

PLACER



TRAILS

Post Office Box 7385
Auburn, California 95604

MAY 2003

VOL. 24 NO. 5

General meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn.

**Thursday Evening, May 22, 7:00 p.m.
DRAPER MANUSCRIPTS with
MARYANN STANEK**

The Draper Manuscripts are a collection of nearly 500 volumes of letters, interviews, archival records, original manuscripts, newspaper articles, and maps that were collected for over 45 years by Lyman Copeland Draper. They cover a period from 1740 to 1830 and include the history of the trans-Allegheny West.

Maryann will talk about Lyman Copeland Draper, the contents of the Draper Manuscripts, the location of the Manuscripts, and how to find the Manuscripts.

Maryann Stanek has been President and Vice President of the Roseville Genealogical Society and Registrar of the Genealogical and Historical Council of Sacramento Valley. She has been doing genealogy research for about 9 years. She will be speaking on the subject of "Draper Manuscripts

**Next General Meeting: June 26
PAM DALLAS**

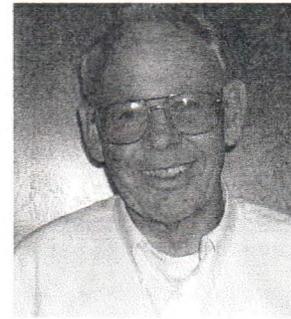
**"What the Siblings Will Tell You That Your Ancestors
Won't--Collateral Research".**

Next Day Study Meeting: June 3

**GLORIA GIBBEL will discuss
NEWSPAPER RESEARCH**

The Day Study Group Meetings are held in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn on the first Tuesday of the month from 10 am to 12 noon.

There will be no July or August Day Study Meetings.



**MEET CLINT HUGHES,
SALES TABLE
CHAIRMAN**

The last time I computed it, I was 99.8% Native Californian. I just can't seem to shake that first six weeks when I lived in Las Vegas, Nevada. My parents had been living in a tent city in the desert where my father worked for Los

Angeles Light and Power on one of the big power lines that would soon be carrying electricity from Hoover Dam to Southern California. The next 20-25 years went by like a blur although I do remember showing an early interest in genealogy somewhere around 1960. I told my mother I wished she'd stop talking about relatives I didn't know until she made some sort of list that I could look at. When she died in 1980 I packed up all her papers and personal effects and stored them in boxes. Somewhere around 1999 I began to get curious about my family again and wondered if she had ever written anything down. Sure enough, she had responded to my grumbling of 39 years past and written down all she knew of her and my fathers side of the family. It was all in a tiny spiral bound notebook. I found prizes like; "There were three Aunt Lizzies in the family...etc" and "Your father's father and mother had both been married before and lost their spouses but had each had three children and then had three together." Well, this was enough to spark my curiosity and a short time later I joined the PCGS and have continued looking for more traces. On my mother's side I'm looking for Gomersall and Ladley, emigrated from England about 1890. On my father's side I'm looking for Hughes, Williams and Campbell. Sooner or later, the search will lead me to Missouri, Wales, Ireland and England. At least, that's as good an excuse for a trip as any.

See the back page for information on other meetings

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

from Joyce House

**THE ELUSIVE HOUSE FAMILY IS REVEALED
IN LINCOLN COUNTY, MO LAND RECORDS**

On Tuesdays, I volunteer at the Family History Center. There is one thing that really bothers me when I'm trying to help someone with his/her research. The scenario goes like this: "I can't find any information about my great grandfather. They don't have birth or death records for the period of time he lived in that State. I found my grandfather in the census but I want to know the name of his father." We talk about different sources that he/she could research to locate this elusive relative. When I mention land records, usually the response is, "I don't want to know if he had land. I just want to know the name of my great grandfather."

When I started to research land records it was basically to learn more about my (husband's) great-great grandfather, Thompson House. What was he like? What did he do? What can I learn about him? What I have found in land records would make one think twice about overlooking that type of record.

