



April 2020

The Jotted Line

Hello FCGS members and friends,

Well Friends, what a difference a month makes! I'm writing this from my living room, which I've been in since March 18th. I hope you are all faring well during our social distancing and maybe keeping a little diary of your experience for future descendants.

I hope for your sanity you are doing some fun things, like genealogy, to fill your time. This month's issue we will try to point you to all the things that have cropped up out there that you can do for free from home.

We will also be sending out an email about our meeting the 2nd week of April. Even though we can't meet in person, Bob was gracious enough to put his talk together for us to send out to you.

We still want to feature you, our members, in our coming issues. So if you have made a discovery, broken a brick wall or just found a neat new site to look at, please let us know!

infofcgs@gmail.com

The Library is still closed for now through Apr 14th, but will probably extend longer.



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Please Stay Smart,
Stay Safe
and Stay Inside.

UPCOMING

MEETINGS

Meetings are held at

No meeting in person
this month! Watch your
inbox...

Upcoming...

Tue April 14th

Researching New
England Ancestors
— Bob Givens

Tue May 12th

Court Records
— Judy Harless

Tue June 9th

Finding Elusive Women
in Your Family Tree
— Jamie Mayhew

Tue July 14th

Census— Federal, State
and Unusual Your
Family Tree
—Diane Manley

Tue Aug 11th

Ice Cream Social

NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH

With Bob Givens

Now while we won't meet in person, be watching your inbox the week we would have our meeting for our virtual talk. Sorry it won't be a live on video teaching but it will be the slides and handout in some form.

On the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims let's take a look at New England research.

Topics that will be covered are:

- Understanding the history and geography of New England
- Grasping the research challenges of this area
- Finding out how to best research each modern state



Speaking of New England...

American Ancestors is offering free access to some of their material.

Free Access to Online Book Collections:

To help people keep up their family history research from home, the NEHGS Library is providing free access to books on our Digital Collections website. These book collections, which are normally available only to American Ancestors and NEHGS members, include city directories, family history books, and local history books. Need an 1824 directory of Baltimore? Vital records of Hampton, New Hampshire? Or maybe you'd like to plan for a post-social-distancing family gathering by reading about past reunions of other families. You'll find all of these and much more in these digital book collections.

Con'td next page....

IMPORTANT: CENSUS DAY IS APRIL 1, 2020

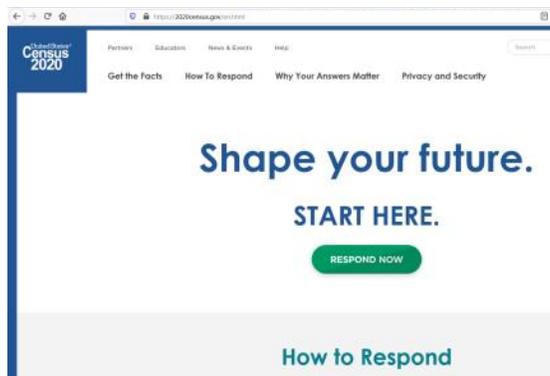


Have you filled out your census form yet??

There are 3 ways to do it, you only need to pick one! There are only 9 questions.

You can go online here:

<https://2020census.gov/en.html>



You will need the blue postcard you received in the mail with a unique code for your household or if you don't have that you can enter your address and fill out the form. It took me 5 minutes, that's all.

You can also fill out the forms that were sent and mail them in. It was the easiest thing.

9 questions is all it is for you and everyone in your household. Just remember, don't be mean to your descendants and give yourself a middle name they've never heard of, or maybe....

Cont'd from opposite page:

If you have questions about the collections or stories of discoveries you have made in them, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact us at library@nehgs.org.

City Directories: [Click Here](#)

Family History Books: [Click Here](#)

Local History Books [Click Here](#)

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HERITAGE CENTER

2420 Mariposa Street, Fresno
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Temporarily
Closed



Spotlight on The Heritage Center

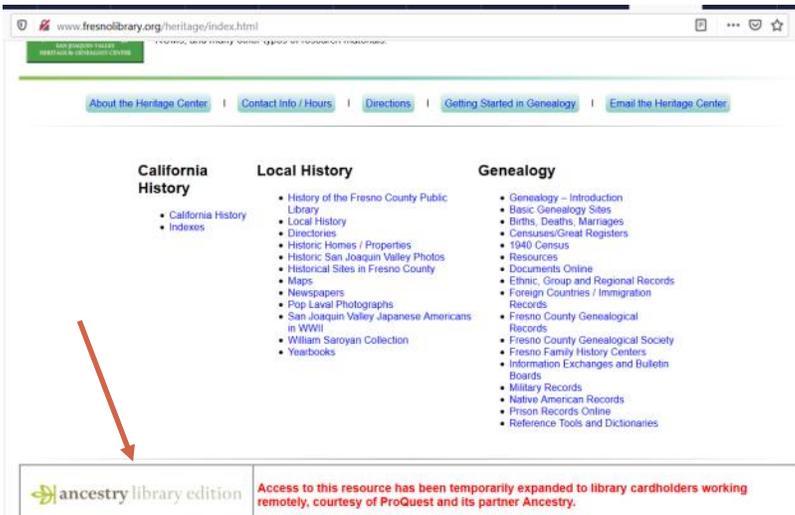


While the Heritage Center is currently closed. We'll send out an email when we are back in business.

In the meantime.... You can email us at the Heritage Center HeritageCenter@fresnolibrary.org if you would like us to look up something in a book or newspaper that we have. You can see our holdings here: www.fresnolibrary.org/

Also during this time Ancestry.com and Proquest are allowing at home access to Ancestry Library Edition. (Through 4/30) To do this you will need a Fresno County Library Card. If you do not have one or aren't sure you can call 600-READ 600-7323 M-F between 9-5 and get a new card.

You'll then go to : <http://www.fresnolibrary.org/heritage/index.html>



The screenshot shows the website www.fresnolibrary.org/heritage/index.html. It features a navigation bar with links: About the Heritage Center, Contact Info / Hours, Directions, Getting Started in Genealogy, and Email the Heritage Center. The main content is organized into three columns: California History, Local History, and Genealogy. A red arrow points to a banner at the bottom of the page that reads: "ancestry library edition Access to this resource has been temporarily expanded to library cardholders working remotely, courtesy of ProQuest and its partner Ancestry."

You can also go [here](#) and see the other online resources available through the Fresno County Public Library.

Around the web...

DNA- The Genetic Genealogist, Blaine Bettinger just updated his shared cM Project: you can find more here: <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2020/03/27/version-4-0-march-2020-update-to-the-shared-cm-project/>

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society is offering FREE webinars see [here](#).

[Free At-Home Education Resources From Ancestry® and Access to Nearly 500M National Archives Records](#)

MyHeritage in Color unlocked for unlimited use through Apr 22, 2020. This is part of the MyHeritage family and lets you colorize your old black and white photos. You can learn more about that [here](#).

Member, Zelda, sent us the Attached Ellis Island Search Tip handout, Genealogy Gems with Lisa Louise Cook <https://lisalouisecooke.com/>

Speaking of Lisa– I watched her New Google and Genealogy talk. Some pointers I picked up...

1. Be sure you have a search strategy going in. What are you wanting to find? It helps you not chase rabbits or in our case shirt-tale cousins. :)

2. When using Google searching use operators to help your search. Some examples:

“Curtis Stone” OR “Stone, Curtis” - “Quotes” keep phrases together , OR lets Google know you’ll take results both ways. (It’s important to keep in mind how the website maker would put the information in .)

“Lincoln” -president –Abraham the minus sign lets Google know what you don’t want to see in your search results.

* Asterisk, looks for missing letters or words. If you put in in “Curtis * Stone” it will find Curtis Stone if he is shown with a middle initial or middle name.

Number search 1849-1900 it will narrow results to this year range.

3. Analyze your results, does what Google found match what you know or are the dates off ?

If you have found something online you’d like to share: classes or websites, please let us know!
We want to help you with your genealogical searching!

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Welcome, Marisa Louie Lee: marisalouie@gmail.com

Marisa is a new member with Fresno roots: she is hoping to find someone doing similar research.

I am a descendant of Louie Hock Bow (known as "Fon Kee" to the larger community) (1858-1928) who was a merchant in Fresno Chinatown from the 1880s-1920s. He owned a store called Fong Kee Hop Chong at 931 G Street. His wife, an American-born Chinese woman known as Ng Shee or Ng Shue Hah, was born in Fresno in 1887 to Ng Hing Hock and Chan Shee. She died in 1927 in Fresno. I believe that descendants of her younger brother, Ng Dick Quong (or Richard Quong, b. 1896) may still live in the Fresno area, though my extended family has long lost touch with them.

My great-aunts Minnie Louie (1904-1932) and Jeanette Louie (1912-1930) were both participants in the Raisin Day parade in the 1920s. I have some newspaper articles about their participation but would love to find if there are archives or publications about the parade. Both Minnie and Jeanette died tragically and very young - Jeanette's death was the subject of local news in Fresno in 1930 - and I would like to learn more about them.

Joshua Ragsdale (1852-1924) is also a person of interest in my family history research. He was a policeman in Chinatown and was interviewed on behalf of my family when they traveled between the United States and China in the 1920s, during the Chinese Exclusion period. Any information about him would be appreciated, as it seems he knew our family well.

I also specialize in working with federal records at the National Archives at San Francisco, having worked there as an archivist from 2009-2014. I have been out of touch with my personal genealogy research for some time, especially for my Fresno family, but some recent discoveries have compelled me to get back into it. I'm happy to be a resource for FCGS members if folks have questions about Asian American genealogy or federal records. If you'd like to learn more about her : Here's an [article about me](#) from a few years ago.

Craig & Becki Watters: rapunzel51@comcast.net

are researching:

N.C.: Ray, Reynolds, Swain, Willits, White, Dew and Leonard

S.C.: Martin, Bryant, Smith, Wise.

Iowa: Ytzen, wenson and Nelson and Ott

PA: Watters, Durstine, Gaul, Gochenour, Wisegarver, Weiner, Caskey, Crise, Burkholder

Other: Rawn and Bedsted

Pre 1750: Nantucket, Long Island, Cape May New Jersey and Virginia.



**Be watching
for an email
with our
2020 Roster
headed your
way!**

**COUSIN
CONNECTIONS**

SO... WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Since we are talking New England this month, we thought it would be fun to introduce you to one of our newer members Catherine Furtado. Catherine is also a new member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, a society which was originally created in 1897. In 1620, a brave group of 102 men, woman and children sailed the Atlantic searching for a life of religious and civil freedom. There are tens -of-millions of individuals descended from the original 102.

Catherine is a descendant of John Tilley, her 10th great grandfather on her mother's side. After considerable ancestry research, Catherine learned John Tilley was a Mayflower Pilgrim and, therefore, she was eligible for membership in the Society. To apply, she visited the Society's website, completed and submitted a Preliminary Review Form and, subsequently, was put in touch with a genealogy expert who assisted her with further researching her family's Mayflower lineage. This process took over a year and Catherine is now an official member of not only the General Society of Mayflower Descendants but also the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, specifically the San Joaquin Valley Colony.

As stated on the Mayflower Society's website (www.themayflowersociety.org), all of the passengers are grouped under 26 families with a specific head of that family. Qualifications for membership consist in descent from one or more of the passengers on the Mayflower, on the voyage which terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December 1620. Every claim of descent and every lineage paper must start from one of the 29 names listed on the website as being a head of a Mayflower family, and no others are accepted. So, check out their website, you might be surprised to learn that you too could be a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants! Thanks Carolyn & Catherine for the write up!



