



California Genealogical Society

CaliforniaAncestors.org

eNews

Since 1898

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NOTICE: The CGS Library will be closed between Christmas and New Year's Day.



NEXT LEVEL EXPAND YOUR FAMILY STORY

Classes will cover record sets, skills and strategies for those who have a family tree and want to improve, assess, verify and expand their stories

- Wed Jan 21 Federal Land: Using the BLM Website with Lisa Gorrell
- Sat Jan 24 Transcription and Abstraction of Original Records with Roger Prince
- Wed Feb 18 Finding Living People with Jane Lindsey

Precision Research Finding Your Ancestors in the Right Context

- Sat Feb 28 Part I of III with Pam Brett
- Sat Mar 7 Part II of III with Pam Brett
- Sat Mar 14 Part III of III with Pam Brett

- Wed Mar 18 Land Records in Former Colonial States: What is Metes & Bounds with Lisa Gorrell

More Classes to Come

Coming in 2026: Next Level Genealogy Classes

We're pleased to share plans for offering up to 22 classes next year especially selected to help our CGS members advance their genealogy knowledge. Classes will continue to be free for members and better yet, we're simplifying access.

We're calling the series "Next Level" because these classes will cover record sets, skills and strategies for those who have a family tree and want to improve, assess, verify and expand their family stories.

Links to the Zoom presentation, handouts and recordings will be available through the member portal of the CGS website. Non-members will need to register for Zoom link on Eventbrite for a fee. Wednesday evening classes will also be

available in-person for all for free at the Oakland FamilySearch Center.

Here's the planned schedule, as of now, for First Quarter:

- Wed Jan 21 Federal Land: Using the BLM Website with Lisa Gorrell
- Sat Jan 24 Transcription and Abstraction of Original Records with Roger Prince
- Wed Feb 18 Finding Living Family Members to Advance Your Genealogical Research with Jane Lindsey
- Sat Feb 28 Precision Research Finding Your Ancestors in the Right Context Part I Person with Pam Brett
- Sat Mar 7 Precision Research Finding Your Ancestors in the Right Context Part II Place with Pam Brett
- Sat Mar 14 Precision Research Finding Your Ancestors in the Right Context Part III Time with Pam Brett
- Wed Mar 18 Land Records in Former Colonial States: What is Metes & Bounds with Lisa Gorrell

Coming later in the year plus more:

- Excel for Genealogists with Stewart Traiman
- Citations: Easier Than You Think with Stewart Traiman
- Probate Records with Lisa Gorrell
- From Arrival to Archive: Immigration and Naturalization Record Part I and II with Reem Awad-Rashmawi
- Researching US Newspapers with Maureen Hanlon
- What's Online at the National Archives with Marisa Louie Lee

Our Introduction Series, also free on the first Saturday each month, will continue, and our free-to-members Special Interest Groups are all on board to meet and learn in 2026.

Stay tuned and check our website for more details. Non-members, consider joining CGS and reaping the benefit of these classes and much more.

CGS would like to welcome new members Joyce Hee, Amy Lennane, Jami Bean, and Nicolle Albert.

Jukebox Genealogy

Remember to send a short description of your DNA discoveries to the *Jukebox Genealogy* newsletter. CGS members are waiting to hear about your successes, your surprises, even your disappointments! Stories will be published in the January issue of the newsletter.

Email JukeboxGenealogy@CaliforniaAncestors.org



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.



Each session is limited in number. Use the appropriate link below to register for the gathering you want to attend. Additional location details will be provided two days before the gathering.

Danville Member's Home

- Thursday, December 4, 10:30 to 12 p.m.
- [Danville RSVP](#)

Oakland Family Search Center

- Wednesday, January 8, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
- [Oakland RSVP](#)

Lafayette Member's Home

- Monday, January 12, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- [Lamorinda RSVP](#)

Sacramento Land Park Member's Home

- Wednesday, January 14, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
- [Sacramento RSVP](#)

Walnut Creek Library

- Thursday, January 15, 10:30 to 12:00 p.m.
- [Walnut Creek RSVP](#)

Oakland Family Search Center

- Thursday, February 11, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- [Oakland RSVP](#)



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

NEW FOR MEMBERS IN 2026

CGS Members are **no longer required to register** for most events. Members can log into the CGS website, and find Zoom, handout and survey links directly on the CGS Events & Education page before the event. If you prefer to register to receive the reminder emails, you may continue to do so (use the links below for promo codes). Please note: the speaker may not have handouts ready until the evening before the event.

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.**



General Land Office: Get the Most Out of the BLM-GLO Website

Presented by Lisa Gorrell

Discover the insider tips and tricks for navigating the BLM-GLO website with Lisa Gorrell

Wednesday, 21 Jan. from 6:30 - 8:00 pm



FREE CLASS - Intro to Genealogy 2025

This month: Organizing Your Family History Work

Saturday, 6 Dec. from 10 am to noon (hybrid)



San Francisco (SIG)

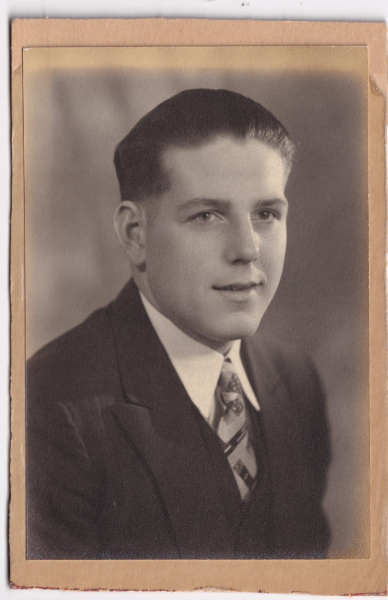
If you are interested in joining the SF SIG, please send an email to SFSIG@californiaancestors.org.

Transcription and Abstraction of Original Records

Presented by Roger Prince

Learn about using traditional techniques to interpret old records with the assist from AI with Roger Prince

Saturday, 24 Jan. from 1:00 - 2:30 pm



Eastern European (SIG)

Hosted by Craig Siulinski



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.



RootsMagic Users Group (SIG)



DNA Skills (SIG)

Hosted by Mark McLaren



Finding Living Family Members to Advance Your Genealogical Research

Presented by Jane Lindsey

Jane Lindsey will discuss ways to find family members, provide suggestions on how to contact them.

Wednesday, 18 Feb. from 6:30 - 8:00 pm

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

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:

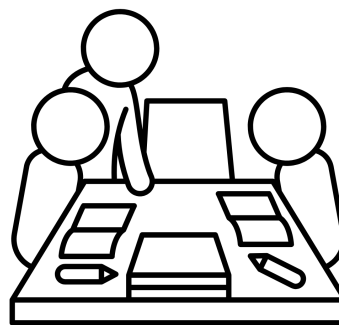
- **Marketing Committee:** Help spread the word about CGS and all the wonderful things we do. Creative ideas and team spirit welcome!
- **Fundraising Committee:** Support CGS's future by helping us plan a few lively fundraising events throughout the year. (We already have some fun ideas—now we just need 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 - 13 Dec. 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](#).



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.

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