



# Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

*Researching the World*

July 2025

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 41, No. 7

## **“Dyo and Fukui Journeys: Immigrant Ancestors’ Stories of Courage, Resilience and of Patriots Imprisoned” Saturday, July 19, 2025, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**



The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society invites you to its free monthly meeting on **Saturday, July 19**, featuring family historian Tommy Dyo who will present “Dyo and Fukui Journeys: Immigrant Ancestors’ Stories of Courage, Resilience and of Patriots Imprisoned.”

The journeys of Tommy Dyo’s immigrant ancestors are sagas of epic risks, incredible successes, profound setbacks, and the unyielding spirit of Japanese American immigrants.

**Tommy Dyo**, a Yonsei (fourth-generation Japanese immigrant descendant), is deeply committed to preserving Japanese American history, and his passion is rooted in his family’s experiences. For his presentation, Tommy will share his family stories and historical research about both sets of grandparents and their immigration and Japanese incarceration experience. On his maternal side, his earliest immigrant maternal ancestor arrived in Maui, HI, from Hiroshima, Japan, in 1885. His paternal grandfather immigrated from Sendai, Japan, to Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1906. He was hired by the US government as a “scout” during the Mexican Border War, raised his family in El Paso, TX and rose to wealth as a silver miner but later lost his fortune through political events. He settled his family in Carpinteria, CA before being forcibly removed during WWII.

Tommy’s family history is profoundly marked by World War II. Under Executive Order 9066, his maternal family was forcibly removed from Los Angeles and incarcerated at the Santa Anita Assembly Center and Heart Mountain Relocation Center. His paternal family was sent

from Carpinteria to the Tulare Assembly Center and then to the Gila River Relocation Center. His paternal grandfather endured further transfers to Lordsburg and Santa Fe before the family was finally reunited at the Crystal City Internment Camp in Texas.

About our speaker: Tommy Dyo has dedicated himself to Christian ministry since 1988. In 2006, he joined Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ), serving as the National Executive Director for Epic Movement until July 2015, when he shifted his focus to developing strategic partnerships and networking. He also consults for various organizations. Tommy grew up in Pasadena, CA and lives in Long Beach, CA with his wife Melissa, and they have two adult children, Noah and Mika.

### **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 Tommy’s presentation at 11:00 a.m. which is in person at the church and broadcast on Zoom. The event is free and open to the public.

***Zoom attendees must register here in advance to receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the meeting. Zoom attendance is limited to 100 people.***

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/fISCXyE5QTyKU67e8osr\\_Q#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/fISCXyE5QTyKU67e8osr_Q#/registration)**

### ***Mission Statement***

*The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society helps people, wherever they come from, discover, document, share, and preserve their family histories.*

### **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.”

## Presidents' Messages

by Edward Tazer-Myers and Marie Sue Parsons



### Ted's Message

On February 22, 2022, Art Sylvester handed over the Society's presidential reins at a Board of Directors retreat to a 65-year-old whippersnapper. Art had been carrying the Society on his shoulders, even while his body was carrying something he couldn't quite extirpate, and he needed to redirect his energies toward family and transition. A few weeks earlier, Art had confided his intentions to me, but at the time, I had demurred. Yet now, the moment had come.

The good news was that the Society—and the board under Art's leadership—was well-positioned for rejuvenation after the pandemic. The bad news was that Arthur Gibbs Sylvester departed this earthly plane on May 2nd, leaving us to forge ahead without him.

I recognized almost immediately that Art's shoes were a bit too big for me to fill, both literally and figuratively. It was clear that tackling the Society's strategic challenges would require a team effort. Our recent stakeholder survey had identified dormant and stagnating issues, such as attracting new members, expanding use of our property, and refocusing our mission on genealogy and family history education. There were operational challenges as well: getting the new website to work smoothly, fixing leaks, improving after-hours safety on the property, and even cleaning the carpets. My first order of business was to consult with Karen Ramsdell. Together, we realized that I couldn't effectively manage all that was needed in the combined President/CEO role without her partnership. So, we designed a Vice-President of Operations position, which Karen quickly agreed to fill after I offered her a "lucrative package" she couldn't refuse!

Now, after two and a half years, the Society has achieved so many milestones that I hesitate to list them for fear of leaving some out and offending someone. Instead, I'll leave that task in the capable hands of Mary Jacob and our team and committee leads, who will summarize these accomplishments in the upcoming 2024-2025 Year-in-Review.

In the meantime, Karen and I have stepped off the stage, and providentially, two experienced and enthusiastic leaders, Marie Sue Parsons and Kate Lima, have stepped into our respective roles. Marie Sue has served as your President before and is eager to devote her considerable talents to advancing our mission in the coming year. Kate's enthusiasm and problem-solving skills, honed during her time as Membership Director, have well prepared her to serve as Vice-President of Operations.

