

# ***GOLD DIGGERS***

**Tuolumne County Genealogical Society**

Sonora, California

[www.tcgen.org](http://www.tcgen.org) ~ (209) 532-1317

Volume 44, Issue 1

Jun / Jul 2024

General meetings held each month (except December) at the Tuolumne County Library Conference Room, 480 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA.

**JUNE 10, 2024 ~ 2:00 P.M.**

**Tours of the History Research Center and Tuolumne County Museum  
PLUS Root Beer Floats  
with the Tuolumne County Historical Society *in the Museum Courtyard***



**JULY 8, 2024**

***SHARING OUR DISCOVERIES ~ THE 2024 SALT LAKE CITY RESEARCHERS***

Come and hear our own TCGS members share what they learned about their ancestors at the FamilySearch Library during their trip to Salt Lake City in May 2024.





## President's Message by Pat Perry

This is my last message as your President. I want to thank all the Board members who have served this past year and acknowledge some major accomplishments. I encourage you to look at our new, and much improved, website at <https://tcgen.org/>. Ann Knight has done a wonderful job creating an informative and easily accessible site. We have also updated our Bylaws to enable the Society to operate more effectively. Lastly, we have a revised and professional-looking logo that we are using with all of our correspondence and will be able to use in many other ways. I believe that all of these accomplishments will serve us well in the future.

I know that next year Judi Lewis, and her Board, will have a great year.

~ President Pat Perry

### Updated TCGS Website

Ann Knight, our website administrator extraordinaire, and Level One have worked some magic on the Tuolumne County Genealogical Society website. If it's been a while since you have visited <https://tcgen.org/>, check it out. You will be more than pleasantly surprised!



## Tuolumne County Genealogical Society

Golden Roots of the Mother Lode – Founded 1979

Home About Us News Events Research Activities Organization Newsletter Contact 🔍

### ***The Most Common Last Name in Every Country, Mapped***

After determining each country's most common surname, researchers placed each of them into one of six different categories: ancestral, occupational, geographical, and toponymic (or place name), personal characteristics, and patronage. Did your last name make the list?

<https://tinyurl.com/muab4wkb>

### ***Discover America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2024***

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has announced its annual "Most Endangered Places" list.

<https://rb.gy/fzlmgw>

~ from *The Weekly Genealogist* by American Ancestors

### UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS

**AUGUST ~ Using Newspapers as a Resource ~ Sascha Corcoran**

**SEPTEMBER ~ To Be Announced**

**OCTOBER ~ To Be Announced**

**NOVEMBER ~ To Be Announced**

**DECEMBER ~ Christmas Brunch at the Peppery**



To Kathy "Cookie" Boone  
on the loss of her son,  
Israel Squire Boone  
December 21, 1970 ~  
March 27, 2024  
May he rest in peace.



## The Library Corner by Kristine Childres

On the 25th of January 2024, our Society received an email from Terry Stone, the President of the Calaveras Genealogical Society. Terry wrote that their Society was shutting down. Their organization had started in 1991, just about 12 years after ours was created. For several years, they were a very active group, having seminars and great speakers. We were sister counties so we would attend their activities and they would come to our events. We supported each other. Perhaps it was partly COVID, people moving away, or the age of members that caused them to lose volunteers. They found that they no longer had enough active members to continue.

In the email that Terry sent, she offered us a wonderful gift. She wanted to donate to us their Society's collection of books. These books were moved to the Calaveras County Library where there was not enough room to keep them. She said if we were interested, to come over and get the books as soon as possible.

On a Monday in late February, Nancy and Eric Morton, Brenda Hix, and Lori East drove over to the library located in San Andreas. They returned with over 300 books. Several of our members, including Lori East, Nancy Dorrien, Terry Cox, Brenda Hix, Pixie Bolles, and others have been sorting through the books that are temporarily housed at the FamilySearch Center. The sorting process is important as we do not want duplicates at our genealogy library. The ladies found that 45 of the books are not at the Salt Lake FamilySearch Library. Sandy Turner contacted the FamilySearch Library and they said they would like to have those books. As you are aware, it is very costly to ship books anywhere. Denise Houghton is planning a trip by car to Salt Lake City and has offered to take the books to the library. Thank you, Denise!

