



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

January 2024

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Presidents Message	1
January Program	1
Special Collections Room information.....	2
Join a Salt Lake City Trip Offer	2
GSSC Writing Group	3
November Meeting Photographs	3
Fran Jackson Passes	2
Offer to assist Scouts.....	4
Stanislaus County newspapers	4
Roots Tech 2024	5
Family Search Resources.....	6
Autosomal DNA	7

January Program

18 January 2024 7:00 P.M.

“There are more flavors of Lutheran than there are kinds of cheese”
presented by Heidi Arno



Now is the time to Renew Your GSSC Membership

Presidents Message

by Vicky Wolff

Happy New Year 2024! We had a lot going on in 2023 and I am looking forward to 2024. I hope this note finds you all healthy and happy as we start the new year. Many of our members had health issues this year including David Wolff, Lewis Ruddick, Bev Graham, Pam Atherstone and Maybelle Allen. All are improving or well now. We have had several deaths of members or their spouses. Please lift them up by keeping them all in your thoughts and prayers. At our January meeting we will have our annual reports for 2023 and our calendar of events for 2024. I am so looking forward to seeing you all once again at our January meeting. We need to keep looking for new members to join our Society. Think of friends and relatives to invite to our meetings and functions. Remember that we will still meet at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Telle Center, but not in the big room but in room #502. This will save us a lot of money on rent. 2024 will be full of opportunities to keep up with our work of finding our roots of family. Come join the fun filled year.

January Program

by Karen Souza

“There are more flavors of Lutheran than there are kinds of cheese”
presented by Heidi Arno

"There are more flavors of Lutheran than there are kinds of cheese" presentation for the International German Genealogy Society. Although the presentation includes a slide showing the 41 current Lutheran denominations operating in North America, and a double column list of defunct denominations/congregations, this is really the story of Lutherans and near Lutherans in my genealogy, a bit about Luther and how because of the reformation church records were needed; before that everyone was Catholic, so most church records start with the reformation, what my family's churches were named, the confirmation documents for my dad and his sister, his in German, hers in English, and photos of the churches the families attended, so a bit of architecture too. I have a power point This is about 40 minutes in length.



Our Special Collections Room at the Stanislaus County Library is LOADED with quality genealogical research materials.

You can research what we have there by downloading the Room's [INDEX](#)

Also Jackie could use some help – A great way to assist your genealogical society.

Genealogists never fade away; they just lose their roots.

Save The Date! Get Ready for 2024!

TCGS Salt Lake City Research Trip 2024

May 19, 2024 through May 26, 2024

Plan to Join Us Next Year!

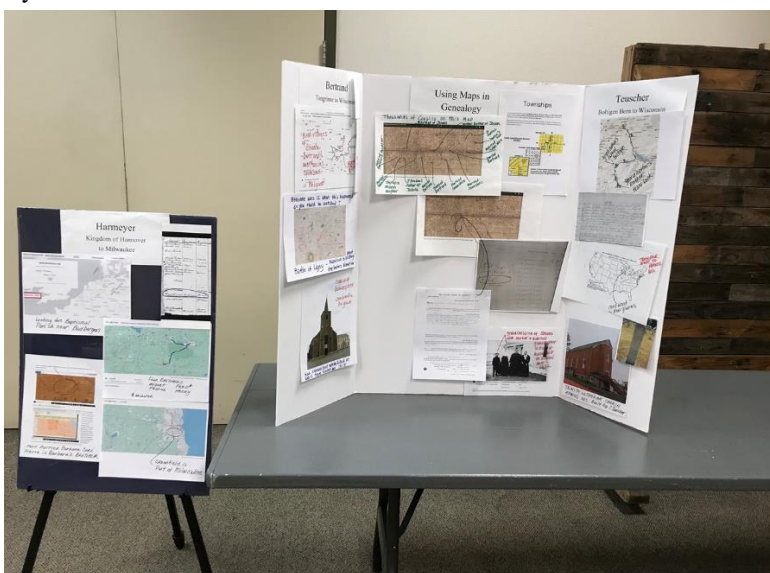
We have been invited to join the Tuolumne County Genealogical Society's 2024 Salt Lake City trip. If you are interested contact their Vice President, Sandy Turner at (209) 605-2891 or mamaturner@sbcglobal.net

GSSC Writing Group

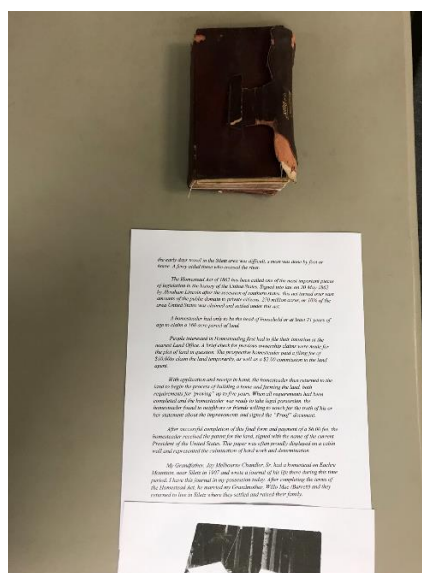
The Thursday, January 11, 2024 meeting of the writing group will be held at Joann MacDonald's. Please contact Joann to let her know you are attending. (209) 521-2140 or jmastergardner@aol.com

November Meeting Ancestor's Night Photographs

By Heidi Arno



A presentation display



Presentation Object



Another presentation display



Break snacks

Some family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts. Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking. – Author unknown

Fran Jackson Passes

Frances “Fran” Jackson, age 77, passed away on Friday, December 15, 2023. She was born September 26, 1946, to John and Margaret Schuster in Spokane, Washington. Fran grew up in Spokane attending Lincoln Grade School, and graduated from Lewis and Clark High School. She served in the Army for a short time. She took community college classes in early childhood education and food service, which was her main career path. Fran married Richard Jackson, a member of the Air Force. They lived in Tacoma, Washington, and Hawaii. During this time she worked as a childcare educator. Fran was raised Catholic but converted to Mormonism, Richard's religion. After 17 years they divorced. She moved to California where she met Tom Quayle at Modesto Junior College when they worked in the food service department. They became lifelong partners. They loved to travel in California to places such as Disneyland and Yosemite, and to Oregon and Washington to visit family. Together they were truly happy. Fran loved speaking to people, especially about Genealogy. It was her passion. She was a member of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County (GSSC) where she headed and taught a German genealogy research group for many years. She was involved in many events the Society hosted with the local LDS church during their Family History Events. She was also a member of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society as well as many genealogical societies across the United States where her ancestors were from. Fran was very social and certainly not shy. She was generous with her time and knowledge. Fran was strong-willed and stubborn at times. She had an enormous heart and a wonderful sense of humor. She loved to read. She was considered a stylish dresser. She is the eldest of four children and was her siblings' biggest cheerleader. She leaves behind her brother, John Schuster, her two sisters, Janet Schuster Brislawn (Michael), and Sue Schuster Aalykke (Steffen), and her nephew, Colin Brislawn. Tom Quayle, her loving partner, of 32 years, will miss her beyond words. Fran was predeceased by her parents, Margaret (Bleffen) Schuster and John Oscar Schuster. Although Fran faced many challenges throughout her life she never gave up her belief in God and the power of prayer. She faced life with happiness and a smile. Fran will be remembered for all the heart and love she shared with her family and friends.



Some family trees have more sap than others (and mine certainly has more than its fair share).

Offer to assist Scouts Achieve Genealogy Merit Badge

By Lewis M. Ruddick

As you have probably noted in the November issue of our newsletter, we have connected with BSA Troops 451 & 2451 and offered to assist any of their members achieve their genealogy merit badge. If you are interested in assisting in this most worthwhile program please contact Vicky Wolff and let her know. Their Scout Master is a long-time area veterinarian Dr. Doug Marks.

Looking for Stanislaus County newspapers?

There is a gold mine of them located at California State University, Stanislaus, Vasche Library

https://library.csustan.edu/specialcollections/historic_newspapers

A man's ancestry is a positive property to him. To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root. Every man is his own ancestor, and every man his own heir. He devises his own future, and he inherits his own past.



