



Unlock Your Family's Past:

The 65th Anniversary New Mexico Genealogical Society Conference
17–18 October 2025 — CNM Space Solutions, Albuquerque, NM

Brochure



nmgs.org

New Mexico Genealogical Society

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Mission Statement

The Society aims to promote, develop, and encourage genealogical research, to preserve and perpetuate the records of ancestry and publish records, and to make genealogical and historical information available to all through publications, meetings, and workshops.

Membership

If you are not a member of NMGS, consider joining. To find out more, visit:
nmgs.org/membership-information.

Contributions

NMGS is a 501(c)3 organization. All contributions above and beyond annual dues qualify as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes.

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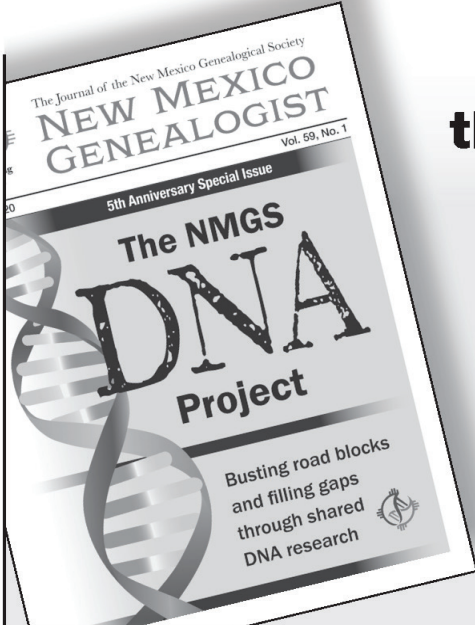
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Conference Policies

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President's Letter

Welcome to the 2025 New Mexico Genealogical Society Conference. We are passing two milestones. Not only is this the 65th anniversary of our founding, it is also the 10th anniversary of the NMGS DNA Project. As our Society moves forward, we invite you to join us and wish you luck as you “Unlock Your Family’s Past.”

Our conference will present both the best in standard “paper” and DNA-informed genealogy research. The air quotes around paper records is because so much paper research is actually online these days — at sites like FamilySearch that host billions of digitized paper records. Debbie Gertler will be here to walk us through this key website, as well as to help us understand how to separate genealogy from mythology. Yvette Cohn Stoor will explain the Library of Congress’ community collections Comanchitos Project. And that’s just the first day!

On Saturday, Henrietta Martinez Christmas will discuss the advisors and family of Juan Bautista de Anza’s expedition, outlining both the history of this expedition as well as the family connections between these men who ventured into the borderlands of New Spain. Then, Genevieve Chavez Mitchell will describe the process of molding your research, photographs, and family letters into a compelling narrative.

The rest of Saturday is devoted to DNA-enhanced research. Daria Celeste Landress will tell you how to use X-DNA analysis to break through your brick walls. Then, A. Lee Martinez, will talk about the prevalence of “non-paternal” events (that is, misattributed paternity) in New Mexico genealogy. Finally, a panel of the NMGS DNA Team (Henrietta Martinez Christmas, Daria Celeste Landress, A. Lee Martinez, and Miguel A. Tórrez) will answer your DNA questions.

This promises to be an excellent event for New Mexico researchers. I am so glad you will be joining us!

Enjoy the conference!

Jordan Jones
NMGS President

Schedule—Friday, 17 October 2025

- 9:00 a.m. **Jordan Jones**
Opening Remarks
- 9:15 a.m. **Debbie Gurtler, AG®**
“Genealogy or Mythology: You Decide!!”

Whether you have been researching for years or you are just getting started, there will be something for everyone. Learn how to research effectively for success and why and how to cite your sources. As you research, the FamilySearch Wiki should be a go-to tool, learn why. Lastly, if you are wondering how to check the accuracy of your family tree, FamilySearch has a new tool for you.
- 10:45 a.m. **Yvette Cohn Stoor**
“La Sangre Llama (The Blood Calls)”

Document living traditions for the Library of Congress through the Comanchitos project in New Mexico. Includes Yvette’s journey and discoveries.
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch — catered lunch from Garcia’s included with conference registration
- 1:00 p.m. **Debbie Gurtler, AG®**
“How Did You Find That!”

FamilySearch adds millions of records every year, are you finding everything you should? This class will highlight some different ways to search with lots of tips to make sure you leave no stone unturned in the search for your ancestors.
- 2:30 p.m. **Debbie Gurtler, AG®**
“What’s New on FamilySearch?”

FamilySearch is constantly evolving with tools and innovations to help enhance your family history research. These tools and new features are designed to help you discover, gather, and connect with your family in new and exciting ways.
- 4:00 p.m. Networking and wrap-up. Dinner on your own.

