



## Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

*Researching the World*

*November 2025*

*Tree Tips Newsletter*

*Vol. 41, No. 11*

### **“Screening our Stories: Home Movies from Santa Barbara”**

**Saturday, November 15, 2025, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm**

**Location: Sahyun Genealogical Library, 316 Castillo, SB**



**Note the venue change this month.**

**We are meeting at the Sahyun Genealogical Library, 316 Castillo.**

**In-person attendance is limited to 60 people.**

The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society invites you to its free monthly meeting on Saturday, November 15, featuring **Laura Jean Treat Liebhaber**, Curator at UCSB Library Special Research Collections, who will present **“Screening our Stories: Home Movies from Santa Barbara.”**

In fall of 2024, the UCSB Library and SBCGS embarked upon a collaboration to digitize and preserve the histories of community members living in Santa Barbara County through the Santa Barbara Community Archives Project (SBCAP). A year later, Curator and SBCAP co-founder Laura Jean Treat Liebhaber returns to share the overwhelmingly positive response from community members to her call for home movies of Santa Barbara County. She will discuss common themes observed in the preserved films, challenges and rewards of the program, and screen never before seen footage from

local families. Participating families are invited to join us for the presentation, reflect on their experiences with the program, and contribute stories about the featured films. Attendees are encouraged to share their own recollections and memories of the events, places, and people shown on screen.

#### **About the Speaker:**

Laura Jean Treat Liebhaber is a Curator at UCSB Library Special Research Collections where she oversees the Film & Television, Santa Barbara & Local History, and Oral History Collections. Along with her colleague Angel Diaz, Laura launched the Santa Barbara Community Archives Project, a UCSB Library initiative to document the rich and diverse communities that make up Santa Barbara by digitizing, preserving, and sharing family histories. For more than a decade, Laura has dedicated her professional work to preserving home movies. While at the University of North Texas, Laura ran two successful home movie digitization projects and local film events under the name Spotlight: North Texas with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She also participated in the Texas Archive of the Moving Image's award winning Texas Film Round Up Program. Laura holds an M.S.I.S. from the University of Texas at Austin's School of Information.

#### **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 Laura's presentation at 11:00 a.m. which is in person at the Sahyun Genealogical Library and broadcast on Zoom.. The event is free and open to the public.

**Registration is required for ALL attendees, both in person and on Zoom.**

**Choose how you want to attend:**

**ZOOM** (<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/YvsQUsSs8KLCHdQvltmDg#/registration>)

**or**

**At the Sahyun Genealogical Library** — limited to 60 people

**(<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar-new/#!/event/register/2025/11/15/monthly-meeting-hybrid>)**

## President's Message

by Marie Sue Parsons



What's in a name! If you're a genealogist, quite a lot actually!

Take my name. Technically, Susan is my middle name. But for some reason, my parents always called me Marie Sue, as if that were my first name...and Marie Susan if I was in

trouble (then spoken loudly and with ! at the end!) So, I have always been called Marie Sue by most everyone. And I have spent a lot of my life correcting people. "It's not Marie, it's Marie Sue," or "It's not Mary Sue, it's Marie Sue," or even "It's not Sue, it's Marie Sue." My Dad had told me that I was named after his mom, who I never knew because she passed the year I was born. But so far I have found nothing that indicates that Sue or Susan was ever part of her name - she was just Maria Boczak - so I'm still looking for confirmation of that.

My Mom had an interesting name story. When I was in college my dad had occasion to travel to Europe for business. My mom was going with him, and needed to get her first passport, so ordered her birth certificate. She had always been called Ruby, her first name. Imagine her surprise when her birth certificate showed Kathryn Tilley Raymond — no Ruby anywhere. She always thought her maiden name was Ruby Kathryn Raymond. Her sister was June Opal, so I guess her parents wanted another Jewel so nicknamed her Ruby — which is actually my birthstone — not her. Hers was peridot - not a good nickname. Learning her true name didn't change anything — she remained Ruby till she passed at 99.

