



STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

June 2007

May Meeting

What a couple of exciting speakers we had for May!! Lee Lundrigan and Janice Milligan were both knowledgeable and informative. We learned how to request records, what records could be accessed and what could not. How to get (or not get) confidential records. We even learned how to get a passport!! There was information for everyone who attended and we can't thank them enough for coming. We look forward to having both Lee and Janice again soon. Thanks Lee and Janice, you were great.

June Meeting

Our speaker for June will be Doug Harms from the Assessors Office. Doug is a wonderful speaker with a great sense of humor. I'm sure everyone will enjoy listening to him. Don't let Doug's knowledge pass you by. Make sure and mark your calendar for our meeting in June. See you there.

GSSC Yard Sale June 8-9, 2007

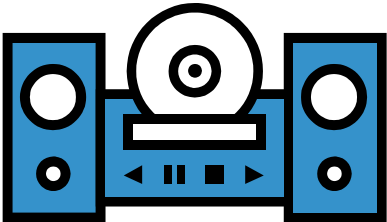
The yard sale is fast approaching! Gather all of your yard sale items together NOW!

You will only be able to drop items off at Geneva Presbyterian Church, East Fairmont Av on **THURSDAY, JUNE 7TH FROM 3pm TO 7:30 pm. NO EXCEPTIONS!** **The yard sale will start on Friday, June 8th at 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. and continue with the same hours on Saturday, June 9th.**

If you are unable to deliver items to Geneva personally, please call Vicky Wolff @ 209-529-9430 if you need items picked up.

We still need volunteers to work the days of the sale. If you are able to volunteer, please call Vicky at the above number.

Remember, this is our biggest fund raiser of the year, so LET'S MAKE THIS THE BEST YARD SALE YEAR EVER!



CALENDAR	
June	
Board Meeting	June 11
General Meeting	June 19
Arkansas Study Group	June 11
Writing Group	June 21
July	
Board Meeting	July 9
General Meeting	NO MEETING
Arkansas Study Group	July 9
Writing Group	July 19

JUNE MEETING

7:00 PM June 19, 2007
 Trinity United Presbyterian Church
 1600 Carver Road, Modesto, CA
 Doug Harms from the Stanislaus
 County Assessors Office

Upcoming Research Trip To San Bruno

Bev Johnson

Wednesday June 27th, our GSSC will be providing interested researchers the opportunity to visit the *California State Library – Sutro, South San Francisco* and *NARA's Regional Archives* in San Bruno, CA.

Cost for the trip will be \$30.00. Our bus will leave at 7:30 AM **SHARP** from our meeting place, Trinity United Presbyterian Church at 1600 Carver Road, Modesto.

For those who have never taken this opportunity to further your research, perhaps the following information will encourage you to join us. The *Sutro Library* has one of the largest genealogical collections west of Salt Lake City with extensive resources for states other than California as well as basic resources for California. *NARA Regional Archives* have holdings comprised of records from northern and central California, Nevada (except Clark County), Hawaii, American Samoa and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and constitute a major primary resource for the study of Asian-Pacific immigration, environmental, Naval, Native American, and many other aspects of American history.

The **DEADLINE FOR FEES TO BE RECEIVED IS Friday, June 15th**. If you will be unable to attend either of these meeting but wish to join us, or, simply want more information, contact: Bev Johnson, 1924 Red Oak Dr., Modesto CA, 94354, 209-526-5009, or jbevjohnson1@aol.com. Better yet, just contact me and say "Put me on the list". A great opportunity to research and connect with your fellow GSSC friends.

Then and Now written January 1893

We all accept present conditions as matters of course, as if they had always existed. Though familiar with the changes which have come about within a life time, we have adapted ourselves thereto with scarcely a thought of the difference between the old and the new. Even when fondly wanting the good old times and deprecating the new, little thought is given to details; and if called for a bill of particulars, the garrulous elder will have to confess it is simply a question of superior enjoyment in youth, rather than degeneracy in the present. There can be no question of the wonderful development made in our world during the past forty or fifty years.

"A catalogue of the useful inventions and adaptations during this period would make a very large book and this brief article can only refer to a few, such as most affect our daily lives, without attracting a thought, they are so much matters of course.

