



# Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

*Researching the World*

May 2025

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 41, No. 5

## May Program — Stay Tuned!

**Saturday, May 17, 2025, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

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

### Stay Tuned for the Announcement of Our Program

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 - 12:00

Only Zoom attendees are required to register.

**See you on Saturday, May 17, 2025**



**Help Keep Us on Schedule! ☀**

#### **Do you enjoy staying organized and helping others stay informed?**

We're looking for a volunteer to take on the important task of maintaining the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society's event calendar.

This role involves keeping our online calendar up to date with meetings, webinars, classes, and special events

—ensuring our members never miss out on exciting opportunities to connect and learn.

It's a great way to get involved, stay in the loop,  
and contribute to our vibrant genealogy community.

Training and support will be provided!

If you're interested or would like to learn more, please contact [RosaAvolio@mac.com](mailto:RosaAvolio@mac.com).

**We'd love to have you on the team!**



### SBCGS Leadership Board & Operations Updates

Your Society's leadership is committed to advancing our mission and serving our members. The Board of Directors provides strategic direction, while the Operations Leadership Team oversees programming, services, and daily operations.

**To stay informed**, visit the **Members Section** at [sbgen.org](https://sbgen.org). Once logged in, navigate to **Member Resources** to access the latest **Board Minutes** and **Operations Leadership Notes**.

### May 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 101**

**Thursday, May 8, 2025, 1:00 pm**

Zoom Only

Moderator: Jean Foster

#### **DNA Lunch & Learn**

**Friday, May 16, 2025, 12:00 pm**

Zoom Only

Host: George LaPlante

#### **Writers' Group Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

Zoom Only

Facilitator: Sharon Summer

#### **California Pioneer Certificate Program Workshop**

**Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 7:00 pm**

Zoom Only

#### **Webinar Wednesday**

**"Early Migration and Settlement Patterns"**

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 10:00 am**

Zoom Only

Moderator: Rosa Avolio

## President's Message

by Edward Tazer-Myers



### A Genealogical Summer Project

Nancy and I are doing something different this summer—we're renting out our neo-colonial home for two months to instructors from the Music Academy of the West during this year's Summer Festival. It's an exciting opportunity and a worthy cause, but I'll admit, it's also a bit anxiety-inducing. While family members have stayed in our home for a week or more while we've traveled to heritage sites, those visits didn't require much preparation beyond a bit of child-proofing. This time, however, we need to clear out closets and bureaus for our guests—which means confronting nearly a century's worth of family photo albums, slides, videos, and negatives that have accumulated in those spaces.

You might be thinking, tsk, tsk—about time for a genealogical spring cleaning! And you wouldn't be wrong. But let me turn the question back to you: have you scanned and digitally organized all the photos from your own life? Or, like me, have you mostly focused on the older generations—your grandparents and beyond?

I'll admit, I've undervalued my own more recent memories. I naively assumed I wouldn't forget the people, places, and events that mattered most in my own lifetime. I also questioned who would care. But as a self-professed amateur genealogist, I should have known better. Someone in the future will care. After all, there's usually one family historian in every generation (though it may skip a generation or two). And that person will be grateful for any preserved letters, diaries, photos, and other heirlooms—just as we have been.

With that realization in mind, I've spent the past month steadily deconstructing our family photo albums, preparing them for scanning and archiving. It's been quite a journey, and I've learned a few things along the way that I'd like to share.

**First**, this is a massive job—and it needs to be broken down into manageable chunks. For me, that has meant creating an organizational system, investing in the right archival supplies, and approaching the task decade by decade.

**Second**, the house is more cluttered than ever. This can be frustrating for both of us, especially when we're expecting guests. Unfortunately, not everyone understands the chaos that comes with a major preservation project!

**Finally**, there's an emotional toll. Seeing images from the past brings joy, but also a deep sense of loss. These captured moments were meaningful parts of our lives. I've learned to take breaks—sometimes for a full day—before returning to the task. The emotional impact has even seeped into my dreams, where I find myself back in childhood, surrounded by my family of origin and all the dynamics that shaped those years.

Bottom line: it's worth it. There's something about this process that brings a sense of wholeness—and meaning—to our lives. It mirrors the work we do when we help reweave the branches of our family tree. And I firmly believe in the value of that effort.

