



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

June 2025

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 41, No. 6

“The Great Santa Barbara Earthquake – The Survivors Speak”

Saturday, June 21, 2025, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: First Presbyterian Church, State & Constance, SB



The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society invites you to its free monthly meeting on Saturday, June 21, featuring local historian and author **Betsy J. Green**, who will present “*The Great Santa Barbara Earthquake – The Survivors Speak*.”

On June 29, 1925, a powerful earthquake struck Santa Barbara at 6:42 a.m., shaking residents from their beds and toppling buildings across the city. Green’s presentation brings the disaster vividly to life through first-hand accounts from survivors — hotel guests staggering through debris, families rushing outside in panic, and downtown residents dodging falling bricks. Amid the chaos, the community came together. Over cups of strong coffee and makeshift breakfasts at De la Guerra Plaza and Alameda Park, neighbors began imagining a rebuilt Santa Barbara that would become the envy of cities across the country.

About the Speaker:

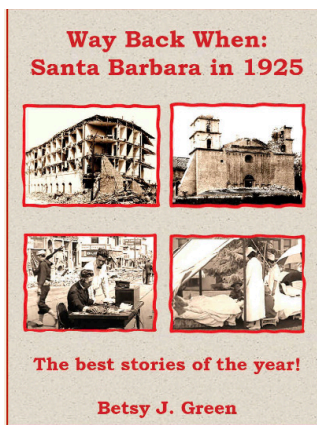
Betsy J. Green is a noted local historian and author of *Way Back When: Santa Barbara in 1914–1919, 1924*, among other titles chronicling the city’s past. She has shared her research with numerous local audiences, including the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Maritime Museum, Yacht Club, and Rotary clubs. Betsy is also a long-time member of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. Copies of her book *Way Back When: Santa Barbara in 1925* will be available for purchase at the event.

About the Event:

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and informal discussions with the Special Interest Groups, covering a variety of topics from getting started in genealogy to writing family histories. A short business meeting begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by Betsy’s presentation at 11:00 a.m. The event is free and open to the public.



To attend virtually, please use the QR code
or register at [SBGen.org](https://sbgen.org).



June Calendar

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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

Genealogy 101

Thursday, June 12, 2025, 1:00 pm

Zoom Only

Moderator: Jean Foster

Protecting Your Family Treasures from Disaster: Genealogy, Photos, Hierlooms, & More

In-Person Only

Thursday, June 12, 2025, 6:00 PM

Presenters: Laurie Hannah and Holly Snyder

Webinar Watch Party

Let’s get together and watch a webinar or two.

Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 1:30 PM

In-Person Only

Moderator: Rosa Avolio

Writers’ Group Meeting

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 10:00 am

Zoom Only

Facilitator: Sharon Summer

DNA Lunch & Learn

Friday, June 20, 2025, 12:00 pm

Zoom Only

Host: George LaPlante

Annual Meeting

Betsy Green: The Great SB EQ - Survivors Speak
Saturday, June 21, 2025

Calling All Volunteers Luncheon

Saturday, June 21, 2025, 12:30

Reserve your spot by June 17th

California Pioneer Certificate Program Workshop

Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 7:00 pm

Zoom Only

President's Message

by Edward Tazer-Myers



Although our society—both large and small—is navigating a time of change, I am pleased to report that the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society remains in excellent shape. Across all areas—financial stability, learning and growth, internal operations, and member services—we are either improving or holding steady.

Financially, we are running a surplus this year. Our quasi-endowment and reserve funds remain strong and are continuing to grow, despite ongoing market uncertainties. The budget for the coming fiscal year is nearing completion and will be presented for Board approval this month. Special thanks go to Rhonda McFarlane (Finance), Mary Jacob (Development), and Fred Marsh (Property), along with their committees, for their effective and thoughtful stewardship.