My brick wall — my third great-grandmother — was also Kathryn — or Kate. But her maiden name is the mystery. According to her death certificate her youngest daughter wrote that her maiden name had been Mattingly — and family lore indicates that she always referred to herself as a "black irish orphan." Now, if she was an orphan, was that truly her birth name or the name she took IF she was in fact adopted as a child? I do have DNA matches to Mattinglys from Kentucky (her birthplace) so maybe that's in fact her maiden name. But I have found NO Kate Mattingly in Kentucky of the approximate right age, and none of my DNA matches have indicated that they located any possible Kate's either, born about the right time, that left for Kansas around 1860. She had a nickname of "Dongo." None of my cousins know why. But I recently found in a book about the Celtic language, a term, that depending on how its pronounced, could sound like dongo. And its definition? "Dark skinned foreigner." So Dongo could fit with being of northern irish descent. And since there were lots of Mattinglys in Kentucky by the 1840's, and the name can be associated with Irish roots, then maybe that's her birth name — the mystery continues...

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

### Possible Year-Long Workshops for 2026

Robin McCarthy is planning two separate year-long workshops in 2026, each contingent on a minimum of 6 enrolled students.

### Research with AI Workshop (3rd Thursdays, 1:30–3:30 pm; location TBD: library, Zoom, or hybrid)

Based on Diana Elder's recent webinar "*AI in Genealogical Research: A Practical Approach*." If you missed it, watch the recording in our Webinar Archive to see if this workshop is a good fit. We'll use the **Research Like a Pro with AI Workbook** (\$39.99). An anonymous donor will cover \$20 of the cost for member purchases. Please hold off on buying the workbook until we have six students enrolled.

### Genealogy Do-Over Workshop (2nd Wednesday EVENINGS, 6:30–8:00 pm, Zoom only)

Inspired by Thomas MacEntee's *The Genealogy Do-Over*. Get a preview at the library on November 18 or November 20 to watch presentations to other societies (which cannot be recorded). Robin will host a kick-off Q&A on December 10 to discuss materials and next steps. Check our [calendar](https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!calendar) to register for any of these events. (<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!calendar>)

### Interested?

Each workshop will proceed with a **minimum of 6 participants** (interest for each is counted separately).

Contact Robin McCarthy at [rpubgen04@cox.net](mailto:rpubgen04@cox.net) to express your interest in one or both workshops.



### 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**.

## Development Report — Annual Appeal

Mary Jacob, Development Chair

We are excited that President Marie Sue Parsons has launched our 2025 Annual Appeal campaign. The funds raised this year will directly support the programs and services that matter most to you—our classes, library acquisitions, subscription web-sites, guest speakers and much more.



We're off to a great start to meet our twin goals: increasing the number of donors from 110 to 115 and raising a total of \$20,000. Already we have about a dozen donors, two of whom are new, first-time donors, and this is just within the first week! We invite you to join these early donors by making a contribution that is meaningful to you. Remember, just by participating you are moving us toward our twin goals. Together, we can reach these goals and continue to enrich our Society for everyone. Thank you for your support!

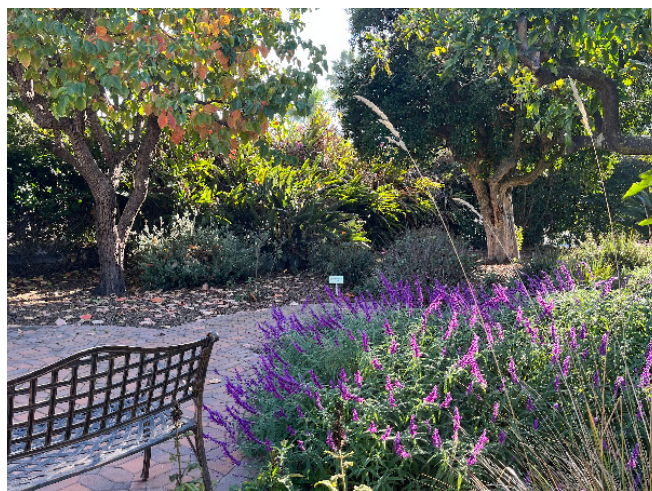
Donations can be made online at: <https://sbgen.org/donate/#!/form/Development> or by sending a check made out to "SBCGS" with a note in the memo line, "Annual Appeal."

### Mayor Randy Rowse Addresses Major Donor Luncheon

The Society's second Major Donor Luncheon was held on Thursday, October 30, at the Santa Barbara Club, where we were honored to welcome Santa Barbara Mayor Randy Rowse as our keynote speaker. Mayor Rowse spoke from the heart about how nonprofits enrich life in our community and how the spirit of volunteerism continues to make Santa Barbara such a remarkable place to live.

President Marie Sue Parsons shared heartfelt thanks for the dedication of our volunteers, whose time and talent are at the very core of the Society's success. She also expressed deep appreciation to the generous donors in attendance—people whose support has helped place the Society in a strong and sustainable position.

Looking to the future, Marie Sue highlighted the Society's new Memorial Garden and Patio project, which will honor the visionaries whose leadership helped us grow and thrive. This welcoming outdoor space will also give us room to gather, learn, and celebrate together as our programs and events continue to flourish beyond the library walls.



## Books at the Sahyun

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair



The other day, someone asked me a deceptively simple question: “What are your favorite books at the Sahyun Library?”

Now, that’s a bit like asking a parent to choose their favorite child — how could I possibly pick just one? But I can certainly share a few that hold a special place in my heart.

First, I’m always thrilled when I find a surname book that covers one of my family lines — and yes, we have quite a few! I also have a deep love for our collections relating to Mayflower, Revolutionary War, and Civil War eras. What’s wonderful about our library is that no matter where my ancestors lived — or where your relatives might have lived — we likely have a section that can help you uncover something new.

A personal favorite category of mine is the “Heritage Books” produced by genealogical and historical societies. These often include a history of a town or county, along with family histories submitted by local residents. Are they perfect? No — mistakes do creep in. But they’re absolute gold mines for clues, connections, and new research paths.

I also hold a soft spot for the Shasta County, California and Madison County, Missouri collections. I donated my entire personal collection from those areas so that anyone can access them — a true win-win for researchers and for me.

Another section I treasure is our how-to and reference collection. As a volunteer librarian, I often turn to those shelves when a patron’s question leads us both into unfamiliar territory. They’re invaluable guides for learning about new regions, time periods, or research strategies.

And, if I’m being honest, my absolute favorite books at the Sahyun are two volumes I personally compiled, bound, and donated. It gives me great comfort knowing they’re safely preserved in a place I love — and that future generations of my family will know exactly where to find them.

**So, now I’ll turn the question back to you:**

- What are your favorite books at the Sahyun Library?
- Is there a title or topic you’d love to see added to our shelves?



*We’re always eager to hear your ideas. Your favorites just might become someone else’s next great discovery. Here are the books from the New In The Library Shelf:*

*Way Back When: Santa Barbara in 1925*  
*Estate Inventories: How to Use Them*  
*Courthouse Research for Family Historians*  
*Some early Alabama Churches (established before 1870)*  
*Milwaukee, Wisconsin-Arcadia publishing edition*  
*Spanish Arms and Armaments of the Presidios in California*  
*Townland Atlas of Ulster*  
*The Vanderfords: early settlers of America*  
*Scott County, Kentucky wills and estates, 1795-1822*  
*Garrad County, Kentucky, Wills and estates, 1796-1819*  
*Gone but not Forgotten, Camden County Tombstone Inscriptions*



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

**Gary Gensler (his mother, the late Dorothy Northenscald’s books)**

**Karen Harris**

**Shirley Kunze**



## Library News

Laurie Hannah, Library Director

### Book Reviewers Wanted!

Do you wish you could read some of the wonderful new books in the Sahyun Library at your leisure at home? Since the Sahyun Library is non-circulating, we know it's hard to find the time to really dig into a book while you are there researching.

But here's a special offer for those of you who have some extra time. We would love to extend the invitation to temporarily borrow a book, take it home, and read it in exchange for a book review from you, to be published in a future issue of Tree Tips or Ancestors West. You don't need to be an accomplished writer either. We can give you guidelines for a simple book review.

*If you are interested, please contact Library Director Laurie Hannah at [sahyunlibrary@sbgen.org](mailto:sahyunlibrary@sbgen.org).*



### Book Nook News

by Kristin Ingalls



Won't you help us help YOU  
to recycle your cardboard ...  
and make some cash for  
The library ???

So many books.....  
So few boxes

Book Nook really needs small boxes to ship books  
to online customers. Not great huge ones that  
might hold a refrigerator, or a tiny one that you  
can use for a pair of socks.

Think book size - 12x10x3 - a little smaller  
or a little bigger is good.

We sure would appreciate it and you will not  
have to recycle your cardboard. Win Win !!

Bring them to the library when you can!  
Thanks....Kristin



### Events from Regional Genealogical Societies



Just in Time for Thanksgiving and the  
250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America

Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

10 am – 12:00 pm PST

Free by Zoom

**San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society Presents**

customized speaking presentation: Mayflower Passenger, *Stephen Hopkins (1581-1644)*, in costume and speech will discuss life in Plymouth in 1627, the First Thanksgiving, and how the Mayflower Compact was the basis for our U.S. Constitution.

A 17th century interpretive program

by Richard Pickering, Deputy Executive Director,

Chief Historian, Plimoth Patuxet Museums

Register at [www.slocgs.org](http://www.slocgs.org) under Events.

You will be sent a Zoom link two days before the event.

## Membership Spotlight

Kathryn Field, Membership Chair

Family History Month brought us eight new members, and numerous renewals, as well as plenty of fun.

### NEW MEMBERS in October:

Caroline Grace McCarty  
Mary Lou Sodomka  
Kathleen Olsen  
Rose Crawford  
Gilbert Garcia  
Martha Correa  
Bonnie Barabas Figlo  
Fran Bumann

**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.

### HOLIDAY GIFTING MADE EASY

Looking for a meaningful holiday present? **Consider a gift membership to your Genealogical Society.** Our talented techy volunteers are developing a category on the website specifically for gift memberships, but even without that, it's simple to enroll a friend or family. Just register and pay for your recipient as you would yourself, putting their name and contact information into those fields. A notification will go directly to the new member.

For as little as \$40 (\$50 for a family), members may access our vibrant community of coaches, the Sahyun Library, educational programs, and special events. As with all members, gift recipients are able to login remotely to My Heritage and Newspaper Archive.

A gift membership is a lasting invitation to explore heritage and strengthen family ties. It's a thoughtful present that celebrates history, family, and lifelong learning—one that continues to give long after the holidays or special occasion has passed.

*In honor of both Hispanic Heritage Month and Family History Month, we set up an ofrenda in the Sahyun Library. An ofrenda is a traditional altar or "offering" set up for Dia de los Muertos to honor and remember deceased loved ones. We invite you to contribute to our joyful ofrenda by leaving a photo or memento of an ancestor (or pet). It will remain up until November 15.*



### COACHES

Kathy Cremeen continues to refine our list of those 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 at [kajcremeen@gmail.com](mailto:kajcremeen@gmail.com) if you need a coach OR wish to become a coach.

The list is accessible from our website, [sbgen.org](http://sbgen.org). Log in and look for "Find a Genealogy Coach" on the list to the left.

### GENEALOGY TIP OF THE MONTH

## Genealogy Tip of the Day



*From genealogytipoftheday.com by Michael John Neill on November 5, 2021.*

It is never enough to take just one picture when at the cemetery. Lighting can make a big difference in readability. Try to take at least the following types of shots while there:

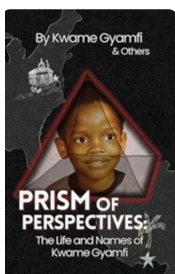
- The entire stone as a closeup—including a variety of angles if legibility is an issue.
- Closer closeups of any inscriptions that are unique or difficult to read.
- Closeups of immediately adjacent stones.
- An overview picture showing relative position of stone of interest to nearby stones. Do this from several angles to get all nearby stones.
- A broader view that shows the location of the stone within the cemetery—near large trees, mausoleums, etc.
- A picture of any notes made while looking at the stone.
- A picture of the entrance to the cemetery with the cemetery's name.

### A Prism of Perspectives: Reclaiming Identity, Lineage, and an African Name

Monday, November 17, 2025, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

HYBRID

Zoom and In Person at the Sahyun Genealogical Library



Join us for a powerful and inspiring presentation with author and influential leader Kwame Gyamfi and former Boys Town Family Teacher Melinda Yamane Crawford.

This compelling discussion will explore themes of identity, redemption, and ancestral roots, tracing one man's journey from a challenging youth to a purposeful life.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear how one man utilized his history to secure his identity and transform his past into a positive future! Kwame will have a limited number of his book available for purchase after his presentation at the Sahyun Genealogical Library.

Registration required for both Zoom and In Person at [sbgen.org](http://sbgen.org)

## Family History Month Open House 2025

On Sunday, October 5, the society's annual Family History Month's Open House took place at the Sahyun. The courtyard was filled with tables that held information on various organizations. We had nine organizations represented! These organizations, in alphabetical order, were:

### Los Californianos

Carpinteria Valley Museum of History  
Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)  
Daughters of Union Veterans (DUV)  
Santa Barbara Mission-Archive Library  
Santa Barbara Trust for Historical Preservation  
Sons of Union Veterans (SUV)  
UCSB Library Special Research Collections  
United States Daughters of 1812 (USD 1812)

Our Hispanic Exhibit was on full display; amazing panels highlighted early California Hispanic families and many participants brought items to show. The Jackson Education Room was filled with dozens of people enjoying the show.

Thank you to all the many volunteers, the Steering Committee for the Hispanic Exhibit, the Outreach Committee for organizing the entire event, and the many volunteers who showed up with goodies and a willingness to help. What a fantastic group!



## A Special Gathering at the Sahyun by Kate Lima

On Sunday, October 26, our society hosted members from the Coastal Quilters Guild of Santa Barbara and Goleta for a celebratory gathering. The Guild has chosen our Sahyun Library as the permanent home of the “The Santa Barbara Quilt” and on Sunday we unveiled the iconic quilt which now hangs on the wall by our library stacks.

First we gathered in the Jackson Reading Room for a viewing of a number of heritage quilts that were hung or displayed on tables. Heritage quilts are passed down from family members or friends and brief talks were given of their stories. We then moved to the library for the unveiling.

Sue Kadner talked about the history of the quilt. Between 1994 and 1995, more than 30 Guild members designed, sewed, and quilted this 91” x 87” quilt which includes many individual scenes of Santa Barbara such as the Fiesta Parade, the Mission, the Moreton Bay Fig Tree, the Courthouse and the Santa Ynez Mountains. The quilt was entered into and won an Honorable Mention at the internationally-respected Paducah Quilt Show, organized by The American Quilter’s Society which is the largest quilting membership organization in the world.

Walter Capps, our Congressional Representative at the time, found out about the quilt and asked if he could display it in his office in Washington DC; the Guild agreed, and it was loaned to him in 1997. When Representative Capps died later that year, he was succeeded by his widow, Lois Capps, who continued to display the quilt, and people who visited Lois would ask to have their photo taken in front of it. The quilt returned to Santa Barbara in 2016 and now resides in our library.

We are so honored that this beautiful piece of art is entrusted to us; it has already garnered much attention from the people who come to research.

We hope to see you at the library!

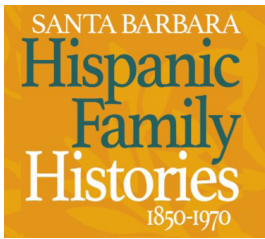


## Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

October was a busy and exciting month for us. The annual Family History Month Open House featuring the opening of our new exhibit on Santa Barbara Hispanic families was a hit and kicked off Family History Month! We also had a great time at a couple community events mentioned below and look forward to one more event this month in Carpinteria.

### Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories, 1850-1970 Exhibit



View our new exhibit! This exhibit highlights the lives and contributions of Santa Barbara's Hispanic families from 1850 to 1970s through photographs and personal stories. There are also histories on Hispanic businesses and organizations, military service and neighborhood histories.

***\*\*If you visit the exhibit, please be sure to fill out our survey located on our front desk. This is a requirement for our California Humanities grant and it provides us great feedback for future exhibits.\*\****

Outreach would like to acknowledge the Exhibit Steering Committee and the great work they did planning and implementing this new exhibit. Steering Committee members include Yolanda Perez (Co-Chair), Mary Hancock (Co-Chair), Holly Snyder (Co-Chair), Mary Robles, Lynn Adams, Angel Diaz, Jim Campos, Miroslava Chavez-Garcia, and Ty Smith. The physical panels were designed by Ebers Garcia of Somos Hispanic Advertising and Spanish translation was done by Margarita Martin del Campo. Virtual exhibit designed by Ellie Boynton of Garnett Solutions is in the works!

*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](http://www.calhum.org).*



### Speaking Engagements in the Community



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!

### Community Events

**Carpinteria Valley Museum of History's Family Day, Saturday, November 15, 9am-noon**



This event is a hands-on tabling event where we provide arts & crafts-style family tree activities to children. This was highly attended last year so we are hoping for another great event! Thank you to Lynn Petersen and two UCSB students for running our booth! See flyer for more details.

**Ventura County Genealogical Society, November 15, 1-4pm Hybrid**

"Newspapers in Mexico" presented by Lisa Medina & "U.S. Military Pension Files (1776-1916): A Gold Mine for Family History Research" presented by Julia Anderson

Register for free here: <https://venturacogensoc.org/calendar/>

### October Community Events Recap:

**Santa Barbara Senior Expo, October 15:**

We had great success at the Senior Expo this year! We were placed in the main exhibitor hall and it was non-stop the entire time! Thank you to Mary Robles for securing us a complimentary spot! Our new exhibit retractable banner, designed by Ebers Garcia of Somos Hispanic Advertising, was eye-catching and drew a lot of people to our table. Thank you to Lynn Adams and Julie Luera for volunteering at our table!



## Outreach, continued

### October Community Events Recap:

#### Asian American Neighborhood Festival, October 12, 2025:

We had another successful event at the annual Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation's Asian American Neighborhood Festival. Thank you to Melinda Crawford for volunteering solo this year! She brought some of our Asian American exhibit panels for viewing and they were a hit! It was also great to see some of our exhibit participants and Society members stop by and say hello.





**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 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:

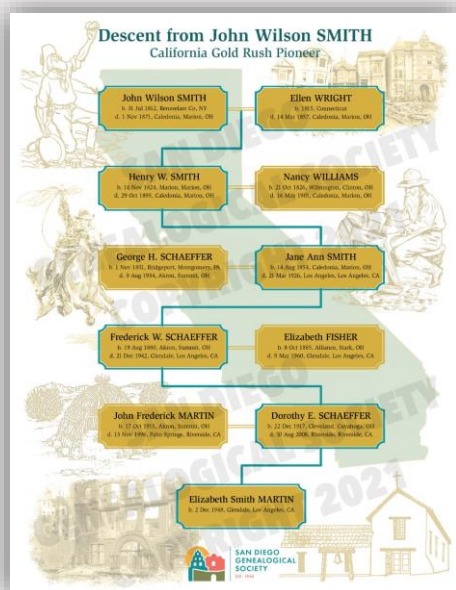
- California's Admission of Statehood (1850)
- The Gold Rush (1848-1860)
- The San Francisco earthquake (1906)
- California Mission period (before 1850)

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

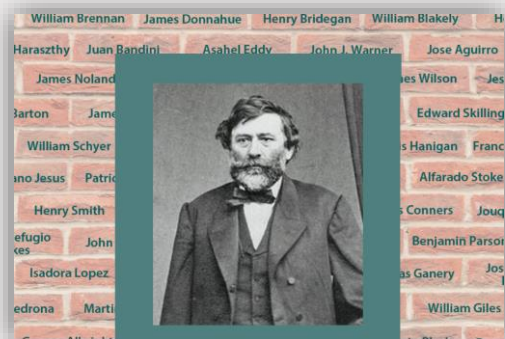
Membership to the San Diego Genealogy Society is not required to participate in this certificate program. The application and instructions are available in the Member Resources section of the SBCGS website.



*California Pioneer Certificate*



*Lineage Chart*



*California Pioneer Certificate*