

CONNECTING WITH COUSINS: REUNIONS, ROAD TRIPS, AND ZOOM!  
MONTEREY COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY  
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## INTRODUCTION

Our cousins provide so much family history information. But traditional ways of connecting were suspended last year. Family reunions were cancelled. Road trips were postponed. Thank goodness for Zoom. Let's plan some real life connections with cousins. And if these plans are not meant to be in 2021, what about a virtual connection? Let's share ideas!

## WHY CONNECT WITH COUSINS?

Cousins have stories, maybe from a different point of view, another perspective.  
Their stories add to our stories and have details that we do not have.

Cousins help us develop our story. Isn't that an important part of our lives?  
We are all searching for our origin and for some meaning in our lives.

Family stories may be lost in three generations. Cousins help us preserve those stories.

## HOW DO COUSINS HELP US PULL OUR STORY TOGETHER?

They have....

Photographs

Family Bibles

Diaries, journals

Memorial Cards

Letters

And all kinds of other documents

Birth, marriage, and death certificates

Baptismal information

Wills

Deeds

Newspaper clippings  
Family Trees

Diahan Southard says that the initial connection is like a first date.

Don't share too much

Don't write too much

Just reach out and connect

SO LET'S CONNECT...

REUNIONS

STARTING POINTS

Create a family Facebook Page

Compile an email list

Decide on your expectations

Decide what you would like to organize...one day picnic or a 3 day extravaganza

Create a schedule

Design a flyer

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Make hotel reservations

Make special arrangements to accommodate the older folks

Scan photos

Develop a family tree

Share and tape stories

Create a book

Display memorabilia

Take a family photo (include larger and smaller family groups)

ROAD TRIPS

WHY A ROAD TRIP?

We may be able to meet our cousins.

When we visit the places where our ancestors lived, we connect with the ebb and flow of their lives.

We stand on the land where they lived, loved, laughed, cried and perhaps even died.

We become part of our ancestors' story and their story in turn becomes part of our story.

## EXPECTATIONS

Meet your cousins

Share your research

Tour where your ancestors lived...historical landmarks, cemeteries, land, houses, etc.

## PLANNING

Communicate with your cousins through letters, email and perhaps a phone call

Share possible dates and what you would like to see

Explore travel arrangements

Do the research before your trip

- Update your family tree

- Do your collateral and cluster research

- Get copies of the deeds

- Research the area where you are going (Family Search Wiki)

- Connect with local genealogical and historical societies and the public library

## BE PREPARED FOR SURPRISES

## ZOOM

Limit to 2 hours at most

Updates...what's new...introduce babies, newlyweds, etc.

Share a simple family tree

Share photos, heirlooms, recipes, or a story

Slideshow, movies

Games: Family Bingo, Scavenger Hunt, Board Game Arena...Gift certificate for the winner?

## OFF THE CHARTS...LET'S SHARE THOSE COUSIN STORIES

Third Wednesday of the Month, 1:30-3:30

Next Meeting March 17<sup>th</sup>

Please email me if you would like to join our Special Interest Group  
[knielsen68@gmail.com](mailto:knielsen68@gmail.com)