



# STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

June 2014

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## June Program

June 17, 2014

7:00 PM	Millie's Minutes	Millie Starr
7:10 PM	Writing Family History From a Journalist's Perspective by Jeff Jardine of the Modesto Bee	

See below for the description of his presentation.

## A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings:

What started out as a casual month after my return from the wonderful Salt Lake City research trip suddenly turned very hectic. My wife's father became very ill and then passed away on May 14, 2014. He was an extremely strong man in both health and personality and to have him pass was a shock to the family. This was after the loss of my wife's eldest sister in August.

These family occurrences cause one to reflect upon what should I do to assist my family for such an inevitable event with me from a genealogical point of view. In my case I need to get my genealogical house in order and to insure that my correct family member will receive my huge collection of surname materials and passwords to my many genealogical accounts. I have a lot of work to do because I haven't begun to contemplate "checking out".

Somewhat related to the above I have begun contacting related family identified through the GENMatch tool and sharing my known genealogy. This s turning out to be extremely rewarding. I am finding these people to be much more receptive than my previous experience with the ancestry.com "shaking leaf" connections. If you have not yet used the GEDMatch service I highly recommend it. My best results have been with the GEDCOM surname matching feature.

We will be participating in the Highland Games with an information booth. Donna Burleaud could use some staffing assistance. Please contact her and volunteer if you have the time.

Also please participate in our Memorial Day activities in Modesto if you can and certainly do not forget those significant family members for whom this holiday was intended.

Respectfully,  
Lewis M. Ruddick

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## June Program

Jeff Jardine, noted journalist, contributing columnist and feature writer for the Modesto Bee, has garnered quite a cadre of faithful readers throughout central California for his stylistic writing and human interest stories. On Tuesday evening, June 17th, our program spotlight will feature Jeff in a presentation touching on Writing Family History From a Journalist's Perspective. Join us for an evening that promises to be entertaining and informative.

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## Early American Cookery

### Fadge – Irish Potato Bread

A wee bit of Ulster Ireland Cookery

Fadge - Potato Bread

1½ cup freshly boiled, mashed potatoes  
 1 cup self raising flour  
 1 level tablespoon of butter  
 2 level teaspoons of salt



Place the warm potatoes, butter and salt in a bowl and mash thoroughly. Gradually work the flour into the mix. Turn the mixture out onto a baking board and knead until smooth. Roll out to ¼ to ½ inch thick and cut into rounds or squares. Bake on a griddle or hot plate until golden brown. It takes about 5 minutes (an electric skillet set on high works fine). Grease the griddle with a little lard to give a more authentic flavor and aroma.

Fadge can be eaten hot or cold with a little butter. Often it was fried along with eggs and bacon for breakfast.

Recipe of Kathleen McKane, Islandcarragh, Co. Antrim  
 Courtesy of Joe McKane, Tennessee

from <http://www.ulsterheritage.com/recipes/fadge.htm>

### Reformed Arkansas Study Group Meets

The first meeting of the reformed Arkansas Study Group was Monday May 12 at 1 pm. Eight members of the newly reformed study group met at the home of Jackie Niemeyer in Modesto where they identified the Arkansas counties and the surnames of their interest. Resources were identified and some current resource material for the group was ordered. Interested? Their next meeting will be on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Please contact Jackie at (209) 522-2590 or [jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net](mailto:jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net) for details.

**Interested in forming your own group? Contact a Board member or a Director**

### My recollection of the Salt Lake City Research trip

By Jay Mirza, GSSC Director at Large

#### Salt Lake City Research Trip

The Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County  
 April 6 through April 13, 2014



My first visit to Salt Lake City (SLC) was in April 2009. I met a friend while on a visit to Australia who lived in this city.

Wilburn (Wil) West, a Mormon, gave me a cook's tour of his city, which included a visit to the Family History Library. I had indicated to Wil that I was interested in tracing my family's genealogy. He introduced me to one of the volunteers who was a missionary from Australia on a two-year work assignment. He took me on a tour of this unbelievable building, with four stories above ground and two levels of basement. This library contains the world's largest repository of genealogical records.

The LDS church is now in the process of digitizing all their printed materials in the library. This process allows everyone to have access to all the books on their home computers. Once the books are digitized, they are taken to a cave in the mountains east of SLC and stored in an environmentally controlled atmosphere for safekeeping.

In 2007, when I first began writing the history of the Mirza family, I soon discovered that finding accurate information on genealogy was very difficult. I discovered that prior to 1900, the Assyrians in Iran did not have family last names. Typically, it was said that John, the son of Paul, lived in the village of Abajaloo. Genealogical computer programs do not recognize this methodology. When I eventually managed to produce the needed

family data, it was by getting it orally from my living family members and friends and putting it in a family tree format. It was a struggle, until I entered this data into a program called "Family Tree Maker" for a PC computer.

I have now been a member of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County for about two years. I found the society most interesting by listening to the members and their genealogical quest for family history. I also discovered that every year about 25-30 members had made a visit to the Family History Library in SLC to perform research. Being the curious type, I signed up to go in 2014. When asked what I was going to do there for a week, I replied, "I am going to watch Millie Starr and learn from her experience!" There was a chuckle from Millie who was amused at the thought of my watching her do research.

However, prior to going to SLC, she had conjured up a plan by which I could start learning. Since my son-in-law's family originally came from Scotland to Canada and later immigrated to America, she suggested by starting with Sherrick Murdoff. He is married to my younger daughter, Allison. They have three children that you have seen on the screen before during vacations trips in America.

With less than a month left before leaving for SLC, Millie asked me to fill out as much information as possible on a seven-generation chart by pencil. The reason being that I would be wasting valuable time looking up this information that I did not have, rather than using the library resources. In addition, Bob Givens, a genealogical consultant, on two separate occasions, described the research process at the library to our group.

The "Storer" bus company picked us up at Briggsmore and Orangeburg Avenues and proceeded to Oakland Airport. Lisa Bruk and Beverly Johnson had planned our trip to the minutest detail. All transportation, transfer shuttles, tips; luggage and hotel accommodations were carefully planned. All we had to do was show up and enjoy the trip. It was like having travel agents who knew what they were doing!

The flight on Southwest Airlines went smoothly. We landed late afternoon and were driven to the Plaza Hotel right next door to the Family History Library. How much more convenient can you get? To top it all off, there was even a BJ's coffee shop in the hotel. This eating facility became a meeting place to socialize at meals with the other researchers whom you do not see but once a month.

Sunday night, April 6, was free time to relax. From Monday through Saturday the library was open from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm. Along with Millie Starr and Lewis Ruddick (our association president) and I, we attended an orientation on how to use the library. On Tuesday evening, Stan Lindaas, a professional researcher, gave us a talk about how the US census has changed measurably since inception in 1790. The census is taken every 10 years and has more statistical data than from the previous census. This data helps the government to determine the number of members for congress and to tax everyone. In other words, follow the money. I also referred to the latest available years of the Canadian census.

For me, knowing approximately the date of birthdays within the census year, I would search for key dates and locations lived at. The process is not always exact. You have to check the name of wives and children against the husband's name, or death or marriage records. It becomes quite a detective search. This process

continued until Saturday afternoon, when I had searched four Generations and was able to print a pedigree chart of the Murdoff and Eppler families. I proudly displayed this chart to the researchers around me. It was quite an accomplishment for a rookie! Millie suggested that the second generation of the Murdoff family write a short life description of each individual within the family tree. This way, my grandchildren would have a much better understanding of the characters within the chart. It would be like bringing them to life today.

In addition to the free use of the library computers, our society issued each person with a \$10 cash card which was used to print copies at 5 cents a sheet. The remaining balance can be used on the next trip to SLC.

The volunteer men and women, referred to as "brother Jones" and "sister Wilson," were extremely helpful to the researchers. On several occasions, I would be somewhat bewildered, stand up and stretch from watching the computers and immediately one or two volunteers would offer their help. I was most impressed with their helpful attitude.

We often walked in Temple Square around noon and admired the architecture and the beautiful gardens. We ate at the Lion House and Nauvoo restaurants. At the top floor of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building were the Roof and Garden restaurants, which offered spectacular views of the city and the adjoining snow covered mountain ranges. This building used to be a hotel. It has been refurbished showing its classical architectural beauty. There is a conveniently located light rail system that connects the downtown to the SLC international airport and the southern city. The building materials for the downtown high-rises and those in Temple Square were marble, granite, terra cotta or brick. This impressive array of building materials is a tribute to the care and longevity of these buildings.

Allow me to share an interesting event in which I experienced. Upon checking my medications on Thursday morning, I noticed that I had shorted myself four days of Diabetes tablets. I walked to the Rite Aid pharmacy on Main Street, four SLC blocks from the Plaza hotel. SLC blocks are longer than two combined city blocks in Modesto. It took about 20 minutes to walk there. The lady behind the counter turned out to be a Korean who had immigrated to America some 40 years ago. After examining my nametag, she inquired, "What is the origin of the name Mirza?"

"It is a Christian Assyrian name" I responded.

"Where is Assyria?" she asked.

"The Assyrian Empire existed from 824 to 625 B.C."

"This empire covered the Middle East from Egypt in the south to Turkey in the north and from the Mediterranean Sea east to the Zagros Mountains of Iran"

"My husband is most interested in this area of the world. Can you have dinner with us tomorrow night?"

I thanked her profusely and indicated that I was with a group of Genealogists doing research at the LDS library. What an unusual happening to a total stranger in a far off city!

On Saturday evening I had dinner with Wil and Barbara West at the Little America Hotel. I did not get a chance to meet her in 2009. She was writing a mystery novel at the time and had gone to Arizona to a conference on self-publishing. We spent a pleasant evening together enjoying our food and talking about our families.

On Sunday, April 13, we left SLC and flew back to Oakland and took the bus back to Modesto. I am so glad that I went on this trip. It was such a great learning experience for me. I want to thank my mentor, Millie Starr, for being so patient with me in this complex field of genealogy. In addition, I am grateful to Tony and Lewis Ruddick for driving me from Turlock to Modesto to catch the bus to Oakland.

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### **The 2014 GSSC Salt Lake City Research Trip**

By Lisa Bruk, : Salt Lake City Research Trips Chair

This year 27 of us spent the week of April 6-13 researching at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. We had sunny, warm days with above average temperatures except for one middle-of-the-night thunderstorm.

Trip participants, including four from the Merced County Genealogical Society, were Karen and Rick Albright, Heidi Arno, Pam Atherstone, Susan Benes, Lisa Bruk, Diane Conrad (Janet Lancaster's niece from Roseville), Jereann Farinha, Leslie Franklin, Pat Grieve, Arleene Haywood, Rosalie Heppner, Bev Johnson, Janet Lancaster, Bette Locke, Leah Meedom, Jay Mirza, Donna Parten (Pam Atherstone's cousin from Sacramento), Carmen Pedrioli, Ellen Reesh, Lewis Ruddick, Roberta Saling, Millie Starr, Jean Tarabek, Judith Welch, Hazel White and Karen Yingling.

We took a Storer bus to and from the Oakland airport and Southwest Airlines flights to and from Salt Lake. The bus was late picking us up at the beginning of the trip, which caused some anxiety for some of us. The Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, located next to the Family History Library, provided transportation to and from the hotel. We missed Ron Carey, the hotel concierge for many years, who retired two weeks before our trip.

Our Monday Night Dinner was at a new restaurant for us, La Jolla Groves at the Gateway shopping center, which everyone seemed to like. That evening we toasted our Merced friend Charlene Renteria, who passed away shortly before going on the trip with us. The Heritage Consulting Tuesday evening hotel seminar was "Little Used Information in the U.S. Federal Census Records" presented by

Stan Lindaas. Saturday night we had an optional no-host dinner at the Blue Iguana, one of Salt Lake's well known Mexican restaurants.

Winners of our drawing for hour-long Ancestor Seekers consultations in the Family History Library were Susan Benes, Lisa Bruk, Diane Conrad, Rosalie Heppner, Bev Johnson, Carmen Pedrioli, Ellen Reesh and Lewis Ruddick.

People on the trip said they enjoyed the camaraderie, fellowship, friendships made, all the crazy people on the trip (we're not saying who said that), talking to others who enjoy talking about family history, the ambience, the travel arrangements, hotel location, the library's computer access and books, all the information available, the library classes and the assistance from the library staff.

Members of the GSSC Salt Lake City Research Trip Committee who planned this trip were Lisa Bruk, Bev Johnson, Sharon Hawley-Crum and Judith Welch. Our 2015 Salt Lake City Research Trip will be April 19-26. Registration information will be in the September GSSC newsletter.

Some Research Successes from the 2014 GSSC Salt Lake City Research Trip

**Karen Albright:** "I did not find any new information or clue on my brick walls, however, I was able to add new information on some of my collateral lines by skimming county book collections. I copied pages of records from those collections, mainly Michigan. "I was also able to go through the microfilm of early Merced County deeds: Grantee to Grantor where I could quickly record all the transactions involving the specific families that Rick and I researched for the Merced Museum Exhibit in 2007 entitled 'Black Gold: Faith, Strength, and Determination Shaping Our Community.' At the time we mainly focused on those Merced black families currently living in the community. We have since been researching those black families who were our earliest settlers – 1850 to 1880 – and their descendants. Once I organize this data by family, dates, etc., we will be able to extend our knowledge of these early Mercedians. Through extensive research after 2007, I was able to locate current descendants of our early black families and have shared a wealth of information with them. I'm looking forward to sending them the deed records that I have found.

"These families had all relocated to other California counties by 1870/80. One desegregated the schools in Stockton/San Joaquin about 1872, another was responsible for the desegregation of California State Schools in the late 1890s, and Harriet Russell is credited with deeding an addition to the town of Snelling."

**Rick Albright:** "I found a published biographical sketch that confirmed my Waldo family's oral history of joining the Mormon movement westward in the early 1850s as far as Council Bluffs, Iowa. It confirmed all the many places where they had paused during their travels in the 1800s. The only family members to actually make it to SLC was their son-in-law John Forbes and his second wife (an English handcarter). Otherwise, just bits and pieces of useful ancestral information for other surnames in various localities."

**Pam Atherstone:** "Found new ancestors, just don't know if they're ours. Found out (or realized) why so few documents are available on our ancestors. Mostly through loss of records due to fire (either intentionally (Civil War) or accidentally (1874 loss of Parker County Texas Courthouse))."

**Lisa Bruk:** "This year I spent more time learning how to find the wills and probates of my European ancestors. I found a 1758 probate (translated for me by the library staff) of Live Sivertsdatter, my 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandmother in Norway. Six of her 10 children died in infancy and one adult daughter died before she did. So sad!"

**Arleene Haywood:** "I found some documentation of information known on several surname lines."

**Bev Johnson:** "Since 90% of my genealogy research is Swedish and I am illiterate in Swedish, it is invaluable to me to use the assistance of translators at the FHL in Salt Lake City. For many years I have been searching for an understanding to explain why, in June 1909, my maternal grandfather abruptly left Sweden for the USA taking with him his wife, two children, and a younger sister-in-law. At the time he left, he was a leader and president of the iron/metal workers trade union. With a strike looming in September of 1909 which would put hundreds of workers out of work, the anti-unionist forces turned to violence. Fearing for the safety of his family, he fled. Finally, I had an explanation.

"Thanks to a Swedish marriage record, I found my dad's 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents and children in the early 1700s in Forshem, Scaraborg, Sweden."

**Donna Parten:** "The lack of records for my people (proven on this trip) means that we will have to rely on DNA to find our link to our own line descending from our ancient planter. I was able to list every marriage and create cousinages in the two 'likely counties' for comparing with ancestral surnames of DNA matches. 2) I was able to meet (on Monday) a DNA match with whom I have recently been corresponding and she gave me a tip to follow to try to put our two ancient planters together. 3) I found details for beginning to write our family story and follow them from Jamestown through births in Albemarle/Surry counties in the early 1700s. Oh, yes – death date (church record) for one child of our ancient planter. 4) Disproved a theory I had about a wife surname and will have to remove a line of people upstream, but did get names of godparents of her children."

**Lewis Ruddick:** "I found a resource for needed will documentation in Ireland heretofore thought lost in the 1922 Four Courts explosion. Hopefully it will lead to the identification of my 6<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents.

"I found documentation of the arrival of my 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandmother in Indiana on a 'Horse Tax' list for Harrison County, Indiana. I knew she had come to Indiana but there was no document of proof.

"While working on FamilySearch I found several new family connections and also received valuable assistance from the library staff while working on the Ruddick family tree.

During attendance in the Pennsylvania Land Records class given by the library, I was given a ‘pearl’ of information that may lead to the discovery of where my first immigrant William Ruddock lived before he moved west of the Susquehanna River in 1735 Pennsylvania.”

**Roberta Saling:** “I found a family tree that had my grandmother, her three sisters and one of her brothers, but need to confirm it is correct. Has the correct ‘grandparents’ (their parents) on it but you never know. . . There were no indications or notations of sources. Mine were better for some of the information. Went back to mid-1600???”

**Jean Tarabek:** “Thought I had a long-awaited lead to where my great-grandpa ‘Nick’ was born and lived, but still eliminating. Did find the mystery second child they had (died within four months). Found various marriage records for my dad’s siblings but not my mom’s?? Big find for me was ‘Nick’s’ (S/A) date of death thanks to Pennsylvania finally releasing some records. Also found the military records of my two uncles, Navy, WW II.”

**Hazel White:** “The marriage record for my George W. Huffman and Mary is missing 1823/24 – a second record index to Marriage Records Vol I 1803-1876, Huffman George W. Record #192 Martha Hawkins page #187. Need to look into this.”

**Karen Yingling:** “Found a marriage certificate for my mother and father. Also found a death certificate for my paternal grandfather whom I never met. With this certificate I was able to confirm where he had been living at the time of his death, also the cause of his death. May have found a link to the family back in Germany (also the name of the area from where they came). Will have to return next year to confirm!”

### **Baby Names: Names that morphed from blue to pink**

Posted September 9, 2013

by Pamela Redmond Satran

<http://nameberry.com/blog/unisex-baby-names-names-that-morphed-from-blue-to-pink>

Some unisex baby names start as female choices and shift over time to become more boyish, but many more begin as all-boy names and over the decades cross to the girls’ side.

The baby names here are extreme cases. Most started life, back when the US government began recording babies’ names, as 100% male choices, and now have become mostly girls’ names.

While we were tempted to narrow the field to only those dozen names that went from 100% male to 100% female, the entire list proved just too interesting to cut.

The baby names that have morphed from blue to pink – and when they made their big switch – include:

#### **Addison**

100% male in 1880, 98% female in 2012

Jumped to 55% female in 1996

#### **Alexis**

100% male in 1882, 77% female in 2012

In 1942, Alexis leaped to 69% female from 42%

#### **Allison**

100% male in 1880, 100% female in 2012

From 1942-1948 it jumped from 52% to 80% female

#### **Ashley**

100% male in 1880, 100% female in 2012

Crossed the line in 1965 to become 64% female

#### **Aubrey**

100% male in 1880, 98% female in 2012

In 1974, tipped to 52% female

#### **Avery**

100% male in 1880, 81% female in 2012

Became 52% female in 1999



**Bailey**

100% male in 1880, 97% female in 2012  
Began its rise in 1980 when it was 64% female

**Beverly**

100% male in 1880, 100% female in 2012  
While Beverly started out in the US statistics as all boy, it quickly moved to the female side, becoming 55% girls by 1898.

**Billie**

100% male in 1880, 88% female in 2012  
As early as 1890, this was 55% female

**Blair**

100% male in 1881, 83% female in 2012  
Shift began in 1981 at 57% female

**Brook**

100% male in 1915, 87% female in 2012  
In 1972, rose to 60% female, influenced by the more feminine Brooke

**Cassidy**

100% male in 1968, 96% female in 2012  
In 1972, Cassidy became 59% female

**Charley**

100% male in 1880, 87% female in 2012  
The balanced tipped in 1987 when Charley became 51% female

**Dana**

100% male in 1880, 92% female in 2012  
In 1955 Dana became 50% female

**Darcy**

100% male in 1915, 94% female in 2012  
Became mostly a girls' name in 1941, at 60%

**Diamond**

100% male in 1897, 95% female in 2012  
Though it was used as a female name early on, the continual increase began in 1976 at 57%.  
Emery

100% male in 1880, 80% female in 2012  
In 1996, Emery was 50/50

**Gale**

100% male in 1883, 100% female in 2012  
Gale crossed the 50% mark in 1939

**Hadley**

100% male in 1906, 98% female in 2012  
Hadley shifted to being a majority girls' name consistently in 1969

**Harper**

100% male in 1881, 95% female in 2012  
Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Harper's gender identity kept shifting but it tipped toward the girls' side consistently starting in 1991.



**Haven**

100% male in 1899, 82% female in 2012  
The scales tipped in 1980 at 51% female

**Hilary**

100% male in 1882, 100% female in 2012  
In 1944, Hilary crossed the gender line toward the girls' side for good

**Kelley**

100% male in 1882, 75% female in 2012  
1954 marked Kelley's crossing to the girls' side

**Kelsey**

100% male in 1891, 98% female in 2012  
Kelsey's gender identity kept shifting throughout the 1950s and 1960s, but in the early 70s it crossed permanently to the girls' side.

**Kendall**

100% male in 1906, 86% female in 2012  
Kendall and Kendal were mostly male names until the 1980s, when they began veering into female territory, tipping permanently in the early 1990s.

**Kennedy**

100% male in 1912, 95% female in 2012  
Kennedy was only 35% female in 1992 but the next year it jumped to 62% female

**Kim**

100% male in 1912, 91% female in 2012  
Kim was quietly used for both boys and girls until the mid-50s, when it jumped to the female side.

**Lauren**

100% male in 1884, 100% female in 2012  
In 1945 it crossed permanently to the girls' side thanks to the very feminine Lauren Bacall.

**Leigh**

100% male in 1882, 86% female in 2012  
In 1947, Leigh became 52% female.

**Lesley**

100% male in 1882, 100% female in 2012  
Shifted in 1941 at 54%. The Leslie spelling, interestingly, was less thoroughly male in 1880 and is less thoroughly female now; it crossed to the girls' side in 1946.

Thanks to our intern Denise Potter for her research help in pulling together all these statistics, and to Steve Ruble for creating our awesome unisex names chart that lets all of us track the gender changes of names over time.

**Part II will follow with the August Issue of the GSSC Researcher**

*Editor's Note: Makes one reflect upon the "true" gender of that unidentified individual found on a list of names.*





## Membership Information

- Dues: Single membership, \$20.00 per year      Family membership, \$27.50 per year
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- 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
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2nd Vice President	Jeff Wells	Budget	Sharon Hawley-Crum
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		Special Collections Room	Marilyn Belleville
		Social Media	Angela Kraft
		Greeter	Marge Scheuber

Updated 5-19-2014

**We have 156 members for 2014**



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