



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

April 2025

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 41, No. 4

April Program

“What About Our Criminal Ancestors?”

Speaker: Michelle Custer Bates

Saturday, April 19, 2025, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, State & Constance, SB



What About Our Criminal Ancestors?

Speaker:

Michelle Custer Bates

Michelle Bates, is a professional genealogist and speaker who specializes in criminal ancestors and probate heirship work. She is the creator and host of **The Criminal Genealogist** podcast, the market-

ing manager for Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy committee, board member and newsletter editor for the Tulsa Genealogy Society and serves on a committee for the Association of Professional Genealogists. During the day, she works as a criminal paralegal at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Oklahoma. Her genealogy business, My Genealogy Roots, works with attorneys on probate cases finding living legal heirs. Coming in Fall 2025 is the Criminal Genealogist Academy! Season 3 of The Criminal Genealogist podcast is in the works, and seasons 1 & 2 can be found on your favorite podcast app. Reach out at thecriminalgenealogist@gmail.com.

**Michelle Custer Bates 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.

sbgen.org

Hope to see you on Saturday, April 19, 2025

Evening Hours at the Sahyun by Laurie Hannah, Library Director

Starting Tuesday April 1, 2025, and continuing through October, the library will be **open on the first Tuesday of the month from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm**. Library volunteers will be on hand to help in their usual capacity. We hope that providing extra hours in the day will give working folks the opportunity to visit the library during the week. We have over 20,000 books and periodicals and 8 online databases to provide you with a world of genealogical information!

First Weeks in April Calendar

Use URL to find links to
these events & REGISTER

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

Genealogy Tech Talk

Hybrid

Hosts: Robin McCarthy and Judy Thompson

Sunday, April 6, 2025, 1:30 pm

This month, Robin will discuss browser shortcuts, tabs, collections, and the PrintFriendly and One-Tab browser extensions. Registration required for ALL attendees.

Introduction to UCSB Library Special Collections Research - Hybrid

Thurs, April 10, 2025, 11:00 am

Led by Laura Jean Treat Liebhaber and Angel Diaz

Designed to equip SBCGS members with the knowledge and tools needed to access and utilize these collections. Registration is required for ALL attendees.

Genealogy 101

ZOOM ONLY!

Thursday, April 10, 2025, 1:00 pm

Jean Foster will cover research tips, resources, and questions. Bring your questions! You can also email your questions in advance to Jean.

Registration is required.

President's Message

by Edward Tazer-Myers



Genealogy vs. Family History: How the Society Can Help You Get Started

Genealogy and family history are closely related, but they have some key differences. Genealogy focuses on tracing your lineage and constructing a family tree—identifying names, dates, and relationships. Family history goes a step further, weaving in stories, historical context, and personal details to paint a richer, more complete picture of your ancestors' lives.

In this month's column, I'll explore how the Society can support community members in pursuing their genealogy goals.

At first glance, building your family tree seems straightforward. The primary task is to fill in the blanks on a family group sheet or pedigree chart—recording names, and dates and places of birth, marriage, and death. Easy-peasy, right? Well, not quite.

What happens when you don't know who one or more of your biological parents or grandparents are? And even if you do, what if they lack information about their own families—or for personal reasons, choose not to share it?

Fortunately, there are several tools and techniques that can help. One popular option is DNA testing, which can provide insights into your ethnic background. More importantly, it can connect you with genetic relatives who have also taken the test. Where do they live? Who are they related to? And who do you have in common?

Of course, DNA testing is not a silver bullet. It offers just one piece of the puzzle. To truly understand your family heritage, you'll need to consult additional records—some of which are available online, while many remain undigitized and accessible only in physical archives.

So where do you start?

Today, services like Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com, and FamilySearch.org offer access to billions of records and the ability to build your family tree online. It sounds great—and it is—but these platforms can be overwhelming for beginners. I can't tell you how many of my DNA matches have started a tree during a free trial period, only to give up after entering just a few names. I'd wager that's the majority.

Even intermediate genealogists like me hit roadblocks. Once the obvious records are exhausted, we often run into "brick walls"—mysteries that seem impossible to solve. That's when it helps to look sideways in the family tree, researching collateral relatives, and consulting less common sources like historical newspapers, property deeds, court documents, immigration and travel records, military files, and pension claims. Even with years of experience, tackling these sources can feel daunting. If not for the invaluable tips I've received from Society members at the Sahyun Genealogical Library, I would have given up ages ago.

At SBCGS, we're here to help. Whether you're just starting out or you've hit a wall in your research, we offer classes, tutorials, and one-on-one assistance to guide you through our vast collection—both online and in print—at the Sahyun Library. Our volunteers bring a wealth of expertise and specialized skills, and they're eager to help you piece together your unique family story.

Feel free to drop by the Library—we'd love to meet you and hear about your genealogy journey. Just don't be surprised if time flies while you're here!

Ted

Book Nook News

by Kristin Ingalls

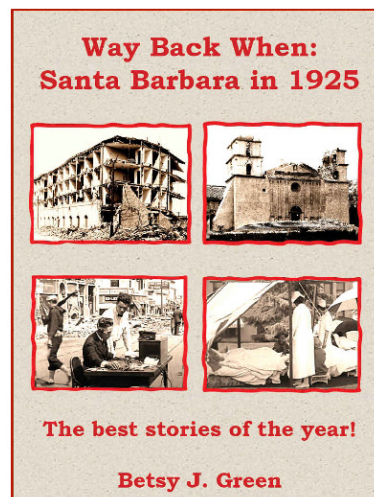
News Flash from BookNook

We are thrilled to announce that our very own member and Santa Barbara historian, Betsy Green, has published her latest book - the much-awaited ***Way Back When: Santa Barbara in 1925***. Our lovely little town has had so many fascinating stories which Betsy has gathered, but 1925 is a special one, marking 100 years since Santa Barbara suffered immense loss due to the earthquake, but rose from the rubble and became the beautiful place we all call home. While other stories may not be as monumental, there is lots more that happened in 1925.

The book will be available at the library and we are all looking forward to Betsy doing a presentation at one of our upcoming meetings.

You can call to reserve a copy by contacting me, or come by the library to be the first to read all about it!

I can't wait to get my copy! Kristin....at antkap@cox.net



Development Committee

Mary Jacob, Development Director

Annual Appeal Donor Honor Roll

We thank the more than 100 donors listed below who contributed over \$26,000 to this year's Annual Appeal. Their gifts ensure the Society's ability to continue to provide the programs, classes and publications that our members enjoy and to enrich the library with a variety of resources: books, subscriber databases, computers and scanners. Thank you!

Michael Alvarado	Laurie Hannah	Marie Sue Parsons
Christine Andersen	Betty Helton	Deborah Pash
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Kathryn Greene	Walter Orso	
Matthew Grul	Patricia Ottoboni	
Mary Hall	Nancy Panizzon	
Mary Hancock	Tony & Sabrina Papa	

Books at the Sahyun

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair

When I traveled the country on the Arabian Horse Show circuit in the 1970s and 1980s, I always made a point to check the hotel room drawer's phone book (remember those?) for listings of KLUKKERTs and ORDWAYS.

I probably don't need to tell you that I was often unsuccessful in finding KLUKKERTS, and I would only occasionally come across an ORDWAY family—usually very distantly related. But it became a habit. This was before I took a deep dive into genealogy, and now, armed with generations of surnames (and both a birth and biological family, to boot!), I would have worn my fingers out searching those old phone books. When we first set up our library, I naturally checked the catalog under title or subject for my surnames—and yes, I had much more luck and success that way.

Another fun activity is simply to visit our surname book area and start browsing through the books. I definitely do this when I'm in Salt Lake City. Of course, you won't always know if your family is in a book with a different title, but sometimes you'll find a resource from a different family's book that mentions your family, perhaps because they lived in the same town or area. That discovery can feel like finding a hidden treasure!

