

FRESNO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE JOTTED LINE APRIL 2022

April 12, 2022, will be our General Meeting at Woodward Park Library
Kathy Tigchelaar will be speaking on Fresno County Records. Socializing will begin at 6:30 PM, the meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

The periodical donation from last months newsletter about Oklahoma Outlaws and Lawman History Association was donated by Zoe Peverell Horton.



Please have a wonderful holiday with your family and friends.

FRESNO COUNTY LIBRARY HERITAGE CENTER

Monday – Saturday 9 AM – 6 PM
Sunday Closed

Contact 559-600-6230
Heritagecenter@fresnolibrary.org

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Library Volunteer Needed

Library volunteer needed to process periodicals. Duties include printing email copies and opening USPS delivered society periodicals and newsletters. Stamping FCGS label on copies, hole punching, putting in folders, checking off list, filing them on shelves. Other infrequent duties come up. This job could be done one day a month, twice a month, once a week, it's up to you. It's easy to get distracted and read the newsletters when they come into the library which makes it take longer to process. It's a fun job to get you into the library and learn about our collections. Our genealogy collection is housed upstairs in the Heritage Center at the downtown central library.

Please contact Kathleen Coleman at infofcgs@gmail.com.

From our President, Carolyn Moser

Hello members, wondering "What are your treasures"? What do you collect? When my children were little, my son collected Baseball cards and my daughters' collected "Barbies". I didn't start collecting until I became an adult and found I had an appreciation for antiques and old memorabilia. My treasures are old, old trunks, old post cards, cranberry glass and antique sheet music.

Trunks have been a fun search and unexpected gifts. My husband's grandmother, Allene Blackwell (1891-1984), gave me a trunk (*Trunk 1*) she said belonged to her uncle who was in the Civil War. How I wished I had asked questions-his name, age, stories.



Trunk 1

The 2nd trunk (Trunk 2) was a gift from my husband's grandfather, Arrola Kickashear (1889-1986). He knew I was interested in trunks and took me to an old shed behind his Tower district home. He showed me the trunk and said it had been there 40-50 years (This happened in the 1980's). So we dusted it off and opened it and inside was an old quilt with three framed pictures inside. He said I could have the trunk and contents. I thought the trunk was awesome and the prints very, very pretty.



Trunk 2

I put the trunk on display and the prints in a closet. Eight years ago, I found the prints in my closet and gave them to my daughter Shannon who lives in South Carolina. I decided I should explore the prints and found out they were 1920 Maxfield Parrish vintage prints and after researching his web site found they are valuable. Wow treasures within a Treasure!!





My third and favorite trunk (*Trunk 3*) has been displayed in all my homes. It is a beautiful metal and wood Victorian Era Humpback or Dome top antique trunk. In the 80's, a close friend found it at a local auction here in Fresno. She called me and said, "It's yours for \$50.00". As luck would have it, there were no "trunk lovers" there to bid against her. It is a show piece, if interested in antiques trunks you can visit "antique trunks value".



Trunk 3

Now it's your turn. Tell us about your treasures.

Blessings, Carolyn

The 1950 Census Available April 1, 2022

The U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for many surveys every year, but the decennial census is the most important. The census has been taken every ten years since 1790. The U.S. Constitution in Article 1, section 2, a census is carried out every ten years in such a manner as they shall by law direct. The apportionment of representatives each state has in the House of Representatives is the purpose state has in the House of Representatives is the purpose of the census, it also determines federal funding and support to states, counties, and communities for the next decade. The 1950 census was conducted according to the Fifteenth Census Act approved June 8, 1929, and is an important tool in genealogical research. On June 14, 2022, at our general meeting at the Woodward Park Library Melissa Scroggins will do a presentation on the 1950 census. Please join us.

I would like to give my upmost gratitude to everyone who has donated to the Jared line. If you know of any event happening, a new database, or a class online please let me know. If you have a family story you would like to tell we would love to read about it. Also, if you use Amazon for any purchases, please use (smile.amazon.com). If you use the smile website your orders can support the Fresno County genealogy society as a percentage will be donated to us. Just choose the society as your charity of choice.

Daylight Saving Time

Daylight saving time has been used since World War I as an effort to conserve fuel, by reducing electric usage by extending daylight hours for eight months being formally adopted in March 1918. Changing the clocks resulted in confusion especially for the broadcast industry, and transportation services. The U.S. Senate has recently passed legislation that would make daylight saving time permanent in November 2023. The measure is called the Sunshine Protection Act, it will now go to the House of Representatives which must pass the bill before it goes to the President.