You may attend on – line

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/>

Irish Famine Migration to New Brunswick

20 Dec 2023 6:27 PMAnonymous Copied with permission <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13293267>

Those attempting to track down their Irish ancestors' port of entry shouldn't forget about New Brunswick, which lies closer to Ireland than Boston or New York. Irish Famine Migration to New Brunswick from the Provincial Archives has 23,318 records of Irish arrivals between 1845 and 1852. If your ancestors emigrated at an earlier date, check Port Returns [including Passenger Lists], 1816-1838: 10,412 indexed records of arrivals with digitized images of the passenger manifests.

Take a look at: <http://archives.gnb.ca/APPS/PrivRecs/IrishFamine/?L=EN>

UK's Ministry of Justice Plans To Digitize Then Destroy 100 Million Historical Wills

22 Dec 2023 8:16 AMAnonymous Copied with permission <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13293716>

"The Ministry of Justice is consulting on digitizing and then throwing away about 100 million paper originals of the last wills and testaments of British people dating back more than 150 years in an effort to save 4.5 million pounds a year," reports Robert Booth via The Guardian. Leading historians are calling these plans "sheer vandalism" and "insane." From the report:

Ministers believe digitisation will speed up access to the papers, but the proposal has provoked a backlash among historians and archivists who took to X to decry it as "bananas" and "a seriously bad idea." The government is proposing to keep the originals of some wills of "famous people" -- likely including those of Charles Darwin, Charles Dickens and Diana, Princess of Wales -- but others would be destroyed after 25 years and only a digital copy would be kept. It is feared that wills of ordinary people, some of whom may become historically significant in the future, risk being lost.

Wills are considered essential documents, particularly for social historians and genealogists, as they capture what people considered important at the time and reveal unknown family links. The proposal comes amid growing concern at the fragility of digital archives, after a cyber-attack on the British Library left the online catalogue and digitized documents unavailable to users since late October.

"We are advocates of digitization but not at the cost of destroying originals," says Natalie Pithers, interim co-chief executive of the Society of Genealogists. "In any digitization projects mistakes get made. We don't know what further information could be gained in the future from the original documents. There could be somebody in there who did something extraordinary."

New Free Historical Records on FamilySearch 26 November 2023

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/new-records-26-november-2023>

FamilySearch expanded its free online archives in the week of 26 November with over 4 million new indexed family history records from all over the world. Over 1 million records each were added from the Czech Republic and Colombia with record expansions in the thousands from Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Ireland, Peru, Puerto Rico, and the United States. Click on the links below to search these new records.

Don't see what you're looking for this week? Millions of new genealogy records are added each week to make connecting family relationships easier. While you are waiting for record expansions for countries of interest, explore 16 billion images of historical records that you can conveniently view by location in manageable batches. They are not indexed yet, but you can still search them using the powerful Explore Historical Images feature.

Check back next week and, in the meantime, search existing records on FamilySearch. For other exciting genealogy content, peruse over 1,500 free, on-demand sessions from RootsTech 2023.

Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2820100>

Catholic church parish registers from Ireland, containing baptism, marriages, and deaths that took place in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1740-1900. Records may include: name, parents, spouse, father's occupation, residence, date of birth, date of marriage, burial date, and much more depending on the record type. This collection also contains a small amount of confirmations, dispensations, and funeral records. The content varies by location and date. The original records are held at the National Library of Ireland.

www.familysearch.org - Homepage of the Family History Library (LDS). This site offers search lists of millions of transcribed records from around the world and of submitted family trees, as well as indexes to the US 1880 census and the 1881 census of the UK and Canada. The site also offers a catalogue of millions of available microfilms and much, much more. The site may ask you to sign in with a user name and password.

Happy New Year 2024

Now is the time to Renew Your GSSC Membership

See www.stanislausgenealogy.org for your 2024 Membership application form.

He who has no fools, knaves, or beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightning. –

Autosomal DNA (atDNA)**FamilyFinder**

Autosomal DNA is DNA from one of our chromosomes located in the cell nucleus. It generally excludes the sex chromosomes.

Humans have 22 pairs of autosomal chromosomes and a pair of sex chromosomes.

Source: “autosome”. Oxford Dictionaries. April 2010. Oxford Dictionaries. April 2010. Oxford University Press. 09 February 2013
<http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/autosome?q=autosome>

Autosomal DNA

Autosomal DNA is your 22 pairs of non-sex chromosomes. Everyone (both biological males and females) inherits a random mix of autosomal DNA from both of your parents (about 50% from your mother and about 50% from your father), and each of your parents inherited their autosomal DNA from both of their parents and so forth. Because autosomal DNA is a mixture of your mother’s and father’s DNA, it is unique to each person and both biological males and females can take this test.

Since autosomal DNA is a random recombination of both parents' autosomal DNA, full siblings will have a different admixture. An analogy would be to say that each parent is a deck of cards. The two decks are shuffled and half of the resulting mixture is taken. One sibling may have more “spades” in their deck while another may have more “clubs.” While each individual has unique DNA, siblings share the same parent “decks,” so we can use the similarities to trace ancestry.

With each generation, the decks are reshuffled, so the “cards” from any given ancestor become fewer and fewer. Thus, the autosomal DNA admixture for any given individual roughly comprises the DNA of all of their ancestors within five generations. This is an estimate, however, as some “cards” may survive many shuffles, while others get “shuffled out” rather quickly.

This is different from our mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and Y-chromosome DNA (Y-DNA), which is inherited exclusively through direct maternal or paternal lines, respectively.

Because of the random nature of autosomal DNA inheritance, it is impossible to tell which portions of your DNA came from your mother or your father. However, by comparing your autosomal DNA to that of your known relatives, you can compare results to determine which portions of your DNA come from which ancestral line.

Our Autosomal DNA Test (Family Finder™)

Our autosomal DNA test is known as Family Finder. This test provides you with a breakdown of your ethnic makeup and is designed to help you find relatives on either of side your ancestral lines within the last five generations. If you are trying to confirm a relationship with someone who is a third cousin or closer, the Family Finder test is recommended.

Based on the amount of autosomal DNA shared between two individuals, we’re able to determine when those individuals should have shared a common ancestor. However, different amounts of shared autosomal DNA can indicate many different shared relationships, and the random recombination factor can make individuals appear more closely or more distantly related than they are. Typically, this test can be used to find relatives that share a common ancestor within about five generations.

The Family Finder test is designed to trace all of your ancestral lines (5 generations and beyond) using your autosomal DNA. It will confidently identify relationships for five generations. Family Finder tests thousands of data points on your 22 autosomal chromosomes. Your results are then compared to others in the Family Finder database. The Family Finder software detects linked blocks (segments) of DNA that indicate a common ancestor. The number and size of these segments is used to determine how recently any two people are related.

The strengths of the Family Finder test are that it may be used with equal success by both men and women and its ability to find connections on any of your family lines. The challenge is determining which branch of your family tree

you share with your cousin. This can be accomplished with traditional genealogical records and by utilizing other types of DNA tests.

Tracing Your Ancestral Lines

The Family Finder test traces all of your ancestral lines. This is different from our mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and Y-chromosome DNA (Y-DNA) tests, which exclusively test the direct maternal and paternal lines, respectively.

Autosomal DNA is the mixture of DNA you received from both parents (about 50% from your mother and about 50% from your father). Because autosomal DNA is a mixture of your mother's and father's DNA, it is unique to each person.

Please note that this test cannot distinguish between matches from your mother's side versus your father's side. However, by testing more relatives, you will be able to compare their results to your own to determine which portions of your DNA come from which ancestral line.

Is the Family Finder™ test medical?

No. The Family Finder test is for ancestry and genealogy only

Because the field of genetics is dynamic and constantly evolving with consistent research being done around the entire genome or parts of it, there is no assurance that the raw data of any tests of any kind may reveal information from which a qualified person may extract health-related information.

We do not share your results other than for the purposes to which you have consented or to which you may consent. Additionally, in 2008, [GINA \(Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act\)](#) was passed in the United States. The GINA Act stops insurance firms from using DNA test results to deny coverage. All of your raw data and information are held behind your sign in pages at FamilyTreeDNA.

Family Finder™ Tools & Features

You will receive the following tools and features with the Family Finder test.

Family Finder Matches

Family Finder matches (your autosomal DNA relatives) are other individuals in our database who have also taken the Family Finder test and who are found to share a common ancestor from ANY of your ancestral lines within the past five generations through autosomal DNA comparison. The names and emails of your matches, an estimate of how closely related they are to you, and any genealogical information they have uploaded are provided to you in order to collaborate on genealogy and get past genealogical brick walls.

Based on our proprietary algorithm, which calculates the amount of autosomal DNA shared (both the longest segment of shared autosomal DNA and the number of centimorgans (cMs)) between you and each person, we find and report to you other testers who share a common ancestor with you within about five generations on either side of your family.

In order to be a match:

- If the total shared cMs is less than 20, at least one shared segment of autosomal DNA must be at least 9 cMs.
- If the longest segment of shared DNA is greater than 9 cM, the match will show regardless of total shared cMs or the number of matching segments.

Please remember that the random recombination factor can make individuals appear more closely or more distantly related to you than they actually are. This can also cause certain distant relatives to not match at all if they do not meet the shared DNA thresholds for matching.

Matching is Optional

Viewing your matches and sharing your information with matches is optional. You can opt in and out of matching at any time.

Family Matching Feature

While this test itself cannot distinguish which relatives are from your maternal side or paternal side, we offer a Family Matching feature. Once you have linked a matching relative on your Family Tree, relatives within a certain threshold will be bucketed into maternal and/or paternal categories.

myOrigins®

myOrigins® gives you a breakdown of your ethnic makeup by percent. myOrigins® compares your DNA to reference populations around the world that have been tested through scientific research. Your myOrigins® results can go back in time much further than your matches.

Important: While the Family Finder test provides a list of ethnic percentages and genetic matches, this test does not distinguish between maternal and paternal ethnicities or matches.

ancientOrigins

ancientOrigins is a feature that compares your autosomal DNA to DNA found at archaeological dig sites throughout the European continent.

With the inclusion of ancient artifacts found at each dig site, ancientOrigins provides a percentile breakdown of your DNA's relation to the three major groups of people associated with ancient migrations on the European continent.

Chromosome Browser

The Chromosome Browser tool allows you to view and compare the DNA segments, across your 22 autosomal chromosome pairs and X chromosome, that you share with your Family Finder matches (autosomal DNA relatives).

Chromosome Painter

The Chromosome Painter uses color visuals to show you which segments of your autosomal DNA come from your myOrigins® Continental Regions and Super Populations and allows you to break down your origins across your 22 autosomal chromosome pairs.

Family Finder Matrix

The Family Finder Matrix allows you to select up to 10 of your matches and compare them to each other to see if they have an autosomal genetic relationship between each other.

Download Your Family Finder Raw Data

With the Family Finder test, you have the ability to download a data file that lists your autosomal DNA results code for each of the thousands of locations tested.

Autosomal DNA Transfers

If you or a family member have previously tested your autosomal DNA at AncestryDNA™ or MyHeritage™, you can transfer your results to FamilyTreeDNA by uploading your raw data file. After transferring your file, your autosomal data is uploaded to our database, one of the world's largest genetic genealogy databases.

When you transfer, for free, you will receive a list of your autosomal matches from our database and have access to our [Family Finder™ Matrix](#). The Matrix feature allows you to select and compare the autosomal DNA relationship between up to ten of your matches at one time.

Note: [Family Finder](#) is the name of our autosomal DNA test.

After transferring, you can unlock all Family Finder features, which include the Chromosome Browser, myOrigins®, and ancientOrigins for only \$19.

Please note that you can only transfer the following files and file versions:

- AncestryDNA™ array V1
- AncestryDNA™ array V2
- MyHeritage™ results received after March 1, 2019.

Unfortunately, at this time, you *cannot* transfer the following files:

- AncestryDNA™ NGS
- 23andMe©

Note: Until further notice, FamilyTreeDNA is not accepting 23andMe© autosomal transfers.

For more information, [click here to see the Autosomal DNA Transfers Guide](#).

AncestryDNA® test

What to expect from your AncestryDNA® test results

Waiting for your DNA results to arrive can be exciting, as you imagine all of the new things you might learn about your past and your extended family. If you're not sure what to expect, here is a quick run-down on several of the features you can look forward to.

Learn what your DNA ethnicity estimate can reveal.

We search your DNA for clues where your ancestors came from centuries ago. People with deep ancestral roots in a region often have similar DNA that can be used to help identify that group. We've spent years assembling and analyzing a huge database of DNA samples from around the world to build a ["reference panel"](#) of DNA profiles based on those identifiers.

When we analyze your sample in our lab, we look at hundreds of thousands of positions, or markers, in your DNA to find those identifiers. Based on which ones we find, we can tell you around how much of your DNA comes from those different groups and regions around the world. Are you Native American? Scandinavian? North African? Chances are, your DNA can tell you. It's a new way of looking at your past that often holds a few surprises.

Tracking the migration paths of your ancestors.

Once we have identified groups that your family belonged to, we might also be able to tell you how they might have moved from one place to another over the centuries. Perhaps they sailed across the Atlantic as part of a wave of migrations to the New World. Or maybe they stayed in the Old World, settling in new locations as history unfolded around them.

By combining our patented DNA science with deep historical knowledge, an AncestryDNA® test delivers a unique and compelling way to visualize your family's past, with interactive maps and historical context to help tell the story. It may support the narrative you think you know or provide you with new directions to take your research.

Finding new cousins with DNA matches.

With more members than any other DNA test—over 18 million and counting—chances are good that you're not the only one in your family using AncestryDNA®. Our advanced science allows us to compare your DNA test results to other AncestryDNA® members to find family connections, from immediate relatives to distant [cousins](#).

Better yet, if you and your match have [family trees](#) on Ancestry, we might be able to tell you exactly how you're related by tracking down your shared ancestors. You can even reach out and connect with your DNA matches, whether it's to collaborate on research or invite them to your next family reunion.

Uncovering your genetic traits.

It's no secret that your DNA helps to determine what you look like, from the color of your eyes to the shape of your earlobes. But there are other personal [traits](#) hidden in your genes that may surprise you. Are you genetically predisposed to have detached earlobes? Do your eyes dazzle with especially intricate irises? Have your ancestors bequeathed you an unshakeable aversion to cilantro?

Our new traits experience goes beyond your ethnicity to show you what runs in your family and how it affects you, inside and out. Surveys, interactive content, and scientific insights give you a unique look at how your DNA helps to shape who you are.

A fantastic way to learn more about you.

Whether [AncestryDNA®](#) is your first step exploring your past or a new, exciting addition to your existing research, it always reveals something compelling. It can tell you who your distant ancestors were as well as who your family is today. And no matter where it leads, it's a story you've always carried with you.

<https://www.ancestry.com/>

Membership Information Dues: Single membership, \$25.00 per year Family membership, \$35.00 per year
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 Email: gssc-founded1968@gmail.com
 Telephone: 209-422-3653 (Joyce Hickman)

GSSC web page: <http://stanislausgenealogy.org/>
 The newsletter is posted at this website, along with other interesting society-related items.

General meeting: 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd **Thursday** of each month, except July and December at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Telle Center, at 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto, CA.

Board meeting: 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month Ridgeway's Restaurant, 2401 E Orangeburg Ave, Modesto, CA

2023 Officers		2023 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Vicky Wolff	Acquisitions:	Vacant
1st Vice President	Karen Souza	Audit:	Board of Directors
2nd Vice President	Jackie Niemeyer	Budget:	Roxie Ferrari
Secretary	Pam Atherstone	Historian	Heidi Arno
Treasurer	Roxie Ferrari	Membership	Joyce Hickman
Director at Large 1	Joyce Hickman	Newsletter & Webpage	Lewis & Logan Ruddick
Director at Large 2	Amy Mowery	Publicity	Vicky Wolff
Director at Large 3	Joann McDonald	Queries	Colleen Norby
Director at Large 4	Martha Carter Bhatti	Registrar	Marge Scheuber
Director at Large 5	Julie Condryn	Seminar:	Vacant
Past President	David Wolff	Research Trips	Heidi Arno
		Mentor	Joann McDonald
		Resources	Vicky Wolff
		Acquisitions:	Vacant
		Special Collections & Workshops	Jackie Niemeyer
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Sunshine	Martha Carter Bhatti

Updated 10-16-23.

We have 40 members for 2024

[website GSSC](http://stanislausgenealogy.org/)



Genealogical Society of
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