



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

December 2025

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 41, No. 12

“Annual Member Share Holiday Meeting” Saturday, December 20, 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.

Members, families, and friends are invited to join us on Saturday, December 20th, for our Annual Member Share Meeting. This much-anticipated meeting offers members a chance to share in a several ways:

- Members can share their stories about exciting discoveries, brick wall break throughs, new DNA cousins, travels to ancestral homelands, and/or other interesting genealogical stories! (Please contact **Chris Klukkert** at programs@sbgen.org if you would like to share your story.)

- Members may also share a favorite holiday goodie, family heirloom, scrapbook, or other item of family history. Please include a note with a couple of sentences explaining why this recipe/item is meaningful to you.

We hope to see you for this special meeting!

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 the Member Share presentations 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/joining/register/w58--PWnR4aHeC6cd9qM3Q#/registration>
or

At the Sahyun Genealogical Library — limited to 60 people
(<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/register/2025/12/20/annual-member-share-meeting-hybrid>)

Library News

Laurie Hannah, Library Director

Happy Holidays
to all our members and friends!

This is a reminder that the
Sahyun Genealogical Library
will be closed from
December 21 through January 5, 2026.



December Calendar - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!calendar>

**Genealogy Tech Talk: Using Lucid.app for Genealogy
Presented by Libby Dollar**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025, 1:30 - 3:30 pm
ZOOM ONLY**

Join us to see some examples of how Lucid can help you
untangle some of the branches of your family tree.

**Genealogy Do-Over Workshop Kick-Off
Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025, 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

Zoom Only

Moderator: Robin McCarthy

Will include overview of workshop, the structure of the
monthly sessions, the materials used in the course, and
finalize meeting day and time.

President's Message

by Marie Sue Parsons



Happy Holidays to You!

I had a wonderful family time over Thanksgiving and hope you all did the same. One of the benefits of hosting the holiday at my house is that I really get organized and clear out lots of piles of junk! There's something very therapeutic about cleaning house. And a benefit is that it makes space for all the Christmas decorations that I store away and only bring out after December 1. That's this week's job.

During my sorting and purging I found several documents and other pieces of paper that I didn't even know that I had—many genealogy notes that I had written to myself or emails that I had received from long lost (or more recently found) cousins. I realized once again the importance of organization—and filing away treasures in the right places rather than saying to myself “Wow! How did I miss this?” One would think that by now I should have learned to deal with things immediately—rather than putting them into the “Urgent to take care of” file.

There are some excellent resources available to organize (or reorganize) your research if you need help. Several videos are available on the Legacy Webinar site, some by Geoff Rasmussen and others by Thomas MacEntee. For other experts, try *The Six-Folder Genealogy Organizing System* by our own Nancy Loe, or *Tips and Tricks to Organize Your Genealogy* by Shannon Combs-Bennett, and the most recent, *Organizing Your Genealogical Files* by Drew Smith, all at FamilyTreeWebinars.com.

Speaking of organizing, January is a great time to reorganize your files! You might want to check out the Do Over Workshop that Robin McCarthy will be starting in January. The kickoff for the workshop is December 10th on zoom, for anyone interested in finding out if it might work for them in 2026. You'll need to register if you're considering taking the course.

Finally, I'm thinking of presenting at our member share meeting on December 20th...ever heard about Spiritualists in the early 1900's? If I can get it together I'll tell you a bit about my 3rd great grandma! But only if I can get it all organized!

And if I don't see you before, have a wonderful Christmas celebration!

Marie Sue Parsons, President

Website Records and Technology

by Robin McCarthy

Genealogy Tech Talk News

Here are a few updates about upcoming classes. Beginning in December, sessions will be shorter and more focused—lasting no more than 90 minutes and only covering two topics, at most. All classes will be held exclusively on Zoom, and recordings will be available to SBCGS members only.

December 7th Class

This month, Libby Dollar is our guest speaker. She'll be demonstrating the impressive capabilities of Lucidspark and Lucidchart. You'll be amazed by how you can use these tools to augment your research work. Join us on Zoom at 1:30 p.m. PST on December 7th—please register here.

