



Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County

October 2022

Volume 44 Number 10

Message from your President	1
October Program	1
Programs and Seminar	2
Photos from September Seminar Presentation	2
Carolyn Kerr Obituary	3
Margaret Joyce Evans Obituary	4
RootsTech 2023.	5
Proposed 2023 GSSC Officers and Board of Directors	6
September Meeting Photos	6
GSSC Cookbook orders	7
International Festival	8
1950 Census Update	9
Writing Assignment for October 2022 et al.....	10

October 20, 2022
 7:00 P.M. We will try again to get our September Modesto Chinatown presentation back.

Presidents Message

By David Wolff

From adversity can come gladness. The program Vicky had planned for the September meeting could not be presented as one of the participants was not available, so on the spur of the moment; she decided to cover a number of subjects within our Society. As it turned out, with participation from a number of members, it was a great meeting. Roxie had a great story about her vacation and the finding of family. Another member told about how she had to give up a daughter. Lewis and I found we are distantly related through the name Hopkins.

With the end of the year coming swiftly, much will be happening to pull us away from our doing research. If you are like me, even if I'm not actively working in front of the computer, quite often my mind goes to such and such a great-great grandparent and how they lived, worked, moved died and lived their lives. This is genealogy! May this next month be open to your finding someone new in your line(s).

October Program

By Vicki Wolff

Our seminar was held last week and what a seminar it was! Our professional "passionate genealogist," William E. (Bill) Cole, gave this seminar on "Researching England's Records and Ancestors Great and Small." He also talked about his Mayflower Ancestors, and guess what...David Wolff and Lewis Ruddick had family connections with Bill.

If you missed this seminar, I am sorry. It held so much information and the fact that Bill told stories about his family from this research to make it very personal...we all need to do this! The seminar was FANTASTIC and was good to get back to some things we as a society have done in the past before the pandemic. It is good to get back to doing more in our society. I hope all our members will join us for our next meeting and continue to benefit from the society workings and teachings. We miss seeing you!! Come visit us again!!

At this month's meeting we were supposed to have the Chinese Association from Modesto speak to us, Unfortunately, they had to cancel, but want to do their program in October...sooo, the Chinese Association will be the program for October, and we are all looking forward to it. Please join us on October 20th.

November will bring us to Ancestors Night. I need a few more people to share some family artifacts, stories or information. Please call me if you would like to be part of this event. Also, we will be having our installation of officers at this meeting. Come meet your new officers and board members for the 2023 year. December we do not meet, so this will be our last meeting of the year!

Programs and Seminar

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

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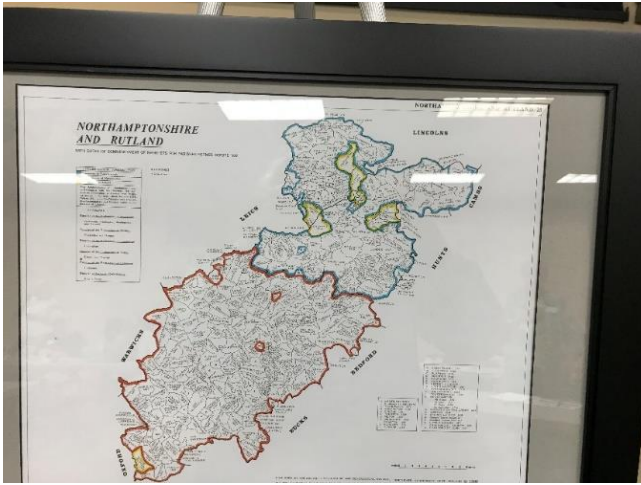
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Photos from September Seminar Presentation

Photos by Hlhennig and roxanne ferrari





PASSIONATE GENEALOGIST William E. Cole <https://www.passionategenealogist.org/bio/>

Carolyn Kerr Obituary

Carolyn Kerr
 May 17, 1932 - August 8, 2022
 Turlock, California

The family of Carolyn May Olsson Kerr would like to share the passing of a remarkable woman who balanced love of family with a passion for science and activism in service of her community. Carolyn passed away in Pinole, CA surrounded by her family on August 8, 2022.

Carolyn was born in Oakland on May 17, 1932 to Reuben and Dorothy (Schuyler) Olsson. She grew up an only child, but was surrounded by a large extended family in



Alamo who affectionately called her "Cuzz".

Carolyn was always interested in science. Upon graduation from San Ramon Valley High School, she entered Samuel Merritt College to become a nurse like her mother. She quickly decided that she wanted to become a medical doctor and entered U.C. Berkeley to take the first step towards her dream. While attending Cal, she met a young man in her endocrinology class. His name was Robert Kerr, and by the time they graduated they were madly in love and engaged to be married. Carolyn entered medical school at U.C. San Francisco, where she was one of only four women in the 100-student class. Carolyn graduated with honors from UCSF School of Medicine in June of 1960.

Carolyn and Bob were married on August 11, 1957 in Danville, CA. In 1960, Carolyn gave birth to their first child, Linda, and they moved from San Francisco to Claremont, CA where Bob had taken a teaching job at Mount San Antonio College. The couple had three more children: Stephen in 1962, Eileen in 1964 and Susan in 1967.

The family moved to Modesto, CA in 1970 when Bob became an instructor of Psychology at Modesto Junior College. While raising the children, Carolyn also spearheaded voter registration campaigns with the League of Women Voters, including a skit and song fondly remembered by her children. She and other LWV activists were at the forefront of a limited growth campaign to preserve Modesto's downtown and McHenry Avenue businesses in the 1970s.

At first the family lived in the Davis High region of Modesto, but after a few years the yard became too small for Carolyn's expanding organic garden. The family moved on to a three-acre farm near Denair in 1974, where the two would live for another 40+ years. A small almond orchard was planted, harvested and processed all by hand, and the kids joined 4-H and FFA. Many sugar beets, chickens, rabbits, lambs and pigs were raised on the farm. Carolyn volunteered at Graton School and was elected to the Hughson Unified School District board while her children attended those schools.

In 1982, Carolyn earned her teaching credential and taught science at Wakefield School in Turlock. This love of teaching soon translated into a job teaching anatomy and physiology at Merced College. In later years, the family would regularly encounter her medical students in doctor's offices around the valley. The feelings of admiration and love for the woman who introduced them to the beauty of the human form and how it functions were universally expressed.

Carolyn and Bob had many interests beyond their farm, including nature and travel. They shared their love of nature with their family. Summers were spent camping in the Four Corners region, rainy northwest states, the Sierra Nevada and coast ranges of California. Once Bob was done teaching for the summer, the family would pile into the green 1964 Travelall and camp for a month. The two were early adopters of seatbelts - the Travelall was a special order with seat belts, though despite that, the kids got to sleep in the "way back" of the car as Bob and Carolyn drove them through the night to the next adventure.

In the 1980s Carolyn discovered a new hobby - genealogy. Trips to the East Coast combined historical sites and ancestral locales. The family would travel to Salt Lake City to work on genealogy over many a Christmas break from school. Carolyn joined the Stanislaus County Genealogical Society where she worked for many years compiling and digitizing many local historical records, which have become invaluable tools for families doing research in Stanislaus County.

Following their retirement in 1994, Carolyn and Bob traveled extensively to Europe, Latin America and Australia and continued to camp and go birding throughout California and Oregon. Carolyn spent many hours in her organic garden, and taught her grandchildren a love of gardening and farming. The grandchildren loved spending time on "the farm" with Grandma Kerr.

Children and grandchildren have also been affected by Carolyn's love of science, politics, history, and nature. Some are small scale farmers, some became or are studying to be scientists. Some have amazing gardens or strong connections to nature, and many are active in local politics and advocacy for those in need.

Carolyn is survived by her beloved other half, Robert and their four children: Linda Brandt (David) of Pinole, CA, Stephen Kerr of Redmond WA, Eileen Kerr (Darin Haydock) of Turlock, CA and Susan Kerr (Nelson Siefkin) of Denair, CA.

Carolyn's eight grandchildren include: Kara Franklin (Robert), Chelsea Brandt, Ethan Brandt, Lucas Brandt, Madeleine Kerr, Frances and Morgan Haydock, and Robin Siefkin.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers please send memorial donations to The Nature Conservancy at: <https://preserve.nature.org/page/81523/donate/1>.

Margaret Joyce Evans Obituary

Margaret Joyce Evans

May 22, 1940 - September 6, 2022

Jackson, California - Margaret Joyce Evans passed away Tuesday, September 6, 2022 in Jackson, CA at the age of 82 years old. She was born May 22, 1940 in French Camp, CA to James Elvies and Bertie Maloney Evans.

Joyce was a resident of the Modesto area for 74 years and graduated from Modesto High. She was employed by Pacific Bell/AT&T and retired from the latter in 1991. She enjoyed traveling, gardening, reading, and walking her Bichons, Molly,

Mela, and Mimi. She loved to find a bargain- it made her day! Joyce was a member of the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County and the Telephone Pioneers. Joyce was a big believer in recycling, her greatest recycling was the last act of her life. Joyce is survived by her sister, Shirley (Jim) Eldredge of Pioneer, CA; sister-in-law, Helen Evans of Tracy, CA; as well as five nephews, one niece, seven great nieces and nephews and four great-great nieces. She was predeceased by her parents and brother Dewey W. Evens.

