



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

September 2023

Volume 45 Number 8

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September 21, 2023

7:00 P.M. Frank Marquez, Hilmar H.S., reporting on the Japanese families who lived in Hilmar before WWII and did not return after the war. He will present what he has gathered on these families.

Presidents Message

By Vicky Wolff

My how this year has gone by! Before we know it Christmas will be upon us once more again.

This year we have concentrated on membership. We had new brochures made and have disbursed many around Stanislaus County. If you have a location that we could have our flyers displayed in, please let us know or take the brochures yourself to the location to have them displayed. Also, I would encourage each of us to call a member that has not come back to our meetings since Covid. We would love to see them again at our meetings so we can continue to shower them with love and friendship.

We have contracted with Modesto Centre Plaza for our fall Seminar to be held on September 16, 2023. This all day seminar speaker is Katherine Borges, and she will be speaking on DNA. You won't want to miss this special seminar! Please our stanislausgenealogy.org for further information where you will find a registration form and forms will be at our meetings. Register early. Seating is limited.

Nominations of new officers and board members are coming up in August. If you get a call from our nominating committee, I hope you will volunteer to fill a position. We need everyone to participate in our wonderful Society!

We all have different strengths, and ideas, etc., so hopefully you can volunteer where you can best serve.

Continue to have a wonderful summer and we will see you at our next meeting!..... Vicky

September Program

By Karen Souza

Frank Marquez, Hilmar High School teacher and football coach, has extensively researched who the Japanese families who lived in Hilmar before WWII and did not return after the war were and what happened to them. He will present the information he has gathered on these families at the September general meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2023. Please join us in learning about the history of local Japanese families.

Special Collections Room

Stanislaus County Main Library

1500 I Street Modesto, CA 95354

Jackie Niemeyer jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net

Jackie still needs help on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month

The Index of our GSSC Special Collections Room holdings is found [here](#).

Meet Your GSSC Officers

By Joyce Plis

GSSC 1st Vice President

Name: Karen Dale Jackson Souza

My father chose my name: Karen because there is no nickname for it; though my cousins and brothers and sisters found a way to nickname me. Dale for Dale Evans.

Jackson is a very common surname so you can imagine the work I have to do to identify my ancestors.

I took my husband Clayborne's last name when I moved to California and had to get a new driver's license.

Years at GSSC; how long doing research.

I am not sure how many years I have been attending GSSC meetings, but I was invited by Jackie Niemeyer a long time ago and attended as a guest for a few years before joining. I started my genealogy research online in January 2011 and was able to get lots of ancestors lined up within 2 months. Since then, I've been trying to find birth certificates and more info on the 3rd and 4th greats. For some I have had great luck; for others, I can't get out of the US to find my German, Irish, and Scottish ancestors.

GSSC roles: I was an at large Director for 3 years and am now 1st Vice President.

What ethnicities/ancestries/names/locations are you researching?

I am researching Rau, Niebler, and Daum/Damme for German ancestors; Garniss and Johns(t)on for UK ancestors; Jackson, for US, Canada, and wherever else ancestors; Whittle for US and UK ancestors; Haywood or Hayward for US; and Sibley and Mitchell for Canada, specifically Nova Scotia. I am also researching African roots in Canada and the US

Have you had your DNA tested? I have put my DNA on the 23 and me website.

What database do you use for your research (FamilySearch, Ancestry, ?) I primarily use FamilySearch for my research. I use Findmypast and Ancestry at the LDS Family History Center. I used Find-a-grave for a lot of info prior to it being on Ancestry. I also use NovaScotiaGenealogy website for my Canadian ancestors.

Other organizations you belong to?

I do not belong to any other organizations now except I assist with youth group at my church on a regular basis.

Whatever else you think interesting (where you lived, where you worked; family information, etc.)

I grew up on Cape Ann in Massachusetts with my six siblings and mother and father. I moved to Albuquerque, NM, where I graduated from UNM with a bachelor's degree in Linguistics and had my two children and married my husband. I met my husband in Munich, Germany, while we were both traveling. (I had been attending the Linguistic Society of AMERICA's Summer Institute in Salzburg, Austria, prior to traveling.)

I moved to California to be closer to my father and my husband's parents while our kids were still young. However, my father ended up moving back to Massachusetts shortly after.

My father's grandfather was a minor league baseball player when his mother (my grandmother) was born in 1909. My father has 9 brothers who lived and 2 sisters. I have located two more brothers who died as young children.



My husband's family lived in Tracy, CA when he grew up and his father and sister still live there. I have not done much research on his side except for the Portuguese side in Hawaii. He has numerous family members who have done the genealogy research on his mother's side, which is German and Irish primarily.

I've worked as a paralegal for the City of Albuquerque and a couple of private law firms. My paralegal education was in San Diego, CA. I substitute-taught for 5 years and most recently worked for Merced County digitally-imaging client and company documents as the lead worker.

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 September 14th. Please telephone her at 209-521-2140 or E-mail her at JMastergardener@aol.com to confirm you are coming.

V-J Day August 14, 1945

By Lewis M. Ruddick

“It was too much death to contemplate, too much savagery and suffering; and in August 1945 no one was counting. For those who had seen the face of battle and been in the camps and under the bombs—and had lived—there was a sense of immense relief.”

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/v-j-day>

Many of us will remember this day in different ways. I was a little 3-year-old boy living in rural Mendocino County, California, and I knew something very important had happened. But there was more turmoil than celebration. My maternal grandparents had received confirmation that their son (my favorite uncle) had been killed in Germany ending any hope that, just maybe, he would be coming home. My grandmother took down one small flag and hung another in the window and cried deeply. I remember being able to do nothing to console her. All very confusing for a 3 year old. As I became older I learned the meaning of this and what had caused my grandmother such grief.

The following account is from the National WWII Museum.

Elsewhere people were celebrating. In New York City's Times Square, sailors climbed lampposts to unfurl American flags as ticker tape rained down upon the throngs gathered to celebrate the war's end. In thousands of small towns like North Platte, Nebraska, similar scenes included fireworks, confetti, and impromptu parades down Main Street. In San Francisco, parades celebrated that troops would soon return home through that city.

In Honolulu, marching bands, parades, ticker tape, and blowing papers filled the streets. In backyard celebrations, shirtless veterans drank celebratory toasts in the warm sunlight. Veterans and their girlfriends also crowded into and on top of trucks and cars (some even riding on fenders), waved flags, and excitedly drove through the city, relishing the moment Americans had hoped for since the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) would officially be celebrated in the United States on the day formal surrender documents were signed aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay: **September 2, 1945**.

But as welcome as victory over Japan was, the day was bittersweet in light of the war's destructiveness. More than 400,000 Americans—and an estimated 65 million people worldwide—had died in the conflict. As historian Donald L. Miller, PhD, wrote in his book *The Story of World War II*, “It was too much death to contemplate, too much savagery and suffering; and in August 1945 no one was counting. For those who had seen the face of battle and been in the camps and under the bombs—and had lived—there was a sense of immense relief.” The war was over!.

Following reprinted with permission of Stanislaus Magazine and Sue Nowicki <http://www.stanmag.com/>

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O say can you see ...?

The history behind our national anthem

BY SUE NOWICKI

If you turn on your PBS station on July 4 to the annual patriotic concert filmed on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol, you will hear military bands, classical orchestras and celebrity pop and rock stars with a variety of songs in a mix of patriotism and pop culture. At the end, the National Symphony will perform Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, complete with cannon fire from the United States Army Presidential Salute Guns Battery, followed by a spectacular fireworks show. About 700,000 people flock to the free concert each year. But you can count on the opening number of the concert to be the six most recognizable musical notes in American culture playing, as the crowd begins to sing the first five words: "O say can you see ..."

And it's not only sung on Independence Day. Go to any civic celebration or sporting event, from high school to professional fields, and you will see people standing, some with hands over their hearts, men and athletes taking off hats and helmets, and perhaps even jets flying overhead, as our national anthem is sung. Many young children learn the song at school, along with "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and the Pledge of Allegiance.

You probably don't know all the words of the song; there are several verses rarely sung, but you may know that a guy named Francis Scott Key wrote it. And perhaps you've even got an idea of why it was written – after a battle with the British. But maybe you don't know the whole story behind it.

It was NOT written during the Revolutionary War. Actually, during that war, the American flag was not the biggest symbol of our fledgling country. It was primarily flown over U.S. forts and ships. The eagle, Lady Liberty and George Washington instead were among the symbols used by ordinary citizens in that conflict, which ended in 1781. It wasn't until a few decades later, on June 18, 1812, when Congress declared a second war against Great Britain because of British interference with American trade and plans for expansion, that the flag became a national symbol.

That war, which included a stunning victory by the British when their troops marched on Washington, DC, and torched the Capitol building, the White House and other structures, was not going well for the young republic. Then the British sailed to Baltimore, an important seaport. On Sept. 13, 1814, their warships began firing bombs and rockets on Fort McHenry, which protected the city's harbor. The bombardment continued for 25 hours. One of the soldiers in the fort wrote, "We were like pigeons tied by the legs to be shot at."

Tethered to one of the nearby British ships were Francis Scott Key, a lawyer and an amateur poet, and John Skinner, a fellow lawyer and the U.S. Agent for Prisoners of War. The two men had sailed out to the British HMS Tonnant, where they negotiated for the release of Dr. William Beanes, an elderly physician who had been taken prisoner by the British when they were leaving Washington, D.C. Beanes had previously attended to American troops during that dreadful winter at Valley Forge with George Washington. In 1812, he had detained some British military deserters who had been stealing food and goods from American citizens. But British military leaders believed Beanes had betrayed his promise that he wouldn't interfere with British operations and arrested him, intending to take him to Halifax to be put on trial there.

Key and Skinner had lunch with the British officers aboard the Tonnant and obtained the release of Beanes, but the British, who had discussed the upcoming attack on Fort McHenry during their negotiations, would not let the men leave until, they said, after the British had taken the fort and the city. The Americans were put back on their own ship, which was tied to the warship, and British royal marines were stationed aboard to prevent the Americans from leaving.

So the three men watched the long attack on the fort, and as dawn broke on the morning of Sept. 14, 1814, the U.S. soldiers at Fort McHenry raised a huge American flag to celebrate the fact that they had outlasted the British. The men could see the flag through the cloud of smoke illuminated by the glow of rockets, and the British decided the fort could not be taken and sailed away. As soon as they were released, Key wrote the poem and set it to familiar music (the myth is that it was a British drinking song, but experts say it was a song written for a private British gentleman's club and not sung in pubs).

Key's song was published in newspapers with the title "In Defence of Fort McHenry" and became a big hit in the young country. But one music publisher soon changed the title to "The Star-Spangled Banner," and that name stuck. The song was first recognized for official use by the U.S. Navy in 1889 and was often played at military events. It also brought the flag into national prominence. President

Woodrow Wilson adopted the song as a "national anthem" in 1916, but didn't put his ruling into law. It wasn't until 1931 that Congress officially adopted it as our national anthem. Herbert Hoover signed it into law.

Here are the complete lyrics to the song. Feel free to sing along during the concert on July 4:

The Star-Spangled Banner

*O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the
perilous fight*

*O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly
streaming?*

*And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still
there,*

*O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

*On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?*

*Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream,
'Tis the star-spangled banner - O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

*And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a Country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps'
pollution.*

*No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

*O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued
land*

*Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us
a nation!*

*Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"*

*And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave. SM*

Sacramento Family Search Center Offerings

Submitted by Fran Jackson

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Sacramento_California_FamilySearch_Center

Sacramento Family Search Center

Sacramento Ca FamilySearch Library < Sacramento_familysearch_library@familysearch.org

Sacramento Family Search Center

The Family Search Center wants to provide you with an update on our activities.

