



Post Office Box 7385
Auburn, California 95604

January 2008

Vol. 29 No. 1

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.

January Evening Meeting Thursday, January 24, 2008

History of the Railroad in Placer County Ken Yeo

Ken is a Retired Supervisor of Restoration and Maintenance, 1976-1988, of the Sacramento Railroad Museum. Over the years he has collected many photos of the Central Pacific Railroad from Sacramento to Norden. He will present them in a slide show on January 24, 2008, at 7 p.m. in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library.

Day Study Group Meeting

Monday, February 11, 2008
10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Beecher Room, Auburn Library

Ship Passenger Lists

Customs lists, passenger lists, Ellis Island records, immigration records, emigration records—whatever you call them, one thing's for sure: they're now a lot easier to find than they ever used to be. For our February study group meeting, we'll learn about different types of ship passenger lists and find out why or why not you can find yours online. [Barbara Leak](#) leads the study group. Visitors are welcome.

Family Tree Maker User Group

Thursday, February 14, 2008
10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
LDS Stake Building, 1255 Bell Road, Auburn

Family Tree Maker Q&A

Special in-depth topics can be scheduled. Please e-mail our group leader [Jerry Unruh](#) with any requests.

Tracing Your Family Tree How to Begin

A Free Seminar on Beginning Genealogy
Saturday, February 23, 2008
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Auburn Library, Beecher Room
350 Nevada Street, Auburn

If you are new to genealogy or in need of a refresher course in the basics, come to our How to Begin seminar and find out why people describe it as “the best seminar I’ve ever attended!” If you plan to attend, please RSVP to (530) 887-2646 or research@pcgs.pcggenes.com

See enclosed flyer for more details.

Wanted: A Few Good Volunteers. Three or four volunteers are needed to help with the registration and sales tables at the How to Begin Seminar on February 23. Help is needed between 8:15 am and 12 noon. The jobs are easy. To volunteer, contact Barbara Leak at research@pcgs.pcggenes.com.

THANKS to those who prepared the newsletter for mailing in November, Bev Russell, John & Jacqui Marcella, John Knox, Susan Vander Linden, and Bob Baker.



Table of Contents

[General Meeting](#).....Page 1
[Day Study Group Meeting](#).....Page 1
[FTM User Group Meeting](#).....Page 1
[How to Begin Seminar](#).....Page 1
[President’s Message](#).....Page 2
[Officers and Directors](#).....Page 2
[Chairpersons](#).....Page 2
[Off the Shelf](#).....Page 3
[Upcoming Meetings](#).....Page 4
[The Placer](#).....Page 4
[PCGS Mail List](#).....Page 4
[PCGS Voice Mail](#).....Page 4
[Digital Sanborn Maps](#).....Page 4
[Georgia Death Certificates](#).....Page 5
[Ohio Death Certificates](#).....Page 5
[More Online Death Certificates](#).....Page 5
[Homestead Act of 1862](#).....Page 5
[Ancestry.com Restored](#).....Page 5
[How to Begin Seminar](#).....Page 6
[Renewal Form](#).....Page 7
[Newsletter Deadline](#).....Page 8

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



This month’s storm started the New Year out a little rough. Some of you may have seen me on the news as I pulled some of my co-workers through the flooded street where we work. We went home early due to no power and the flooded streets. At home we went through 36 hours of darkness due to no power. My chainsaw and me had three days of companionship clearing driveways and roads of fallen trees. I lost a couple of computer peripherals but the computers survived. Others in our society did have computer problems due to the surges when power was restored. It is advisable to completely unplug your computer and peripherals. The computer should also be disconnected from your Internet connection – DSL line, phone line, etc. Even without power problems, it is still important to do regular backups so that your important data is not lost.

On the genealogy side of life, I received an e-mail from a new distant cousin requesting if I had any information about his GG Grandfather. The answer was yes but it gave me the incentive to do additional research on that branch of the family. Hopefully we will also be able to exchange information.

