



FRESNO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 1429 FRESNO CA 93716
Fresno-Genealogy.org
October, November, December 2023
THE JOTTED LINE



Fresno County Library Heritage Center
2420 Mariposa St Fresno CA 93721. 559-600-6230
Mon– Thu 9 AM - 6 PM, Fri –Sat 9 AM – 5 PM Closed Sunday
Heritagecenter@fresnolibrary.org
Parking is free on Saturday.

Meeting Information

Saturday September 30, 2023 will be our annual seminar at Woodward Park Library from 9 AM to 4 PM. Speaker is James Baker PhD, Topics are Finding the Hardest Ones, I thought he was my ancestor, and DNA Toolbox 2023. There is a flier attached to this newsletter. Please join us.

Tuesday October 10, 2023, our meeting will be organizing your genealogy data with Becky Malmo at the Woodward Park Library. Social time at 6:30 PM meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

Tuesday November 14, 2023, our meeting will be about Busting Brick Walls at the Woodward Park Library. Social time at 6:30 PM meeting starts at 7:00 PM. Send questions to Infocgs@gmail.com

Saturday December 2, 2023 will be our Christmas Party at the Woodward Park Library at noon. It will be a potluck luncheon so please bring your favorite dish.

Saturday January 6, 2024 will be our annual luncheon and induction of officers. Time and location will be coming soon.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL



We had our Ice Cream Social on August 8, 2023, at the Woodward Park Library. We all enjoyed some ice cream with some wonderful toppings. There were also some great family stories told to all of us.

DID YOU KNOW ---

Have you ever heard of the Fishkill Supply Depot? It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was established by George Washington as a supply depot during the Revolutionary War and was used by Washington, Alexander Hamilton, the Marquis de Lafayette and others. It's now the largest burial ground for Revolutionary War soldiers. Some areas of the site have been impacted by development, but some critical areas remain. Currently some properties are in danger of more development. Sadly, a developer wants to build a shopping center and an IHop on the land that is believed to be a Revolutionary War Cemetery. Historians and other citizens have banded together to prevent this from happening and have requested a full archeological assessment of the property and permanent protection of the location.



Take a Genealogy Trip

Taking a trip to the country of your ancestors is informative and a wonderful adventure. You can walk the streets your ancestors may have walked, perhaps check where they lived. Please understand these trips can be expensive; but for me, it was worth it. Many people have used DNA analysis and now that many genealogical records are now available online these trips can be informative and great fun along with learning about the country of your ancestors. You need to do as much research as you can as to where your ancestor lived down to a town or even a home. Determine your itinerary of towns, gravesites, and even archival libraries. This needs to be planned carefully because you often only have days or weeks to go where you want to go. If you're planning to go to the National Archives, please understand that some records may require an advance appointment or even certain credentials to view them. Many of these records are in native language and can be difficult to read. Use digitized records ahead of your trip. Determine in advance the places you want to see and how much time (and money) you have. Then have a wonderful trip.

Death Records

Death records or death certificates are one of the vital records we depend on for our research. Besides giving us place, date, time of death which is primary information. The death certificates from recent years can be more complete and the information can lead you to other family members and places. There are many times when the spouse does not give her maiden name. If you don't know it, there's more research to do. Also, the death records are correct, but the names of spouses, parents and place of birth are obtained through an informant. This information is not primary so you must confirm the names are correct.

Sometimes these records can lead you to a place and a cemetery. There may be unknown relatives also interred in the same cemetery. If there is a residence address on the death certificate, great; but many times, it can be found in the obituary. If you have an address, you can use census records, city directories or land records. Sometimes I like to use Google Earth to find a community. The site has street view so you can look at the city where your ancestor resided.

If you need to obtain parents' names and spouse's maiden names, attempt to find a marriage record. If the informants last name is different from the deceased name or the maiden name, determine how he or she is related. Even the name of the undertaker can lead to funeral home records. Today, we obtain a death record and assume every detail was recorded. But often that is not the case. There have been instances where the records don't exist or are very lacking in information. Access to these records is usually from city or county records. If you find an obituary, there is often the decedent's age, place of birth and names of survivors. Don't forget other research resource records such as census and newspaper records.

I want to tell you about my husband's maternal grandfather's death certificate. It was very incomplete, I had to do some research to fill in the blanks. The certificate indicated the name A. Higuera passed at Burnett Sanitarium* on May 2, 1923. It lists his wife but not her maiden name, and no names of their parents. It is interesting that his occupation is listed as stage driver.

