



Since 1898

December 2017, Vol. 11, No. 12

December 2017 Announcements



During your seasonal online shopping please select the California Genealogical Society as your [Amazon Smile](#) charity. Amazon will give 0.5% of each of your purchases to CGS. It is a simple and effortless way to give to our nonprofit volunteer organization. Follow this [link](#) to setup giving on all your future purchases.

During the holidays the library will be closed on starting December 23rd through Jan 4th.



The **Annual Member Meeting and 120th Birthday Celebration** will be held on January 13 in the library at 1 p.m. Join us first for a social gathering and potluck lunch from 11:30 a.m. During the meeting, we will vote on the slate of nominees to the board and the 2018 budget. We will review the 2017 activities at CGS and discuss plans for 2018.

Stay after our Annual Member Meeting for birthday cake, a photo corner with props and to hear three of our members share wonderful stories about great-grandparents. Nancy Ukai, Stewart Traiman and Mary Caroline Chunn will each tell us about their ancestors and events from the decades preceding our 120 years. Covering Nicaragua, San Francisco, Japan, Ireland and more, you will certainly hear the diversity and the common traits of ancestors' lives as well as the clues and searches that their descendants followed.



RSVP - Please let us know if you will be joining.



The
Annual
Appeal

With your help, we hope to bring you more in 2018...
more perks, more programs, and more resources!



Thank you for supporting the California Genealogical Society and Library. Your donations enable us to continue to provide a high quality resource for genealogical information in California. Membership fees only cover about 40% of our expenses and your [donations](#) help us to maintain our standard of excellence.



CGS now has [RootsMagic](#) and Personal Historian available on all computers for public use. Please bring your flash drive so you can have your data on the go.



We need BOOKS! CGS volunteers sell books on eBay to raise money for the Library. If you have nonfiction historical or genealogical books in good condition that you no longer need, please consider donating some or all of your collection to our library. All proceeds from these sales keep the Library running and available for your use. Email [Arlene Miles](#) with questions.

Annual Holiday Party

CGS VOLUNTEER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

All past, present, and potential volunteers
from the
California Genealogical Society
are invited to a holiday pot-luck



Sunday, December 3rd ~ 11:00 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m.

Come join your friends and meet other volunteers at our holiday brunch

Please bring a small dish to share
Fruit, appetizers, bread, dessert, beverage?
Let us know what suits your fancy

[For directions to the party. RSVP](#)

Nominations for Board

Nomination Committee Report 2018

Committee Chair: Karen Lemelin

Committee Members: Chris Pattillo and Nancy Cork

- The Nomination Committee is proposing four new board nominees for the 2018-2020 term. The new nominees are James Russell, Chris Pattillo, Nancy Cork and Marisela Meskus.
- Continuing in their first terms are Rich Kehoe and Arlene Miles.
- Continuing in a second term is Kathy Jones.
- Proposed nominations for their second terms are Vicky Kolakowski, Stewart Traiman and Maureen Hanlon.
- Proposed nomination for a third term is Felicia Addison.
- Linda Okazaki, after serving as President for three years, will assume the board position of current Past President, replacing Ellen Fernandez-Sacco.
- Karen Lemelin and Nicka Smith have termed out after serving three terms.
- Todd Armstrong, Therese Hart-Pignotti and Shannon Reese have stepped down from the board in the past year.

About the new board member nominees:



James Russell grew up in Connecticut and lives in Berkeley. His paternal ancestors arrived in New England in the seventeenth century and his maternal ancestors had emigrated from Bohemia to Manhattan by 1880. No direct ancestors ever lived west of the Hudson River. His personal areas of concentration are New England, New York and Central Europe. James has done extensive primary research in these places, and has attended institutes at SLIG, IGHR, Gen-Fed and GRIP. He reads Czech, German, Russian, French, Japanese and Latin. He has a BSFS (Georgetown), an MA in Slavic linguistics (Chicago), a PhD in anthropology (London - SOAS) and is very interested in DNA-related issues. James is on the CGS Finance Committee, is a representative to FGS and has participated in CGS-sponsored events for the Japanese-American community in the Bay Area.

A member of CGS since 2004, and previously on the Board, **Chris Pattillo** is currently the Chair of the Investment Committee. Chris completed two terms as a commissioner on the Oakland Planning Commission, retired from her landscape architecture practice and is ready to rejoin the Board. During her first term as a Board member, Chris wrote the Investment Policy and helped update all of the job descriptions. She also served as Facilities Chair. In 2015 Chris volunteered to co-chair the first Capital Campaign which will conclude in February 2018. Chris has taught classes for CGS and recently gave a talk about her 2017 Genealogy Journey. She has had articles published in The California Nugget, the CGS blog, the Watauga Genealogy Society magazine, as well as a newspaper in Albany, Texas. Chris has presented her Power Point talk, Preserving Your Family History, at local retirement facilities and plans additional presentations throughout the Bay Area to promote the California Genealogical Society.