For the longest time, I thought great-great grandfather, Thompson House, was the first family member to relocate to Missouri from North Carolina. It was unfortunate that Thompson and his family were overlooked during the enumeration of the 1850 census. That made my research more difficult. I knew that he and his family were there. Thompson and Caroline (Creech) were married in Lincoln Co., MO in 1848, their son was born in Moscow Mills, Lincoln County in 1849, but most of all, Thompson House owned land.

What was interesting about this land (observing land descriptions), it belonged to Joseph House before Nancy, Thompson, Caroline House and Alexander and Elizabeth Creech sold it. Who was Joseph House? GGG Grandpa? Also, what is the relationship of Alexander and Elizabeth Creech to the House's? Several land transactions told me that Joseph House purchased and sold land as early as 1833. Some of those land deeds stated Nancy, his wife. Hey, we are establishing relationship. Nancy House was enumerated in the 1850 and 1860 Censuses living with Alexander Creech and Elizabeth. Nancy was 20 years older than Elizabeth—GGG Grandma?

What caught my attention was that several land documents indicated Nancy, Thompson, Caroline House and

Alexander and Elizabeth Creech selling land together. One can only believe they are related. Unfortunately, I've never found a marriage record of Alexander and Elizabeth Creech. Also, I have not found anything stating Nancy's relationship with Thompson House and Elizabeth Creech. Based on land transactions and census records, I feel pretty confident they were her son and daughter.

Thompson House died in 1857 leaving Caroline with two young sons. In 1867, she married, the widower next door, changing her name to Caroline Thompson. One of my most exciting finds was a land deed in 1878 when Caroline sold her property. The land deed specifically said "Caroline Thompson formerly Caroline House." What an excellent reference for identifying who she was. The next most exciting thing on this same land deed it identified a lot 50 feet long and 30 feet wide for a family grave site. Is this where Thompson House is buried?

Another great find, although it was not in land records, was a guardianship. It was hidden among the 1830 probate records in Lincoln County, MO. Joseph House was requesting guardianship of his father, Owen House, because Joseph felt his father was unable to manage his own business. WOW! I found another generation in Lincoln County, Missouri. Who would have thought of finding a guardianship among probate records?

Researching land records is time consuming, but when the results are rewarding, it is worth it. You can't overlook the possibility of finding that elusive relative or family relationships.

IN APPRECIATION AND THANKS

..to our newsletter mailing group who met to fold, stamp, seal and address the April newsletter: **CLINT HUGHES, RUTH RICHARDS, JOYCE HOUSE, BOBBIE MC CLELLAN, BEVERLY RUSSELL, AUDREY MEYERS, and SUZAN VANDER LINDEN.**

FIELD TRIP TO OAKLAND FAMILY HISTORY CENTER, SATURDAY, JUNE 14 2003

Oakland LDS Family History Center

4766 Lincoln Way, Oakland, CA 94602

Phone: (510) 531-3905 Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

http://www.templehill.com/family_history_center.html

Transportation by Lincoln City Bus

Bus will leave Lincoln Safeway at Hwy 65 at 8 a.m.

Depart from Family History Center at 4 p.m. Estimated time of return to Lincoln is 6 p.m.

Cost: \$12.00 per member. \$15.00 per nonmember, if seating is available. Reserve your seat on the bus by paying in advance. **Make check out to PCGS. Deadline to sign-up and pay is June 7, 2003.** Those wishing to make a reservation who can not attend our meetings, can email Bobette McClellan at: mamabobi@foothill.net, call her at 530-885-2684, or leave a message on our voice mail at 530-887-2646. Mail your check to PCGS, P.O. Box 7385, Auburn 95604. Members have priority, non-members may sign up as an alternate and will be notified if seating is available.

Your visit to the Oakland Family History Center will start with a ½ hour tour of the library. It is the fourth largest Regional Family History Center in the world. They have approximately 25,000 microfilms, 6,600 microfiche sets, 7,000 books and over 200 cds. There are 24 microfilm readers, 14 microfiche readers, a film and fiche copier and 14 computers with subscriptions to Ancestry.com and Genealogy.com. Also available are early census indexes and an assortment of books on immigration of Italians, Irish and Germans to America.

The FHC has a Lunch Room with tables and chairs, a microwave, refrigerator, toaster oven, and vending machine with beverages only. It is encouraged that you bring your own lunch. There is a pizza place about a block away. Other eating establishments are about 3 miles from FHC. **NO FOOD ON BUS.** No restroom on bus.

Reservation Policy:

In the case of a cancellation, reservations paid in advance will not be refunded **UNLESS**, there is an alternate to go in your place. We must have a minimum of 15 passengers. The bus will take as many as 22. If we do not have 15 passengers by June 7, the trip will be canceled. In that case, money will be refunded.

PLAN AHEAD IN 2003

May 28–31 National Genealogical Society Conference in the States Pittsburgh PA. For info: 703-525-0050, or <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>

June 20 - National Archives Class - Military Part I, Revolutionary War to Civil War. 9:00am-1:00pm at the National Archives Record Center in San Bruno. Fee is \$15 payable in advance. To register contact Rose Mary Kennedy 650-876-9009

July 11- National Archives Class - Military Part II, Spanish American to Viet Nam, 9:00am -1:00pm at the National Archives Records Center in San Bruno. Fee is \$15 payable in advance. To register contact Rose Mary Kennedy 650-876-9009

July 26 - Cyndi Howell is featured speaker at the Pennington Research Association Annual Reunion at San Rafael Embassy Suites. For information www.penningtonresearch.org or 415-479-1491

August 8 - National Archives Class - Census Records Research, 9:00am -1:00pm at the National Archives Records Center in San Bruno. Fee is \$15 payable in advance. To register contact Rose Mary Kennedy 650-876-9009

August 23 - Nevada County Genealogical Society Seminar, Digging For Your Roots. Watch for details coming soon.

Through September - Chico Museum - Discovering Your Past: Graveyards and Genealogy is a new exhibit at the Chico Museum through Mid-September. Admission is free, donations accepted. Genealogists can search computer databases and the 1910 California census as well as attend lectures and enjoy exhibits. The Museum is located at 141 Salem St. (At 2nd), Chico and is open Wednesday-Sunday, Noon - 4:00 p.m. Special Lectures from 2-3 p.m on: June 22nd: "Cemeteries: An Overview"; July 27th: "Ancestor Archaeology, Finding Your Roots Under The Soil"; August 24th " Orphan Trains"

October 11 Annual PCGS "How To Begin" Seminar
Details coming soon.



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFFS

Thanks to Joyce House for sharing the list of sheriffs from the Placer County Archives. Other information was taken from the Placer County Sheriff website noted below.

California became a state in 1850 and Placer County was created from the counties of Yuba and Sutter the following year. In 1850-1851, Robert B. Buchanan was the Yuba County Sheriff and John Pole was the Sutter County Sheriff. The Placer County Sheriff's Department was formed in May of 1851.

The first Sheriffs of the Placer County were comprised of men who had come west to California to seek their fortune in the gold fields. However, due to the depletion of the mining in the area, some of these men chose to seek a career in law enforcement.

Some of the functions of the Sheriff of Placer County during the mid-1800's, were to act as tax collector, jailer, and officer of the Court. The early sheriffs' main responsibilities were the apprehension of criminals who would prey upon the innocent.

1851-55 - **Samuel C. Astin**
1855-56 - **William J. Hensen**
1856-1858 - **Charles King**

Sheriff King was responsible for the apprehension of Richard Barter, alias "Rattlesnake Dick". "Rattlesnake Dick" was a notorious stage robber throughout the Motherlode. One night in 1859 Sheriff King received information that Rattlesnake Dick had been seen leaving Auburn and was somewhere near Colfax Road. Sheriff King, accompanied by **Deputy Boggs** and Deputy Tax Collector **George Martin**, located Rattlesnake Dick and a gun battle ensued. During this confrontation, Rattlesnake Dick was fatally wounded. However, Deputy Tax Collector Martin was also mortally wounded. This would be later noted as the first official officer's death in the history of Placer County.

