



# Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

*Researching the World*

February 2026

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 42, No. 2

## "Exploring Plantation Records for Genealogy Research: They're Everybody's Business."

**Saturday, February 21, 2026, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm**

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

*Parking is available at the Sahyun, but, if you are able, please park on the street or at the Carriage Museum, 129 Castillo. If you are arriving early and staying late, please park "in the slot." There will be a volunteer at the Sahyun parking area, so if you have trouble, please let them know. (We do encourage car pooling!)*



The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society invites you to its free monthly meeting on **Saturday, February 21**, featuring **Renate Yarborough Sanders**, an experienced researcher, speaker, writer, and educator.

**Behind every ledger entry is a story waiting to be told.** Plantation records are among the most complex yet rewarding sources for Southern genealogical research. The documents in these collections serve as a vital archive of the diverse communities - including enslaved persons, property owners, overseers, and neighboring tradespeople - who lived and worked within the plantation ecosystem. This session reveals research strategies for finding and navigating these historical business records and family papers. Participants will

learn how to identify genealogical data points, track familial migrations, and leverage collateral research to reconstruct lost narratives and preserve the stories of those who came before us.

### **About the Speaker:**

Renate Yarborough Sanders is an experienced genealogy educator and author of two blogs and a funeral program database. She is a member of several genealogical organizations, holding leadership positions in several; and hosts an online platform "Let's Talk North Carolina Genealogy." Renate served as panelist and guest on numerous web shows and podcasts. and provided genealogy education for various colleges, universities, and NASA. Her research was featured on PBS Radio and in a National Geographic cover story and podcast. Renate lectures on a variety of genealogy topics but specializes in teaching beginning to intermediate research methodology and sharing specific techniques for researching ancestors of color – both pre- and post-Emancipation.

### **About the Event:**

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and informal discussions with the Special Interest Groups. A short business meeting begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by Renate's presentation at 11:00 a.m.. 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 or at the Sahyun Genealogical Library**  
<https://tinyurl.com/32yn5m8x>



**Exhibit: Santa Barbara African American Life, Culture, and Contributions, 1890-1990**  
<https://tinyurl.com/47up5am>

The exhibit focuses on nineteen individuals and their families that have made significant contributions both to the White community and the African American community in Santa Barbara, between 1890 and 1990. As the exhibit developed it was decided to include outstanding organizations, churches, businesses, military, artists, athletes, and famous visitors.

The Outreach Committee members were very thorough in the pursuit of making genealogical connections with documented evidence related to time and places of events. The end result is a small glimpse into the rich, vibrant lives and culture of African American people, who over a hundred-year period made outstanding contributions to the Santa Barbara community, despite living in a climate where racial discrimination made it challenging to survive and thrive here.

**~E. onja Brown, SBCGS Outreach Committee Member**



**Douglass Day at UCSB** invites you to transcribe Black History. More information in Tree Tips.

## President's Message

by Marie Sue Parsons



This will be brief because I'm writing it after 10 PM. Anyone who knows me also knows that they can expect emails from me at all hours. But you don't ever need to read them till the morning!

First, I wanted to let you all know that if you missed the January meeting you missed one of our all-time wonderful speakers! Chris, you did an amazing job of letting us see how you use Ancestry in a surprising (at least to me!) way. And attendees will be glad to know that she will be doing on-going classes this year, demonstrating ways that we can use the amazing tips and tricks that she shared. Thank you, Chris for a fabulous presentation!

And a huge Thank You too to all our members who contributed to our annual appeal. Thanks to all of you, we exceeded our goal by reaching a total of \$34,000. If you missed your opportunity to contribute please know that we will accept donations at any time, so feel free to send yours when you like. Our ability to keep the lights on (and the temperature constant) in our library, as well as continuing all the amazing things that we do, and websites and scanners that we have, depends on you. And a special thanks to Bob Goeller who matched the gifts of first-time donors. You are all wonderful!

