



## Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

September 2021

Volume 43, Number 9

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16 September 2021 7:00 P.M.  
 The St. Andrew's Society of Modesto will perform the Kirkin of the Tartan to the membership. This event will have bagpipes and Scottish dress and will expound upon the reason we hold the Kirkin of the Tartan.

### Presidents Message

by Beverly Graham

Johnny Clem

In May of 1861, 9-year-old John Lincoln “Johnny” Clem ran away from his home in Newark, Ohio, to join the Union Army, but found the Army was not interested in signing on a 9 year old boy when the commander of the 3rd Ohio Regiment told him he “wasn’t enlisting infants,” and turned him down. Clem tried the 22nd Michigan Regiment next, and its commander told him the same. Determined, Clem tagged after the regiment, acted out the role of a drummer boy, and was allowed to remain. Though still not regularly enrolled, he performed camp duties and received a soldier’s pay of \$13 a month, a sum collected and donated by the regiment’s officers.

The next April, at Shiloh, Clem’s drum was smashed by an artillery round, and he became a minor news item as “Johnny Shiloh, The Smallest Drummer”. A year later, at the Battle Of Chickamauga, he rode an artillery caisson to the front and wielded a musket trimmed to his size. In one of the Union retreats a Confederate officer ran after the cannon Clem rode with, and yelled, “Surrender you damned little Yankee!” Johnny shot him dead. This pluck won for Clem national attention and the name “Drummer Boy of Chickamauga.”

Clem stayed with the Army through the war, served as a courier, and was wounded twice. Between Shiloh and Chickamauga, he was regularly enrolled in the service, began receiving his own pay, and was soon-after promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He was only 12 years old. After the Civil War he tried to enter West Point but was turned down because of his slim education. A personal appeal to President Ulysses S. Grant, his commanding general at Shiloh, won him a 2nd Lieutenant’s appointment in the Regular Army on 18 December 1871, and in 1903 he attained the rank of Colonel and served as Assistant Quartermaster General. He retired from the Army as a Major General in 1916, having served an astounding 55 years.

General Clem died in San Antonio, Texas on 13 May 1937, exactly 3 months shy of his 86th birthday, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



John Lincoln "Johnny" Clem

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September Program

By Vicky Wolff

The St. Andrew's Society of Modesto will perform the Kirkin of the Tartan to the membership. This event will have bagpipes and Scottish dress and will expound upon the reason we hold the Kirkin of the Tartan. This will be a wonderful presentation!!

A preview of this tradition can be found at:

[https://www.scottishtartansmuseum.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=170857&module\\_id=289926](https://www.scottishtartansmuseum.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=170857&module_id=289926)



## Stanislaus County COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard

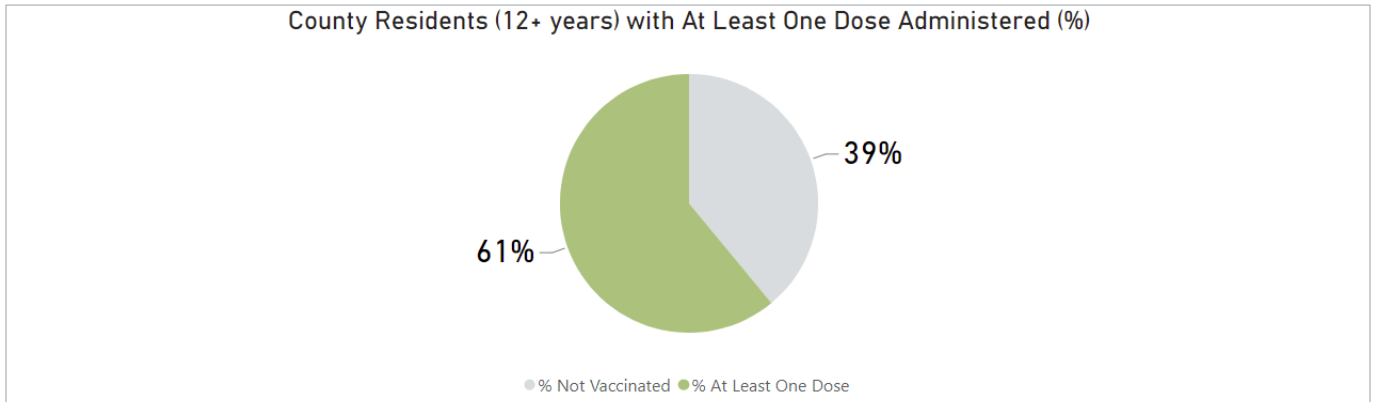


**Note:** Not included in these counts are vaccines provided directly through a federal program for residents and staff of long term care facilities such as Skilled Nursing Facilities, and some directly provided quantities to hospital systems. The information contained on this website will expand as 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



