

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.

February Evening Meeting **Wednesday, February 22, 2006**

State Archives and University Special Collections
Presented by Valerie Tice

Valerie Tice is Historian for the Pace Society of America. She is a legal secretary and a former family history center volunteer. Her interest in genealogy began in 1981 when she learned that her great-grandmother had been shipwrecked in the Gulf of Mexico while coming from Europe. The story so intrigued her that she began researching and has never stopped.

Remember, the Library is Open on Wednesday – please enter through the Library.

Day Study Group Meeting

Monday, March 13, 2006
10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Beecher Room, Auburn Library

Sixteen Lessons Every Genealogist Should Learn

Think you know the basics of research? Think again! Barbara Leak will share with us what she learned when she took the National Genealogical Society's "basic" home study course. Some of the lessons were unexpected, unintended and completely unpredictable.

The Day Study Group is a 2-hour workshop in which we will discuss a specific topic, with hands-on exercises, and discussion. After the discussion, we can provide one-on-one mentoring should you have a "brick wall" situation in which you need help. Visitors are welcome.

Family Tree Maker User Group

Thursday, March 9, 2005
10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
LDS Stake Building, 1255 Bell Road, Auburn

The February meeting will continue the discussion of searching using Family Tree Maker 2006 with time for Questions and Answers. Special in-depth topics can be scheduled. Please e-mail our group leader Jerry Unruh at ftm@pcgs.pcggenes.com with any requests.

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THANKS to those who prepared the newsletter for mailing last month: **Bobbie McClellan, Bev Russell, John Knox, and Bob Baker.**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



I briefly mentioned last month the increase of genealogical information on the Internet. As we find these information sources, how do we keep track of the multitude of web sites that we find useful? The first thing we usually do is to add the site to our bookmarks or

favorites. This works well as long as we only use a single computer and we keep these web sites to ourselves. It becomes a little bit of a problem when I use my laptop instead of my desktop. It wouldn’t be a problem if I could remember the URL of every site that I have added as a favorite. Currently I am using a program, [Favorites Plus 5.1](#) by Jonah Bishop of Born Geek to somewhat keep my favorites in order.

Favorites Plus “allows you to convert your Internet Explorer favorites into an HTML web page with the click of a button. Once you upload the page to a location on the Internet, you can access your favorites from anywhere in the world! Although Internet Explorer already includes a favorites export feature, it lacks the many customization features available in Favorites Plus.” I am currently simply coping the HTML web page between the computers. I need to do a little more organizing of my favorites. Once the organizing is accomplished, I will upload the page to my web site and set it as my home page. Favorites Plus is a small download – 644 KB and the price is within my budget – free. I use a temp category for saving favorites that are transitory like the currently free Ancestry databases. Favorites Plus allows easy updates to an every changing Internet.

Upcoming Meetings

March 23 Evening Meeting: *Nevada City: an example of Early Gold Rush Research* presented by Maria Brower.

Maria is founder and Past President of the Nevada County Genealogical Society and newsletter editor of the NCGS. She has taught genealogy classes at Sierra College and has had many articles published in various genealogy periodicals. Maria presently works for the Nevada County Library System and specializes in Nevada County research. Maria is the Manager of the Doris Foley Library for Historical Research in Nevada City. She is currently working on her second book in the Images of America series for Arcadia Publishing.

[\(upcoming meetings continued on page 5\)](#)

PCGS Voice Mail (530) 887-2646

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

PLACER TRAILS is a publication of the Placer County Genealogical Society
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VOICE MAIL (530) 887-2646

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OFF THE SHELF

Library News

Edited by Barbara Leak, PCGS
Librarian

Correction: Last month's "Off the Shelf" contained a typo. The fee for ordering microfiche at the Auburn Family History Center is 15¢ per

fiche card, not 25¢. *Mea culpa.*

The following books are now on the Genealogy Shelves at the Auburn Library:

American Wills & Administrations in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1610-1857, by Peter Wilson Coldham (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1989) Prior to 1858, probate matters in England and Wales were handled by some 300 probate courts. However, it was the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) that had jurisdiction over the probate of personal estates of English subjects dying overseas, including those of English settlers in America. The aim of this book is to provide researchers with a comprehensive guide to the American wills and grants of administration registered in the PCC between 1610 and 1857. Entries in the books are arranged alphabetically by the names of the decedent and provide information such as place of residence, place of death, marital status, date of administration, name and relationship of the executor or administrator, and other significant details. An every-name index, an index of ships, and an index of places are at the back of the book. An interesting side-note is that the PCC and other ecclesiastical courts had no jurisdiction over bequests of real estate (land, houses, etc.). Although many wills contained instructions for the disposal of real property, any such bequests that were disputed had to be tried in courts of Common Law. (Call #R 929.373 Col Geneal)

Reviewed by Barbara Leak

Essex County, Massachusetts, Probate Index 1638-1840, Volumes I and II, transcribed by Melinde Lutz Sanborn from the original by W. P. Upham (Boston, Mass.: privately printed, 1987).

When using a reference book, it is important to read the forward or introduction. Remember, when copying pages for reference, evaluate the inclusion of the introduction as frequently this section contains the explanation on what the book encompasses and directions for use. This rule is directly pertinent to the use of these volumes.

In 1881, Mr. Upham was commissioned to sort the file papers and create an index to the early Essex County, Massachusetts, probate records. The original consists of

sixteen handwritten volumes. This alphabetical index is still currently used by the staff of the Essex County Probate Office and covers both the contents of the original files and the contents of the copybooks.

These volumes are an index to the probate records. The files can be obtained from the probate office personally, by hiring a researcher to obtain the files, or by obtaining microfilm copies from the LDS Family History Library. Be alerted that the microfilms are of the copybooks only and that the films of the original index missed at least two pages, which are covered in the books (Volume II). Both copybooks and the files should be consulted as many small items of information were not recorded in the copybooks and several items have been lost or badly damaged from the original files.

These books are arranged as an index with the following columns: file number, first date, name, late residence, occupation and type. File numbers are in alphabetical order. Mr. Upham, including every variant presented in the files, used original spellings of surnames. Be alert to the various nickname variants. The listing of the occupation is an unusual benefit obtained in indexes. In 300 years, the occupational names varied for the same occupation. Modern town spellings were used with a few exceptions. Check the introduction for the explanation of the changes in town names, and time periods.

This reference is a must for researching in Essex County, Massachusetts. Ms. Sanborn is to be lauded for her commitment and deliverance of an important resource for Essex County. An additional benefit is the easy accessibility to identify the occupation of your ancestor. (Call #Ref 929.3744 San v.01-02 Geneal)

Reviewed by Gloria Gibbel

The late Ella-Louise Whaley donated these books to PCGS.

Please sign the register each time you visit the Genealogy Section at the Auburn Library.

1911 Canadian Census Search Tool

Stephen Morse has recently added a new tool to his one-step search pages. "Searching the 1911 Canadian Census in One Step" provides enhanced search options to help you locate persons in the Canadian census database at Ancestry.com. A subscription to Ancestry.com is not needed to search the index database, but is required to view the records. The one-step search form is located at <http://stevemorse.org/census/canada1911.html>.

Submitted by Barbara Leak

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 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.pcgene.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.

A Discussion of the CA-PCGS-L RootsWeb Mailing List, the PCGS Placer Trails Newsletter, and their Recent Associated Problems

The CA-PCGS-L@rootsweb.com is a mailing list for the members of the Placer County (California) Genealogical Society (PCGS) to discuss the activities of the Society. 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, ask questions and a place for general discussion among our members. It is not a substitute for other mailing lists that may prove more useful to a member such as specific surname, localities (other than Placer County), specific genealogy software, or other topics.