Best wishes on your next photo archival project!

Ted

## Ancestors West

Charmien Carrier, Editor



## Ancestors West

Due August 1, 2025

Ancestors' Schooling and Education



Please send your stories to  
Charmien Carrier, AW Editor  
[charmien2940@gmail.com](mailto:charmien2940@gmail.com)

### Attention Authors!

If your story is published in AW, two complimentary copies will be mailed to you. Otherwise, extra copies cost \$6 in the library. If you want extra copies to share with your family, please let Charmien know how many when you submit your story so that she can order enough copies from the printer.

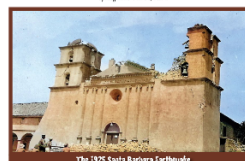
### Editors Wanted!

Do you have editing experience? Would you like to be part of the AW team? If so, please contact Charmien, AW Editor.  
[charmien2940@gmail.com](mailto:charmien2940@gmail.com)



## Ancestors West

A quarterly publication for the members of the  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
Spring 2024 Vol. 48, No. 1



The 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake

### Survival Stories

Survival Averted  
A Volcano, a Wildfire, and a Bigamist  
The Legacy of Survival:  
My Ancestors and the Lachine Massacre  
Surviving Carleton's Raid  
Captive Helpless  
Hong Kong Under Siege 1941 to 1945

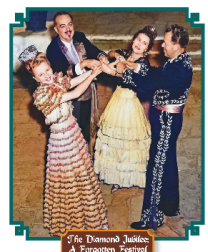


## Ancestors West

A quarterly publication for the members of the  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
Winter 2024 Vol. 48, No. 4

### Celebrations Festivals Holidays

News of the First  
Santa Barbara Fiesta  
San Francisco World's  
Fair Opening  
Keeping Swedish  
Holiday Traditions Alive  
Our Love of the  
Great Outdoors  
Picnic in the Cemetery



The Diamond Jubilee  
A Forgotten Festival



## Books at the Sahyun

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair

As you read this, I'm in Sweden—visiting my husband's family here in Göteborg, as well as reconnecting with many friends and former colleagues from when I lived here myself.

Yes, there is a genealogy research library and archive here in Göteborg, but it's limited to records from this specific county. Since my husband's grandparents were from northern Sweden, I'd need to travel to that region to dig deeper into their records. But want to know a little secret? All of those records are actually available in one place—the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Many of the same resources are also available online at FamilySearch.org, so my travels here are more for the beauty and the feeling of being in these meaningful places.

Back home, the Sahyun Library offers a great selection of Swedish research books. A wonderful place to start is **Your Swedish Roots: A Step-by-Step Handbook** by Per Clemensson and Kjell Andersson (2004). I even bought the Swedish version, **Släktforskning steg för steg**, for my relatives here, and they've found it incredibly helpful. Other excellent resources include: **The Family Tree Scandinavian Genealogy Guide** as well as **Beginning Swedish Research** by Nancy Carlberg. I have referred more than a few library patrons to our other good Swedish research guide, Carl-Erik Johansson's **Cradled in Sweden**. I haven't forgotten the rest of Scandinavia, and include here the broader guide, **How to Trace Your Ancestors in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway**.

While we have dictionaries to assist with translation, many of our Swedish reference books include their own glossaries of particularly helpful terms for genealogists. The Sahyun Library also holds some unique and unexpected treasures, such as **Colonial Records of the Swedish Churches of Pennsylvania** and **Swedish Passenger Arrivals in New York, 1801–1850** and more that may be in the particular area you are researching. So, the Sahyun has many Swedish research riches for you. You don't even have to travel to Sweden to explore your Swedish roots—but if you have the chance, I highly recommend it! It's a beautiful country with warm, welcoming people.

We invite you to visit the Sahyun Library and see what discoveries await you. If you have suggestions for new genealogy books or resources, 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:

*German Immigrants in American Church Records: Vol 44 WISCONSIN*  
*The Complete Guide to Lineage Societies: The Who, What, Where, and How*  
*History of Buena Vista County, Iowa*  
*The Wall of Names at the Acadian Memorial*  
*Hamburg als Auswanderstadt / Hamburg as Emigration City*  
*Descendants of John Cadwell and Mary Keys of Moore County, North Carolina*  
*Colonial Settlers Along Bayou Lafourche: Louisiana Census Records, 1770-1798.*

### We want to thank the following generous donors:

Kathy Stark Fred Gaeden Karen Harris  
Lowell Ronse Debby Pash



### Writers Group!

Wednesday, May 21 via Zoom, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

This month we plan to:

1. Share beginning sentences to our genealogy writing that "hook" or capture our reader's interest.
2. Share a paragraph or two of our writing to receive feedback and suggestions from our supportive participants.

