



STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Volume 28
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May 2006

May Program

This month's general meeting program will be presented by some of the Society members who had the good fortune to go to Salt Lake City for research this year. You'll hear about some of our wonderful successes and some of our rare failures. This is always a great meeting, even for the members who were not fortunate enough to be able to make the trip. Come join us and learn about all the fun we had.

April Program

Last month Al Menshew told about how he and his parents came to California in 1936 from the dust bowl of Oklahoma. He was about nine years old when they arrived in the Bakersfield area to work the fields.

Several of his uncles caravanned with his family. He said they looked like the "Grape's of Wrath" as they traveled down the road with all their belongings strapped on their vehicles. He talked about how hard it was for the men to find work, and when they did it some times didn't even pay a dollar a day. They lived in tent labor camps. Al talked about how hard it was to pick cotton, and described how they made their own picking sacks by sewing two bags together end to end.

His parents didn't have more than an eighth grade education and encouraged their children to go to school so they wouldn't have to work the fields for a living. They all grew up to get a college education.

Thank you Al for a great walk down memory lane.

Society Yard Sale

June 2-3

Geneva Presbyterian Church

Bring your saleable goods on

Thursday June 1 after 2:00 pm

Please call Vicky at 529-9430

To sign up to help

CALENDAR

May

Board Meeting	May 8
General Meeting	May 16
Arkansas Study Group	May 8
Writing Group	May 18

June

Board Meeting	June 12
General Meeting	June 20
Arkansas Study Group	June 12
Writing Group	June 15

Society Bus Trip

Mark Your Calendars

Thursday October 26

National Archives
Sutro Library
\$30

GSSC ANNUAL YARD SALE JUNE 2-3, 2006

Gather your treasures you no longer use or want. Please go through your kitchen cupboards, garage, closets, drawers, garden shed, etc.. Maybe you even have furniture you are no longer using. Everything accepted has to be working and in good condition. So, save your items for our yard sale to be held at Geneva Presbyterian Church, June 2-3, 2006. (The same place where we hold our general meetings).

If you have clothing items, remember that they must be clean, pressed and on hangers.

If we have items left over after the sale, they will be given to several charity organizations in the area, so nothing will be wasted.

We still need help with the yard sale itself in picking up merchandise, set-up, pricing, selling the days of the event, and clean-up, so please call me, Vicky Wolff, @ 529-9430 and volunteer your services.

Thank you everyone for your contributions and help on this event. This is our money making project of the year. Let's make our 2006 year the best ever!

GSSC Members

Did you receive your April Stanislaus Researcher which included the 2006 GSSC Roster and the 2006 GSSC Calendar? If you did not or it was in poor condition, please email Maybelle Allen at rmallen213@sbcglobal.net Please put Newsletter in the subject line.

You can download the April Researcher which includes the 2006 GSSC Calendar at the following address. Once there, click on Newsletter on the far right side of the selection bar. If your computer needs a newer version of Adobe Acrobat, click on that button first.

<http://www.cagenweb.com/lr/stanislaus/gssc.html>

Thank you, Bev Krieg and Maybelle Allen

WHERE IS?

We are going through our inactive files trying to members from the past. If you have any knowledge of these past members, please email: Maybelle: rmallen213@sbcglobal.net.

Gregory, Nina H. Modesto, CA
Member 1984 – 1990

Lux, Elizabeth Modesto, Ca
Member 1980 – 1999

Tillotson, Lois J. Waterford, Ca
Member 1980 - 1992

Acknowledgement

A big thank you to Wayne Black for delving into the past newsletters and finding the interesting articles. A look at the past fits right in with what we try to do.

This article is from the Archives of the old "GSSC Newsletter" now known as the "Stanislaus Researcher" June-July 1990. (This is in the days when we took a bus to Salt Lake City.) Millie Starr

NORMAL BEHAVIOR? OR WHAT

The third Sunday of April brought together forty some-odd mature and otherwise keen-minded Stanislaus County genealogists for a bus trip to Salt Lake City. This dedicated gang, acting in unity, got out of bed at an ungodly hour and assembled at the designated rendezvous where they voluntarily submitted to a 15 hour-long experiment in together-ness and close encounters of the best kind. The tedious trip on a Storer bus would surely be considered drudgery by the uninitiated but not by our group of happy researchers. These folks considered it a privilege and were in a state of pleasant anticipation and unbridled eagerness.

