March 2020 Announcements

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all the Irish and their admirers!

Join the 5th Annual CGS Irish Ancestry Network Meetup. This year "Sleuthing for Irish Sources" will be presented by Dan Ford. He'll discuss how to find sub-national sources and how to enrich genealogy stories with them. Before the noon potluck, there will be a short presentation by Maureen Hanlon on new and updated Irish records.

March is also Women's History Month

"The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history."

March is a great month to write your female ancestor's stories!
Website Launched
Our new website launched mid-February and so far the response has been very positive. There were a few minor glitches that our website team of John Ralls and Theresa Murphy promptly fixed. If you have not already done so please see what's new at https://www.californiaancestors.org/. If you have comments or suggestions try the new "Leave Us A Suggestion" feature at the bottom of the home page - now or anytime in the future. We always want to hear what our members think and want to find at CGS.

Life Member Tea
Invitations will be mailed out soon. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Life Member Tea on April 26th.
Building Skills for Successful Family History Research

Wednesdays, March 18 - April 8, 6 - 8:30 p.m.
with Pamela Brett

Are you interested in family history but not sure how to get started? Or have you been researching for some time, but want to go farther?

This series is for family historians, both beginners and intermediates, who want to build a strong foundation of research skills to avoid wasted time and unreliable family trees.

The course will be held at the Oakland Family Search Library in four Wednesday evening classes.

March 18, 2020 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
March 25, 2020 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
April 1, 2020 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
April 8, 2020 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

It is strongly recommended that participants plan on attending all four classes as the skills are presented in a sequential pattern.

Six key research skills will be included:

1. Determining which kinds of records to look for
2. Identifying where to find these records
3. Documenting the sources of your information
4. Assessing the reliability of the records you found
5. Analyzing the results of your research
6. Making a solid case for your research conclusions

In-class group exercises and optional homework assignments will provide participants practice skills with a wide variety of genealogical records found in a many different places including online websites.

Class handouts will include basic strategies and cautions, as well as useful websites to use in your research.

Sign up today!

Classes and SIGs

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.
Our first-Saturday "Intro to Genealogy" class is a four-session series. The first class offers an overview of genealogy. Each of the next three sessions will begin with a quick review of the overview, followed by a more in-depth focus on the following topics: Census, Vital Records, and Organization. The classes may be taken in any order, and participation in one class is not required to attend others in the series. The entire series will be repeated.

Saturday, Mar 7, from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m

Mayflower Descendants - Special Interest Group with Robert Trapp

Offered by the California Genealogical Society, The Mayflower Descendants SIG will focus initially on Mayflower ancestry and how to join The Society of California Mayflower Descendants.

Saturday, Mar 14, from Noon - 2 p.m.

Irish Ancestry Network Meetup

Join others researching Irish ancestors for our fifth annual opportunity to meet in person. We will exchange successes, discoveries and strategies for researching in Ireland. Networking will occur in the morning followed by a potluck lunch and speaker or short presentations in the afternoon.

Sunday, Mar 15 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Building Skills for Successful Family History Research with Pamela Brett

This class is presented by CGS at The Oakland FamilySearch Library

Are you interested in family history but not sure how to get started? Or have you been researching for some time, but want to go farther?

This series is for family historians, both beginners and intermediates, who want to build a strong foundation of research skills to avoid wasted time and unreliable family trees.

Wednesdays, Mar 18 - April 8 from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

San Francisco SIG

Join the conversation with the CGS San Francisco Special Interest Group (SFSIG). We uncover records, view historical photographs and maps, read historical newspapers, manuscripts and other San Francisco records.

Saturday, Mar 21, from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Naughty and Notorious Tour of Mountain View Cemetery

This is a Members only Docent-led tour of Mountain View Cemetery.

Docent Michael Colbruno will lead the CGS group on his most popular tour (formerly known as Headline Makers), including stories about the suicide of a Hall of Fame baseball player, a famous San Francisco madam, a corrupt judge, a scam artist who fascinated Mark Twain, a buried heart, a Hollywood director accused of bigamy and others who pushed the boundaries of acceptable behavior.

