



## Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

August 2023

Volume 45 Number 7

Message from your President ..... 1  
 GSSC Cook Books remain available ..... 1  
 El Vista FHC contact person information .....1  
 August Program ..... 2  
 Photos from Our June Meeting .....3  
 Writing Group Welcomes you to join..... 5  
 Special Collections Room Services ..... 5  
 Free Memories Preservation Service ..... 5  
 Have you ever considered? ..... 6  
 54 Years Ago: Apollo 11 Crew Walks on the Moon ..... 7  
 Genealogy Research Tools..... 8

August 17, 2023

7:00 P.M. David Seymour will be presenting a Modesto street naming story of love. A lasting memory.

### Presidents Message

By Vicky Wolff

July is usually a month that has less appointments and activities on our calendar, and we look forward to a quiet month with few responsibilities. However, our June was very active with lots of activities. However, all the business and activities were wonderful.

June 9-12, we had a family reunion at our home. This came about because my Aunt Evelyn and cousins called me sometime during the Christmas holidays this past December. It was great hearing all of their voices on the phone. The reason for the call was they had all been talking and decided that it was time for another reunion. The last family reunion was in 2013, just prior to David and I traveling across the U.S. to see the changing of the fall leaves, visiting friends along the way and finding our ancestors and to see where they lived in our beautiful country. This trip was wonderful and I found all my relatives graves and was so excited. A great accomplishment. David wrote a book about our trip across the U.S. with story and pictures. We recently re-read the book and both of us had wonderful memories of our trip.

Planning the date and where we would have the reunion was discussed and because Modesto is halfway between Oregon and Southern California, we decided to have it our home. (I do family reunions on both sides of my family).

So, I got ready to plan this reunion, sending out invitations and reservation forms, we had a total of 21 relatives participating in the event. The family reunion was very successful and everyone had a terrific time! I will share the reunion at this month's meeting as to what I did and the gifts I presented to my family.

I hope you are researching your families and finding wonderful information and stories to share with your family members.

See you at our August 17th meeting, It will be good to see all your smiling faces again!.....Vicky



**The Cooking Gene**



We still have copies of the GSSC Cookbook: **The Cooking Gene**. Judy and Joyce would be more than happy to fill your order. We are now down to a limited number of our popular cookbook. The Board has set the price for the remaining copies at **\$20 plus \$5 for shipping and handling**. See our website [stanislaugenealogy.org/Publications](http://stanislaugenealogy.org/Publications) to order your copy.

**August Program**

By Karen Souza

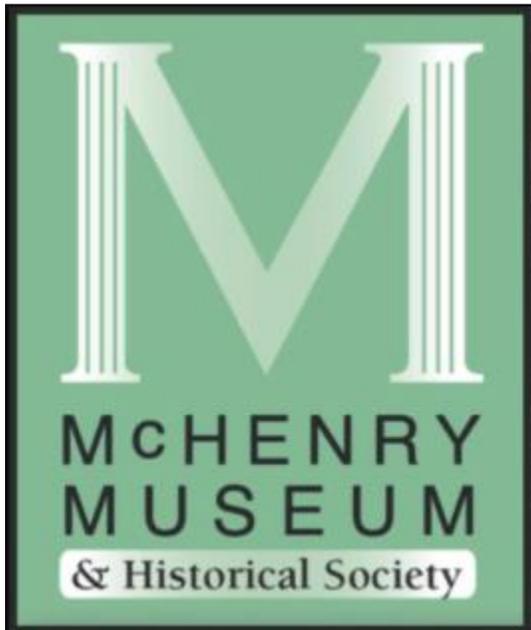
David Seymour was born in Modesto, and raised in Turlock. Previously a history professor at Merced College, he now teaches at Modesto Junior College. He joined as a director of the McHenry Museum & Historical Society in 2017, and served as president of the board from 2019 to 2021. He was then hired as executive director in 2021. His passion for local history was nurtured by his late mother and grandmother. The goal of his work is to inspire others locally to learn more about their local history in appreciation of our community's comprehensive identity.

In 2020, he took over the duties of writing monthly historical articles for the historical society. In January of 2021, it was suggested he work on a Modesto love story for the February 2021 edition. He recalled that the street his mother was raised on, Carol Street, was named after its subdivision builder's wife. The builder of the Edgewood Height Estates subdivision was Lance Ellis. He initiated contact with Renee Ellis, daughter of the late Lance and Carol Ellis.

Renee Ellis informed David about her father's work, and how each of the streets of his subdivisions were named after family members. She took him on a tour through the city, pointing out the names of the streets and the family connection. Named streets are a lasting legacy to leave in honoring members of one's family.

David will be presenting the Ellis story at the August meeting of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County.

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**David Seymour**

Executive Director

McHenry Museum & Historical Society

- 
-  209 618 5387 | 209 918 5719
  -  [david@mchenrymuseum.org](mailto:david@mchenrymuseum.org)
  -  <https://www.mchenrymuseum.org/>
  -  1402 I Street, Modesto, CA 95354



**Photos from the June Meeting**

By Heidi Armo

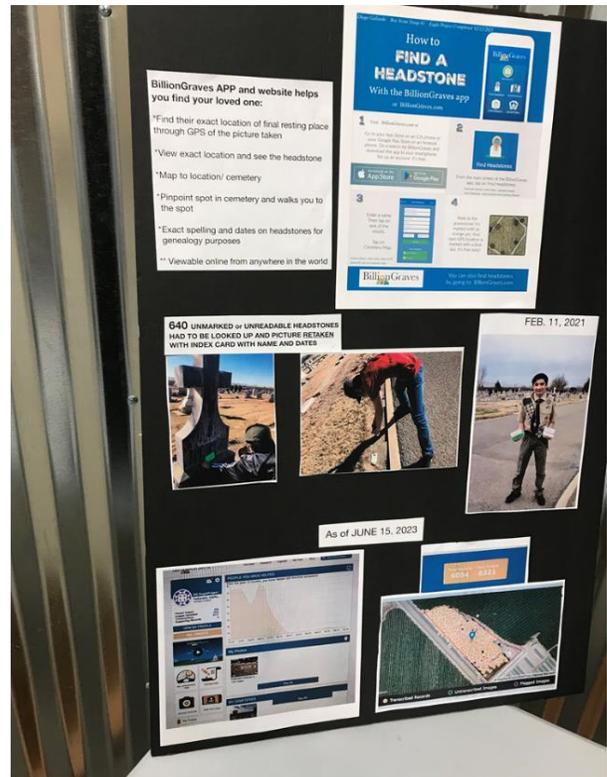


**Ice Cream Social remnants  
Attendees enjoying their ice Cream**

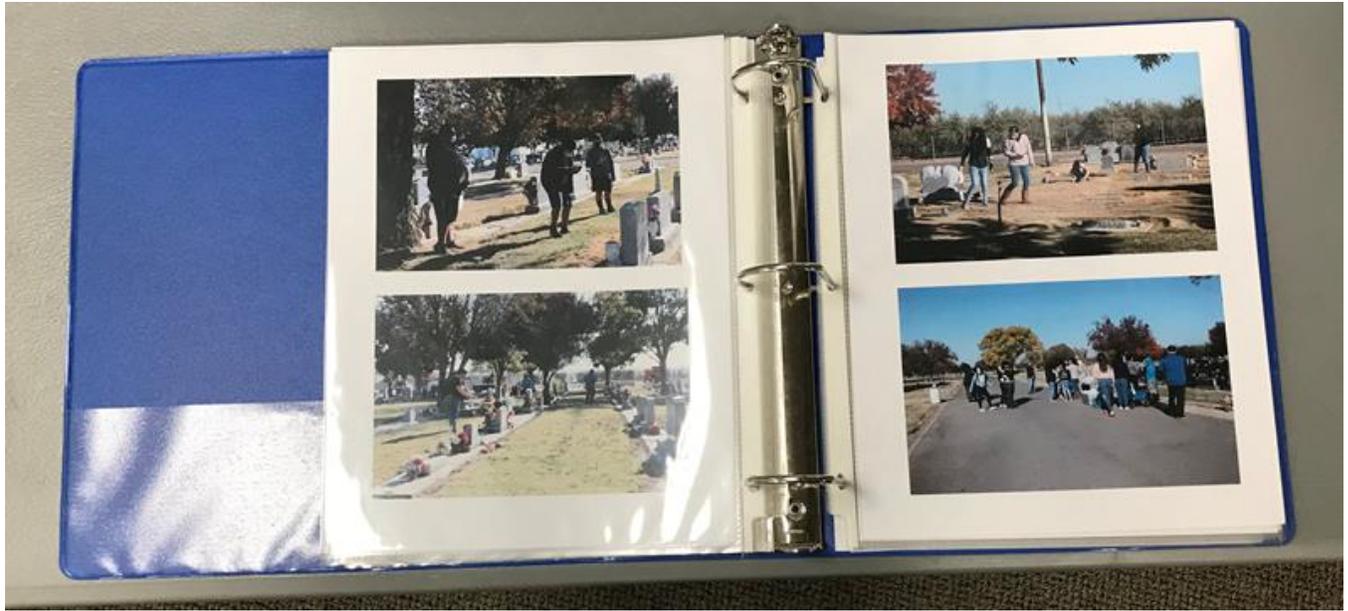


**Speaker and family**

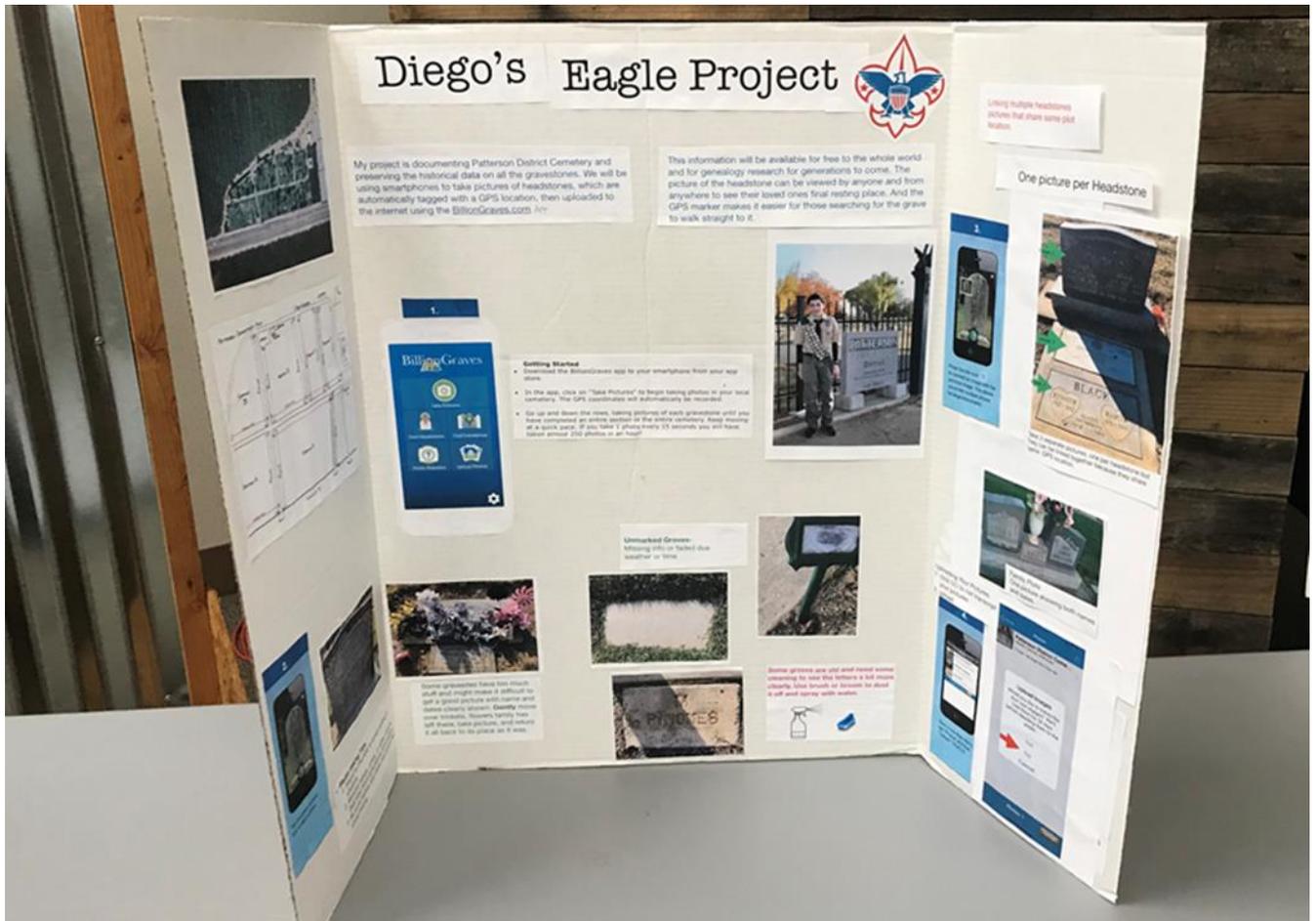
**He submitted his work to BillionGraves.com**



**Speaker Displays**



This was the Speaker's Eagle Scout Project - Patterson District Cemetery



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## Writing Group

Submitted by Joann McDonald

The next meeting of the writing group will be held at Joann MacDonald's home at 10:00 AM on August 10th. Please E-mail her at [JMastergardener@aol.com](mailto:JMastergardener@aol.com) to confirm you are coming.

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## STANISLAUS COUNTY REFERENCE MATERIAL AT THE STANISLAUS COUNTY LIBRARY

Did you know that the library reference staff has a computerized index of obituaries from the Modesto Bee? It is on their computers at the front desk and they can search it for you. You just need the name and at least the year of death. It will give you the date and page number where the obituary can be found if available and you can find it on the microfilmed Modesto Bee.

The library office has the city and county directories starting in 1910 up until present. There are a few pages from directories 1867-1893 that mainly list just names and occupations with some years missing. If you come in on Mondays from noon to 4 pm I can get them for you to look at in the Special Collections room.

In the Alcove room of the Special Collections room we have all the Stanislaus County specific books and all of the Modesto high school yearbooks starting with Modesto High School in 1911. There is also the MJC Buccaneer 1922-1960, La Loma Jr. High 1967-1991 and Roosevelt Jr. High 1940-1981.

The Stanislaus county specific books include The History of Stanislaus County, California by Tinkham along with an every name index done by our genealogy society, and also Stories of Stanislaus by Sol P. Elias with a separate index done by GSSC. There are 11 volumes of Cemeteries of Stanislaus County that were published by our society and also an index of Burial Permits of Stanislaus County 1889-1948. Our society also did census indexes for Stanislaus County for the years 1860-1910. A good substitute we have for the missing 1890 census is the California 1890 Great Register, a 3 volume set. It covers all of California and is taken from voter lists and includes names, ages, birthplace and residence counties of voters.

There is also a 3 binder set of the 1984 Historic Building Survey which has historic homes in Modesto by street address. It has photos and the architectural styles, description, original owners and present owner as of 1984.

We also have a Designated Modesto Landmarks Binder which has photos and descriptions of 52 landmarks including the McHenry Mansion and the Modesto Arch.

This is but a small sample of what is available at the library and in Special Collections. Volunteers from our society are there on Mondays from noon to 4 pm. Books in the room can not be checked out. If coming on a different day just let the librarians at the front desk know that you want to do research in the room and they will let you in. Hope to see you there!

Jackie Niemeyer at [jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net](mailto:jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net)

The library is at 1500 I Street Modesto, CA.

**The Index of the Special Collections Room holdings is found [here](#). 64 pages of "I didn't know we had this!"**

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## FamilySearch Library Opens Free Memories Preservation Service

20 Jul 2023 8:44 AM

A press release from FamilySearch offers a valuable new service:

The FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, has opened a new, free service where guests can bring their personal and family records and artifacts and convert them to digital formats for easier sharing and long-term keeping. The feature is called The Family Memories Preservation Center, or Memory Lane. Visitors can convert

family documents, home movies, slides, negatives, video and audio tapes, and other media to digital formats to better preserve them against loss and to make them more readily accessible to other family members or friends.

“Every family probably has photo albums or boxes of photos or old video tapes and reel-to-reel films they have produced or acquired through the years. The Memory Lane service is a great opportunity to ensure those family memories will be preserved and available for future generations,” said Debbie Gurtler, FamilySearch assistant library director.

The machines and technology available to convert old media to digital are surprisingly fast. “I brought a box of family photos and did 150 in about an hour and a half or so. You can put them all into a stack without worrying about the different sizes, place them on one of the self-feeding photo scanners, and they just automatically feed through. It’s hard to imagine how quick it can be with the high-speed scanners,” added Gurtler.

#### How The Family Memories Preservation Center Works

Instructions are available with each device, and volunteers and library staff are available to help visitors learn how to use any of the equipment if needed. Thumb (portable USB) drives are available for free but may not have sufficient memory for large projects. Visitors with films, videos, and large quantities of things to digitize are encouraged to bring their own flash drives or portable hard drives. Files can also be loaded directly to a patron’s personal online storage location like Google Drive and iCloud.

If applicable, digitized files can also be attached to people on the FamilySearch Family Tree via FamilySearch Memories. In Memories, they can be organized by topic, preserved as a slideshow or album, or used as sources for life sketches.

#### Why Old Media Should Be Transferred to Digital

Some people may not be aware that CD-ROMs and DVDs do not have permanent shelf life, showing notable signs of degradation after a just a few years if not stored properly. Not to mention technology needed to view these media types will eventually become obsolete. Once converted, digital files can be transferred quite easily to a home computer or other storage media of choice.

The FamilySearch Library is a popular tourist destination for people seeking to make family discoveries and personal connections. FamilySearch and its predecessors have been helping preserve and provide access to the world’s genealogical records since 1894. The FamilySearch Library Memory Lane service is a free extension of these services for individuals and families to preserve and share their own family memories for generations to come.

One guest recently transferred her grandfather’s self-recorded life story from tapes to a digital file. Time had rendered four of the dozen tapes inoperable, but she was able to successfully digitize the rest. She said her cousins and family members are waiting for this—to hear his voice with his distinctive Cockney accent sharing memories. He was born in London and moved to Bountiful, Utah, but he retained his accent, she shared with a smile.

Walk-ins are welcome, but a reservation is recommended to be sure the needed equipment will be available. For more details about the types of equipment available and how to make optimum use of the facility, go to FamilySearch Memories Preservation Center.

Posted with permission of Dick Eastman <https://eogn.com>

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#### Have you ever considered?

In order for you to be born, you needed:

2 Parents

4 Grandparents

8 Great grandparents

16 Second great grandparents

32 Third great grandparents

64 Fourth great grandparents

128 Fifth great grandparents

256 Sixth great grandparents

512 Seventh great grandparents

1,024 Eighth great grandparents

2,048 Ninth great grandparents

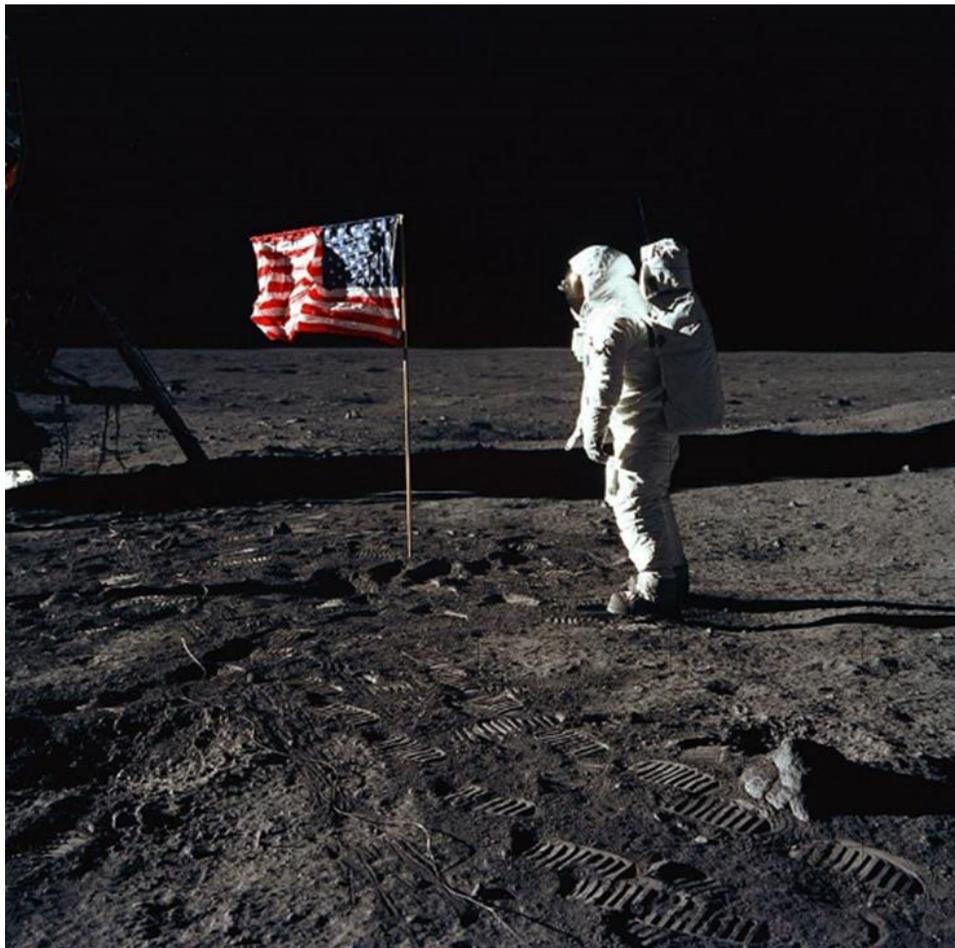
For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment about how many struggles, how many battles, how much sadness, happiness, love stories, and hope for the future that your ancestors had to undergo for you to exist in this present moment. You are the dream of many ancestors.

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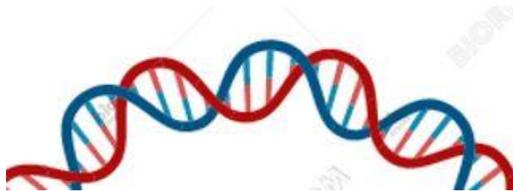
### 54 Years Ago: Apollo 11 Crew Walks on the Moon

On 20 July 1969, the American flag was “flown” in space when Neil Armstrong placed it on the moon. Flags were placed on the lunar surface on each of six manned landings during the Apollo program.



Astronaut Edwin E. Aldrin Jr., lunar module pilot of the first lunar landing mission, poses for a photograph beside the deployed United States flag during an Apollo 11 extravehicular activity (EVA) on the lunar surface. The Lunar Module (LM) is on the left, and the footprints of the astronauts are clearly visible.

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**Get Ready for a Fall Seminar! Mark Your Calendar! September 16, 2023 Modesto Centre Plaza for 8 to 4:30**

**More information to follow!**

### **Tools To Assist You on “How to Research Your Genealogy”.**

By Lewis M. Ruddick

Nearly all of us here are somehow doing something with genealogy. This article intended to direct you to some of tools that will make that job a little bit easier. The LDS Church has a great program to assist you with your genealogical research and it is free. In addition, you need not worry that they will be recruiting you into their membership. I have used their services for over 30 years and never once been approached for membership. I have, however, received some exceptional help from their volunteer members with my genealogical research.

The following is a guide they provide on-line that will give you excellent direction for your research.

**A Guide to Research** [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/A\\_Guide\\_to\\_Research#Purpose\\_of\\_the\\_Guide](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/A_Guide_to_Research#Purpose_of_the_Guide)

Family Search Centers or Affiliates are located worldwide <https://www.familysearch.org/centers/locations/>  
You will find information about our nearby Center on El Vista at the bottom of page one (1) of our newsletter.

Should you be unable to provide a genealogical recording database program LDS can provide you access to their Family Search program which is excellent **BUT** it is open to all as an open-source program. This means anyone with an account can see, use and/or modify information in your established tree.

On my first trip to the Salt Lake City LDS Library with our society I had just signed up for my FamilySearch account so that I could record my research at the library “on the fly”. I entered all of my grandfather’s information then took a break. I returned from my break and opened my tree and his information was changed. I changed it back to what was correct and within a minute it was again changed. I called the church elder over and told him what had just happened. I then again made the correction. As we both watched it was again adjusted to something incorrect. He then got on to his administrative account and looked up who was making the changes and gave me her name asking if I knew her. I did not. He thought for a moment and asked if I had anything unique I could add. I then added my grandfather’s photograph and entered it. Problem solved! Whoever she was she must have then realized that we were working with different subjects, and I have not encountered that since.

There are a number of family tree software programs available:

Family Tree Maker - <https://www.mackiev.com/ftm/> \$79.95

Legacy Family Tree - <https://legacyfamilytree.com/> / \$34.95

Family Historian - <https://www.family-historian.co.uk/> \$69.95

Ancestry.com -- <https://www.ancestry.com/> Ancestry membership \$19.99/mth

MyHeritage - <https://www.myheritage.com/> Price: Premium – \$129/year; 1st year: \$89, PremiumPlus – \$209/year; 1st year: \$149, Access to all historical records data – \$189/year; 1st year: \$129, Complete – \$299/year; 1st year: \$199

RootsMagic 9 - <https://www.rootsmagic.com/> \$39.95

FamilySearch - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/> Best free family tree maker

**NOTE:** Family History Center at the LDS Church 731 El Vista Avenue, Modesto is **open by appointment only**. Marian Sanderson is the contact person. She can be reached at 209-968-4796 to make an appointment.

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c/o GSSC, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95353-1352

Email: [gssc-founded1968@gmail.com](mailto:gssc-founded1968@gmail.com)

Telephone: 209 529-9430 (Vicky Wolff )

GSSC web page: <https://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 , The Secret Garden , 2401 E Orangeburg Ave., Modesto, CA.

2023 Officers		2023 Standing Committees	
President	Vicky Wolff	Acquisitions	Vacant
1st Vice President	Karen Souza	Audit	Board of Directors
2nd Vice President	Jackie Niemeyer	Budget	Roxanne Ferrari
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Recording Secretary	Pam Atherstone	Historian	Heidi Arno
Treasurer	Roxanne Ferrari	Membership	Joyce Hickman
Director at Large 1	Joyce Hickman	Memorial Day	Membership
Director at Large 2	Amy Mowery	Mentor	Joann McDonald
Director at Large 3	Joann McDonald	Newsletter & Website	Lewis & Logan Ruddick
Director at Large 4	Martha Carter -Bhatti	Nominating	Membership
Director at Large 5	Julie Condryn	Planning	Officers & Board
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		Publicity	Vicky Wolff
		Queries	Coleen Norby
		Registrar	Marge Scheuber
		Research & Publication	Vacant
		Refreshments	Joann McDonald
		Seminar	Vacant
		Special Collections Room & Workshops	Jackie Niemeyer
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Sunshine	Martha Carter -Bhatti
		Trips	Heidi Arno

Updated 21 July 2023

We have 66 members for 202 3

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



Genealogical Society of  
Stanislaus County  
P O Box 1352  
Modesto, CA 95352-1352



August 4, 2023

