



## Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

January 2022

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20 January 2022 7:00 P.M.

**History of the Quakers**  
 The Religious Society of Friends began as a proto-evangelical Christian movement in England in the mid-17th century in Lancashire. Members are informally known as Quakers, as they were said "to tremble in the way of the Lord".

### Presidents Message

by David C. Wolff

I just spent a wonderful ½ hour re-reading two issues of the Stanislaus Researcher from the period of July 1998 to December 2007, when I was the editor. For almost ten years, except for two years I was President, (the first time), the privilege of being your editor was mine. Such a difference between then and now.

As the new year begins I again have the privilege of being your President. I have no illusions I can lead our group alone. We have a great group of volunteers on the Board of Directors to take me by the hand and lead me in the correct direction. And, I, in turn, will lean on all of them.

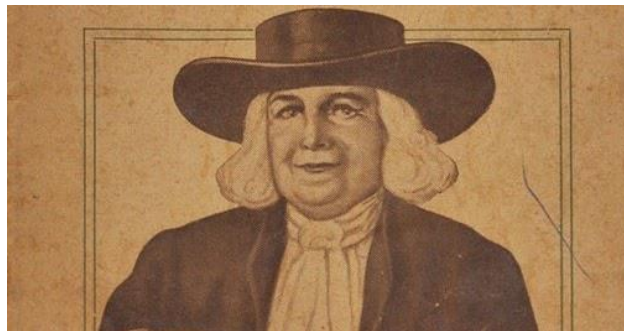
Hopefully, the health climate in our country will soon have made a change allowing us to actively search for new, and returning members. We had 323 members in July 1998 and 231 in December 2007. Let’s work to try to return to previous levels.

### January Program

#### History of the Quakers

by Vicky Wolff

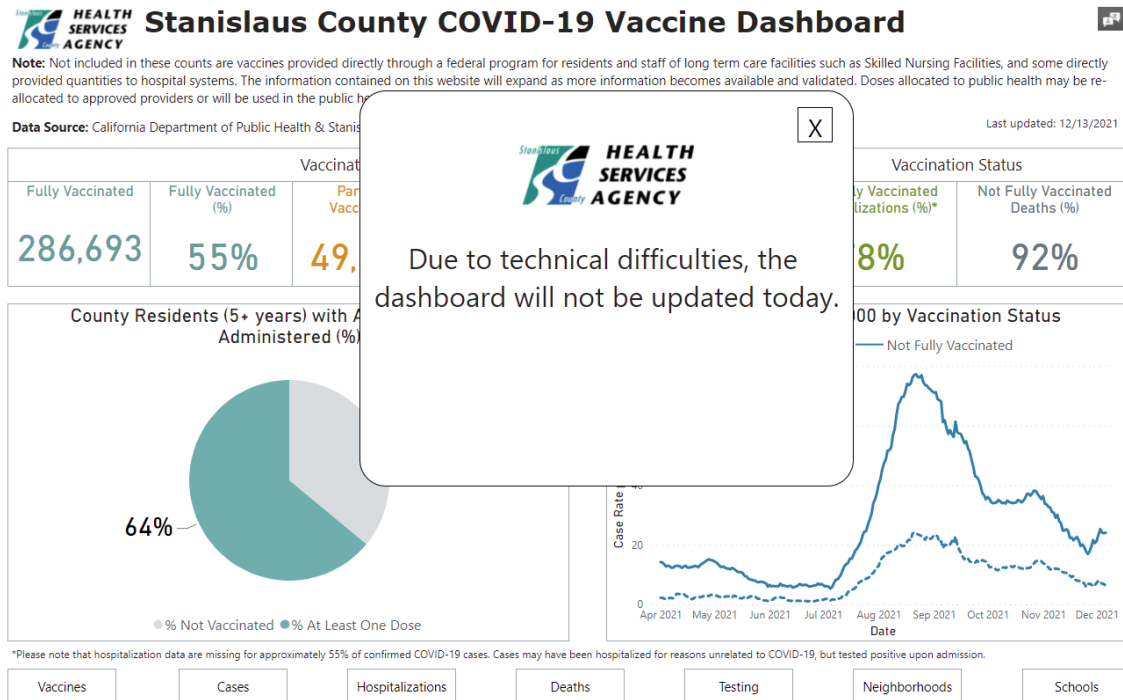
The Religious Society of Friends began as a proto-evangelical Christian movement in England in the mid-17th century in Lancashire. Members are informally known as Quakers, as they were said "to tremble in the way of the Lord". The movement in its early days faced strong opposition and persecution, but it continued to expand across the British Isles and then in the Americas and Africa. The Quakers, though few in numbers, have been influential in the history of reform. The colony of Pennsylvania was founded by William Penn in 1682, as a safe place for Quakers to live and practice their faith. Quakers have been a significant part of the movements for the abolition of slavery, to promote equal rights for women, and peace. They have also promoted education and the humane treatment of prisoners and the mentally ill, through the founding or reforming of various institutions. Quaker entrepreneurs played a central role in forging the Industrial Revolution, especially in England and Pennsylvania.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Quakers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Quakers)

