



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

February 2021

Volume 43, Number 2

Message from your President. 1
 Programs Cancelled until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted..... 1
 Bev Graham’s Surname Map Print..... 2
 Renew your 2021 Membership Reminder..... 2
 The Oak Tree..... 3
 Current Covid-19 information for Stanislaus County.....4
 February is Black History Month.....4
 A Brief History of Presidential Inaugurations..... 5
 Presidential Trivia..... 6
 Highway Revolutions.....7
 February – Old Farmer’s Almanac.....8

We will be back to regular meetings and programs as soon as the Corona Virus pandemic is over!

Presidents Message

by Beverly Graham

The time has come!

Well friends, the time has come. The holidays are over and the trees are down for another year! Whew. Now down to business. After all, we are all staying home more and griping about it more, so time for a change. It’s time to re-decorate and re-arrange the house. Not every room but some. I get tired of looking at the same old stuff day after day, so every year or so, I start my changing-the-rooms attempt.

This year my mood seems to have gotten more toned down and not so in-your-face colorful. The walls and furniture are staying but the artwork? The pictures? Gone for now! I need something different to gaze at while trying to dream of the day when we all were finding Aunt Betty on our trees and sharing our great new solutions!

I found an antique map, dated 1705, of the town where my ancestors were born and raised. With my great friend Millie Starr, we found those ancestors clear back to before Napoleon. The map is such a beauty I framed it and now it will take the place of some old picture I found at a craft store years ago.

Some won’t think it’s worthy but to me it’s just wonderful. Gazing at the map, my mind goes to the years before they prompted to set of for this country that is now America.

Find your inspiration and see what exciting things show up!

Til then.. happy hunting.

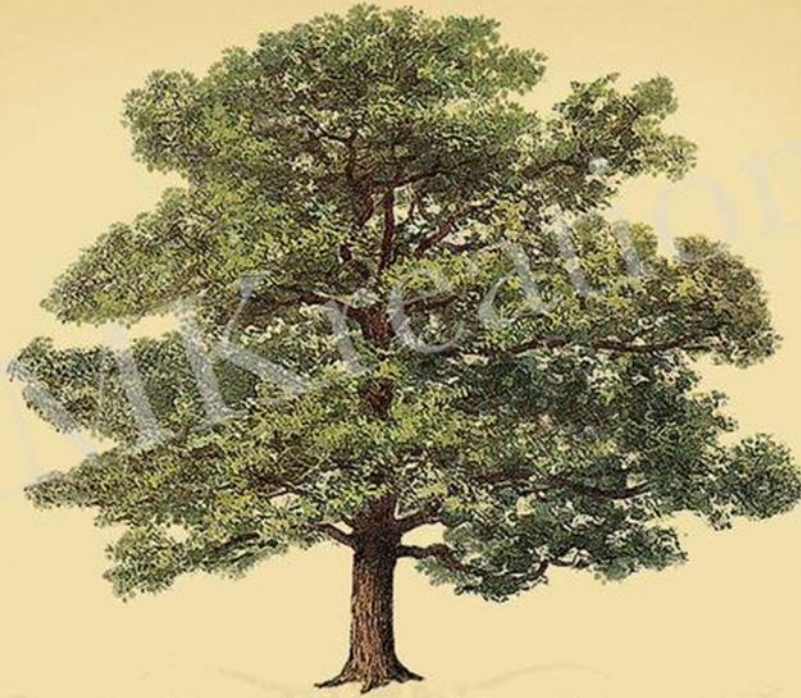


Charleroi, Hainaut, Belgium

Don't forget to Renew your 2021 GSSC Membership
And Please make sure Maybelle Allen has your correct email address!
Maybelle says, 'Thanks for your membership renewals. Keep them coming!!!!'



The Oak Tree



A mighty wind blew night and day.
It stole the oak tree's leaves away,
Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark
Until the oak was tired and stark.
But still the oak tree held its ground
While other trees fell all around.
The weary wind gave up and spoke,
"How can you still be standing, Oak?"
The oak tree said, "I know that you
Can break each branch of mine in two,
Carry every leaf away,
Shake my limbs, and make me sway.
But I have roots stretched in the earth,
Growing stronger since my birth.
You'll never touch them, for you see,
They are the deepest part of me.
Until today, I wasn't sure
Of just how much I could endure.
But now I've found, with thanks to you,
I'm stronger than I ever knew."

— Johnny Ray Ryder, Jr.

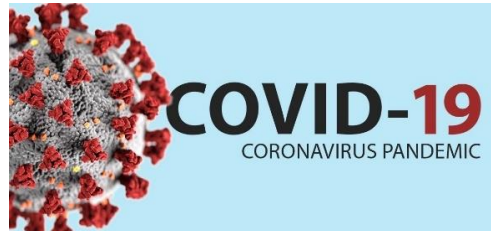
Current Covid-19 information for Stanislaus County

Total cases

46,463

Deaths

739



Covid-19 Shots now Available for those 65 or older

February is Black History Month

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. Also known as “African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. President has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment to abolished slavery in the U.S.

That September, the Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent.

Know today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Black Negro History Week. By the late 1960’s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too often neglected accomplishments of back Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

In the Radical Reconstruction period that followed the Civil War, newly freed black men made great political gains, winning office in Southern state legislatures and even Congress. The Southern backlash was

swift and marked by the passage of “black codes” designed to intimidate black voters, prompting a call for formal national legislation on the right to vote.

Did you know? The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

African American Genealogical Society of Northern California

P.O. Box 27485, Oakland, CA. 94602-0985 <http://www.aagsnc.org>

Monthly meetings are held 1:30 PM-4:00 PM on the third Saturday of the month at the Oakland Public Library, Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, CA. 94602 Meeting program topics are subject to change. The society does not meet in July or August.

A Brief History of Presidential Inaugurations

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

I thought this article appropriate for this time of the year we are now in. This was taken from the American Spirit Magazine, published by the Daughter of the American Revolution, which I am a member of. Because my Ancestor is the second President of the United States of America, John Adams, this is especially very near to my heart.

On the cusp of another presidential inauguration, it is fitting to take a brief look at the origins of the ceremony and its associated traditions. Despite all the pomp and festivities, the only inaugural requirements set forth in the U.S. Constitution are the works of the oath of office and the date of the event.

The Oath

Article II, Section 1, Clause 8 of the Constitution mandates the oath: I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will do the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Every incoming president from Franklin D. Roosevelt through Donald Trump has added “so help me God” to the end of the oath, which is usually administered by the chief justice of the Supreme Court. During Barrack Obama’s first inauguration on January 20, 2009, Chief Justice John Roberts inadvertently said the word “faithfully” out of sequence, placing it after, “United States.” So the oath was re-administered the next day, “out of an abundance of caution.”

The Date

George Washington became the first commander in chief of the United States on March 4. but was not sworn in until April 30. From then on, inaugurations were held March 4 until the ratification of the 20th Amendment of January 23, 1933, moved the date to January 20. If that date falls on a Sunday, the president is sworn in privately that day, with the public ceremony held the next day.

There have been nine emergency inaugurations: John Tyler in 1841, after the death of William Henry Harrison; Millard Fillmore, in 1850, after the death of Zachary Taylor; Andrew Johnson in 1865, after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln; Chester A. Arthur in 1881, after the death of James A. Garfield; Theodore Roosevelt in 1901 after the death of William McKinley; Calvin Coolidge in 1923, after the death of Warren G. Harding; Harry S. Truman in 1945, after the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt; Lyndon B. Johnson in 1963, after the assassination of John F. Kennedy; and Gerald Ford in 1974, after the resignation of Richard Nixon.

Hand On The Bible

George Washington started the tradition of placing a hand on the Bible for the swearing-in at his first inauguration, at Federal Hall in New York City. Organizers had to borrow a Bible from the nearby Masonic Lodge at the last minute after discovering they had forgotten to bring one.

John Quincy Adams, in 1825, used a law book rather than a Bible, and Theodore Roosevelt in 1901 took the oath with merely an uplifted hand.
May God continue to bless the United States of America!

Presidential Trivia Featuring The First Four Presidents Of The United States

Compiled by Kathy Weiser, Legends of America, April 2020

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

George Washington (1789-1797) was the only American President to be unanimously elected. Washington was the only president who did not represent a political party.

At his inauguration, Washington had only one real tooth. At various times, he wore dentures made of human teeth, animal teeth, ivory and even lead. Never wood. Washington might have had a set of false teeth, but he made sure his horses had their teeth brushed every day.

Washington never lived in the White House. The nation's capital was located in Philadelphia and several other cities before its move to Washington, D.C.

John Adams (1797-1801) (my Ancestor) was the first president to reside in the White House, moving into the building in November 1800, while the paint was still wet.

When Adams and his family moved to Washington to live in the White House, they got lost in the woods north of the city for several hours.

Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died in 1826 on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Not knowing that Jefferson had already passed five hours earlier, Adams was quoted as saying, "Thomas Jefferson still survives" as his last words.

Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809) wrote his own epitaph, never mentioning that he served as president. His epitaph read, "Author of the Declaration of Independence, Author of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom and Father of the University of Virginia.

Jefferson was the first president to shake hands with guests. Previously people bowed to presidents.

Jefferson could read Greek, Latin, French and English. He was an avid inventor, who is credited with inventing several items, including the coat hanger, hideaway bed and dumbwaiter.

Jefferson's library of 6,000 books was purchased for \$13,950 and formed the Library of Congress.

James Madison (1809-1817) was the first president to wear trousers rather than Knee breeches. Madison was one of two American presidents (Washington was the other) to sign the Constitution. Madison contributions to the development of the U.S. constitution earned him the title "Father of the Constitution."

Highway Revolution

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

While Estate Sale Hunting, David brought home a couple of small books...One that is titled "That Ribbon of Highway: *Highway 99 from the Oregon Border to the State Capital.*" The second book entitled "The Ribbon of Highway II: *Highway 99 from the State Capital to the Mexican Border.*" By Jill Livingston.

Quite fascinating little books. As you take your next drive, think about how our roads came to be and how they developed to where they are today. I want to just give you a glimpse of the jest of these fascinating little books.

Quoted from the first book...All roads evolved in the same way, from footpath to wagon road to two-lane paved highway, and some to multi-laned super freeways. As automobiles increased in popularity, the demand for better roads, to make driving a more pleasurable and safer experience, rapidly increased. The yen to own a car spread swiftly. Horses were indescribably slow, no way to take a vacation. And Californians love to vacation. While one could travel on railroads, this limited mobility to where and when the trains would take you.

In fact, the advent of the automobile era was a great liberating force in California, and in the country as a whole.

In 1908 the Ford Model "T" went on sale for \$825, with gasoline costing ten cents a gallon. It was billed as a "universal car," featuring simplistic and economy, the first with a left-side steering wheel. The introduction of the assembly line method of manufacture kept the price low.

Two years later, installment buying was initiated. Suddenly automobiles left the realm of rich men's toys. Automobiles ownership was on the way to becoming an attainable goal for the average citizen.

These coveted objects were rudimentary machined compared to what we drive today. They were slow, heavy, unheated, open to dust, mud, and insects, yet necessarily powerful in order to manage the deplorable roads. Things such as self-starters (eliminating the old crank start), electric lights, and detachable rims (allowing a tire to be changed rather than repaired on the spot) were all heralded as great innovations as they came along, as indeed they were.

A 1917 issue of "*The California Motorist*" carried the following item: A contrivance patented and manufactured in San Francisco looking toward safety in automobile travel is now being put upon the market on the name of "*The Diamond Stop and Turning Signal.*" *The apparatus is simple, consisting of two small lamps, attached to the rear of the car. Operated by a small switch it is possible to flash a red light on the right or left to indicate a right or left turn, while moving the switch to another notch flashes two red lights, indicating the intention of the driver to stop.*

In a similar vein, many types of road improvement were painstakingly tried and accepted. Rough dirt or gravel roads, fine for wagon travel, quickly proved inadequate for "high speed" automobile traffic, and a little later, for heavy trucks, whose solid rubber tires tore up the soft surface. At first major rural roads were simple oiled in an attempt to keep the dust down, but this did little to alleviate the deep winter mud that made many roads virtually impassable.

The Old Farmers Almanac The Month of FEBRUARY

February comes from the Latin word februa, which means “to cleanse.” The month was named after the Roman Februalia, which was a month long festival of purification and atonement.

Groundhog Day Meaning, History, and Folklore

Groundhog Day always falls on February 2nd. This traditionally marks the midpoint between the winter solstice and spring equinox.

Around this time, farmers needed to determine when to plant their crops, so they tried to forecast whether there would be an early spring or a lingering winter.

Sunshine on Candlemas (February 2) was said to indicate the return of winter. Similarly;, “when the wind’s in the east on Candlemas Day, there it will stick till the 2nd of May.”

It was not held as a good omen if the day itself was bright and sunny, for that betokened snow and frost to continue to hireing of the laborers 6 weeks later on Lady Day. If it was cloudy and dark, warmth and rain would thaw out the fields and have them ready for plantain.

Our Groundhog Day is a remote survivor of that belief. According to legend, if a groundhog sees its shadow on this day, there will be 6 more weeks of winter; if it doesn’t, then spring is right around the corner.

For centuries, farmers in France and England looked to a bear; in Germany, they kept their eye on the badger. In 1800’s, German immigrants to Pennsylvania brought the tradition with them. Finding no badgers there, they adopted the groundhog to fit the lore. Pennsylvania’s Punxsutawney Phil has announced spring’s arrival since 1887. Other groundhogs also have carried on the tradition, including Ontario’s Wiarton Willie.

Though we recognize that animal behavior isn’t the only way to judge planting dates, the tradition continues, often with a wink and a smile.

So, will the Groundhog see his shadow? It depends on whether February 2 is sunny or cloudy!

This is the month to plan your garden! Shop early for seeds from catalogs and garden stores. The early shopper gets the best choice of seed varieties.

Start onions from seed now. They’ll be ready for setting out in April. Onions from seed are generally firmer and longer lasting than those from sets.

Start parsley indoors now. You may think you have successfully wintered over the plant, but it is a biennial and will soon go to seed.

Ancestry of Joe Biden 46 President of the United States of America

Submitted with permission of Dick Eastman 20 Jan 2021

It seems to be a tradition that U.S. Presidents have their genealogy traced for them, even without asking. There is an old joke that seems to be true: "To get your family tree done the fastest, run for political office."

Indeed, there is truth in that old joke. In fact, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. has already had his ancestry researched by a number of researchers and it has been published on several web sites.

By the way, did you know Joe Biden's middle name is Robinette? He inherited that name from his great-grandfather, George Hamilton Robinette (1844-1914), a Civil War veteran. It was also the middle name of the new President's father.

Listings of Joe Biden's ancestry are available all over the Internet. Two different sites caught my eye:

Family of Joe Biden on Wikipedia at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_of_Joe_Biden provides a brief, but easy-to-read listing

Ancestry of Joe Biden by Rich Hall at <https://famouskin.com/pedigree.php?name=48077+joe+biden&ahnum=1> provides a more detailed listing going back 10 generations in one line that will probably appeal to experienced genealogists.

My preference is the ahnentafel (list of ancestors) from Rich Hall's listing:

ANCESTRY OF JOE BIDEN

U.S. President-elect

1st Generation

1. Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. (1942–)

2nd Generation

2. Joseph Robinette Biden (1915–2002)

. Catherine Eugenia "Jean" Finnegan (1917–2010)

3rd Generation

4. Joseph H. Biden (1893–1941)

5. Mary Elizabeth Robinette (c1894–1943)

6. Ambrose Joseph Finnegan (1883–1957)

7. Geraldine Catharine Blewitt (1886–1949)

4th Generation

8. George T. Biden (c1867–c1910)

9. Mary Emily Liddell (1872–1922)

10. George Hamilton Robinette (1844–1914)

11. Mary A. Hanafy (1862–1930)

12. James Finnegan (1840–c1895)

13. Catherine Roche (c1846–c1895)

14. Edward Francis Blewitt (1859–1926)

15. Mary Ellen Stanton (c1861–1888)

5th Generation

16. Joseph J. Biden (1828–1895)

17. Lydia Ann Randle (c1835–1902)

18. Robert Theodore Liddell (1844–1914)

19. Susan E. Bomberger (c1846–1924)

20. Moses J. Robinette (c1819–1903)

21. Jane E. Pumphrey (c1824–1878)

22. John Hanafy (1815–1878)

23. Mary ----- (1828–1878)

24. Owen Finnegan (c1819–1875)

25. Jane Boyle (c1822–1874)

28. Patrick Blewitt (1832–1911)

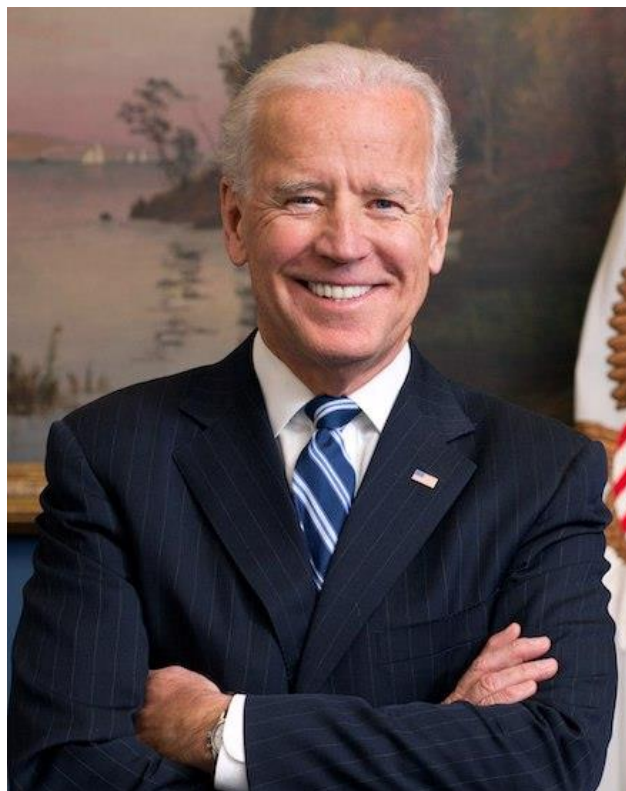
29. Catharine Scanlon (c1838–1901)

30. James Stanton (c1831–)

31. Mary Arthurs (c1835–)

6th Generation

32. William Biden (c1800–)



- 33. Mary Elkins (c1801–)
- 34. Thomas H. Randle (c1803–1889)
- 35. Mary Ann Shoemaker (1813–1902)
- 36. John Liddell
- 37. Emily E. Wooben
- 38. John Bomberger (c1821–)
- 39. Mary ----- (c1827–)
- 42. (probable) James Pumphrey (c1765–c1832)
- 43. (probable) Elizabeth Hamilton (–1820)
- 56. Edward Blewitt (c1805–c1870)
- 57. Mary Mulderig (c1803–c1860)
- 7th Generation
- 66. Joseph Elkins (1776–c1801)
- 67. Nancy Fonts
- 84. William Pumphrey (c1734–c1786)
- 85. Elizabeth Kingsbury (c1738–)
- 8th Generation
- 132. William Elkins (c1751–1798)
- 133. Mary Points (c1748–1798)
- 170. James Kingsbury
- 171. Anne Demilliane
- 9th Generation
- 340. James Kingsbury (–c1726)
- 341. Elizabeth Hall (c1673–c1743)
- 342. Gabriel Demilliane
- 343. Ann Young
- 10th Generation
- 682. Richard Hall (–c1688)
- 683. Elizabeth ----- (–c1687)

<https://eogn.com/>

NOTICE !

We will have a General Meeting on January 21st and it will Be a ZOOM Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Please contact Maybelle Allen 523-0593 and/or Roxie Ferrari 495-8001 for ZOOM Meeting instructions.

These instructions are very important if you have not used ZOOM.

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

Stanislaus Researcher Published 10 times per year by Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95352-1352. Delivered via email.
Submit articles for publication to the editor via email: lruddick@ix.netcom.com
by the 15th of each month.

Address changes: Send address, email and phone number changes to Maybelle Allen at:
US Mail: Maybelle Allen c/o GSSC, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95352-1352
Email: gssc-founded1968@gmail.com
Telephone: 209-523-0593 (Maybelle Allen)

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

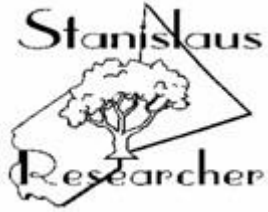
2020 Officers		2020 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Beverly Graham	Four Generation Charts	Michelle Barnes
1st Vice President	Vicky Wolff	Fundraisers	Committee Chairs
2nd Vice President	Jackie Niemeyer	Historian	Valyrie Jevert
Secretary	Pam Atherstone	Membership	Maybelle Allen
Treasurer	Roxie Ferrari	Newsletter & Webpage	Lewis M. Ruddick
Director at Large 1	David Wolff	Publicity	Vacant
Director at Large 2	Marge Scheuber	Queries	Colleen Norby
Director at Large 3	Judy Byrne	Refreshments	Tom & Judy Byrne
Director at Large 4	Karen Souza	Registrar	Dorothy Winke
Director at Large 5	Michelle Barnes	Research & Publication	Millie Starr
Past President	Millie Starr	Research Trips	Vacant
		Research Salt Lake City	Vacant
		Resources	Vicky Wolff
		Special Collections Room	Jackie Niemeyer
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Sunshine	Karen Souza

Updated 1-18-21.

We have 50 members for 2021

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

Covid-19 IS still with us! But shots are now here!



Genealogical Society of
Stanislaus County
P O Box 1352
Modesto, CA 95352-1352

