



FRESNO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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FRESNO-GENEALOGY.ORG



February 2022

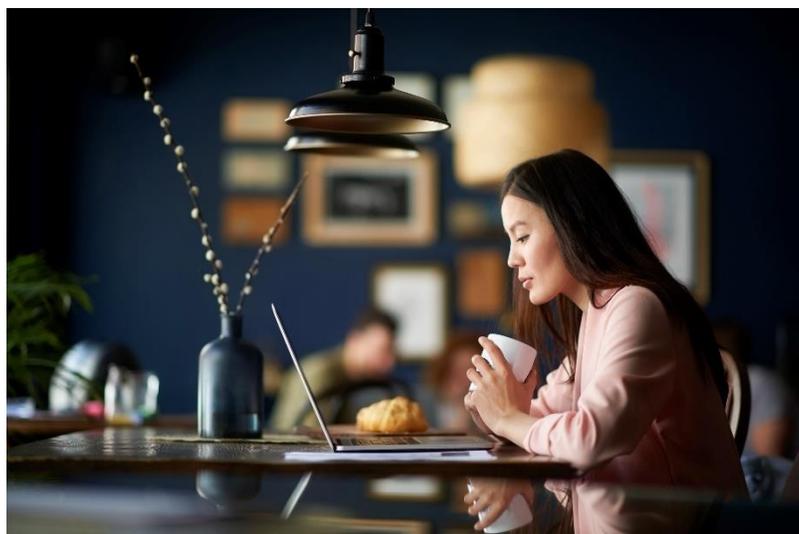
## February Meeting on Zoom!

Due to local mask mandates, we are going to do our first meeting of 2022 on Zoom. BUT that lets us welcome back Gena Philibert-Ortega live from Southern California!

Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> Gena will talk to us about:

### **10 Databases You didn't know were on Ancestry.com**

Gena was fantastic at our seminar, and we can't wait to see what gems she has for us.



### WHAT'S NEW

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MONTHLY SPEAKER  
LISTING

HISTORIC PROPERTY  
PHOTOS

THE LEATHER  
SOLIDER

## 2022 MONTHLY SPEAKERS\*

February 8<sup>th</sup>— 10 Databases You Didn't Know Were on Ancestry.com— Gena Philibert-Ortega

March 8<sup>th</sup> —Italian Genealogy—Linda Scambray

April 12<sup>th</sup>— Fresno County Records—Kathy Tigchelaar

May 10<sup>th</sup>—Surveying the Internet to Verify Your Ancestors—Bob Givens

June 14<sup>th</sup> —1950 Census—Melissa Scroggins

July 12<sup>th</sup>— FAN Theory—Corky Peterson

August 9<sup>th</sup>— Ice Cream Social

September 17<sup>th</sup>—SAT- ANNUAL SEMINAR—Pamela Bell Dallas

October 11<sup>th</sup>—Maximizing your DNA results at Ancestry.com—Jaimie Mayhew

November 8<sup>th</sup> — Newspapers—Diane Manley

December 3<sup>rd</sup>—Christmas Party at Woodward Park Library

\*subject to change/both speaker and to ZOOM. (Welcome to 2022!)

## MANY THANKS TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS!!

### 2022 FCGS BOARD MEMBERS

#### President

Carolyn Moser

#### 1st Vice-President

Corky Peterson

#### 2nd Vice-President

Meredith Coleman

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Frank Santos & Amber Smith

## LOCAL HISTORY NIGHT

“SAWMILLS OF EASTERN FRESNO COUNTY”

JEANNINE RAYMOND

THURSDAY, FEB 10<sup>TH</sup>, FROM 7 – 8 PM.

Registration for this Zoom program is required. You can sign up <https://fresnolibrary.libcal.com/event/8821127>.

Up until the Great Depression, Fresno County was largely built with the lumber hand-hewn in the lower Sierra Nevada, cut in sawmills small and sometimes vast, and shipped out by oxen teams and two of the largest flumes built anywhere in the world. It's an amazing story of a bygone world, of which few traces are left today. Jeannine will bring it back to life in pictures and words, with sidelights and anecdotes you're sure to enjoy.



1964



2019

### Assessors Photo Project

Have you ever wondered what your house looked like in the 1960s? Well wonder no more!

The Heritage Center has a new database that you may want to check out! In partnership with the Fresno County Historical Society, and the work of a group of dedicated volunteers, for over 3 years!