2022 GSSC Dues are now payable! Contact Maybelle Allen [gsscformed1968@gmail.com](mailto:gsscformed1968@gmail.com)

What was found when I attempted to update the Stanislaus County Covid-19 information today!



<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoizjIjNDQ3Y2EtN2NjYi00YTFhLWEyMzQtNjgzMzY4Y2E1Y2U4IiwidCI6ImU3M2I3N2Q4LTNkYmQtNGQ0ZS04ZDgyLWYzMTUzNjcwMzU2ZCJ9&pageName=ReportSection>

What is Tapestry Supposed to Mean?

by Vicky Wolff

How can anyone else know really what happened in your lives and work, when they didn't live through it? "Why don't you write a biography while you are both still living and can talk things over, as well as search all through the collection of letters and papers you've saved?" This comes from our children, in one context or another, at one time or another, and is constantly shoved aside with, "I don't want to write a biography. The thing that fascinates me really is the weaving of lives together, the fabulous way God works in history, while at the same time people's choices cause changes in history, for good or bad." As time goes on and thoughts whirl around in our minds we become more concrete in discussion, and idea emerges: "Why not write a book that weaves something of history together with glimpses of people's lives, recognized in often short flashes of understanding, along with glimpses of crucial choices made which changed the direction of life for one-then for thousands of other people affected by that one?"

Tapestry. You are a thread, and I am a thread. As we affect each other's ideas, physical beings, spiritual understanding, or material possessions, or as we influence each other's attitudes-creativity, courage, determination to keep on, moods, priorities, understanding spiritually, intellectually, emotionally-we are at the same time affecting history. History is different

because you have lived, and because I have lived. We have each caused ripples that will never end, and we continue to cause ripples. In the picture brought to our minds by our Tapestry.

We are being woven together, threads that are important to a pattern, the pattern of the history of our lifetimes, but also the pattern we affect in the future of history. Tapestry applies to the togetherness of many lives woven together affecting each other.

Tapestry...writing about our ancestors and family members. Please join the Genealogical Society Writing Group, as we write and share our families with each other. We meet every second Thursday of every month at 10:00 AM at the home of Joann MacDonald, 412 Belfast Ave., Modesto. Her phone # is 521-2140.

**Stanislaus County Library Downtown Modesto**

by Jackie Niemeyer

**GENEALOGY HELP AVAILABLE ON MONDAYS FROM NOON to 4 PM IN THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ROOM AT THE STANISLAUS COUNTY LIBRARY AT 1500 I STREET IN MODESTO**

Whether you are a beginner and need help getting started or have hit a brick wall in your research come see us. We have a great selection of genealogy materials along with volunteers to help you. The library also has free wi-fi available. Come check us out!

