

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 31, No. 9

October 2013

October Meeting

Lineage Societies and the Application Process

Speaker: Karen Theofanides



All of you have heard of the DAR, one of our nation's most well known lineage societies. There are lots of other lineage societies that you have probably never heard of: The Daughters of Hawaii, The Colonial Dames, and the St. Nicholas Society, to name just a few. Karen Theofanides, one of our members and a long-time member of the DAR, will share information about lineage societies and what you need to do to become a member.



12:00 Noon Saturday

19 October 2013

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

From Your Editor...

We had a wonderful presentation in September when Robert Givens explained all about the FamilySearch Web Page. If you have not gone to the new FamilySearch and/or never used it, you must go and check it out. I have been researching since the 1970s and I have to say it is my Number 1 place to go when I need to look for someone's marriage, death, divorce, etc. More on the different parts of the FamilySearch webpage later in this issue.

Someone asked at the meeting about *Find A Grave* information and wanted to know if we could copy the page – because the information was copyrighted. To answer that question – everything on the web is copyrighted. Once you publish something, it is copyrighted. You can print or copy and paste what you find to your own computer but you can't publish it as your own material. Add it as a source and just use it for your own information. I copy and paste the photos and info into Word and save it under a family folder for that person. Always include the memorial number and the creator of the information when you copy and paste. Many people feel it is OK to copy photos they find on the web and then put them on their Ancestry tree but this is breaking copyright law. You can always email the person who put up the photo and ASK PERMISSION to use the photo. I always let people use my photos as long as they give credit and put a link to my web page. I have had people copy my photos and put them in their trees. Not only do they not give me credit, they don't even contact me to share information – something I would like.

Our October meeting will feature Karen Theofanides, one of our long time members, who is active in the DAR and very knowledgeable about various lineage societies. She spoke to us a year or two ago about the DAR making digital copies of family Bibles which the DAR will publish. You won't want to miss her talk.

Anne Field

Mark your Calendars!

October 12, 2013

Family History Day 2013 at the California State Archives. 8:30am to 4:30pm. Theme is **Emigration, Immigration and Migration**. The event is free. For a list of speakers, classes, etc.:
<http://familyhistoryday2013.blogspot.com/>

October 19, 2013

Fresno County Genealogical Society's **10th Annual Genealogy Seminar** featuring **Denise Spurlack**.

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Seminar is free but seating is limited, so reserve your spot right away. For more info:

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

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cafcgs/Files/Seminar_Flyer.pdf

October 26, 2013

Genealogical DNA Seminar featuring **Katherine Hope Borges**. Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County, Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver Road, Modesto. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. For more information and directions:

<http://www.cagenweb.com/lr/stanislaus/2013%20GSC%20Seminar%20Application%20&%20Directions.pdf>

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/>

Our September Meeting

We had a good turnout at our September meeting to hear Robert Givens talk on the FamilySearch webpage: 33 members and 11 guests. During our business meeting Shari Stetson brought up the topic of volunteering in the DCR and the need to staff the room because of the library being unable to provide a person in the DCR on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We need people who are willing to serve as substitutes when regularly scheduled volunteers are unable to be there for whatever reason. Two people have expressed interest in volunteering and a sign-up sheet was passed out during the meeting. Volunteers will need to be trained but we do not have information on when or where that will take place yet. If you were not at the meeting and would like to volunteer to be a substitute, please contact Shari Stetson, 358-7719. If you go through the training, you will feel much more at home in the DCR and have a better knowledge of all the resources in the room.

Anne Field mentioned that she and Charleen Renteria have started up again on the project of getting materials ready for cataloging. These are the materials from Stanislaus County as well as items that have been donated or purchased. Because of the shortage of staff members in the library, items will take longer to get into the collection as they must be entered by a staff person. The directories from the Stoddard Room have been moved down to the DCR and were put on the shelf in Dewey order. This resulted in very crowded shelves in that area and

Anne and others will be working on moving books on the shelves to make things not so tight. The microfilms from upstairs are now down in the DCR on shelving behind the staff person's desk and that will

be one of the things volunteers will be trained to access.

