



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

October 2025

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 41, No. 10

“Mexican Genealogy Research: Civil & Church Records and Beyond”

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Location: First Presbyterian Church, State & Constance, SB



The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society invites you to its free monthly meeting on Saturday, October 18, featuring professional genealogist **Lisa Medina** who will present “**Mexican Genealogy Research: Civil & Church Records and Beyond.**”

Discover the essentials of Mexican genealogy research—language resources, naming conventions, and key civil and church records—while also exploring lesser-used sources such as newspapers, immigration files, and colonial records. Examples from early Santa Barbara families will illustrate how these resources bring family history to life.

Lisa Medina is a professional genealogist and experienced lecturer, applying her background in teaching to all of her presentations. She is an alum of several genealogical institutes and education programs (ProGen, SLIG, Gen-Fed) and her research expertise is in Mexican genealogy. When not researching, Lisa is the Director of Admissions and University Registrar at a California State University.

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 Lisa’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](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84451234567) in advance to receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the meeting.

(<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/P1XZAVfiTASPwMWn40YIww>)

SBCGSs celebration of Family History Month

**begins with the annual Open House
on Sunday, October 5th, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
at the Sahyun.**

FREE!

Everyone is invited - bring family and friends!

- Walk away with the resources you need to start your family history!
- Ask about personal one-on-one genealogy assistance
- Join a guided tour to discover the best resources for your research
- Print out your own family tree fan chart
- * Visit booths for: UCSB Library’s Special Research Collections, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Santa Barbara Mission Archives, Carpinteria Valley Museum of History
- Don’t miss the grand opening of the Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories Exhibit
- Stop by SBCGS’s special interest group tables
- And don’t forget to pause for some special treats at the refreshment table!



**Use the QR code
to learn more about
the SBCGS Open House
Sunday, October 5
1:00 - 4:00 pm**

or go here:

<https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/family-history-month/>



President's Message

by Marie Sue Parsons



Good morning! We had a nice bit of rain last week—now it seems more like our usual Santa Barbara fall to me. As usual we'll be celebrating **Family History month** this October, with a lengthy list of classes and opportunities, beginning with our annual **Open House** on October 5th.

Once again, the Outreach team has outdone themselves, this time with the Hispanic Exhibit which will open on the day of the open house. Kudos to the team for another wonderful exhibit!

Wondering what to do with your hard copy of *Ancestors West* after you've read it cover to cover? If you're like me, you have dozens of them saved just in case you'd like to re-read them. How about this idea? Why not share them by placing one in a medical office waiting room, or perhaps in a club room or YMCA for others to enjoy? Let's share the wealth and at the same time let others know about our society and the Sahyun library—one of Santa Barbara's best kept secrets!

The **nominating committee** begins its work in November for new officers that will be elected next June. We will need three members at large from the society, so if that committee interests you mention your name to me. And If you've ever thought of becoming a board member or just want to stop in and watch your board at work, let me know. You're always welcome to visit a meeting at 10:30 a.m. on (what is usually) the 3rd Friday of each month. All members are welcome to visit anytime—this is your society, so please check out your leadership at work.

At our last general meeting everyone received a copy of the **Annual Year in Review**. If you missed receiving a copy you can pick one up at the library, or let me know and I'll make sure that you receive one—if I have to put it on your doorstep myself! It's an amazing chronicle of our highlights of 2024-25. You'll enjoy reading about the accomplishments, programs, events, and points of pride of many of our committees. One thing that it doesn't mention, that we have both the membership and outreach committees to thank for, is that we gained 95 new members this past year. The interest in family history continues to grow and people are discovering that we are here—and ready to serve! Thanks to all of you.

Marie Sue Parsons,
President

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."

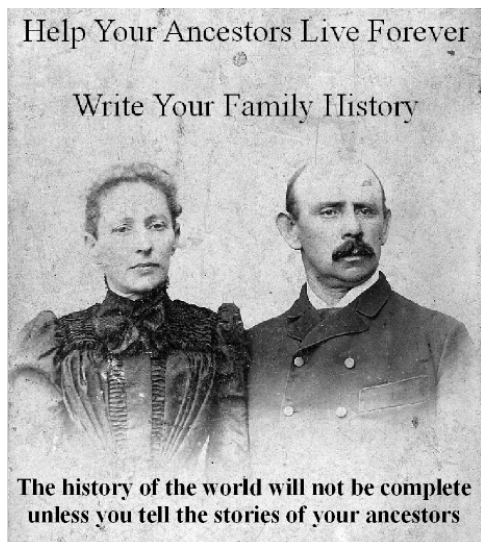
Website Records and Technology

by Robin McCarthy

Zoom Moderators Needed

Will you step out of your comfort zone, help your fellow society members, and master something new? To continue offering hybrid meetings and classes, we need Zoom moderators to make that possible. Moderating Zoom sessions is very simple and can be done from home.

Learn how to manage a Zoom meeting by admitting attendees, keeping them muted, sharing handouts, and recording events. Live training will be provided in addition to written and video instructions. Please contact Robin McCarthy (rpubgen04@cox.net) if you can help.



Writers' Group!

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Monthly, on the third Wednesday, via Zoom,

We talk about genealogy writing, share a bit of our drafts, ask questions, learn tips, and be encouraged. Join us for inspiration! <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/20F-suXdmSsC0JDR5yPfePA>

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**.

Books at the Sahyun

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair



October is Family History Month — Greetings from Santa Fe!

As we celebrate Family History Month, I'm writing to you from beautiful Santa Fe, New Mexico, where I'm visiting family. Although many of my relatives are scattered across the country, a good number of them are fortunate enough to call Santa Fe home.

This part of the world holds a special place in my heart. I earned my undergraduate degree at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and began my decades-long career showing Arabian horses right here in the region. So in many ways, being back feels like a homecoming.

While I don't have any known ancestors buried here—and haven't had much opportunity to dig deeply into local records—my visits to the Sahyun

Library remind me of the incredible genealogical resources New Mexico has to offer. The state boasts a vibrant genealogical community, with dedicated researchers and societies actively preserving and publishing valuable records. If you're lucky enough to have roots in New Mexico, our library shelves hold treasures you won't want to miss!

This month, we invite you to take full advantage of the many classes, workshops, and events being offered at the Sahyun Library in honor of Genealogy Month. Whether you're just beginning your family history journey or you're a seasoned researcher, there's always something new to learn and discover.

And, of course, Family History Month is a perfect excuse to reach out to loved ones—make a phone call, share a story, or even plan a visit if you can. Those connections are part of the legacy we all cherish.

So, what hidden gems are waiting for you at the Sahyun Library? We look forward to see you soon. Come visit and find out! Whether you're diving into your own genealogy or simply exploring the rich world of family history, we're here to support your journey. And if there are books or resources you'd like to see in our collection, we'd love to hear your suggestions.

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

New York in 1698: A Comprehensive List of Residents Based on Census, Tax, and other lists.

Madison County, Missouri Cemeteries Book, Vol 3

The Jews of Chicago

American Battlefields; a Complete Guide to the Historic Conflicts in Words, Maps, and Photos

Thirty-one English Emigrants Who Came to New England by 1662.

Old France in the New World: Quebec in the 17th Century

Your Stripped Bare Guide to Citing & Using History Sources by Elizabeth Shown Mills

We want to thank the following generous donors:

Melody Schloss

William Noack
Karen Harris

Bob Rothenberg
Carol Diamond

Photos from Santa Fe, New Mexico
"Land of the Dead" Cemetery



Where in the world do you take your copy of Ancestors West? Let us know!



Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

Family History Month Open House also featuring *Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories Exhibit- October 5, 1-4pm*



The annual FHM Open House is here! Special interest groups, lineage and military groups, and partner organizations will be joining us and will be ready to answer your research questions. The FamilySearch Center of Santa Barbara will be providing FamilySearch help, "Discovery Experiences," finding famous relatives, and more! Also get a FamilySearch pedigree fan chart printed! Create a free FamilySearch account ahead of time for the best experience.

This year's Open House is also featuring the opening of our brand-new exhibit, ***Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories, 1850-1970!***



This exhibit highlights the lives and cultural contributions of Santa Barbara's Hispanic families from 1850 to 1970s through photographs and personal stories. There will also be histories on Hispanic businesses and organizations, military service and more.

Read exhibit participants' neighborhood memories and share your own childhood neighborhood memories at the event! Interactive activities will be provided in the Woodward room.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We still need some help with the event. Can you help set up decorations or the exhibit display table, put up signs, monitor the main exhibit room, answer questions and conduct sales at the front desk, take pictures, help with research, help with cleaning up/take down? Email Outreach@sbgen.org if you can help out!



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

Speaking Engagements in the Community



Upcoming Talk: Friendship Center Adult Day Services, October 7

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

<https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/reservation-request/> Please share the link with any groups who may be interested! If you'd like to bring in a group of friends and get a tour, please request one ahead of time so we can ensure they have the best experience.

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!

Library News

Laurie Hannah, Library Director

Map Inventory

Cathy Jordan completed an inventory of our map file cabinet. She itemized over 675 maps, mostly tourist maps and ordinance maps of the UK, going back to the 1950s. A pdf of this collection will be posted on our website in the near future. **Laurie Hannah** will be teaching an introductory class on the Sahyun Library map resources during Family History Month.

Mapping Your Family's Past

In person at the Sahyun
Thursday, October 9, 1:00

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for a volunteer with who has book repair experience to help us fix a small collection of damaged and broken books. If you have ever rebound a book, tipped in loose pages, worked with reversible materials such as wheat starch paste, or sewn loose signatures back together, we would love to have your expertise and help! Please contact library director Laurie Hannah at sahyunlibrary@sbgen.org.

New Computers

There are now 3 new PC computers running Windows 11 in the computer lab. They have replaced the old, slow ones that can no longer be upgraded or supported.

The library will be open until 8:00 pm on Tuesday October 7.



Ancestors West

Charmien Carrier, Editor



Ancestors West



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

Stories due October 15, 2025

Family Legends and Mysteries

THEME WRITING IDEAS:

- **A HIDDEN HEIRLOOM:** discovering a long-lost family heirloom.
- **A SECRET DIARY:** finding an old diary that reveals truths about the family's past.
- **A LOST RELATIVE:** tracing a missing family member.
- **A MYSTERIOUS PORTRAIT:** an old family portrait with a hidden message or clue.
- **A FORGOTTEN HERO:** uncovering the heroic deeds of a forgotten ancestor.
- **A HIDDEN TREASURE:** a family legend about hidden treasure.
- **A SECRET ADOPTION:** discovering a family member who was secretly adopted.

Membership Spotlight

Kathryn Field, Membership Chair

As I muddle through these new responsibilities, I'd especially like to thank **Gretchen Murray, Kathy Cremeen, and Kristin Lewis** for knowing exactly what needs to be done, and then doing it.

While I can't know all of our 480 members, I enjoy meeting you individually. Don't hesitate to introduce yourself as our paths cross.

NEW MEMBERS in September:

Nancy Wiggins
Scotia Susan Ogle
Lora Butterfield
Monique Jones
Jody Ann Johnson

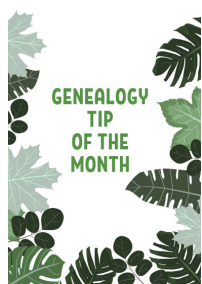
New member packets can be found under the Members Area of our SBCGS website. After signing in, find the Membership Packet on the Member Resources page. Also, there are packets at the library; stop by and pick one up.

As always, an enthusiastic thank you to our continuing members who have renewed!

Coaches: This wonderful membership benefit is available to all our members. We have people who can assist in many areas of genealogical research - whether it is translation or research assistance or simply as another pair of eyes! Please contact **Kathy Cremeen** at kajcremeen@gmail.com if you need a coach OR wish to become a coach. And if you can translate a foreign language to English, we'd love to add you to our list.

The list is accessible from our website, sbgen.org. Log in and look for "Find a Genealogy Coach" on the list to the left.

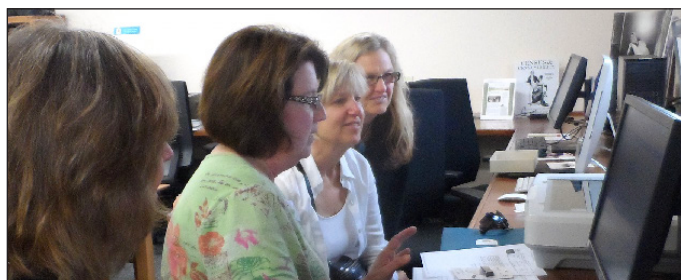
Genealogy Tip of the Month:



From genealogytipoftheday.com by Michael John Neill on December 21, 2020.

If your relative was a member of a specific church, have you looked into histories of that church? Your relative may be mentioned (if you are lucky). If the church was originally founded by a group of migrants, a discussion of their general origins in the church history may give you some direction in determining

where your own ancestor was from.



Outreach Community Events



Asian American Neighborhood Festival
Sunday, October 12, 2025 from 11 to 3 p.m.
El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park
123 E. Canon Perdido

You're invited! Enjoy:

- Traditional and contemporary performances
- Cultural crafts and hands-on activities for all ages
- Local Asian American artisan vendors and food trucks
- Exhibits and guided walking tours sharing Asian American history in Santa Barbara

Come enjoy a day filled with art, movement, food, music, and memory... and stop by our booth!

HELP NEEDED!! Outreach needs help tabling at the following events. If you are willing to talk about our Society and our new Hispanic exhibit with the public, please consider tabling at one of these events! Don't worry, you will not be alone at our Society's table, and we will keep setup simple.

Wednesday, October 15:

Santa Barbara Senior Expo, 9am-noon at Earl Warren Showgrounds [1 more volunteer needed] - Talk about the Society and SB Hispanic exhibit, pass out brochures and genealogy forms

Saturday, November 15:

Carpinteria Valley Museum of History's Family Day, 9am-noon [need 2-3 volunteers]

This event is a hands-on tabling event where we provide arts & crafts-style family tree activities to children. Caregivers are with the children to help them. Super fun and well-attended event!





Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Researching the World

October 2025

Celebrate Family History Month

Classes, Lectures, Webinars, Open House, and More!

**OPEN HOUSE &
EXHIBIT OPENING**
Sunday, October 5, 2025
1:00 – 4:00 PM

The Sahyun Genealogical Library
316 Castillo St., Santa Barbara



FREE ADMISSION

Exhibit Opening: Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories, 1850-1970

Plus:

- **Free use** of computers, scanners and subscription sites
- **Connect** with Special Interest Groups and Community Organizations
- **Help to get started** on your family history
- **Family history activities**
- **Refreshments & more!**

In October, SBCGS celebrates Family History Month with events for all levels of interest. Join us for classes, lectures, webinars, and special programs. Discover new resources, connect with others, and explore the Sahyun Library to see what membership can offer.

Don't miss our Open House and new exhibit opening on October 5th—free and open to all!

Look for our calendar of Family History Month events including classes, lectures, webinars, and other special offerings.



Contact Information

Sahyun Genealogical Library
316 Castillo Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101
www.sbcgs.org
info@sbgen.org
(805) 884-8808

*Exhibit will run through April during open hours.



SBCGS formed in 1972 to foster an interest in the study of family history through education, operation of a genealogy research library, and preservation of local genealogical records to enhance understanding of ourselves and our heritage. The Society offers genealogy education programs, and its genealogical research library collection includes over 19,000 volumes and a computer lab with access to 9 subscription websites. SBCGS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Family History Month

October 2025

Events are FREE and open to the community. Donations are always appreciated.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

<https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/family-history-month/>

or use the QR code.



First Thursday Lunch & Learn
In-Person at Sahyun Genealogical Library
Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025, 12:00 - 01:30 pm
Host: Rosa Avolio
All levels from beginner to advanced are welcome. Bring your lunch, questions, goals, ideas, and requests for future topics!

Family History Month Open House
Sunday, October 5, 2025
Sahyun Genealogical Library
1:00 - 4:00 pm
Free and Open to the Public

Webinar Watch Party
Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 1:30
Host: Rosa Avolio

From Boxes to Bytes: Protect Your Photos, Slides, and Documents
In person at the Sahyun Library
Wednesday, Oct 8, 2025, 10:00 - Noon
Instructors: Rosa Avolio, Judy Sahn, Chris Klukkert Bring family photos, slides, negatives, important documents, family histories, and other keepsakes to the Sahyun Genealogical Library to use our state-of-the-art scanners. This session will feature an introduction and demonstration of the equipment, with volunteers on hand to assist and advise. Please limit items to 10-12 for this session. Registration is required.

Mapping Your Family's Past
In-Person at Sahyun Genealogical Library
Thursday, October 9, 2025, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Instructor: Laurie Hannah
Maps, in any format, are useful in family history research for many reasons—to locate an ancestral home, to find property, or to establish political boundaries. Come find out what kinds of map resources are available to use at the Sahyun Library, both in print and digital formats. This is a beginning to intermediate level class.

Genealogy Tech Talk
HYBRID
Sunday, October 12, 2025, 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Hosts: Robin McCarthy & Judy Thompson
Robin will be doing a deep dive into the Genealogy Assistant Chrome browser extension that adds 50+ custom features to popular genealogy websites like Ancestry, MyHeritage,

FamilySearch, FamilyTreeDNA, and more! This powerful tool helps you extract, organize, and copy key record details from Ancestry pages with ease.

Genealogy Research With AI HYBRID

Registration required for all attendees.
Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Join Robin McCarthy in this introductory session to give you a preview of a new year-long workshop designed to guide family historians through a structured, step-by-step process of researching one question about an ancestor at a time. Whether you're new to AI or simply looking for a more organized way to tackle research projects, this overview will help you decide if the full workshop is right for you.

Writers' Group

Zoom Only
Wednesday, October 15, 10:00 to 11:00 am
Host: Sharon Sumner
Get a boost for your family history writing by learning tips, ideas, and all things about making your work fascinating to read, especially for non-genealogists (family etc.). We will create a friendly, accepting, relaxed, warm place to learn and forward your writing objectives.

Clues of Service: Determining the Military Service of Your Ancestors

In person only at the Sahyun Library
Thursday, October 16, 2025, 12:00 Noon
In this online lecture, Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert will discuss how to determine if your ancestor served—looking for clues in the census, gravestones, family heirlooms, and more. This overview will touch on colonial conflicts through World War II. Afterward, stay and use what you learned with our subscription to American Ancestors, Fold5, and Ancestry.

DNA Lunch & Learn (Last One)

Zoom Only
Friday, October 17, 2025, 12:00 Noon
Instructor: George LaPlante
George LaPlante will discuss recent DNA news and answer your DNA questions. All experience levels are welcome. Register to receive a confirmation email with the Zoom link to attend.

October General Meeting (Hybrid)



Mexican Genealogy Research: Civil & Church Records and Beyond
Featuring Lisa Medina
Saturday, October 18, 2025
10:30 - 12 Noon

Remaster Ancestry:

Tips, Tricks & Tree Tactics
In Person at Sahyun Genealogical Library
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 12:00 Noon
Instructor: Chris Klukkert
Ready to take your Ancestry.com skills to the next level? Join Chris Klukkert, an experienced researcher with over 80 family trees on Ancestry.com, as she shares her favorite tips, clever strategies, and tried-and-true techniques for getting the most out of the platform. Perfect for both new users of Ancestry.com and long-time members looking for fresh insights!

From Boxes to Bytes: Protect Your Photos, Slides, and Documents

In Person at Sahyun Genealogical Library
Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2025, 10:00 am Noon
Instructors: Rosa Avolio, Judy Sahn, Chris Klukkert Use our state-of-the-art scanners to conserve family photos, slides, negatives, and important documents. This session will feature an introduction and demonstration of the equipment, with volunteers on hand to assist and advise. Please limit items to 10-12. Registration is required.

Santa Barbara Quilt Unveiling

In Person at Sahyun Genealogical Library
Sunday, October 26, 2025, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
The Coastal Quilters Guild's illustrious Santa Barbara Quilt, is on loan to the Sahyun! The quilt was made in 1994 and was shown at major quilt shows around the country. Starting in 1997, the quilt hung in Washington DC in SB Congressional Representative Walter Capps' office and stayed there when Lois Capps became the Rep. In 2016, it came back to Santa Barbara, was displayed at several other quilt shows, and now will hang at the Sahyun Library. Light refreshments will be served.



**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

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:

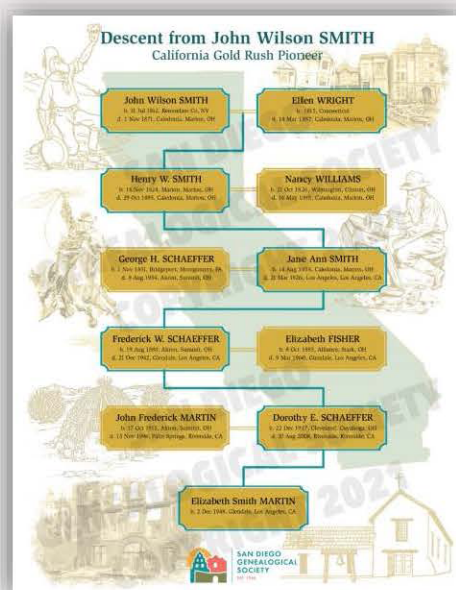
- California's Admission of Statehood (1850)
- The Gold Rush (1848-1860)
- The San Francisco earthquake (1906)
- California Mission period (before 1850)

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

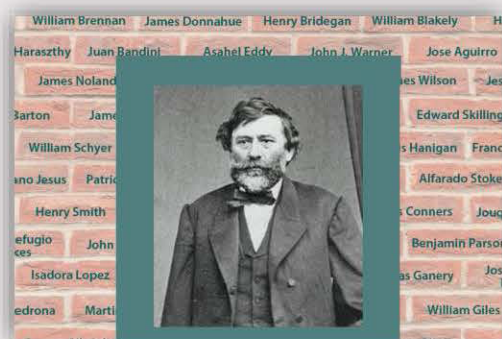
Membership to the San Diego Genealogy Society is not required to participate in this certificate program. The application and instructions are available in the Member Resources section of the SBCGS website.



California Pioneer Certificate



Lineage Chart



California Pioneer Certificate