



# STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

April 2015

Volume 37, Number 4

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## A Word from your Vice President:

By Sharon Hawley-Crum

I am again stepping in for our President Bev Johnson, who is on the mend, but not yet ready to resume her duties as your President. Last month I shared my idea of developing a “Member Directory of Support Services.” To restate my message from last month, 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. At the March general meeting the Volunteer Form was available and we have already started collecting information about the skills and experiences members 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. If you were unable to attend the meeting the form is included within this months newsletter. Please look for it, think about what you have to offer, and demonstrate your willingness to help others by filling out and returning the form.

Last month our new County Librarian, Diane McDonnell, treated our members to an informative program. During the question and answer period, at the end of her prepared remarks, several suggestions were offered regarding things the library could offer our members to improve their research experience. As a result, your Board of Directors has developed a “wish list” and this list will be presented at a meeting with Diane in the near future. The outcome of this meeting will be shared, as new information is available.

One final point, please look for the description of our April program and plan to attend this informative session on the Genealogical Proof Standard, which provides direction as you journey to connect with your family history! If you have any questions or concerns while our President is under the weather, please feel free to give me a call (838-2118).

## April Program

By Sharon Hawley-Crum

For our general meeting, Angela Kraft, a member of GSSC, as well as a member of National Genealogical Society, Association of Professional Genealogists, and an alumna of ProGen Study Group 13 and Gen Proof Study Group will be answering the question: What is the Genealogical Proof Standard?

Angela asks this question, ‘Ever come across a fact in a family tree, or family papers stating miscellaneous facts, and wonder, ‘How on Earth did they come to THAT conclusion?’” At this meeting we’ll learn that just as a GPS in a vehicle will help guide you in your travels to get you where you’re going, so, too, does the Genealogical Proof Standard when journeying through your family history. It is a system of criteria developed by the Board for Certification of Genealogists to help genealogists of all levels to achieve the most accurate and sound results within their research. We will explore the 5 main elements of the GPS (what they are and what they mean), as well as options to further your understanding (books, websites, and study groups). Handouts will be provided on this topic.

## April Program

April 21, 2015

7:00 PM What is the Genealogical Proof Standard? Angela Kraft  
See presentation description below

**Genealogy without proof is mythology!**



For more information about Association of Professional GENealogists (APGEN) check out [www.apgen.org](http://www.apgen.org)

For more information about the National Genealogical Society (NGS) check out [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)

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### **Genealogy How to Basics Part 4**

*By Lewis M. Ruddick*

I hope that those of you who attended my March St. Patrick's Day presentation realize that none of that photographed success in tracing my "roots" to Ireland would have been possible without the application of sound basic genealogical research techniques. Make the effort and you too can achieve the success that I did.

This month I feel it is appropriate to include Dr. Kathryn Miller Marshall's Boot Camp handout as the "Genealogy How to Basics" section presentation for this month. In this manner all of you who were unable to attend will receive a portion of the great material that she presented. There was an excellent attendance and we filled the Telle Center Youth Building to capacity.

## **Beginning Genealogy "Boot Camp"**

**Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County Workshop**

**Kathryn Miller Marshall, [4kmmarshall@gmail.com](mailto:4kmmarshall@gmail.com)**

**March 21, 2015**

### **RECORDING WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW**

- Record what you already know about family members in pedigree software you install on your home computer. FamilySearch.org's Family Tree. Legacy Family Tree and RootsMagic are user friendly, certified FamilySearch affiliates with advanced features that allow you to download and/or synchronize your home pedigree data with what is displayed on the FamilySearch.org web site. Both companies offer free versions of their pedigree software to the public. Legacy and RootsMagic are developing integration features with Ancestry.com and MyHeritage.com that will soon be fully functional. FamilyTreeMaker, The Master Genealogist, and Reunion for Macs are also popular pedigree programs.
- Begin by recording information about yourself and work back in time. We progress systematically from the known to the unknown. The best information on your first few generations will come from your own knowledge, from parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and long time family friends. Record as much family information as you can from living relatives, birth certificates, marriage licenses, death certificates, letters, memorabilia, and other artifacts in the family's possession. Record family traditions about national origins, motives, occupations, locations, and religion for clues. Write down stories.
- Always document your sources. Record where someone else could find the same information. A source citation is information you would find in a typical bibliography with author, title, publisher and location, date, page number. Include the complete URL and access date when citing a web site. The accepted standards for genealogical citations are found in Elizabeth Shown Mills, Evidence. TreeConnect and other utilities will generate source citations for you automatically.
- If the information comes from stories you've heard in your family over the years, record it as a "family tradition." If information comes from a specific discussion with a family member or associate, record it as an "interview with [person] on [date], [place]." Indicate the relationship of the informant to those spoken about in the "interview." How would this person know these facts?
- Remembrances far removed from an actual event may be less accurate than eye witness

