

# STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

January 2010

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## January Program

January 19, 2010                      7:00 p.m.

GSSC; Past, Present and Future

This is the first general meeting for the new year.

## President's Message

*By Jeff Wells*

Each year as I pull the old calendar off the wall and replace it with a new pristine one two thoughts always come to mind. I always reflect on the year that has just passed and then my thoughts turn to the year to come. Similar thoughts come to mind as we close one year of GSSC activities and look forward to a new year.

My reflections on the past year are ones of progress and accomplishments. The society, through the efforts of our members, was able to continue to promote the research and preservation of genealogy. We presented programs and learning activities which enhanced our skills and added to our tool kit for successful research. I am personally very thankful to our two most recent presidents, Bev Graham and Millie Starr. Their careful, thoughtful leadership has laid a solid foundation for the years to come.

Now, as my thoughts turn to the coming year I consider opportunities that we will have to further genealogy in the community. We can be a unique resource to those interested in genealogy. We have a membership comprised of talented and enthusiastic people who love to work with those researching their family history. I encourage each of us to share what we're doing and our objectives in research. I think you'll be surprised how many people are also interested in genealogy! Our society has the potential to be the local source for all things.

I would like to personally thank all those who have come forward to fill important positions in the society. We have an outstanding group of leaders for 2010 and we'd love to hear your ideas and feedback on how we can improve what the society does in the coming year. I encourage all our members to be more involved than ever in 2010! Happy New Year!

## Membership Renewal Reminder

*By Lewis M. Ruddick*

Membership Chair, Maybelle Allen, asks that you remember to complete your membership renewal form and return as soon as you can. You will find a current application for membership renewal elsewhere in this issue of Researcher. If you've already sent in your dues for 2010, Maybelle thanks you for being so prompt.

## Merced County Genealogical Society Invitation

*By Lewis M. Ruddick*

You are invited to attend the January meeting of the Merced County Genealogical Society will be held Saturday, January 23rd in the Gracey Room of the Merced County Library, 2100 "O" Street, Merced

starting at 1:00p.m. Our speaker will be Robert Givens, 1st Vice President of the Fresno County Genealogical Society, as well as a member of the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and the German Society of Sacramento. His topic will be "Pennsylvania Research."

### **Thank you Susan Park**

*By Lewis M. Ruddick*

For the past two years our Society has enjoyed the services and talents of Susan Park. I had the opportunity to really meet Susan when she interviewed me for material to put in this very same publication. Since then I have had an opportunity to work with her as a member of your governing board. Susan has dedicated a great deal of her time and energy to this society by improving the quality of the content of this publication and insuring that it is received by all of you in the manner and form you desire. In addition Susan has filled the Society positions of Treasurer and Budget Committee Chair. Her attention to detail has kept your Society in very good running order. I hope that I am able to force my much larger feet into her shoes and provide you the service she has. Thank you, Susan, for a job very well done.

### **Need a Map to Support Your Research?**

*By Lewis M. Ruddick*

Searching about for a good map of an area of research I happened upon the following map resources on USGenWeb News which just might assist you as it did me:

**USGenWeb Map Project:** Not every state has maps available but it's an excellent resource:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/maps/>

1914 Atlas: Janie found this old atlas and is putting all the maps on line. She is offering them freely to any CC who would like to put one on their site.

[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~shastaca/maps\\_index.html](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~shastaca/maps_index.html)

**Historical map** –University of Texas. [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/map\\_sites/hist\\_sites.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/map_sites/hist_sites.html). A free site with links to all kinds of maps.

**Map History / History of Cartography:** THE Gateway to the Subject: A free site with a huge number of links to individual maps or sites with lots of maps. <http://www.maphistory.info/imageus.html>

**Odden's Bookmarks** – The Fascinating World of Maps and Mapping.

<http://oddens.geog.uu.nl/index.php>. Fascinating is a good description of this site. Links to all kinds of maps and mapping information.

**Library of Congress: American Memory Map Collections** - [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/Railroad Maps, 1828-1900](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/Railroad%20Maps,1828-1900) - <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/rrhtml/rrhome.html>

**1895 U.S. Atlas.** <http://www.livgenmi.com/1895/>. Pam Rietsch has spent the last few years putting this historical atlas on-line.

### **DNA Testing and Genealogy**

*By Lewis M. Ruddick*

I am like many of you and had reached a stumbling block in my surname line research. I have been unable to cross the "Pond" to locate my line on the other side. It seemed that my 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather was dropped out of the sky into Pennsylvania some time before 1741. From 1741 forward I was able to follow our line reasonably well but I was at an absolute standstill for any connection to Europe.

A few years ago I read about yDNA testing and decided I had nothing to lose to test. I contacted Family Tree DNA and bought the entry level kit after joining a Reddick/R320 surname group and then after a couple of months received my results. Then I waited and waited and waited. When I was about to throw up my hands in disgust because I had wasted my money I was notified by FTDNA that I had a match and it was a perfect match. I contacted the individual and learned that his surname was HULL not Ruddick or any of the other R320 variables. I also learned that he was a first generation Irishman having recently immigrated to the United States. We agreed that it would be in our best interest to expand our yDNA testing out to the next level. Again we were a perfect match. Armed with this information we now looked at the area where his family came from in Ireland and found that his great grandparents lived in the same community and a couple of homes away from a Ruddock. In the Pennsylvania records I had found my 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather's surname spelled Ruddock and our verbal family history was that we were of Irish origin (along with other European possibilities just to cover all the bases). Mr. Hull and I then each agreed to test out to the maximum possible to see if we matched throughout. The 67 markers test showed that we were matched 66 of the 67 markers and that we indeed were related to a common ancestor approximately eight generations ago. Now I had a focus and even though the ancestor wasn't identified I now had a place to look and a confirmed surname spelling in Ireland. I was then matched by a couple more individuals also with lines from Ireland. We were now on point. Finally I received a perfect 67 for 67 match with a Ruddock from Australia whose family was from County Wexford, Ireland. While we are still unable to identify our connection I now have the location to focus research to find my 5<sup>th</sup> great grandfather's lineage and another heretofore unknown family with which to share it.

The following from Wikipedia will give you some information on using your DNA to pursue your genealogy.

### **Genealogical DNA test**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **genealogical DNA test** examines the [nucleotides](#) at specific locations on a person's [DNA](#) for [genetic genealogy](#) purposes. The test results are not meant to have any informative medical value and do not determine specific genetic diseases or disorders (see possible exceptions in [Medical information](#) below); they are intended only to give genealogical information. Genealogical DNA tests generally involve comparing the results of living individuals to historic populations.

#### **Procedure**

The general procedure for taking a genealogical DNA test involves taking a painless cheek-scraping (also known as a buccal swab) at home and mailing the sample to a genetic genealogy laboratory for testing. Some laboratories use [mouth wash](#) or [chewing gum](#) instead of cheek swabs. Some laboratories, such as the [Human Origins Genotyping Laboratory \(HOGL\)](#) at the [University of Arizona](#), offer to store DNA samples for ease of future testing. All United States laboratories will destroy the DNA sample upon request by the customer, guaranteeing that a sample is not available for further analysis.

#### **Types of tests**

The most popular ancestry tests are Y chromosome (Y-DNA) testing and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) testing which test direct-line paternal and maternal ancestry, respectively. DNA tests for other purposes attempt, for example, to determine a person's comprehensive genetic make-up and/or [ethnic origins](#).

#### **Y chromosome (Y-DNA) testing**

A man's [patrilineal](#) or direct father's-line ancestry can be traced using the DNA on his [Y chromosome](#) (Y-

DNA) through [Y-STR](#) testing, as follows: This is useful because the Y chromosome, like the patrilineal surname, passes down unchanged from father to son. A man's test results are compared to another man's results to determine the time frame in which the two individuals shared a [most recent common ancestor](#) or MRCA. If their test results are a perfect or nearly perfect match, they are related within genealogy's time frame. Each person can then look at the other's father-line information, typically the names of each *patrilineal* ancestor and his spouse, together with the dates and places of their marriage and of both spouses' births and deaths. This information table will be referred to again within the [mtDNA testing](#) section below as the (matrilineal) "information table". The two matched persons may find a common ancestor or MRCA, as well as whatever information the other already has about their joint [patriline](#) or father's line prior to the MRCA -- which might be a big help to one of them. Or if not, both keep trying to extend their father's lines further back in time. Each may choose to have their test results included in their surname's "[Surname DNA project](#)". And each receives the other's contact information if the other chose to allow this. They may correspond, and may work together in the future on joint research.

Women who wish to determine their direct paternal DNA ancestry can ask their father, brother, paternal uncle, paternal grandfather, or a cousin who shares the same surname lineage (the same Y-DNA) to take a test for them.

### What gets tested

Y-DNA testing involves looking at [STR](#) segments of DNA on the Y chromosome. The STR segments which are examined are referred to as [genetic markers](#) and occur in what is considered "[junk](#)" DNA.

### STR markers

A chromosome contains sequences of repeating nucleotides known as [short tandem repeats](#) (STRs). The number of repetitions varies from one person to another and a particular number of repetitions is known as an [allele](#) of the marker. An STR on the Y chromosome is designated by a [DYS number](#) (DNA Y-chromosome Segment number). The example below shows the allele of Rumpelstiltskin's [DYS393](#) marker is 12, also called the marker's "value." The value 12 means the [DYS393](#) sequence of nucleotides is repeated 12 times—with a DNA sequence of (AGAT).

### SNP markers

A [single nucleotide polymorphism](#) (SNP) is a change to a single nucleotide in a DNA sequence. The relative mutation rate for an SNP is extremely low. This makes them ideal for marking the history of the human genetic tree. SNPs are named with a letter code and a number. The letter indicates the lab or research team that discovered the SNP. The number indicates the order in which it was discovered. For example M173 is the 173rd SNP documented by the Human Population Genetics Laboratory at [Stanford University](#), which uses the letter M.

Understanding test results Y-DNA tests generally examine 10-67 STR markers on the Y chromosome, but over 100 markers are available. STR test results provide the personal [haplotype](#). SNP results indicate the [haplogroup](#).

### Haplotype

A Y-DNA [haplotype](#) is the numbered results of a genealogical Y-DNA test. Each [allele](#) value has a distinctive frequency within a population. For example, at [DYS455](#), the results will show 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 repeats, with 11 being most common<sup>[4]</sup>. For high marker tests the [allele](#) frequencies provide a signature for a [surname lineage](#).

## Haplogroup

[Haplogroups](#) are large groups of [haplotypes](#) that can be used to define genetic populations and are often geographically oriented.

Y-DNA haplogroups are determined by [SNP](#) tests. SNPs are locations on the DNA where one nucleotide has "mutated" or "switched" to a different nucleotide. The nucleotide switch must occur in at least 1% of the population to be considered a useful SNP. If it occurs in less than 1% of the population, it is considered a personal SNP.

### Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) testing

A person's matrilineal or mother-line ancestry can be traced using the DNA in his or her [mitochondria](#), the [mtDNA](#), as follows: This mtDNA is passed down by the mother unchanged, to all children. If a perfect match is found to another person's mtDNA test results, one may find a common ancestor in the other relative's (matrilineal) "information table", similar to the patrilineal or [Y-DNA testing](#) case above. However, because mtDNA mutations are very rare, a *nearly* perfect match is not as helpful as it is for the above patrilineal case. In the matrilineal case, it takes a perfect match to be very helpful.

Note that, in cultures lacking *matrilineal* surnames to pass down, neither relative above is likely to have as many generations of ancestors in their matrilineal information table as in the above patrilineal or Y-DNA case: for further information on this difficulty in *traditional genealogy*, due to lack of matrilineal surnames, see [Matrilineality](#)'s section [Matrilineal surname](#).

Some people cite [paternal mtDNA transmission](#) as invalidating mtDNA testing, but this has not been found problematic in genealogical DNA testing, nor in scholarly [population genetics](#) studies.

### What gets tested

mtDNA by current conventions is divided into three regions. They are the coding region (00577-16023) and two [Hyper Variable Regions](#) (HVR1 [16024-16569], and HVR2 [00001-00576]). All test results are compared to the mtDNA of a [European](#) in [Haplogroup H2a2](#). This early sample is known as the [Cambridge Reference Sequence](#) (CRS). A list of [single nucleotide polymorphisms](#) (SNPs) is returned. The relatively few "mutations" or "transitions" that are found are then reported simply as differences from the CRS, such as in the examples just below.

The two most common mtDNA tests are a sequence of HVR1 and a sequence of both HVR1 and HVR2. Some mtDNA tests may only analyze a partial range in these regions. Some people are now choosing to have a full sequence performed, to maximize their genealogical help. The full sequence is still somewhat controversial because it may reveal medical information.

To gain more information on this great genealogical research tool go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genealogical\\_DNA\\_test](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genealogical_DNA_test) or visit Family Tree DNA <http://www.familytreedna.com>

### Volunteer Needed

Your Society is in need of a volunteer to take over our **Four Generations Chart** program. If you are interested please contact Jeff Wells at [jeffreywells3533@comcast.net](mailto:jeffreywells3533@comcast.net) Help will be provided.

# Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County 2010 Calendar

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## January

- 11 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- 19 7:00 p.m. General Meeting
- 21 10 a.m. Writing Group

## February

- 8 1:00 p.m. Arkansas Study Group  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

- 16 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM Souper Supper  
7:00 p.m. General Meeting

- 18 10 a.m. Writing Group

## March

- 8 1:00 p.m. Arkansas Study Group  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

- 16 7:00 p.m. General Meeting

- 18 10 a.m. Writing Group

- 27 Workshop

## April

- 12 1:00 p.m. Arkansas Study Group  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

- 16 SLC Trip Departure

- 20 5:30 PM - 6:45 PM Pancake  
Dinner  
7:00 p.m. General Meeting

- 25 SLC Trip Return

## May

- 10 1:00 p.m. Arkansas Study Group  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

- 18 7:00 p.m. General Meeting

- 20 10 a.m. Writing Group

- 29 Memorial Cemetery Project

- 30 Memorial Cemetery Project

- 31 Memorial Cemetery Project

## June

- 5 Scottish/Celtic Festival

- 12 Yard Sale

- 14 1:00 p.m. Arkansas Study Group  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

## June

- 15 7:00 p.m. General Meeting

- 17 10 a.m. Writing Group

## July

- 12 1:00 p.m. Arkansas Study Group

- 15 10 a.m. Writing Group

## August

- 9 1:00 p.m. Arkansas Study Group  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

- 17 7:00 p.m. General Meeting

- 19 10 a.m. Writing Group

## September

- 13 1:00 p.m. Arkansas Study Group  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

- 16 10 a.m. Writing Group

- 21 7:00 p.m. General Meeting

## October

- 11 1:00 p.m. Arkansas Study Group  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

- 16 Workshop

- 19 7:00 p.m. General Meeting

- 21 10 a.m. Writing Group

## November

- 8 1:00 p.m. Arkansas Study Group  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

- 16 7:00 p.m. General Meeting

- 18 10 a.m. Writing Group

## December

- 13 1:00 p.m. Arkansas Study Group  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

- 16 10 a.m. Writing Group

July						
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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF STANISLAUS COUNTY  
PO BOX A  
MODESTO, CA. 95352-3660  
gssc@att.net

GSSC 2010 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership Year: January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010

Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print or type name as desired on Membership Card:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

9-DIGIT ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any information you wish to be **excluded** from the printed roster. \_\_\_\_\_

**Your preference of receiving GSSC newsletter, the *Stanislaus Researcher* is by:** Hard Copy (by US mail) \_\_\_\_\_ or Email notice (to print & read or to read on line) \_\_\_\_\_ - **You MUST – MUST keep your email address current with us ~ send changes to gssc@att.net.**

OCCUPATION (Optional) Was/Is \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE ON BOARD OR COMMITTEES? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Short-term \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional** Donation to National Archives Records Administration Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NARA Gift Fund is a nationally supported program to finance the creation of finding aids and the microfilming of valuable research materials now preserved in the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D. C.

**Optional** Donation to **Special Collections Room**, Stanislaus County Library \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GSSC Dues: \$20.00 single membership, \$27.50 for couple\*  
(\*One newsletter - one address): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to G S S C. \***Mail to:** GSSC, ATTN. Maybelle Allen, 1141 Springcreek Dr. Modesto, 95355-4820. Please make notation on check 'annual dues.'

If you enclose a **self-addressed stamped envelope**, your membership card will be mailed to you. **You may use a letter size envelope and put your address as the return address.** Membership cards are available at the general meetings.

Questions? Call Maybelle Allen at (209) 523-0593 or e-mail: roymallen213@yahoo.com

## 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.

2010 Officers		2010 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Jeff Wells	Acquisitions	Janet Lancaster
1st Vice President	Lowell Beachler	Audit	
2nd Vice President	Millie Starr	Budget	Susan Park
Secretary	Vicky Wolff	Four Generation Charts	Vicky Wolff
Treasurer	Sue Hinrichs	Historian	Theo Schock
Correspondence Secretary	Sheri Jones	Membership	Maybelle Allen
Director at Large	Vicky Wolff	Memorial Day	Vicky Wolff
Director at Large	Carmen Pedrioli	Mentor	Joann MacDonald
Director at Large	Donna Buhler	Newsletter	Lewis M. Ruddick
Director at Large	Diana Loomis	Planning	Beverly Graham
Director at Large	Lewis M. Ruddick	Program	Lowell Beachler
Past President	Beverly Graham	Publicity	Sheri Jones
		Queries	Charlie Tieman
		Refreshments	Jackie Niemeyer
		Registrar	Judith Welch
		Research & Publication	Millie Starr
		Research Trips: Sutro/Archives	
		Research Trips: Salt Lake City	Lisa Bruk
		Seminar & Workshop	Janet Lancaster
		Special Collections Room	Marilyn Belleville
		Sunshine	Judith Welch

**We have 95 - 2010 members and 206 - 2009 members.**



Genealogical Society of  
Stanislaus County  
P.O. Box A  
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