

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 33, No. 9

OCTOBER 2015

October 2015 Meeting



My Experience Researching in Ireland

**By
Lewis
Ruddick**

1:00 p.m. Saturday

October 17, 2015

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

Janice Sellers & “Where There’s a Will: Probate Records Can Prove Family Connections” at our September Meeting

Janice Sellers offered us an interesting and informative afternoon of better understanding how to use wills and probate to



find our ancestors. You can contact her at janicemsj@gmail.com. Also, sign up for her blog: <http://ancestraldiscoveries.blogspot.com>

The following are some random notes from her presentation.

- Wills and probate provide information regarding family relationships and the social status of the deceased and family in their society.
- Prior to the 1900's, guardianship was important because of the property in the deceased's estate. Taking care of the minor children was a secondary consideration.
- Many people as adults had something that could be probated. If they didn't own land, they might have tools or other personal items.
- Approximately half of all ancestors were involved in a probate in some capacity, either as the deceased, heir, witness or administrator.
- When the deceased died intestate (without a valid will), there will be probate records involved in tracking down the heirs.
- Wills may give names but not the relationships
- The wife may be listed as the wife, but her name not given.
- The wife referred to in the will may not be the mother of the children
- There will probably be no mention of pre-deceased children unless they had children who could inherit
- Probates in the court system are usually indexed by the name of the decedent and are hard to find when looking for other family members involved
- Wills were originally written for the purpose of transferring land. They began to include personal property later.
- Wills prior to the Civil War will help find slave names since they were considered part of the property of an estate.
- A woman could administer an estate in some regions.
- Different laws in different states determined how an estate was divided.
- Primogeniture – where all or the majority of the estate goes to the oldest male child – was abandoned in the United States about the time of the American Revolution.
- In community property states you cannot have common law marriages.
- Relic is another word for widow.
- Records for mental health guardianships are hard to get, but can get court records
- When doing research, look in the county superior court.
- Learn the court system for each locality and time period. U.S. Gen Web is a good source for that information.
- Early probate records for Louisiana Purchase states will be in French and Spanish systems
- In French and Spanish systems, notaries were the ones who recorded these documents. Check notary records.
- After 1867 a repository was created in New Orleans for these records.

Problems with probate research:

- Not all estates were probated.

- Other legal information found in *Black's Dictionary of Law*. You can download the pdf of the 1905 version. Not much has changed since then, especially for family history purposes.
- For court records check minute books, order books and court dockets. A court docket record will exist even when an issue is settled out of court.

Types of wills:

- Holographic – a will verified to have been written in the handwriting of the decedent. In some jurisdictions holographic wills are valid without any witness signatures
- Oral – they were legally binding as long as there are witnesses to testify what was said.



September 2015 Meeting Membership:

There were 26 members and four guests at our September meeting. The Society now has a total for 94 active members and 33 inactive members.

Board Meeting

The next scheduled Merced County Genealogical Society board meeting is October 10, 2015.



Where there is a will, there is a genealogist.

October Speaker: Lewis M. Ruddick

Lewis M. Ruddick was born in Ukiah, Mendocino County, California. He served as a MPC in the U.S. Army stationed at Checkpoint Charlie Berlin. He graduated from San Jose State University with a BA in Law Enforcement Administration and from Golden Gate University, San Francisco with a M.P.A.

Mr. Ruddick enjoyed a 27 ½ years career in law enforcement during which he was twice a chief of police. He has taught at both the university and community college level

Mr. Ruddick has been researching his surname genealogy since 1981 when his father thrust a brief Ruddick family history into his hands and told him he wanted to know where the Ruddicks came from. It took nearly 25 years but fortunately before his father passed away he was able to determine this 5th great grandfather William Ruddick departed the tiny Northern Ireland village of The Diamond in County Armagh to immigrate to Penn's colony. He was able to confirm this with a visit to The Diamond in 2014 where a yDNA test was obtained from a Ruddick still living there who was a match. He has visited Ireland twice researching his Ruddick "roots."

During his pursuit he became the CA Gen Web county coordinator for the counties of Amador, Calaveras, Mendocino, Sonoma and Stanislaus. He is the group administrator for the FTDNA Reddick/r320 surname group. He is the past president of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County and the society's *Researcher* newsletter editor.

Upcoming Programs for 2015	
October	"My Experience Researching in Ireland" by Lewis Ruddick
November	"Blog Your Family History" by Robyn Echols
December	Annual Christmas Potluck for members
	Join us and invite others to join with us!

Passing of Member Judith North

Many of you are aware that the Society recently lost a long-time member with the passing of Judith North. The following is her obituary reprinted from the Merced Sun-Star:

Judith Bernice (Strunk) North
Merced Sun Star, Sept 14, 2015
Judy North
May 28, 1936 – Sept. 10, 2015

Judy North died peacefully on Thursday, September 10 after a long illness, surrounded by family. Judith Bernice Strunk was born on May 28, 1936 in Cleveland, Ohio. She attended the Beaumont School, a Catholic all girls school in Cleveland Heights, and then went to college at Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio, where she met her future husband, James W. North at a Newman Center mixer. Judy and Jim were married at Christ the King church in Cleveland on July 7, 1956. While Jim served in the military, Judy moved around the country with him, starting a family that came to include five daughters, born in Texas, Florida, New Jersey and Oklahoma. The family eventually settled in Merced in 1970 when Jim was stationed at Castle Air Force base in Atwater. In 1972, Judy became a Mary Kay Cosmetics beauty consultant, and soon rose to become successful Director of Cosmetic sales. One of her favorite pastimes was attending the annual Mary Kay National Convention in Dallas. Judy was proud of her Irish, Scottish, and German heritage and enjoyed exploring her genealogy, tracing her family back hundreds of years. She also served her community avidly over the years as a Lifetime Soroptimist, as well as a member of the Officers Wives Club, the Merced Chamber of Commerce, and the League of Woman Voters. Judy is survived by her beloved husband of nearly 60 years, Jim North; her daughters Becky (Alex) Garza, Vicky (Pete) Wainwright, Christy North, Bambi (Troy) Molino, and Monica (Jafar) Al-Amin; 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; her brother, Stanley Strunk, her beloved cousin, Becky Orłowski, and countless other extended family. A Catholic Mass will be said for Judy on Monday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church on 671 E. Yosemite Ave. in Merced; reception immediately following at St. Patrick's. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations either be made to Soroptimists, or any other charity in her name.



Genealogy isn't fatal, but it is a grave disease.



Death obits cemetery sources

African-American Cemeteries Online

www.prairiebluff.com/aacemetery

Dig into the tombstone transcriptions at African-American Cemeteries Online to search for black ancestors' burials. Each state has a page listing the cemeteries that volunteers have recorded, with links to the data—usually names, dates and the cemetery's location and condition. The site is part of The Millennium Project, an attempt to build an online database of African-American genealogical material.

Cleveland Necrology File

www.cpl.org

From the Cleveland Public Library home page, click Cleveland Necrology File to access a searchable database of local cemetery records and newspaper death notices for 1833, 1847 to 1848 and 1850 to 1975. (For deaths after 1975, follow links to the Cleveland News Index.) You can search the necrology file by name or keyword, simultaneously tapping articles from the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Cleveland Herald* and *Cleveland Press*, as well as non-newspaper sources.

Find A Grave

findagrave.com

At this virtual cemetery, you can search 3.2 million US cemetery records by name or browse through all listings by surname. Once you find a family member, you can upload a photo or leave a virtual flower and note. Find A Grave also lets you add new burial records or build an online memorial.

Interment.net

www.interment.net

This cemetery transcription "library" has collected nearly 3 million records from more than 5,600 cemeteries worldwide. Its special collections feature California Mission cemeteries, Woodman of the World burials, veteran's cemeteries and cemeteries flooded by dams. Check out the free articles and info on how to record cemetery data.

Obituary Central

www.obitcentral.com/obitsearch

Follow thousands of links to online obituaries. Obituary Central points you to research sites, obituary-specific search engines, Canadian obit sites and state-by-state searches of surnames located in thousands of online tombstone inscriptions.

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Cemeteries-and-Death-Records>

New Book List - August 2015
Doris Cochran Research Room

941.5 Dobson

Irish emigrants in North America, by David Dobson.

941.5 Radford

Ireland: Fundamental Sources for Irish Genealogical Research, by Dwight A. Radford.

943 Uncapher

German Maps & Facts for Genealogy, by Wendy K. Uncapher

948.5 Hjelm

Especially for Swedes, by Dennis J Hjelm

970.5 Foreman

Indian Removal; the emigration of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians, by Foreman, Grant.

973 Hutton

Seventeenth century colonial ancestors of members of the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, 1915-1975 / compiled by Mary Louise M. Hutton; with supplement number 1, 1975-1979 compiled by Mary Louise M. Hutton; supplement number 2, 1979-1988 compiled by Mrs. George L. Bott.

