



# STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

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## January Program

January 21, 2013

7:00 PM	Millie's Minutes	Millie Starr
7:10 PM	Our Irish Connection	Lewis & Logan Ruddick

How we were able to connect to our Irish Roots using yDNA, the internet and old fashioned library research to scale the brick wall. Covers the period between circa 1700 and 1735 as well as more current material added for genealogical flavor. PowerPoint by Logan Ruddick



## A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

I hope that all of you enjoyed a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I apologize for missing the November meeting but my body had other designs for that evening as well as for a couple of days before. Thank you for the cards and calls.

I received very few replies to my GSSC 2014 Survey. If you still have ideas to share I am happy to receive your contribution. This is your society and we do need your input. The survey can be found in the November 2013 issue of this newsletter. Please check your address label to insure that the information is correct also even if you don't want an email delivered newsletter we need your email address for other sorts of urgent direct communication. Please direct updates or corrections to [Maybelle Allen](#).

Your Executive Board had a special meeting on December 30<sup>th</sup> in Modesto and worked on plans to carry us through 2014.

I hope this year continues to bring growth in our society as your Executive Board works to fulfill our organizational goals.

Respectfully,

Lewis M. Ruddick

P.S. Early American Cookery is taking a vacation this month but will return in February

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Check your address label! If you do not see 2014 by your name your information is not current and you need to contact Maybelle Allen

Annual dues are \$20.00 single membership, \$27.50 family (living at same address), and payable on or before January 31 of each year. If you have email and want to receive a hard copy of the Stanislaus Researcher don't forget to include an extra \$5.00.

*The following article is regarding a telephone request for assistance I received and referred to Millie Starr. It was most rewarding to give someone away from our area this sort of quality assistance. This is the sort of quality assistance that Charlie Tieman has been doing quietly for our society years*

## The Bell Rings for Me

"Hello-----Yes, I can check that out. Give me the phone number. "

Curiosity always gets the better of me. Pres Lew had received a call from a lady who had family from this region. She knew her great grandfather, Harry Bates died here and was buried in Modesto Citizens Cemetery. Because of the work the Society had done on those cemetery records and other Stanislaus County Records, I could not help but get involved with Rae Wills. Besides we had read the cemetery records more than once to help in the updating.

The reason I am telling you all about this is there is a lesson to be learned. Always contact local sources if you are able. In this case the contact was through our website and Pres Lew. You do not often hear the little details because the volunteers at the library do much of this, routinely. Charlie Tieman has answered queries thoroughly and promptly for many years. It is impossible to know how many have found priceless bit of information through the work of all of the volunteers in the Special Collections Room. This time it fell to me to try to produce the same quality of work that the GSSC offers to all.

As soon as I plunged in, even before I contacted Rae, I looked at a few of the obvious things that I have at home. She had indicated to Lew that Harry was the first death by automobile in Modesto. I do not have any proof of that, but he did indeed die in a freak accident, that information I copied from the San Francisco Call materials on *California Digital Newspapers*:

### FALLS OFF LOOSE AUTO SEAT, DIES

Was this an ad for seat belts? It could have been. But this was 1909, not 2009!

Rae threw out the bait and I took it, hook, line and sinker. Harry was born in La Grange in 1863, but the family could not be found in the 1870 census. This bothered me greatly. I knew that Tinkham in his County History, said that Harry was born in La Grange, so why could we not find him? I took a side trip on my computer to the Citizens Cemetery maps that we had helped with a few years ago and was able to plot out each Bates in the family plot and see that Norton Gideon was likely to be his father. So being determined, no make that pig-headed, I searched the 1870 by given name instead of surname and hit pay dirt. He was listed as Bates Norton, not Norton Bates. So now what to do to firm this up? I located the 1870 non-population census and was able to find him listed as Norton Bates. This verified the identity of the mother and the names and ages of the other children. By 1880 Norton was dead and the widow and children were alone, but a man living in the household was identified as her brother. How much more good luck could you dream of? I likely had her **maiden name**.

I had Tinkham, the census for 1870, 80, cemetery list of all Bates, cemetery plot maps that showed the position and if there was a marker, the probate abstract from the book published by the GSSC, and online I found Spanish-American War info for Harry. In addition I could not contain myself and followed both Harry's father's line and his mother's line, thanks to the name of her brother in the 1880 census, back to the early 1800s. The earlier info I gave only as possible data for her to review. Oh, and another brother of the mother was a Confederate Soldier in the Civil War. The Myrtle Dix book of Marriages and of Probates is available on the GSSC site, thanks to Charlie Tieman. Disappointment, the marriage of Ora and Harry was not there, but, and this is a really big but, the marriage of Norton G. Bates and Mary Jane Hammond in 1857 is! Time to quit before I found a long lost relative in the family. No such luck.

"Rae, this is Millie Starr, I have printed out the materials that I found and will send them to you." .....

"Hello, yes Rae, good to hear from you again. I am glad that what I was able to do for you, answered so many questions. You signed up for eight genealogy classes to help you find out where Grandma's money came from? The probate and Tinkham answered your burning question? You said you knew all about your great grandmother, so I did not explore her past at all."

On a local level, sometimes we can throw open the entire family history in a few hours. Much of this is available on line, but too often the seeker has no idea of how to pry open Pandora's box. Try a local source and give good data for them to use and you may be surprised. At best lots of info will be given, at worst, a number of sources to search. Don't neglect this valuable asset.

*The following is the article Millie remembered and assisted in fulfilling the query request.*

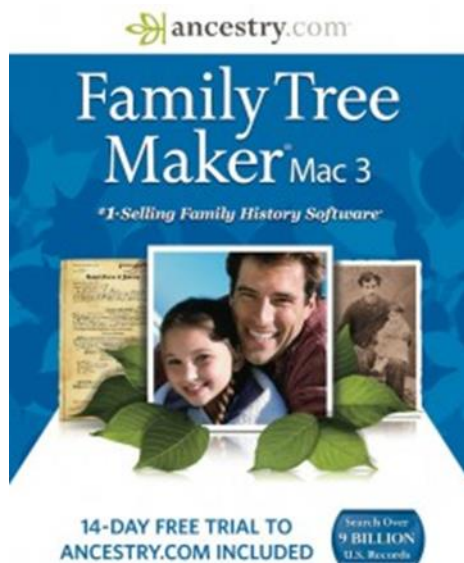


The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

December 14, 2013

## Family Tree Maker Mac 3 is Now Available

This should please the Mac users. I am especially interested in the capability to open your Family Tree Maker tree on a Mac or PC without needing to convert the family tree file. The following announcement was written by Ancestry.com:



We are pleased to announce the release of Family Tree Maker Mac 3, an updated and expanded version of the No. 1-selling family history software. Starting at \$39.99, it comes packed with new features including a new Family View™ that lets you control how you see your family tree and add or edit information while viewing extended family relationships.

Other improvements in Family Tree Maker Mac 3 include:

**New tree branch export** — a new, simplified export option makes it much easier to export a single branch of your tree to Family Tree Maker or a GEDCOM file.

**More organizational tools** — save time with the option to sort children automatically by birth order and view people by location, grouping them by country, state, county, and city.

**Mac and PC compatible files** — now you can open your Family Tree Maker tree on a Mac or PC without needing to convert it.

**New and improved charts and reports** — more options and views let you display an individual's ancestors, spouses, and children together. Also, the Index of Individuals Report has been expanded with options for anniversary, birthday, and contact lists and more.

**More editing options** — save time with the ability to copy and paste facts including linked source citations, media items, and notes. Also, if you have multiple versions of the same fact, you can merge them without losing any information.

**Improved TreeSync** — lets you easily synchronize your tree in Family Tree Maker with an online Ancestry.com tree.

- Now you can synchronize even more of your family tree information such as photos, documents, source template data and customized notes.
- Access and update your family tree from anywhere—your computer, Ancestry.com, even your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.
- Easily share your tree with your family and work on it together. Family and friends can view the online version of your tree without software or a subscription.
- Collaborate with the largest, most active family history community in the world on Ancestry.com. Keep your online tree private or make it public so that others researching your family can find you. You may connect with others who have insight on your ancestors, discover rare family photos, or even find relatives you didn't know you had.

**And More** — There are dozens of other improvements and enhancements in every area of the software. From improved data entry to new options and features in many charts and reports, Family Tree Maker Mac 3 is our most advanced Mac software yet.

To purchase Family Tree Maker Mac 3, visit [our store](#)\* where you can also save 25% right now!

*The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.*



December 12, 2013

## **New Congressional Bill Proposes to Limit Access to the Death Master File/Social Security Death Index**

Unfortunately, this is no surprise. The genealogy community has been watching the trends to stop access to public records and Congress has been pressured for some time to restrict one of the more important tools for genealogists. Sadly, if this bill passes, identity thieves will find it easier to steal money than ever before. (See my earlier article about that at <http://goo.gl/z8vHFx>.)

The Records Preservation and Access Committee, a joint committee of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Genealogical Society, and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, has been watching this issue for years. The committee reports:

The Bipartisan Budget Bill 2014 includes a revenue –generating provision that limits access to the Death Master File/Social Security Death Index. The provisions are identical to bills IAJGS and the genealogical community have been

opposing in submitted statements to the US Congress for several years as there are no provisions to permit genealogists to have immediate access nor the special categories of genealogists that the genealogical community have agreed are to be given immediate access while the rest of us may wait a few years. The budget bill includes penalties for violations \$1,000 per violations with a cap of \$250,000 per person violator which is included in the revenue generating provisions.

You can read much more about this in the Records Preservation and Access Committee blog at:

<http://www.fgs.org/rpac/2013/12/11/budget-bill-includes-the-access-limitations-for-death-master-files/di/>.

12/18/2013

### Senate Passes Bipartisan Budget Agreement that Restricts Access to the SSDI

Bad news: The Records Preservation and Access Committee of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Genealogical Society, and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies reports that another step has been taken to restrict access to the Social Security Death Index. Details may be found on the Records Preservation and Access Committee Blog at <http://www.fgs.org/rpac/2013/12/18/dmfssdi-senate-passes-bipartisan-budget-agreement/>.

### Our First Poinsettia Sale

Our Treasurer Sharon Hawley-Crum reports that we made a profit of \$200 as a result of our Poinsettia Sale. Now that we know how, the question is, do we want to do it again next year? We await your instructions.

### FTDNA GSSC Website Logo Link

Sharon also reported that we also received a check of \$20 from Family Tree DNA for genealogical DNA purchases made through our [Family Finder](#) / [FTDNA](#) link on our GSSC website.

We thank all of our members and friends who participated in either or both society fund raising programs.

## Major Migration Milestone Coming for new.FamilySearch.org

October 15, 2013 By [Ron Tanner](#)

In the next step of a series of milestones to fully implement FamilySearch Family Tree on FamilySearch.org, new.FamilySearch.org is scheduled for Read-only status at the end of this year.

“We view this process, coupled with the wonderful new features that are being rolled out on FamilySearch.org, as the next step to giving our patrons the best online experience possible,” said Ron Tanner, Family Tree product manager. “With the capabilities the Family Tree has, we are excited to migrate all of our users to this unified, collaborative platform.

There are so many advantages for users to make the move to Family Tree, it makes sense for everyone.” Users will still be able to view information on new.FamilySearch.org after the change, but users will no longer be able to edit or change information.

There are many reasons new.FamilySearch.org users would want to move to FamilySearch Family Tree:

1. Family Tree has expanded and enhanced search, pedigree and notification features.
2. The ability to add photos and stories to persons in Family Tree.





3. The ability to correct the information about your ancestors and relationships in Family Tree.
4. FamilySearch will find valuable sources for you on any ancestor right from their person page.
5. Adding sources to your Family Tree with a few simple mouse clicks.

Printable family group records and colorful seven-generation fan charts. The transition to Family Tree is scheduled to conclude with the closure of new.FamilySearch.org at the end of the year 2014.

From <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/major-migration-milestone-coming-newfamilysearchorg>

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### **San Joaquin Genealogical Society Seminar** **Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM (PST)** **Stockton, CA**

The San Joaquin Genealogical Society will be hosting a FREE day long genealogy seminar on Saturday, February 22, 2014 in Stockton on the beautiful campus of the University of the Pacific. The seminar is sponsored by the CSGA and the Jacoby Center at University of the Pacific.

Door Prizes and a free gift and speakers handout packets for every attendee!

Please click on the link below for more information and to register for this FREE event!

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/san-joaquin-genealogical-society-seminar-tickets-8442029337>

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Eastman identifies another great resource: The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>. If your family member was in the US Civil War this is a great data base.

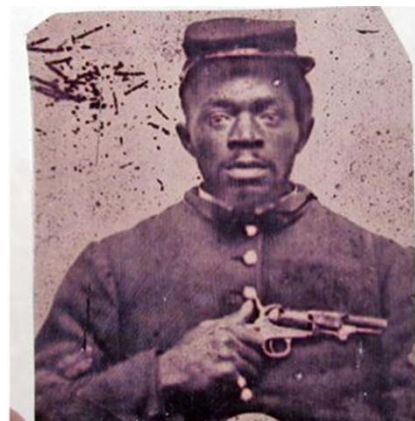
December 16, 2013

### **Online Database Lists Union and Confederate Civil War Soldiers**

The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) is a computerized database created by the National Park Service that contains very basic facts about servicemen who served on either side during the Civil War. Genealogists, historians, and Civil War buffs can now go to a single source to find 6.3 million service records of Union and Confederate soldiers. The most popular database of the CWSS is the Names Index Project, a project to enter names and other basic information from 6.3 million soldier records in the National Archives. The facts about the soldiers were entered from records that are indexed to millions of other documents about Union and Confederate Civil War soldiers that are maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Other information includes histories of regiments in both the Union and Confederate Armies, links to descriptions of 384 significant battles of the war, and other historical information. Additional information about soldiers, sailors, regiments, and battles, as well as prisoner-of-war records and cemetery records, are also being added over time.

Searching the free database for soldiers is simple: go to the Web site, and click on FIND A PERSON, then select the appropriate choice from a pulldown menu: soldiers, sailors, regiments, cemeteries, battles, prisoners, Medals of Honor, or monuments. A new screen appears with blanks for entering search criteria. For instance, selecting SOLDIERS produces an entry screen asking for Last Name, First Name, Union or Confederate, State of Origin, Unit, and Function. You fill in as many blanks as possible, leave any unknown information blank, and click SHOW RESULTS. Within seconds, a new list appears showing all the entries in the database



that match the criteria that you specified.

The data for each soldier usually is very brief, primarily giving a reference where information may be found on microfilm. For instance, here is one typical entry:

Eastman, Albert P.  
 Regiment Name: 1st Regiment, Maine Heavy Artillery  
 Side: Union:  
 Company: A,M  
 Soldier's Rank In: Corporal  
 Soldier's Rank Out: Second Lieutenant  
 Alternate name:  
 Film Number: M543 roll 6  
 Notes:

With the above information, I know that I can view the original record on the National Archives and Records Administration's microfilm number M543, roll 6.

The Web site's data is not restricted to information about military personnel. It also has sections for politicians, activists, spies, religious leaders, regiments, battles, prisons, and more, as well as lengthy descriptions of the social, economic, political, and military aspects of the war as it impacted all Americans.

Historians generally accept 3.5 million as the number who served in the War Between the States. So, why does the database contain 6.3 million soldiers? "There are duplicates, mostly because of men who served in more than one unit and name-spelling variations," explained John Peterson of the National Park Service. The service manages 13 national cemeteries related to Civil War battlegrounds.

This is a great database! The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) is a cooperative effort by the National Park Service (NPS), volunteers from the Mormon Church, Federation of Genealogical Societies, and United Daughters of the Confederacy.

You can access the free Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System at: <http://www.civilwar.nps.gov>.

*Editor's Note: I have reasonably accurate records of my surname family members who were in the Civil War. I checked my records against the data base and found them to be quite accurate.*

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*The following is from New England Historical and Genealogical Society 2013 Christmas newsletter  
 Submitted by GSSC member Nan Wolf*

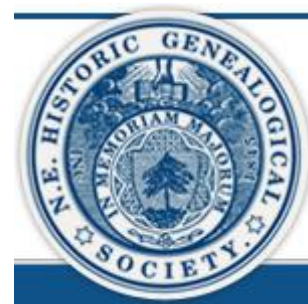
### **A Note from the Editor: Holiday Newsletters Revisited**

*by Lynn Betlock, Editor*

*The following essay has been revised since it was originally published in The Weekly Genealogist on December 21, 2011.*

Although the holiday newsletters sent out to family and friends this time of year are frequently mocked, I've always enjoyed reading them. Now I also write one, and over time I've come to appreciate their more lasting value for family historians.

I never considered writing a holiday newsletter before I had kids. In my pre-parenthood days I had more time to write individual notes and I also had less information to share. My twin son and daughter were born in January of 2004, and, by the time December rolled around, I had lots of news to impart and very little time. So I wrote my first holiday newsletter and sent it out with a family photograph. I can't say how well my letter was received but I was glad I'd documented at least a few facts from that blurry first year.



After five years, I realized that I had never given any thought to keeping copies of my letters or holiday photographs. (And, yes, I've worked at the New England Historic Genealogical Society since 1995 and have been doing family history since I was about fourteen.) So I began the painful process of trying to reassemble what I'd sent out. The computer I composed the first letters on had died, and I had to ask various relatives if they had kept my letters. Fortunately, some had, and were willing to return them. Two of my early holiday photos still were "saved projects" in the Kodak Gallery and Shutterfly websites. I was pleased about this--except that I had to order ten copies of each photo so I could get the one copy of each I actually wanted. My final missing piece, the 2004 family photo, was found when I went to Minnesota and my mother let me look through my grandmother's papers. My grandmother, who died in 2007, had indeed saved that holiday photo.

The effort I put in was worth it. I purchased a nice album and inserted all the photos and letters, and for the last few years I've simply added a new photo and letter. After inserting this year's additions, I flipped through my ten years of documentation with some satisfaction. I am sorry to say that I didn't journal about my kids' early lives or fill baby books with great detail, as my mother did for me. But I am glad to have this record, which offers a yearly snapshot of our lives.

A couple of years ago, I asked my kids if they wanted me to read them the first letter, written when they were eleven months old, and they said yes. I thought they might be interested but I did not expect them to be as enthralled as they were. While I read, they laughed and blushed and asked lots of questions--and the questions continued long afterwards. Last year, my daughter prompted me to bring down the album and while I made Vermont cheddar soup, she grated cheese and read every one of the letters out loud to me. This year, she had more input into what was written--and she used a red pen to mark up my first draft so her changes could be incorporated. I expect the holiday letter will become more collaborative every year.

Historians often express concern that there will be fewer written sources to preserve from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries than in previous eras. It seems to me that the preservation of holiday newsletters, a unique source that originated and flourished during this time period, would make future genealogists very happy. I rather like the idea of a descendant getting to know me through my holiday newsletters."

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### **Including Youth in Genealogy**

Do you have an idea how to include our youth in the world of genealogy and family history? Give me your ideas and I will happily publish them.





## 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. **\$5.00 additional for hard copy** otherwise delivered via email. Submit articles for publication to the editor via email: [lruddick@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lruddick@ix.netcom.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](mailto: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 the Trinity Presbyterian Church at 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto, CA.

2014 Officers		2014 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Lewis M. Ruddick	Acquisitions	Ellen Reesh
1st Vice President	Bev Johnson	Audit	David Wolff
2nd Vice President	Jeff Wells	Budget	Sharon Hawley-Crum
Secretary	Cyndy Bray	Four Generation Charts	Donna Burleaud
Treasurer	Sharon Hawley-Crum	Historian & Sunshine	Judith Welch
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Director at Large	Pamela Atherstone	Memorial Day	Janet Lancaster/Millie Starr
Director at Large	Cleda Lane	Mentor	Janet Lancaster/Marilyn Belleville
Director at Large	Angela Kraft	Newsletter	Lewis M. Ruddick
Director at Large	Linda Oneth	Planning	Lewis Ruddick/Beverly Graham
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		Research Trips: Sutro/Archives	vacant
		Research Trips: Salt Lake City	Lisa Bruk
		Seminar & Workshop	Jeff Wells
		Special Collections Room	Marilyn Belleville
		Social Media	Angela Kraft
		Greeter	Marge Scheuber

Updated 12-19-2013

**We have 100 members for 2014**



Genealogical Society of  
Stanislaus County  
P.O. Box A  
Modesto, CA 95352-3660

