

# STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

June - July 2006

## Have You Been to Salt Lake?

by Millie Starr

Reading the old newsletters reminds us that some of us have been going to Salt Lake City for years and years. The Society has been going for 18 years. One of those years we went twice. Which means that we are coming up on the 20th trip. We have been fortunate to have really good leadership to plan and coordinate all of those trips. The first years Meredith Snedigar was our "Tour Guide". She coordinated the trips from the trip in 1989 and for the many years we took the bus. Yes from Modesto to Salt Lake on a Storer Bus. When it was decided that airplanes were safe and okay to use, Meredith gave up that job. Since then we have had a number of active committee members who have worked very hard to get us the best price for flight and accommodations. Next column>

**Society Yard Sale**  
**June 2-3**  
Geneva Presbyterian Church  
Info: Call Vicky 529-9430

So-  
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Sale

Yard

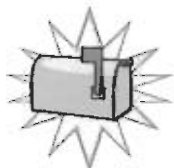
Set aside June 2-3 to come help, or to come shop at our annual yard sale. This is our largest fund raiser for the year and we need the help. We also need your goods to sell. Our sale has earned a city-wide reputation for our quality and quantity. For information, or to sign up to help, please call Vicky Wolff at 529-9430

<b>CALENDAR</b>	
<b>June</b>	
<b>YARD SALE</b>	<b>June 2-3</b>
<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>June 12</b>
<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>June 20</b>
<b>Arkansas Study Group</b>	<b>June 12</b>
<b>Writing Group</b>	<b>June 15</b>
<b>July</b>	
<b>Independence Day</b>	<b>July 4</b>
<b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>July 10</b>
<b>General Meeting</b>	<b><u>NONE</u></b>
<b>Arkansas Study Group</b>	<b>July 10</b>
<b>Writing Group</b>	<b>July 20</b>

## Salt Lake City — Cont.

After looking at the list of researchers from November of 1989, I do find a few diehards who are still on the list for this last trip: Marilyn Belleville, Dorothy Jenkinson, Bette Locke and Millie Starr. It would not surprise me to see those names on the list for next year too.

Will your name be there?



## Out Of The Mailbox by Judith Welch

Do you know what a "housewife" is? The German American Genealogy Immigrant Genealogical Society has a web site that will tell you the answer to this and everything else you wanted to know about camp life during the Civil War.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/gettex/>

If you want to trace an ancestor in Chicago, check out [www.lakeclaremont.com](http://www.lakeclaremont.com)

Among other books, "Finding Your Chicago Ancestors A Beginner's Guide to Family History in the City and Cook County", by Grace DuMelle will give some great suggestions for where to look.

Look at <http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/> for vital records for West Virginia.

"The National Genealogical Society Quarter – Mar 2006", has two great articles. 'Developing Family Narrative from leads in Sources' gives great ideas on ways to make family history come alive. The use of action words, descriptions of local events and people are only two of the ways to make people come alive.

A second article, 'Genealogical Research in Illinois', gives in extensive detail resources for research in Illinois from atlases, gazetteers and maps to church and religious records, land records and court records and many more.

The Foghorn – Spring 2006 – Calaveras Genealogical Society gives an interesting web site.

<http://sfgenealogy.com/sf> this site has city directories among many other things.

The Root Cellar Preserves – October 2005 – January 2006 gives a detail list of the major epidemics that have swept the United States.

## Fall Workshop

Our fall workshop is scheduled for October 4th. Please mark your calendar! You wouldn't want to miss this great 'new' and 'improved' workshop. We are planning on having new topics and new searching techniques for our classes.

Have you ever wondered how to save your documents and photos? Do you ever wonder why you can't find information on the internet? Do you feel you are stuck in neutral when everyone else is driving ahead? Do you want more places to search?

Answers to these questions will be available at the October workshop.

Mark you calendar!!

## Begin an Outline for a Biographical Sketch

Pick an ancestor or family and start work on a narrative. Don't worry about grammar and syntax, just start with the facts--vital dates and places, places you've found them in censuses and directories, occupations, historical events that took place and may have affected them--anything you have on record and any facts that come to mind. Arrange them chronologically and fill in as much as you can. As you progress, you'll start to see their story take shape and you may just pick up some clues for further research along the way!

