

California Genealogical Society

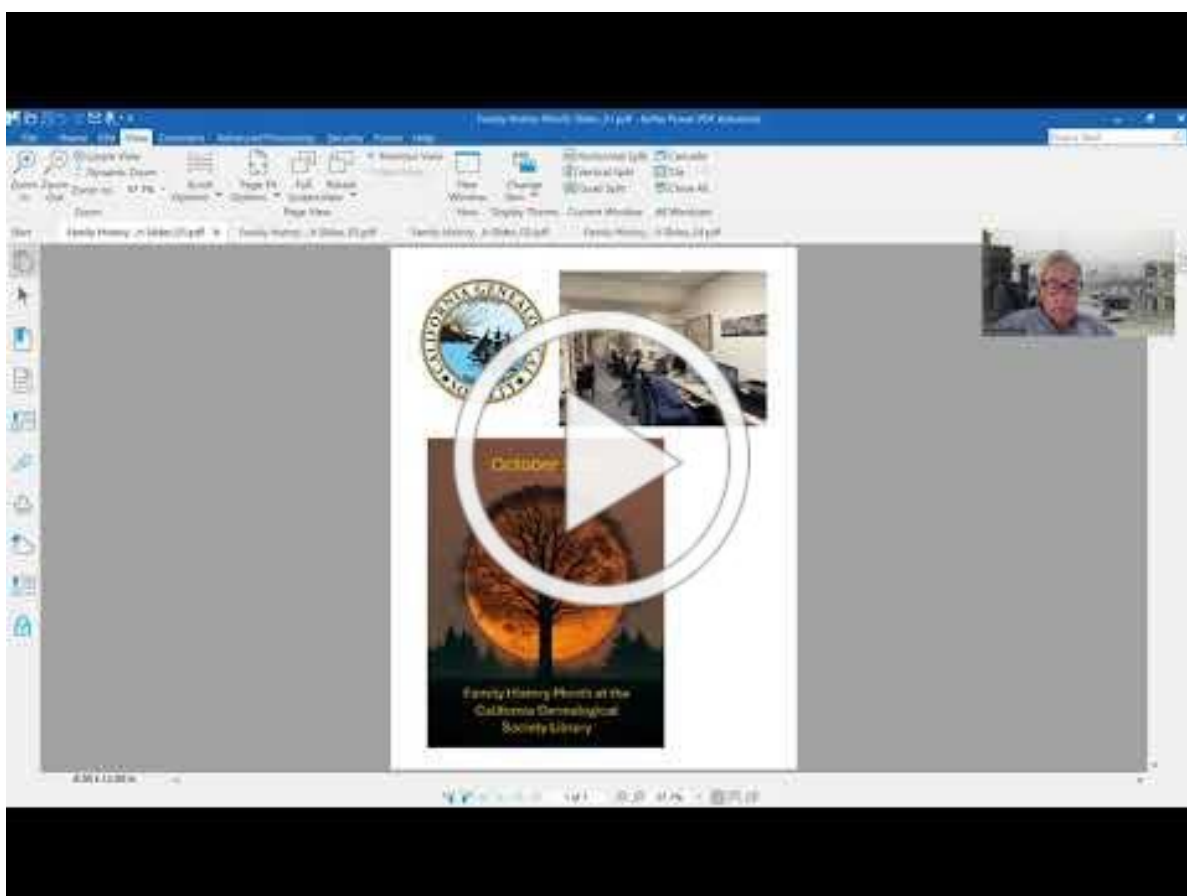
CaliforniaAncestors.org

eNews

Since 1898

October, Vol. 19, No. 10

CGS would like to welcome new members Elizabeth Imholz, Sue Fernstrom, Kathleen Moore, Karen Olynger, Cheryl Casciani, and Jim Jacobs



Celebrating Family History Month October 1 – 31, 2025

California Genealogical Society

Invite a Friend Program

Members will have an opportunity to treat a friend to a one-year complimentary membership with all the perks!

Free access to the CGS Library
Invitations to local members-only gatherings
Access to member-only website pages
Digital editions of The California Nugget and Jukebox Genealogy

Opportunity to attend member-only field and research trips (Boston 2026)
Ability to participate in Special Interest Groups
Discounts for CGS research services and Boston University genealogy courses



Send member and friend names and emails to freemembership@californiaancestors.org

A historical map of California, showing various geographical features and place names. Overlaid on the map is the text for 'CALIFORNIA HISTORY DAYS'. The text is in a mix of red and black fonts. At the bottom right of the map, there are two illustrations of people in historical clothing: a man in a dark hat and a woman in a long, patterned dress.

CALIFORNIA HISTORY DAYS
Presented by Los Californianos and the California Genealogical Society
Friday and Saturday, Oct 24 and 25
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
California Genealogical Society Library
2201 Broadway, Oakland CA 94612

Free Open House, no registration, with multiple displays, videos, and speakers on early California history and its residents.

Two Case Histories: The Gonzales and Nii Families presented by Linda Okazaki, Saturday Oct 25 11:00 am – 1:30 pm with lunch break. Free Talk also available via Zoom with registration <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/two-case-studies-recreating-the-lives-of-our-immigrant-ancestors-registration-1549601091579>

More information at californiaancestors.org

Celebrate Family History Month at the California Genealogical Society Library

This October, the California Genealogical Society is excited to offer a variety of benefits, learning and social opportunities with the return of Family History Month to our library.

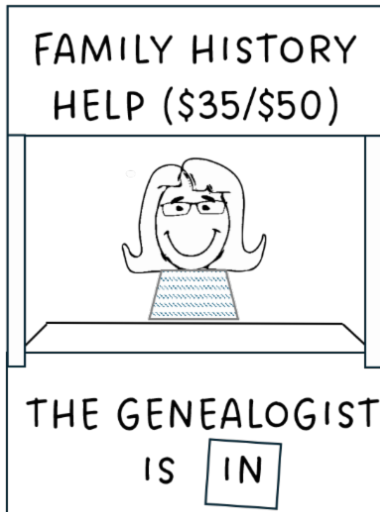
<https://www.californiaancestors.org/family-history-month-2025/>

Benefits and Programs:

- Free access to our Library for non-members on all open days in October: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm.

- Free membership for a friend of a current member Oct. 1-31, 2025. For more information, contact freemembership@californiaancestors.org

For more information contact kmontgomery@californiaancestors.org



Family History Month at the California Genealogical Society Library Consultation Fundraiser

Every Saturday: Oct 4, 11, 18, 25

50-minute one-on-one consultations with experienced genealogists who will answer beginner's questions and provide guidance for finding ancestors and for using genealogy software

\$35 for members of CGS and Los Californianos

\$50 for non-members

Spaces limited

Register at <https://signup.com/go/EKuCqzN>



2026 CGS Boston Research Trip

Sunday, February 1- 8, 2026

CGS returns to Boston for a week of research led by Matthew Blaine Berry, CG.

The trip includes:

- A seven-night stay at the Charlesmark Hotel
- Orientation and tour of the Massachusetts Historical Society and American Ancestors
- Six days of uninterrupted research at your choice of top Boston research facilities
- Two group dinners and daily continental breakfast

Pricing:

\$1,399 single occupancy (airfare not included). The Charlesmark Hotel has double and queen rooms only.



CGS members are getting together! Send a note to kflom@californiaancestors.org for RSVP information and location. Invitations are sent to the members in the region, but all members are welcome to attend events based on their schedules.

- Lamorinda - October 14 (morning)



Join us at the FamilySearch Center!

Tips & Talk is a cooperative effort between CGS and the Oakland FamilySearch Center which offers free genealogy education and a chance for us to get together in person. Class details are on the Oakland FamilySearch and CGS websites.

Download the Tips & Talk schedule [here](#)

Classes and SIGs

Calendar of events for the California Genealogical Society

We are pleased to continue to offer our [classes](#) and [special interest groups](#) (SIGs). We have online classes available as well as some opportunities to meet in person. [Please visit our Events and Education page to learn more.](#)



Discover More: Leveraging FamilySearch's Cutting-Edge Tools

Presented by Denise Plaskett

Discover how new functionalities can clarify information in change logs and streamline the process of merging duplicate profiles, making your tree more accurate than ever.

Wednesday, 8 Oct. at 6:30 pm



FREE CLASS - Intro to Genealogy 2025

This month: Using the Census

Saturday, 4 Oct. from 10 am to noon (hybrid)



San Francisco (SIG)

If you are interested in joining the SF SIG, please send an email to SFSIG@californiaancestors.org.

Saturday, 18 Oct. at 10 am



Guide to Creating a Family Legacy Book

Presented by Elizabeth Winslow

As part of California History Days, Elizabeth Winslow shares how to create a book to share with loved ones. Come to CGS to watch live

Friday, 24 Oct. at 11 am -12 pm



Family Tree Maker (SIG)

Hosted by Ron Madson and Karen Halfon

Check out the FTM-SIG website, <http://ftm-sig.org> to find the topics for the upcoming meetings.

Saturday, 18 Oct. from 1 to 3 pm



Eastern European (SIG)

Hosted by Craig Siulinski



Two Case Studies: Recreating the Lives of Our Immigrant Ancestors

Presented by Linda Harms Okazaki

Linda Okazaki will present her extensive research and the resulting case histories for two immigrant families. Originating from different parts of the world, the Barrango's and the Gonzalez' journey ended in San Francisco.

Saturday, 25 Oct. at 11 am

RootsMagic Users Group (SIG)



Wednesday, 22 Oct. from 6:30 to 8 pm



DNA Skills (SIG)
Hosted by Mark McLaren



CGS Members: Projects that Took On a Life of Their Own

Presented by Cindy Thomson

CGS Member Cindy Thomson shares a fascinating Hawaiian history

Saturday, 8 Nov. at 1-2:30 pm

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

Volunteers

Volunteers wanted for the CGS Board!

The coming year presents us with unique challenges and opportunities as we navigate the changing economic and technological environment for nonprofits. The **CGS Board** is a group of diverse, talented and dedicated volunteers. We are seeking two or three more people to join the team and help us shape and steer the society into the future.

If you are interested in lending your talents, or if you know someone else who might be, please contact Rudiger Wolf (VP and Nominating Committee Chair) at 925-699-7040 or at rwolf@californiaancestors.org

Join Our Team of Dedicated Volunteers!

Looking for a way to meet more CGS members, give back to the society, and even boost your own genealogical research skills? We'd love to have you join our volunteer team! The CGS Volunteer Committee helps match members with manageable, meaningful opportunities—and it's one of the best ways to get to know fellow family history enthusiasts.



Our committee usually reaches out by phone to connect members with opportunities, but we'd love to hear from you directly! If you're interested in

lending a hand in any way, let us know—we'll help you find a role that's both manageable and fun. Here are a few ways you can get involved right now:

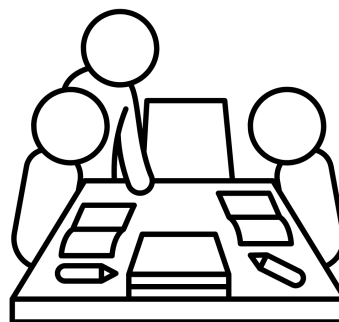
- **Marketing Committee:** Help spread the word about CGS and all the wonderful things we do. Creative ideas and team spirit welcome!
- **Fundraising Committee:** Support CGS's future by helping us plan a few lively fundraising events throughout the year. (We already have some fun ideas—now we just need a team!)
- **Website Assistance:** We're looking for volunteers to help keep our website fresh and up to date. Some tasks are technical, but many are easy to learn.
- **Assistant Treasurer:** Are you familiar with QuickBooks? Help our Treasurer, Cindy Thomson, this year—and maybe even consider stepping into the Treasurer role in 2026.
- **Membership Committee:** Help us stay connected with our members, especially our Life Members. We meet monthly on Zoom (and even have an annual in-person luncheon—always a good time!).

If you're interested or just want to learn more, reach out to us! There's a place for everyone, and we'd love to have you join the fun.

Meetings & More

CGS Board Meeting - 11 Oct. at 10 am

CGS board members and guests will meet online via Zoom and in person at the CGS Library in Downtown Oakland. 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

Blogs and Videos

**From the
California
Genealogical
Society**

- [California Migration Museum](#)
- [Library of Congress Research Guides](#)
- [Looking to the Future](#)
- [Squire Shelton](#)

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 us here](#).

SUBSCRIBE



California Genealogical Society

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

Contact Us Via Email



Our library is open **Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm**

See **Directions and Parking** for info on Saturday visits, which have different procedures than weekdays.

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](#)

California Genealogical Society | 2201 Broadway, Suite LL2 | Oakland, CA 94612 US

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