



Rooted in California. Open to the World.  
Connecting People to their Diverse Family Heritage



1841 Berkeley Way  
Berkeley CA 94703-1576  
(510) 663-3158

### We're Moving In!

Unpacking is happening and we are getting everything in place for opening our new learning space in Berkeley on **Thursday, June 4** at 10:00 a.m. Phone service has been setup with the same number, (510) 663-3158, and WiFi is available with the same password. Come enjoy the airy, light, modern and secure space in a well-populated neighborhood. Scroll down to get a **sneak peek** of the garden and a soft opening held for the FTM-SIG meeting. Our [website](#) has directions, information about transit and parking. Visit this summer and join us for a grand celebration in October.

### May 9 Board Update

Discussion centered around relocation and the web redesign process. Two motions were passed:

1. Confirm the dates for closing and reopening the two sites
2. Approve the new Vision and Mission Statements proposed by the Strategy Committee (see below right).

The Board also determined that furnishings not being moved from the Oakland site will not be available for "adoption" until possible need can be determined or until a new tenant takes over the space. We have access to the Breuner office until the latter or our lease expires. (Note: there is no longer phone or WiFi at the Oakland site.)

**Ron Madson** and the **Moving committee** were commended for their tireless work and CGS thanked **Laura Jones** and **Janet Netz** for retrieving 62 boxes of vertical files from the Southern California Genealogical Society. **Kristi Wessenberg** was also recognized for indexing and adding 7,200 names to the California Name Index.

**June Board Meeting**  
Saturday, June 13, 2026  
10:00 am – 11:30 a.m.

**Register** to attend by Zoom or come in person to the new site, 1841 Berkeley Way, Berkeley.

### June 2026 Vol 20 No 6 In this Issue

Moving Update  
Board News  
Vision & Mission Statements  
Sneak Peek Photos  
*Jukebox* story request  
**Membership**  
New Members

### Vision Statement

We envision a future where every family's story is discovered, preserved, and passed on to future generations

### Mission Statement

Member Gatherings, Field Trip,  
Volunteer Opportunities

**Articles:**

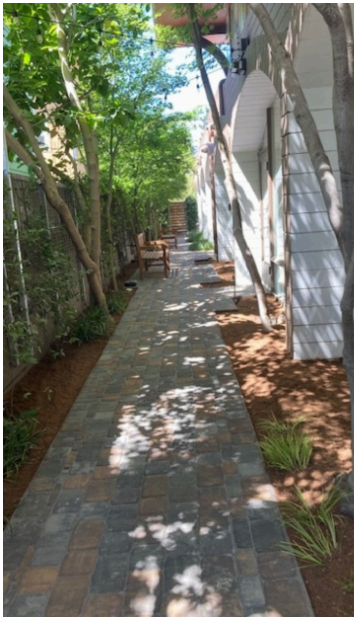
June Dads, Grads and Brides

**Education and Events:**

CGS Intro Series and Next  
Level Classes, SIG Meetings  
De Anza 250th Anniversary  
Outside Learning  
New Land Record Resource  
CGS Publications online

We help people of every background discover, preserve, and share their family histories; and connect future generations to their heritage. We serve our community with education and outreach, support researchers wherever their family stories lead, and work to preserve California's at-risk records so that more families can find themselves in the past.

**Tryout of the new space: May 16 members of FTM SIG give an "A" grade**



Left: Garden entrance ready for new plants. Right: Researchers' wired conference table.

**Jukebox Stories, Please**

Our country has always been on the move. For the July issue of the *Jukebox Genealogy* newsletter, we would love to pay tribute to your ancestors who helped us get to places over the past 250 years. Drivers, captains, teamsters, cabbies or any other by land, sea or air. Email [JukeboxGenealogy@CaliforniaAncestors.org](mailto:JukeboxGenealogy@CaliforniaAncestors.org) by July 1st. Limit your story to 300 words. Photos are always appreciated! Submissions may be edited for length or clarity.



**Membership**



2026 Family History Conference  
27-30 May • Fort Wayne, IN

## Breaking News: Honors for Matt Berry and Carly Morgan at NGS

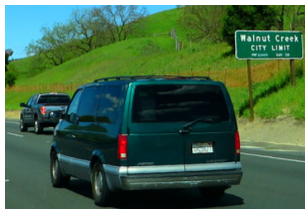
Former CGS Board member and Treasurer **Matt Berry** who served as NGS program co-chair and former CGS Board member and eNews editor **Carly Morgan** were honored May 28 at the NGS Family History Conference with certificates of appreciation for their work on the conference. Photos of CGS Members at NGS in July issue.

## Welcome New Members!

We welcome all **fifteen** of our new members and invite the eleven who live out-of-state to explore all of CGS' virtual offerings.

Felicity Buxton  
Audrey DeBlasio  
Amy Eberwine  
Martha Engle  
Keith Gillis  
Gail Hickey  
Nina Ivanichvilli  
Janice Kennedy  
Ann Mackey  
Nate Millis  
Timothy Martin  
Martha Roddy  
Renate Sanders  
Barbara Tien  
Katherine Wilson

## Carpooling?



Interested in coming to the new Berkeley site via carpool? Monthly or more frequent dates and pickup site(s) and a parking space might be arranged..Email [enews@californiaancestors.org](mailto:enews@californiaancestors.org)

## Regional Member Gatherings

CGS members are getting together! Invitations are sent to the members who live in a region, but members are welcome to attend any gathering that works for their schedule. Spaces are limited. Click location below to reserve a spot. For RSVP information and location, contact [kflom@californiaancestors.org](mailto:kflom@californiaancestors.org).

### San Francisco

SF Main Library 3rd Floor Paley Room

- **Thursday, June 4**
- 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- [San Francisco RSVP](#)

### Sacramento

Belle Coolidge Library in Arden Park

- **Wednesday,**
- 1:30 - 3:00 pm
- [Sacramento RSVP](#)

### Lamorinda

- **Monday, July 13**
- 10 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
- [Lamorinda RSVP](#)

### Walnut Creek

Walnut Creek Main Library

- **Thursday, July 23**
- 10:30 a.m. -12 p.m.
- [Walnut Creek RSVP](#)

### Danville

Old Town Cafe, 105 Town and Country Shopping Center, Danville

- **Tuesday, August 18**
- 10:30 am-12:00 pm
- [Danville RSVP](#)

## Sutro Library Field Trip

Join fellow members in San Francisco! The library will be available **Tuesday, June 23** from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** with a CGS members-only orientation at 11:00 a.m. by Steenalisa Tilcock, Reference and Outreach Librarian.

Bring a lunch or purchase one at Café 101 located on the first floor or at the Student Center directly next to the library with plenty of seating.



Parking is limited. Public transit recommended. More [here](#) on location and transportation.

[RSVP here](#) for limited spaces and send questions to [Jane Lindsey](#).

## Help Wanted (Volunteer Opportunities)

### Front Desk:

Searching for volunteers to cover the front desk and help patrons who visit the Library. The more volunteers we have, the more days the Library can be open. One day, once a month. Interested? Contact [Laura Jones](#).

### Manuscripts:

Want to work with old documents? Read antique letters between family members? Become a volunteer and find these and more treasures in our CGS Manuscript Collections. Contact [Laura Jones](#).

### Programs:

Looking for someone who likes learning (AI) and can work remotely. Responsibilities include sharing our events with ConferenceKeeper, Sutro Library Bay Area Calendar, Facebook and other organizations. Contact [Laura Grotz](#).

### Outreach:

**August 12-13:** Genealogy Symposium at the San Francisco Public Library. Contact: [Jane Lindsey](#) or [Susan Logas](#)  
**October (date TBA):** Nikkei Angel Island pilgrimage. Consultants are needed for this rewarding day. More details to come. Contact [Grant Din](#).

## Articles: June Dads, Grads, and Brides

### June Dads: Non-Parental Events and an Unusual Coincidence

**Jeff Vaillant**, former CGS President, author, and educator specializing in Civil War research, has photographs of his paternal lineage going back to Italy, discovering the family name was originally Veneziano. But after 80 years of the family thinking otherwise, Jeff Vaillant had the surprise of finding his maternal grandfather did not match him DNA-wise. This impacted a carefully constructed tree with more than five generations. The Rader line had to be abandoned and re-built.

**Non-paternal events** (NPEs)—where a presumed father is not the biological father—are estimated at occurring in only approximately **1% to 5%** of the general population in developed countries. It is therefore very unusual that another CGS President, **Jim Sorenson**, also discovered his Sorenson line had to be changed to reflect DNA results!



Benjamin Vaillant (Veneziano)



Thomas Lee Rader



Carlo Agostino Veneziano



Thomas Bogie Rader

At the [RootsTech website](#) beginners to advanced learners can find something in the 27 pages of classes on Y-DNA . But that is only one place you can learn more about paternity. Search and find and the odds are your results shouldn't be a surprise. Happy Father's Day!

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## June Grads: Finding School Records

Located since 1927 in our new North Berkeley neighborhood, **Saint Mary's College High School** was previously on a campus at 30th and Broadway in Oakland, which it shared with Saint Mary's College, less than a mile away from our former site, obviously not at the same time as us. The photograph at right shows the graduating **class of 1898**.



These young men were elite. High school completion was rare in at the turn of the century, estimated at about 6.4 to 10 per cent. High school rates soared after the Depression when laws were passed to stop teenagers from competing against adults in the workforce.

What and where will you find school records? [The Ancestor Hunt](#) blog lists 26 things to find that may include birth date, residence, parents, and grade levels. From 1840 to 1930, census records will only tell whether or not someone was in school. But the [1940 US Federal Census](#) added a new question recording years of education. [Ancestry.com's U.S. School Yearbooks collection \(1900–2016\)](#) has over 500,000 digitized yearbooks. For the scarcer records before 1900, you can search the [FamilySearch Catalog](#) by location for various school records. Don't forget historical newspapers which published lists to honor grads, particularly in small communities. Happy searching for your grad.

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## June Brides: Manuscript File Find

The CGS Manuscripts collection includes a lovely assortment of 1931 wedding memorabilia in the file of the **Rohrer-Ruff** family. Below are images of some of the greeting cards received by the bride and saved in a scrapbook. Much more is there including photos, a family tree, Oakland High School papers, correspondence and material about the invention of the parking meter! Could your family be in our curated 90-linear foot repository or the growing number of scanned digital files? See the listing of family names in the Index on the [Manuscript](#) page of our website, which includes more information and access instructions.

NOTE: Our Manuscripts team recently acquired 62 boxes of vertical files from the Southern California Genealogical Society and will be assessing them for digitization and adding to our holdings.



## Education and Events

### NEW EVENT ACCESS FOR MEMBERS IN 2026

Members no longer need to register for most events and Next Level classes are free for them. Log into the **CGS website**, then go to [Events & Education](#) and see instructions. **Non-members** register with the EventBrite link and pay \$5.

Questions? Contact [Events](#).



**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE:** The **JULY** Intro Class will be offered in **JUNE** due to the Fourth of July Holiday. Register separately by date.

### Free Intro to Genealogy Series

Register for Zoom or to attend in-person at the new site in Berkeley by clicking on the date

Saturday, [JUNE 6](#)

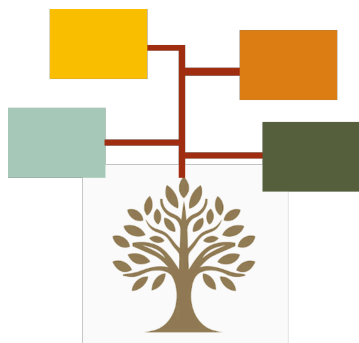
10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Topic: *Using the Census*

Saturday, [JUNE 27](#)

10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Topic: *Vital Records*



### [Citations: Easier than You Think](#)

with Stewart Traiman

Stewart Traiman will guide you through Tom Jones' *Mastering Genealogical Documentation*.

Wednesday, June 17

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Zoom only; free for members; \$5 for non-members



## [Getting Started with AI for Newspaper Research](#)

with Maureen Hanlon

Maureen describes her expectations vs. realities as she tried using AI to help with newspaper research.

**Saturday, June 27**

**1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Zoom or in-person at the Berkeley site; free for members, \$5 for non-members**



## [Exploring Resources for California Genealogy](#)

with Joanna Shear

Joanna shares lesser known California resources to paint a fuller picture of your ancestors' lives.

**Saturday, July 11**

**1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Zoom or in-person at the Berkeley site; free for members, \$5 for non-members**



## [Finding Historical Gems](#)

with Pam Brett

Pam Brett explains how to access government registers, surveys and reports to uncover the communities of your ancestors.

**Saturday, July 25**

**1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Zoom or in-person at the Berkeley site; free for members, \$5 for non-members**

## [View Previous Classes: Videos for CGS Members](#)

Many of the CGS events presented by genealogy speakers are recorded and available for free viewing by our members for a limited time. Contact [events@californiaancestors.org](mailto:events@californiaancestors.org) if you wish to view a specific event recording. See all recordings at [Videos for CGS Members](#).

## [Special Interest Groups](#)



## DNA Skills SIG

Hosted by Mark McLaren

If you are interested in joining the DNA Skills SIG, please send an email to [Mark McLaren](mailto:Mark.McLaren@californiaancestors.org).

NOTE: Date Changes

**May** meeting re-scheduled to **Monday, June 1**, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**June** meeting: **Monday, June 29**, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



## San Francisco SIG

If you are interested in joining the SF SIG, please send an email to [SFSIG@californiaancestors.org](mailto:SFSIG@californiaancestors.org).

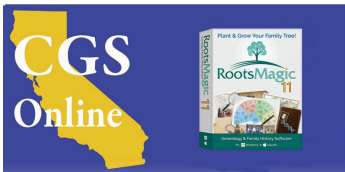
**Saturday, June 20**, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



## Family Tree Maker (SIG)

Hosted by Ron Madson and Karen Halfon

[Register here](#). Link and more at the [FTM website](#)  
**Saturday, June 20** 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



## Roots Magic SIG

Hosted by Keith Montgomery and Stewart Traidman

[Register here](#)  
**Wednesday, June 24**, 6:30 to 8:00 pm

NOTE: No Irish Ancestry SIG on June 27, 2026; next meeting September 26.  
If you would like to host a Special Interest Group, please [contact us here](#).

## Oakland FamilySearch Center Now Closed

### Reopening Tuesday, September 1

The FamilySearch Center **has closed** for planned HVAC, plumbing and lighting upgrades. Check the Center [Class Schedule](#) and calendar for any online events including the CGS-collaborative *Tips and Talks* sessions on Wednesdays.



## Two Hundred Fiftieth De Anza Expedition Anniversary Celebration



**Saturday, June 27**  
**beginning at 10 a.m.**

**Pershing Square, Main Post**  
**Arguello Blvd. at Moraga Ave.**  
**San Francisco Presidio National**  
**Park**

The 10:00 AM ceremony is FREE and open to all. Chairs are provided on a first come, first served basis with a priority to disabled persons.

Los Californianos also invites everyone to participate in docent-led tours of the Presidio's Heritage Gallery Museum and in a self-guided walking tour to the site of the Spanish Presidio chapel.

For more information, contact [Carol Eber](#), Co-chair or [Terri Taylor](#), Director Area 7

Join **Los Californianos** to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Anza Expedition, the founding of San Francisco, and the American Declaration of Independence on **Saturday, June 27, 2026.**

This event honors the 1775-1776 journey that brought over 240 settlers to the San Francisco Bay Area.

Festivities will include an entry procession, flag ceremonies, reenactors in period clothing, and period music, providing a "colorful and historical look into the lives of the first families." There will also be a roll call of the family names.

Period costumes are encouraged and there will be a picnic lunch on the lawn for re-enactors. A \$20 catered lunch at the lunch tables is also available. Contact the organizers for more information and see the Los Californianos [Calendar](#) page.





## Santa Clara Heritage Expo- June 13

Santa Clara County Genealogical & Historical Society and co-Sponsor, the Santa Clara Library, are hosting a Research and Resources Expo. Exhibitors include lineage societies, local museums and ethnic societies, as well as book authors. Plus display of vintage model cars! FREE.

**Saturday, June 13, 2026,  
1-4 pm**

**Santa Clara City Library, Central Park Branch,  
2635 Homestead Road, Santa Clara.**

[More info](#) here.

