

# STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

April 2008

Volume 30, Number 4

## In this Issue

Message from President Bev Graham.....	1
Meet Your Board .....	2
Queries for January and February, 2008.....	3
Memorial Day Weekend .....	3
GSSC Yard Sale.....	3
Pocket Genealogist.....	4
What Our Neighbors Are Up To.....	5

### Message From President Bev Graham

Green with gusto!! That is all I can say for the March meeting. You should be green with envy if you missed it. We all had such a great time meeting and greeting. Heck, we almost forgot to get along with the meeting and program. I KNOW, I get carried away and get to talking and gabbing. Pretty soon the time has just slipped on by. Same as in my life I guess. Try as I might, I just find it SO hard to stop talking and smell the flowers. My family says that only a hurricane will get my attention.

When I was in the third grade I was just too social for Mrs. Payne, my teacher. She was always trying to get me to do my work instead of socializing. One day she threatened me with staying after school. I responded by saying my dad would come and beat her up. She just smiled. Then I said my mother would come and beat her up. That made her think twice, I thought, because she let me go, but with homework. HOMEWORK?! How was I supposed to do homework when I had other things to do like play, make mud pies and shuffle through all of my paper dolls? Of course, the teacher won. I DID have to do the homework at my mom's insistence no less. She and Mrs. Payne must have been conspiring against me all along.

Apparently Mrs. Payne made such an impact on me that I still remember her to this day. Now I would probably think she was a sweet ol' gal, but not when

### April Program

April 15, 2008 7:00 p.m.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Irish Cultural Society will not be able to do their program for us this month. They've been re-scheduled for August instead.

In their place, Vicky Wolff will be presenting an informative look at the role of women in American history, entitled "*What Every American Should Know About Women's History, 1609-1900.*"

Since the first permanent European settlements in the New World in 1607, women have been prominently involved in all aspects of the growth and development of our nation.

The first published American author was a woman. Washington's army was supported, in part, by money raised by women patriots. Women have fought in every single war in which America has been involved. The factory system and American industrialization depended on the labor of women. Women fueled the abolitionist movement, helped reform cities, and flew thousands of missions as pilots during World War II. The amazing thing is that they managed to accomplish so much with so many limitations to their own personal freedom.

\*\*\*\*\*

The May program will be about Scottish genealogy and will be presented by the St. Andrew's Society of Modesto.

I was eight! I still have the paper dolls and shuffle through them every now and then. They help keep my sanity when I think the world is closing in around me. If you ever have a need for paper doll therapy just give me a call. I've got plenty to go around.

I hope the board is meeting all your expectations. We seem to be busy with our own projects. We are trying to keep things exciting and different. Something for everyone is my motto. If there is anything you would like to see, please let us know. Unless we hear from you we'll just keep rolling along on our merry way.

Hope to see all of you in April when we have another exciting program and more Tattle Tales. Aren't they fun? It's so interesting to hear about our ancestors. Maybe we'll find that some of our ancestors were neighbors once long ago. I hope you're enjoying the Tattle Tales as much as I am. Until next month...remember Spring is here. Time for the flowers of our lives to bud forth and bloom. See you in April.

### **Meet Your Board**

*Each month this year we will present a short biography of one member of the Board of Directors. This month features Secretary Clede Lane .*

I was born in Modesto. I lived in Modesto. I married in Modesto. I left Modesto. I came back to Modesto.

I graduated from Modesto High School in 1958 with my major being Business and Accounting. It has held me in good stead throughout my life. I married my high school beau, Kirk Lane, and we had three children. We lost our daughter 11 years ago to an asthma attack. We have nine grandchildren, three of whom live with me, and 10 great-grandchildren. Kirk was a 20 year career Army soldier. This gave me an opportunity to travel extensively for long periods of time. We lived in Germany seven years and several areas of the US. The Northwest was my favorite. During that time I held several offices in the PTA, Red Cross, Boy and Girl Scouts, and did all the "mom" things. The Ways and Means Committee was my favorite PTA assignment. I am not a girlie-girl. In Germany we lived in the "Cold War" zone with Pershing missiles. Once I was given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to drive a combat ready M-88—a 62 ton tank retriever—in the snow at Graff, and I loved it! That's when I learned the true meaning of "cold steel" beneath my feet. I helped my husband a lot in his career. I especially enjoyed helping him find AWOL troops.

We moved back to Modesto, against my will. I wanted to retire in Washington State. Once back, I went to work as an Independent Contractor with Weekender Clothing, Avon, Home Interiors and Gifts, and others. I found out very early in life that I liked being my OWN boss and being in charge of things. I've also held several positions in church, including President of Women's Ministries in Ceres. I've grown a lot from all this diversity. In November our family will help us celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary.