973 Norelius

The pioneer Swedish settlements and Swedish Lutheran churches in America, 1845-1860, by Eric Norelius

973 Tepper

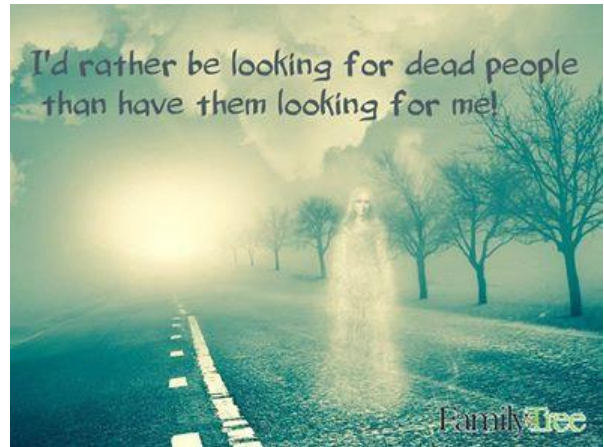
Passengers to America: a consolidation of ship passenger lists from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register / edited by Michael Tepper.

973.04397 Werngren

Signs of Swedish Roots in North America, by Nikolas Werngren.

974.5 Sperry

Rhode Island sources for family historians and genealogists, by Kip Sperry.



Courtesy of Family Tree Magazine

974.65 Chase Vol. 1

Gravestone chronicles, by Theodore Chase, Laura K. Gabel.

974.8 Kuhns

The German and Swiss Settlements of Colonial Pennsylvania: a study of the so-called Pennsylvania Dutch, by Oscar Kuhns.

974.841 Zarfoss

Bits and Bytes of Trivia and Facts: Churches of York County, Pennsylvania, comp. by Franklin W. Zarfoss.

974.841 Zarfoss

History of Churches, York County, PA, in Chronological Sequence, 1700-1799, by Franklin W. Zarfoss.

975.2 Records

Records of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Frederick, Maryland, 1746-1800, translated by William John Hinke.

975.2 Wright

Western Maryland newspaper abstracts: compilation of items taken from the available

newspapers of Hagerstown and Frederick Maryland. vols. 1 & 2, by Edward F. Wright.

975.277 Getty

Abstracts from the Engine of Liberty and Uniontown Advertiser, 1813-1815: selected abstracts from a newspaper published by Charles Sower at Uniontown, Maryland, relating to the history of Frederick County and Carroll County, Maryland.

975.277 Woodward

Carroll County Physicians of the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries, by Theodore E Woodward; Historical Society of Carroll County (Md.).

975.287 Markell

Unpublished manuscript written by Mrs. C. Sue Markell: short stories of life in Frederick in 1830. by C. Sue Markell.



Ancestors keeping watch

975.287 Newman

Three Historical Sketches of Frederick County: from its foundation to the end of the Revolutionary period, by Parsons Newman.

975.29 Newspaper

Newspaper abstracts of Allegany and Washington counties, 1811-1815.

976.9 Puckett

Abstracts of deeds, mortgages, and more: Estill County, Kentucky, compiled by Ed Puckett

976.959 Puckett, vol. 1

Circuit Court Records of Estill County, Kentucky 1824-1908, by Edward Puckett; Ellen Rogers; Estill County Historical & Genealogical Society.

977.148 Rasor

Newton Township Civil War Monument, Pleasant Hill, Ohio, 1895-1995: history, by Leo Rasor

979.458 Jamero

The pioneer Filipino families of Livingston, California, by Herb Jamero.

979.531 Dyal

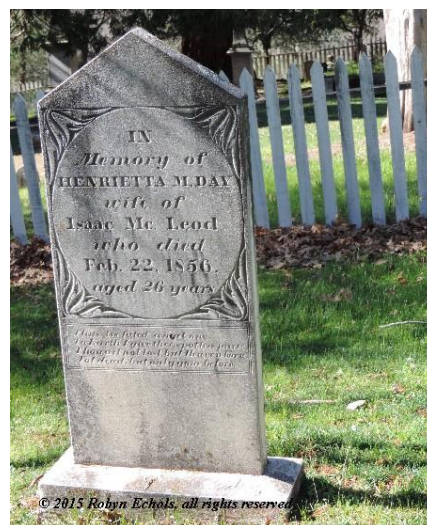
1860 Federal Census of Lane County, Oregon, by Addie Dyal; Oregon Genealogical Society.

979.531 Oregon

Lane County, Oregon 1880 Census, by Oregon Genealogical Society.

979.531 Wilson

1870 Lane County, Oregon Census, by Mrs. Robert Wilson, Oregon Genealogical Society



*Columbia, CA cemetery headstone
Henrietta M. Day, wife of Isaac McLeod
Who died Feb. 22, 1856 aged 26 years*

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 October 2015 issue is September 25th.** 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

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President-elect	Bernadette Castaneda
Vice President	Lois Jimenez
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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: August 2015

Income	224.24
Expenses	(47.45)
Checking Balance	\$5,593.64
Savings Account:	3,866.86
CD-9 months; matures on 03/31/16	5,847.04
CD-12 months; matures on 5/18/16	5,669.94
Total in Checking and Savings:	\$20,977.48

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