



# Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

January 2025

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 41, No. 1

## January Meeting & Program

Saturday, January 18, 2025

**Location: First Presbyterian Church, State & Constance, SB**

### Coincidence or Divine Collaboration?

**Speaker: Dr. Larry Basham**



As we do genealogy, we sometimes are surprised by coincidences which help us discover an ancestor or learn more about them. Is it really a coincidence or divine guidance? Do you ever feel you are being helped by them because they want to be remembered? In this presentation, Dr. Basham will recall how he and two distant cousins were working independently to honor their common patriot ancestor, unaware of each other's efforts. Was it a coincidence which brought them together to restore an old family cemetery, honor their ancestor with a joint DAR/SAR ceremony and have a Basham family reunion attended by descendants from all over the country? Come and hear how this was accomplished and you decide – coincidence or divinely guided collaboration?

Dr. Larry Basham, DDS, is currently the Outreach Speaker Co-ordinator for the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. He was born and raised in Taft, CA. After attending UCSB and the Univ. of Pacific Dental School in San Francisco, he began his dental practice in Santa Barbara in 1974 and retired in 2015. He has been married to his wife, Julie, for 53 years and they have five children and five grandchildren. Larry inherited his mother's passion for genealogy and has been doing research for over 35 years. Since his retirement, he has served on staff and is currently Director of the Santa Barbara FamilySearch Center located at 2107 Santa Barbara St. and teaches classes there on a variety of genealogy topics, specializing in the use of FamilySearch.org genealogy software program. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, an independent member of Evalogue.Life Professional Writers Network and is currently helping people save their family stories through his business, Forever Yours Life Stories.com.

**Dr. Basham will be speaking live in-person  
at the First Presbyterian Church, State & Constance,  
and broadcasting on Zoom**

Special Interest Groups meet in person only at 9:30 - 10:25  
Meeting and speaker will be in person and on Zoom: 10:30 - 11:00

**Only Zoom attendees are required to register.**

<https://tinyurl.com/3k8a5zsp>

**See you on Saturday, January 18, 2025**

### January Calendar

Use URL to find links to  
these events

[https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/  
calendar/#!calendar](https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!calendar)

#### Library Reopens

January 7, 2025

#### Scanning Workshop - Register Now

Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 10:00 am

We have added a new flatbed for photos, slides, and negative, a new FastFoto by Epson for stacks of snapshots, and a Kodak slide and negative scanner.

#### Zoom Lunch and Learn

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 12:00 pm

#### DNA Lunch & Learn

##### Zoom Only

Friday, January 17, 2025, 12:00 pm

#### Monthly Program and Meeting

January 18, 2025, 10:30am

#### Webinar Watch Party

January 21, 2025, 1:30 pm

#### Webinar Wednesday: Introduction to the California Pioneer Certificate Program

January 22, 2025, 7:00 pm

#### Crowdsourced Brickwall Research Assistance

January 28, 2025, 12:00 pm

#### Member Orientation

Saturday, February 1, 2025, 10:00 am

#### First Thursday Lunch and Learn

February 6, 2025, 12:00 pm

#### Educational Opportunities - Other Organizations

#### Classes at Santa Barbara FamilySearch Center, 2107 Santa Barbara St.

**January 8th**, 10-11am Using the Source Linker on FamilySearch (Larry Basham)  
11am - 4pm: Individual Research & Help

**January 15th**, 10am to 4pm, Individual Research and Help

**January 22nd**, 10-11am Understanding Source Tagging on FamilySearch (Terry Marks)  
11am to 4pm: Individual Research and Help

**January 29th**, 10am to 4pm, Individual Research & Help

## President's Message

by Ted Tazer-Myers



Happy New Year Members and Friends!

I trust you that you have made all the appropriate new year's resolutions and we will be seeing some genealogists with a sparkle in their eye at the Sahyun Library and other gatherings during the coming weeks. I did not make a fitness resolution, by the way; I have too much of a sweet tooth! However, I have pledged to my wife that I will try to be a more equipoised human being. We shall

see.

Speaking of Nancy, we are currently staying at the Colonial Inn in Concord, Massachusetts during the first week of January. No, this isn't a ski vacation. I must confess that I started pining for a breath of cold winter air a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving and New England called to me. There isn't any snow on the ground here, though. Chalk that up to climate change, apparently, but it is still suitably chilly and we are having a good time.

Like any good genealogist, we started the trip by exploring Sleepy Hollow Cemetery (no headless horsemen, but plenty of famous names like Emerson, Thoreau, and Alcott). Later, after a tasty Yankee lunch at a local café, we strolled hand-in-hand around Walden Pond. The latter achievement earned us free "First Day Hikes" beanies from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation. We didn't go crazy and dive in the "pond" for a swim, though there were plenty of pink bodies that did!

Tomorrow we are touring Boston with Bob, a 3rd cousin of mine who is a guide for the city's historic trolley tours. I found him a couple of years ago through Ancestry.com, we DNA matched, and he treated us to free tickets. Great guy! We will also be meeting up with another relative, Chris, in West Concord on the following day. Chris is a long-lost 3rd cousin from Nancy's maternal side (MacKinnon) whose great-grandmother ventured down to the Boston area from Nova Scotia. Nancy was taken completely by surprise to learn that any of her maternal relatives immigrated to the United States from the homelands of Nova Scotia and Alberta. Her family felt quite isolated from the extended family after a forced transfer to Los Angeles from Calgary in November, 1963. It will be interesting to see if members of this MacKinnon branch felt the same way. But, enough of me. How about the Society?

2024 was a terrific year for us. A reinvigorated development program partnered with Technology, Education, the Sahyun Library and special benefactors to secure upgrades in our technology that have paid immediate dividends in course offerings, outreach exhibits, Family History Month, and enhanced member research and archival projects.

Development has also exceeded our 2024-25 budget goal for the Annual Appeal (more on that from Mary Jacob later) and completed a successful first phase campaign for the Memorial Patio & Garden (kudos to Fred Marsh for moving that project along). The property looks great and the Victorian got all dressed up for Christmas! Finally, a shout out to our fantastic Ancestors West

team who continue to produce interesting and inspiring content in an eye-catching layout. Thanks to Charmien Carrier, her editorial team, and all the writers who contributed articles and images as a labor of love. Even Nancy couldn't take her eyes away from the current issue the other day when she had a million other "things to do" to get ready for the trip.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and in memory of the terrific Honors Luncheon that kicked off our holiday season, I salute the work of the Society's volunteers in 2024 and look forward to seeing what exciting initiatives will emerge in 2025. May the new year bring you joy, success, and cherished moments with your real and virtual family members!

## A Note From Our Librarian

by Laurie Hannah, Library Director

### HELP WANTED!

### Volunteer Opportunities in the Sahyun Library

Library volunteers, old and new, we especially could use your help filling in some gaps in our library schedule for 2025. We like to have at least three volunteers available for each shift, in case someone is out sick or on vacation. If you were a library volunteer before the pandemic and would like to come back and join us this year, we could really use your help too! We will be happy to update you on daily duties, new technology in the library, new genealogy resources, and the alarm system.

The shifts below have adequate coverage, but we prefer at least one more person for each.

#### Shifts available:

**2nd Tuesday 10-1	**4th Tuesday 10-1
3rd Thursday 10-1	4th Thursday 10-1
3rd Saturday (after general meeting 1-4)	
1st Sunday 1-4	3rd Sunday 1-4
**Especially need someone for these shifts	

Please contact **Ann Dwelley** at [camagagram@yahoo.com](mailto:camagagram@yahoo.com) or **Laurie Hannah** at [Sahyunlibrary@sbgen.org](mailto:Sahyunlibrary@sbgen.org) if you are interested.

### Digitized Periodicals Project — Data Entry Volunteer

We need a detail-oriented person with good computer skills to help us fix errors and organize our periodical pdf files that are located on our library network. You can work on this either in the library during open hours or at home. As little as 2 hours per week would help us tremendously to finish this big project! Please contact Laurie Hannah to learn more about the project: [Sahyunlibrary@sbgen.org](mailto:Sahyunlibrary@sbgen.org).

## Development Committee

Mary Jacob, Development Director

You may recall from prior issues of Tree Tips this Fall, appeals for funding to enhance our educational display systems. We are happy to report that we secured all of the necessary funds (approximately \$20,000) to complete this project. Here's what we did with those funds, all of which were raised apart from membership dues.

We purchased portable display equipment (including a touchscreen computer) as well as a mobile hotspot which we immediately put to use for our booth at the Independence Day event at Stow House, showing visitors a preview of how to look up and research their ancestral connections.

In preparation for installing the Clip Rail Display Hanging System within the Sahyun Library, we also painted the Jackson Community Conference Room.

We completed the purchase and installation of the technology

equipment (including webcams to improve audio and visual virtual communications, and computers with wireless features to facilitate streaming), in time for the Sahyun Library's Open House Event for Family History Month. In addition to the wall and stand displays, visitors were delighted with the interactive touchscreen display to explore the countries of their family origins. We also ran a perpetual slide loop on the new large screen TV, using wireless components purchased through donated funds.

Thanks to all who helped design the project, identify the required budget, secure the funding, donate to the fund (including the lead grant from the Williams Corbett Foundation), coordinate the purchases/installation/painting, and otherwise support the realization of this project. This was a very efficient and successful example of teamwork to support our organization and its service to its members and the broader community!



SMART TV in Jackson Room



Portable touchscreen computer



Clip Rail display system

## Book Nook News

by Kristin Ingalls



### New BookNook Acquisition

The Book Nook has two acid free archival boxes now available at a greatly reduced price! They measure 16 x 16 x 6 inches.

**Sale Price** not \$35, not \$25....yours for only \$15.00 apiece. (cat and book extra---willing to negotiate a good price for all three!)

Contact Kristin Ingalls at [antkap@cox.net](mailto:antkap@cox.net)

## New Special Interest Group

by Sharon Summer



### Online Writing Class

You are invited to attend our monthly online Writing class! We meet every month on the third Wednesday of the month for an hour at 10:00 a.m. We discuss genealogy writing, ask questions, get ideas from others, learn how others do it, get tips and encouragement. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. See you there.

#### Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81254208700>



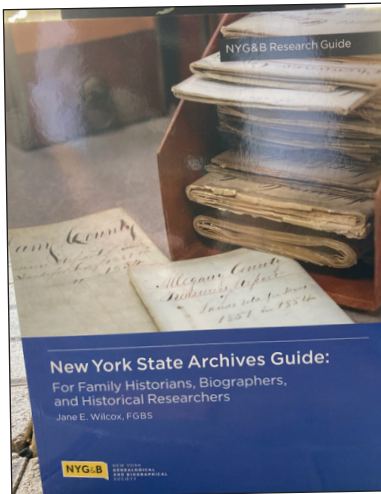
## Books at the Sahyun by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair

New Year – New books! The book committee is pleased to announce that we have gotten in some wonderful new books over the holiday break that are on the cart to be cataloged and will be ready for your next library visit.

Dr. Roger Minert, who writes the on-going series of state-to-state thorough research books, *German Immigrants in American Church Records*, surprised us with December delivery of his latest 2 volumes. These records focus on Wisconsin, most particularly Milwaukee. We have been diligent to always purchase Minert's books and we have all forty-four of them in our collection.



Just before we rang in the new year, the library ordered a wonderful new resource published by the prestigious New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. It is *New York State Archives Guide: For Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Researchers*. New York deservedly has the reputation as being one of the most challenging states for doing genealogical research. It did not keep vital records until late in the nineteenth century and some of its richest and significant records remain unpublished. Its colonial era manorial land system was complex and unlike that of any other colony. To have any hope of overcoming these challenges, genealogists must study and master the various archival sources in New York and find records that may not be

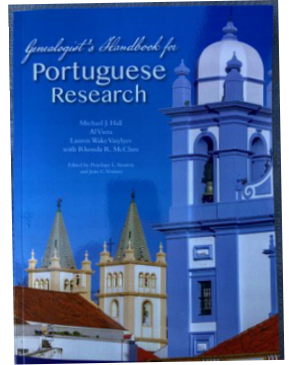


in print or online. The State Archives is key to that effort. The Society writer who compiled this book, breaks down the diverse collection held by the archives and guides one on finding aids and how to access and request records in-person and remotely. It is chock-full of 492 pages that command a bit of a higher purchase price, so I would call on any of you New York researchers to consider throwing the book committee a few dollars towards it, if you feel so inclined.

Do you have a county or area your family comes from but find our library doesn't have any resources from there? **Cathy Jordan** saw that gap on the county in Kansas where her mother hails from and so generously donated a book on **Decatur County, Kansas**. Within its pages is a comprehensive history as well as wonderful photos of the county and its people, and, best of all, a large chapter of family-submitted genealogies and histories. It is currently the ONLY book we have on that county, and we are very happy to be the holding receptacle for it, and for her to share it with all our library patrons. Cathy has another book she is donating to us this

month. Watch for a book review of it in the next Tree Tips issue.

Any of you doing Portuguese research? Or how about we volunteer librarians who might find ourselves helping someone who comes in to our library to research their Portuguese roots - and we need some guidelines and hints on that area? The library just purchased the newly-published *Handbook for Portuguese Research*, published by the very reputable New England Historic Genealogical Society (American Ancestors).



There are lots of other wonderful resources to check out in the Sahyun this new year, and we look forward to your library visit and we encourage and welcome suggestions for other genealogy books for our collection.

Here are the books from the **New In The Library Shelf**:

*Handbook for Portuguese Research*

*Genealogist's New York State Archives Guide: For Family Historians, Biographers, and Historical Researchers*

*Decatur County, Kansas*

*German Immigrants in American Church Records*

*The 72nd New York Infantry in the Civil War – A History and Roster*

We want to thank the following generous donors:

**Cathy Jordan    Judy Sahn    Terry Dalke**

**Ancestors West News**  
Charmien Carrier, Editor

**Deadline and Theme Reminders:**

February 1, 2025 — Survival Stories

May 1, 2025 — Remarkable Achievements

August 1, 2025 — Ancestors Schooling and Education

October 15, 2025 — Family Legends and Mysteries

### Land Acknowledgment Statement

“The land on which many of us live and where our library is located is part of the ancient homeland and traditional territory of the Chumash people. We recognize and respect the Chumash Peoples past, present, and future and their continuing presence in their homeland as we join in stewarding this land which we all cherish.”

## Membership Spotlight

Kate Lima, Membership Chair

### NEW MEMBERS in November:

Laurie Corson  
Robert Mark  
Karen Monkman



### RETURNING MEMBER

Gerald Leyva

I'd like to extend a big, happy thank you to our continuing members who renewed in December.

Thank you, we're glad you're here!

### **A TOAST TO THE NEW YEAR, 2025**

What resolutions, if any, have you made? Do any include ancestry research? I am pulling some ideas from a past Tree Tip piece, written by previous Membership Director Molly Gleason. I've changed it up a bit but her words bear repeating...

### **Resolutions for Members**

I will...

1. Request help from a Coach if I am having trouble getting started with my research or if I run into a brick wall. I will go to the SBCGS website and click on "Members" area then "Coaches for Members" from the sidebar of the home page. Or I will contact the Coach Coordinator, Kathy Cremeen, at [kajcremeen@gmail.com](mailto:kajcremeen@gmail.com).
2. Visit the webinar archive on our website to watch at least one presentation.
3. Share an interesting genealogy discovery I have made. I will write a story for "Ancestors West."
4. Go to the website for information about upcoming meetings, webinars, and classes. (Members and non-members will need to register for events shown on the website "Events Calendar" – including the Monthly Meeting via Zoom – unless otherwise noted.)
5. Ask for help if I have trouble renewing my membership. I will send an email to [membership@sbgen.org](mailto:membership@sbgen.org)
6. Volunteer for one or more functions, or help at the library.

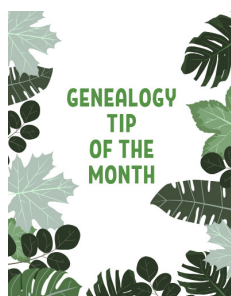
### **NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

**Saturday, February 1, 2025, 10am-12noon**



*Save the date and please register!  
Registration begins on January 6.*

We will have a presentation, a tour of the library and then we will check out some software that's available on our computers. This is available to new members and anyone else who wants to jump back into their research.



### **Genealogy Tip of the Month:**

*From [genealogytipoftheday.com](http://genealogytipoftheday.com), January 9, 2020 (Michael John Neill)*

Choose a year that several of your ancestors are living and where you have a reasonable ability to determine where they were living. Then determine two or more significant historical events that took place during that year. Try and find events that were both national and local in nature.

Where were all your relatives living during this year. How do you? How sure are you of their residence?

### **Trip to Salt Lake City**

Our society will once again visit the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. We'll head over for the week of April 27 – May 4, 2025 (Sunday-Sunday). You can stay longer or shorter than this, depending on your schedule. The rate will be the same regardless of how many days you stay: \$108 for a standard room and \$118 for a deluxe.



If you're interested please contact Rich Williams at the Plaza Hotel to secure a room, 801-521-0130. And don't forget to email me at [membership@sbgen.org](mailto:membership@sbgen.org) so I can put you on our list. I hope you can join us!

### **VOLUNTEER THANK YOU!**

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who work so hard at the Sayhun as well as behind the scenes. The number of volunteers on hand is precariously low, and people have taken up the slack with a remarkable can-do attitude. Thank you all so much.

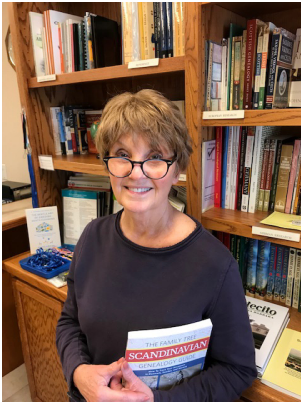
I look forward to hearing from you! Please contact me at [membership@sbgen.org](mailto:membership@sbgen.org) with your questions, comments, and suggestions.

Cheers! Kate

## Volunteer Spotlight featuring Kristin Ingalls

This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks Kristin Ingalls, a member since 1999. Kristin has held multiple jobs for the society; she currently serves as chair of the Aesthetics committee, Book Nook Grand Poobah, Library Volunteer, etc. I've had the privilege of working with Kristin so often, and she's loved by so many at the library. I'm pleased to share her story here.

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I have a little secret to share with you all. I get a whole lot more out of volunteering than I give. When I first retired about 25 years ago, I decided I would become a professional volunteer. I joined lots of local places, but... know what? The Sahyun Library is the only place where I still look forward to being at.

I did not intend to become a Library volunteer; I did not even know there was a genealogy society or library.

My sister had been researching our family and told me we had a third cousin in Santa Barbara, Judy Johnson. I attended my first monthly meeting here to meet Judy and later went to the library where I met a volunteer, Emily Aasted, who also turned out to be a cousin. Well, shucky darn, this was fun! I spent years reading, mostly about colonial history, adding names to my ancestral chart, going to visit where they lived, taking flowers to their final resting places.

At the Library I found lots of help and lots of information and then... at a monthly meeting it was announced that the Membership Committee needed someone to keep track of volunteer hours. That sounded easy, so I shot up my hand and suddenly I had a whole bushel of new friends. Hint: Say yes at a meeting and you will be the most popular person in the room.

From there my involvement just grew and grew and soon I found myself at the library every week and saying YES a lot. I just loved everything about our society.

I was part of the Membership Committee for a few years, and then Emily Aasted wanted to retire from selling books at meetings and the library. Now it is true I love my books, buying them, selling them, talking about them – it just makes me so happy to see my treasures going to a good home. This was not work really, just doing my hobby. Again, the person-to-person part of this job is the real reward.

Being Board secretary was fun – you hear all the backstories and gossip. But they started kind of early in the morning; so glad I did it, glad I got that merit badge out of the way. I was asked to join the Aesthetics Committee only because I was taking it upon myself to decorate, make signs, move things, and they thought I would be easier to control me if I was part of a group. Not sure that worked, but I still like making things pretty.

“Ancestors West” was more of a challenge than I anticipated. (Oh my gosh, I had to buy a book on grammar, punctuation, and rules

of writing!) What made it all worthwhile was getting to know all our writers and contributors and my fellow editors. A mistake or two did slip by, reminding me that I am not perfect after all!