	<u>Death Certificate</u>	<u>Correct Data</u>
Name	A. Higuera	Albert Frank Higuera Jr.
Gender	Male, White	Male White
Wife	Violet Higuera	Nellie Violet Jones
Birth	April 22	April 2, 1898
Age	25	25
Birthplace	California	Santa Clara Co. California
Father	Blank	Albert Frank Higuera Sr
Birthplace of Father	Blank	San Jose, California
Mother Maiden Name	Blank	Dora Mae Brown
Birthplace of mother	Blank	California
Date of Death	May 5, 1923	May 5, 1923

*The Burnett Sanitarium was located at Fresno and S Streets and opened in 1905. In 1945 it became Community Hospital.

This information came from mostly family sources. Albert and Violet (her preferred name) had one daughter, Marjorie Jean Higuera, my husband's mother. I appreciate the diligence of the county clerk's office for finding this record even though it's quite incomplete. Sources have been difficult due to his short life. The 1900 census names him as Albert Herman and his mother as Dora Herman. Names are often incorrect on census records; you often must find another source.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF FRESNO
INFORMATIONAL,
NOT A VALID DOCUMENT TO ESTABLISH IDENTITY

1 PLACE OF DEATH (City or town) Fresno State Edition No. 1
2 NAME OF DECEASED (Last, first, middle) Violet Higuera Standard Certificate of Death Form Registered No. 272
3 FULL NAME (Last, first, middle) Violet Higuera
4 SEX F
5 RACE W
6 DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, year) April 20, 1899
7 AGE (Month, day, year) 25
8 OCCUPATION (If any) Student
9 PLACE OF BIRTH (City or town, State) California
10 SEX OF FATHER M
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (City or town, State or country) California
12 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (City or town, State or country) California
13 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (City or town, State or country) 7 months
14 PLACE OF BIRTH (City or town, State or country) California
15 SEX OF MOTHER F
16 SEX OF DECEASED F
17 SEX OF FATHER M
18 SEX OF MOTHER F
19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL (City or town, State or country) Dos Palos DATE OF BURIAL 5-6-25
20 UNDERTAKER (Name and address) T. J. and M. H. Higuera, Fresno
21 REGISTERED OR DEPUTY REGISTERED OR DEPUTY REGISTERED

CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF FRESNO DATE ISSUED
This is a true and exact reproduction of the document officially registered and filed on file in the OFFICE OF THE FRESNO COUNTY RECORDER.
This copy not valid unless prepared on engraved border displaying seal and signature of Recorder.

Death Certificate



Albert Frank Higuera Jr.

Other sources of death information can be found on [Find a Grave](#) which is a powerful cemetery database.

There is also [Interment.net](#), it's smaller than Find a Grave but can be useful. Users submitted graveyard records and cemeteries that no longer exist along with graveyards beyond the United States. There are collections to cover veteran's cemeteries, flooded cemeteries, and train wreck deaths.

[Names in Stone](#) is a free website you can use to search for a grave which provides a map to reveal its location.

Using [Census.gov](#), you may be able to find an ancestor that passed before the census was taken. This site provides transcriptions of the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 census mortality schedules which gives information on people who passed before the census was taken.

Crimes and Your DNA

I saw on the news that a thirty-year-old homicide has been solved using DNA in Fresno County. The processing of DNA has been used in identifying human remains, kidnapping victims and of course cold case murders. This has become an important tool in solving crimes. There are concerns about using DNA information which is personal and private so the Federal Government issued guidelines that this process (Genetic Genealogy) can only be used to solve violent crimes and identifying human remains. Some states now require law enforcement to obtain a court order to do the research required. DNA companies have responded to this some also requiring a court order (23andMe, Ancestry, Living DNA, and My Heritage DNA). Family Tree DNA lets law enforcement use their data, but you can opt out on the website. GEDmatch is by far the most famous for its availability to law enforcement. They have a website GEDmatchPRO only available to law enforcement. This portal separates police work from individual genealogy research and has tools relevant to law enforcement investigations.

Types of DNA Testing

For family historians and genealogists there are three types of DNA testing:

Autosomal DNA (atDNA) – All ancestors usually within five or six generations

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) – Maternal Line

Y-Chromosomal DNA (Y-DNA) – Paternal Line

Autosomal DNA examines the 22 pairs of chromosomes and gives results in two primary forms known as ethnicity estimates and DNA matches. You can learn about both sides of your family through this testing. This is the test most used by genealogy sites.

