An update on reopening at CGS

I'm sure all of us are eager to see the CGS library reopen for use by the genealogical community. In May and June, the CGS Board discussed various issues and challenges related to reopening our library. Effective October 9, Alameda County said that libraries could reopen at 25% capacity with certain protocols. For CGS that meant: contacting our front desk volunteers about their willingness to come in; incorporating the County protocols with the ones we had already addressed; and developing a training program for our volunteers. We also contacted various area libraries about their reopening plans and learned that: for various reasons, none of them had a definite date for reopening; and like us, most were looking at a reservation system for library use. We thought we might be able to open in November.

However, we contacted the County health folks for some clarifications and were told that not only did CGS have to use the library protocols but also those for offices (which have not been allowed to reopen in Alameda County) and the ventilation requirements for movie theaters (since we are windowless). After reviewing the above input, the Board has decided that we should not plan to reopen the library until next year, possibly by March 2021 but nothing definite. Since that decision, the County has officially closed the window on our reopening due to a resurgence of COVID cases. I'm also disappointed to say that I do not expect us to schedule any in-person classes at our library before June 2021. Another impact of the closure is that our annual meeting on 9 January 2021 will be held by video conference and although it is free, attendees will have to register ahead of time. We will all miss the opportunity to see each other in person and share our experiences of the past 8 months.
James Sorenson, CGS President

November 19, 2020

CGS Annual Appeal 2020

Every year about this time, CGS kicks off an appeal for donations. Letters have already been sent to all CGS members. If a member can’t find their letter or if a non-member wishes to make a donation, it can be done using our website. Go to [CaliforniaAncestors.org](http://CaliforniaAncestors.org), click on “members” on the tool bar, on the dropdown menu, click on “Support CGS/Donate”. At the bottom of that page is a form to be filed out for making a donation. You can print the form and mail it to us with a check or you can use Paypal.

James Sorenson, President

2021 CGS Board Nominees

We will vote on this slate at the Annual Business Meeting. Please join us.

Continuing in their first term:
- Grant Din
- Theresa Murphy
- Joanna Shear

Continuing in their second term:
- Chris Pattillo

Continuing in their third term:
- Maureen Hanlon
- Stewart Traiman

Proposed nominations for a second term:
- Matt Berry
- Jennifer Dix
- Jim Sorenson

Proposed nomination for a third term:
- Richard Kehoe

Linda Okazaki will continue as Past President.

Stepping down effective with the annual meeting on January 9, 2021:
- Stacey Hoover
- Arlene Miles

Proposed new nominees for the board:

**Ron Madson.** Ron’s relationship with family history was ignited a decade and a half ago by a photo of his great grandparent’s family. He quickly developed a passion for family history and teaching genealogy related topics having taught more than 70 courses in the past 5 years, primarily for CGS. He has a BS & MS in Math and is a USMC veteran. He had an IT career beginning in the mid-1960s and retired from his final career building custom homes in Silicon Valley and coast side. He served as educational coordinator for the largest international IBM computer users’ group for 7 years and for 10 years he was the technical education coordinator for an international insurance company. Ron is the founder and co-facilitator of the FTM-SIG and served as Eventbrite coordinator for several...
Adelle Treakle enjoyed hearing and recording, her family’s Japanese American WW II experiences at family events. She joined CGS in 2013 after taking the ‘Finding Your Japanese Roots’ class. Afterwards, she found her family’s WWII internment records in the National Archives, and traveled to Japan, procured her ancestors’ koseki (family registries), and visited their home prefectures. Her paternal ancestors have deep American roots with the most current immigration being from Ireland in 1835. Adelle has served on the CGS membership committee and is currently the Eventbrite coordinator. She received a B.S. in Information and Computer Science from UC Irvine and worked as a software engineer for 30 years.

New Online Resources

The Website Content Committee recently published a set of family genealogies that were compiled by CGS Members in 1944. You can view this material on our website. Look for the Research Menu, then select Online Resources. Once on that page scroll down to find all of the recently added new material. Volunteers have now begun to work on expanding our California Surname Index and will be adding new biographies for more Californians to our database.

Book Donations

CGS recently received book donations from the estates of two long time CGS members. One box from John Moore’s collection contains 36 books. We also received 14 boxes of books from Laura Spurrier. The Library Committee will evaluate all of these and make decisions about what to add to our collection and what books are duplicates and will be sold on eBay. We greatly appreciate these very generous donations.

CGS will be happy to receive donations of any genealogical books you no longer need. Please contact Arlene Miles for more information.

Classes and SIGs

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

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.

Saturday, 5 Dec from 10:15 am - 12:15 pm
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

2021 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

Saturday, 2 Jan 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!