Having left the warmth of hearth and the comfort of home our heroes were equal to the task they had each untaken.

Upon arrival in Salt Lake City, our researchers buckled down to six days of intense and single-minded rooting and digging. Seemingly each one had adopted a prioritized list of projects that would require total concentration for the entire time allotted. Our lionhearted heroes were easily identified by their air of determination, and in some cases, by their glassy eyes. Suffice it to say, if resolution was essential our group would prevail.

The non-genealogist would never understand why people of apparent sound mind (and people who mostly didn't have to) would put in 15+ hour days cranking microfilm readers, risking physical collapse and reading faded old documents that could well result in permanent eye damage. The non-genealogist would no doubt question the mental health of anyone who willingly risks curvature of the spine, shoulderitis, prolapsus of the writsus, enlargement of the ankles and painful consequences of buttock's blisteritis.

The non-genealogist won't understand the researcher's tendency to discuss only dead people in preference to talking about live ones. They wouldn't appreciate the family historian's partiality to grandparents and more or less disinterest in grandchildren. They find it strange that these students of history treasure the past and rarely have time to be concerned with the future.

The non-genealogist might ponder why researchers of this kind rarely think of eating, sleeping or playing. They eat only at odd intervals and then their choice of diet is questionable. They seem to sleep only when they can't find an ear for tales of their ancestors or even worse, when all the libraries are closed. They seem to choose play only when threatened by annoyed spouses or out of sheer desperation.

Our Salt Lake City group persevered and ended the week with smiling faces and most were ready to start it over again. As stated, some might not understand why these folks will sacrifice so much so willingly, when they could surely be doing something, so much less demanding. It seems to me that these good folks are indeed behaving in a normal way, but then, how can I speak of researchers, when if you must know, I am one.

Someone has said, and his name escapes me, the following:

"By knowing who we have been and what we have done,
we will know who we are and what we must do"

Submitted by: C-350 (for those who do not read soundex this is Rae Codoni.)

Allen County Public Library

“The Alabama Records Series by Jones & Gandrud,” by Ryan Taylor

In the 1930s, Kathleen Paul Jones and Pauline Jones Gandrud began compiling their Alabama Records series. Over forty years, they put together 245 volumes, each focusing on a single county, mostly in northern Alabama, and consisting of miscellaneous records taken from original manuscripts. The list of counties included is extensive, but Madison, Lauderdale, Limestone and Tuscaloosa lead the pack, particularly Madison.

ACPL has all but a couple of volumes. Each has been cataloged individually, to make its contents as accessible as possible. The whole series sits together on the shelf at 976.1 J71a.

The volumes are all indexed, and the indexes are useful ones. In addition, there are detailed tables of contents and where possible, they have been included in the catalog. They were copied exactly as they appeared in the books, including variations in spelling and format. Some include peoples' names for the sections listing extracts from wills and from military pension records. By including these names in the contents notes, we have made them searchable in the catalog, simply by doing a keyword search using the individual's name. Unfortunately there are the usual spelling discrepancies which may make imaginative searching necessary. Also, the page numbers in both the table of contents and indexes may be only approximate, so hunt a little if you have trouble.

Occasional volumes consist of one kind of record only. The most common specific records are marriages and probate records. Some volumes are completely newspaper extracts, usually from Huntsville (Madison County) papers.

How can we use these? Researchers should find them in the catalog if they do a general search for resources on a particular county: for example, "Madison County (Ala.)" in the subject line. If you are inclined to simply go to the shelves, however, the volumes are not as accessible, because the Madison County volumes do not sit with the other Madison County materials. So, use of the catalog is a good idea to obtain an exact volume number.

Also remember that if you are looking for military pensions, wills or probate records, the names of the principals involved are in the record and searchable. This is also true of the (more limited) sections of genealogies of specific families. Most of the pensions are for Revolutionary soldiers and War of 1812, with a scattering of others (Mexican War, Indian Wars, Civil War).

