



FRESNO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 1429 FRESNO CA 93716
Fresno-Genealogy.org
January, February, March 2024
THE JOTTED LINE



Fresno County Library Heritage Center
2420 Mariposa St Fresno, CA 93721 559-600-6230
Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM,
Friday - Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Closed Sunday

Heritagecenter@fresnolibrary.org
Parking is free on Saturday.

Meeting Information

January 6, 2024, will be our Annual Meeting, luncheon, and installation of Officers. We will have a buffet at Sequoia Brewery 1188 Champlain Dr Fresno CA (Champlain and Perrin) at 11:30 AM. Cost is \$26 per person. Please RSVP to infofcgs@gmail.com

February 13, 2024, Monthly Meeting – Our speaker will be Judy Harless discussing “Tracking that Adventurous Man and Wagon Trains”. Meeting is at the Woodpark Library, social time at 6:30 PM meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

March 11, 2024, Monthly Meeting – To Be Determined

Genealogy and History Societies

Genealogy and history societies are very important to the community studying family history. This is where researchers come to gather, share, and learn. The program is educational for society members. Members

volunteer to make societies a place that benefits members. Exploring genealogy is an excellent hobby and it has its benefits. As we get older the importance of family not just close family but also the extended family have much to teach us. As we learn about our family we also learn about the history that affected them during their lives.

Some Benefits

Sense of Purpose – It's a focus that can help with your imagination, and maybe you can solve some family mysteries.

Personal Identity - It gives a greater context of time place to your life, learning about ancestors can give you a greater sense of self.

Family Connections – Researching family can bring family together to learn about common ancestors.

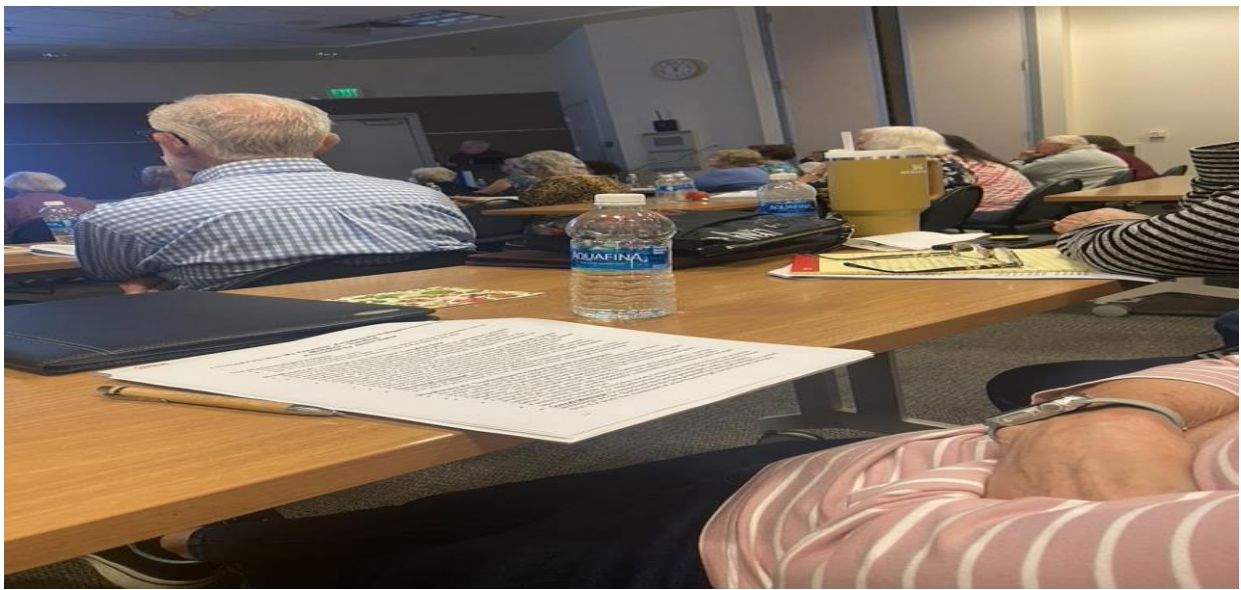
Social Benefits – Meeting other people who have similar interests.

Researching the past perhaps isn't what everyone wants to do but with all the uncertainty in the world today such as the cost of living, wars, the political situation learning what happened and who came before us gives us a sense of identity.

History was real, relevant and can teach us a lot about the people that came before us and what events shaped their lives. Please enjoy being a member of the Genealogy Society and share your family stories.

Our 20th Annual Seminar: James Baker PHD





Our speaker was James Baker PhD who spoke about finding our challenging ancestors, avoiding genealogy mistakes, and the DNA toolbox 2023. He reviewed some typical genealogy problems and solutions to finding missing data. Sometimes collaboration with other genealogists can help solve the problem or even property, probate, wills, and tax records. Some other information in your family can sometimes help, such as naming patterns, inheritance, baptisms, and family migrations. Information on baptisms or marriage records can include witnesses and have names, locations, and relationships. In the section “I Thought He Was My Ancestor” He detailed the six biggest mistakes.

1. Trusting the old long-time data, check the sources.
2. Data from family genealogists, review this data and check sources.
3. Same name people, again check and double check sources. I have so many men named John in my family I have to review carefully.
4. Failing the reasonableness test, when you’re looking at data check age, birth, death, and family members. Do the math to make sure the age is correct and determine place of birth.
5. Beware in trusting the data especially if you’re using an outside source.
6. Trusting that all original records are correct, many of these are the result of outside sources and may not be accurate.

FCGS Christmas Luncheon



We had a wonderful time at our Christmas luncheon at the Woodpark Library on December 2, 2023. The company and the food were great.

DNA News

Last newsletter I discussed DNA testing. There has since been some news. DNA relatives has been disabled in 23andme due to the encroachment of a hacker. Not sure when it will return. However, 23andme now has a health focused membership which will offer clinical grade exome sequencing, this testing looks for genetic disorders.

Ancestry DNA has a new type of membership which attempts to sort DNA matches into parent 1 and Parent 2. It can report on genetically linked characteristics such as hair color or even dairy sensitivity. If you have an active membership in Ancestry, you can already access these features. Ancestry has also announced that it will be implementing two-factor authentication for added security.

MyHeritage has disabled the ability to filter DNA matches by ethnicity or genetic groups. There has been no indication as to when this will return.

There also some concerns about DNA and the solving of crimes. The Department of Justice has issued guidelines on federal investigations or federally funded investigations that use genealogy for violent crimes and the identification of human remains, however this is only permitted if the DNA database being used has policies allowing such searches. These guidelines are a start but its not clear as to how this applies to various labs. Oversight will be required so there is minimal invasion of privacy. Many states and consumer testing of DNA have limits to this research in that a court order will be required.

Using a DNA test to determine ethnicity can result in giving you geographical regions, which are human inventions. The estimates come from self-reported nationality, so the DNA tests show locations where people with similar DNA live. The ethnicity reports are based on estimate and can change over time.

Fresno County Genealogical Society
Board Positions

On January 6, 2024, at our meeting we will have the installation of new officers. If you would like to nominate someone or volunteer yourself for a position below is the list of officers and position descriptions.

President: Principal executive officer and official spokesperson, presides at all meeting including Board Meetings.

1st Vice President: Assume duties of the President in the absence of the President, plan and arrange programs and speakers for the general meeting.

2nd Vice President: Coordination of committees and activities, committee liaison and quarterly newsletter.

Recording Secretary: Record and be the custodian of the minutes of the Board and Annual meetings, keep a binder of all society minutes.

Corresponding Secretary: Conduct correspondence and research for the society when needed, keeping all records of correspondence.

Treasurer: Record and be the custodian of the financial records of the society, deposit of all society funds, pay obligations of the society, present financial report at board meeting, prepare all required governmental reports.

Librarian: Accept genealogical material, evaluate donations, classify, and catalogue books, maintain a current inventory.

Registrar: Maintain membership records

If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else, please come to the January meeting. More info at Fresno-Geneology.org



FCGS Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 6, 2024 | 11:30 AM

Sequoia Brewery (Champlain and Perrin)

\$26 per person

Menu: Sherry Chicken, Sequoia salad, roasted red potatoes, and fresh vegetables.

RSVP to infofcgs@gmail.com

