



November 2020

The Jotted Line

Thankfulness– it seems what November always brings, a season of slowing down, remembering all that we have to be thankful for even in this topsy-turvy year.

We are very thankful for all of you. Thanks for hanging with us as we have had to pivot to a new way of doing things online. We hope you have had a good time in our virtual meetings. We have enjoyed still being able to connect with everyone.

We don't know what this new year will bring but we continue to hope. We know that our ancestors endured much more than we, with all our modern conveniences, will ever fully understand. So as we go into this holiday season that may look a little different this year let's not forget to make memories, use technology where you can and enjoy it.

Nominations for Board Positions are now open.

If you'd like to nominate someone please email us at infofcgs@gmail.com

Next month being the Holiday season please share some holiday traditions, memories or recipes. Pictures are even better! Send to: infofcgs@gmail.com



Inside this issue

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Meeting Info | 2 |
| DNA Stories | 4-6 |
| Heritage Center | 7-8 |
| Membership Renewal Info... | 10 |

Ancestry Library Edition access is extended through the end of the year

UPCOMING

MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 7 PM on ZOOM!

Upcoming virtually..

November 10th 7PM
– **Kathy Burrows**–
Researching in the Northwest Territories

December– we will be doing something over Zoom stay tuned.

Thanks Bob and look for more DNA in 2021 meetings...

NOVEMBER MEETING

Join us on Zoom as **Kathy Burrow takes us through** –

Researching in the Northwest

Territories (MI, IL, IN, OH, WI)

We'll meet online Tues Nov 10th at 7 PM watch your email for the invitation .



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DNA BOOTCAMP RECAP

We had a great seminar day this year even though it was a little different. Bob Givens walked us through using MyHeritage DNA, AncestryDNA and GED Match.

A common frustration of doing your DNA and using these services is the folks that take the tests but don't upload a tree.

Bob walked us through triangulation, using someone you match with and looking at the shared matches that the 2 of you share to see which side of the family they belong to and sometimes can get you even closer.

MyHeritage has a cool feature- AutoClusters it organizes your DNA Matches into shared match clusters, that likely descended from common ancestors. It uses a colored grid to show your clusters.

Ancestry has the most user friendly tools but they take some time work through. Groups is a great one that lets you assign matches to a group of your choosing and assign it a colored dot. Then when you go back to look you can see at a glance who is related to who.

There's also a way to search for particular names shared, a common ancestor, unviewed matches and more.

FCGS BOARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Nominations are now open for our board. If you have any questions or would like to nominate someone you can email infofcgs@gmail.com or myrnaceccarelli@gmail.com

Our board positions are:

President

1st Vice-President

2nd Vice-President

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary

Treasurer

Librarian

Membership

You can also check out the job duties here:

<https://fresno-genealogy.org/2019-bylaws>

SOME SAD NEWS..

We are sad to announce that we have lost 2 of our longtime members and board members in October.

Donna Hadrian was our Corresponding Secretary and researcher for the last few years, she has also been a library volunteer and hospitality committee lead. She was active in many other groups as well, DAR, the Mayflower Society, Germans From Russia Museum, to name a few.

Donna was a nurse by profession and her level headedness in a tough situation, genuine caring of others and beautiful spirit will be missed by all those who knew her.



Cat- we are brokenhearted with you and send you and the family our love.

We will be putting in some books in the Heritage Center in her memory, if you would like to donate you may mail a check to FCGS or there is a donation

button on our online renewal page.

<https://fcgsrenewal2021.eventbrite.com>

FCGS BOARD



CONTACT 600-6230 OR
INFOFCGS@GMAIL.COM

President

Myrna Ceccarelli

559-222-3166

myrnaceccarelli@gmail.com

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Corky Peterson

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Carolyn Moser

Recording Secretary

Becki Watters

Corresponding Secretary

Donna Hadrian

Treasurer

Donna Long

Librarian

Kathleen Coleman

Membership

Jim & Catherine Guild

More DNA Stories....

As we all grow up we take things for granted. We know who our family is; we know how each one fits in. This is a story of what I thought I knew and what I now know. I was comfortable knowing the multi facets of my family roots. There was the Azorean part from which my surname comes. There is the Spanish/Mexican/Californio part from my father's mother. Then there are the Germans from Russia that comprise the remaining half. All was good.