Daylight saving time has caused confusion in that usually with someone being an hour late or an hour early. In Britain, the British Summer Time was introduced in 1916. One possible contender for the worst accident is the Schooner Coniston which was lost in 1917. The ship was coming to Cumbria from Ireland with a load of timber, onlookers could see the ship was in trouble due to heavy weather but there was nothing to be done. The ship was found overturned on a sandbank, the five people aboard were all lost. If it had entered the channel an hour later this may not have happened. The tide tables the ship's captain was using were in Greenwich Mean Time not in British Summer Time.

DNA SOLVES A 100 YEAR OLD MYSTERY

One day when I was scouring the Catholic Diocese Archives in Fresno, I ran across a family name I recognized. It was on an altered baptismal record originally dated January 30, 1910. The "correction" was dated May 14, 1948, and signed by a priest and attested to by the baptized individual and a witness. The original surname of the infant being baptized was crossed out and my family name was added. For the parents name again a name had been crossed out and my family name was added. Because it looked strange I set it aside in my "someday to do list" and I promptly forgot it.

A few years later I was reviewing my Ancestry DNA matches and ran into a cousin match whose surname I didn't recognize but when I checked their Family Tree I saw a familiar family surname. It was the same first and surnames as seen in the altered church records. I decided to reach out to this person, and they replied. It seemed the person being baptized was the grandmother of my recent DNA match. The story I was told by my cousin match was that her grandmother was told by her mother that her father was killed in a horse and wagon accident in Fresno in 1909 and that her mother passed on the first and last name of the birth father. Her mother was married at the time of the child's birth but in a rocky relationship which soon ended in divorce. The man she was married to was not the father of the baptized child. When the mother had the child baptized she used a different name than that of her then husband. Within a few years the mother married another man. The mother's second husband passed away when the child was about eight and the mother

passed a few years later. The mother had children by both her husbands. With both parents gone the children were dispersed.

Later in her life my match's grandmother had unresolved questions concerning her father. She wrote to the State of CA to see if any records could be found of which there were none. Then in 1948 she along with an old family friend who had known her mother visited the church where upon, after an explanation, the priest "corrected" the original baptismal entry. It is my understanding that the grandmother never found answers to her questions and eventually passed away at age 78.

So at this point we know the name of the mother, the father, the two husbands and the child. My match had the name of the father as stated by her grandmother and the year and means of his death.

My challenge now was to identify who was the father and how he might be related to us both? You see there were two men who carried the same first and last names, a father and a son. There was my 2nd great grandfather (1837-1909) and his son (1864-1931) who had a middle name. My match's family believed the son was the father. My research found that my 2nd great grandfather did die in 1909 as a result of a horse and wagon accident as recorded in the Fresno Morning Republican and in his probate records. His son lived until 1931. The math works out that the mother of my match's grandmother was 18 years old at the time of her child's birth and the father, my 2nd great grandfather, was 72.

My stumbling upon an altered baptismal record eventually helped me identify how my DNA cousin match and I were related to a common ancestor. I shared this information with my cousin match. Since then several other descendants of the grandmother have tested with Ancestry DNA and we all are cousin matches. Without the DNA match that 100 year old altered baptismal record may never have been explained. It is a shame that the grandmother didn't live long enough to have an answer to her questions but her son and grandchildren now know the truth.

Submitted by Frank Santos

ARE YOU A DECENDENT OF THE GERMANS FROM RUSSIA?

The first members of Germans from Russia arrived in Fresno on Monday, June 20, 1887. According to an article contained in the Sunday October 2, 1904 edition of the Morning Republican the party consisted of "Daniel Steitz, Philip Nilmeier, Christian Karle, August Berg, Johannes and Conrad Metzler and Carl Kerner" accompanied by family members. Dr. Chester H. Rowell a noted physician, businessman and politician of his time wrote a very positive article in the Fresno Morning Republican on Sunday, October 2nd 1904 introducing these immigrants to Fresno's general population.

As many new arrivals in a country they initially stayed together in what became known as "Russiantown", later versions of the communities names were Roosiantown and

German Town. They started their own churches, community businesses, and successfully farmed our surrounding lands. They became an integral part of the greater Fresno community. Within a few generations they became an example of the American melting pot experience by marrying outside of their traditional group.

They soon became community leaders. According to a Fresno City publication in 2006, they had grown to 8,000 by 1920. By 1970 it has been estimated that the community grew to over 100,000 people in size.

If you are a decedent of the Germans from Russia, an excellent way to begin or expand your family ancestry project is to visit the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia in Fresno, located at 3233 North West Ave. At our Genealogy Research Library and Museum you will find resources not available on the web to include; information concerning original German family origins, their emigration to Russia, and their immigration into the United States. We welcome inquiries.

Currently our office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. or by appointment by calling (559) 229-8287.

Submitted by Frank Santos