This series contains a massive amount of data. It is indexed and it is cataloged in a way so that it can be used to maximum advantage by researchers. You should now be able to access the contents to a much greater extent than previously.

Ways to access these volumes through the catalog:

Put in an author's name—Kathleen Paul Jones or Pauline Gandrud

Do an advanced search with "Alabama records" in the title line and the name of the county in the subject line.

Put your relatives name in the keyword ('word or phrase') line

Remember, this searching can be done from your home computer as well as in the library.

The web site for the library is www.acpl.lib.in.us/

This is great info and one of a kind. ACPL is wonderful about doing inter-library loan, and will photo copy pages for a nominal charge.

Cruizin' the Stacks

I'm a confirmed library-holic. Whenever I pass through a town and have time, I make a point of visiting the local library—you never know what you might find, and besides, they are generally a little oasis of civilization in our crazy world.

Of late, my library love affair has extended to online libraries—after all, I can't be in every place at once!

I got hooked on the Godfrey library a year or so ago, initially due mainly to the availability of the Heritage Quest collections through their subscription. \$35 a year for access to a wide range of census, a library of 20,000+ volumes (searchable!) and PERSI—what's not to like? After joining I found many other goodies, like the archives of the New York Times, LA Times, and other major newspapers. Then there's Newsbank Obituaries & articles, and so much more.

Godfrey will no longer have Heritage Quest shortly, which has me looking for another source—HQ is a key resource.

A good almost-local source is the California Genealogical Society (CGS). Their membership is also \$35. Membership is worth it for the library alone. Located in Oakland on Telegraph Ave. downtown, this is a gem of a genealogical library. Stacks and stacks of material—you'll get sucked in for hours! Shelf after shelf of family histories, and lots of material for every state. Over 38,000 genealogy references including 10,000 local and family histories, 2,500 reels of microfilm, sets of microfiche, plus numerous maps, reference books, passenger lists, periodicals, and many unpublished manuscripts and lineage charts. The George R. Dorman Collection makes available over 100 family histories and 700 local histories. As you would expect, it has extensive Bay Area resources. The library has an excellent card catalog, but unfortunately no electronic catalog. It is staffed by knowledgeable and friendly docents.

The library has three computers with internet access, and subscriptions to genealogy.com, ancestry.com (library edition), and the New England Historical and Genealogical Society online, all of which you can use to your heart's content on-site. I can literally say I've never failed to find something useful every visit I've made. If you don't want to join, the library is available to non-members for a \$5 reading fee or free on the 1st Saturday of each month. Heritage Quest available from your home computer is just icing on the cake.

CGS has a website at <http://www.calgensoc.org>. You can register for membership online or visit and sign up in person. If you're planning to visit and have questions, the number is 510-663-1358. The library is open Thursdays through Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Saturdays - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (online 24/7, of course!).

If you're looking for a way to maintain your Heritage Quest access, consider CGS—and go for a visit. Just writing this has given me the itch again—I think I'll drive up to Oakland next weekend.

George Osner <gosner@ainel.com>

Thoughts

Family is just accident... They don't mean
To get on your nerves. They don't even mean
To be your family, they just are.

Marsha Norman

San Francisco Examiner

Members might like to know the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley just received a gift of the complete archive of the San Francisco Examiner newspaper. There is a full article at http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2006/04/04_examiner.shtml

This will be a real treasure trove for anyone with early Bay Area connections--the gift includes bound volumes covering 1888-1956, newspapers through the late '90's, clipping files, and literally millions of photos, prints and negatives. Of course this will all be in process of being catalogued for years.

The Longevity of Inkjet Colors

After reading the tip on using colored ink in place of black, I'd like to add a comment. Many inkjet printers still use dyes that fade quickly and do not have the longevity of more permanent pigmented inks. I have called HP and found out that their black inks are always pigmented. By switching to colored inks to printout genealogy data, you take the risk of it fading and not even being there to read, in a few years.

