

February 2010, Vol. 4, No. 2

A New Look and a New Domain

Let Us Know What You Think of our Updated Brand

We're sporting a new look and you will find it across all the locations the California Genealogical Society sponsors across the web - [website](#), [blog](#) and [eNews ARCHIVE](#). Read about why we did it and how it happened at the CGSL blog: [Our New Look](#).

Holiday Hours

CGS Closed for Presidents' Weekend

The library will be closed on Saturday, February 13, 2010.

Intermediate Genealogy Series Returns

Classes Begin Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland

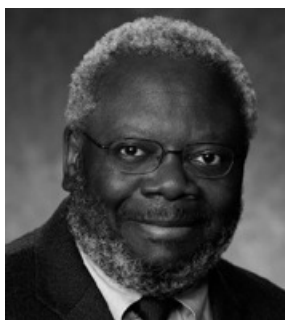
The next Intermediate Genealogy Series will be held on eight consecutive Tuesdays beginning February 9, 2010 and ending on March 30, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., at the [Oakland Regional Family History Center](#). In addition, there will be a field trip to the California Genealogical Society Library on Saturday, February 27, 2010.

For more information and the full schedule, [download the registration flier](#).

February Black History Month Program

Saturday, February 20, 2010, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

CGS Library, 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland



In celebration of Black History Month, the California Genealogical Society presents a special program featuring panelists from the [African American Genealogical Society of Northern California](#) and two lectures by Craig Manson, professor, lecturer and noted [blogger](#).

Schedule

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Panel Discussion

1:00 p.m. *Finding African-Americans in Census Records Prior to 1870*

2:15 p.m. *Civil War: Military Research with Special Emphasis on African-American Soldiers*

FREE admission. Seats are going fast so reserve your space now. [Download the registration flier](#).

California State Genealogical Alliance Meeting at CGS

Saturday, February 27, 2010, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

CGS Library, 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland



All CGS members and members of other local societies are welcome to attend this open meeting of the [California State Genealogical Alliance](#) (CSGA) at the California Genealogical Society Library.

The gathering is an opportunity for Bay Area genealogists to meet CSGA President Susan M. Roe, attend an Alliance meeting, have a tour of the CGS Library and hear a presentation by CSGA Past-president Lisa B. Lee.

Space is limited to 40 attendees. For full details, including registration information, please [download the registration flier](#).

March Membership Meeting with Mary Mettler

Saturday, March 13, 2010, 1:00 p.m.

CGS Library, 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland

The Successful Research Trip: Lessons Learned on the Road

Many will recognize Mary's name from [Tuesday Tales](#) - the series of the blog articles she wrote in 2008 during her three-month genealogical trek across country. She's made six shorter trips researching her ancestors so her expertise is measured in time and miles. Mary will share her tips and tricks on how to prepare for a genealogy research trip, including tools to take, unique sources and preventing pitfalls.

Tech Saturday Workshop with Mary Beth Frederick - An Encore Presentation

Digital Photography: A Tool For Your Genealogical Research

Saturday, March 20, 2010, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Learn how to use your digital camera to take photographs of books, original documents, microfilms, and computer screens. Using this method will save you time, money, energy, and frustration. You'll also be kind to your back by never again toting a mountain of paper in your carry-on baggage!

The workshop is a FREE benefit of membership but is limited to twenty participants. For more information, [download the registration flier](#).

In Memoriam

Richard Avery Smith (1924-2009)



The California Genealogical Society learned of the death of member, friend and long-time volunteer, Dick Smith, at his home in Oakland on December 13, 2009.

An active member since he joined the society in 1983, Dr. Smith created the signs for the Genealogy Fairs and helped with the move to Oakland in 1998. Most recently he devoted countless hours to the [website project](#) which he directed from start to finish. Dick's death was reported in the [Oakland Tribune](#) on January 13, 2010. His full biography and obituary is online at his [personal website](#).

Editor's Picks: Suggested Links From the Blogosphere

[Cemeteries and More #1](#) by Barbara Poole

[A Look at Ancestry's Improved Search](#) by Kathi

[Treasure Chest Thursday: An Heirloom is Born!](#) by T.K.

[Colour Coding For Fun and Profit](#) by Katrina McQuarrie

[Frugal Genealogy: Office Supplies](#) by Miriam Robbins Midkiff

[National Archives: A Kid in a Candy Store](#) by Schelly Talalay Dardashti

[What About Ships? Beyond Passenger Arrival Records](#) by Carolyn L. Barkley

[Cousins, Countries, and War: Bavarian Military Rosters - Part 1 of 5](#) by Donna Pointkouski

CGS Ancestors

Photo Tributes to the CGS Family

Edited by Cathy H. Paris

This month we pay tribute to **Jonathan Johnson** of Jeffersontown, Jefferson County, Kentucky. Photograph and story were submitted by **Jane Hufft**.



Jonathan Johnson was born a slave, probably in Kentucky, the birthplace listed in the 1870 census. His owner was Jacob Omer of Jeffersontown, Kentucky, my ancestor. There is a written family account that tells how Jonathan was a playmate of Jacob's children. This lovely photograph of Jonathan's handsome family, probably taken about 1877, has been handed down the OMER line, my mother's line, to me. Set in a beautiful black carved frame, it always hung on the wall in each Omer household that inherited it in turn. Jacob Omer (there were several men by this name in the large Omer clan) was reputed to be a hard master, and one of his sons, my direct ancestor, left Kentucky to settle in Illinois because he could no

longer abide living in a slave state. The records show that Jonathan remained in contact with another son of Jacob's, George W. Omer, and that George settled Jonathan's will when he died in Louisville, Kentucky in the early twentieth century.

In the photo, Jonathan Johnson is with his wife and six children, whose names can be assigned, based on the Jefferson County, Kentucky 1870 census for Jeffersontown, by their cited ages, and their heights in the photo, probably as follows, left to right: Kate, William, Isabel, Marcus, Eliza, and George. Jonathan and his wife, Elizabeth, farmed in Jefferson County on land given to him by the Omer family after the Civil War was over, as the story goes, and the census listing bolsters that account. The children in the photo are wearing dresses that look like they were made, probably by Elizabeth, from the same bolt of fabric. Efforts to trace Jonathan's descendants past 1910 have not yet been successful.

- Jane Hufft

Call for Submissions - We need your photographs and stories! Do you have a great family photo that is scanned and ready to be shared? Do you have a wonderful family story and a photo to go with it? If you would like to pay tribute to your ancestor in a future edition of the CGS eNews, please [email Cathy Paris](#) and send your image with a brief narrative.

Did you miss these posts in the CGSL blog?

[A Visitor From New Zealand](#)

[Volunteerism: One Day in the Life](#)

[Introducing Our Newest Board Members](#)

[YouTube Video of San Francisco Pre-1906 Earthquake](#)

[What You Missed: Annual Business Meeting January 9, 2010](#)

[Will Who Do You Think You Are? Impact Genealogy in the U.S.?](#)

[Jeffrey Vaillant's Reports from the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy](#)

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