Operationally, Vice President of Operations Karen Ramsdell has ensured that our business processes, board calendar and development efforts, policies and procedures, and nominations consulting are running smoothly. She has also been a tireless advocate for our strategic goals, 95% of which have already been achieved this year. Karen has not done this work alone—it has required the dedication of a skilled administrative team, including Kate Lima (Membership), Molly Gleason (IT), Rosa Avolio (Webmaster), Robin McCarthy (Calendar Control), Mary Hancock (Secretary), Diane Sylvester (Communications), and Liz Smith (Marketing).

Our **vision** is to be “the premier genealogical resource inspiring discovery of ancestral, cultural, and ethnic roots.” That vision comes to life through the excellent service our volunteers provide via the Library, Research, and Education programs. Thanks to their efforts, our operations have returned to—and in some cases surpassed—pre-pandemic levels, with robust offerings in both in-person and online classes and expanded hours and services at the Sahyun Library. I’m especially grateful to Laurie Hannah (Library) and Elizabeth Swanay-O’Neill and Chris Klukkert (Education and Programs), as well as their teams of dedicated volunteers. Special recognition goes to Kate Lima for leading the Salt Lake City Genealogy Field Trip and supporting Heather McDaniel McDevitt (Social) in coordinating General Meetings and Seminars. Kudos also to Holly Snyder (Outreach) for enhancing our public presence through engaging exhibits and strategic partnerships with mission-aligned local organizations.

In addition to celebrating our accomplishments, we recognize that this is a time of **positive transformation**. We’ve been working closely with consultant Carrie Kappel, PhD, to develop a five-year strategic plan for the Society. This plan will be completed this summer, and a full report, along with key highlights, will be shared with the membership. We’re also preparing for changes on the Board, as several members—including myself—reach the end of their terms. A full slate of candidates, presented by the Nominating Committee, is detailed elsewhere in this newsletter for your consideration.

As always, heartfelt thanks go out to our incredible volunteers, whose dedication makes the Society such a vibrant place to discover, document, share, and preserve our family histories. I look forward to seeing many of you at our **Annual Meeting on June 21st!**

Ted

Ancestors West

Charmien Carrier, Editor



Ancestors West

Due August 1, 2025

Ancestors' Schooling and Education



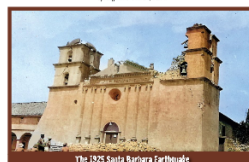
Please send your stories to
Charmien Carrier, AW Editor
charmien2940@gmail.com

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



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



**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

Of the Danubius, Jülicher,
A Purgatory Festival

Books at the Sahyun

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair

This month marks the anniversary of the 1925 earthquake here in Santa Barbara.

While my family wasn't living in the area at that time, I do have my own earthquake story to share. My maternal great-grandmother, Addie Bean Robbins, converted to Christian Science in her 30s—a popular spiritual path in the late 19th century. According to my grandfather, her son-in-law Alonzo Ordway, she embraced the philosophy with such enthusiasm and strict adherence that it sometimes drove him up the wall.

Once, while Addie was living with my grandparents in Oakland, California, a large and terrifying earthquake struck. My grandfather told me that the house shook violently, swaying as crashing and falling objects filled the air with noise. Without hesitation, Addie dropped to her knees and began praying. Meanwhile, my grandfather jumped from his chair and bolted toward the front door. Over the roar of the quake, he shouted,

"You can stay here and pray—or you can get up and run like hell outside!"

"She got up and ran like hell," he'd say, eyes twinkling with laughter.

It was one of his favorite stories—and it's one I still love to share. Disasters like earthquakes, fires, and floods pose real dangers to human life. But they can also disrupt or even destroy records that genealogists rely on.

From personal experience, I know how frustrating this can be. I once searched in vain for a wedding date for one of my father's great-aunts, who was listed on a family pedigree chart as having married in San Francisco in 1906. All I could find was a brief mention of her upcoming wedding in her hometown newspaper in Redding, California—no specific date.

Then came a breakthrough. The California Genealogical Society published a book—*Raking the Ashes: Genealogical Strategies for Pre-1906 San Francisco Research*—and of course, we have a copy at the Sahyun Library. The book suggested that some couples whose records were lost in the 1906 disaster re-registered their marriages across the bay in Oakland. Sure enough, that's where I found a duplicate marriage record for her!