If you have one of the better inkjet printers, whose colors have passed the tests of longevity, then using color is fine. Otherwise, stick to black.

To review ink test results on a variety of desktop inkjet printers, go to www.wilhelm-research.com.

Is That Old Trunk and Chair Labeled?

Do you own a piece special piece of furniture that has been passed down in your family? Living in the same house my grandparents has allowed me to be the owner of many fine "New England" classics. My spouse may argue the point on occasion. But as genealogists we know the non dollar value connected with these heirlooms and genealogy. The 1920's dining room set, the upright chair my grandmother used for decades are worth their weight in gold. They are connected with physical memories of the relative and keep their memory alive. My eldest daughter already knows the value of heirlooms at the ripe old age of 10. But what happens when your distant cousin does not know, or perhaps you forget to pass on the news. Would it not be a shame that the mahogany dresser given to your 3rd great grandmother as a wedding gift in 1827 went to the antique dealer. You know the story, but is it written down on paper? If you have not spelled this all out in your Last Will & Testament here is a little genealogical tip. Write down on acid free paper the facts about the item, fold it and place it somewhere inside the item. Secure it with something that will not damage it, or at least not be noticeable. I would strongly recommend placing it an acid free envelope as well. You can find items like this from Gaylord Archival Supplies <www.Gaylord.com>. Just think your old love seat, rocking chair, and baby crib hidden in the attic will now become a treasured heirloom. Why not give a little guilt to our descendants before they resell something from their past! If it does get sold at least you are offering the provenance to the next owner!

David Allen Lambert February 21, 2006

Genealogy Disagreement

A fifth cousin and I had been disagreeing for years [decades?] about the name of a descendant of our common ancestor, Redding Putman. He said she was named Maria, I said she was Mary. Guess what?

Her death certificate, finally located, listed her given names as Mary Maria!

Now we've had to find something else to natter at each other about.

Anne Britton, member GSSC

Nicknames

An interesting website with some information about nicknames. As the above article shows, names can cause problems in our research.

<http://www.genealogytoday.com/genealogy/enoch/nicknames.html>

Loss of a Member



It is with a sad heart we have to report the passing of Allene Carrier Hughes. She, and her husband, Ron, were the Registrars at our General Meetings for a number of years. She was a lifelong resident of Modesto, being born here on 30 Jul 1935 and passing on 21 Apr 2006.

They were able to take many trips around the U. S. and the world, the last being a trip to Ireland to visit their Irish roots.

She and Ron were married for 50 years and have three children and three grandchildren. Allene was extremely active in the lives of her children while they were growing up, serving in Brownies, girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Little League. She was a member of the singing group, Mothers of Note, where she was the Historian and Publicist.

She was always ready to volunteer and help out wherever she was needed. A smile and a cheerful word were her hallmark. While her attendance at our Meetings has been few in the past years, we will miss her. Our hearts go out to Ron and the rest of the family.

Internet Genealogy Magazine

This is a web page from the Internet Genealogy Magazine Ellen shared a couple of meetings ago. It is a subscription order form if anyone is interested. It is \$20.00 They also have an online edition subscription for \$15.00. Their web site is:

www.internet-genealogy.com <http://www.internet-genealogy.com/PrintableSubForm.pdf>

Orphans

By Horrall West

Several years back, I was researching my ancestor, Josiah RAINES, in Monroe County, Alabama. The fact that I knew he died about 1836 did not help when I searched the probate records for the settlement of his estate. He owned land so there had to be a land transfer if it was sold prior to his death and search of the deed books showed nothing there.

I had heard from other family researchers that there was indeed a probate of his estate, but they were unable to tell me more than a few items they had been told were there. After many days, letters, and phone calls, I had just about come to a REAL wall.

In a conversation with a brother Freemason we were discussing the fact that we are always taught to take care of the widows and the orphans. He also told me that "in the early days" when a man died and had any children under 14 years of age, they were considered orphaned. This was due to the fact that women at that time had few rights.

Bingo! I rushed back to the Monroe County Courthouse (150 miles) and looked in the Orphan Court Records. There I found the complete listing of the settlement of his estate.

