



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

November 2024

Volume 46 Number 10

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November Program

21 Nov 24 7:00 PM Ancestors Night: Assorted presentations highlighting memories of our members' ancestors. Genuine Americana!

Presidents Message
by Vicky Wolff

Wow! It is already Turkey time! Time has really flown by this year. Now is the time of year where we nominate and elect new officers for the coming year. Our Installation of officers will take place at the November meeting. I hope when you received a phone call from the nominating committee you answered the call to serve for 2025 and I thank all of you who did! Ancestors night will be held at the November meeting, as well as installation of new officers for 2025. This will be a great night to see what our members have brought to share with us and tell about the items they brought to share. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the November meeting as this will be our last meeting until the new year in January. Remember in December there is no Board Meeting or General Meeting. Happy Holidays to everyone and I am wishing you fun times with family and friends and good health to all of you! Remember to get your covid, flu and RSV shots!!! Always, Vicky

November Program

by Karen Souza

Ancestors Night: Our annual program of assorted presentations highlighting memories of our members' ancestors. Genuine Americana!

Photos from our October Meeting

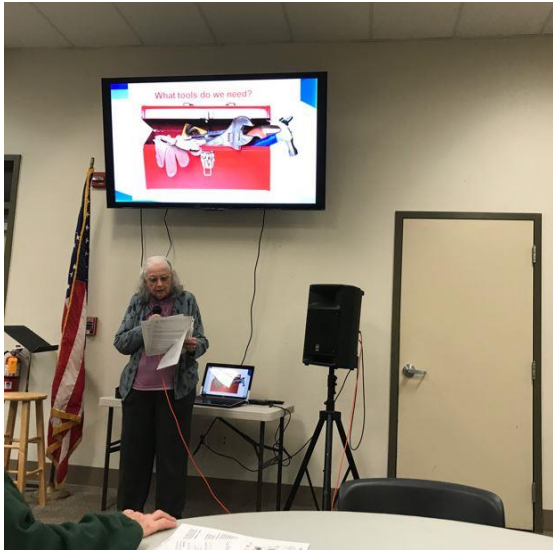
by Heidi Arno



Our Presenter

His Tools

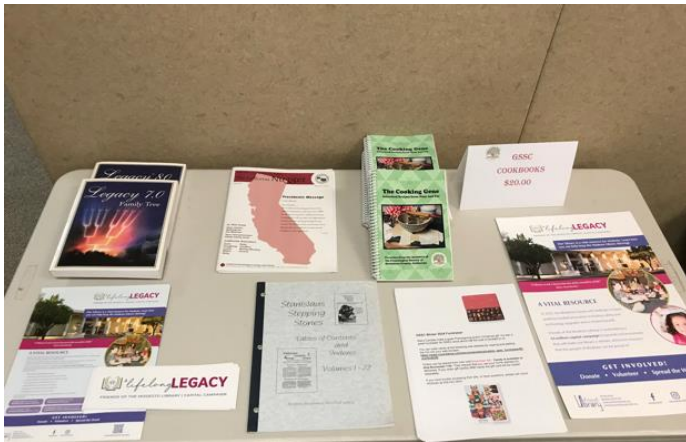




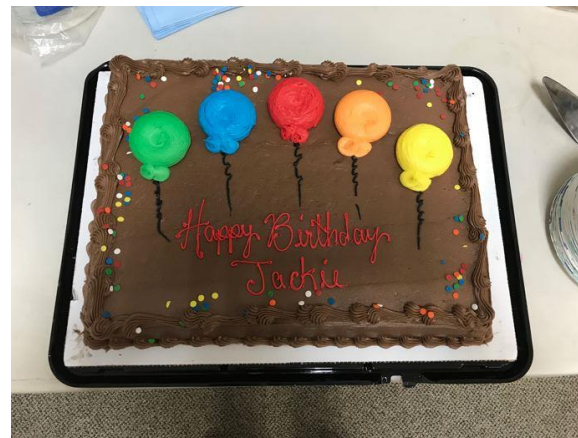
Pam Atherstone presenting minutes



Attendees



Handouts or available publication



Our break treat – Jackie's Birthday cake

Photos from the International Festival by Amy Mowery





Good Bye to a Great Former Member

Janet Lancaster Obituary

Janet Lancaster

September 27, 2024

Modesto, California - Janet Lancaster, a long-time teacher in Modesto, died in late September, 2024. She was 89. She taught most of her career at El Vista Elementary, but also taught at Wilson Elementary and Robertson Road Elementary. After she retired, she volunteered at The Great Valley Museum (the old site), The McHenry Museum, and the main branch of the Stanislaus County Library. She chose not to have a memorial service, but will be sorely missed.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Published by Modesto Bee from Oct. 2 to Oct. 6, 2024.

Rest in Peace Janet, you were exceptional!

Our Research Room at the Main Library in Modesto to close soon!

Jackie Niemeyer could still use some help. A great way to assist your genealogical society and grow your genealogical research. Contact her and ask how? The Main Library is expected to close at the end of the year for their remodel. See the attached Friends of the Library report.

Jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net <https://modestolibraryfriends.org/>

GSSC Writing Group

by Joann MacDonald

14 November 2024 at her home. And the final meeting of this year will be 12 December 2024. Please contact Joann if you intend to attend. The group has a great deal of experience writing about genealogy and can assist you. New members are always welcome. Never written before, no matter, they are here to assist.

(209) 521-2140 or jmastergardner@aol.com

For the Consideration of the Membership

The following members have been nominated by your selection committee as officers of the Society for the 2025 term.

Nominated 2025 GSSC Officers and Directors:

President Karen Souza

1st Vice President Amy Mowery

2nd Vice President Joyce Hickman

Recording Secretary Pamela Atherstone

Treasurer Roxanne Ferrari

Director at Large Jackie Niemeyer

Director at Large Lauren Hastings

Director at Large Linda Turley

Director at Large Martha Carter-Bhath

Director at Large Joann MacDonald

Your GSSC has been Working for You

Next up is a workshop at the Ceres Library Saturday, November 2, 1 pm



Free Beginning Genealogy Class





Saturday, Nov. 2 at 1 pm · Ceres Library

Presented by the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County, in partnership with the Ceres Library

Learn how to get started tracing your family history and
get the basic forms to keep your findings organized.
Members of the genealogical society will be available for help.

Sign up by scanning the QR code below or visit stanlibrary.org

Ceres Library
2250 Magnolia • 209-537-8938
www.stanlibrary.org



www.stanlibrary.org stanislausgenealogy.org

Friends of the Library report

by Anne Britton



Click the following to receive the detailed current information on the pending library closure:

https://stanislausgenealogy.org/temp.Modesto_Library_Closed/Library_Closure_Notice.pdf

Support the Friends of the Modesto Library

<https://modestolibraryfriends.org/legacy/>

Modesto Library to Close for Major Renovations – Including Special Collections!

The Modesto Library will close to the public for an estimated 20 months with November 27 the last day open to the public. The Special Collections Room will not be accessible again until reopening in summer of 2026. Modesto Librarian Christopher Moreno stated that the collection will be secured to a safe location during the construction, but the books will not be available for use.

The building changes needed to wiring, lighting, heating/cooling and elevators are among the upgrades that will be done, along with asbestos removal required before those systems can be safely accessed. Some areas of the library will also be brought up to ADA standards, including bathrooms and the old Children's Story Hour Room with its wickedly steep steps/seating.

In addition to public funding for the changes, Friends of the Modesto Library's Lifelong Legacy Campaign is raising \$3Million to enhance technology, furnishings and equipment not covered by the approximately \$18Million county, library and grant funding. Here are some of these enhancements planned:

- Reimagined Early Childhood Room (using the story hour space)
 - Comfortable, durable furnishings for the main floor
 - Inviting, durable furnishings for the Children's Library
 - Tech upgrades for public meeting rooms
 - Quiet Reading Room furniture and fixtures
 - Upgrades to the McHenry Room auditorium
 - Art gallery to display work of local artists
- ... and other enhancements.

Personally, as a 20+ year volunteer in the building, I'm looking forward to elevators that work all the time, and HVAC system that can be better regulated, and quality zoom meeting capability throughout the "quiet" spaces. (Note the "Tech upgrades" under the Legacy Campaign for that one.)

Donations are still needed to reach the Legacy campaign final goal. Anyone interested in making a contribution, no matter the size, please find more information at www.modestolibraryfriends.org/legacy

Thank you in advance for making our Modesto Library the best it can be!

Anne Britton

Toolbox for the Modern 2024 Genealogist

Presented by James Baker, jimb@starstream.net

Genealogy Tools – Categories:

- Hardware
- Software
- Big Genealogy Search Engines
- Specialty Online Sites
- Specialty Offline Data
- The “Data Finding” Sites
- DNA Results
- Genealogy Learning Tools

The genealogy world has had sweeping changes in the past few years, with new sites, new data collections, new helpful features and apps, and the whole new world of DNA.

1. Hardware – a Desktop Computer and a Printer/Scanner

- A desktop computer is the preferred option because there are so many times you need to view data on a large screen, certainly larger than an I—Phone or a tablet
- Use an I-Phone as a secondary option –but transfer your data to your desktop computer
- Paper records can now be minimal because a scanner can copy those paper records
- Either a PC or MAC will work for you

2. Software –

- You will need a specialized genealogy software program to build and maintain your family tree – any of the major brands will work, such as Roots Magic, Family Tree Maker, or Legacy
- You can probably put your entire family tree into a single file – I have over 30,000 people in mine Some people prefer to have separate trees for their maternal and paternal sides.
- You can use your software to use a GEDCOM file to copy your tree on to the major search engine sites such as Ancestry and Family Search.
- You will probably want to keep the tree on your own computer as your “official and accurate” file. Other people can make changes to some of the posted trees, so if your tree is only on a site such as Family Search it may get changed without your knowledge or approval.
- BE SURE TO BACK UP YOUR FAMILY TREE DATA REGULARLY, BECAUSE IT IS LIKELY THAT YOU WILL SOME DAY HAVE A COMPUTER CRASH.
- Use your scanner to attach photos and documents to people in your tree.
- Use Word files to keep notes on your ongoing research so you will have an easy to find record of your research activities.
- Use Word files to keep track of your DNA results.

3. The Big Genealogy Search Engines

- Ancestry, Family Search, My Heritage, Find My Past, and Google.
- Family Search is the large free site owned by the LDS Church. It has the largest microfilm collection (now digitized) in the world consisting of many data collections.
- It is useful for you to copy your family tree on Family Search, because Family Search might add further data that they have that links to your own data.
- This new data may be useful; however, you will want to double-check to see that it links correctly. Be sure the new data is well sourced and accurate.

