



CaliforniaAncestors.org  
**California Genealogical Society & Library**  
*Connecting people to their diverse family heritage*



**Since 1898**

**January, Vol. 13, No. 1**

January 2019 Announcements





## 2019 CGS Annual Meeting-January 12th



*Please join us for the 2019 CGS Annual meeting. Before the meeting we will share a potluck lunch. All are welcome, just bring a dish to share with your fellow members. The meeting will begin at 12:15. During the meeting we will vote on the slate of nominees to the board and the 2019 budget. We will review the 2018 activities at CGS and discuss plans for 2019 including a report on the 2018 Strategic Plan. After the Annual Member Meeting, all are invited to stay and hear stories from two of our members.*

*Chris Pattillo will share a story about how she found a third cousin once removed on FamilySearch who lives in the town of Hildesheim, Germany where their shared second great grandparents lived. Her talk will explain how this new connection led to a treasure trove of information and two more generations of ancestors not previously known to her.*



*St. Godehard's Church in Hildesheim, Germany  
Where Chris Pattillo's great grandparents were married. Photo sent by Thomas Henze the subject of Chris's talk.*

*This PowerPoint presentation will prove the benefits of "talking to strangers" and*

*show how getting a little help from friends can lead to new discoveries. Chris is an entertaining storyteller with useful tips and reminders for family history research.*

***And the Answer Is Just A Phone Call Away!***

*Have you found a family member's phone number but were afraid to call? Jane Lindsey shares some amazing results by just making ONE phone call.*

Please register on Eventbrite for the talks, room limited to 50 people. We hope to see you there!

*Here are the event details:*

***Saturday, January 12, 2019***

*Potluck Lunch at 11:30*

*Membership Meeting at 12:15*

*Speakers from 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm*

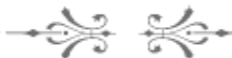
*Location: CGS Library, 2201 Broadway, Oakland, CA*

*Cost for member: \$0*

*Cost for non-member: \$30*



CGS is pleased to provide a word-searchable PDF of [The Colored Directory of Leading Cities in Northern California 1916-1917](#) thanks to the generous efforts of Lorna Jones and Electra Kimble Price. The directory lists nearly 10,000 African Americans in Northern California along with their churches, lodges, and organizations. The directory is free to all and resides on our [Databases page](#). Note that it's a large file and may take some time to download, but it will be worth the wait.



**SLIG** - If you going to be at SLIG this month please contact [Linda Okazaki](#) so that CGS members can schedule a group photo and possible social gatherings.

**Nominations for Board**

**CGS Board Nominations Committee Report**

Committee Chairs: Nancy Cork, Richard Kehoe  
Committee Members: Karen Lemelin, Linda Okazaki

**Continuing in their first term:**

Nancy Cork  
Marisela Meskus  
Chris Pattillo  
James Russell

**Continuing in their second term:**

Victoria Kolakowki  
Stewart Blandón Traiman

**Continuing in their third term:**

Felicia Addison

**Proposed nominations for a second term:**

Richard Kehoe  
Arlene Miles

Linda Okazaki will continue as Past President.

Kathie Jones and Maureen Hanlon have stepped down from the board.

**New board member nominees:**

**Jeffrey Vaillant** dipped into and out of genealogy with the middle part being raising a family. He dipped back into genealogy about ten years after his mother's death. She researched via pen and paper and postal mail. Jeff took her research and with the DNA and virus triggers plowed into family research. Research led to classes at CGS, SLIG, GRIP and local, regional and national conferences. Continuing education is a key to good research. He is a past President of CGS and the Sonoma County Genealogical Society and has served on the boards of many other genealogical associations. He has a BA in history and has a special interest in American Civil War research. He teaches genealogy each month at the San Rafael Public Library. Jeff is a member of APG and is working toward certification as a professional genealogist.



**Matthew Berry** became interested in family history research in 2003 during a family reunion. He was born in San Diego and grew up in Foster City before attending and receiving a BA and MS from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MBA from Santa Clara University. Now retired from Wells Fargo Bank, Matt has been a member of CGS since 2006, has served as a desk duty volunteer in the past, and has taught several CGS classes on Microsoft Word skills for genealogists. His genealogical research has focused on California, New England and the American mid-west.

**Stacy Hoover** has been intrigued by genealogy since childhood, when she discovered her name in a massive family history text. A photo of her paternal great-grandparents reignited this interest many years later. Stacy grew up in Marin County and attended Stanford as well as Santa Clara University. She has spent 25 years as a school counselor and special education teacher. She completed Boston University's Certificate Program in Genealogical Research in 2015, joined CGS in 2016, and finished the 18-month ProGen Study Program in 2017. Stacy's research interests include colonial-era New England and DNA, and she loves a good handwriting transcription challenge! She has served as a volunteer genealogist with the 2016 and 2018 Nikkei Pilgrimages to Angel Island and as Assistant Editor of The California Nugget.





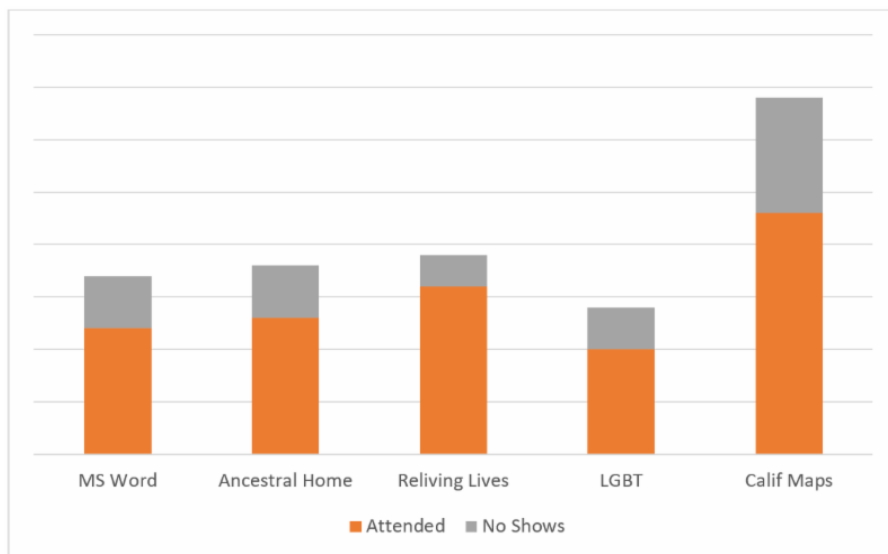
**James Sorenson** has been seriously pursuing genealogy since 1994 and it has led him to visit more than 30 courthouses and at least that number of libraries. In the past couple of years, he has become more interested in DNA as a means of finding cousins, filling knowledge gaps and discovering surprises. Jim still gets excited about tracing a family, even when it is not his own. He has been a CGS member since 2007, and since 2010 he has been an active volunteer on the research and investment committees. Jim has also co-led CGS sponsored research trips to Salt Lake City and has previously served on the CGS Board.



**Jennifer Dix** worked as a news reporter and editor for more than 20 years. She was born and raised in New England, misspent her youth mostly in the Midwest, and came to California in 2000. About that time, she began investigating her own family history. Jennifer has been an active CGS volunteer for the past couple of years and currently manages the CGS blog and social media. She completed the Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate Program in 2016 and is currently in the ProGen Study Program for professional and aspiring genealogists.

### **Growing No-show Trend for CGS Classes: Nominal Class Fees in 2019**

Free classes are a wonderful privilege of CGS membership that many enjoy. With our limited classroom space, classes are often full. This year, there's been a trend of registered members not showing up and not cancelling their reservation. The rate of no-shows has been running close to one-third of registered attendees. Examples below.



Why does this matter? First of all, it means those on the waiting list have no chance to get notification and fill in those spots. Also our speakers can't help but be aware of the empty chairs and fewer folks to benefit from all the work they put into sharing their expertise.

In 2019, consistent with recommendations in the strategic plan and approval by the Board, some classes for members will have a small fee. This will be phased in over the year. Many classes, including our Introduction to Genealogy and a new series on the third Saturday of each month at the Oakland FamilyHistory Library, will be free. We also provide links with your class reservation and reminder to make it easier to notify us of a cancellation. We hope this will address the problem above and provide some much-needed funding for even more and better offerings.

Question? Please contact [Maureen Hanlon](#)

**Congratulations!!!**

**Congratulations to our very own Lisa Gorrell for becoming a Certified Genealogist!**



After months of dedication and toil, Lisa is no longer "on the clock". She has successfully completed all the requirements qualifying her for certification by the [Board for Certification of Genealogists](#).

This is a major accomplishment. You can read about how she did it on her [blog](#).

Way to go Lisa!!! We are all so proud of you!



**Classes and SIGs**

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

Here is our wonderful line-up of classes and Special Interest Groups for this month.



When registering on [Eventbrite](#) you'll need your CGS membership number to complete the registration. If you do not know your membership number send a request to [Membership](#).

	<a href="#">Introduction to Genealogy</a>
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Due to popular demand, we have expanded our first-Saturday "Intro to Genealogy" class to a four-session series. The first class offers an overview of genealogy. Each of the next three sessions will begin with a quick review of the overview, followed by a more in-depth focus on the following topics: Census, Vital Records, and Organization. The classes may be taken in any order, and participation in one class is not required to attend others in the series. The entire series will be repeated two more times in 2019.

Come in January to begin your journey.

Saturday, Jan 5, from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m



### [Family Tree Maker SIG](#)

Devoted exclusively to the popular, robust and easy-to-use Family Tree Maker™ software from Software MacKiev. Join FTM-SIG facilitators Ron Madson and Karen Halfon n the third Saturday of each month

Saturday, Jan 19, from 1 - 4 p.m.



### [Computer Basic Skills For Everyone \(Dummies Included\)](#) **\*\* sold out \*\***

You may be embarrassed by not knowing some basic computer skills. Most of us are. And, that's okay. Let's jump over these knowledge hurdles together. A comfortable understanding of these computing skills will aid your genealogy. Breezing thru the computing mine field will make ancestral research so much more fun and productive. No matter how long you have been involved in investigating your family history, confidence in your computer skills will greatly assist your exploration.

Saturday, Jan 26, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. with a 1 hour break for lunch



### [Using German Documents to Build a Family Tree](#)

Once you've solved the mystery of where your immigrant ancestors came from in Germany, a whole world opens to you. It's not just the immense family trees that can be constructed and documented from official records that are increasingly available on line. It's also the rich details of your ancestors' lives that can be derived from those records and from the contacts that you can make with local historians -- often your distant cousins -- in Germany.

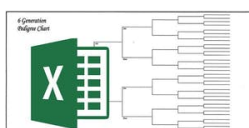
Saturday, Feb 9, from 1 - 3:30 p.m.



### [Eastern European Special Interest Group Quarterly Meetings](#)

A group dedicated to Eastern European genealogy facilitated by Craig Siulinski and Vicky Kolakowski.

Saturday, Feb 23, from 1 - 3 p.m.



### [Excel for Genealogists](#) **\*\* Offered again \*\***

Stewart loves spreadsheets! He is an expert in Microsoft Excel using spreadsheets in genealogy quite frequently. Laying out all the data in Excel can help researchers see gaps in knowledge or correlations between data points. Breakthroughs can easily happen by visualizing data in spreadsheets. Stewart shows many examples of his use of spreadsheets to track newspaper clippings, a vital records catalog, tracking ancestor addresses over time, and tracking whole families over many censuses. Stewart will teach how to use Excel filter, sorting, color coding, calculations and many other functions.

Saturday, Feb 23, from 1 - 4 p.m.





[Building Skills for Successful Family History Research](#)

This series is for family historians, both beginners and intermediates, who want to build a strong foundation of research skills to avoid wasted time and unreliable family trees.

This course will be held at the Oakland Family Search Library in four Wednesday evening sessions.

In-class group exercises and optional homework assignments will provide participants to practice skills with a wide variety of genealogical records found in a many different places including online websites.

Wednesdays, Mar 6 to 27, from 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Also [visit our Eventbrite profile page](#) to see the latest class additions and descriptions.

**Volunteers**

**Resolved: Volunteer for a 120-year-old organization in 2019**

January is the month for New Year's resolutions. Think about being realistic this year - scratch "lose weight" off your list and add "Volunteer at CGS!"

