

**February 2016 Announcements****Happy Lunar New Year**

Several cultures celebrate the Lunar New Year (China, Vietnam, Korea, Laos, Singapore). There are many excellent online resources for searching your Asian ancestors. A good place to start is the [FamilySearch Wiki pages](#).



February is also **Black History Month**. The African American Genealogical Society of Northern California is holding a Black History Day on February 21. [You can register today](#).

**All Member Survey**

We had a fantastic response rate to our Fall All-Member Survey! We heard loud and clear that our members value our classes, our online sites, social media channels, and eNews. We also learned that even in this digital age, you especially enjoy our bi-annual genealogy journal, The California Nugget. For more detail on classes, as well as member feedback from our survey, See this [blog post](#).

**We need BOOKS!**

CGS volunteers sell books on eBay to raise money for the Library. If you have non-fiction historical or genealogical books in good condition that you no longer need, please consider donating some or all of your collection to our library. All proceeds from these sales keep the Library running and available for your use. Email [Arlene Miles](#) with questions.

**CGS Sponsored Events, Trips and Conferences****[Field Trip to San Francisco Public Library](#)**

Frances Silcox, CGS Field Trip Coordinator, will lead a tour of the areas of genealogical interest at the San Francisco Main Public Library. Attendees will meet on **February 6 at 10 a.m.** sharp outside the San Francisco History Room on the sixth floor for a tour by San Francisco City Archivist Susan Goldstein and the

*San Francisco Public Library*  
Español | 中文

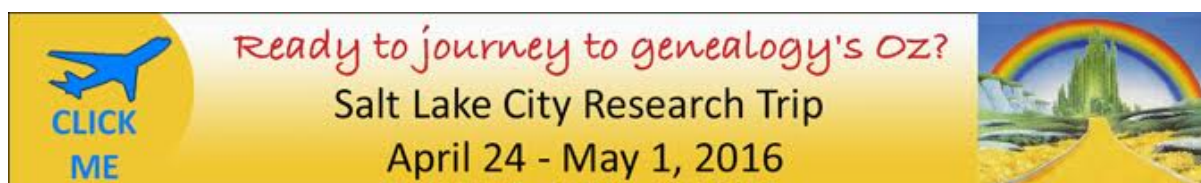
library staff. After the tour, we will learn how to search the online catalog of the many San Francisco Historical Records the library has recently digitized in cooperation with Archive.org and FamilySearch.org. Register for the trip on [EventBrite](#).



**[Research Trip to the New England Historic Genealogical Society \(NEHGS\)](#)**

**Sunday, February 28, 2016 - Sunday, March 6, 2016**

Join Jane Lindsey, CGS Past President and former [NEHGS](#) Trustee, on our biennial research trip to Boston and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Jane has visited NEHGS too many times to count and this is her 6th trip on behalf of CGS. Take advantage of her knowledge and join us for this signature trip! This trip is limited to 15 researchers. [Registration ends February 7th](#).



**[California Genealogical Society Annual Salt Lake City Research Trip](#)**

Trip dates: April 24 - May 1, 2016

Trip cost: \$805 for double occupancy

\$1165 for single occupancy

*(these prices are LOWER than last year)*

Must be paid in full (no deposit) by March 21.

This event is open to all.

Prior to the trip there will be a "[Getting More from FamilySearch.org](#)" meeting on March 5, 2016 in preparation for a trip to the Family History Library. There will also be an optional meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 from Noon to 2 p.m.

Contact info: [Lisa Gorrell](#)

**Oakland is Changing**

**Come see us in Changing Oakland**

*by Maureen Hanlon*



In additions to answering specific questions in our very successful All Member Survey last Fall, our members included over 600 comments. Many of these had to do with the difficulty of coming to our CGS Library for classes. And also, to be honest, included were comments regarding some long-standing concerns about the

reputation and safety of Oakland.

We have some good news for you:

First, for the many who live out of the area, can't make the journey for various reasons or are looking for online educational opportunities, CGS is seriously investigating recording classes and making them available on the web. We have the software and interest and now are looking for a few technically savvy volunteers to make it happen.




Second, if you haven't been following the news about "[Uptown Oakland](#)," the neighborhood around CGS has become the hot spot. As the population is shifting to the East Bay for lower rents and opportunities, we've seen multiple new restaurants, in addition to upgrades of building and plans for development. If you haven't been to visit in a while, you'll notice the new vibe immediately. More people are on the street, there's more variety and some great places for lunch. Please see [Visit Oakland](#) for more specifics and we hope to see you in 2016.

## Classes

**California Genealogical Society & Library**  
**2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland**



As usual, here's our wonderful line-up of classes for this month.

	Saturday, Feb 6	<a href="#">Introduction to Genealogy</a> with Ron Madson 1 to 3 p.m.
	Saturday, Feb 20	<a href="#">Tips and Tools for Research at the National Archives</a> with Marisa Louie  Learn how records at the National Archives and Records Administration are organized and how to navigate them to discover whether there are records relating to your ancestors. This introductory presentation will cover what you will and will NOT find at the National Archives in Washington, DC and in facilities around the country. 1 to 3 p.m.
	Tuesday, Feb 23	<a href="#">Book Repair Workshop</a> Learn the basics of book repair techniques with Bill O'Neil. Workshop participants will learn book repair techniques by creating a book for themselves. 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. <i>Only one spot left but you can get on the waiting list.</i>



Saturday,  
Feb 27

**[Discovering Your German Roots: The Great Migration 1815-1914](#)**

You know that your ancestors came from Germany, but from where in that huge country? Until we know their village of origin, we can't trace their roots. This presentation and discussion with Robert Jackson PhD, will guide you in the challenging task of discovering the hometown of your German ancestors, even if they arrived 150 years ago.  
1 to 3 p.m.  
*Only one spot left but you can get on the waiting list.*



Saturday,  
March 5

**[Getting More From FamilySearch.org](#)**

This class was envisioned as a preparation for a trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but it will be helpful to anyone who wants to get the most research bang out of the FamilySearch.org website. The presentation consists of lecture slides and live demonstrations on FamilySearch.org.  
10 to 12 p.m.



Saturday,  
March 5

**[Introduction to Genealogy](#)**  
with Ron Madson  
1 to 3 p.m.



Saturday,  
March 12

**[Crowd Sourcing Your Irish Research Questions](#)**

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, this session is for beginning to intermediate researchers of Irish ancestors. Participants will share strategies, resources, tips, and problems in an informal setting and begin to build a network of Irish researchers within the CGS community. Maureen Hanlon and Laura Manion will facilitate discussion, provide resources, and share their own experiences in locating townland, church, and other records. Attendees are encouraged to participate by bringing their questions and any helpful resources to share, such as websites and books.  
1 to 3 p.m.



Saturday,  
March 19

**[Angel Island Genealogical Resources](#)**

More than one million people from over eighty countries were processed by officials on the island, and as a result there are quite a lot of genealogical resources available to the researcher. Learn from examples of case studies of Chinese, Jewish, South Asian and Japanese immigrants and find out about the National Archives and other resources that might be available for your own research.  
1 to 3 p.m.



Saturday,  
March 26

**[Spreadsheets: The Wonderful Tool Genealogists Seldom Use](#)**

This class by Susan Goss Johnston is being offered AGAIN after being sold out last year. It will be held at the Oakland Family Search Library.

Would a chart help you analyze those chicken-scratch censuses? Do you have a list of documents from a pension file that you simply can't

understand? Would a timeline graph make your family story come to life? You need a spreadsheet! Attend this workshop and learn the tricks of the trade. All you need is a computer, a spreadsheet program, and an imagination. This class is a hands-on workshop limited to 12 people.  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For additional events check out the [San Francisco Bay Genealogy Calendar](#).  
Also [visit our Eventbrite profile page](#) to see the latest class additions and descriptions.

## Meetings and More

### California Genealogical Society & Library

2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland



**Saturday, February 13:** CGS Board meetings are open for all CGS members to attend. If you'd like to add items to the Agenda please contact [Linda Okazaki](#). 10 a.m. to noon.

**Saturday, February 20:** Family Tree Maker SIG, 1 - 4 p.m.  
Devoted exclusively to Family Tree Maker™ Software from Ancestry.com. Please [register](#) for this event.



**Saturday, February 20:** San Francisco SIG, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

If you would like to host a Special Interest Group (i.e. French Canadian, RootsMagic, Mayflower Descendants, Family History Writers, Latinos, Scrapbooking, etc.) please contact [Maureen Hanlon](#). If your Society or Organization would like to use our facility as a meeting space for a nominal fee, please contact [Linda Okazaki](#).

## CGS Volunteers

Several [volunteer](#) positions are vacant:



### Brown Bag Tuesday - March 8

Are you curious about the jobs that keep our volunteers coming back year after year? If you have been toying with idea of volunteering, pack yourself a lunch and come on down (yes, we are in the basement!) to the CGS Library for Brown Bag Tuesday on March 8 at noon. This is a great opportunity to informally sit and chat with some of our current volunteers about the work they do. Big jobs, little jobs....we have them all!

**Fill our volunteer slots!**



Below is a list of CGS jobs that are looking for volunteers:

**C is for Cataloger** - Are you a member of CGS and a librarian? Do you know Library of Congress call numbers? Does cataloging excite you? CGS needs you to join our library team!

**Desk Duty** - Be the face of CGS as a volunteer receptionist. Welcome our patrons to the library shelves, answer the telephone. It's a wonderful way to meet people and to learn more about our society. Training provided. Commitment: One day a month.

**Membership** - Become part of the CGS "Welcome Wagon!" Two to three individuals are needed for membership outreach. Also - one individual with computer savvy with skills, including Word and Excel.

**Events Organizer** - Do you have some great ideas about 1-2 offsite events? Get to know big name speakers, arrange venues, and work with a committee of volunteers to put on fun educational events for our members.

**EventBrite and Event Registration Volunteer** - Volunteer needed to manage the CGS EventBrite registration listings and reports. This position also supports in-house classes and events by posting the classroom door calendar and scheduling and training event assistants. Training on EventBrite will be provided.

Contact [Kathleen Beitiks](#) for more information,

## CGS Blog

### Highlights from the California Genealogical Society Blog and Others

Welcome our new editor of the CGS Blog - [Shannon Reese](#).  
Please email him to publish your contributions to the CGS Blog.



[Member Survey: You Talked, We Listened](#) by Maureen Hanlon

[Genealogy Class: Practical Tips for a Successful Research Trip](#) by Shannon Reese

[In Memorium: Dede Noll Muhler](#) by Linda Okazaki

[Support Us Every Time You Shop at Amazon](#) by Shannon Reese



#### Interesting Blog Posts from other sites:

[DNAExplained - Genetic Genealogy](#) - How to Join a DNA Project

[What's beneath those brick circles in San Francisco Intersections?](#) - Audry Dilling

[A Growing Source for Free Genealogy: Digital Public Library of America](#) - Amy Johnson Crow

[Fold3 and the 1812 Pensions](#) - Judy G Russell

['Japanese Schindler' Who Saved 6,000 Lives During World War II Finally Gets a Movie](#) - Carol Kuruvilla

[NYPL Releases More than 180,000 Digitized Items to the Public Domain to be Used for FREE](#) - Diane L. Richard on Upfront with NGS: The blog for the National Genealogical Society.

## People are Talking

### Want to know what people found most interesting on Facebook & Twitter?

by Shannon Reese



#### Top Facebook Post for December:

"[San Francisco: Yesterday, Today Tomorrow](#)" posted on San Francisco Remembered's page by Bob Ristelhueber. It's a color video about SF in 1943 narrated by Carloz Lopez and is an Auerbach Educational Production per the credits.

Talk to CGS on [Facebook](#)



#### Top Twitter Post for December:

Have a look at this #freeonlinecourse #Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree' by @unistrathclyde @FutureLearnhttps

Join the CGS conversation on [Twitter](#)

## Ancestor Tribute

### Easter Parker Williams

by Nicka Smith



*Left to right--Lettie Fountain Reeder, Easter Parker Williams, Elnora Spears Turner and Smith Reeder (Lettie's husband)*

I received this image in 2010 from another family

the identities of all the folks in the photo.

Fast forward to December 2015. By now, I had identified **Easter** (see this [blog](#) post about how ) and ordered her California death certificate.

**Easter Parker Williams** is my great great grandmother and the mother of Elnora and James. She was born May 18, 1857 in Louisiana and her death certificate listed her parents as **Daniel Parker** and "**Lettie**" Fountain. I found her in 1880 listed as "Esther Fountain", daughter of "Nettie". Next door was a **Smith Reeder**.

On the 1900 census, my great grandfather James was listed with his grandparents, Smith and Lettie Reeder, but without his mother, Easter, in the household. That's why it took me so long to discover her. There are so many surnames at work, which makes this SUPER confusing. Until last month, I assumed "Lettie Reeder" and "Nettie Fountain" were two different people until I got the death certificate. I had never considered

historian who knew that the youngest person in the photo (second from the right) was Elnora, the older sister to my great-grandfather, **James Benjamin Sewell, Sr.** She also happened to be the mother of famed Bay Area cartoonist, Oakland's own, **Morrie Turner.** It has taken me six years to determine

that Lettie was Nettie until the ages and birthplaces matched!

I always thought Smith Reeder was the man in the photo (see this [blog](#) post about his crazy death). After confirming that "Lettie" equaled "Nettie", everyone was identified, especially with the aid of a more recent photo of both Elnora and Easter.

**Ancestor Tributes are open to all CGS Members to share their family photos and stories. Please contact [Lorna Wallace](#) with your contribution.**

## New Membership Perk!

### California Genealogical Society & Library



[FindMyPast](#) offers more than 1.7 billion international family history records from around the globe, including more than 1,000 exclusive collections that you won't find online anywhere else.

We are excited to announce FindMyPast is now offering a flat **50% off the annual World subscription** (over \$99 off) for all CGS members! You can find the code on our [Welcome](#) page once you log in as a member. Look for the blue "FindMyPast" in the middle of that page.

If you've forgotten your CGS number please [contact the CGS Membership team](#).

## Other Events & Conferences

There are always many other events happening in the Bay Area. For the latest events, check out member Kathryn Doyle's [San Francisco Bay Genealogy Calendar](#) that is updated monthly. Below are just a few of the local conferences that may be of interest in your area.

- [RootsTech 2016](#) will be held on February 3 - 6, 2016.
- The San Francisco Public Library will offer a [Senior Tech Expo](#) geared towards tech users 50+. All levels of tech users welcome. Programs, interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities will be held at the Main Library in the Koret Auditorium, the Latino/Hispanic Community Rooms and the 6th Floor Computer Lab throughout the day on February 12, 2016. CGS will be participating and will have several volunteers attending the SR tech fair.
- Southern California Genealogical Society [Jamboree 2016](#) held from June 3 to 5. Registration is now open. Early bird discount ends on April 23.
- [36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy](#) in Seattle, Washington, USA. August 27, 2016. Registration open January 3, 2016.

## Connect with Us

See our [Volunteer](#) page for opportunities or contact [Kathleen Beitiks](#) for information

**Volunteer positions available include:  
Proof Readers, Instructors, Clerical Assistance, Library Work, Technology and Others.**





Stewart Blandón Traiman  
eNews Editor [email me](#)