Your board continues to meet monthly, and as always, all society members are welcome to come in and visit a meeting if you're curious about our operations. Our meetings are Friday mornings on the day prior to our general meeting, at 10:30, and guests are welcome to observe.

I have the pleasure as your president to see email messages that go back and forth between committees and individuals who chair committees. I am amazed to see the ideas that continue to be discussed and the accomplishments that are shared. And the treats that are being planned for the future. Thanks to all of you who continue to work behind the scenes to create wonderful experiences for all our members. Did you all know that the library was held open by volunteers for 750 hours with 2230 visitors this fiscal year? That 116 hours of free classes and Special Interest Group meetings were held, not including monthly meetings? That 91 volunteers gave their time and knowledge generously to make sure that our society provided many experiences for members and the public alike? And that's just the ones that we counted! I'm sure that there were even more.

If you were one of them, I salute you! I know that it's done out of love and joy and often out of just plain fun! Regardless, the society would not be the same without you. If you are not one of those you might want to give it a try. Come join the fun! If you want to know how to get started, just ask. And as always, see you in the library!

Marie Sue

## New in February

A New SIG, Class, Orientation

*For more information and to register,  
please check the Website Calendar;*

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

### • Special Interest Group: Hispanic Family History

Building on the strong interest generated by the Society's recent Hispanic Family History exhibit, we are pleased to announce the formation of a new **Hispanic Family History Special Interest Group (SIG) (Grupo de Interés en Historia Familiar Hispana)**.

This SIG is open to anyone researching Hispanic ancestry, as well as to those who simply wish to learn more about Hispanic family history and related research resources. The group will provide a welcoming space to share questions, strategies, sources, and discoveries, and to learn from one another.

**You are invited to a meet-and-greet on Saturday, February 21, at 9:30 a.m., prior to the General Meeting, at the Sahyun Library.** This initial gathering will give interested members an opportunity to connect and help shape how the group will meet and move forward.

*For more information, please contact Yolanda Pérez at [3yperez@gmail.com](mailto:3yperez@gmail.com).*

### • New Follow-up Class

**Hands-On Ancestry.com:**

### **Tips, Tricks & Tree Tactics**

Following her January General Meeting presentation, **Chris Klukkert** will offer a hands-on, **in-person follow-up class on Tuesday, February 10, from 12:00–1:30 p.m. at the Sahyun Library.** This interactive session will focus on applying Ancestry.com techniques discussed in the earlier talk—such as creative tree building, event-based research, and organization strategies—to your own research.

Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop and an active Ancestry.com account. This class is ideal for those who attended the General Meeting as well as anyone interested in deepening their Ancestry skills in a supportive, small-group setting. Please RSVP since seating and parking is limited,

### • Member Orientation

Member orientation is scheduled for **10 am-noon on Sunday, February 22, at Sahyun Library.** Please register soon! The session is open to all members, and will include a tour of the library and light refreshments.

#### 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."

## Books at the Sahyun

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair

Last week I drove to Santa Cruz to pick up a portion of a large donated periodical collection that their public library genealogy room no longer has space to house. (It's moments like this that remind us how fortunate we are to have our own dedicated library building and collection!)

There was far more material than I anticipated, so my SUV ended up carrying only about half of what is being donated. Another group of boxes is safely waiting in my fellow Book Chair's garage in Scotts Valley and will make its way to us on a future trip.



These incoming periodicals have been the “catalog name of the game” lately, and with some recent time out of the office, I’ll save a fuller update on new additions and library happenings for next month. In the meantime, once the Sahyun Library is open, I invite you to stop in, have a look around, and enjoy the wonderful resources we have waiting on the shelves.

### SBCGS Leadership Board & Operations Updates

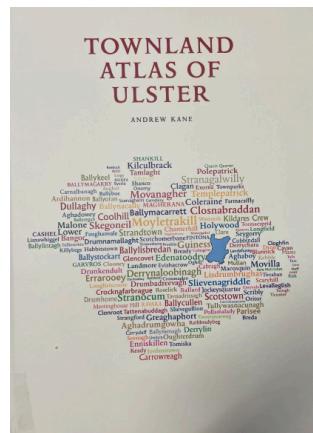
Your Society’s leadership is committed to advancing our mission and serving our members. The Board of Directors provides strategic direction, while the Operations Leadership Team oversees programming, services, and daily operations.

