



STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

March 2015

Volume 37, Number 3

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March Program

March 17, 2015

7:00 PM . Stanislaus County Library system Diane McDonnell

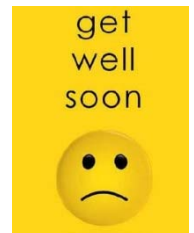
Lewis Ruddick will in narrative and photos present his surname trip of discovery to tiny village of The Diamond located in Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland taken in September/October 2014. His 5th great grandfather departed here in circa 1700 for America founding his line in the new world..

A Word from your Vice President

Sharon Hawley-Crum

In the game of life, when the unexpected happens, it is the time for someone else to pick up the ball and keep the action going. That is the reason I am writing this message, and not our President, Bev Johnson. By the time you get this Newsletter, Bev should be in recovery from her unplanned for surgery that took place at the end of February. I know that each of us wish her all the best as she travels the road to renewed health.

As your Vice President, it is my job to fill in – and I will gladly do that until Bev is ready and able to return. I will also be making calls to others to help out as well. Which brings me to the workshop that will take place in just a few days.



Saturday, March 21! “Find Your Ancestors, Discover Your Family History A Beginning Genealogy Boot Camp Workshop”

Kathryn Miller Marshall, PhD, and Director of the Lodi LDS Family History Center will facilitate this event. (Check the flyer included with this newsletter- there is still time to register!).

Bev stated in the February issue of the newsletter that, **“This is a great opportunity for GSSC to nourish growth.”**

I would like to carry this concept one step further. In addition to seeking members to help mentor workshop participants on March 21, I would like to offer an opportunity to formalize the supportive role our members can play, by developing a “Member Directory of Support Services.”

A GSSC goal is to “Promote and foster mutual support for personal genealogical research.” This goal was discussed at the February, Board of Directors meeting. The idea of developing a member skill directory was approved.

This idea is based on the belief that every member has a genealogical gift or talent that can be of help and guidance to a new and/or hesitant genealogical researcher. During our March general meeting look for a form that can be filled out to collect information about the skills and experiences you have acquired while conducting family history research. This information will be organized and published by GSSC making it possible to connect those seeking assistance with those who possess the required skills to answer questions and provide support to those seeking help. It may be as simple as one member sitting down with a new member as they prepare their four-generation chart, or one member providing another member with information leading them to a specific land record

they have been searching for, or teaching a small group how to use Family Search on the computer. Please be thinking about what you have to offer, and demonstrate your willingness to help others by filling out and returning the form. If you have any questions about this idea, or any concerns while our President is under the weather, please feel free to give me a call (838-2118) – and if you get a call from me, please know I appreciate all the help I can get!

March Program

By Sharon Hawley-Crum

In addition to our general meeting, Lewis Ruddick, immediate past president of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County, will provide a photographic and verbal log of his recent trip to Northern Ireland. He was able to confirm that, by combining good old-fashioned family history research along with modern DNA technology, existing genealogical brick walls can come down. He will share how he found long lost family members and established new, and memorable family ties.



Genealogy How to Basics Part 3

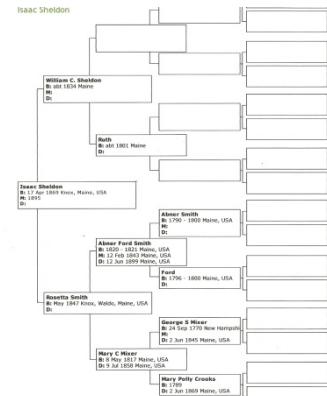
By Lewis M. Ruddick

When you have been at this genealogical research game for a long time you forget many of the great and readily available resources available to you. On my bookshelf I have two Genealogy for Dummies books. One is a second edition and is an example of just how long this publisher has been fueling the need for family history buffs. I looked at my websites and saw Cyndi’s List tacked on as a reference for each. Her website is not there by accident. It is there because she still maintains one of the very best reference resources there is available on the internet today and it is constantly growing. That was why I included her website as reference on everyone of my CAGenWeb websites back in 1996 and that reference remains today. As I was looking my eyes fell upon another link the USGenWeb and I recalled that they had some basic research tools which I had not looked at in quite some time. I checked and found a completely updated website that had a very nicely laid out list of suggestions for the new researcher (proving the need to go back once in awhile and look where you’ve been.). I provide you with that reference today with the request that you read it all. It WILL assist you as you progress down your research highway: <http://usgenweb.org/research/starting.shtml>

For this issue I will only add the list of common mistakes we have all made. Avoid these and you will be well on your way to producing a piece of genealogical research that you and your family will be proud to have.

