



## Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

October 2021

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Message from your President..... 1  
 October - Scots, Irish or Scots-Irish genealogy..... 1  
 Covid-19 Update for Stanislaus County..... 2  
 Millie’s Minutes ..... 2  
 GSSC Writing Group..... 4  
 Civil War Pensions..... 4  
 2022 GSSC Proposed Budget..... 6

21 October 2021 7:00 P.M.  
  
 Scots, Irish or Scots-Irish genealogy by Vicky Wolff

### GET THE WORD OUT WE HAD A FUN LIVE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 17th WITH A COLORFUL BAG PIPER PIPING in the KIRKIN OF THE TARTAN Program

#### Presidents Message

by Beverly Graham

The Battle of Shiloh was a particularly brutal battle in the U.S. Civil war that, in April of 1862, left over 16,000 Confederate and Union troops wounded and over 3,000 dead. The medics on either side of the battle were completely unprepared for such an astronomical number of wounded at one time.

Many of the soldiers simply had to sit and nurse their own wounds for days while waiting for medical attention. During those rainy days when dusk would fall, a curious phenomenon emerged. Some of the soldiers’ wounds would glow. All across the battlefield and the triage tents hundreds of soldiers had a faint blue glow radiating out of their wounds. Neither the soldiers nor the medics that treated them knew what to make of it, but one thing was clear, once the troops were moved to hospitals and given proper treatment, the soldiers who had experienced the strange glowing wounds on the battlefield had a much higher rate of recovery and survival. The soldiers nicknamed the phenomenon the “Angel’s Glow” and considered it some sort of divine intervention that alit, rather literally, upon some of the troops.

Today we have an answer to the mystery of the battlefield glow and how exactly the Angel’s Glow saved the lives of so many soldiers. The soil site of the Battle of Shiloh is rich with a particular parasitic nematode and in that particular nematode’s gut is a bacteria named *Photobacterium luminescens*. The nematodes eat insects and *P. luminescens* has developed a very particular skill in helping its host thrive. As the nematodes consume their host, the bacteria also feeds and glows brightly via bioluminescence with the sole goal of making the body of the insect attractive to other insects so that a fresh host is nearby when the nematodes erupt from the husk of the insect they are currently feasting on. The glowing bacteria is essentially like a helper hailing a cab for the nematode, ensuring there is always a new ride waiting.

Now, that’s all very interesting but how exactly did it save the lives of all those soldiers? The glowing had nothing to do with it (and was just evidence the bacteria were present in the soldier’s wounds), the real life-saving magic was something that happened in parallel with the glow: *P. luminescens* also releases kill off chemicals that microorganisms in order to make life easier for its host (the nematode) to dominate the meta-host (the insect the nematode and bacteria hitchhikers are attacking). Sitting in the mud on those stormy nights in Tennessee, the soldiers were awash in the bacteria and the bacteria multiplied

rapidly in the warm damp conditions of their wounds, all while excreting compounds that were killing off all the other harmful organisms nearby.

The Angel’s Glow might not have been truly angelic in origin, but it might as well have been; the soldier’s who were temporarily colonized with P. luminescens were getting an antibacterial and antimicrobial bath that even the best doctors’ of their day couldn’t replicate.

### October Program

By Vicky Wolff

Our program for October is Scots, Irish and Scot-Irish genealogy keeping tune with the connections shown during our September General Meeting program.



## Stanislaus County COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard



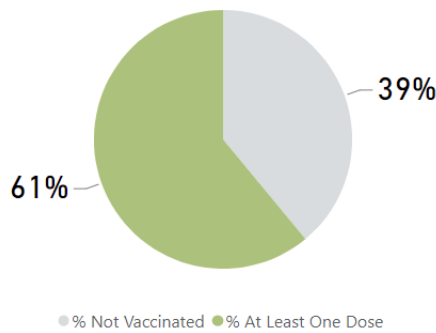
**Note:** Not included in these counts are vaccines provided directly through a federal program for residents and staff of long term care facilities such as Skilled Nursing Facilities, and some directly provided quantities to hospital systems. The information contained on this website will expand as more information becomes available and validated. Doses allocated to public health may be re-allocated to approved providers or will be used in the public health clinic.

**Data Source:** California Department of Public Health & Stanislaus County Health Services Agency

Last updated: 8/16/2021

Vaccination Coverage				Total Doses Administered
Fully Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated (%)	Partially Vaccinated	Partially Vaccinated (%)	
223,648	48%	63,345	13%	504,922

County Residents (12+ years) with At Least One Dose Administered (%)



<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoizjJlNDQ3Y2EtN2NjYi00YTFhLWWEyMzQtNjgzMzY4Y2E1Y2U4IiwidCI6ImU3M2I3N2Q4LTNkYmQtNGQ0ZS04ZDgyLWYzMTUzNjcwMzU2ZCJ9&pageName=ReportSection>

### Millie’s Minutes

By Millie Starr

#### Planting an Honest (?) Tree

A recent reminder of the tricks our ancestors play on us, is the old ditty, "I'm My Own Grandpa." For those who seriously and honestly seek and record their family, it could happen.

Many, many years ago when I was 23  
 I was married to a widow who was as pretty as can be  
 The widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red

My father fell in love with her and soon they too were wed  
 This made my dad my son in law and really changed my life  
 For now my daughter was my mother 'cause she was my father's wife

We can see how this one step alone can muddy the water badly. It is not too uncommon early on in history, ages were frequently not half as important as having a companion, a mother for children or just a spouse.

And to complicate the matter even though it brought me joy  
 I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy  
 My little baby then became a brother-in-law to dad  
 And so he became my uncle though it made me very sad  
 For if he were my uncle that would also made him brother  
 Of the widows grown-up daughter who was of course my stepmother

By now this researcher is pulling out his hair, and drinking directly from the bottle. No glass needed.

Father's wife then had a son who kept them on the run  
 And he became my grandchild for he was my daughter's son  
 My wife is now my mother's mother and it makes my blue  
 Because although she is my wife she's my grandmother too  
 Now if my wife is my grandmother then I'm her grandchild  
 And every time I think of it, nearly drives my wild  
 'Cause now I have become the strangest case you ever saw  
 As husband of my grandmother I am my own grandpa.

PASS THE BOTTLE! The more I think I wonder if any of us could accept this relationship nightmare.

Well I can tell you in a small way, my family of not too long ago tried to get into this game, but thank goodness, they only made a minor step. But it makes it possible for me to know that this could happen. The question is how any of us could figure it out.

In my family, my father's mother married first John Hunter and later his younger brother James. She and John had seven children and she and James had three children. Right off we are in trouble. Are these children half-siblings or are they first cousins, their fathers were brothers? The answer is BOTH.

So no problem, we just avoid that issue. Harder to chart, but it's okay. But.....my mother had married before she married my father and had a daughter-my older half sister. All was well until during WWII my Aunt Martha's son was stationed at Treasure Island and spent many meals at our home in SF. He was my cousin and my second cousin because his mother was daughter of John Hunter and my father

! was son of James Hunter. My cousin was not my sister's cousin but he soon became her husband. And so their children are my nieces and nephews on both my father's and on my mother's side.

Well I am not my own Grandma, but I visit my sister and her husband and wonder is he my cousin, or second cousin or my brother in law? I just hug him and say HELLO

### More Millie's Minutes

Family Search--Ancestry--Legacy--My Heritage--Roots Magic--LDS--Genealogy.com--Master Genealogist--My Family Tree--Personal Ancestral File and I am sure many more.

I have used Legacy for a very long time. Our president had jumped on the opportunity to have Jeff Rasmussen and his crew come to Modesto to speak. She saw the message on the site of the state association and almost ran to the phone to get our society at the head of the list to receive the free seminar. It worked and so this wonderful program lasted more than a couple of hours at Telle Center. We learned so much that it can never be removed from our memory.