"For instance, who of us think with wonder of the friction match when striking a light? Yet some, and not the oldest of your readers, when thus reminded, will remember the flint and steel which, with pine splints dipped in brimstone, were in use to start the morning fire. Or if, by chance, the tinder, or the so-called matches were out, one of the children was sent to a neighbor's for a shovel of wood coals. Now, and as far back as the present generation can remember, the friction match has been an every-day necessity. And as cheaply as they are sold, thousands of people have been employed in their manufacture, notwithstanding that the use of automatic machinery goes far to displace hands.

"Great fortunes have been made on this seemingly insignificant article, and it was a source of large revenue to the government until the repeal of the internal revenue tax a few years ago.

"Stone" magazine, January 1893, Vol. VI, No. 2, pp. 113-115

Write - They Will Answer - But When?

Maybelle Allen

How many letters have you sent to relatives and never received a reply? More than we want to remember! When I first started doing genealogy research, I sent the widow of my uncle a letter. I supplied the self addressed stamped envelope. Enclosed was the family sheet, along with a letter explaining my father was her brother-in-law and would she please fill in the form and return it. I was sure she'd fill it out immediately and send it back! What brought my attention to this widow was the fact her maiden name and married name were the same. Were they distant cousins, or not related at all? The letter was sent in 1993. When we returned home from a trip last week, there was a message on my answering machine from her daughter. My cousin, Shirley, had been hesitant about calling. After all of these years, was the telephone number still correct? Would I remember her? Her husband encouraged her to call. He assured her that if it was a wrong number, she would be told. Finally, she picked up the telephone, with her husband by her side. We could not come up with an exact date of when we had last seen each other. We both agreed it was in the early 50's. How thrilling it is to be in touch again. Her mother passed away in 2001. As all of us do, Shirley had kept some of her mother's papers. Recently, as she was sorting through them, she ran across my letter. Have I asked for information? Not yet, I'll give her another week!

Queries for March, 2007

Charlie Tieman

A busy month, indeed, with ten queries. We provided obituaries for James and Louise Cochran of Newman; for Edith and Charles York (who had an antique store on Downey Ave for years) and their daughter Patricia McMicken; Orville and Violet Blair of Turlock; Horace and Jennet Turner and three of their children; and Golden and Mary McLeod. We couldn't fill a request for the obits of Lucian and Almina Lee, who lived in Modesto in the 20s, but by 1930 had moved to Stockton where they died.

A question came in about the location of the Pioneer Odd Fellows Cemetery. There was a request for information on Andrew Erickson, an early settler in Turlock. Luckily, our fine county history by Tinkham has a whole page of history on this family, to the delight of our correspondent who replied, "Wow, that's great!". Another request was for the 1870 marriage certificate of Daniel Riker and Alpha Hardin in Knights Ferry.

The most unusual request came from Sweden and asked us to locate a living descendant of Alex Carlson who lived on East Greenway Ave, Turlock, and died there in 1963. The purpose was to find out whether anyone in this family had some recollection of Axel's cousin who had lived in Los Angeles and was the grandfather of the correspondent. Axel had a son and three daughters. Using the census and city directories, I found the only child to have married had no children. This daughter was the last survivor and died in 2004.

To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?
- Marcus Tullius Cicero, 106-43 B.C.

German or Luxembourger????

by Bev Graham

There is a Luxembourg enclave of seven little communities just north of Milwaukee. The population is 90 percent Luxembourg families. They still speak Luxembourgesch every day. (Ah, the good life.)

Luxembourg's Territory in the south was ceded to France in the 17th century. Another larger chunk, in the northeast around Bitburg, was ceded to Prussia in 1815 and is now a part of Germany.

The last partition was in 1839 when an area about twice the size of the present country of Luxembourg was taken away and made a part of Belgium, which was breaking away from Holland at the time. The area is now the Belgian province of Luxembourg.

Many folks have ancestors from the Borde area of Belgium and Luxembourg. While they emigrated from Belgium, ethnically these people were Luxembourgers. The farther in from the border they lived, the more French influence was likely present in their lives. They may have used French names and been bilingual, speaking both French and Luxembourgesch. The nationality and ethnicity of ancestors from this region can be confusing. Your grandfather may have come from Belgium, but his father was a Luxembourger. Knowing the history of the borders can be important. Some people refer to others as Luxembourgers and Belgic Luxembourgers.