By William Halsall - Pilgrim Hall Museum, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=308115>

Are you a Mayflower Descendant? Let us know! We'll mention you next month with your Mayflower ancestor! Let's make some connections.

got genealogy.com's GOLDEN RULES OF GENEALOGY



"SPELLING DUSN'T COWNT"

1 Back in the day folks couldn't spell and many could barely write, so how a name sounds is more important than how it's spelled. Use wild card or Soundex searches to help find variant spellings of names.



ASSUME NOTHING

2 Check all your facts, don't assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to corroborate your facts as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify. For instance, don't assume:

- your ancestors were married
- census information is accurate
- vital (or other) records were correct
- your ancestor's life events were recorded
- ancestors had the same name as their enslaver

USE DISCRETION

3 Never lie in your genealogy reports, but use discretion when reporting family information, especially when it involves living relatives.

ALWAYS DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY CONTRADICT ONE ANOTHER

4 Over time, you will compile more data and those seemingly contradictory pieces of evidence may prove to be just the pieces of the puzzle you need to prove or disprove your theory. Be consistent as you cite your sources. There are standard citation formats, but even if you just make up your own format for listing your sources, be consistent with it. You want your descendants to be able to retrace your steps, so always cite your sources.



MOST DATES ARE APPROXIMATE

5 It's okay to state that someone was born "btw 1901-1903," "abt. 1845," or died "May 1915" if you don't have an exact date or where various

documents have different dates. Which date is "correct?" They all are.

IF UNSURE, SAY SO

6 Future researchers will thank you for being honest if you simply say that you cannot prove a specific fact, yet you "suspect" such and such is true. Don't fudge the facts. Ever.



YOU CANNOT DO IT ALL ONLINE

7 Yes, we love doing research online and there's nothing better than using the computer to find new sources, view digital images of original documents and even connect with relatives. For family historians, the Internet will never replace the wonderful work of libraries, county courthouses, archives, and historical societies. Do as much as you can online, then turn off your computer and hit the bricks!



JUST BECAUSE IT'S ONLINE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TRUE

8 The Internet is a wonderful thing but it's filled with oodles of bad information. Don't make the mistake of believing anything you find online at face value. Verify against other sources, even if you paid for the information you found online. Consult the original source whenever possible.

PASS ALONG YOUR RESEARCH

9 No matter how many decades you spend researching your family, your research will never be done. Plan on passing along your research to the next generation's researchers. Leave excellent notes, cite all your sources, explain your shorthand ... in essence, leave your research the way you'd have liked to have found it.



SPREAD THE WORD

You have our permission to use/publish these Golden Rules as much as you like. Just give us credit for them, okay?

DON'T DIE WITH YOUR STORIES STILL IN YOU

10 Giving credit to Dr. Wayne Dyer for his "Don't die with your music still in you," we want to remind you to tell the stories as completely and as accurately as possible. Genealogy isn't about just doing research. Genealogy is about telling the stories and ensuring that your ancestor's legacies live on for generations to come. Without the stories, the research won't do anyone much good. The legacy of your ancestors rests in your capable hands. Doing the research is fine, but always remember that you have been chosen to tell their stories.



DNA IS NOT A TRUMP CARD

11 DNA is just one of many possible sources of information you can use to verify or deny a relationship. Human error occurs when the results are transcribed, thereby providing false information. DNA results should always be used in concert with other sources.

ANYTHING YOU POST ONLINE WILL BE "BORROWED"

12 You need to accept the fact that any family information you post online will be "borrowed" or outright stolen, and you will probably not get credit for all your hard work. This is the nature of the beast... the Internet. Get over it.



THE INTERNET IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING

13 Web sites change all the time, and to find the information you need, you may need to look in new places to find old information. Take a second look at old sites you haven't visited in a while, and don't be afraid to walk away from your favorite sites if/when you find new ones that provides better information. Seek and you may find.

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Dec 14



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