



California Genealogical Society

CaliforniaAncestors.org

eNews

Since 1898

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September 2020 Announcements



Beginning on September 15, and continuing through to October 15, we recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month. During the four weeks, celebrations honor the heritage and contributions made by members of the Hispanic community. Festivities begin on September 15, marking the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. With great fanfare, celebrations sweep across Latin America, Central American and on into Mexico and Chili commemorating each country's independence from week to week!

This is a good month to learn about Latin American and Hispanic genealogical resources and CGS is offering two classes...

- [An Introduction to Researching Your Mexican Ancestors](#)
- [Researching Mexican Land Grants in Alta California](#)

Classes and SIGs

Register on [Eventbrite](#).

We are extremely pleased to offer our ONLINE classes while our meeting place is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic



[Writing Your Family History Series ONLINE](#)

The California Genealogical Society will present an encore of our popular series Writing Your Family History online via Zoom. By the end of the course, you will be ready to start

All classes are virtual

Tuesdays,
7 - 8:30 pm

Register for one or
all classes in the
series

writing, or will be already writing, a family history with confidence and style!

Citation: Easier Than You Think presented by Stewart Traiman

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.

1 Sep 2020

Making Your Book Look Good I: Type & Graphics presented by Lois Elling

This class will cover how to add visual interest to your narratives and present a professional-looking book. Topics will include: typefaces, graphic elements, and photographs. Parts I and II of this course are designed to be taken together, but may be taken separately if desired.

8 Sep 2020

Making Your Book Look Good II: Page Layout and Software presented by Lois Elling

This class will continue to cover how to add visual interest to your narratives and present a professional-looking book. Topics will include: design basics, construction considerations, software, and going to print.

15 Sep 2020

Creating an Effective Index to your Family History Book presented by Matt Berry, CG

This class will teach how to create an effective index for your family history book. Most people don't read genealogies from cover to cover, the first thing a potential reader wants to know is whether their family is covered in the book, so they turn to the index first. Help your readers out by creating a useful index to your book.

22 Sep 2020



Intro to Genealogy - 1st Saturday Free! Overview and Focused Topics

Not sure how to get started with your family research? Interested in refreshing your skills? Join us for a FREE Introduction to Genealogy class the FIRST SATURDAY of every month

[via Zoom on Saturday, 5 Sep from 10:15 am - 12:15 pm](#)



Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group

Hosted by Ron Madson and Karen Halfon

This Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group is perfect for new FTM users, people who are just FTM curious, and experienced FTM veterans. All Welcome!

[via Zoom on Saturday, 19 Sep from 1 - 3 pm](#)



Exploring Military Records Series

presented by Susan Goss Johnston

The term “military records” is a very nondescript name for a vast and varied group of records whose coverage encompasses most of the men, and many women, throughout this country’s history. To use these records effectively, a family historian must understand their creation, organization, and access, not just extract specific content. There are overarching patterns in these records. Recognizing these patterns, and their exceptions, will help researchers navigate this treasure trove.

via Zoom

Four Sessions on every other Saturday Morning

- 19 Sep - Pension and Bounty Land Applications
- 3 Oct - Service Records
- 17 Oct - Before and After Records
- 31 Oct - Seldom Used Records

from 10 am - noon



An Introduction to Researching Your Mexican Ancestors

presented by Colleen Robledo Greene

This overview lecture covers key U.S. records and strategies for identifying when and where your Mexican ancestors immigrated, and for identifying their hometown in Mexico. It also reviews the main record collections for tracing those family lines further back in Mexico. This class is ideal for anyone new to researching their Mexican lines, as well as those still relatively new to genealogy in general. Learn how even a non-Spanish speaker can be successful at this research.

via Zoom on Saturday, 26 Sep from 10 - 11 am



Introduction to DNA and Genetic Genealogy

with Mark McLaren

The class is designed to be an introduction to DNA as an exciting new tool for genealogists. It is intended for individuals who either are new to DNA or looking to improve their ability to use it in their research. The objective of the class is to provide a basic understanding of all DNA tests and concepts. It will examine the available tools and strategies to more effectively manage DNA matches. It will also create a solid foundation for those interested in taking classes in more advanced skills.

**via Zoom on Six Sessions
Tuesday, 29 Sep - 3 Nov from 7 - 8:30 p.m.**



Researching Mexican Land Grants in Alta California

presented by Susan Skilton

Key to understanding California history prior to 1850 is the Mexican Land Grant system. This class will delve into the historical background and the documents involved, as well as where to find the documents. In addition we will take a look at other types of genealogical records which are important to identifying the profiles of early Californians associated in some way with these land holdings, whether as family members associated with the property, lawyers, ranchers or residents on the land.

All researchers are welcome to this introductory class. No knowledge of Spanish is required.



The Naughty and Notorious of Mountain View Cemetery hosted by Michael Colbruno

Docent Michael Colbruno will take us on a virtual tour of 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, 24 Oct from 1 - 2:30 p.m.



