

STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

August 2006

August Meeting

Our August meeting will be presented by our own Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County President Millie Starr. She will be discussing what can be found while searching at the National Archives. The Pacific Sierra Branch of the National Archives in San Bruno has a tremendous amount of microfilm with great genealogical information. This presentation will briefly cover census and the more readily available Military indexes, but will also focus on records not otherwise accessible such as Native American Records, Court Martial Proceedings, California Records, Colonial, Supreme Court Records and much, much more.

So be sure and mark your calendars and join us August 15th

June Meeting

Eileen Kerr gave a great program about women on the migration trails. She started with an overview of the reason people decided to leave their homes and move. She went into the duties women had before the move and then into what they had to do once they were on the trail. They did many of the same things they did at home while the men did little of the same things.

DRAWING at the OCTOBER WORKSHOP

Will you be the lucky winner??? We are having a drawing at the October 4, 2006 workshop.

The prize is a leather document preservation case. Inside there are acid free-archival protector sheets. (These are perfect for your larger documents). This leather case is supposed to be specifically for newspapers (yes, it's that big), however, you can decide which of your documents you will want to preserve in it. Engraved in gold on brown leather, it is really historic looking. What a find!!

The leather case will be at the next meeting so you can see exactly what it is like. There are NO raffle tickets for this drawing. Your name will be entered in the drawing when you sign up for the workshop!! Just think!! You can LEARN something and WIN something and really BE something....all at the fall workshop!!!

CALENDAR

August

Board Meeting	August 14
General Meeting	August 15
Arkansas Study Group	August 14
Writing Group	August 17

September

Board Meeting	Sept 11
General Meeting	Sept 19
Arkansas Study Group	Sept 11
Writing Group	Sept 21

Fall Workshop

Our fall workshop is scheduled for October 4th. Please mark your calendar! You wouldn't want to miss this great 'new' and 'improved' workshop. We are planning on having new topics and new searching techniques for our classes.

Have you ever wondered how to save your documents and photos? Do you ever wonder why you can't find information on the internet? Do you feel you are stuck in neutral when everyone else is driving ahead? Do you want more places to search?

Answers to these questions will be available at the October workshop.

Mark your calendar!!

"GSSC EXPRESS" ON THE ROAD AGAIN IN OCTOBER

Hope everyone has had a great summer and are now ready to get back to doing the fun work of researching your family tree. October will be here before you know it and it will be time for our annual trip to the National Archives in San Bruno and the Sutro Library in San Francisco on Thursday October 26. The cost is \$30 (that is less than a tank of gas).

We leave from the Geneva Presbyterian Church at 7:30 AM and return about 7:00PM.

Bev Johnson has agreed to be your GSSC Express Hostess for this trip as Ellen will still be in China the day the bus rolls out. Don't wait until the last minute to sign up so mark your calendars!

Utilizing the DAR Message Board

The goal of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) is to promote patriotism, historic preservation, and education. Its headquarters are located in Washington, DC and occupies an entire city block near the White House. It is the largest group of buildings owned and maintained exclusively by women. More than 836,000 women have joined the DAR since it was founded in 1890. With 168,000 members in 3,000 chapters in all 50 states and District of Columbia, it also has international chapters in Australia, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and United Kingdom.

Membership in the DAR honors and preserves the legacy of patriot ancestors. It is an opportunity to establish one's lineage and heritage as a descendant of a patriot of the American Revolution. The "DAR Patriot Index" records contain names of patriots (men and women) whose service from 1775-1783 has been proven for DAR membership.

Would you like to know if your ancestor is listed with the NSDAR? A helpful group of organized DAR Volunteer Information Specialists (VIS) monitor the RootsWeb DAR Message Board every day and welcome lookup requests. They use the most current records as the previously published books are no longer up to date. They may be able to offer suggestions about where you might look for additional data.

Include your Revolutionary War-era ancestor's first and last name, spouse's name (if known), dates of birth, death, and state of residence when posting your lookup request. You need not be interested in joining the NSDAR to request a lookup.

<http://boards.ancestry.com/mbexec?htx=board&r=rw&p=topics.organizations.dar>

Back to School and Genealogy!

Remember that New Years resolution you made to organize your genealogy notes, letters, letters, e-mails, computer print outs, etc. Now is the time to buy the supplies.