This story concerns the Germans from Russia, my mother's side. These people were induced to migrate under the reign of Catherine the Great from Germany to Russia seeking a better life. They stayed in Russia for over a century, and then when the old promises were broken and times got bad they sought relief by looking for a place to make a new life. My family came to Fresno in the 1890's. The whole time they were in Russia they kept their German ways never adopting the country, or its people as their own. When they moved here they settled in what was known as Rooshian town. They lived in close proximity, started their own churches and businesses and strove to succeed in their new home adapting to this new life and the ways of that time.

When I was a teenager I was told by someone that my mother didn't know who her father was. My mother was present at the time and by the look on her face I could tell she was not happy with the revelation. We never spoke of the matter. My grandparents were my grandparents and I loved and respected them. If anything my respect grew even more for my grandfather because of this knowledge. It was never an option to discuss this matter with my grandparents directly, though they lived many long years together after I was told. When my mother passed we found documentation showing the fictitious name her mother had used at birth for herself and her child. This was 1920 and times were quite different then, this was to be a family secret.

Some years later when I acquired an interest in ancestry I went to the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia here in Fresno and started looking at old records and found documentation verifying what I was told. Father - unknown and no other indications. It took me a while to find my grandparents marriage records and learn they married over three years after my mother was born. To my knowledge no official adoption was entered into but my mother was raised as his child and given his surname.

I believe my mother would have liked to have known who her father was and I certainly was interested. Here again, Ancestry came to the rescue with a solution to the question. I made lists of shared matches. I poured over the DNA results, I reached out to the closest cousin I could but they were unaware of any family connection what so ever. Eventually a common family name surfaced. There were dozens of people who showed shared relations to this one surname.

Cont' next page.

I again reached out to another close match and explained the situation and was told they would help but that the real person I should talk to was another cousin, their family historian who had written several books about the family. I called and gave him a full explanation and I asked if he knew anything, he didn't. I then asked if he would agree to take a DNA test. He agreed. The results came back and showed that we were 1/2 first cousins. We shared a common grandfather.

Once I had a name I began putting the puzzle together. According to the records my grandmothers and biological grandfathers' parents were close neighbors, and attended church together. They were first generation in a very tight community just over 20 years after the family's arrived in Fresno. My biological grandfather, who was also of German from Russia stock, was married and already had a child at the point of conception. We will never know the circumstances. My grandmother escaped to another valley community to give birth but returned to Fresno with her new daughter. Her family attended the baptism and their family name was given to the infant. The child's surname was unofficially changed to her mother's husband's name after their marriage. My mother grew up and proceeded through life under this new surname.

I wish I could relate that the discovery of the new family connection brought the sides together but I can't. I have studied the family at a distance and I have spoken with several cousins exchanging information but no bridges were built. My sisters and I are content to know the truth, a truth that we would never have learned about without DNA.

My grandmother would probably be mortified that I could know let alone speak openly about this chapter of her life. I believe we all have a right to know our family history. As science has advanced secrets have been revealed. I believe DNA is a great gift and I would encourage everyone to take advantage of it, just be prepared and open minded if you learn previously unknown facts.

Frank Santos

DNA RESOURCES

ISOGG- https://isogg.org/wiki/Wiki_Welcome_Page

AUTOSOMAL DNA https://isogg.org/wiki/Portal:Autosomal_DNA

Kitty Cooper's blog – blog.kittycooper.com

Blaine Bettinger- The Genetic Genealogist – thegeneticgenealogist.com

Diana Southard Your DNA Guide— www.yourdnaguide.com

Your Genetic Genealogist (Ce Ce Moore) – yourgeneticgenealogist.com (no longer being added to)

MORE DNA BLOGS https://isogg.org/wiki/Genetic_genealogy_blogs

More DNA Stories....

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the October issue of the Jotted Line. The DNA stories were so interesting. Since I am an only child, I have wished to find a sister or brother, but no such luck so far.