Schedule—Saturday, 18 October 2025

- 9:00 a.m. **Henrietta Martinez Christmas**
“Juan Bautista de Anza’s Retinue – Troncoso and Pérez Serrano. Soldiers and Settlers: Researching Colonial Military in the Spanish Borderlands”

A brief exploration of the advisors and family of Governor Anza, focusing on Vicente Troncoso and Francisco Pérez Serrano. This journey into New Mexico highlights their roles, family connections, and collaboration in military efforts.
- 10:30 a.m. **Genevieve Chavez Mitchell**
“Using Letters, Photos and Stories to Share Your Family History”

Uncover your family’s rich and fascinating past by bringing together cherished photos, heartfelt letters, and captivating stories for each of your known ancestors.
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch — Box lunch from Hello Deli included with conference registration. Music by Jordan Wax.
- 1:00 p.m. **Daria Celeste Landress**
“Break Through Your Genealogy Brick Walls with X-DNA Analysis”

Struggling with dead ends in your family research? X-chromosome DNA holds unique clues that can solve your most challenging genealogical puzzles. Daria makes complex X-chromosome analysis simple and understandable. Learn effective, practical techniques to dig deeper into your maternal and paternal lines.
- 2:15 p.m. **A. Lee Martinez**
“The Prevalence of Non-Paternal Events in NM”

Use Y-DNA and clade association to confirm lineages and overcome research obstacles.
- 3:30 p.m. **Henrietta M. Christmas, Daria Landress, Lee Martinez, & Miguel A. Tórriz**
“Open Session with the NMGS DNA Team”

Audience-led discussion answering your DNA-related genealogy questions.
- 4:15 p.m. **Annual Meeting**

Speaker Biographies



Henrietta M. Christmas began her passion for genealogy as a teenager, cleaning cemeteries with her grandparents. A past president of the New Mexico Genealogical Society (NMGS), she has served on numerous committees for over 25 years. In 2021, His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain awarded her the *Encomienda de Isabel la Católica* for strengthening ties between the United States and Spain. Her current work focuses on colonial military history in the Borderlands and on the NMGS DNA Project.



Debbie Gurtler, AG® is the Assistant Director of the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. She holds a B.A. in Family History from Brigham Young University and is an Accredited Genealogist® in five regions: U.S. Mid-South, Spain, Mexico, Portugal, and Chile. Fluent in Spanish, Debbie spent five years in South America. She frequently lectures on Hispanic genealogy at both local and national events. An Arizona native, she is also a mother of three and grandmother of six.



Daria Celeste Landress: A long-time member of the New Mexico Genealogical Society (NMGS) and board member, she is one of the administrators and lineage validators for the NMGS DNA Project, where she has developed a deep passion for genetic genealogy. Her research focuses on Colonial New Mexico families, integrating traditional genealogical methods with genetic data, particularly Y-DNA and mtDNA testing. In addition, Daria serves as a research associate with Native Bound Unbound, contributing to the development of a centralized digital repository documenting the histories of enslaved Indigenous people across the Americas.



Dr. A. Lee Martinez: Raised in Española, New Mexico, Dr. Lee Martinez was introduced to genealogy early in life. His parents were local LDS family history librarians, and he had access to the latest research tools of the time—like microfiche. His roots in the Española Valley connect him to historic colonial sites such as San Gabriel, Santa Cruz, Chimayó, and Santa Fe. As a Boy Scout, he conducted field research at the Morada in Llano Largo, guided by genealogists from Salt Lake City. In high school, he earned extra credit for submitting a pedigree chart—so extensive that his teacher may have regretted the offer! Though he says he wasn't a strong writer then, he still earned an A grade. A common experience, if you do enough research, is that eventually you will end up hitting an adobe wall. So, Lee was delighted when he discovered the wonders of DNA. Lee is passionate about sharing how to leverage Y-DNA to break through those adobe walls, validate family trees built through traditional methods, and learn more about the migration history of our ancestors.



Genevieve Chavez Mitchell is an author, photographer, and proud matriarch of a large New Mexican family. A longtime member of the New Mexico Genealogical Society, she has spent more than 25 years preserving her family's letters, photos, and stories. She values citations, but she admits to loving family stories and images most of all.



Yvette Cohn Stoor is a lifelong native of New Mexico. She has conducted extensive research on her family's diverse history within New Mexico. Her father, a native of Northern New Mexico, is of German-Jewish, Irish, and Spanish descent. Her mother, a native of New Mexico's Rio Abajo region, has roots that run deep in New Mexico with Spanish / Native American (Genizaro) lineage. Her family has documented lineage back fifteen generations in New Mexico.

In 2024, the Library of Congress American Folklife Center awarded her a grant to document contemporaries keeping up traditions in New Mexico. The project, "Sustaining and Reclaiming Cultural Danzas: Passing Down Tradition in Small Villages of New Mexico," concluded in February 2025. Over 250 objects, encompassing filmed events, interviews, supporting documents, and transcripts, were submitted for inclusion in the Library of Congress's permanent collection. The traditions documented centered on the Danza de Los Matachines in the East Mountains, the Comanchitos de Sandia, and the Comanches de La Serna in Ranchos de Taos.

Yvette has written and published articles for the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society, New Mexico Genealogical Society, and the Albuquerque Genealogical Society. She served on the board of the New Mexico Genealogical Society as chairperson for the Primeras Familias de Nuevo Mexico. She currently serves as the land grant genealogist for La Merced de Cañon de Carnué.