

# California Genealogical Society and Library eNews

July 2008, Vol. 2, No. 7

**Please note that the library will be CLOSED July 4 and July 5 for the Independence Day weekend.**

## A Day of Irish Information with Nora Keohane Hickey

**Wednesday, July 9, 2008, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Berkeley Yacht Club, 1 Seawall Drive, Berkeley, California**



**This is your LAST CHANCE to register. Please send your registration form today!**

### ***A Day of Irish Information***

with internationally known author and speaker,  
**Nora Keohane Hickey**, at the [Berkeley Yacht Club](#).

Ms. Hickey, a native of Cork, Ireland, is the founder and director of the Irish Genealogical Project. She visits the U.S. several times each year to lecture. She has prepared four talks to help beginners and experts alike with their Irish research.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Lectures start promptly at 10:00 a.m.

### **The program:**

- 10:00 Debunking some myths of Irish genealogy
- 11:15 Extracting all the important information you can from Griffith's Valuation
- 12:15 Break for lunch and book sales
- 1:15 Little-known and under-used Irish genealogical sources
- 2:15 Common problems in Irish genealogy

Nora will also provide **Personal Consultations** on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at the CGS Library. The fee is \$15.00 for fifteen minutes.

Registrants can opt to bring their own lunch or pre-pay for a boxed lunch which includes a sandwich, salad, drink and cookie for \$10. For further information about the event and to schedule a *Personal Consultation* with Nora Hickey, download the [event flier and reservation form](#).

**Please note: if you have not yet registered, please [e-mail](#) Jane Lindsey to let her know that you are sending a registration form since the library will be closed for the Independence Day weekend.**

**Nora M. Hickey** was 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*.

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*. She has also written many articles, historical and genealogical, published in many journals in two continents.

## July Membership Meeting: Breaking Down Brick Walls

**Saturday, July 12, 2008, 1:30 p.m.**  
**CGS Library, 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland, California**



### **Breaking Down Brick Walls**

*A Panel Discussion with Jane Hufft, Nancy Peterson and Lavinia Schwarz*

Three CGS members will present their tools for breaking down brick walls at the July membership meeting. Using real-life examples, our panel will offer their tried-and-true methods for solving your research challenges. There will be handouts for the audience and time for questions and answers.

[Nancy Peterson](#) is the CGS Research Director and author of *Raking the Ashes, Genealogical Strategies for pre-1906 San Francisco Research*. Nancy is a Stanford graduate and certified genealogist.

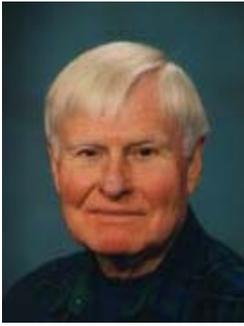
Lavinia Schwarz's unique journey into the archives of New Orleans in search of her great-great grandmother, a free woman of color, yielded many important strategies for breaking down not only brick walls, but the invisible walls that so often block our reasoning. Lavinia graduated from Cal with an English major and holds a master's in education.

Jane Hufft, editor of the CGS Newsletter, has had several articles appear in genealogical publications and has been at work on her own research for many years, developing strategies that go from the paper card catalog days of the Salt Lake City Family Library to the Internet. A Cal graduate in sociology and former school administrator, Jane has a master's in education.

Join us for this informative and lively panel discussion designed to help you solve those puzzles that are hindering your research.

## In Memory

**Elwood Burton Gerrits (1923-2008)**



Elwood Burton "Burt" Gerrits, a native of South Dakota, died at his home in Oakland on June 8, 2008, after a fall. A Navy veteran of World War II, Gerrits was a Piedmont High School history teacher for thirty-three years. He was a long-time docent for the Mountain View Cemetery and a member of the California Genealogical Society. Full obituaries appeared in the [Madison Daily Leader](#) on June 24, 2008 and in [The Bay Area Reporter](#) on June 26, 2008.

## 2009 Nominating Committee

### Looking for a Few Good Volunteers

The 2009 nominating committee, chaired by board member Chris Pattillo, is now forming. If you are interested in being more involved with a particular aspect of the society - computers, Web site, finance, the board, or another area - please [e-mail Chris](#) or telephone (510) 550-8855 during the day or (510) 654-1116 in the evening and weekend.

## August Workshop: Hints on Publishing Your Family History

**Saturday, August 9, 2008, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
**CGS Library, 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland, California**

Plans are underway for a special CGS workshop on publishing one's family history. If you have suggestions for content or would like to participate, please [e-mail](#) Events Coordinator, Carolyn Steinberg at [CGSLevents@gmail.com](mailto:CGSLevents@gmail.com).