It is very sad to learn of the loss of the Calaveras Genealogical Society. We wish all their former members good luck in their research. We thank you all for the generous donation of these books. We appreciate having them in our Society's library.

Most of the books will eventually arrive at our library on Bradford Street. Although they are not available yet, I have selected a few to tempt you with. Just as an example, Phil Van Swoll came recently to our library and found "Mayflower Families Through Five Generations," by Stephen Hopkins. He was pleased to find this book in our library, so I suggest that you check the books below. We may have just the one or two that you have been searching for.

*"The Hidden Half of the Family: A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy,"* by Christina Kassabian Schaefer

*"History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois: Centennial Record,"* by John Carroll Power, 1970

*"Mayflower Marriages, From the Files of George Ernest Bowman, At the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants,"* by Susan E. Roser, 1990

*"An Historical Account of the Settlements of Scotch Highlanders in America Prior to the Peace of 1783 Together With Notices of Highland Regiments and Biographical Sketches,"* by J.P. MacLean, Ph. D., 1968

*"The Early Marriages of Strafford County, New Hampshire 1630-1850,"* by Robert S. Canney

*"History of St. Mary's County, Maryland,"* by Regina Combs Hammett, 1997

Recent queries have been made to the library for the following surnames:

Dolan \* Pierce \* James \* Zamora \* Duchow \* Garbarino \* Brown

Enjoy the glorious spring!

~ Kristine

*Our Condolences*

A visitor to the Tuolumne County Historical Society's traveling banner exhibition, Sheila Ruiz Harrell, shared with TCHS this website that she and a colleague, Don Gibson, have recently published. The site has an emphasis on Alta California genealogy and history, but also covers the rest of her family's ancestral lines. Be sure to check it out!

<https://californiaancestry.com/>



To the family of Beatrice Ann Campbell who passed away in April 2024. Joining TCGS in 1994, Beatrice had been a member of the Society for 30 years! May she rest in peace.

*Beatrice Ann Campbell*  
*June 10, 1937 ~*  
*April 24, 2024*



On the Upcoming Webinars page (<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/>), click the orange “Register for free” button on the card of the webinar you wish to join. The recordings are free to watch for the first 7 days. With a webinar membership (\$49.95), you have unlimited, on-demand access to all webinars.

#### June 2024

- **Four Further Sources for New Zealand Family History** by Fiona Brooker ~ June 4
- **Bridging the Gaps: Using DNA to get results in Eastern Europe** by Dave Obee ~ June 5
- **Hiding Out in the Open: Discovering LGBT Family History** by Thomas MacEntee ~ June 7
- **Learn Genealogy 24/7 with Legacy Family Tree Webinars** by Geoff Rasmussen ~ June 11
- **Puerto Rican Research** by Katy Bodenhorn Barnes ~ June 12
- **Editing Your Own Writing—Part 2** by Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG ~ June 18
- **Juneteenth—How Emancipation Came to Texas and How We Celebrate** by Sharon Batiste Gillins ~ June 19
- **English Occupation, Apprenticeship and Guild Records** by Paull Milner, FUGA, MDiv ~ June 21
- **Finding Your Canadian Ancestors on MyHeritage** by Lianne Kruger ~ June 25
- **Kentucky and Virginia Tax Lists—5 1/2 Strategies for Identifying That Elusive Early Southerner** by Gail Jackson Miller, CG ~ June 26
- **How to Find the Truth About a Family Story (webinar membership required)** by Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL ~ June 28

