

# STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

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## President's Message

By Beverly Graham

I seem to start out every month saying something like, "What a wonderful time we had...." This month I am going to tell you that we DID have a wonderful time and if you missed the meeting, then you missed a great time and a wonderful speaker.

However.....October is a definite NO MISS type of meeting. No excuses will do, just be there!! We are having a potluck dinner!! I know this has been discussed for several years, but for one reason or another it has never been done. SO... the "dinner thang" is on for the next meeting. Make sure you bring your favorite dish. I believe we are eating at 5:30p so have your dish there in time. If you didn't sign up on the roster that was going around at the September meeting, then call Vicky Wolfe at 209-529-9430 and get your name on the list. It's going to be great. I think I'll bring my famous secret casserole. It's always a crowd pleaser and it's also easy to make and take.

We only have two more general meetings to finish off the year. As I said, you only have two more meetings to listen to my jokes. Then, my captive audience will be gone and I will be forced to sink into the background as so many others have done. No not me, I'll be back, if only to tell a story or two.

For those of you who are just too shy and did not volunteer for a job on the Board, please reconsider. Volunteer for *something* in the coming year of 2010. It has often been said, you only get out what you give. If this is true, then all of us should be knocking down doors. Until you have served on the

## October Program

October 20, 2009                      7:00 p.m.

Past President Millie Starr will be presenting the October program. She will be telling us about the hidden meanings behind traditional carvings found on tombstones. If you thought the angels, doves, clasping hands, and other symbols on your family's tombstones were just "nice," then you may have missed some important clues, particularly on the older markers. If you attend this meeting, we can promise that the next time you visit a cemetery you'll come away with much more than just the names and dates.

Important Notice: This is the month of our fall potluck supper. Dinner will begin at 5:30 so there will be plenty of time for eating and socializing before the meeting starts.

Also, remember we meet in the new building now on the north side of the church. If you forget and park on the south side, you can still walk through, but it's MUCH easier to park on the north side and walk directly into the building. There are no stairs or ramps to negotiate and it's really a nice place to meet.

Board, volunteered at Memorial Day, helped at the library, wrote the newsletter, or anything else our society does, you have not really come to know the rewards. Make a promise to yourself that you will volunteer and help our society be all it can be. Experience something new. Experience something old. Just volunteer to experience the society in a new light and give yourself the gift of self-satisfaction. Give to yourself and the see the new YOU emerge. Don't just be the taker, but the giver, as well.

See you at the October meeting....and don't forget your recipe when we all ask for it!! I think I will do mine on 3x5s and just pass them out during dinner. I'm planning this, because I just KNOW you are just going to LOVE that casserole.

### **Meeting Room Change**

*By Vicky Wolff*

General meetings will still be held at Trinity United Presbyterian Church but we will meet in the new Telle Center instead of Covell Hall. Please use the north parking lot so you'll be directly in front of Telle Center. It should be easier to get in and out of the building and there is a lot of room in the new facility. See you in October when we'll have a pot luck social at 5:30 p.m., followed by the general meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### **Proven Genealogy Research Strategies**

*By Randy Seaver*

*[Ed. Note: The following copyrighted article was viewed at [www.geneamusings.com](http://www.geneamusings.com) and is re-printed here with the author's permission. Randy's blog, "Genea-Musings," is one of my favorites. He writes so much and so frequently that I often wonder how he gets anything else done, but DO he does! He's past president of his local genealogy society, a constant visitor and volunteer at San Diego area research facilities, and a popular speaker on the genealogy circuit. I chose this posting to share with you, mostly because I was struck by David Rencher's reference to "the Attention Deficit approach" to research many of us employ. I'm ordering a copy of Helen Leary's book to help me break the habit. According to [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org), the nearest public library owning the book is in Merced.*

#### **Proven Genealogy Research Strategies**

*(c) Randy Seaver, 2009*

At the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in Little Rock, I tried really hard to attend presentations in every time slot, but there were times when there were two or three presentations in some time slots that I wanted to attend.

This was the case on Thursday afternoon, when I had to choose between going to the Ancestry.com briefing for genealogy bloggers, John Colletta's "Stories that Instruct: Using Case Studies to Teach Genealogy Methodology," David Rencher's "Proven Research Strategies that Transcend Geopolitical Boundaries," and Thomas Jones' "Models for Proving Parentage." I chose to attend the Ancestry.com briefing, and reported on it in [Day 2 at the FGS Conference - Post 2](#). But I know that I missed these three excellent presentations that I wanted to attend.

