

FRESNO COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 1429 FRESNO, CA 93716

FRESNO-GENEALOGY.ORG

INFOFCGS@GMAIL.COM

THE JOTTED LINE NOVEMBER 2022



November Meeting

Due to a scheduling conflict our meeting on November 15, 2022 with Diane Manley on newspapers will be a ZOOM meeting. A notice will be coming out two weeks before the meeting.

December Meeting

Christmas Party on December 3, 2022, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM at the Woodward Park Library. FCGS will provide a ham, coffee, and water. Please bring a savory side dish. RSVP to infofcgs@gmail.com

January Meeting

This meeting will be held on January 7, 2023, 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM there will be an election of 2023 board members. Location to be determined.

In this Issue

First Thanksgiving
Member Profile
The 1890 Census
Allen Allensworth
Board Membership
Annual Membership

Fresno County Library
Heritage Center
2420 Mariposa St Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 600-6230
Monday – Saturday
9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Closed Sunday

President
Carolyn Moser

1st Vice President
Corky Peterson

2nd Vice President
Meredith
Coleman

Recording
Secretary
Lou Weygant

Treasurer
Donna Long

Librarian
Kathleen Coleman

Membership
Co-Chairs
Frank Santos
Amber Smith

Did you Know?

I received a book about the City of Clovis at a raffle, so I read it. Good stories but one was funny. From 1896-1924 Clovis had town constables to enforce bootlegging as Clovis at that time was a dry town. In 1914 a large barrel of whiskey was delivered to the Clovis Depot for John Doe. The barrel was placed out on the platform and left there to wait for who will pick it up. The constables watched for three days but no one came. On the third day the barrel was bumped into moving other freight and it was discovered it was empty. Someone went under the platform and made a hole in the barrel and drained out all the whiskey.

Also, the Scottish Buchanan Clan has not had a clan chieftain since 1631 when the last chief John Buchanan died without an heir. The clan now has John Michael Baillie-Hamilton as the new chieftain. This is due to the dedicated work of genealogist Hugh Peskett. His work identifying clan leaders took decades and has resulted in this new chieftain. His work has also resulted in identifying 12 Scottish and Irish clan chiefs.

The First Thanksgiving

The first Thanksgiving was in 1621 with the fifty remaining colonists and about ninety Wampanoag tribesmen. The feast lasted three days, four men were sent out on a “fouling mission” to prepare for the feast. The Wampanoag brought five deer. There was deer, corn, shellfish, and roasted meat. The group played ball games, sang, and danced. For many years days of Thanksgiving were celebrated by many colonies. In 1863 during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held in November.

Member Profile

Donna Long

I was born in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania which is a suburb of Philadelphia. My parents met in 1947 on a blind date while my dad was stationed at the Naval Air Station in Atlantic City, NJ. They were married on August 7, 1948. My older brother was born in August 1949 and my twin sister, and I were born in December 1950. My younger brother came along in 1961. After my dad was discharged from the Navy in 1948, he pursued a career in design engineering. One day while reading the magazine "Aviation Week" he read ads for job openings at aircraft companies in California. His dream was to work in aviation, so my parents decided to pick up and move to Pasadena, California where his parents had recently moved from Spokane, WA.



On January 2, 1953, my parents, grandmother (Ethel), my mom's 13 yr. old brother, my brother, sister, and I...plus, a bird left for California in a 1948 Studebaker. (3 adults, 1 teenager, 3 children and a bird all piled in the Studebaker pictured)

My Dad recalls the story of the first night on the road, "We left Philadelphia January 2, 1953, at 8:50PM, it was raining, I have no idea why we started that late. I drove all night, eventually it began snowing. I can still remember seeing those snowflakes coming straight at the windshield in the headlight beams. Poor Ethel, she was sick all night, nerves all due to leaving everything she had known behind and going into unknown territory. Everyone but her and I slept. We arrived someplace in Virginia the next afternoon and stayed in a Motel."

Although I don't remember the trip out west, we traveled south until we reached Alabama, then headed west. We went through Knoxville, Dallas, Phoenix then on to Pasadena. We stopped along the road for picnic lunches.

We still have the daily log my dad kept from that trip. He kept track of expenses, and miles traveled each day. We arrived in Pasadena on January 10, 1953, after traveling 3,146 miles in 8 days.

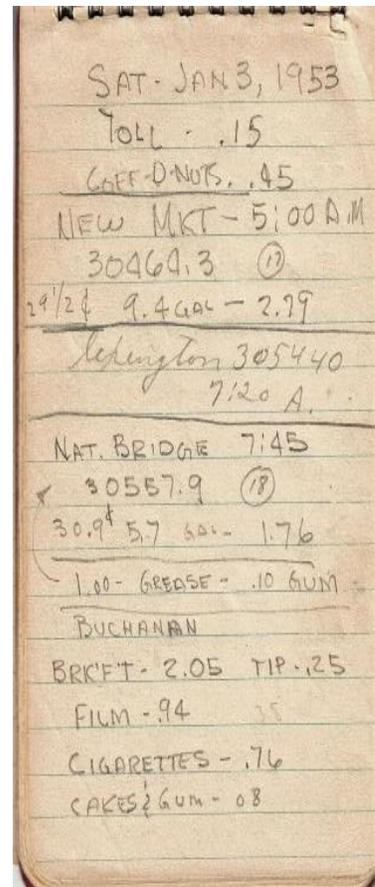
Our family moved from Southern California to San Jose in 1964 when my dad was transferred to Sunnyvale while working for Lockheed Missiles and Space Corp.