Speaking of discoveries, how about learning the meaning of your surname? We've got you covered there! Here are a few examples from our collection: **British Family Names: Their Origin and Meaning**, which includes lists of Scandinavian, Anglo-Saxon, and Norman names; In **Search of Your Asian Roots: Genealogical Research on Chinese Surnames**; and several "dictionary of" surname books such as **A Dictionary of English Surnames**, **A Dictionary of German Jewish Surnames**, and **The Dictionary of Irish Family Names**. Some titles even narrow the focus for greater clarity, like **A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia**.

And don't forget about our digitized periodicals in the Library Digital Collection! Jim Friestad has done an outstanding job organizing these for research. Once you choose the File Explorer (the yellow square in the bottom menu), you can narrow your search by country and state, and then pick a periodical issue to search by surname. These periodicals can be a rich resource for finding related families, especially in areas where few books have been written. I've had success searching for my family in Oregon and Arizona publications, and I was rewarded with a few discoveries. This has encouraged me to dig further into these valuable records and start searching by place or specific events that need clarification. Jim will be printing out a complete list of the publications and states available on our computer for easy access.

Have you tried searching by surname in our Sahyun Library catalog? Is there a surname book that could help you in our collection? We invite you to visit the Sahyun Library catalog or come in person to see what you can uncover. If you have suggestions for new genealogy books, we'd love to hear them!

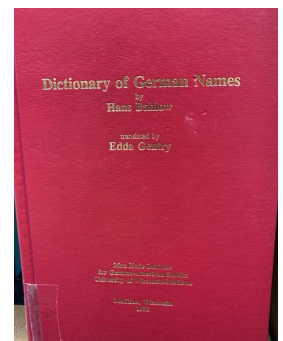
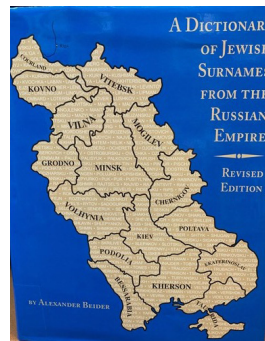
We look forward to seeing you soon—happy reading and re-searching!

Here are the books from the New In The Library shelf:

History of the House of Ochiltree of Ayrshire, Scotland: With the Genealogy of the Families of Those Who Came to America and of Some of the Allied Families, 1124-1915
Blacks Found in the Deeds of Laurens & Newberry Counties, SC: 1785 to 1827
The Warmth of Other Suns – The Epic Story of America's Great Migration
White Maryland Runaways, 1720-1762
The Arduous Road: Salt Lake to Los Angeles: The Most Difficult Wagon Road in American History
Town of Concord, Vermont, 1781-1976: then and now
Early Wills 1765-1799, Mechlenburg County, Virginia
Early Pioneer Families of Decatur County, Kansas

We want to thank the following generous donors:

Jean McKnight Paul Eggli Gage Ricard
Janet Lunt Cathy Jordan



Don't forget to
check the
SURNAME
Files

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

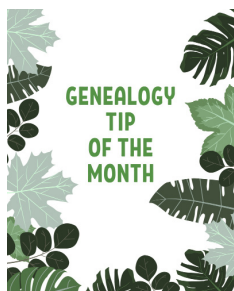
Kate Lima, Membership Chair



New Members in March

Kathy Boone
Susan Cochran
Carrie Kappel
Tamara Roberts

I'd like to extend a big, happy thank you to our continuing members who renewed in March. Thank you, we're glad you're here!



Genealogy Tip of the Month:

From genealogytipoftheday.com, September 28, 2023 (Michael John Neill)

Federal Land Warrants Versus Land Patents

When searching the Bureau of Land Management website, make certain you remember the general difference between a federal land warrant and a federal land patent. A federal land warrant is good for a specific acreage of property in the federal domain—without stating precisely where the property is at. A federal land patent is a document that transfers title in a specific piece of property from the federal government to an individual.

Save the Date: Volunteer Appreciation Lunch



Join us as we celebrate our incredible volunteers! The Society is hosting its annual **Volunteer Appreciation Lunch on Saturday, June 21, at 12:30 PM** to recognize and thank you for your dedication and hard work. If you've volunteered with us this past year, we would love for you to attend and enjoy a special afternoon of gratitude, good food, and great company. We can't wait to celebrate with you! RSVP information is coming soon.