## Flag Holders

" Flag holders are present in most cemeteries and we tend to overlook them. We genealogists focus on the names and the tombstones and pay little attention to these markers. It isn't until we stop and take a closer look that we realize the diversity that exists and the local history that is preserved in the older markers. It becomes like a treasure hunt to tour a cemetery to find a marker you have not seen before. Some are old and rusted and some are brand new and shiny. Besides being interesting and reflecting history, the flag holders are really very beautiful and their diversity is captivating.

Every cemetery is different in the frequency and mix of flag holders. In some, where a fire department is active, Fire Department member flag holders and their characteristic red flag, may outnumber all other military and organizational markers combined. In others, tragically, there are almost no flag holders of any kind to be found. This is probably a reflection of the cemetery caretaker staff that can't be bothered with them and has removed them. Much history is lost and honor that was left for the dead has been taken. I have been in areas where a cemetery with thousands of burials has almost no flag holders at all where flags are stuck directly into the ground, and another of equivalent size a couple of miles away may have almost as many flag holders as tombstones. Both American and organizational flags may be displayed in these flag holders. "

Antique and Modern Commemorative Flag Holders & Plaques Found in Cemeteries  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~srgp/flaghold/flaghold.htm>

## McHenry Museum

When was the last time you visited our museum? The downstairs has been completely re-done. I would especially invite you to come and see the changing exhibit room upstairs. On exhibit are the **Native Daughters of the Golden West**. It will feature some things the local parlors in Stanislaus County are involved in as well as things done state wide. Some items have been borrowed from the Native Daughters Home for the display.

There are five landmarks marked here in Stanislaus County. Some of our charter members had ancestors who were in California before Dec. 31, 1869. Some streets in Modesto are named for these early people. Marilyn Belleville has worked on a display case featuring the Pioneer Roster and how to check it to see if your ancestor might be entered.

The Native Daughters are very involved in preserving California history. Some things we take for granted as always been in California are here for us to enjoy because of the devotion of this group of women which began in Jackson in 1886.

The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. The display will be up until July 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be an open house on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and again on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hope you are able to come and see this wonderful display.

## Book Purchase

GSSC has purchased the book, *Denizations and Naturalizations of the British Colonies in America, 1607-1775*, by Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck for the Special Collections Room. The URL from Genealogical.com is:

<http://www.genealogical.com/products/Denizations%20and%20Naturalizations%20in%20the%20British%20Colonies%20in%20America,%201607-1775/489.html> if you want more information about the book.

**Mary T. Maxwell Born November 19, 1919-died April 14, 2006**

by Millie Starr

We received the news of the death of Mary Maxwell as we were going to Salt Lake City. This was appropriate as she had enjoyed making this research trip with us in the past. Mary was a native of Modesto and had lived here for 55 of her 86 years. She had lived in Palo Alto and in Huntington New York. In Huntington she was a research librarian for the public library. She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. She belonged to the Garden Club, the McHenry Mansion Foundation and the Modesto Symphony. She was involved with the Rose and Iris Societies and Traveling Program through Modesto Junior College.

Her interest in genealogy brings to mind a wonderful memory of Mary for those of us who were in Salt Lake at the Library when the unfortunate shooting took place. Mary was going to the copy room to make some copies from microfilm and had a roll of film in one hand and the take-up reel in the other when the instructions came to evacuate the library. She followed orders and left the library down the back and out the rear still carrying her film into the lobby of the hotel. [Of course she returned it when we were allowed back in to get our belongings.] Mary loved life and life loved Mary.

Mary, we will miss you.

**Record Expressions and Sayings**

When you saw Aunt Muriel, you could be sure she'd greet you with a sunny smile and "Good mornin"--whether it was morning, noon, or night. When someone fell or dropped something, Grandpa Pyburn would respond with "Oopala!" Aunt Chula called my sisters and me "Lil' bit" and my grandparents always called us "Suzie Q." When it was time to leave, we were "off to the races" and with my grandparents, most sentences ended with ". . . and all that." Make a record of the expressions that are a part of your heritage. These tidbits will give younger family members a glimpse into the personalities of relatives they may not have had the opportunity to meet.