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



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- [President](#).....Jerry Unruh
[Vice President](#).....John Knox
[Past President](#).....Barbara Leak
[Recording Secretary](#).....Bob Baker
[Corresponding Secretary](#).....Bev Russell
[Treasurer](#).....Jacqui Marcella
[Registrar](#).....John Marcella
[Director](#).....Audrey Meyers
[Director](#).....Anne Thompson

CHAIRPERSONS

- [Newsletter Editor](#).....Jerry Unruh
[Publicity](#).....Bob Bishop
[Field Trip/Car Pools](#).....Vacant
[Historian](#).....Donna Manley
[Hospitality](#).....Mary Ann Unruh
[Librarian](#).....Barbara Leak
[Programs](#).....Joyce House
[Research](#).....Barbara Leak
[New Member Mailings](#).....Bev Russell
[Sales](#).....Vacant
[Study Group](#).....Barbara Leak
[Door Prizes](#).....Bobbie McClellan
[Family Tree Maker Group](#).....Jerry Unruh
[PCGS Liaison to PC Historical Organizations Committee](#).....Alice Bothello
[PCGS Web Master](#).....Jerry Unruh
[website@pcgs.pcgenes.com](#)
 PCGS Web Site.....<http://pcgs.pcgenes.com/>





OFF THE SHELF

Library News

Edited by
[Barbara Leak, PCGS Librarian](#)

At the Family History Center:
 Footnote (www.footnote.com)

To start out the New Year, let's talk about Footnote. With over 24 million images online and growing, it's one of the most exciting subscription websites for genealogists and historians. And it's available free at LDS Family History Centers.

Footnote is perhaps best known for its efforts to digitize records from the National Archives. The focus is not just on records of genealogical interest, but also records of historical interest, making the website a resource for students and historians as well as genealogists. Millions of images are being added monthly. In fact, you can sit and watch the number grow. Each time images are added, the image counter on the homepage changes. As I write this sentence, the counter is at 24,348,000 images. Wait! It just changed to 24,348,061.

Footnote has a search box at the top of most web pages, where you can search by name, date, place or topic. The basic search returns results that include all your search terms, matching terms from information Footnote has indexed for each image and from annotations added by Footnote members. Reread that: *annotations added by Footnote members*. Yes, Footnote member users can add annotations to documents. Annotations are explanatory notes or comments attached to the document images. So, it's the Footnote users who add the footnotes to Footnote. That's what makes this website so much fun. It gives us images of historical documents, but it's also user interactive.

There is also a browse feature that allows you to focus your finding efforts by selecting historical eras or specific titles of records to search. The results page includes preview boxes that will help you determine which documents are of interest before you load and view a full document image.

So what kind of documents does Footnote offer? Let's start with the military records.

Revolutionary War Rolls. Footnote has digitized and placed online the Revolutionary War Rolls. These include original muster rolls of the Continental Army. While these have long been available on microfilm, it used to be that you had to know your ancestor's company and regiment

and then search the appropriate rolls line-by-line looking for his name. Now, the rolls are online and searchable electronically.

Revolutionary War Pension Files. Yeah, we know that HeritageQuest Online put them online first. But, HeritageQuest has only *selected papers* from the files. Footnote has digitized the *complete files*. So, whereas you may get ten or twenty pages of a pension file on HeritageQuest, you may find 50 or 100 pages to the same file on Footnote.

Mormon Battalion Pension Files. The Mormon Battalion served during the Mexican War, 1846-1848. These are the pension files, containing, affidavits, correspondence, medical reports, and other documents supporting the pension claims.

Navy Survivors' Certificates. These are more pension files, this time for Navy veterans of the Civil War and later (1861-1910). Currently, only 7% of these files are online. Check frequently for updates.

Navy Widows' Certificates. This collection consists of about 20,000 approved pension application files of U.S. Navy widows and dependents, covering the same time period as the navy survivors' certificates. As I write this article, 95% of the collection is online.

Civil War Pensions Index. This index covers more than just the Civil War. It indexes pension applications of U.S. Army veterans who served between 1861 and 1917, which includes the Spanish-American War and other military engagements prior to World War I. *Important: this is not the same index as we find on Ancestry.com.* The National Archives has two sets of card indexes to the pension files for this time period. One index is alphabetical by name of veteran. The other has the cards grouped by units within regiments, allowing you to identify files for comrades who served with your ancestor. Ancestry has the former. Footnote has the latter. It is also important to note that this index covers Army pensions. For Navy pensions, see above.

Confederate Soldier Service Records. Online are the Civil War Confederate compiled service records for the states of Alabama, Texas, and Virginia. Files for Georgia and North Carolina are currently being added. It's to be expected that records for the other southern states will follow.