#### July 2024

- **10 Unexpected Places to Find Ancestor Photos Online** by Elizabeth Swanay O’Neal ~ July 2
- **10 Reasons Why MyHeritage Is a Genealogist’s Best Friend** by Melissa Barker ~ July 9
- **Chinese Immigrants in the South** by Grant Din ~ July 10
- **Researching Cornish Ancestors** by Lesley Trotter, PhD ~ July 12
- **Oral Genealogy in Asia-Pacific: The Essence of Personal Identity and Tribal Connections** by David S. Ouimette, CG, CGL ~ July 16
- **Finding Your Ancestors at the National SAR Genealogical Research Library** by Cheri Daniela, MSLS ~ July 17
- **Putting Them in Their Place: Understanding Localities for Your Mexican & Colonial Spanish Ancestors** by Colleen Robledo Greene, MLIS ~ July 19
- **Latest Updates to the MyHeritage Mobile App** by Gilad Katz ~ July 23
- **Researching Oregon Trail Ancestors** by Dawn Carlile ~ July 24
- **Genealogical Research & Writing: Are You a Saint, Sinner, or Bumfuzzled Soul? (webinar membership required)** by Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL ~ July 26
- **Solving a 1770 Problem with the 1880 Census** by Warren Bittner ~ July 31

#### ***National Archives to Digitize 500 Million Records by 2026***

By September 2026, NARA is aiming to digitize 500 million pages of records, and even more thereafter. It’s a herculean effort that wouldn’t be possible without the new \$20 million, 18,000-square-foot Digitization Center located within a remodeled space in Archive II that is replete with text-scanning equipment, work space, sensitive cameras and upgrades to keep light and humidity damage to a minimum.

“With new high-speed scanners and a dedicated team of digitization staff, this new center is a game changer for the National Archives,” said Colleen Shogan, the 11th archivist of the U.S., on April 12 at a ribbon-cutting ceremony. “It provides us a tenfold increase in our in-house scanning capacity and will help us make millions of original records accessible online for Americans everywhere.”  
Read the full article here:

<http://tiny.cc/ny7txz>



#### ***Ancestry Announces Largest Archive Collaboration to Date With the National Archives and Records Administration***

Over the next five years, Ancestry will digitize NARA collections that have previously not been available to search and view online. Read the full article here:

<https://rb.gy/kw8itl>

## Headstone Found and Replaced!

This is a fun and rewarding post I recently saw on Facebook:



“YES! It’s a good day to be weird! I ended up buying an old headstone from an antique shop that was said to be damaged and replaced at the cemetery. I didn’t think anything of it because I’ve seen them for sale and in collections before when they get damaged and replaced. It’s a common thing. After getting it home, I dug into the research to find information on where it came from. It was a longshot just having the initials and dates to go off of but I finally found the findagrave.com listing for the little boy.

Charles “Charlie” L. Walrod May 16th 1883—June 8th 1887. The grave was in Greenfield Township Cemetery just south of Knierim, Iowa, 2 hours away so I planned on going there to confirm the headstone was replaced. After searching the whole cemetery, I became concerned it wasn’t replaced. I then started the steps to figure out how to get the headstone back to its rightful place.

There’s no City Hall and there wasn’t anything on the county’s website that said anything about who takes care of the cemetery. I said well, I am dealing with a monument and it would be interesting to see if the local monument company has an order in to replace the headstone. I called the only monument place nearby in Fort Dodge and they said they didn’t have an order for a replacement so I asked if they can find out who takes care of the cemetery. They found the cemetery Sexton’s phone number. I got a hold of her and told her the story and she was just as puzzled and confused as I was.

We made plans to meet at the cemetery today to look at burial records and try our best to find out exactly where the headstone used to be. I was pretty sure it was in the same row as his parents, but near the road where a hole was, but those were just holes from animals digging. The old cemetery records from the 1880s weren’t helping much. I tried zooming in overhead on Maps on my phone but Maps updated that area after the headstone went missing. We tried looking for any indentations where a headstone would’ve been in the row but there was no trace.

Nick was there with me and came up with the idea of using Google Earth to see if we could see an old picture of the headstone from the highway in front of the cemetery. The most updated image shows the headstone isn’t there, but I never knew you could go

back and see past years every time Google Earth scanned the area. Jackpot! Nick found an old picture of Charlie’s headstone right next to his mother’s headstone!

We showed the Sexton and Groundskeeper exactly where the headstone used to be. I then took Charlie’s headstone out of my truck and loaded it into the Groundskeeper’s Gator. They’re going to get it placed back where it needs to be.