Over the next few month there will be many Back to School sales. You can use these items for organizing your genealogy records. Check your newspaper for sales and COUPONS. Example - Wal-Mart right now has items on sale for 10, 20, 50 and 97 cents!!

Stores have notebook paper, 3 ring binders, sheet protectors, spiral notebooks, calculators, file folders, etc on sale. Another good item is the kid's assignment calendars - these are great for keeping track of "TO DO" lists. You can find items now that are not available the rest of the year.

Look for file boxes - not too large - ones you can easily carry around. If the price is right, you may be able to get one for each surname you are currently working on. Time to organize all that paper on the guest bed and dinning room table!!

Take a trip to the store and see what may help solve some of your organizational problems. Set a timer for 10 to 15 minutes and use that time to file and organize your papers. You will be surprised how much filing you can get done in 15 minutes. If I only listened to my own advice!!!

For important items use only acid free / archival quality products. You will find these items on sale over the next few months."

Kathie Mirabella, Macoupin County, IL Mail List Manager

Distributing Heirlooms

As a lawyer, may I suggest to ensure heirlooms get to the correct heir, particularly those of significant value or coveted by a number of heirs, you include them in your will. This ensures they go where you want them to go and allows the heir to insist on their right to a particular item.

For the smaller, less fiscally valuable items, a phrase such as "I trust that my executor will be guided in distributing my estate by such memoranda as I leave in a binder/notebook, etc. titled 'For My Executor' (or any other name you choose). Then make sure the book has pictures of the specific items, a copy of the history you wanted to pass along, and the full name and birth date or address of the recipient.

So often people write, "I want John to have my old chest." But that could be any chest from a tea chest to a hope chest to a bureau or the old travel chest in the attic that no one knows exists! And it could be John the youngest grandson, or John your son, or John the handyman!

And remember, the intended recipient of something very important can die before the testator. A book like this allows the person to write notes to the executor explaining what they want to happen if someone predeceases them. It can be easily added to when something new is acquired or something sold or given to the recipient. Other directions/suggestions can also be included as it does not legally bind the executor, but provides great help and moral-suasion.

Different jurisdictions allow you to deal with your estate and will in different ways, so these are only suggestions I have found to work very well in Ontario.

Using Maps in Genealogy

by Michael J. Leclerc

Maps are important resources in genealogical research. An understanding of political divisions as well as geographical and topographical divisions can contribute greatly to your knowledge of the physical location where your ancestor lived, and point you towards other resources for records in your research. Knowing where a mountain range is located, for example, may explain why your ancestors chose a particular route in their migration. They may have gone through a valley instead of a more direct route that involved climbing over a mountain. The Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection of the University of Texas at Austin is one of the largest map collections in the world. Many of these maps have now been digitized and are available on their website. Historic maps well as modern maps are available, as both images and PDF files. Maps can be browsed as well as searched. In addition to the maps available on this site, there are a number of links to other map sites, categorized as follows: Map sites, City map sites, Country map sites, Historical map sites, Outline map sites, Route planning sites, State map sites, Weather map sites.

There are literally hundreds of links to map, gazetteer, and cartographic sites all over the world. This is one of the best lists of online maps available. Visit their website at www.lib.utexas.edu/maps

BUILDING YOUR PERSONAL MAP COLLECTION

by George G. Morgan

Maps are essential reference resources for genealogical research. They provide a visual perspective of the spatial relationships of locations. They help us understand the physical proximity of our ancestors to specific natural and man-made features. They supplement our historical research by helping us see where our ancestors were located in relation to the sites of historical events and natural disasters.

More important, though, our use of historical maps from the time period when our ancestors lived in a particular locality helps identify geopolitical boundaries. Knowing what country, state, territory, county, parish, canton, census enumeration district, voting ward, or other political area helps identify the right spot for locating records created at the time and where they are likely stored.

Many people rely on Internet resources for both contemporary and historical maps. Certainly the Ancestry Map Center at Ancestry.com

(<http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/reference/maps/default.aspx>), the Perry-Castaneda Map Collection at the University of Texas at Austin (<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>), and the David Rumsey Historical Map Collection (<http://www.davidrumsey.com/>) are brilliant online, digitized resources. However, your own research for your ancestors requires you to build at least a fundamental map collection.

GENERAL MAPS AND ATLASES

Everyone's research is unique because the origins of our ancestors, the migration routes they took, and the places they settled are all different. There are literally hundreds of types of maps, and you will have to choose those that make the best sense for your family research. Even so, there are specific general area maps that can form a core reference collection for you. These include maps with details of geopolitical boundaries, towns and cities, rivers, lakes, mountains, and other features.

Such maps include:

- A contemporary world atlas
- A contemporary national atlas for the countries in which your ancestors lived
- Individual maps of states, provinces, territories, counties, provinces, etc. that show significant detail about populated areas and natural features.
- A gazetteer or place name dictionary for the country or area where you are conducting your most significant research.

All of these can be found in bookstores, in online bookseller sites, and/or through many geographical and genealogical publishing companies. I get state and national maps through the American Automobile Association (AAA) with which I have a membership. Gazetteers and place name dictionaries also have been published and you can usually identify which one(s) you want and find used copies at online used booksellers' sites such as alibris (<http://www.alibris.com>), Bookfinder.com (<http://www.bookfinder.com>), Biblio (<http://www.biblio.com>), and sometimes also on eBay (<http://www.ebay.com>).

LOCAL AND REGIONAL MAPS

You will certainly find more detail on local or regional maps to help you place your ancestors into spatial context. You may find atlases and gazetteers helpful or you may want to acquire other types of maps. Plat maps from county clerks' offices may be helpful for property research, and the clerks may have older copies that they will sell cheaply or give away. I am also a real fan of state and county highway/road commission maps because they show primary, secondary, and unpaved roads and lanes, as well as natural features (rivers, streams, coastlines, mountains) and manmade features (churches, cemeteries, schools, government buildings).

Older maps are always to be found for sale at eBay. You can also search for maps at other online retailers' sites.

SPECIALIZED MAPS

There are many types of specialized maps that may be of help to your research. Here are a few examples:

- Military maps are available in book and sheet form that show details of troop movements and battles of the American Revolution, the Indian Wars, the U.S. Civil War, World War I, World War II, and others. These can provide visual details to supplement your knowledge of an ancestor's participation.
- Migration maps showing routes for travel by sailing and steam ships, barges, horse, wagon, and railroad from various eras. (I made my own by purchasing a wall map of the U.S. and using different color felt-tip markers to indicate migration routes of family members or groups with which they migrated. I added dates and made a color-coded legend on the map and this visual aid reminds me where and when they moved around.)
- Historical postal delivery and shipping depot maps may show obscure and unincorporated towns and communities, as well as places used as central shipping or postal destinations -- including general stores and freight offices whose names or addresses appear on some genealogical documents.

There certainly are other types of maps you could use but this may give you an idea for some that may be of special interest to you. You can even adapt standardized maps to your own research needs as I did for the migrations map.

ORGANIZING YOUR COLLECTION

By now you are probably thinking that a map collection is going to bury you in more paper. Certainly that can happen if you let it. However, it is possible to organize these map resources in a logical fashion for easy reference.

I never file my maps with my surname files, not even if only one family was in that one place. I've developed a simple filing system that works for me. (You may organize your maps differently to match your research.) Here is what I have done.

1. Bound international and national atlases are on a shelf in my office, located close to my desk for quick reference.

2. I purchased archival-safe box hanging file folders that are nice and wide and can hold a good number of maps.

a. These are organized into geographic locations such as: U.S.-New England; U.S.-Southeastern States; U.S.-Midwestern States; U.S.-Southwestern States; U.S.-Western States; Canada; England and Wales; Ireland; Scotland; Scandinavia; Australia; Germany; Austria; Italy. Within each of these groups, I may have a folder labeled for a particular state, province, or region and maps filed inside. The folders I use for this are archival-safe paper or polypropylene folders or I may use top-loading sheet protectors. Into each of the folders, I may also place other documents that include local history information, details of boundary changes, and lists of repositories or online Web sites where I can find supplemental resources.

b. Others maps are organized by type. This includes the military maps, migration pattern maps, postal maps, and any other maps that are of more general reference for a particular type of research.