Most Common Mistakes in Genealogy Research

- Not using family group sheets and pedigree charts.
- Not contacting relatives for assistance.
- Assuming that "no one else is working on my line."
- Not using maps of the area at the time your ancestors were living there.
- Not knowing the history of the area in which you are conducting research.
- Not using common sense when reading family histories. If a source for information is not listed, be cautious about accepting it. Some information may be hearsay.
- Gathering information on everyone with "that" surname, unless it is an uncommon one.
- Not using primary sources - land, probate, church, county records - but relying on printed histories. **NOTE:** Many primary & secondary records are becoming available online. Make sure you check the [USGW Archives](#) and our [Index](#) pages for these resources.
- Not making photocopies.
- Not making a master copy. Leave the master copy at home when you travel to do research and take a duplicate with you.
- Not organizing your records.
- Not paying attention to clues your ancestors might have left.
- Assuming that your surname is never spelled a different way.
- **GIVING UP!!**



History Guides Your Eyes

By Millie Starr

A recent writing caused questions about sources of information and made me realize that I take the unbelievable variety of sources for granted.

First and foremost is the rule, "**Follow the Money**".

If the ruling body is paying you, to fight or to do any community obligation, someone has to keep track of where the money is going. This is especially true of militia/military service. True now, true long ago.

If the lordship/owner gives you a land grant, he will keep records so he can collect the rent or taxes that he deems is due him. His agents will describe in early deeds who the neighbors are and the creeks and rivers etc.

Communities/counties keep all kinds of records, anything that in anyway involves money or property. Assessor, County Clerk, and the Courts are all filled with information as well as many others.

Though this barely touches on the role of money in thorough research it comes with a very important injunction: never be in a hurry-- read every word because secrets can hide in the smallest detail.

Do not rely only on what it says in the index, if it pertains, read the original document.

Another major rule, "**Learn the History**".

Of course you know the history of your country, but do you know when the state was established or divided? Or the county was first created and when it was changed, split into more counties, given to another state, and sometimes just had a name change or a border settlement with the neighbor? You may find a man living in four or more different counties and he never moved.

Many towns and counties have histories that detail the settlement of the area. That will sometimes tell where the bulk of the residents came from, 'a kin patch'. Rarely did anyone set off across the wilderness alone. This can lead you back to another state, county or even country.

In these County Histories there are articles that the old timers paid to include in the biography section, many times featuring a portrait. Even if your ancestor is not listed by name, look at those whose names are associated with your family.

Part of the study of the history requires you to get acquainted with the land- not the ownership, but the geography. Would you walk twenty miles to town to register a marriage if you could canoe across the creek and walk two miles to the county seat of an adjacent county? Neither would your ancestors. So history and geography are critical.

Most towns and counties have a variety of books, pamphlets, and old maps that have been created for their small niche in the world and in history.

Last, but clearly not least is the rule, "**Love of God**".

Most early settlers, moved and settled with folks who shared their beliefs. But if they moved to a new location that had a church of different denomination and none of their own, they went to church anyway. So you need to learn about what was there or not.

These range from the Quakers and the Catholics who have wonderful records. But the two have totally different content in their books. Other churches' records vary from great to minimal. The circuit rider who went around from outpost to outpost and caught up on the marriages that were waiting for a minister to legitimize the twins who were now toddlers, may cross a swollen river and lose or soak the book in which he wrote the names. Church records vary in quality and completeness, by the nature of the tenets of the church, the congregation, and of the minister. And by Mother Nature or an 'Act of God'.

Rules, Rules, Rules.