I absolutely love digging into the research and doing the detective work about cemeteries and funeral history especially when I can take part in getting someone’s forgotten loved one’s headstone back into the cemetery. I’m sure little Charlie Walrod will appreciate not being unmarked and forgotten anymore and I live for that. Some may think I’m weird for driving a hearse and being addicted to funeral history but that’s what I love to do. The adventures I keep finding myself going on and the



people I’ve met along the way are incredible. I have learned so much and I wish to learn so much more.”

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/61471667/charles-l-walrod>

~ Reprinted with permission from Kyle Rice, Facebook

**Amelia** is a young participant in a beginner’s historic research and genealogy class. She and her mother have found a website that she would like to share with the TCGS group and any other young historic research enthusiasts who have an interest in learning more about their family history. Thank you, Amelia, for paying it forward!



<https://www.irishdualcitizenship.org/irish-american-immigration-history/>

[Opinion: Genealogy Is Popular, But There’s Danger in Uncovering Our Family Past](#)

*San Diego Times* columnist David Smollar writes about discovering some unexpected family history, and affirms the value of learning about these painful revelations.

~ *The Weekly Genealogist* by American Ancestors

## ***Hidden Gems in State Census Records***

Many researchers assume that state and territorial census records are of limited value when a federal census record is available. They're both census records, so they must contain roughly the same data, right?

Not necessarily. If you've skipped looking at state census records for this reason, you might be missing out on valuable information. In some cases, state censuses were actually first to include questions later added to the federal census. Many other state censuses include questions which were never added federally at all. These can be crucial sources for identifying ancestors who may have slipped through the cracks of federal census records.

### **Relationship to Head of Household**

It was not until the 1880 federal census that enumerators were asked to begin recording the relationship of each individual to the head of the household. In the federal censuses of 1850, 1860, and 1870, there was no field to record the relationship, which often leaves genealogists to puzzle out the relationships between people in the same household with different surnames. Interestingly, relationships to heads of household were recorded on the state level all the way back in 1855 in the New York census, and were subsequently included in the 1865 and 1875 censuses. The question was also asked during the 1875 Rhode Island census. This is key information for researchers seeking individuals in either state who died prior to 1880.

### **Military Service**

Military service was also noted on state censuses for decades before the question was introduced on the federal level in 1890. However, most of this census was destroyed in a fire in 1921, leaving the 1910 federal census as the first widely available federal census to include military data.

The first state to ask about military service was Alabama in 1855. In 1865, Minnesota, New York, and Rhode Island included a column for military service in census records, and Alabama did so again in 1866. These censuses can provide critical data for locating Civil War veterans who died prior to the 1910 federal census. Minnesota also asked about military service in 1895 and 1905, and Iowa asked whether individuals were associated with a militia starting in 1854.

### **Birthplace of Parents**

From a genealogical perspective, the birthplace of an individual's parents is one of the most critical questions to appear on the federal census. It was not introduced on the federal level until 1880, but it appeared on several state and territorial census records prior to that date. The first state census to include fields for the birthplace of a person's parents was Rhode Island in 1865. Rhode Island included the question again in 1875, this time joined by Nevada and Minnesota. Another early adopter was Washington, which included parental nativity on territorial censuses in 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877, 1878, and 1879.

### **Emigration to the United States**

The question of whether an individual emigrated to the United States was first included on the federal census in 1900. Prior to this, the question was asked by the New York census in 1855, New Jersey in 1865 and 1895, Rhode Island in 1885, Washington in 1891, and Wisconsin in 1885 and 1895.

### **Immigration History**

In 1859, the territorial census of Kansas asked individuals to indicate the year they settled in Kansas. This question could be helpful for cases in which an ancestor was known to be in Kansas by 1859, but whose year of arrival is unknown.

Even more helpful are the Kansas state censuses from 1865, 1876, 1885, 1905, 1915, and 1925, which ask where the individual lived just prior to arriving in Kansas. This is different from asking where an individual was born, and can be useful for filling in the "missing links" between someone's birthplace and final location. For example, if you're researching someone who was born in Ohio and eventually settled in Kansas, this question could reveal that they lived in Illinois for part of their life, filling out a crucial detail in their life story.

Other state censuses with similar questions include the 1852 California state census, which lists the previous residence of each individual recorded, and the Minnesota state census of 1895 and 1905, which asked how long individuals had lived in their current location.

### **Arizona in 1864**

While pre-1880 state census records tend to be relatively sparse, the Arizona territorial census of 1864 is considered one of the more detailed censuses of its era. This census asked individuals about their citizenship status as well as

*continued on page 7*

### ***Hidden Gems in State Census Records (continued from page 6)***

how long they had lived in their current place of residence. Town of birth is also listed for individuals who were born within Arizona.

Even more interestingly, the 1864 census also asks whether individuals are married and where their family resides. The fact that families living apart was so common that it warranted its own column is evidence of the transient nature of employment in the American west at that time.

#### **Michigan in 1884**

For the 1884 Michigan state census, enumerators were asked to record both the month and location of marriages which had occurred within the previous year. While the applicability of this data can be somewhat limited, this question can still serve as a key piece of evidence in certain cases.

#### **Individual Census Cards**

By the 1910s, some states began recording an extensive amount of information about individuals, far beyond what was gathered for federal censuses. Oftentimes, those enumerated were recorded on their own individual cards, as was the case in South Dakota and Rhode Island.

In South Dakota, the following information was documented in 1915, 1925, 1935, and 1945: ancestry, what school they graduated from, maiden name of wife, year married, church affiliation.

And in Rhode Island in 1935, notable information gathered included: exact date of birth, school attended and grade, illnesses the individual had experienced, if an individual was out of work, the reason why.

#### **Unique Questions**

Some state censuses contain unexpected questions which can provide a unique look into daily life across the United States. In the Hawaii territorial census of 1890, students were asked to name both the school they attend as well as the name of their teacher at that school. Perhaps the most unique question, however, is from the 1915 Kansas state census, which asked individuals to report the number of books contained in their home libraries, not including school books.

State census records are an incredibly valuable resource for genealogists. Not only can they fill in gaps between federal census years ~ they can provide a surprisingly detailed view of an ancestor's life which cannot be found anywhere else.

*~ The Weekly Genealogist by American Ancestors, April 3, 2024*

### ***More From The Weekly Genealogist by American Ancestors***

#### ***Court Records Databases, Southampton County, Virginia***

Southampton County, seated in Courtland, is located in Virginia, on the North Carolina border. In 2008, the Brantley Association of America began a project to digitize and index Southampton County court records (from 1749 through the early 1880s), with the support of the county probate court office. The entire record collection has now been digitized, the index is a work in progress. The online collection includes court order books (1749-1881), court minute books (1749-1861), marriage records (1750-1890), will books (1749-1881), deed books (1749-1881), and miscellaneous record books. The miscellaneous records collection includes birth records (1853), death records (1853-1890), voter registration records (1902), chancery records (1832-1858), and guardianships (1751-1857).

[Search Now](#)

*~ Valerie Beaudrault*

#### ***Cemetery Database, Lamar County, Texas***

Lamar County, seated in Paris, is located in northeastern Texas. The website for Lamar County features a database of nearly 116,000 burial records from more than 200 cemeteries. Records can be searched by first and/or last name. To browse the records, click the index tab, select a letter from the alphabetical list and click the name you wish to view. The detailed records include birth, death, and marriage dates; the name of the cemetery; information on the source of the record; and notes. The notes field may contain a transcription of the individual's obituary. Some records also include links to tombstone images. [Search Now](#)

*~ Valerie Beaudrault*

## WHERE TO DO GENEALOGY RESEARCH LOCALLY

### TUOLUMNE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

158 W. Bradford Street  
Sonora, CA 95370 ~ 1-209-532-1317  
Hours: Tuesday & Thursday ~ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday ~ 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
*Hours subject to availability of volunteers*  
Email: [info@tcgen.org](mailto:info@tcgen.org)  
Website: [www.tcgen.org](http://www.tcgen.org)