**To stay informed, visit the Members Section at [sbcgs.org](http://sbcgs.org).** Once logged in, navigate to **Member Resources** to access the latest **Board Minutes and Operations Leadership Notes**.

## From the Shelves of the Sahyun

By Laurie Hannah, Librarian

### Townland Atlas of Ulster



This new reference book in our library is an outstanding companion for those doing research in Ireland. But it is very complicated to use and not obvious at first look.

Fortunately for us, the author Andrew Kane has prepared a thorough, helpful video for how to use the book. According to the Ulster Historical Foundation that published the book, he explains “the components and methodologies used within the atlas—including baronies, civil parishes, and Poor Law Unions—demonstrating how to effectively use this resource for genealogical research. He offers insights into related historical documents and resources and provides practical advice for identifying townlands accurately.”

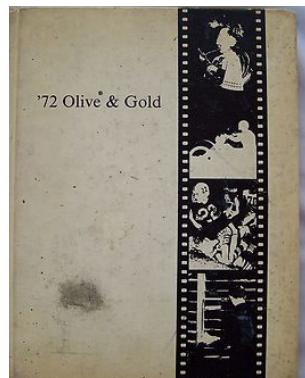
Watch the video:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=Kb7BYuXZW8s&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kb7BYuXZW8s&feature=youtu.be)

### Townlands and Irish Land Divisions

How to use the Townland Atlas of Ulster



### Missing Santa Barbara High School Yearbooks: the Olive and Gold



If anyone has these yearbooks and would like to donate them to the library, we could complete our run from 1940 to the present!

**Missing years:** 1972, 1981, 1985, 1994, 2001, 2004, 2005



Check out the shelves of the Sahyun for books and periodicals pertaining to Black History Month.

## *Annual Appeal 2025*

### **WE DID IT. We Exceeded Our Goals**

**Goal #1** one was to raise \$20,000. We raised \$33,238.

**Goal #2** was to engage 115 donors. We engaged 116 who are listed below.

#### **Thank you, donors!**

Neil & Suzanne Ablitt	Betty Helton	Patti Ottoboni
Antoinette Amorteguy	Linda Hicks	Marie Sue Parsons
Christine Anderson	Dennis Holst	Deborah Pash
Kenneth & Celeste Barber	Jane Honikman	Yolanda Perez
Tracy Beamer	Mary Jacob	Lynn Petersen
Hanna Benfield	Gary and Cheryl Jensen	Andrea Pfister
Cherie Bonazzola	Paula Burnham Johnson	Timothy Putz
Ronald & Patricia Caird	Cathryn Jordan	Karen Ramsdell
Theresa Calvin	Bruce and Louise Keeler	Susan Ramsey
Jim Salvador Campos	Christine Klukkert	Judy Connors Ribet
Charmien Carrier	Brian Knowles	Susan Richards
Robin Cederlof	Stanislaw & Margaret Kocimski	Kathryn Richardson
Thomas Chard	Vivien LaFrance	Mary Robles
Danielle Clayton	Edward & Kathleen Leska	Carol Roth
Marilyn Clayton	Kristin Lewis	Judy Sahm
Gloria Clements	Katherine Lima	Melville Sahyun
Rick Closson	Denise Lockhart	Elizabeth Schroeder
Marilyn Compton	Vicky Lorelli	Peter Schuyler
Harold Cota	Janet Lunt	Gary Shumaker
Kathryn Cremeen	Irene Macias	Elizabeth Smith
Charlene Daly	Elizabeth Macken	Holly Snyder
Lou Dartanner	Colleen Sitolini & Esther Magee	Nancy Snyder
Carol Diamond	Robert Mark	Kathleen Stark
John & Tracie Doordan	Fred & Mary Marsh	Linda Stewart-Oaten
John DuBois	Marsha Martin	Guy Strickland
Ann Dwelley	Caroline McCarty	Connie Styrwoll
Patricia Ericson	Merna McClenathan	Sharon Summer
Kathryn Field	Heather McDaniel McDevitt	Diane Sylvester
Michelle Fitton	Michael & Rhonda McFarlane	Edward Tazer-Myers
Christine Gallery	Paul & Joni Meisel	Judy Thompson
Margaret Gleason	Karen Monkman	Linda Trujillo
Robert Goeller III	Kathie Morgan	Nancy Viebrock
Glenn & Deborah Gray	Finn Mortensen	Victoria Ward
Betsy Green	Robert Muller	James Wilson
Kathryn Greene	Gretchen Murray	Gayle Wolcott
Alex Gryzwacki	William Noack	Jeannette Wynne
Joseph Hackett	Ray & Edith Ogella	
Mary Hancock	Dorothy Oksner	
Laurie Hannah	Roland & Susan Orfila	
Stephena Held	Walter Orso	