The PCGS mailing list is a standard RootsWeb general discussion list. It is not strictly an announcement list and as such anyone can post messages to it, which the message is then distributed to all of the list subscribers. Anyone, whether they are a PCGS member or not, can subscribe or unsubscribe to the mailing list from the links on our web site or the RootsWeb web site as well as links from the newsletter. As a general discussion list, the mailing list is available for additional announcement postings that may not necessarily directly pertain to PCGS. An example of this could have been an announcement about the free access to the WWI Draft Registrations or the WWII Army Enlistment Records. I didn't post these since the announcements were on several other RootsWeb mailing lists. The list was not

meant to take the place of other mailings lists for discussions of surnames, locations, software, or other topics that are covered by other mailing lists. It was also not meant to simply be an announcement list. Subscribers are allowed to make corrections, additions or voice their opinions.

We were also using the CA-PCGS mailing list to announce our web version of the newsletter.

The newsletter notification seemed to cause some problems for a few of the CA-PCGS mail list subscribers. Most of the newsletter problems are software not updated or configured properly or not familiar with Adobe Reader capabilities. Then these problems are voiced on the mail list and then are responded to by people attempting to help as well as others indicating that they did not have a problem. I have made an effort to respond to all the problems off of the list. I didn't feel that a public discussion was appropriate or further irritate those not wishing to see these problems. It was hard to respond to some, but everyone did get sent a response with an explanation or a request for additional information so the problems could be resolved.

The Adobe PDF format is friendly format, which allows the newsletter to properly display as intended. The PDF format, for example, is friendlier than a Word document. Word will reformat due to your default printer and it's capabilities as well as available fonts. The PDF format accurately presents the document in the original format. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is free while Word requires purchasing and not everyone has Word. A Word document is more than twice the size of the Adobe PDF document. The Adobe PDF document has all of the fonts embedded so that should not be a problem. I am also saving the PDF in a version 5 format for those who have not upgraded to version 7 of Adobe Reader. All of the fonts are Times Roman with the exception of the large "Placer Trails" at the top of the first page, which is Playbill. These are all standard Microsoft Word fonts but may affect the displayed document due to margins and default printer differences. The links within the newsletter as well as to external sites should work from the PDF file. I did not add any security to the newsletter so text and graphics should be able to be copied from the file. There are no links to the newsletter on the web site, only the e-mail announcement. Depending on what version of Adobe Reader you are using the menus and tool bars are slightly different and labeled slightly different. The default navigation should be the "Hand Tool". Change to the "Select Tool" and you will be able to select and copy text (or graphics). This should work with any PDF document except for recent ones where the security has been enabled. (Although as long as you can see it on my monitor there are ways to copy it.)

Last month, you may have received TWO notifications for the newsletter. This will be the last month that the newsletter notice is posted to the CA-PCGS mail list. The second notification would have been from me through the placertrails@pcgs.pcgene.com mail list. I will have the rest of the proper membership copied to the new list before next month. With the change of officers within PCGS, the procedures to get me the members who should receive the newsletter fell a little short. We should have that worked out by next month. I

apologize for the two separate notifications for the newsletter.

The new mailing list is a one-way list. No one can post to it except for me. This will solve the problem of the RootsWeb CA-PCGS mail list, which is an open mail list. If anyone wants, I can unsubscribe you from the CA-PCGS RootsWeb mail list, but you will not receive the meeting notifications that our publicity chairperson, Bob Bishop, sends out as well as any other announcements.

There is no requirement to be a PCGS member for anyone to attend our meetings. The CA-PCGS mailing list is a public mailing list and anyone can subscribe. The RootsWeb archives also makes the mail list messages publicly available as well as the RootsWeb RSS feed for the mail list. Although we mail our visitors a newsletter, it was agreed that a person shouldn't get a newsletter every month if they show up to any particular meeting each month. So a visitor is limited to one newsletter each calendar year. This is one of the reasons we are changing the mailing list for the newsletter notification.