No public service as requested by the deceased. Contributions can be made in Joyce's name to the Pupz N Palz Rescue at 1430 Carpenter Lane Suite B, Modesto, CA 95355. Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.danerimortuary.com and signing the online guest book.

Published by Modesto Bee on Sep. 11, 2022.



RootsTech 2023 March 2 to 4– It is FREE again this year

Just the good news we need to end the year. RootsTech 2023, sponsored by FamilySearch, is entirely virtual and completely free – again on March 2 – 4

In 2021, over a million people “attended” RootsTech and you can be one of those lucky people in March 2023 too.

In 2023, there will be more than 1500 sessions presented by hundreds of speakers from around the globe in many languages. Of course, that’s in addition to the vendor Expo booths, which I love, and the DNA Basics Learning Center.

The 2023 sessions and speakers aren’t listed yet, but this would be a good time to view any of the 2022 sessions that you never got a chance to. What better thing could you be doing for New Year’s Eve 😊

2023 RootsTech! <https://dna-explained.com/category/rootstech/>

You should check all of Roberta Estes' Training Videos found listed on the margin of her WebBlog. They are excellent!

Nominated 2023 GSSC Officers and Board

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| President | Vicky Wolff |
| 1st Vice President | Karen Souza |
| 2nd Vice President | Jackie Niemeyer |
| Secretary | Pam Atherstone |
| Treasurer | Roxanne Ferrari |
| Director-at-Large | Joann MacDonald |
| Director-at-Large | Julie Condrin |
| Director-at-Large | Amy Mowery |
| Director-at-Large | Joyce (Plis) Hickman |
| Director-at-Large | Martha Carter Bhatti |

Voting will be at the October 2022 meeting

submitted by Karen Souza, Chair, Nominating Committee

September Meeting Photos

By Heidi Arno



Your Cookbook Committee happily announces . . .

We're finished at last! The Cookbook Gene is complete and should be back from the publishers in one month. Thank you to our contributors and worker bees!! We think you will find it a fun addition to your cookbook library.

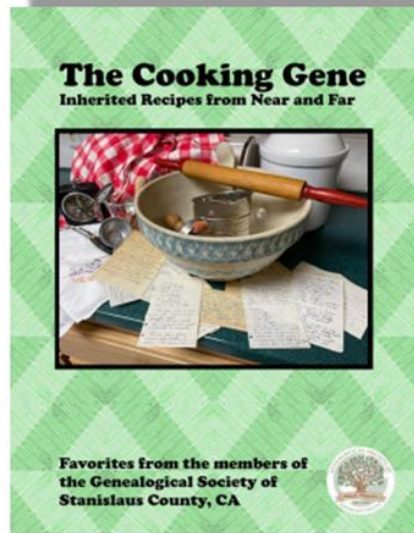
It has over 200 recipes (I only expected 100!) There are also quite a few photos and pictures, even some of our members. The recipes represent both international, our families' original countries, and American sources. Many of them are presented in memory of Moms and Grandmas among our members. Some are truly historic and are marked as such, while others represent past and future trends, like our Root Cellar section.

So immerse yourself in this cookbook. Take a stroll around the world and through time, and your family and friends can be "Time Travelers" in cooking! Enjoy your stroll and I can already smell the wonderful aromas arising from its pages due to the adventurous cooks out there.

Also, keep Christmas in mind when thinking about how many of these cookbooks to order. They will make great gifts for the holidays. Since we have to order the number of cookbooks now, we are asking you to send your reply to our flyer order form by next Wednesday, Sept. 7th, to the address listed. Thank you, Your Cookbook Committee,
Judy Byrne, Pam Atherstone and Marge Scheuber

ORDER YOUR COOKBOOKS NOW!

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF STANISLAUS COUNTY PRESENTS:



Recipes from our members. Many are dishes handed down through our families. The book is spiral-bound for ease of use. Only \$15.00 each. Great gifts for the Holidays! PRE-ORDER YOURS NOW!

Enclose a check made out to: GSSC

Mail Orders to: Judy Byrne 1005 Clarksburg Way Modesto, CA 95355 Attn: GSSC

Cut at this line and include with your order and check made out to GSSC

I wish to order _____ cookbooks at \$15.00 each I am a member of GSSC _____

Name _____

Address (street) _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

THANK YOU



INTERNATIONAL HERITAGE FESTIVAL
THE ULTIMATE TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

Join Us for **FREE** Family Fun!

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 1ST, 2022

10 AM TO 3 PM

 Kids Crafts!

 "Passport" Learning Activity!

