

STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

January 2009

Volume 31, Number 1

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January Annual Meeting

The January general meeting is designated as our “annual meeting.” This is the meeting where yearly reports from various committees are read, bylaws changes are adopted, the budget is presented, and so forth. While this may not be the most exciting part of the meeting, it is still an important event and shouldn’t be trivialized.

If you were at the November 2008 meeting you might recall there were a couple of last minute substitutions to the list of candidates for the 2009 Board of Directors. Some of those who had agreed to serve found they were unable to and asked that their names be withdrawn. Director at Large Jeff Wells was elected to the 1st Vice President position, and Director at Large Susan Park was elected to be Treasurer. Each of those Directors at Large had only completed one year of their two year terms and new Directors will be appointed by the President to complete the terms. We would like to have some of you who haven’t stepped up before to consider volunteering for one of these Director seats. Without the new ideas and different viewpoints of new members we all have a tendency to stagnate.

As of this writing you’ll find a list of the 2009 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen listed on the inside back cover of this issue.

January Program

January 20, 2009 7:00 p.m.

Our January program is designed to warm us all up. Linda Cover, award winning quilter, will speak to us about “Pieces From the Heart.”

Linda started sewing over thirty years ago on a Singer Featherweight Portable machine and has been stitching ever since. She is two-time past president of the local Country Crossroads Quilters and has displayed her award winning quilts at many quilt shows. Her quilt articles have been published in various magazines and journals and she has taught many quilting classes as well. We are fortunate to have Linda generously share her knowledge of the patterns, stitches, fabrics, history, techniques, and all things quilts with us.

If you have a quilt, a piece from the heart of your family, that you’d like to share at the meeting please bring your treasure no later than 6:30 p.m. to allow time for proper display and discussion before the meeting. Be sure to pin a card to your quilt with your name at the top and any information you may have about the quilt such as pattern, dates, circumstances, fabric, etc., Linda will make comments and answer questions as time allows.

Queries Report

By Charlie Tieman

October 2008

During October 2008 obituaries for Harry C. Winkler, Hollie F. Drummond, and Obed Vikjord were sent out. Another request was for the obituary of Maud Cole, wife of Samuel Paul. But the obit said that her husband was James Paul! This confusion was resolved when the correspondent finally accepted the fact that Maud had married second her first husband's brother. Another set of obits was requested for Alice and Otis Ames, and Beatrice and Lester Brown, all of Oakdale. The Ames obits could not be found in the Modesto Bee. This is not surprising as the Bee didn't report many deaths outside of Modesto during some years of its publication.

November 2008

It is hard to imagine a query that involves the Three Stooges, but it happened! The Three Stooges Fan Club learned that Curly Joe DeRita, the third Stooge, had a first wife Bonnie who is buried in our Ceres Memorial Park! Their request was for a photograph of her grave marker. This was provided along with her funeral notice, but no obituary was found. According to her death certificate, she had lived in Stanislaus County for ten years and died at the Modesto State Hospital on September 6, 1965. The whole ten years was probably spent in the hospital.

An interesting problem was presented in an e-mail from a fellow researching the murder of his great-grandfather on his ranch in Hills Ferry in 1857. The correspondent was interested in coming here to see the original cemetery and what is left of the old town. Both the town and the cemetery were moved to Newman when the railroad came through there in 1888, so I couldn't be very encouraging about finding what he was looking for. I advised him to call the Newman Historical Society for the latest information on that historical site. I also sent him several articles on the murder and the capture of the culprit from the Stockton Daily Argus. The subsequent trial was in Merced County, so the murder probably took place there too, with Hills Ferry being the nearest town.

Another request was for a photograph of the grave stone of an uncle who died here in 1940 as an infant. The mother, who only lived here for a short time, is still alive at 87 and only recently discovered that the child, Clyde Ross, is listed in our Modesto Citizens Cemetery book. I would have been glad to send the mother a photograph, but, sadly, the child was buried in the County Plot, the Paupers' Field, and there is no marker.

A correspondent asked for an obituary for William O. Dickson, said to have died in Oakdale in 1892. I could find no mention of him in cemetery records, burial permits, Modesto newspapers, or the Great Register of Voters. Another request was for an obit for Rev. Gustav Edwards of Turlock from the Modesto Bee to supplement one found in the Turlock newspaper. I found none.

Question of the Month Column

Millie Starr would like to see a new column in this newsletter that would include research questions submitted by you, with answers from her and other experienced researchers. What kind of questions, you ask? Research questions. How-to questions. Where-do-I-go-for questions. Who-do-I-write-to questions. Have you ever wondered how to get a probate record from a far away state? Or even why you should request a probate file? Do you need ideas on gathering Civil War records for your Confederate ancestor? Perhaps you've been looking in the wrong county for that elusive marriage record? County boundaries changed over time, you know. Send your requests for help to Millie Starr c/o GSSC@att.net and she and her experts will provide some answers.

Special Collections Room

Marilyn Belleville, Special Collections Room Coordinator, reports that the following books are now available in the Special Collections Room at the Stanislaus County Library. These books were donated from the estate of member Patricia Rose.

North Carolina		
973.7458	Bra	<i>Joe Brown's Army</i> Bragg
975.6	Nea	<i>Abstracts of Vital Records from Raleigh, North Carolina Newspapers</i> Vol. I (1799-1819) Vol. II (1820-1829) Vol. III (1830-1839)
975.685	Whi	<i>Revolutionary War Soldiers of Western North Carolina—Burke County</i> 2 volume set
975.6875	Mad	<i>Madison County Heritage—North Carolina</i> Vol. I
975.688	Her	<i>Old Buncombe County Heritage, North Carolina</i> Vols. I and II
975.688	Woo	<i>Buncombe County, North Carolina, Index to Deeds 1783-1850</i>
975.694	All	<i>The Annals of Haywood County, North Carolina</i> Allen, 1977
975.694	Edd	<i>Abstracts of Haywood County, North Carolina Deeds 1808-1838</i> Eddleman, 2005
975.695	Jac	<i>Jackson County Heritage, North Carolina</i> Vol. I
975.696	Mad	<i>Swain County Heritage, North Carolina</i>
Georgia		
975.8	Ree	<i>Georgia Genealogical Gleanings</i> Reeves
975.8172	Hud	<i>1790 Census—Wilkes County, Georgia</i> Hudson
975.8172	Wil	<i>Wilkes County, Georgia Tax Records</i> Vols. I and II
975.867	War	<i>Washington County, Georgia Land Warrants 1784-1787</i> Warren and Jones
Ohio		
977.137	His	<i>History of Portage County, Ohio</i> 2000
Tennessee		
976.871	Sco	<i>Scott County, Tennessee and Its Families</i> 1988
976.873	Ten	<i>Tennessee 200 Bicentennial History of Anderson County 1796-1996</i>
978.6	Nor	<i>North Carolina Land Grants in Tennessee 1778-1791</i>

Upcoming Events

Here is a list of some of the speakers who will be appearing at our sister-societies throughout northern California this winter and spring.

In Merced their general meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of each month at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. This month only, the meeting will be changed to January 24th instead of the 17th, and they'll meet in the Doris Cochran Room instead of the Gracey Room. Upcoming topics include:

“English Research” with Vauna Kelly in February.

“Ramble America: North American Migration Routes” with Robyn Echols in March.

“Digitizing Your Genealogy” with Robert Givens in April.

“Searching for Original Records in the Court House” with Kathy Burrows in May.

“Taking Control of Your Computer Files and Folders” with Anne Field in June.

Up in San Andreas, the Calaveras Genealogical Society is presenting a spring seminar with Lisa B. Lee on April 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan. The cost is \$32.50 for non-members and includes a buffet lunch. Topics offered are:

- “Do All of your US Census Work Online”
- “Using Historical Newspapers in Your Research”
- “Online Vital Records”
- “Good Research Gone Bad”

Finally, on April 25 the Sonoma County Genealogical Society presents Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck in an all-day seminar in the Harry A. Merlo Theater at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa. Mr. Bockstruck is the supervisor of the Dallas Public Library’s Genealogy Section, has published numerous books and articles; has won more awards and honors than we can list here, and is a very popular speaker on the national circuit. He will be speaking on these topics:

- “Court Records for Genealogical Research”
- “Colonial and State Statutes: Overlooked Sources for Genealogical Research”
- “Bridging the Atlantic: Finding Your Ancestral Home”
- “Substitutes for Birth and Death Records”

Newsletter Mailing Option

Would you like to receive the *Stanislaus Researcher* as a PDF document on your computer at home? There are many good reasons for you to consider this idea.

- You’ll get the newsletter at least a week earlier than you do now.
- If the print is too small for you in the paper version, you can magnify the electronic version to just the right size.
- If we print pictures they’ll be much sharper and easier to see in the electronic version, and any e-mail addresses or links to websites should be clickable.
- A final advantage to readers is the disposal method. When you’re finished, you can either save it or press the delete button and it’s gone. No more wondering if you can just throw it in the trash or should it be shredded.

If you’re interested just send your request to pebfarms@yahoo.com and your copy will be e-mailed with the next issue. A couple of things to keep in mind: The newsletter will be sent as a PDF file. It will be large enough that you’ll probably need a DSL or cable connection. I don’t know how long it would take a dial-up connection to download the file. If you don’t already have Adobe Reader on your computer you can download it for free at the Adobe.com website.

Ora Mae Crane

Long time GSSC member, Ora Mae Crane moved to Fresno quite some time back and is missed by all who remember her. She was a very active member, served on the Board, and rarely missed an event.

As much as we miss her, Ora Mae misses us too and if you would like to send her a card or short note, I’m sure she would appreciate it. Her address is:

Ora Mae Crane
7444 North Cedar Ave.
Fresno, CA 93720

Membership Information

- Dues: Single membership, \$20.00 per year Family membership, \$27.50 per year
- Stanislaus Researcher Published 10 times per year by Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County, P. O. Box A, Modesto, CA 95352-3660. Submit articles for publication to the editor via email: pebfarms@yahoo.com by the 15th of each month.
- Address changes: Send address, email and phone number changes to Maybelle Allen at:
 US Mail: Maybelle Allen c/o GSSC, P. O. Box A, Modesto, CA 95352-3660
 Email: gssc@att.net
 Telephone: 209-523-0593 (Maybelle Allen)
- GSSC web page: <http://www.cagenweb.com/lr/stanislaus/gssc.html>.
 The newsletter is posted at this website, along with other interesting society-related items.
- General meeting: 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, except July and December at the Trinity Presbyterian Church at 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto, CA.
- Board meeting: 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at El Vista Chapel (LDS) at 731 El Vista Ave., Modesto, CA.

2009 Officers		2009 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Bev Graham	Acquisitions	Janet Lancaster
1st Vice President	Jeff Wells	Audit	
2nd Vice President	Janet Lancaster	Budget	Susan Park
Secretary	Dorothy Winke	Four Generation Charts	Vicky Wolff
Treasurer	Susan Park	Historian	Theo Schock
Correspondence Secretary	Sheri Jones	Membership	Maybelle Allen
Director at Large	Vicky Wolff	Memorial Day	Vicky Wolff
Director at Large		Mentor	Joann MacDonald
Director at Large	Joann Gabriel	Newsletter	Susan Park
Director at Large		Planning	Beverly Graham
Director at Large	V. J. Vogelzang	Program	Jeff Wells
Past President	Millie Starr	Publicity	Sheri Jones
		Queries	Charlie Tieman
		Refreshments	Jackie Niemeyer
		Registrar	Judith Welch
		Research & Publication	Millie Starr
		Research Trips: Sutro/Archives	
		Research Trips: Salt Lake City	Lisa Bruk
		Seminar & Workshop	Janet Lancaster
		Special Collections Room	Marilyn Belleville
		Sunshine	Judith Welch

We have 215 members.



Genealogical Society of
Stanislaus County
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