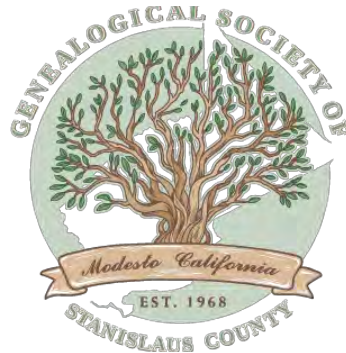


# STANISLAUS



# RESEARCHER



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County



Presidents Message	1
January Program	1
March Seminar Reminder	2
GSSC Writing Group	3
Stanislaus County newspapers	3
New Military Records Resource	3
Time to Renew Your Membership	3
January Program & Presenter	4
RootsTech	4
November Meeting Photos	5
Cleda Lane Obituary	7
2025 Calendar	8

**January Program**  
 16 January 2025  
 7:00 P.M. Rebecca Ellefsen - The ship Brooklyn and Pioneers that came to the San Francisco Bay Area and its historical prominent passengers.

## Presidents Message

by Karen Souza

Happy New Year 2025!

GSSC had a lot going on in 2024 and I am hoping GSSC will keep moving forward in 2025.

As I have the privilege of being your President for 2025, I have no illusions that I can lead the Society alone. We have a great Board of Directors to drive where the Society goes this year. Please remember we are all volunteers! I hope the entire membership will reach out to anyone on the Board to make suggestions on where GSSC is going and

what it is doing.

I know that I will be listening to each of the Board members and the general members as well so see how we can keep the momentum going! Please help me and the Board make 2025 a fabulous year!

Come and enjoy the friendship, programs, seminars, workshops and finding your roots, all at the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County. Invite your friends and bring your relatives to our meetings and seminars in 2025 at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Telle Center in room #502 at 1600 Carver Road, Modesto, CA., on the third Thursday of the month @ 7:00 P.M.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.



You are **reminded** of our March Spring Seminar on 29 March 2025. Emphasis will be on **Mexican Genealogy** presented by Lisa Medina, Administrative Analyst/Specialist, California State University, Stanislaus.

To be covered:

- Introduction to Mexican Genealogical Research
- Key U.S. Records for Mexican Research
- Mexican Civil Registration
- Sacred Archives

Tell all your Mexican American friends about this outstanding Hispanic genealogical research opportunity.

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Famous quote that applies (all too often) to questionable genealogy: "Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please."  
—Mark Twain

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## GSSC Writing Group

by Joann MacDonald

What stories of your ancestors have you written down? Every ancestor has an interesting fact about his life which needs to be recorded for future generations. Our next Writing Group meeting is on January 8th at 10:00 A.M. at the home of Joann MacDonald. Please E-mail Joann to say you are coming at [JMastergardener @aol.com](mailto:JMastergardener@aol.com)

You might ask what do members of the writing group write about?

Some topics from our January 2024 meeting:

An ancestor's wife who made a name for herself in Hollywood! She has made some records and wrote several book.

Another member shared the story of her piano and how now she has passed it on to her son.

Another member was looking for some information on her godfather who was a druggist in San Francisco. She discovered he had been shot in a hold up at his drug store by two men who were seeking narcotics! He was in critical condition but survived. His obituary told how he advised and cared for the needs of scores of neighborhood families! This was in 1958!

One member wrote about her English ancestor who arrived in the New World in the 1600's. Another wrote of her people who had come from Belgium to Wisconsin.

One member wrote about her English ancestor who arrived in the New World in the 1600's. Another wrote of her people who had come from Belgium to Wisconsin.

Never written before, no matter, they are here to assist.

(209) 521-2140 or [jmastergardner@aol.com](mailto:jmastergardner@aol.com)

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### Looking for Stanislaus County newspapers?

There is a gold mine of them located at California State University, Stanislaus, Vasche Library, Turlock.

[https://library.csustan.edu/specialcollections/historic\\_newspapers](https://library.csustan.edu/specialcollections/historic_newspapers)



### New Military Records Resource

by Heidi Amo

**NEW DATABASE OF EIGHTEEN MILLION US VETERAN RECORDS NOW ONLINE, WITH A BUILT-IN FREE-FOIA-FILING SYSTEM!**

<https://mailchi.mp/reclaimtherecords/the-birls-database-goes-online-with-eighteen-million-us-veteran-records-and-free-foia-by-fax-system>

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**Now is the time to Renew Your GSSC Membership**

See [www.stanislausgenealogy.org](http://www.stanislausgenealogy.org) for your 2025 Membership application form.

**Our January Program Presenter****Rebecca Ellefsen** [rlellefsenauthor@gmail.com](mailto:rlellefsenauthor@gmail.com)

Rebecca Ellefsen is a professional researcher, writer, and genealogist. Traveling the US, she uses humor in her presentations to teach about Ship Brooklyn Saints and early pioneers of California. You can often find her walking the streets of San Francisco giving Pioneer History Tours. Ellefsen has been working on several exciting projects documenting pioneers. With unwavering commitment, she and associate Tom Mahach have conserved the 2nd Blaze Tree which is now on display at the El Dorado County Historical Museum. It is only known artifact of Ship Brooklyn saints and Mormon Battalion veterans in the Ebenezer Brown Company of 1848. She is currently working with private and public entities to map real estate of the Ship Brooklyn pioneers in San Francisco, and frequently writes articles and documents on the subject. Born and raised in the Bay Area, Ellefsen is a fifth generation Californian. After serving eighteen years as a medic, working in Oakland and traveling to assist in national emergencies, she turned her attention to teaching. She has spoken for many years of the joy in preserving one's family history. Rebecca has volunteered for FamilySearch.org, and the California Pioneer Heritage Foundation. She is an alum of Brigham Young University with a focus on Bay Area History. With a love of music and theatre, Ellefsen is a member of the Oakland Temple Hill Choir. She has performed in *Music Man*, *Behold the Gift*, *Scrooge*, *Ship Brooklyn Musical*, *Magic of Christmas*, *Bay Area Pioneer Concert*, *Lazy Days of Summer*, and *Willy Wonka*. She has written and directed *Come Unto Christ: The Rebecca Manning Story*, and *Honor our Pioneers Celebration*. Rebecca's greatest love is her family. Married to her husband Danny Ellefsen for over forty-four years, they have raised four daughters who have since married and added seventeen inspiring grandchildren to their family.

**Rootstech 2025**

6–8 March 2025

You may attend on – line <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/>

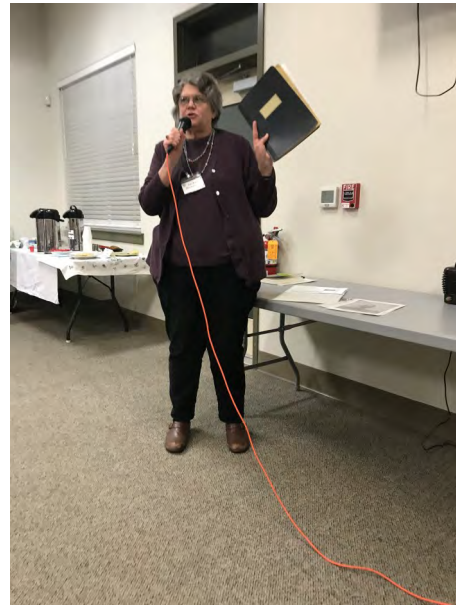
Thu, Feb 29, 2024 – Sun, Mar 3, 2024

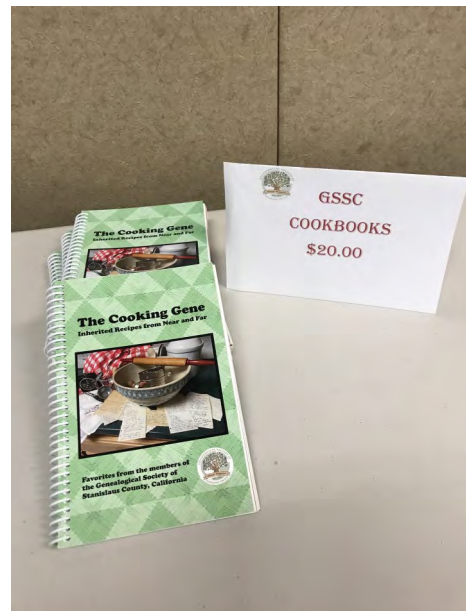
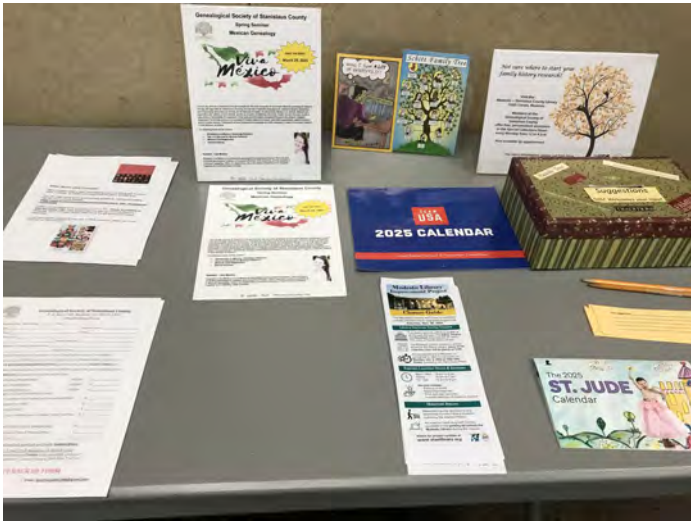
**November General Meeting Photos**

by Heidi Arno



**Our 2025 GSSC Officers**





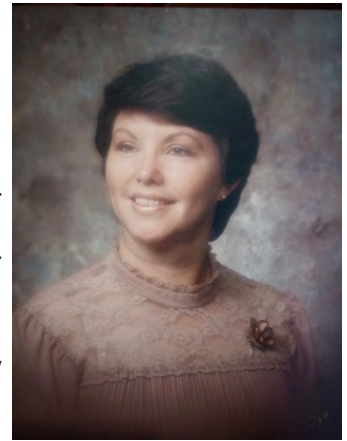
**GSSC Member Lost**

Cleda Lane Obituary  
Cleda VeLois Lane

November 14, 1940 - November 24, 2024

Riverbank, California - Born November 14, 1940 in Modesto, CA. Entered into rest November 24, 2024 in Riverbank, CA. It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Cleda; a fierce and beautiful woman, devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and daughter.

Cleda was preceded in death by her parents, Vernon Cleo Lewis and Audrey VeLois Wallace, her brothers Donald Lewis and Gary Wallace, her husband CW2 (ret) Kirk LeRoi Lane, and her daughter Barbara Jean Lane. She is survived by her sisters Sharon Conway of Modesto, CA and Anna Lee Clements of Redding, CA ; sons Kenneth (Lisa) Lane of Lafayette, TN, and Kevin (Rachel) Lane of Riverbank, CA; the grandchildren she raised Stefanie (Jason) Vieira of Waterford, CA, Audrey Quigley of Tuolumne, CA, and Kirk Lane of Modesto, CA; grandchildren Rebecca Stewart of Stockton, CA, Eddie Stewart of Stockton, CA, Bethanie Lane of Modesto, CA, Elyse Lane of Sacramento, CA, and Arielle Lane of Riverbank, CA; eight great-grandchildren, seven great-great grandchildren, as well as numerous beloved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and great-great nieces and nephews.



Cleda graduated from Modesto High School and was a member of Big Valley Grace Community Church and the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County. Cleda's most treasured career was her 20 years as an Army Wife. She also worked in various retail positions, selling home décor and clothing. Cleda loved to be in charge of any type of celebration and always hosted holidays, baby showers, and funeral dinners for friends and family. She also planned as many weddings as she could. She was generous with her time and money, taking in anyone in need and helping as much as possible.

Cleda's funeral is being arranged by Salas Brothers Funeral Chapel. Rest in peace, Queen Cleda. You will be dearly missed.  
To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Published by Modesto Bee from Dec. 2 to Dec. 4, 2024.

## FamilySearch Library Classes and Webinars for January 2025

The free FamilySearch Library January 2025 webinars will focus on United States federal census records, navigation of the FamilySearch Family Tree, FamilySearch Family Tree person pages, and other FamilySearch website features

Date/Time (MT)	Class/Webinar	How to View	Presenter
Available On Demand	Getting the Most Out of United States Census Records	Watch Now	Julie Merrill, AG®
Available On Demand	Getting Started with Research in the United States	Watch Now	Beth Taylor
Available On Demand	Overview of FamilySearch	Watch Now	Matt Breneman
Available On Demand	Using the FamilySearch Community	Watch Now	Matt Breneman
Available On Demand	Getting Started with FamilySearch's Family Tree App	Watch Now	Cel Soria
Available On Demand	FamilySearch Family Tree: Correcting Relationships	Watch Now	Israel Poulson
Thursday, January 2, 10:00 AM MT	Measuring Masses 1: U.S. Federal Census Records 1910–1950	Watch Live	Alyssa Gamble Martinez
Tuesday, January 9, 10:00 AM MT	FamilySearch Family Tree: Overview and Navigation	Watch Live	Charlotte Van Valkenburgh
Thursday, January 16, 10:00 AM MT	Measuring Masses 2: U.S. Federal Census Records 1850–1900	Watch Live	Julia Anderson, MA, AG®, AGL™
Tuesday, January 23, 10:00 AM MT	FamilySearch Family Tree: Person Page	Watch Live	Matt Breneman

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/newsroom/familysearch-library-webinars-january-2025>

### Basic GSSC 2025 Meeting Schedule

Welcome to the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County!

We meet on the second Monday at 7:00 pm for 10 months.

Here are the dates for our board meetings:

January 13, 2025

February 10

March 10

April 14

May 12

June 9

July- no meeting

August 11

September 8

October 13

November 10

December- no meeting

Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00pm for 10 months.

January 16, 2025

February 20

March 20

April 17

May 15

June 19

July- no meeting

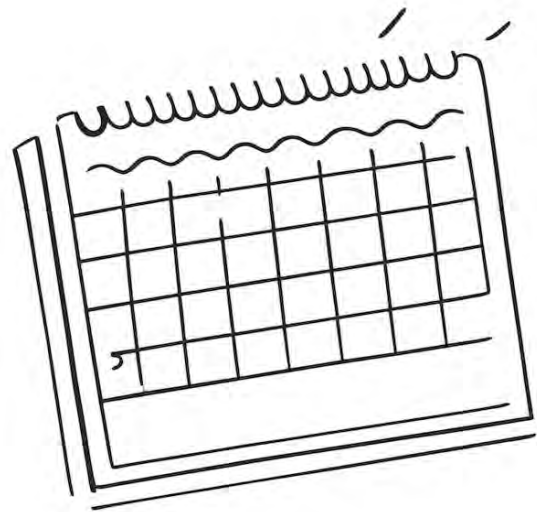
August 21

September 18

October 16

November 20

December- no meeting





**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: <a href="mailto:gssc-founded1968@gmail.com">gssc-founded1968@gmail.com</a> Telephone: 209-422-3653 (Joyce Hickman)
GSSC web page:	<a href="http://stanislausgenealogy.org/">http://stanislausgenealogy.org/</a> <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, 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

2025 Officers		2025 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Karen Souza	Acquisitions:	Vacant
1st Vice President	Amy Mowery	Audit:	Board of Directors
2nd Vice President	Joyce Hickman	Budget:	Roxie Ferrari
Secretary	Pam Atherstone	Historian	Heidi Arno
Treasurer	Roxie Ferrari	Membership	Joyce Hickman
Director at Large 1	Jackie Niemeyer	Newsletter & Webpage	Lewis M. Ruddick
Director at Large 2	Lauren Hastings	Publicity	Vicky Wolff
Director at Large 3	Linda Turley	Queries	Colleen Norby
Director at Large 4	Martha Carter Bhatti	Registrar	Marge Scheuber
Director at Large 5	Joann MacDonald	Seminar:	Vacant
Past President	Vicky 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 December 27, 2024.  
We have 62 members for 2025

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

**We are a 501(c)3 non-profit and donations are appreciated.**



Genealogical Society of  
Stanislaus County  
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Modesto, CA 95353-1352

