

Spotlight

On California Genealogical Research Facilities

A series of articles about places to do research around the state

California Genealogical Society and Library

2201 Broadway, Suite LL
Oakland, California 94602
(510) 663-1358
<http://www.calgensoc.org/>

Hours:

Thursday, Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The California Genealogical Society opened its doors in March at a new location in the historic Bruener Building at 22nd and Broadway in uptown Oakland. The move was one of a series that the library has made over its 109-year history and lands CGS at its second Oakland address after a century in San Francisco .

Since its inception in February 1898, the California Genealogical Society has emphasized the sharing of relevant source material and the establishment of a library was one of its earliest goals. In the first eight years the founding members had contributed more than 300 volumes but all were lost in the 1906 earthquake and fire.

Since that time, the society has amassed over 30,000 genealogical references, including periodicals, microfilm, CD-ROMs and local and family histories. The collection features a wide variety of San Francisco and California materials but includes regional, state and local texts for the entire United States .

Particularly strong are the sections for New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania .



photos courtesy Colleen Huntley

Online Catalog And Digitized Files

After hundreds of volunteer hours, a beta version of the CGS online catalog is available at <http://hosted.surpass-software.com/calgensoc/> (also accessible from the society home page). Over 10,000 books are now searchable on this user-friendly site. By fall, input of the book titles should be complete and the process of loading the CD collection and periodicals will begin.

The library's vertical file index has recently been digitized and a surname search is available on the in-house library computers. In addition, the San Francisco Probate Records of Action 1906 – 1959 digitization project has been completed.

Field Trips

CGS invites your group to come and spend a day with us. Plan a field trip to come and tour our new facility and explore our resources. Contact us for more details by phone or email.

— Kathryn Doyle

CGS Library Adds Animap

A recent article in the CGS News announced that Animap software has been added to the CGS library computers. This mapping software displays over 2300 maps showing county boundary changes since the colonial period. Another good reason to visit the CGS library.