The availability of the newsletter on the Internet has some definite advantages. The links in the newsletter are all active, the newsletter is in color, the size displayed on your monitor can be increased to any size that is required, text can be copied and pasted into other applications such as your calendar, and there are other advantages.

The down side of having the newsletter on the Internet is that we need an accurate up to date e-mail address. In the case of a family membership, for the mailed newsletter we only mail a single newsletter to the household. With the electronic notification of the newsletter on the Internet, we can notify each of the family members if we have their e-mail addresses. If you change your address our Registrar, Jacqui Marcella, needs to be notified. Currently twenty percent of the PCGS membership do not have an e-mail address or have not advised us of their address. Of the e-mail addresses provided to the Registrar, five to ten percent of them or more are no longer valid. We'll see what happens overall as we become more electronic. Some of the electronic membership renewals failed to provide an e-mail address.....

PCGS has many forms of communication. None of them seem to fit every person's needs and capabilities. The PCGS web site lists the meetings but not the newsletter. The CA-PCGS RootsWeb mailing list has the meeting announcements and general discussion relating to PCGS. The CA-PCGS RootsWeb mailing list is also available as an RSS feed. We have our own RSS feed which only has the meeting or other information, which may be of interest, but very few of our members have a feed reader. We also have a discussion forum/bulletin board on our web site, which is available for announcements as well as general discussion. The forum is available to both members and non-members. We have the new newsletter mailing list, which should only have one message per month – the newsletter announcement. You are welcome to avail yourself of any of the resources I listed above. The only one that is not under your control is the new mailing list, which can only be subscribed to through the list administrator. We have a lot of things in the works although most of the items we have are under utilized. A

lot of our membership is still on slow dialup lines, either by choice or unavailability of broadband service.

If you just want to subscribe to the CA-PCGS mailing list or unsubscribe from it, send e-mail to CA-PCGS-L-request@rootsweb.com or (for the digest list) CA-PCGS-D-request@rootsweb.com and put the word **subscribe** or **unsubscribe** in the message body. You may also indicate that they may send a message to me and I can remove them from the list. The address is CA-PCGS-admin@rootsweb.com. 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.

Jerry Unruh, Placer Trails Editor
President, Placer County Genealogy Society
CA-PCGS Administrator
PCGS Web Administrator
president@pcgs.pcgene.com

Law Dictionaries

At our January meeting, Pamela Dallas told us what to do when we hit a brick wall. Among her many recommendations was to consult an older edition of *Black's Law Dictionary* for definitions of legal terms used in old court documents.

You can't get much older than the first edition and now you can buy it on CD from Willow Bend Books at www.WillowBendBooks.com. The full title and author are: *A Dictionary of Law Containing Definitions of the Terms and Phrases of American and English Jurisprudence, Ancient and Modern*, by Henry Campbell Black.

Another excellent reference for legal terms is *Bouvier's Law Dictionary*. The text of the sixth edition, published in 1856, is free online at <http://www.constitution.org/bouv/bouvier.htm>.

Submitted by Barbara Leak

Upcoming Meetings [cont]

April 27 Evening Meeting: *Irish Research* presented by Pat Conners.

Pat is a Professional Genealogist. She makes a yearly trip to Dublin's National Archives. She is a member of both the New York Archives and New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Her website is: <http://www.connorsgenealogy.com/>. At the meeting Pat will sell her handout on Irish Research for \$10.

(Upcoming meetings continued on next page)

May 25 Evening Meeting: *Genealogy and DNA* presented by Jim Rader.

In this world a genealogist MUST find a man, one he is related to who has the surname being researched. Most Surname Projects start with the objective to identify others who are related. This lecture is designed to help the family researcher understand how to use this tool in his/her research!

Jim is a vocational education teacher at Folsom Cordova Adult Education center. He has lectured on Internet and Genealogy at local Genealogy groups and LDS seminars for many years. His favorite lecture topics are ones that cover the latest in computerized genealogy.

