



FRESNO COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 1429 FRESNO, CA 93716
FRESNO-GENEALOGY.ORG
INFOFCGS@GMAIL.COM
THE JOTTED LINE DECEMBER 2022

Have a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends.

President
Caroline Moser

1st Vice President
Corky Peterson

2nd Vice President
Meredith Coleman

Recording Secretary
Cat Hadrian

Corresponding Secretary
Lou Weygant

Treasurer
Donna Long

Librarian
Kathleen Coleman

Membership Co-Chairs
Frank Santos
Amber Smith

FCGS Calendar

December Meeting

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

January Meeting

This meeting will be held on **January 7, 2023, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM**. There will be an election of 2023 board members. Location will be **Sequoia Brewery at 1188 E. Champlain Dr #101**. It's the NE corner of Champlain and Perrin. We have reserved the Woodshed for a buffet lunch. The menu will come in a separate e-mail with the cost per person. Please RSVP to infofcgs@gmail.com.

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



Did you Know

December 14, 1807

At 6:30 AM some residents from Vermont to Connecticut saw a red fireball in the sky. It was about two-thirds the size of a full moon. It broke apart and landed in parts of Connecticut. Large sonic booms were heard, and the entire event took about 30 seconds. Two Yale professors traveled to the site to collect specimens. Some enterprising individuals were selling specimens as souvenirs. They determined the impact was a meteorite, the first recorded in the New World. Much was published about this event in newspapers and journals. These meteorite fragments were the first recorded in the Yale meteorite collection which is the oldest in the United States.

Military Records (CMSR's)

Many families have a soldier in their family history and want to find their service records. The U.S. Government has developed a way to keep track of an individual's service, this information is needed to pay veteran's benefits. Compiled Military Service Records (CMSR's) are open to genealogists to find records prior to 1902.

The records contain a set of cards that provide the soldiers name, rank, and military unit. The pension office started with Civil War, then moved to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, 19th Century Indian Wars, and the Mexican American War. Later the records of Confederate Soldiers, the Spanish American War, and the Philippine Insurrection.

The information in these records can vary based on war and soldier. Civil War and later wars usually have more information. Sometimes a soldier served in two different companies so can separate files for each service.

A source for Revolutionary War records is www.fold3.com, many records have however been lost but the surviving records have been digitized. For information on War of 1812 soldiers use ancestry.com. For the Indian Wars and the Mexican American War, the place research is the National Archives. The files for the Civil War contain more information and is also available from the National Archives.

I have obtained my 2nd Great Grandfather's civil war records. He served in the 11th Kentucky Cavalry in 1861. The hard part is transcribing the handwritten documents. Perhaps more next month.

Cemetery Genealogy Research

Cemeteries are full of information on individuals or even entire families. Talk to the people at the cemetery for locations of graves or other information. There are several types of cemeteries:

1. Public and Municipal – controlled by a government entity, people usually are buried next to family, or someone they have something in common with such as religion occupation, or ethnic group
2. Private Cemeteries
You will need to contact the property owner to gain access. The landowner may have the burial records or know where they are.
3. Family and Customary Cemeteries
Family members are buried together or with close friends. These cemeteries are usually rural. The County or Cemetery District holds the records. (Academy Cemetery is part of the Clovis Cemetery District and they hold the records)
4. Church Graveyards
These are among our oldest organized burial grounds. Records are held in the church office
5. Veterans Cemeteries
These cemeteries are controlled by the National Cemetery Administration which is part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
6. Institutional Cemeteries
These are cemeteries attached to orphanages, asylums, and hospitals. Check with state archives to see if records still exist.
7. Paupers Cemeteries
This is where the poor, unknown or unclaimed are buried. Burials are usually conducted in public cemeteries in unmarked graves. (In Fresno County on September 13, 2018, the unclaimed cremated remains of 740 people collected over 10 years were buried in the Counties Potters Field near Belmont and Hughes)

As you have figured out, I like cemeteries and have visited some in the United States and in Ireland. I would like to tell you an amazing cemetery story.

I want to tell you about a lady named Margorie McCall. She lived in Lurgan in County Armagh in Northern Ireland in 1695. Marjorie developed a fever and her family thought she had passed. They held a wake and buried her in Shankill Graveyard. At this time graverobbing was a lucrative occupation, so the night she was buried her grave was dug up and she was removed. However, while trying to remove her gold wedding ring she yelled at them “hey that hurts”. These two graverobbers couldn’t get away fast enough. Marjorie made her way home and knocked on the door. When her husband saw her he fainted. Marjorie went on to live her life and even had another child.



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.

We would also like someone to volunteer to be our Hospitality Chair and someone become Member at Large.

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. Your help with offices is greatly appreciated.

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 Renew online: <https://fcgsrenewal2023.eventbrite.com> OR Mail a check with this form.

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:
