

STANISLAUS

RESEARCHER



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

March 2023

Volume 45 Number 3

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March 16, 2023
7:00 P.M. "Avoiding the Pitfalls of Genealogical Research" by Sandra Turner

Presidents Message

By Vicky Wolff

It has been so good to see many of you back with us at our monthly meetings. Our Black History Month speaker, Alvis Ward, was great as usual with his wonderful presentation and sense of humor. What a treat!

Karen Souza is working on our program speakers. You won't want to miss our monthly programs. There is always more to learn about our genealogy and how to find our elusive ancestors. Keep learning more about your genealogy and how to access those different records you might not know exist. I always learn something every time we have a program.

In April, I will be a guest speaker at the Sonora Genealogy Society.

Your Board of Directors continue to work on our Workshop and Seminar opportunities.

Those of you that haven't yet returned to our meetings, we miss you and would love to see you again! Please try to participate in our next meeting.

I have a family reunion planned for my mother's side of the family for June 9 -12th. I am just waiting for registrations to come in, so that I can continue planning.

Continue your searching, compiling, and writing about your family! See you soon, your President, Vicky Wolff.

March Program

By Karen Souza

Sandra Turner from Tuolumne County Genealogical Society will be presenting Avoiding the Pitfalls of Genealogical Research. You will also note that Sandy is a new member of our GSSC.

The key to good genealogical research is proof, proof and reproof!

Photos from February Meeting

By Heidi Armo

Alvis Ward our guest speaker



Part of our evening Group



Evening break refreshments



Treat tray close up



Guest Yvette trying a soup.



Welcome to our new 2023 GSSC members

by Joyce Hickman

Anna Keppel has many local ancestors, including about 35 buried in the Scenic Cemetery. Briefly, she is researching Kiernan, Beck, Ries and Hastings.

Marian Sanderson is researching McCall, Smith, Baker, and Hunter.

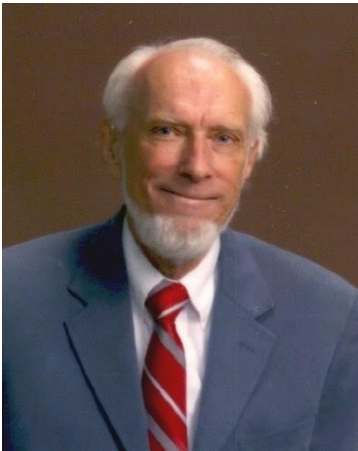
Sandy Turner is an officer for the Tuolumne County Genealogical Society. She will be the speaker at our February GSSC meeting. Sandy is researching Williamson, Nelson, Robertson, Gordon. She was a Modesto resident before moving to Sonora.

When you see these new members at our meeting, please take a minute to welcome them.

Former Member Passes - Dr. John Dennis Loeffler

January 15, 1932 - December 9, 2022

Sacramento, California - John Dennis Loeffler was born to John William Albert Loeffler and Genevieve "Dolly" Loeffler (nee Behnke) in Watertown, Wisconsin on January 15, 1932. At home he went by "Dennis" so he and his father would know who was being called when they heard "Johnny!" Dad had a textbook Midwestern upbringing, going to school, working at his grandparents' greenhouse, and attending services at St. Henry's Episcopal Church on Sundays.



After high school Dad was admitted to the University of Wisconsin, Madison where he obtained his B.A. in Medical Science (1954), married Norma Arlene Smith (1956) and was awarded his M.D. (1958). Then he was off to Washington University School of Medicine and Barnes Hospital in St. Louis for three years, two as a resident and one as a Fellow in Neurology. The US Army then invited him to spend a couple years (October 1962 – October 1964) at Martin Army Hospital at Ft. Benning, where rumor has it, he didn't like wearing his hat. Somehow, between med school and the Army he and Norma had the time and energy to have two children, son Bill, followed by daughter Leslie - both survive him.

Despite not wearing his hat, he was honorably discharged, whereupon he packed up the car, wife and kids and departed for the medical center at UC San Francisco. While there he was introduced to a young neurosurgeon named John Darroch and in 1966 was convinced to move to Modesto and enter practice together. Initially their offices were in Sealy Tower but on July 10, 1969 they broke ground for their new offices at the Downey Park Professional Center where they spent long hours over several decades tending to their patients.

Dennis and Norma divorced in 1969 but his bachelor days were not long as one day while on rounds at Doctor's Hospital, he met a nurse, Peggy Collins (nee Enright). He and Peggy married in 1974 and the family grew to include Peggy's 5 daughters, Marilyn, Joanne, Suzanne, Nancy and Judy – all of whom survive him. He is also survived by his sister Llani, along with many grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

In the rare moments when he was not attending to his patients, he enjoyed working with stained glass, doing extensive genealogical research, travel, collecting books and reading (and reading and reading) ... and peach yogurt, with lots of whipped cream (demonstration to occur at the funeral).

Dad passed away on December 9, 2022 in his Sacramento home and re-joined his wife of 45 years, Margaret "Peggy" Loeffler, who passed in the Modesto family home on July 1, 2019.

We will all miss him greatly.

A gathering of family and friends at Lakewood Funeral Home on January 6, 2023 at 11:00 am is being arranged. Details will be posted on the funeral home website when known.

Published by Modesto Bee from Dec. 23 to Dec. 24, 2022.

Deceased GSSC Member Notice

from Karen Albright

Meridian Roberta Saling passed away this past week. She was 84 and it was lung related. Roberta joined us on the Salt Lake Trips with our group. She was still a member of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County.

We still have copies of the GSSC Cookbook: The Cooking Gene. Judy and Joyce would be more than happy to fill your order. See our website [stanislausgenealogy.org Publications](http://stanislausgenealogy.org/Publications) to order your copy.

A Heads Up

By Heidi Arno

It's happening again. The United States Customs and Immigration Service's (USCIS) genealogy division is proposing a substantial rate hike.

Deadline for comments: March 6, 2023

You can read about the proposed fees in the Federal Register—search for “genealogy” until you reach section “P. Genealogy and Records” or “Table 23.”

Form No.	Form Description	Current Fee(s)	Proposed Fee	Difference	Percentage Difference
G-1041	Genealogy Index Search Request - Online	\$65	\$100	\$35	54%
G-1041	Genealogy Index Search Request - Paper	\$65	\$120	\$55	85%
G-1041A	Genealogy Records Request - Online	\$65	\$240	\$175	269%
G-1041A	Genealogy Records Request - Paper	\$65	\$260	\$195	300%
G-1041 and G-1041A	Genealogy Index Search Request and Records Request - Online (digital records)	\$130	\$100	-\$30	-23%

For a summary of the proposal, see The Legal Genealogist's [USCIS proposes BIG fee hike](#) post and Records, Not Revenue's call to [Speak Out to Preserve Access to Genealogy Records!](#), which includes some comment suggestions.

Steps You Can Take

1. Read the proposal and think about the comments you can make ([see some helpful suggestions](#)).
2. Add your thoughts to the [public comment section of the Federal Register page](#)—with a heading that includes “Section P. Genealogy and Records” as there are many other items in this proposal.
3. Let your senators and congressional representative know your thoughts by sending them a copy of your public comment—find your representatives [here](#). And be sure to let them know you are commenting on DHS Docket No. USCIS-2021-0010-0001. From Judy G. Russell’s The Legal Genealogist <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/>

Writing Group

Submitted by Joann McDonald

The next meeting of the writing group will be held at Joann MacDonald's home at 10:00 on March 9th. Please E-mail her at JMastergardener@aol.com to confirm you are coming. We are an informal group that has met for almost 20 years. We write about an ancestor we are perusing or maybe about the maps that we are using to further our research. Joann was always puzzled about whether her great grandfather's brother was married or not when he met with an accident. Through searching newspapers she indeed discovered he was married and his wife's name was Olivia. Joann had made some wrong assumptions. One account in the newspaper said the wife was in Napa. Joann thought it meant she was a mental patient there! No, she was born in Napa and had gone to visit her mother when her husband was killed in a gas explosion.

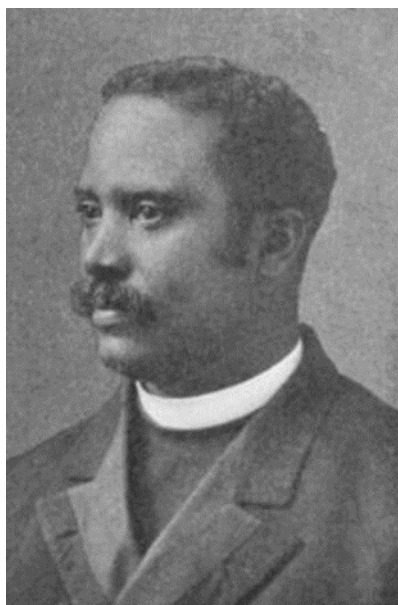
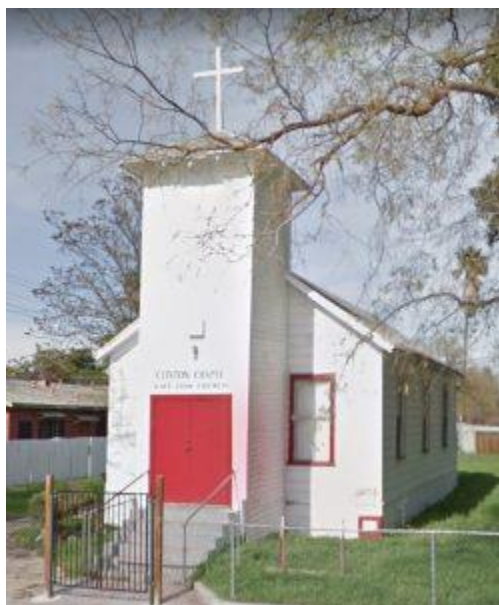
Hope to see some new faces at our next meeting.

Modesto's Oldest Church

HISTORYVIEW FEBRUARY 2023

CLINTON CHAPEL – A.M.E. ZION CHURCH MODESTO'S OLDEST CHURCH

BY Harrison Power



Tucked among the residential streets of West Modesto stands the Clinton Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church. From the exterior, the modest wooden church seems unchanged from when it was originally built. Located at 1024 4th Street for over 120 years, the Clinton Chapel has withstood the test of time, a significant feat in a Downtown that has lost many early structures. While other old churches of various denominations still stand throughout the city, the 14-pew Clinton Chapel is the oldest original church building in Modesto.

The first mention of Modesto's A.M.E. Zion Church in early newspapers was on March 3, 1902 in the Daily Evening News, when it was announced plans were underway to gauge local interest in establishing a branch of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. It was Reverend A.J. Woodward, from Oakland, who the 1902 A.M.E. Conference sent to lead the organizing efforts in Modesto, which were fruitful as a new branch, were successfully organized under Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church by the end of March 1902.

By April 1902, the newly organized congregation had begun fundraising, seeking \$300 to purchase the "Carman property" on 4th Street between J and K Streets. The property looks to

have been successfully purchased by Reverend Woodward’s congregation by the end of May 1902. At this point, the structure was expanded to accommodate services for the new A.M.E better.

Zion Church members. On October 22, 1902, the new church was formally dedicated by Reverend Bishop George Wylie Clinton (1859-1921), an influential and prominent member of the Church that traveled to Modesto from Charlotte, North Carolina, for the dedication. In honor of the esteemed bishop, the church was renamed the Clinton A.M.E. Church during the ceremony.

From that point onward, you could say the rest was history for the Clinton A.M.E. Zion Church. The Modesto Bee in 2004 rightly referred to the Clinton Chapel as a “survivor,” and the church continues to stand proudly in the same place it has for well over a century. **Sunday Services are offered starting at 10:45 AM, and call (209) 846-9235 for more information.**

Printed with permission of ModestoView www.modestoview.com/modestos-oldest-church/
 Chris Murphy chrism@spwg.com
 Harrison Power hpower@spwg.com GuestViewCrew

FREE BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASS

By the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County and the Modesto Library
 SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2023 AT 2 PM
 In the **Makerspace Room**
 STANISLAUS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
 1500 I STREET MODESTO, CA.

Come learn how to get started on tracing your family history and get the basic forms to keep your findings organized. Members of the genealogical society will be available for help and the Special Collections Room will be open. Learn about the Genealogy Books available in the room for research.

RSVP to jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net



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How to get ready for RootsTech 2023.

Make the most of your RootsTech experience by prepping now.

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- Gather pertinent records and bring a couple of photos to try out the photo editing capabilities. [Search for records](#)
- Download the Ancestry® app. Start exploring on your phone before the event to make sure you're ready for on-the-go discoveries at the conference. [Get the app](#)
- Choose a thread from your family history to focus on. Have a goal in mind to help you focus your RootsTech experience.

