

THE FAMILY SNOOP

MERCED COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 32, No. 8

September 2014

September Meeting

Documenting the Past

Speaker: Michael Gleason

Our Mission Statement:

To provide a dynamic genealogical database of names drawn from everyday documents used by our ancestors, for the purpose of establishing a record outside of the traditional government archives.



At Documenting Your Past, you can actually find, purchase, own, and display unique items that were handled by your ancestors!

1:00 p.m. Saturday

September 20, 2014

Gracey Room, Merced County Library

Message from the President:

Dear Friends,



Our July MCGS presentation on the Azores by Anne Field and Roberta Saling whose individual trips were a mini pictorial tour of the islands with tips on what to see and problems to avoid when traveling abroad. Especially enjoyable was the table display of pictures

and treasures brought back from their trip.

We are almost through the high heat of summer, the children are back in school and, after having had a great trip up to Oregon, its back to "work." Or, no work, as is the case with me. I am officially retired! My husband and I decided it's quits for being "Fairies" as I like to call us. We go to County Fairs to sell the solid leather belts that Neil makes from scratch, and that's why I call us Fair-es. So now I have more time for Genealogy and some trips do some research.

On our trip to Eugene we saw Neil's large family of 12 brothers and sisters, not to mention double cousins. Two sisters, Scully's (Northern Ireland descent) married two brothers, the McLeod's of Scots-Highland/Viking descent, and everybody looks so much alike. I had a chance to use my new Flip-Pal mobile scanner that I purchased through Legacy, a genealogy site. It's really easy to copy things, although the screen is about 4-1/8x6, in size, you have the ability to mesh separate copies together into a seamless copy on your computer. It is great for copying info in books. I used it for copying a letter written by Neil's father to his daughter from

the Navy in WWII, which no one has except his sister (the recipient). The viewing window is small and you can't distinguish minute details at all but it's copied onto a SD card which you then insert into your computer for transfer. If you would like to get one, go to **flip-pal.com** or **http://.facebook.com/Flip-Pal**. I will bring it to meetings so you can see it first-hand.

A reminder to our membership that we need persons to step up to fill in vacancies left by our outgoing Treasurer and possibly our Secretary as she is now our Snoop Editor. A nominating committee is being formed to nominate forthcoming persons who want to fill these positions. As of July, we do have a dear person who has volunteered to be our Membership Registrar.

A big thank you to those who have filled out our survey slips on "Wishes for the Snoop" and "Your Research States". We will continue to have the slips at the sign in desk for those who haven't as yet filled one out.



And, last, but not least. We have a new Head Librarian. Her name is Amy Taylor. Welcome Amy Taylor to the town of Merced, to the Merced County Library and to the Merced County Genealogical Society.

We look forward to sharing our hopes and dreams with you for many years to come.

In your service, Stephanie McLeod, Pres.

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Our condolences go to Ila Chastain who recently lost her husband.

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Welcome Greg Entriiken from Delhi, our newest Merced County Genealogical Society member.

Upcoming Programs 2014-2015	
October 18	The 1820s Mountain Men - Scott Johnson
November 15	Share, Tell and Ask - presented by the program committee
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

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Our July Meeting

In July, we had 2 new members that renewed since the last meeting for a total of 90 active members. We have 20 members and 4 guests present.

Robyn Echols is now the *The Family Snoop* editor. She will continue as the secretary, also, until the end of the year.

A Heartfelt THANK YOU to Anne Field, our outgoing "The Family Snoop" editor, for the hours of hard work these past several years she put into writing and publishing this newsletter.

As part of our 31st Anniversary Celebration, Sharon Darby recognized some of our members for their years of membership. The following people have had another 5 year membership star added to their badge:

- 5 years – Amy De la Torre
- 10 years – Gloria Hennessey, Steve & Sharon Wainwright
- 15 years – Denise Gallagher, Barbara Hale
- 20 years – Karen & Richard Allbright
- 25 years – Patricia Snyder Snoke
- 30 years – Virginia Chase

Our presentation for July was a joint effort by Roberta Saling and Anne Field speaking on visiting the Azores. Both have been there but on separate occasions. They collaborated in order to share photographs of their vacations by way of a PowerPoint presentation and a display table.

Roberta prepared a display including the hotels where they stayed. Accommodations were great. Each had washers and dryers so they did not need to pack a lot. The staff was very helpful. All spoke English.



Roberta chose to go because although she has been to Portugal, her grandmother, while brushing told her when she was 6 -7 years old, told her that her favorite hairbrush fell into one of the volcanic rock crevices they used for building. Roberta said one day she would go back and find it.

Hydrangeas are everywhere.



Horta (H is silent) is the main city. The church records and all important records for the Azores are found in this city.

Travel between the islands is by ferry.

The Azores is at the joint of African Plate, North America Plate & Eurasian plate. They have their own little plate where the three join. The islands have a lot of volcanic activity.

The US has a big air base there that was due to close in 2013. This base has put a lot of money into the local economy in past years. Azoreans have been concerned about what the loss will mean to their island economy in the long run.

What prompted many citizens of the Azores to immigrate to the United States?

- When whaling was outlawed, many Azoreans lost their livelihoods.
- The Capelinhos volcano erupted in 1957-58. In response, the United States passed The Azorean Refugee Act of Sept 2, 1958. Azoreans came mostly to California, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.



This tile to the left represents an Azorean tradition. The bigger and fuller the hood on the wife's cape, the more prosperous her husband is.



The island of Faial has a huge caldera. It is a giant volcano 5-6 miles across. The hot spot area inside the caldera/caldeira still has steam vents and mud pots. It used to have water in it, but a crack developed and the water drained. No one lives in it.

The Azores has a fumarole cooking area where people put pots in cement lined holes, cover the pots with dirt and the volcanic steam cooks the food. This is like a public park with the fumaroles available on a first come, first serve basis.

Tips for travel to Europe:

- Take more than one credit card. Know the PIN for each. Most nations in Europe now require you to know the PIN for your credit cards even though this is not a practice in the US.
- Change money into currency of the nation you plan to visit before you go (Euros for US Dollars – you will even need them in the airport). Don't wait until to arrive in Europe.
- Let your bank and cell phone provider know you are going so they don't worry about fraud issues.
- You are not in your usual routine so pay careful attention to keeping track of your belongings.
- As of last year (2013), gas prices were equivalent to \$7.00 per gallon. The streets were not busy.
- Your passport must be current and good until at least six months pass the date of your visit.
- Always invest in trip insurance. (Trip cancellation, must be sent home early due to health, lose your luggage, etc.) Your homeowners won't cover those situations.

If you plan to go to the Azores, the airline only flies on Wednesdays June through Oct. Sometimes you must have your reservations a year in advance.

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Winton Families & More – a local blog

<http://wintonfamiliesmore.blogspot.com/>

One of our own members, Lorraine Richards, has a blog called *Winton Families & More*. The More is there so you can read about cactus, geraniums, flea markets and other items that are not about Winton. Being a genealogist and an historian, Lorraine has blogged about Winton history and family genealogy as well.

Besides her blog, Lorraine also has a Flickr page with cemetery photos from Winton Cemetery:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/winton_historical_society/

The people buried here are not just from Winton. Atwater has no cemetery and so many Atwater people are buried here as well. She has done a nice job, the photos clear and legible, and there are now over 1800 photos. You can read about it on her blog page, posted Monday March 3, 2014.

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CGGS 2014 DNA Seminar



October 25, 2014 from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Telle Center, United Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver Road, Modesto
\$30 Member, \$35 Early registration (by Oct. 6), \$40 late/at the door

The focus of this year's seminar will be what to do with your DNA testing results. Attendees are encouraged to bring their test results and to ask questions. We will presenters who have had successful experiences with yDNA, mtDNA and autosomal DNA. The afternoon sessions are grouped with experienced presenter in one of these three DNA areas. Katherine Hope Borges of ISOGG, who made the very well received presentation at the 2013 DNA Seminar, will head the presenters.

Call (209) 667-0536 for further information, or visit:

<http://cagenweb.com/lr/stanislaus/gssc.html>, gssc@worldnet.att.net

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Old Genealogists never die - they just lose their census.

1914: 100 Year Anniversary of the Start of World War 1

World War 1, or “The Great War,” as it was known until the start of the Second World War, began on 28 July 1914 when, following the assassination of Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. The United Kingdom entered into the war on 4 August 1914 when it declared war on Germany in response to Germany declaring war on Belgium. The United States did not get involved until almost three years later on 6 April 1917.

If you are searching for records of either ancestors or collateral relatives that may have served in this war, the following are some sites you may find interesting and helpful.

1. Website - **Scotland's People**

This group has made available a collection of Scottish wills written by soldiers in both world wars.

- The July 2014 newsletter contains: Your WW1 stories - the war notebook kept by Charlie Ducat of Musselburgh, and the 1st Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers and the King's Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB)
- The August 2014 newsletter contains: Scottish soldiers' wills from Arnhem and Market Garden 1944

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/Content/Help/index.aspx?r=2282>



*Queen Mary's School
Queen Mary's School
aka Baldersby Park,
was originally built in
the Palladian style in
1721 by a young
Scottish architect,
Colen Campbell. The
building became a*

convalescent home for injured soldiers in WW1,

2. Website: **FORCES WAR RECORDS**

What Makes Forces War Records Unique:

- The ONLY site where you can search military records of more than 6 Million British Armed Forces personnel
 - Records are cross matched with more than 4000 British military units
 - Records dating back to 1350
- Get information on your military ancestors and history on their military unit in one place - learn

about the battles they fought and what life was like for them

What You Will Find with Forces War Records:

- Memories and experiences from those who served
- Pictures and videos
- Battle honours and regiment
- Campaign medals
- Exclusive online library of more than 1,700 historic documents



<http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/records>

3. **British Army medal index cards 1914-1920**

These records are index cards created by the Army Medal Office towards the end of the First World War. They record the medals that men and women who served in the First World War were entitled to claim. There are over 5 million cards, held in series WO 372. Most of the cards are for soldiers in the British Army.

The collection also includes:

- Most British Army officers
- Indian Army personnel
- British Army nurses
- Royal Flying Corps personnel
- Royal Naval Division personnel
- Some civilians

Most of the cards contain information about campaign medals, which were generally awarded to all those who served overseas. However, some of the cards record entitlement to gallantry and long service awards.



<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/medal-index-cards-ww1.htm>

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 2014 issue is September 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: June/July 2014

Income	80.40
Expenses	(525.40)
Checking Balance	<u>\$4,367.90</u>
Savings Account:	3,864.79
CD-9 months; matures on 10/8/14	5,837.09
CD-12 months; matures on 5/19/15	<u>5,656.86</u>
<u>Total in Checking and Savings:</u>	<u>\$19,726.64</u>

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