Upcoming Programs 2013	
November	TBA
December	Annual Christmas Potluck
2014	
January	TBA
February	TBA

The Alaska State Library

<http://library.alaska.gov/pub/online/akgene.html>

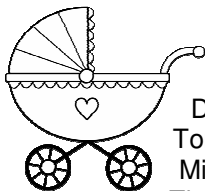
Researching your ancestors in Alaska? The Alaska State Library has a Resource Guide to Alaskan Genealogy. Some of the items are available online, many are not but might be available through Interlibrary Loan or in a library closer to home. A list of private researchers is available if you want to go that route.

There are various newspaper indexes, such as one for the Alaska Weekly and one for the Alaska Journal, 1976-1985. There is an Alaska People Index, vols. 1 & 2, 1935-1985.

Other items of interest include:

- Biographies of Alaska-Yukon Pioneers 1850-1950, 4 vols.
- Guide to Probate Records for Alaska, 1885-1960
- Alaska Territorial Telephone Books, 1906-1958
- How to Find Your Gold Rush Relative – **online**
- An Index of Obituaries of Alaskans and Those Active in Alaska, 1899-1995
- The Anchorage Times Obituaries Index, 1915-1980, 1981-1990, 1991-1995, 1996-2000
- The Anchorage Times Obituaries Index,
- Evergreen Cemetery (Juneau) Burial Records – **online**

plus links to AlaskaGenWeb, Yukon Genealogy and Pan for Gold Database, the Yukon & Alaska Genealogy Centre, the Alaska State Archives, the Alaska Historical Society, the Anchorage Genealogy Society, the Fairbanks Genealogy Society, the Yukon Archives and more.



Portuguese Baby Names

Don't think of naming your new baby Brooklyn, Aidan, Blanket, Ashley, Cheyenne, Michael, Sam or Tom. Some of you may already know this, but I had no idea until our tour guide on the island of San Miguel in the Azores enlightened me. You need to choose good Portuguese names: Tomas, not Thomas, Filipe, not Philip.

When you go to register the birth of your baby you must check the name against the (very long) list of what names are, or are not, permitted. This is actually to protect the baby from the abuse of a crazy name (Lunar Module). Tradition also plays a big part. The Portuguese feel that a parent should not have the freedom, or right, to name a

baby whatever, but instead consider the naming of a child a responsibility of the parents. Nicknames are not allowed for the official register but, of course, many have nicknames in everyday conversations – Little Joe, Big Joe – and when they arrive here in the United States they may become Anthony, instead of Antonio, and John instead of João. The friend with whom we stayed in Faial was born in the Azores and her name was Maria Josef. We call her Mary Jo. And everyone there called her Mary Jo.

If you are of foreign descent, you can name your child a name from your home country or ethnicity. Our tour guide also mentioned that she had just gotten married the month before. She married a man from Lisbon whose family was from Morocco. She had to hunt to find a priest who would marry her. She was not sure whether she and her husband could name their children names from his family but they will cross that bridge when they come to it.

To see the list of names than are OK (sim), or not (não):

http://www.irn.mj.pt/IRN/sections/irn/a_registral/registos-centrais/docs-da-nacionalidade/vocabulos-admitidos-e/



Have you backed up your genealogy files recently?

From the CSGA July/August 2013 newsletter

Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society

by Denise H. Richmond, Publicity Chairperson



Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society concluded its fundraising campaign for the **Preserve the Pensions War of 1812** Project led by the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). The final total was \$1,225 which included \$725 donated by generous members and friends and a \$500 pledge from the Board. With *Ancestry.com*'s matching our donation, more than 3,000 pages will be digitized.

Mark your calendars! Geoff Rasmussen will be the featured speaker at our Spring Seminar on Saturday, April 5, 2014. Details about his four lectures and registration are forthcoming.

