

**Since 1898****April, Vol. 14, No. 4****April 2020 Announcements****An Update from the CGS President**

As most of you know, the CGS library has been closed since March 12 and we have canceled all public CGS activities through the end of May. Fortunately, many of our volunteers are able to work from home. The library closure and cancellation of classes may continue beyond May. Please check our website at: CaliforniaAncestors.org for the current status. These are extraordinary times for CGS and this closure is unprecedented in the memory of any of us - but I'm sure you're aware of why we have taken these steps. Due to the age demographic in the genealogy community, CGS will remain on the cautious side of any government mandates. Although I am not aware of any library or class attendees having tested positive for the Coronavirus, aka COVID-19, the threat is real and we are concerned for the health and safety of our patrons, friends and volunteers.

Individually, we will come through this and CGS will come through this. We are already planning the transition back to normal CGS operations on the other side although when that transition will start is unknown at this point. Rescheduling of canceled classes or events will have to be coordinated with the instructors and the calendar of events at each venue. We appreciate your support and understanding as we go down this road. The library closure will cause some disruption in our processing of membership dues renewals but we will not drop any members for non-payment of dues until the end of June. Rather than having individuals cancel their class registration, rest assured that all fees paid will be refunded for classes or events if they have been canceled.

I think most genealogists have tasks that have been put aside until someday when they have more time. Well, that time has come for many of us. It's a good time to organize your family history files. I've started writing a narrative history for each of my grandparents based on years of accumulated information. And after that, I have to complete work on eight great grandparents. Those narratives can be revised if new information is discovered but this is a great time to get started.

Jim Sorenson, President

**New Website Launched**

While the library is closed due to COVID-19 you might have time to explore the offerings on our recently updated website in more detail. The first thing to try is the search box which underwent a major overhaul as part of this update. It is now much more powerful - try it, I am confident you will be impressed.

Our Society

- Welcome
- Mission
- About Us
- History
- Officers and Board
- Committee Chairs

History of the California Genealogical Society

In establishing an organization to bring together persons interested in family history and in the preservation of genealogical data, the founders of CGS wanted a means of sharing their relevant books with others having similar

Take the time to check out everything listed on each pull-down menu. For example, you might want to read about our History on the OUR SOCIETY menu. CGS Member, Marie Treleavan wrote this new version and member, Ron Madson enhanced our historic photo of the International Congress of Genealogy taken in 1915.

CGS & FGS Videos

FamilySearch Records | California Genealogical Society

California Genealogical Society works with FamilySearch to provide free online access to the records of funeral homes in the San Francisco area. These records are among the few collections that date back prior to 1906 and the San Francisco earthquake and are great substitutes for death records for that time period.

You will find another new feature at the bottom of the HOME page where you will find a button labelled SEE VIDEOS. There you will find three videos made by CGS members Kathie Jones and Shannon Reece plus three videos from a recent FGS Conference.

Stay Home - Stay Healthy - Make progress on your Family History projects



The Contra Costa County Library has made Ancestry.com available to the public from their homes for the remainder of the "stay at home" order. You just need to have a library card so you can use that number to log on to the system. Go to ccclib.org, LOG IN in the upper right corner. Then click on the large red "CLOSED" box, scroll down to "Ancestry Library Edition".

Classes and SIGs

When registering on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) you'll need your CGS membership number to complete the registration. If you do not know your membership number send a request to [Membership](#).



Currently all classes, Special Interest Groups and events have been cancelled through the end of May. Classes for June and beyond are on hold during the emergency "Shelter in Place" order in effect for California.

However, we are extremely pleased to offer our first ONLINE class.



**[Blogging to Share Your Family History](#)
with Chris Pattillo
First Free Online Class Hosted by CGS**

Chris uses a program called Blogger. It's a great way to share her family research and other topics - for free! She learned how to use Blogger during a 2009 class offered by CGS and has been blogging ever since. She says it's easy and has never even needed tech support. You can visit her [family history blog](#).

We would like to invite you to be one of our pioneering audience to learn from Chris and to help us with our first event. Please sign up above for the class, and tell your friends, even if they aren't members! We will be using the free program Google Meet as the first of what we hope will be many online presentations. The class will be free but is limited to 100 participants. We will send you a link the night before the class which will get you right into the Google Meet presentation. You won't need a camera or microphone to participate, just a computer or tablet capable of watching videos. You will be able to enter questions using the chat feature of the program.

[April 9, from 10 a.m. - Noon](#), ONLINE

Meetings and More

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

Board Meeting

The April 11th Board Meeting will take place virtually via video conferencing starting at 10 a.m.



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.



[An Update from the CGS President](#) -- by Jim Sorenson

[Genealogy learning in the time of coronavirus](#) -- by Jennifer Dix

[Update on the CGS Library closure](#) -- by Jennifer Dix

[Happy St. Patrick's Day! Here's a recipe for Irish Soda Bread](#) -- by Theresa Murphy

[Now's Your Chance](#) -- by Chris Pattillo

["Paper Sons and Picture Brides" in NGS Magazine](#) -- by Jennifer Dix

Here are a few interesting blog posts from other sites:

[Upcoming Free Webinars](#) -- on NYG&B Blog

[New Newspaper Records Online: New York State Updates for 2020](#) -- on NYG&B Blog

[MyHeritage In Color™ is Now Free and Unlimited for One Month!](#) -- by Esther on MyHeritage News

[Connect While Social Distancing: Join the FamilySearch Live Community](#) -- by Family Search

[Dear Randy: How do I Create a List of Persons Who died in 1918 in RootsMagic?](#) -- on Genea-Musings

[A note from Ancestry's CEO](#) -- on Ancestry.com blog



What you need to know about the 2020 census

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](#).

All events are subject to cancellation during this global pandemic emergency. Please check with each event's website prior to making plans to attend.

Local Events

Bay Area Genealogy Calendar maintained by the Sutro Library**Major National and International Conferences:****Family History Library Webinar Series**

2020		
Apr 29 - May 2	Ohio Genealogical Society Conference	Sandusky, OH
May 20 - 23	National Genealogical Society	Salt Lake City, Utah
Jun & Jul 2020 (3 sessions)	Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP)	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Jul 13 - 17	Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (Gen-Fed)	Washington D.C.
Jul 26 - 31	The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)	Atlanta, Georgia
Jul 31 - Aug 1	Celtic Connections Conference	Wheeling, Illinois
Aug 9 - 14	IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy	San Diego, California
Sep 2 - 5	Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)	Kansas City, Missouri
Sep 10 - 12	New York State Family History Conference	Albany, New York
Oct 15 - 17	APG Professional Management Conference	Portland, Oregon
Oct 25 - 26	MyHeritage LIVE	Tel Aviv, Israel
Nov 13 - 15	Texas State Genealogical Society	Irving, Texas
2021		
Jan 10 - 15	Salt Lake Genealogical Institute (SLIG)	Salt Lake City, Utah
Jan 17 - 22	SLIG Academy for Professionals	Salt Lake City, Utah
Jul 16 - 18	International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP)	Cincinnati, Ohio
Feb 3 - 6	RootsTech 2020	Salt Lake City, Utah

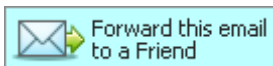
Connect with Us

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 (usually) open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and will be open again once the "Shelter in Place" order is lifted for California.



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