Confederate Amnesty Papers, 1865-1867. At the end of the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson proclaimed a general amnesty for most former Confederates. However, (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

there were some exceptions. Individuals not covered by the general amnesty had to request individual presidential pardons and amnesty, which were evaluated case-by-case. These are the case files for those requests.

Missing Air Crew Reports, WWII. These reports record relevant facts of the last known circumstances regarding missing air crews of the U.S. Army Air Forces, 1942-1947.

That's it for now. Next month we'll look at some other types of records on Footnote.

The Auburn LDS Family History Center is located at 1255 Bell Road, Auburn.

Other family history centers in our area are located in Loomis, Nevada City, Placerville, and Sacramento. The addresses and hours for all family history centers worldwide can be found at www.familysearch.org.

Upcoming General Meetings

February 28, 2008: Lynn Brown on *Digital Books & Newspapers Online*

Presentation includes use of the (BYU) FHL Digital Book Project, Google books, Library of Congress, Online Scholar, among other resources online. Review of search techniques are covered including researching for other E-books available, how to obtain newspaper articles, saving & downloading copies.

A family historian since 1988, Lynn has an extensive background in computers, genealogy and administrative research. She retired from AT&T as a Senior Telecommunication Technician and from Girl Scouts as an Executive Field Director/Nonprofit Director. She served 20 years with the US Army Reserves in civil operations. Lynn's genealogical career began at NARA in San Bruno and she has taught genealogy for San Francisco Adult Education. In 2003, she joined the Sacramento Family History Center as librarian, supervisor and instructor. She speaks throughout the Sacramento region. She recently started a professional genealogy counseling service for family researchers. She specializes in genealogy computer research, record-keeping standards, and building genealogical research skills.

The Placer

The Placer is the Placer County Museums Division newsletter. Once a year we pass along our membership list to the Museums Division and they include our members in their mailing of *The Placer*. The newsletter includes a calendar of events of interest to genealogical and historical

researchers. In the January/February issue it notes on February 2nd, at 10:00 AM, Carmel Barry-Schweyer will be speaking on the *Care of Documents and Photographs* at the Bernhard Museum Winery. Carmel is the Curator of the Placer County Archives and one of our valued members. If you are interested in attending contact: 530-889-6500.

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 http://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.pcgenes.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.

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.

Digital Sanborn Maps

Originally conceived in the late 18th Century, fire insurance maps provide structural and urban environmental information necessary for insurance underwriters. The Sanborn National Insurance Diagram Bureau was founded in 1867 to produce fire insurance maps nationwide. This New York firm expanded and grew immensely, finally emerging as the Sanborn Map Company in 1902. Eighteen (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

years later the company effectively monopolized the insurance map industry. By World War II surveys of 13,000 towns produced over 700,000 sheets now stored in the Library of Congress. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps show the size, location, construction and use of buildings in small towns and big cities nationwide, making them useful to genealogists for locating the residences and businesses of our ancestors. Collections of Sanborn maps for the following states can be online:

South Carolina – University of South Carolina Digital Collections

<http://www.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/sanborn.html>

Georgia – Digital Library of Georgia

<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanborn/?Welcome>

Florida – University of Florida Digital Collections

<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/UFDC/?c=sanborn>

Georgia Death Certificates 1919-1927 Online

FamilySearch and the Georgia Archives have announced that Georgia's death index from 1919 to 1927 can be accessed for free online. The online index is linked to digital images of the original death certificates. The index and images can be searched and viewed at

<http://sos.georgia.gov/archives/> or labs.familysearch.org.

The online index to some 275,000 Georgia deaths is the result of a cooperative effort between FamilySearch Record Services, the Georgia Archives, and the Georgia State Office of Vital Records and Statistics. FamilySearch digitized the records, and volunteers from both FamilySearch and the Archives used FamilySearch indexing technology to create a searchable online index from the digital images of the original historic documents. Certificates include age, county of death, parents names, occupation, gender, race and cause of death.

Ohio Death Certificates 1908-1953 Online

Go to:

1. www.familysearchlabs.org
2. On the homepage click on RECORD SEARCH
3. Sign In (log on)
4. Register (click "save" and you won't have to re-type your information each time you access the website to do research)

It takes about 24 hours to get accepted and then you can access these Ohio Death Certificates free at home. ENJOY!