My story is more a genealogy story, not a DNA story. My daughter-in-law, Maria Luisa, was born in Monterey, Mexico. She has a number of cousins who live there and one of them is interested in genealogy. She found out during her research that they have Sephardic Jewish ancestors. During the Spanish Inquisition in the 1500's some Jews converted to Christianity and some came to Mexico then. Most of those who remained Jews came in the 19th century when Mexico declared religious toleration.

Cousin Idela found out that you could acquire Spanish citizenship if you had Sephardic Jewish blood. You had to do the paper trail, however. So she did it and now has dual Mexican/Spanish citizenship.

My grandson, Esteban, decided he would like it, too. The door has closed to get Spanish citizenship, but Portugal is still open. (The Sephardic Jews lived in the border area between those two countries.) So, he has a lawyer in Madrid who is doing the paperwork. He graduated from college last May and would ultimately like to do his graduate work in Europe. Being a citizen of an EU country would be a benefit.

At present count Esteban's brother, Ian, is planning to get Portuguese citizenship and also one of his aunts. One of Esteban's cousins already has it and is planning to get married in Portugal in 2021.

Val Spongberg

HERITAGE CENTER

2420 Mariposa Street, Fresno
2nd Floor— 559-600-6230

WE MISS YOU!

If you need a book from the Heritage Center let us know. We are glad to do look ups for you and scan pages!

HeritageCenter
@fresnolibrary.org or
Give us a call—

559-600-6230.

Not sure what we have?

Go to

www.fresnolibrary.org

and browse our catalog. On the left side of the menu in the everything drop down look for Heritage Center and it will just show you results in our room.



Heritage Center

Book Donations

Alabama Records: Lauderdale Co v. 43, 104, 123, 199, 213, 217, 221, 227, 230

Alabama Records: Chambers Co v. 222

Alabama Records: DeKalb, v. 229

Jessamine Co, KY Marriage Records 1799-1820

Past and Present of the City of Springfield and Sangamon Co., IL v. 2

Indians to Industry Ellis County, Kansas

God of the Gold Pan Stories of Gold Rush

Churches

Lest We Forget, Biographical Sketches of Abraham Lincoln H.S. Students & Faculty Who Lost their Lives during WWII, Korean, Viet Nam & Gulf Wars



Sue Loucks-

Butterfield Makes the Southern Overland Trail His Own

Corky Peterson

Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, MD

Some Prominent VA Families vol 1 &3

Graven Stones; Inscriptions from Lower Accomack Co., VA including Liberty and Parksley Cemeteries

Genealogies and Sketches of some Old Families Who Have Taken Prominent Part in the Development of VA & KY

VA Historic Marriage Register; Fluvanna Co. Marriages, 1781-1849

Abstracts from the County Court Minute Book of Culpeper Co., VA 1763-1764

VA Historic Marriage Register; Greene Co. Marriages, 1838-1850

Marriages of Sussex Co, VA 1754-1810

Southampton Co, VA Wills & Administrations, 1749-1800 Bk 1

Southampton Co, VA Wills & Administrations, 1775-1800 Bk 2

Amherst Co, VA Land Tax Books 1782-1788

Marriage Bonds and Minister's Returns of Charlotte Co., VA 1764-1815

Buchanan Co., VA Centennial History

Virginia Historic Marriage Register: Pulaski Co. Marriages 1839-1857

VA Historic Marriage Register: Warren Co. Marriages, 1836-1850

VA Historic Marriage Register: Clarke Co. Marriages, 1836-1850

History of Perquimans Co, VA

Family Maps of Madison Co., AL

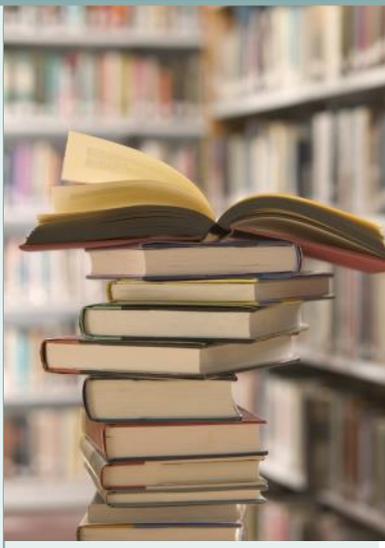
TX Land Survey Maps for Lamar Co.

TX Land Survey Maps for Hopkins Co.

