

STANISLAUS



RESEARCHER



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

June 2024

Volume 46 Number 6

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June Program

June 2024
 6:00 P.M. Ice Cream Social
 7:00 P.M Barbara Torres
 This presentation will provide a brief history on the 1869 residence that housed 3 families over the course of 100+ years. Also the history of the Oakdale Historical Society (1985 to 2007) and how Friends of Oakdale Heritage were formed in 2009 and are celebrating 15 years of sharing Oakdale history.

Presidents Message

by Vicky Wolff

The month of May, we just had a great program speaker, Mr. Mark McLaren. speak on Scottish and Northern Ireland research. If you were unable to attend the meeting, I will have some handouts for you at our next meeting. We will be at the cemeteries on Scenic Drive on Memorial day, May 27, helping the public find their loved ones graves. Almost June already and I can hardly believe half of the year has already gone by. Lots of things are happening in the month of June. We have Flag day on June 14th, so be sure to fly your flags all day. June 16th is Father's Day Celebration and June 20th is the first day of summer, our general meeting and ice cream social! Don't forget, we are dark in July, so there will be no meeting. I hope everyone has a great summer and a great find on your family research.

A Father's Day Poem

Fathers are wonderful people
 Too little understood,
 And we do not sing their praises
 As often as we should...

For, somehow, Father seems to be
 The man who pays the bills,
 While Mother binds up little hurts
 And nurses all our ills...

And Father struggles daily
 To live up to 'his image'
 As protector and provider
 And 'hero of the scrimmage'...

And perhaps that is the reason
 We sometimes get the notion,
 That Fathers are not subject
 To the thing we call emotion,

But if you look inside Dad's heart,
 Where no one else can see
 You'll find he's sentimental
 And as 'soft' as he can be...

But he's so busy every day
 In the grueling race of life,
 He leaves the sentimental stuff
 To his partner and his wife...

But Fathers are just wonderful
 In a million different ways,
 And they merit loving compliments

And accolades of praise,

And like Our Heavenly Father,
He's a guardian and a guide,
Someone that we can count on
To be always on our side.

For the only reason Dad aspires
To fortune and success
Is to make the family proud of him
And to bring them happiness...

Helen Steiner Rice

➡ **Being reannounced because this issue should be in your hands before May 27th** ⬅

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



June Program
by Karen Souza

Barbara Torres will give a brief history on the 1869 residence that housed 3 families over the course of 100+ years. I can talk about the Oakdale Historical Society (1985 to 2007) and how Friends of Oakdale Heritage was formed in 2009 and is now celebrating 15 years of sharing Oakdale history. We're currently focusing on our greatest strength, which is assisting visitors with their historical research questions. We recently revamped and dedicated an entire room to housing the bound copies of the Oakdale Wheat Grower, Oakdale Graphic and Oakdale Leader, dating back to the mid 1880's. Most of these were put on microfilm and have been digitized by Newspapers.com. We have OHS yearbooks dating back to 1899. Our filing cabinets are full of surname files, businesses and what we've termed "Oakdale Life" (events, celebrations, city governments, clubs and organizations). We've also just finished publication on our first Arcadia book about Oakdale, CA....and have our first cemetery walk planned for October 5th.

Barbara Torres
Friends of Oakdale Heritage
PO Box 2212
Oakdale, CA 95361
(209) 840-1411 Cell

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Oakdale Museum & History Center  
212 West F St.  
Oakdale, CA 95361

(209) 844-5161 Museum  
oakdalemuseum.org

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**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](mailto:Jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net)** Track library remodel update information here [https://www.stanislauslibrary.org/about\\_friends\\_modesto.shtm](https://www.stanislauslibrary.org/about_friends_modesto.shtm)

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### GSSC Writing Group

by Joann MacDonald

13 June 2024 10:00 A.M. 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 [jmastergardener@aol.com](mailto:jmastergardener@aol.com)

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### The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day

by Lewis M. Ruddick

June 6, 2024, will mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings along the Normandy coast of France during World War II. This event, which ultimately led to the liberation of Europe, will be commemorated at Normandy American Cemetery.

Nearly every member of our Society will have a family member who was somehow associated with this historical event in our Nation's or they themselves will have been. This event occurred on my second birthday. My memory about that time was the keen interest my family had in listening to the war news on the radio.

This was the time of my life that became imprinted upon me. There were many public events that commended our country and our way of life. Perhaps the best were the parades and in our small town we had several. I remember my paternal grandmother telling me that I was the first child born to a veteran of WWII for VFW Post 1900

Later in life I was to learn that my Alexander uncle Frank had gone into France ahead of the invasion in support of General George S. Patton's Third Army, which conducted a highly successful rapid armored drive across France. His unit had no special designation such as "Green Berets" or "Special Forces". Uncle Frank told me, "they were just American soldiers doing their job to win the war and come back home!" My uncle told me of their support by the French and hiding their vehicles under piles of hay in fields during the day to avoid detection by the German military as they plotted the route across France and into Germany. Fortunately Uncle Frank made it home at the end of the war. Of course, none of this was ever heard on those great a.m. radio broadcasts.

Most Americans do not realize that there were five beaches involved in the Normandy invasion that were crossed as well as an Airborne assault.

Utah Beach

Gold Beach

Juno Beach

Sword Beach

and

Omaha Beach - the bloodiest of the invasion caused by rough surf which allowed only two of the 29 amphibious tanks to reach the shore.

The Airborne assault began first at night and 5 hours before the coastal landings. A force of more than 13,000 soldiers from England, Canada and the United States. They were then followed by 4,000 more in gliders carrying support materials for the earlier wave.

The full invasion began at 6:30 A.M. when more than 160,000 Allied forces landed. During the next 24 hours 9,000 Allied soldiers would be killed or wounded.

An estimated 6,000 German soldiers were lost but the number may be much higher as Hitler did not allow his Generals to make a proper count.

**Allied casualties:**

United States of America 2,501

United Kingdom 1,449

Canada 391

Decoding the German computer known as Enigma, then keeping that decoding device breaking a secret, was one of the most brilliant strategies that came out of World War II. Early during the war, a team of Polish and British experts deciphered Germany's Enigma. Before entering the war U.S. military developed its own superior code machine named SIGABA. Its code remains unbroken.

Knowledge gained from mastering Enigma greatly assisted during the D-Day Invasion.

This was the beginning of the end to Adolf Hitler's Nazi reign over Europe.

From the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - <https://www.abmc.gov/multimedia/videos/dday75-we-remember>  
By the American Battle Monuments Commission

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## **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?

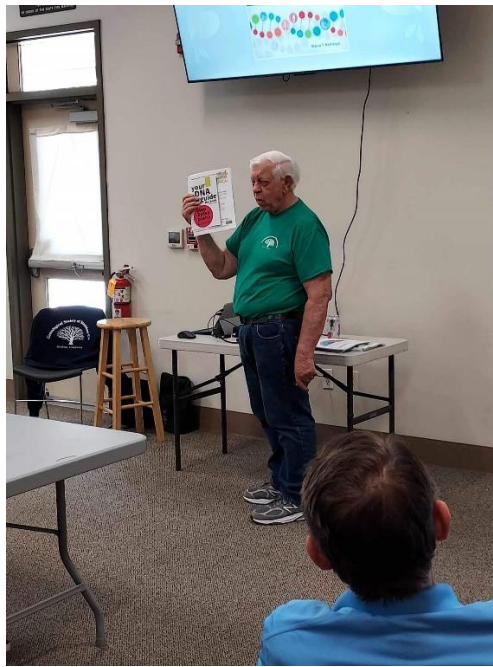
We encourage you to review our Frequently Asked Questions and the program timeline. Check out more resources below and contact us directly at [team@californiarevealed.org](mailto:team@californiarevealed.org).

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 [lrduddick@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lrduddick@ix.netcom.com) if you can assist with this great task.

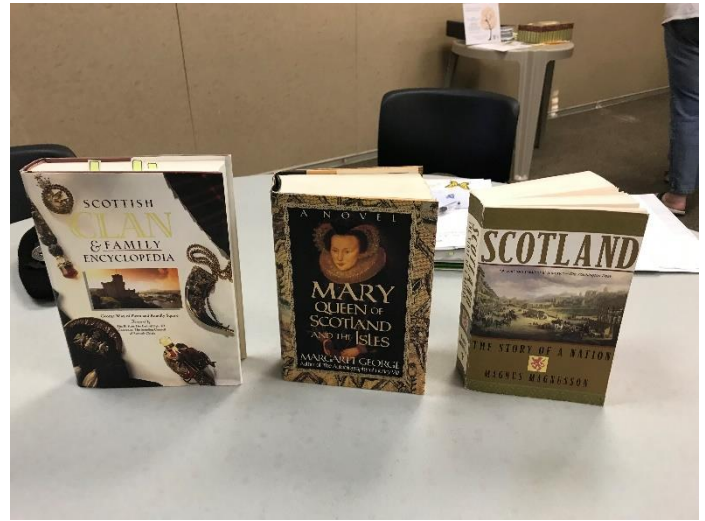


**Photos from our GSSC Spring Genealogical Workshop**  
By Jackie Niemeyer





Photos from our May General Meeting  
by Heidi Arno





## GRAVESTONE CLEANING TIPS FROM BILLIONGRAVES

Cathy Wallace

An outstanding article by Cathy Wallace can be found at the below Billion Graves link. This is the time of year when many families venture into their family cemeteries a get the urge to clean and brighten their family's stones. There is a right way and a wrong way. This fine article will provide you with the correct focus.

The following Dos and Don'ts will be reenforced in the article.

### DON'T

- Don't do anything that will damage the surface of the headstone
- Don't use common household cleaners
- Don't use strong bases or acids
- Don't use power tools, such as sanders or drills with wire brushes
- Don't sandblast
- Don't use power washers or pressure over 300 psi
- Don't use bleach
- Don't use cleaners with salt in them
- Don't rub the gravestone surface with hard-bristled brushes
- Don't scrape the gravestone surface with anything harder than the stone

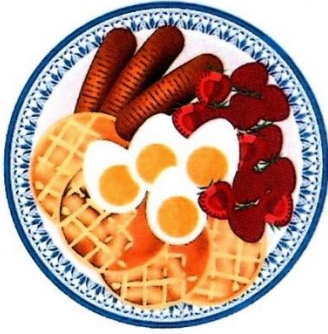
### DO

- Do no harm!
- Choose the gentlest cleaning method possible
- Do read and follow product manufacturer's guidelines
- Do use good safety practices
- Do test small areas before cleaning the entire headstone
- Do keep the stone wet as you work
- Do obtain the approval of other family members before cleaning



<https://blog.billiongraves.com/gravestone-cleaning-101>





# Sons of Norway Garbor Lodge 6-56 Breakfast Fundraiser

Come and Join us for Breakfast on Saturday, June 15, 2024  
at Calvary Lutheran Church : 547 Rose Ave in Modesto

We will begin serving at 9:00 and end at 10:30

Breakfast will include scrambled eggs, sausage, waffles, fruit, coffee,  
juice, and Norwegian treats!

Tickets are \$15 per plate

Please contact Linda Silva for ticket information at  
(209)300-1260.

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## The Hell of Normandy!"





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<br>Email: <a href="mailto:gssc-founded1968@gmail.com">gssc-founded1968@gmail.com</a> Telephone: 209-422-3653 (Joyce Hickman)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| GSSC web page:   | <b>Stanislaus Researcher</b> 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: <a href="mailto:lruddick@ix.netcom.com">lruddick@ix.netcom.com</a> by the 15th of each month. The newsletter is posted at this website <a href="http://stanislausgenealogy.org">http://stanislausgenealogy.org</a> along with other interesting society-related items. |
| General meeting: | 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd <b>Thursday</b> 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         |
| Secretary           | Pam Atherstone       | Historian                       | Judy Byrne            |
| Treasurer           | Roxie Ferrari        | Membership                      | Joyce Hickman         |
| Director at Large 1 | Joyce Hickman        | Newsletter & Webpage            | Lewis & Logan Ruddick |
| Director at Large 2 | Amy Mowery           | Publicity                       | Tom Byrne             |
| Director at Large 3 | Joann McDonald       | Queries                         | Colleen Norby         |
| Director at Large 4 | Martha Carter Bhatti | Registrar                       | Marge Scheuber        |
| Director at Large 5 | Marge Scheuber       | Seminar:                        | Vacant                |
| Past President      | David Wolff          | Research Trips                  | Heidi Arno            |
|                     |                      | Mentor                          | Joann McDonald        |
|                     |                      | Resources                       | Vicky Wolff           |
|                     |                      | Acquisitions:                   | Vacant                |
|                     |                      | Special Collections & Workshops | Jackie Niemeyer       |
|                     |                      | Social Media                    | Pam Atherstone        |
|                     |                      | Sunshine                        | Martha Carter Bhatti  |

Updated April 16, 2024.

We have 63 members for 2024

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



Genealogical Society of  
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Normandy