We have many excellent resources on earthquakes, including *1906: Surviving San Francisco's Great Earthquake and Fire and The Earth Shook, The Sky Burned (California)*. And what about the Santa Barbara earthquake? We'll soon be adding Betsy Green's newly published *Way Back When: Santa Barbara in 1925*, which of course covers the 1925 quake in detail.

In our archives, we also have the Research Article| December 01, 1925, *A study of the Santa Barbara earthquake of June 29, 1925*, complete with a fault map. And perhaps even more treasured is a publication by our very own late Professor Art Sylvester: *Case Study of Earthquake Damage and Repair: The Santa Barbara Earthquake of 1925*.

So when it comes to earthquakes—we've got you covered.

We invite you to visit the Sahyun Library, browse our resources, and share any earthquake stories you may have with our volunteers. And if you have suggestions for new genealogy books or research materials, we'd love to hear those too.

We look forward to seeing you soon—happy reading and researching!

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

Mayflower Families Silver Book INDEX. Vols one through three

A House Divided: Union County, Illinois, 1818-1865

History of Mennonites in Virginia 1727-1900

Reno County, Kansas, Early Marriage Records, 1872-1913

German Immigrants in American Church Records: Vol 45

WISCONSIN

UC Santa Barbara Alumni 2021 Directory

The Culbertson Row Farm: An 18th century land grant in

Franklin County, Pennsylvania

Culpeper County, Virginia marriages, 1780-1853

Underground Railroad in Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hagerstown,

Washington County, Maryland, 1770-1819.

We want to thank the following generous donors:

Karen Harris

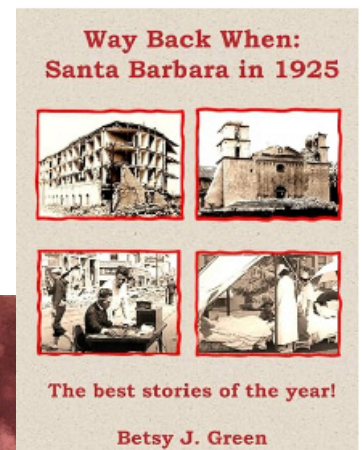
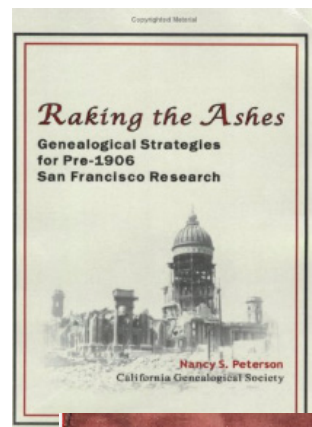
Rick Closson

Society of Mayflower Descendants (c/o Marj Friested)

Janet Lunt

Louise Matz

Lowell Rouse



Membership Spotlight

Kate Lima, Membership Chair

This month I am filled with a multitude of feelings. I am stepping down as your Membership Director, and I'm quite sad as a result. I have met so many wonderful people, taken part in so many events, and have been fulfilled more than I ever thought possible. I've loved working with you all, and now I am moving onward.

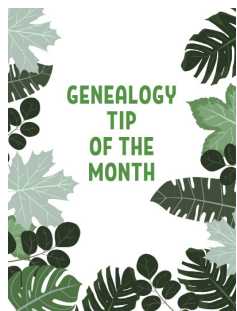
I am not leaving, though! I am moving over to a new position, the **Vice President of Operations**. Because of this I am extremely happy! I'll continue to work with amazing volunteers and interact with members. It's always fun – and challenging – to start something new and I look forward to the days and months ahead.

We are so fortunate to have **Kathryn Field** as our new **Membership Director beginning July 1st**. Kathryn has been volunteering at the Sahyun for years and has graciously accepted this new leadership role. We are all in good hands with Kathryn at the helm.

The last four years have really flown by. It has been my pleasure to serve in this position and get to know you better and hear your stories. We are fortunate to have such a dynamic and vibrant society, and I look forward to continuing our genealogical pursuits together in the future.

Genealogy Tip of the Month:

From genealogytipoftheday.com, June 30, 2021 (Michael John Neill)



Is Your Conclusion Temporary?

When research in the United States gets back beyond a certain point, records are fewer and less likely to make direct statements. It is important to remember that any conclusion reached when the records are not clear may need to be revised if new information comes to light.

Keep your mind open to the chance that you may be incorrect or may have not looked at all the records. Never assume that your initial "hunch" is Gospel Truth.

MISSING? MISPLACED? MIS-SHELVED?

Please be on the lookout for four leather-bound books donated to the library several years ago. One of the books had a revised page added to it before it was returned to the shelf. If you know what might have happened to these books, please contact **Cathy Jordan** (cmj2361@hotmail.com) so they can be returned to their spot for others to use for research.

The missing book titles are:

German-Briggs Ancestry
Jordan-Cameron Ancestry
Feely-Bayha Ancestry
McDuffie-Shelton Ancestry

Welcome to our new members from May

Giulia Brofferio and Aaron Martin
Marion and Richard Gregston
Mary Ellen Karczag
Kim Summerfield and Susan VanHorsen
Mary Alice Robles
Mike Whiteside

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!

Save the Date: Volunteer Appreciation Lunch Flyer Attached



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 our volunteers. If you've volunteered with us this past year, we would love for you to attend!

RSVP through our website; log in first as a Member then look for the event on our calendar, or click here. <https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2025/6/21/volunteer-appreciation-lunch>

Please RSVP by June 15 so we know how many sandwiches to order. Thank you!

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. Once logged in, navigate to **Member Resources** to access the latest **Board Minutes and Operations Leadership Notes**.

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."

In Loving Memory of Edith Marie Wells



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society member, Edith Marie Wells of Santa Barbara, California, passed away on Saturday, May 3, 2025. We will always remember her as the first person we would see as we entered our monthly meetings - always with her wonderful smile and contagious enthusiasm.

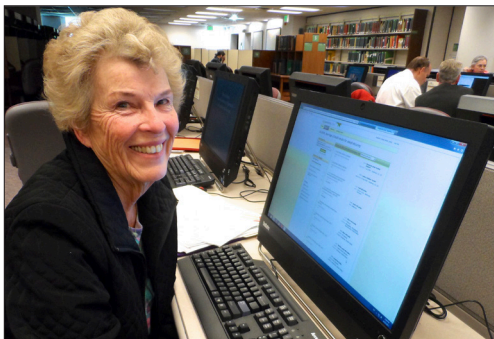
Edie Wells was born in Monrovia, California, attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she met her husband and lifelong companion, Roger Wells. She served for many years as a special education teacher's aide in the Goleta Unified School District. Her ability to make every child feel seen and valued reflected the warmth that defined her.

Edie was passionate about genealogy, spending countless hours tracing family history and preserving connections across generations. She is survived by her husband Roger, three sons, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 24th..

We extend our sympathy to Roger and their entire family and all her friends.

Edie and Marj researching in Salt Lake City.



Library News Laurie Hannah, Library Director

FIRST of the MONTH TUESDAY HOURS
The library is open Tuesday Evening, July 1 till 8:00 pm

Summer is Here—Write Your Family History

Beginning and seasoned writers will find many books in our library to help you with your writing projects. From books on how to get started, to suggestions for the best format for your intended audience, to ways to incorporate social history and context into your stories, we've got you covered! Come in to the library today and check out our monthly book display on writing your family history!

Lost and Found

We are still hoping the owner of a treasured daguerreotype left in the library will contact us and claim their photograph. It is waiting for you at the front desk.

Laurie Hannah
Library Director



Speaking Engagements in the Community



Upcoming: Encina Royale, July 9

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!

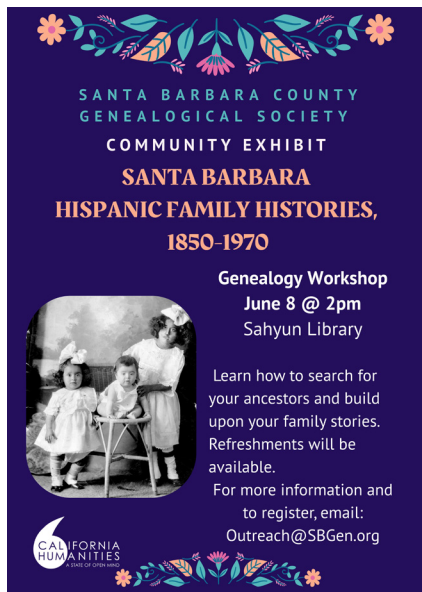
Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

It is quite the busy season for Outreach and we hope you can partake in some of the activities whether it is to volunteer or participate in. We are thrilled to have our 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake exhibit finally up and ready for you to take a look! Thank you to all the participants and helpers- we couldn't have done it without you!

We are in need of some volunteers for a couple of events. Please take a look in the Community Events section to see if you can help out. Email Outreach@SBGen.org if you'd like to help or have any questions.

Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories Exhibit & Genealogy Workshop June 8



www.calhum.org

Exhibit participants wanted!

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.

Hispanic Genealogy Workshop, June 8 @ 2pm-3:30pm, Sahyun Library

This workshop is for exhibit participants and SBCGS library volunteers who may want a refresher or learn the basics on how to research Mexican and Californio genealogy.

Please email Outreach@sbgen.org for more information and to attend! **Registration is required** so we can ensure we can accommodate all attendees.

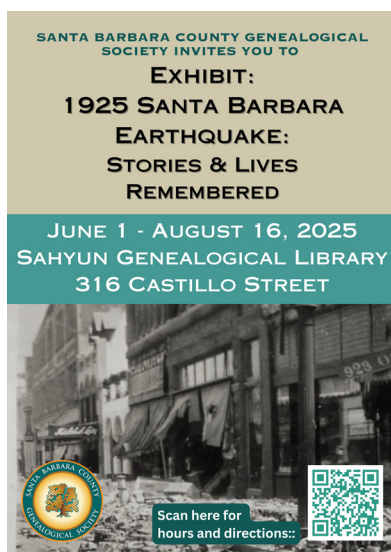
(Photo courtesy of Yolanda Perez)

Register: <https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!/event/2025/6/8/hispanic-family-histories-genealogy-workshop>

[This project is made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit](#)



Exhibit: 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake: Stories and Lives Remembered



Location: Sahyun Library

Dates: June 1- August 16, 2025

Free to attend!

The exhibit is ready for viewing! There are exhibit pieces in the Jackson Community Room, Woodward Reading Room, and the research room above the computers.

Read family recollections about the 1925 earthquake that shook up the city of Santa Barbara. These recollections include written accounts and photographs of that day, the aftermath from days of aftershocks and recovery efforts, to new City ordinances and committees created. A slideshow with film footage from the aftermath is also on display in the Woodward room using our new smartboard!

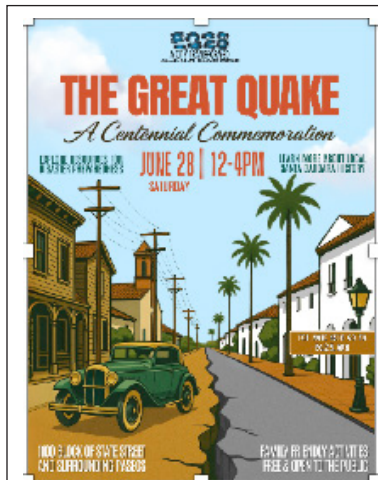
Also, take a look at the June 12th issue of the SB Independent! We've been interviewed by one of their reporters Tuesday evening.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the exhibit and helped put up the exhibit!

Outreach, con't.

Community Events

EQ25 events:



The Great Quake event, June 28, 12-4pm

We will have a table at the big 1925 earthquake centennial commemoration, The Great Quake. We will need at least one more volunteer to help at our table. **Can you help?**

Day of Remembrance, June 29, 2pm

A nondenominational service will be held at Santa Barbara's Old Mission, 2201 Laguna St, including an initial public display of a tile plaque design to be mounted later on City Hall, a mayoral address and reading of a City Proclamation marking the centennial event, and comments by other dignitaries and the gathered public.

For more events, visit <https://eq25.org/event-calendar/>

DAR American Revolution Anniversary Event- July 3



Place: Santa Barbara Public Library Plaza

Date/Time: July 3, 4-6pm

We've been invited to participate in DAR Mission Canyon Chapter's American Revolution anniversary event on July 3rd helping attendees find their American Revolutionary ancestors. We will also help descendants of Santa Barbara Presidio soldiers who were deemed Patriots of the American Revolution. Do you need help searching for your American Revolutionary War ancestor? Stop by our table!

Goleta Valley Historical Society Old Fashioned 4th of July, Stow House, 11-4pm



It's that time of year again! **We are looking for volunteers** to assist with set up, conduct genealogy lookups for the public, and take down. We will also have some easy activities for children. Please consider volunteering with us this year! It is one of our favorite events! Bring your laptop or tablet and help visitors learn about their ancestors. So much fun!

Shift Times:

10:30am-11am (setup),

11am-1:35pm (research help),

1:25pm- 4:15pm (research help & quick take down)

Interested in helping for a shift?

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/3cdprzac> or email Outreach@SBGen.org



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH — Save the Date

Join us as we celebrate our incredible volunteers!
The Society is hosting its annual

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch
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!

Please RSVP before June 15

RSVP through our website [SBGEN.org](https://sbgen.org)
Be sure to first login as a Member; then look for the event on our calendar,
or click here
<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2025/6/21/volunteer-appreciation-lunch>





SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

COMMUNITY EXHIBIT

SANTA BARBARA
HISPANIC FAMILY HISTORIES,
1850-1970



Genealogy Workshop

June 8 @ 2pm

Sahyun Library

Learn how to search for
your ancestors and build
upon your family stories.
Refreshments will be
available.

For more information and
to register, email:

Outreach@SBGen.org



EQ25
A CITY TRANSFORMED
COMMEMORATE. EDUCATE. PREPARE.

THE GREAT QUAKE

A Centennial Commemoration

EXPLORE RESOURCES FOR
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

JUNE 28 | 12-4PM
SATURDAY

LEARN MORE ABOUT LOCAL
SANTA BARBARA HISTORY



FOR MORE INFO GO TO
EQ25.ORG

1100 BLOCK OF STATE STREET
AND SURROUNDING PASEOS

FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO**

**EXHIBIT:
1925 SANTA BARBARA
EARTHQUAKE:
STORIES & LIVES
REMEMBERED**

**JUNE 1 - AUGUST 16, 2025
SAHYUN GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY
316 CASTILLO STREET**



**Scan here for
hours and directions::**





**SAN DIEGO
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY**
EST. 1948



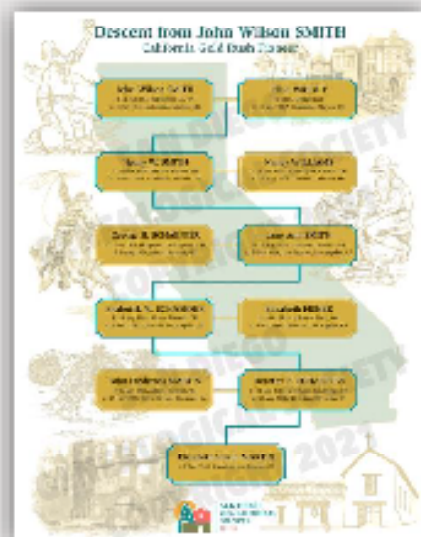
San Diego Genealogical Society Launches California Pioneer Certificate Program

Date: May 2023

Contact: Colin Whitney, SDGS Educational Programs,
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 descentance 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.