

# STANISLAUS



# RESEARCHER



**Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County**



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**March Program**  
 20 February 2025  
 7:00 P.M. Roundtable discussion of our  
 GSSC genealogical issues for 2025.

## Presidents Message

by Karen Souza

Hello, fellow family researchers! February is here already! I hope you had a fabulous Valentine's Day! Illness is going around and I wish that you all stay well. As a matter of fact, I was unable to lead the board meeting this month, but our 2nd VP, Joyce, stepped in and handled it for me. Thank you, Joyce! I am looking forward to March. Please continue to invite your friends and family to our regular meetings, and the two special events we have scheduled in March: Daniel Horowitz from MyHeritage on the 13th and Lisa Medina, on Mexican Records all day on Saturday, March 29. Check out VisitModesto.com's calendar to see the listings of our events.

Hope to see you there.  
 Karen Souza

**Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County**  
**Spring Seminar**  
**Mexican Genealogy**



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.

An announcement in Spanish is available upon request—[lruddick@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lruddick@ix.netcom.com)

**Full Announcement and Application Pages 7 & 8**

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

**If you do not see 2025 by your name on your email address line it IS time to renew**



it's time to  
**RENEW YOUR  
 MEMBERSHIP**

## Extraordinary GSSC Meeting on March 13th, 2025



### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

By the GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

MARCH 13, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Trinity United Presbyterian Church

1600 Carver Rd, Modesto CA

### Maximizing MyHeritage Technologies for Family History Research

**Daniel Horowitz**

**Genealogist, Public Speaker, and Project Manager in Israel**

**IS GOING TO SPEAK IN MODESTO CALIFORNIA!!**

COME AND JOIN THE Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County for this special time. Seating is limited. Please arrive early.

Mr. Horowitz is a Genealogy Expert at MyHeritage, providing key contributions liaising with genealogy societies, bloggers and media, as well as lecturing, and attending conferences around the world. Dedicated to Genealogy since 1986, he was the teacher and the study guide editor of the family history project "Searching for My Roots" in Venezuela for 15 years. Daniel is involved in several crowdsource digitization and transcription projects and holds a board level position at the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA).

Members: Free Non-Members: \$10 cash or check at the door

### **Genealogical Humor and Advice:**

- Genealogy is all about chasing your own tale.
- Can a first cousin once removed be returned?
- If your family members won't talk about a particular relative, a seasoned genealogist knows they are keeping mum about something very interesting.
- If you don't know who the family black sheep is, it's probably you.
- I only research genealogy on days that end in "y."
- Remember that when a family member passes away, they take a library of memories with them. It's a genealogist's duty to record them before that happens.

## GSSC Writing Group

by Joann MacDonald

### IMPROVE YOUR RESEARCH WRITING SKILLS

**March 13, 2025, 10:00 A.M.** The GSSC Writing Group is looking for members. If you are needing assistance writing your family's history this is the group to join. All have written something and are here to help.

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

Contact Joann if you can attend or are interested: [jmastergardener@aol.com](mailto:jmastergardener@aol.com) 209-522-2140



## Library Assistance - The Stanislaus County Main Library is closed now until 2026

Should you need Library assistance please contact Jackie Niemeyer Library Assistance - The Stanislaus County Main Library is closed now until 2026 Jackie Niemeyer - [jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net](mailto:jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net)

You can also get assistance from the LDS FamilySearch:

4300 Dale Road  
Modesto  
209-402-2268  
Open by appointment

713 El Vista Ave.  
Modesto  
209-968-4796  
Open by appointment

4300 Geer Road  
Turlock  
209-402-4085  
Open Wed. 10—1  
Thursday 6:30—9



### 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

## NOTE!

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

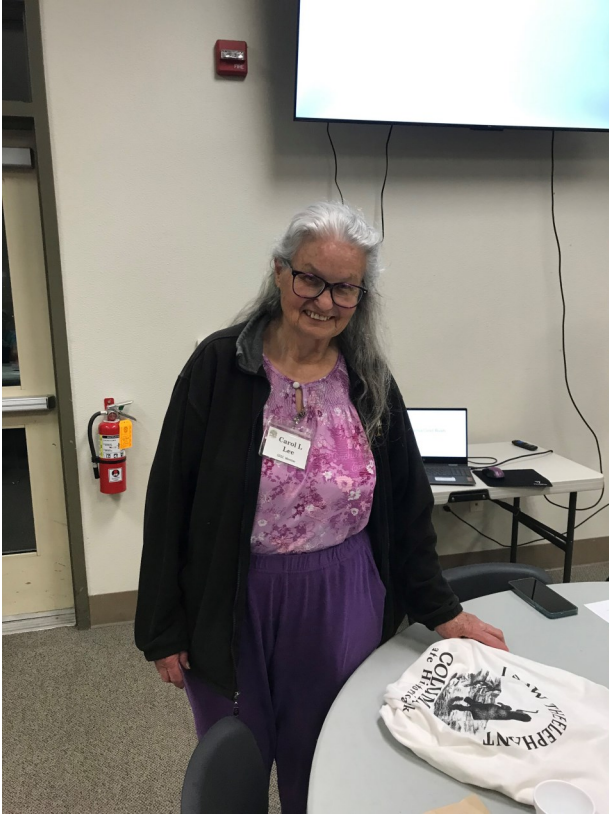
**If you do not see 2025 by your name on your email address line it IS time to renew and this will be your last GSSC Researcher.**

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



February General Meeting Photos

by Heidi Arno



Carol Lee—Our California Gold presenter



Souper Supper Offerings



Jack Koso - Our April program presenter



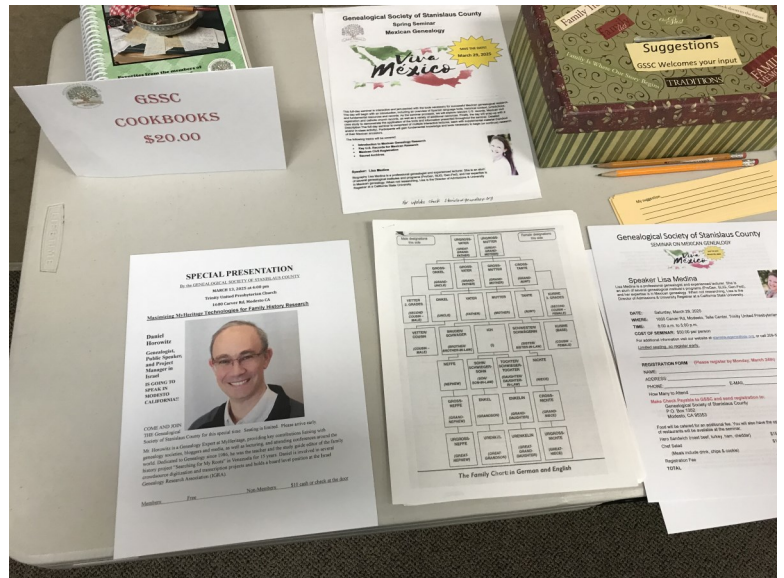
All were able to eat well





Anna Keppel and Jackie Niemeyer

Our meeting display table offerings



**San Diego Genealogical Society Launches California Pioneer Certificate Program**

Contact: Colin Whitney, SDGS Educational Programs  
[pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com](mailto:pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com)

The San Diego Genealogical Society presents the California Pioneer Certificate Program honoring early pioneers who helped shape the state of California. The program is designed to assist those researching the California roots and issues formal acknowledgment of their ancestors to the development of California.

On the SDGS website, the California Pioneer Honor Wall was created to highlight the contribution early pioneers made to the development of California. Here, entry portals provide organized access to a searchable database containing more than 400,000 eligible California pioneers, along with biographical, genealogical and historical information. The database consolidates pertinent records to aid research and is continually updated as new information becomes available. Additional genealogical and historical resources and finding aids are also provided. Displayed on the Honor Wall are names of eligible pioneers with links to photos, biographies, and events.

Those interested in recognizing their descentance from early California pioneers are encouraged to complete an application.  
<https://casdgs.org>



# Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

## SEMINAR ON MEXICAN GENEALOGY



### Speaker Lisa Medina

Lisa Medina is a professional genealogist and experienced lecturer. She is an alum of several genealogical institute's programs (ProGen, SLIG, Gen-Fed), and her expertise is in Mexican genealogy. When not researching, Lisa is the Director of Admissions & University Registrar at a California State University.



**DATE:** Saturday, March 29, 2025  
**WHERE:** 1600 Carver Rd, Modesto, Telle Center, Trinity United Presbyterian Church  
**TIME:** 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**COST OF SEMINAR:** \$50.00 per person

For additional information visit our website at [stanislausgenealogy.org](http://stanislausgenealogy.org), or call 209-529-9430.

*Limited seating, so register early.*

**REGISTRATION FORM (Please register by Monday, March 24th)**

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

Food will be catered for an additional fee. You will also have the option of finding food offsite. A list of restaurants will be available at the seminar.

Hero Sandwich (roast beef, turkey, ham, cheddar)	\$15.00	\$ _____
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Chef Salad	\$15.00	\$ _____
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(Meals include drink, chips & cookie)

Registration Fee	\$50.00	\$ _____
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<b>TOTAL</b>		\$ _____
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## Summary

This full-day seminar is interactive and jam-packed with the tools necessary for successful Mexican genealogical research. The day will begin with an introduction, including an overview of Spanish language tools, historical context, jurisdictions, and fundamental resources and records. As the seminar proceeds, we will explore relevant U.S. records, Mexican civil registration and catholic church records, as well as a variety of additional resources. Finally, the day will wrap-up with a case study to demonstrate the application of the tools and information presented throughout the seminar.

## Detailed Description

The full-day seminar is comprised of multiple interactive lectures, each with supplemental material (handout and/or in-class activity). Participants will gain fundamental knowledge and tools necessary to begin (or continue) research of their Mexican ancestors. The following topics will be covered:

**Introduction to Mexican Genealogy Research** An introduction into important foundational concepts in Mexican genealogy research (names, jurisdictions and governmental entities, language resources, etc.), as well as a brief overview of records available online.

**Key U.S. Records for Mexican Research:** An overview of U.S. records from the 20<sup>th</sup> century that contain information about Mexican immigrants, as well as tips for finding clues for tracing them to their origins in Mexico.

**Mexican Civil Registration: A Deep Dive** Mexican Civil Registration began in the 1860s. Since that time, these vital records have offered researchers an excellent resource for tracing ancestry in México. Learn about their history, what information you will find, as well as where to find them.

**Sacred Archives: An Exploration of Mexican Catholic Church Records** From the colonial period to the 20th century, parish sacramental records represent a treasure trove of genealogical information for family history researchers. In this presentation, we will review the historical context of these records, as well as practices for analyzing them to advance your research.

**A seminar where your Mexican—American genealogical heritage answers can be found.**

**Please inform any of your interested connections of this valuable seminar**

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### A Time Line of Monterey, California 1842 to 1850

1842 Commodore Thomas ap Catsby Jones mistakenly seizes Monterey in the name of the United States, then apologizes.

1846 Four years later, on July 7, 1846, Commodore John Drake Sloat raises the American flag over Monterey's Custom House and claims California for the United States. Later that year, Robert Semple and Walter Colton, using Vicente Zamorano's press, publish the first newspaper in California, the Californian.

1848 The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is signed, ceding California and other Mexican territories to the United States. James Marshall arrives in Monterey with samples of gold discovered near Sacramento.

1849 The first American public building in California, Colton Hall, is completed in Monterey. On September 1, the California Constitutional Convention begins in Colton Hall. On October 13, the delegates ratify the new state Constitution. San Jose is chosen as the new state capital, ending Monterey's 75 years as California's capital. The first public library in California is established in Monterey.

1850s On September 9, 1850, California enters the Union as the 31st state. In the early 1850s Chinese fishermen begin arriving in the Monterey area. Portuguese shore whalers establish whaling stations on Monterey Bay.

From <https://files.monterey.gov/MPLibrary/Documents/HistoryRoom/Historic%20Timeline.pdf>



## Events and festivals in or around Stanislaus County

January	
February	
	Almond Blossom Festival, Ripon? San Joaquin County
MARCH	
	Knights Ferry, Civil War Rennactment March 23-24, 2024 Contact: Josh Chiulli
APRIL	
	<b>San Joaquin Valley Portuguese Festival</b> April 19-21 Free for Non-Profit \$100 deposit, refunded within 10 days after festival. Where: Stanislaus County Fair grounds, Turlock Contact: Desiree: (209) 394-1444 SJVportuguesefestival.com (applications on website) Deadline: March 9, 2024 <b>extended deadline till April 1 for non-commercial</b>
	<b>Hughson, Fruit &amp; Nut Festival</b> April 27-28 (set-up on April 26) \$125.00 for a Non-profit booth, this is the price for event. Where: Downtown Hughson Contact person: Dara, go to Chamber of Commerce and dowload application Deadline : April 1, 2024
	<b>Knights Ferry Peddlers Fair</b> Sunday, April 28
May	
	<b>Ceres Street Fair</b> May 4-5 Where: Downtown Ceres Contact: <a href="mailto:ceresstreetfaire@gmail.com">ceresstreetfaire@gmail.com</a> (209) 409-2676
	<b>Oakdale, Chocolate Festival</b> Contact: (209) 847-2244 Oakdale Chamber of Commerce
JUNE	
	<b>Patterson, Apricot Fiesta</b> June 1-2, 2024 ( 1 <sup>st</sup> week of June)  Contact: (209) 892-3118

**JULY**



Stanislaus County Fair  
July 5-14, 2024

**AUGUST**

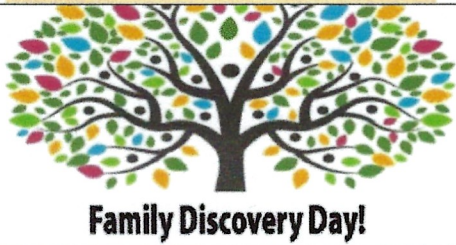
**SEPTEMBER**



**Farm & Family Festival, Denair**  
**(2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month) Sept 14, 2024 9:00-3:00**  
Contact: Jodie Wilson (209) 850-5670 James Shehan (209) 480-1533  
Non-Profit booth \$25.00 [www.denairfestival.com/vendors](http://www.denairfestival.com/vendors)  
Deadline: August 30, 2024



**Turlock Melon Carnival,**  
September 20-21, 2024  
10:00-8:00 Saturday, September 21  
Contact Lori Smith (209) 678-2695



**Family Discovery Day**  
Turlock Family History Library (LDS) Church  
September 28 9:00-12:00

**OCTOBER**



**Modesto, International Festival**  
October 5, 2024  
Graceada Park

Oakdale Fall Festival – Oakdale Chamber of Commerce, contact Cher (209) 847-2244

**NOVEMBER**

Turlock Festival of Lights  
Oakdale Fall Festival – Oakdale Chamber of Commerce, contact Cher (209) 847-2244

**DECEMBER**

**Membership Information**

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

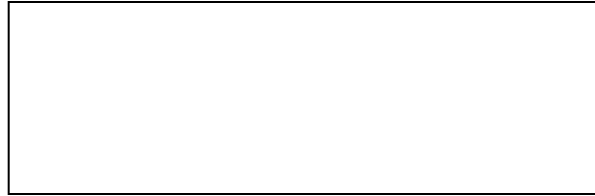
Address changes:	Send address, email and phone number changes to Anna Keppel at: GSSC, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95353-1352 Email: <a href="mailto:gssc-founded1968@gmail.com">gssc-founded1968@gmail.com</a> Telephone: 209-324-7147 (Anna Keppel)
GSSC web page:	<a href="http://stanislausgenealogy.org/">http://stanislausgenealogy.org/</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

<b>2025 Officers</b>		<b>2025 Standing Committee Chairs</b>	
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:	Judy Byrne
Treasurer	Roxie Ferrari	Membership:	Anna Keppel
Director at Large 1	Linda Turley	Memorial Day:	Vacant
Director at Large 2	Joann MacDonald	Mentor:	Joann McDonald
Director at Large 3	Martha Carter Bhatti	Newsletter & Website	Lewis M. Ruddick
Director at Large 4	Lauren Hastings	Planning:	Marge Scheuber
Director at Large 5	Jackie Niemeyer	Seminar:	Vacant
Past President	Vicky Wolff	Programs:	Amy Mowery
		Publicity:	Vacant
		Queries:	Colleen Norby
		Refreshments	Joann MacDonald Carol Lee
		Registrar	Jackie Niemeyer
		Research & Publications	Vacant
		Research Day Trips	Vacant
		Seminar & Workshops	Joyce Hickman debbie loyd Lauren Hastings
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Special Collections	Jackie Niemeyer
		Sunshine	Joyce Hickman





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



**NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY—March 3, 2025**

National Anthem Day commemorates the day the United States adopted "The Star-Spangled Banner" as its National Anthem. Written by Francis Scott Key, the "Star-Spangled Banner" became the National Anthem in 1931.