One of the ways in which Ralph's partners with the neighborhoods in which they serve, is through the Ralph's Community Contribution Program. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Ralph's and swipe your Shopper's Card. Details here:

<https://www.ralphs.com/i/community/community-contribution-program> <https://sbgen.org/donate/#!/form/Development>



Tour of Main-Begg Farmhouse

On Sunday, March 2nd, a group of members was given a marvelous tour of the Goleta Main-Begg Farmhouse. We enjoyed the many fruit trees, some very old, that surrounded the building. I have never seen a variegated pink lemon!

Robin Cederlof, president of the farmhouse association, was our tour guide. After enjoying a walk around the grounds, we went inside and stepped back into the early 1900s. Robin offered a lot of information on the families as well as information on farming in Goleta around 1911 when the house was built.

The mission at the Main-Begg Farmhouse is to connect the past with the present through the preservation and restoration of its buildings and grounds. They strive to educate and enrich all audiences by offering programs that celebrate history and provide an intimate gathering place for the community.

I'm sending a big thank you to Robin, I hope we see you at the farmhouse again soon!



Trip to Salt Lake City

Our society will head over to the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City on Sunday, April 27 (some are going earlier, some later). We're looking forward to a week of extreme research and much-needed camaraderie. We are so excited that Marj and Jim Friestad are coming once again; they will host some wine and goodies in the evenings as they have done so often in past years.

Rooms for this entire week are full, but if you're interested you can come for a shorter amount of time. Call Rich Williams at the Plaza Hotel for more information, 801-521-0130. And don't forget to email me at limakate1@gmail.com so I can put you on our list.

“Unforgettable Discoveries: My Most Fascinating Day in Years of Genealogy Research”

by Jim Friestad

THORSON AND BUGBEE GENEALOGY

I have a total of 83 DNA matches and I have been working on ensuring that each one is actually tied into me.

I have a DNA Match of 184.0 cM with **Luke Bugbee** who was born in Placerville, California. I have been doing research on Family Tree Maker to try to determine how we have a common ancestor for this match.

I am in the process of writing a new book - *The Friestad Family* - and in doing so have tried to contact relatives I know to try to get the latest family data from them. A couple of weeks ago I made contact with **Tim Thorson**, a first cousin and he supplied me with some updated data.

My maternal Grandfather was **Margus Thorson**, who lived almost his total life in Chicago, where I was born in 1936.

Tim also supplied me the name of another Thorson who was interested in helping. Her name is **Terry Thorson**. She is married to Mark Schleich, they have two children. And guess what!! They live in Santa Barbara!!

Her *Family View Report* shows that my Grandfather Magnus Thorson is her Great-Grandfather.

When we were discussing things, she told me that her sister's husband, who lived in Northern California, had just died at age 64 and that she was going up there to help. I asked where they lived, and they told me Placerville. Guess what that's where my son, David lives. I asked what their name was and when she told me, I almost lost it! His name is **Mike Bugbee!!** **And their son is LUKE BUGBEE! HOLY COW!**

I have *Family View Reports* for both of them and it shows his mother's Great-Grandfather is Magnus Thorson and he is Luke's 2nd Great-Grandfather.

In my 30 years of Genealogy I've never had anything like this!
Jim Friestad (RonJimF@gmail.com)



Volunteer Spotlight featuring the Ancestors West Team

Once again we highlight a committee and the amazing work that they do. This month we highlight the “Ancestors West” team! They just rolled out a fantastic issue that focuses on disasters and survival, with much of the issue covering Santa Barbara's 1925 earthquake. They're an organized and fun group, making the work enjoyable in their camaraderie.

Team's Members:

Charmien Carrier, Lead Editor and Journal Designer

Cathy Jordan

Mary Jacob

Kristin Ingalls

Marsha Martin

Sharon Summer

Dorothy Oksner

Diane Sylvester

Bonnie Raskin

Helen Rydell

Quick Description of the Team's Responsibilities

by Sharon Summer:

Periodically, editors meet to choose topics for themes of upcoming issues, review editorial policies, and have a general discussion of the needs of the journal. The call for articles goes to our members, and people send in what they've written to our lead editor, Charmien.

Charmien then sends these article submissions to different editors for editing. As they are returned, Charmien designs the layout of the complete issue of the journal, soliciting or locating anything else needed such as the cover image. At our meeting, editors review the first printout of an upcoming issue for additions and suggestions.

Meetings invariably include a bit of hilarity over tea and treats.

Note from Kate, Membership Director: I love reading “Ancestors West.” I also love that I can submit stories about my ancestors. This spurs me to action; the deadlines force me to write, which inevitably shows me the holes in my research. Where can I add some historical events? What was going on around them? My goal is to create a rich portrait of my ancestors, and I thank the Ancestors West team for all their hard work in helping me reach that goal.

Have an idea for an article for Ancestors West but not sure how to start? Join the Writers Group to get some ideas!

Writers Group Meeting

Host: Sharon Summers



Come join our wonderful online writing group. We meet on Zoom the third Wednesday of each month. Join us on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

Last month several participants voluntarily read aloud a paragraph or so of a piece of writing they were working on. People said the feedback was very helpful. Good ideas.

Register on the calendar of events at sbgen.org.

by Holly Snyder, Chair



Colin had this to say of the experience:

To learn more about the California Pioneer Certificate program, you can find a link on your member account page.



Missed this opportunity? No fear, we will arrange for more tours in the future. In the meantime, join Laura's next activity with SBCGS- Introduction to UCSB Library Special Collections Research on April 10th. See below for more details and to register.



Where: In person at Sahyun Library or on Zoom

Time: 11am-noon

Join us for this hybrid session designed to equip Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society (SBCGS) members with the knowledge and tools needed to access and utilize UCSB Library's Special Research Collections.

Led by Laura Jean Treat Liebhaber, Curator of Film & Television, Santa Barbara & Local History, and Oral History Collections, and Angel Diaz, California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives, this workshop offers practical guidance on navigating the UCSB Library's extensive archives. Learn how to locate and request materials, understand research policies, and maximize the collections' potential for your research projects. ****Registration is required for ALL attendees.****

To register:

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApCuqrqjIiGtPL8IhD97ZN7USkmyhIaJo#/registration>

In person: [limited seating]

<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/register/2025/4/10/ucsb-library-special-research-collections-open-house> Scroll to the bottom, select the quantity, and fill out your name and information. Then click the “Register!” button.



Location: Sayhun Library

Dates: June 1- August 16, 2025

Do you have a family story to share about the 1925 earthquake? We are accepting family stories about the earthquake and/or the aftermath and high-resolution scanned photographs until April 5.

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!

Outreach, continued



Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories Exhibit, September 2025

The exhibit steering committee is looking for participants who had family living in Santa Barbara County between 1850-1970 to share their stories living in Santa Barbara County, well as any industries, organizations, military service, and/or cultural institutions they have been a part of.

We will hold an orientation for exhibit participants to learn more about the exhibit and exhibit process on May 18. Please email Outreach@sbgen.org for more information and to attend.

"This project is made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.calhum.org."

(Photo courtesy of Yolanda Perez)



Speaking Engagements in the Community

Upcoming: The Carpinteria Women's Club, May 13

UCSB Retirees Association, May 27 (at Sahyun)

Encina Royale, date tbd

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

<https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/reservation-request/> Please share the link to any groups who may be interested! Has your group already had a talk with us, but would be interested in a follow up talk or a workshop style activity? We can do that too!

Community Events



1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake Centennial - June 2025

Stay informed about all of the activities happening to commemorate the 1925 earthquake by visiting EQ25.org and following their social media- Facebook: EQ25 and Instagram: @EQ25_SB.

Speakeasy Soirée- April 25, 2025 7pm-10am @ El Paseo Restaurant

For more information and to get tickets: <https://givebutter.com/eq25soiree>

****First 100 guests will receive our most recent Ancestors West edition containing three stories from our 1925 earthquake exhibit!**

QuakeFest- June 28