A box of old family photographs inspired **Nancy Cork** to begin researching her family's history. After 23 years of gathering records, she still has questions about her family, but now at least they are different questions: not so much the who's and the when's, but the why's and the how's. Born in New York and



raised in Minnesota, Nancy has been living in the Bay Area for 35 years. A student of history and a lover of books, she has been volunteering for several years in the CGS Library, where she manages the periodicals subscriptions. Nancy served on the Nominations Committee for two years and enjoys helping with the publication of The California Nugget.

Marisela "Merry" Meskus became interested in genealogy after a family trip to the Dominican Republic in 2004. Her father was born in the Dominican Republic and her mother's family originated from Mexico. She enjoys telling people that she is a first-generation American as well as a second-generation, third-generation, and fourth-generation Californian. Marisela was born in Merced and graduated from the University of California, Merced with a BA in History. She moved to the Bay Area to attend San Francisco State University and obtained an MA in Linguistics in 2015. She joined CGS in April 2017 and took advantage of all the classes and SIGs before deciding to volunteer. Planning to become a professional genealogist, she enjoys coming to the library to learn from members who are as passionate about the subject as she is.



Blaine Bettinger on DNA



Blaine Bettinger's blog, The Genetic Genealogist was launched on February 12, 2007 as one of the very first blogs to examine the intersection of traditional genealogical techniques and modern genetic research, more commonly known as "genetic genealogy." Genetic genealogists use genetics to learn more about their ancestry, including their ancient roots, and the relatedness of individuals. This relatively new technology represents a powerful new technology for the genealogist's toolbox.

Blaine will presenting 4 lectures during the day:

1. Using Y-DNA and mtDNA to Explore Your Ancestry
2. Introduction to Autosomal DNA
3. Getting the Most Out of Your AncestryDNA Matches
4. Using Third-Party Tools.



[Register Today!](#)

There will also be a special event on Friday, March 2 at the CGS library limited to 25 people who are experienced in genetic genealogy. Suggested prerequisites include either attendance at one or more DNA institutes, participation in a DNA SIG or a solid understanding of genetic genealogy. The Friday lectures include the Genealogical Proof Standard, Ethics, and a 1-hour Q&A. If you are interested, please contact [Linda Okazaki](#) or [Pam Miller](#) for details.

18th Annual Salt Lake City Research Trip



SEARCH & DISCOVER
Salt Lake City Research Trip
April 22 - 29, 2018

Register Now
Early Bird Special
Ends December 31
[<<click here>>](#)

The California Genealogical Society (CGS) has scheduled its [2018 annual genealogy](#) research trip to the Family History Library from Sunday, April 22nd to Sunday, April 29th. Lisa Gorrell will lead the trip for the third year in a row and she is especially excited to get you to come along!

"Why would I want to go to the Family History Library? Isn't it all online now?" [Read our Blog post.](#)

Other Advantages

- Six days of being with others who share your enthusiasm for genealogy research
- Research assistance with Lisa or one of the experts at the library (especially at the foreign language floors)
- Six days of distraction-free research
- Six days where you don't have to do household chores

[Register Today for early bird specials.](#)

Preserve The Pensions



November 23, 2017

**PRESERVE THE PENSIONS ANNOUNCES NEW IMAGES
AVAILABLE AT FOLD3.COM**



Austin, Texas - The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) is pleased to announce new pension images available at our hosting partner, Fold3. As we detailed in August of this year, conservation had resumed and digitization would shortly follow on War of 1812 Pension files covering surnames M(Moore)-Q. This new release of images is the first installment on the promise made by FGS, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and Ancestry to complete the project we started and to which you all have so generously contributed. Additional images will follow as the Ancestry digitization team continues to refine their process and achieve full capacity in accord with NARA protocols.

The War of 1812 pensions are among the most frequently requested set of materials within NARA's holdings, yet had never been microfilmed or digitized. Through a fundraising effort unprecedented in the genealogical community, more than 4,000 individuals, 115 genealogical and lineage societies, and industry leaders such as FamilySearch helped FGS secure the funds, matched by Ancestry, to preserve and share this invaluable genealogical resource. The images already captured, as well as those soon to be, are hosted at Fold3 and available for free at <https://go.fold3.com/1812pensions/>

"The Federation remains grateful to our partners and our supporters for their commitment to this important project. We are as excited as our community to reach this milestone." - Rorey Cathcart, FGS President

"Accelerating public access to our holdings is key to successfully meeting NARA's mission and we are extremely pleased to see this project contribute to that overarching goal." Pamela Wright, Chief Innovation Officer, NARA

"We are excited to have images flowing to the Fold3 site again and look forward to completing the collection as quickly as NARA's process will allow." Brian Hansen, GM Fold3

The Federation is committed to seeing the entire collection conserved, digitized and freely online at the earliest possible date. We will continue work with our partners to complete the current project plan in a timely manner and to secure a project plan for the remaining portion of the War of 1812 Pension files.

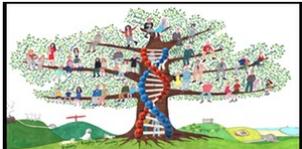
Classes and SIGs

California Genealogical Society & Library

2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland

Here is our wonderful line-up of classes and Special Interest Groups for this month.

When registering on Eventbrite you'll need your CGS membership number to complete the registration. If you do not know your membership number send a request to: membership@californiaancestors.org.