accounts given at the time of the event or close to it. Primary sources (those recorded at the time of an event by an eye witness) are preferred over secondary sources such as biographies written by others in later years.

#### GENEALOGICAL CONVENTIONS

- Record women using their maiden name.
- Dates are recorded day month year. Write out the month or at least the three letter month designation (e.g., Oct.) and the complete year (e.g., 1906, not '06).
- Places are recorded from smallest to largest jurisdiction -- city, county, state, country. Commas are necessary between jurisdictions. Omit the omit County when naming a county. Write out the state. Do not use postal code abbreviations.
- When estimating a person's birth or marriage dates, the genealogical convention is that men typically marry for the first time when they are about 25 years old. Women first marry about age 21. Their first child is generally born within one year of the marriage, with subsequent children being born two years later. No conventions exist for age at death.
- If you do not know an exact date, write "about" or "abt." If you are estimating a date, using "est." If you have calculated a date from another known date, use "cal."
- If a location is unknown but presumed, it is indicated by the word "of" (e.g., of Burney, Lancashire, England).

#### FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS IN RECORDS

- Privacy blocks protect the living from identity theft during their life spans. For example, a data blackout is maintained for 72 years for the US Federal Census. Currently, you need to get back to 1940 to pick up the paper trail left by your ancestors in the US Federal Census. FamilySearch.org will not display information it receives until 110 years after an individual's birth. Once notified that an individual has died, the data will be displayed.
- Beyond the privacy block years, search public records across America's most readily accessible, document rich period from 1850 to 1940. Ancestry.com (free to the public at Family History Centers) and FamilySearch.org (free) offer vast collections of censuses, parish records, immigration and naturalization records, military records, and more. Narrow down search results with helpful filters for time, place, and document types.
- *Note: Family trees submitted to web sites like Ancestry.com by individuals often have errors and omissions. Treat them as unverified opinions or clues. Seek documentation before accepting their conclusions.*
- Next step: A US Federal Census has been conducted every ten years since 1790. Check each census year to find whole family groups and how they changed over time. Discover who was born or died since the last census, who got married, who came of age and moved out of the family home, parents' birthplaces, occupations, and who moved in with relatives as they aged. Censuses are available through familysearch.org, ancestry.com, heritagequestonline.com, and other sites (free access to subscription sites at the FHC).
- Prior to the Civil War, 85% of white males in the US owned land. If you know the name and the state where your ancestor lived, you can visit the US Bureau of Land Management web site, <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>, to find out if your ancestor was awarded land by patent for military service; obtained land for free by homesteading (building a home on a piece of property and residing there for a certain number of years); or purchased land as western territories opened to settlement. On the BLM web site, you can see a digital image of the original land patent and obtain a legal description of the property. With a township and range land description, GoogleEarth

can zoom right to your ancestor's home, show the property boundaries, and allow you to virtually look around the terrain that your ancestor called home. [Note: Twenty states were not administered by the BLM system. For "state land" states, check the local County Recorder for deeds.] Use Animap to check for state and county boundary changes. For example, when your ancestors lived in Illinois, it might have been today's Michigan. Montana and the Dakotas were once part of Louisiana Territory. What was the name of the governmental jurisdiction at the time your ancestor lived? Record information based on locations as they existed in your ancestor's time.

