February 2023 Announcements

We're so happy to announce that 2023 has brought us the election of Chris Pattillo as the new President of CGS. She had a special message of thanks for outgoing President Jim Sorenson, who took up his post in Summer 2019. Jim has ably led the society for the past two and a half years through the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

From the President - Chris Pattillo

Just one month into the year and a lot is going on. We had a very successful annual meeting and elected Keith Montgomery to our board. Keith was the mastermind behind our first fully hybrid meeting. Ron Madson, Adelle Treakle and Karen Halfon deserve our thanks for that too. The best part was Therese Hart-Pignotti's presentation about the upcoming plans for our 125th Anniversary celebration being planned for October 8th. It was reported to me that the excitement in the room could be felt by those attending remotely.

I am thrilled to share that my first appointment is Sheri Fenley as Volunteer Coordinator. For those who attended the NGS conference you may have met Sheri there. She is perfect for the position. Sheri replaces Kathleen Beitiks who stepped down after filling the position for nearly a decade.
Sheri replaces Kathleen Beitiks who stepped down after filling the position for nearly a decade. Thank you Kathleen.

Two very special opportunities have come up. Daniel Horowitz from MyHeritage has offered to make a presentation for us later this month and we have been invited to apply for the *Doors Open* event for fall. This is a chance to showcase our society to members of the public that will be broadly promoted by the California Preservation Foundation.

PS. Are you interested in Swedish research? We have a member who wants to start a Swedish SIG. Please contact jhenderson@californiaancestors.org if you think this is a good idea.
Exploring DNA & the MyHeritage Website
In Person at the Oakland Church of Latter Day Saints
February 24 - 10:30 - 1:15 PDT
Presented by
Daniel Horowitz

The event is presented live.

Daniel Horowitz will be presenting two sessions, as described below. It is recommended that you bring a mask, water and lunch or snacks to enjoy during the break.

- 10:30 AM Integrating DNA and Family History Research at MyHeritage. DNA testing can help you find and connect with new family members, confirm relationships, and provide a greater context by revealing your ethnic origins. In this session, Daniel will show you how you can leverage the MyHeritage DNA test for your genealogy research.
- 11:30 Q&A
- 11:45 Break
- 12:00 Advanced DNA Tools to Analyze MyHeritage DNA Matches. MyHeritage offers numerous advanced features that help you make the most of your DNA results and integrate them into your family tree. These features can provide you with useful clues, and even suggested relationship paths, to help you discover how you and your DNA Matches may be related.
- 01:00 Q&A

This event will take place at Oakland Church of Latter Day Saints at 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland, CA. (OFSL Directions and Parking)

This event is presented live. Some events may be recorded for CGS use.

See you online!
This month marks the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the California Genealogical Society! We'll be celebrating all year and bringing you treasures from our archives as well as new events and opportunities to connect with our community.

Something New Is Happening at the Oakland Family History Center!

Before COVID, nine CGS members began volunteering their time at the Oakland Family Search Center (OFSC) primarily on Wednesdays, some weekly, bi-monthly, and once a month. (Jane Lindsey, Maureen Hanlon, Jennifer Dix, Lisa Gorrell, Jacqueline Henderson, Steve Harris, Roger Prince, Diane Richards, and Diane Roth.)

This year CGS and FamilySearch volunteers are introducing weekly “Tips and Talks” sessions on Wednesdays beginning March 8th. These discussions will be free to all!

They will be one hour long at 11:00am and repeated again at 7:00 pm. Each Wednesday will have a different focus.

We hope you will come early and stay after the group to have additional hands on assistance to take advantage of the amazing resources at OFSC. Please look for more information in the March eNews, CGS blog, and our social media platforms.
We are pleased to continue to offer our classes and special interest groups. We have online classes available as well as some opportunities to meet in-person. Please visit our Events and Education page to learn more.

All remote classes will now have live closed captioning. If you feel you need a bit of extra help in either of these areas to have a successful experience with our Zoom events, email events@californiaancestors.org and we will be in touch.

**Classes and SIGs**

Monday, October 9, 2023, through Saturday, October 14, 2023

*Five-night stay at the Radisson Hotel*

The trip includes:

- six-day access to the largest genealogical library in the world
- pre-trip meeting and consultation
- guided tour of the library
- research assistance by Evan Wilson and Stewart Traiman
- daily hotel breakfast
- two group dinners at local restaurants
- airport shuttle

Pricing: $1,050 for double occupancy or $1,500 for single occupancy.

Stay tuned for more details and an Eventbrite registration page.
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 on the FIRST SATURDAY of every month.

**Saturday, 4 Feb from 10 am - noon**

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**Round Table**
Facilitated by Jacqueline Henderson and Lisa Gorrell, CG

This group is for CGS Members to connect. It is a venue where attendees can share things they've learned or found. Often this sparks ideas for others on their own research. It is also a great way to brainstorm ideas for new avenues of research when you get stumped.

2nd Wednesday of each month, next on **8 Feb from 6:30 - 8 pm**
Email Jacqueline or Lisa for a link to the Zoom meeting.

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**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, 18 Feb from 1-3 pm**

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**RootsMagic Users Group - SIG**

Users of Roots Magic will meet to discuss helpful hints for using the software.

**Wednesday, 22 Feb from 6:30 pm**
We meet on the 4th Wednesdays

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**Exploring DNA & the MyHeritage Website (free & in-person)**

Daniel Horowitz will share his knowledge of DNA & MyHeritage in two free sessions

**Friday, 24 Feb from 10:30 am - 1:15 pm**
In Person at Oakland Church of Latter Day Saints

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**Genealogical Proof for the Everyday Genealogist**
Presented by Annette Burke Lyttle

How do we know if the facts we've uncovered about our ancestors are correct? How do we avoid attaching somebody else’s ancestors to our own family line? Learn more about how to handle these important situations and avoid potential pitfalls.

**Genealogical Proof for the Everyday Genealogist**
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correct? How do we avoid attaching somebody else’s ancestors to our family tree? The Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) is our guide to producing reliable research results. This introduction to the Genealogical Proof Standard will get your research moving in the right direction and help you avoid errors and frustration.

**Saturday, 25 Feb at 10 am**

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**Eastern European Special Interest Group**

Hosted by Craig Siulinski

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

**Saturday, 25 Feb from 10 - Noon**

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**Why They Left, Where They Went, and What Their Journeys Can Reveal**

Presented by Pam Vestal

Why did our ancestors leave their homes? Why did they settle where they did? Using unexpected records, social history, the law, and more, we’ll discover the secrets our ancestors’ migrations can reveal as we track them from place to place, across the ocean, across the country, even across town!

**Saturday, 11 Mar at 1 pm**

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**San Francisco Irish in the late 1800’s: The Story of My Great-Grandparents**

Presented by Maureen Hanlon

Maureen Hanlon will share her family research as they immigrated from Ireland to San Francisco. In 1880, the population of Irish emigrants in San Francisco was almost a third of the city. Many had come during Gold Rush times and were establishing themselves and helping to transform the village to a city. Three of Maureen's grandparents were Irish and their stories reflect the experience of many others like them. They also parallel the origin in 1898 of CGS.

**Thursday, 16 Mar at 1 pm**

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**DNA Skills - SIG**

The 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.

*Prerequisite: Completion of CGS DNA Series or equivalent DNA class / experience. Must have uploaded DNA test results at one of the common*
San Francisco SIG

The California Genealogical Society is interested in reconstituting the San Francisco SIG monthly meetings in person at the CGS library or joining online using the Zoom app.

If you are interested in participating in this group meeting, we’d like to hear from you. Please email the host at sfsg@californiaancestors.org to express your interest in reconvening. If there is sufficient interest, the meeting dates and times will be scheduled and announced in the CGS e-News, CGS website (californiaancestors.org), Bay Area Genealogy Calendar, and Eventbrite. Eventbrite registration is required if attending in person.

SF-SIG Meeting Description: Whether you’re just starting out researching your family history or have been searching for years and need ideas on how to get past brick walls or are interested in finding your ancestors’ records pre and post-1906, including those gold rush pioneers, and ancestors in and around the San Francisco Bay Area, join the conversation with us at the CGS library hybrid meetings where you will be guided in building skills to uncover information that leads to creating a more complete family story.