Shari Stetson sent in a link to a useful web site for those of you researching in North Carolina: **North Carolina City Directories**, <http://www.digitalnc.org/collections/north-carolina-city-directories>

The directories go back as far as 1860 and can be browsed by date, county or city. Thanks, Shari.



Where Will It Go? Some of us have spent years gathering information on our ancestors: birth, death and marriage certificates, photos of gravestones, lots and lots of data and much more. What will happen to this when you are gone? Do your children know where you want this material to go? Will they not think twice and toss it in the trash can? Is your material in any shape to be passed on (a whole separate topic...)? You might want to consider writing a codicil to your will letting your executor and/or heirs know what you want done with all your research. The link below will bring up a form: ***My Genealogical Will For Preserving My Family***

History which will help you get started – or you can use the form as is. They suggest that your materials not be disposed of for two years while someone might be found who wants the material. Think of a genealogical society in the area where your research is concentrated. Perhaps there is a nephew, niece, son or daughter or even a grandchild who has shown an interest in the family history. Think about this ahead of time and you can designate a person, library or genealogy collection for your different family lines. If you have a genealogy software program you

can use that to create a “book” which will have a title page, table of contents, a genealogy report, family groups sheets, pedigree charts, family photos, images of birth and death certificates, biographical sketches, and lots more. Finish it off with an index. Have it bound in a format that would be acceptable to a library or other organization. Don’t just hope for the best. The form below comes from the **Van Buren Regional Genealogy Society of Southwest Michigan** website. If you have ancestors from that area, it’s a exemplary website with lots of information.
<http://www.vbrgs.org/files/ResearchForms/GenealogyWillFeb20100001.pdf>

Finding Your Ancestor’s Will

Most of your ancestors have died. And people who die sometimes leave wills. If they don’t leave wills, then, if they leave something behind, it may go through the probate court. Don’t overlook this very useful source of top notch information – Wills and Probate Records.

If your ancestor wrote a will, he or she probably used some standard stock phrases that are good to know because



they can help you decipher what might be difficult handwriting. At left is the phrase “In the name of God Amen” – from a 1673 Bermuda will. Many wills start this way. Another early phrase: *being of weak body but*

of sound and perfect mind – everyone always seemed to be of sound and perfect mind. Some wills have paragraphs that start Firstly, then Secondly, etc. while others use the word “Item,” where each paragraph deals with a different child or bequest and all the paragraphs start with the word Item. In older wills there may be a paragraph about how they commend their precious soul unto the hands of Almighty God and so on. Just make sure when you begin trying to decipher the will that it has the name of the person whose will you are researching – I, William Munroe.... The person who wrote the will is called the testator.

The parts of the will you are interested in are the paragraphs where they mention names, such as a spouse, hopefully by name rather than “my beloved wife.” If the beloved wife is still alive at a husband’s death, she may be listed as an executor or her name may come up in the administration records of the will. Very often children are named, sons usually first and in order of birth. Married daughters are mentioned by their married names – a useful clue if you do not know whether or whom they married. Daughters are often mentioned in order as well. If a son or daughter is deceased, grandchildren are often included in the will so that they can inherit their parent’s portion of an estate. If there are minor children they are sometimes named as minors with instructions given as to how they will be raised and who will be their guardian. Go through wills for all the names you can find. Sometimes nephew, nieces and others are mentioned. List all the names you find and write the relationship down. Witnesses will sometimes be relatives, son-in-laws, or just close friends. The administration of the will will also give you names of people who may not be in the will but are important for you to note.

The date of the will, usually written out in full, will be a year in some wills and be “the tenth [or whatever] reign of” such and such a king or queen in older wills. The date the will was written can be years before the testator died but is often fairly close to the date of death. Wills that have been written years before may have codicils – an added wish or bequest which adds to or changes the original will.

Wills are one of the sources, like land records and marriage records, that individual states have taken pains to record because they deal with property and the legal passing on of property. Most states will have records of wills going way back while they were not so careful to record birth and death records. These records are usually kept at the county level in a probate court. When searching for wills in FamilySearch.org, go to the state where your ancestor resided at the time of death, not necessarily where he or she died. Look under the county and then under Probate Records in the list of topics. You will probably have to first use an index to find your ancestor’s will. Keep in mind that county boundaries changed and your ancestor’s probate record may be in a parent county which was later subdivided.

