



# Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

May 2026

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 42, No. 5

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

***"The Science Behind the Stories:  
Using Genetic Genealogy in Crime Fiction"***

Featuring **Nathan Dylan Goodwin**

Author of the Acclaimed *Forensic Genealogist* series, the *Mrs. McDougall Investigates* series, and the *Venator Cold Case* series.  
A Live Zoom Presentation

**SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026  
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon**

**at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
909 N. La Cumbre, Santa Barbara**

Website: [www.sbgen.org](http://www.sbgen.org)



- Learn about the investigative genetic genealogy process and where it is used.
- 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.
- Hear about real-life key cases that have used IGG
- Goodwin will focus on his fictional **Venator Cold Case** series, which uses this methodology to catch serial killers, including his meticulous research process, the experts that he consults, and his process of writing.

### 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.
- Nathan's presentation is at 11:00 a.m.

### Parking:

*There is ample free parking at the church.*



## PLEASE REGISTER

Choose how you want to attend: **In-Person at Trinity Lutheran Church or on Zoom**  
[sbgen.org](http://sbgen.org) or <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/m2ihGWhOOUG1Be40JdXISw>

## More Than Just Books

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair

I was working with a patron during a recent shift at the Sahyun Library, and together we made good progress on a search for his second great-grandfather's second wife—a woman he hadn't even known existed until a few visits ago.

He had originally come in to follow his direct line and maybe find a Civil War connection. But then this “mystery wife” appeared—only a first name and an estimated birth year. “Who is she?” he wondered. And, as often happens in genealogy, he was hooked.

We searched the usual places—Ancestry.com, Find a Grave, and Newspapers.com, etc. —and made some progress, but not quite enough to identify her.

So we turned to the books.

From our shelves, we pulled county histories and compiled genealogies—and there, tucked into a paragraph about a neighboring family, was just enough detail to connect the dots. Not a bold headline, but a quiet clue that made all the difference.

It was a good reminder: not everything is online. Sometimes the answer is waiting on a library shelf, ready to be discovered.

So next time you're in the Sahyun Library, take a few extra minutes to browse the books. You never know what—or who—you might find.

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

*Marriage contracts, wills and testaments of the Spanish colonial period in New Orleans, 1770–1804*

*First Alfred Seventh Day Baptist Church membership records, Alfred NY*

*Faver and kindred, 1748–1990: from Virginia to South Carolina, Georgia (Wilkes, Troup, Heard counties)*

*John Keep of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, 1660–1676, and his descendants*

*Payne-Golding family history: Wiley Payne (1851) & Nancy Jane Golding (1858), their ancestry to colonial Virginia, their descendants through c1995: selected collaterals*

*History of the Janes-Peek family: from Grandma's little trunk The Reverend William Wells, Bromsgrove, England and Brattleboro, Vermont; his family and descendants. Quotations from family letters and records*

*A Cornell family history: from County Essex, England to Wineshiek County, Iowa*

*Arabesque / San Marcos High School Instrumental Music Ensembles & Color Guard*

We want to thank the following generous donors:

**Karen Harris**      **William Noack**  
**Mary Watkins**    **Corrine Ardoin**

## Zoom Meeting Updates

by Robin McCarthy

As announced in February and published in the March issue of Tree Trips, participants in our public Zoom events are asked to **register and attend using an identifiable name** — preferably your full name.

This policy was introduced in response to security issues experienced by other societies, where unidentified attendees recorded and distributed programs without authorization. Recognizable names also help our new Zoom moderators quickly verify registrants and admit members without delay.

As a reminder, this notice appears on every public Zoom calendar event, directly above the registration link:

• To help maintain a safe and respectful environment, participants are asked to use an identifiable name when registering and attending our meetings and classes. Society programs may not be recorded or shared without prior permission.

Zoom attendees must register here in advance to receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the meeting.