### FAMILYSEARCH CENTER

LDS Church  
19481 Hillsdale Drive  
Sonora, CA 95370 ~ Call 1-209-605-2891  
for alternative dates and times  
Hours: Tuesday ~ 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thursday ~ 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday ~ 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and  
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Appointments available upon request

### TUOLUMNE COUNTY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

158 Bradford Street  
Sonora, CA 95370 (behind the museum)  
1-209-532-4227

### TUOLUMNE COUNTY LIBRARY

480 Greenley Road  
Sonora, CA 95370 ~ 1-209-533-5507  
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Closed: Sunday and Holidays

### CARLO DE FERRARI ARCHIVES

480 Greenley Road  
Sonora, CA 95370 (behind the library)  
Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9:00 to 4 p.m. ~ 1-209-536-1163

**By appointment only**

### COLUMBIA STATE PARK ARCHIVES

Corner of Main and Fulton  
Columbia, CA 95310 ~ 1-209-536-2646  
Call to ensure facility is open  
Open Tuesday 12 to 3 p.m.,  
Thursday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of month 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.  
Alternative hours available by appointment

**DEADLINE FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER  
GOLD DIGGERS  
JULY 15, 2024**

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

*Shay Kaye ~ Sonora, CA  
Judith Shimer ~ Sonora, CA*

Total Membership: 120



# Mark Your Calendar



**TCGS CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2024**

**DECEMBER 9**

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A MONDAY**

***Do You Know Someone Who Has Expressed an  
Interest In Genealogy?***

Invite them to a TCGS meeting!!  
New members are always welcome.

### ***Give a Gift in Honor of a Friend or Loved One***

Did you know you can honor your family and friends with a donation to the Tuolumne County Genealogical Society Scholarship Fund? There are many special occasions when a donation to TCGS makes a perfect gift:

- \* Memorials
- \* Birthdays
- \* Holidays
- \* Celebrations
- \* Milestones and Achievements
- \* Anytime, in honor of someone special

*Nothing will bother me today.  
I am in my genealogy bubble and  
no one is allowed inside.  
~ Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches*





**JUNE 2024**

GENERAL MEETING ~ NEW LOCATION THIS MONTH ONLY

June 10, 2024 ~ 2:00 PM

**Tuolumne County Museum**

BOARD MEETING

June 17, 2024 ~ 9:30 a.m.

My Garden Cafe

**JULY 2024**

GENERAL MEETING

July 8, 2024 ~ 2:00 p.m.

Sonora Public Library ~ Community Room

BOARD MEETING

July 15, 2024 ~ 9:30 a.m.

My Garden Cafe



**BOARD MEETING**

On **April 15, 2024**, President Pat Perry discussed the plans for the upcoming Annual May meeting. The Board voted to enter into a lease agreement with Ricoh for a new copier. The Board also discussed ideas for funding a scholarship account for two or three Tuolumne County graduating high school seniors. Ann Knight presented a demonstration of the new TCGS website which will be available for everyone to see very soon.

Account Balances:	Checking:	\$3,429.18
	PayPal:	\$0
	CD:	\$12,000
	Cash:	\$0

Due to the expected absence of many Board members, the **May 20, 2024** Board meeting was cancelled.

ALL TCGS members are invited and encouraged to attend the Board of Directors meetings on the third Monday of every month (except May and December 2024). Join us for breakfast and learn what your Board is doing for you and for TCGS!

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

**Irish Special Interest Group**

The Irish Group will meet at the FamilySearch Center at 10:00 a.m. on July 8, 2024. The John Grenham website (and others), as well as several computer monitors, are available for the group to use. This group is dedicated to research about your Irish ancestors.



Contact: Kathy Boone ~ 209-770-3379  
cookie48@mlode.com

**Writers' Special Interest Group**

The Writers' Group will meet at the Tuolumne County Meeting Room at 12:00 p.m. on July 8, 2024. This is an informal group that meets to share information and encourage the writing of your family histories.