There are many other things to keep in mind, but for me the most important rule is:

If I work hard enough, I will find something to prove or disprove my ideas.

(pigheaded?)

Notice - Special Interest Groups - Notice

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 members continue to 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.



Roots Tech Videos

By Ellen Reesh

Here is a list of some of the videos from RootsTech, with the info on where to find more. Have to admit, a couple of these videos are what I call "commercial breaks" but they all tell a story about where the genealogy community is heading.

You can find more on the [FamilySearch Channel](#) on [YouTube.com](#).

[#RootsTech 2015 Keynote: Tan Le Remembers Her Grandmother](#)

[#RootsTech 2015: Start With Stories](#)

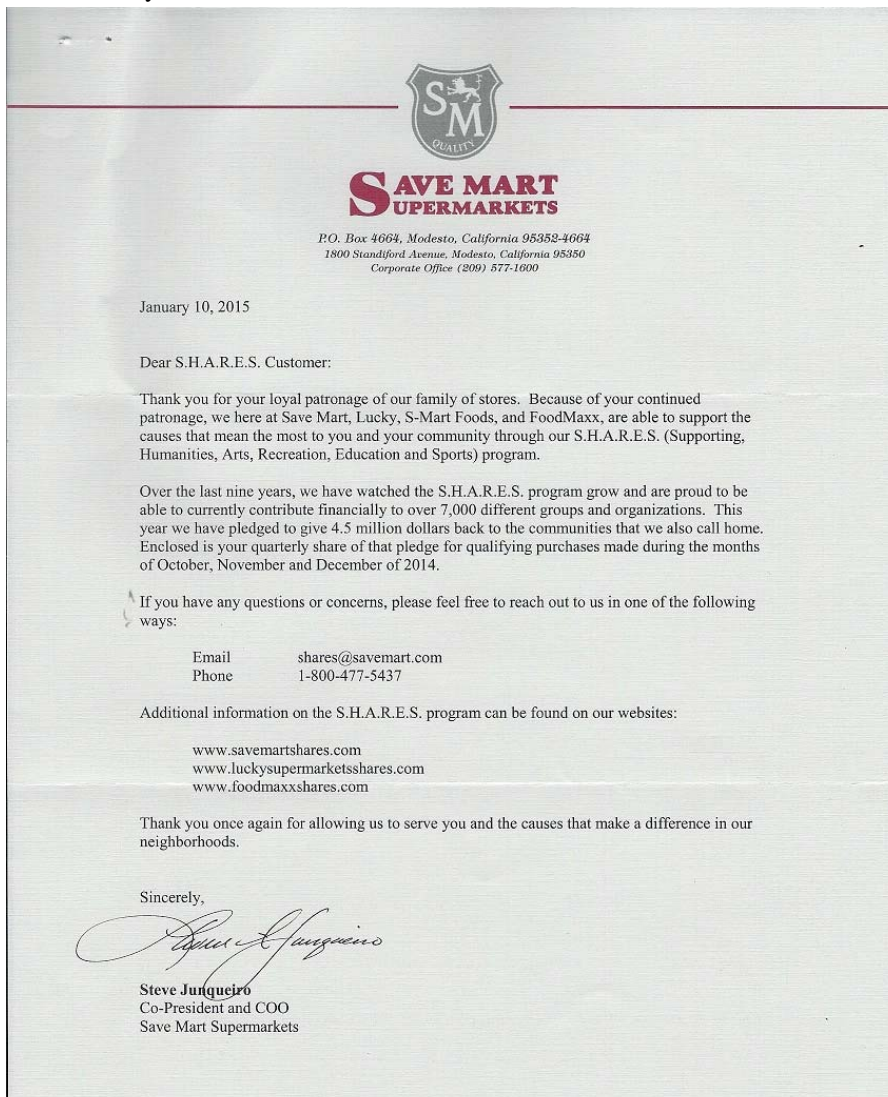
[#RootsTech 2015: Nathan Furr & Innovations in Family History](#)

[#RootsTech 2015: Family History For Everyone](#)

[#RootsTech 2015 Keynote: The Thrill of Discovery](#)

Save Mart Cards

Our Treasurer Jay Mirza reports that GSSC received a donation of \$94.98 for October, November and December 2014 from the SAVE MART SUPERMARKETS accompanied by the attached letter. Please continue to use your Save Mart card when you make our Treasurer, they are free and assist us.