Lead: Sandra Huber

Meeting Time: To be determined.

Contact: sfsg@californiaancestors.org for more information.

Swedish SIG

Do you know how to start researching your Swedish ancestors? Do you know how to access Swedish archives? Have you hit a brick wall with your research? Would you like to help others with their research? How about joining a Special Interest Group (SIG) and working with like-minded people researching their Swedish ancestors?

If you are interested in joining a group to help you with your Swedish research, contact Sven-Ove Westberg at sow@grels.net and let him know of your interest. He has some great ideas and would love to lead a group interested in Swedish genealogy.

Lead: Sven-Ove Westberg

Format: Hybrid (online and in-person)

Meeting Time: To be determined based on interest

Contact: sow@grels.net for more information.
If you have been thinking about contributing some of your time and talent to our 125-year-old organization, take a look at our list of Volunteer Opportunities.

See something that looks interesting? Want more information about a particular volunteer position? Contact Sheri Fenley if you have any questions about CGS volunteer opportunities.

Remember - CGS has been around since 1898 and is operated solely by volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

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**Meetings & More**

**CGS Monthly Board Meeting - 11 February**

The CGS Board will meet online via Zoom and possibly in-person if the meeting is hybrid. Members are welcome to attend. Please register in advance and 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.

In-person location: the Offices of PGAdesign at 444 17th Street, just off Broadway and at the 19th Street BART exit

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If you would like to host a Special Interest Group, please contact Jacqueline Henderson.

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**Blogs and Videos**

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 welcome your stories! If you have an idea for a blog post, a family history story you want to share, or would like to be an occasional or even regular guest contributor, please contact Blog Editor Jennifer Dix.

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**From the California Genealogical Society**

- Report from the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting
- CGS Committees: Facilities
- Mayflower Descendants SIG

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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.

**Local Events**
The Oakland Family Search Center (OFSC) in March is starting a Wednesday series titled **Tips & Tricks**. Different topics will be presented in 15-30 minute sessions. This is a great opportunity to learn something new and take advantage of all the research sources at the OFSC. Sessions will be taught by CGS Volunteer Jane Lindsay and others. More information to follow on the OFSC website at [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Center](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Center)

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**Registration is Now Open for the Midwest Genealogy Center 2023 Spring Seminar: Folklore of the Family**

Join us for a daylong event featuring Gena Philibert-Ortega. Visit our [Spring Seminar Website](https://www.familysearch.org) for more information and to Register Today!

**Sessions will include:**
- We’re Related to George Washington?: Proving (or Disproving) Family Stories
- Jello Molds, Peacocks, and Turtle Soup: Genealogy and the History of Food
- Ephemera: Scraps of Your Ancestor’s Life
- The Secret Lives of Women: Research Female Ancestors Using the Sources They Left Behind

Early bird registration fee is $35 until February 15, 2023, and will increase to $40 through March 23. Registration includes admission to the event and a buffet lunch. **Register online** or by calling 816.252.7228. This event will be in person only.

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### National & International Conference Schedule

- **SLIG Academy for Professionals**
  - February 9 - April 28

- **RootsTech 2023**
  - March 2 - 4

- **Ohio Genealogical Society Conference**
  - April 26 - 29

- **National Genealogical Society**
  - May 31 - June 3

- **Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh** (GRIP)
  - June 18 - 23 (virtual) and July 19 - 24

- **Midwest African American Genealogy Institute** (MAAGI)

- **Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (Gen-Fed)**

- **The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research** (IGHR)

All events are subject to cancellation. Please check with each event’s website prior to making plans to attend.
The library is open Wednesday through Friday (10-2) and the 3rd Saturday (10-4) by appointment. If you are a CGS member, you do not need to make an appointment to visit on Fridays.

We are no longer required to disinfect, limit capacity, enforce distancing, or require masking in the library. While the current infection rates are low in Alameda County, the California Genealogical Society still wants to provide the safest conditions for our volunteers and patrons, so we strongly recommend wearing a mask while visiting our library. We may return to requiring masks, if warranted by county or state regulations or by an increase in the case count for Alameda County.

Members do not have to register on Fridays. Non-members should visit our web page to register. We look forward to having you come and access our collections and online subscriptions.