He became an engineering manager on the design team of the Hubble Space Telescope. I met my husband Terry while taking a class at De Anza Jr. college in San Jose. We were married in June 1974. In 1977 we moved to Fresno when Terry was hired by Arthur Young & Co. after graduation from college. We have 3 children: Tom, Mark & Julie. We have six grandchildren ages 8 to 16. Needless to say, they keep us busy.



I became interested in genealogy in my early 30's at a time when I would order microfilms from the LDS library, wait 2 weeks for the films to arrive then go to the history centers to look at the films. It's so much easier to research today! I've had the most luck researching my paternal side of the family. I've traced the Alexander line back to the early 1600's in Maine. Some of my noteworthy ancestors are as follows: Welsh Quakers who immigrated to Pennsylvania with William Penn in 1683. My 10th great grandfather Samuel Chapin, a Puritan, settled in Massachusetts in 1638. My 8th great grandmother, Elizabeth Woodbury Balch, and her sister Abigail testified against Sarah Bishop in the Salem Witch trials. William Howard Taft, 27th President of the US, is my 4th cousin 4 times removed.



The 1890 Census and Other Lost Records

The census for 1890 was taken on June 2, 1890. There was a fire in the basement of the Commerce Building in Washington DC on January 10, 1921. Approximately 25% of the materials were destroyed and 50% damaged by smoke and water. It was initially thought the files could be recovered but the paper deteriorated very rapidly. In 1921 everything was moved to storage, but it continued to decay. A small number of schedules did survive but most were deemed unsalvageable. Congress authorized their disposal on February 21, 1921. Some records did survive, there are approximately 75,000 records of Union Army Veterans and their widows.



Photo Courtesy National Archives

Many states such as Kansas took state census in 1885 and 1895, Michigan in 1884 and 1894. The details in state census can vary but can help fill in some information in the 20-year gap between 1880 and 1900. In doing your research check first the 1880 and the 1900 census, much of this information may overlap. Use other genealogical records to provide the same information.

More than 100 years before the loss of the 1890 census many early records such as George Washington's 1790 census report were lost when the British Army burned public buildings in Washington DC in the war of 1812. The records lost were the 1790 census of Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Virginia. Another loss of important records occurred on July 12, 1973, at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. This was a loss of 16 to 18 million Official Military Personnel Files of armed forces serving between 1912 and 1964. An investigation concluded that the fire of 1921 in the Commerce

Building and the fire of 1973 at the National Personnel Records may have been caused by the careless disposal of cigarettes.

Allen Allensworth

Allen Allensworth was born into Slavery on 7 April 1842 in Kentucky. During the Civil War he escaped by dressing in an old uniform, plastered mud on his face and marched up Main Street with the 44 Illinois Volunteers of Union Soldiers. He then served as a civilian nursing aid with the Forty Fourth Illinois. Later he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was a captain's steward and clerk on the Civil War gunboat U.S.S. Tawah when it was destroyed by Confederate batteries at Johnsonville Tennessee.

After discharge from the Navy he and his brother William operated two restaurants and he taught in the Freedman' Bureau schools in Kentucky. He was ordained as a minister and served as Kentucky's only black delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1880 and 1884.

While serving in New Mexico he was appointed as Chaplain of the 24th Infantry Regiment and authored *Outline of Course of Study and the Rules Governing Post Schools of Ft Bayard N.M.*

This became a standard Army manual on the education of enlisted personnel. In 1906 he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In 1908 he and four other men formed the black town of Allensworth in Southwest Tulare County California. He was killed crossing the street in Los Angeles when he was struck by a motorcycle.

In 1877 he married Josephine Leavell (1855-1938), she was a pianist, organist, and music teacher. They had two daughters, Eva, and Nella.

Election of Board Officers

There will be a meeting to elect and install board members for the 2023 year. The officers are:

President – Principal Officer and spokesperson for the society, presides at general meetings and board meetings.

1st Vice President – Presides in the absence of the President. Plan and arrange programs and speakers for the year.

2nd Vice President – Responsible for the design and content of the Jotted Line Newsletter. Serves as liaison for committees as assigned by the President.

Recording Secretary – The custodian of the minutes of all board meetings and annual meetings, after board approval of minutes, send to web master for posting to the web site.

Corresponding Secretary – Conducts correspondence and research for the society as needed.

Treasurer – Records and is the financial custodian of the financial records of the society. Present a financial report at all board meetings and is responsible for any government reports that are required.

Librarian – Accepts genealogical materials for the society library, classify and catalogue books, maintain a current inventory of all society holdings.

Registrar – Maintain membership records and collect dues.

If you would like to nominate anyone (including yourself) for any of these positions, please contact any board member. A nominating committee will compile the nominations. The January 7, 2023, meeting will be held from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The location has yet to be determined.

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Fresno County Genealogical Society are posted on the website at Fresno-Genealogy.org if you would like more information.



FRESNO COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renew your
membership for
2023

<https://fcgsrenewal2023.eventbrite.com>
or mail a check to FCGS PO Box 1429
_Fresno, CA 93716

Our FCGS yearly membership for 2022 ends December 31. It is time to renew your membership if you have not already done so at our recent events. We do hope that you will continue your loyalty to FCGS and join us for the 2023 year! Membership dues are \$30 for individual and \$35 for family.

To pay online- <https://fcgsrenewal2023.eventbrite.com>

Annual Membership is from January 1 to December 31.

Please Check one: Renewal New

Membership Year: 2023

Individual Membership - \$30 Family Membership -\$35 (at the same address)

Please send Payment to: FCGS, PO Box 1429, Fresno, CA 93716-1429

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Additional Family Member: (at same address) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____

Email: _____

Email 2: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

Surnames and Places I'm researching:
