

PLACER



TRAILS

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GENERAL MEETINGS

General meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada Street at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Doors will be open at 6:30 PM.

March Evening Meeting Thursday, March 25, 2010

When was that Picture Taken? Sandra Harris

Sandra has been researching for many years and has provided research for people all over the world. Because the California Room of the California State Library has so many good resources, she's been able to find many relatives for people in Ireland, Australia, England, Canada, and most of the United States.

Day Study Group Meeting Monday, April 12, 2010 10:00 am to 12:00 noon Beecher Room, Auburn Library

[Barbara Leak](#) leads the study group. Visitors are welcome.

Family Tree Maker User Group Thursday, April 8, 2010 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon LDS Stake Building, 1255 Bell Road, Auburn

Family Tree Maker 2010 Q&A

The FTM User Group meetings will continue our look at the recently released update of Family Tree Maker 2010 and time for questions and answers.

Special in-depth topics can be scheduled. Please e-mail our group leader [Jerry Unruh](#) with any requests.

Time to Renew Your Membership

It is time for membership renewal. Please see page 7 for our renewal form.

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THANKS to those who prepared the newsletter for mailing in February: John Knox, Audrey Meyers, Suzan Vander Linden, Bob Baker and John and Jacqui Marcella.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is that time of the year when the time changes again. Do we Spring back and Fall forward or Spring forward and Fall back? It may not seem that confusing but for those of us who are still writing 2008 on

our checks there are complications. This is all on top of attempting to adjust to being retired.

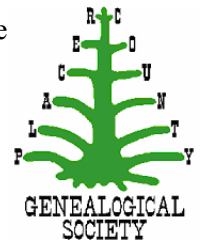
I actually thought that I would have more time to devote to research but it's as confusing as the time and year. I believe that I mentioned it at last month's meeting that my genealogy web site is still producing results for us. I was recently contacted by one of my cousins daughter. She asked if I had any pictures of her grandfather (my uncle). I was able to send two pictures of the seven brothers that I have – there are six brothers in each of the pictures.

Remember these are Oklahoma...



My cousin's grandfather is the youngest.

PLACER TRAILS is a publication of the Placer County Genealogical Society
 P.O. Box 7385, Auburn, CA 95604
 VOICE MAIL (866) 894-2076



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Vi Parsons Our February Speaker



With all the interest in publishing our individual family histories, Vi gave good tips on *Writing Your Life History in Short Stories*. Vi and her twin sister Vi have an interesting web site at: www.carrtwins.com

Vi had several pointers on how to get past the four main roadblocks to writing your life history:

- I'm not a writer
- I can't spell
- English and grammar are not my strong points
- I don't have time to write

It was an interesting presentation and Vi made it seem possible for all of us to publish our life history.

Other pictures from the meeting:



Frank "Bud" Schmiedel and Mona Wight-Schmiedel Meet your fellow members...

Frank "Bud" Schmiedel is San Francisco born and I am from Alabama, by way of Maryland and Michigan. He spent his life as a career merchant seaman, with some interesting shore-side jobs between trips, including spending several months with Barnum and Bailey Circus in 1945. I spent my career in the newspaper business, first working for newspapers from metropolitan dailies to small-town weeklies and finally owning and operating the Foresthill Messenger for ten years.



Bud and I met in 1994, when he called me to write his wife's obituary to publish in the Foresthill Messenger. Over the next year, our business relationship became personal and in no time we found ourselves into genealogy together. He had done some work on his Schmiedel line and, of course, had some Oral Family History stories. I had done no genealogy at all: my mother was my family's genealogist and I'd never shared her interest in my own ancestors. But, being a logical and research-oriented person (must have been my mother's DNA) I decided Bud and I could do some serious work on his ancestors.

Hundreds of microfilms, hours at the Family History Center, help from Sacramento German Genealogy Society mentors, support from genealogy-minded friends (and tolerance from the un-genealogical ones,) we got his Schmiedels back to 1797, to an illegitimate child born in Sachsen, Germany, named Johann Gottlob. And there we stuck.

In a quest beginning in 1999, we started making plans to go to Germany, specifically to visit to town from which his great-grandparents, Johann Reinhold and Maria Louise Schwarz had immigrated in 1881 and 1882, Barmen-Elberfeld, and equally important, to get married in the same Rathaus where his great-grandparents had married.