## Trip to Salt Lake City

Kate Lima, Organizer



Our society will once again visit the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. We'll head over for the week of May 3-10, 2026. We will stay at a new hotel since the Plaza has been demolished: The Radisson. I hope you can join us for the entire week or for a shorter time if necessary. Click here to log into the Radisson's reservation site, or call the Radisson directly (801-531-7500) and let them know you're booking with the Santa Barbara Genealogy Society. The discount price is \$149 per night.

Don't forget to email me at [limakate1@gmail.com](mailto:limakate1@gmail.com) so I can put you on our list.

I hope you can join us!

## Italian Genealogy Webinar Tip

Are you researching **Italian ancestors** or just getting started with Italian genealogy? Our Italian SIG leader, Rosa Avolio, encourages you to check out this excellent upcoming webinar, which offers helpful insight into Italian records and research strategies, sponsored by the Italian SIG of the Eastside Genealogical Society (near Seattle). <https://egs-iig.com>  
For help with your Italian ancestry research, please feel free to contact Rosa Avolio.

## Book Nook News by Kristin Ingalls



### NEED A GIFT?

Stop by the Book Nook for some nifty gift ideas!



## Ancestors West

Charmien Carrier, Editor

## Ancestors West

Suggested theme for

### February 1, 2026 Turning Points

*Key moments that changed the course of your family's history.*



AI image by Word/Copilot

Send articles to [charmien2940@gmail.com](mailto:charmien2940@gmail.com)



### Writers' Group Discussion

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 10:00 am

Moderator: Sharon Summer

ZOOM ONLY

- Come to discuss genealogy writing!
- Hear ways to make your writing interesting
- Ask questions
- Share a bit of your own writing for encouraging feedback.
- Get inspiration!

## Membership Spotlight

Kathryn Field, Membership Chair

February, with its focus on love and connection, is a meaningful time to reflect on the importance of family. The more we know about our ancestors, the more connected we feel to the generations before us.

### NEW MEMBERS in January:

Karen & Brian Leverich  
Antoinette Amorteguy  
Kim Jensen  
Denise Coughlin  
Louise Ratliff  
Diane Rene Francis  
Barbara Auhll  
Danielle Clayton  
Dennis Bales  
Tamara Skov  
Barbara Burkepile

### MEMBER ORIENTATION

Member orientation is scheduled for 10 am-noon on Sunday, February 22, at Sahyun Library. Please register soon! The session is open to all members, and will include a tour of the library and light refreshments.

**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.

### 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 [kajcreemeen@gmail.com](mailto:kajcreemeen@gmail.com) if you need a coach OR wish to become a coach. 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



"If you can't find your relative in a database, consider switching the first and last names. These kinds of errors are not all that unusual, particularly with individuals with non-English names."

From [genealogytipoftheday.com](http://genealogytipoftheday.com) by Michael John Neill on February 22, 2024.