We are proud to present the Assessor Photo Project. During the 1960's the Fresno County Assessor's office took pictures of buildings as they appraised properties. The resulting photos have been indexed and digitized and can be viewed at the Heritage Center at Central Library. give them a call at (559) 600-6230 or email [HeritageCenter@fresnolibrary.org](mailto:HeritageCenter@fresnolibrary.org).

Many thanks to Gene Sibley, Susan Pappas and Bill Fenton who all helped on this great project!

## Heritage Center

Open Mon-Thurs- 10AM- 6PM

Fri-Sat 10 AM- 5PM

2420 Mariposa Street, Fresno, CA- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

559-600-6230



Come down and visit us soon!

A list of new books the DAR has helped add in 2020-2021 can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

Our Jotted Line is searchable using Google. Recently I did a short article about Adam Schroyer and about 45 days later I heard from a cousin in North Dakota who was also working on Adam. This is very exciting to have our articles available to others. If you have something new and exciting about any of your ancestors think about publishing it in the Jotted Line. ~Corky

Just email [infofcgs@gmail.com](mailto:infofcgs@gmail.com)

## The Leather Soldier

Submitted by Meredith Coleman

While we were all in lockdown last year, I began researching my husband's family line. My husband Grant's mother's name was Marjorie Jean Higuera. I was never able to know her as she passed away when he was 11 years old. With my research I decided to start with her. I just kept going along the Higuera line when I learned of Grant's 5<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather: The Leather Soldier

Ignacio Anastacio Higuera was born in 1757 in Sinaloa de Leyva New Spain (Mexico). He grew up on his father's Rancho in Sinaloa. When he was 18 years old, he was with the De Anza Expedition of 1775 traveling to Alta California as one of the Soldado de Cueva (Leather Coated Soldier). Nearly 300 people traveled with De Anza looking for land and resources in plentiful California. This was the second expedition into Alta California the first being the Portola Expedition of 1769 that included Father Junipero Serra. While the expedition traveled north, they stopped to resupply at Mission San Xavier del Bac in Arizona. This is where Ignacio married Maria Micaela Bojorquez (1762-1794). They went on to have three children, one son and two daughters.

The Soldado de Cueva was named for his leather armor, specifically his heavy knee length sleeveless coat. These soldiers were more heavily armed than the regular army. They carried a smoothbore musket, two pistols, a short sword, a dagger, and a lance. They fought on horseback and had to have available to them at least 6 horses. The party traveled to San Francisco and in September of 1776 established the Presidio of San Francisco. The Presidio's garrison consisted of 33 men of which Ignacio was one.



**Soldados de Cuera (Utopia Espanola) Historia Alternative/Fandom**

**Alternate History Wiki - Fandom**

By 1890 Ignacio had moved to the Pueblo of San Jose, the Mission of San Jose was under construction and was completed in 1797. The missions in California were centers of agriculture and industry for hundreds of settlers

and the Native Americans. Ignacio Higuera was the farm manager. Mission San Jose was one of the most prosperous due to an abundance of natural resources.

In January of 1805 Padre De la Cueva had been at Mission San Jose for only five months. A message was received from a tribe about 50 miles east that they had serious sickness and some tribal members were requesting last rites. An escort was put together to take Padre Cueva to the village, this included Corporal Jose Sanchez, Private Ignacio Alviso, and Joaquin Higuera (Ignacio Higuera's brother). Several of the mission Indians also traveled with the party. Majordomo (head of a large family) Ignacio Higuera at this time decided to accompany them for further protection.

As they traveled east a tribe of hostile Indians the Leuchas, who had resisted Christianity attacked. Majordomo Higuera deployed his forces and held off the attack until late afternoon. The Leuchas made a final attack, but the mission party was out of ammunition. Majordomo Higuera was killed in a deluge of arrows along with three of the Indians traveling with the mission party. His brother tried to rescue him, but he was wounded as well. Padre Cueva was also wounded. Private Ignacio Alviso slipped out and made his way back to the mission for help. A war party was assembled to find the Leuchas and punish them for this attack. When they reached the village, it was deserted, and no one knew where they went.

Majordomo Ignacio Higuera was buried in the cemetery at Mission San Jose, or some references say he is interred in the Sanctuary of Mission San Jose. I need to find out which it is, so as my son in law says time for a road trip.