Saint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint Patrick, is a cultural and religious celebration held on 17 March, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick, the foremost patron saint of Ireland. Wikipedia

Significance: Feast Day of Saint Patrick, commemoration of the arrival of Christianity in Ireland

Date: Friday, March 17, 2023



Meet Your Directors

By Joyce Hickman



Introducing Martha Elizabeth Carter-Bhatti

Each month we plan to introduce our GSSC Board members so you will get to know your officers and board. This month we are introducing Martha. She has been a member of GSSC for 5 years, and doing her ancestry research "on and off" for about 7 years.

Martha’s GSSC roles are Corresponding Secretary, and Board Member at Large. She is also the “Sunshine” person who sends get-well, thank you, and special occasion cards. She will add monthly birthdays to the newsletter, so if she doesn’t have your birthday listed on your special day, please let her know.

Martha’s ancestors are European – English, Scotch, French and German/Swiss. Her late husband’s ancestry is Northern India/Pakistan and Punjabi. She has had her DNA tested at 23andMe. For her research she uses Ancestry, Family Tree and WikiTree.

She also belongs to the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Additional Interesting Information about Martha: She was originally from the Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania. She received her Bachelor’s degree from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and a Masters and PhD in Pharmacy from Purdue University. Her husband was from Pakistan. They met at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy where he was a graduate student. They lived most of their lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was a Professor of Pharmacy at Butler University, and she worked at Eli Lilly. They have four children and four grandchildren. Two of their children live in Texas and two in California. They decided to move to California when they retired. He passed away in January 2011 as they were moving. She is a volunteer and docent at the Great Valley Museum on MJC’s West Campus and volunteer at the American Cancer Society’s Discovery Shop.

Editor:

This issue of our Stanislaus Researcher has been a joy and a heartbreak. A joy because of the large number of contributions submitted from you; our members. Heartbreak because the death and absence of an obituary for our beloved Mildred “Millie” Starr, that would have done a better job of describing her life. By now most of you know that I am involved with the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County because J. Carlyle Parker drug me to it. He discovered me doing the CAGenWeb sites for a couple of near by counties and Stanislaus County was not being addressed. Next he connected with Millie and my work really began with and for the Society. And it grew to a couple of presentations at MJC’s MICL program. And the exchange of lots and lots of materials for the CAGenWeb site. During this time she learned I could do a newsletter most probably from her daughter Julie who I shot trap with. A new job and I am still here. Then came our own Website and another job. For this I get great assistance from my grandson. I am here all because of the highly focused genealogical energy of a lady who I had come to love. Thank you, Millie for your Notes, continued energy and prodding. And your Stanislaus County law enforcement “war stories” Please Rest in Peace, you were a very good friend and mentor.



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Email: gssc-founded1968@gmail.com

Telephone: 209-529-9430 (Vicky Wolff)

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.

2023 Officers		2023 Standing Committees	
President	Vicky Wolff	Acquisitions	
1st Vice President	Karen Souza	Audit	Board of Directors
2nd Vice President	Jackie Niemeyer	Budget	Roxanne Ferrari
Corresponding Secretary	Martha Carter Bhatti	Four Generation Charts	Julie Condrin
Recording Secretary	Pam Atherstone	Historian	Heidi Arno
Treasurer	Roxanne Ferrari	Membership	Joyce Hickman
Director at Large 1	Joyce Hickman	Memorial Day	Membership
Director at Large 2	Amy Mowery	Mentor	Joann McDonald
Director at Large 3	Joann McDonald	Newsletter & Website	Lewis & Logan Ruddick
Director at Large 4	Martha Carter-Bhatti	Nominating	Membership
Director at Large 5	Julie Condrin	Planning	Officers & Board
Past President	David Wolff	Programs	Karen Souza
		Publicity	Vicky Wolff
		Queries	Colleen Norby
		Research & Publication	
		Refreshments	Joann McDonald
		Seminar	
		Special Collections Room & Workshops	Jackie Niemeyer
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Sunshine	Martha Carter-Bhatti
		Trips	Heidi Arno

Updated 21 Feb 2023

We have 60 members for 2023

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



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