Charmien says that being an editor has also shaped her approach to her own genealogy. "I now look for stories within my family tree that can be told by using as many facts as I can find about each person. The stories are what make genealogy come alive." Her favorite story that she has discovered are the origins of the three lines of Carriers from France to Quebec, particularly the story of a soldier from her line named Pierre Jamme (dit Carriere) who arrived in 1687. Her favorite story that she has discovered are the origins of the three lines of Carriers from France to Quebec, particularly the story of a soldier from her line named Pierre Jamme (dit Carriere) who arrived in 1687. One particularly fascinating tidbit of his life details his wife being taken captive by the Iroquois in the Lachine Massacre (you can read this account by Charmien in Ancestor's West!). Thank you, Charmien, for all of the amazing work you do and for the joy you bring to the society - we are so grateful!

(Created by Caroline McCarty, Social Media)

## Volunteer of the Month

Charmien Carrier



**SBCGS February Volunteer of the Month:**  
**Charmien Carrier**  
Long time member- 10+ years  
Editor of Ancestor's West  
SBCGS Board Member

Learn more about Charmien in the caption and in our February issue of Tree Tips!



The SBCGS runs on the work and dedication of our volunteers. In gratitude, we are going to highlight members on our social media accounts and in our Tree Tips issues. First up—Charmien Carrier! Charmien has been with us since 2012, when she was taking genealogy classes in adult education. Another member heard she was involved in graphic design and recruited her to assist with our magazine Ancestor's West. She now serves as editor, and with her small team, publish AW quarterly. Charmien's favorite kinds of stories to tell are the ones that follow the guidelines and "reflect the period in which it takes place, providing a historical picture of that era."

## Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

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



*[Torres branch from the Merced Leon family]*

Don't forget the **Hispanic Family History/Grupo de Interés en Historia Familiar Hispana** will be meeting at Sahyun Library on Saturday, February 21 at 9:30 AM (before the general meeting). Please contact Yolanda Pérez (3yperez@gmail.com) for further information.

View our exhibit at Sahyun and now online! View more information for the virtual exhibit in this issue of Tree Tips.

\*\*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 with great feedback for future exhibits.\*\*



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

### A Note from the Speakers Bureau Coordinator, Dr. Larry Basham:

Community Outreach began the new year by giving a presentation to the QA Chapter of P.E.O., a group which provides educational support to female students worldwide. Nineteen women attended the meeting at San Vicente Mobile Home Park.

Dr. Larry Basham's PowerPoint presentation, titled, "Finding Your Roots Has Never Been Easier," included a brief history of SBCGS and the Sahyun Library, the resources available at the library including research materials, online free websites, staff help and a mentor program. It also covered the various special interest groups, monthly classes and speakers.

There was also a discussion of common websites, a demonstration of finding a family member in the 1950 US Census, and how one can literally carry their family tree in their pocket on a cell phone app! It concluded with tips on getting started with genealogy and an invitation to visit the Sahyun Library.

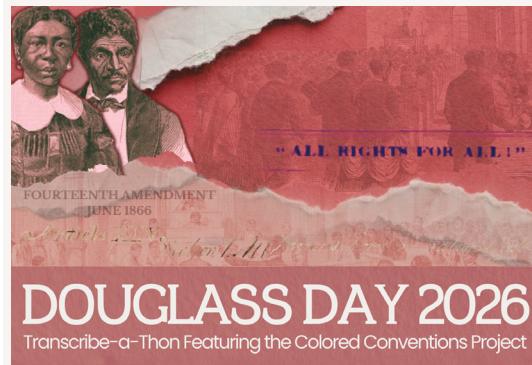
The Outreach Committee is looking for more opportunities to spread the word about SBCGS. If you belong to a club which has program speakers, please suggest us. They can request a speaker thru our website under "In the Community" (direct link: <https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/reservation-request/>), or email Outreach@SBGen.org and we will send an introductory description of the program and how to request a talk.