We more than got out monies worth, ha ha, and so did he. He showed and told us much about the offerings of this relatively new program. Many folks signed up at the time and more and more later. I cannot say this is the best site, but I have not once regretted that free and great fun program. We even had the opportunity to take Jeff and his partner to dinner and of course to the Masonic Cemetery and to show him the grave of his relative located there.

Before you do the work of opening or changing your personal program, do your research. For me one site was fine, until in Salt Lake a friend discovered after he entered his family data and went to lunch he came back and the data had been

changed. He knew his source because he and his father had visited this aunt and knew who she was and where she lived and died. The other person, had changed that to other locations and dates. Unfortunately we all do not have that much proof to deal with these events. He had a regular site, but was entering his data into the LDS site also. His reaction was going and changing back about three more times before he removed all of his info.

Many of us use Ancestry in that way. Jeff Wells used it as a working place and then when he had all of the data proven he entered it into his 'real' program. Ancestry is a valuable source, but remember if you do not renew your membership it is gone.

We all scan every site we can access for hints or clues to help us find a new direction.

Now we have DNA and Ged-Match. More hints and sources to explore. Just remember mortals with family connections often confuse us with the differences in ages of children and wives or husbands. So when you start checking these items sons of and brothers of etc, there are often brothers younger than the sister or brothers children.

The DNA report listed me as the grandmother of my niece who was born when I was sixteen. I waver with being proud or feeling like a call girl. Our relationship was intensified through other connections and so I am not just her aunt, I am sometimes called Grandma.

Obviously we need to explore many sites for opportunities to find that secret info leading us back one generation or many.

Good luck, and bon voyage on this exciting irritating and wonderful trip. Hope you find a site that does all that you desire.

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### GSSC Writing Group

By Joann McDonald

The Writing group is starting up again after being on hiatus due to the virus. We will meet for the first time on Thursday October 14th at 10:00 A.M. at the home of Joann MacDonald. Hope to get the group started again. Group started in June of 2004 after Millie and I attended NGS conference in Sacramento.

Please bring a piece of writing to share and extra copies. Piece of writing can be about an ancestor, an object from your family...what ever you care to write about. I plan to write something about my mother's cup she received when she was baptized..

Joann can be contacted at [JMastergardener@aol.com](mailto:JMastergardener@aol.com) for more information. Hope to see some new faces on Thursday October 14th.



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### Secrets of Civil War Pensions

15 Sep 2021 2:39 PM Anonymous published by permission of Dick Eastman <https://eogn.com/>

This series will explore the many mysteries of the U.S. Civil War pension file, including how to find and interpret the many types of online pension indexes, some details of which are rarely documented elsewhere. Those indexes alone may contain hidden clues and a remarkable amount of detail about the veteran's life, family, and military service.

This series is intended to provide the researcher with a single reference point for the many confusing issues related to Civil War pensions and their indexes.

We hope that you will bookmark this series and refer to it frequently.

The series will then explain how and where you can get your hands on the full contents of those pension files, some of which are also online.

In Part 1, we will describe the typical contents of pension files and explain why they are among the very best sources of biographical and genealogical information for those who are researching their Civil War ancestors.

All this and a lot more may be found at <https://gopherrecords.com/blog/secrets-of-civil-war-pensions-pt1/>, according to Bob Velke (some of you may remember that name).

<https://eogn.com/page-18080/11091494>



## Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors

The first of a three-part series, this video goes beyond the basics of Scottish research. It provides insight into finding new records and discovering new ways to interrogate the records you already know.

[NOW WATCH](#)

 **rootstech**  
by FamilySearch

March 3–5, 2022



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

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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

2021 Officers		2021 Standing Committee Chairs	
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		Research Salt Lake City	Vacant
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		Special Collections Room	Jackie Niemeyer
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		Sunshine	Karen Souza

Updated 9-20-21.

We have 80 members for 2021

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

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