



## Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

**November 2022**

**Volume 44 Number 11**

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**November 20, 2022**  
 7:00 P.M. Our Annual Ancestor's Night Program. .  
 Our November program will be Ancestors night.  
 Come and hear about things we share about our own  
 ancestors, whether it be a piece of furniture, a story  
 about an ancestor, or a glimpse back in time. It will  
 prove to be a fun evening!!

### Presidents Message

By David Wolff

For the previous 3-4 times I was President of the Society and sat down to write my final piece for the newsletter, I felt a sense of loss. An ending. To me, this has been a pretty decent year. We have had a few more individuals show up for the meetings. The budget and our finances have remained stable, even with the hit we have had from Covid.

The meetings have been very good, especially the September meeting which had been de-railed due to the inability of the Chinese speaker to make our meeting. Vicky did a great job of covering the seminar speaker we had been treated to just a week earlier. This led to a narration from Roxie about her vacation. This led to Fran and her German group and the Sacramento group.

The breaks have been absolutely fantastic this year. Cookies, cake, and ice cream were some of the goodies to which we were treated.

I feel I have had a great Board to assist me. They have all done their jobs so well I hardly had anything to do. A great big THANK YOU to all of the members of my Board. And to the members of the Society who show up month after month listen to my jokes, keep it up. Vicky may have some better jokes next year. My wish is for 2023 to be so much better.

### November Program

By Vicki Wolff

Our November program will be Ancestors night. Come and hear about things we share about our own ancestors, whether it be a piece of furniture, a story about an ancestor, or a glimpse back in time. It will prove to be a fun evening!! November will bring us to Ancestors Night. I need a few more people to share some family artifacts, stories or information. Please call me if you would like to be part of this event. Also, we will be having our installation of officers at this meeting. Come meet your new officers and board members for the 2023 year. December we do not meet, so this will be our last meeting of the year!

**Our last newsletter until January 2023**

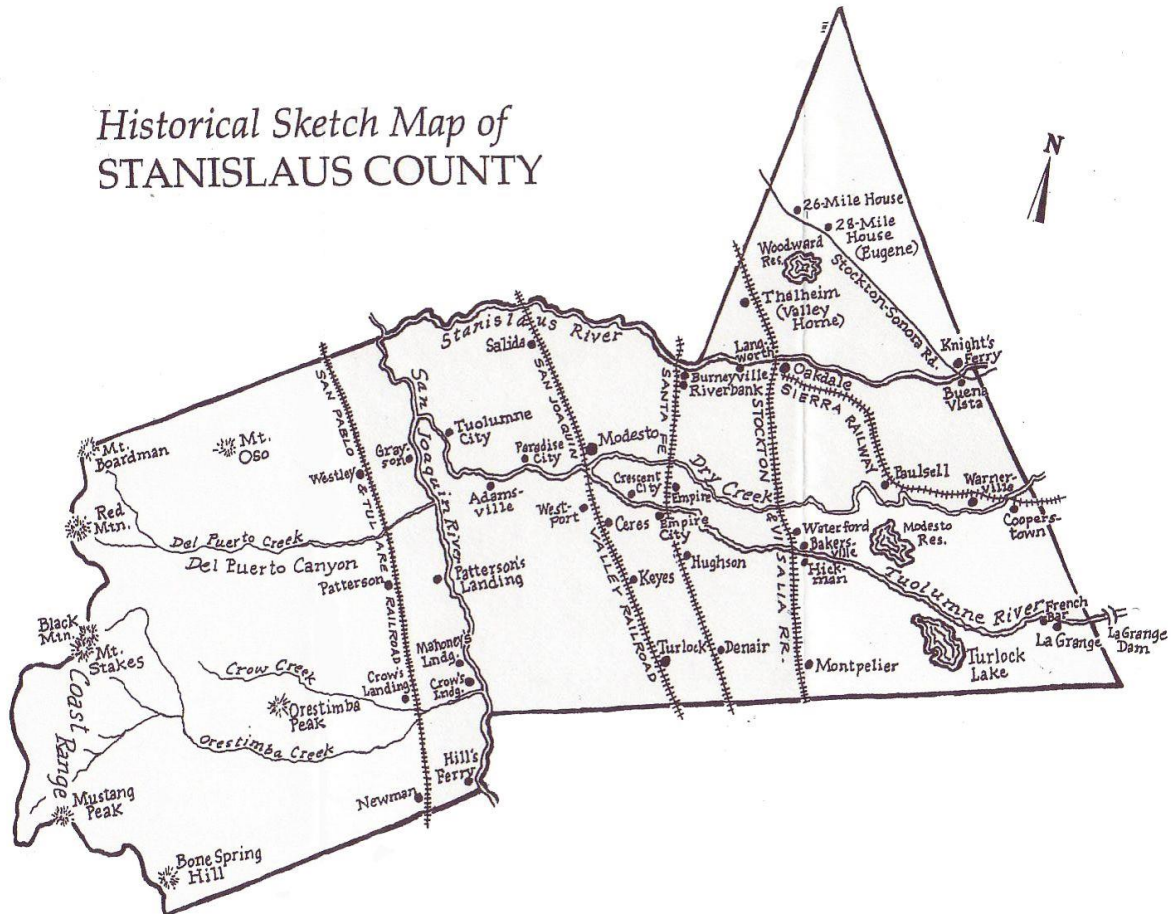
## Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023

**A message to our membership**

by Vicky Wolff

Betty Bettencourt from the Los Banos Genealogy Society passed away, and her daughter contacted me. She had all of Betty's genealogy books and papers and did not know what to do with them. A man from the Historical Society of Merced went through all the Genealogical items and took what they could use for the Historical Society and then we were given the rest....There are LOTS of helpful genealogical books... a lot of books on Arkansas, and Portugal and the Azores as well. There is also some Family Treemaker tools and information. All these items will be on display at our October meeting and are free for the taking! So please, if you can use genealogy help books or books on Arkansas or the Azores. Please come to the meeting and take a look at all these great items. David and I have gone through all the items and discarded what was not useable for the society members. Thanks, Vicky

### Historical Sketch Map of STANISLAUS COUNTY



**Nominated 2023 GSSC Officers and Board**

President	Vicky Wolff
1st Vice President	Karen Souza
2nd Vice President	Jackie Niemeyer
Secretary	Pam Atherstone
Treasurer	Roxanne Ferrari
Director-at-Large	Joann MacDonald
Director-at-Large	Julie Condren
Director-at-Large	Amy Mowery
Director-at-Large	Joyce (Plis) Hickman
Director-at-Large	Martha Carter Bhatti

Voting will be at the October 2022 meeting

submitted by Karen Souza, Chair, Nominating Committee

**Your Cookbook Committee happily announces . . .**

We're finished at last! The Cookbook Gene is complete and should be back from the publishers in one month. Thank you to our contributors and worker bees!! We think you will find it a fun addition to your cookbook library.

It has over 200 recipes (I only expected 100!) There are also quite a few photos and pictures, even some of our members. The recipes represent both international, our families' original countries, and American sources. Many of them are presented in memory of Moms and Grandmas among our members. Some are truly historic and are marked as such, while others represent past and future trends, like our Root Cellar section.

So immerse yourself in this cookbook. Take a stroll around the world and through time, and your family and friends can be "Time Travelers" in cooking! Enjoy your stroll and I can already smell the wonderful aromas arising from its pages due to the adventurous cooks out there.

Also, keep Christmas in mind when thinking about how many of these cookbooks to order. They will make great gifts for the holidays. Since we have to order the number of cookbooks now, we are asking you to send your reply to our flyer order form by next Wednesday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, to the address listed. Thank you, Your Cookbook Committee,  
Judy Byrne, Pam Atherstone and Marge Scheuber

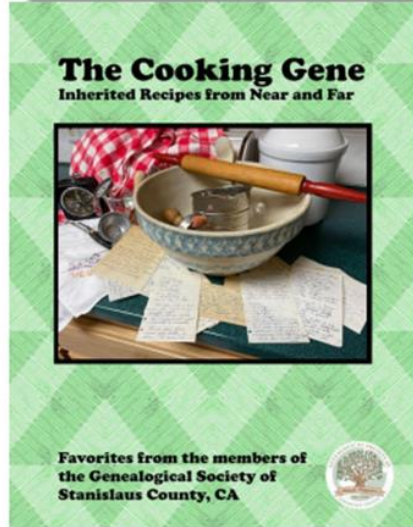


**Please consider our cookbook as a Christmas gift. Its purchase supports our Society and fills a spot on your Christmas gift list.**



**ORDER YOUR COOKBOOKS NOW!**

**THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF STANISLAUS COUNTY PRESENTS:**



Recipes from our members. Many are dishes handed down through our families. The book is spiral-bound for ease of use. Only \$15.00 each. Great gifts for the Holidays! **PRE-ORDER YOURS NOW!**

Enclose a check made out to: GSSC

Mail Orders to: Judy Byrne 1005 Clarksburg Way Modesto, CA 95355 Attn: GSSC

Cut at this line and include with your order and check made out to GSSC

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ cookbooks at \$15.00 each I am a member of GSSC \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (street) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU

**Writing Assignment for October 2022**

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

I am going to encourage each and every one of you to start writing. A lot of you say you don't have stories to tell, but you do. Each month I would like for you to take some time and do a writing assignment.

My first writing assignment will be...Write a piece about your mother...what was her maiden name and married name...where was she born and died.

so, what did she do? What do you remember?

Just let your mind flow with thoughts

For those who are willing, we will share

The important thing is that you start writing

on a piece of paper.

**Cancelled! Our hostess caught Covid-19 To be resumed when it passes**

Did she work out of the home and if

restors to life, not just names and dates

Let us just have fun with these writing projects. You have a whole month to compose them. Be creative and embrace you family members giving them a living history.

Don't forget, our writing group meets every second Thursday of the month @ Joann MacDonald's home, 412 Belfast Ave., Modesto., off El Vista and Encina avenues. It is very easy to find, and the writing group has a lot of fun sharing our stories with each other. Please join us!



## **Family History Month 2021: Date + How to Celebrate** **Updated 5/30/2022**

By Belinda McLeod, BA in Secondary Education

### **1 What is Family History Month?**

Family History Month is designated as a month when people are encouraged to think about their family history and origins. Many organizations, such as historical societies, genealogical groups, and civic organizations, raise awareness of this particular month by holding events.

**2 What's the Origin of Family History Month?** Senator Orrin Hatch introduced the bill to make October Family History Month in 2001. Senator Hatch wrote, "By searching for our roots, we come closer together as a human family."

### **3 When is Family History Month Every Year?**

Family History Month is celebrated in the United States each year in October and in other countries as well.

### **4 How Can You Celebrate Family History Month?**

Are you looking for ideas on how to commemorate Family History Month in October 2021? Here are some family-friendly ideas.

### **5 Visit your elderly family members**

In your zeal to do "something big" to celebrate your family's history, don't forget to utilize the most valuable resources available — your family. Spend time with the elderly members of your family.

During your visit, encourage your relatives to talk about their earlier lives. Ask them questions about their parents and grandparents. Ask about historical events they might have experienced. Encourage them to tell stories and listen. You may even want to record the session so you can refer back to the information you learned.

While you may be comfortable coming up with questions on the fly, you might want to do a bit of research on the family before you visit to enable you to ask specific questions about their lives.

Do you need additional resources? Come with a list of [thought-provoking questions](#) to open up the lines of communication between you and your elderly family member.

## 6 Fill out a family tree book

Do you have young children? Get them interested in their ancestors by purchasing an age-appropriate [family tree book](#). Assist them with filling in the blanks with their own information.

This interaction may ignite a spark in your children to spend more time learning about their story and their culture.

Depending on your children's age, you may need to prepare yourself to explain complicated relationships and family stories.

## 7 Archive family photos

Learn how to store and label your family's photos, then start the project that previous generations failed to complete.

This project may require the assistance of a member of the older generation who may be more likely to identify the people in the photographs.

Think about what you would like to do with the photos, especially the ones of people from outside of your immediate family group. Even though you may not place much value on the pictures (except for the fact that they are old), someone else may be excited to receive a picture of their great-great-grandma.

Consider sharing those pictures with others in your extended family. If your family tree is on a shared website, you might consider uploading the photos and tagging the people you can identify. Doing this may connect you to a long-lost third cousin.

## 8 Complete your family tree

Speaking of [family tree](#) websites, is your tree on one? Websites like Ancestry.com provide tons of resources to help you fill in the blanks on your tree. You can also connect with trees from other members and pool resources.

Spend October entering in the details of your family. After this project is complete, use the website's resources to see how far back you can go in your family's history. Maybe you'll uncover a familial relationship to a president or famous outlaw.

For the most part, people who are interested in genealogy are eager to share information. Don't feel as if you need to start from scratch. Reach out to your great aunt or second cousin — whoever is interested in family history — and ask to use their resources.

## 9 Write your family's history

While a family tree is typically a list of names and dates, your family's story is much more interesting. Interview the older members of your family about their lives and the lives of their parents and grandparents. Get as many details as you can about how they came to the United States, what their personalities were like, and how they made their living.

Using the information you gathered, think about how you will record the stories for future generations. Perhaps you would feel most comfortable making a video record of your family member's accounts. If you are satisfied with your writing skills, you may want to organize the details and [write the story](#) on your own. You might also consider hiring a freelance writer to organize and record the history.

Consider how you will distribute your family's story to the younger generations, and think about how you can preserve the document so future generations can learn about their origins.

## 10 Learn how to prepare your family's recipes

What foods do you associate with your grandparents or great-grandparents? Were they recipes they brought over from "the old country?" Perhaps you know recipes used for celebrations.

Use October to research these recipes and try them out on your own family. Look for old, worn cookbooks or recipe cards to find ideas.

## 11 Attend a genealogy class

Look for genealogy classes held at your local library or civic center during Family History Month. Some of these are organized by historical organizations, and they are often led by people who are well-versed in family research.

## 12 Go to a historical museum in your community

Learning about your family's history will undoubtedly inspire you to think about the historical events that they witnessed. Learn more about your community's, state's, or country's history by visiting a historical museum. Your school-aged children may enjoy living history museums that allow them to explore what it would have been like to live in your area in the past.

### **13 Visit your family home**

Even though you may have moved 10 times in your lifetime and lived in several different states, what area do you consider to be your family's "home?" Consider visiting that area and see what you can find out about your family's stories by using community resources.

This may lead you to an opportunity to visit with a long-lost cousin or great aunt.

### **14 Visit a cemetery**

Cemeteries are great resources to find out more information about your ancestors. Make a record of the information you find on their headstones as you ponder the lives of those who came before you. Pull the weeds around your great-grandmother's grave and leave behind a bouquet of flowers.

### **15 Create a photo display in your home**

As you learn more about your family, you will begin to think of them as people instead of merely "characters" from long ago. Give their photos a place of honor in your home by creating a display of family pictures.

### **16 Learn more about your family's country of origin**

Where did your family originate? Learn more about your country (or countries) of origin with your children. Read a basic account of the history. Learn to recognize the flag. Listen to the national anthem, and learn about their most famous historical figures.

### **17 Listen to popular music from throughout the decades**

What music was popular when your great-grandparents immigrated through Ellis Island? What were the popular tunes played on the radio when your parents got engaged?

Share this music with your children and provide them with the right historical context. They may find themselves enjoying a whole new style of music.

### **18 Make connections to your living family members**

As in all things, it is easy to get sucked into the world of genealogy. Even though you may get excited to uncover a name that had previously evaded you, don't forget about your living relatives. Send a message to your favorite cousin that you haven't seen for decades on Facebook. Organize a family gathering so that the extended family can reconnect.

Share memories and information with your relatives and also learn about their current lives.

### **19 Attend an ethnic enrichment festival**

Some areas celebrate cultural heritage by hosting events with food and music. Connect with others with the same background by attending one of these events.

### **20 Don't Wait Until October to Celebrate Your Family's History**

Even though Family History Month is officially celebrated in October, don't wait to commemorate the event. Your elderly family members may not be around long, and when they are gone (or lose their memories), a portion of your family's history could be lost. Sources

1. Anderson, Steve. "October is Family History Month." Family Search. 14 October 2014. [www.familysearch.org/blog/en/october-family-history-month-2/](http://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/october-family-history-month-2/)

## RootsTech 2023

[Sign up Now](#)



**As part of our annual fundraising shortly we will return to taking orders for our high quality holiday poinsettias. Watch for the sales flyer!**

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**During our Covid-19 pandemic we lost a number of members. Those of you who stepped away we encourage you to rejoin us. We have the interest, resources and focused energy to make your genealogical research successful. We are your genealogical society and are here for you. Please invite your friends back.**





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.

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Telephone: 209-523-0593 (Maybelle Allen)

GSSC web page: <https://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, The Secret Garden, 2401 E Orangeburg Ave., Modesto, CA.

2022 Officers		2022 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	David Wolff	Four Generation Charts	Karen Souza
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	Joyce (Plis) Hickman	Publicity	Vicky Wolff
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	Marge Scheuber
Director at Large 5	Vacant	Research & Publication	Millie Starr
Past President	Beverly Graham	Research Trips	Vacant
		Research Salt Lake City	Vacant
		Resources	Vicky Wolff
		Special Collections Room	Jackie Niemeyer
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Sunshine	Karen Souza

Updated 17 Oct 2022.

We have 66 members for 2022

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



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Stanislaus County  
P O Box 1352  
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**Happy Holiday Season  
&  
New Year 2023**

