



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

May 2021

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

History of Mother’s Day by Vicky Wolff

Presidents Message

by Beverly Graham

Yesterday....

What did you do exciting yesterday? Or the day before that?
 If you ask me I would have to say I can’t remember but whatever it was I’m sure it wasn’t exciting.
 Recently, my days are passing with no big fireworks or sparks leaving me a little bored.
 After thinking about what could get me out of my funk, I decided to fix a weekly wardrobe layout. I put my shoes, pants, blouses, jackets, and even my jewelry for each day of the week. I chose scarfs and even a hat to round out my outfits.
 To be honest, I had not worn some of these things since the lockdown. But the more I pulled out my stash the more excited I was to try them on and show them off. I then decided that even if I had no plans for every single day, it seemed I wanted to wear the outfits anyway. After getting dressed up for the first three days, I found my attitude was improving. I was no longer in a dreary and boring day. I was finally getting my zip back. Even a trip to the garbage can was special when I was wearing my bright yellow blouse with matching earrings and a sparkling scarf.
 I know you all must think I’m crazy but I’m really not. I’m challenging all of you to try a dress-up week. See if it makes a difference on how you feel and how you seem happier!
 If this does not work then I don’t have too many ideas. However, the following week you can keep busy doing laundry!!
 Hopefully, you will all start getting out and about. Please stay safe and we can all get together soon!!
 Take a picture with your dressed up fashion and attitude! We all want to see your smiling faces soon!!

Current Covid-19 information for Stanislaus County

Total cases

60,649

Deaths

1,035

Covid-19 Shots now Available for those 16 or older

Dear Ancestor,
I may not have
found you today,
but?
It's a 3-day
weekend &
I bought snacks.

4YourFamilyStory.com

May Program

History of Mother's Day

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent of Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday."

Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother Church" the main church in the vicinity of their home, for a special service.

Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930's and 1940's.

(Did you know? More phone calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day of the year.)

The origins of Mother's Day as celebrated in the United States date back to the 19th century. In the years before the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped start "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children.

These clubs later became a unifying force in a region of the country still divided over the Civil War. In 1869 Jarvis organized “Mother’s Friendship Day,” at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation.

Another precursor to Mother’s Day came from the abolitionist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe. In 1870 Howe wrote the “Mother’s Day Proclamation,” a call to action that asked mothers to unite in promoting world peace. In 1873 Howe campaigned for a “Mother’s Peace Day” to be celebrated every June 2nd.

Other early Mother’s Day pioneers include Juliet Calhoun Blakely, a temperance activist who inspired a local Mother’s Day in Albion, Michigan, in the 1870’s. The duo of Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering, meanwhile, both worked to organize a Mother’s Day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some have even called Hering “the father of Mother’s Day.”

The official Mother’s Day holiday arose in the 1900’s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother’s 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother’s Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children.

After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother’s Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother’s Day event at one of Wanamaker’s retail stores in Philadelphia.

Following the success of her first Mother’s Day, Jarvis, who remained unmarried and childless her whole life, resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood.

By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother’s Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother’s Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day.

While versions of Mother’s Day are celebrated worldwide, traditions vary depending on the country. In Thailand, for example, Mother’s Day is always celebrated in August on the birthday of the current queen Sirikit.

Another alternate observance of Mother’s Day can be found in Ethiopia, where families gather each fall to sing songs and eat a large feast as part of Antrosht, a multi-day celebration honoring motherhood.

In the United States, Mother’s Day continues to be celebrated by presenting mothers and other women with gifts and flowers, and it has become one of the biggest holidays for consumer spending. Families also celebrate by giving mothers a day off from activities like cooking or other household chores.

At times, Mother’s Day has also been a date for launching political or feminist causes. In 1968 Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King, Jr., used Mother’s Day to host a march in support of underprivileged women and children. In the 1970’s women’s groups also used the holiday as a time to highlight the need for equal rights and access to childcare.

Let’s remember and celebrate our Mother’s this year on May 9th. Happy Mother’s Day to all our GSSA mothers!

Celebrations in the Month of May

From the American Revolution to the Iraq War, the U.S. has fought in 12 major wars. Do you know their names, where they were fought and why? Who won?

What wars did your ancestors fight in?

Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who have died while in the military service. Another military holiday that also occurs in May, is **Armed Forces Day**, which honors those currently serving in the U.S. military.

Mother’s Day will be celebrated on May 9, 2021.

Mother's Day

By Helen Steiner Rice

Mother's Day is Remembrance Day
 And we pause on the path of the year
 To pay honor and worshipful tribute
 To the Mother our heart holds dear...
 For, whether here or in heaven,
 Her love is our haven and guide.
 For always the memory of Mother
 Is a beacon light shining inside...
 Time cannot destroy her memory
 And years can never erase
 The tenderness and the beauty
 Of the love in a Mother's face...
 And, when we think of our Mother,
 We draw nearer to God above,
 For only God in His Greatness
 Could fashion a Mother's Love.



History of the POW/MIA Bracelets

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

The bracelets first were introduced on Veterans Day, November 11, 1970, 50 years ago. They were the brainchild of Kay Hunter and Carol Bates Brown, college students in Southern California, who were part of a group called VIVA (Voices in Vital America.) They wanted to find a way to bring attention to the U.S. prisoners of war in Vietnam and those missing in the conflict.

Do you remember these nickel-plated bracelets? Did you wear one?
 I have still a bracelet of my POW-MIA serviceman, William Michael Copley.

After going online after all these years, I found all about my friend William Michael Copley. I will share this with you...

William Michael Copley was a staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army; Unit: Command and Control North Military Assistance...Command-Vietnam Studies and Observation...
 Group 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces. Date of Birth: 22 May 1949, Columbus, Ohio. Date of Loss, 16 November 1968 in Laos. Status: Missing in Action. (He was 19 years old.)

On 13 November 1968, SSgt. Roger T. Loe, team leader, and William M. Copley, assistant team leader; and an unspecified number of indigenous team members, comprised Recon Team Vermont, a reconnaissance patrol that was operating deep in enemy held territory. This area of extreme southeastern Laos was considered a major artery of the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail feeding communist troops and material into the hotly contested tri-border where Laos, South Vietnam and Cambodia meet.

Ambushed by an enemy force of unknown size, Copley was seriously wounded in the initial burst of fire. As he was hit, he cried out to SSgt Loe, "Help me, I'm hit!" Roger Loe immediately moved to William's position to check his condition. He noted that the bullet entered his upper left shoulder and exited through the middle of his back.

After applying a pressure bandage, SSgt. Loe carried William on his back for a short distance toward the patrol's hastily established perimeter. While struggling to carry him over uneven ground, Loe tripped and fell. He immediately



began administering first aid to Will and continued it until he believed his assistant team leader’s face showed signs of death. Under intense pressure from hostile forces, the team leader was forced to withdraw to protective cover leaving William behind. The remainder of the team, including the team leader, was able to escape the ambush site and evade to safety.

Over the next two days a search and rescue team were sent in to rescue/recover William Shipley. Search efforts were terminated not finding William and he was officially declared Missing in Action.

William Copley is among nearly 600 Americans who disappeared in Laos. Many of these men were known to be alive on the ground. The Laotians admitted holding “tens of tens” of American Prisoners of War, but these men were never negotiated for either by direct negotiation between our countries or through the Paris Peace Accords which ended the War in Vietnam since Laos was not a party to that agreement.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, more than 3.4 million service members were deployed in the conflict. Of those, 684 POWs returned home, most of them in 1973 as the war was winding down. But as of Sept. 24, 2020, there are still 1,585 Americans missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict A few more are identified and returned every year, thanks to modern DNA testing.

