



STANISLAUS RESEARCHER

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

January 2011

Volume 33, Number 1

In this Issue

President's Message.....	1
January Program	1
2011 Membership Renewal	2
Stanislaus County's Old Sailors.....	2
Epidemics.....	4
Call the Doctor?	5
Early American Cookery	5
GAR and Sailors Too.....	4

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2011!**

January Program

January 18 7:00 p.m.

The ship Zamzam

Presented by Dorothy Libby

For our first program of the year Dorothy Libby will be speaking about the ship, Zamzam, which her uncle was on when the Germans sunk it. In the spring of 1941, before the United States had entered World War II, the passenger ship Zamzam was sunk by a German raider in the South Atlantic. Among the Zamzam's 201 passengers were 142 Americans, most of whom were missionaries en route to Africa. The dramatic sinking and miraculous rescue became headline news in 1941.

With her personal connection, this should be a great presentation. Be sure to start the year by attending this program.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

First of all, I would like to thank the membership for electing me as your new president for the 2011 year. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you this year. We have a wonderful Board of Directors, who have a lot of experience and together we will get the job done that is required of us. Thank you all for your vote of confidence in your new board.

We are already off to a good start. David Wolff has the year's programs all in place and it proves to have lots of variety and hopefully you will gain new knowledge from them.

Everything is in process for our yearly trip to Salt Lake, where the participants will be able to do a whole week of non-stop researching. Maybe David and I will be able to go on this trip next year. We are looking forward to the time when we can participate in this wonderful program.

I am urging all members to check our GSSC web site frequently, as we have a wealth of information posted. It will keep you updated in the Society news, as well research events taking place around the area. You don't want to miss out on any opportunity to gain knowledge or research ideas, as that is what keeps us going on our genealogy quest.

I have some new ideas I would like to implement this year to give you more opportunity to sharpen your researching skills and help you achieve your goals in your family history research.

I am looking forward with enthusiasm to our new year and thank you for you're your support and loyalty to GSSC.

"A family tree can wither if nobody tends its roots."

Vicky Wolff

2011 Membership Renewal

By Lewis M. Ruddick

Membership Chair Maybelle Allen asks that if you have not completed your membership renewal for 2011 please do so and return it as soon as you can. A form has been included with this newsletter. 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.

Stanislaus County's Old Sailors (GAR & Sailors Too Continued)

By Millie Starr

Third Old Sailor

James M. Dings--James W. Dings

Sailors of the Civil War seldom have a service record that is available for easy access, or any access at all. James Dings is no exception. The story of James is the story of many of the men who served their country in its time of need: brief, missing, mixed up and frustrating. But his story is complicated by the use or misuse of a middle initial. Is it M or is it W or are they both right? If we reject the W as not being correct, we eliminate the only James who is born in New York at the correct time. Even the National Home for Disabled Vets can't seem to choose. They very clearly have M in his name and have him indexed as W.

Here is his story as I determine it. Read and make your own decision. The Federal census tells us that James was born in New York and that his parents were also. James choosing to join the US Navy suggests that he was used to the water. But that did not matter, as the only James of the correct age in 1850 and 1860 lived in Argyle, Fort Edward Post Office, Washington County on the New York coast. Because his father was also James, he had the middle initial W to help identify him.

On 8 September, 1863, James Dings enlisted at Saratoga, New York in Company E, New York 2nd Cavalry. He was mustered out at New Orleans, May 12, 1864. The report noted that he did not survive the war. The Soldier and Sailor System has not been available online so I have not been able to check the record of his unit. The dates are possible, but there is no proof. His application for admission in the National Home for Disabled Vets has dates that make this viable. The form shows that he had his discharge from the Navy and it gave these dates: enlisted July 4, 1864 at Philadelphia and mustered out on 12 January, 1866 at Brooklyn New York. The common lore says he served aboard the USS New Hampshire. I suspect that this data was in his discharge, which is not extant.

In 1870 the census for New York City has James Ding() in a list of more than 60 seamen living in a boarding house on Oliver Street between Oak and Cherry. Between 1870 and 1880, James has left New York and moved to Memphis Tennessee. He is married to Luella Krutz of Kentucky. In their household in Memphis, is a step-son, William Dings, 11, born in Kentucky, too old to be Luella's child, she is only 21. His father was from Germany and his mother from Indiana. His presence just adds mystery to James M/W Dings. They are in Memphis, for the next 20 plus years, as shown by the ages and the birth places of the several children: Maude, James G., Clara G., Mabel, Gladys L., Frank J., and Lloyd. These children stretched across the years from 1880 to 1903 all in Tennessee. James was a laborer in 1880 and by 1900 he is a bakery driver. The arrival in California is marked at around 1904 or 1905 by the birth of the last known child, Kenneth who was born in California and is four at the time of the 1910 census. The 1900 census also shows us that Luella is claiming to have had six children and only one still living. This is just another mind trap to confuse me. She has seven living children. Perhaps she misunderstood the question and meant that she had had six children, one not there at present. By 1900 Maude is working as a saleslady and James is a helper to a blacksmith. The family is growing up, and still growing.

Without the census this family would still be totally out of sight. By 1910 in Modesto, Maude James is back home, a widow, and her sister Clara McCollough, married 4 years, is back home also. The 1910 census of Modesto shows James M. was 69 years old and a night watchman at the cannery. But the Modesto City Directory for that year had him as a driver for John Harrison.

On November fifth of 1914, James M. Dings is admitted to the U.S. National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Sawtelle in Los Angeles County. At that time he is 5' 7", dark complexion, blue eyes, gray hair. He is a protestant and a farmer. He was suffering defective vision and hearing, chronic rheumatism, chronic constipation, hypochondriasis and a cardiac problem. He remained there about a year and a half. He was released O.R. Does that mean his own request? He returned again in 1921 on August 15 and was back out on August 16. No explanation. James died on June 11, 1922. He had lived a long life, 80 years, 9 months and 29 days. His funeral was from Shannon Mortuary on June 13th. The family extends their "thanks to friends and neighbors and the GAR Post No. 9

for their kindness and sympathy during the last illness and death of my dear husband, and our dear, loving father," with an article in the Modesto Evening News on the 14th.

Their daughter Gladys married the son of the Mayor of Modesto, George Ulrich and later was active in the development of the Ulrich Shopping Center, now known as Roseburg Square. Luella is listed in later City Directories as widow of James M. She lived until 1956 and is buried in Acacia Memorial Park.

James M. Dings is in the front row of the GAR Plot in Modesto Citizens Cemetery--next to another old sailor--Ira Harris.

The Fourth and Final Sailor

Ann and John Givens with their baby son Charles braved the dangerous voyage from Ireland before 1834. Their daughter, Catherine was born in Massachusetts that year. Six years later, William J., our fourth sailor, was born, soon followed by Eliza and John.

In 1850, John Givens was a laborer living with his family in Chelsea, Suffolk County, Massachusetts. His Irish born son, Charles, was already working as a painter. At first I thought art, but soon learned, carriages, houses etc. He continued with this skilled trade in 1860. His brother, our sailor, W. J. Givens, will follow this trade after the war, as will William J's sons, in later years. Truly a family trade.

William married Margaret Harrington, an immigrant from Ireland, in 1860. They had four children; Charles born in Massachusetts, William F. in New Jersey, John in Massachusetts and Annie in California in 1873. By 1880 they were in Pacheco in Contra Costa County. We do not find son John again until the 1920 census. In the spring of 1888 William J. and sons Charles H. and William F. all registered to vote in Stanislaus County, all painters, living in E. Modesto.

In 1890, Charles married Delia Arnett, but the 1900 census shows William 35, Charles 37 and Annie 27 still living at home with Margaret and William J. It is believed that Delia died.

The record for W.J.'s service is at the Pacific Branch of US National Home for Volunteer Soldiers. The home was located in Los Angeles County in Sawtelle. The National Archives has his Seamans Survivor Certificate and his pension application showing both his Navy certificate number and numbers of May 21, 1898, when he applied and September 27, 1916, when his widow applied for the pension. He is described on his first admission as '59, 5' 6 1/2 " tall, fair complexion, can read and write, protestant, painter, resident of Modesto, Cala.' At this admission on 17 April 1900 he presents two certificates of service and a pension certificate. He enlisted 3 August 1861 at Boston in the US Navy as a seaman. He was discharged on 13 January 1862 at Newport News for disability--impaired vision. {I wonder if this is his reason for admission to the home? He says this impairment occurred in Cala.} Later at Portland Maine he enlisted in the 15th Maine Infantry on 28 March 1865, as a private. He was discharged on 10 May 1865 at the Gallops Island Discharge Center in Boston Harbor.