Jackie Niemeyer [jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net](mailto:jackie.niemeyer@prodigy.net)



**California Dreaming! We are very excited to be planning the in-person NGS 2022 Family History Conference, 24-28 May 2022, at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, in Sacramento, California. The conference will feature more than 150 new genealogy lectures on a wide variety of topics.**

Though we fervently hope that the COVID-19 pandemic will have subsided by May 2022, we do ask you to review our [COVID-19 disclaimer](#).

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/NGS-2022-Conf-Anncmnt-Bro-R2-1.pdf>  
<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

**2022 GSSC Dues are now  
Allen**

**payable! Contact Maybelle  
[gsscformed1968@gmail.com](mailto:gsscformed1968@gmail.com)**



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## Sad Society News from Tuolumne Genealogical

### In Memory: Phyllis Hembree

Submitted by Kristine Childres

On Saturday August 28 we lost a friend and past President of our~ genealogy society, Phyllis Hembree. Phyllis moved to Sonora from Modesto in 1965. At that time, she was a member of Stanislaus County Genealogy Society, which I believe she stayed as a member even after she joined our society in 1993. One of the first things she introduced us to was Salt Lake. She had been going to Salt Lake with the Stanislaus group and wanted our society to have their own experience in the mecca of genealogy. Our first trip was in the spring of 1994. Brenda Hix and I were new members and had no idea what to expect as we were true beginners. Phyllis told us what to bring, what to expect and instructed us on how to prepare for our first trip. She also told us how to dress. We were to wear white pants with our first genealogy T-shirt in light blue. We made a statement not only in the airport but at the library too. She

arranged the flight, bus, porters, hotel and group dinner on Wednesday night which became a tradition ever

since. Pat Perry doesn't remember what year she went on her first trip to Salt Lake. She does remember

finding out that there were two more places for Salt Lake that year. She told Phyllis that she had to check with work to see if she could get the time off. Phyllis gave her until 10:00 am the next morning to decide. That was Phyllis, to the point. Once Pat got to Salt Lake Phyllis told her where everyone met for lunch, where we all sat, and what time dinner was. Phyllis could be thoughtful and kind.

Her first position in our society was as Registrar 1994 to 1995 then Vice President in 1995-1996 and finally President from 1996 to 1997. She was a determined, energetic, great organizer, wonderful with crafts and full of ideas. One time we had a speaker who was coming from the Oregon-California trails association to talk to us. Phyllis decided we would have dinner for him at Sonora Hills, so she called Cheryl and me up to come to her house, to make wagon trains for the table settings. She always had new and interesting ideas. Phyllis had several friends and contacts with the Stanislaus Genealogy Society. She used these connections to find speakers for our general meetings who had knowledge of various topics on genealogy. This was a gift to our society as there were numerous subjects and discussions that increased our knowledge making us better genealogists. She would also contact speakers coming for the annual genealogy event in San Francisco. Since they were coming out anyway, would they like to hold a seminar in Sonora, California? We had to pay for the speaker but not for the airline flight. Clever idea. I remember E. Wade Hone who spoke on "Land and Property Research" also Henry Z. Jones who spoke about "Palatine families."

In 2003 Phyllis and her husband Grant Hembree moved to the Rogue Valley in Oregon. A new adventure for them both. Grant died in 2006 and Phyllis returned to Sonora. She continued to dabble in genealogy but as she said to me, "I am burned out right now."

Cheryl Maddox stayed in contact with Phyllis until her death. Phyllis would ask Cheryl to look up someone or some place that she was interested in regarding genealogy. She was still sharp, had a great laugh and did a great deal to make our society better.

Phyllis, I hope all your genealogy questions are being answered now.

Goodbye my friend and thank you!