## New Resource from American Ancestors

### Free Guide: Getting Started with Land Records

Land records are a key resource for family historians. Not only can land records help trace ancestral migrations, serve as vital record replacements, provide biographical information, and reveal relationships between individuals. This guide will help you understand common terms, navigate indexes, locate original deeds, and learn how to analyze them. [Download Today](#)



## Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh: June, July and Fall

Summer camp for genealogists! In-person at the University of Pittsburgh with access to the Heinz History Center and Barco Law Library. See the full list of courses and register for **in-person** (July 12-17) or **online** (June 22-26 and special Fall 2026) courses [here](#).

[Click on graphics below to go to website calendars for more classes](#)

### Bay Area Genealogy Calendar



## New and Recent CGS Publications Online



The latest edition of the *The California Nugget* (Spring 2026) has been sent. Check your virtual or physical mail box. Current and past issues can be seen by members on the CGS website [here](#).

The most recent (May 15) and past issues of *Jukebox Genealogy* available online for members, [here](#).



Blog articles keep on coming. Recent topics covered Memorial Day, the Calaveras County Jumping Frog Jubilee, and the amazing life of George Masa. Anyone can read the blog [here](#) and sign up to receive it by email by clicking the "Subscribe" box at the top of the page.



## California Genealogical Society

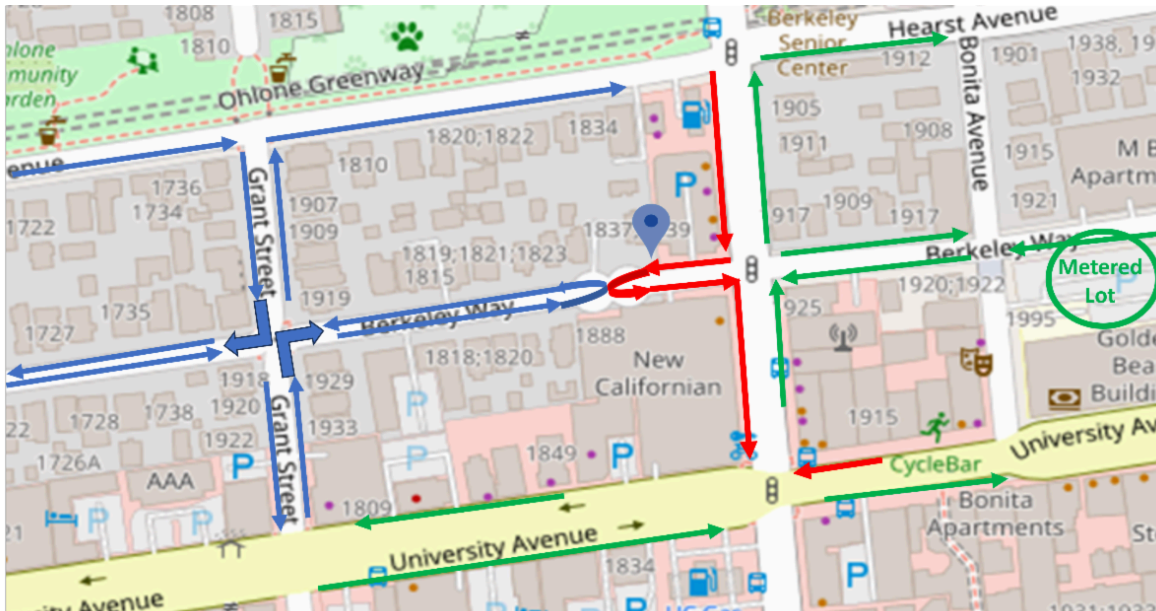
1841 Berkeley Way  
Berkeley, CA 94703-1576  
(510) 663-1358

Contact Us



Our library is open **Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** The Library will be **closed Friday and Saturday, July 3 and 4**, in observance of Independence Day.

Visits are free for all on First Saturdays and always free for members. Non-members can pay the \$5 fee at time of the visit or join and have the fee applied to membership cost. [Directions and Parking](#). Closest options for street and metered spaces shown below.



Green: meters Blue: neighborhood (most 2 hour time limit) NOTE: There are forced turns at Berkeley Way and Grant Sts. Not all "P" are public parking.

[Join The Society](#)

[Renew Your Membership](#)

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

CGS has moved! As of June 4 we are located at 1841 Berkeley Way, Berkeley CA 94703

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