

NGS 2022 Family History Conference

Mining for Ancestors in the Golden State

Kathleen O. Beitiks



Historic downtown Sacramento. All photographs by Matt Berry.

The NGS 2022 Family History Conference in Sacramento, California, is less than a year away—which means it’s a good time to start planning your genealogy research strategy. California is a gold mine of resources for family genealogists and historians.

Our American Mosaic is the theme of the Conference, focusing on the constantly evolving influx of people from many heritages who have given America a distinctive population. Conference registration opens in December, and hotel reservations will begin in the fall. See <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org> in August.

In addition to learning from Conference presentations by genealogy experts, attendees will have opportunities to explore the Sacramento area. Included on the agenda are a visit to the Marshall Gold Discovery Center, a walking tour of the Capitol Mall, a stroll through Old Town Sacramento, a winery tour and lunch in the Amador Valley, and more. For information about these tours, see <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/2022-NGS-Family-History-Conference-Brochure.pdf>.

While planning your visit to the 2022 NGS Family History Conference, think about adding some time for a side trip to San Francisco—a mere ninety minutes west of Sacramento. Below is a list of Sacramento and San Francisco area repositories popular with researchers. Because some places may require an appointment, use the websites to prepare for your visit.

The California Genealogical Society is in the process of preparing research guides for surrounding counties, which will be released later this year. 🌳

Kathleen O’Donnell Beitiks is a fourth-generation Californian. Her paternal Irish ancestors immigrated to California in the 1850s and ran a boarding house in Grass Valley for gold miners. It’s safe to say her ancestors did not strike it rich—otherwise Kathleen would be living in a mansion today. Currently the volunteer coordinator for the California Genealogical Society, Kathleen is also the publicity chair for the Local Host Committee of the NGS 2022 Family History Conference.

Sacramento area

California State Archives

1020 O St.,
Sacramento, CA 95814

916-653-7715

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/archives>

Family history resources, common school reports, census records, Spanish and Mexican land grants, state documents, oral histories, photographs, Root Cellar collection of the Sacramento Genealogical Society.

California State Library

900 N St.,
Sacramento, CA 95814

916-323-9843

<https://www.library.ca.gov>

Central library for state government, repository for federal publications, and California History room. Professional directories, licensing board records, military promotion lists, county agricultural reports, bulletins and newsletters of state hospitals, veterans' homes, and prisons.

Sacramento County Clerk-Recorder

8239 E Stockton Blvd. A,
Sacramento, CA 95828

916-874-6334

<https://ccr.saccounty.net/Pages/default.aspx>

Deeds, birth certificates, marriage certificates, vital statistics.

Sacramento Room, Central Library

828 I St.,
Sacramento, CA 95814

916-264-2920

<https://www.saclibrary.org/Education/History/The-Sacramento-Room>

Books, periodicals, maps, ephemera, postcards and photographs documenting more than 150 years of Sacramento County's social, cultural, religious and political history.

Sacramento FamilySearch Library

2745 Eastern Ave.,
Sacramento, CA 95821

916-487-2090

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sacramento_FamilySearch_Library

African American collection, local history collections, genealogy collections.

Sacramento Historic City Cemetery

1000 Broadway,
Sacramento, CA 95818

916-448-0811 or
916-808-1196

<https://www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Parks/Specialty-Parks/City-Cemetery>

Interactive map to search for people buried at the cemetery.

Center for Sacramento History

551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.,
Sacramento, CA 95811

916-808-7072

<https://www.centerforsacramentohistory.org>

Official City and County government records, personal manuscript collections, business records, photographs and artifacts.

California State Railroad Museum

111 I St.,
Sacramento, CA 95814

916-323-8073

<https://www.californiarailroad.museum/visit/library>

Personnel records, personal papers, research notes of writers and historians, variety of railroad-related documents accumulated by private collectors.



Miner's Bend, a historic gold mining park, and the California State Railroad Museum.

San Francisco area

California State Library - Sutro Library

San Francisco State University, J. Paul Leonard Library, 1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132
415-469-6100

<https://www.library.ca.gov/sutro>

Family and local histories, city and telephone directories, vital and property records, genealogical, historical, and lineage society publications, archival collections.

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

Eastern side of Doe Library
510-642-3781
(Administrative Office)

510-642-6481
(Reference Desk)

<https://www.lib.berkeley.edu/libraries/bancroft-library>

African American historical newspapers, Civil War letters and diaries, American Indian histories, photos, databases.

National Archives at San Francisco

1000 Commodore Dr., San Bruno, CA 94066

650-238-3501

<https://www.archives.gov/san-francisco/genealogy>

Naturalization records, ship passenger lists, Chinese Exclusion Act case files, censuses of American Samoa and Native Americans in California and Nevada, digital records.

San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin St., San Francisco, CA 94102

415-557-4400

<https://sfpl.org/locations/main-library/general-collections/genealogy-resources-library>

San Francisco medical examiner records, funeral home records, voter registers, San Francisco Social Register, newspapers, obituary-related resources.

San Francisco Office of the County Clerk

City and County of San Francisco, City Hall, Room 168

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl., San Francisco, CA 94102

415-554-4950

<https://sfgov.org/countyclerk>

Birth, marriage, death certificates. (Many early records destroyed in 1906 earthquake.)

California Historical Society

678 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94105

415-357-1848

<https://californiahistoricalsociety.org>

California biographies collection, maps, ephemera, photos.

California Genealogical Society

2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland, CA 94612

510-663-1358

<https://www.californiaancestors.org/whats-in-the-library/>

Research services, online one-of-a-kind genealogical indexes and databases, research library housing over thirty-eight thousand reference materials from California, the United States, and around the world.

David Rumsey Map Center

557 Escondido Mall, Stanford, CA 94305

650-498-8698

<https://library.stanford.edu/rumsey>

Large collection of rare atlases and maps, high-resolution screens equipped with interactive tools for viewing digital images.

Oakland FamilySearch Library

4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland, CA 94602

510-531-3905

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Library

Genealogical records, access to genealogical subscription sites and other FamilySearch Libraries, digitizing equipment, personal assistance to patrons.

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Maritime Research Center

2 Marina Blvd., Building E, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94123

415-561-7000

<https://www.nps.gov/safr/learn/historyculture/research-center.htm>

Largest maritime collection on the West Coast, maps, charts, photographs, genealogy resources.

Society of California Pioneers

101 Montgomery St., Suite 150, San Francisco, CA 94129

415-957-1849

<https://www.californiapioneers.org/library>

More than 10,000 books, manuscripts, maps, journals, newspapers, and autobiographical materials related to the early history of California.