Phyllis kept close contact with our society and frequently shared with our society - Editor

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# The World's Largest Family History Conference

A FREE virtual event 3-5 March 2022

**Sign Up Now for FREE**

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/home>

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## Where have we been, where are we going?

by Lewis M. Ruddick

I was looking for information to provide you with something meaningful in our newsletter. I looked to several of my usual resources with above in mind. I finally did a Google search and out popped Roberta Estes' Blog which addressed exactly what I was looking for. As most of you know I began my genealogical pursuit before modern computers. I made my first genealogical computer search using IBM cards and had to wait several days for that long print out of results. It was exactly what I was searching for and thus began my use of both computer research and library research. I was a university police officer and had full access to the CSUS library when it was closed. One night during the holiday campus closure I was looking through the bookstacks for a specific text and believing I was the only person in the building when a voice boomed out demanding to know I was and what I was doing in his library. It was J. Carlyle Parker who was at that time the head of the university library. I told him what I was searching for and he told me I was in the wrong section and I needed to look for a specific book which he described in detail. He returned to his office and I searched out the book. When I found it I learned why he was so familiar with the text. He had written it. Thus began a friendship which until his death. Carlyle encouraged me to adopt Stanislaus county's US Genweb page and to communicate with Millie Starr for accurate information to post to the website. I did both and that resulted in my connection to our Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County.

During this time genealogical research was accelerating at an incredible pace. The internet exploded upon us with its resources and in short order along came genetic genealogy with yDNA, mtDNA and autosomal DNA. Like most of you I was now along for the ride.

It is with this mindset that I looked at Roberta's Blog article and immediately recognized that she was writing about the very thing I was thinking.

The following is from the second section of Roberta's Blog article:

### **Genetic Genealogy at 20 Years: Where Have We Been, Where Are We Going and What's Important?** January 4, 2021

#### **Reflection**

This seems like a good point to reflect a bit.

In the beginning – twenty years ago, there were two companies who stuck their toes in the consumer DNA testing water – Oxford Ancestors and Family Tree DNA. About the same time, Sorenson Genomics and GeneTree were also entering that space, although Sorenson was a nonprofit. Today, of those, only FamilyTreeDNA remains, having adapted with the changing times – adding more products, testing, and sophistication.

Bryan Sykes who founded Oxford Ancestors announced in 2018 that he was retiring to live abroad and subsequently passed away in 2020. The website still exists, but the company has announced that they have ceased sales and the database will remain open until Sept 30, 2021.

James Sorenson died in 2008 and the assets of Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation, including the Sorenson database, were sold to Ancestry in 2012. Eventually, Ancestry removed the public database in 2015.

Ancestry dabbled in Y and mtDNA for a while, too, destroying that database in 2014.

Other companies, too many to remember or mention, have come and gone as well. Some of the various company names have been recycled or purchased, but aren't the same companies today.

In the DNA space, it was keep up, change, die or be sold. Of course, there was the small matter of being able to sell enough DNA kits to make enough money to stay in business at all. DNA processing equipment and a lab are expensive. Not just the equipment, but also the expertise.

To keep up to date with current genealogy I highly recommend that each of you go to Roberta Este's Blog on your browser and mark it for future reference. She largely writes from our point of view.

<https://dna-explained.com/2021/01/04/genetic-genealogy-at-20-years-where-have-we-been-where-are-we-going-and-whats-important/>

**Did She Have a Dower?**

By Millie Starr

Widow ladies have a dower right. The rules differed from one area to another, but in most areas the wife was entitled to a 1/3 part of the estate. Usually this was shared with her children and did not become an issue. But I want to share a dower settlement in Essex County Massachusetts. Date 12 September 1799.

This was not recorded but found in a file of ‘loose papers.’