**Be Sure To Back Up Everything**

by Cathy Langhoff New Orleans, Louisiana and Warner Robbins, Georgia

I live in New Orleans and my house was under water for almost three weeks. I lost my house and I lost all my paper documentation and all my pictures. My fall project was going to be scanning all this stuff so it wouldn't be lost. Now it is.

If you have not already scanned everything, do it now. If you don't have a scanner digital photographs come out great. Make sure you backup, backup, backup! And share, share, share! Share what you have now. You never know what is going to happen. It can all be lost in a flash.

**Tennessee**

Transcription of the "Company Store Ledger" at the Bright Hope Furnace in western Greene County, Tennessee for the years 1834-35.

Contains an index to the several hundred names found in the ledger.

<http://www.kiva.net/~jeskewic/brighthope.html>

## Cruisin' the Stacks, part II

George Osner <gosner@ainet.com>

So you've made repeated trips to the genealogy and local history room at the Stanislaus County Library, and found all the quick and easy material to support your research (there always seems to be more available at the library than I hadn't realized, though). Now what? San Francisco has the Sutro library, but that's a "fur piece," and Salt Lake City is even further....

Keep thinking local! Just a half-hour north of Modesto, the Stockton-San Joaquin County Library's central branch (the César Chavez branch) is in downtown Stockton, just a short drive up the road.

I made a foray into Stockton recently. As always when arriving at a new library, my first stop is at the reference desk. Stockton has a friendly and knowledgeable reference staff, and I was taken in hand by Karen, who gave me a tour of the Genealogy stacks and also of the local history room, which is an area of closed stacks—a librarian must retrieve this material for you.

Like most libraries in California, San Joaquin has been hit hard by budget cuts. A substantial part of the local history collection was given away to reduce the volume and space taken. Even after that sacrilege, the collection has much to commend it. It is quite different from the Stanislaus County Library collection. The holdings include a good number of family histories. Perhaps you'll find one of your families represented—it's always worth looking. The core collection consists of about 1500 books and runs of 175 genealogy magazines (many are bound volumes of back issues—only a few have current subscriptions). The Library has the California Death index for 1940-1994, indices of San Francisco newspapers from 1850 on, and County histories for all California Counties.

To use the electronic resources the library has available, like the Ancestry Library Edition subscription, a library card is required. Luckily, the library is quite accommodating about issuing cards and they are available to out-of-county residents. It took all of 5 minutes to have one issued—now I have "dual citizenship!" (As an aside, many libraries in California will readily issue a card to you regardless of local residency, with ID such as a driver's license). With a card, you will have access to many of the library's databases from home, including Newsbank (back issues of the SF Chronicle and Sacramento Bee from 1984 on) and Biography Resource Center

Stockton-San Joaquin Public Library, César Chavez Branch

Hours: 10 am to 8 pm Mon-Thurs, 10-6 Fri, 10-5 Sat, and 1-5 Sun

Location: 605 N. El Dorado St, downtown Stockton. From the cross-town freeway, take the El Dorado exit and head north about 5 blocks. There is long-term metered parking in the vicinity, I haven't had any problem finding a place to park when I've visited. If you go during the day, take a few quarter for the meters. You have to go down a flight of stairs and enter on the lower floor; Reference, Genealogy and Local History are on the upper floor.

Contact: The Reference Department can be contacted at 209.937.8221. The Library's website is <http://www.stockton.lib.ca.us/>

### Tips from Theresa by Millie Starr

At the March meeting Theresa Grieshaber, reference department librarian gave us so many good tips I will be posting them in the Researcher for you.