Some areas, such as the region in Wisconsin remain very much in touch with their Luxembourg heritage. The language is dying out, and if spoken at all, it is only by people in their eighties and nineties. No one seems to be teaching the young the old language. Many descendants of Luxembourg ancestors are amalgamated and have lost a connection to their heritage. They think of themselves as German, even if they know their ancestors came from Luxembourg. They forget Luxembourg is a distinct county with a distinct culture, language, traditions, and customs.

A Mardi Gras like celebration before the beginning of Lent is one Luxembourg tradition. Another is the celebration of St. Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas Day is very popular with Luxembourgers, and many churches are named for him. St. Nicholas Day is as big as Christmas. In an effort to preserve the culture, the Luxembourg Society of Wisconsin was formed in 1981. About six years ago the Society started an international cultural society. The government of Luxembourg is aware of and is very supportive of the cultural society's project. They have made a contribution of \$500,000 for the manufacture of the museum's interior displays. The Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg are planning their first trip to the United States to visit the cultural center in 2007. Not only Wisconsin, but also all areas of this country will be well represented in the archives and museum.

The first Luxembourg immigrants in general came to New York state, particularly to Wyoming and Erie Counties. The next wave of immigrants made their way here to Ohio. In the 1840's they started moving to Wisconsin and Iowa. After that, as land opened up in the west, they moved to places like Minnesota and eventually to places like Nebraska and Kansas. The largest urban settlement is on the north side of Chicago.

Stone houses and barns are common in Luxembourg, and many were also built in the Luxembourger area of Wisconsin. Only one stone barn remains today, and it is being renovated for use as the cultural society's museum. Jacob Marner, an immigrant Luxembourger stonemason, built this stone barn in 1872. The museum is to be named the Roots and Leaves cont p 5

Museum. This will symbolize the genealogy and history of the past while portraying Luxembourg today as a very advanced nation culturally and economically. The project should be a success as they are honoring three values Luxembourg ancestors brought to the new world. These values are faith, family, and community. Luxembourgers know how to party together, celebrate, drink beer, and be at church events together. There is a real sense of community among Luxembourgers. Some goals of the cultural center are to: foster pride in Luxembourg heritage and culture, to be a repository for history, heritage, genealogy, and artifacts, to reflect all Luxembourg settlements throughout the United States, to foster relationships between America and Luxembourg, to be a clearinghouse for Luxembourg cultural and economic information, to provide a showcase for arts and talent from Luxembourg, and to promote commerce and tourism between the two countries.

The Roots and Leaves Museum is scheduled for opening in August 2007. One half of the museum will reflect the past and present of Luxembourg and the other half will reflect Luxembourg immigration, heritage, and culture in America. Some exhibits will be permanent, but there will also be revolving displays which will change at intervals, so there will probably be something new all the time.

Membership is open to anyone with an enthusiasm for Luxembourg heritage. The society publishes a quarterly, The Luxembourg American Gazette. The web site is:

www.luxamculturalsociety.org

Movie Memories

"The Emigrants" (1972) made a tremendous impression on me and provided insight into nineteenth century life in Sweden and early pioneer life in Minnesota. It is a Swedish film starring Max von Sydow and Liv Ullman. After a family tragedy, the couple they portray decided to leave Sweden where they were terribly poor and immigrate to eastern Minnesota where they hoped to provide a better life for their children.

Thinking about what this family went through in Sweden and their difficulties in establishing themselves here kept me awake nights after I saw the movie. Part of the story took place during the Sioux War in the 1860s. My great-great grandparents were also affected by this and it tied in with a story handed down in my family. The movie is based on a set of books by Vilhelm Moberg, which follows this family to end of their lives.

"Far and Away" For those of us with Irish ancestors and those who participated in the Oklahoma Land Run, "Far and Away" is a must! For me it was my second generation Irish family that went to Oklahoma. I always wondered how some of the logistics of the Run worked and the movie explained some of them. One of my dad's uncles was chased off his Oklahoma claim by a guy with a bigger shotgun!

"The Molly Maguires" and **"Matewan"**

Two movies that gave me insight into the coal mining industry where my grandpa worked as a young man. Watching these movies showed the dangerous jobs in coal mines and various aspects of living in a mining community--the cave-ins, the injuries, the disagreements between management and workers, the company store, and even the lunches packed for the miners. In "The Molly Maguires," a miner was sent to work with some tea and a pasty for lunch. My family has always made pasties, a Cornish meat pie.

As a married man with a family, my grandfather told my grandmother to never shop at the

cont. pg 8

Free 1880 Census

One can use the guest registration (free) on Ancestry — once one signs in, use that each time
<http://www.ancestorhunt.com/free_1880_census_online.htm>

Good Basic Rootsweb Searching Point

The original site of many gedcoms, etc.— Run your names here (search section Left side)
Keeping in mind, that as in Ancestry, many who have uploaded here instead of updating
have just reloaded the entire files over and over and over . . . (why some sites claim many
millions of names) <<http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/>>

Centre County, PA Website

The main website for Centre County Government: <<http://co.centre.pa.us/hrip/>>

Libraries Digital Bookshelf

Interesting site: <<http://apps.libraries.psu.edu/digitalbookshelf/>>

Free Genealogical Forms

My bride, who is a form nut, loves what I found here. You DO have to navigate a little, but
the search is worth it.

<<http://genealogy.about.com/cs/organization/a/focused.htm>> On the LEFT side just to the
left of Kimberly's picture, click on FREE family tree chart. This is the first chart. After you
have played with it, scroll all the way down to MORE FREE GENEALOGY CHARTS.
Most of the 24 charts listed are FREE.

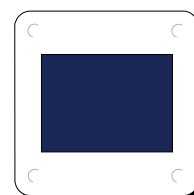
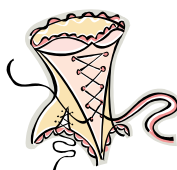
About half way down the list is one marked Census Tools which has a neat chart available
where you can pick the census year and enter your information directly onto the form, and
save and print it. Looks very nice and neat. (I wish I could figure out how to change the
font.)

Plan on spending some time looking. Lots of fun and genuinely helpful forms.

Preparing, Protecting, Preserving Family Treasures

For information about keeping articles which mean something to you in good shape, this
web site has some great tips and information.

<http://www.loc.gov/preserv/familytreasures/index.html>



Acquisitions Committee Recommendations—April 2007

January 2007 GSSC donation to Stanislaus County Library	\$647.50
Binding of Special Collections books, Hinshaw's Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy, 6 volumes and one index	\$120.00
1. Transcription of Provincial North Carolina Wills, 1663-1729/30, Vol. 1, A-K (2003) by John A. Brayton, Memphis, Tennessee (John Brayton)	\$30.00
2. Transcription of Provincial North Carolina Wills, 1663-1729/30, Vol. 2, L-Z (2006) by John H. Brayton, Memphis, Tennessee (John H. Brayton, 1900 Central Ave., Memphis, Tennessee 38104)	\$30.00
3. Raking The Ashes: Genealogical Strategies for Pre-1906 San Francisco Research (2006) by Nancy S. Peterson (calgensoc.org)	\$19.95
4. New York Censuses and Substitutes (2005) by William Dollarhide (Amazon.com)	\$32.95
5. Roster of South Carolinas Patriots in the American Revolution (1983) By Bobbie Gilmer Moss (Amazon.com)	\$61.75
6. Modesto American Legion Post 74 History 1919-2003 compiled by Ed Schoonover (Richard Edgecomb, 310 N. Santa Cruz, Modesto, CA 95354)	\$15.00
7. California 1850 Census Index (2000) (Proquest) (including tax and ship)	\$99.34
8. The Eighteenth Century Records of the Boston Overseers of the Poor (2001) by Erie G. Nellis and Anne Decker Cecerne, eds University of Virginia Press (includes shipping)	\$89.00
9. Supplement to South Carolina Marriages, 1688-1820 (reprinted 2006) (genealogical.com) (includes \$8.00 shipping for this and items 10, 11)	\$20.00
10. Warrants for Land in South Carolina, 1672-1711 by A.S. Salley, Jr. (three volumes in one) (reprinted 2007) (genealogical.com)	\$59.95
11. Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary by Martha W. McCartney (2007) (genealogical.com) (inc. ship.)	\$49.95

The members of the 2007 Acquisitions Committee are:

Lisa Bruk, Chairman	Ellen Reesh
Marilyn Belleville	Theo Schock
Janet Lancaster	

Penny Postcards

This is a site to look at old penny postcards, arranged by state and then by county. Great fun to look at where the ancestors used to live! Or, even where you might have lived before coming to this area! <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/special/ppcs/ppcs.html>

Quick Tip

Indiana University-Purdue University Library has a vast collection of digitized documents, maps and atlases, city directories, indexes, books, old magazines, and photos available free online. More is being added all the time. The site is searchable.
www.ulib.iupui.edu/digitalcollections/home.html

company store. At the company store, a family could "charge" items--the price of which would be deducted from the miner's next check. In one of those movies, a miner goes to get his pay and finds out he has nothing because of the price of the items he picked up at the company store. It was a very sad part of the movie.

I had never asked my grandpa what it was like to work in a coal mine and these two movies showed conditions which were very severe for the families. I can only hope they have improved by now.

"The Electric Edwardians: The Lost World of Mitchell & Kenyon," from the British Film Institute on DVD. These rediscovered shorts from the turn of the century were found in steel drums in an old photographer's basement in the north of England and feature ordinary people at work and play.

"I Remember Mama," with Irene Dunne and Barbara Bel Geddes and **"O' Pioneers!"** with Jessica Lange gave me insight into my Norwegian immigrant ancestors.

In, **"Sarah, Plain and Tall,"** with Glenn Close I learned more about my New England ancestors, going west.

For insight into my Oklahoma sharecropper ancestors leaving the Dustbowl of the 1930s, I saw **"The Grapes of Wrath,"** with Henry Fonda.

Follow Up with a History Lesson

We all know the movie industry has no problems with stretching reality at times. So how can we tell whether what we are seeing on the silver screen is close to what our ancestors went through? When you find a time period that interests you, let the movie serve as inspiration to find more information about the topic. Look for those PBS, A&E and History Channel specials which pop up around blockbuster movies. They tend to discuss the reality vs. the movie and you may learn even more from them.

For a fun look at the movies, including trivia and errors which have been found in the movie, see the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) at www.imdb.com. It is an interactive site, including reviews.

Use the movie as a springboard in your learning experience. Visit your local library, bookstore or online booksellers in search of publications that can shed even more light on the subject of interest. I've always loved to read, but for many years I avoided the reference sections of the library and bookstores because I thought all the books there were dry and boring. The truth is, if you give it a look, you'll find many very interesting non-fiction books about various times and places in history which make as good, if not better reading than fiction. Now when I visit a bookstore, I make a beeline for the history and social sciences sections.

Use Them to Open A Dialogue

Once you've explored a topic, don't keep it to yourself. Share it with your family. Ask family members if they've seen the film and discuss it with them. The ensuing discussions will open up a flood of memories and prompt the exchange of new information in some cases.

You can share your movie thoughts in person, over the phone, or in a letter. For those of you who send a family newsletter, perhaps a section on movie reviews could generate some interaction and commentary. For those who use MyFamily.com sites to keep in touch with extended family, each site includes a section for "Reviews." Start the ball rolling with a movie you've seen and ask for submissions from other family members. You'll learn more about each other and the correspondence can be saved as part of your family history.

Welcome

New & Returning Members

***We have 221 members as of
May 20, 2007!***

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.

RETURNING MEMBERS:

#342 Gloria Lane Modesto, CA

If there are **any** corrections, changes in your telephone number, mailing address, or e-mail address **please** send info to Maybelle Allen: telephone (209) 523-0593, email: 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
Trinity United Presbyterian Church,
1600 Carver Road,
Modesto, CA**

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

GSSC Web Page

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



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

Need A DAR Lookup?

Do you think you might have an ancestor who served in the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783)? Would you like to know whether your ancestor is listed with the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) in the "Patriot Index"? A helpful group of organized DAR VIS Volunteers monitor the RootsWeb DAR Message Board every day and welcome lookup requests.

When posting your lookup request, include your Revolutionary War-era ancestor's first and last name, spouse's name (if known), dates of birth, death, and state of residence. You need not be interested in joining the NSDAR to request a lookup.

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=board&r=rw&p=topics.organizations.da>

Quotations

We live with a heritage from earlier generations and must seek to create positive legacies for those who follow us. When the old are not allowed to tell their story, the young grow up without history. If the young are not listened to, we have no future.

- Dr. Gunhild O. Hagostad

Found a Yankee in my family tree; will trade for horse thief or other black sheep.

- Author unknown



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

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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