Contacts: Pat Perry ~ 209-586-3214  
Marilyn Fullam ~ 209-588-9873

**Find A Grave Special Interest Group**

The Find A Grave SIG field trip to the Chinese Camp cemetery on May 4 was postponed due to rain. The field trip has been rescheduled for June 1. Watch the TCGS website for any updates regarding this outing.



Contact: Debi Bautista  
debi\_bautista@comcast.net

**PLEASE NOTE**

**The Irish and Writers' Special Interest Groups will NOT be meeting in June 2024.**

*Contributions to the TCGS Scholarship Fund have been received:*

*In Memory of Israel Boone*

*In Memory of Doris Fuentes*

*Were you able to attend these programs? You won't want miss the next ones we have in store for you!*

*January 2024 ~ Family Treasures*



*February 2024 ~ Childhood Memories of Growing Up in Tuolumne County*



## March 2024 ~ Finding Your Biological Family with Carlene Hamilton



### FREE Library and Archive Websites

**WorldCat** ~ <https://search.worldcat.org/>

WorldCat.org is a free website that provides access through its card catalog to millions of materials from libraries around the world. You'll find items such as:

- United States Civil War and other military records
- Family Bibles, church histories, and records
- Publications such as directories, handbooks, and magazines
- Birth, marriage, death, wills, and obituary indexes
- Microfilmed genealogy and local history collections
- Newspapers from around the world
- Photographs
- Town histories
- Probate records

Learn more with this video from Lisa Louise Cooke: <https://lisalouisecooke.com/2022/09/07/worldcat/>

**ArchiveGrid** ~ <https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>

ArchiveGrid is a companion website to WorldCat. The difference is that ArchiveGrid focuses not on published items, but (generally speaking) on *unpublished* ones. ArchiveGrid can help you locate old documents and manuscript items available in over 1,500 archival collections.

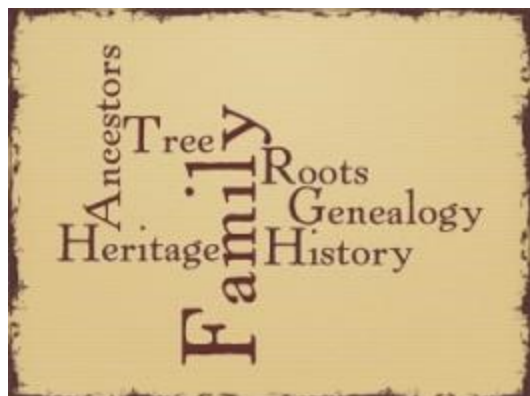
**National Archives** ~ <https://www.archives.gov/>

The National Archives website and online catalog can be a bit mystifying. If you've ever tried to search it and wound up frustrated, you're not alone. This is often the case because the nature of the archives and the search function of the online Catalog are not genealogically focused. Armed with an understanding of how and why it is set up the way it is, and the know-how to search, refine, and download documents, you'll be ready to add it to your genealogy toolkit.

~ From Lisa Louise Cooke's *Genealogy Gems*

Tuolumne County Genealogical Society  
PO Box 3956  
Sonora, CA 95370-3956

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



If your mailing label is **RED**, payment is due.

#### ***Officers / Board Members***

President: Judi Lewis  
Vice President: Sandy Turner  
Recording Secretary: Pixie Bolles  
Treasurer: Debi Bautista  
Registrar: Nancy Morton  
Library Director: Lori East

Education: Vacant  
Corresponding Secretary: Dee Baumann  
Newsletter Editor: Pixie Bolles  
Website Administrator: Ann Knight  
Immediate Past President: Pat Perry  
Ways and Means: Patti Williamson

#### ***Committee Chairs***

Hospitality: Brenda Hix  
Publicity: Cheryl Maddox  
Programs: Committee

Salt Lake City Trip: Kristine Childres  
Parliamentarian: Cynthia Doyle

***Directors at Large:*** Judy Coster and Michael Tuttle

***Gold Diggers*** is published bi-monthly by the Tuolumne County Genealogical Society  
for the benefit of the membership. There is no charge for *Gold Diggers*.

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