



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

November 2021

Volume 43, Number 11

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21 November 2021 7:00 P.M.

November will be Ancestors Night, for the program, and a little saying: "Lives are like jigsaw puzzles we like to put together. All the pieces are out there, but we have to frame it before we complete the inside."

Thank you!

Presidents Message

by Beverly Graham

The Battle of Shiloh was a particularly brutal battle in the U.S. Civil war that, in April of 1862, left over 16,000 Confederate and Union troops wounded and over 3,000 dead. The medics on either side of the battle were completely unprepared for such an astronomical number of wounded at one time.

Many of the soldiers simply had to sit and nurse their own wounds for days while waiting for medical attention. During those rainy days when dusk would fall, a curious phenomenon emerged. Some of the soldiers' wounds would glow. All across the battlefield and the triage tents hundreds of soldiers had a faint blue glow radiating out of their wounds. Neither the soldiers nor the medics that treated them knew what to make of it, but one thing was clear, once the troops were moved to hospitals and given proper treatment, the soldiers who had experienced the strange glowing wounds on the battlefield had a much higher rate of recovery and survival. The soldiers nicknamed the phenomenon the "Angel's Glow" and considered it some sort of divine intervention that alit, rather literally, upon some of the troops.

Today we have an answer to the mystery of the battlefield glow and how exactly the Angel's Glow saved the lives of so many soldiers. The soil site of the Battle of Shiloh is rich with a particular parasitic nematode and in that particular nematode's gut is a bacteria named *Photobacterium luminescens*. The nematodes eat insects and *P. luminescens* has developed a very particular skill in helping its host thrive. As the nematodes consume their host, the bacteria also feeds and glows brightly via bioluminescence with the sole goal of making the body of the insect attractive to other insects so that a fresh host is nearby when the nematodes erupt from the husk of the insect they are currently feasting on. The glowing bacteria is essentially like a helper hailing a cab for the nematode, ensuring there is always a new ride waiting.

Now, that's all very interesting but how exactly did it save the lives of all those soldiers? The glowing had nothing to do with it (and was just evidence the bacteria were present in the soldier's wounds), the real life-saving magic was something that happened in parallel with the glow: *P. luminescens* also releases chemicals that kill off microorganisms in order to make life easier for its host (the nematode) to dominate the meta-host (the insect the nematode and bacteria hitchhikers are attacking). Sitting in the mud on those stormy nights in Tennessee, the soldiers were awash in the bacteria and the bacteria multiplied

rapidly in the warm damp conditions of their wounds, all while excreting compounds that were killing off all the other harmful organisms nearby.

The Angel's Glow might not have been truly angelic in origin, but it might as well have been; the soldier's who were temporarily colonized with *P. luminescens* were getting an antibacterial and antimicrobial bath that even the best doctors' of their day couldn't replicate.

Thank You for Your Service Coin

By Bev Graham

The rifle is affixed with a bayonet and inverted, signifying that the Soldier went down fighting. The boots signify the Soldier's last march onto the battlefield. Dog tags are imprinted with the Soldier's name and hung from the rifle so their identity will never be forgotten. The helmet is placed atop the rifle representing what the Soldier stood for and signifying that their battle is now over. The Battlefield Cross is a sacred symbol amongst military members. Since a funeral is typically not possible during wartime, these symbols serve as a rallying point where surviving members of a unit can mourn and remember their fallen comrades. Reach out to the Veterans that you know and give them a simple message: "We Remember." We remember our country's fallen, your brothers and sisters, and we appreciate and honor their sacrifice.



I bought some coins to be given to veterans when I see one. They are beautiful in full color, honoring all service branches.

I find the veterans I give them to are shocked and excited. It's an honor to feel their spirit lift. To see them being thanked, something that none have probably experienced, is an honor for me. So far I have given out four coins and each veteran were in the Vietnam war. By their age they are the easiest to pick out!!

I still have more coins and will keep looking for any veteran I can find. I'm appreciative of their service and their willingness to keep this country safe.

My dad, my F-in-L, and my husband were all veterans. I am proud and thankful for their service, as well as all the strangers I meet with my coins.

Maybe one day, while you are out and about, you may notice someone giving out a coin. If so, be proud, then give a little wink! These veterans deserve so much more.

Should you be so inclined, the Coins are found [here](#)

November Program

By Vicky Wolff

Our program November will be Ancestors Night, for the program, and a little saying:

"Lives are like jigsaw puzzles we like to put together. All the pieces are out there, but we have to frame it before we complete the inside."

Thank you!



Stanislaus County COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard

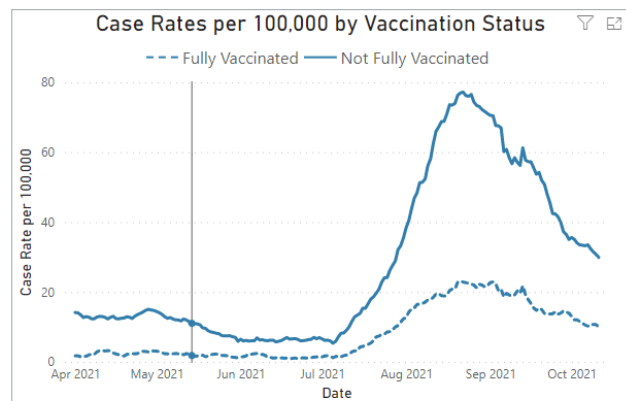
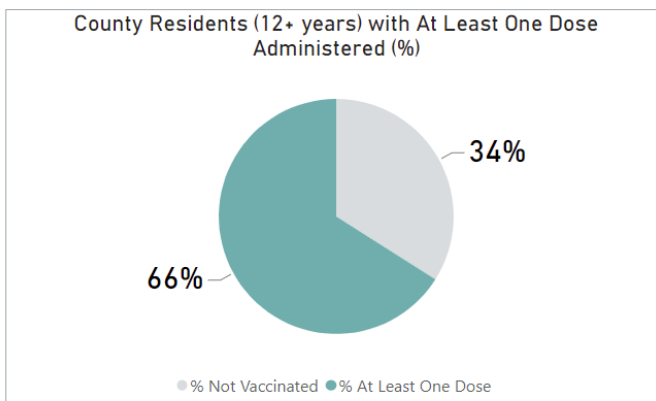


Note: Not included in these counts are vaccines provided directly through a federal program for residents and staff of long term care facilities such as Skilled Nursing Facilities, and some directly provided quantities to hospital systems. The information contained on this website will expand as more information becomes available and validated. Doses allocated to public health may be re-allocated to approved providers or will be used in the public health clinic.

Data Source: California Department of Public Health & Stanislaus County Health Services Agency

Last updated: 10/18/2021

Vaccination Coverage					Vaccination Status	
Fully Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated (%)	Partially Vaccinated	Partially Vaccinated (%)	Total Doses Administered	Not Fully Vaccinated Hospitalizations (%)*	Not Fully Vaccinated Deaths (%)
265,952	57%	43,890	9%	576,179	84%	94%



*Please note that hospitalization data are missing for approximately 55% of confirmed COVID-19 cases. Cases may have been hospitalized for reasons unrelated to COVID-19, but tested positive upon admission.

<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiazjJlNDQ3Y2EtN2NjYi00YTFhLWWEyMzQtNjgzMzY4Y2E1Y2U4liwidCI6ImU3M2I3N2Q4LTNkYmQtNGQ0ZS04ZDgyLWYzMTUzNjcwMzU2ZCJ9&pageName=ReportSection>

Our Covid-19 Risk - Blame it on the Neanderthals

DNA Inherited From Neanderthals May Increase Risk of Covid-19

The stretch of six genes seems to increase the risk of severe illness from the coronavirus.

The New York Times

By Carl Zimmer

Published July 4, 2020

Updated July 8, 2020

A stretch of DNA linked to Covid-19 was passed down from Neanderthals 60,000 years ago, according to a new study.

Scientists don't yet know why this particular segment increases the risk of severe illness from the coronavirus. But the new findings, which were posted online on Friday and have not yet been published in a scientific journal, show how some clues to modern health stem from ancient history.

"This interbreeding effect that happened 60,000 years ago is still having an impact today," said Joshua Akey, a geneticist at Princeton University who was not involved in the new study.

This piece of the genome, which spans six genes on Chromosome 3, has had a puzzling journey through human history, the study found. The variant is now common in Bangladesh, where 63 percent of people carry at least one copy. Across all of South Asia, almost one-third of people have inherited the segment.

Elsewhere, however, the segment is far less common. Only 8 percent of Europeans carry it, and just 4 percent have it in East Asia. It is almost completely absent in Africa.



It's not clear what evolutionary pattern produced this distribution over the past 60,000 years. "That's the \$10,000 question," said Hugo Zeberg, a geneticist at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden who was one of the authors of the new study.

One possibility is that the Neanderthal version is harmful and has been getting rarer over all. It's also possible that the segment improved people's health in South Asia, perhaps providing a strong immune response to viruses in the region.

"One should stress that at this point this is pure speculation," said Dr. Zeberg's co-author, Svante Paabo, the director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.

Researchers are only beginning to understand why Covid-19 is more dangerous for some people than others. Older people are more likely to become severely ill than younger ones. Men are at more risk than women.

Social inequality matters, too. In the United States, Black people are far more likely than white people to become severely ill from the coronavirus, for example, most likely due in part to the country's history of systemic racism. It has left Black people with a high rate of chronic diseases such as diabetes, as well as living conditions and jobs that may increase exposure to the virus.

Genes play a role as well. Last month, researchers compared people in Italy and Spain who became very sick with Covid-19 to those who had only mild infections. They found two places in the genome associated with a greater risk. One is on Chromosome 9 and includes ABO, a gene that determines blood type. The other is the Neanderthal segment on Chromosome 3.

But these genetic findings are being rapidly updated as more people infected with the coronavirus are studied. Just last week, an international group of scientists called the Covid-19 Host Genetics Initiative released a new set of data downplaying the risk of blood type. "The jury is still out on ABO," said Mark Daly, a geneticist at Harvard Medical School who is a member of the initiative.

The new data showed an even stronger link between the disease and the Chromosome 3 segment. People who carry two copies of the variant are three times more likely to suffer from severe illness than people who do not.

After the new batch of data came out on Monday, Dr. Zeberg decided to find out if the Chromosome 3 segment was passed down from Neanderthals.

About 60,000 years ago, some ancestors of modern humans expanded out of Africa and swept across Europe, Asia and Australia. These people encountered Neanderthals and interbred. Once Neanderthal DNA entered our gene pool, it spread down through the generations, long after Neanderthals became extinct.

Most Neanderthal genes turned out to be harmful to modern humans. They may have been a burden on people's health or made it harder to have children. As a result, Neanderthal genes became rarer, and many disappeared from our gene pool. But some genes appear to have provided an evolutionary edge and have become quite common. In May, Dr. Zeberg, Dr. Paabo and Dr. Janet Kelso, also of the Max Planck Institute, discovered that one-third of European women have a Neanderthal hormone receptor. It is associated with increased fertility and fewer miscarriages.

Dr. Zeberg knew that other Neanderthal genes that are common today even help us fight viruses. When modern humans expanded into Asia and Europe, they may have encountered new viruses against which Neanderthals had already evolved defenses. We have held onto those genes ever since.

Dr. Zeberg looked at Chromosome 3 in an online database of Neanderthal genomes. He found that the version that raises people's risk of severe Covid-19 is the same version found in a Neanderthal who lived in Croatia 50,000 years ago. "I texted Svante immediately," Dr. Zeberg said in an interview, referring to Dr. Paabo.

Dr. Paabo was on vacation in a cottage in the remote Swedish countryside. Dr. Zeberg showed up the next day, and they worked day and night until they posted the study online on Friday.

"It's the most crazy vacation I've ever had in this cottage," Dr. Paabo said.

Tony Capra, a geneticist at Vanderbilt University who was not involved in the study, thought it was plausible that the Neanderthal chunk of DNA originally provided a benefit — perhaps even against other viruses. "But that was 40,000 years ago, and here we are now," he said.

It's possible that an immune response that worked against ancient viruses has ended up overreacting against the new coronavirus. People who develop severe cases of Covid-19 typically do so because their immune systems launch uncontrolled attacks that end up scarring their lungs and causing inflammation.

Dr. Paabo said the DNA segment may account in part for why people of Bangladeshi descent are dying at a high rate of Covid-19 in the United Kingdom.

It's an open question whether this Neanderthal segment continues to keep a strong link to Covid-19 as Dr. Zeberg and other researchers study more patients. And it may take discoveries of the segment in ancient fossils of modern humans to understand why it became so common in some places but not others.

But Dr. Zeberg said that the 60,000-year journey of this chunk of DNA in our species might help explain why it's so dangerous today.

"Its evolutionary history may give us some clues," Dr. Zeberg said.

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Carl Zimmer writes the "Matter" column. He is the author of thirteen books, including "She Has Her Mother's Laugh: The Powers, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity." @carlzimmer • Facebook

A version of this article appears in print on July 6, 2020, Section A, Page 6 of the New York edition with the headline: String of Neanderthal Genes May Increase Risk of Severe Illness. Order Reprints | Today's Paper | Subscribe

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/04/health/coronavirus-neanderthals.html>

Sad News

This is to inform you that Phi Epsilon Phi Sister and Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County member, Karen Stiles, has had a massive stroke and is in Vintage Faire Rehab Center in Modesto. She also has alzheimer's. She will not be returning home, but will remain in care. She has a niece and nephew that is taking care of her. They are having a living estate sale today and tomorrow at her home. She will talk to you for four or five minutes and then goes out. Sorry for the bearer of this bad news. She is a beautiful person and I pray for her peace. Vicky Wolff

What will genealogy research look like post COVID-19? | Tracing Our Roots

By Daniel Klein

For The Jersey Journal

What will genealogy research's 'new normal' look like post-COVID?

As businesses and government agencies prepare to reopen in the wake of the COVID-19, it's likely that genealogical research will look different for at least a little while.

Certainly, there won't be much change, if any, in the way we do our online research. More and more documents will become available as the database companies add more to their catalogs. That would have happened, pandemic or no.

In-person visits will likely not be happening right away, or if they are, they will be for very abbreviated periods of time. That will be for the protection of patrons and staff, as well as for the collections themselves. In local history and other special collections, it's not really possible to disinfect books after patron use. The chemicals necessary can damage rare books and manuscripts. According to recent literature, the best way to "disinfect" books and other materials is by quarantining them for up to three days, effectively "waiting out" the virus until it dies. That's why it may be best to let only staff handle materials until a vaccine is found or the risk of spreading the virus is much closer to zero than it is now.

As a librarian, I've seen a few different online discussions on how libraries, government offices and archives may start offering services as their facilities reopen, including online reference via Zoom or other online meeting app or doing short in-person reference interviews and then sending information to patrons later.

Teleconferencing apps have the added advantage in that screen sharing will allow both librarian and patron to share material in the research interview and in offering results. It wouldn't surprise me in the least if libraries continued this service long after COVID is itself, history.

As with any research visit, you should always call ahead first when libraries begin to reopen. Normally that call would be to learn more about the collections, access hours, parking and other important information. These days, one should also make sure they are currently open to the public and how reference services are being performed. Whether the research interview is conducted online or in person, it's likely that repositories that once offered walk-in service will need to take appointments, so everyone gets a chance to research their family tree.

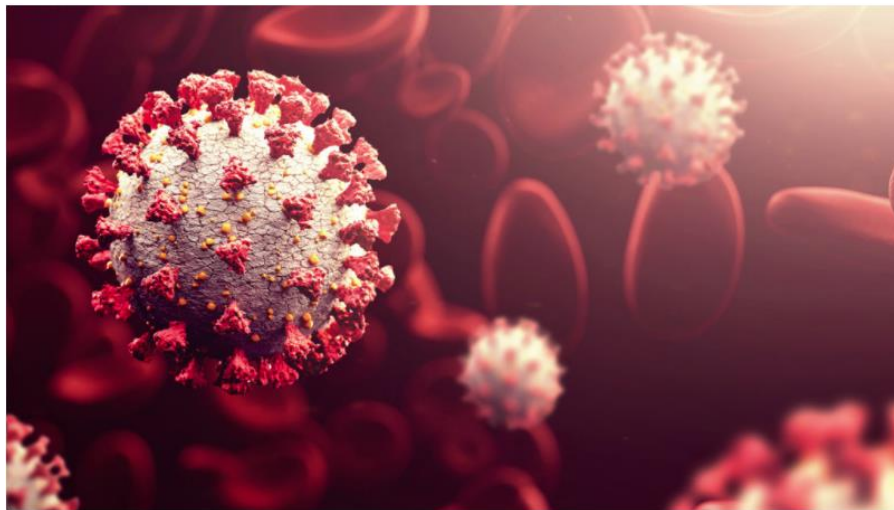
It's a good idea to prepare a bit for such an interview. If you have any documentation to show related to your research, have it ready. It's quite possible you'll only have a 15-20 minute appointment, so if you have to spend five minutes looking for Aunt Gertrude's death certificate, that may be five minutes less you have to chat with a librarian.

Believe me, librarians and archivists want researchers to use their collections and we can't wait to get back to serving our patrons, whether it be in person or online. I hope to see you soon.

Danny Klein is a librarian at the Jersey City Free Public Library's New Jersey Room and a founding member of the Hudson County Genealogical and Historical Society. He can be reached at HUDSONGENEALOGY@GMAIL.COM or @HudsonGenealogy on Twitter.

How your DNA may affect whether you get COVID-19 or become gravely ill

A study of more than 45,000 people offers hints to why some people get sick after infection



Tweaks in people's DNA may be partly to blame for why the SARS-CoV-2 virus (illustrated) can more easily infect some people than others and make some people gravely ill, while others barely notice they're sick.

RADOSLAV ZILINSKY/MOMENT/GETTY IMAGES PLUS

By Tina Hesman Saey

JULY 8, 2021 AT 12:53 PM

Some people can blame their DNA for making them more likely to get COVID-19 or becoming severely ill if they get infected.

A study of more than 45,000 people with COVID-19 has uncovered 13 genetic variants linked to an increased risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 or a higher chance of developing severe illness, researchers report July 8 in *Nature*. The team includes more than 3,300 researchers in 25 countries.

Some of the variants had been uncovered in previous studies. For instance, researchers again confirmed a genetic link between blood type and the likelihood of getting infected, but don't know why people with type O blood may be slightly protected. The study also verified that a variant that disables the TYK2 gene raises the risk of critical illness and hospitalization. That variant is known to protect against autoimmune disease, but leaves people more vulnerable to tuberculosis.

Sign up for e-mail updates on the latest coronavirus news and research

But at least one association was unknown: A variant in a gene called FOXP4 is associated with more severe COVID-19, the team found. That variant boosts the gene's activity and has been previously linked to lung cancer and interstitial lung disease, a group of diseases that cause scarring and stiffness of the lungs. Yet-to-be-developed drugs that inhibit activity of FOXP4's protein might help people recover from COVID-19 or prevent them from becoming very ill.

The disease-associated version of the gene is more common among Asians and Latino populations in the Americas, geneticist Mark Daly said July 7 during a news briefing. This link might never have been discovered if people of diverse ancestries from around the world hadn't been included in the study, said Daly, of the Institute of Molecular Medicine Finland in Helsinki (SN: 3/4/21). Only 2 percent to 3 percent of people with European ancestry carry the variant, compared with 7 percent of people in the Middle East, 20 percent of Latinos in the Americas and 32 percent of East Asians.

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/coronavirus-covid-how-dna-genetic-risk-infection-severe-illness>

Happy Thanksgiving!



Having learned that my 10th great grandparents were on the Mayflower I find this most appropriate.

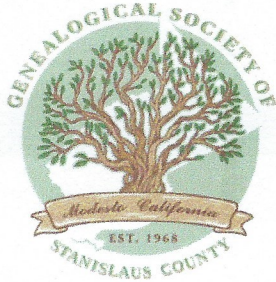
Lewis M. Ruddick, Editor

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Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS



> When

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> Where

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> How

Online orders only

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28% of sales will be donated to: Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

2022 BUDGET PROPOSAL

	2022	2021		2022	2021
Ordinary Income					
Income from reserve		1100			
Dues income	4000	4000	Committees		
			Historian	0	0
Fundraisers/Education	1200	1101	Oakland Research Trip	0	0
Candy Sales	1100	500	Professional Fees	0	0
Clothing	0	0	Speaker Fee	1000	1000
Household wares	300	0	Queries	0	0
Meals out	300	0	Refreshments	600	300
Plant Sales	650	500	Registrar	0	0
Publications	1100	0	Salt Lake City	0	0
Total Fundraisers	4650	2101	Sunshine	0	0
			Total Committees	1600	1300
GSSC Donation	300	300			
Interest Earned	10	10	Fundraising	267	
Millie Starr Scholarship	350	350	Candy Sales	0	250
Other income	660	660	Clothing	0	0
Total Income	9310	7861	Household wares	0	0
			Meals out	0	0
Expense			Plant Sales	250	250
Administrative			Publications	550	0
Advertising and Promotion	100	100	Fall Seminar	0	0
Computer and Internet Expenses	1025	1000	Millie Starr Scholarship winner	500	500
Total Administrative	1125	1100	Total Fundraising	1567	1000
General Liability Insurance	500	500	Total Expense	9310	7861
Professional Liability	1350	1350			
Total Insurance Expense	1850	1850			
Office Supplies	200	200			
Hardcopy	50	50			
PO Box 1352	135	106			
Stamps	58	55			
Total Postal & Delivery	243	211			
Rent Expense Telle Hall	1500	1000			
Taxes					
Form PRF-1	25	25			
Form S1-100	25	25			
GSSC Filing Fees	50	50			
Sales Tax	250				
Total Taxes	100	100			
Total Administrative	5018	4461			

Membership Information Dues: Single membership, \$25.00 per year Family membership, \$35.00 per year
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GSSC web page: <http://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 Ridgeway's Restaurant, 2401 E Orangeburg Ave, Modesto, CA

2021 Officers		2021 Standing Committee Chairs	
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		Special Collections Room	Jackie Niemeyer
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Sunshine	Karen Souza

Updated 10-19-21.

We have 80 members for 2021

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

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