



STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

January 2007

November Meeting Ancestor Night

What a great time we all had at Ancestor Night. We heard family stories from our members, which is always fun and exciting. Bev Krieg told a family story with pictures on the overhead, Susan Park showed a small chest and explained her exciting find inside the drawers, and Theo Shock brought her family story to us by showing us her antique plate. These were only a few of the show-and-tell items shared by our members. It was intriguing and memorable by all those who attended. If you missed this, you missed some great stories.



January Meeting

Starting a New Year....by Bev Graham

January is a new and exciting time. It's a new year and a new commitment to genealogy should be in the works. We all should have made some resolutions. NO, not the normal, lose weight, get fit or stop smoking!! As genealogists-to-be we all should look forward to keeping our resolutions of doing more research and gaining some ground in our quest to uncover the past. Your ancestors would be proud, knowing the time and dedication you have shown by delving into their lives.

Our new year is going to bring our programs back into informational perspective. We have some fun and exciting projects planned for the up and coming months. BACK TO BASICS is our theme for this year. Hopefully, each month our programs will be full of useful information everyone needs to keep on track with their research. Our goal is to have a program every month full of new ideas and new information everyone will find helpful. Find out how to research better, faster, and more completely is the goal for the new year. There will be more information at the meeting, so I'll see you there.....with bells on!!!

Souper Supper

Our Society will have a Souper Supper on February 20, 2007 prior to the General Meeting at Geneva Presbyterian Church. Please Call Vicky Wolff at 529-9430 for more information and reservations. See you there!

CALENDAR

January

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Board Meeting | Jan 8 |
| General Meeting | Jan 16 |
| Arkansas Study Group | Jan 8 |
| Writing Group | Jan 18 |

February

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Board Meeting | Feb 12 |
| General Meeting | Feb 20 |
| Arkansas Study Group | Feb 12 |
| Writing Group | Feb 15 |

Nan's Memories

Willis:

At your request, this is your grandmother with some information about me, my childhood favorites and my schooldays. I was born in Merced, Merced County, California on January 4, 1934. My favorite books in elementary school were the Girl Scout series of books - about a troop of Girl Scouts that solved problems for their community. My favorite games at school were volleyball and kickball. At home my favorite game was hide-n-seek. A normal day at school began with a ½ mile walk outside of town to the two-room school-house. We lived in a lumber region and so there were big lumber trucks rumbling down the road with giant logs on them. We had strict rules about walking on the left side of the road so we could see the trucks coming. The walk to school was usually done in a hurry but we strolled home from school at 4 p.m. chatting and gossiping along the way. We called the schoolrooms the "Little Room" and the "Big Room". The man principal taught the big room. A lady teacher taught the little room. There were four classes in each room - each consisting of about six students so each room had about 24 students. The older students in each room helped the younger students. I remember using flash cards to help the 1st graders who were learning to read. My only memory in the first grade is the alphabet on the wall above the blackboard and having to make all the letter sounds as I touched the letters with a long wooden pointer stick. Actually, I do have another first grade memory. One of the boys wet his pants and I remember watching the water work its way along the wooden floor under my desk. I won't give his name. He still lives in town.

I was eight when World War II started. Our town had two hundred people and no one wanted to listen to the scary war broadcasts alone so many gathered at the drugstore or the hardware store to listen to the radio together. For several days the children were not allowed to talk because the adults were hovered around the radios.

We had a victory garden at the school to help raise vegetables. Our town also had scrap metal drives since metal was needed to build trucks and tanks for the war. I remember feeling very proud, but sad, as I put my metal playhouse dishes into a collection box in front of the drugstore.