Places to buy used books cheaply: [www.bigwords.com](http://www.bigwords.com) OR [www.bestbookbuys.com](http://www.bestbookbuys.com)  
Master catalog for most California Libraries, public, academic and private. Confirm with the library they still have the book before you dash off to get it!! [www.calcat.org](http://www.calcat.org)

To access the Librarian's Index to the Internet [Websites You Can Trust] [www.lii.org](http://www.lii.org)

You would want to enter genealogy in the search box.

Next month we will talk about Reference USA.

### George Eastman's Blog

Christine Rose has written a new book entitled "Courthouse Indexes Illustrated". I have been doing genealogy research for years and thought I knew how to read an index. However, I must say that I learned a lot more by reading Christine's new book! This slim, 58-page booklet describes the various kinds of indexes in great detail. One would think that an index was a simple list of words in alphabetical order. Not so! For instance, I now know that the Graves Tabular Index is popular in certain states and that it lists names by the first three letters of the name, but in a manner that saves a lot of space on the printed page. I also learned that a Proceedings Index or Proceedings Docket is commonly used in certain other states and involves the use of two books. Christine Rose also explains the details of Russell Indexes, Graves Indexes, Campbell Indexes, Vowel Indexes, and more. One chapter is entitled Traditional Indexes and is the only chapter that I understood before reading this book. All the other chapters were news to me! Without this knowledge, I have probably overlooked genealogy information that was, in fact, already indexed and available to me.

Christine Rose is highly qualified to write this book. She is a Certified Genealogist, Certified Genealogical Lecturer, and a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. She lectures frequently at national genealogy conferences and at many regional seminar and local seminars. She served on the faculty of the Institute of Genealogical Research in Washington, D.C., and has been on the faculty as an instructor and a coordinator of Samford University's Institute of Historical and Genealogical Research since 1992. Christine was elected Fellow, American Society of Genealogists, in 1988. She has also been awarded the prestigious Donald Lines Jacobus award for two Rose genealogies and received top reviews for the book she co-authored, "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy".

"Courthouse Indexes Illustrated" is an excellent "how-to" book that will sharpen the research skills of most any genealogist. It sells for \$9.95 plus postage. You can order "Courthouse Indexes Illustrated" online at <http://www.christine4rose.com>. Other bookstores should be able to order it for you if you specify ISBN 0-929626-17-6.



## Family Tree Maker User Tips

Bev Krieg  
kb.krieg@sbcglobal.net

I would like to be able to answer questions about your problems using Family Tree Maker. Today I'm going to start with what I think is a most common concern. E-mail any of your problems and I will try to answer them or I'll get help from other knowledgeable users (guest writers) in our society. Let's use the program to its fullest potential!

You've worked a long time entering your family data. Now you find you've entered someone more than once. We all have ancestors that came from more than one side of our ancestral tree! How do you "fix" Great-aunt Harriet being in the database twice (or maybe even three times)?

Before I begin to explain the method I use to make this correction let me make a statement. ***"There is more than one way to do anything."*** I am presenting two ways to accomplish this task.

- A. Move to Great-aunt Harriet Smith's Family Group page, the one where she is the wife or the adult female. 2) Print this page. 3) Place the cursor in the line where her name is located. 4) Go to the index by tapping F2, or moving to the menu bar View and down to Index of Individuals, or clicking on the icon of the Index cards. The window you are looking at has the alphabetical list of all the people in your family file; Harriet's name is highlighted. 5) Tap the arrow key up or down one space to locate the "other" listing of Harriet and click OK. Now you are looking at a Family Group page that is similar to the first one you printed. 6) Notice the names of Harriet's parents, are they the same as #1? 7) If NO, stop this process. Go on to something else. If YES, continue. 8) Print the page for Harriet #2. 9) On the Family Group page for Harriet #2, fill in as much similar information as is on the Harriet #1page. Very quickly, usually as soon as you have entered identical birth and/or death information, the program will ask you if Martha Smith wife of Henry Goodman is the same as Martha Smith wife of Henry Goodman? 10) Click on YES. 11) A window opens showing you the data for both Martha's, allowing you to compare and make a choice. 12) If these are the same person, click MERGE and you are finished. 13) If they are not, click CANCEL.
- B. Merging identical individuals can also be done by using the People menu and selecting Merge Two Specific Individuals. 1) Start by having Harriet #1 Family Group Page showing. 2) Go to the People menu and to Merge Two Specific Individuals. The index window opens where Harriet #1 is highlighted. 3) Use the arrow key to move to Harriet #2, click OK. The window with the Merge information opens. 4) Select Merge or Cancel after comparing the available data.

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

"The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm."

--- Aldous Huxley

## Books for Family History Searchers

by Millie Starr

This month brings us a very different type of book, "Medieval Mystery". Sharon Kay Penman brings the middle ages to life in her easy reading and exciting stories of Justin de Quincy who is living in the time of the imprisonment of King Richard the Lion Heart and his mother Eleanor of Aquitaine. These stories are set in the year of 1193 and take place in the Tower of London, as well as in Wales and other locales.

*The Queen's Man* is the first in the series and introduces Justin the illegitimate son of a Bishop, his Queen and her sons. The second is *Dragon's Lair* in which you meet many folks from other walks of life throughout England and Wales. These are interesting and quick moving stories. While they are entertaining mysteries they give a clear view into the world of the medieval times.

Please send a brief sketch about any historical novel or history that you have read. Tell us what you like and what you dislike. Please send to MillieStarr@aol.com

*Somerset Homecoming, Recovering a Lost Heritage* by Dorothy Spruill Redford

This is a true story about how an African-American woman traces her family. She traces the family back to an old plantation once owned by Josiah Collins, called Somerset Place. Even finding the bill of sale for one of her slave ancestors.

She brought together descendants of slaves and former slave owners for a homecoming. "Beautifully presented with rare photographs, a genealogical chart, and a moving introduction by Alex Haley"

*Incidents In The Life Of A Slave Girl*

Harriet A. Jacobs was born a slave in North Carolina in 1813 and became a fugitive in the 1830s. Her autobiography records her triumphant struggle for freedom. It was published pseudonymously in 1861.

*The Unredeemed Captive*

True story of Eunice Williams who was 7 years old when she was captured by the Mohawks in 1704 when Deerfield, Mass was attacked. The book deals with her family's attempts to reunite with her and their failure to do so. The complex cultural encounters between the English, French, and the Mohawk peoples in 18th century America are explored extensively in this book.

*New England Frontier, Puritans and Indians*

A straight history book, about the life of the people both Indian and non Indian. Very informative about life in early America. The author makes the subject compelling.

*"Women's Diaries"*

Excerpts from diaries written during the great westward migrations of 1841-1850 and 1856-1867 dealing with the hardships of such a journey, how they coped with childbirth, caring for children, the many deaths and hope for the future.

Maureen says, "My great-great grandmother and great-great-great grandmother were on one of those wagon trains. I do not have any direct writings from them, but this book gives you a real feeling of what it was like."

If my home burned down, it would smolder for days with all my piles of books.

GSSC member: Maureen Fuertes

## WELCOME NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

### **We have 246 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:**

#### **RETURNING MEMBERS:**

457 Arleene Haywood                  Fresno, CA

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## GSSC Web Page

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

### **Where Is?**

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

[rmallen213@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmallen213@sbcglobal.net).

Benn, Jeanne, Ripon

Member: 1989 – 1998

Benn, James L. Ripon

Member: 1989 – 1998

Gardner, Nathalie, Ripon

Member: 1977 - 1990

Thanks to Joann MacDonald and Pansylea Willburn for responding to May's query regarding: Lux, Elizabeth, Member 1980 – 1999

Pansy wrote: *Maybelle, I was just reading the on-line Gen. Soc. newsletter, and I saw your listing of Elizabeth Lux. I think she passed away here in Modesto in January of 2003. She and her husband Robert, a retired dentist, took the gen. courses I taught at MJC about 25 years ago. They were both lovely people.*

*Best regards,*

*Pansylea Willburn*

### **Illinois Civil War Soldiers**

The descriptive rosters for Illinois Civil War soldiers are now available on the Illinois State Archives website. It is possible to copy and paste the information provided there into your own publications or files.

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>



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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**