Saturday, 16 Jan from 1 - 3 pm

Advanced DNA Skills Special Interest Group
Hosted by Mark McLaren

The Advanced DNA Skills Special Interest Group will continue to develop their understanding of DNA techniques, review new developments in DNA testing and tools, and discuss member's research problems and case studies.

Monthly on Fourth Monday - starting Jan 25 from 7 - 8:30 pm

Volunteers

CGS volunteers are on a roll!

During these endless months of the Covid-19 quarantine, many members have stepped up to volunteer at home working on several CGS indexing projects (after all, there are only so many closets you can reorganize during our "stay-at-home" orders!) Slowly, but surely, these projects have added to the digitized CGS databases. We started out with several vintage Pedigree Charts and Lineage Charts, and are now ready to tackle a group of biographies, culled from books in the CGS Library that were published prior to 1900. Basically, volunteer indexers will be transferring specific information in the biographies to a spreadsheet. Because the CGS Library is still closed (due to the current pandemic situation), a volunteer will personally deliver one book to your home. No need to come to the Library to pick up the assigned book.
CGS is an all-volunteer organization. If you are interested in volunteering or want more details, please send an email to Kathleen Beitiks.

Meetings & More

**2021 CGS Annual Membership Meeting - ONLINE**

Please join us for the 2021 CGS Annual Membership Meeting. During the meeting we will vote on the slate of nominees to the board and the 2021 budget. We will also review the 2020 activities and plans for 2021.

This event is presented live, and will not be recorded.

See you online! *9 January 2021 at 10 am*

**CGS Board**

December 12th at 10 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 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**

- An update on reopening the CGS Library from President Jim Sorenson -- by James Sorenson
- 1944 Genealogies Added to Website -- by Chris Pattillo
- "This Land is Their Land": Virtual Author Talk, Tuesday, November 17 -- by Jennifer Dix
- Our Annual Appeal -- by Jennifer Dix
- Also, every Sunday our blog now offers a weekly preview of upcoming online genealogy events.

**Other Genealogy**

Last year we started what I hope to make an annual event -- thanking our members by featuring their blogs. This month's "Other Genealogy Blogs" space is dedicated to our member posts over the past three months.


- **Remembering My Granduncle for Veterans Day** -- by Janice Sellers on Ancestral Discoveries
- **Ah Kong – Spokane, Washington – Oriental Café** -- by Trish Hackett Nicola on Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files
- **Oh, my gosh! That's Uncle Joe!** -- by Cathy Paris on Is Meets Was
- **Assumption: But I Thought They Were Buried in Turlock** -- by Jacqueline Henderson on Jacquelin's Jaunts
- **A Statement of Non Support for Board of African American Genealogy (BOAAG)** -- by Dr. Ellen Fernandez-Sacco on Latino Genealogy and Beyond
- **Putting Names to the Enslaved from Jemima (Porter) Coor’s Estate in Copiah Co, Mississippi** -- by Lisa Gorrell on Mam-ma's Southern Family
- **Saturday Night Genealogy Fun -- How Many Children Did Your Ancestors Have?** -- by Lisa Gorrell on My Trails into the Past
- **Cluvarius Coleman 1740 - 1799 My 5th Great Grandfather on my Father's Side** -- by Chris Pattillo on Pattillo Thornally Ancestors
- **Write Your Own Obituary** -- by Stewart Traiman on Speaker for the Dead
- **More Stories From The Sacramento Police Mug Books 1860-1948** -- by Sheri Fenley on The Educated Genealogist

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**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](http://www.conferencekeeper.org).

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**Local Events**

Family History Library Webinar Series

**Bay Area Genealogy Calendar**

maintained by the Sutro Library

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**National & International Conference Schedule**

2021

-Salt Lake Genealogical Institute (SLIG)
  Jan 10 - 15 and Jan 24 - 29, virtual-
All events are subject to cancellation during this global pandemic emergency. Please check with each event’s website prior to making plans to attend.

### SLIG Academy for Professionals
Jan 17 - 22, virtual

### RootsTech 2021
Feb 3 - 6, Salt Lake City, Utah

### Ohio Genealogical Society Conference
April 14 - 17, virtual

### 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

### New York State Family History Conference

### APG Professional Management Conference

### MyHeritage LIVE

### Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Annual Conference

### Texas State Genealogical Society
Nov 13 - 15, Irving, Texas

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**California Genealogical Society**

2201 Broadway, Suite LL2  
Oakland, CA 94612-3031  
(510) 663-1358

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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 currently closed but we are exploring reopening it as soon as possible.

See our [Blog](#) for latest news.