



# California Genealogical Society

CaliforniaAncestors.org

eNews

Since 1898

July, Vol. 17, No. 7

## How's your summer going?

### Haven't visited the library in a while? What's going on??

Visitation at the CGS Library has declined considerably since COVID. We are asking you, our members, to help us better understand the patterns of attendance that we are seeing and to get your input on how to improve our services. **We really need to hear from you!** Your responses matter, regardless of how much or how little you visit our Library or attend our classes.

Please take [our very-short-oh-so-easy-to-fill-out Member Survey](#) so we can start workshopping the best way to serve our members.



### Tips and Talk

Tips and Talk classes at the Oakland Family Search Center are catching on and we hope to see you there soon!

*These discussions are free to all!* They are one hour long and will be given only at 11:00am for the months of July and August. Each Wednesday will have a different focus.

Come early and stay after the group to have additional hands on assistance to take advantage of the amazing resources at OFSC.

- **July 5th - "Got Questions?"** - Any questions are welcome. Join

discussion leader Sue Severon, to find answers to your genealogical

discussion leader Sue Severson, to find answers to your genealogical questions. We will also refer you to others if needed. Sue Severson is a long time genealogist and volunteer at the OFSC. She has been researching her family for years and especially enjoys helping others with their DNA.

- **July 12th - FamilySearch.org topics - *Connecting with Others on FamilySearch.*** The FamilySearch Family Tree is a collaborative tree with contributions from many, many people. Your aunt may contribute photos of your great-grandparents, your cousins may contribute an interesting family story, and your grandparents may contribute Bible records with dates and places. You see names of contributors all over your ancestor's pages. This class will show you the many places on the pages you can find these contributors, how you are related to them, and how you can contact them. Connecting with others can help you grow your family tree and become more familiar with their lives and times. Denise Plaskett has been building her family tree and helping others since 1982. She is a volunteer at the Oakland FamilySearch Center and loves to share her knowledge of FamilySearch with others.
- **July 19th - Free subscription databases at OFSC- *Swedish Research and ArkivDigital.*** ArkivDigital: the premier resource for Swedish genealogy is the only resource you need for Swedish genealogy and is available free at the Oakland Family History Center. ArkivDigital is a young and aggressive Swedish company that's currently filming Swedish church, military and civil records. It also has excellent databases of transcribed records, created by native Swedes. This is the resource that native Swedish genealogists use. Wade Olofson is a Swedish specialist at the Oakland FamilySearch Center and has been researching Swedish genealogy since 2007.
- **July 26th - General Genealogy Topics- *African American Research.*** Patricia Smith Jenkins will discuss some historical challenges when researching African Americans in the United States and a few strategies found to break through brick walls. Pat grew up in a multigenerational household in New Jersey immersed in family history. Travel during the summers reinforced family connections and sparked her interest in genealogy. Retired from UC Berkeley as a Manager of the Early Childhood Education Program, Pat spends her free time researching family histories and encouraging others to do the same. Pat facilitates monthly research and discussion groups for the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California and Oakland California FamilySearch Library.

Please look for Tips and Talks on [Eventbrite](#) and on [the OFSC webpage](#).

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CGS might be turning 125 this year, but we're looking to the future. The CGS board recently approved having John Ralls, chair of the Technology Committee, upgrade our wifi to further improve our hybrid capabilities (i.e. prevent us from losing our internet connection mid-session). We want to make sure we stay as connected with our community as possible so we are not cutting corners with this one. The total anticipated cost is about \$4000, but it's going to be worth it!

**[Will you help by donating to support these state-of-the-art improvements?](#)**



Research Trip - ONLY A FEW SPACES LEFT!!

# SALT LAKE CITY

*Research Trip*



*125th Anniversary*  
1898-2023

**6 Days**  
For Just  
**\$1050** /Person  
\$1500 for single occupancy  
Airfare not included

**More Information at**  
[CaliforniaAncestors.org](http://CaliforniaAncestors.org)

We are happy to announce the revival of [our annual society research trip to the FamilySearch Library](#) (formerly called the Family History Library) in Salt Lake City. The trip is mostly full - just a few spots left!

[Registration](#) /// [More information](#)

The trip includes:

- five-night stay at the Radisson Hotel





- five days of uninterrupted research at 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

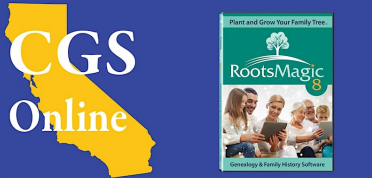
## Classes and SIGs


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](mailto:events@californiaancestors.org) and we will be in touch.

	<p><b>2023 Intro to Genealogy - 1st Saturday Free!</b>  <b>Overview and Focused Topics</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 1 July from 10 am to noon</b></p>
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	<p><b>Round Table</b>  Facilitated by Jacqueline Henderson and Lisa Gorrell, CG</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2nd Wednesday of each month, next on <b>12 July from 6:30 - 8 pm</b>  Email <a href="#">Jacqueline</a> or <a href="#">Lisa</a> for a link to the Zoom meeting.</p>
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	<p><b>RootsMagic Users Group - SIG</b></p> <p>Users of Roots Magic will meet to discuss helpful hints for using the software.</p> <p><b>Saturday, 15 July from 1 to 3 pm</b></p>
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	<p><b>Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group</b>  Hosted by Ron Madson and Karen Halfon</p> <p>This Family Tree Maker Special Interest Group is perfect for new FTM</p>
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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, 15 July from 1 to 3 pm**



**Focused Research Using Research Plans**

Presented by certified genealogist Lisa Gorrell

Free for CGS Members!

Do you feel like your research just goes in circles, that you keep finding the same information, or you have brick walls you can't solve? Being focused with your research will bring better results. This can be done by using research plans. I will explain how to create and use a research plan to help keep you on focus in your research and get better results.

**Tuesday, 18 July from 6 to 7:30 pm**



**Mayflower Descendants Special Interest Group**

Hosted by Robert Trapp

The Mayflower Descendants SIG focuses initially on Mayflower ancestry and how to join The Society of California Mayflower Descendants. The group discusses research in New England, parts of Canada and the upper Atlantic seaboard states.

**Friday, 21 July from 10:30 am to 11:30 am**



**San Francisco Special Interest Group**

Hosted by Sandra Huber

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 in and around the San Francisco Bay Area, join the conversation with us to uncover information and create a more complete family story.

**Saturday, 22 July at 10 am**



**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 DNA websites*

Please contact Mark McLaren at [greatscot@earthlink.net](mailto:greatscot@earthlink.net).



## 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.

## Volunteers



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**.

**We are in need of Desk Duty volunteers!** Our wonderful Desk Duty helpers let us keep the library open for visitors and are an important part of what we do here at CGS. Don't worry, we give you all of the training and information you need, so if you'd like to spend a little more time in the library, we'd love to have you!

See something else that looks interesting? Want more information about a particular volunteer position? Contact [Volunteers@californiaancestors.org](mailto:Volunteers@californiaancestors.org) 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!

### Write for The California Nugget!

Do you have a story about an ancestor?  
Some helpful information or advice to  
share on genealogy topics?

The *Nugget* is our twice-yearly magazine, and we are interested in quality articles of any length. See our guidelines at: <https://www.californiaancestors.org/submit-to-the-nugget/>  
or  
email [nugget@californiaancestors.org](mailto:nugget@californiaancestors.org) for more information.



## Meetings & More

[CGS Monthly Board Meeting - 8 July at 10am](#)



The CGS Board will meet online via Zoom and in-person at the CGS Library in Downtown Oakland. 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 to the online meeting.



In-person location: the CGS Library at 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland, CA 94612-3031

If you would like to host a Special Interest Group, please contact [Jacqueline Henderson](#).

## 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](#).



### From the California Genealogical Society

- [This was the scene at the 2023 Genie Awards](#)
- [More about the "Tips & Talk" at OFSC](#)
- [From the Archives - A Remembrance: Dr. Eugene Peck](#)

## 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

[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 \(IGHR\)](#)

[42nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy](#)

All events are subject to cancellation. Please check with

each event's website prior to making plans to attend.

[Salt Lake Genealogical Institute \(SLIG\)](#)

[RootsTech 2024](#)

February 29 - March 2

[Ohio Genealogical Society Conference](#)

[National Genealogical Society](#)

## California Genealogical Society

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

Contact Us Via  
Email



Our library is open by appointment, **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 2 pm** and on the **third Saturday of the month from 10 am to 4 pm**

To make this work for our dedicated volunteers who come in just for you, please let us know you'll be coming to the library by sending an email to [visit@californiaancestors.org](mailto:visit@californiaancestors.org) no later than 7 pm the night before your visit.

Visits are free for members and non-members can pay the \$5 fee at time of the visit or join and have the fee applied to membership cost.

Join The  
Society

Renew Your Membership