### Frederick Douglass Day 2026

February 13, 11am-2pm

Transcribe-a-Thon and "Find the Names" Event

Location: Multicultural Center Lounge, UCSB



### DOUGLASS DAY 2026

Transcribe-a-Thon Featuring the Colored Conventions Project

#### Stitching Stories: Quilting for Douglass Day

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

4:00 – 6:00 PM

Library Room 2509

Hosted by the UCSB Library Makerspace

#### Community Event & Transcribe-a-Thon

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Multicultural Center (MCC) Lounge

Sponsors: Department of English, Office of Black Student Development, African diasporic Cultural Resource Center,

Department of Black Studies, and the Multicultural Center

Cake & refreshments provided. No experience needed. Just bring a laptop. Students may rent a laptop at the Library.

REGISTER: [DouglassDay.org/ucsb/](https://douglassday.org/ucsb/)



UC SANTA BARBARA  
Library

#DigBlk  
CENTER FOR BLACK DIGITAL RESEARCH

ZONIVERSE

UCSB invites you to join for a powerful celebration of Douglass Day! Help transcribe materials from the Colored Conventions Project. This groundbreaking archive documents how nineteenth-century African Americans organized around critical issues such as voting rights, citizenship, education, labor, racial equality, and so much more. **For more information and to register, click here: <https://douglassday.org/ucsb/#3-main-event-douglass-day-birthday-party-amp-transcribe-a-thon>**

### Picnic in the Cemetery (October 24, 2026)



We are beginning the behind-the-scenes planning process for the Picnic in the Cemetery event that will take place October 24 (save the date!). This entails requesting permission to have the event at the cemetery, walking and mapping out the possible cemetery residents to highlight in the event, and soon contacting potential actors. Once we confirm the cemetery, residents, and actors, we will work with the actors to build their own scripts and then begin rehearsals. If you would like to help with planning this fun event let us know! Email Holly at Outreach@SBGen.org.

## A Spotlight on the Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories Virtual Exhibit



This exhibit highlights the lives and contributions of Santa Barbara's Hispanic families from 1850 to 1970 through photographs and personal stories. There are also histories on Hispanic businesses and organizations, military service and neighborhood memories. This virtual exhibit is also available in Spanish! You will find some new content and more stories will be added in the future. Please share with others! Visit: <https://sbgen.org/santa-barbara-hispanic-family-history-exhibit/>



Families



Neighborhood Places and Memories



Military

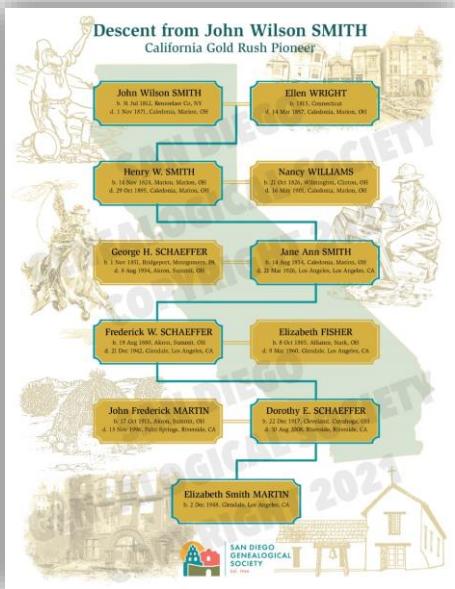


Sports

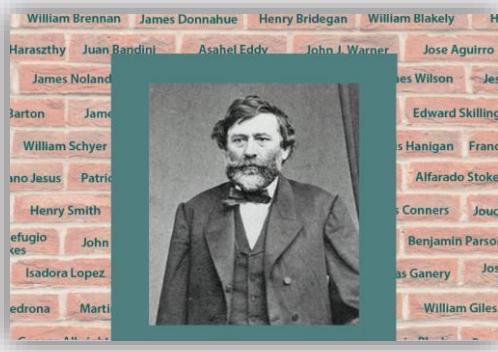
Web design by Ellie Boynton of Garnet Solutions, banner designed by Ebers Garcia of Somos Advertising. This project is made possible with support from the Santa Barbara Foundation and California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit [www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org).



California Pioneer Certificate



Lineage Chart



California Pioneer Certificate

## 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.