



A Special One Day Genealogy Seminar with Jamie Lee McManus Mayhew, PLCGS

About Jamie Lee McManus Mayhew

Jamie is the heart and soul behind California Cousins, where genealogical puzzles meet their match. Jamie's adventure into the annals of history began as a teenager, not in dusty old archives, but in the cozy corners of her living room, with her mother as her first mentor. Together, they navigated the labyrinth of census records and pored over ancient tomes, their pages whispering secrets from the past.

Fast forward five decades, and Jamie's childhood curiosity has blossomed into a lifelong quest.

In 2010, she channeled this fervor into founding California Cousins. In her role at California Cousins, Jamie applies her extensive expertise to uncover family histories and piece together narratives once lost in the shadows of time. Her work transcends the traditional scope of genealogy; it's about connecting the dots of the past, bringing to light the stories and legacies that shape families, one discovery at a time.

Whether you're a history buff, a mystery lover, or someone yearning to connect with your roots, Jamie Lee McManus Mayhew is your go-to guide in the enchanting world of genealogy.

**Door prize drawings
will take place
throughout the day!**

WHEN:

Saturday, July 25, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. PDT

WHERE:

Virtual on Zoom

For more information:

www.gsnocc.org
gsnocc@gmail.com

Registration:

Paid online or received by July 23
\$30 Members
\$40* Non-members

* Includes GSNOCC membership
7/26/26 through 12/31/2026

Space is limited.

Presented by:

Genealogical Society
of North Orange County, CA

A non-profit 501(c)(3)

Door Prizes:

The first 25 people to register
will be entered into an additional
drawing for a gift worth \$25.

Door prizes will be drawn
throughout the day.

Seminar Schedule

9:00am Zoom meeting doors open

9:30am Announcements (Class starts immediately after)

9:30am: Homesteading that Little House on the Prairie

Explores the real stories behind the pioneer myth, separating romance from reality on the 19th-century American frontier. Through land records, homestead applications, maps, and family narratives, this presentation reveals what it truly took to claim, prove up, and survive on 160 acres under the Homestead Act. We'll look at daily life, legal requirements, women homesteaders, failures as well as successes, and how these records can transform your family history research. Whether your ancestors built sod houses or simply dreamed of free land, this talk brings the prairie—and its paper trail—to life.

10:45am Morning Break

11:00am: Utilize the tools within Ancestry.com to analyze your DNA

Explores how to move beyond match lists and ethnicity estimates to truly interpret your results. In this session, you'll learn how to use features such as DNA Matches, Shared Matches, ThruLines®, and family tree integration to identify common ancestors, evaluate hypotheses, and break through brick walls. Whether you are new to genetic genealogy or ready to dig deeper, this presentation will show you practical, step-by-step strategies to turn your Ancestry DNA results into meaningful family history discoveries.

Noon Lunch Break

1:00pm: Extra, Extra! Decoding the Social History in Newspapers for Genealogical Insight

Explores how historical newspapers reveal the rich social context behind our ancestors' lives. Beyond obituaries and vital notices, newspapers capture community gossip, court cases, land sales, school events, business ventures, illnesses, migrations, and everyday triumphs and tragedies. This presentation demonstrates how to mine these stories for clues about relationships, status, occupations, economic conditions, and local culture—transforming isolated names and dates into vivid, fully contextualized family narratives. Attendees will learn where to find newspapers, practical search strategies within those papers, and source evaluation techniques.

2:00pm Afternoon Break

2:15pm: Collaborate and Conquer: Utilizing FamilySearch's Community and Wiki

Explores how genealogists can move beyond solitary research and tap into the collective power of the global FamilySearch network. This session demonstrates how to ask effective research questions, share discoveries, and solve brick walls using the Community forums, while also leveraging the FamilySearch Research Wiki to uncover locality guides, record explanations, and step-by-step strategies. Attendees will learn practical techniques for combining crowd-sourced expertise with authoritative guidance to accelerate their research, avoid common pitfalls, and build stronger, more accurate family histories through collaboration.

Final prize drawings after last class

Register online at gsnocc.org OR

Make check payable to GSN OCC and mail with this portion of the form to:

GSNOCC, PO Box 706, Yorba Linda, CA 92885-0706 • *Registration must be received by July 23, 2026*

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Email (*required*) _____

Quantity:

Current GSN OCC Member \$30 _____

Non-Member (Includes GSN OCC membership 7/26/26 through 12/31/2026) \$40 _____

Total Submitted \$ _____