Finally, dear friends, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve you these past three years. I have made many new and dear friends and plan to stay involved in one way or another. Please give your full support to Marie Sue and Kate as they lead us forward, tackling the future while honoring our past.



### Marie Sue's Message

Speaking of shoes to fill, there is no way that I can fill Ted's! However, with Kate as V.P. and the very capable hands of all other committee members, board members, and other officers, I am excited to continue the wonderful progress they all have made in the past few years. To be honest, I don't believe that either Kate nor I would have accepted this one year appointment without the wonderful backing of all the others that will be supporting us. And that includes all of you.

As we continue our individual genealogical research and have those wonderful aha! moments, I look forward to hearing all your discoveries! Please feel free to introduce yourself to me if we haven't met, and sharing your finds. I

## Ancestors West

Charmien Carrier, Editor



## Ancestors West

Suggested topics to write about your  
**Ancestors' Schooling & Education**



Homeschooling • Public school  
• Trade School  
Military • Higher Ed • On-the-job

**Due: August 1, 2025**

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



## Books at the Sahyun

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair

One of my mother's favorite sayings was that she often felt like a one-armed paper hanger. Well, after rotator cuff surgery on my dominant side, I now know exactly what she meant—I'm currently a one-armed typist and paper-writer! It's been a bit overwhelming and, honestly, a little frustrating. So please forgive me if this month's update is on the shorter side.

That said, I did manage to list many of our newly cataloged books for you to explore. But I'd be even more thrilled if you stopped by the library to browse the shelves in person. There are plenty of treasures waiting to be discovered—resources that could give your research a boost or simply spark your curiosity.

And you just might find me there too—sling and all—still on the hunt for the next great book to dive into.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Until then, happy reading and researching!

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

- *Index to Osage County, Kansas Divorces and Criminal Records*
- *New England Family Histories: Connecticut*
- *Old New York in Early Photographs, 1853-1901*
- *Polish Localities in the Russian Partition and their Parish Affiliations*
- *The Historical Families of Dumfriesshire and the Border Wars*
- *Clinton County, Indiana plat book, including list of owners*
- *Early Marriages of La Plata, Colorado Oct 1876 – Dec 1901*
- *From Boats to Board Feet: The Wilson Family of the Pacific Coast*
- *Hart County Kentucky History and Biographies*

We want to thank the following generous donors:

**Karen Harris**  
**The late Beth Collins**  
**Gwen Upchurch**

### California Pioneers Certificate Program

Do you have a California ancestor who survived the 1906 San Francisco earthquake; or perhaps an ancestor who participated in the California gold rush? Maybe your ancestor was an early settler in California before it became a state. If any of these situations apply to you then you might be eligible to earn a California Pioneer Certificate.

This unique SBCGS members-only program is in partnership with the San Diego Genealogical Society. It honors pioneers of the State of California who helped shape its future by offering ancestral recognition certificates. More details can be found in the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

**Monthly Zoom workshops are held on the 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m.** to assist applicants with questions or problems related to completing their certificate requirements. Check our calendar.

## Upcoming Events at SBCGS



**Writers' Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 16, 2025,**  
**10:00 - 11:00 am**  
**Moderator: Sharon Summer**  
**Zoom Only**

Need to balance your ancestor's story with history of their times? This month will offer a fresh guidance on that topic, along with continuing a discussion of opening and ending paragraphs. Read a part of your own writing to hear how it sounds and gain feedback from our friendly, encouraging group of fellow writers.

We will not meet in August, yet will resume September 17. See you for July!

Register on our website. Same Zoom address as in the past.



### **July Genealogy Tech Talk – Please Note the Changes!**

This month's Genealogy Tech Talk will be a little different than usual, so please read carefully!

**Date: Sunday, July 13**  
(2nd Sunday – not the 1st)  
**Time: 4:00 PM**  
(not the usual 1:30 PM)

**Zoom Attendees:** No registration this month!

To receive the Zoom link, please email **Robin McCarthy** at [rpubgen04@cox.net](mailto:rpubgen04@cox.net).

### **Topic: Family Tree Maker 2024**

We'll be joining the Southern California Genealogical Society's Family Tree Maker User Group remotely. Dick Humphrey will be presenting an overview of the software's new features—a must-see for users and those considering an upgrade!

We look forward to seeing you—whether in person at the Sahyun Genealogical Library or online—for another informative session! (This meeting will NOT be recorded.)

### **Genealogy 101**

#### **ZOOM ONLY!**

**Thursday, July 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. Register to get Zoom link to join the meeting.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/FNE-XkOnRhexUP6gf-nNs7w>

### **DNA Lunch & Learn**

#### **ZOOM ONLY!**

**Friday, July 18, 2025, 12:00 pm**

SBCGS member **George LaPlante** is hosting this Zoom-only meeting where he will discuss recent DNA news and answer your DNA questions. All experience levels are welcome.