Have a favorite URL that disappeared?

By Nan Wolf

Try using <https://archive.org/web/web.php> Their services just might connect you to that old favorite site or at least to a location to view those old contents

Scots-Irish Seminar

This all-day event will take place on Sunday, March 29, 2015, and will feature presentations by Fintan Mullan and Gillian Hunt of the Ulster Historical Foundation in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Seminar Location

Holiday Inn & Suites Oakland Airport
77 Hegenberger Road
Oakland CA 94621

Topics of Presentations

- Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research
- Records Related to the Different Churches in Ireland
- Using land records: Griffith's Valuation, Tithe and Estate Records
- Emigration from the North of Ireland to North America and the Sources for its Study
- The Ulster Plantation: Sources for 17th Century Families in Ireland (not just Ulster)
- Solving Your Brick Walls: Practical Internet Tutorial and Resolving Research Problems

For more information: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/scots-irish-seminar-tickets-15123324270>

Sacramento German Genealogy Society 2015 Spring Workshop

'My Germans' A Workshop for Ancestor-Chasers by Roger P. Minert, Ph.D., A.G.

Saturday, April 25, 2015
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
8925 Vintage Park Drive
Sacramento, California 95824

Completer registration information here: <http://www.sacgergensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=7>

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> August 25, 2014

MyHeritage Places Exclusive Scandinavian Records Online

MyHeritage has just brought online millions of Scandinavian records, the majority of which have never been digitized or indexed online before. Anyone with Scandinavian roots can search these records on MyHeritage's SuperSearch and will receive matches to those records relevant to their family tree.

As of today, the entire 1930 Danish census (3.5 million records) is available online. The new records were digitized by a partnership with the National Archives of Denmark. MyHeritage has now indexed and digitized more than 120 million records including all available Danish census records from 1787-1930 and Parish records from 1646 to 1915, all of which will be released during 2015 and 2016.

In addition, MyHeritage has also added the Swedish Household Examination Rolls from 1880-1920, which include 54 million records with 5 million color images, of which 22 million records are already available online. The remaining records are scheduled to go online before the end of June 2015.

For more information, please see the MyHeritage Blog post at: <http://blog.myheritage.com/2015/02/myheritage-puts-exclusive-scandinavian-records-online>

You will note that the Blog entry also says, "We are working on more content that will go live soon, from additional Nordic countries!"



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	
President	Bev Johnson	Acquisitions	Ellen Reesh
1st Vice President	Sharon Hawley-Crum	Audit	Jeff Wells
2nd Vice President	Pamela Atherstone	Budget	Jay Mirza
Secretary	Marge Scheuber	Four Generation Charts	Donna Burleaud
Treasurer	Jay Mirza	Historian & Sunshine	Judith Welch
Director at Large	Cleda Lane	Membership	Maybelle Allen
Director at Large	Cyndi Bray	Memorial Day	Jennifer McDonald / Dale Thompson
Director at Large	Jennifer McDonald	Mentor	Janet Lancaster/Marilyn Belleville
Director at Large	Dale Thompson	Newsletter	Lewis M. Ruddick
Director at Large	Dorothy Winke	Planning & By-laws	Bev Johnson
Past President	Lewis M. Ruddick	Program	Sharon Hawley-Crum
		Publicity	Ellen Reesh
		Queries	Charlie Tieman
		Refreshments	Jackie Niemeyer
		Registrar	Dorothy Winke
		Research & Publication	Millie Starr
		Research Trips	Vicky Wolff / Cleda Lane
		Research Trips: Salt Lake City	Lisa Bruk
		Seminar & Workshop	Pam Atherstone
		Special Collections Room	Marilyn Belleville
		Social Media	Angela Kraft
		Greeter	Cyndi Bray

Updated 2-22-2015

**We have 120 members for 2015
 Have you paid your dues?**



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



Get Well Soon Bev, We miss You!