



## Future Programs

### Sonoma County Genealogical Society's Monthly Meeting and Program



"No rite has a greater impact on genealogy than marriage. Come and explore this fascinating topic and learn more about searching for your female ancestors."

Date: Saturday, September 17th  
 Show and Tell: 12:30 p.m.  
 Meeting/Program begins at 1:00 p.m.  
**Featuring: George McKinney**  
**Topic: Marriage in America**  
 Location: The Finley Community Center  
 2060 West College Avenue  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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### The Federal Census Revisited by Cindy Brennan

No matter how many times we review a census; there is always more than meets the eye. Although, the census is one of the easiest records to locate for our ancestors, it always amazes me how I see something new each time I go back to revisit one. I was researching my Welsch relatives who had arrived from Germany in June of 1869. Mathias and Gertrude's daughter Marie appeared on the ship's manifest, but then disappeared from the 1880 Census. There is a female listed as their daughter, but her name is Barbary Loux. After an exhaustive search through countless other sources, I actually found a young man listed two families below the Welsch's in the 1880 census. His name was Christofer Loux. I then found a marriage record for him and Barbary Marie Welsch. It turns out that in 1880, she was pregnant and had probably moved back with her family so they could watch over her. I had missed an opportunity to make this connection because I only looked for my family name!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15122	Welsch Mathias	Wife	69									farmer	
	Catherine	Wife	67									keeping house	
	Barbary	Wife	28									farmer	
	Peter	Wife	28									farmer	
	Joseph	Wife	2									farmer	
	Christofer	Wife	2									keeping house	
	George	Wife	2									farmer	
	Elizabeth	Wife	65									keeping house	
	Christofer	Wife	36									carpenter	
15123	Welsch Mathias	Wife	69									farmer	

After an exhaustive search through countless other sources, I actually found a young man listed two families below the Welsch's in the 1880 census. His name was Christofer Loux. I then found a marriage record for him and Barbary Marie Welsch. It turns out that in 1880, she was pregnant and had probably moved back with her family so they could watch over her. I had missed an opportunity to make this connection because I only looked for my family name!

The first census, in 1790, was a modest affair, costing only \$45,000 and employing 650 marshals and their assistants. The 2010 census, by contrast, will cost upward of \$15 billion.

The Census was mandated in the first version of the American Constitution. One of many reasons people had left their former countries was due to high taxes and poor representation. Our founding Fathers were not interested in repeating those mistakes. Also, the new nation was interested in determining how many available men of arms-bearing age were here. That combined with ensuring enough people to sustain our food supply, the first census became all about numbers. From 1790 until 1840, it was a gender specific tally. The only named persons were the white, head of families. In 1850, we get

(Continued on page 2)

## Special Interest Groups

**GERMAN:** The next meeting of the German Interest Group will be on Saturday, October 1, 2011. It will begin at 10 am and end at Noon. The final location has not been determined yet. Let me know if you would like to host this meeting. Questions about the German Interest Group can be addressed to Jim Cochran at 526-7331 or [cougars@sonic.net](mailto:cougars@sonic.net).

Guten Abend.



**COMPUTER:** The Computer Interest Group meets at the Sonoma County Library Annex

located at Third & 'E' Streets in Santa Rosa. To be added to the e-mail reminder list or if you have questions, e-mail Maggi Andrews: [mizgriz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mizgriz@sbcglobal.net)

**ITALIAN:** Anyone who is interested in doing Italian research contact Ines Williams about future meetings – [inesw@comcast.net](mailto:inesw@comcast.net) – (707) 838-0760

**BRITISH-IRISH:**

The British group will meet in October. The date and time will be announced later. For information, contact: [audreyrae@comcast.net](mailto:audreyrae@comcast.net).

## The Census Revisited, Continued

(Continued from page 1)

all persons (who were not slaves) mentioned by name.