Register to get Zoom link to attend.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZUufumurT0qHdT-m93t-FIKrY2p91j2ZANE5>

## Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

What a month! Our 1925 earthquake exhibit has received quite a few visitors from the community, which is exciting! Among these visitors, were former Santa Barbara Mayor Sheila Lodge and the Santa Barbara Mission's Friar Jack Robinson and Andrew Walsh, the Collections Manager of the Santa Bárbara Mission Archive-Library. We also had a booth at The Great Quake event and it was very busy! We were able to put a full-page ad about our Society and exhibit in their event program. Check it out at Sahyun on the bulletin board above the copy machine!

We had two fun events this past week- the DAR 250th anniversary celebration at the Santa Barbara Public Library and Goleta Valley Historical Society's Old Fashion 4th of July.

Now, we are in power mode to gather all the great family stories for the next exhibit, Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories, 1850-1970 in time for the opening in September.

### Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories Exhibit

We had a successful Hispanic genealogy workshop for exhibit participants in June led by Society members Lynn Adams, Irene Macias, and Yolanda Perez. We are now busy collecting family biographies and scanning photographs to include in the exhibit.

**Volunteer opportunity:** We need editors and anyone who would like to help with a little research and do short write-ups.

**Save the date! September 14 from 12-4pm** will be our next exhibit opening event! In addition to the exhibit, there will be community organization booths, entertainment, refreshments, and genealogy help. It will be open to the public and free 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](http://www.calhum.org).*

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



**Location:** Sayhun 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!

### Speaking Engagements in the Community



**Upcoming:** Encina Royale, July 17

**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

**Santa Bárbara Mission Archive-Library Educating Conversations- August 29, 6-8pm**

*The Latest Dispatch from the Santa Barbara Presidio presented by Mike Hardwick & Jarrell Jackman*

Visit [www.sbmml.org/events](http://www.sbmml.org/events) for more information and to register.



## Memorial Garden & Patio – Project Update

Mary Jacob, Development Chair

**Exciting changes are coming to the Sahyun Library grounds this August!** As you may recall, the Memorial Garden and Patio project was launched in May 2023 with two main goals: to honor the legacy of past Society leaders and to create a functional outdoor space for events that will enhance the flow between the library's interior and exterior.

The Memorial Garden and Patio will be located on the east side of the property, directly opposite the library's main entrance. This multi-year initiative includes several phases, each with multiple steps.

We're pleased to report that the Society has successfully raised \$110,000 to fund Phase One. This phase includes the development of a professional landscape design, securing the necessary permits from the city and county, and the demolition of both the glass house and the adjacent storage room in the redwood building.

Demolition is scheduled for August. Once completed, the area will be leveled and left to reseed naturally. Informational signage about the Memorial Garden and Patio project will be placed on-site to share the vision with visitors. The cleared space will offer a more expansive view of the grounds and help everyone imagine the transformation to come.

We will keep members informed about demolition dates and any library closure (if needed) via email and notices posted at the library

### 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](http://sbgen.org). Once logged in, navigate to **Member Resources** to access the latest **Board Minutes and Operations Leadership Notes**.

### *OUTREACH, continued*

#### **(Past) DAR American Revolution Anniversary Event- July 3**



This was the first of two events the DAR will be celebrating the 250th anniversary. Next year June 3, 2026 will be their big event celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary. Thank you to Rhonda McFarlane, Kathy Greene, and Kate Lima for tabling at this year's event!



#### **GVHS Old Fashioned 4th of July, Stow House**

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped set up, do research lookups, helped with the children's activities, and helped clean up. We had some challenges with our hotspot and battling the wind; however, it was fun to hang out with our great volunteers, help look up visitors' ancestors, and listening to great music. It was also fun when a few members came by to say hi! Check out some pictures from the event on another page of this issue of TreeTips.

## Membership Spotlight

Kate Lima, Membership Chair

**Summer is here! Happy 4th of July!** Happy sun and warmth, early morning walks and afternoon siestas. I've been enjoying our library more and more, preparing for possible heritage trips and preparing genealogy articles for Ancestors West and also for my family. The Sahyun library has been instrumental in my endeavors: books in the stacks and people to help with ideas for new searches. Working at the library helps keep me on task – no dogs to pet or fridge to raid. No soft pillow calls my name. These long summer days help me feel more productive and happy.



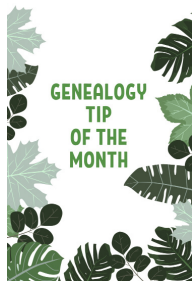
### Welcome to our new members from May

Martha Gutierrez  
Beatriz Molina  
Mark Hochstetler  
Julie Reyes Luera  
Amanda Marie Pelch  
Lydia and Richard Aldana  
Sarah Emma Ruth Ahlers  
Sandee Mooney

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

### Genealogy Tip of the Month:

From *genealogytipoftheday.com*, July 28, 2021 (Michael John Neill)



Years ago, I used a series of records. I didn't find my relatives in them and made some incorrect conclusions about how the records were organized and what time period they covered.

Twenty years later, on a whim I searched them again.

Knowing more about records and research, I found some of my relatives in the records.

Did you make assumptions about records early in your research...and would it be worth your while to revisit those records and assumptions?

### Library News

Laurie Hannah, Library Director

**FIRST of the MONTH TUESDAY HOURS**  
**The library is open Tuesday Evening, August 1,**  
**until 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!

### Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

We had a wonderful gathering of volunteers after the June General Meeting. The sun sparkled and a light breeze whirled around us as we filled our plates with sandwiches, salads and miscellaneous goodies. I loved seeing people relax and interact - a collective letting our hair down if you will. These volunteers do so much for our society to keep it running; without them we wouldn't have our events, our library would stay shuttered, etc.



### Here are the groups that work on an ongoing basis:

Ancestors West Committee  
Book Nook Sales    Book Buyer  
Budget & Finance Committee  
Communications Committee  
Development Committee  
Gardening Committee    Governance  
Investments Committee  
Library Committee    Library Aesthetics  
Marketing & Publicity  
Membership Committee    Outreach Committee  
Property Committee    Records Preservation  
Social Committee  
Technology Committee  
Tree Tips Editor  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Webmaster

Roughly 100 people have signed on to volunteer at least once a month for a couple of hours. I hope each and every one of them knows how important they are. These regular contributors keep the Society alive and vibrant. THANK YOU ALL!

**Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society**  
**Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget**

Board Adopted June 19, 2025

	<b>Operating Budget</b>	<b>Restricted Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations	\$24,500	\$3,800
Membership Dues	24,000	-
Rental Property Revenue	102,360	-
Book & Merchandise Sales	2,000	-
User Fees & Other Income	2,850	-
Reserves	-	56,289
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$155,710</b>	<b>\$60,089</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Accounting, Banki Fees and Insurance	\$30,400	-
Development and Board Expense	6,050	\$3,000
Publications and Communications	4,300	-
Library	18,253	300
Programs and Education	15,570	6,789
Property	46,548	-
Technology	28,334	-
Taxes and Fees	4,255	-
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$153,710</b>	<b>\$10,089</b>
<b>Capital Spending - Memorial Garden</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Total Expense and Capital Spending</b>	<b>\$153,710</b>	<b>\$60,089</b>



# the great quake june 28; 2025



Merced Leon descendants;  
Photo credit: Kate Lima



Photo credit: Isaac Hernández,  
courtesy of EQ25







Old Fashion 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
@ Stow House  
2025







**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)

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:

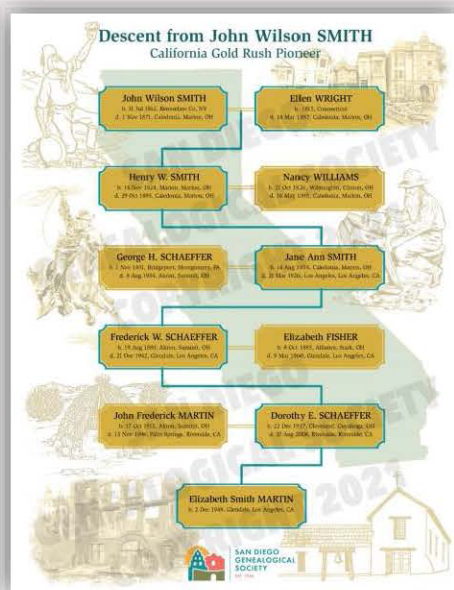
- California's Admission of Statehood (1850)
- The Gold Rush (1848-1860)
- The San Francisco earthquake (1906)
- California Mission period (before 1850)

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

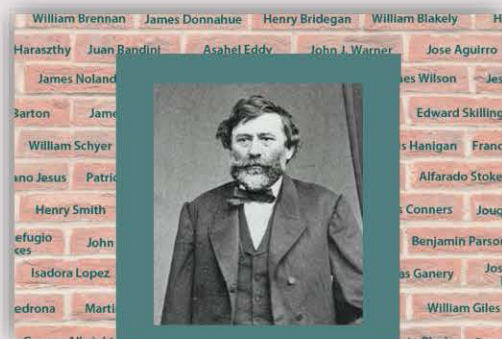
Membership to the San Diego Genealogy Society is not required to participate in this certificate program. The application and instructions are available in the Member Resources section of the SBCGS website.



California Pioneer Certificate



Lineage Chart



California Pioneer Certificate