

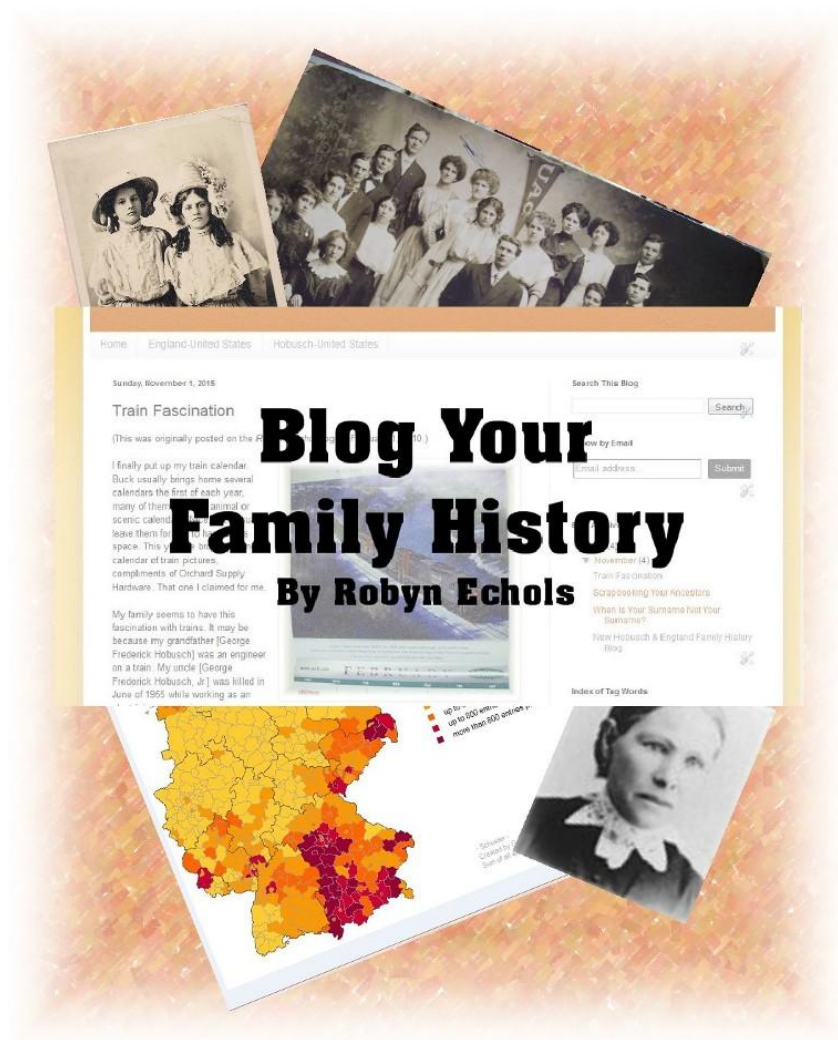
# THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 33, No. 10

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

## November 2015 Meeting



1:00 p.m. Saturday

November 21, 2015

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

## Lewis Ruddick & “My Experience Researching in Ireland” at our October Meeting



Lewis Ruddick took us through the steps of how he identified his Irish Ruddick ancestor and his two research trips to Ireland. He is the past president of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County and the society's *Researcher* newsletter editor.

Mr. Ruddick gave an excellent presentation about his experience researching in Ireland, complete with an overview of valuable sources for Irish research. Since articles about Ireland and Irish research are traditionally published in March, I will save the information he shared with us until our March, 2016 issue.



### October 2015 Meeting Membership:

There were 27 members and two guests at our October meeting. The Society now has a total for 95 active members and 33 inactive members. Welcome to new member Betty (Benner) Harrison. She is researching Benner in Chicago (1870-1910), Schwank in Chicago (1800-1920) and Benner in Severin Bridge, Ontario, Canada (1700-current).



**A Genealogist's filing system usually incorporates the floor.**

[The following is a reprint of the Fold3 newsletter sent out by email November 3, 2015. You have until November 15, 2015 to access these records online anywhere for free. If you miss these dates, Fold3 is available free of charge at the Family History Center (details for the center are on the last page of this newsletter. If you have Native American ancestry, now is the time to work on your research.)]

In honor of National American Indian Heritage Month, get free access to our Native American Collection.

## Free Access to the Native American Collection

Do you have Native American ancestry? Or are you interested in Native American history? Then explore Fold3's [Native American Collection](#) for free November 1-15.



Titles in this collection include:

### [Ratified Indian Treaties \(1722-1869\):](#)

Ratified treaties that occurred between the United States government and American Indian tribes. Also included are presidential proclamations, correspondence, and treaty negotiation expenses.