<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=evJrIjoiZjJlNDQ3Y2E0N2NjYi00YTFlhLWEyMzQ0NjgzMzY4Y2E1Y2U4IiwidCI6ImU3M2I3N2Q4LTNkYmQ0NGQ0ZS04ZDgvLWYzMTUzNjcwMzU2ZCJ9&pageName=ReportSection>

*Exercising an abundance of caution in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic Millie Starr has not been with us but she continues to contribute. The following are her contributions to our September issue of our Researcher.*

### Millie's Minutes

By Millie Starr

### Decision Time

Pansy Willburn was a wonderful teacher, an inspiration to all who knew her.

Taking her beginners class the first of several. One of her first instructions to all of us newbys, well dummies, was:

What is your goal?

Without a goal how will you recognize when you have achieved it?

So we all went home from class and pondered the issue. I am sure many of us lost sleep that night, at least I did.

In my infinite intelligence, you may spell that stupidity, I decided that since all of my father's Hunter family was said to be from Ireland I would set a goal of when they first set foot on this continent. I was halfway there already. Already.

Unfortunately, I had fallen into the first snare, trap, pit or whatever. Methuselah might have been a brother to my grandmother on the Dawson side if she was born in Ireland.

First rule for me now: do not accept what family says unless and until you can prove it or disprove it. This applies to what others write in their trees online too.

Commonly I say to myself, Is that Grandma sez? or are there facts to support it?

But I did stick with the same goal and after nearly forty years of serious research, teaching classes, and going to Salt Lake City around twenty times, I am still working to achieve 'my goal'.

When you go home tonight, figure out where you are going, California? South? East? Continental North America? Or Europe, Asia, Africa or or or?

When you go home tonight, decide what you are doing.

Are you collecting names?

Are you doing strict genealogy, hatched, matched, and dispatched?

Or are you studying the lives and times and stories of your family's history. This makes you a true family historian.

Good luck, and sleep well, whatever your decision.

### **Millie's Minutes No. 5**

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.

### **Preserving your memories or research.**

Last month I asked you to bring samples of how you preserved your family history--not just the hatched matched and dispatched, but any and all of the ways you have saved this for generations to come.

On your table you will see a sample of one of the ways to share an article or whatever for easy distribution. I make numerous copies of many of these as I create them so that by sharing with many persons who could or should be interested, some will survive. This last year, I had one I put in every stocking for kids, grands and great grands.

Of course if you forget the statement

#### **When a person dies, a library burns to the ground!**

perhaps your grands will remember your grey hair, when their grands ask questions.

During my research I became excited by the number of RW vets there were in the ancestry of my children. So I prepared this book, with complete proof and by their directions was accepted for the library in SLC. ( show how the names are followed down to my great grands.)

My other tribute and treasure is this book of letters on my father's side of the family. I am proud of the work I did, I typed each one so it is readable. The handwriting and grammar are not easy for modern eyes, let alone young folks who have not been taught cursive.

One more way, and I did not bring-too big too heavy, are scrapbooks. Maybe Bev will do a class on them, she is a pro. I have learned so much from her. Remember flash drives etc. These can even go in your safe deposit box.

## Newspapers

In the days when the folks we are eagerly seeking data lived, NEWSPAPERS were full of information about all kinds of odd stuff!

Unlike today's papers unconnected to local communities, and carrying almost nothing except sports, politics and crime, yesteryears gave us lots of little mentions, even of the often very unimportant folks.

Because they usually did not have lots of "national" items, they filled the pages with local news. Births, deaths, marriages, minor accidents, visitors to local families. Anything to fill those empty pages. And to sell the papers. Boy scout meeting, etc. I have the papers from the day of my husband's grandfathers birth, and the one from his mother's birth with the item about her birth clipped out of the front page.

But one item is to dream of. In "The Valley Citizen" for Monday March 2, 1936, I see a large column, called the Voice of the People. The heading is titled, 'Berry Writes a Biography of a Friend.' This starts out with, "A few days ago, one of Modesto's oldest pioneers passed to his reward." This column continues for a little over 36 inches, relating the info he had gained in a lengthy interview.

