



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



California Genealogical Society  
CaliforniaAncestors.org

eNews

Since 1898

July 2026 Vol. 20 No. 7

Happy Fourth, Happy 250th to the United States of America



## Family History is America's Story

Last month's successful move of our learning center to a new location was just one of many reasons we find ourselves filled with gratitude this July. As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, we are reminded of our freedoms, our rights, and the rich heritage passed down to us by the ancestors whose hard work made it possible for us to be here today. The National Genealogical Society has embraced the semiquincentennial motto "**Family History is America's Story**"— and CGS is both proud and excited to carry that spirit forward through our Vision and Mission.

The Library will be **CLOSED** Friday, July 3, and Saturday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day

Read further in this eNews about a member with a Loyalist ancestor, the August class focusing on military lineage, aids in finding military records and **American Ancestors' Revolutionary Roots Initiative**. Members can log into our website to see the Spring 2026 issue of ***The California Nugget*** and what are ancestors were doing in the Revolutionary War era. There's also an article by **Lisa Gorrell** about celebrating the 250th anniversary. More members' stories about military ancestors, including early patriots, are also in the May 15th issue of ***Jukebox Genealogy***.

---

### June Board Meeting Recap

The Moving Forward Team was congratulated on the opening of the 1841 Berkeley Way space. Roger Prince proposed a thank you celebration for all the volunteers involved to take place in August, Ron Madson agreed to find caterers. Discussion then

Several reviews by CGS volunteers have taken place. The site should be nearly complete by the first week in August.

focused on remaining items including signage and furniture and a "punch list" of small tasks.

Roger presented a recommendation he had received to have decisions about furniture, art and any other decor be handled by a committee before any purchases are made. This met with agreement and he will consider and appoint volunteers.

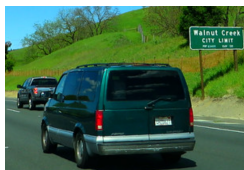
Rudy Wolf updated the Board on the progress of the web page revisions.

## July Board Meeting

**Saturday, July 11  
10:00 a.m.**

**Via Zoom or in-person**  
[Register to attend](#)

## Member News



Consider carpooling to the new Library location in Berkeley for or in addition to your Member Gathering meeting--we'll reserve a parking space for you. Send your group name, planned date and time to us [here](#).

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Kayla Bayang**  
**Michelle Chiachiere**  
**Jeannette Dutil**  
**Amanda Melkoumian**  
**David Lambert**  
**Jackie Shoner**

Thanks to the 12 new members who have joined due to our offer at NGS. We hope you find many learning and other opportunities.

### Member Gatherings

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

#### Sacramento

Belle Coolidge Library in Arden Park

- **Wednesday, July 8**
- 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
- [Sacramento RSVP](#)

#### Lamorinda

- **Monday, July 13**
- 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- [Lamorinda RSVP](#)

#### Walnut Creek

Walnut Creek Main Library

- **Thursday, July 23**
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- [Walnut Creek RSVP](#)

#### San Francisco

SF Main Library, 3rd Floor Paley Room

- **Thursday, July 23**
- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- [San Francisco RSVP](#)

#### Danville

Old Town Cafe

105 Town and Country Shopping Center

- **Thursday, August 18**
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- [Danville RSVP](#)

**CGS Members Enjoying the National Genealogy Society Conference  
in Fort Wayne, Indiana**



Member **John Ralls** with author Dr. Tom Jones



**Stewart Traiman** making one of his seminal LGBTQ presentations



Members **Susan Logas** and **James Russell**



### **Member with Revolutionary War Era Ancestor**

**Bill O'Neil** is a longtime volunteer who became a CGS member in 1995. Bill is well-remembered for his many years of leadership of the Book Repair Committee, his popular workshops, his artistry, humor and his kilts.

While no longer active in the CGS library, Bill was recently honored by his retirement community, The Kensington at Walnut Creek, for his teaching and his artwork there. At the CGS General Membership meeting in 2019 (shown below), Bill shared another passion and hobby--his collection of military ancestor dolls, wearing authentic uniforms for their branch and conflict. His family includes veterans of every war except Vietnam, starting with a member of **Rogers' Rangers**. (Bill himself is a Korean War veteran.) Rogers' Rangers was a company of soldiers from the Province of New Hampshire raised by Major Robert Rogers and attached to the British Army during the French and Indian War. They were known for early use of guerrilla tactics.

When Robert Rogers offered his services to General **George Washington**, he was turned down. Washington feared he might be a spy, since Rogers had just returned from a long stay in England. Rogers was infuriated by the rejection, and offered his services to the British. He formed the **Queen's Rangers** (1776) and later the **King's Rangers**. Rogers was instrumental in the capture of **Nathan Hale** in September 1776.



### Learn about Revolutionary War Records on Fold3 and see our [August 8 class](#) for even more help

Did you know both Alameda and Contra Costa Library cards provide access to the [Fold3 Library Edition](#)? Access may be limited to in-library use only but possibly also from home. Check with your local library for availability.

Many guides to using the Fold3 collection are available online.

- Here's a video by the Cass County Public library:  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=358749785821945>
- My Revolutionary War offers a helpful list of Revolutionary War Online Records: <https://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/records/>
- See also *Family Tree Magazine's* article on getting the most out a Fold3 search: <https://familytreemagazine.com/websites/fold3-guide/>

## American Ancestors' Revolutionary Roots Initiative

**Two hundred and fifty years ago, the American Revolution reshaped the world.** While many took up the cause of independence, others remained loyal to the British Crown — turning friends into foes and dividing families for generations.

As we commemorate this historic anniversary, American Ancestors invites you to explore these complex stories through our [Revolutionary Roots](#) initiative. Included on the site are specialized databases, in-depth research guides, expert support and opportunity to subscribe to a newsletter.



Patriot Ancestors



Loyalist Ancestors

## Events and Education



## Volunteer and Attend

An incredible opportunity for family historians is just around the corner! On **August 12 and 13**, the San Francisco Main Library (SFPL) at 100 Larkin St, San Francisco, will host its **Annual Genealogy Symposium**. The California Genealogical Society is proud to partner with SFPL for this premier event.

Genealogists of all levels can discover new resources. Experienced genealogists will have the unique opportunity to learn directly from library experts about navigating invaluable local collections, including San Francisco Newspapers, the San Francisco History Center, the Government Information Center, and SFPL's extensive eResources.

The symposium features over 20 expert speakers delivering presentations and leading discussion groups. This year's diverse lineup ranges from fundamental classes in beginning genealogy to strategies for DNA. The event also highlights a strong selection of ethnic-focused tracks covering Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Filipino ancestry.

### Daily Schedule and Details

The event runs from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day**, featuring three concurrent tracks to choose from. The first two tracks are dedicated to formal lectures and structured discussion groups, while the third track offers a less formal, interactive space for open discussion and direct Q&A. Between sessions, attendees can browse the informational tables to connect and ask questions of representatives from **CGS, the Oakland FamilySearch Center, Sutro Library, Ancestry.com**, and more.

Admission to the symposium is completely free, and the SFPL Main Library offers easy transit access, located just one block from the Civic Center BART and Muni stations. To view the complete schedule of events on the SF Genealogy website, [click here](#).



Outreach Chair Susan Logas at the 2025 SFPL Genealogy Symposium

### Support CGS: Volunteer Today!

An event of this scale relies entirely on the strength of our community. We need our volunteers to help make the symposium a success. You can support CGS by:

- taking a shift at our **information table**
- serving as a **classroom monitor** during the presentations
- **welcoming and guiding attendees**

Please [click here](#) to select your volunteer shift today!

It is a fantastic way to give back to the society while enjoying the symposium.

## Intro to Genealogy Series



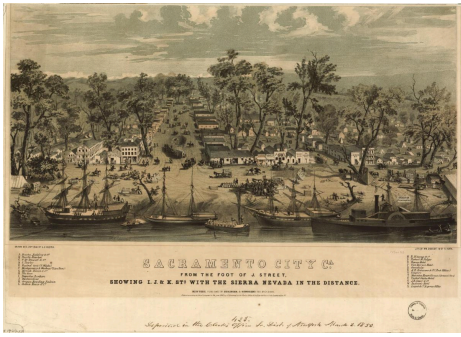
### FREE [Intro Series](#)

**Next class: Saturday, August 1  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

(NOTE: Due to the 4th of July Holiday, the July class was held June 27)

Topic: Organizing your Family History work  
Attend in person or by Zoom

## Next LevelClasses



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

with Joanna Shear

Joanna shares lesser-known California resources, such as University archives, to paint a fuller picture of your ancestors.

**Saturday, June 11  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Zoom or in person; free for members, \$5 for non-members**



### [Finding Historical Gems](#)

with Pam Brett

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

**Saturday, July 25  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Zoom or in person; free for members, \$5 for non-members**



### [My America 250 – My Military Ancestors from the Revolutionary War to Viet Nam](#)

with Joanne Layshock

Joanne will focus on how she found the military members of her family tree, and point you to service records, clusters, immigrants, and best websites.