Lots of indexes and records can be found online as counties and states digitize their records and make them available. The state of Illinois has a webpage that gives the earliest dates that records were kept for the counties in

Illinois and this includes probate records. It also gives the date the county was formed:
<http://illinoisgenweb.org/countybmd.html>.

Some of the information I have found in wills helped to cement relationships, proving that my female ancestor was one of the daughters in a family even though she was not named in a family tree that someone made. In the administration records for another will, I found the name of the man who married the widow of the deceased and was then able to look for her death record under her new name. Even if you do not find any new information, you will find primary source information. Primary source information is what you are looking for in proving your ancestry.

Anne Field



FamilySearch

FamilySearch.org

Robert Givens introduced us to the updated FamilySearch website, <https://familysearch.org/> at our last meeting. Two of their goals were to keep it all free (yea!) and to put everything on one page. So when you go to the site you can choose to Search, to go to the Family Trees, to Index, if you want to be a volunteer, to add Photos, and more.

There are over one billion people in the **Family Trees** so far and you can add your own information or edit ancestors who have been entered by someone else. Each addition and change is logged so that you know who made the change or added information and you can get in touch with that person – if they have filled in their email address. Some of the records will have been added from older databases such as Ancestral File and the IGI and a name of a contributor is not given. Not all the information is sourced so do not take it as proof positive. Photos can be added as well as stories and information can be sourced, sometimes directly linked to a source in the FamilySearch catalog. If your ancestor is not in the database, you can add him or her and start a tree. In order to see the trees or to enter your own information, you must sign up, pick out a user name, a password, and give your email address. The email address allows others to contact you if they find your information or to share information with you. Having to log in prevents Tom, Dick and Harry from adding or changing the database with no record of who did what.

Although much of the program covered the family tree portion of FamilySearch, other topics were covered as well. **Indexing** is a big part of the FamilySearch website and volunteer indexers are adding about 1.4 million records per day. There are lots of projects going on and you can click to see all projects. One of the current projects is filming, digitizing and indexing all the Catholic Church records in Italy – this may take five years! You can volunteer to help with any ongoing project.

Books have always been a part of the Family History Library and many are being digitized. You can search the book collection by author, title, keyword, and surname. If you find one that is digitized, you can download it.

The **Catalog** lists all the materials available at the Family History Library. There are several ways to search and, if there is a digital version of a record, you can click on it and see the record. Many of the microfilms have been indexed and you can search the index online to find what you are looking for.

The **Research Wiki** is a wonderful place to find information, especially on a topic you know little about. There are about 90,000 articles. Look under a country to see what information there is about it, or a county. Go to *Browse Localities* and then type in *York County, Pennsylvania* - you will see an excellent source of information about the county with links to sources such as cemeteries, Bible records, church records, court records and so on. To get to the *Research Wiki*, click on *Get Help* at the top of the FamilySearch page and then click on *Research Wiki*. If you look up Merced County, CA, you will see that there is a lot of work to be done as there is nothing under most of the categories. THIS MIGHT BE A NICE PROJECT FOR OUR GROUP TO TAKE ON. See the page on contributing to the Wiki: <https://familysearch.org/ask/researchWiki>.

Latest Issue of The Family Tree Magazine

The October/November 2013 *Family Tree Magazine*, available in the DCR, has two very useful articles: one on German church records, "Going to Church," and one on transferring your old family movies onto DVDs, hard drives and other newer technology: "Movie Moments." You might want to have a look.

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 August 2013

Income:	10.14
Expenses:	00.00
Checking Total	\$3,326.45
Savings Account	3,863.04
CD-9 months; matures on 1/11/14	5,829.10
CD-12 months; matures on 8/31/13	5,646.51
Total in Checking and Savings:	\$18,665.10

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