2008 is shaping up to be a great year for researching ancestors "across the pond" with a series of CGS-sponsored workshops and seminars spotlighting European roots.

The first, Eastern and Central European Research, will be this Saturday, April 12, 2008, from 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., at the California Genealogical Society Library. CGS members, Stephen J. Danko, author of Steve's Genealogy Blog and Jeremy G. Frankel, President of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, will be on hand to lend their expertise.

The workshop will consist of two lectures (with handouts) by our specialists, a lunch break and a "hands-on" session so attendees can share ideas, do some computer research and talk one-on-one with Jeremy and Steve. Members are encouraged to bring laptop computers; the six CGS computers may not all be available for the program. Reservations are required. Please call (510) 663-1358 to reserve.

The California Genealogical Society presents an encore Book Repair Workshop to be held on Wednesday morning, April 30, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the CGS Library, 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland.

The popular class, taught by Book Repair Committee Chairman, Bill O'Neil, will be limited to ten enrollees. The fee is $15.00 for materials. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting CGS at (510) 663-1358. There is a sign-up sheet at the reception desk.

The workshop will be offered again during Family History Month in October.

CGS Membership Coffees
Members at the April 2d San Francisco Coffee at the Mechanics Institute Library cafe had plenty of stimulation, even without the caffeine, due to a fire drill that required all the attendees to vacate the building. Those who took things in stride included Judy Avery, John and Cathy Bedecarre, Barbara Bentley, Ted Craig, Mary Beth Frederick, Grace Frontin, Elwood Gerrits, Mary Mettler, Arlene Miles, Georgia Parsons, Jane Williams and CGS Board members Kathryn Doyle, Jane Lindsey and Nancy Peterson.

Sacramento - May 7, 2008, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Members in the greater Sacramento area have been invited to a membership coffee at the Belle Cooledge Branch Library on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Janet Feil is the hostess.

CGS President Jane Lindsey is planning a membership coffee to coincide with the Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree 2008, which will be held June 27-29 at the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and Convention Center.

May Membership Meeting

Saturday, May 10, 2008, 1:00 p.m. - at the CGS Library

Please note the earlier start time!

Please join us for two special talks by Dr. Stephen P. Morse.

"What Color Ellis Island Search Form Should I Use?"

and

"The Jewish Calendar Demystified"

CGS members will have double the pleasure as popular speaker Stephen Morse returns in May.

The first talk will describe the evolution of the One-Step Ellis Island Web site to the One-Step Web Pages.

In April 2001 the Ellis Island ship manifests and passenger records went on-line. A few weeks later the One-Step Ellis Island website was created to make this resource easier to use. Since that time the One-Step site has been greatly expanded to include new search capabilities and an array of color-coded search forms.

This talk will describe the evolution of the website from both a historical and a practical perspective, and provide a beacon for navigating through this color maze.

Dr. Morse's second talk is a tongue-in-cheek but factual description of the Jewish Calendar as seen through the eyes of Adam and Eve. Because it is both a solar and lunar calendar, the rules that govern it can be a bit daunting. This piece was recently
published in the Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly which reflects its general appeal. It's not just for people doing Jewish genealogy (and is a very humorous talk!)

Scandinavian Research Workshop

Saturday, June 14, 2008  10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

California Genealogical Society Library
2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland

The second research workshop will focus on ancestors from Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Don't miss this opportunity to learn new strategies and meet other members with similar research interests. Reservations are required.

Irish Research Seminar Coming in July!

Wednesday, July 9, 2008, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Noted Irish author, researcher and lecturer, Nora M. Hickey, will be presenting a full-day seminar on Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at the Berkeley Yacht Club. Ms. Hickey will present four talks on topics for beginners and expert alike. She has also agreed to schedule another day at the CGS Library to do one-on-one consultations.

Registration will be begin at 9:30 a.m. Lectures will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. Details are forthcoming and a registration flier is being prepared, so check back at the CGS Web site, CGS Blog or Google Calendar.

Nora M. Hickey was born in Cork, Ireland, and educated at Loreto College, Manchester, England. After returning to Ireland in 1974, she studied history and philosophy at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, a constituent college of the National University of Ireland. Her B.A. thesis was genealogical: a study of the Norman family, the de Berminghams of Leinster. As a founder member of the Federation of Local History Societies, she was Honorary Editor of Local History Review for many years. An early member of the Irish Family History Society, Nora also acted for some years as the Honorary Editor of Irish Family History.

Ms. Hickey was a founder director of the Irish Genealogical Project until she resigned in 1991 to develop her own Irish genealogical research service. This includes visiting the USA several times yearly to give lectures and seminars, together with a personal genealogical research service. In the past Nora has hosted County Cork Summer Schools and organised Dublin based Research Weeks with personal guidance in the Irish archives.

Her publications include: Going to Ireland: A Genealogical Researcher’s Guide, Kinsale Historical Journals, Kinsale: Glimpses of a town through the years and The Battle of Kinsale, together with many articles, both historical and genealogical, published in many journals in two continents. In 2005, Nora edited her 98 year-old father's memoirs - My Barryroe Childhood and was very much involved with his centenary celebrations in September 2007 - in two countries, with an international attendance.
Google Tools for Genealogy:
Using Google for Genealogy from Jennifer's Rainy Day Genealogy Readings

Jennifer's new blog has step-by-step instructions and screen images that are easy to follow. Learn how to set up iGoogle, use Gmail for your Rootsweb mailing lists and use Google Book Search to further your genealogy research. Still to come: using Google Reader to easily subscribe to and read blogs and Google Notebook for online research.

Just for Fun:
How many U.S. courthouses have you visited? Chris Dunham of the Genealogue blog posted these links to the index of the Flickr collection of courthouse photographs and says "I always like to case a joint before I visit."

CGS Ancestors

Photo Tributes to the CGS Family

This month's submission is from John Bedecarré:

This is a photograph of my mother and grandmother in Golden Gate Park in May of 1906. Gladys GRIFFITH (later Bedecarré), was 5 years old when she posed with her mother, Sadie Clark Griffith nee Ambrose, in front of their quarters after the Great San Francisco
Earthquake. I wanted to point out the potted plant outside the tent opening - my grandmother loved flowers. Before the earthquake, they lived on the 1600 block of Pierce street. I don't think the fire got that far, so they must have had structural damage. They never talked about the quake.

If you would like to see your CGS Ancestor featured in a future edition of the CGS eNews, please email your image to CGSpublicity@gmail.com and include a brief description.

Did you miss these posts in the CGS blog?

A Tribute to Anne Robinson

CROUSE Family Treasure

Mark Tucker's Genealogy Research Map

110th anniversary bookmark

California Genealogical Society and Library
A Northern California Genealogy Resource
Oakland, CA 94612-3031

Founded February 12, 1898 in San Francisco, CGS, a non-profit, all-volunteer organization that seeks to aid, educate and encourage research in family history, is presently located in Oakland, California. The society maintains a library, gathers and preserves vital records and disseminates information through publications, meetings, seminars, workshops, its Web site, blog and online catalog.