



STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

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January Program

January 19, 2016

7:00 PM Travel Presentation - Biography of Julius W.(Jay) Mirza

. Jay’s presentation covers one week in Darjeeling, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Paul’s School. The second week was spent with his daughters Lisa and Allison, touring the Golden Triangle cities of Delhi, New Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. And his genealogical autobiography “An Assyrian Dream – The Mirza family Story.”

A Few Words from Your President

Bev Johnson

The crystal ball has fallen on Times Square so it must be true. 2016 has arrived! As a Society we bid farewell with mega thanks to some individuals who have given much of themselves to our Society and its leadership; specifically, our Queries Researcher, Charlie Tieman, Sharon Hawley-Crum who put us on a sound fiscal path, and Donna Burleaud who has faithfully kept our 4 Generation Charts project on track and updated. You all have made us a better Society. So now we welcome Heidi Arno as a newly elected Director at Large.

I’ve never been one for New Year’s resolutions but on the other hand, goals take on a more committable challenge; goals require evaluation based on what we said we would do, evaluate what actually occurred, and provide direction. For your 2016 Board of Directors, this was our task.

Society Goals: In early December, your elected officers met for a brunch meeting to revisit 2015 with the following agenda: Our Society Objectives as stated in the Bylaws, How Are We Doing? Society Strengths and Weaknesses (based on objectives), Review and evaluate goals/objectives for 2015, and finally Develop and Prioritize Goals and Objectives to be presented to the Board of Directors and the General Membership in January, 2016. I am so impressed by the collective ideas and compatibility your elected officers brought to this meeting. Yes, we have a plan we’re eager to share with all of you.

Member goals: I hope each of you will identify perhaps three reasonable goals to reach for in your research in 2016. And I hope that our Society will be a resource in your search.

Join us at our January Annual General Meeting when we will share with you all the directions your leadership have proposed for 2016 and adoption of a budget for 2016. Additionally, our program presenter for January is one of our very own - Jay Mirza. Jay will share with us a personal perspective of his early life in the mid-east and beyond, a perspective of the mid-east we so rarely are privy to.

Finally, thank you for entrusting me with the leadership role you have re-elected me to for 2016. I promise you all the best I have to give.

May 2016 be kind to all of us.



January Program

By Jennifer McDonald Vice President – Program Chair

Travel Presentation - Biography of Julius W. (Jay) Mirza**Two-week trip to India October/November, 2014**

Jay's presentation covers one week in Darjeeling, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of St. Paul's School. The second week was spent with his daughters Lisa and Allison, touring the Golden Triangle cities of Delhi, New Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. Jay's writing skills were honed at MICL (Modesto Institute for Continued Learning). This experience helped in writing his family history book entitled "An Assyrian Dream – The Mirza family Story." A craving for family research, prompted Jay to become a member of GSSC in 2011. Without any knowledge of Genealogy, Jay experimented with "Family Tree Maker" software and even included some family trees in his book. Jay has served as GSSC treasurer in 2015 and will finish out his term in 2016.

**A Personal Invitation**

By Bev Johnson

Our Genealogical Society has some shoes to fill to complete our leadership team for 2016. Please consider this a personal invitation to join us. Specifically needed are:

Four Generation Books. This entails keeping our Four Generation Books up to date and displaying them at our General Meetings.

A Queries Researcher. If you are an avid researcher, this position entails responding to queries for information from Stanislaus County.

Special Collections Room at the County Library: Volunteers are needed to assist visitors at this research resource which involves just a couple of hours each week.

Won't you please consider giving back to your Society by volunteering to fill one of these needs? You can respond by contacting me at 209-526-5009 or at jbevjohnson1@att.net. A response by January 5 would be appreciated.

Early American Cookery (returns)**Irish whiskey cookies - A traditional Irish Holiday favorite****Ingredients:**

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated Sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 2 cups all-purpose Flour
- 1/4 cup Irish whiskey
- 1/4 cup candied citron, chopped
- 1/4 cup golden raisins, blanchd and chopped
- 1/4 cup almonds, chopped

**Preparation:**

Preheat oven to 375 F and grease two cookie sheets; set aside. In a small mixing bowl, cream together the butter and the sugar. Beat in the eggs until well blended. Add the flour and the Irish whiskey, and beat the dough until smooth. Add the fruit and nuts, and mix well. Drop cookie dough from a tablespoon onto the prepared cookie sheets. Bake each sheet of cookies for 8 to 10 minutes.

Remove the cookies from the baking sheets with a spatula while still warm. Place on wire rack to partially cool. Store the cookies in an airtight container with a slice of white bread to maintain their soft, fruity texture.

Thank You GSSC

On behalf of the Turlock Historical Society, I am sending this donation as a "Thank you" to Bev Johnson and her team for a terrific Genealogy workshop presentation. We have heard lots of positive feedback on the workshops with recommendation to repeat it in the spring. The packet is already being used in our household! Thanks again for a very informative day!

Thea Harris
Turlock Historical Society

The GSSC joined the Turlock Historical Society presenting a genealogical workshop at the Covenant Village in Turlock on October 17, 2015 - Editor

Ancestry.com strikes (out) again!

Ancestry to Retire Family Tree Maker Software

Posted by [Kendall Hulet](#) on December 8, 2015 in [Family Tree Maker](#)

Ancestry is proud to have made a significant investment this year to bring valuable new content and records to the Ancestry site. In 2015, we've made 220 million searchable historical records from Mexico available, more than 170 million pages from the largest collection of U.S. will and probate records, among others. We've also introduced new features such as Ancestry Academy and major advancements for AncestryDNA.



We remain dedicated to helping people gain new levels of understanding about their lives, and who and what led to them, harnessing the information found in family trees, historical records and genetics. As a company, we're also continually evaluating ways to focus our efforts to provide the most impact and best product experience for our users through our core offerings.

True to this focus, we've taken a hard look at the declining desktop software market and the impact this has on being able to continue to provide product enhancements and support that our users need. With that, we've made the decision to stop selling Family Tree Maker as of December 31, 2015.

Our subscription business and website, on the other hand, continue to grow and we are doubling down our efforts to make that experience even better for our Ancestry community.

Ancestry will continue to support current owners of Family Tree Maker at least through January 1, 2017. During this time, all features of the software, including TreeSync™, will continue to work, and Member Services will be available to assist with user questions. We will also address major software bugs that may occur, as well as compatibility updates.

These changes are never easy, but by focusing our efforts, we can concentrate on continuing to build great products for our loyal Ancestry community. If you have inquiries regarding Family Tree Maker, please reach out to our [Member Services team](#). We'll also provide updates on our blog as needed leading up to January 1, 2017.

- See more at: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/12/08/ancestry-to-retire-family-tree-maker-software/#sthash.vdsuzEXU.dpuf>

For those of you who have faithfully supported this company and this product I highly recommend that you immediately download and save your tree and explore the purchase of another tree making product. The following might assist you: <http://genealogytools.com/replacing-family-tree-maker-part-1-how-to-scrub-your-data/> - Editor

PC Performance Tip: Make Windows 10 Start Faster

Does your Windows 10 computer take a long time to start? In the past, figuring out which programs were a resource hog was not an easy task. You had to poke around and use advanced tools for disabling startup items. Windows 10 makes things super-easy thanks to its built-in Startup Manager. Here's how to use it:

1. Right-click on the task bar and select Task Manager
2. When the Task Manager opens, click on more details. This will open Task Manager's full interface where you can find the Startup tab
3. Check out the startup impact each program makes (Low, Medium or High)
4. Disable the startup entries you don't need by clicking on the Disable button

Now your Windows 10 computer will boot a lot faster.

From Mike Summers of Easy Duplicate Finder <Mike.Summers@easyduplicatefinder.com>

The Skill of our Janet Lancaster Acknowledged

The following comments were found in the Sunday, 12-20-2015 Modesto Bee by Jeff Jardine.

Jeff was researching information about a 1946 Modesto robbery and ran into a brick wall. ☺

“So I did what any enterprising columnist in Modesto would do: I emailed Janet Lancaster at the McHenry Museum. See, that dame can research like no other. (Just ask the ghost of Robert Henry Brewster, AKA Robert McHenry.) She remembered the crime even though she couldn't have been more than a very young girl when it happened. After all, Modesto was a small town, maybe 25,000 people here in 1946. Big cases like this one didn't happen often, or at all. So this was Modesto's Crime of the Century.

A day or so went by. Then the bell in the newsroom lobby rang. I looked up. Janet stood there with a package in her arms. She had it all – newspaper clippings about the crime and family background about the perpetrators. And it happened just before Christmas, not on Halloween. Turns out Meredith Crow's memory also blurred when it came to the ex-celldmate's name. It was an Army veteran, James “Buddy” Figueiredo, not Figueroa.”

Read more here: <http://www.modbee.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/jeff-jardine/article50697225.html#storylink=cpy>

Ancestor Night Reflections.

Submitted by: Sharon Hawley-Crum

On my way home from the November meeting I was thinking about what I had just experienced. I realized that, in addition to the stories, we actually had a mini lesson on conducting genealogical research. First and foremost we had examples of the importance of searching beyond the computer and locating information that may be found in localized museums, libraries, and historical societies. We may not always like what we find, but we do learn more about the lives of our ancestors. Doors were opened to those who attended family surname reunions where new family members were found and lasting connections were made possible. One member, gaining inspiration from GSSC membership, has started writing down family stories before these stories are lost. Another, using a newspaper website, learned about a sad time in her families past. We also gained an appreciation and value of family journals, diaries, and letters – it is here we can learn about the day-to-day lives of our ancestors. We were able to gain an appreciation of the emotional connections attached to family heirlooms. We had a glimpse into Scots clan culture and gained a deeper understanding of the origins of dress styles and purpose. And finally we heard about the simple value of sharing family pedigree charts with other group members and finding connections that were not obvious without these conversations. I was not disappointed with my favorite program topic – Ancestor Night – this program continues to show me the breadth and depth of the research skills and interests of our members, and their willingness to share their research journey with others. A big “thank you” to all who participated, and I'm already looking forward to next year's Ancestor Night!

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 12-21-2015

We have 162 members for 2015
We have 63 members for 2016



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