My interest in genealogy grew from finding a small outline of our family that my aunt had drawn up. She had only a few entries on it but I was hooked after my sister-in-law introduced me to RootsWeb and Ancestry.com. My sister-in-law found my great-grandmother, Mary Frances Young, on RootsWeb and I was hooked. She was a real person!

My dad died when I was six and I never knew much about his family. After five years of researching I finally made contact with a fellow researcher with the same family and he directed me to a Texas cousin who had been looking for us for eight years. She came out with her husband last year to meet me and my brother and our families. We both shed lots of tears.. I took her to the cemetery in Oakland where

Grandmother was buried next to my dad. We were able to do other family research at that cemetery, and I've also made contact with other cousins.

My hobbies are babysitting my young grandchildren, watching sports, mowing the lawn, and painting the house.

### **Queries for January and February, 2008**

*by Charlie Tieman*

We received eight queries in January, but only four in February.

Obituaries were requested for Roudy Burk and Fate Dunkin of Modesto; Ralph Coleman of Hughson; Alvina Amanda Retzlaff and Jennie Neish Delfs of Turlock; Doris L. Bjorge, and Lincoln J., Julia Ann, Floyd M., and Allen Edwards, all of Oakdale; Amanda M. Clark and Eli P. Whitely of Waterford; and Annie Neish of San Francisco.

A lengthy request covered several members of a Ford family: John C. and Mary H. Ford and Nellie R. Young, all of Modesto. Also of interest were Alice Mary, Luther A., and Cosby Lee Ford, and Alice Moberg, all of Turlock.

An unusual query asked for the name of the wife of Lowell Barker, a Marine from Bastrop, TX, who was killed in World War Two. The only mention in the Modesto Bee was that his body had been returned from overseas in 1948 and that his next of kin was his father, Milbern Barker of Waterford and Modesto. We had no success in solving this problem.

### **Memorial Day Weekend at the Cemetery**

**May 24—26, 2008**

*by Vicky Wolff*

There is still time to volunteer to help at the cemetery booth. If you would like to help the community in finding loved ones' graves, please give me a call at 209-529-9430 or email me at [decorator4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:decorator4@sbcglobal.net) and I'll gladly give you a slot of time to fill. We always have a great time of fellowship with other GSSC members and it is always gratifying to find loved ones' graves. So, come and join us this Memorial Day Weekend. We would love to meet and greet you!

### **GSSC Yard Sale**

**May 2—3, 2008 (Note the change of date)**

*by Vicky Wolff*

We don't have much time before our Annual Yard Sale which will be held in May this year instead of our normal June dates. Please start saving your gently used items, kitchenware, tools, electronics, books, records, knick-knacks, furniture and collectibles.

As you know, this is our biggest fund-raiser of the year and helps replenish our general fund. This year the Yard Sale will be held at the Wolff home at 2025 Vista Dr., Modesto. Please call if you have large, bulky items that will need to be picked up. Our phone number is 209-529-9430.

Thursday, May 1st will be set-up date. Have your items at the Wolff household BEFORE 2:00 p.m. that day. You may drop off Yard Sale donations any time the week of the sale. The pricing team will meet at

the Wolff home on Thursday, May 1st, at 3:00 p.m. to start pricing the donated items. Yard Sale hours on Friday and Saturday are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your donations and your support.

### **Pocket Genealogist**

*by Susan Park*

I recently bought a new pocket pc cell phone. It's an AT&T Tilt and does everything but wash the dishes for me. It has a slide out keyboard and a screen that changes from portrait to landscape viewing mode, depending on whether or not the slide out keyboard is in use. It collects my email, takes me to the internet, stores Word and Excel documents, lets me take pictures and send them around the world, and even has a GPS program to help me find my way back home. But the best part of it is that I was able to use the "take-it-with-you" genealogy program called Pocket Genealogist by Northern Hills Software LLC.

The amount of information these new devices can hold is amazing. My Legacy Family Tree database contains 4,426 individuals, 1,546 families, and 640 sources. All of that information is now viewable on my new telephone.

When you open the Pocket Genealogist you see the standard three generation view of a family. It is compressed and looks nothing like the Family View in Legacy Family Tree, but all the information is there. The current couple are in the middle. Both sets of parents appear above the current couple, and the current couple's children are displayed below them. Colors can be configured to your liking. Mine are vivid.

Pocket Genealogist uses color to alert you whether or not a person is living, and to let you know if there is additional information (events, sources, multiple spouses, and so forth) that can be viewed by tapping the appropriate icon.

You can have as many Pocket Genealogist databases as you wish from as many different desktop genealogy programs as you use. It works with all the popular programs and speaks GEDCOM fluently.

The Pocket Genealogist is so smart that it will let me make changes on the device (technical name for fancy phone) and they will update Legacy Family Tree on my desktop computer the next time I synchronize them. I really thought that that would be fun until I made some unwanted changes while practicing before reading the user manual. That's when I decided to limit my Pocket Genealogist to a read-only mode. Once I've gotten more comfortable with the program I may turn the two-way synchronizing feature back on.

As I understand it, Legacy Family Tree is the only program that allows two-way synchronization. Others require a complete re-import of data to the device. So if you use Family Tree Maker, PAF, The Master Genealogist, or any of the other popular genealogy software, you would have to GEDCOM your data from the device back to your desktop if you wanted to.

Usually when we find new information at libraries and other research facilities we take it home in the form of a picture or photocopy, or in the form of handwritten notes. Once we get home we then take the time to review, transcribe and document the new information in our genealogy program of choice. Because that's how I do it, I am not missing the lack of ability to change information on Pocket Genealogist.

A person can never have too many backups and having my Legacy Family Tree data on my cell phone is another layer of insurance. When you delete a Pocket Genealogist database on the desktop, it does not automatically delete the database from the device. Somehow it seems easier to remember to keep the cell phone updated than it does to remember to do my backups. This could be VERY handy if your desktop computer crashes and you lose your genealogy program.

The best part of having Pocket Genealogist on my cell phone is really the simplest reason—I have everything with me in one small package. When visiting relatives it's nice to have answers to their questions right at hand. And when researching away from home, imagine the ease and convenience of having it all right at your fingertips. No more chaining your laptop to a table leg and hoping that someone doesn't steal the table and your laptop together. No more lugging that heavy laptop case. No more worry about dropping it or hoping it doesn't get damaged on the bus or plane. It's all right there in your purse or attached to your belt. Love it!

### **What Our Neighbors Are Up To**

*by Susan Park*

At the May 17th meeting of the Merced County Genealogical Society they will have a program entitled *A Crash Course in Genetic Genealogy*. Katherine Borges, Founder and Director of the International Society of Genetic Genealogy is the speaker. She has been doing genetic genealogy for five years and administers 13 DNA projects through Family Tree DNA.

Over in Livermore, Dick Finn is going to be giving a talk entitled *Tri-Valley Civil War Veterans - What an Interesting Group They Were*, on May 13th. Their group meets at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton.

On Saturday, June 14th, the California Genealogical Society in Oakland is having a Scandinavian Workshop. Specialists will be on hand to help with your Scandinavian research questions. There will be a limit of 15 people for this workshop, which is free for members. There will be a \$10.00 fee for non-members, which can be applied towards membership the day of the workshop. Call CGS at 510-663-1596 to add your name to the list.

Sonoma County is offering Rhonda McClure, a nationally known speaker, at an all-day seminar on April 26 at the Harry A. Merlo Theater, Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, Highway 101 at River Road in Santa Rosa. Her topics in order of presentation will be: *Getting the Most from Online Research; Newspapers: Finding the Buried Treasure; Old and New: Combining the Best of the Internet and Traditional Research; If I Knew Then What I Know Now*. The cost is \$25 to non-members.

The Sacramento German Genealogical Society is celebrating its 25th birthday Friday night, April 25th with a big dinner and party, followed by a seminar on Saturday the 26th. Speakers will be Dr. Roger P. Minert, AG, and Marion Wolfert, AG.

Additional information for the above meetings and seminars can be found at the sponsoring society's website. Although their addresses haven't been included here, you should be able to Google them and be at the appropriate site with just a few mouse clicks.



**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. Submit articles for publication to the editor via e-mail: [pebfarms@yahoo.com](mailto:pebfarms@yahoo.com). by the 15th of each month.
- Address changes: Send address, e-mail and phone number changes to Maybelle Allen. Use any of the following communication methods:  
 US Mail: Maybelle Allen c/o GSSC, P.O. Box A, Modesto, CA 95352-3660.  
 E-mail: [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 at El Vista Chapel (LDS) at 731 El Vista Ave., Modesto, CA.

**New Members**

Current membership is at 210. No new members were reported this month.

<b>2008 Officers</b>	
President	Bev Graham
1st Vice President	Vicky Wolff
2nd Vice President	Bev Johnson
Secretary	Cleda Lane
Treasurer	Theo Schock
Correspondence Sec'y	Sheri Jones
Director at Large	Jeff Wells
Director at Large	Wayne Black
Director at Large	Nancy Grant
Director at Large	Dick Freudenthal
Director at Large	Susan Park
Past President	Millie Starr
Acquisitions	Lisa Bruk
Greeters	Nancy Grant & Nancy Robinson
Historian	Joyce Evans
Library	Marilyn Belleville
Membership	Maybelle Allen
Newsletter Editor	Susan Park
Publicity	Sheri Jones
Refreshments	Jackie Niemeyer
Research	Charles Tieman
Sunshine	Judith Welch



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