



MISSION OAKS GENEALOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER

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ASK CHUCK

Just Beginning, or Just Need Help?

By Charles Woolsey

First of all, let me assure you, I am not immune from criticism. I also do not get mad or upset easily. This was brought to my attention recently when I received an e-mail from a total stranger asking about when and where our meetings were. I had failed to put sufficient information on the website. The lady informed me she had gone to the various websites in an effort to get info on Genealogical Clubs and meetings. So I would appreciate it when you all have the time to access the website and make suggestions about additions to it and changes that would make it more usable to the general public. Our goal is to serve the club and the public that is interested in Genealogy. I need your help with the newsletter.

I have been pursuing this hobby for a number of years now. I of course do not have all the answers when it comes to research, but I think I know where to go to find the answers.

This is the reason for my putting a page on the website that says **"ASK CHUCK"**, I not only want members to ask me questions when they have problems with research so I might help

them. I hope to reach many people out there on the computer who are just starting and wonder where to go. As most of you know My wife, Willie, and I volunteer at the Family History Center and our job there of course it help people with genealogy. So I thought to putting out there the message Chuck Knows it all and you can ask him it to make new people to the hobby less intimidated to ask questions.

I have gotten to know a lot of persons who are pursuing Genealogy and learned at least a little from all of them. In fact my favorite saying at the history center is that some evenings I teach others a lot and other evenings they teach me a lot. As far as I am concerned some of the nicest people I have met are pursuing this hobby and they are certainly the most helpful.. I met a genealogist recently who told me that she was not into sharing most of her information as many people did not even acknowledge they had received anything much less say thanks for the help.

We should always go out of our way to let people know that we appreciate the help and part of this is to "EXCHANGE" information, not to just take it incorporate it and forget it.

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AN INVITATION

The Mission Oaks Genealogy Club is a nonprofit organization. It was founded in 1984 to provide education and training for its members and the general public on the techniques, methods, resources and facilities used in the pursuit of genealogical research; to promote the collection and preservation of genealogical historical materials; and to cultivate public awareness of the educational and historical value of genealogical research.

We invite your attendance and membership. Where else can inspiration, knowledge, fellowship and entertainment be found twelve times a year, plus a quarterly newsletter, for only \$12.00? These five big "Ws" have been enlisted to provide you with our vital statistics:

Why do we meet? For learning, sharing, fun and fellowship.

What do we do? ... Hold a variety of monthly meetings to keep our interest and whet our appetites for "fruit" to be garnered from our very own tree of genealogical delights.

When do we meet? ... Every third Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 P. M.

Where do we meet? ... Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, California.

Who may attend? ...Anyone, visitors and new members are always welcome.

We freely admit we have been bitten by the gene-bug and are looking for new people to infect to come in contact with us may be the end of life as we know it. There is no known cure once infection has occurred

HOW TO JOIN

You may join the Mission Oaks Genealogy Club by attending a meeting and paying your dues in person or by sending your Name, address, telephone number and a Check for \$12.00 payable to: Mission Oaks Genealogy Club

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<<http://missionoakesgenealogyclub.org>

CLUB MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS

—SUBJECT TO CHANGE—

Thursday Sept 17

Preserving your family history

Rick Hanson

Thursday Oct 15

Show Off Your Publications

Sources and Heirlooms

Family History Days At The California State Archives

California State Archives
ROOT CELLAR—Sacramento Genealogical Society
Genealogical & Historical Council of Sacramento Valley

Invite you to be a part of

FAMILY HISTORY DAY AT THE ARCHIVES

Saturday, October 10, 2009

California State Archives, 1020 "O" Street, 4th Floor,
Sacramento, California

- * Is your organization looking for new members
- * Does your organization have publicans to sell?
- * Does your organization have materials and Supplies to offer to the public ?

Family History Day will offer:

- * Genealogical & Historical Society Booth
- * Heritage Society & Lineage & Patriotic Society Booths
- * Presentations on Preservation and Archival Techniques
- * Genealogy and Historical Mini-Classes
- * Visit the California Museum Free
- * Take a mini tour of the Archives
- * Opportunity to research in ROOT CELLAR'S Library
- * FREE admission to the General Public
- * Limited free parking (Light rail stops at the Archives" front door.)

This is an outing that is not to be missed by any genealogy buff. It is your opportunity to see all the organizations that are doing genealogical research in the Sacramento Area. You also will be able to see what is available at the Archives and there is a vast amount of information available, especially about California, towns, cities, and counties. In many instances there are very small communities that have historical and genealogical significance but are too small to have a library or other facility to house materials on the community. Most of these things can be found at the Archives and State Library.

This gives you an opportunity to join together with others and be mentored or to be a mentor to someone else who is just starting out. The main cost is your time and the returns on your investment are enormous

**The Sacramento Regional
Family History**

Center
Presents

FAMILY:

Eternal Keepsakes

A Family History Seminar

Saturday, 7 November 2009

8:00 am — 3:30 pm

**LDS Church
2745 Eastern Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95821**

**The Sacramento Regional
Family History
Center**

Registration Forms available at:

- * **Sacramento Family History Center**
- * **Ward consultants**
- * **www.FamilyHistoryCenter.info**

THE YEAR WAS 1892

Ancestry.com

The year was 1892 and on New Year's Day, the Ellis Island Immigration Center was officially dedicated. On that day, a fifteen-year-old Irish girl, Annie Moore, from County Cork, was the first person processed at Ellis Island. She arrived on the SS Nevada and was presented with a ten-dollar gold piece. For years historians debated the identity of Annie Moore, but in September 2006, a group of family historians solved the mystery and located the correct Annie Moore.

This first station would last only five years. A fire destroyed the pine frame buildings in 1897 and the receiving station reopened in 1900. By the time Ellis Island closed in 1954, more than 16 million immigrants passed through this gateway. Nearly half the current population of the United States is directly related to immigrants who passed through this gateway to liberty.

In February, a typhus outbreak in New York was traced to immigrants, mostly Jews from Eastern Europe, who arrived on the Massilia. Health officials raced to quarantine immigrants from the ship, both sick and healthy. This and a later outbreak of cholera in New York spurred the National Quarantine Act of 1893. The book *Quarantine! East European Jewish Immigrants and the New York City Epidemics of 1892*, by Howard Markel examines this period. The *Middletown Daily Times* (Middletown, New York) for 16 February 1892 also contains reports on the efforts to quarantine immigrants who arrived on the Massilia.

There was also a cholera epidemic in parts of Russia and Germany. In Hamburg, 142,000 people (13 percent of the population) died of the disease.

On the technological front, AT&T opened the first commercial long distance phone from New York to Chicago. It could only handle one call at a time, and the price was steep, even by today's standards — \$9.00 for the first 5 minutes.

In sports, the first official basketball game was played. The first nets were actually peach baskets. No work on who won the game.

We Need Your Help

As most of you know, Rick Hanson has been conducting the bimonthly prize drawings for the past few years. The drawing donations provided by you, the members, over the years has allowed the Programs Committee to book speakers who charge fees (and pay for handouts). Unfortunately, the current trend is that most of the good speakers are charging fees which creates a growing challenge for small groups like ours.

Being on the Program committee, some months Rick must direct his attention to making the guest speaker welcome, doing announcements, or running the meeting program. Elizabeth Jones was always able and willing to substitute for him. But she has recently been unable to attend meetings. So without a reliable backup person, he has had to cancel scheduled drawings for lack of time.

So a volunteer to take over as the Drawing person is needed and the job consists of the following tasks.

- Store a small amount of inventory at your home (not enough space in our storage cabinet).
- Conduct a drawing approximately every other month and communicate with the Programs Committee to update the Programs Calendar.
- When conducting a drawing you would set up prize display, hand out three tickets to each attendee, conduct the drawing at the end of the meeting, provide the donation money to one of the MOGC officers and remain in the back to answer any questions.

If you are interested please contact Rick Hanson or any of the MOGC officers

Richard.Hanson@gmail.com or 916-361-2956

Politician's Family Trees: What's in Them For Me?

By Juliana Smith
Ancestry.com

Mark Twain is quoted as saying, "Why waste your money looking up your family tree? Just go into politics and your opponents' will do it for you." while politicians seem to be focusing more on their opponents' jugular veins this year, there are still a lot of researchers and journalists who are equally intent on digging up their roots. No matter what we may think about the candidates or their stand on the issues, the methods professionals use to uncover their roots can also be applied to our own work.

There have been almost weekly news stories regarding the heritage of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates. With my Irish roots, I found it interesting that they all had this in common with me. This week, a press release from Ancestry.com revealed more on the candidates' family histories, and one even featured a story about George Washington, and what would have likely happened had he decided to go along with plans for establishing a monarchy instead of a presidency. The Ancestry Publications team approached Ancestry Chief Family Historian Megan Smolenyak to do the research on the project, and the article, "The Man (or Woman) Who Would be King," appeared in the September/October 2008 issue of Ancestry Magazine. Based on Megan's research and some fascinating interviews, it was determined that an 82-year-old retired regional manager from San Antonio, Texas would be King of America today.

When the "Washington as King," press release was first posted on the 24/7 blog, several people commented on the blog to say, "Why can't that be done on my lines?"

There are several possible answers to that question. Almost all of us become stymied in our research at some point of another, and although teams of researchers worked on these high-profile cases for quite a while, even these famous candidates probably have some lines that are tough cases to crack. That said, there are some tricks for getting beyond those dead ends we sometimes encounter. Let's take a look at

Detours we can take:

Side Stepping

While it may not be a good thing when a politician side-steps a question, side-stepping in your research to a sibling, or even a cousin, can be a very good thing. My third great-grandmother, Catherine Kelly, died at age twenty-six in 1851, leaving behind two children, a husband, and not much of a trail.

The records of her daughter, my great-great-grandmother Emma didn't reveal much either, but by tracing Emma's sister Ann Eliza, we found reference to an aunt that helped us to slowly fill out the family structure. It was through this approach that we were able to finally learn the names of Catherine's parents.

Whole Family Research

Another benefit of side-stepping is you gain a clearer picture of the entire family. This makes it easier to identify them in records. There may be a thousand John Smiths in a particular county, but there are likely to be far less with a wife named Katherine, and children John, George, Ringo, and Paul, especially with matching ages.

Friends, Family, and Associates

As we've seen in this and in past elections, political, community, and family associations can be political dynamite. But when it comes to location your ancestor's origins, that dynamite can be used to blast through brick walls. Make note of the names of sponsors, business partners, and other members of our ancestor's community. Often groups of families from the same community immigrated together, or in chain migrations. As one of our readers suggests in today's tips, when you find an ancestor in the census, click through to see other people who are on that page. In fact, I would even suggest checking several pages before and after your ancestor's page. By tracing the origins of your ancestors' contemporaries, you may find your own family roots in the same areas.

Historical Information

The political pundits are all abuzz about how states have historically voted and trying to predict whether the patterns will hold up in this year's election. Historical patterns can help us to predict where our ancestral roots lie. As was mentioned above,

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Politician's Family Trees

People from the same communities in the old country often settled near each other in their new homes. Check local histories and church histories online for the areas in which your ancestors lived.

Create a Profile

One of the biggest keys to success in organization. Once you start digging, the records start piling up, and even if you can keep up with the filing and electronic data entry, you may not be getting the "big picture." I create profile pages for each person I'm working on that summarize what I know about that individual. Profiles typically will include:

- * Full name and any aliases or alternate name spellings
- * Vital dates and places
- * Religion and what church(es) he or she attended
- * Names of parents and other family members (including married and maiden names).
- * Timeline of events in that person's life with the sources for that information
- * Names of Associates (e.g., sponsors, witnesses on legal documents, neighbors, names from social pages, etc.)

I know I could probably figure out how to create a report in my genealogical software that included all of this, but I choose to do this step using just a word processor. I've found that by doing it this way, I really get a chance to analyze what I have. It's quick and easy to check for certain facts when the need arises. A copy of each is also posted in the notes section for that person in FTM.

It's Good to Not Be the King

In my humble opinion, it's better to not be the king, or presidential candidate, or politician du jour. We get to avoid all that mudslinging, and we get that "thrill of the hunt" that the politicians miss out on by having their family history handed to them. Somehow I don't see the candidates doing the "happy dance" when they read about their family histories in the newspaper.

YOUR QUICK TIPS

Patrick Fehring

Ancestry. Weekly Journal

Check the Neighbors

When you find a record in the U. S. census, don't forget to click on the link for viewing others on the page. Some of these neighbors might just be family that you were searching for but could not find, especially if names were misspelled or transcribed erroneously. I have found many clues that helped me break through many brick walls by using this feature.

Rebecca Ann Jordan

An I for a I

Remember when typewriters (?!) did not have a "1" (one) key? We didn't need a "1" key; we just used the "I" (capital I) key instead. Instead of dates like 1836, we typed I836. Today's genealogists and historians should be aware of this, because while people see 1836 and I836 as the same, computers do not.

Search in Google for this string of characters: 1836 "fall of the Alamo" The results are about 10,900 hits.

Now change the "one" to an "I": I836 "fall of the Alamo" the results are exactly 3 hits.

One of those hits is this page: The Portal to Texas History— Hits in Document Over and over again, the "dates are I821 and I823.

Gail B. Ehlenberger

Micro Recorders

I always travel with a micro recorder, one can never take enough notes or remember exactly how the story went that Aunt Annie was telling. Each time I listen to the tapes I hear something I missed, an important date, name, place etc. It's also a great tool when interviewing a relative.

Once I was on a German tour to the homeland with my father and twelve other relatives. On our last night at the castle we were attending a medieval banquet. I turned on my recorder and taped the "ompa" music and the old German songs that were being sung. I wouldn't want to be without my recorder.

If any of you researchers out there have suggestions that you would like to share with your fellow genealogists just drop a note to the editor of this newsletter. All contributions are appreciated and who knows who you may help make a breakthrough.

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