TX Land Survey Maps for Cooke Co.

TX Land Survey Maps for Grayson Co.

Nicholas Co. KY Death Records



Corky Peterson cnt'd

Nicholas Co. KY Death Records
Nicholas Co KY Marriage Records, 1852-1859, 1876-1878
Nicholas Co KY Birth Records 1852-1859, 1876-1878
Deed Abstracts of Warren Co., KY 1812-1821
Annual Report of the Secretary of State to the Governor of OH
Complete History of the Scioto Marsh (in Hardin Co., OH)
Lake Co, OH Marriage Records 1840-1851
Original Land Entries of Allen Co., OH
Warren Co, OH Marriage Records 1803 – 1834
Symmes Purchase Records (in Ohio)
Ripley Co, IN Marriages 1840-1850
Oakland Co, MI Tax Assessment Rolls Avon Township 1836-39,
1841-43, 1845, 1849-50, 1886
Family Maps of Green Co., WI
Family Maps of Fayette Co., IA
Correctionville City Cemetery, Woodbury Co., IA
Family Maps of Jasper Co., IA
Caldwell Co, MO Marriage Records 1845-1871
Audrain Co, MO Marriage Records 1836-1879
Callaway Co, MO Marriage Records 1820-1860
MO Ruralist Reliable Directory of Marion & Ralls Counties, MO
Family Maps of Whitman Co., WA

Jim & Mary Wolfson

Heritage of Macon County, NC 1987

DAR

Cavaliers and Pioneers V.6
Story of Blue Springs Missouri
San Francisco CA, IOOF Crematory Records



We are accepting donations for a plaque for the Heritage Center in honor of Mary Lou Talens and some memorial books.

If you would like to donate you can mail a check to our FCGS, PO Box 1429, Fresno, CA 93716 please put a note in so we know who the donation is for or you can use the special donation link on our Membership renewal page : <https://fcgsrenewal2021.eventbrite.com>

We are also saddened to announce the passing of Mary Lou Talens.

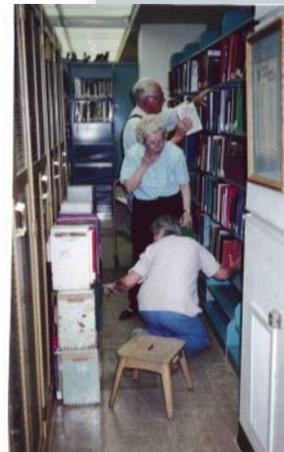
Mary Lou was our Society Librarian for 20 years. If you have visited our Heritage Center, it was in large part to Mary Lou that you are seeing this amazing collection.

Mary Lou helped set up how our library is organized, by choosing to use the Family History Library setup it makes it easier to find the books you need in the state you are looking for them in.

(Library nerd note: in the standard setup genealogy is supposed to be in 2 numbers 929.1 and 929.2 can you imagine 30,000 books at 2 numbers!)



Mary Lou loved the library and fought hard to make sure we continued to add books to the shelves. When I first started at the library I remember the yearly book committee meetings where a group of about 10 would all come in and spend about 3 days recommending books for purchase.



She was honored as Volunteer of the Year at the Library numerous times. One nomination that was memorable said “Mary Lou is so dedicated she talked her husband into taking a sudden trip to Oregon so she could buy books from a store that was going out of business.” That was very Mary Lou.

She was not shy and was always recruiting volunteers to work at the library or take on special projects. She was at the library herself just about everyday making sure everything was going according to plan. We expanded the library at least 3 times in the years I’ve been here and Mary Lou was always there with floor plans drawn knowing exactly where stuff needed to go.



She even recruited our current librarian Kathleen Coleman. Kathleen came to look at genealogy books one day, was recruited to help with inventory and we’ve never let her leave! Mary Lou and the great group of volunteers have made my work at the library much more than a job its been a joy and a real family atmosphere. ~Melissa

Her full obituary [HERE](#)

FRESNO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Renew your membership for
2021 at a special discount
\$20 individual or \$25 family
through Dec 15, 2020

<https://fcgsrenewal2021.eventbrite.com>
or mail a check to FCGS PO Box 1429
_Fresno, CA 93716



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genealogy.org](http://fresno-genealogy.org)