



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

March 2024

Volume 46, Number 3

| | |
|---|----|
| Presidents Message | 1 |
| March Program | 2 |
| Renew Your GSSC Membership | 2 |
| Stanislaus County Library | 3 |
| Oakland Family Search Center..... | 3 |
| GSSC Writing Group | 4 |
| RootsTech..... | 4 |
| Y DNA (Big Y-700)..... | 5 |
| GSSC 2024 Calendar..... | 10 |
| GSSC Spring Workshop Application and Courses..... | 10 |
| Crockpot Chicken Noodle Soup..... | 10 |

| |
|--|
| March Program |
| March 21, 2024 |
| 7:00 P.M. Nick Bloise, Italian Research. |
| Details page 2 |

Now is the time to Renew Your GSSC Membership

Presidents Message

by Vicky Wolff

Last night we had our February General Meeting and Souper Supper with delicious soups, desserts and wonderful fellowship and great program. Our members seem to like our smaller room at the Telle Center and is better than the big room we used to meet in. It gives us a better chance of sharing and more fellowship time together.

Our Spring Workshop is planned for April 20th at Trinity and flyers were passed out to the membership. The flyer will also be on our website, and in our upcoming newsletter. Please check it out and plan to be a participant letting everyone know about it and plan to bring a friend or two to attend. This is a community outreach as well as a money maker for us. Remember, you can ALWAYS learn new things about genealogy and your own research of your family. We are also planning on a fall workshop, so look forward to that!

We plan on being very active this year as you can see by our schedule of events located in this newsletter. Please plan to participate in the events and help spread the news to those who may be interested in family genealogy, and research.

I will be contacting the Civil War Group here in Modesto to see if they would like to join our group. We in turn can be part of their reenactment events and we can learn more about the civil war. Our Memorial Day is planned at the cemeteries here in Modesto. Plan to help us direct people to their loved ones gravesites. The Society has all the Stanislaus Cemeteries recorded in books that have been done by our membership. If you have not yet seen these books, you are in for a treat, The members of long ago walked the cemeteries and recorded the gravesite information and directions to the headstones, to be better able to find the in-tombed.

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on March 21, 2024. Have a terrific month finding those elusive ancestors! Happy hunting!!

March Program

by Karen Souza

Nick Bloise, Italian Research

Nick earned both an MBA in Finance and a Bachelor’s in Accountancy at California State University, Sacramento, and he has worked both as an auditor and comptroller. Nick enjoys history, and he has been doing family genealogy for over 30 years. Nick is involved in the community to include the Italian Culture Society and the Sacramento Family Search Library; where he has given several lectures. Nick has authored books on both his Italian and Latvian family genealogy, and he sells those books and others through his genealogy business; Victorious Sales. Nick serves as the Executive Director of the Italian Genealogical Society of Sacramento.



From our February Meeting

Lisa S. Gorrell our 15 Feb 2024 Presenter



Lisa S. Gorrell

Certified Genealogist®

<https://mytrailsintothepast.blogspot.com/>

<https://mam-massouthernfamily.blogspot.com/>

Now is the time to Renew Your GSSC Membership

See www.stanislausgenealogy.org for your 2024 Membership application form.

Not sure if you have renewed your membership? Check your newsletter email address. If it shows 2024 you are good to go and we thank you.

Library Special Collections Room

Jackie Niemeyer could still use some help at the Main Library – A great way to assist your genealogical society. Contact her and ask how? Jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net 209-522-2590

Note: In the near future the Stanislaus County Main Library in Modesto will be closing for a major remodel. This will be a lengthy closure. If you have a research need of something in our Collections Room you should request it now. It is uncertain how or if things will be available during the remodel.

Oakland Family Search Center / California Genealogy Society Class schedule

by Heidi Arno

March topics:

Wednesday, March 6, 11:00 am: "Overview of Irish Research and Records" with Maureen Hanlon. Maureen's class focuses on finding the homeland of your immigrant ancestor using Irish records of the 19th century. Maureen, is a CGS member and a volunteer at OFSC . She became interested in her Irish families after discovering her GG grandfather was from Cork not Northern Ireland. Maureen is generous with her time helping others find their Irish Heritage. She has created a Facebook page and a SIG group to help others with their Irish roots.

Wednesday, March 6, 6:30 pm: "On the Road Again: Tips for Planning On-site Research" with Pam Brett. A research trip to one's ancestral home can be extremely rewarding, but also may present many challenges. Pam will share practical tips on how to plan an on-site research trip to achieve your research goals and to bring home a new understanding of the lives of your ancestors. Pam is a long time member of the California Genealogical Society . She has taught many classes at CGS and takes annual research trips to find unique information for her ancestors.

Tuesday, March 12, 11:00 am: "How to Series: Snipping, Clipping, and Irfanview" with Robert and Portia NeVille. As we do Family History, we love historical records with information about our ancestors and photos of our ancestors. But sometimes you only want to capture part of the historical record or part of a photo. And sometimes you want to combine parts of records. This "How-to" session will teach you how to use the Snipping Tool and IrfanView to highlight, capture, and save parts of records and photos. We will practice with online records. Robert and Portia NeVille are one of three full time missionary couples assigned as FamilySearch specialists. This is their 4th full time mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints. Their other missions were in Peru, Argentina, and Spain. They have been here just over 10 months of a 12 month assignment. Robert is fluent in Spanish and Portia holds her own. They are happy to be here and will be sad to leave in May.

Wednesday, March 13, 6:30 pm: "German Research Part 1" with Robert Jackson. You will not want to miss this three part series about finding what motivated Germans to emigrate to America in the 19th century, as well as how to find the village of origin of your German ancestor. Once found, it is quite possible, and even fun, to easily extract at least a few generations of ancestors from German church records, which are increasingly available online. He will also show how much one can learn about one's forebears from these records, not just names and dates. Robert Jackson, a Harvard history PhD, has engaged in German research for decades and looks forward to discussing your questions, ideas, and theories.

Wednesday, March 20, 11:00 am: "HistoryGeo" with Debbie Hunt. This class focuses on linking old U.S. public land maps and land records to your ancestors. It contains three collections: First Landowners Project, Place-Finder plus Topographical Maps, and the Antique Maps Collection. Debbie is a volunteer at OFSC and has always known she was 100% Italian, but it wasn't until she was in her 20s that she set out to find her ancestors and their stories. In 2013, she fulfilled a lifelong dream to visit the two small Italian towns from

which her grandparents emigrated to the United States. She is passionate about helping others find their ancestors and their stories. She is fluent in Spanish and needs to brush up on her Italian!

Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 pm: "German Research Part 2" with Robert Jackson. See description and bio on "German Research Part 1", March 13.

Tuesday, March 26, 11:00 am: "How to Series: Simple Photo Enhancements for Novices" with Robert Leitao. We all likely have old photos that have been creased, torn, or damaged in some way and it would be great to restore them to a better condition. This "How-to" session will guide you through some basic straightforward ways to improve the appearance of your scanned photos. While there are programs and Apps that are available to go further, most people do not want to delve that deep into photo restoration. This presentation will be about functions for novices that, while they might not get your photos looking perfect, they will get them pretty close. Please bring scanned photos on a memory stick that you can practice with during this class. If you need help getting them scanned, feel free to come to the Center earlier in the day or a few days before so that you can scan your photos on our Center's digitizing equipment. Robert Leitao is an Oakland native, whose roots are from the former Portuguese colony of Macau. His 7 year ongoing project has resulted in a tree of over 85,000 names and over 55,000 images which include over 5,000 grave photos, about 20,000 old documents, and about 30,000 photos of people, the vast majority of which have some if not all people identified. In accumulating this vast trove and being a regular patron at the Oakland Familysearch Library, he has become the go to person to help people digitize and improve their photos with the equipment and software available in the Library.

Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 pm: "German Research Part 3" with Robert Jackson. See description and bio on "German Research Part 1", March 13.

GSSC Writing Group

by Joann MacDonald

The Thursday, March 14, 2024 meeting of the writing group will be held at Joann MacDonald's. Please contact Joann to let her know you are attending. (209) 521-2140 or jmastergardner@aol.com



A promotional banner for the Rootstech by FamilySearch conference. The background is a collage of diverse people's faces. The text "Registration is Open!" is prominently displayed in white. Below it, smaller text reads "World's Largest Genealogy Conference • 29 February–2 March 2024" and "In person in Salt Lake City or Online Worldwide". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "In-Person Event" and "Online Event".

You may attend on – line

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/>

Thu, Feb 29, 2024 – Sun, Mar 3, 2024

ALERT!

Now is the time to Renew Your GSSC Membership

See www.stanislausgenealogy.org for your 2024 Membership application form.

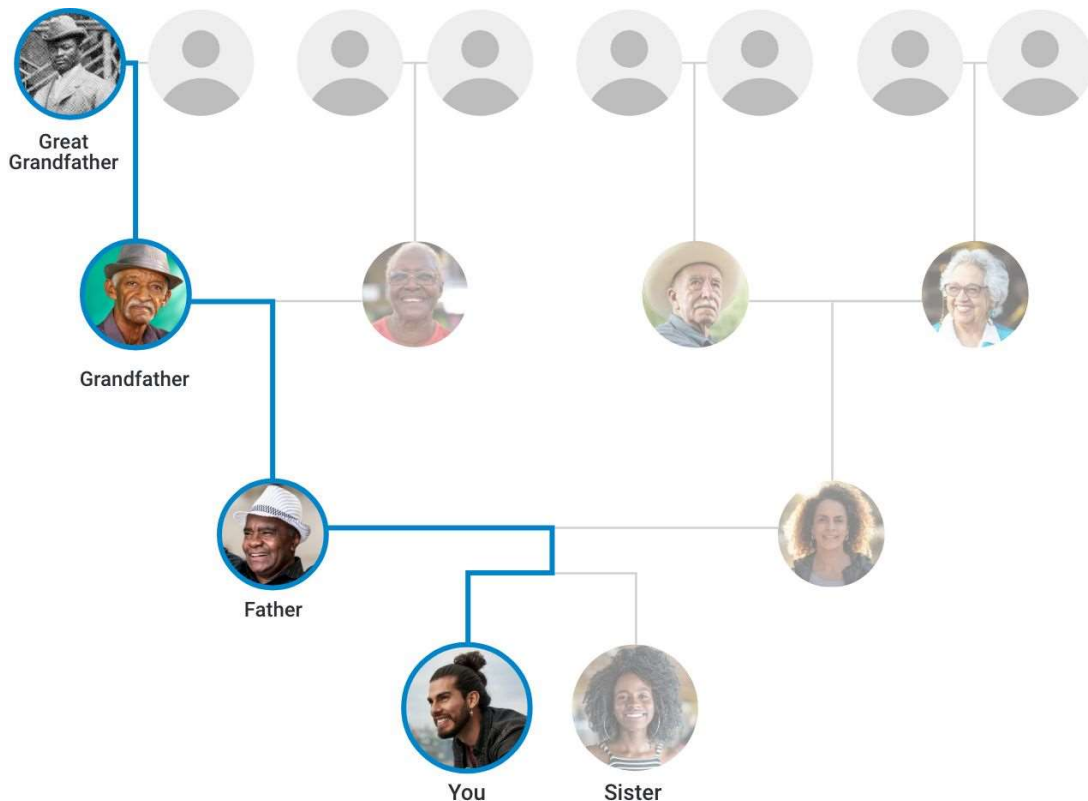
Not sure if you have renewed your membership? Check your newsletter email address. If it shows 2024 you are good to go and we thank you.

ALERT!

Y-chromosome DNA (Y-DNA)

Y-DNA Test from Family Tree DNA

The Y chromosome is a sex chromosome. Sex chromosomes carry the genetic code that makes each of us male or female. All people inherit two sex chromosomes. One comes from their mother and the other from their father. Men receive a Y chromosome from their father and an X chromosome from their mother. Men and only men inherit their father's Y chromosome. It is passed down from father to son in an unbroken line all the way back to our earliest ancestors in Africa.



About 60,000 years ago, some groups of Homo sapiens migrated out of Africa, while others remained. Our direct paternal lineages trace these migrations.

This unique pattern of inheritance means genealogists can use Y-DNA testing to see how closely related two males are on this paternal tree of mankind. There are two main types of Y-DNA testing for genealogists: Y-STRs and Y-SNPs

Y-DNA SNPs

DNA is made up of four chemicals that we abbreviate as A, C, T, and G. DNA has two strands, with one chemical on one strand pairing with a complementary chemical on the other strand. We call these pairs nucleotides. Sometimes a small copy error occurs where one chemical is substituted for another on the DNA strand. For example, an A can be copied as a T or a C copied as a G. When this occurs on a single nucleotide, we call it a Single Nucleotide Polymorphism or a SNP (pronounced snip).

These changes are usually rare, and many generations can pass without a SNP occurring. This means that SNPs that occur in a specific lineage are unique and seldom change back. Most SNPs are ancient. They occurred thousands or tens of thousands of years ago. Some are more recent, and as science evolves we are discovering more that occurred in just the past few generations.

Y-DNA STRs

There are some areas in your DNA code where a chemical sequence is repeated many times. For example, AGTAAGTAAGTA is three repeats of the sequence AGTA. It is thought these sequences repeat themselves so that even if a section is lost, the genetic code is preserved. We call these areas Short Tandem Repeats (STRs), because they are short segments of DNA, that occur one after another (in tandem), and repeat themselves many times. The number of repeats that a specific person has in an STR typically gets passed down to their sons unchanged.

However, sometimes a copy error occurs and a repeat is gained or lost. We call this unique set of Y-STRs a Y-STR signature. Because there are many more places within an STR than an SNP for a copy error to occur, STRs have a faster mutation rate than SNPs. Unlike SNPs, STRs rarely go more than a few hundred years without a change.

Ancient Migrations

The desire to explore has been with us since the dawn of humanity. The yearn to see what lies over the horizon, or the promise of a better life has carried groups of people to all corners of the globe. As groups of people drifted apart, each one developed its own unique set of mutations that it passed down to the future generations. Over time, these small changes grew and grew to give us the rich diversity of ethnicities and races that we see today.

Modern science allows us to see what mutations different groups have in common and where they differ. This helps us reconstruct a timeline of when different groups went their separate ways. This is useful for anthropologists to study our ancient migration routes out of Africa. We call these migratory routes haplogroups. Each haplogroup is defined by a specific SNP, but to some degree, all members of a given haplogroup will share similar STRs. This means a general ancient haplogroup can be predicted from an STR signature while a more specific haplogroup can be confirmed with a SNP.

Applications to Genealogy

More recent mutations are often exclusive to clans or families within historic times. This is especially true for STR signatures, because of their fast mutation rate. By comparing these “genetic signatures”,

genealogists and family historians can better understand how members of their own extended family fit together. They can use it to prove or disprove genealogical theories and discover new relatives they never knew they had.

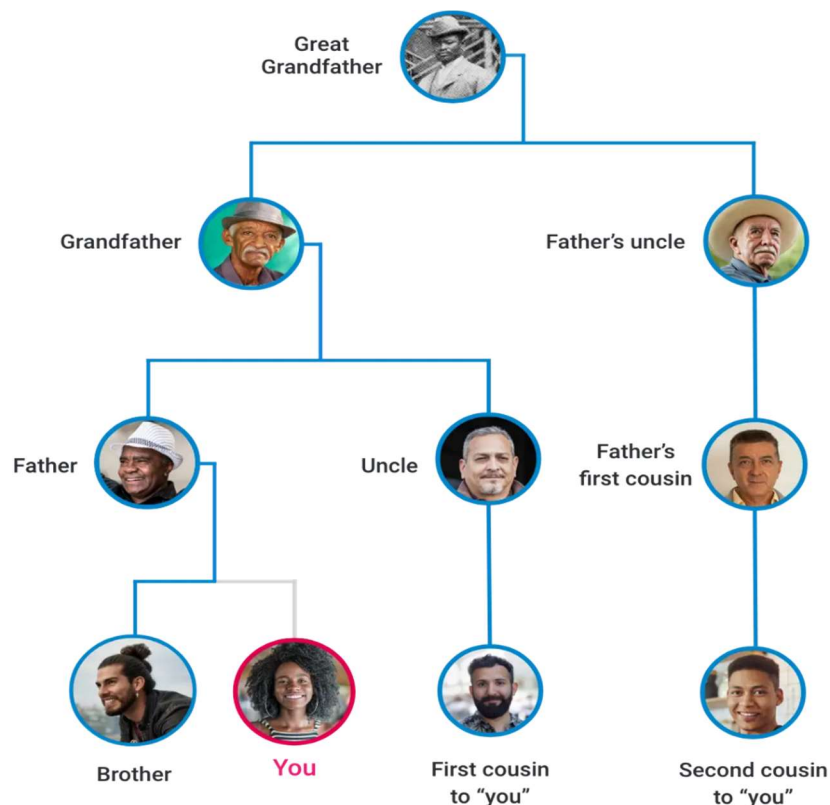
FamilyTreeDNA offers a variety of Y-DNA testing options for anthropological and genealogical studies and interests. You can learn more about them in the [Y-STR Testing](#) and Introduction to [Y-SNP Testing](#) articles.

What will a Y-DNA Test tell me?

- Identify your family’s detailed placement on the Great Family Tree of Mankind
- Discover your surname history and how it relates to other families
- Validate your known paternal line genealogy and get additional clues for research beyond the historical records
- Help expand the tree - your results may enable the creation of a new branch representing a patrilineal ancestor’s genetic signature that you might be able to identify
- In a future update to the FamilyTreeDNA website, you will be able to see if your paternal line is related to ancient DNA from archaeological remains, and when your common ancestor lived.

Big Y-700 Test from Family Tree DNA

- **The most comprehensive Y-DNA test (And most expensive)**
- Helps connect deep ancestry with recent genealogy.
- Uses both STRs and SNPs to connect you to relatives and specific family lines.
- Confirms your placement on the Y-DNA Haplotree, helping you trace paternal lineages through generations.



Reaches beyond the barrier of surnames

Link your recent genealogy with ancestors who lived before the adoption of surnames by discovering connections to others with similar and different surnames.

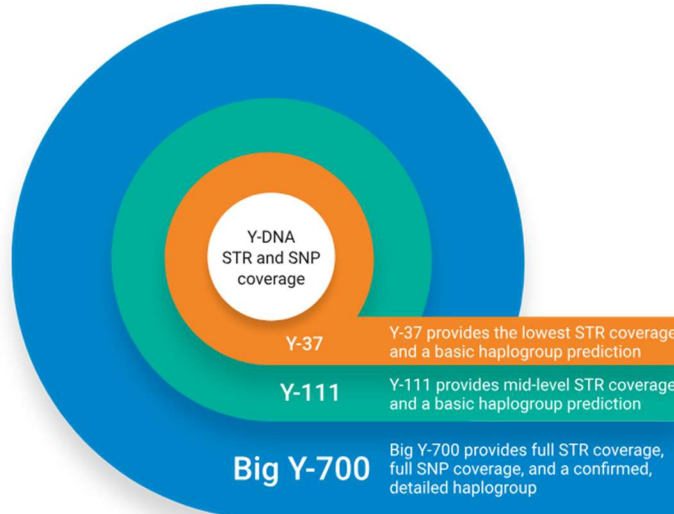
Estimate the time to most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) between you and your matches.

Confirm and refine your Y-DNA haplogroup, the origins of a group of people whose ancestry is traced back to a common ancestor on your paternal line.

Identify your family's unique Y-chromosome mutations, known as SNPs.

Receive lifetime analysis.

Contribute to scientific advancements and help further grow the Y-DNA Tree of Humankind.



All included in the Big Y-700

Designed for the genealogy enthusiast

If you are a **genetic male...**



The Y chromosome is passed down from father to son. Therefore, if you are a genetic male, you can take the Big Y test and research your paternal line.

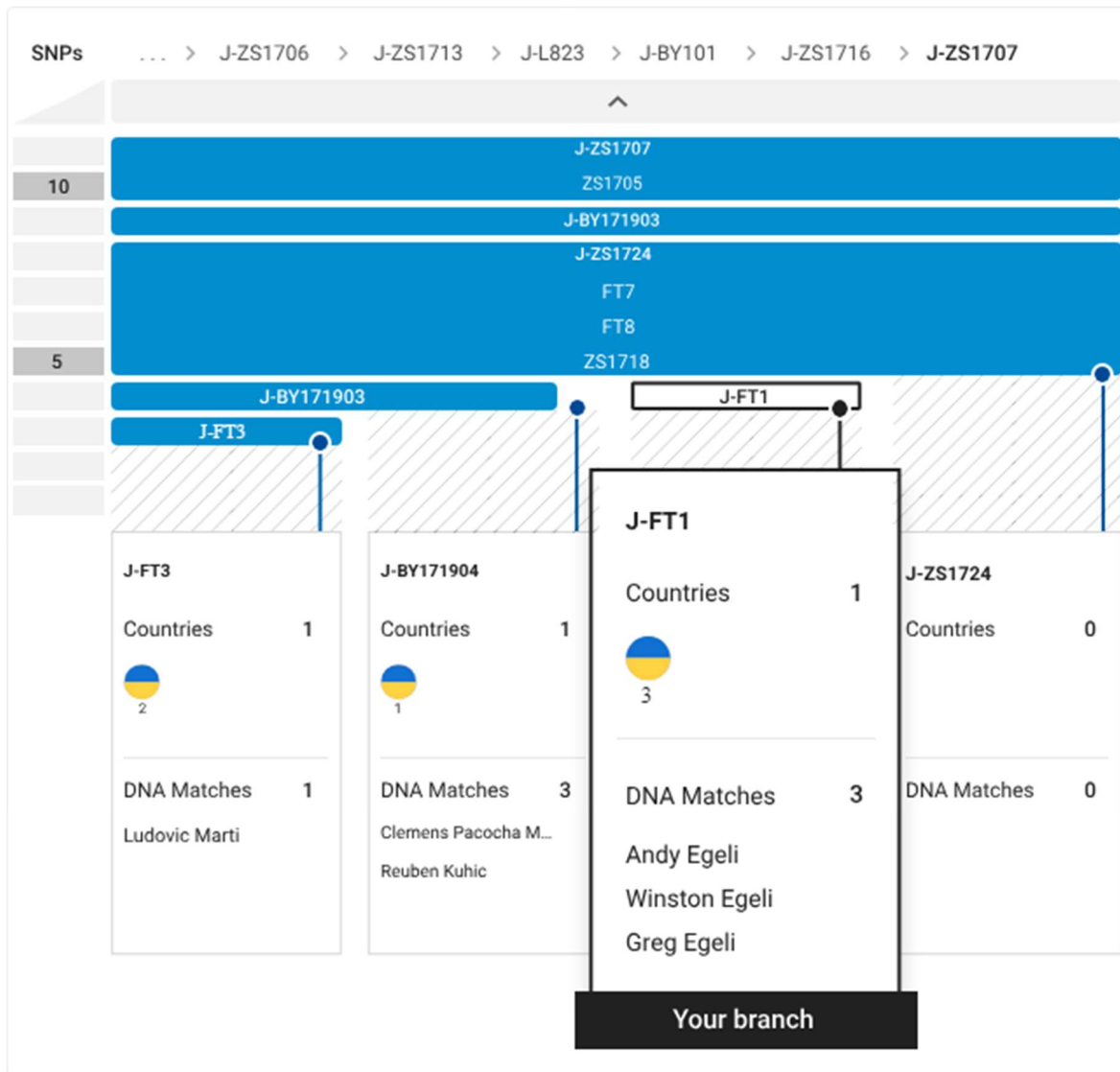
If you are a **genetic female...**

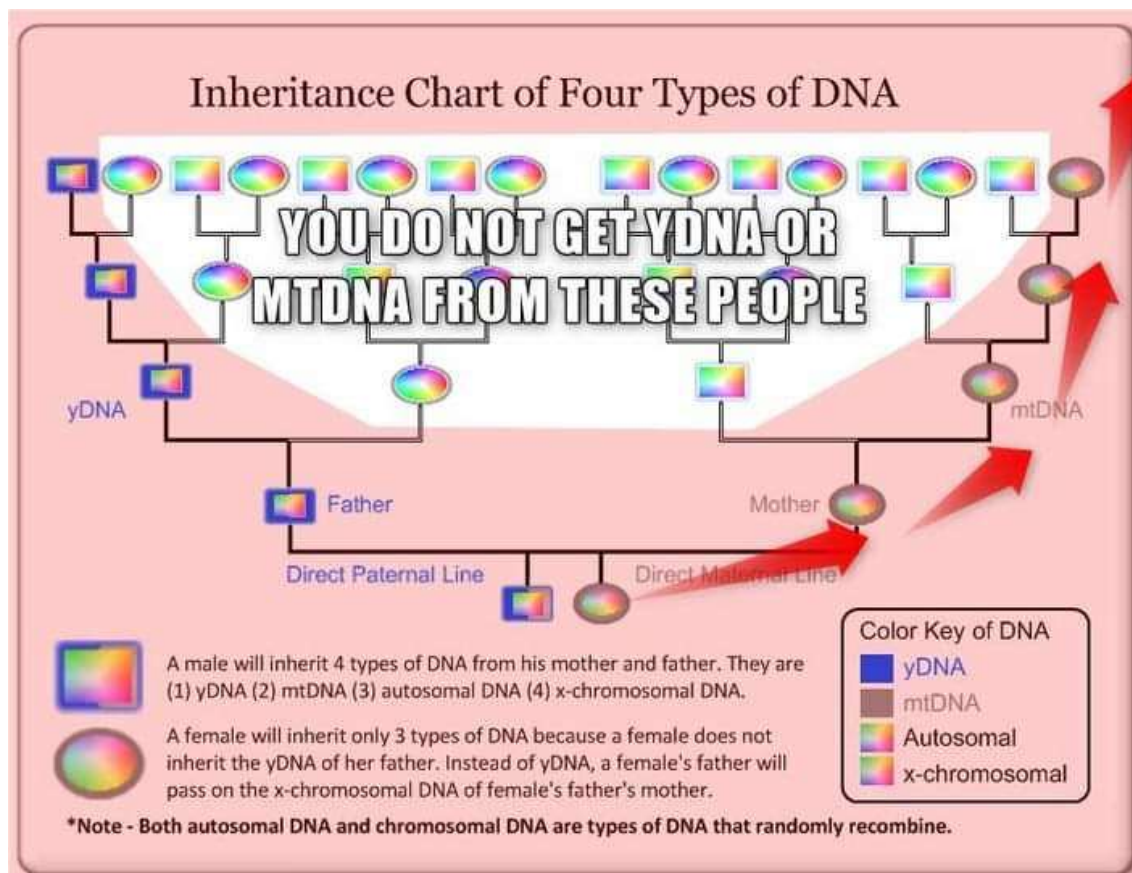


Genetic females cannot take a Y-DNA test because they do not have a Y chromosome. However, if you are interested in learning about your paternal line's ancestry, we recommend finding a genetic male to test—like a brother, uncle, father, or cousin.

Big Y Features

Big Y Block Tree Matching Tool





Big Y-700 Discovery Tools

- Country Frequency - Where is your direct paternal haplogroup most commonly found today?
- Notable Connections - Discover your connections to famous, historical, and modern people.
- Migration Map - View your ancient ancestors' migration history all the way from Y-Adam!
- Globetrekker BETA - Globetrekker is an interactive map that provides estimates of your geographic origins and reveals the detailed migrations of your ancestors worldwide.
- Ancient Connections - See who your closest archaeological relatives are.
- Time Tree - Shows how Y-DNA testers relate to each other with ancestors reconstructed and pinpointed in time through DNA.
- Ancestral Path - Provides details about each generation back to Y chromosomal Adam.
- Suggested Projects - Suggests FTDNA projects that may be of value to you.
- Scientific Details - Allows you to view your test result in a graph format.
- Compare - Allows you to compare your test result to other Big Y-700 test results.

This completes the DNA tests series. - Editor

GSSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

| | |
|------------------|--|
| JANUARY | 08 Board meeting 18 Business Meeting GSSC Birthday Celebration, year-end reports and Program |
| FEBRUARY | 12 Board Meeting 15 Business Meeting, Program and Soup er Supper |
| MARCH | 11 Board Meeting 21 Business Meeting and Program |
| APRIL | 08 Board Meeting 18 Business Meeting and Program 20 Work Shop TUPC 8:00 am to 5:00 pm 27 Memorial Day at the Cemetery |
| MAY | 13 Board Meeting 16 Business Meeting and Program |
| JUNE | 10 Board Meeting 20 Business Meeting, Ice Crem Social and Program |
| JULY | DARK NO MEETINGS |
| AUGUST | 12 Board Meeting 15 Business Meeting and Program |
| SEPTEMBER | 09 Board Meeting 19 Business Meeting and Program TBA Seminar |
| OCTOBER | 14 Board Meeting 17 Business Meeting and Program |
| NOVEMBER | 11 Board Meeting 21 Business Meeting and Ancestors Night |
| DECEMBER | - DARK NO MEETINGS |

The Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

Presents

A Workshop to Help You Find Your Family Roots

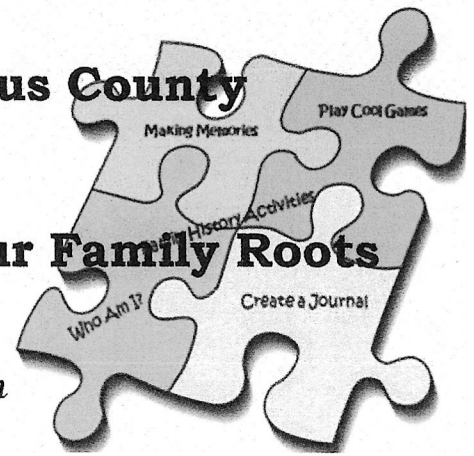
When: April 20, 2024

Where: Trinity United Presbyterian
Church

1600 Carver Road, Modesto
Telle Center

Time: 8:30 AM — 4:30 PM

Cost \$40.00 per person



Please underline or circle the classes you will be taking

8:30 AM—9:30 AM

9:45— 10:45 AM

11:00 AM — 12:00 Noon

Geneology 101

Ireland

Ship Records

Maps

Census Records

Germans from Russia

Newspapers

Organizing Your Records

12:00 Noon—1:00 PM Lunch Break

1:00 PM—2:00 PM

2:15 PM—4:30 PM

Cemetery Headstones & Inscriptions

DNA

Homestead Act of 1862

Review of Classes

Writing Your Family History

“Tips and Talks”

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

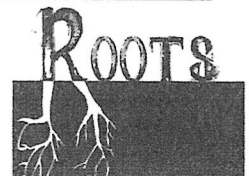
E-Mail: _____

Lunch \$10.00 Chicken Salad Sandwich _____ or Chefs Salad _____

Send payment to GSSC PO Box 1352 Modesto, CA, 95353

Last Day to Register : April 17, 2024

For Questions and more information call Vicky @ 209-529-9430



*Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County
Spring Workshop April 20, 2024
Class Information and Presentations*

Genealogy 101 - Vicky Wolff "Learning how to start researching your family tree, making a research plan, how to make researching easier, places to find information and about forms to use in your research."

Maps - Heidi Arno "Mapping your way to Family Treasure." Road and trail maps, cadastral maps, political boundary changes, fire insurance maps, graph maps showing the density of surnames or ethnicities in an area can all provide clues for where to look for your family's stories and vital records.

Newspapers - Joann MacDonald "Using Newspapers as a resource."

Ireland - Lewis Ruddick "There ARE research resources in Ireland after the Four Courts disaster."

Census Records - Jackie Niemeyer "Analyzing census records that can lead to other genealogical records."

Organizing Your Records - Vicky Wolff "Keeping your research organized so you can find the records and information on your ancestors you need in just a matter of minutes."

Ship Records - Joann MacDonald

Germans From Russia - Pam Atherstone "The Germans from Russia, who they were and resources for ancestral research."

Cemetery Headstones & Inscriptions- David Wolff "What you can learn from headstones, how to clean headstones and the meaning of the headstone inscriptions."

Homestead Act of 1862 - Martha Bhatti

Writing Your Family History - Vicky Wolff "Beyond Pedigrees. Writing the family narrative."

DNA- Lewis Ruddick "Here and now DNA update."

Review of Classes "Tips and Talks" - Asking questions, gathering handouts, etc. of classes you may have missed. Viewing our publication table of resource material.

Questions? Call: Vicky Wolff 209-529-9430 or Jackie Niemeyer 209-522-2590



Crockpot Chicken Noodle Soup

Ingredients

1 ½ pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts

2 cups carrots peeled and chopped

1 medium yellow onion diced

3 stalks celery chopped

3-4 cloves garlic minced

3 Tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

½ teaspoon dried thyme

6 cups chicken broth

1 cup water

½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper

2 cups uncooked wide egg noodles

Instructions

1. In a 6-quart crockpot add in whole chicken breasts, carrots, onion, celery, garlic, olive oil and thyme.
2. Next add in chicken broth, water and season with salt and pepper.
3. Cover and cook on low heat for 7 hours.
4. Cook noodles in a large pot of water (8 to 10 min. or as package says)
5. While noodles are cooking remove chicken breasts and cut into bite size pieces. Place chicken back into the crockpot. Add cooked noodles.



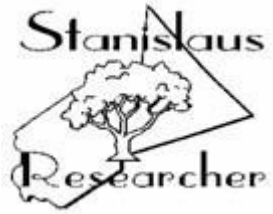
Membership Information Dues: Single membership, \$25.00 per year Family membership, \$35.00 per year

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Address changes: | Send address, email and phone number changes to Joyce Hickman at: GSSC, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95353-1352 Email: gssc-founded1968@gmail.com Telephone: 209-422-3653 (Joyce Hickman) |
| GSSC web page: | Stanislaus Researcher 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: lruddick@ix.netcom.com by the 15th of each month. The newsletter is posted at this website http://stanislausgenealogy.org 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, 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 |

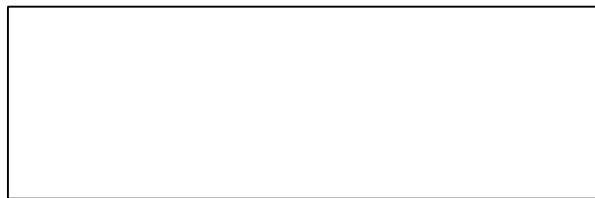
| 2024 Officers | | 2024 Standing Committee Chairs | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| President | Vicky Wolff | Acquisitions: | Vacant |
| 1st Vice President | Karen Souza | Audit: | Board of Directors |
| 2nd Vice President | Jackie Niemeyer | Budget: | Roxie Ferrari |
| Secretary | Pam Atherstone | Historian | Judy Byrne |
| Treasurer | Roxie Ferrari | Membership | Joyce Hickman |
| Director at Large 1 | Joyce Hickman | Newsletter & Webpage | Lewis M. Ruddick |
| Director at Large 2 | Amy Mowery | Publicity | Tom Byrne |
| Director at Large 3 | Joann McDonald | Queries | Colleen Norby |
| Director at Large 4 | Martha Carter Bhatti | Registrar | Marge Scheuber |
| Director at Large 5 | Marge Scheuber | Seminar: | Vicky Wolff |
| Past President | David Wolff | Research Trips | Heidi Arno |
| | | Mentor | Joann MacDonald |
| | | Publication Table/Resources | Vacant |
| | | Four Generation Charts | Karen Souza |
| Refreshments | Joann MacDonald | Special Collections & Workshops | Jackie Niemeyer |
| Fundraising | Joyce Hickman | Social Media | Pam Atherstone |
| | | Sunshine | Martha Carter Bhatti |

Updated February 16, 2024.
We have 49 members for 2024

[website GSSC](http://www.gssc.org)



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



**Saint Patrick's Day
March 17, 2024**