## September Membership Meeting - Best Bet Internet Sites

**Saturday, September 13, 2008, 1:00 p.m.**  
**CGS Library, 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland, California**



### Ron Arons' Best Bet Web Internet Sites for Genealogical Research

Genealogist and author Ron Arons will explore the many "best bet" Web sites that allow researchers to find materials online, including historical documents, newspapers and articles, living people, maps and photos, foreign language translators and aids and more. He will provide numerous examples of how the Internet has worked for him.

Ron will also slip in some tales from his recently released book, [The Jews of Sing Sing](#), described as "the true story of Jewish gangsters and other shady characters who served time 'up the river' and the New York Jewish community's response." His interest in Jewish inmates started when he discovered that his great-grandfather served four years at the famous prison.

Ron Arons has earned degrees from Princeton University and the University of Chicago, and is a member of both the [Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles](#) and the [San](#)

[Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society](#). Arons has traced his roots to England, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania. A recipient of the 2005 Hackman Research Residency Award, his current research focuses on both famous and lesser-known Jewish criminals.

## New England Historic Genealogical Society Research Trip

**Boston, Massachusetts, September 21-28, 2008**



It's time to sign up for the autumn California Genealogical Society Research Trip to the [New England Historic Genealogical Society](#) library, the week of September 21-28, 2008.

CGS President and past NEHGS Trustee, Jane Lindsey and Jerome Anderson, long-time researcher at NEHGS will co-lead this biennial society trip to Boston, Massachusetts.

Accommodations are at the [John Hancock Hotel and Conference Center](#) in the Copley Square area of downtown Boston, located about three blocks from NEHGS.

The tour begins on Sunday evening with a brief orientation. Since the NEHGS library is closed Mondays, participants will have the option that day of visiting the [Massachusetts State Archives](#), Suffolk or Middlesex County courthouses, or other repositories, including, the [Massachusetts Historical Society](#) or [Boston Public Library](#).

The Tour Package includes:

- \* Hotel room (7 nights, double occupancy)
- \* Daily light continental breakfast
- \* Sunday evening orientation
- \* Free day Monday to visit your choice of several repositories
- \* Shuttle service to and from the airport
- \* Two group dinners (Monday and Saturday) at local restaurants
- \* Optional pre-trip consultations with Jane Lindsey
- \* On-site lectures - to be announced

The cost is \$1075.00 (airfare not included.) A deposit of \$200 is required by June 28, 2008, to hold one space. The trip [registration brochure](#) (also sent with the May CGS News) gives the full details and a description of the cancellation and refund policy.

The first group dinner will be on Monday evening. NEHGS is open 9:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday. The Boston Public Library, near the hotel, is open until 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The BPL has an excellent microtext department with a wonderful newspaper collection.

## San Francisco Mortuary Records Indexing

**The CGS Project to Start Next Week**



Rose Pierson of Family Search Indexing informs us that the California Genealogical Society Mortuary Records Project should be ready for volunteers next week.

The CGS project is now listed on the [Upcoming Projects](#) page (scroll down to the bottom and look for CGS logo.) When the project is ready for indexing, it will be listed on the "Current Projects" page.

This project is a collection of digital images of the records of fourteen San Francisco mortuaries dating to the mid-1850s, many of which miraculously survived the 1906 earthquake and fire. They are from the original books of the N. Gray Undertaking Firm and ledgers of a number of other mortuary firms that merged with Gray over the years.

Online instructions are available at [www.familysearchindexing.org](http://www.familysearchindexing.org) and include the following:

1. [Training tutorials](#). These will help you understand how to use FamilySearch Indexing.
2. [Specific instructions for each project](#). On this page, you can read about current projects. Specific projects can be selected from the list by clicking the underlined text.
3. [Publications](#). These are easy-to-print basic indexing references that can be used when working offline.
4. [FAQs](#). These are answers to frequently asked indexing questions.

Check the [CGS blog](#) for further information and an announcement of the go-live date.

## Suggested Links from the Blogosphere

[Dead and Gone - What Was Yellow Fever?](#)

[What's Past is Prologue - Philadelphia Marriage Indexes Online](#)

[Unclutterer - Family heirlooms: Give them away at milestone celebrations](#)  
[be sure to read the comments for more great suggestions]

[Arlene H. Eakle's Genealogy Blog - How Cemetery Records and Inscriptions Expand Your Genealogy](#)

### The Genealogue

Christopher Dunham is a prolific blogger. He is best known for [The Genealogue](#), a self-described "irreverent guide to the lighter side of genealogy." Some of my favorite posts are: [Top Ten Signs Your Genealogical Society is in Trouble](#), [How to Invent a Relative](#) and ["Genealogy" and Other Crimes Against Genealogy](#). Chris also maintains [The Genealogy Blog Finder](#) - an index of genealogically themed blogs categorized by type that is fully searchable and up-to-date! If you have Maine ancestors, be sure to check out his [Maine Genealogy Archives](#), [Oxford County Genealogy Notebook](#) and [All Things Maine](#).

