



# Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

April 2026

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 42, No. 4

## WELCOME TO SBCGS's MONTHLY MEETING IT'S FREE and OPEN TO ALL!

### *"Travel Your Tree: Walking in Your Ancestors' Footsteps"*

Featuring **Lisa Vogele** on Zoom

Professional Genealogist, Certified Travel Associate, and Chief Tree Climber at *Travel Your Tree: Where Ancestry Meets Adventure*.

**SATURDAY, April 18, 2026**  
**9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon**

**at the Sahyun Genealogical Library**  
**316 Cabrillo, Santa Barbara**



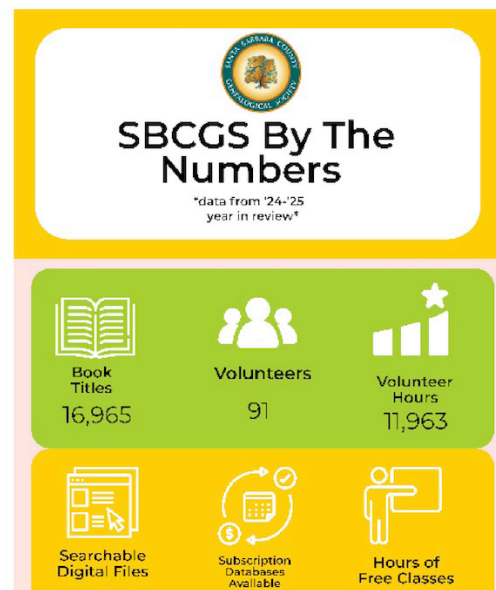
- Explore the world of family history travel beyond television shows like *Finding Your Roots*.
- Discover how you can personally trace your ancestors' paths, whether it's visiting battlefields where your forebears fought, exploring ancestral villages, or connecting with distant relatives.
- Join us to uncover expert tips for planning your journey and forging meaningful connections along the way.

### Schedule:

- Doors open at **9:30 a.m.** for refreshments and informal discussions with the Society's Special Interest Groups
- A short business meeting begins at **10:30 a.m.**
- Lisa's presentation is at **11:00 a.m.**

### Parking:

*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!)*



## PLEASE REGISTER

Choose how you want to attend: **In-Person at the Sahyun or on Zoom**

[sbgen.org](https://sbgen.org) or <https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2026/4/18/monthly-meeting>

## President's Message

by Marie Sue Parsons



Greetings everyone! And happy April Fools!

I had a wonderful lunch today with a couple of members of the Writers Group...so inspiring! I'm so glad that they remembered that once I became the current president back in June I had invited anyone who wanted

to get together to talk (about genealogy or the society or just anything) to let me know and I'd treat for lunch! So they did. And I loved the opportunity to share stories and just enjoy their company. So...the offer still stands!

The discussion came around to mud pies and we all remembered making them...mine were nothing fancy, but I do remember what I called my "experiments," with water and flowers and leaves and dirt! I grew up on nearly two acres so we had LOTS of mud! I think I should try my hand at briefly writing up my mud stories too! So here's a challenge to all of you: Tell the Writers Group about YOUR mud pies. Here's how to do it:

Write just a paragraph or two about how you made your mud pies. Did you use a garden hose? Where were you, with friends or by yourself, where was the yard or location you made them (backyard, neighbor's house, what city?), ingredients- mud & water, with or without added twigs or grass, etc. There's no right or wrong way to make a mud pie! And no right or wrong way to describe yours. Include any images if you want - a picture of you then, your backyard, the house you lived in, even googled images if you have none of your own. Let's see how many stories we can add to the Writers Group's collection. That's a challenge from me to you! How many can we create?

The group will mount your story with or without an image and post it with others in the Sahyun where everyone can enjoy a bit of Americana, to see an activity children of today are not familiar with. Our grandkids are growing up without so many of those fun times that we had! Tree climbing, tree houses or tree forts, playing outside till sundown, bikes (without motors!), box cars, hide and seek. Did you ever play marbles or jacks? Ask them about those and they'll have no idea what you're talking about. Let's show them what mud pie making looked like! I'm sure that

the few members of the Writers Group aren't the only ones who made mud pies! Let's read about yours!