The Company They Kept: Enrich Your Family History Thru Cluster Studies presented by Anne Brenneis

A cluster study is a deep dive into the physical and documentary remains of a particular place or group, in a particular time period, that can provide rich context and surprising details about the lives of our ancestors. This presentation offers ideas for types of clusters to consider, ways to plan and organize your study, and suggestions for networking and fishing for hidden documentation. A recent study of a frontier cemetery in Ohio is used as a model.

Saturday, 21 Nov from 10 - noon



Finding Your Civil War Ancestors presented by Jeff Vaillant

Join Jeff Vaillant in a session where he will share stories and strategies he used in 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's ancestor is a Union soldier from the 10th Iowa. Jeff continues to learn and teach as a member of Sons of Union Veterans of California and Pacific. He will also be giving the steps to find information from the National Archives Civil War Pension Files.

Saturday, 19 Dec from 10 - noon

Volunteers

Volunteers on the home front!

CGS extends its thanks to members who are stepping up to work from home on our Indexing Project. Their work is helping us add information to our online genealogy database, which will benefit all members. Working at home is becoming the norm during these days of Covid-19, even for volunteers. If you are a CGS member who might be interested in adding your name to our list of "At Home Volunteers," let us know and we will try to pair you up with a project.

If you are interested in volunteering or want more details, please send an email to [Kathleen Beitiks](#).



Meetings & More

CGS Board

September 12, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

The CGS Board will continue meeting online via Zoom for the duration of the pandemic. Anyone can attend this meeting by [registering on Eventbrite](#).

Please sign in early to make sure you are able to see the program. We will send you a joining instructions the night before which will give you access.

Agenda

- Officer Reports
- Committee Reports
- New Business
- Old Business



If you would like to host a Special Interest Group then please contact [Maureen Hanlon](#).

Blogs

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.



CGS Blog

- [Tow new medals honor World War II veterans: Chinese Americans and Merchant Marines](#) -- by Jennifer Dix
- [Help Find Photos of These California Veterans](#) by Jennifer Dix
- [Free Webinar about the Angel Island Immigration Station, August 13](#) by Jennifer Dix
- Also, every Sunday our blog now offers a weekly roundup of online genealogy events.

Other Genealogy Blogs

- [Best free genealogy websites](#) - on Who do you think you are? magazine
- [The Israel Genealogy Research Association \(IGRA\) Adds a Significant Sephardic Collection to its Database](#) - by Dick Eastman
- [Should You Remove Your Data Now From Ancestry.com?](#) - by Dick Eastman
- [Eleven Online Classes About New York's Records](#) - on NYG&B
- [U.S. Census Bureau to halt counting operation a month earlier than expected](#) - by Ali Linan on Community Impact
- [An Abundance of Rebecca Kaplans, but which one is mine? Avoiding accidental ancestral identity theft](#) - by Reba J. Weatherford on NYG&B
- [What Are Family Tree Data Problems, and How Do I Fix Them?](#) - by Jan Mayer on FamilySearch
- [Re-Dressing Pennsylvania and the Wild West](#) by Tyler Stump on Another Century



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

[Family History Library Webinar Series](#)

[Bay Area Genealogy Calendar](#)

maintained by the Sutro Library

National & International Conference Schedule

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

2020

[Federation of Genealogical Societies \(FGS\)](#)
Sep 2 - 5, will now be virtual

[New York State Family History Conference](#)
Sep 10 - 12, Albany, New York
Sep 10 - 30, virtual

APG Professional Management Conference - Cancelled
Oct 15 - 17, Portland, Oregon

[MyHeritage LIVE](#) - Postponed

[Texas State Genealogical Society](#)
Nov 13 - 15, Irving, Texas

2021

[Salt Lake Genealogical Institute \(SLIG\)](#)
Jan 10 - 15, Salt Lake City, Utah

[SLIG Academy for Professionals](#)
Jan 17 - 22, Salt Lake City, Utah

[RootsTech 2021](#)
Feb 3 - 6, Salt Lake City, Utah

[Ohio Genealogical Society Conference](#)
April 14 - 17, Columbus, Ohio

[National Genealogical Society](#)
May 19 - 22, Richmond, VA

[Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh \(GRIP\)](#)
June 20 - 25 & July 11 - 16

[Midwest African American Genealogy Institute \(MAAGI\)](#)
July 6 - 8

[Genealogical Institute on Federal Records \(Gen-Fed\)](#)

[The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research \(IGHR\)](#)
July 25 - 30

[Celtic Connections Conference](#)

[IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy](#)

California Genealogical Society

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Contact Us Via
Email



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

Due to concerns about COVID 19, the CGS library is closed through at least mid-summer. This closure may be extended, so please check here before visiting our library. See our [Blog](#) for latest news.

[Join The
Society](#)

[Renew Your Membership](#)