Mitochondrial DNA comes from the cells of your mitochondria. This is different than the 23 pairs in that it only comes from your mother. This can only give you information about your maternal line.

Y-Chromosomal DNA comes from your father and is passed from fathers to sons. This can be useful if you are researching a surname or your male ancestry.

There is also investigative genetic genealogy that uses identity by descent (IBD) segments of DNA that indicate shared ancestors. This can identify a third cousin or closer. This information is used along with age, gender, and place of residence to identify individual closer within a genetic genealogy data base.

From your Editor:

I want to tell you a story that could influence your genealogy research. When I am researching an individual, I can sometimes get distracted and move on to something else that interests me. I'm sure you have all heard the phrase "keep your eye on the ball" so this story will help you to remember just that.

The Red Squirrel

A lawyer advertised for a clerk. The next morning his office was crowded with applicants – all bright, Many suitable. He asked them to wait until they had all arrived and then arranged them in a semi-circle and said he would tell them a story, note their comments and judge from that whom he would choose. ‘A certain farmer’, began the lawyer, was troubled with a red squirrel that got through a hole in his barn and stole his corn seeds. He resolved to kill the squirrel at the first opportunity. Seeing him go into the hole one night, he took his old flintlock blunderbuss and fired off a great spread of lead balls. Sparks flew from the old gun and caught some hay on fire which quickly spread to the barn. ‘Did the barn burn down?’ asked one of the boys. The lawyer without answering continued, ‘And seeing the barn on fire, the farmer seized a pail of water and ran to put it out. ‘Did he put it out?’ another wanted to know. ‘As he passed inside, the door shut and the barn was soon in flames, which is when the hired girl ran in with more water from the pump.’ ‘Was she trapped inside?’ one asked. ‘Could they form a chain from the water pump to the barn?’ wondered another boy. The lawyer went on without answering.’ Then the old lady came out and all was noise and confusion, and everybody was trying to put out the fire.’ ‘Did anyone burn up?’ asked another. ‘Then the fire engine arrived but the hose pipe had a hole in it.’ ‘Could they use rags to wrap around the hole?’ a boy excitedly suggested. The lawyer said.’ There, that will do; you have shown great interest in the story,’ but observing one bright eyed fellow in deep silence, he said ‘Now my little man, what have you to say?’ The little man blushed, grew uneasy and stammered out, ‘I want to know what became of that squirrel; that’s what I want to know. ‘You’ll do,’ said the lawyer.’ You are my man’, you have not been distracted by a confusion of barn burning and hired girls and water pails. You have kept your eye on the squirrel.’

This is from the Lancashire Constabulary Advanced CID training course of 1983.
Successful candidates are awarded a red squirrel tie.

The newsletter is now quarterly, and I will always welcome your input into the newsletter. Your family stories would be a welcome addition. If there is something, you want me to research and discuss in the newsletter let me know. In the meantime, I continue my family research and tell you about them and anything interesting I’ve come across. Please have a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends.

There is always information on the website at fresno-genealogy.org if you need meeting information or want to talk to a Board Member.

Respectfully your Editor Meredith Coleman, mericoleman@me.com

FRESNO COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S

20th Annual Seminar

with James M. Baker, PhD

TOPICS FOR THE DAY:

FINDING THE HARDEST
ONES

I THOUGHT HE WAS MY
ANCESTOR

DNA TOOLBOX 2023

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
9 AM - 4 PM

WOODWARD PARK REGIONAL LIBRARY
944 E PERRIN, FRESNO, CA



Lunch Option Includes: Sandwich, Chips and dessert and bottled water or a vegetarian option

To reserve your seat and purchase your lunch and syllabus, you can go online

<https://2023fcgs-seminar.eventbrite.com>

Or mail in this paper to FCGS SEMINAR 2023, PO Box 1429, Fresno, CA 93716

\$25- FCGS Member Seminar/ Syllabus \$30-Non-Member Seminar/ Syllabus

\$10 lunch RSVP-Seat only

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Lunch Choice Sandwich Vegetarian

Please Mail a check along with your order. Total: _____

If you'd like to pay by credit card. <https://2023fcgs-seminar.eventbrite.com>

Membership Renewal Time

Our FCGS yearly membership for 2023 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 2024 year! Membership dues are \$30 for individual and \$35 for family.

Annual Membership is from January 1 to December 31.

Please Check one: Renewal New

Membership Year: 2024

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: (_____) _____