William J. is at Sawtelle from April of 1900 to April of 1908. He is home only long enough in 1910 to be on the census--but not with Margaret. She is living with her son William and her grandson William, son of her son John. Son Charles has married Katherine, the widow Johnston, and has a daughter Ila May. He has his father living with him. The son and the father are both working as painters in a carriage shop. They are living in Mariposa County at the Sierra Forest Reserve. By October of 1910 he has been readmitted to Sawtelle and remains there until 1916.

This date is a bit confusing too. It shows he was there until the 26th, 11 days after he died in Modesto at the home of his daughter Mrs. L.C. Jacobsen (Annie) at 517-13th Street at 2 in the morning. Perhaps he had run off and they did not notice until after the notification of his death. If he did, how did he get from Sawtelle to Modesto? We will never know.

The obit says he served in a Maine Volunteer Unit. His grave marker says US Navy.

I do not believe we will get a very clear picture of the cause of his death. His obituary says, "Death was caused by a cancer, which developed from an extracted tooth several years ago." Another question arises in the obit, the surviving relatives are two sons, John and Charles and daughter Annie. What about Margaret? She applied for his pension when he died. The Sawtelle record says that his things were turned over to the widow.

This story like all of the sailor stories has some surprises and some mysteries. William McHugh had no known relatives and left only his dog to mourn him. How did he fall into the canal?

Ira Harris has his name wrong on his CW marker. Does his family know? Is it Iva for eternity?

James Dings is it James M. or is it James W.?

All of William J. Givens records show him born in Massachusetts, but it is listed as Maine almost everywhere.

Perhaps because of the Maine service. Do the state abbreviations MA/ME confuse? In 1920 John, 50, is in Modesto living with his mother, Margaret, who now has changed from 80 to 90 years old, and with them is William J. 28, her grandson. In that same year 1920, Margaret died on April 24, and John died on the 22 of June.

But who could beat William J. Givens for mystery. He has a handsome marker saying US Navy in the GAR Plot, but William J. Givens is not there! After his wife died in 1920 he was moved from the non-denominational GAR Plot to St. Stanislaus Catholic Cemetery. Was he truly Catholic Irish or did the family just wish he was?

All were honored on Veterans Day by the SCWA. May they rest in peace.

Epidemics

Submitted by Marilyn Belleville

Epidemics

(author unknown)

In case you have ever wondered why a large number of your ancestors disappeared during a certain period in history, this might help. Epidemics have always had a great influence on people and thus influencing, as well, the genealogists trying to trace them. Many cases of people disappearing from records can be traced to dying during an epidemic or moving away from the affected area. Some of the major epidemics in the United States are listed below.

1657 Boston: Measles
 1687 Boston: Measles
 1690 New York: Yellow Fever
 1713 Boston: Measles
 1729 Boston: Measles
 1732-33 Worldwide: Influenza
 1738 South Carolina: Smallpox
 1739-40 Boston: Measles
 1747 CT, NY, PA & SC: Measles
 1759 North America (areas inhabited by white people): Measles
 1761 North America & West Indies: Influenza
 1772 North America (especially hard in New England): Epidemic (unknown)
 1775-76 Worldwide: Influenza (one of worst flu epidemics)
 1783 Delaware (Dover): "extremely fatal" bilious disorder
 1788 Philadelphia and NY: Measles
 1793 Vermont: Influenza and a "putrid fever"
 1793 Virginia: Influenza (killed 500 people in 5 counties in 4 weeks)
 1793 Philadelphia: Yellow Fever (one of worst)
 1793 Pennsylvania (Harrisburg & Middletown): many unexplained deaths
 1977 Philadelphia: Yellow Fever
 1796-97 Philadelphia: Yellow Fever
 1798 Philadelphia: Yellow Fever (one of worst)
 1803 New York: Yellow Fever
 1820-23 Nationwide: fever (starts on Schuykill River, PA & spreads)
 1831-32 Nationwide: Asiatic Cholera (brought by English emigrants).
 1832 New York & other major cities: Cholera
 1837 Philadelphia: Typhus
 1841 Nationwide: Yellow Fever
 1847 New Orleans: Yellow Fever
 1848-49 North America: Cholera
 1850 Nationwide: Yellow Fever
 1850-51 North America: Influenza
 1852 Nationwide: Yellow Fever (New Orleans 8,000 die in summer)
 1855 Nationwide (many parts): Yellow Fever
 1857-59 Worldwide: Influenza (one of disease's greatest epidemics)
 1860-61 Pennsylvania: smallpox
 1865-73 Philadelphia, NY, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, Memphis & Washington DC:
 a series of recurring epidemics of Smallpox., Cholera, Typhus, Typhoid, Scarlet Fever &

Yellow Fever

1873-75 North America & Europe: Influenza

1878 New Orleans: Yellow Fever (last great epidemic of disease)

1885 Plymouth, PA: Typhoid

1886 Jacksonville, FL: Yellow Fever

1918 Worldwide: Influenza (High point year) More people hospitalized in World War I from influenza than wounds. US Army training camps became death camps with 80% death rate in some camps.

Call The Doctor?

By Millie Starr

Call the doctor? What for?

Though we never got the 'sulphur and molasses' treatment for spring fever, the remedies were sure to appear as quickly as the symptoms.

A sore throat was concealed as long as possible, because the prescribed treatment was to 'paint' the tonsils and the rest of the throat with Iodine. Saying no was not an option.

A cough or chest cold was impossible to hide. Out came two pieces of outing flannel. On one of which a mixture of flour, dry mustard and water was spread. The other piece of flannel covered over it. Then it was placed on the chest, with another piece of flannel all wrapped securely around the torso to keep the mustard plaster in place. If your mother mixed too much mustard in proportion to the flour, you may have gotten some burns or at least thought you had. The hot mustard fumes were hateful and made the eyes water, but the heat penetrated the most reluctant chest.

The smell of a cold was surely Vicks Vaporub; and of an earache, camphorated oil.

I don't know what we picked up that required the bath in Sheep Dip, but that aroma is unforgettable.

Flaxseed was used in more than one way; a poultice for a boil or as a tea for cramps or other digestive upsets.

Tasted about likes it sounds.

The childhood diseases required a quarantine, usually for two to three weeks. Nobody in and nobody out. Measles was the worst, you stayed in a darkened room for two weeks. No light, no reading and no radio in the bedroom in those days.

We received our vaccination at school. At age five, I was vaccinated against Smallpox. This was the only vaccination that we had at that time. Good thing, my arm had such a reaction, I spent about two weeks at home in bed with a high fever. During WWII we were all required to be vaccinated again, at school. But even though they repeatedly tried, they could not get any reaction. Or at least any reaction from my arm.

Call the doctor? What for? Broken arms required professional care--at least the first time. The second time, mama used the old splint and the sling and it healed nicely. Stepping on a broken needle--running barefooted--required a lot of probing before they found the piece. No x-rays then, but they did administer some anesthetic to cut the foot open. Then home on the street car. But modern medicine triumphed when pneumonia nearly overwhelmed me.

The doctor at the hospital was involved with experimental drugs and got me back on my feet rapidly, six weeks.

Without penicillin who knows?

Call the doctor? What for? An abscessed ear needed a doctor to lance it on the kitchen table. Whew, glad that was my sis.

Call the doctor? What for? To sign the birth certificate even if I arrived several hours before he did.

Early American Cookery

This year we are adding a new section to our Newsletter, early American recipes. This month's recipes are as follows:

From the Blue and Grey Cookery Recipe Booklet

By Huge and Judy Gowan

"Many new developments regarding food in America were taking place during the Civil War era. These developments would drastically change the eating habits of Americans in years to come. Due to the war, however, it would be a number of years after the conflict until these changes were felt in most American homes. Refrigeration was on the way, but for the average family, refrigeration still meant an "ice-house" in the rural areas, and an "icebox" for the city dweller. The food processing, or canning industry had also had its beginning prior to the war,

but availability to the public on any large scale, would not come until near the end of the nineteenth century. The newly invented cook stove was a rarity in most American homes, and would remain so until the 1880's.

Cooking in the past depended upon a mixture of intuition and common sense. Few recipes had been written down prior to the 1860's, and measurements as we know them today were unheard of. Cooks used a pinch of this, and some more of that. They knew how much flour or shortening to use by the feel of the mixture. Another method of measuring butter was to "add butter the size of a walnut, or the size of an egg". Most of the better recipes from these "bygone" days have made an easy transition to modern measurements without any loss of taste or authenticity. In many recipes we have retained the original measurements (or the lack of them), as the case may be."

Scrapple

1 (1½-2 lbs.) pork maw	3 carrots, diced
5 or 6 medium potatoes, diced	2 lbs. loose sausage
1 onion, diced	1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. Pepper	

Cover liver and pork with water and boil until tender. Remove meat. Cool broth and skim fat from surface. Grind meat and return to broth. Add salt, pepper and sage and bring to a boil. Slowly add the mixture of buckwheat flour and cornmeal. Stir. Boil for about one hour, stirring frequently. Pour into small loaf pans. When cold, slice and fry until light brown and crisp on both sides.

Elderberries

As youngster growing up in Mendocino County along the Russian River I was introduced to elderberries early in life. They grew all along the river and all of its tributaries. Frequently I was sent out to harvest them for my great aunt or grandmother. Both ladies immediately turned them into jellies that simply cried for some style of bread or biscuit to spread upon. I've found those wonderful fruit all over Stanislaus County but since living here I've never seen anyone harvesting them. Most who I've asked didn't even know what they are. My great aunt and my father both frequently mentioned elderberry wine but I've only seen that on a store shelf once fairly recently in a visit to Ukiah. The following is just one of the many uses of this little known native fruit.

Elderberry Rob

From The Craft of the Country Cook by Pat Katz

Spiced elderberry juice, or rob, is both healthful and delicious. Heat elderberry juice with honey to taste, a stick of cinnamon, and a few cloves. Allspice, nutmeg, and mace can also be added. Add lemon juice or vinegar to taste, or one of the tart fruit juice combinations. This makes a soothing vitamin C-packed hot drink for people with colds, and can also be diluted for a cool drink.

Online Genealogy Resources

By Lewis M. Ruddick

The following are a couple of the sites that remain free for genealogy researchers using the internet:

U.S. Federal Land Patent Records

The Bureau of Land Management provides free online database access to Federal land conveyance records for the Public Land States, as well as images of more than two million Federal land title records issued between 1820 and 1908 for the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. This is not just an index, but images of the actual land patent records. If you find the patent for your ancestor and wish to also have a certified paper copy, you can order these directly from the BLM. <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

The official 1901 Census website

Search over 400 million people living in England and Wales between 1841-1901 and view images of the original documents.

<http://www.1901censusonline.com/>

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

GSSC 2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership Year: January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011

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 our GSSC newsletter, the *Stanislaus Researcher* is:

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.

It helps if you clean your email in-box out periodically, please!!! Thank you.

OCCUPATION (Optional) Was/Is _____

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

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

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 \$ _____

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: 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
 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.

2011 Officers		2010 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Vicky Wolff	Acquisitions	
1st Vice President	David Wolff	Audit	
2nd Vice President	Diana Loomis	Budget	Sue Hinrichs
Secretary	Jeff Wells	Four Generation Charts	Donna Buhler
Treasurer	Sue Hinrichs	Historian	Judith Welch
Correspondence Secretary	Sheri Jones	Membership	Maybelle Allen
Director at Large	Vicky Wolff	Memorial Day	Vicky Wolff
Director at Large	Carmen Pedrioli	Mentor	
Director at Large	Donna Buhler	Newsletter	Lewis M. Ruddick
Director at Large	Bev Johnson	Planning	
Director at Large	Lewis M. Ruddick	Program	David Wolff
Past President	Jeff Wells	Publicity	Beverly Graham
		Queries	Charlie Tieman
		Refreshments	Jackie Niemeyer
		Registrar	Dorothy Winke
		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

Updated 12-15-10

We have 186 members



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