UK National Archives Website

The National Archives of the United Kingdom contains "records of the UK government from Domesday to the present." On their website you can search for British census records 1851-1901, service records of more than 500,000 Royal Naval Seamen from 1853-1923, wills filed in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, and more. There is a fee for copies of documents, but searching the online indexes is free. Also on the website is an online tutorial titled *Paleography: Reading Old Handwriting 1500-1800* and plenty of other useful information for British researchers. The website is at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>.

Submitted by Barbara Leak

Inflation Calculator

How much was your ancestor worth? Some census years give the value of personal and real property owned by the head of household. A probate file usually provides an inventory of the estate or an itemized listing of items sold at the estate sale. Deeds and mortgages help us to place dollar values on our ancestor's property. Advertisements in old newspapers may tell us the price of food, clothing, tools and other necessities of life. But how much is that in today's dollars?

"The Inflation Calculator," online at <http://www.westegg.com/inflation/>, adjusts any given amount of money for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index from 1800 to 2005. Simply type in the dollar amount, the original year, and the year to which you want the dollars adjusted.

The results can be rather interesting. For example, what cost \$1 in 1805, cost only 60¢ in 1905, but had risen to a cost of \$12.29 in 2005.

The website has a link to a Canadian inflation calculator too.

Submitted by Barbara Leak

Black History Month at Ancestry.com

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com/>.

Ancestry.com has created a free portal (for the month of February) called the African American Research Center. This new portal helps celebrate Black History Month in the US. The portal provides "free access to this vast collection of historical records detailing the lives of hundreds of thousands of African Americans."

The African American Research Center provides free access to several of Ancestry.com's databases, including:

- 1870 US Federal Census
- Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy, 1718-1820 (Free)
- Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy, 1718-1820 (Slave)
- Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina Black Deaths 1871-89
- Civil War Service Records
- Family and Local Histories
- Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874
- Slave Schedules, 1850 and 1860
- WWI Draft Registration Cards

You must register in order to search these databases. However, registration is available free of charge for the month of February 2006.

You can access African American Research Center at www.ancestry.com/aahistory

From [The Genealogist](#) (again...)

Top Ten Reasons to Date a Genealogist

10. He'll consider your family's long history of violent criminal behavior a selling point.
9. He'll always remember your anniversary—even after you dump him.
8. He'll actually enjoy spending time with your immigrant grandparents.
7. Most of the guys he hangs out with are Mormons.
6. He'll do your taxes if you say, "Imagine! Our great-grandchildren might read these records someday!"
5. The grass stains on his pants really do come from crawling around in cemeteries.
4. He'll cry at sappy movies—but only if somebody dies intestate.
3. He can find out the real ages of all your girlfriends.
2. He won't look at another woman—unless her obituary includes a photograph.
1. You can use his Ancestry.com membership while he's in the shower.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

General Meeting (Fourth Thursday of the Month) – February 22 – *State Archives and University Special Collections* Presented by Valerie Tice

Day Study Group Meeting (Second Monday of the Month) – March 13 – *Sixteen Lessons Every Genealogist Should Learn* by [Barbara Leak](#)

Family Tree Maker User's Group (Second Thursday of the Month) – March 9 – *FTM 2006 and Charting Companion – Q&A* with [Jerry Unruh](#).

Placer County Genealogical Society Board Meetings (Third Wednesday of the Month) – 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 confirmation of date and time.

The Grass Roots Genealogical Group meets every **TUESDAY** from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Nevada City LDS Church, 615 Hollow Way, Nevada City. For information, contact Donna Dugle Young at ddugle@pacbell.net and/or call (530) 477-0192.

For Updates on Meetings and Other Events:

Check our web site

pcgs.pcgene.com

or

PCGS Voice Mail (530) 887-2646

Next Newsletter DEADLINE is:

March 1, 2006

Email: placertrails@pcgs.pcgene.com