Saturday, Mar 21 from 10 a.m. to Noon

Family Tree Maker SIG
Devoted exclusively to the popular, robust and easy-to-use Family Tree Maker™ software from Software MacKiev. Join FTM-SIG facilitators Ron Madson and Karen Halfon on the third Saturday of each month

Saturday, Mar 21, from 1 - 4 p.m.

West Coast Immigration to the United States in the 20th Century with Linda Okazaki

20th Century immigrants to the west coast arrived by ship through Washington, Oregon, and California. Some immigrants arrived overland through Canada and Mexico. Vast numbers of these immigrants were Asian. This lecture will examine the ports of entry, the records generated, and the laws which impacted who and how the immigrants arrived. Many examples from the Angel Island Quarantine Station and Immigration Station will be used.

Saturday, Mar 21 from 1 - 2:30 p.m.
At the Oakland FamilySearch Library

Blogging to Share Your Family History for Writers and Non-Writers with Chris Pattillo

This will be an introductory class for starting a blog. Chris will begin by talking about the pros and cons of blogging vs publishing books, or never getting around to doing anything with all your wonderful research.

Then we will jump right in and create a blog using Blogger, which is free and very easy to use. Chris will show attendees how to choose a theme and background, review page layout options, add gadgets, add text, photos and captions, how to edit after posting, and more.

Saturday, Mar 21 from 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Finding Your Civil War Ancestors - Presented by Jeff Vaillant

This class is presented by CGS at The Oakland FamilySearch Library

Join Jeff Vaillant in a session where he will share stories and strategies about finding his Civil War ancestors. Jeff will provide websites and other sources for you to be successful in locating military and pension and other resources both online and offline. Jeff can also provide information about the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Saturday, Apr 18, 2020 1 - 3:30 p.m.

Oakland FamilySearch Library Talk & Workshop presentation by Jane Lindsey

Come hear a presentation by Jane Lindsey at 11:00 about using FamilySearch.org to discover the incredible genealogical resource FamilySearch.org has become. People are amazed when they see the resources they have been overlooking.

The presentation will include using the Research Wiki, the Catalog as well as providing tips to use to search for your ancestors.

Thursday, Apr 29 from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Talk)
Hands on assistance in the lab 12:30 - 4 p.m.

This members only event is presented by CGS at The Oakland FamilySearch Library
The Kindness of Strangers: Using Mitochondrial DNA to Prove a Mayflower Ancestry presented by Matt Berry

Mitochondrial DNA (mt-DNA) Testing may be the least used type of DNA test for genealogical purposes, but it can be a powerful tool for identifying matrilineal lines. This presentation will present a case study using mt-DNA test results as part of a proof argument that meets the Genealogical Proof Standard, and current Genealogy Standards for Using DNA Evidence.

Saturday, May 9, from 1 - 3 p.m.

Finding Military Records Using Fold3 presented by Anne Mitchell

Join Ancestry.com Senior Manager Anne Mitchell for an overview of Fold3, a database that provides convenient access to military records, including the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served. If you have ancestors who were in any military conflicts beginning with the Revolutionary War through the Vietnam war, this talk will be a great introduction to content and search strategies.

Saturday, May 16 from 1 - 2:30 p.m.
This class is presented by CGS at The Oakland FamilySearch Library

Eastern European Special Interest Group Quarterly Meeting by Craig Siulinski

Come, to a Special Interest Group (SIG) discussion, focused on Eastern European Genealogy. Our group is open to all.

Saturday, May 30, from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Also visit our Eventbrite profile page to see the latest class additions and descriptions.

Writing Your Family History Series

Seven Sessions
April 11, April 25, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24
1 pm - 4 pm, CGS Classroom
The California Genealogical Society will present an encore of our popular series Writing Your Family History. By the end of the course, you will be ready to start writing, or will be already writing, a family history with confidence and style!