Send stories and images to Sharon Summer, summersharon2@gmail.com

And see you in the library!  
Marie Sue



## Quick Reminders Classes and Interest Groups

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

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

This month, the **Genealogy Tech Talk** will be held on **Sunday, April 12th, at 1:30 pm PDT**. Tina LaFrenier will tell us about the online face recognition tool - Related Faces.

<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2026/4/12/genealogy-tech-talk>



### Writers' Group Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 2026, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Zoom Only

Moderator: Sharon Summer

Come for a helpful discussion of genealogy writing. Hear ideas from members, their ideas and tips. Find inspiration for your own writing. Share some of your writing for encouraging feedback. Part of this month's hour we plan to share our childhood mud pie stories! Did you make mud pies?



**On-Demand Webinars.** SBCGS Members, take advantage of free On-Demand Webinars created by Thomas MacEntee! They are 45-60 minutes long with real-world examples, step-by-step how-tos, and a downloadable, detailed PDF handout for each session. One new webinar by Thomas MacEntree will be added quarterly to maintain year-round fresh content. Sign in and then click on On-Demand Webinars:

<https://sbgen.org/membership-welcome-page/>

## Estate Planning Workshop

by Mary Jacob, Development



### Estate Planning Workshop When: June 6, 2026, at 2:00 PM Where: Sahyun Library

As genealogists, we spend countless hours researching and preserving the legacies of those who came before us. But have you considered your own legacy?

Do you need a will or a trust? What's the difference between the two? How might taxes affect your plans? These and other common questions will be addressed in a special estate planning workshop, a new benefit for members of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society.

The Society is pleased to offer a free, no-strings-attached program designed to provide general guidance on estate planning and help you think about the future of your family legacy.

This in-person workshop will be led by attorney Teresa Rhyne, who specializes in estate planning. Please note that the program will not be recorded.

Pre-registration is required.

To register, you need to log in as member on the SBCGS website, then click on Calendar at the top of the page, scroll through the calendar to June 6, click on Estate planning Workshop and then click the Register Now button at the bottom of the page.

If you need a ride to the event, please contact Mary Jacob at [development@sbgen.org](mailto:development@sbgen.org) and she will help make arrangements.

We are pleased to offer this program to help you plan and preserve your legacy.

## New Books at the BookNook

by Kristin Ingalls



If you were not at our last general meeting, you might not know that there is a new section of books for sale at the library. Or that they are hardcover books at paperback prices!!

**Historical fiction** is one way authors bring history to life through the eyes and experiences of a fictional character. Often they are based on the life of an historical figure, with some artistic license involved in the telling of the story. This is a wonderful way to learn history without reading those often boring, name-date-place books. The best of them make you really care about their characters and keep you reading. Here are just a few....

*The Island of the Sea Women*, by Lisa See, opens a whole world I certainly knew nothing about- the Korean haenyeo or sea women. To quote from the reviews: "...an enthralling portrait of a unique culture and turbulent time in history."

I loved Lisa Wingate's book, *The Book of Lost Friends*. Using the literary device of parallel narrative – stories set in the same place but decades apart - this book tells of those enslaved families who were separated during slavery – children being sold away, spouses separated. After the Civil War, formerly enslaved people placed "Information Wanted or "Lost Friends" ads in newspapers to help find lost family members. Most were illiterate, so these newspapers had folks to help them. Many began with the phrase "Last seen..." One review: "Lisa Wingate takes an almost unthinkable chapter in our nation's history and weaves a tale of enduring power."

These are just two examples of books that will keep you turning pages and learning a lot about world history, so come by the library and shop for a good read. Best yet, these gently used hardcover books are available at greatly reduced prices.