It relates almost every event of his life, and of his family. Though he did not marry, he had parents and siblings and lots of story to tell.

Berry tells much about the times, gives his birth as 26 October 1852, and watched his father march away to the civil conflict, 'never to return.' At 12 he started to work in the cotton mills and before he was 16 he was able to replace grown men. A captain of a sailing ship asked him if he wanted a job on his ship. George said yes and they headed to California from Maine. Sailing on his 16th birthday, never to return.

He tells of the adventure when the Captain told him to catch a shark when they were moving around the Horn. How he thought the shark caught him. LOL

The details he tells in this account are many and more than any researcher could dream of. His decision not to go on with the ship when it sailed across the Pacific, and to stay and bring his family, mother et al to join him. He never married and had no children, but his sister who was born just a few days before his father died in the southern prison camp, came and met and married and became my husband's first Modesto area family.

## DNA Truth? or Consequences?

D N A is proof of identity in court! But!

How many ways, can a relationship complicate, confuse or terrify the novice when they get the detailed info back?

Tear wrenching if you are a true gentle human or Roaring laughter if you have a bit more knowledge of family and DNA

Dee my niece received a DNA kit for Christmas. The results arrived with a simple explanation of the basics, leaving her way way out in left field.

Because I am her aunt, her mama's little sister, she immediately contacted me. She was not sure if she should now call me Grandmother since that is what the DNA said.

I glanced through it and saw the folks who had close relationships and was not bothered at all. I was of course taking into consideration the oddball connection between Dee and me. I also knew that percentage was the means of projecting a relationship. The area of about 20 % would be okay for grandmother. But I was not yet sixteen when this girl was born! How precocious am I?

The problem of course lies in the nature of the many tricks our ancestors play on us. But this one, I could easily unravel. It lies in the confusions caused by Dee's mother AND father and our nutsy relationships.

My older half-sister was on my mother's side. My mother married a second time. My sister's father was a Carrothers, mine a Hunter.

WWII stepped into our lives and while we were living in San Francisco during the war, my cousin, son of a Hunter mom, had his ship, blown out from under him and he had been assigned to Treasure Island. He came and spent a lot of time with his Hunter uncle my Dad, and our family.

He was my cousin, but no relation to my sister. They began a romance lasting for the rest of their lives. Dolores was the second daughter born to them. So he became my brother in law as well as my cousin. But this is not the end of the story, his mother Martha was one of seven children of Sarah Dawson and John Hunter. Later after John was gone, Sarah married his brother James. Their marriage brought three more Hunter siblings, one of whom was my father. I do not know how they are to be considered--half brothers and sisters? or first cousins since their fathers were brothers? But the blood strain might be different, lessened or thickened by their marriage?

After some discussion Dee and I decided that our relationship was probably not in the DNA play book-even in an addendum.

If this connection had been a few years back, it could easily drive any researcher crazy. It did so at the 50th Anniversary party of Miles and Sis, when I proclaimed I was the only person there except their children who was related by blood to the bride and the groom!

DNA does dig out the secrets, but may well provide other problems for you!

### American Indian Code Talkers

From the National WWII Museum

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/american-indian-code-talkers>

The idea of using American Indians who were fluent in both their traditional tribal language and in English to send secret messages in battle was first put to the test in World War I with the Choctaw Telephone Squad and other Native communications experts and messengers. However, it wasn't until World War II that the US military developed a specific policy to recruit and train American Indian speakers to become code talkers.

What is a code talker? A code talker is the name given to American Indians who used their tribal language to send secret communications on the battlefield. Most people have heard of the famous Navajo (or Diné) code talkers who used their traditional language to transmit secret Allied messages in the Pacific theater of combat during World War II. But did you know that there were at least 14 other Native nations, including the Cherokee and Comanche, that served as code talkers in both the Pacific and Europe during the war? The idea of using American Indians who were fluent in both their traditional tribal language and in English to send secret messages in battle was first put to the test in World War I with the Choctaw Telephone Squad and other Native communications experts and messengers. However, it wasn't until World War II that the US military developed a specific policy to recruit and train American Indian speakers to become code talkers. The irony of being asked to use their Native languages to fight on behalf of America was not lost on code talkers, many of whom had been forced to attend government or religious-run boarding schools that tried to assimilate Native peoples and would punish students for speaking in their traditional language.