We had a fabulous trip, accomplished our marriage, visited the church his forefathers had attended, met several family members from the line which had remained in Germany and made lifelong friends with a couple with the same last name, but of no blood relation. (I wrote the story of our genealogical quest, our trip and our marriage for SGGS's Der Blumenbaum July-August and September 2000 edition, should anyone be a member of that group and care to read the whole story.)

Bud encouraged me to get interested in my own genealogy. My mother had compiled the Wright and Sulser family trees the old-fashioned way, writing letters to court houses, searching libraries and archives and interviewing elder relations and following down their leads. She had published several family books and was quite willing to send me all the supporting documents I needed to get me into the United Daughters of the Confederacy on three family members who had fought for the South during the War Between the States: Samuel Sulser, George Washington Cantrell and William M. Morgan. With more of her help, I delved back through the years and soon joined the Daughters of the American Revolution. I am currently Regent of Emigrant Trail Chapter NSDAR, and very proud of that.

Bud and I planned another trip to Germany, this time to visit several little towns in Sachsen that were mentioned in his great-grandparents' 1825 marriage document. In preparation for the trip, I wrote to the tourist bureau in Annaberg-Buchholz, explaining that we were genealogists hoping to visit the Heimat and asked if they could they help us. A package of tourist information soon arrived in the mail.

A few weeks later, a letter from an Annaberg-Buchholz genealogist, Professor Doctor Wolfgang Lorenz, arrived. The tourist bureau had sent our name to him: he had researched the Schmiedel name extensively as part of his own family history. He generously supplied us with copies of church and court records, copies of his books and, best of all, the missing link between our Johann Gottlob and his father, Johann Friedrich, which connected us to Prof. Dr. Lorenz' research. Suddenly our Schmiedel line reached back to the late 1500's, to Elias Schmiedel, born in Weipert, now Vejprty, Czech Republic.

On our 2003 trip to Germany, we met Prof. Dr. Lorenz and his wife, who hosted us to a lovely tea in their home and gave us a grand walking tour of their city. Also on that trip, we took a narrow-gauge train that carried us through a dozen of the little towns that our Schmiedels had lived in.

We've continued to work on our Schmiedels, on Bud's mother's Riordan line and my own Patriot lines (Brewster, Austin and Steele, already proven; Curd, Lumpkin, Leavenston, Porter, Duckworth, Binkley, Shane, Castleman, Buchanan, Dossett and Swingley, all probable.)

Within the past year we've moved "down the Hill" from Foresthill to Auburn and chose, especially after the urging of Jacqui and John Marcella, to become active in PCGS. An evening spent with friends who share our interests in things genealogical and historical is always well spent and we look forward to many more such evenings with PCGS members.

Mona Schmiedel

How to Begin Seminar Canceled

Our annual How to Begin Seminar was scheduled for March 20; however, due to family illnesses of several of our speakers we have had to cancel the Seminar for this year.

Upcoming Meetings

April 22 General Meetin: Shirley Reimer on *Intermediate German*. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Shirley earned a Masters Degree in English from Carnegie-Mellon University. She taught high school English for 10 years, then worked in communicates for 22 years. Her book, *The German Research Companion*, was published in 1997, followed by a second edition in 2000 which is now sold out. In 2001, followed by a second edition in 2000, she coauthored with Dr. Roger P. Minert the book, *Researching in Germany: A Handbook for Your Visit to the Homeland of Your Ancestors*. Since 1992, she has edited *Der Blumenbaum*, the quarterly journal of the Sacramento German Genealogy Society. She has made 40 trips to Germany.

Free Classes Make Genealogy Expertise Accessible Anywhere (an announcement from Family Search)

SALT LAKE CITY—It is rare that Marcia Covington can make the trip from her home in State College, Pennsylvania, to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Now, however, people like Covington can take classes from the world-famous library without ever leaving home.

The FamilySearch Family History Library is now making its popular classes available at FamilySearch.org, where anyone anywhere in the world can access them for free at a time that is convenient for them. The classes have been offered on-site in Salt Lake City for years. Until now, attendance has been limited to those patrons who are fortunate to live in the surrounding community or happen to be visiting the library as part of a research trip. Making the classes available online allows access to many more patrons.