**Join us!!** Same Zoom link or register at sbgen.org.

Sharon Summer, facilitator

## Membership Spotlight

Kate Lima, Membership Chair



### New Members in April

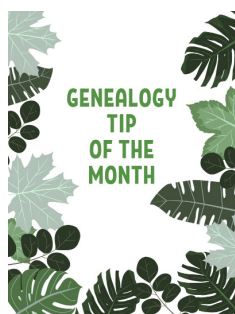
Hanna Benfield  
Patricia Sheppard  
Christine Horn  
Allan Morton  
Emily Abshire

### Returning Members

Brian Tappeiner  
Martha Adkins

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

### Genealogy Tip of the Month:



*From genealogytipoftheday.com, January 26, 2020 (Michael John Neill)*

When was the last time you wrote some of your own personal history and memories? It's always ironic to discover a genealogist who has worked up many of their families and spent years searching for personal ephemera from their own relatives only to not leave any such record of their own memories, life, and experiences.

A Facebook fan mentioned that she keeps a Word document open so that whenever a personal post I make reminds her of something she can immediately go and write about it before she forgets. That's an excellent idea. Working on such writing is an excellent idea when you are stuck and at a seemingly impasse in your own research. The diversion may give the subconscious parts of your mind to contemplate your problem while you are leaving behind a little something about yourself.

Don't forget to leave behind for others that which we wish others had left behind for us.

### June 21, 12:30 pm 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! Flyer attached in this newsletter.

### Wonderful Trip to Salt Lake City

27 society members as well as a few additional family members came together in Salt Lake City for a marvelous week of research and camaraderie. Many people had great finds, many added information to the ancestors they already knew, and most of us received help from the many volunteers at the library. So much to do, so little time. The week flew by faster than an eagle after its prey. We were just as predatory, though, as we devoured whatever sparks of information we could find. Can't wait 'til next year!



### FamilySearch Library Trip Salt Lake City April 27 - May 4, 2025

#### 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."



## Volunteer Spotlight featuring Diane Sylvester



To me, our unique genealogical society is a community, an educational institution, and an amazing library. And, a “friend.” In hard times, I’ve “escaped” for many hours by practicing what I’ve learned, using what is available to me, to take deep dives into difficult genealogical puzzles. I’ve been a member since the late 1980s. My very first experience volunteering was when Jan Cloud asked if I’d help with a seminar

to be held at the Goleta Valley Community Center. I knew Jan fairly well through our association with the UCSB *Geological* Department, so I said yes. But if you knew Jan, you’d probably realize that was just the beginning! The next time she called she was at a SBCGS board meeting. “We have an emergency,” she said. “We need someone to do the newsletter. Could you step in and help?” That call turned into my first long-term volunteer opportunity. I’ve served as Education Chair, working with an amazing team to organize beginning and intermediate genealogy classes, seminars, and other educational events. Today, I serve as Communications Chair, still edit the newsletter, and sit on the Board of Directors.

Jan also was instrumental in introducing me to serious genealogical research with her SBCC Adult Ed classes, and the day when we ran into each other at a *geological* conference in Washington, D.C. She said — actually she *insisted*— that we go to NARA to check out their holdings. She remembered me mentioning a story my grandmother told me about John Coney, an American Revolution patriot. When we arrived, Jan quickly checked the microfilm catalog on the Revolution, ordered a few reels, and when they came, she showed me how to use the viewer, scrolled to the beginning of a document, and then — vanished! Five hours later, she returned, looked at me, and said with a grin, “I knew you’d still be here!”

After graduating from Glendale High School, I attended UCLA majoring in history and education; and, I met Art. Five days after our wedding, Art and I set sail for Norway, he on a Fulbright Grant. For Art’s geological field work, we lived in an off-the-grid cabin on an island in Vrådal with a rowboat for transportation. When we were in Oslo, we lived in a small, modern apartment, and went to the University of Oslo nearly every day – Art doing research and I working in the UiO International Students department.