County, No - - County, Yes

Question:

I have a deed for an ancestor who lived in Norfolk County, Massachusetts in 1700, but Norfolk County wasn't founded until 1793. How could they have recorded a deed that early?

Answer:

While the current Norfolk County, Massachusetts was founded in 1793, there was an earlier county, also known as Norfolk (though now referred to as Old Norfolk County), founded in 1643 and abolished in 1679. It contained the present-day towns of Salisbury, Amesbury, and Haverhill, Massachusetts and Hampton and Exeter, New Hampshire. Although abolished in 1679, land records continued to be recorded there until 1714. Those deeds are now in the Essex County Registry of Deeds. For more information about this, see David Curtis Dearborn's excellent article "The Old Norfolk County Records" in *The Essex Genealogist*, 4 [1984]: 194-6.

David Allen Lambert Ask him a question, onlinegenealogist@nehgs.org For more information: http://www.newenglandancestors.org/research/main/online_genealogist.asp.

Reluctant Information

The way I got some reluctant relatives to respond to requests for information was to send them a family tree with erroneous information about them. There is nothing like making a woman ten years older than you think she is to get her to respond! And adding a strange husband and some kids and

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

"The best way to become acquainted with a subject is to write a book about it."

--- Benjamin Disraeli, 1804-1881

WELCOME NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

We have 244 members—04/20/06

We wish to welcome all new members for the year 2005. We hope you have found our society helpful, knowledgeable, and resourceful.

We look forward to welcoming many new members in the year 2006.

NEW MEMBERS:

If there are any corrections, changes in your telephone number, mailing address, or e-mail address please send information to Maybelle Allen: telephone (209) 523-0593; e-mail rmallen213@sbcglobal.net, or write to GSSC, PO Box A, Modesto, CA 95352-3660; Attn. Maybelle.

Membership dues:

\$20.00 single membership

\$27.50 Family membership

Newsletter subscription included with both memberships.

**The General Meeting is at Geneva
Presbyterian Church, 1229 E. Fairmont,
Modesto, CA**

**7:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday, except in
July and December**

**HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS? IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS?
THE LAST YEAR? IF SO, PLEASE,
EMAIL CHANGES TO**

>gssc@worldnet.att.net < On the subject line just put 'updating email address.' If your name is not included in your email address, **please, please**, put it in the body of the email. If you'd do it the day you receive your newsletter, it'd be greatly appreciated. **Thank You**

GSSC Web Page

[Http://www.cagenweb.com/stanislaus/gssc.html](http://www.cagenweb.com/stanislaus/gssc.html)

Phil Ashmun

By Millie Starr

The Modesto Bee of Tuesday, March 28, 2006 carried the report of the death of George Philip Ashmun. He was the post-master of Hughson for 30 years. He died March 17 in Gardena California at the age of 93. He was born in Modesto and had lived in the county for the first 73 years of his life. He attended Modesto schools and served in the Army in WWII, earning a Purple Heart in the Battle of the Bulge. Phil and his wife Carole were active members of the Genealogical Society serving as officers in various positions. Phil in 1982 was Vice-President to Elizabeth De Brouwer. Together, Phil, Carole and Elizabeth made a number of trips to Sacramento to incorporate our Society as a non-profit. By February of 1983 we were able proudly to change our masthead to reflect our new status.

But Phil and Carole were also known to us as the most successful of genealogists and the luckiest we ever knew. At the death of older members of his family Phil inherited a trunk filled with family materials, among these, a number of family Bibles. Yes, I think it was 8 or 9, too many to comprehend. They went to Salt Lake on one of the Society trips and had to buy additional luggage to transport the tremendous amount of photocopies that they had accumulated. We are sad to see the loss of another of the wonderful members who have made our Society what it is today. We are happy to have known him.



G.S.S.C., CA
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Deadline for the STANISLAUS RESEARCHER is
the Society Board Meeting, second Monday of each month

THE STANISLAUS RESEARCHER MAKES EVERY EFFORT,
TO PROVIDE ONLY VERIFIED INFORMATION, HOWEVER,
WE ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERRORS.