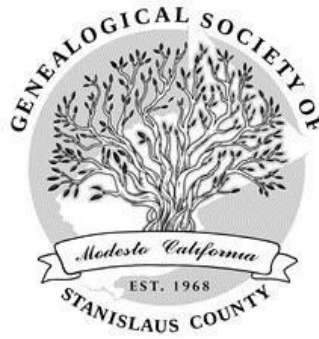


STANISLAUS



RESEARCHER



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

May 2024

Volume 46 Number 5

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May Program

16 May 2024

7:00 P.M Mark McLaren

This presentation will provide information to assist in Scottish genealogy research

If you did not receive a Researcher You haven't Renewed Your 2024 GSSC Membership

Presidents Message

by Vicky Wolff

Another month has passed. They seem to fly by...I am looking forward to our Workshop on April 20th. It proves to be a very productive day and we have quite a few new people to Genealogy that have signed up for classes, so I hope they will want to join our society, increasing our membership. I hope all of you are working on your genealogies and family histories. Our ancestors lives are not just about dates and places, but their lives and where and how they lived and things that they have accomplished are the best part of their lives to be passed on to us and our families in the form of written histories. If you have a hard time getting started with this, please join our Writing Group, which meets on the second Thursday of every month at the home of Joann MacDonald at 10:00 AM every month. We will be glad to help you get started. We can always learn from each other in doing our genealogies. Please plan on joining us in our activities each month. Happy Mothers Day and celebrate it with your family. Helping families find their loved ones graves will take place at the 5 cemeteries off Scenic Drive on Memorial Day May 27th. If you can help this day, please let me know.

May Program

by Karen Souza

A Presentation by Mark McLaren

About Mark McLaren:

Originally from the Philadelphia area, Mark graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder with a B.S. degree in Business. He is retired from a career in the Medical Supply Distribution business where he held a number of executive level positions.

His interest in genealogy began in the early 2000s and has expanded over the years. His current areas of focus are genetic genealogy and Scottish research.

He is currently a member of the National Genealogical Society, California Genealogical Society (CGS), Oregon Genealogical Forum, and the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society (SRVGS).

He is a Fellow in the Society of Scottish Antiquities and a member of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco holding a position of Trustee

He is also a member of several Scottish Clan societies; Clan MacLaren Society of North America (CMSNA), Clan MacLaren Society of Scotland, Clan Douglas Society of North America, and Clan Ross America. In CMSNA, he served as Treasurer for 12 years , President for 6 years , and currently holds the position of past president.

In 2017, he developed an “introduction to genetic genealogy” class and has taught it for numerous Genealogical societies in the Bay area including SRVGS ,CGS , Mt Diablo Genealogical Society and Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. He established and leads a DNA SIG (Special Interest Group) at SRVGS and CGS. He currently is an administrator for 3 projects at Family Tree DNA, including the MacLaren surname project with over 1500 participants. Additionally, he manages or supports over 60 individual DNA kits for both family, friends, and clients.



Scotland and Northern Ireland Research Presentation Description

The population of Scotland and Northern Ireland today is less than 7 million combined. Yet, the number of people worldwide with an ancestry from those areas is estimated between 70-90 million. Chances are you or someone’s genealogy that you are working on has roots from there.

This presentation will provide information to assist in Scottish genealogy research and include the following topics:

- 1) The intertwined history of Northern Ireland and Scotland and why both are part of Scottish research
- 2) Understanding key moments in their shared history and how those influenced emigration throughout the British empire, primarily to Australia, United States, and Canada
- 3) Origin of Scottish surnames and naming conventions
- 4) Overview of Clans, their structure and role in history / migration
- 5) The presentation will focus primarily on Scottish research and specifically documents available in the Scottish archives. It will also provide a contrast with research in Irish records which are much more fragmented
- 6) Review of books and on-line resources available to the researcher for both Ireland and Scotland.
- 7) How DNA testing can help

Jackie Niemeyer could still use some help at our Main Library– A great way to assist your genealogical society. Contact her and ask how? Jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net to track update information go to https://www.stanislauslibrary.org/about_friends_modesto.shtm

GSSC Writing Group

by Joann MacDonald

9 May 2024 at her home. Please contact Joann if you intend to attend. The group has a great deal of experience writing about genealogy and can assist you. New members are always welcome. Never written before, no matter, they are here to assist. (209) 521-2140 or jmastergardner@aol.com



The Bald Eagle: Icon of the United States

By Martha Carter-Bhatti



For millennia eagles have been a symbol of strength and determination. They are majestic, bold, and faithful. Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome associated eagles with their religion and military strength. Eagles appear metaphorically in the Bible. Many Native American traditions consider the eagle a sacred bird.

Approximately 60 species of eagles live worldwide on every continent but Antarctica.

Eagles are among the largest birds and can fly the highest. They are hunters, also called birds of prey or raptors. Eagles have hooked beaks, strong feet with sharp talons, and keen eyesight. They reach adulthood in 4 to 5 years and have a lifespan of approximately 30 years. Two eagle species live in North America, the bald eagle and the golden eagle. Bald eagles can be found in all states except Hawaii. Since they eat fish, they tend to live in forested areas near bodies of water. The word “bald” comes from old English meaning “white” and describes the distinctive white feathers on the head and tail of an adult bald eagle. The adult golden eagle has uniform brown plumage.

Shortly after the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress gave Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams the task of designing a national coat of arms (Great Seal) for the new nation. Symbolic animals suggested for the seal included the rattlesnake, a two-headed eagle, a dove, a wild turkey, an osprey, and a magpie. The Founding Fathers followed by two subsequent committees failed to have a design that won congressional approval.

In 1782, design of the seal was turned over to Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Congress. Thomson worked with William Barton, an attorney with an artistic sense and expertise in heraldry. They considered ideas from the previous committees and redesigned the seal with the outspread wings of the American Bald Eagle. The Second Continental Congress approved the Great Seal design on June 20, 1782. Folklore suggests that Benjamin Franklin was very disappointed that the wild turkey was not chosen as the national bird; he felt the eagle was a bird of questionable character.

The Great Seal of the United States has remained unchanged as a symbol of our sovereignty as a nation. The front side (obverse) of the Great Seal is our national coat of arms. It shows an American Bald Eagle holding a scroll in its beak with the motto E Pluribus Unum (out of many, one), an olive branch in its right talon (symbol of peace), and thirteen arrows in the left talon (symbol of war). The eagle has its head turned toward the olive branch, on its right side, symbolizing a preference for peace.

The Great Seal is used on official documents to authenticate the signature of the President and it appears on proclamations, warrants, treaties, and commissions of high officials of the government. It is also used officially as decoration on military uniform buttons, on plaques, and above the entrances to U.S. embassies and consulates.

The reverse side is not used as a seal but both the front (seal) and reverse appear on the one-dollar bill. The custodian of the Great Seal is the Secretary of State.



Historically, bald eagles were widespread and abundant in the United States until the late 1960s. Despite its symbolic importance, the American Bald Eagle faced extinction due to habitat destruction, hunting, lead poisoning from eating contaminated prey and carcasses, and the use of pesticides, most notably DDT.

Bald eagles and golden eagles are protected under three federal laws: the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Lacey Act. These laws were initiated in the early 1900s and have been amended over the ensuing years to assure wildlife protection. A nationwide ban on most uses of DDT took effect in 1972 and many areas now restrict the use of lead shot. The population of bald eagles continues to recover and the population of golden eagles has stabilized.

The Bald Eagle, national bird of the United States, remains an enduring symbol of American liberty, strength and national pride.

References

American Eagle Foundation: www.eagles.org/what-we-do/educate/learn-about-eagles

History: <https://www.history.com/news/how-did-the-bald-eagle-become-americas-national-bird>

National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/original-design-of-the-great-seal-of-the-united-states>

Pedigree Collapse

By Heidi Arno

April 11, 2024

Growing up it seemed like my mother was related to everyone. She would see people while shopping or going to the dentist, and stop to talk. Later she would tell me that they were this cousin or married to that cousin that she knew from childhood or high school. Yes, everyone was my mother's cousin and it was very confusing.

As it turns out, I also have cousins. One, Steve Lampereur, actually a 3rd cousin-- our mothers were 2nd cousins--descended from Etienne Bertrand and his wife Marie Frances Lannoy/d'Lanoit/Delano: Steve through the couple's son Francis (Frank) who fought in the US Civil War and me through the couple's youngest son Gustave, born 1851.

During the beginnings of the COVID epidemic, Steve took up the cause of studying the intertwined relationships among the Belgian settlers who came to northeastern Wisconsin in the 1850's, and in the process discovered, and helped me discover, a number of examples of Pedigree Collapse in my genealogy.

What is Pedigree Collapse? Sounds more ominous than it actually is because nothing actually collapses. It is just a fancy way of saying someone who is your cousin more than once. Mathematically, everyone has two parents, four grandparents, 8

great-grandparents, 16 great-great grandparents, 32, 64, 128, 256 . . . just like binary code. In Pedigree Collapse the same couple would appear in a tree more than once, with the subsequent cousins being cousins twice or even three or more times. An article in Family Tree Magazine by Robin Fox, (<https://familytreemagazine.com/research/what-is-pedigree-collapse/>) a Rutgers University professor who did the math, estimates point to 80 percent of historical marriages in Europe taking place between second or closer cousins. Churches generally allowed marriages between second cousins, and gave dispensations to first cousins. Geography played a significant role in who one met to marry. "In a 1980 Genealogical Demography article "Ancestors at the Norman Conquest," demographer Kenneth Wachter shares some interesting facts. He calculates that out of the 1.11 million residents of England at the Norman conquest in 1066, about 86 percent are ancestors to all current residents of England." (<https://familytreemagazine.com/research/what-is-pedigree-collapse/>) The result is the same couples occupying more than one place in ones family tree. The farther back you are able to trace your ancestry, the more likely this will occur.

With no additional hard research, Steve Lampereur's hints in my family line revealed a number of examples of pedigree collapse. Most of the individuals who came to northeastern Wisconsin from Belgium came with family members. In my own case, Etienne and Marie Francoise Bertrand came with most of their children--one daughter was already married and stayed in Belgium. Marie Francoise sister Stephanie Lannoy came with her husband Jean Joseph Bouffeaux and their children came as well. Francoise and Stephanie Lannoy's mother was Bouffeaux. Stephanie and Jean Joseph are first cousins, having one set of grandparents the same. Another 3rd cousin of mine, Janet Brunner Hinricks, is also an 8th cousin. In another line, the same Terwagne couple appear twice. And most remarkably, a cousin who lives in Ath, Belgium, besides having connections with me through two Belgian lines, has a Swiss cousin in common with me. Europe is very small. The other thing that researching pedigree collapse has revealed is more villages of origin. A monument honoring the first Belgian settlers at St. Mary's of the Snows in Namur Wisconsin mentions the town of Grez Doiceau as the origin of the people who settled the area. I felt left out. My genealogy had no people from Grez Doiceau—until recently. More and older records are being indexed and hints are appearing in familysearch.org. Through my follow ups, I have found out that generations previous to my ancestors who immigrated were, in fact, living in Grez Doiceau. Before Wisconsin, many families left Grez Doiceau for nearby Belgian villages, married and had another generation of children before venturing to America.

The map below shows where ancestors lived in Belgium prior to coming to northeastern Wisconsin. Many of their parents or grandparents originated in Grez-Doiceau. In genealogy, at least for me, pedigree collapse is not a bad thing. Fewer people to wonder about once I have determined where they fit and how many times they fit keeps growing.





SAN DIEGO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

EST. 1946

CALIFORNIA PIONEER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

<https://casdgs.org/Ca-Pioneer-Certificate-Program/>

The San Diego Genealogical Society is honoring pioneers of the State of California who helped shape its future by offering ancestral recognition certificates. From early pioneers who settled in California before statehood, to those who experienced some of the state's historical events, each has contributed to its historical legacy. The first certificate is the California Pioneer Certificate validating descendancy from a settler in California prior to its creation as a state in 1850.

pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com

\$40.00 Application fee (\$30.00 member price) \$25.00 Fee for additional certificate (\$15.00 member price)



Editor's Note: A clever fund raiser.

We Are Still Looking For A Volunteer

California Revealed is a State Library initiative that helps California's heritage organizations digitize and provide long-term online access and preservation to collections and objects significant to California history (e.g., books, documents, newspapers, and audiovisual recordings). We also provide access and preservation services for existing digital collections and in-house digitization programs.

Each year, California Revealed issues an open call for organizations to nominate their collections related to California history for Digitization & Preservation Assistance:

- Partner organizations nominate materials to be digitized (or existing digital collections to be ingested) and published online by California Revealed
- Partners provide metadata descriptions for the materials
- With LSTA funding, the State Library supports free digitization (using selected vendors nationwide), online hosting for public access, and digital preservation
- Partners receive their own page on the California Revealed website that displays their digital collections
- Materials are discoverable through the California Revealed website, the Internet Archive, the Digital Public Library of America, Calisphere, WorldCat, and the Home Movie Registry
- Partners receive copies of the files and fulfill user requests for high-resolution files

Our Society has approximately 14 cemetery books that should be digitized. Lewis Ruddick was able to digitize one volume when Vicki Wolff discovered she had the "flats" for that cemetery book making copying and posting possible with available equipment. We need to do the same for our remaining volumes. If one of our members has grant writing skills it would be greatly appreciated if that individual would step up and write a grant for the digitizing of our GSSC cemetery books and Tinkham Stanislaus County index. Your editor does not have the time to do so.

How to apply:

- Complete the Digitization & Preservation Assistance Application form <https://airtable.com/appz2lc4D8rqphMV2/shrM8Uouojr4wDbx>
- Attach your finished Nominations Spreadsheet to the application form <https://californiarevealed.org/inventory-spreadsheet>

Questions?

We encourage you to review our Frequently Asked Questions and the program timeline. Check out more resources below and contact us directly at team@californiarevealed.org.

I do have the books and the time to deliver them, just not the time for the grant writing and related clerical work.

Please contact me 209-667-0536 or lruddick@ix.netcom.com if you can assist with this great task.

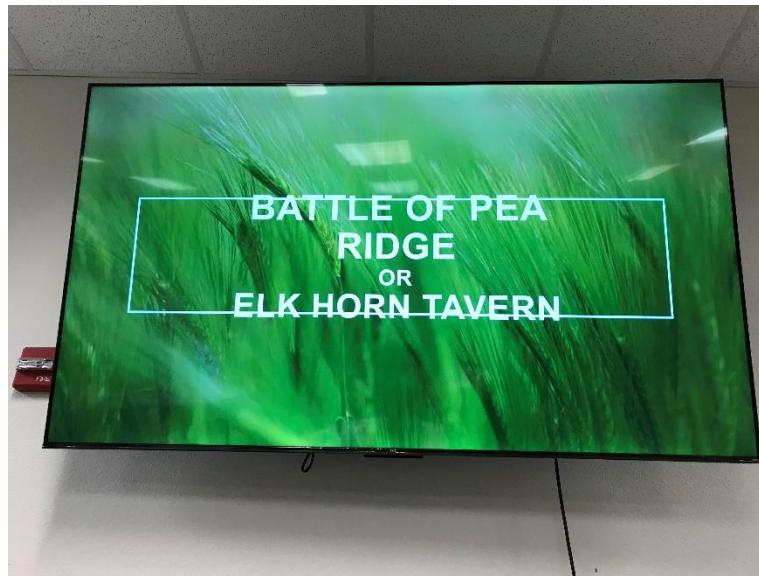
Some Useful Sites for Scottish Research

- National Records of Scotland <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>
- ScotlandsPeople <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>
- Scottish Indexes <https://www.scottishindexes.com>
- Scotland's Land and Property Registers <https://www.ros.gov.uk/>
- Scottish Association of Family History Societies <https://www.safhs.org.uk/>
- The National Library of Scotland
<https://maps.nls.uk/> (Maps)
<https://www.nls.uk/> (Newspapers)

Photos from our April General Meeting

by Heidi Arno

Lewis Ruddick's
Battle of Pea Ridge,
Arkansas presentation



This Year Our Cemetery Assistance for Memorial Day Resumes

By Vicky Wolff

This year we will resume our traditional Memorial Day Walks and assistance at the five cemeteries on Scenic Drive in Modesto. This will be on May 27th. More information will be provided as it is available. If you are available to assist with this worthwhile project please contact Vicky at 1-209-529-9430 or vickywolff1945@gmail.com



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

Address changes:	Send address, email and phone number changes to Joyce Hickman at: GSSC, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95353-1352 Email: gssc-founded1968@gmail.com Telephone: 209-422-3653 (Joyce Hickman)
GSSC web page:	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: lrুদ্ধick@ix.netcom.com by the 15th of each month. The newsletter is posted at this website http://stanislausgenealogy.org 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, Telle Center, 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

2024 Officers		2024 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Vicky Wolff	Acquisitions:	Vacant
1st Vice President	Karen Souza	Audit:	Board of Directors
2nd Vice President	Jackie Niemeyer	Budget:	Roxie Ferrari
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Director at Large 2	Amy Mowery	Publicity	Tom Byrne
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		Sunshine	Martha Carter Bhatti

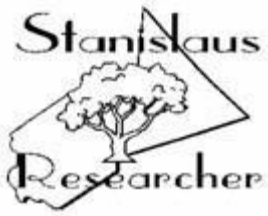
Updated April 16, 2024.

We have 61 members for 2024

[website GSSC](http://www.gssc.org)

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Stanislaus County
P O Box 1352
Modesto, CA 95353-1352