Finally, in 1870, with the outlawing of slavery, we have complete enumeration, on one schedule, for all people. Some interesting data that was collected in the 1850's and 60's included whether or not the person was insane, idiotic, a pauper or convict. It is hard to imagine that that information was willingly provided! These years become important to us as the fields about occupation and real estate provide glimpses into the social status and daily lives of our ancestors. In 1880, we get an added bonus with the addition of relationships, education and nativity. We can now pursue better paths to the ancestry of these relatives. We also get the name of the street they lived on and can use tools such as Google maps (with the historical map overlays) to see real-life pictures of what life was like on their streets.



The 1900 census is a wonderful resource. We learn about the immigration and naturalization status of everyone. Also, a question on home ownership and mortgage information can help us with our ancestor's financial picture. In 1910, we gain information in the marital status box. Not only do we see their current status, but if you see the number beside the M (which stands for Married); it tells you the number of times the person has been married. (i.e. M2 means married twice).

By 1930, we are provided with unemployment informa-

tion as well as some fascinating veteran information. If you look closely at this census, you will also see another interesting addition. There is a tiny box that asks if the home has a **radio set**? Why do you think this was important? Well, for the first time in history, our President had a potential way to provide mass communications. Three years after this census was taken, Franklin Delano Roosevelt began his famous *Fireside Chats*!

Once you have exhausted your census research, don't forget to check out the specialty schedules, such as the 1890 Veteran's Schedule and the 1850-1880 Non-Population/Farm Schedules. If you are interested in learning more about the Census, you can also pick up a copy of the book; **Counting America: The Story of the United States**.

A timely gift for us genealogists will be the release of the 1940 Census data on April 2, 2012. You can catch a glimpse of the information that you will have access to by going to the website at: <http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/>. This may be the first time some of us will see our own names appear!!!

Note: Along with this e-newsletter, I have provided a document that will allow you to compile all of your census information into one database. My Mom had a manual copy of this that she had found at a seminary many years ago. I took it and created an Excel document that I want to share with all of you. Happy Searching!

## SCGS Meeting Dates

### Sonoma County Genealogical Society's Upcoming Meetings and Programs

- September 17, 2011
- October 15, 2011
- November 19, 2011
- January 21, 2012
- February 18, 2012

All meetings, unless otherwise specified, are held on Saturdays at the Finley Center in Santa Rosa. Regular monthly programs and meetings are free!



## Family Search Update

FILM/FICHE ORDERS -- A Patron can now look up a film or fiche in the Family History Library Catalog at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) and order it on-line from any Internet-connected computer in the world at [www.familysearch.org/films](http://www.familysearch.org/films).

Only MasterCard and Visa are accepted as credit/debit cards. You can order from home or from one of the Family History Centers. Be sure to select the Family History Center that is closest to you for the Film/Fiche to be delivered.

## The elusive Martha and J.S. Crooker

I have been extensively researching **JOHN STOCKBRIDGE CROOKER b. 20 Aug 1815 Bath, Maine**, because I suspect that he was the third husband to my great great-grandmother **MARTHA STAGE**. She married Albert **Stone**, Thomas **Saunders** and **J.S. Crooker**. What led me to research this Crooker is seeing my great-great grandmother referred to as **MRS. J.S. CROOKER** of Petaluma in her son **ZACHARY TAYLOR STONE**'s obituary dated April 1, 1910 in the O'Fallon Progress weekly in St. Clair County, Illinois. I found **MARTHA CROOKER** in the 1900 (as a midwife) and 1910 (no occupation) Petaluma censuses as a widow on her own. No other sources have been found for her after the 1910 census. **MARTHA CROOKER** is not listed in the Sonoma County Death Index and I am told there are no mentions of her in any of the records at the Petaluma Museum.

I am hoping one of your readers will be able to provide information on the elusive MARTHA as to when she died and where she is buried. **John S. Crooker d. 10 Jan 1894 in Valley Ford and is buried in Bloomfield Cemetery in Sonoma County**. I am also hoping to locate a marriage record to confirm that this **JOHN S. CROOKER** is her **J.S. CROOKER**. John S. Crooker was located in the 1880 Federal census for Watsonville, Santa Cruz, CA and listed as married with adult children, yet no wife enumerated. I am assuming he was married to his prior wife Catharine then, since Martha's husband was still alive at this point. I am told no marriage record was located in Sonoma County for them. Finding out if there is a record for this marriage in Santa Cruz County has proved more challenging since that county isn't as user friendly as Sonoma for genealogy requests. I don't live in the area and am awaiting the return of a kind volunteer with the Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness site to get back to Santa Cruz County in a few months and be able to do some library research for me. The date range for their marriage is 1882-1893. Her previous husband **THOMAS SAUNDERS** d. 13 Nov 1881 Steepleville, Randolph, IL. His death noticed mentioned that he had returned from California the summer before he died. He was enumerated in 1880 with his son Lafayette Saunders in Los Nietos, Los Angeles, CA with no mention of his marital status or wife Martha. Martha's daughter **ADA STONE HIGGINS** is listed in 1880 Federal census Anaheim, Los Angeles, CA and resided in and around Santa Rosa about 1884 to 1940. Martha wasn't enumerated with any of her adult children in 1880 and beyond. The hunt continues...



If anyone has any information or resources to share, please contact me at [be.light@mac.com](mailto:be.light@mac.com). Thank you and kind regards!

Wendy in Florida

If you have any items of interest or historical photos that you would like to submit to the monthly newsletter, please e-mail Cindy Brennan at: [newsletter@scgs.org](mailto:newsletter@scgs.org)  
Items must be received by the 25th of the month to be included in the following month.

## Sonoma County Historical Society

The "25 Mile Historical Walk" was held this year on June 4 in San Francisco. Walkers braved a rainy morning to hike across the Golden Gate Bridge to the Presideo where breakfast was served. They continued on through Golden Gate Park to their lunch stop, where the rain ended. After lunch, the intrepid gang of 63 walkers continued through Chinatown to the Embarcadero where they were bussed to Treasure Island for the remainder of the walk and dinner.

SCHS had its annual picnic on August 7th at the historic Denman Creamery, the first creamery in Petaluma. A tour of the buildings and grounds was included. Everyone had a good time.

SCHS received a \$2,000 bequest from the estate of Donald Williamson, an Antioch resident who left instructions that his estate be given to historical organizations in California. We are grateful for this generous measure of support from a man we never knew. The money will go towards several projects that the society has until now been unable to afford.

The monument to the dead at the Chanate Historic Cemetery should be installed sometime this Fall. Sonoma County Regional Parks, having survived the county's fiscal crisis, is hard at work on the paperwork necessary to allow the installation of the monument. Three of the four plaques have been purchased; the fourth is on hold in case more names are discovered. A \$3,000 grant from the Tuttle Foundation was awarded to the project by Community Foundation Sonoma County.

The next meeting of the Heritage Network will be held on Saturday, October 15 from 9:30AM to 12:00 Noon. The location of the meeting will be the historic DeTurk Round Barn in Santa Rosa, just restored by the City of Santa Rosa. The DeTurk Round Barn is one of only two truly round barns in the State of California. All Sonoma County historical and genealogical organizations are invited to send one or more representatives to the meeting. The sight of the restored round barn is something that you will not want to miss.

Jeremy Nichols, President



## Ancestry Day in San Francisco

### Ancestry Day in San Francisco

#### Daylong Event Features Genealogy Experts, Lectures and Consultations



Ancestry.com and the California Genealogical Society (CGS) are partnering to present Ancestry Day in San Francisco 2011 — **Saturday, November 5, 2011**, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, located at 5 Embarcadero Center on the waterfront near the historic Ferry Building.

This full-day event will help you start or hone your genealogical skills. Explore the world of genealogy, listen to engaging lectures, meet with expert staff and learn about the incredible resources available at Ancestry.com and at the California Genealogical Society Library.

The day will include:

- More than a dozen family history lectures
- Ancestry.com experts on-hand to answer your questions
- One-on-one consultations with genealogists
- **Beginner's classes where your family and friends can learn the basics**
- Registration is open. The "early bird" price (through October 5, 2011) is \$42 for the all-day event. To learn more about the classes and consultation offerings, visit Ancestry Day in San Francisco 2011 at <http://ancestry.com/ancestryday-sanfrancisco>.

THE SONOMA COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY IS A  
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHICH  
ENCOURAGES INTEREST IN  
GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY