



STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

February 2015

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February Program

February 17, 2015

6:00 PM Souper Supper

7:00 PM . Stanislaus County Library system Diane McDonnell

Meet and welcome Diane McDonnell: Learn how our new Stanislaus County Librarian plans to encourage opportunities to link people with information.

Last Call

It's Dues Renewal Time!

A Few Words from Your President

As the winter doldrums soon begin to wane, orchard blossoms of our great valley will soon adorn our landscapes along with the wild poppies, lupines, fiddle necks and meadow foam. Nourished by the winter rains and a warming sun, we all seem to become reinvigorated by the promise of spring – a time of replenishment and growth. With great fondness for my maternal grandfather, Gustaf Adolf Kall, a Swedish immigrant blacksmith, I often recall his philosophical approach to all things.....”Nourish it and it will grow”.

I can't help but think how appropriate a direction this is for our Society in 2015. We begin 2015 as a very healthy organization but there's always room for growth, both individually and as an organization. Your Board of Directors has been actively engaged since early December, 2014 planning for 2015. The consensus of this planning reflects one common denominator -GROWTH.

So let us begin:

1. As we begin to sprout again, plan to join us at 6:00 pm prior to our February 17th General Meeting for our annual Souper Supper, hosted by your Board of Directors.
2. VP Programs Sharon Hawley-Crum and the Program Planning Committee have been working diligently on a slate of programs for 2015. The best way to thank them for their efforts is “to show up”!
3. Saturday, March 21! Find Your Ancestors, Discover Your Family History- A Beginning Genealogy Boot Camp Workshop, facilitated by Kathryn Miller Marshall PhD and Director of the Lodi LDS Family History Center. (Check the flyer included with this newsletter with more information forthcoming). This is a great opportunity for our GSSC to nourish growth.
4. Beginning with our March General Meeting, we will begin by opening our doors earlier for a 6:00 Special Interest Discussion Group designed to bring together members of a shared interest but not a topic of interest to the entire membership. Check your March Newsletter for Topic of the Month.

So the GSSC seed plot has been prepared. Now the challenge is for each and every one of us to nourish its growth.



February Program

By Sharon Hawley-Crum

Meet and welcome Diane McDonnell: Learn how our new Stanislaus County Librarian plans to encourage opportunities to link people with information

Diane McDonnell came to the Stanislaus County Library in 2014 from Contra Costa County, where she served as Senior Community Library Manager. Diane has agreed to come to our general meeting to share with us her vision of providing the best services to all patrons of the Stanislaus County Library system. In the July/August 2014 issue of the Stanislaus Magazine, and in response to the question, "What motivates you?" our new librarian stated, "I am constantly inspired by my work in the public library field. I began my library career helping patrons at a circulation desk and was inspired by the power of the public library and by the commitment of library professionals." Diane continued, "Nineteen years later, I have had the opportunity to experience the rewards of leading library operations and moving a library forward, managing and developing library staff, leading a volunteer program, supervising an Adult Literacy program, and working with teens, children and adults to inspire the discovery of information and ideas." I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to hear and interact with our new librarian. If you have specific questions for her please send them to me, via email sjhawley@sbcglobal.net, and I will send them on to her to help prepare remarks for our group.

2015 Dues Are Now Due and Payable

Maybelle Allen again reminds us that our 2015 Membership dues are now payable. Please go to the GSSC website and download the 2015 Membership renewal form and mail your renewal to GSSC, P. O. Box A, Modesto, CA 95352-3660

Finding the Hidden Record

submitted by Elen Reech from her *RootsTech*, www.rootstech.org subscription

My great great grandfather, Reinhold, traveled to America with one of his older brothers, Carl, from Sweden in the late 1800's. My great aunt, in her younger days, spent time working on our Swedish family history. She tried to find the ship manifest for Reinhold and Carl and was unsuccessful. Back then it required a stamp, envelope and patience to get most genealogy records. Years later my mother and her sisters decided to research the Swedish family history. I remember the trip they embarked on to go to Salt Lake City to visit the library. Though they found many records, the ship manifest remained hidden. They published what they found for the next family reunion and got busy with life.

Almost twenty years later in 2007 I got bit by the genealogy bug. I too started to research our Swedish family history. Two years after I started researching I was looking for that missing ship manifest. I knew it had to exist, there had to be some record of them entering the country, otherwise I wouldn't be in the United States. My mother and her sisters had found the ship manifest for the leg of the journey between Sweden and England. Because of the record they found I could make a logical guess as to the approximate time period they boarded a ship in England bound for America. I had all these theories coming at me. Maybe they stayed in England for a while to work, maybe they did not arrive in New York, maybe they arrived directly in Tacoma, maybe in California. Places to use to search for the ship manifest were many. I could use the Ellis Island website, I could use the Castle Garden website, I could use Ancestry.com, I had many more options to choose from than my great aunt when she tried to find the record. I tried every which way I could think of to search the indexes. Just a first name, just the last name (the one they used in Sweden and the one on the ship manifest showing their journey from Sweden to England), just the country and many more with no luck.

I noticed on Ancestry.com that you had the ability to browse ship manifests page by page, line by line. I thought okay I will try my search this way. By that time I was realizing that indexing could have errors. So I used the ship manifest my mom and aunts found and came up with a two month period that I would search for the ship manifest. Even though we had no clue which port they came in through I started with New York, by that time I had been given the opportunity to visit New York and Ellis Island and had fallen in love with the city. So I started going through the New York ship manifests. I realized very quickly that many ships came into New York on any given day. So I decided to focus my search. I decided to only go through the ship manifests that originated in England and only look at the passenger names that came from Sweden. I figured these were logical assumptions I could make and would make my search easier and quicker, but honestly I was just losing patience.

Late one night I was sitting in front of my computer going through the ship manifests, my eyes were beginning to cross and I was about to give up. I was beginning to think I was nuts for searching for the record this way. There had to be an easier way to find the

record. And that is when it happened. I stumbled across the record. I could not believe it. Three generations had looked for the record and finally it had been found! I wanted to shout from the roof tops, but given that it was so late I decided to be nice and not wake the neighborhood.

Stumbling across the record drove home several things. At the time I was still a newbie genealogist and I am glad I learned it when I was still considered green. The record was indexed incorrectly, but that was not the only problem. There was also in error on the record itself. The record had the brothers coming from GERMANY. You may be wondering at this point how I found them if I was only looking for passengers coming from Sweden. I have to say it was pure luck. They were on the top of the page. I happened to glance over at the names while the page finished loading. I learned to be careful with your assumptions in genealogy, that indexing could have errors, that records are just as likely to have errors, to always be persistent when searching for records and, most important, I learned that you have to have patience in genealogy research.

Sometimes records want to stay hidden, we have to dig deep to find them.

Genealogy How to Basics Part 2

by Lewis M. Ruddick

Last month you were provided some very basic information on beginning your genealogical adventure. Here I'll share with you my introduction to genealogy beyond Alex. Haley's "Roots", which I enjoyed with the rest of America in 1977.

I began my genealogical search in 1981 when my father gave me a four page paper with instructions, "Tell me where we came from!" It was full of errors and did not identify our country of origin but it did confirm our connection to the Society of Friends more commonly known as Quakers. Clearly identifying our country of origin took a great deal of research effort and yDNA testing to confirm. The Quakers records coupled with that original paper from my father lead me to Pennsylvania and my first serious "brick wall"; my fifth great grandfather William Ruddock.

After I happily accepted Dad's challenge I went to the Ruddick family "Home Place" now occupied by my cousin and I asked him for the family history book that our matriarch great aunt had on her old radio cabinet. You see I knew exactly where to find the answers. The reply left me stunned, "What family history, I don't know what you are talking about?" I described the book to him and he told me that he had never seen it. I then asked where my uncle was and he told me he would be there very shortly. On time my uncle pulled in and I immediately went to him and posed the same question. Unfortunately I got the same dearly deafening reply. I couldn't believe it. He saw the look on my face and then reminded that me that when our great aunt had died several family members had come to the house and it may well have left with one of them although he couldn't remember it on her radio either. Thus began a search that has covered the last 30 years of my life.

During this period of time the genealogical research resources have grown at an accelerated rate. The internet we enjoy today wasn't and one still used books and the library (And you still should!) Today I find far too much "junk genealogy" posted on the internet. By that I mean genealogical connections posted as if they are facts when they cannot withstand empirical scrutiny. My case in point is that all over the internet my fifth great grandmother is found as Alice Garretson and born in Deep River, North Carolina in 1691. Then it slops over and my fifth great grandfather William Ruddock is often listed as being born there as well. My fifth great grandmother is Alice (or Eals as found on one Quaker record) and she is not a Garretson. Her surname is unknown. In addition she was not born in Deep River, North Carolina in 1691. The community did not exist until 1754. In 1691 that area was Native American wilderness uninhabited by white Europeans. The Garretsons came from Delaware! yDNA testing has proven that my fifth great grandfather William Ruddock came from Ireland. The last time that I counted I found over 80 trees showing this error for my fifth great grandparents. Please take the time to **prove** your information and **do not trust** what you find on the internet.

The next great tool to come along was DNA testing. It provides scientific proof of genetic connection. In October 2003 I tossed my "kit" into the mix hoping to get over the "brick wall" as I could not find where my William Ruddick had come from beyond Pennsylvania. I had clues but absolutely no proof. Then the long wait began. In 2006 came my break. I received notification that I was matched with a first generation Irishman from Northern Ireland! The name was different but the match was specific. We contacted each other and exchanged information. Genetic genealogy was expanding rapidly and we expanded our testing with it testing out to y67DNA and perfectly matching at every level. At the last level we finally had a minor deviation; we became a plus/minus 1 or y66/67DNA meaning that there was a 95% probability that we shared the same ancestor within the last 9 generations. The search was on in **Ireland!** I now have 14 DNA connections to Ireland and most are Ruddock and one Ruddick thrown in for fun. This information and conventional research took me to Grange Lower, County Armagh, Northern Ireland, where I determined that my fifth great grandfather lived and departed from in about 1700 for Penn's colony in North America. He left behind a community of Ruddocks who are living there today.

All of this was achieved by utilizing basic genealogical research techniques and coupling it with genetic genealogical science. You too can achieve this sort of success if you apply good basic research techniques.

Look for more basic tools in the next newsletter.

Stories Found within our Stanislaus Coroner Files

By Millie Starr

Proof reading the index for the Stanislaus county coroner's Files for the first four volumes covering from 1883 to 1925, I find a veritable gold mine of mysteries that could be developed into historical fiction.

Every entry leaves unanswered questions, conclusions that often make the early Stanislaus County experience very real. Because these are not for all deaths, only unexplained or exotic, I have sought these folks in other sources, trying to learn more about them. I find it difficult to locate these sad people who are in the Coroner's Reports in any of the logical places, census etcetera.

For a writer seeking ideas, these pages are full of bits and pieces that offer all kinds of new thoughts.

One series of entries carrying the last name and the same date captures my full attention. I am particularly saddened and at the same time consumed with the desire to learn the 'rest of the story', 'the rest of their story.'

Volume three covering the years 1915 through 1918 has this puzzler. On pages 66 and 67 it has six entries bearing the same surname and the same date. The name is Lew, the date is October 31, 1918 and they are all identified by Dr. Florence Chaney of Turlock.

The first listed is Jung Din Lew, native of California 34 years. He died of a self inflicted gunshot wound. Is he the father? Is he a he? The second is Shee Lee, a native of, I believe California, but writing over the word makes that a mystery, Shee was 30 and died of pneumonia from the Spanish Flu. Is she his wife?

Turning the page brings the horror of this true life story to my eyes. Bing King Lew, native of California was about 5 years old. Died of gunshot wound inflicted by the father (murder).

Fourth is Guk Ling Lew about seven years old, same story.

Fifth in this dreadful drama is De Leong Lew about two years, same story.

Last is Do Hing aged about two days, he/she died of suffocation in a burning building.

Assumptions can be made, and a story created, but the truth is not even close to provable. I am not even sure of the sex of these individuals, but have guessed.

Mother Shee died in the flu epidemic, father was so devastated that he killed all of his children and then himself.

Life's real tragedy officially recorded – Editor <http://cagenweb.com/lr/stanislaus/GSSC%20Stan%20Coroner.html>

Millie shared the following with me and I thought it might be useful for others researching their Civil War Veterans - Editor

Researching Your Civil War Ancestor--Millie Starr

FREE: Soldiers and Sailors System of the National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

This is probably the most complete source of records in one place. It gives histories of the units, in what battles the units were involved and many of the battle accounts can be downloaded for details. More information is being added to the searches on a regular basis. For pension info you need to go elsewhere.

PAY TO USE: Ancestry: www.ancestry.com/

Has much info and sometimes adds color to your individual. This pay site is free for use at LDS Family History Centers. In Modesto -- Dale Road and Scenic Drive. Turlock- Geer Road

PAY TO USE: Fold3: www.fold3.com/

Fold3 contains copies of original documents in the National Archives in Washington D.C. It only has the Union pension files for the Civil War transcribed up to the file 300,000 at the present time. This site is available for use free at LDS Family History Centers. In Modesto-Dale Road and Scenic Drive. Turlock – Geer Road

FREE/PAY TO USE: National Archives in Washington D.C: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html>

This gives access to the specific site for ordering military records. The site is free and many of the other materials in the Archives in general are also free, but the military pension and service files for the Civil War are not. A pension file was about \$75.00 the last time I ordered one for a friend. I believe that provided up to ninety pages. But go on line and find out.

FREE: Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com/us/civil-war/>

There are many, many sites that have large quantities of records and info about regional units. Go online and make your own choice.

Another Peek Into The Coroner's Records <http://cagenweb.com/lr/stanislaus/GSSC%20Stan%20Coroner.html>*By Millie Starr*

Proof reading indexes is tiring, boring and whatever other terms you chose.

But the page with the 'Mc' s in Volume four turned that idea on its head. Not a lot of people bearing a surname beginning with Mc died in the years right after WWI--1919 to 1925. There were only six that required a Coroner's Inquest.

One death in 1920 was "natural causes". But the other five made up for it with social commentary of the times. Reading the details is usually not indulged, but I had a spelling issue and so scanned over the handwritten info very carefully trying to identify a word that used that letter to determine what was correct.

1919 "Cut of a sharp instrument in the hands of an unknown (Murder)."

1920 "Shock and hemorrhage caused by a fall in and from wrecked aeroplane in the City of Modesto County of Stanislaus State of California."

1922 "Gunshot wound self inflicted with suicidal intent."

1925 "Result of injuries received through automobile accident on highway south of Turlock."

But the Inquest held on 12 March 1923, wins the blue ribbon.

"McCarthy, Wm. P.

Nativity not known, age about 26,

\$24.64 in money found in coat pocket of bandit.

The Coroner had placed 'money in safe to be turned over to Standard Oil Co.'

Came to his death Feb. 5th by a gunshot wound received immediately following the holdup of the Standard and Shell Oil Filling Stations at 9th & K."

The Modesto Evening News for March 8 1923, Tells of the breaking up of 'one of the most desperate gangs of highwaymen in the history of The San Joaquin Valley criminal annals.' Details of the later arrests of members of this gang carry his name into the news of early 1924. On March 29, 1923, he is disclosed as the probable killer of A.M. Hoopengarder. The papers frequently reported on one stage or another of cases related to this gang.

Oh and yes, there is no doubt his name is spelled McCarthy.

January General Meeting

Our January 20 General Meeting was lively and well attended. Immediately after Millie Starr presented her "Millie's Minute" your Editor had the honor of presenting Mildred "Millie" Starr with her well-earned and deserved Life Membership certificate.

I was departing the microphone when I was stopped by Vice President Sharon Hawley-Crum who asked me aloud, "Are you really Irish?" Puzzled I replied that I was and she then read me a certificate from the Board and presented me a wonderful Irish Blessing scroll. A wee bit of a tear in my eye may have said it all.

I thank all of you for having allowed me to serve this Society. Most respectfully, Lewis M. Ruddick

Special Interest Groups

Do you have a special project or research need? We will help you set it up and get it rolling. The "old" Arkansas Group is alive and well and has expanded to include Missouri. It is now meeting monthly. Contact [Jackie Niemeyer](#) if you are interested in attending this group's meetings. Several still express interest in setting up a DIG (DNA Interest Group). All it requires is for someone to step up and it will happen. The Special Collections Room at the Main Library might work for the initial meeting. Please let the Board know if you are interested in these or any other special interest groups.

2015 Budget

Our 2015 Operating Budget was unanimously approved at the January 20 General Meeting



Find Your Ancestors Discover Your Family History

Beginning Genealogy Boot Camp Workshop

Sponsored by the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

March 21, 2015 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Telle Room, 1600 Carver Road, Modesto, California

Featured Speaker and Workshop Facilitator: Kathryn Miller Marshall, Ph.D.

Understanding Why and How We Do What We Do -- The Process and Principles of Genealogical Research: Working from the known to the unknown using family and home sources. Using pedigree charting software. Genealogical conventions that help fill in gaps. The gratification of good detective work – smartly building a case versus merely collecting names. Spotting the missing and unlikely. Sourcing data so painlessly that you’re willing to do it every time. Briefing yourself on local history and cultural context.

How to Find Ancestors – Venturing into the Unknown: A quick survey of the major record groups and what they tell us. Strategic leapfrogging from census to vital records, passenger lists to naturalization records, military records to land records, newspapers to court records illustrated with case studies.

Working Like an Old Pro: “To the Wiki!” – Research Guidance on where to look. Free versus subscription web sites. Tips and tricks to using search engines. Using filters. Great utilities and finding aides. Top web sites re-designed with newbies in mind.

Detach here and mail in your reservation

RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW

NAME _____

Phone _____

email _____

Mail this reservation along with check, payable to GSSC to: Bev Johnson, 1924 Red Oak Dr, Modesto CA 95354.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION \$20.00

AT THE DOOR REGISTRATION \$25.00

HANDOUTS PROVIDED

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 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 the Trinity Presbyterian Church at 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto, CA.

2015 Officers		2015 Standing Committee Chairs	
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		Social Media	Angela Kraft
		Greeter	Cyndi Bray

Updated 1-27-2015

We have 165 members



Genealogical Society of
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