More Online Death Certificates

Death certificates can be found free online at the following websites:

Arizona Death Certificates 1878-1956 – Arizona Dept. of Health Services <http://genealogy.az.gov/>

Missouri Death Certificates 1910-1956 – Missouri State Archives

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>

Utah Death Certificates 1905-1956 – Utah State Archives

<http://historyresearch.utah.gov/indexes/>

West Virginia Death Certificates 1917-1956 – West Virginia Division of Culture and History

http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx

Homestead Act of 1862

The Homestead Act of 1862 was passed by the U.S. Congress. It provided for the transfer of 160 acres of unoccupied public land to each homesteader on payment of a nominal fee after five years of residence. Land could also be acquired after six months of residence at \$1.25 an acre. The government had previously sold land to settlers in the West for revenue purposes. As the West became politically stronger, however, pressure was increased upon Congress to guarantee free land to settlers. Several bills providing for free distribution of land were defeated in Congress. In 1860, a bill was passed in Congress but was vetoed by President Buchanan. With the ascendancy of the Republican party (which had committed itself to homestead legislation) and with the secession of the South (which had opposed free distribution of land), the Homestead Act, sponsored by Galusha A. Grow, became law. In 1976, it expired in all the states but Alaska, where it ended in 1986.

To learn more about it, you can read a copy of the Homestead Act of 1862 online at:

<http://www.nathankramer.com/settle/article/homestead.htm>

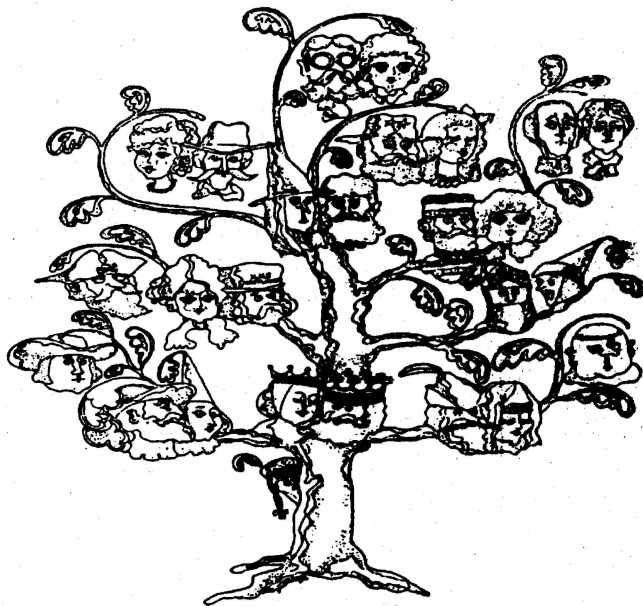
Ancestry.com Restored at Family History Library & Regional Family History Centers

FamilySearch and The Generations Network, Inc., parent company of Ancestry.com, have reached an agreement that provides free access to Ancestry.com at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and the 13 largest regional family history centers.

With this new agreement, full access is provided to more than 24,000 Ancestry.com databases and titles and 5 billion names in family history records. In addition to the Family History Library, the following 13 regional family history centers have been licensed to receive access to Ancestry.com: Mesa, Arizona; Los Angeles, California; Oakland, California; Orange, California; **Sacramento, California (FHC on Eastern)**; San Diego, California; Idaho Falls, Idaho; Pocatello, Idaho; Las Vegas, Nevada; Logan, Utah; Ogden, Utah; St. George, Utah; Hyde Park, London, England

The Generations Network and FamilySearch hope to expand access to other family history centers in the future.

TRACING YOUR FAMILY TREE HOW TO BEGIN



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2008
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Register at the door beginning at 8:30 am

AUBURN LIBRARY
Beecher Room
350 Nevada Street, Auburn, California

Seating is Limited. Reservations Advised.
Call (530) 887-2646 or
e-mail your name & number of persons
attending to research@pcgs.pcggenes.com

Learn To Research Your Ancestry

TRACING YOUR FAMILY TREE HOW TO BEGIN

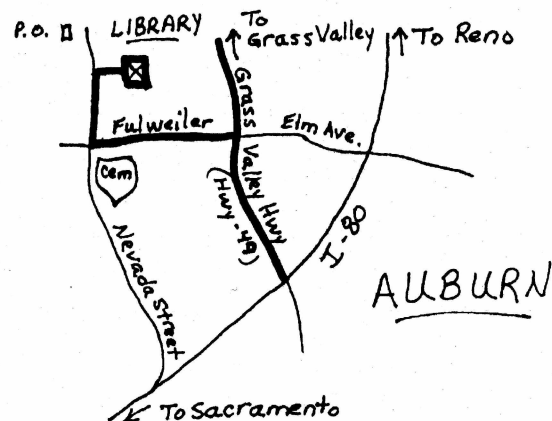
A Free Seminar on Beginning Genealogy

Learn all about...

