

# NGS 2022 Family History Conference Westward Ho!

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## OUR AMERICAN MOSAIC

**24-28 MAY 2022**  
**SACRAMENTO, CA**

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

**Kathleen O'Donnell Beitiks** is a fourth-generation Californian. Her paternal Irish ancestors immigrated to California in the 1850s and ran a boarding house in Grass Valley for gold miners. It's safe to say her ancestors did not strike it rich—otherwise Kathleen would be living in a mansion today. Currently the volunteer coordinator for the California Genealogical Society, Kathleen is also the publicity chair for the Local Host Committee of the NGS 2022 Family History Conference.

Genealogy enthusiasts will be heading to the capital city of Sacramento, California, next spring, to attend the NGS 2022 Family History Conference and take advantage of research opportunities and historical sites in the western part of the United States.

The Conference, to be held 24-28 May, will offer a wide variety of lectures, workshops, and networking options for all attendees. The theme, Our American Mosaic, celebrates the diversity of our ancestors and their contributions to our country. The local host society (California Genealogical Society) is arranging social and educational activities for attendees to get the most from their time on the West Coast.

Plan on coming early for tours and staying late for extra research time and consider a side trip to San Francisco for additional research and sightseeing.

Registration information will be available on the NGS website, <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>, in December 2021. We hope COVID-19 will not be a factor in May 2022; however, contingency plans will be in place for any eventuality to ensure the health and safety of registrants, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and staff.

## Conference tours, Tuesday, 22 May

### Mother Lode Wine Experience (all day)

Get in the spirit of western US life by joining the all-day tour, Mother Lode Wine Experience, to Shake Ridge Ranch in California's Shenandoah Valley and the historic town of Sutter Creek. At Shake Ridge Ranch, the home of Yorba Wines, meander through the vineyards and learn about the art and science of growing grapes for world-renowned California wines. A hearty picnic lunch will be served, and you can purchase a bottle (or two) of premium wines. In Sutter Creek, established in 1850, participants will visit the 1898 Monteverde Store and Museum<sup>1</sup> and the Knight Foundry (1873-1996), a major contributor to the growth of California.<sup>2</sup> The Knight Foundry is the last water-powered foundry and machine shop and one of the best preserved industrial workplaces in the United States.



Photo courtesy of Shake Ridge Ranch, Sutter Creek, CA

### Old Sacramento (all day)

A visit to Old Sacramento will send you back in time to the hardscrabble days of living and working on the western frontier.<sup>3</sup> This riverfront section of the city is filled with unique history and attractions that you may want to visit more than once. We will meet at the Sacramento History Museum for the Old Sacramento Underground Tour. After lunch on your own, stroll around Old Sacramento at your leisure. To make that plan easy, simply download the free Anytime Tours app on your mobile phone.<sup>4</sup> Using this self-guided tour, you can start and stop on your

own schedule, while learning about the history of Old Sacramento. (The app also includes a tour of the City Cemetery.) Historic buildings, shops, and restaurants populate Old Sacramento. You can also visit the Sacramento History Museum, the California Railroad Museum, and the California Automobile Museum.

### Capitol Mall Genealogy Research Tour (morning and afternoon options)

For an up-close look at major genealogical research collections in Sacramento, this is the tour for you. From the Convention Center, stroll across the Capitol grounds to the two buildings of the California State Library for tours guided by genealogy specialists.<sup>5</sup> The California History Room, with its multiple historical collections, is located within the State Library building. Completed in 1929, the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a California Historical Landmark. A federal repository, this architectural gem houses an extraordinary collection of government publications as well as the Witkin State Law Library.<sup>6</sup> A third venue is the nearby State Archives building, offering historical books, state documents, and ephemera such as campaign memorabilia, sheet music, posters, and advertisements.<sup>7</sup> Here you will get a peek at some of the methods used in the Archives Preservation and Imaging Lab.



While you are in the area, take a look at the 1856 Leland Stanford Mansion. Stanford was president of the Central Pacific Railroad and Governor of California, 1862-1863.<sup>8</sup>

Websites cited in this article were viewed on 15 July 2021.

1. "Monteverde Store Museum, Sutter Creek, California," *Amador Gold Home* (<http://www.amadorgold.net/tours/montevertestore>).
2. "Knight Foundry... Preserving Our History," *Knight Foundry* (<https://knightfoundry.com>).
3. "Old Sacramento State Historic Park," *California Department of Parks and Recreation* ([https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=497](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=497)).
4. "Welcome to Sacramento!" *Anytime Tours* (<https://anytimetours.oncell.com/en/index.html>).
5. "California State Library," *California.gov* (<https://www.library.ca.gov>).
6. "Witkin State Law Library," *California State Library* (<https://www.library.ca.gov/law>).
7. "California State Archives," *California Secretary of State* (<https://www.sos.ca.gov/archives>).
8. "Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park," *California Department of Parks and Recreation* ([https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=489](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=489)).