Who Should Take This Course?
This course series is for genealogists and family historians who are ready to transform their research into a quality family history. The course will be lead by a team of dedicated volunteers - Matthew B. Berry, CG, Jennifer Dix, Lois Elling, Lisa Gorrell, CG, and Stewart Traiman - who have different and complementary skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kickoff</th>
<th>Telling Our Family Stories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 11, 1-4 pm</td>
<td>Panelists: Matthew B. Berry, CG, Jennifer Dix, Lois Elling, Lisa Gorrell, CG, Stewart Traiman, and others.</td>
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<td>This will be a panel discussion in which each panelist discusses how they have told their family history stories. Examples will include books, journals/magazines, blogs, video, and other forms.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>Writing Stories</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 25, 1-4 pm</td>
<td>Instructor: Lisa Gorrell, CG</td>
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<td>This class will get you started writing your family history book. We will discuss defining your writing project, writing as a research tool, and ideas for providing context to your narratives.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 2</th>
<th>Writing and Editing With Style</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 27, 1-4 pm</td>
<td>Instructor: Jennifer Dix</td>
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<td>This class will discuss style: why writers need style sheets, and what style decisions need to be made. Also discussed will be how to edit your writing: who should do it, when to do it, and what to look for.</td>
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<th>Session 3</th>
<th>Citation: Easier Than You Think</th>
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<td>July 25, 1-4 pm</td>
<td>Instructor: Stewart Traiman</td>
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<td>This class will be based on Tom Jones' Mastering Genealogical Documentation. We'll break down all 17 chapters to make them more easily understandable and provide exercises for each. Attendees will leave with much more confidence in how to craft their own citations for any source.</td>
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<th>Session 4</th>
<th>From Front to Back: Components of a Quality Family History Book</th>
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<td>August 22, 1-4 pm</td>
<td>Instructor: Matthew B. Berry, CG</td>
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<td>This class will review the parts of a quality family history book, what to include in the front matter, the main body, and the end matter of your book. It will then go into detail on how to organize the main body of your work, covering the most popular...</td>
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genealogical numbering systems. The session will conclude with the "back door" to your book - the index.

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<th>Session 5</th>
<th>Making Your Book Look Good: Page Layout and Art Preparation</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 26, 1-4 pm</td>
<td>Instructor: Lois Elling</td>
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<td>This class will cover how to add visual interest to your narratives: choosing typefaces that are easy to read, adding pictures and diagrams to your stories, and page layout software options.</td>
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<th>Session 6</th>
<th>Don't Stop the Presses: Publishing Your Genealogy Book</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 24, 1-4 pm</td>
<td>Instructors: Lois Elling and Matthew B. Berry, CG</td>
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<td>This class will show how to turn your word processor files into a professional- looking family history book. Topics will include: creating a file to send to the printer, choosing a printer, paper and binding considerations, and more.</td>
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Volunteers!

CGS needs your tech skills!

Volunteers are needed to join the CGS Technology Committee, helping to keep our in-library computers and network functioning smoothly. Maintenance is performed weekly on Mondays, and usually takes a couple of hours. Duty rotates among volunteers, which generally results in a once-a-month commitment. Requires familiarity with Windows 10 setup and troubleshooting; you'll get training on the specific procedures.

Feel free to submit the Volunteer Form or contact Kathleen Beitiks for more information.

Meetings and More

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

Board Meeting
The board will not be having its regular monthly meeting in March. Board meetings will resume in April.

If you would like to host a Special Interest Group 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 Jim Sorenson.

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. If you have an idea for an article, ongoing series of posts or monthly column, then please contact Blog Editor Jennifer Dix to discuss.