1858-1862 - **Lathrop L. Bullock**
1862-1863 - **Henry Gooding**
1863-1865 - **William Sexton**
1865-1867 - **A. W. Poole**
1867-1869 - **Jacob Hart Neff**
1869-1873 - **B. D. Dunnam**
1873-1877 - **James McCormick**

1877-1879 - **Charles Chase Crosby**
1879-1882 - **John C. Boggs**
1882-1886 - **A. Huntley**
1886-1890 - **John Butler**
1890-1898 - **William Conroy**
1898-1906 - **Charles Keena**
1906-1918 - **George McAulay**
1918-1941 - **Elmer Gum***
1941-1945 - **Charles Silva***
1945-1950 - **E. J. Kenison**
1950-1951 - **William Elam***
1951-1954- **Charles F. Ward***
1955-1979 - **William A. Scott**
1979-1993 - **Donald J. Nunes**
1994 to present - **Edward Bonner**

Placer County Coroner **Francis E. West** served as acting Sheriff on four different occasions when Sheriffs Gum, Silva, Elam and Ward died while in office. He served as Sheriff until the Board of Supervisors appointed another person to serve out the term.

For more information on the Placer County Sheriff Department, go to their website:
<http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff/deptinfo/yesteryr/>

OFF THE SHELF**Library News**

By Barbara Leak, PCGS Librarian

The following research guides are new on the circulating shelves at the Auburn Library:



The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Genealogy, 2nd edition, by Rhonda McClure (Indianapolis: Alpha Books, 2002)

You're no idiot, of course. By the time you finish reading this book, you'll be pretty darn smart. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Genealogy* may well be the most complete guide to online genealogy in print. There's a lot of practical and useable information packed into this 400-page book. Learn about netiquette and netlingo, emoticons and acronyms, threaded boards and chat rooms, bookmarks and browser histories, Boolean logic and metasearches, WebCATS, digitization, and protecting your privacy online. Not just a directory of popular websites, this book explains *how to use the Internet* to further your research. There is so much information in this book that it's a bit overwhelming, but it helps make the Internet seem less so. (Call #929.1028 McC)

The Genealogist's Computer Companion, by Rhonda R. McClure (Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2002)

Here is another new book by Rhonda McClure. Whereas her *Idiot's Guide* focuses on using the Internet, her *Computer Companion* focuses on using your computer. Oh, she still talks about the Internet, but she also discusses things like hardware, creating folders and organizing files, publishing your research electronically, land platting software, creating task lists, foreign language translators, scanning photos and documents, image enhancing software, and planning a research trip. Read this book and you may acquire some new ideas for ways to use your computer to enhance your genealogical activities. (Call #929.2 McC)

The Genealogy Handbook: The Complete Guide to Tracing Your Family Tree, by Ellen Galford (Pleasantville, NY: Reader's Digest Association, Inc., 2001)

As with most Reader's Digest books, this is an attractively illustrated and nicely laid out publication. It contains some good advice about placing your family in historical context, conducting interviews, and storing photographs and documents. It also includes information on naming patterns, reading old handwriting, archaic terminology, and calendar changes. It gives an overview of the basic record

sources that genealogists use, talking about foreign records as well as American. What this book lacks is specific information about how to access the records. An introduction to genealogy, this book is designed to get people excited about tracing their family tree. (Call #929.1 Gal)

Your Guide to Cemetery Research, by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack (Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2002)

So you've taken a few photos and transcribed a few headstones. And you think you've done cemetery research. Think again, but read this book first. You're leaving a lot of clues buried behind you. *Your Guide to Cemetery Research* is an interesting book that covers many different aspects of death and burial. Chapter One deals with death related records—not just cemetery records, but autopsy records, Bible records, burial permits, coroners' records, death registers, prayer cards, funeral home records, monument makers' records, mortality schedules, obituaries, probate records, the Social Security Death Index, hospital, asylum, poorhouse and prison records. Whew! That should keep you busy searching for dead people. Then comes chapters on different kinds of cemeteries and how to locate them, how to survey a cemetery, how to transcribe and photograph gravestones, and how to do tombstone rubbings and castings. Next come the cryptic clues in the bone yard—understanding the symbolism behind tombstone art, emblems, and epitaphs. Two chapters on burial customs and folkways offer fascinating social perspectives on death superstitions, preparing a corpse, burial containers, wakes and funerals, mourning jewelry, memorial needlework, postmortem photographs, the history of body snatching, and differences in ethnic customs. Finally, the book concludes with ideas for preservation, craft, and family-related cemetery projects. Want to find all the clues buried in the cemetery? Let this book be your guide. (Call #929.5072 Car)

Q: Why do they put fences around cemeteries?

A: Because people are dying to get in.

Please sign the register each time you use the Genealogy Section in the Auburn Library.

VINTAGE NEWS ARTICLES

From the *Los Angeles Tribune, Wednesday Morning, March 14, 1888*

Another Ostrich Farm.

RED BLUFF, March 13. - H. Kraft, the banker, sold to-day to J. C. Sketchley, of Oakland, about 250 acres, five miles north of Red Bluff, on the Sacramento river, for an ostrich farm. Sketchley sold his Los Angeles ostrich farm a few days ago. He will put up a building and move his ostriches up here. He says he will put a boat on the Sacramento river and run excursions this summer from Sacramento and Red Bluff to his farm.

(Transcribed by Karla Everett of the Norcal Mailing List, April 18, 2003)

From *The Hollister Democrat, 23 Feb 1883*

The Latest

Hugging parties are the latest invention in certain sections of the country, and they promise to become all the rage. Of course the pretty and sweet women takes the bakery in the games. The hugs are valued in proportion to the woman hugged. The prices range as high as \$2. Girls under 15 years command 25 cents a hug; from 15 to 20 years, 50 cents; from 20 to 25 years, 75 cents; another man's wife, \$1; widows, according to looks, 10 cents to \$2; grass widows, few offered, but in active demand, prices vary; old maids, 3 cents, or 2 for a nickel. The game hasn't struck Hollister yet, but it may at any moment.

(Transcribed by: Dee Sardoch, Norcal Mailing List, April 23, 2003)

From *The Pacific Coast, Hollister, 5 Feb 1881, Vol. 1, No. 1*

Robert Morrison, of Panoche, had bad luck going home the other day. A stump run against his buggy and slightly demoralized it, but that's nothing. Mrs. Morrison arrived soon after the accident.

I hear ex-Judge Libby is talking of putting in an immense crop of potatoes, and making a corner on them this Fall if squirrels and gophers don't object.

(Transcribed by: Dee Sardoch, Norcal Mailing List, April 30, 2003)

PLACER TRAILS is a publication of the Placer County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 7385, Auburn, CA 95604
VOICE MAIL (530) 887-2646

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- <http://www.pcgens.com/pcgs.html>

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

#650 Cliff Ramos
P.O. Box 647
Meadow Vista, CA 95722

~*~ **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future....Alex Haley
Ancestry.com Thought for Today, 4/25/2003

WHAT'S NEW ON THE INTERNET?

CORRECTION TO SOLANO CO WEBSITE

In order to access the Topley's Pioneer Drug Store Index and Vacaville-Elmira Cemeteries databases that I listed last month, you need to go to the Solano County Genealogical Society website at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgsi/>

There is an index on the left side of their page, scroll down to databases and click on it and a list of all their databases will appear. Scroll down to the one you want and click on it. They have a wonderful list of records to choose from.

EASY ON-LINE VIEWING OF SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS

- The Vital Search website has added Sanborn Fire Insurance maps (1867-1970) for all Counties in California. These detailed maps load rather quickly and you are able to zoom in and really study the maps. See San Francisco in 1904, before the big fire and earthquake. Auburn's maps are interesting, see Old Town before Highway 80 cut through it. Many small towns are included. Go to the website and click on the Digital Sanborn Map icon at the top of the page.

<http://www.vitalsearch-ca.com>

OBITUARY INDEXES FOR LASSEN COUNTY

Newspaper obituary indexes for *The Lassen Mail* 1907-1938, *The Lassen Advocate* from 1868-1959 with 1960-69 soon to be completed. Soon to be added is an index to the *Mountain Tribune, Bieber*, 1881-1892.

<http://64.127.187.225/~tp/lassen/>

ONLINE SEARCHABLE DEATH INDEXES FOR

THE USA includes links to state and county web sites as well as to general databases with death records, such as the Social Security Death Index, Obituary Daily Times and U.S. Newspapers.

<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/deathrecords.html>

NATIONAL ARCHIVES DATABASES ONLINE

Access to Archival Databases (AAD) System provides online access to nearly 50 million electronic records created by more than 20 federal agencies. Databases can be searched on several levels-- People, Subject, Geographic Areas, Organization, Time Span, Creator and Indexes to Other Records. Excellent pop-up guides are included to explain codes and related information. There seems to be a lot of traffic on the site so you may have to try several times to access it. Besides military files, there are some immigration files, including the Famine Irish Data Files with passenger arrivals from 1846-1851.

<http://www.archives.gov/aad/>

WHAT'S NEW IN GENEALOGY & FAMILY

HISTORY RESOURCES. Tom Tinney's Genealogy and Family History Internet Web Directory has recently been updated. It contains over 5,000 listings to worldwide Internet genealogical and family history databases and resources.

<http://www.academic-genealogy.com/>

for just the latest links, go to

<http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~vctinney/whatsnew.htm>

GERMAN RESEARCH LINKS is a seemingly endless list of links for German research. If it has anything to do with German, you will find it here.

<http://members.cox.net/hessen/table.htm>

WASHINGTON STATE CENSUS, NATURALIZATION AND VITAL RECORDS

The Washington Secretary of State has introduced a project to allow people to search for their Washington ancestors online. Some Washington census and naturalization records are already available and volunteers are being recruited to get more records ready to go online. Current census records include: 1851 Lewis County, 1860 Federal (partial), 1871 Yakima County, 1885, 1887 & 1889 Skagit County, and 1857 King County. Go to:

<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/history/>

and click on Historic Records Search

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

General Meeting (Fourth Thursday of the Month) - **May 22**, Maryann Stanek presents **The Draper Manuscripts**. See front page for details.

Day Study Group Meeting (First Tuesday of the Month) - **June 3**, Gloria Gibbel, **Newspaper Research**. See front page for details.

Family Tree Maker User's Group (Second Thursday of the Month) - **June 12**, Continuation of FTM Book. Meetings are from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the LDS Stake Building at 1255 Bell Road, Auburn. For further information, contact Jerry Unruh at gunruh@pcgenes.com.

Placer County Genealogical Society Board Meetings (Third Wednesday of the Month) - **June 18**, meets at 9:30 am in the Carnegie Library on Almond Street in Auburn. All members are welcome to attend.

The Grass Roots Genealogical Group meets every **Wednesday** from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Senior Citizens Building of the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley. For information, call Marguerite McCurry, (530) 432-1870

For Updates on Meetings and Other Events:

PCGS Has Voice Mail (530) 887-2646

Or check our web site

<http://www.pcgenes.com/pcgs.html>

**THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER COVERS
JUNE, JULY & AUGUST. DEADLINE IS :
JUNE 1, 2003**

PLACER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 7385 AUBURN, CA 94604-7385