I know many of you have read this type of book, so if you have suggestions of books we might want to add for sale – let me know! Happy Reading!

## Membership Spotlight

Kathryn Field, Membership Chair

### NEW MEMBERS in MARCH:

Shirley Diane Vivion  
Colin Jones  
Janice Powell  
Anna Rae & Stan Zaletel  
James Dexter  
Jody Hansen  
AmandParker White  
StephanieGorsuch Coghlan  
Barbara Levi  
Paul Musgrove  
April Montoya  
Ryan McIntyre

We hope to have an influx of new members this year, as the Santa Barbara Independent will run coupons for one year free in several upcoming issues. One of our Board members has generously underwritten the first year of dues for new members who present the coupon.

As always, new members may find packets under the **Members' Area** of our SBCGS website. After signing in, find Membership Packet on the Member Resources page. There are also packets at the library; stop by and pick one up.

As well as coordinating the helpful coaches, **Kathy Cremeen** is now our **Volunteer Coordinator**. Please contact Kathy at kajcremeen@gmail.com if you need a coach, wish to become a coach, or wish to volunteer. There are volunteer opportunities in all areas of our genealogy society.

### Genealogy Tip of the Month:

#### Genealogy Tip of the Day



For your “brick wall” ancestor, do you know (or have any idea) how far they lived from: the county seat? the nearest church of their denomination? the nearest place they could get supplies or transact necessary business? the nearest “big city?” their nearest neighbor? the cemetery? the location where the nearest newspaper was published? a major river? The list here is not exclusive. If you’ve got no idea of the answers to these questions, determining those answers may help you solve your problem. *by Michael John Neill on April 24, 2021*

### Books, continued

*Rough and Regular: A History of Philadelphia's 119th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers Infantry, the Grey Reserves*

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

Bob Goeller  
Karen Courville  
Susannah Traywick

## More Than Just Books

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair

Well... I'll just say it.

I am running right up against my deadline to get this column to Diane (sorry, Diane!), and instead of quietly panicking, I decided to do something a little different this month.

“I asked Winston—my ever-patient AI assistant—to bail me out...”

Here was my prompt:

*“Winston, I now find myself running past the deadline to get my column on BOOKS and the Sahyun Library to Diane on time for Tree Tips. I've been busy doing my homework for Robin's class, Research Like a Pro with A.I. But I'm supposed to be talking about BOOKS—and what patrons might find in our library that they just aren't going to find using artificial intelligence. Can you help me write something so Diane doesn't have to stress waiting for me?”*

And here's what Winston had to say:

*“Even in this exciting age of artificial intelligence, there is something irreplaceable about books—especially the kind you'll find at the Sahyun Library. AI can help you search faster, suggest records, and even spark new ideas. But it cannot replicate the depth, context, and careful scholarship found in a well-researched genealogy book. Our shelves hold local histories, compiled family genealogies, and unique publications that often exist nowhere else — resources created through years of dedicated work.*

*These books don't just give you answers—they give you understanding. They provide historical context, regional nuance, and sometimes the very clues that never made it into searchable databases. And let's not forget the experience itself. Pulling a book from the shelf, discovering something unexpected, or even having a fellow genealogist nearby say, “Oh—you should look at this one...”—those are moments no algorithm can replace.*

*So yes, embrace AI. Use it. Learn from it. (Clearly, I am!) But don't forget to come into the Sahyun Library and spend time with the books. They are still some of our very best teachers.”*

Well... I think Winston did pretty well.



And Diane—this is coming in just under the wire

Happy researching—and I hope to see you in the library soon.