We also collected our bacon fat in coffee cans and took them to the local butcher. The fat was used to make explosives for the war effort. We also lived close to an airbase and were worried about Japanese airplanes so we had a plane-spotting outpost on a big hill in town. I helped my sister spot planes. She would then go to a nearby camping trailer and phone directly to the airbase - telling them the type of plane and which direction it was traveling. I have a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Army Air Force for my work as an airplane spotter. At night, there was a man in town who walked around making sure no lights were showing. So, we had to put blackout curtains on our windows. He would knock on the door if he saw a light showing. They didn't want Japanese planes to be able to find their way by using the lights from the towns on the ground. Luckily, no Japanese planes ever arrived and after awhile we were able to once again live normal light-filled evenings.

My most memorable school memory is the day toward the end of the war when the principal announced the president had died. We all filed quietly out to the flagpole and lowered the flag to half-staff. We were all in tears including the principal. On our walk home we wondered whether he was sad about the president or if it brought back memories of his son who had died flying a fighter plane in the war. We decided it was both.

Cont. pg. 3

Nan's Memories—con't

I received a message from my 8-year-old grandson asking some info for a school report. Needless to say, my answer was much longer than what he put on his report. I also sent the info to all of my children, nieces and nephews and rec'd some good feedback. My daughter in Paraguay just sent, "Momma, Thank you for sharing these wonderful memories...I have printed them out for my kids scrapbooks." So, I thought it might be okay for the newsletter. Nan Wolf, member of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County.

BYU Family History Archives Online

by Michael J. Leclerc

Brigham Young University has been working for several years to create a library of compiled genealogies and make it available for free over the internet. The BYU Family History Archives is a collaborative project between the Harold B. Lee library of BYU, LDS Business College, BYU Idaho, BYU Hawaii, the Church History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the Family History Library. These groups have come together to make thousands of volumes available at <http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/>. The books are available as searchable PDF files, so you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or another PDF file viewer installed on your computer in order to read the books.

Searching the books is a two-step process. First, you are brought to a page that searches the catalog of books available in the online library. You can search by surname, author, or title. You can also search all fields concurrently.

This brings up a list of books that have been digitized by the library. The results fields are Title, Creator, Subject, and Description. Results can be sorted on any of these fields. The title and creator are linked to images of the book. Clicking on either of those links will open a new window.

This window contains a table of contents pane on the left and a pane with images of the original pages on the right. The book should open to the search results, but doesn't always. It is sometimes necessary to perform a search within this window for the name you are researching.

Unfortunately the PDF search functionality to find a name within a page seems to be disabled. You must read through the page looking for the name. Other PDF functions are also disabled. For example, the "previous page" and "next page" arrows at the bottom of the window do not work. You can move through the book, however, by clicking on the page numbers in the table of contents pane on the left of the window. You can save images of pages or print them out.

The results fields are the same fields you will find in the Family History Library Catalog. This was done intentionally as these books are now linked into the FHLC. When searching the catalog online, books that are in the Family History Archive show the following link in the catalog entry: To view a digital version of this book click here. The BYU Family History Archives is a great tool for genealogists, especially if you do not have ready access to a large genealogical library. Because you can search the books for names, the online versions may be even better than the paper originals, which sometimes had incomplete indexes or no index at all.

Two Interviewing Suggestions

by Michael John Neill

Re-interview family members after new information or records have been located. An obituary or a death certificate for a relative may bring to mind questions you did not think to ask Aunt Marge the first time. Witnesses to a grandfather's will or the informant on a death certificate may be people Aunt Marge knew about but could not remember when you talked to her the first time. And since you did not have their names either, it was difficult to ask about them. Many times early in my research (and occasionally even now) a new document causes me to ask questions I did not even think about asking the first time around.

Another idea when interviewing older family members is to use their 1930 census enumeration (or that of their parents). One of the things I wished I had done before my grandfather (born in 1917) passed away was to take the 1930 census enumeration for the rural township where he was born and raised and asked him briefly about each family. Not all were related, but in many cases I'm certain the names from the census would have jogged his memory about other things, things I had not thought to ask and questions that are not on any of the numerous lists of "genealogy questions" one finds on the Internet. Names are often great memory joggers...use them.

New Jersey Archives Launches Marriage Records Database

Marriages in New Jersey were recorded at the county level starting in 1795. On May 1, 1848 the state started requiring the filing of marriage records. The New Jersey State Archives this week released a new database on their website that indexes marriage returns filed with the Secretary of State for the period May 1848 through 31 May 1867. Data entry from the 1848-1867 hardcopy indexes for most of the counties has been completed and verified against the original returns. Index data for the following counties is currently being checked and should be considered preliminary and possibly incomplete: Middlesex, Ocean, Salem, Somerset, Union and Warren. The index may be searched by the name of the groom and/or bride, county of registration, and/or the year of marriage. Please enter names as Surname, Given Name (e.g., Smith, John). Results are listed alphabetically by groom's name.

This database joins two previously released databases: one that indexes the Secretary of State's marriage bonds and licenses issued between 1711 and 1795 and one that indexes plaintiffs and defendants in New Jersey Supreme Court cases heard between 1704 and 1844. The archives plans to issue several more databases this year as well. All of these databases can be viewed at www.njarchives.org/links/databases.html.

English Newspapers

The webmaster, Richard Heaton, has added 13 more newspapers to the site. They date from 1710-1773 and include London (British Apollo, 1710, Weekly Journal, 1720, London Gazette 1725, 1728, 1744, 1748), Somerset and Gloucestershire (Cruttwell's Bath and Bristol Chronicle 1770; the Bath Journal 1773, Pope's Bath Chronicle 1761). Cruttwell's 1770 mentions a report from New York about the destruction of the "Liberty-Pole" by British soldiers. Access the index: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~dutilleul/index.html>

"Ohio Repository"

(Canton, Ohio), 02 March 1853, page 3:

From California.

A letter from O.P. Stidger, Esq. to [H.?] Stidger, date, Marysville, January 11, gives a deplorable account of things in that country. He says - It has rained almost incessantly since the 1st of December. During that month our city was inundated with water three different times, and now the whole of the lower part of the city, and the entire country west and south is entirely covered with water. Many of the inhabitants are driven to the 2d story of their houses. The waters have been higher than at any time since the discovery of gold.

All parts of the country have been either overflowed or met with some other casualty equally as disastrous. The snows in the mountains have driven out almost all the inhabitants, and many are to be seen in various parts of the country, begging for a livelihood. Thousands of persons have died, in consequence of being hemmed in by the snow--frozen to death, or died of starvation. Men have gone forty miles to buy provisions, and returning with them on their backs, died with fatigue and the chilling blasting snows through which they had to wade. Every part of the country has been visited with these scenes. Mining of all kinds has been discontinued, and most utter abject misery prevails to an alarming extent.

Thousands and thousands of cattle, horses, hogs, &c. have perished by the overflows of the vallies. [sic] Millions and millions of dollars are lost: More than the gold mines will pay in the next two years. It is impossible to paint the utter destitution and ruin which pervades all parts of this country. Every wind wafts to us tidings of misery and distress. It is awful, awful! The whole Sacramento Valley is one vast sea of water, and Sacramento city entirely inundated, from 2 to 12 feet.

What Did You Do When You Were My Age, Grandma?

There was a tip about writing a paragraph about your departed love ones, but let's not stop there. If you have grandchildren, write them a little blurb about what you did when you were their age. Try to write one each year for their birthdays. I would have been thrilled if my parents had done this for me. Each generation has so many changes. I'm only fifty-five, but I still like to tell my nieces and granddaughter about when I went to school and had to wear dresses every day. What about party phone lines? Only black and white televisions. There's so much that just becomes lost.

Weekly Planner: Record A Memory

After reminiscing with my sisters over the holiday weekend, several memories of the "old days" came up. Maybe you had a similar experience. This week, take a few minutes to record the memory of a person, place, or event that is special to you. Create a file and do this often. You'll be helping to preserve an important part of your family history. Don't you wish your ancestors had done the same?

Old Photo Album

Member Rose Hector has an old photo album in very good condition with pictures taken around the turn of the century. She would like to return it to any descendant who can prove relationship. Some names mentioned in the book are Sidworth, Strong, Graham, Wickens and others. The place appears to be around Barrie, Ontario, Canada. Other places mentioned are Brampton and New Lowell. Pictured are two sisters, Florence L. Smith (born 1861) and Philema Smith (born 1859), probably born in Michigan. Please contact her at 209 544-0121 if you know of these pictures.

El Vista FHC Hours Change

The El Vista Family History Center is changing its hours. They will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the morning from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and in the evening from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. There will not be any afternoon hours.

Keeping Up With The In-Laws

In tracing the family tree of family members of collateral lines, (i.e., the descendants of your aunts and uncles of various degrees), usually one can run through the standard list of indexes, books, records, and databases for a person's name to find the usual birth, marriage, and death information one needs, but if you are researching a relation who is suspected or known to have been married and the couple moves away from their home county or out-of-state, you may lose all trace of your research subjects using local records, with perhaps one exception, the in-laws, who may have remained "at home." While not a part of every person's family tree research, it does prove useful to keep track of the parents of every person who marries into a family tree. Look for the same set of records for them, at least vital records such as birth certificates, marriage records, death certificates, funeral home records, and obituaries, as you would for any other member of the family.

Oftentimes, the death certificates will give the name and address of the informant, usually a relative, and maybe the one you lost track of and are looking for. Funeral home records and obituaries usually list all the survivors of an individual, where they lived, etc., and so, in this way you may be able to follow the movements of younger generations by locating the death records and obituaries of older generations.

And, so, in keeping up with the in-laws, you may be able to discover just where your aunts, uncles, and cousins disappeared.

Philip A. Naff Indianapolis, Indiana

Clip the Header Too

When I clip an article from a newspaper, I also clip the header with the publication name and date of the publication to attach to the article. This way I can readily see where I got it and the date it appeared.

GSSC 2006 Bus Trip

By Bev Johnson

As a stand-in for Ellen Reesh who has most capably hosted this trip in the past and who found a trip to China to be more enticing, it was a most interesting first trip for me. Thirty-five people, including four from Merced, enjoyed the day in San Francisco.

The following are excerpts from those who were lucky and/or struck gold:

Lisa Bruk: "Found my Norwegian grandfather's picture in a county history book of Michigan"

Wendy Craft: "Found g.grandpa in San Francisco directory for 1896-1906"

Peg Dixon: "Proved a birth which was wrong on World Connect"

Sandra Finch: "Found where to send for my grandmother and g. grandmother's death certificate"

Joyce Hambley: Found great grandparents on mother's father's side; also in-laws"

Nancy Robinson: Found so many interesting stories and pictures on the village in Germany where my grandfather was born"

Marg Scheuber: Found the name of the soda company my great uncle owned in Oakland"

Theo Schock: "Found set of Revolutionary War pension applications"

Millie Starr: "GAR"

Dorothy Winke: "Found gg grandfather and family on census; names grossly misspelled"

Cleda Lane: "Found my gg grandfather's first marriage"

Joann MacDonald: "Found that the church records for where I think my grandparents were married have been copied and are in Illinois. I will write and see if I am correct"

Finally, a great suggestion from Jeriann Farinha for future bus trips. "Name Tags, please."

A good time was had by all who participated.

Society Loses**Charles Crawford**

On November 18, 2006 we lost Charles "Charlie" Crawford. He was born, at home, in Ceres in 1908. He went to school and grew up wanting to be an electrician but changed his mind after helping to wire the family home. He went to MJC, majoring in engineering. After night courses and correspondence, he was able to get his registration as a Civil Engineer, with a specialty in irrigation. He and Mary married, had three children and worked at many positions for MID. After leaving the MID he worked for the TID.

Charlie had many hobbies and interests, such as photography, collecting stamps, a deep interest in water matters and genealogy. Our Society was fortunate to have him join us in 1977. He will be missed.

Charlotte Trickel

On December 5, 2006 Charlotte Trickel passed away. A resident of Ceres, she was part of the Stanislaus Stamp Club, First Methodist Church, American Nurses Association of American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists and the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County. She was one of the early members, joining our Society in 1968.

**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF STANISLAUS COUNTY, CA., INC.
PO BOX A
MODESTO, CA. 95352-3660
(209) 571-3227**

GSSC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership Year: January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

Renewal _____ Member # _____ Member # _____ Date _____

Print or type name as desired on Membership Card:

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: () _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY, STATE: _____

9-DIGIT ZIP: _____ - _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

(Please supply it's **REQUIRED**)

Please list any information you wish to be **excluded** from the printed roster. _____

OCCUPATION (Optional) Was/Is _____

ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE ON BOARD OR COMMITTEES? YES _____ NO Short-term _____

Optional Donation to National Archives Records Administration Fund: \$ _____

NARA Gift Fund is a nationally supported program to finance the creation of finding aids and the microfilming of valuable research materials now preserved in the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D. C.

Optional Donation to possible future Genealogical Research Library \$ _____

GSSC Dues: \$20.00 single membership, \$27.50 for couple*
(*One newsletter - one address): \$ _____

Check #: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

*(Please note change of address to mail membership!)

Make checks payable to G S S C. *Mail to: GSSC, ATTN. Maybelle Allen, 1141 Springcreek Dr. Modesto, 95355-4820. Please make notation on check 'annual dues.'

If you enclose a **self-addressed stamped envelope**, your membership card will be mailed to you. Membership cards are available at the general meetings.

Suggestions for Topics and/or programs are: (If suggesting a speaker, please, include contact information.)

Questions? Call Maybelle Allen at (209) 523-0593 or e-mail: rmallen213@sbcglobal.net.

**Welcome New & Returning
Members**

***We have 249 2006 members—
12/20/06 & 107 2007 members!
Keep them coming.***

We wish to welcome all new members for the year 2007. We hope you have found our society helpful, knowledgeable, and resourceful.

We look forward to welcoming many more new members in the year 2007.

NEW MEMBERS:

956 Kenn Cunningham Hughson, CA

RETURNING MEMBERS:

371 Mike Mensinger Riverbank, 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, 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.

GSSC Web Page

Http://www.cagenweb.com/stanislaus/
gssc.html

Membership Renewal Time

Our Standing Rules read: #3 Annual dues will be \$20.00 single membership, \$27.50 family (living at same address), and payable on or before January 31 of each year.

Dues not received by February 15 are delinquent and member will not receive the March newsletter. New members joining after October 1 are paid for the remainder of the current year and the following calendar year.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

| | |
|---|------|
| 326 | 2006 |
| Jane Doe 1234 My Place Avenue Modesto, CA 95355-4820 | |

If it reads **2006** it is time to renew your membership. **Thank You.**

It's Membership Renewal Time!

With this issue you will find a renewal form. Again, we ask, *please*, fill it out and include it with your check.

Thank You

To all who included the renewal form with their renewal, I wish to say, THANK YOU! Maybelle



G.S.S.C. CA.
P.O. Box A
Modesto, CA
95352-3660

Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| <i>November Meeting—Ancestor Night</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>January Meeting—Starting A New Year</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Souper Supper</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Nan's Memories</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Nan's Memories—cont'</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>BYU Family History Archives Online</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>Two Interviewing Suggestions</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>New Jersey Launches Marriage Database</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>English Newspapers</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>Ohio Repository</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>What Did You Do When You Were My Age</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Weekly Planner: Record A Memory</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Old Photo Album</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>El Vista FHC Hours Change</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Keeping Up With The In-Laws</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Clip The Header Too</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>GSSC 2006 Bus Trip</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Society Loses</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>GSSC Membership Renewal</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Welcome New Members</i> | <i>9</i> |
| <i>Thank You</i> | <i>9</i> |

*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**