



# STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

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## November Program

November 16                      7:00 p.m.

### Ancestor's Night

hosted by Lowell Beachler

## President's Message

*By Jeff Wells*

This year has been a very good one for the society. We have had a great group of speakers who have touched on everything from medicine to family reunions. The workshop seminar was outstanding. The research trip to Salt Lake was well attended and produced some outstanding results. We have participated in community events including the Highland Games and The International Festival. The society's membership has remained strong and we have seen newer members step up to help in leadership roles. I count it a great privilege to have served as president this year. My time as president was made possible by the dedicated board members who put in so much time and effort on behalf of the GSSC. Each one of these stalwart individuals deserves a personal thank you from the members of the society. Without their efforts the GSSC would cease to exist. As you read this please ask yourself how you can contribute to the continued success of the GSSC.

Next year portends to be a great year for the society. We have a vibrant membership with great leadership to move us forward. I would like to personally thanks the members of the society for allowing me to serve as president this year. This is a great group of people with the goal of helping researchers find those gems of genealogy.

## GSSC New Officers Nominations

*By Vicky Wolff*

It is that time of the year again, when we need to elect new officers for the coming 2011 year.

The nominating committee for this year is: Vicky Wolff, Bev Graham, Diana Loomis and Beverly Johnson.

If you would like to run for an office or you know of someone else who would make a good officer, please let a member of the committee know. We thank you in advance for volunteering to serve our wonderful society.

## 2011 Membership Renewal Reminder

*By Lewis M. Ruddick*

Membership Chair, Maybelle Allen, asks that you complete the membership renewal form found with your October issue of the Researcher and return as soon as you can. If you are unable to locate your renewal form a down loadable copy can be found by clicking the [Membership Application](#) tab on the Society webpage. If you've already sent in your dues for 2011, she thanks you for being so prompt. If you have paid but your address label has not changed, have no worries, we just run about a month behind.

## Research Bus Trip

By Vicky Wolff

Twenty people from GSSC went on the Sutro Library and National Archive bus trip, on October 6, 2010.

Most people were successful in their research, and wanted to do another trip at a later date. I will suggest to the Board of Directors that we do another trip next year.

A lot of first timers on this trip were overwhelmed with all the information that was available to them. There is a lot of information there and seems there is never enough time to get to all that you need too.

On the trip home we ran into a thunderstorm. The lightening was very impressive and the rain came down in torrents, but here in Modesto all was as dry as a bone.

## Newsletter Mailing Option

By Lewis M. Ruddick

Would you like to receive the *Stanislaus Researcher* as a PDF document on your computer at home? There are many good reasons for you to consider this idea. You'll get the newsletter at least a week earlier than you do now. If the print is too small for you in the paper version, you can magnify the electronic version to just the right size. If we print pictures they'll be much sharper and easier to see in the electronic version, and any e-mail addresses or links to websites should be clickable. A final advantage to readers is the disposal method. When you're finished, you can either save it or press the delete button and it's gone. No more wondering if you can just throw it in the trash or should it be shredded.

If you're interested, just send your request to [lruddick@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lruddick@ix.netcom.com) or [gssc@worldnet.att.net](mailto:gssc@worldnet.att.net) and your copy will be e-mailed with the next issue. A couple of things to keep in mind: The newsletter will be sent as a PDF file. It will be large enough that you'll probably need a DSL or cable connection. I don't know how long it would take a dial-up connection to download the file but it is slow. If you don't already have Adobe Reader on your computer you can download it for free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

## Casket girl?

Submitted by Marilyn Belleville

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **casket girl**, also widely known as a **cassette girl**, refers to one of the women brought from [France](#) to the [French colonies](#) of [Louisiana](#) to marry. The name derives from the small chests, known as cassettes, in which they carried their clothes.<sup>[1]</sup> They were conspicuous by reason of their virtue. Normally women were supplied to the colonists by raking the streets of [Paris](#) for undesirables, or by emptying the houses of correction. The casket girls, however, were recruited from church charitable institutions, usually [orphanages](#) and [convents](#), and, although poor, were practically guaranteed to be virgins. For this reason it later became a matter of pride in Louisiana to show descent from them.

The first consignment reached [Mobile](#) in 1704,<sup>[2]</sup> [Biloxi](#) in 1719, and [New Orleans](#) in 1728. They inspired [Victor Herbert](#) to write *[Naughty Marietta](#)*.

### References

1. Higginbotham, Jay. Old Mobile: Fort Louis de la Louisiane, 1702-1711, pages 106-107. Museum of the City of Mobile, 1977. ISBN 0914334034.
2. Thomason, Michael. Mobile : the new history of Alabama's first city, pages 20-21. Tuscaloosa : University of Alabama Press, 2001. ISBN 0817310657

### Bibliography

Dictionary of American History by James Truslow Adams, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1940

## Family Tree Maker 2011 New/Enhanced Features

By Lewis M. Ruddick

If you are considering upgrading your Family Tree Maker program to the 2011 Edition the following are the new features and improvements to the new 2011 version.

### Family Tree Maker 2011 new/enhanced features:

- Write family stories that automatically update when facts change in your tree
- Organise photos, audio & video files and documents with drag and drop simplicity
- View more events that happened during your ancestors' lives. Even edit, delete or add your own historical events
- 5 new report styles and 4 new fan chart designs
- Enhance your charts with new backgrounds and embellishments
- Automatically number every person in your tree for quick reference
- Improved integration with Ancestry.com.au™
- **Follow the hints** Just enter what you know and soon you'll see green leaves or Hints where we've matched one of your ancestors with historical records online. Click on the leaf to learn more.....
- **Integrate with Ancestry.com.au™** Automatically saves information you find online directly into your tree, complete with an electronic copy of the original record.
- **IMPROVED - Manage photos and more** Add photos, audio and video files, documents etc.
- **NEW - Learn more from other members** Ancestry.com.au™ has a helpful community of millions where you can find and share information with other enthusiasts.
- **IMPROVED - Maps and Timelines** View maps to see where your ancestors have lived and highlight key events that have occurred in their lives.
- **NEW - Create Smart Stories™** Drag and drop facts from your tree to story pages that update automatically each time you edit your tree.
- **IMPROVED - Charts and Reports** Choose from hundreds of customisable chart options and create reports that let you see and share your tree from different perspectives.
- **Share your tree** Upload your tree to Ancestry.com.au™ and e-mail invites to your family so they can view your tree. You can even create books and birthday calendars to print.

### Smart Stories™

**New Narrative Tool** Ready to start an ancestor's story? The Smart Story Editor makes it easy by letting you drag-and-drop text and photos from your tree into a Smart Stories page. Stories update automatically when you change facts in your tree.

### Charts

**Fan Charts** Choose between five different shapes when creating a fan chart.

**Photos and Embellishments** Enhance charts with the backgrounds, borders and embellishments that come with Family Tree Maker, and use photos wherever you like. Font size, type and color can be changed based on fact types.

**Bow Tie Chart** Siblings can now be included in the Bow Tie Chart.

**Last Generation Shown Vertically** In descendant and hourglass charts, the last generation in the chart can be displayed vertically.

**Pedigree Chart** The book layout for the pedigree chart has been adjusted to make better use of space.

### Reports

**Surname Report** The new Surname Report lists the surnames in your tree, including the total number of individuals with that surname, the number of males and females with that surname, etc.

**New Descendant Reports** Family Tree Maker now gives you four descendant report options: Register, NGSQ, Henry, and d'Aboville.

**Custom Report** The custom report now has user-selected primary and secondary sorts. In addition, new options allow you to include age at death, number of children, age at first marriage, and more,

**Kinship Report** You can now sort the Kinship Report by relationship (for example, first cousins can be grouped

together),

**Report Headers and Footers** You can define the headers and footers for a report.

**Save Report Settings** You can save the current report settings and use them as the preferred settings for that report.

**Photo Albums** You can now create an album for a person, relationship, or both.

**Calendar** You can now choose to display death dates in the calendar.

#### Ancestry Integration

**Expanded Web Dashboard** The expanded Web Dashboard now includes Member Connect activity, links to message boards, and notification of new Ancestry messages.

**Enhanced Performance** You can choose the type of Internet connection you're using, which allows Family Tree Maker to tailor how it downloads information from the Web. Uploading and downloading speeds have been improved, and there is increased ability to upload large files to Ancestry.com

#### General

**Enhanced Index of Individuals** The Index now displays people based on name and then birth date,

**Historical Timelines** Now you can edit, delete, and add to the historical events that come with Family Tree Maker. In addition, Family Tree Maker looks at facts entered for an individual and displays the most location appropriate historical events.

**Place Enhancements** You can now choose a "home" country, and Family Tree Maker will not display this country in fields, charts and reports. Support for townships, parishes, and counties has also been enhanced.

**LDS Information** Family Tree Maker can now display information on initiatories and confirmations. These facts can also be included in charts.

#### Data Entry

**Automatic Reference Numbers** Family Tree Maker can now assign reference numbers automatically to individuals, relationships, or both.

**Duplicate Person Alert** When you enter new individuals, Family Tree Maker alerts you if it believes you may already have the individual in your tree.

#### Media

**Locate Missing Files** If you've moved your media items and Family Tree Maker has marked them as "missing," the Find Missing Media tool can locate them all at once.

**Categories** You can now assign categories to multiple items at one time.

**Media Metadata Stored in Family Tree Maker** If your images contain metadata, the information will be stored -- and a caption, date, or description, will be automatically entered.



## GAR

*By Millie Starr*

620,000 Americans died in the Civil War. The Vietnam Wall had 58,267 names in June of 2010. This is not even ten percent of the number who died on American soil in this 'most bloody war'. When the war ended, there were so

many needy veterans and so little help available.

Grand Army of the Republic, 'GAR', sounds like a military group, but it started as a much needed fraternal organization for all honorably discharged Union vets. It grew into a political as well as a social group. The badge of the GAR was a five-pointed star made from melted confederate cannons.

By the turn of the twentieth century, 'GAR' had become so strong it petitioned congress for pensions for all CW vets and widows, and won. By 1905, this resulted in one tax dollar in four going to pay for veterans' pensions. As more and more old soldiers and sailors, and their widows died, this powerful organization too, faded into history.

For more information go to <http://suvcw.org/gar50.htm>

### **The Grand Army of the Republic Had Sailors Too:**

#### **One Old Sailor**

**William McHugh 1832- 1906**

The body of McHugh was found on August 22, 1906 and the Stanislaus County Coroner's report says, 'burial followed soon after on the 23rd in the GAR Plot at Modesto Citizens Cemetery.'

This old sailor, William McHugh, lived a hermits life in a small cabin near the La Grange Dam. He, with his dog, spent most days fishing in the canal. But on June 20th his disappearance was called to the attention of the ditchtender by the dog frantically, running up and down the canal bank. The ditchtender soon found a can of bait and some tackle on the bank of the canal and indications that someone had fallen in. The water intake was halted for several hours but all that was found by the search were his hat and his fishing pole.

More than two months after his mishap, his body was found over two miles below the dam.

McHugh was 74 years old at the time of his death. He was known to have served in the US Navy during the Civil War. He had no family or known friends. So the Grand Army of the Republic paid final tribute to him and he was interred in GAR Plot II at the Modesto Cemetery. Born in Ireland-Died at La Grange, California

#### **A Second Old Sailor**

**Ira Harris Jr. 1848--1913**

Ira Harris left behind a different heritage than the first sailor buried in GAR ground. He was born in Rhode Island, possibly Smithfield. He had a wife and family. His father, Ira Harris Sr., had come to Modesto also. They both registered to vote in September 1888, one on the 26th and one on the 27th.

Ira joined the Navy in 1862 at 14. He was a member of the crew of the Constitution, "Old Iron Sides" and was present at almost all battles. After the war he returned to Rhode Island. He married Mary Mulholland in 1875 at Lincoln, and with his wife and children came to Modesto in 1884. He had a blacksmithing and carriage making business. Harris was a skilled craftsman.

For a number of years he was active in many organizations: 1889-1891 as a member of the Modesto Board of Trustees, member of the Orange Assembly 86 United Artisans, and was called the Democratic War Horse of the County. He was a member of GAR.

He died at home, 111 Spruce Street, on Monday night, the 20th of October, 1913. He was 64 and had lived a full life. His funeral, from Howell and Ryce, had the Rev. J. H. McCartney, pastor of the Christian Church conducting the services. He is buried in the GAR plot, with an error on his grave marker. The marker clearly says IVA, but all records clearly state IRA.

New owners now managed the blacksmith shop, but the testimonial he had given for Doan's Kidney Pills still used his name in local ads long after his death.

By February 3, 1914 the extended family of Ira Harris had said goodbye to all of their friends. After a gala going away party, they boarded the Southern Pacific Train to return to Rhode Island. The widow of Ira Harris, now called Senior, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Harris Jr., Mr. and Mrs. William Harris, Mr. and Mrs. George Harris, Mrs. William Moore and Miss Neva Harris all embarked together for the journey. The other girls appear to be already in Rhode Island. Mrs Emma Lister and Miss Josephine Harris are in Providence and Mrs. Fannie Furcher is in Central Falls, Rhode Island.

Ira and Mary had lived at the time of the 1880 census in Denver at a boarding house. Ira was blacksmithing. Three year old William was apparently living with family back home. Sisters Emma and Fannie were born in Colorado, in 1880 and 1883. After the move to Modesto, they were followed by Ira 1885, Nellie 1888, George 1890, Josephine 1893 and lastly Genevieve or Neva as she was called, 1898.

Ira died in October of 1913, and the family left in February 1914. The Civil War stone could not have arrived and been set by the time the family left town. I always wondered why no one complained that the name was inscribed wrong.  
Born Rhode Island--died Modesto

### Searching for Smiths

Strategies for Locating Ancestors with Common Names

By Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide

Most of us have at least one hard to search for name in our family tree - a common name like SMITH, a name that is also a commonly used word such as RICE, or an ancestor who shares name with a famous individual, such as George Bush. In this situation, how can we weed out the genealogical information for our specific ancestor from all of the others who share his name? These search tips, while helpful when searching for all surnames, not just common ones, are especially important when the name itself is too common to return a manageable number of results.

When searching for a common name such as John Smith, **add a location and time period** to your search parameters to produce more effective results.

**Add common genealogical terms** to your search to eliminate non-genealogy pages, such as bush family or bush genealogy or bush cemetery. Combining this with the previous technique can help narrow your results even further.

Use other **less common names** from your ancestor's family to enhance your query. If your John Smith married Eliana Snagglepuss, then start by searching for Snagglepuss.

When searching for a surname that is also a common noun, such as Park, Rice, Bush or Street, use **the NOT or -feature** to tell the search engine to not return results that include a particular word. For example, rice -cook -recipe will help eliminate Web pages which refer to cooking rice rather than your Rice ancestors.

[http://genealogy.about.com/od/surnames/a/common\\_names.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/surnames/a/common_names.htm)



**Wishing each and every one of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!**

## 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: [lruddick@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lruddick@ix.netcom.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	Sue Hinrichs
Secretary	Vicky Wolff	Four Generation Charts	Donna Buhler
Treasurer	Sue Hinrichs	Historian	Judith Welch
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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
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		Research Trips: Salt Lake City	Lisa Bruk
		Seminar & Workshop	Janet Lancaster
		Special Collections Room	Marilyn Belleville
		Sunshine	Judith Welch

Updated 9-23-10

**We have 186 members**



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