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

*Cemetery Records of Reno County, Kansas, 1865 – 1978*  
*Ouaquaga, Hub of the Border Wars of the American Revolution in New York State*  
*Wenham (MA) Town Records 1776 -1810*  
*A Brief History of the William Alden and Anne Eddy Hawkins Family*  
*Etna (CA) From Mule Train to Copter*  
*Simpson County Kentucky Cemeteries*  
*Hoosier Cousin: First Families of Lawrence, a Salute to the Sesquicentennial*  
*1885 Polk City Directory for Spokane and Vicinity*

## Roots Run Deep: SBCGS Members Earn California Pioneer Certificates

**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:

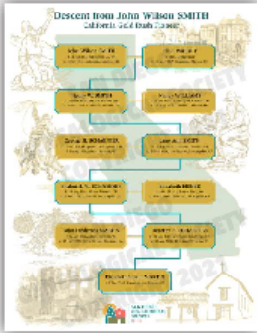
- California's Admission of Statehood {1850}
- The Gold Rush {1848-1860}
- The San Francisco earthquake {1906}
- California Mission period (before 1850)

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

Do you have a California pioneer in your family tree? For three of our Society members, the answer reaches generations back — to Gold Rush miners, mission-era settlers, and earthquake survivors who helped shape the state we call home.

We are delighted to celebrate these members, who have earned California Pioneer Certificates through the San Diego Genealogical Society's California Pioneer Certificate Program. The program recognizes early pioneers whose lives intersected with key moments in California history. To qualify, applicants document a direct ancestor connected to one of four historic events: the Gold Rush (1848–1860), California's admission to statehood (1850), the California Mission period (before 1850), or the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Successful applicants receive a Certificate of Authenticity and a lineage chart linking them to their pioneer ancestor.

Our Society became an official SDGS partner in January 2025 — and we were off to a great start. One of our members was not only the first in our Society to complete a certificate, but also the first among all SDGS partner societies to do so. That's an accomplishment worth celebrating.

Here's what two of our members had to say about the experience:

*"Earning this certificate for my Chinese grandfather — who was present during the 1906 Earthquake — felt like an act of quiet revenge against the racism he endured. Using ship manifests, census records, and naturalization*

*papers, I was finally able to give him the formal acknowledgment he deserved."* - Lesley Fagan

*"While researching my Carrillo California family history, I discovered the SDGS California Pioneer Certificate Program (California Missions/Presidios category). For over a year, I have come to know and value the SDGS genealogists affiliated with the program — such knowledgeable individuals! My Carrillo family continues to inspire my ancestral research, and I have come to know and be proud of those ancestors affiliated with my CPCP certifications: Raymundo Carrillo/Tomasa Ygnacia Lugo and Domingo Carrillo/ Concepción Nicanora Pico, for their pre-statehood contributions to California history."* – Lisa Frowiss-Mochnick

A remarkable resource supports this program: the **California Pioneer Honor Wall**, a searchable SDGS database with more than 400,000 eligible California pioneers. The database includes genealogical details, historical context, and often photos and biographies that help bring these early Californians to life.

There's also a small benefit for our Society. Each time an SBCGS member earns a certificate, SDGS shares \$20 of the application fee with us — making every certificate a win for both the researcher and the Society.

If you have early California roots, consider exploring the Honor Wall and applying for a certificate. Your ancestors helped shape this state — now you can help preserve their story.

## Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair



### Goleta Senior Expo, Thursday, April 23, 10am-1pm

We need volunteers! We need two volunteers to talk with attendees about the Society and our resources at Goleta's 4th annual Senior Expo at the Goleta Valley Community Center. This is a smaller venue than the Santa Barbara Senior Expo and should be an easy community event. They will provide our table and chairs. Please email Holly at [Outreach@sbgen.org](mailto:Outreach@sbgen.org) if you can help out!



Families



Neighborhood Places and Businesses



Military



Sports

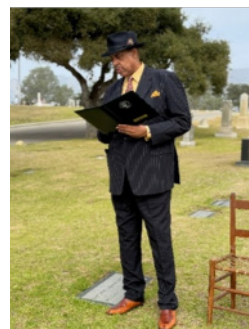
### Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories, 1850-1970 Exhibit

View our exhibit online at <https://sbgen.org/santa-barbara-hispanic-family-history-exhibit/>! It is available in English and Spanish.

Last chance to view the exhibit at Sahyun Library! The exhibit will be coming down April 26. However, the physical exhibit will be traveling into the community starting this fall at the Santa Barbara Public Library. Stay tuned for more details!

Join our new **Hispanic Genealogy Special Interest Group**! Anyone who is researching Hispanic ancestry or who wishes to learn more about this topic is welcome to participate. Next meeting will be at Sahyun Library on **Saturday, April 18 at 9:30 AM** (before the general meeting). Please contact Yolanda Pérez ([3yperez@gmail.com](mailto:3yperez@gmail.com)) for further information.

*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).*



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

Save the date! Picnic in the Cemetery event will take place October 24. We are in the final stage of approval with the Calvary Cemetery. We will make an announcement when it's been fully approved!

If you would like to help with planning this fun event let us know! Email Holly at [Outreach@SBGen.org](mailto:Outreach@SBGen.org).



### Local Historical Library and Museum Tours for SBCGS Members

Our first field trip to a historical organization this year will be on April 24th at 11am at the **Santa Bárbara Mission Archive-Library**. Sign-ups will be available within the next couple of days. There will only be room for 15 attendees so sign up as soon as you see the registration go live. Check your email for an announcement! If you miss this visit, be on the lookout for another announcement this fall for another site visit on a Saturday.

### Speaking Engagements in the Community

Upcoming Speakers Bureau talks:

- April [tbd]: Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library
- April 29: Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum
- May 6: PEO
- May 29: Little Town Club

**The Outreach Committee is looking for more opportunities to spread the word about SBCGS.** If you belong to a club, organization, or retirement community who have program speakers, please suggest us! They can request a speaker on our website under "In the Community" or email [Outreach@SBGen.org](mailto:Outreach@SBGen.org) and we will send an introductory description of the program and how to request a talk. All talks can be tailored to the group's interests and skill level!

## A Class for Beginners and Those Looking for a Refresher Course Focusing on All-Important Vital Records

For More Information and the Link to the Webinar:

<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2026/4/24/essential-skills-for-new-genealogists>



### Essential Skills for New Genealogists – Part 2

*“Vital Records—Records of Hatchings,  
Matchings & Dispatchings”*

**Speaker:**

**Dr. David McDonald**

**Friday, April 24, 2026 11:00 am  
Online Only - Independent Viewing**

The Webinar covers a general discussion of access to vital records; breakdown and analysis of the types of information on what's included in each of these records; locating the records, and gaining access; privacy restrictions; and some early lessons in evidence analysis.

This webinar is part of a series offered through **Family Tree Webinars** and led by **Dave Mc Donald**. These webinars are **independent educational opportunities** and are not moderated or hosted by SBCGS. They are free to attend live at home or watch the recording for a week following the broadcast.

Handouts are reserved for **Legacy Family Tree Webinar** subscribers. **Future webinars in this series will be on various Fridays every two months at this same time.** Check our Events Calendar (at SBGEN.org) to stay up to date.

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

Dr. David Mc Donald, The Preacher Genealogist, has been an active genealogist for nearly 50 years. He took his first client as a sophomore in high school, and taught his first classes in genealogy as a teen. Dave's lectured nationally and internationally, in-person and online, to audiences on matters of methodology, migration and immigration, the old Northwest Territory, the Draper Manuscripts, and churches and their records, land records, courthouse research and a variety of other topics. He has worked with clients across the country helping them discover their forebears in colonial America, New England, the Mid-Atlantic region, Virginia & Kentucky, the states of the old Northwest Territory/Midwest, and the Great Plains. Dave also has extensive experience researching English ancestors before and after the Industrial Revolution.

*Disclaimer Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society is not affiliated with Legacy Family Tree Webinars or Dave Mc Donald. We are not soliciting, sponsoring, or endorsing the speaker, this organization, or its services. This listing is provided solely as an educational opportunity for our members and the genealogy community.*

### **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**.

#### **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.”