Classes

We are currently taking a summer break from our classes. Don't worry, we will be back in full forces again this September. We will start off with our "Consultant Connect Class" on September 6th and will follow it up with wonderful and informative classes. Something new! We will be hosting, through Zoom, a new series calling "workshop" instruction. These workshops will be presented to a smaller number of people and will invite participation and individualized attention. Stay tuned for more information!

Facebook

The Center has a Facebook page. We are "Friends of the Sacramento Family Search Center". We have classes, events, and announcements listed on our page. Great way to keep up, quickly get information and access all the things we do. Follow and connect with us on Facebook.

Digitize your memories

Have photos, VHS tapes, 8 mm film slides, books, scrap books, or other media? Come to the Center and digitize these memories to a flash drive. Use of our digitizing equipment "FREE" and we will instruct you how to do it! We are located at 2745 Eastern Ave. in Sacramento. We recommend contacting us and make a reservation to use are equipment. The digitizing equipment is very popular.

Have Questions

Need some answers or some individualized assistance and we can help you out. Live to far to get here? Contact us for consultation by phone or through Zoom. Get answers you need to be successful in your ancestor hunt.

Volunteers Needed

The Sacramento Family Search Center is currently looking for individuals willing to serve at the Center. The minimum shift is four hours long. Prospective volunteers should be outgoing, friendly, and have some knowledge of family history research. If you have technical skills or are willing to teach a class, that is a bonus. We have great group of people who serve at the Center and would welcome your participation. Come join us. Please respond to this email for more information.

Elder Philip Honer, Director

Sister Donner Honer, Director

Sacramento Family Search Library

2745 Eastern Ave.

Sacramento, CA 95821

916-367-9480 (Personal Cell)

PhilipHonor@FamilySearch.org

Sacramentofamilysearch.library@familysearch.org

Hours

Mon 10 AM - 4 AM

Tue 10 AM - 8 PM

Wed 10 AM - 4 PM

Thus 10 AM - 8 PM

Fri 10 AM - 4 PM

Weekends: 2nd and 3rd as noted

Sat 2 PM - 5 PM

Sun 2 PM - 5 PM by appointment only!

NOTE: Family History Center at the Modesto 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.

August Meeting Presentation

By Karen Souza

If you didn't make it to the August general meeting, you missed a good one! David Seymour entertained everyone with his grandmother's stories about the children who played on her lawn on Carol Street and Renee Ellis's stories about her father's places in Modesto one of which he built on Carol Street where Renee grew up. Yes, one of the children who played on David's grandmother's lawn was the daughter of Lance Ellis who developed the subdivision and named the streets after his wife and children. David is an amazing source of local postwar history of Modesto and regaled us with his knowledge!

Program info for the rest of the year:

- September Frank Marquez: Japanese families in Hilmar before WWII (see above Page 1)
- October Robert Givens How to Fix problems with your family tree
- November Ancestors night
- December No meeting
- January Heidi Arno More flavors of Lutheran than kinds of cheese
- February Lisa Gorrell Focused Research: Using Research Plans
- March Nick Bloise Italian Genealogy

<https://www.stanislausgenealogy.org/>

	<p>Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County</p>
	<p><u>P.O. Box 1352</u> <u>Modesto, CA 95353-1352</u> <u>gssc-founded1968@gmail.com</u> <u>1(209)529-9430</u></p>

Have you checked your GSSC website lately? In an effort to improve your internet experience it has undergone a major update utilizing current state of the art internet web-building programming language. In addition, some new content has been added which includes more tools to assist you with your Stanislaus County genealogical research. The full Special Collections Room holdings **Index** is now found there. You can now search before you go to the library..

If any of you have the original cemetery publication “flats” before binding, your webmaster would like to borrow them. They make scanning for inclusion 1000% easier than what we must now do to copy and add our GSSC Published Cemeteries of Stanislaus County to our website.

The entire **Stanislaus County War Veterans** has updated and is now found here. This required a couple of months to complete.

Every Name Index to History of Stanislaus County is an example of what they will be appearing as under Publications.

All of the large **1890 Great Register of the County of Stanislaus** is now found under Publications.

Why Big Y-700 DNA?

Reaches beyond the barrier of surnames

Link your recent genealogy with ancestors who lived before the adoption of surnames by discovering connections to others with similar and different surnames.

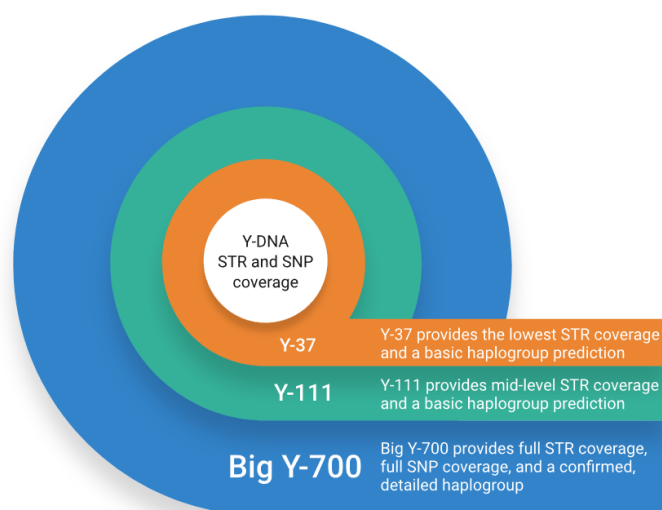
Estimate the time to most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) between you and your matches.

Confirm and refine your Y-DNA haplogroup, the origins of a group of people whose ancestry is traced back to a common ancestor on your paternal line.

Identify your family's unique Y-chromosome mutations, known as SNPs.

Receive lifetime analysis.

Contribute to scientific advancements and help further grow the Y-DNA Tree of Humankind.



If you are a genetic male...

The Y chromosome is passed down from father to son. Therefore, if you are a genetic male, you can take the Big Y test and research your paternal line.

If you are a genetic female...

Genetic females cannot take a Y-DNA test because they do not have a Y chromosome. However, if you are interested in learning about your paternal line's ancestry, we recommend finding a genetic male to test—like a brother, uncle, father, or cousin.

The Big Y Block Tree makes it easier to understand how your and your matches' paternal lineages relate to each other.

Discover details like:

The distribution of your matches based on their haplogroup and the country flags of their earliest known ancestor. SNPs unique to specific surname lines to identify where and when surname lines branched off.

Big Y Block Tree Matching Tool

The Big Y Block Tree makes it easier to understand how your and your matches' paternal lineages relate to each other.

Discover details like:

The distribution of your matches based on their haplogroup and the country flags of their earliest known ancestor.

SNPs unique to specific surname lines to identify where and when surname lines branched off.

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

SEMINAR ON DNA

GSSC is presenting a Seminar with **KATHERINE BORGES**, co-founder and director of the International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) which promotes and educates about genetic genealogy to over 2,000 members in 70 countries. She works to increase professional standards in the practice, research and discussion of relevant issues in **DNA** testing, interpretation and ethics. Katherine gives many presentations on **genetic genealogy** to groups across the United States, United Kingdom and Ireland.



DATE: Saturday, September 16, 2023

WHERE: Modesto Center Plaza, **enter at 1001 K Street**, Pistache room

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

COST OF SEMINAR: \$40.00

Limited seating, so register early.

REGISTRATION FORM (Please register by Friday, September 8th)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL _____

How Many to Attend _____

Make Check Payable to GSSC and send registration to:

Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County
P.O. Box 1352
Modesto, CA 95353

Visit our web site at stanislausgenealogy.org

Membership Information Dues: Single membership, \$25.00 per year Family membership, \$35.00 per year Stanislaus Researcher Published 10 times per year by Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95353-1352. Delivered via email.

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 Joyce Hickman at: c/o GSSC, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95353-1352

Email: 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
Corresponding Secretary	Martha Carter Bhatti	Four Generation Charts	Julie Condryn
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
Past President	David Wolff	Programs	Karen Souza
		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 18 August 2023

We have 69 members for 2023

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



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