 CLASSIC CAR
Crafters USA
MUSEUM

610 North 9th St
Merced, CA

Information:

(209) 809-4741

 Heritage Booths!



Thank You!

Volunteer Review of the 1950 U.S. Census Ends



The 1950 U.S. Census Community Project has come to a close. Thanks to the contributions of more than 190,000 volunteers, the full census index will soon be searchable. Visit the [1950 Census page](#) on FamilySearch to continue to watch the publication progress and to see which states are already available for searching.

Because of your efforts, millions of people will soon be able to find their ancestors in this fully reviewed collection of more than 151 million people.

It's amazing what we can accomplish together!

Some states in the Census are ready.

Search for your ancestor to see if we can find them in 1950 or 1940.
Who are you looking to discover today?

[Grandparent](#)

[Parent](#)

[Other](#)

<https://www.ancestry.com/c/census-relative>

Writing Assignment for October 2022

Submitted by Vicky Wolff

I am going to encourage each and every one of you to start writing. A lot of you say you don't have stories to tell, but you do. Each month I would like for you to take some time and do a writing assignment.

My first writing assignment will be...Write a piece about your mother...what was her maiden name and married name...where was she born and died...Did she have hobbies and if so, what were they? Did she work out of the home and if so, what did she do? What do you remember most about her, etc. etc.

Just let your mind flow with thoughts and put those thoughts on to paper.

For those who are willing, we will share these stories at our next meeting.

The important thing is that you start writing things down and bring your family and ancestors to life, not just names and dates on a piece of paper.

Let us just have fun with these writing projects. You have a whole month to compose them. Be creative and embrace you family members giving them a living history.

Don't forget, our writing group meets every second Thursday of the month @ Joann MacDonald's home, 412 Belfast Ave., Modesto., off El Vista and Encina avenues. It is very easy to find, and the writing group has a lot of fun sharing our stories with each other. Please join us!

Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month

This National Hispanic Heritage Month, we have hundreds of Latin American collections for you to explore your own Hispanic family history or research the history of Latin American cultures.

As part of our ongoing efforts to expand our Mexican Catholic collections, we recently added more than 500,000 records to our San Antonio Catholic Archdiocese collection, covering the eras when the region was part of Spanish, Mexican, and U.S. territories. We also have 87 collections of civil registers from Mexico, covering 1859 1987, that you can use to start tracing your family history back through recent generations. And then search our Catholic church records from Mexico, spanning 1800 1867, to learn about the lives of long ago ancestors.

<https://www.ancestry.com/>

Inferring human evolutionary history

Unified genetic genealogy improves our understanding of how humans evolved

Abstract

Genomes are invaluable tools for inferring the demographic and adaptive history of human populations, including migrations, population splits, admixture, and genetic adaptations. Growing datasets of modern and ancient genomes make this possible, but their massive size comes with important challenges, demanding techniques that analyze immense amounts of data in reasonable amounts of time while using as much information as possible. Combining genomes from different datasets poses perhaps an even greater challenge, especially when it comes to integrating ancient and modern genomes. On page 836 of this issue, Wohns et al. (1) report surmounting some of these challenges to construct the largest human genealogy to date, integrating modern and ancient genomes from multiple datasets to infer key events in human history together with their timings and geographical locations.

<https://www.science.org/doi/abs/10.1126/science.abo0498>

Membership Information Dues: Single membership, \$25.00 per year Family membership, \$35.00 per year Stanislaus Researcher Published 10 times per year by Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County, P. O. Box 1352, Modesto, CA 95352-1352. Delivered via email.

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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: <https://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, The Secret Garden, 2401 E Orangeburg Ave., Modesto, CA.

2022 Officers		2022 Standing Committee Chairs	
President	David Wolff	Four Generation Charts	Karen Souza
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	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	Marge Scheuber
Director at Large 5	Vacant	Research & Publication	Millie Starr
Past President	Beverly Graham	Research Trips	Vacant
		Research Salt Lake City	Vacant
		Resources	Vicky Wolff
		Special Collections Room	Jackie Niemeyer
		Social Media	Pam Atherstone
		Sunshine	Karen Souza

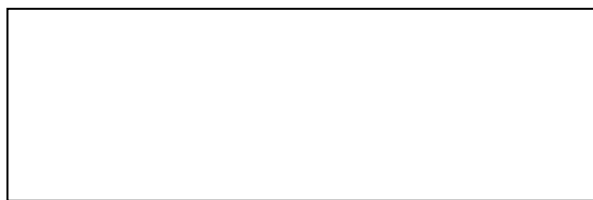
Updated 19 Sept 2022.

We have 66 members for 2022

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



Genealogical Society of
Stanislaus County
P O Box 1352
Modesto, CA 95352-1352



Remember Halloween
October 31, 2022