Since 1898, we have been an organization staffed by many dedicated volunteers. If you are a CGS member, we can use your time, skills and expertise!

We are always looking for members who can help out with the following:

- Assist with Events (help organize onsite or offsite events such as lectures, field trips, etc.)
- Technology (computer maintenance, website, databases)
- Communication (marketing, blog, newsletter, press releases, etc.)
- Library (shelving, cataloging, etc.)
- Membership (outreach)
- Development (fundraising, grants research, etc.)
- Remote (work from home on online survey tabulations, etc.)
- Other



Commitments generally range from once-a-month to "occasional." (And we have lots of cookies!) Feel free to submit the CGS [Volunteer Form](#) or contact [Kathleen Beitiks](#) for more details.

**Meetings and More**

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

	<p><b>Board Meeting</b> -- January 12</p> <p>Agenda - Appointment of Officers</p>
	<p><b>Annual Membership Meeting</b> - January 12, 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual reports for the Society</li> <li>• Election of new Board members</li> <li>• Approval of annual budget</li> <li>• Celebration with lunch and cake</li> <li>• Speakers (see invitation above)</li> </ul>

If you would like to host a Special Interest Group then 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 [Vicky Kolakowski](#).

## CGS Blog

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

Please subscribe to the [CGS Blog](#). If you haven't been receiving our blog posts on a regular basis, be sure to re-subscribe. It is a great source of information about classes, events, volunteers and members.



We want and need your stories. If you have an idea for an article, ongoing series of posts or monthly column, then please contact Blog Editor [Jennifer Dix](#) to discuss.



### A State by State Series by Chris Pattillo

- [CGS Library Collections: Illinois](#)
- [CGS Library Collections: Indiana](#)
- [CGS Library Collections: Iowa](#)

[New Intro to Genealogy Series](#) -- by Jennifer Dix



### Here are a few interesting blog posts from other sites:

[120-Year-Old Dear Santa Letter Uncovered](#) -- by Ester on MyHeritage Blog

[Holiday Traditions from Around the World](#) -- by pplotkin on Ancestry Blog

[2018 top posts: DNA](#) -- by Judy Russel, The Legal Genealogist

[Discover Your Dutch Ancestors & More in New Online Genealogy Records](#) -- by Lacey Cooke

[Using Black Newspapers for Genealogy: Tips from Tim Pinnick](#) -- on Amy Johnson Crow site

[How Not to Bore People With Genealogy](#) -- by Amy Johnson Crow

## Events & Conferences

There are always many other events happening in the Bay Area and across the nation. For the latest events, check [Conference Keeper.org](#).

### Local Events

[Bay Area Genealogy Calendar](#) maintained by the Sutro Library

### Major National and International Conferences:

#### [Family History Library Webinar Series](#)

<b>2019</b>		
Jan 13 - 18	<a href="#">Salt Lake Genealogical Institute (SLIG)</a>	Salt Lake City, Utah
Feb 27 - Mar 2	<a href="#">RootsTech 2019</a>	Salt Lake City, Utah

Jun 15 - 28	<a href="#">International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP)</a>	Sacramento, California
May 8 - 11	<a href="#">National Genealogical Society</a>	St. Charles, Missouri
May 30 - Jun 2	<a href="#">50th Annual Jamboree 2018</a>	Burbank, California
July 21 - 26	<a href="#">The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR)</a>	Atlanta, Georgia
Jun, Jul	<a href="#">Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP)</a>	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Jul 28 - Aug 2	<a href="#">IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy</a>	Cleveland, Ohio
Aug 21 - 24	<a href="#">Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)</a>	Washington, DC
Sep 19 - 21	<a href="#">APG Professional Management Conference</a>	Salt Lake City, Utah

### Connect with Us

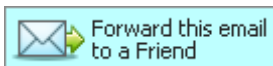
See our [Volunteer](#) page for opportunities or contact [Kathleen Beitiks](#)

## Become a member of CGS



Tel (510) 663-1358 - Fax (510) 663-1596

Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Email [Stewart Blandón Traiman](#), eNews Editor with any questions.