**Saturday, August 8  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Zoom or in person; free for members, \$5 for non-members**



### [From Arrival to Archive: Immigration and Naturalization Record \(Two-Part Series\)](#)

with Reem Awad-Rashmawi

Immigration attorney Reem Awad-Rashmawi will lead you on the journey of your ancestors took from arrival to citizenship as shown in federal and other records. Two-part series.

**Both sessions Zoom only. Free for members, \$5 for non-members**

**[Register for Part I](#)  
Saturday, August 22  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

**[Register for Part II](#)  
Saturday, September 26  
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**



## Oakland FamilySearch Center

The Center remains closed for renovations through August 31 but the 2:00 p.m. Wed. Tips and Talks sessions focusing on AI with Jared Weaver continue online.

Click for [Calendar](#)

## Class Recordings and Videos For Members

"Citations: Easier than you Think" available through July 19  
Other recordings available. [Click here](#)

## Special Interest Groups for Members



### 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, July 18, 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
Zoom



### FamilyTree Maker SIG

Hosted by Ron Madson and Karen Halfon

[Register here](#) and see the [FTM website](#) for more information

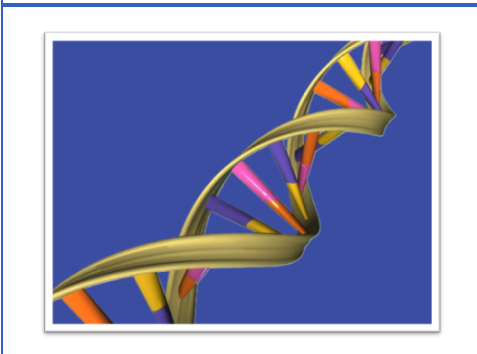
**Saturday, July 18, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
In person or by Zoom



### Roots Magic SIG

Hosted by Keith Montgomery and Stewart Traidman

[Register here](#)  
**Wednesday, July 18, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
Zoom



### DNA Skills SIG

Hosted by Mark McLaren

Intended for those who have tested and uploaded results. If you are interested in joining the DNA Skills SIG, please send an email to [Mark McLaren](#)

**Monday, July 27, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**  
Zoom



Registration for the in-person courses at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) is **open until the start date of the course**, which is **July 12, 2026**. Fall online courses are also available for registration at the [GRIP website](#)



**American Ancestors**  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### **Confirming Parentage**

Tues Jul 21

11 a.m.-12 p.m. PDT

\$25 [Register here](#)

Rhonda McClure discusses how to broaden your search when you can't find or confirm your ancestor's parents.



Association of Professional  
**GENEALOGISTS**

### **Creating a Personal Research Guide: A Professional Tool for Efficient Casework**

Thu Jul 30 12:00-1:00 PDT

Open to public

[Register](#)

Bonnie Wade Mucia, AG®, AGL™

Click on icons below to access local and national calendars of genealogy events

#### Bay Area Genealogy Calendar



## New Ukraine Records Added to JewishGen.org

**150,022 historical records** (birth, marriage, death, census) from 1875 - 1921

**Towns Included:** Odessa, Tarashcha, Koshevatoe, Priluki, Rivne, and Uman

**Monthly Details:**

<http://tinyurl.com/ywk456pn>

**Complete Database:**

<https://tinyurl.com/5sdtzu5z> (all records since 2022)

### **How to Search**

Use [JewishGen.org](http://JewishGen.org) with your family surnames

Check results from "Ukraine Group 2," "Ukraine Group 3," or ungrouped records

Each entry links to original documents

Note: Some Cyrillic text requires expert translation

### **\*Want CGS to list your class or other event in our eNews?**

Include title, date, time, place, any fee, registration link, any graphic and your name. [Submit](#) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to have your event published in the next month's eNews. Your organization logo appreciated. Copy may be edited.

# California Genealogical Society

1841 Berkeley Way  
Berkeley CA 94703-1576  
(510) 663-1358  
[www.californiaancestors.org](http://www.californiaancestors.org)



Our library is open **Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Closed Friday and Saturday, July 3 and 4**, in observance of Independence Day.

Visits are always free for members and free for all on First Saturdays.

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](#).

[Join The Society](#)

[Renew Your Membership](#)

California Genealogical Society | 1841 Berkeley Way | Berkeley, CA 94703-1576 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!