"Most people do family history whenever they can fit it in their busy lives, on evenings, holidays, weekends, and so forth. Whether you are a beginner or experienced researcher, you can choose subjects of interest to you from the available classes and watch them anytime and anywhere," said FamilySearch Community Services Manager Diane Loosle.

The online classes are a great complement to the free personal research assistance the Family History Library offers to its patrons in Utah and through its family history centers worldwide. According to Loosle, the free online classes are one part of the growing number of tools FamilySearch is building for its online patrons. That is great news to people like Covington.

"Very few people have the opportunity to come to Salt Lake City, but these classes give me the same access at home as I can get in Utah," Covington said. "Our distances here are pretty long, and for some people it is a 40-minute drive to the nearest family history center. These classes make it possible to get training in your home whenever you want, and it is so nice that it is free."

There are currently 23 Family History Library classes available online, with subjects ranging from European research to United States military records. The most popular offerings are the Beginning Research Series for Ireland and England and a class on descendancy research.

The classes vary in length from 6 to 58 minutes, with most lasting about 25 minutes. The format of the class varies, depending on the content being presented. One type of class shows a video that alternates between the teacher and

the PowerPoint slides. Another kind of class integrates video of the presenter, the accompanying PowerPoint slides, and links to supplemental materials all in one screen.

Several of the classes are interactive, such as a course on reading German handwriting. In these classes, the teacher is represented with still photographs and audio narration, and the student can actively participate in learning activities, such as matching English and German characters or transcribing selected words from a document. As a student types, the correct text appears in green and incorrect answers appear in red, providing immediate feedback.

FamilySearch is continually adding new online offerings; classes on how to read English handwritten records are currently in development. All of the classes can be accessed on www.familysearch.org by clicking on Free Online Classes on the home page.

ABOUT FAMILY SEARCH INTERNATIONAL

FamilySearch International is the largest genealogy organization in the world. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch has been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. FamilySearch is a nonprofit organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources free online at FamilySearch.org or through over 4,600 family history centers in 132 countries, including the renowned Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mailing List: CA-PCGS

We have a mailing list at RootsWeb for PCGS. Announcements of meetings and other information of interest to PCGS members will be made available through this mailing list. It is also a place to gloat about your recent finds and general discussion among our members. If you have trouble subscribing please e-mail at the address below.

CA-PCGS is a mailing list for the members of the Placer County (California) Genealogical Society (PCGS) to discuss the activities of the Society. If you are a member of the Society you can subscribe by sending "subscribe" to <mailto:ca-pcgs-l-request@rootsweb.com> (mail mode) or <mailto:ca-pcgs-d-request@rootsweb.com> (digest mode). To switch from one mode to the other, you should unsubscribe from one and then subscribe to the other. There is no "no mail" mode -- if you want messages to stop, you should simply unsubscribe. You may also search or browse the archives or subscribe at http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/Genealogical_Societies/CA-PCGS.html. If you have trouble subscribing or unsubscribing please send an e-mail to maillist@pcgs.pcggenes.com

Please feel free to communicate with other members and the PCGS board through the mail list on any topic of interest to the PCGS.

PCGS Voice Mail (866) 894-2076

Don Cortez of Three Ring Service has graciously donated a voice mail telephone number for Placer County Genealogical Society. The answering message will announce basic information and the upcoming PCGS meetings. Callers can leave messages for board members, chairpersons and the research committee. Thank You, Don Cortez.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

General Meeting (Fourth Thursday of the Month) – March 25, 2010, *When was that Picture Taken?* with **Sandra Harris**

Day Study Group Meeting (Second Monday of the Month) – April 12, 2010 – [Barbara Leak](#) leads the Day Study Group.

Family Tree Maker User's Group (Second Thursday of the Month) – April 8, 2010 – *Family Tree Maker 2010 Q&A* with [Jerry Unruh](#).

Placer County Genealogical Society Board Meetings (Wednesday prior to General Meeting) – 10:00 a.m. at the Carnegie Library on Almond Street in Auburn. All members are welcome to attend, but please let a board member know due to space restrictions and to confirm date and time.

For Updates on Meetings and Other Events:

Check our web site

pcgs.pcgenes.com

or

PCGS Voice Mail (866) 894-2076

Next Newsletter DEADLINE is:

April 1, 2010

Email: placertrails@pcgs.pcgenes.com

