



California Genealogical Society

CaliforniaAncestors.org

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February Board Approval of Website Redesign and Relocation to Berkeley



From President Roger Prince:

I'd like to share with you some exciting news from yesterday's Valentine's Day Board meeting. The board gave final approval to move ahead on two major initiatives:

- 1. Complete rebuild of our website and back end digital infrastructure**
- 2. Move to 1841 Berkeley Way in Berkeley.**

REBUILD and INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

The rebuild will make it much simpler and easier for our volunteers to manage member data securely and to simplify payments and event signup and security for both you and our volunteers. For example, new members will gain instant access as soon as they make payment and not have to wait for our volunteers to go through multiple steps to get them signed up. Access to our website and to our back office files and data will be role based. This will make it much easier for our volunteers to find things and to share information, while protecting sensitive information.

The build out of the database and search engine infrastructure will allow us to offer our digital collections in a system like those you are familiar with from FamilySearch and Ancestry. You'll be able to search across multiple collections or narrow in on a single collection. Of course we will need a lot of volunteer hours ahead to build out

those collections. But now our digital systems will make that effort pay off for all our members regardless of their physical location.

RELOCATION

Our second big announcement is board approval of our move to **1841 Berkeley Way in Berkeley**. We have been in the basement of 2201 Broadway for nearly 20 years and it is time for us to come up into the light!

Our new location has a private secured entrance that lets visitors be buzzed into a private garden that leads to our new entrance. A wall of windows looks out on this garden. Our new location has two modern unisex bathrooms, a separate kitchen and space for 1500 linear feet of stacks, a separate room, not a closet, for our manuscripts, five secure rooftop parking spaces for our desk duty and other key volunteers, and signage visible from the street. And we control the HVAC, which means we can have heat or AC on nights and weekends without having to pay the landlord to turn either on for the entire office building.

The location is a ten minute walk from the downtown Berkeley BART station and the area is alive with people shopping at Trader Joe's and frequenting the dozens of restaurants in the area. It is close to the University of California campus and bounded on one side by a residential neighborhood with free street parking.

Those of us who worked to find the new location and to negotiate a good financial deal with the landlord are very excited.



TIMING and MORE INFORMATION

We expect to get the keys and start remodeling in March. We are hopeful that both initiatives will come to fruition in mid to late summer when we may be able to announce a joint grand opening of both our new website and our new library and office location.

As you can tell, I am very excited about both developments and I hope the news reinforces your faith in the CGS organization. Expect many more progress reports in the weeks ahead. See blogs and eNews for updates and details as well as an upcoming information page on the CGS website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Roger Prince
President
California Genealogical Society

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