Results of the CGS Member Survey -- by Jennifer Dix

Nichi Bei "Film of Remembrance" February 22 & 23 -- by Jennifer Dix

New Website Launch -- by Chris Pattillo

Chinese American Pilgrimage in History Marysville, February 22 & 23 -- by Jennifer Dix

Here are a few interesting blog posts from other sites:

The top six DNA tools I can't live without -- on Toll Genealogy

25 Best Genealogy Websites for Beginners -- by Sunny Jane Morton on Family Tree Magazine

Deadname: Writing about Transgender people -- on SixGen by Stewart Traiman

Unratified Amendments: Protection of Slavery -- by Jessie Kratz at NARA

MyHeritage in Color™ Goes Viral: Over a Million Photos Already Colorized! -- by Esther

Finding German World War II Service Records -- by FamilySearch

Mississippi State University Libraries to Digitize Records of Enslaved Mississippians for the First Time -- by Dick Eastman

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.

Top 5 Genealogy TV Shows (VLOG #35)

Local Events
The History of Golden Gate Park - Mar 5 at 7 p.m. by The Society of California Pioneers' Museum and Library.

Bay Area Genealogy Calendar maintained by the Sutro Library

GREEK GENEALOGY DAY

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Doors open at 9:00am
Event to run 9:30am-4:00pm

Join us for a full day of learning how to research your Greek family history along with a first-time screening of the Greek Heritage Society of Southern California’s latest documentary, “The New Greek Americans, 1960-2018”

RSVP:
ascensionhistorical89@gmail.com
Or via Google doc form: RSVP link

Ascension Cathedral
4700 Lincoln Ave, Oakland

$15.00
Pay at the door (includes lunch)

Reservations are advised as space is limited to 100 participants! (RSVP info below)

Sponsored by:
Ascension Historical Society,
Greek Heritage Society of Southern California,
Greek Historical Society of the San Francisco Bay Area,
Modern Greek Studies Foundation, &
George and Sophia Fonti
Major National and International Conferences:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Conference Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 29 - May 2</td>
<td>Ohio Genealogical Society Conference</td>
<td>Sandusky, OH</td>
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<td>May 20 - 23</td>
<td>National Genealogical Society</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, Utah</td>
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<td>Jun &amp; Jul 2020 (3 sessions)</td>
<td>Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP)</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 13 - 17</td>
<td>Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (Gen-Fed)</td>
<td>Washington D.C.</td>
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2020 Webinar Calendar:

1st Saturday webinars: 3rd Wednesday webinars:
- 10:00 AM Pacific 6:00 PM Pacific
- 11:00 AM Mountain 7:00 PM Mountain
- 12:00 PM Central 8:00 PM Central
- 1:00 PM Eastern 9:00 PM Eastern

FREE!

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 26 - 31</td>
<td>The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)</td>
<td>Atlanta, Georgia</td>
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<td>Jul 31 - Aug 1</td>
<td>Celtic Connections Conference</td>
<td>Wheeling, Illinois</td>
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<td>Aug 9 - 14</td>
<td>IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy</td>
<td>San Diego, California</td>
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<td>Sep 2 - 5</td>
<td>Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)</td>
<td>Kansas City, Missouri</td>
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<td>Sep 10 - 12</td>
<td>New York State Family History Conference</td>
<td>Albany, New York</td>
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<td>Oct 15 - 17</td>
<td>APG Professional Management Conference</td>
<td>Portland, Oregon</td>
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<td>Oct 25 - 26</td>
<td>MyHeritage LIVE</td>
<td>Tel Aviv, Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 13 - 15</td>
<td>Texas State Genealogical Society</td>
<td>Irving, Texas</td>
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<td>2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 10 - 15</td>
<td>Salt Lake Genealogical Institute (SLIG)</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 17 - 22</td>
<td>SLIG Academy for Professionals</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 16 - 18</td>
<td>International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP)</td>
<td>Cincinnati, Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3 - 6</td>
<td>RootsTech 2020</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, Utah</td>
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**Connect with Us**

See our Volunteer page for opportunities or contact Kathleen Beitiks

**Become a member of CGS**

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

The library is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Stewart Blandón Traiman
eNews editor since Feb 2015
Email me with any questions.