Thank goodness for the syllabus material, which was available online before the conference, and provided on CDROM at the conference, to registered attendees. I printed off the syllabus material for these three presentations (and others) last week and took them with me on my trip to Santa Cruz—I read them at the airport and on the airplane.

By far, the most useful presentation that I missed was David Rencher's, which was the Helen Leary Lecture sponsored by the BCG Education Fund. David's handout was four pages of very helpful information, which summarized much of Helen F.M. Leary's book *North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History, 2nd Edition*, Raleigh, N.C., North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1996.

In this presentation, Rencher summarized research strategies for genealogists—and noted that “When followed, these principles will produce the desired outcomes a higher percentage of times than the Attention Deficit (ADD) approaches many of us believe we don't practice.” OUCH—that hurt! He presented strategies for a sound beginning, family sources, vital records, census records, land records, tax records, wills and burned counties.

These recommended strategies are timeless, and do not depend on online databases or microforms—they do require researchers to find resources wherever they may be—in attics, vertical files, book shelves, courthouse boxes, etc.

David's conclusion says: “Whether or not you have North Carolina ancestral research, you should consider owning a copy of North Carolina Research or locating a copy in your local library or possible purchasing a copy for the library. Studying the strategy sections with a focus on your area of interest will likely illuminate a number of ways you can improve the results of your research and achieve your desired research objectives.”

Have you read this book? Does it sound helpful? It does to me! I'm convinced—I found that it is available through [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) (although expensive). I also checked [www.WorldCat.org](http://www.WorldCat.org) and [found that there](#) is a copy at the Carlsbad City Library. It sure sounds to me that my Chula Vista Genealogical Society needs to buy this book for the collection at the Chula Vista Library!

## October Is Family History Month

By Susan Park

October is Family History Month and there are plenty of events to celebrate that fact within driving distance. Here is just a sampling of what's available.

Saturday, October 17 Calaveras County Genealogical Society presents **Tales of the Crypt** at the Metropolitan, 59 Main St., San Andreas. A no host bar opens at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. The performance itself begins at 7:00 and features presentations by these formerly living Calaveras County residents: Olivia Rolleri, Black Bart, Johannah Rodesino, George W. Cox, Judge Victor Gottschalk, and also something about the Goodwin/Gatewood Duel. The cost is \$32.50 per person and you can get more information from Diane at 209-754-0379.

Also on Saturday, October 17 Henry Z “Hank” Jones, Jr., FASG is the speaker at an all day seminar in Fresno. The event is held at Woodward Park Regional Library, 944 E. Perrin, Fresno, CA from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is FREE! There is a \$10.00 charge for a syllabus. Hank's topics will be:

- When the Sources Are Wrong
- Tracing the Origins of Your Immigrant Ancestors
- Family Tradition: How to Separate Fact from Fantasy in Genealogical Research
- How Psychic Roots Became an “Unsolved Mystery”

More information can be had by calling 559-488-6720 or 559-291-5932 or by looking at their website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cafcgs/>.

Karen Clifford is going to be very busy in October. She will be speaking on Saturday, October 17 at Monterey Peninsula College from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 25th & Hacienda, in San Mateo, CA. On the 17th her topics will be:

- Understanding Migration
- British Basics
- Electronic Resources for Solving Difficult Research Problems
- Land Records (from Colonial Times to the Present)

On the 24th her topics will include:

- Using the Internet Effectively to Solve Difficult Research Problems
- Understanding the Complete Identity Behind a Name
- Let Technology Get You There Faster
- My Favorite Web Sites for Genealogy

Karen is an Accredited Genealogist (AG) Professional in Midwestern and Southern States Genealogy, and President of Genealogy Research Associates, Inc. She's published numerous family histories, was a genealogy instructor at Monterey Peninsula College, and is a former President of the Utah Genealogical Association. Check the websites for Monterey County Genealogy Society ([www.mocogenso.org](http://www.mocogenso.org)) and for San Mateo Genealogical Society ([www.smcgs.org](http://www.smcgs.org)) for more information.

I may sound like a broken record here, but I cannot resist recommending membership in both the National Genealogical Society and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Both of these national groups provide the absolute best in scholarly research and education for genealogists. In addition, both produce high quality journals and magazines. Both provide tons of good information online for their members. The July-September 2009 issue of *NGS Magazine* contains a great article by John T. Humphrey, CG, entitled "Exploring the Economy" which explains in plain English the hows and whys of colonial bartering systems. In the summer 2009 issue of *New England Ancestors* you'll find some interesting articles migration from New England to the west.

### **My First Encounter with Nan Wolf**

*By J. Carlyle Parker*

*[Ed. Note: Nan Wolf and Jackie Niemeyer have been active members of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County for many years.]*

When a member of our Church passed away, his brother asked me to help him prepare for his funeral and burial. So we went down to the Turlock Cemetery and proceeded to arrange for the brother's burial. The Cemetery secretary stated to prepare the paper work.

The living brother said to me, "Brother Parker..." and the secretary interrupted with, "Are you Carlyle Parker?" I said yes and she continued on to say, "I want to work in that library that you are starting." Later I invited her to our first staff meeting on March 14, 1991. I was released from the leadership of the Center on August 1, 1997, but after eighteen years, Nan Wolf is still faithfully at the Turlock Family History Center nearly every Wednesday night.

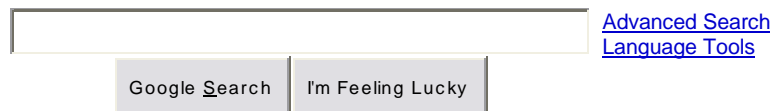
Jackie Niemeyer, GSSC Refreshments Chairperson, has also been a volunteer at the Turlock Family History Center since 1996.

## Report on the Genealogical Stimulus Package

By Susan Park

Friday afternoon I attended the first of two workshops based on the popular book, *Google Your Family Tree* by Dan Lynch. Because of the newsletter's deadline I won't be able to report on next week's session in this issue, but I would like to let those of you who weren't able to attend know what you missed.

The first session was focused on the general search principles used by Google. Theresa Grieshaber, GSSC member and presenter of this session, demonstrated and explained the basics of Boolean operators in plain language so that all could understand them. For those of you not so confident of your computer skills, don't let that phrase intimidate you. "Boolean operators" is simply a fancy way to refer to a few short words that will limit or expand the results of your search. The basic three are AND, OR, and NOT. Note that all three are always typed in capital letters.



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### Basic Search Screen

We also learned that Google will let you use a minus sign before the words you wish to exclude in your search instead of typing in the word NOT. You can also substitute a plus sign for the word AND. Quotation marks around a phrase will restrict the search to those exact words in that order.

After the class struggled somewhat with these concepts and began to understand them better Theresa showed us the Advanced Search option in Google which was much easier to use. Google has laid out all these Boolean choices for us in a nice template and allows the searcher to simply fill in the boxes with search criteria rather than having to remember all the proper terms. You can see from the picture on the next page how much easier it is to fill the boxes. Practically no thinking required!


**Advanced Search**
[Advanced Search Tips](#) | [About Google](#)

Use the form below and your advanced search will appear here

**Find web pages that have...**

all these words:

this exact wording or phrase:

[tip](#)

one or more of these words:

OR

OR

[tip](#)
**But don't show pages that have...**

any of these unwanted words:

[tip](#)
**Need more tools?**

Results per page:

10 results



Language:

any language



File type:

any format



Search within a site or domain:

(e.g. youtube.com, .edu)

[Date, usage rights, numeric range, and more](#)
 .. 


## Advanced Search Screen

At Friday's session we had one computer for each two students. As I said before, the focus was on search criteria in general, but I understand that next week Bev Krieg will be the instructor and she will have us using what we learned here to actually try searches for our own ancestors. Those of you who signed up for both sessions will want to bring your pedigree charts to the next session.

Both sessions are sponsored, in part, by the Stanislaus County Library and are being held in the big Community Meeting Room of the Salida Library. The facilities are excellent and since this particular branch is closed on Fridays we have no competition for parking spaces.

## 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 email: [pebfarms@yahoo.com](mailto:pebfarms@yahoo.com) by the 15th of each month.
- Address changes: Send address, email and phone number changes to Maybelle Allen at:  
 US Mail: Maybelle Allen c/o GSSC, P. O. Box A, Modesto, CA 95352-3660  
 Email: [gssc@att.net](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.

2009 Officers		2009 Standing Committee Chairs	
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		Research Trips: Salt Lake City	Lisa Bruk
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		Special Collections Room	Marilyn Belleville
		Sunshine	Judith Welch

**We have 202 members.**



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