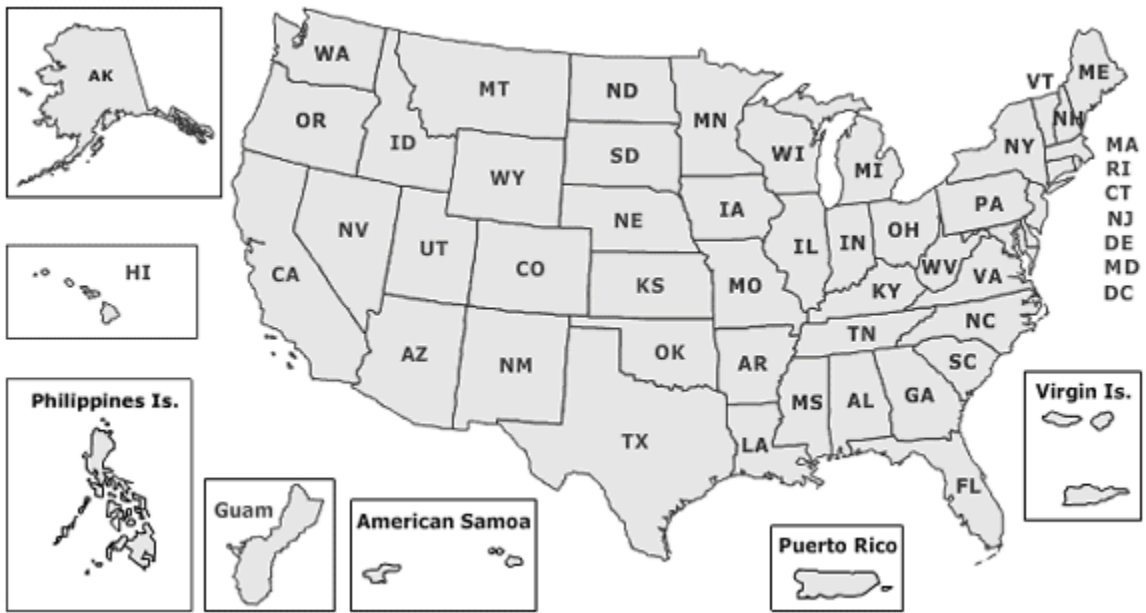
If you wore a POW/MIA bracelet and want to know what happened to your serviceman, visit pownetwork.org/bracelet or dpaa.mil/Our-Missing/Vietnam-War/Vietnam-war-POW-MIA, or as I did, I just put my serviceman’s name in with POW-MIA, and you will be able to find out what happened to your serviceman like I did. Let’s never forget our missing servicemen who served our country. Remember them especially on our military holidays and celebrate them.

National Cemeteries

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Cemetery Administration maintains 155 national cemeteries in 42 states and Puerto Rico as well as 34 soldier's lots and monument sites. Please note that there is not a VA national cemetery in every state.

State Veterans Cemeteries

Many states have established state veterans cemeteries. Eligibility is similar to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries, but may include residency requirements. Even though they may have been established or improved with Government funds through VA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program, state veterans cemeteries are run solely by the states.



<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/listcem.asp>



AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION



Luxembourg American Cemetery is the final resting place of more than 5,000 Americans who gave their life in World War II. Photo Credit: Warrick Page/American Battle Monuments Commission.

The American Battle Monuments Commission, established by Congress in 1923, is an agency of the executive branch of the federal government. ABMC — guardian of America’s overseas commemorative cemeteries and memorials — honors the service, achievements and sacrifice of U.S. Armed Forces.

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to commemorate the U.S. armed forces by maintaining the national legacy of their service in the world's consciousness.

Our Vision

Our vision is to increase the public's awareness of ABMC's commemorative sites and services, increasing ABMC's commemorative coverage and more effectively preserving our commemorative sites to ABMC's exceptional standard.

Our Mission

The American Battle Monuments Commission honors the service of the armed forces by creating and maintaining memorial sites, offering commemorative services, and facilitating the education of their legacy to future generations.

Our Core Values

Excellence

Duty

Courage

Service

<https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials>

Editor’s note: My uncle 1st Lt. Harry N. Alexander rests here <https://www.abmc.gov/decedent-search/alexander%3Dharry-0> RIP Uncle Dutch

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.

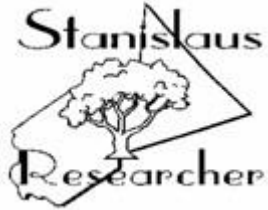
Board meeting: 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month Ridgeway's Restaurant, 2401 E Orangeburg Ave, Modesto, CA

2020 Officers		2020 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Beverly Graham	Four Generation Charts	Michelle Barnes
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We have 77 members for 2021

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



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