### Family Matters: Tech Support for the Family Historian

Denise Olson is the "go-to" person for anything technical. Her blog [Family Matters](#) is where technology and genealogy intersect but in clear and easy-to-understand language. Denise is always looking for new ways to help the genealogist into the digital age. This week she added a new section - [Guides](#) - which includes her [Researcher's Digital](#)

[Toolbox](#) - a list of "basic tools every researcher needs." Start working smarter by visiting Denise's blog today.

## CGS Ancestors

### Photo Tributes to the CGS Family

This month's CGS Ancestor Photo was submitted by Anne Martinelli Cyr:



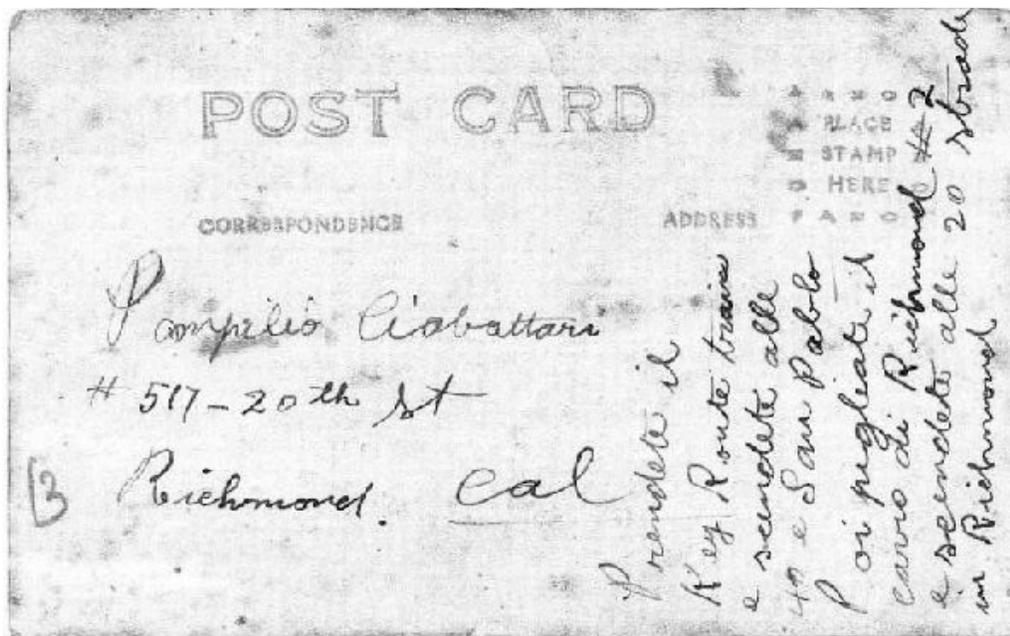
*"What I love about this photograph is the local history and mystery of it.*

*The woman on the right is my great-grandmother, Ida (Galli) Martinelli, immigrant from Italy, and resident of San Francisco.*

*The 'history' to me is the back of the card, never postmarked, identifying the man in the center of the photo, and explaining (in Italian) how to get from the ferry to his home in Richmond via the Key Route. The "mystery" is the woman on the left, unidentified. Pompilio's wife? sister? girlfriend?"*

Maureen Taylor, [The Photo Detective](#), provided some clues for Anne:

*"The design of the stamp box with the triangles in the corners and the way the card is set up with no divided back and the words 'correspondence' and 'address' are from the AZO company. This card was first introduced circa October 1917. Their dresses seem to agree with that time frame - broad collars, wide waistband and blousy bodice."*



If you would like to see your **CGS Ancestor** featured in a

future edition of the **CGS e-News**, please [email](mailto:CGSplicity@gmail.com) your image to CGSplicity@gmail.com and include a brief description.

## Did you miss these posts in the CGS blog?

[CGS Business Cards](#)

[Red Hat Ladies at CGS](#)

[Finding Cousins in the Library](#)

[Some Photos from Jamboree 2008](#)

[Digital vs. Print - Where Do You Stand?](#)

[Feedback on the Scandinavian Workshop](#)



## 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](#).

Email Marketing by