## Gold Discovery Tour (all day)

In 1848, John Marshall, a New Jersey native who had moved to California for health reasons, discovered gold in the Sierra foothills while building a sawmill in Coloma for John Sutter. Although it took some time for word of the discovery to spread, it eventually triggered what is now known as the Gold Rush—fortune seekers around the world making the long voyage to California in hopes of striking it rich. A replica of the original sawmill is in the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, along with more than twenty historic buildings.<sup>9</sup> Following a docent-led tour and lunch, participants will visit Sutter's Fort to learn about the checkered career of Johann Augustus Sutter. He began building a fort in 1840 near the American River in what is now Sacramento, which was overrun by miners during the Gold Rush. In 1947 the rebuilt fort became part of the California State Parks system and today it serves as a teaching tool, with the re-creation of historic events and activities representing life during Sutter's time.<sup>10</sup>

## Conference evening events

### A Taste of California Welcome Reception

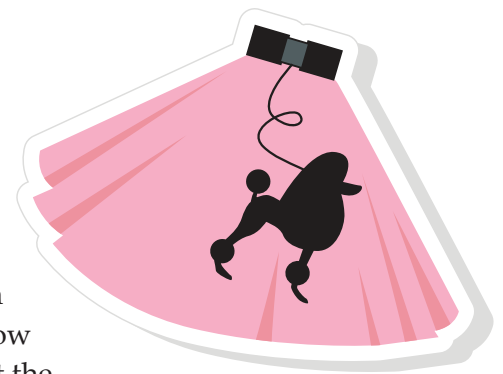


Relax and mingle outdoors with fellow genealogy enthusiasts in downtown Sacramento's Cathedral Square on Wednesday, 25 May. Meet members of the conference's local host society and taste some of California's premium wines, accompanied by special hors d'oeuvres. Representatives from several California wineries will be available to provide answers to questions about the featured wines. (Non-alcoholic beverages will also be served.)

### Back to the Fifties

Let's celebrate the April 2022 release of the 1950 US census! On Thursday, 26 May, join us for an evening celebrating the release—an exciting moment for genealogists. Wear that vintage poodle skirt

packed away in your attic or watch a few TV episodes of "Happy Days" to get into the spirit. Step back in time and quiz fellow genealogists about the 1950s: "What amusement park opened in California in 1955? Who sang 'Your Cheating Heart'? What was the first man-made satellite launched into space?"<sup>11</sup> The courtyard of the California Museum will be the location for a casual dinner.



## Research and restaurants

Between Sacramento and San Francisco (ninety minutes west of Sacramento), genealogy researchers have a plethora of resources to explore in Northern California. See the last issue of *NGS Magazine* for a selected list of research facilities in the Sacramento and San Francisco areas.<sup>12</sup> The next issue will feature an article about the California State Library (Sacramento and Sutter). The California Genealogical Society is preparing research guides for surrounding counties, which will be available later this year.

California is a gold mine when it comes to ethnic foods—you can find "nuggets" everywhere. San Francisco has a long-standing reputation for a variety of ethnic restaurants, and Sacramento offers cuisines including Mexican, Chinese, Persian, Czech, Italian, and Vietnamese, to name a few.<sup>13</sup>

The California Genealogical Society joins the National Genealogical Society in a warm, western welcome to researchers everywhere, who can look forward to an abundance of resources and recreational opportunities in Sacramento during the NGS 2022 Family History Conference. Come to Sacramento and celebrate the rich diversity of the United States and Our American Mosaic! 🌳

9. "Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park," *California Department of Parks and Recreation* (<https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/484/files/MarshallGoldFinalWebLayout2017.pdf>).

10. "Sutter's Fort," *California Department of Parks and Recreation* (<https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/485/files/SuttersFortFinalWebLayout2018.pdf>).

11. "Baby Boomers Nostalgia Quiz—1950s," *Golden Carers* (<https://www.goldencarers.com/baby-boomers-nostalgia-quiz---1950s/4826>).

12. Kathleen Beitiks, "Mining for Ancestors in the Golden State," *NGS Magazine* 47 (July-September 2021), 14-16.

13. "Sacramento Ethnic Restaurants," *Sacramento Revealed* (<https://sacramentorevealed.com/food-and-drink/sacramento-ethnic-restaurants>).