	<p><u>Introduction to Genealogy</u></p> <p>A free class on the fundamentals of genealogical research.</p> <p>Saturday, December 2, from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m</p>
	<p><u>RootsMagic - Special Interest Group</u></p> <p>The RootsMagic SIG welcomes all users and would-be users of this popular genealogy software.</p> <p>Thursday, December 7, from 2 - 4 p.m.</p>
	<p>Pam Miller will be offering 3 classes on "You've Got Your DNA Results, What's Next?", each specific to a leading DNA company.</p> <p>You've Got Your <u>Ancestry DNA</u> Results, What's Next? Saturday, January 27, from 1 - 4 p.m.</p> <p>You've Got Your <u>Family Tree DNA</u> Results, What's Next? Saturday, February 3, from 1 - 4 p.m.</p> <p>You've Got Your <u>23andMe DNA</u> Results, What's Next? Saturday, February 10, from 1 - 4 p.m.</p>
<p>Also <u>visit our Eventbrite profile page</u> to see the latest class additions and descriptions.</p>	

Improving Your Genealogy Skills in 2018

by *Maureen Hanlon*



We're pleased to announce we will offer our Building Skills for Successful Family History Research series at the Oakland FamilySearch Library on Wednesday evenings in March 2018. This series is for researchers who wants to build a strong foundation of research skills that can be used with all types of online and offline records and resources.

Pam Brett will cover six key research skills that will help avoid pitfalls, wasted time and unreliable family trees. Topics include: determining what records to look for, where to look, documentation, and using critical thinking skills. These new skills will help you evaluate, analyze, and confidently produce trees, stories, or more formal documents based on your goals.

Participants will do pre- and post- skills surveys and have group exercises, and optional homework assignments. Class handouts will include multiple examples of offline resources as well as web links

and sites. **Look for online registration soon.**

Volunteer Corner

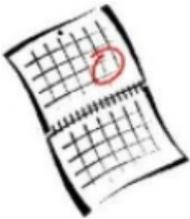
The following Committee Chair positions are vacant. If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact [Linda Okazaki](#) for details.

- Technology
- Marketing
- Membership
- Outreach
- Digital Historian



Meetings and More

California Genealogical Society & Library 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland

	<p>There will be no Board meeting in December.</p> <p>Annual Meeting & 120th Birthday Party - January 13th</p>
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If you would like to host a Special Interest Group (i.e. French Canadian, Mayflower Descendants, Family History Writers, Latinos, Scrapbooking, etc.), then please contact [Maureen Hanlon](#)

If your Society or Organization would like to use our facility as a meeting space for a nominal fee, please contact [Linda Okazaki](#)

CGS Blog

Highlights from the California Genealogical Society Blog and Others

Please subscribe to the [CGS Blog](#). If you haven't been receiving our blog posts on a regular basis, be sure to re-subscribe. It is a great source of information about classes, events, volunteers and members.



We want and need your stories. Have an idea for article, on-going series of posts or have an idea for monthly column? Then contact the Blog Editor [Shannon Reese](#) to discuss.



[CGS Volunteer Holiday Open House](#) by Linda Okazaki

[Holiday Shopping? Help us while you do it!](#) by Shannon Reese



Here are a few interesting blog posts from other sites:

[Today's Genealogy Bargains - Friday, November 24, 2017](#)

[Hidden from the Nazis, Thousands of Lost Jewish Records are Discovered in a Basement](#) by Kim Tucker

[FindMyPast Announces Plans to Publish Cincinnati & Chicago Sacramental Registers Online for the First Time](#) by Dick Eastman

[World's First Online Gallery of Pilgrim Descendants Created by New England Historic Genealogical Society \(NEHGS\)](#) by Dick Eastman

[Use a Twitter Bot to Colorize Your Black-And-White Photos in Seconds for Free](#) by Dick Eastman

Other Events & Conferences

There are always many other events happening in the Bay Area and across the nation. For the latest events, check [Conference Keeper.org](#).

Local Events

Major National and International Conferences in 2018

December 9-10	International Genetic Genealogy Conference	San Diego, California
2018		
Jan 21-26	Salt Lake Genealogical Institute (SLIG)	Salt Lake City, Utah
Feb 28 - Mar 3	RootsTech 2018	Salt Lake City, Utah
May 2 - 5	National Genealogical Society	Grand Rapids, Michigan
May 31 - Jun 2	49th Annual Jamboree 2018	Burbank, California
Jun 2 - 7	The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)	Athens, Georgia
Aug 6 - 10	38th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy	Warsaw, Poland
Aug 6 - 10	Eastern European Family History Conference	Salt Lake City, Utah
Aug 22 - 25	Federation of Genealogical Societies	Fort Wayne, Indiana
Aug 31 - Sep 2	Secret Lives Conference 2018	Leicestershire, UK

Connect with Us

See our [Volunteer](#) page for opportunities or contact [Kathleen Beitiks](#) for information



Tel (510) 663-1358 - Fax (510) 663-1596

Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



E-mail [Stewart Blandón Traiman](#), e-News Editor with any questions.