The US Army was the first branch of the military that began recruiting code talkers from places like Oklahoma in 1940. Other branches, such as the US Marines and Navy, followed a few years later, and the first class of 29 Navajo code talker US Marine recruits completed its training in 1942. Apart from basic training, these men had to develop and memorize a unique military code using their mostly unwritten language, and were placed in a guarded room until this task was completed.



The first type of code they created, Type 1 code, consisted of 26 Navajo terms that stood for individual English letters that could be used to spell out a word. For instance, the Navajo word for "ant," wo-la-chee, was used to represent the letter "a" in English.

Type 2 code contained words that could be directly translated from English into Navajo, and the code talkers also developed a dictionary of 211 terms (later expanded to 411) for military words and names that didn't originally exist in the Navajo language.

For example, since there was no existing Navajo word for “submarine,” the code talkers agreed to use the term besh-lo, which translates to “iron fish.”

Most code talkers were assigned in pairs to a military unit. During battle, one person would operate the portable radio while the second person would relay and translate the messages in the Native language and English. Their work was highly dangerous because Japanese soldiers targeted officers, medics, and radiomen, so code talkers had to keep moving as they transmitted their messages. The work of hundreds of code talkers was essential to Allied victory in World War II, and they were present at many important battles, including at Utah Beach during the D-Day invasion in France, and at Iwo Jima in the Pacific. In fact, 5th Marine Division signal officer Major Howard Connor stated, “Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima.”



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Jima.” Despite their heroic contributions during the war, American Indian code talkers were told that they had to keep their work secret. They couldn’t even tell their family members about their communications work. Since the codes that they developed remained unbroken, the US military wanted to keep the program classified in case the code talkers were needed again in future wars. Even when the WWII code talker program was declassified in 1968, national recognition of code talkers was slow. While there was some recognition in the 1970s and 1980s, it wasn’t until 2001 that Congressional Gold Medals were given to the Navajo and other code talkers.

The Last Navajo Code Talker **Joe Vandever Sr.** died Jan. 31, 2020, at the age of 96

Rest in Peace; a prayer for an extraordinary special group of our Greatest Generation.



Also see

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code\\_talker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code_talker) for a list of other Native American tribes that participated in this Native American effort

August 14 now a recognized in Arizona as National Navajo Code Talkers Day

<https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2021/03/national-navajo-code-talkers-day-become-official-state-holiday>



October 12, 2020

Hi Genealogical Society Members,

Due to Co-Vid 19 your Board of Directors did a lot of discussing on how we could fundraise and keep our society running well financially through this challenging time. It was decided that See's Candy for the holidays is the best way to do that this year. It's important for all of us to help in this effort.

You can find its list of seasonal products with prices on our "GSSC Candy Shop" link at:  
[https://www.yumraising.com/secure/genealogysos\\_gssc\\_candy\\_store69/candy?h=JudByr3829](https://www.yumraising.com/secure/genealogysos_gssc_candy_store69/candy?h=JudByr3829)

Please make your choices from our **GSSC Candy Shop** using its directions.

For orders of more than \$65.00, your shipping is free. Just complete your order online. The order will be shipped to you directly, and soon after our GSSC organization will get credit for it.

If you would like to have free shipping, but your order is under \$65.00, find another person with whom to combine your orders.

See's prefers to send out all orders by November 16, 2020. So order early!

If you have a family member or friend, who would like to buy See's candies for their friends or extended family, just copy the product price list for them and use the same directions in this letter to order from the same site.

Happy Holiday Gifting!  
Judy Byrne  
The GSSC Board





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.

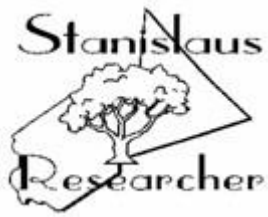
Board meeting:                    7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month Ridgeway's Restaurant, 2401 E Orangeburg Ave, Modesto, CA

2020 Officers		2020 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	Beverly Graham	Four Generation Charts	Michelle Barnes
1st Vice President	Vicky Wolff	Fundraisers	Committee Chairs
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		Research Salt Lake City	Vacant
		Resources	Vicky Wolff
		Special Collections Room	Jackie Niemeyer
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Sunshine	Karen Souza

Updated 8-23-21.

**We have 80 members for 2021**

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



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