- ...**Filling Out Forms**, pedigree charts, family group sheets, genealogy software.
- ...**Organizing Your Work**, genealogical numbering & filing systems.
- ...**Ancestors in Your Mailbox**, researching at home through correspondence, traditional and e-mail.
- ...**Wired for Research**, genealogy resources on the Internet.
- ...**On & Off the Shelves**, resources in the public library.
- ...**Conducting Original Research**, finding historical documents & other sources of family data.

A FREE SEMINAR ON BEGINNING GENEALOGY

Free Admission
Optional Handbook - \$10.00
Bring a Sack Lunch



Two Newsletter Delivery Options Available

Individual and family memberships pay the same dues rate. However, we have two new dues rates based on how you receive your *Placer Trails* newsletter.

1) For \$10 per year, you can access the newsletter electronically on the Internet; *a paper copy will not be mailed to you.* (This change *reduces* your dues by \$1 for individuals and \$4 for families.)

2) For \$15 per year, you can access the newsletter electronically *and also continue to receive a printed, paper copy* of the newsletter in the mail.

A notice will be sent out on the newsletter mailing list when each new issue of the newsletter is published. The notice will include a link to the newsletter file, which you can download or view online. The electronic version of the newsletter is published in PDF format and can be viewed using the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you prefer to read your newsletter on paper, but want to take advantage of the

lower dues rate, you can print out the newsletter from your computer at home.

The bylaws amendment, as adopted by the membership on October 27, 2005, changes only ARTICLE 3, SECTION 4, PARAGRAPH (b), which now reads as follows:

The annual dues payable to the corporation by members shall be on a calendar year basis and shall be due on the first day of January in such amounts as follows:

(1) Electronic rate: \$10.00 per individual or family. This rate shall entitle members to receive electronic only access to and/or delivery of the corporation's newsletter and meeting notices.

(2) Mail rate: \$15.00 per individual or family. This rate shall entitle members to receive by postal mail delivery printed copies of the corporation's newsletter and meeting notices.

With the electronic rate it is important that you keep the registrar updated with your e-mail address.

Dues are due on January 1.



PLACER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Make checks payable to Placer County Genealogical Society
PO Box 7385, Auburn, CA 95604

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Spouse's Name _____

Address: _____
Street

City State Zip Code

Telephone: _____
(Please include Area Code)

E-Mail: _____
(Please include Spouse's e-mail for family membership)

Electronic Rate Membership: \$10.00 \$ _____

Mail Rate Membership: \$15.00 \$ _____

Book Fund Contribution: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Electronic Rate: This rate shall entitle members to receive electronic only access to and/or delivery of the corporation's newsletter and meeting notices. **Mail rate:** This rate shall entitle members to receive by postal mail delivery printed copies of the corporation's newsletter and meeting notices. **Note:** At this time a family membership is defined as two or more persons residing at a single mailing address. You are encouraged to register a family membership. Family memberships are entitled to one vote per family member in attendance at meetings, not to exceed two votes per family.

Our PCGS member list is made available to our membership.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

General Meeting (Fourth Thursday of the Month) – January 24, 2008 – *History of the Railroad in Placer County* by **Ken Yeo**

Day Study Group Meeting (Second Monday of the Month) – February 11, 2008 – *Ship Passenger Lists*. [Barbara Leak](#) leads the Day Study Group.

Family Tree Maker User's Group (Second Thursday of the Month) – February 14, 2008 – *FTM Q&A* with [Jerry Unruh](#).

Placer County Genealogical Society Board Meetings (Third Tuesday 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.pcgenealogy.com

or

PCGS Voice Mail (530) 887-2646

Next Newsletter DEADLINE is:
February 1, 2008

Email: placetrails@pcgs.pcgenealogy.com