3. Rolled maps can be a storage challenge, but one that can be easily overcome. "Tubular roll files" are available in many price ranges depending on the structural material used. Drafting supply locations have fiberboard, plastic-coated wire, steel wire, bins, and cabinet designs. My own choice was to use a simple, medium-size wrought-iron wine rack with space to hold 16 bottles of wine. The rack sits sideways atop a bookcase in my office with one rolled map resting in each bottle hole. One friend has stored her rolled maps in a large plastic storage box normally intended for gift wrapping paper. While it isn't exactly archival-safe, she isn't as concerned about these maps' longevity, as she is about other irreplaceable items.

I also organize the online map resources I have found in a special Favorites bookmarks file called "Map Resources" and this is a sub-folder of my Favorites folder that I call "Reference." You can then create sub-sub-folders, if you like, for general and then specific locations or types of online map resources.

YOUR EVOLVING COLLECTION

Your map collection will grow over time, depending on many factors. Your research will dictate what maps are going to be most important and valuable to you. Starting with an atlas and then adding one map at a time, a gazetteer at a time, and other resources will ultimately grow your personal map collection. Remember, too, that public and academic libraries and archives can be a tremendous resource to visit for hands-on work with a wide variety of maps.



Family Tree Maker User Tips

Bev Krieg
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You've been entering data in your family file and find that your Uncle John is really your cousin. Being that you have entered a sufficient amount of information for Uncle John, his wife and children, you do not want to delete him.

A) Begin with the family group page where Uncle John is on the children's list. 1) Place your cursor in the rectangle of Uncle John's name. 2) Move your mouse to the People menu and then down to Fix Relationships. The small pop-out box will allow you to select the proper relationship on this page. Move to "Detach child". 3) A dialog box will open asking you, "John Jones has siblings, do you want to detach the siblings from these parents too?" Your response is probably NO. 4) Then you will be asked "Are you sure you want to detach John Jones from these parents." To continue, click YES. 5) A dialog box will then let you know the detachment is complete AND to move to the appropriate family group page to attach this name. 6) Put the cursor in the place you want the attachment to be completed. 7) Move the mouse to the People menu, and down to Fix Relationship, Attach Child. 8) The index style page will now open to allow you to enter the name of the person you have moved. Don't forget you have to type the last name, first name. Once the name is highlighted, click OK. 9) A dialog box will ask, "Are you sure you want to attach John Jones as a child on this family view? YES should be your response if you are in the correct place. 10) The next dialog box will let you know the attachment is complete.

Check John Jones' family. Are his wife and children still with him? Everything that was with John Jones should still be present if you started in the correct place.

B) To fix the position of just an individual, not his family, put the individual on the family group page with him/her in the parent/spouse position. All of the moves are the same.

WWI AND WWII Draft Registration

After many years of searching for his birth date, I was able, about a year ago, to find a WWI draft registration for my grandfather Wolff. Ancestry.com put the registrations online so when I searched it I was able to find, in his own handwriting, his exact birth date. Recently, I was told Ancestry.com was putting up the draft registration for WWII. As my grandfather was born in 1888, I doubted if he could be in the WWII registration. Come to find out, Ancestry.com only has a 'Limited' registration for the "old men." But, it was for men born between the years of 1879—1892. After checking the new database, it was fun being able to see ANOTHER piece of information, again written in his own hand, with my needed facts. Just because you have an ancestor who might be too old for WWII, check the database. You may just be in luck.



From the New England Historic Genealogy Society News Letter:**Spotlight: Public Library Databases: Pennsylvania**

Erie County Public Library, Erie, Pennsylvania

Obituary Listings (www.erialibrary.org/obits.html)

The library has compiled a paper obituary index for Erie County, Pennsylvania, that covers the period from 1822 to the present. The online version of this index currently covers 1960 through 2005. The index contains the last name and first name of the deceased, including nicknames and titles, and the date that the obituary appeared in the newspaper. The index is organized alphabetically by year, which you can browse year by year. The Obituary Listings can also be searched by entering information in the search box on the Obituary database page. It is important to note that you will be searching the entire site, not just the obituary index. For the best results you should enter just the last name or "last name, first name" (in quotes). The library is in the process of adding more years to the online database.

Butler Area Public Library, Butler, Pennsylvania

Obituary Index Database (www.bcfls.org/butler/Obitmain.htm)

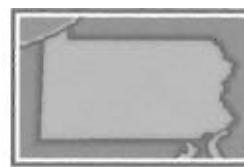
The Butler Area Public Library is located in Butler, Pennsylvania. The Library has an online obituary database abstracted from a number of Butler County newspapers for the period 1818- 2000. Library volunteers began to create a paper version of this index in 1980. The paper index has been converted to an online database of more than 100,000 obituaries in cooperation with The Computer Science Department of Slippery Rock University.

Easton Area Public Library, Easton, Pennsylvania.

There are two options for searching this database – basic and advanced. Fields for a basic search are last name, first name, and date. For the advanced search, search fields include last name, first name, middle name, maiden name, nickname, title, year of death, and year of birth. You can choose from a variety of options to limit (e.g., exact match) or open (e.g., Soundex for last name or '+/- 1' for dates) your search. A last name must be entered to run a search. The data fields in the basic search results include name, title and date of the obituary. Click on the name of the deceased to view the full record. The fields in the full record include name, title, extension, nickname, age, date of birth, locality, newspaper title, date and page number, film number, and comments. Copies of obituaries can be ordered from the library for a fee.

Obituary Indexes (www.eastonpl.org/obituary_index.htm)

The library's obituary indexes covers the period from 1920 through 2005. The obituaries were abstracted from the Easton Express/Express Times newspaper. The Obituary Index files are large and may take a while to download. The files are organized alphabetically by last name. Use the Find function to search the indexes. The data fields in the index include last name, first name, date on which the obituary appeared in the newspaper, and the page number.



WELCOME NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

We have 246 members—04/20/06

We wish to welcome all new members for the year 2005. We hope you have found our society helpful, knowledgeable, and resourceful.

We look forward to welcoming many new members in the year 2006.

NEW MEMBERS: RETURNING MEMBERS:

If there are any corrections, changes in your telephone number, mailing address, or e-mail address please send information to Maybelle Allen: telephone (209) 523-0593; e-mail rmallen213@sbcglobal.net, or write to GSSC, PO Box A, Modesto, CA 95352-3660; Attn. Maybelle.

Membership dues:

\$20.00 single membership

\$27.50 Family membership

Newsletter subscription included with both memberships.

**The General Meeting is at Geneva
Presbyterian Church, 1229 E. Fairmont,
Modesto, CA**

**7:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday, except in
July and December**

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS? IN THE LAST 6

**MONTHS? THE LAST YEAR? IF SO,
PLEASE, EMAIL CHANGES TO**

>gssc@worldnet.att.net < On the subject line just put 'updating email address.' If your name is not included in your email address, **please, please**, put it in the body of the email. If you'd do it the day you receive your newsletter, it'd be greatly appreciated.

GSSC Web Page

[Http://www.cagenweb.com/stanislaus/gssc.html](http://www.cagenweb.com/stanislaus/gssc.html)

Bones Of An Organization

Author Unknown

The body of any organization has four bones:

...Wish bones, who spend all their time wishing someone else will do all the work;

...Jaw Bones, who do all the talking and very little else;

...Knuckle Bones, who knock everything that everybody else tries to do;

...Back Bones, who get under the load and do all the work

Ed. Which one are you?

CD BURNOUT

Popular CD-R and CD-RW discs used to "burn" digital photographs, videos and songs for the long haul seem to have a crucial shortcoming, says an IBM information storage expert: The discs, unlike pressed compact discs used for professionally produced music and video recordings, typically last only two to five years.

Physicist Kurt Gerecke says heat can degrade the recording surface of burned CDs, which makes the stored data "unreadable" by laser beams. His advice: Store photos and other keepsake data on magnetic tape, which can last 30 years. Or they can be archived on a computer hard drive with a high quality disk bearing and a disk with 7,200 revolutions per minute.

DeWayne McCarty Columbia County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society

Swiss Website

The web site: <http://www.swissroots.org/>
In the middle red column, click on Your Genealogy. Under the Collections (when you pull it down) you will find: Ellis Island, Family URLs, plus more..



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*Deadline for the STANISLAUS RESEARCHER is
the Society Board Meeting, second Monday of each month*

**THE STANISLAUS RESEARCHER MAKES EVERY EFFORT
TO PROVIDE ONLY VERIFIED INFORMATION, HOWEVER,
WE ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERRORS**