



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

January 2021

Volume 43, Number 1

Message from your President 1
 Programs Cancelled until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted..... 1
 Golden Rules of Genealogy 2
 Stories to Write3
 Millie’s Notes 4
 5 New Year’s Resolutions. 4
 Current Covid-19 information for Stanislaus County.....6
 McHenry House Holdings.....8
 Proposed 2021 Budget..... 9
 Membership Application – Renewal Form..... 10

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

*Happy New Year
2021*

Presidents Message

by Beverly Graham

It’s a brand new year!! Thank goodness! This last year was awful.
 Not everything was miserable but enough to say I’m glad it’s over.
 Hopefully, this coming year will be better, and we will all renew our hope!
 I’ve always had hope and I’m usually very optimistic. Seems like I’m doing more questioning and wondering about this new year, but then again, it’s healthy to be inquisitive about things.
 May you all start the new year with a smile and think of all the positive things we have done and are about to these upcoming days and months.
 Have faith and we will all see each other again soon!!

got genealogy.com's GOLDEN RULES OF GENEALOGY



"SPELLING DUSN'T COWNT"

1 Back in the day folks couldn't spell and many could barely write, so how a name sounds is more



important than how it's spelled. Use wild card or Soundex searches to help find variant spellings of names.

ASSUME NOTHING

2 Check all your facts, don't assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to corroborate your facts as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify. For instance, don't assume:

- your ancestors were married
- census information is accurate
- vital (or other) records were correct
- your ancestor's life events were recorded
- ancestors had the same name as their enslaver

USE DISCRETION

Never lie in your genealogy reports,

3 but use discretion when reporting family information, especially when it involves living relatives.

ALWAYS DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY CONTRADICT ONE ANOTHER

4 Over time, you will compile more data and those seemingly contradictory pieces of evidence

may prove to be just the pieces of the puzzle you need to prove or disprove your theory. Be consistent as you cite your sources. There are standard citation formats, but even if you just make up your own format for listing your sources, be consistent with it. You want your descendants to be able to retrace your steps, so **always** cite your sources.



MOST DATES ARE APPROXIMATE

5 It's okay to state that someone was born "btw 1901-1903," "abt. 1845," or died "May 1915" if you don't have an exact date or where various

documents have different dates. Which date is "correct?" They all are.

IF UNSURE, SAY SO

6 Future researchers will thank you for being honest if you simply say that you cannot prove a specific fact, yet you "suspect" such and such is true. Don't fudge the facts. **Ever.**



YOU CANNOT DO IT ALL ONLINE

7 Yes, we love doing research online and there's nothing better than using the computer to find new sources, view digital images of original documents and even connect with relatives. For family historians, the Internet will never replace the wonderful work of libraries, county courthouses, archives, and historical societies. Do as much as you can online, then turn off your computer and hit the bricks!



JUST BECAUSE IT'S ONLINE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TRUE

8 The Internet is a wonderful thing but it's filled with oodles of bad information. Don't make the mistake of believing anything you find online at face value. Verify against other sources, even if you paid for the information you found online. Consult the original source whenever possible.

PASS ALONG YOUR RESEARCH

9 No matter how many decades you spend researching your family, your research will never be done. Plan on passing along your research to the next generation's researchers. Leave excellent notes, cite all your sources, explain your shorthand ... in essence, leave your research the way you'd have liked to have found it.



SPREAD THE WORD

You have our permission to use/publish these Golden Rules as much as you like. Just give us credit for them, okay?

DON'T DIE WITH YOUR STORIES STILL IN YOU

10 Giving credit to Dr. Wayne Dyer for his "Don't die with your music still in you," we want to

remind you to tell the stories as completely and as accurately as possible. Genealogy isn't about just doing research. Genealogy is about telling the stories and ensuring that your ancestor's legacies live on for generations to come. Without the stories, the research won't do anyone much good. The legacy of your ancestors rests in your capable hands. Doing the research is fine, but always remember that you have been chosen to **tell their stories.**



DNA IS NOT A TRUMP CARD

11 DNA is just one of **many** possible sources of information you can use to verify or deny a relationship. Human error occurs when the results are transcribed, thereby providing false information. DNA results should **always** be used in concert with other sources.

ANYTHING YOU POST ONLINE WILL BE "BORROWED"

12 You need to accept the fact that any family information you post online will be "borrowed" or outright stolen, and you will probably not get credit for all your hard work. This is the nature of the beast... the Internet. Get over it.

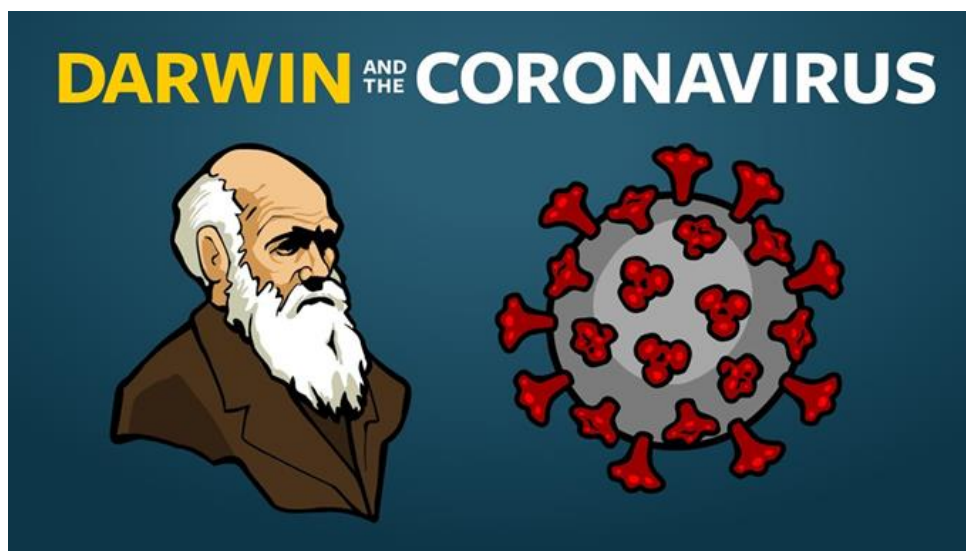


THE INTERNET IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING

13 Web sites change all the time, and to find the information you need, you may need to look in new places to find old information. Take a second look at old sites you haven't visited in a while, and don't be afraid to walk away from your favorite sites if/when you find new ones that provides better information. Seek and you may find.

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Dec 14



Stories to Write

By Vicky Wolff

While we are in this Covid Pandemic, and we all have a little extra time on our hands, I thought it might be a time we could practice some writing. This challenge will not be difficult and could add to your own family stories to leave to your children and grandchildren, and just might give them an incentive to get started doing their own genealogy and writing their own stories.

I am going to give you several topics each month to choose from (or you may do as many as you would like) and as you complete this project send it to the writing group to share. We will pick the best-written article and have it published in our GSSC Newsletter the following month. The writing group has been trying to get more of our members to not only do the research of our ancestors, but also to write their stories which makes your ancestors come to life, not just a bunch of dates and times of their lifetimes.

So, I hope you are all up for the challenge....Here are some questions and ideas to challenge us to write about. Let the memories flow!

1. What were some of your favorite holiday traditions from childhood? How far back do these traditions go...to your parents or grandparents generation or even beyond?
2. Which of your childhood holiday traditions have you carried on into adulthood? What new traditions have you started?
3. As a child, which were your top three favorite holidays and why? Have your favorites changed over the years?
4. What so you look forward to every winter? People, places, things, events, food, hobbies, traditions?

It will be fun to look back over the years to remember the things we did and what they meant to us, and how they affected our lives.

I am hoping you take up the challenge and write your memories down to share with your families. These are also ways to get our families members to participate. Are you up for the challenge? Let's get started today!

Millie's Notes

By Millie Starr

Things to consider as you do your family genealogical research.

Review your sources? Are they valid or "Grandma said"? Look for any undocumented statements. Now that review is done you are on firm ground.

As you search ask yourself:

What kind of information are you seeking?

Date?

Place?

Name?

Relationship?

Dick Tracy – What would he do?

Look at sources dealing with area or group.

County, States, Regional, Religious.

Another Dick Tracy tip – Follow the Money!

Wills, Deeds, Bonds (especially marriage), public records.

Collections – Draper, Drouin, PERSI, Missing Friends.

Historical Events by area and/or - Revolutionary War; 1812; Civil War; etc.

Census – Oldest gives origin

Do you have every census for your people, not just year, town, names and ages?

What else did that census offer?

Haven't recorded everything? Why not? Are you afraid they will contradict someone you found? If so, why is there confusion?

Review census – digest details.

You need to look at the whole picture.

Editor's Note: The above are little pearls of knowledge gained over many years of research intended to assist you with genealogical research.

5 New Year's Resolutions Every Genealogist Should Set

By Esther · December 31, 2015 · DNA, Events And Webinars, Guest Posts, Holidays

From <https://blog.myheritage.com/2015/12/5-new-years-resolutions-every-genealogist-should-set/>

New Year's always seems like a good time to make resolutions for doing better in our personal or business lives, or for accomplishing goals in the year ahead. But how many resolutions should we make? How many are we going to realistically keep?

Enthusiasm for change runs high in January. We are full of renewed energy. It's a new year with the opportunity for new beginnings, and it is easy to become caught up in the fervor. But February and March often bring different emotions and our enthusiasm for the work that lies ahead can wane or drop off completely.

We genealogists often get carried away with our resolutions. There are so many ancestors to find, and so many sources to cite! We need to find great-grandma's maiden name. We need to organize our files. We desperately want to find the names of 2nd great-grandpa's parents. And where or who did 3rd great-grandpa marry? The list of wants is endless.

Rather than getting caught up in a frenzy of good intentions, I prefer to look at what I accomplished the previous year and think about what still needs to be done and what I might do better. Then I prioritize, because if there's one thing I've learned, it's that I can't do it all. I'd rather set fewer goals, goals that are achievable, than have dozens of goals and not meet any of them.

Here are my five suggestions for your New Year's Genealogy Resolutions:

1. **Review Previous Resolutions**

Look at last year's genealogy resolutions. Evaluate them honestly. How did you do? If you didn't accomplish some, decide if any are important enough to try again. You may want to revise resolutions to make them more achievable. If you missed meeting most of your resolutions it may be time for serious rethinking of how many you made or what your goals were.

2. **Try Again**

It is okay to set the same resolution if you didn't achieve it the year before. Don't be too hard on yourself if you miss a few. They may just need a little fine-tuning. Last year I resolved to publish the genealogy mystery novel I have been working on for several years now. My beta readers have returned it with comments and it requires one last edit. Thus it seemed realistic to set it as a goal for 2015. But life got in the way and that goal was not reached. Since this is an important goal and I still believe it is realistic, it will be my number one resolution for 2016.

3. **Set Realistic and Achievable Resolutions**

Achievable goals are those that you have a reasonable expectation of meeting in the time frame of one year. Setting a realistic goal means you have more chance of success. For example, I have been searching for my 2nd great-grandfather Joseph McGinnis' birth location in Ireland for over 15 years. An unrealistic goal would be to say I plan to find that information in 2016. It's too open-ended a goal and basically wishful thinking. While we should challenge ourselves in life, we need to balance that with logic. A realistic goal would be to look over what sources I have consulted in the past 15 years, and then make my goal more source specific. So my resolution might be to find out if there are church records available for a specific location that I have not yet searched, and then consult them.

4. **Prioritize Your Resolutions**

What do you most want to find out about that elusive ancestor? In my case, it is where my Irish McGinnis family comes from. Sure I want to find Joseph McGinnis' parents' names, his date of birth, when and where he married his wife, when and where their first child was born and exactly when he left Ireland for Canada. But I am starting with finding the family's location in Ireland. Genealogy research is like building a tower of blocks. I need to start with the base, then add the rest. It would be foolish to start searching for his birth record in every county in Ireland when I don't have a more precise location. My other questions will fall into place naturally once I have narrowed the location of my searches.

5. **How Many Resolutions are Too Many?**

I never make more than five resolutions and I try to keep them to three. I suggest you try to estimate how long it might take you to achieve each goal, so you don't take on too many. If you set too many resolutions they may seem overwhelming later in the year. I have seen wonderful New Year's Resolution lists from genealogists with resolutions similar to these below:

- Visit an older relative
- Backup your data weekly
- Organize, scan and share your photos with relatives
- Review your sources and documents.
- Write your own memories
- Join Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest, and look for other genealogists
- Listen to a webinar or a podcast
- Join a Google+ Hangout
- Start using the Cloud

- Publish a family memory book
- Take a DNA test
- Join your local genealogy society

Those are all great resolutions. But can any of us realistically work on or complete all of them? Life gets in the way of the best of intentions. I would almost certainly choose a only few of the most important to me personally.

That doesn't mean I'm not going to back-up my data or listen to a webinar at some point in the New Year ,for example, but I want to be realistic about what I can achieve in the coming year. And I want to leave time to continue my genealogy research!

Whatever resolutions you decide on, and no matter how few or how many you decide may suit you, just do it. Have fun, keep your goals in mind and enjoy whatever the New Year brings your way.

Be safe and practice social distance!

Wash your hands frequently!

Out in public – wear a face mask!



The Covid-19 toll in Stanislaus County, California, as of this newsletter publication: Total Covid-19 illnesses reported 30,534; Total Covid-19 Deaths reported 490.

Editor's Note: Unfortunately my wife was one of those 30,534 and Fortunately she is now Covid-19 free!

The light at the end of the tunnel!



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK LENNIHAN, POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Sandra Lindsay, a nurse at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New York, became the first person in the U.S. to receive a dose of the vaccine made by Pfizer and BioNTech, freshly approved under an emergency authorization from the FDA.

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!!!!'



DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT THE MCHENRY MUSEUM FOR RESEARCH:

PROBATE RECORDS 1854 - 1920
CRIMINAL RECORDS
CIVIL COURT
SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL
LAND DEEDS 1854 - 1902
TITLE MAPS
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS 1957, 1967, 1977
SCHOOL RECORDS
PHOTOGRAPHS 40,000
CITY DIRECTORIES FROM 1876 - 1986 (NOT A COMPLETE SET)
SCHOOL YEAR BOOKS - MJC AND HIGH SCHOOLS
SUPERVISORS RECORDS
MODESTO FIRE DEPT. RECORDS FROM 1883
HOMESTEAD RECORDS 1854 - 1925
MARRIAGE LICENSES 1854 - 1950'S
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
SYMPHONY RECORDS AND SCRAPBOOKS
ORGANIZATION SCRAPBOOKS AND RECORDS
PIONEER FAMILY FILES ARE BEING DEVELOPED
ORAL HISTORY TAPES
SOME OF THE GREAT REGISTERS
NEWSPAPERS 1860, 1870 AND LATER
BOOK - PROPERTY OF WOMEN
BOOK - EARLY DIVORCES
SOME ORIGINAL DIARIES AND MANUSCRIPTS
MARRIAGE RECORDS
BURIAL PERMITS 1889 - 1948
WILBEY LODGE CEMETERY
LIST OF PEOPLE IN MAYSOLEUM
INDEX VOLUMES FOR: PROBATE & OTHER COURT CASES
ORDINANCES
SCHOOL DISTRICTS
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORDS
PUBLIC HIGHWAYS
ROAD REGISTER
FORMATION OF HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS

CARD FILES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED FOR MOST OF THESE RECORDS.

2021

Ordinary Income			
Income from reserve	1100		
Dues income	4000		
Fundraisers/Education	1101		
Candy Sales	500		
Plant Sales	500		
Total Fundraisers	2101		
GSSC Donation	300		
Interest Earned	10		
Millie Starr Scholarship	350		
Other income	660		
Total Income	7861		
Expense			
Administrative			
Advertising and Promotion	100		
Computer and Internet Expenses	1000		
Total Administrative	1100		
Insurance			
General Liability Insurance	500		
Professional Liability	1350		
Total Insurance Expense	1850		
Postage and Delivery			
Office Supplies	200	Fundraising	
Postage and Delivery		Candy Sales	250
Hardcopy	50	Clothing	0
PO Box 1352	106	Fall Seminar	0
Stamps	55	Plant Sales	250
Total Postal & Delivery	211	Millie Starr Scholarship winner	500
Rent Expense Telle Hall	1000	Total Fundraising	1000
Taxes			
Form PRF-1	25	Total Expense	7861
Form S1-100	25		
GSSC Filing Fees	50		
Total Taxes	100	Net Ordinary Income	7861
Total Administrative	4461	Other Expense	7861
Committees			
Historian	0	Other Income	
Oakland Research Trip	0	Salt Lake City Reserve	0
Professional Fees		Total Other Income	0
Speaker Fee	1000	Net Other Income	0
Queries	0	Net Income	0
Refreshments	300		
Registrar	0		
Salt Lake City	0		
Sunshine	0		
Total Committees	1300		



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF STANISLAUS COUNTY, INC.
 PO BOX 1352 (NEW)
 MODESTO, CA. 95352-1352

<http://www.stanislausgenealogy.org/>

e-Mail: gsscformed1968@gmail.com

Membership Application for Calendar year: January 2021 – December 2021

NEW Membership

Renewal

Reinstatement

Name _____ Telephone _____

Date of Birth _____ Spouse's Name _____

Family Membership 2nd Name _____ Telephone _____

Address: _____ City _____

State _____ 9- Digit Zip _____ Maiden Name _____

E-mail 1st Membership _____

E-mail 2nd Membership _____

LIST INFORMATION TO BE

EXCLUDED FROM PRINTED ROSTER: _____



PLEASE KEEP INFO CURRENT ~ SEND CHANGES TO > gsscformed1968@gmail.com <

Occupation (Optional) is / was _____

GSSC Dues: **Individual \$25.00** **Family \$35.00** \$ _____

Student \$10.00 - Up to the age of 22 and enrolled in class. \$ _____

Patron Personal: (Dues and other donations totaling \$50.00 + equals Patron) check box

Patron: Company \$100.00 + \$ _____

On line Stanislaus Research Newsletter is included with membership.

Or \$8.00 per year if you have email. No E-mail? No charge for Hard copy. \$ _____

Optional Donation to support the on-going work of GSSC. \$ _____

Optional Donation: The Millie Starr Scholarship Fund

To Inspire Interest in Genealogy and Family History in a younger generation. \$ _____

Date _____ Check # _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Our Treasurer has asked for 2021 dues be paid by Dec. 31, 2020, if possible.

Please make notion on check 'annual dues.' Make checks payable to GSSC: *Mail to GSSC, ATTN Maybelle Allen, 1141 Springcreek Dr., Modesto, CA 95355. Dues may be mailed to our PO Box.

Renewing Members: Enclose a self-addressed stamped LETTER SIZE Envelope: Your membership card will be mailed to you. Questions? Contact Maybelle at (209) 523-0593 or email: > rmallen213@gmail.com<

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

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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 12-15-20

We have 42 members for 2021

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

Covid-19 IS still with us! ☹️ BUT . .



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Stanislaus County
P O Box 1352
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Happy New Year
2021