(https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/p4_2W1EHQWi-wNrnyfj3xuQ)

NEW CLASSES FOR 2026

Genealogy Do-Over Workshop Kick-Off — December 10

The Genealogy Do-Over Workshop begins with a kick-off meeting on December 10th. Robin will provide an overview of the workshop, discuss the structure of the monthly sessions, review the materials used in the course, and finalize a regular meeting day and time. Please register here to join us on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. PST on December 10th.

(https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/p4_2W1EHQWi-wNrnyfj3xuQ)

Research with AI Workshop Kick-Off — January 22

The Research with AI Workshop launches on January 22nd with two possible session times—one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Please select your preferred session from our Events Calendar when registering.

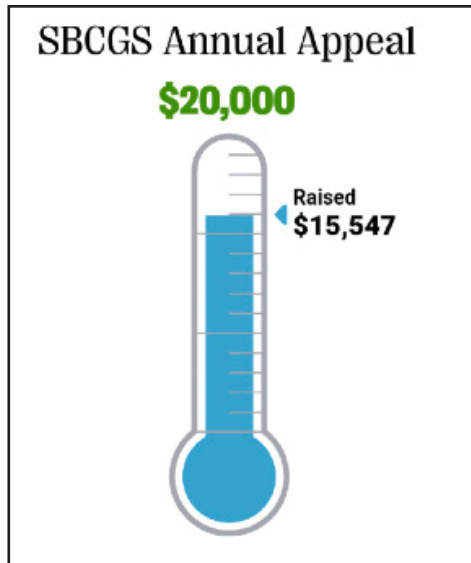
(<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2026/1/22/-afternoon-research-with-ai-workshop-kick-off>)

The time slot with the most registrants will become the official class time going forward; the other session will be canceled, and participants will be asked to move to the remaining slot.

During this kick-off session, Robin will walk through the research methodology that underpins the *Research Like a Pro with AI Digital Workbook*, which serves as the foundation for this course. The price returns is \$39.99. A generous donor will cover half the cost of the workbook for SBCGS members registered for the workshop—simply purchase the workbook, then email Robin (rpubgen04@cox.net) a copy of your receipt to receive your rebate after the first class on January 22.

Development Report — Annual Appeal

Mary Jacob, Development Chair



We are closing in on our 2025 Annual Appeal goal of 100 donors and \$20,000 — with 70 donors already contributing and 78% of our goal raised!

If SBCGS has supported your genealogical journey, please consider a tax-deductible gift to this year's Appeal.

Special Opportunity:

First-time donors who give between Nov. 15 and Dec. 24 will have their gift matched 100% (up to \$5,000) thanks to Bob Goeller.

Ways to Give

- If donating through a trust, IRA, or donor-advised fund, please initiate your request now to ensure it arrives by December 31.
- Online: <https://sbgen.org/donate/#!/form/Development>
- By Check: Payable to SBCGS with "2025 Annual Appeal" in the memo. (316 Castillo St., SB, CA 93101)

Your support keeps SBCGS strong—expanding learning, sustaining our library, and connecting our community through family history.

To everyone who has already given—thank you for fueling our mission.

Membership Spotlight

Kathryn Field, Membership Chair

NEW MEMBERS in November:

Camryn Foss

Mary Ann Marston

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.

Upgraded Memberships

Many thanks to the 160 members (34%!) who have joined or renewed at a higher level this year. Friends, Donors, Patrons and Life members show they believe in the organization and want it to thrive.

General Meeting Venue Survey

Thank you to the 22 members who responded to the venue survey at our November meeting. Interestingly, 30% of you have attended some past general meetings from home, via Zoom. Both options have appeal, and will be offered when practical.

Please know that all the survey comments were read and considered. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Genealogy Tip of the Day



From genealogytipoftheday.com by Michael John Neill on December 31, 2020.

Time is what we occasionally need. The ability to get "immediate" answers to many questions online sometimes makes us think that we should understand things immediately as

well. The best realizations or awakenings about a document or a record do not always pop into our mind the moment we first read the item.

It takes some a while for connections to be made, particularly if the problem has not been an easy one to solve and the language and terminology is not familiar to us.

So give yourself time to understand. Do not expect an immediate answer.

Writers Group

There will be no meeting this December, 2025

See you next month on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 10:00 am via Zoom.

Please join us then!



Books at the Sahyun

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair



I had a whole library tale ready to share this month, but a flurry of library chores — along with sorting through some wonderful newly donated books — kept me from finishing it in time. So instead, a little December note from me to you.

As we head into the holiday season, I want to remind everyone that the Sahyun Library will remain open right up until our Christmas and New Year closures. That means there's still time to stop by, browse the stacks, explore new resources, and spend a little time with those books you've been meaning to explore all year.

So come by while we're still open, gather a few treasures to carry you through the holidays, and prepare for a fresh, inspiring year of learning, sharing, and discovery.

Wishing you a warm, peaceful December — and a season filled with family stories worth preserving.

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

German Immigrants in American Church Records, Vol46 Wisconsin (Revisited 6)

Irish Canadian Ancestors: Using Canadian Strategies and Records to Identify Irish Records

Dos Pueblos High School Yearbooks (2018, 2019, 2020)

El Morro Inscription Rock New Mexico

Hamden, New York 1825-2025

We want to thank the following generous donors:

Karen Harris Marj Friestad
Melody Schloss Susan Bryant
Joanne Logan's books brought by Lynette Briner
Betty Helton Rosa Avolio

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**.



Ancestors West
Charmien Carrier, Editor

Suggested Themes for 2026

Turning Points
Ancestors Behaving Badly
Fashion thru the Ages
Then & Now

Send to AW editor [Charmien Carrier \(charmien2940@gmail.com\)](mailto:Charmien.Carrier@sbgen.org)

Land Acknowledgment Statement

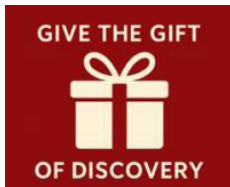
"The land on which many of us live and where our library is located is part of the ancient homeland and traditional territory of the Chumash people. We recognize and respect the Chumash Peoples past, present, and future and their continuing presence in their homeland as we join in stewarding this land which we all cherish."

Presents with a Future

Are you looking for some ideas for a meaningful holiday present?
Give the Gift of Family History!

Consider a gift membership to Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society.

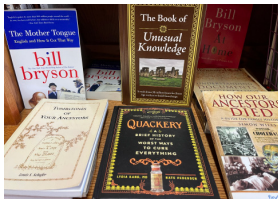
Our talented techy volunteers are developing a category on the website specifically for gift memberships, but even without that, it's simple to enroll a friend or family. Just register and pay for your recipient as you would yourself, putting their name and contact information into those fields. A notification 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. Look for the red “Give the Gift of Discovery” option under the “Donate” tab of our website. (sbgen.org)

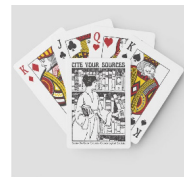
Other Holiday Gifts that benefit SBCGS - as well as the recipient!

- How about a genealogy-related book from the **Book Nook at Sahyun Library**? Our capable volunteers have curated a selection of titles to appeal to both beginners and seasoned researchers. Book Nook is always open during library hours.



- And don't forget all the **gifts on Zazzle!** - possibly a cap, shirt, mug, tote with the SBCGS logo. Not only will the recipient enjoy the product, a portion of the sale benefits our society.

https://www.zazzle.com/collections/all_the_things-119825595507120936



- **For online shoppers**, consider installing an **iGive** browser extension on your home computer. This program donates a percentage of sales you make at Walmart.com, ancestry.com, ticketmaster, or 1500 other retailers, to our society. For instructions on enrolling, see igive.com.



iGive

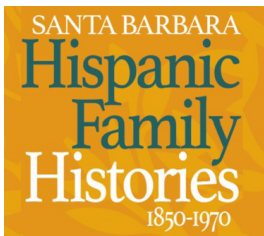
Not only will your gift be unique, all of these options help our society to thrive.

Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

As we wrap up our calendar year, we are thankful for all our new and long-standing community partners, exhibit participants and contributors, our amazing Society volunteers, the Society Board of Directors for all their support, and all of you who attended one of our events, classes, and/or exhibits!

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.

Our Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories exhibit is now also online! On SBGen.org, go to **In the Community** -> **View a Society Exhibit** or click here: <https://sbgen.org/santa-barbara-hispanic-family-history-exhibit/>

*****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.*****

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!

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.



Community Events

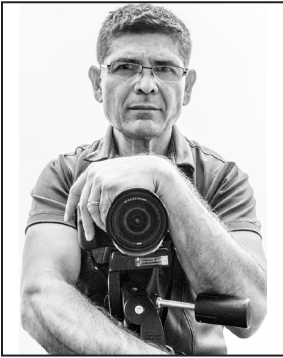
Carpinteria Valley Museum of History's Family Day, Saturday, November 15, 9am-noon

Thank you to Lynn Petersen and two UCSB students, Isabella and Macyn, for running our table station at CVMH's Family Day event! It was another successful event sharing our passion for genealogy with families!



Interview with Ebers Garcia

Graphic Designer for the Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories Exhibit
by Mary Hancock



Ebers Garcia, a graphic designer and the Art Director of Somos Hispanic Advertising, created the design and oversaw the layout and printing of the exhibit panels and banners featured in our recent bi-lingual exhibit, Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories, 1850-1970/Santa Bárbara Historias de Familias Hispánicas, 1850-1970. Ebers's vision for the exhibit and his work in bringing it to life helped ensure its vibrancy, educational value,

and aesthetic appeal for those whose family histories were featured in the exhibit and for the many guests hosted at our recent Open House and during visits since then.

Now that the exhibit is mounted, we wanted a chance to speak more with Ebers Garcia about his own professional background, training, and professional path; his creative process and what he sought to achieve with the exhibit; and the role that his own family background has had in shaping his career choices and goals. What follows is an edited interview between Ebers and exhibit co-chair, Mary Hancock, conducted on November 18.

Mary Hancock (MH): Can you tell us a bit more about your company, Somos Hispanic Advertising? When/why was it founded? What is its mission?

Ebers Garcia (EG): In 2004, Somos Advertising was founded because I saw the need for companies to connect with the Hispanic community. This was in Sacramento, where I was living with my family at the time. I came up with the name "Somos" because it means "we are" in Spanish, creating a simple yet direct way of establishing the identity or market I wanted to reach. So, the name literally means "We are Hispanic Advertising." That first year we received an award from the American Advertising Federation for presenting advertising in Spanish for one of our clients. That was our first client, and they had been interested in testing this concept [of targeting the Hispanic audience]. In 2005, we were the first Hispanic advertising agency to produce marketing tools and advertising for tribal casinos in the Sacramento area, creating full campaigns directed to the Hispanic community. Our mission, overall, is to help companies and brands create a meaningful connection that resonates with Hispanic audiences.

MH: Are you mainly based in Santa Barbara now? Or do you work with different teams across the state?

EG: I started in Los Angeles, many years ago, then we moved north because Miros [my partner] got a job at UC Davis. It was in Sacramento that I started working more seriously to develop an agency. I had worked with agencies in the past and had all the experience, but with Somos, it was the first time that I was doing it by myself. Today, I have clients throughout the state and have expanded to the broader US southwest.

MH: When did you begin your own career as a graphic designer

and what drew you to this field? What kinds of design work do you currently pursue?

EG: I started from young age. For me, representing ideas with images always came easily. In second grade, in elementary school, I received a national award for a design that I did for visualizing pollution. This was in Chihuahua, my hometown, and I went to Mexico City to receive the award. It was incredible. I was only in second grade! I didn't really know what was going on; all I knew was that I was going to get a big diploma and a medal. [Laughs] One of my aunts went with me. When we got there, they took care of us, and were feeding us all the time -- it was great! Then at the age of 13, I started as an apprentice at a print shop. Also, I was taking advanced courses in drawing and painting at the Fine Arts institute in Chihuahua, my hometown, and, with time, I became a computer graphics expert, working for newspapers in Mexico. For me, it was the next step to become a graphic designer. I graduated from the Autonomous University of Chihuahua in 1991 in visual communications.

Once I had my own business, I pursued clients needing visual design, branding, video production, and environmental signage, and offered services in both Spanish and English. Years later, this exhibit at the Genealogy Society opened a different and new venue for me, and I am more than willing to start working with museums. It was an opportunity that has gotten me really excited about working with organizations and members of the community to help convey narratives through creative designs about the past, present, and future.

MH: Do you do creative work that is not for your business, just on your own?

EG: I wish I had more time for that. What I am able to do is a lot of photography. Everywhere I go I try to get those memories and collect them. We have some of those prints around the house. My son got inspired to do that as well. We live close to the butterfly preserve [Goleta], at some point he took amazing close-up pictures of butterflies. He used one of my cameras and the result was like, Wow! Incredible! We have now one of his photos, two actually, in the house; the rest are mine. We have photos from Barcelona, Germany and other places we have visited. Some have appeared in magazines and received awards. It's entirely digital photography, though I know how to work with film. In fact, my first camera was film. Although my photography now is digital, I've kept the film camera and equipment and have sentimental feelings toward them.

MH: I'd like to turn to the Hispanic Family Histories exhibit that you helped produce. We know that we set a daunting task with an exhibit whose images were accompanied by a substantial amount of text in both Spanish and English. How did you approach the task of exhibit design? How did you determine the specific themes, design elements, colors, and so forth for the exhibit? What other considerations came into play?

EB: Although I have never worked for a museum, I have done a lot of environmental signage, like for restaurants and for non-prof-

its. I worked with a non-profit in the Sacramento area that focuses specifically on alternative transportation. For them, I have created huge banners on poles, using colors and designs related to the theme, and some of the campaigns that we did for them have been well-received and awarded.

The project at the Genealogy Society was very exciting for me. I know that you did a tremendous amount of work gathering information and images; really, the Genealogy Society and participants did 100% of the work. My task was to understand the images and link them to text. After that, my task was to communicate clearly with you and Holly, to visit the site, measure the exhibit area, check out the potential spaces. We worked together on that.

At the same time, I started visualizing how to approach it. When I saw all the images, I was excited. I also had deep sense of respect for the photos—and the families behind them—because they were so powerful. It was very cool to see part of the past up close and personal. I knew I had to carefully restore them and make them look like the originals. The design for the backgrounds [for the panels] that I used were inspired by this area's Spanish roof tiles; also I used maize, or corn, imagery because that is integral to Mexican and Latino heritage, which is so strong here in the area. Yeah, it was very exciting to be involved in the project.

The other thing was the time frame that we had – it was extremely short. I had to work frantically just to get everything done by the deadline. Works like this make me thrive in terms of creating something this is going to be meaningful and is going to create an impact. I believe that we accomplished that.

MH: It was a collaborative process, not just printing something already laid out. And you're right that our compressed time frame was tough.

EG: Yeah, I had to tell the story – a complex one made up of businesses, families, and loncherias (snack bars). Everything had to be together in their own groupings. There was a sequence, so you had to follow that. But, at the exhibit opening, it was great. You could see the families gathered right next to their images and pointing to them and proudly making comments like "That's my Mom", "We all sat at the table for dinner with this Mexican artist and we did not know who he was", "Oh my God, that was so cool – that's so beautiful." Things like that, for me, it touched my heart. I'm so glad that we did this. Working on all these files, I tried to do it with the same heart-felt respect. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to do this in partnership with you all and the Santa Barbara community.

MH: I want you to know that there have been so many compliments about the design. Everyone who spoke with me appreciated the design and thought behind the groupings. And I also want to thank you for coming to the Open House – it gave you the chance to meet the people whose stories you represented visually.

EG: It was great to meet the descendants of businesses and organizations founders and elders. These families, all together – it was something you don't see often. That's why I sent you and Holly and email message thanking you for the opportunity to work on the exhibit, because it gave me a sense of the community here in Santa Barbara. We've lived here for 13 years, so not as long as most of these families, so it was a chance to learn first-hand about them

and who they are.

MH: Like the families who were featured in our exhibit, you currently live and work locally, but were born in Mexico and, again like many exhibit participants, maintain cross-border family connections. Can you tell us a bit about your own life journey and how that informs the work you do now?

EG: I moved to the U.S. at the age of twenty-five. At this point, I can say California is now my home. I lived, first, in Orange County for five or six years, then another thirteen in Sacramento, and then another thirteen years in Goleta. So I've started to create roots here. My kids were born in Sacramento, now they are in universities here in California. So, I can say we're Californians now, through and through.