- If your family lived in a big city around the turn of the century, they probably appeared in a city directory. City directories typically show the address and names of everyone in the household, often the occupation and where the husband worked. When the husband died, the next year's city directory might state that the wife was now a widow, and sometimes even showed where she moved after her husband's death. Trace your ancestor's job history and residence on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), or [ProQuest.HistoricMapWorks.com](http://ProQuest.HistoricMapWorks.com). Then as now, people moved where there was work to be had. Knowing an ancestor's occupation can give you clues to migration.
- Local histories give fascinating details about the communities where your ancestor lived. Major industries, economic challenges, accomplishments, mineral resources, cultural activities, prominent citizens, epidemics, droughts, major fires, religious life, and other details on life in your ancestor's home town provide a context for his or her life experience, even if your ancestor is not personally mentioned by name. Check the Family History Library Catalog for Location, then Local Histories, often on microfilm you can order. Digital images of maps created when your ancestor lived, cadastral maps (showing the name of property owners), local histories, and city directories are available in the antique atlases collection available through the FHC Portal web site, [ProQuest.HistoricMapWorks.com](http://ProQuest.HistoricMapWorks.com), which even displays atlas pages with the same GPS.
- Family tradition may tell you that an ancestor arrived from "the old country" on a particular ship or landed at a particular port. Ellis Island was a common destination, but don't limit your search. Passengers could choose from over a hundred ports to bring them closest to their inland destination. Find out when and where your ancestor's ship sailed. View an image of the ship on which your ancestor arrived in this country. Check passenger lists to find your ancestor and with whom he or she traveled. The Steve Morse One Step web site, <http://stevemorse.org>, provides the best search engines and explanations of passenger lists.
- Passenger lists often lead to immigration and naturalization records, which may show your ancestors' home towns abroad [the key piece of information needed for research outside the US], relatives in this country, intended occupation, physical description, how much money your ancestors had in their possession, where they were going, and other details. Records are available through local county courts and Family History Library microfilms. Some digitized records are posted on [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), [fold3.com](http://fold3.com), and other subscription sites (free to the public at the FHC).
- Military records are a treasure trove of genealogical data, revealing not only the battles in which your ancestor fought, but physical descriptions, injuries sustained, and testimonies by or about family members applying for pension benefits. Visit [Fold3.com](http://Fold3.com), NARA's <http://www.archives.gov/veterans>, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), and <http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm> for more information.
- Ancestors frequently appear in court records for wills and probate, adoptions, business dealings, bankruptcies, criminal proceedings, and granting of citizenship through the

naturalization process. Court records are generally not yet available online and their indexing varies, but they can be invaluable. Check the Family History Library Catalog under the Location tab to order court records that are available on microfilm.

- Church or parish records are the primary source for birth, marriage and death information outside the US. In predominantly Catholic countries such as Mexico, baptismal certificates generally recorded three generations of the family. Parish records are on FHL microfilm. FindMyPast.com posts digitized British parish records online.

- Cemetery records and tombstone inscriptions can provide birth, marriage, and death information. Visit findagrave.com or BillionGraves.com to search for tombstone images, biographies, family relationships, and more. Obituaries are rich with genealogical data.

- Newspapers include obituaries, wedding announcements, news of family members who were visiting from out of town, squabbles, crimes, business notices, personal inquiries, local events, and issues of importance to the community. NewspaperArchive.com and GenealogyBank.com host millions of pages of digitized newspapers. If your ancestor's town did not have its own newspaper, check nearby communities and big cities where their news was often reported. Ordinary people appear in the papers, not just rich folk.

WHERE DO I GO TO FIND THESE RESOURCES AND HOW DO I USE THEM?  
FHC Portal: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provides free access to over a dozen of the best subscription web sites for genealogical data, including:

AccessNewspaperArchive.com (world's largest historical newspaper collection from 1607 to the present)

AlexanderStreet.com (Civil War letters and diaries, photography, American Civil War Database)

Ancestry.com (census, voter lists; birth, marriage, death; military, public member trees, immigration)

ArkivDigital.com (43 million digitized Swedish church records, court records, and inventory of estates)

19<sup>th</sup> Century British Library Newspapers – find.galegroup.com (over 3 million pages from 19<sup>th</sup> century newspapers originating in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland)

FindMyPast.com.UK (British census, parish records, birth, marriage and death records)

Fold3.com (US military records and more)

GodfreyMemorialLibrary.org (state and local histories, family histories, biographies, church records, funeral records, cemetery records, military records, maps)

HeritageQuestOnline.com (census, 28,000 digitized family histories and local history books, PERSI Archive, Revolutionary War Pensions and Bounty Land, Freedman's Bank, US Serials set)

HistoricMapWorks.com (antique atlases, maps, local histories, city directories, lithograph illustrations)

MyHeritage.com (Smart Matching, Record Detective, extensive collections primarily from Europe but also utilizing FamilySearch.org collections)

Paper-Trail.org (wagon train routes and rosters, diaries, Indian encounters, livestock)

WorldVitalRecords.com (birth, marriage and death certificates)

RESEARCH WIKI: FamilySearch.org provides an outstanding wikipedia of genealogical topics with up-to-date links at wiki.familysearch.org. Enter a topic (e.g., a location, ethnicity, record group, or religion) in the search field. Enter the name of any Family History Center to see their hours, location, and special collections.

TOP WEB SITES WITH LARGE DATA COLLECTIONS

FamilySearch.org (free)

Ancestry.com (subscription) with free Rootsweb.com

MyHeritage.com (subscription)

FindMyPast.com (subscription)

AmericanAncestors.com (subscription)

PORTALS

Cyndislist.com

Mocavo.com

UTILITIES

RecordSeek.com's TreeConnect for generating source citations

FindARecord.com for identifying data sources in a geographical radius around your ancestor in a given time period

RelativeFinder to see relationships between yourself and famous people like US Presidents, inventors, literary figures, scientists

SEARCH ENGINES TIPS

- "Less is more." Too much information in a search field can eliminate results. If you include many facts in your search criteria, all those facts must appear in a single document to appear in Search Results.

- Use wild cards if you suspect alternate spellings. Substitute a ? for a single letter. Use an asterisk \* to stand in for one or more letters in a name.

For free assistance, visit your local Family History Center, a gift to the community from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. To find the one nearest you, go to the bottom left corner of the FamilySearch.org home page. Click *Find a center* under the Family History Centers heading. Download free apps from the FamilySearch App Gallery to view your pedigree and other data on your mobile devices.

Received word this evening that **Marilyn Belleville** had surgery. She is in the hospital and is expected to go home next Wednesday. That is all of the information we have now. If you'd like to have a card waiting for Marilyn when she arrives home, her address is: 1200 S. Carpenter Rd., #93, Modesto CA 95351-2134.

### Repeat Notice - 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 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.



**Don't have a Save Mart Card? Ask Jay Mirza and he will happily set you up.**

Save the date

ROAD TRIP

Save the date



Why? Research-Research-Research  
When? **September 17, 2015**  
Where? Info soon coming!!!!

Watch the bulletin for future information. OR--  
get it from your favorite Board Member leak  
when available!



Cleda Lane/Vicki Wolf

**Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County  
Member Directory of Support Services  
Volunteer Participation Form**

Name:

Phone #:

Email address:

Check all of the following skills you are willing to share with other GSSC members.

1. Basic Research:

- Four-generation chart preparation
- Family group sheet preparation
- Census Records
- Vital Records
- Cemetery Records
- Timeline Development
- Verification of sources
- Resource materials (books, maps, etc)

2. Organizing and Compiling Records:

- Filing systems
- Binder systems
- Trip preparation
- Research notes
- Scanning photos/original documents

- Organizing scanned item

3. Research in Specific geographic areas:

List state/s Below

List country/ies Below

- Please, turn the page

4. Other Types of Research (Please be specific):

- Military Records
- Land Records and Deeds
- Naturalization
- Immigration
- Wills and Estates
- Analysis of DNA Test Results

5. Genealogical Computer Programs:

Check computer software or online programs you use with fluency:

- Legacy
- Family Search
- Family Tree Maker
- Family Tree DNA
- Fold-3
- Ancestry
- Cindy's List
- Add others:

6. List Genealogical Societies you belong to (i.e. Daughter's of the American Revolution):

7. Add Other Skill Areas not already included: (Please be Specific):

Questions? Call 208-838-2118      Return via mail to: GSSC, PO Box A, Modesto, CA 95352

[Click for a downloadable copy of this form](#)



## 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.

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 3-23-2015

**We have 131 members for 2015**



Genealogical Society of  
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**Bev continue mending well, we miss you among us!**