



## Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

July 2021

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Message from your President..... 1  
**Regular Society meetings resume!**..... 1  
 A Dire Situation..... 2  
 History in Motion..... 2  
 Covid-19 Update for Stanislaus County..... 3  
 What Format Should You Use to Store Your Files?..... 4  
 FamilySearch COVID-19 Updates..... 5  
 Why Are We All So Obsessed with Genealogy?..... 6  
 1950 U.S. Census Release..... 6  
 Nan Wolf passes..... 7  
 Return Found Keepsakes to Family..... 8  
 Fran Jackson Tips..... 8

**We will return to regular meetings and programs beginning August 19, 2021!**

**See you all at Trinity United Presbyterian Church August 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM!**

### Presidents Message

by Beverly Graham

In all my years I have never heard this name. ALL the history I took in school and all the women’s movement stuff...never knew about this child. Well, I do now and I won’t forget it. How important her charge was and how courageous she must’ve been....

The month of April in U.S. history, we remember that famous ride that would warn the colonies that the British were coming. The Colonel needed someone he could trust, someone brave enough, someone who could ride a long distance, through the darkness, from 9 p.m. to dawn, someone who could fight off enemy combatants, to alert the colonial militia to the approach of British forces.

So, the Colonel chose the "best man for the job."

He chose **Sybil Ludington**, his 16-year-old daughter.

Sybil Ludington was born on April 5, 1761.

April 26, 1777, her father asked his young daughter to take the dangerous ride.

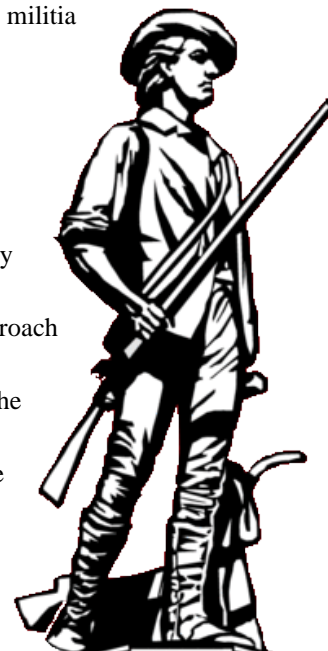
Revere made his famous ride and history remembers him well, because of the famous poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who would tell the tale.

But, many people do not know about the four other riders, who warned their communities of the approach and movement of the British forces.

The five heroes (including Paul Revere) were Samuel Prescott, Israel Bissell, William Dawes, and, the one who I am dedicating this post to, **Sybil Ludington**, who at that time was only 16 years old.

On the night of April 26, 1777, Colonel Henry Ludington chose his daughter to take that famous ride in history.

Sybil set out at 9 p.m. that night in the rain to warn the colonists at Danbury, Connecticut of the approach of the British. She would make a journey double to that of Revere (totaling 40 miles), riding through Kent to Farmers Mills and then returning back home again.



During her famous ride, she gathered her father's troops, knocked on doors and warned the countryside of the British troops' incoming attack - and, she fought off a highwayman with a long stick.

By dawn, she was exhausted, damp from the rain, but had accomplished her mission warning the colonists and bringing together 400 soldiers ready to march and drive the enemy troops from the area.

She would later be commended by George Washington for her heroism. Each April since 1979, the Sybil Ludington 50-kilometer footrace has been held in Carmel, New York. The course of this hilly road race approximates Sybil's historic ride and finishes near the statue which was erected in her honor on the shore of Lake Gleneida, Carmel, New York.

So, when you hear the tale of Paul Revere this month, remember about the other riders, one of which was the courageous **Sybil Ludington**.

## A DIRE SITUATION

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

Dar American Spirit Magazine

Between the years of 1776 and 1783, more than 11,000 American prisoners of war were held captive and died on 16 British prison ships. According to government estimates, more than twice as many Americans died on prison ships than in all the battles of the Revolutionary War. The infamous prison ships were deplorable. Prisoners were poorly fed and clothed, and their living quarters lacked heat, ventilation and sanitation.

There were continual noises during the night. The groans of the sick and dying; the curses poured out by the weary and exhausted upon our inhuman keepers; the restlessness caused by the suffocating heat and the confined and poisoned air; mingled with the wild and incoherent raving of delirium.

Prisoners of war were allotted two-thirds the daily ration of a British soldier,. Any other "amenities" such as clothing, bedding, food and firewood were to be provided by the prisoners' own countrymen. Prisoners could be freed if they renounced the Revolutionary cause and pledged allegiance to King George III.

In December 1776, at the urging of General George Washington, Congress created the post of Commissary General of Prisoners. British generals permitted Elis Boudinot, the American commissary general for prisoners of war, to inspect, re-supply, and improve living conditions onboard the prison ships, but neither side had the resources nor the will to prevent this humanitarian disaster.

On January 13, 1777 Washington wrote to British commander General William Howe, complaining about the treatment of prisoners, "You may call us rebels, and say that we deserve no better treatment, But, remember, my Lord that supposing us rebels, we still have feelings as keen and sensible as Loyalists, and will, if forced to it, most assuredly retaliate upon those upon whom we look as the unjust invaders of our rights, liberties and properties."

When the war ended in 1783, prisoners were freed, and the ships were abandoned.



## History in Motion

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

Do you ever wish you could see your grandfather smile again or watch your great-aunts' eyes light up just one more time? Now, thanks to artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (which uses algorithms to learn from data), you can.

In February, online genealogy company MyHeritage released a new service called Deep Nostalgia, which uses AI technology to bring old snapshots to life by animating the faces in the photographs and creating realistic video footage. Deep Nostalgia uses prerecorded videos of facial expressions and applies the most appropriate one to the selected photo. Because historical

photographs are often small and blurry, Deep Nostalgia enhances and sharpens each image to produce high quality video animation.

In the month after its release, more than 33 million faces were animated-with a few thousand photos animated every minute. Using the service is free after signing up for MyHeritage. The MyHeritage app is also available for Android and iOS devices.

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## Current Covid-19 information for Stanislaus County

### Total cases

63,266

### Deaths

1,068

No New Deaths since 1 June 2021

Covid-19 Shots now Available for those 12 or older

Most major California restrictions were lifted 15 June 2021

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## What Format Should You Use to Store Your Files?

[Dick Eastman](#) 11 Jun 2021 5:58 PM

*The following is a Plus Edition article, written by and copyright by Dick Eastman.*

One question that pops up frequently is: "What format should I use to save my files?" The question is often asked about digital pictures. Should they be saved as JPG or PDF or GIF or PNG or TIFF or some other format? Similar questions are often asked about word processing files, although there seem to be fewer options available. I thought I would offer a few suggestions and also tell what works for me.

### Digital Picture

Today's technology allows for a selection of image file formats, including JPG, GIF, TIFF, BMP, PSD, RAW, PNG, EPS, PDF, and others in a seemingly endless alphabet soup of abbreviations and acronyms.

You can find many good reasons and bad reasons for selecting any of these file formats. However, from a genealogist's point of view, there are two significant issues to deal with: image size and image compression.

**NOTE:** PDF files have unique advantages and disadvantages for both digital pictures and for documents. I will write about PDF separately later in this article.

Image size has been an issue since the first scanned images were stored on a computer, back in the vacuum tube days. In this case, the physical size of the picture is not the issue, but the size of the file you create was very important. That is, the problem revolved around the number of bytes required to store a faithful reproduction of the original image.

Not many years ago, disk drives were expensive. Luckily, that problem is disappearing as the price per byte of storage has plummeted in the past few decades. Prices for one-terabyte disk drives have now dropped to the \$50 range, a price undreamed of only a few years ago. It is now cost-effective to store hundreds of thousands of very large digital image files. Prices for disk storage are still dropping nearly every week.

However, file size remains an issue when transferring those files to another computer or when inserting images into a web page. Not everyone uses high-speed, multi-megabyte-per-second Internet connections. Next, even those who do use such high-speed connections find that including very large digital images in a web page results in slow performance. A high-resolution picture also might not display properly inside a web page. Such a picture might fill the entire screen or even "overflow" the screen, leaving no space for text, links, and other information in the web page. Finally, sending a hundred or so old family photographs to a cousin can be a painstaking effort if the files are very large.

Image file size, expressed as the number of bytes, increases with the number of pixels composing an image and the color depth of the pixels. The greater the number of rows and columns, the greater the image resolution and the larger the file. Also, each pixel of an image increases in size when its color depth increases: an 8-bit pixel (1 byte) stores 256 colors, and a 24-bit pixel (3 bytes) stores 16 million colors. Most color images these days are stored as 16-bit or, even better, as 24-bit colors. However, if the original picture is large (perhaps 8-by-10 inches or larger) and is scanned as a high-resolution image, the resultant digital image can be huge.

Fold3.com (formerly known as Footnote.com) created a single image of the entire *Viet Nam War Memorial* in Washington, D.C. The picture was created by taking several thousand very high resolution photographs, one for each small section of "the Wall," and then electronically "stitching the images together" to form one huge image. The result is one huge image that consumes gigabytes of disk space. It is believed to be the biggest single image ever posted to the Internet, and special software had to be developed so that users could view pieces of the original image without downloading the entire master image. Downloading the entire master image might require several days or a week or even longer on a dial-up connection! Luckily, there is no need to do that as the custom-written software allows the user to "zoom in" and look only at specific segments. The result is quick downloads, even on dial-up connections. However, that is the only picture I know of that is available via the custom-written software that transfers only part of the image at a time.

The issue of file size quickly became a problem back in the days of expensive disk drives, when typical computer connection speeds were 300 baud or so. Storing hundreds of images on the limited storage capacity disk drives of the day was a problem, as was the inability to send large images across very slow network connections. To solve these problems, image compression was invented. Compression is not much of an issue in these days of high-speed Internet connections and cheap disk drives but still cannot be ignored.

File compression refers to the application of computer algorithms to analyze images and to find pixels to delete, thereby reducing the file size. For instance, if the picture had three red pixels in a row, the compression algorithms might eliminate one, or even two, of those pixels. The human eye probably won't notice the difference, and the savings in file size is significant when thousands of pixels can be combined and the duplicates eliminated. The elimination of duplicate pixels is only one part of the sophisticated compression techniques used.

Of course, any time you delete pixels you are also reducing the quality of the original image. However, modern compression algorithms are very good at reducing file sizes without inducing significant loss of image quality. The most important word is "significant."

**The remainder of this article is reserved for Plus Edition subscribers only.** If you have a Plus Edition subscription, you may read the full article at: [https://eogn.com/\(\\*\)-Plus-Edition-News-Articles/10619149](https://eogn.com/(*)-Plus-Edition-News-Articles/10619149).

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## FamilySearch COVID-19 Updates

FamilySearch is following the lead of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, governments and healthcare professionals around the world as it considers a measured return to normal operating procedures disrupted by COVID-19. In all cases, ample caution is being strictly applied to ensure the safety and well-being of guests, staff, and volunteers and to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

Which FamilySearch services or functions have begun phases of reintegration?

**The Family History Library (Updated 8 June 2021)**

The Library will reopen 6 July 2021 (See [FamilySearch Family History Library Reopening](#)).  
is offering [free online genealogy consultations](#) to assist patrons with their genealogical research. See the "Helpful Resources" below for additional research tools while waiting for the Library to reopen.  
Visit the [Family History Library website](#) for more services and information.

### **FamilySearch Family History Centers and Libraries (Updated 8 June 2021)**

FamilySearch's [family history centers and libraries](#) have been asked to consider the direction of their local and government leaders and then make informed decisions about opening their facilities. Guests should call ahead to verify the status of their local center.

We appreciate your understanding and encourage you to use the vast genealogical resources available at [FamilySearch.org](#) to continue your family discoveries.

In addition to searching records, you can find assistance in locating, reading, and interpreting records. You can ask questions, share your expertise with others, and collaborate with people who are familiar with or seeking help with records in various areas of the world.

#### **Helpful Resources**

[Explore Historical Images](#)

[Search Records](#)

[FamilySearch Communities](#)

[One-on-One Online Consultations](#)

[Online classes and webinars](#)

[Learning Center](#)

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### **Why Are We All So Obsessed with Genealogy?**

15 Jun 2021 9:09 AM Anonymous

I enjoyed this article and felt perhaps others might want to read the article by Libby Copeland and published in the Literary Hub web site:

America has become a nation obsessed with genealogy. The mere existence of so many genealogical materials digitized, indexed, and searchable online, and our communal drive to find them, comes from a suite of personal and cultural motivations, as well as a complex history around the search for lineage. In his 2013 history of American genealogy, *Family Trees*, historian François Weil traces how the American impulse toward genealogy has often been in tension with itself. In the early days of the new American republic, Weil writes, the idea of establishing one's family line was associated with the British aristocracy's obsession with social rank, and viewed with suspicion by a society that saw itself as more egalitarian and forward-looking. Why would one be driven to document one's ancestors, if not to prove some connection to better birth and station?

But over the course of the 19th century, that shifted, enough that by 1879 the *New York Times* could declare that "we are becoming the most genealogical nation on the face of the earth." Weil writes that American genealogy transformed into a respectable middle-class endeavor as Americans began to justify and sanctify the activity within the context of family, which came to be viewed as an almost holy thing. The family "was viewed as a refuge from the outside world in an ever-changing environment," Weil writes, and genealogy became a mechanism for remembering and solidifying that unit.

Besides, some Americans came to see the process of learning one's family history as a moral endeavor—a person could learn much from what her ancestors had done right or wrong. Reframed within the context of republicanism and democratic ideals, genealogical inquiry could become the means to celebrate not just the richest and most titled of forebears, but even the humbler sort. One 1850s Pennsylvanian went so far as to boast of his family's "mediocrity." The practice of keeping one's family history in a household bible had long been popular; now, middle-class New England families augmented those bibles with wall hangings of family registers and embroidered family trees.

You can read the full article at: <https://lithub.com/we-are-we-all-so-obsessed-with-genealogy>.

My thanks to newsletter reader Pierre Clouthier for telling me about this online article.

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**1950 U.S. Census Release**

By Jackie Niemeyer

Are you ready for the release of the 1950 census next year? It will be released April 1, 2022 since there is a 72 year privacy rule. It will take several months for sites such as ancestry.com and familysearch.org to index this census, it took 4 months when the 1940 census was released. If you can't wait that long you'll have to know the address where your person lived to narrow down the census pages to look at. You will need to know the Enumeration District Number to look for. For example Stanislaus County has a total of 137 E. D. numbers to search through. They all start with the county code of 50- then the number. The city of Turlock is numbered 50-111 to 50-119. To find an address you can check old phone books or city directories if available. The Stanislaus County library does have a directory available for 1950.

To find the 1950 form and questions, go to [www.census.gov/history](http://www.census.gov/history) and pick Through The Decades, then pick Questionnaires or the Index of Questions. They have all years available at this site. This census has the usual data such as name, age, relationship to head of household, marital status and state or country where born. A few people on each page were selected for additional questions at the bottom of the page such as birth place of parents and where the person was living one year prior. A lot of the questions on this census have to do with the work status of the person.

Once you have an address for a family you want to find in 1950 there are several tools at [Stevemorse.org](http://Stevemorse.org) to help you. Be sure to read the Getting Ready for the 1950 Census and the 1950 Tutorial Quiz links. I was able to use the 1940-1950 ED Maps to narrow down which Enumeration District my family lived in for 1950. I know the address they lived at on Paradise Road and by looking at the maps they should be in ED 50-68. Check out the different links at Steve's site, it is a good site for other things such as Immigration and passenger list searching. Have fun finding your families when the 1950 census is released, it may just help you with a brick wall you may have!

<p><b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> This inquiry is authorized by Act of Congress (46 Stat. 21; 13 U. S. C. 201-218) which requires that a report be made. The information furnished is accorded confidential treatment. The Census report cannot be used for purposes of taxation, investigation, or regulation.</p>										
<p>FORM <b>P1</b></p>		<p>U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS</p>						<p>16-59925-1</p>		
<p><b>1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING</b></p>										
<p><b>FOR PERSONS 14 Y</b></p>										
<p>How old was he on his last birthday? (If under one year of age, enter month of birth as April, May, Dec., etc.)</p>	<p>Is he now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married? (Mar, Wd, D, Sep, Nov)</p>	<p>What State (or foreign country) was he born in? If born outside Continental United States, enter name of Territory, possession, or foreign country. Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-other</p>	<p>If foreign born— Is he naturalized? (Yes, No, or AP for born abroad of American parents)</p>	<p>What was this person doing most of last week— working, keeping house, or something else? (Wk, H, Ot, or U for unable to work)</p>	<p>If in or out in item 15— Did this person do any work at all last week, not counting work around the house? (Include work for pay, in own business, profession, on farm, or unpaid family work) (Yes or No)</p>	<p>If No in item 16— Was this person looking for work? (See Special Cases below) (Yes or No)</p>	<p>If No in item 17— Even though he didn't work last week, does he have a job or business? (Yes or No)</p>	<p>If Wk in item 15 or Yes in item 16— How many hours did he work last week? (Include unpaid work on family farm or business) (Number of hours)</p>	<p>1. If employed (Wk) 2. If looking for work 3. For all other persons  What kind of doing? For example: Nails heels on shoes. Chemistry professor. Farmer..... Farm helper..... Armed forces..... Never worked.....  (Occupation)</p>	
11	12	13	B	14	15	16	17	18	19	20



Nan Harriett Wolf

January 4, 1934 - June 5, 2021

Turlock, California - Nan Harriett Wolf, 87, passed away on June 5, 2021. She was born on January 4, 1934 in Merced, CA, to Marie (Hinds) and Harold Colburn Sr. She married George Wolf 65 years ago in Sutter Creek, CA. Nan spent the majority of her childhood in Plymouth, CA. She was a resident of Turlock, CA for 44 years. Previously, she was a resident of Mariposa, Plymouth, Belmont, Davis, Dixon, Winters, Wheatland, Tracy, Winton, Planada, and Ballico, CA, as her husband was transferred to different work sites. She attended Notre Dame de Namur College at Belmont, CA, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, Modesto Junior College, and Merced College. Nan was a lifetime member of the PTA and a volunteer with the March of Dimes, taught Catholic catechism for various dioceses, volunteered at the LDS Family History Center, was a substitute teacher, and finally in later years, volunteered as an elementary school teacher's helper. She was a bookkeeper for the Turlock Cemetery Association for 17 years.

Nana loved to travel. She researched her genealogy along the east coast, visited her great-grandchildren in Paraguay, and vacationed many times in Europe. Nan found time for all of this while raising six children and babysitting 13 grandchildren. Nan's siblings include Marla Moreno, deceased, of Plymouth, CA; Harold Colburn Jr. of Spokane, WA; Gary Colburn, deceased, of Plymouth; and Jon Colburn of Plymouth. She is survived by her husband, George Wolf of Turlock; children, Michael (Michele) Wolf of Modesto; Katherine Wolf of Alexandria, VA; Kimberly Kajioka of Turlock; Dorothy Burt (Martin) of Asuncion, Paraguay; James Wolf (Regina) of Merced and Elizabeth (Geoffrey) King of Turlock. Grandchildren include Jacqueline Wolf of Ann Arbor, MI; Matthew Wolf of Monterey, CA; Christopher Kajioka (Jolie) of Fuquay-Varina, NC; Andrew Kajioka (Kimberly) of Tulsa, OK; Megan Hartsfield (Jared) of Turlock; Alexander Kajioka of Marina, CA; Daniel Burt (Vanessa) of Asuncion, Paraguay; Thomas Burt of Asuncion; Marie Claire Burt (Juan Carlos) of Asuncion; Willis Wolf of Merced; Spencer Wolf of Merced; Samuel King of Turlock and Joshua King of Turlock. Nan is also survived by nine great-grandchildren. "Nana" was much loved and will be sorely missed.

A visitation will be held from 3 to 6 p.m., followed by the Rosary at 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at Turlock Funeral Home, 425 N. Soderquist Rd., Turlock. The funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, June 18, 2021, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Turlock on the corner of Lyons Ave. and N. Rose St. Following the Mass, Nan will be interred at Turlock Memorial Park.