I will skip the preliminaries.....Have set off to Mrs. Margaret Brown, as her right of dower in said estate as follows, viz. - part of the dwelling house, to wit, the front lower room, a back room and bedroom; also the closet at the northerly side of the kitchen, that if Mrs. Brown see fit to open a back door for an entry, also the western garret; and at the northeast corner of the cellar, a piece of eight feet square, and one third part of the arch under the chimney, with the privilege at all times to use the front door, entries and stairs from the cellar to the garret, also the outer cellar doors and steps and a passageway of four feet wide to the northeast part of the cellar, and a way of three feet wide from the stairs round the chimney to the western garret, likewise to have right to open in the front room chimney the southerly oven now belonging to the kitchen for her own use and benefit AT HER COST; also one quarter part of the pew in the reverend Doctor Barnard’s meeting house; and part of the barn, to wit, twelve feet in the lower part from westerly end, with the land under and adjoining beginning at twelve feet from northwest corner of said barn, then running westerly to the southeast corner of the NECESSARY HOUSE on a straight line to A. Oliver’s land, then southerly to land of B. Cheever, then north to the bounds first mentioned; also the privilege to use and take water from the well at all times, and to have a privilege of passing to and repassing to and from the necessary house in a way of four feet wide, and to make use of the necessary house at all times in common with the proprietors of the other part of said house; the yard southward and westward of said house to be used by said Margaret and her assigns, with the other proprietors, and is bounded as follows, beginning on Winter Street fourteen feet southerly from the southeasterly corner of said house, then running westerly to the east side of the well to land of Thomas Hovey, as the fence now stands.

Oh and by the way this is all one sentence including six lines that I did not include at the beginning. I am not sure what this says about the relationship between Margaret and her son in laws of daughter in laws that this was necessary.

**Your 2022 GSSC Officers**

Photo by Joyce Hickman



Bev Graham making the introduction of the 2022 GSSC officers.

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**For those of you who use GEDMatch learn about GEDMarch’s new Newsletter:**



December 2021

## Member Newsletter



Happy Holidays, GEDmatch Family!

We have another newsletter packed with great content you'll find of interest, from articles on new tools to information on giving the gift of GEDmatch.

In this issue (keep scrolling to see the content):

- NEW Tool: Relationship Prediction by Briton Nicholson
- Meet Briton Nicholson
- Give the Gift of Tier 1
- GEDmatch Success Story from Cathy C.
- November & December Success Story Drawing Tier 1 Winners
- From the GEDmatch and Genealogy Community

Enjoy this month's newsletter! Thanks for being a part of the GEDmatch family. Our community is growing every day thanks to your support.

The GEDmatch Team

New Relationship Prediction Tool & the Latest Site Improvements

We are excited to bring this accurate relationship prediction tool developed by Briton Nicholson that will be integrated throughout GEDmatch. The first step of integration is on the One-to-Many Tier 1 and is now live. Additional integrations are planned for the near future.

Read about the tool on Brit's site

We've fixed bugs and made performance improvements to the GEDmatch site. Check out the full details via the link below.

Learn about this new tool & site improvements

Verogen, Inc.  
11111 Flintkote Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92121

[https://gedmatch.launchnotes.io/announcements/relationship-prediction-new-tool-the-latest-site-improvements?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=dec\\_2021\\_member\\_email](https://gedmatch.launchnotes.io/announcements/relationship-prediction-new-tool-the-latest-site-improvements?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dec_2021_member_email)



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Address changes: Send address, email and phone number changes to Maybelle Allen at:  
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 Email: [gsscformed1968@gmail.com](mailto:gsscformed1968@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

2022 Officers		2022 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	David Wolff	Four Generation Charts	Vacant
1st Vice President	Vicky Wolff	Fundraisers	Committee Chairs
2nd Vice President	Jackie Niemeyer	Historian	Valyrie Jevrt
Secretary	Pam Atherstone	Membership	Maybelle Allen
Treasurer	Roxie Ferrari	Newsletter & Webpage	Lewis M. Ruddick
Director at Large 1	Vacant	Publicity	Vicky Wolff
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	Vacant	Research & Publication	Millie Starr
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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 12-16-21.

We have 27 members for 2022

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



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