We returned to Norway twelve years later when Art was chosen as the director for the UCSB Education Abroad Program. This time we went as a family with our two young daughters. Because we would be in Norway for two years, we chose not to put our children in the American School, and, by the end of half a year, they were completely at ease in the local school, fluent in Norwegian, and thriving. Our trip home took five weeks as we traveled by train throughout most of the countries in “Eastern Europe.” I still wonder how we did that before computers and smart phones.

I began my teaching career at 39th Street School in Los Angeles. Eventually, we moved to Goleta where I taught the GATE program in Goleta and Hope school districts. I also wrote curriculum books for Learning Works, an educational publishing company.

## Library News Laurie Hannah, Library Director

### Library Receives Gift of New Mayflower Books

The local chapter of the Mayflower Society has generously given us a copy of the extensive 3-volume index to the Mayflower “Silver Books.” According to their website, “the **Mayflower Families Silver Books** trace out at least five generations of all the descendants of the Mayflower passengers. The primary purpose of these books is for Mayflower descendants to verify their lineage...



Today, there are twenty-two volumes of the Silver Books with multiple parts that make up the forty-two book catalog.” The new index set “contains the indexes from all forty-two Mayflower Families Silver Books, lists over 226,000 names and is almost 2,000 pages long.”

### Lost and Found

Please remember to take your copies from the copy machine, your photographs from the scanners, and your glasses so you can see! Below are a list of items that need homes:

- Glasses of all sorts
- Photograph of a person with a dog
- Hearing aid



### Scanners and other Imaging Equipment

We have many new pieces of scanning equipment in the library. Next to each you will find instructions for use, as well as a binder with scanning tips. Also, this simple video is very helpful in explaining how to use our Epson V600 scanner: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42gbBxBudxM>. If you still need assistance with scanning, you can also call the library, and we will try to set you up with someone with experience when you come in.

### Library Open for Evening Hours

The library will be open until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, June 3. There will be several library volunteers on hand to help you with your research if you need it.

Getting Art to embrace genealogy—alongside his interests in earthquakes, volcanoes, and trains—took a little coaxing, but it was worth it. Over the years, our travels always included many geological AND genealogical side trips: all over the USA, and to England, Germany, and Switzerland for Art’s ancestors, and to Poland, Germany, and Scotland for mine.

Through all these years, it’s the people - and resources - at this society that keep me coming back.

## Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

### Community History Day, May 10



We are need of one more volunteer to help with our booth at the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation's Community History Day on Saturday, May 10. We will do genealogy lookups as well as have activities on hand for the younger generations. The event runs from 11am-2pm, but also open to having extra hands during part of the event if you're unable to attend the entire event. Please let Holly know if you can help out! [Outreach@SBGen.org](mailto:Outreach@SBGen.org)

### Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories Exhibit — May 18



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.

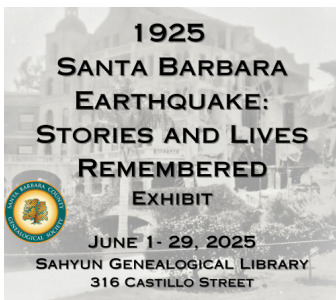
**Participant Orientation, May 18 @ 2pm:** We will hold a special orientation for exhibit participants to learn more about the exhibit and exhibit process on **May 18 at the Sahyun Library**.

Please email [Outreach@sbgen.org](mailto:Outreach@sbgen.org) for more information and to attend! We would like attendees to RSVP so we can ensure we can accommodate all attendees.

*"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](http://www.calhum.org)."*  
(Photo courtesy of Yolanda Perez)



### Exhibit: 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake: Stories and Lives Remembered



**Location:** Sahyun 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](mailto: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!

### Speaking Engagements in the Community



#### "Curious About Your Ancestral Roots?"

Presentation by SBCGS Members **Marie Sue Parsons, Yolanda Perez & Mary Jacob**

Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm

Carpinteria Women's Club, 1059 Vallecito Road, Carpinteria

This event is FREE and open to the public! Everyone welcome!