### [Indian Census Rolls \(1885-1940\):](#)

Census rolls submitted annually by agents or superintendents of Indian reservations as required by an 1884 Act of Congress. Only persons who maintained a formal affiliation with a tribe under Federal supervision are listed on these census rolls.

### **Dawes Packets:**

Applications between 1896 and 1914 from members of the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole tribes to establish eligibility for an allotment of land in return for abolishing their tribal governments and recognizing Federal law.

### **Dawes Enrollment Cards (1898-1914):**

Enrollment cards, also referred to as "census cards," prepared by the staff of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, commonly known as the Dawes Commission. The cards record information provided by applications submitted by members of the same family group or household and includes notations of the actions taken.

### **Eastern Cherokee Applications (1906-1909):**

Applications submitted for shares of the money that was appropriated for the Eastern Cherokee Indians by Congress on June 30, 1906.



### **Enrollment of Eastern Cherokee by Guion Miller (1908-1910):**

The Guion Miller Roll is perhaps the most important source for Cherokee genealogical research. There are an estimated 90,000 individual applicants from throughout North America included within this publication.

### **Cherokee Indian Agency, TN (1801-1835):**

The records of the agent of Indian Affairs in Tennessee, including correspondence, agency letter books, fiscal records, records of the Agent for the Department of War in Tennessee, records of the Agent for Cherokee Removal, and miscellaneous records.

### **Rinehart Photos - Native Americans (1898):**

Photographs of over 100 Native Americans taken by Frank A. Rinehart, a commercial photographer in Omaha, Nebraska. Rinehart was commissioned to photograph the 1898 Indian Congress, part of the Trans-Mississippi International Exposition.

Here is the link to access this collection:

**[https://go.fold3.com/native\\_americans/?xid=1890&utm\\_source=content&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=odp-na-nov2015](https://go.fold3.com/native_americans/?xid=1890&utm_source=content&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=odp-na-nov2015)**



[The following is a reprinted portion of an article first published in the Jan/Feb 2010 *Family Chronicles* published by Moorshead Magazines, Ltd.; Vol. 14, No. 3, Page 43.]

## **An Hour of Your Time**

By Robyn Echols

(Part 1)

I recently was asked to teach a family history class to a group of Hmong and Mien women most of whom did not speak English well yet. I was told that a few of the younger daughters who knew English as well as the Hmong or Mien language of their older mothers or grandmothers would act as interpreters. I was warned by the leader who contacted me that some of the women were unable to read or write. They were illiterate not only in English, but also in their own language.



In addition, there were no written family records they could research. Many had lived in localities where records were not kept. Many records that may have been made in their Southeast Asian land have since been destroyed.



*Near Muang Sing, in a Mien (Yao) village, woman with baby and child The Yao.  
Courtesy Arian Zwegers, Brussels, Belgium*

Faced with that challenge, I asked myself, how could I communicate so they would understand what I telling them? What kind of thoughts on family history could I share that would be relevant to them? What could I offer that they could take home and use to preserve their family history for future generations?

Here is what I came up with:

### 1. Try to see it from their point of view.

The first thing I recognized is that most Asian people have a tradition of great veneration for their ancestors. They want to preserve knowledge of their forbearers. They want to pass along their family history.

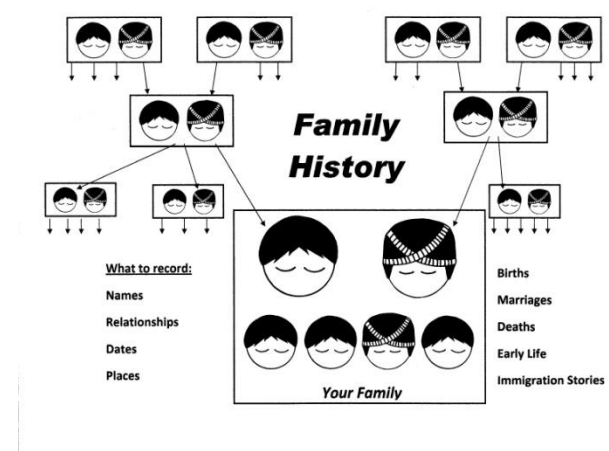
I also realized that they are in the same situation as the immigrant ancestors of many of us whose families have been in North America for generations. Our history is full of accounts of people immigrating to North America to flee religious or political persecution. Often these immigrants were poor, and had to sell almost everything but a few clothes and items precious to them because of sentimental value in order to make the journey here. When they arrived here,

life may have been better, but it often was still difficult and challenging.