One of the things that made me feel part of California is because I've been inspired by the hard work of the Mexican American community. I know people here work hard. I want to honor that legacy in my work and I want to use my skills to create visual impact that shows the value of my heritage. That's my main goal. People sometimes ask me to do Hispanic design and expect to see Indigenous people or Aztec characters, or something like that. But we're in the modern era. Latinos may use traditional design as part of heritage, but in terms of advertising, those elements are not used. We're modern people, like everybody else. That's what made me thrive as a graphic designer here. I knew that it would be hard to find my niche, but when I saw the need for clients wanting to communicate in Spanish to Mexican American audiences, I knew that there was a place for my work.

MH: Do you have family in both the U.S. and Mexico?

EG: My parents and siblings live in Mexico; I have one sister in Washington D.C. And, the rest of them are in my hometown of Chihuahua. When we go to Mexico, even Miros [my spouse] has noticed that I completely change in personality because I feel comfortable over there. I usually don't see my family more than once a year. So I have to balance my own family with the rest of the larger family there. There are a lot more over there, in Mexico, than we have over here. I have no family here in the area, the closest I have are distant cousins in L.A. It can be hard to balance with family there and here, but we've created the family we have and we try to go regularly to Mexico to visit those who are over there.

MH: This contrasts with some of the participants in the exhibit, who now have large families of several generations settled here.

EG: One of the things that is important for Latino families is that they are part of the family. We have dinners together, we eat together, we drink together, we do everything together. At the end of the day, they end up being huge parties. Some of the cultures are like that, but not as much in the American culture. It's more independent here, people tend to separate from their families once they become adults. Latinos, most of us, instead of separating, we get together. That's what I saw in those photos and in all that material and all those stories and in all those people reading them. They were engrossed. They were seeing themselves reflected in the histories. They were doing it as families. They brought their cousins, their aunts, their abuelitas, everybody. It was great.

MH: The exhibit was like a family reunion for the participants.

EH: Exactly – that’s how we roll!

MH: Is there anything else that you’d like to share about yourself and your work?

EG: Like I mentioned, people who really need visual design, opening new businesses – I’m always willing to help with branding, with social media, with photography. I can do all that within a culturally relevant context. That’s part of the task that I do every day. If it’s in Spanish, it’s even more exciting to me. I can also do advertising work for radio and television, different media.

MH: Thanks so much for speaking with me. I’ve enjoyed having the chance to talk to you about how you do what you do

EG: It’s been fun. There’s never a dull moment here – someone said, do what you love and you’ll never have to work and that’s what’s true for me. I love every moment of it. Working on the exhibit, alongside the volunteers, was great. Being able to share my professional skills was especially important as a way of honoring the participating families with what I could do as a professional graphic artist. Thank you.



Mary Hancock and Ebers Garcia





**SAN DIEGO
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY**

EST. 1946



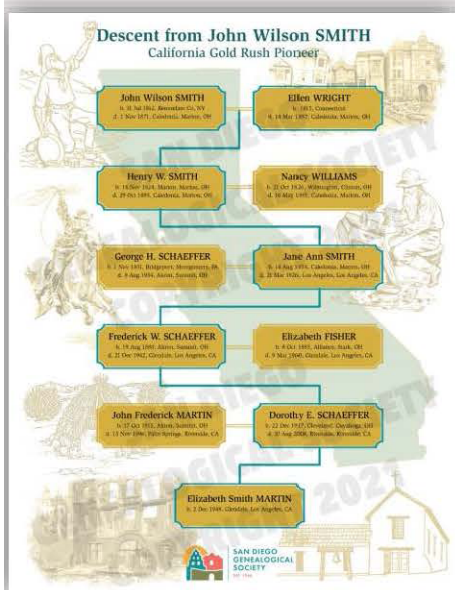
San Diego Genealogical Society Launches California Pioneer Certificate Program

Date: May 2023

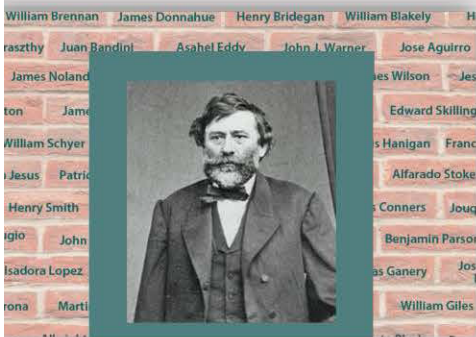
**Contact: Colin Whitney, SDGS Educational Programs,
pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com**



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 photographs, 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, an applicant 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.