- Banyan Tree example. Our tree will have many branches going upward, that is, from one ancestor to the next ancestor, and so on. The tree will likewise have many, many more relatives going downward, that is, the children of certain ancestors – and then their children – and their children. Family Search can be a huge asset in finding those “new” downward relatives.
- Following on in the example of the ancestor with 14 children, Family Search can help us find hundreds of those downward relatives.
- Family Search has many data collections that can be accessed: BMD data; property records; etc. An I-Phone can be used for these functions.
- Defining an ancestral location is important because useful records may likely be found in that location. Use the Family Search catalog to find data for specific towns and counties.
- Ancestry is the biggest and most used genealogy site. Plan to make a lot of use of it. Ancestry has many data collections. Some time ago, Ancestry made a deal with Family Search to be able to have access to all of Family Search’s data.
- Ancestry is user-friendly, has easy access to US census data and immigration data. When focusing on an individual, the Public Trees are often useful. Typically, Ancestry will have many more entries for a given individual than Family Search.
- Using Ancestry in conjunction with Family Search is a great combo.
- My Heritage is the 3rd largest genealogy search engine. It has huge data collections, has a strong international flavor, is user-friendly, and is growing rapidly. It may have data not found on either Ancestry or Family Search.
- Find My Past is the 4th largest genealogy search engine, and is especially useful for British people.
- Google is useful not only as a general purpose search engine but a genealogy search engine. Many people post genealogy data on the internet but not on the 4 big genealogy sites. Google can find these postings, which are much larger in number than those found on the Big 4 sites.
- Google also has a number of apps that are useful for genealogy. Google also has an Advanced Search capability that works well with genealogy research.

4. Specialty Online Data Sites and Collections

- Many genealogy sites are focused on a single topic. These sites run the gamut in their topical coverage. Topics covered by specific sites include: newspapers; books; different regions, or different time periods.
- The many Family Search centers have access to 17 of these sites for free through its “portal.”
- Examples of the specialty sites include: Ellis Island; Myersgaz.com; Library of Congress; Kartenmeister; Find a Grave; and American Ancestors.
- Gina Philibert-Ortega has given a presentation on Legacy Webinars where she lists 50 useful genealogy sites.
- You may find some specific sites that are pertinent for your particular research, such as certain regional sites.

5. Offline Genealogy Data

- Even though the internet has a ton of genealogy data, there is still a huge supply of data that is not yet available on the internet.
- Examples include: historic newspapers; books; military pension data; probate and will data.
- Government data has traditionally been slower to get digitized.
- You can find good offline data at some of the larger genealogy libraries, such as the SLC FHL, at the San Francisco Sutro library, and at Government locations; and at on-site data locations.

6. Genealogy “Data Finding” Sites

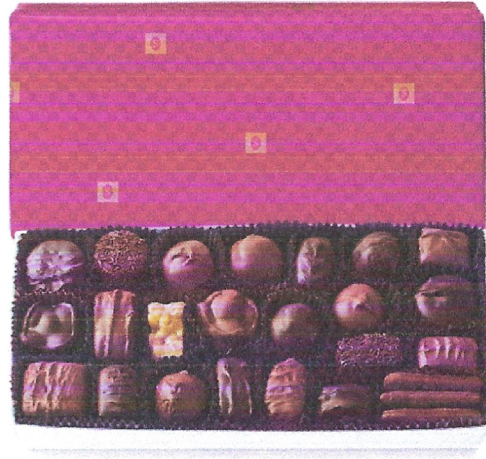
- Family Search Wiki, Linkpendium, Cyndi’s List, Google.
- The Family Search Wiki family has over 96,000 articles on almost every topic imaginable. It is like an online encyclopedia that lists every possible genealogy topic and then tells what data is available to research that topic.
- Linkpendium is a bit more restricted in its scope. It groups its data by US states and counties – and also surnames. It may find slightly different groups of data than the Family Search Wiki.
- Cyndi’s List is a comprehensive list of virtually all genealogy sites grouped into different categories. If you are looking for data for a given county, these three sites should give you what you need.
- As we discussed when we were talking about the Big Genealogy search engines, Google has a special place because it may find genealogy postings that none of the other sites would even know about.

7. DNA Data

- DNA is the newcomer to this list of tools. As recently as 10 years ago, Ancestry didn’t even offer the DNA test; as recently as 5 years ago, DNA was still small potatoes. But not so today.
- Over 30 million people have taken DNA tests, and there are enough DNA results for so many people that DNA analysis has become an important part of genealogy research.
- Numerous people have found key genealogy data. Some adopted people have found their kin. Some people have found new close relatives.
- In my case, I have been able to confirm the validity of my paper tree, but more important I have found enough solid DNA results to extend my tree for several different sub-family groups. Also, I found one major Non-Parental Event that changed my biological analyses.
- To be successful with DNA results, first take the Ancestry test because they have by far the largest database; then transfer your results for free to the other major sites, My Heritage, FTDNA, and GEDMATCH. With some effort, you should be able to break down some brick walls.
- The deeper your paper tree is, the better chance you will have of getting good DNA results.

8. Genealogy Learning Tools

- Beginners can benefit from some “one-on-one” instruction from a friend or from a volunteer at a Family Search center or at a local genealogy society.
- “Learn by doing” is an important principle, and applies here.
- We are now living in a rapidly changing genealogy world, with new sites, new features and apps, and especially significant changes in the DNA world. We need to keep abreast of those happenings.
- To stay current, it is useful to pay attention to some genealogy blogs, classes, or webinars.
- For Webinars, Legacy Family Tree is the gold standard. They have the best and most webinars, over 1,800 covering a wide range of topics. Roots Tech is also a major webinar group, adding over 200 each year. Family Search and the BYU Family Search center each have a lot of webinars, and all are free. You Tube, owned by Google, has over 500 webinars.



GSSC Winter 2024 Fundraiser

See's Candies make a great Thanksgiving and/or Christmas gift. It's also a great fundraiser for GSSC since about half the cost is donated to us.

You can order candy at the following web address by copying and pasting the link into your web browser:

https://www.yumraising.com/secure/genealogicalsos_gssc_fundraiser50/JoyHic6035/

Orders can be placed from now until **December 6th**. Candy is available to **ship November 11th**. They request that you use your home address for deliveries. If you order gift card(s) AND candy the gift card will be mailed separately.

If you have trouble accessing their site, or have questions, please call Joyce Hickman at 209-422-3653.



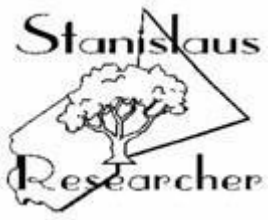
Membership Information Dues:	Single membership, \$25.00 per year Family membership, \$35.00 per year
Address changes:	Send address, email and phone number changes to Joyce Hickman at: GSSC, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95353-1352 Email: gssc-founded1968@gmail.com Telephone: 209-422-3653 (Joyce Hickman)
GSSC web page and newsletter:	Stanislaus Researcher Published 10 times per year by Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95353-1352. Delivered via email. Submit articles for publication to the editor via email: lrুদ্ধick@ix.netcom.com by the 15th of each month. The newsletter is posted at this website http://stanislausgenealogy.org 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

2024 Officers		2024 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	Judy Byrne
Treasurer	Roxie Ferrari	Membership	Joyce Hickman
Director at Large 1	Joyce Hickman	Newsletter & Webpage	Lewis & Logan Ruddick
Director at Large 2	Amy Mowery	Publicity	Tom Byrne
Director at Large 3	Joann McDonald	Queries	Colleen Norby
Director at Large 4	Martha Carter Bhatti	Registrar	Marge Scheuber
Director at Large 5	Marge Scheuber	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

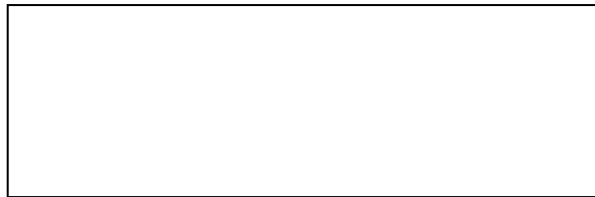
Updated October 21, 2024.

We have 63 members for 2024

[website GSSC](http://www.gssc.org)



Genealogical Society of
Stanislaus County
P O Box 1352
Modesto, CA 95353-1352



REMEMBER VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11TH