They often sought out areas where others from their ethnic group settled. Doing so gave them a support group of others who shared their language, heritage, religion and values. They often came from countries where another language was spoken. Men and children may have learned English out of necessity when they went to work or school, but the women who stayed home to care for the family tended to associate mainly with those in the community who spoke the same native tongue they did. What English they learned was very rudimentary.

### 2. A picture can say a thousand words, even in a different language.

When talking about the basics, sometimes a picture can communicate more than a translated document. And, families are basic. I knew these Hmong and Mien women may have trouble with a printed family group sheet or a pedigree chart, even one with the words translated. However, because they understand how a family unit is organized, I decided they could probably understand a pedigree chart with images to represent various relationships within a family. I made one up for them to follow along as I spoke and other interpreted. I found the images and a picture of a young Asian family in a clip art collection.



I kept the words on the form very basic. If the woman did not read or speak English, then

the words were there for someone else to read to them as they helped them know what information to record in their family history.

I knew that once they recorded certain information, someone else who does read and write could complete a pedigree chart and family group sheets. So, I suggested that they picture themselves as one of the three people—father, mother or child—in the family photo. Then, I told them to choose a place on the pictorial pedigree chart, such as the grandparent of the little boy in the photo, and picture in their mind the person in their family who would fit in that position. Once they do that, they should write down as much of the basic genealogy information about that person as they can remember.

## 2. Family History is more than genealogy.

As important as it is to record the basics on a pedigree chart or family group sheet, there is more to preserving family history than names, dates and localities. These women had left a home and community that was different than the lives they now live in the United States. Unless they made a record of it, their descendants would likely not know what it was like to live somewhere else other than North America.



*Black Hmong women at the Sapa trading post in Vietnam, August 1999. Photo by Bob Tubbs.*

Most of these older women faced challenges that their descendants will never have to face. Many were forced out of their native land because of the Viet Nam war. Some spent years in a refugee camp before they were able to join their family members in North America. They have life stories to tell of their struggles, their decisions, their hardships and how they dealt with them. For their great-grandchildren and beyond to appreciate what it meant for them, those who are the immigrant generation in their families, the stories need to be preserved.

*(To be continued)*



**Hmong story cloth.** Many were created in refugee camps such as those in Laos and sold to citizens of wealthier nations to help support the Hmong until they could be relocated. Many story cloths depicted scenes of rural farm life, but perhaps the best known are those that showed the escape across the Mekong River. The men drew the pictures on the cloth and women did the stitching. Materials were donated by relief agencies.

Sharon Darby was unable to attend the July meeting where she normally presents the membership awards based on anniversaries in increments of five years. At the October meeting she read off the membership awards and issued five year star stickers for membership badges. Congratulation!

## • ***MEMBERSHIP AWARDS - 2015***

### • ***5 YEARS***

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Susan Brower    | Jim Hill        |
| • John Carlos     | Kathy Hill      |
| • Ralph Crouse    | Peggy Mahy      |
| • Carol Greenberg | Carolyn Stimson |

### • ***6 YEARS [missed 2014 list]***

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| • Eleanor Carlos | Anne Schafer |
|------------------|--------------|

### • ***10 YEARS***

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| • Stephanie McLeod | Alison Scott |
| • Virgene Peshel   |              |

### • ***15 YEARS***

- |                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| • Richard Carter          | Di Ann Tarhalla |
| • Robyn Echols            | James Tarhalla  |
| • Roberta Silveira Saling |                 |

### • ***20 YEARS***

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • Phyllis Clark | Tom Hilk         |
| • Paulette Hilk | Steve Margaretic |

### • ***25 YEARS***

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| • Ila Chastain | Jo Ann Coe |
|----------------|------------|

### • ***30 YEARS***

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| • Marjorie Block | Dorothy Scott |
|------------------|---------------|

#### Upcoming Programs for 2015

November 21	“Blog Your Family History” by Robyn Echols
December 19	Annual Christmas Potluck for members
January 23	Beginner’s Program
February 20	Beginner’s Program, Part 2
	Join us and invite others to join with us!

**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 January 2016 issue is December 26th.** 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	Greg Entriken
President-elect	Bernadette Castaneda
Vice President	Lois Jimenez
Treasurer	Sharon Darby
Secretary	Stephanie McLeod
Past President	Shari Stetson
Membership	Margie Barnhart
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 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  
 21st & N Streets Merced  
 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: September 2015

Income	35.23
Expenses	(261.61)
Checking Balance	\$5,367.26
Savings Account:	3,867.02
CD-9 months; matures on 03/31/16	5,848.00
CD-12 months; matures on 5/18/16	5,671.11
<b>Total in Checking and Savings:</b>	<b>\$20,753.39</b>

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