We wish to thank Community Hospice for their loving care.

Donations in Nan's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at [stjude.org](http://stjude.org).

## Stockton, California Police, Genealogy Expert Hope They Can Return Found Keepsakes To Family

10 Jun 2021 7:49 AM Anonymous

Police officers are trying to find the rightful owner or family of a stash of World War II-era photos and letters discovered in Stockton this week.

On Tuesday, officers found more than 150 photographs and letters, a Stockton Police Department spokesperson said. “These are photos but, there also precious moments captured in time,” said Officer Rosie Calderon, a Stockton Police Department Community Service Officer.

The items were found by a Community Service Officer after a call for service on St. Andrews Drive on Tuesday.

“What we know is that a male subject abandoned a bag — probably didn’t see any value in it,” Calderon said. The find included a three-page love letter addressed to Mary Ellen Driscoll.

Officers say it appeared the woman also used the names of Williams, Metcalf, Bohannon, Henderson, and Andrews.

Police are now looking for the family of the woman, whose photos were posted to the police department’s Facebook page.

Here is hoping that a genealogist can assist. You can read the full story in an article by Ryan Hill published in the local television station's web site at: <https://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2021/06/09/keepsakes-photos-letters-documents-family/>.

Posted with permission of Dick Eastman <https://eogn.com/page-18080/10612560>

## Some Tips From Fran Jackson

Hi everybody, Today I was online for one of the many classes and webinars offered for free by Family Search.org. To find out how to register for the Classes for June and July (for example) go to [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Library\\_Classes\\_and\\_Webinars](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars).

Family Search has announced it has started a program that you can have a Family History Specialist do a look up for you. If they find a record they will make a copy for you. For more information go to [familysearch.org/family-history-library-history-library-records-lookup-service](https://www.familysearch.org/family-history-library-history-library-records-lookup-service).

Additional information can be obtained on the Family Search Blog.

Anyone interested in researching LAC - or Library and Archives of Canada...Go to <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx>.

Check out Digital Public Library of America.

Can't find a male ancestor, check to see if the mother may have stuck a father's name as the middle name of a child.





Membership Information Dues: Single membership, \$25.00 per year Family membership, \$35.00 per year

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US Mail: Maybelle Allen c/o GSSC, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95352-1352  
Email: [gssc-founded1968@gmail.com](mailto:gssc-founded1968@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 209-523-0593 (Maybelle Allen)

GSSC web page: <http://stanislausgenealogy.org/>  
The newsletter is posted at this website, along with other interesting society-related items.

General meeting: 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd **Thursday** of each month, except July and December at the Trinity Presbyterian Church at 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto, CA.

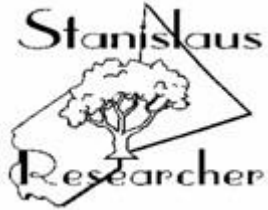
Board meeting: 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month Ridgeway's Restaurant, 2401 E Orangeburg Ave, Modesto, CA

2020 Officers		2020 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Beverly Graham	Four Generation Charts	Michelle Barnes
1st Vice President	Vicky Wolff	Fundraisers	Committee Chairs
2nd Vice President	Jackie Niemeyer	Historian	Valyrie Jevert
Secretary	Pam Atherstone	Membership	Maybelle Allen
Treasurer	Roxie Ferrari	Newsletter & Webpage	Lewis M. Ruddick
Director at Large 1	David Wolff	Publicity	Vacant
Director at Large 2	Marge Scheuber	Queries	Colleen Norby
Director at Large 3	Judy Byrne	Refreshments	Tom & Judy Byrne
Director at Large 4	Karen Souza	Registrar	Dorothy Winke
Director at Large 5	Michelle Barnes	Research & Publication	Millie Starr
Past President	Millie Starr	Research Trips	Vacant
		Research Salt Lake City	Vacant
		Resources	Vicky Wolff
		Special Collections Room	Jackie Niemeyer
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Sunshine	Karen Souza

Updated 6-14-21.

**We have 80 members for 2021**

[GSSC website](http://stanislausgenealogy.org/)



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