What I love the most is helping others do their research! When a new person comes in, I practically knock other volunteers out of the way to get to be the one to help them. So much has changed in the ancestor search world over these last decades, and now we look soooo smart to a new beginner. They are amazed at what we can find in such a short time. I hope they stay as excited about genealogy as I have been. I am still as hooked on research as I was all those years ago when I came to my first meeting and wandered into the library the first time.

The best part of our library, the reason we are a success – it's the people. What is it that makes our library so special that we attract and keep such smart, fun, talented, dedicated people? Is it magic? Sometimes I think so. I have gained what Anne of Green Gables calls “Bosom Friends” or “Kindred Spirits.”

I am so fortunate to have found my group of kindred spirits. It is a rare thing to connect with people who share a common interest who are also wonderful to hang out with. I just want you all to know how much you mean to me.

So, would you like some new best friends, fun buddies, interesting pals? Raise your hand and say “Yes!” Come in and join the Happy Volunteers!!!

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### Ralphs Community Donation Program



One of the ways in which Ralph's partners with the neighborhoods in which they serve, is through the Ralph's Community Contribution Program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Ralphs and swipe your Shopper's Card. Details here:

<https://www.ralphs.com/i/community/community-contribution-program>

<https://sbgen.org/donate/#!/form/Development>



## Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

Happy New Year and Lunar New Year (January 29)! This year will be a year of exhibits. First, we will have an exhibit on the 1925 Santa Barbara earthquake sharing family stories and pictures during and after the earthquake. Then we will have our next large cultural exhibit, Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories, later in the year. Read below for more information.

We are also partnering with the Santa Barbara Asian American and Pacific Islander Solidarity Network (connected with the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation). There will be an immersive display for Lunar New Year's at the El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park January 31st and February 1st at 6:30pm. They will be projecting large videos on the walls of the Presidio with photographs of early Chinatown in Santa Barbara with current pictures as well as family memories of celebrating Lunar New Year. There will also be Lion dancers to kick off the celebration. We have shared our Santa Barbara AAPI exhibit as well as our online database of local records on the Society's website with the Network. Seeing the photos enlarged on a wall transforms the space as if you are in the picture yourself. Get a glimpse of old Chinatown in Santa Barbara like you have never had before.

Stop by if you can!

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### 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake Centennial Exhibit- June 2025



We are excited to be part of the centennial commemoration coming up this year in June! There will be an event put together by EQ25 end of June! SBCGS will have a table at this event plus have our own display at Sahyun Library that will be open to the public. Stay informed by visiting EQ25.org and following their social media- Facebook: EQ25 and Instagram: @EQ25\_SB.

We are accepting family stories about the earthquake and/or the aftermath and high-resolution scanned photographs until April 20.

Please contact Outreach@sbgen.org if you have anything to contribute or can put us in touch with someone whose family lived in Santa Barbara in 1925. Thank you to all who have participated so far!

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### Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories Exhibit, September 2025



A steering committee has been formed consisting of community members, historians, exhibit participants, SBCGS members, and two members from Outreach (Holly Snyder and Mary Hancock). This committee will set parameters for the exhibit scope, explore and plan for display and programming possibilities, community partnership opportunities, and help promote the exhibit.

Outreach will also need help with interviewing families, research, assisting with writing some biographies, and editing. Interested in helping?

Please contact us at Outreach@sbgen.org.

*(Photo courtesy of Yolanda Perez)*

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### Speaking Engagements in the Community



Outside groups can request a visit and/or tour here:

<https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/reservation-request/>

Please share the link to anyone who may be interested.

Has your group already had a talk with Larry, but would be interested in a follow up talk or a workshop style activity?

We can do that too!



# Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

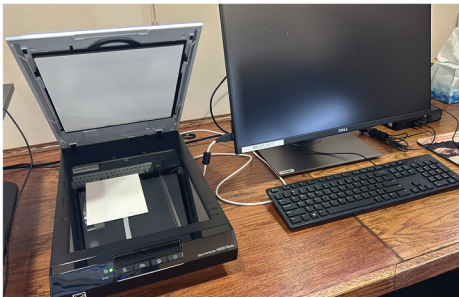
## SBCGS Has New Scanners!

