lorenzo.htm>)

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(Michael Gleason is the founder and owner of **Documenting Your Past** in Atwater, CA, an online searchable database of original documents. You can find this service at: documentingyourpast.com)

Fold3 Has 17,231,574 records in U. S. WWI Records

Collection Title	# of Records
Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File FREE	13,537,417
FBI Case Files	2,313,888
WWI - State Dept Records	479,882
Navy Cruise Books, 1918-2009	447,575
Confidential Correspondence of the Navy, 1919-1927 ^{Updated}	119,768
Gorrell's History - AEF Air Service	77,575
Connecticut WWI Service Rosters	69,745
New York State Adjutant General Reports, 1846-1995	50,288
Naturalization Index - WWI Soldiers	36,220
Rendezvous Reports Index - WWI Armed Guard Personnel	23,407
WWI Supreme War Council, American records	19,275
WWI Military Cablegrams - AEF and War Dept	17,241
WWI Officer Experience Reports - AEF	11,138
Navy Casualty Reports, 1776-1941	10,050
Military Intelligence Division - Negro Subversion	6,940
Foreign Burial of American War Dead FREE	4,206
Rendezvous Reports Index - WWI Naval Auxiliary Service	4,200
US Expeditionary Force, North Russia	1,989
New York 74th Regiment Service Cards	770

You can subscribe to Fold3 or access this site by Visiting your local family history center.

April 6, 1917 The U.S. declares war on Germany, thus entering The Great War

Other sources for WWI:

1. FamilySearch Wiki- Search terms: World War 1 United States Military Records, m 1917-1918.
711 Records available. Contains many records by state.
2. Ancestry.com- Search under "Military." To narrow by category:
 - Look under their featured data collection for U.S. World War 1 Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918.
 - Soldier, Veteran & Prisoner Rolls & Lists- Find "Canada Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918"
 - Under the card catalog for all military topics, look for
 - "U.S. Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1963"
 - U.S. Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960
3. World Vital Records- links to several Google books on WW1, not so much for genealogy research, but for background.

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 November 2014 issue is October 23, 2014.**

MCGS meetings are held at **1:00p.m.** on the 3rd Saturday of the month unless it that is a holiday weekend. 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

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	Susan Benes, Michle Burroughs, Rosalie Heppner, Stephanie McLeod & Shari Stetson
Editor, <i>The Family Snoop</i>	Robyn Echols 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 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 through Thursday – 10am to 6:00pm
 Friday & Saturday - 10:00am to 5:00pm

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 2014

Income	40.19
Expenses	(210.29)
Checking Balance	<u>\$4,446.99</u>
Savings Account:	3,865.11
CD-9 months; matures on 10/8/14	5,838.55
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/15	<u>5,658.75</u>
<u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u>	<u>\$19,809.40</u>

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