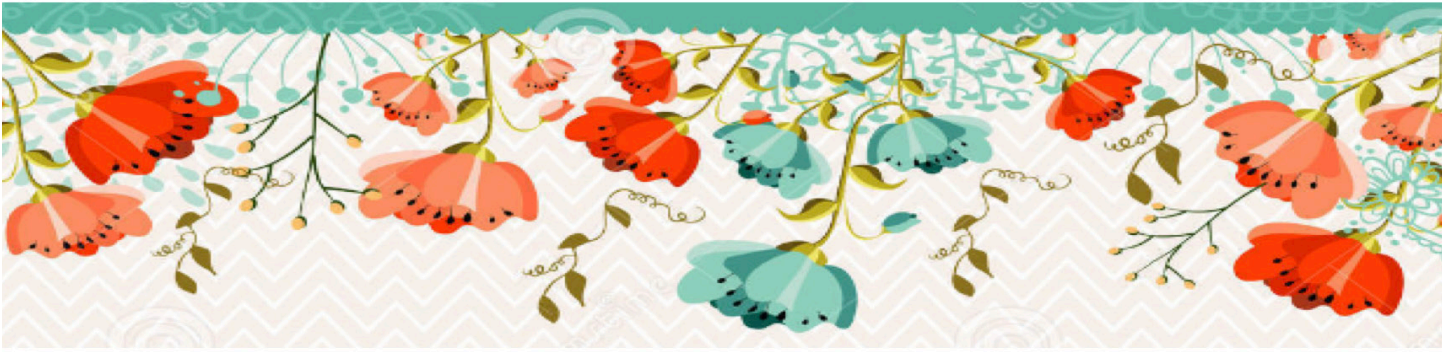
Upcoming: UCSB Retirees Association, May 27 (at Sahyun)

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!





# CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

We are so grateful for all our volunteers - you are what make our society great.  
If you have volunteered in the past year  
please come by the Sahyun  
for a gathering!

**Saturday, June 21**

following the General Meeting

**12:30pm**

We'd love to thank you in person.

We'll have food, drink and fun.

**Please RSVP on our website before June 17.**

[SBCGS@org](mailto:SBCGS@org)

Hope you can join us!





# COMMUNITY HISTORY DAY

**Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 11am - 2pm**

**El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park (123 E. Canon Perdido Street)**

**Explore Santa Barbara's  
multicultural history!**

**Free & family friendly • Arts & Crafts  
Learning/activity stations • Walking Tours  
Early California Dancing • Lotería  
Facepainting • Special Performances & more!**

**See the full lineup at [sbthp.org/chd](http://sbthp.org/chd)**







**SAN DIEGO  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY**  
EST. 1946



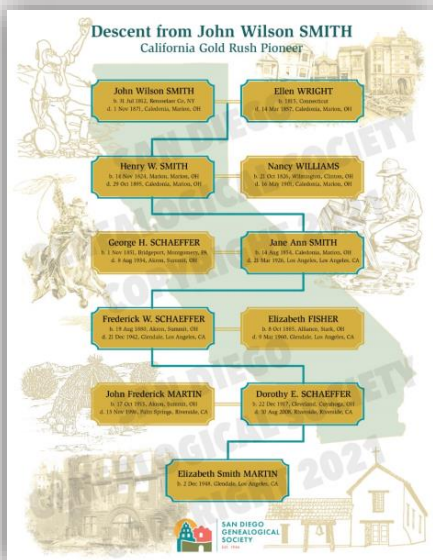
## San Diego Genealogical Society Launches California Pioneer Certificate Program

**Date:** May 2023

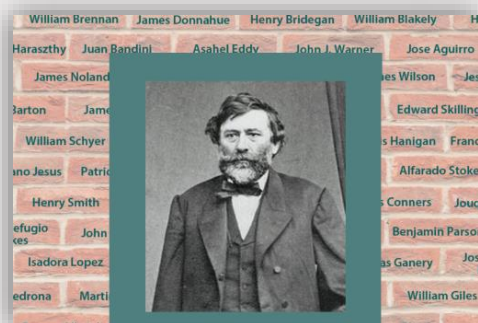
**Contact:** Colin Whitney, SDGS Educational Programs,  
[pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com](mailto:pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com)



*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.