We recently received a generous donation to purchase three new scanners including a new flatbed for photos, slides, and negatives; a new FastFoto by Epson for stacks of snapshots; and a Kodak slide and negative scanner.

**Scanning Workshop**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 2025**  
**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Sahyun Genealogical Library**  
**316 Castillo Street, SB**  
<https://tinyurl.com/3unxu4dy>



**REGISTER NOW:** <https://tinyurl.com/3unxu4dy>



**L:** Epson V600 flatbed photo scanner with slide and negative scanning capability

**R:** Clear Click Video and audio converting device, currently set up to convert VHS tapes but can also do audio



**L:** Fujitsu SV600 Book Scanner

**R:** Epson FastFoto for scanning print photos quickly and easily



**L:** Kodak slide and negative scanner, easy to use, excellent quality and very fast

**R:** Large format flatbed photo/document scanner, also has capability to do slides and negatives





**SAN DIEGO  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY**  
EST. 1946



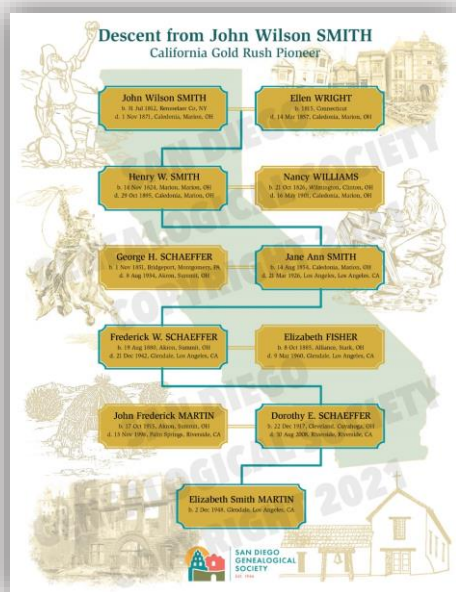
## San Diego Genealogical Society Launches California Pioneer Certificate Program

Date: May 2023

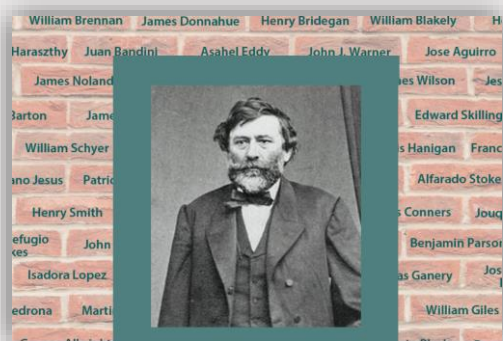
Contact: Colin Whitney, SDGS Educational Programs,  
[pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com](mailto:pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com)



California Pioneer Certificate



Lineage Chart



California Pioneer Certificate

The San Diego Genealogical Society presents the California Pioneer Certificate Program honoring early pioneers who helped shape the state of California. The program is designed to assist those researching their California roots and issue formal acknowledgment of their ancestors to the development of California.

On the SDGS website, the California Pioneer Honor Wall was created to highlight the contribution early pioneers made to the development of California. Here, entry portals provide organized access to a searchable database containing more than 400,000 eligible California pioneers, along with biographical, genealogical, and historical information. The database consolidates pertinent records to aid research and is continually updated as new information becomes available. Additional genealogical and historical resources and finding aids are also provided. Each brick in the Honor Wall contains eligible pioneers' names and includes photos, biographies, and events.

Those interested in recognizing their descent from early California pioneers are encouraged to complete an application. Supporting documentation submitted must show their ancestor was associated with one or more of the four following California historical events:

- California's Admission of Statehood (1850)
- The Gold Rush (1848-1860)
- The San Francisco earthquake (1906)
- California Mission period (before 1850)

Upon verification of submitted documentation, applicants will be issued a Certificate of Authenticity and Lineage Chart showing the pioneer's relationship to the applicant.

Membership to the San Diego Genealogy Society is not required to participate in this certificate program. The application and instructions are available in the Member Resources section of the SBCGS website.