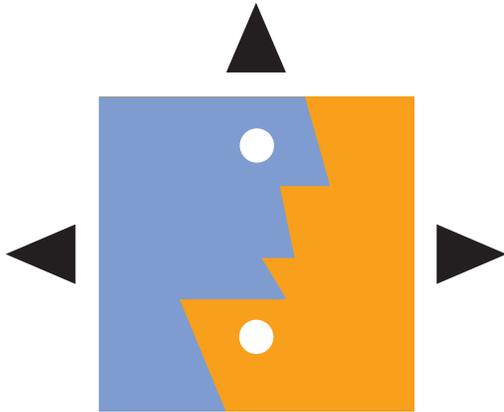


NGS 2022 Family History Conference Striking Genealogical Gold in Sacramento

Kathleen O. Beitiks



**OUR
AMERICAN
MOSAIC**

**24-28 MAY 2022
SACRAMENTO, CA**

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE



Remember that feeling you had as a kid when you walked into a candy store? Prepare for that same feeling when you explore the program of the National Genealogical Society 2022 Family History Conference, 24–28 May, in Sacramento, California.¹ With so many choices of speakers, workshops, lectures, tours, events, and research opportunities, it will be difficult to make selections!

The theme of the conference is Our American Mosaic, celebrating the history of diversity in the United States. The official logo represents the compass points from which our ancestors came and how they have all contributed to the American story.²

We hope COVID-19 will not be a factor in May 2022; however, contingency plans will be in place for any eventuality to ensure the health and safety of registrants, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and staff.

Websites cited in this article were viewed on 29 October 2021.

1. "Our American Mosaic," *National Genealogical Society* (<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>).
2. "Why The Theme 'Our American Mosaic'?" *National Genealogical Society Conference Blog* (<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/ngs-2922-speaker-spotlight-first-name-last-name-2-2-2>).

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.

Conference program

For more than a year, conference organizers have been developing a program that will appeal to genealogists of all levels, from beginners to professionals.

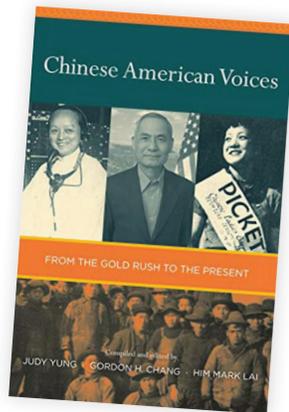
Kicking off the program on Wednesday, 25 May, is Stanford University Professor Gordon H. Chang, keynote speaker for the conference. Professor Chang is the author of several books including *Chinese American Voices: From the Gold Rush to the Present* (2006).³ His lecture is titled “The Importance of Chinese Workers in Building America’s First Transcontinental Railroad.”

With more than 170 lectures on the program, there is something for everyone. Perennial favorites Judy Russell, Thomas Jones, and D. Joshua Taylor are among the featured speakers on a wide range of genealogy topics.

Want to focus on a particular topic? Check out the variety of research tracks: African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Chinese American, European and Middle Eastern, Hispanic and Latin American, Jewish, Native American, western states, and eastern states.

Speakers will also tackle subjects such as Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) Skillbuilding, DNA, families, immigration, land and maps, methodology, records and repositories, technology, western states, westward migration, and writing. The BCG Skillbuilding workshop will cover *Tackling the Family Narrative*, by Karen Mauer Jones, and *Walk a Mile in Their Shoes: Writing the Ancestors’ Stories with Social History and Historical Context*, by Rebecca Whitman Koford.

The conference will include sessions for the NGS Delegate Council, Focus on Societies, and the SLAM! Idea Showcase.



Social events

The local host for the conference is the California Genealogical Society (CGS), founded in 1898.⁴ CGS members have planned local tours and events beginning on Tuesday, 24 May, to provide conference attendees with a bit of California hospitality.

The tours include a visit to a working vineyard (Mother Lode Wine Experience), a step back in time to learn about gold mining (Marshall Gold Discovery Tour), an up-close look at major genealogical research resources (Capitol Mall Walking Tour), and an opportunity to discover the charm of historic Sacramento (Old Sacramento Tour), featuring a visit to the “underground city” and lunch on the restored *Delta King* paddleboat.

At the end of a long day immersed in genealogy, you will need to relax. How about a wine tasting with fellow conference attendees? At the Taste of California Welcome Reception (Wednesday, 25 May), you can sample wines from several California regions paired with hearty appetizers.

Another opportunity to socialize—and maybe rock ‘n roll—is the evening event, Back to the Fifties (Thursday, 26 May). Join your friends, old and new, for a casual dinner to celebrate the release of the 1950 US census. Be sure to bring your poodle skirt, slick back your hair, and break out your bobby sox!



Don’t forget to make time to visit the Expo Hall. It’s a great opportunity to peruse goods and services, learn about genealogical societies, and socialize with conference attendees. The hall will open Tuesday evening and run through Saturday.

3. “Gordon H. Chang,” *Stanford University Department of History* (<https://history.stanford.edu/people/gordon-h-chang>).

4. “NGS 2022 Family History Conference,” *California Genealogical Society* (<https://www.californiaancestors.org/ngs-2022-family-history-conference>).

Research

Conference attendees are encouraged to come to Sacramento early or stay late, to allow for research time at the California State Archives,⁵ the California State Library,⁶ the California State Railroad Museum Library & Archives,⁷ and the Center for Sacramento History.⁸

San Francisco, only ninety minutes west of Sacramento, is a rich resource for genealogists. For instance, the Sutro Library at San Francisco State University has the largest genealogical collection in California.⁹ Alien Files (A-Files) can be viewed at the National Archives in San Bruno, about twenty minutes south of San Francisco.¹⁰

Researchers can also make an appointment to visit the Library of the California Genealogical Society, located across the Bay from San Francisco, in downtown Oakland.¹¹

California Research Series

To help you prepare for your visit to Sacramento, the California Genealogical Society is offering a series of free classes about California research. These classes are designed to help you plan your schedule, make

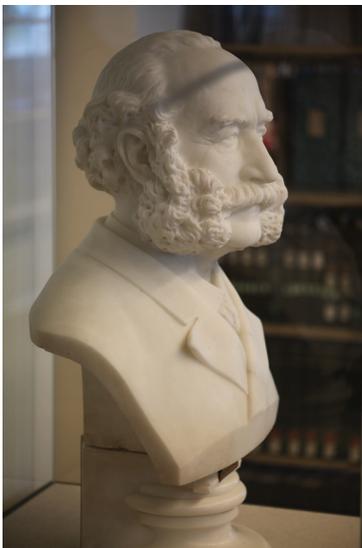
reservations, and make the most of visiting local repositories. Conference registration is not required. The classes will be held from 4 to 5:30 PST.¹²

- "Sacramento History Center," 11 January 2022
- "Government Publications at California's State Library," 18 January
- "Historical Resources at California's State Library," 25 January
- "Sutro Library—Genealogical Treasures," 1 February
- "The California State Archives," 15 March
- "Special Collections at the Sacramento Public Library," 22 March

Conclusion

Stay up to date with information about the NGS 2022 Family History Conference by subscribing to its blog.¹³ Meanwhile, make a Sacramento hotel reservation for the conference as soon as possible.¹⁴ Registration closes on 25 April. The official conference hotels, the Hyatt Regency Sacramento and the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel, are across the street from the convention center.

Sacramento, the capital city of California, is filled with history, museums, restaurants, parks, and genealogy resources. Join us on 24-28 May for the NGS 2022 Family History Conference and an opportunity to strike genealogical gold for your ancestors. 🌳



Bust of Adolph Sutro, the Sutro Library's founder (left). The Sutro Library's reading room (right). Courtesy of the California State Library.

5. "California State Archives," *California Secretary of State* (<https://www.sos.ca.gov/archives>).

6. "Welcome to the California State Library," *California State Library* (<https://www.library.ca.gov>).

7. "Library & Archives," *California State Railroad Museum* (<https://www.californiarailroad.museum/visit/library>).

8. "Announcements & Events," *Center for Sacramento History* (<http://www.centerforsacramentohistory.org>).

9. "Sutro Library (San Francisco)," *California State Library* (<https://www.library.ca.gov/sutro>).

10. "Alien Files (A-Files)," *National Archives* (<https://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/aliens>).

11. "Planning a Visit to the Library," *California Genealogical Society* (<https://www.californiaancestors.org/planning-a-visit>).

12. "NGS Family History Conference," *California Genealogical Society* (https://www.californiaancestors.org/ngs-2022-family-history-conference/#CA_Research).

13. *National Genealogical Society Family History Conference Blog* (<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/blog>).

14. "Hotel Accommodations: Reservations Now Open," *National Genealogical Society* (<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/accommodations>).