## Quick Reminders

### Genealogy Tech Talk

#### Goldie May's AI Assistant for Genealogists

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 1:30 pm

Moderator: Robin McCarthy

Featuring Richard K. Miller

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

### First Thursday Lunch & Learn

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 12:00 pm

IN-PERSON at the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Host: Rosa Avolio

<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/register/2026/5/7/first-thursday-lunch-learn>



**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 MacEntee 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.

## Strategic Plan: Progress Report

by Mary Jacob, Development

At last July's General Meeting, the Board introduced the Society's Five-Year Strategic Plan and committed to providing regular updates. Some may have wondered whether the plan would quietly sit on a shelf—but I'm pleased to report that it is very much in action. Below are five of our strategic goals, along with highlights of the progress we've made this year.

### **Goal: Engage new audiences and broaden participation through creative outreach and exhibits.**

*The Santa Barbara Hispanic Family History, 1850–1970* exhibit has brought a record number of visitors to our library. This bilingual exhibit will move in September to the Faulkner Gallery at the Santa Barbara Public Library—the first of several community venues that will help extend our reach.

### **Goal: Increase awareness of SBCGS.**

We are running a monthly advertisement in the Santa Barbara Independent for six months. The ad offers a complimentary one-year membership to readers who bring it to the Sahyun Library. Both the advertising and memberships have been generously underwritten by a donor.

### **Goal: Recruit and retain a vibrant membership that reflects our region's diversity.**

As a direct result of the Hispanic Family History exhibit, we have welcomed new members with Hispanic heritage in their family research. We have also launched a Hispanic Special Interest Group for those interested in Hispanic genealogy.

### **Goal: Ensure long-term sustainability by strengthening fundraising efforts.**

Participation in our Annual Appeal increased this year, and we are pleased to have surpassed our fundraising goal.

### **Goal: Optimize the use and development of the Society's property and facilities.**

The growing number of visitors to our library highlights the importance of enhancing our outdoor space. This summer, we cleared and leveled the future Memorial Garden and Patio area. The city has accepted our building permit application which is now under review, and we are developing a fundraising plan to bring the project to completion.

The Strategic Plan serves as a five-year roadmap as we continue advancing our mission and vision of becoming a vibrant regional hub for genealogical research and community connection.



## Membership Spotlight

Kathryn Field, Membership Chair

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.

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

**Coaches and Volunteers:** As well as coordinating the helpful coaches, **Kathy Cremeen** is now our **Volunteer Coordinator**. Please contact Kathy at [kajcremeen@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## 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.

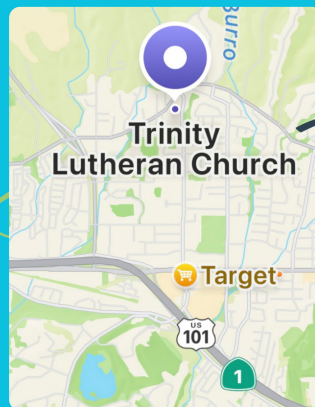
**To stay informed**, visit the **Members Section** at [sbgen.org](http://sbgen.org). Once logged in, navigate to **Member Resources** to access the latest **Board Minutes and Operations Leadership Notes**.

### 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."



## NEW MEETING LOCATION



### New Location:

Fellowship Hall  
909 N LaCumbre Rd  
Santa Barbara, 93110

*SBCGS is moving its monthly meetings to a larger space!*

**BEGINNING  
SAT, MAY 16**

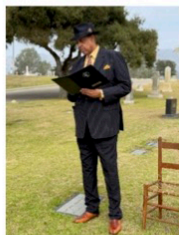
Ample parking  
Central location  
Larger screen  
Special Interest Groups



# Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

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



Save the date! Picnic in the Cemetery event will now take place on October 24 at the Carpinteria Cemetery. Do you know someone buried in this cemetery who has a story to share? Do you know someone who would like to be an actor? Contact us!

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

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



Exhibit at Sahyun has been extended! There is still time to see the exhibit in person until June.

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



Families



Neighborhood Places and Businesses



Military



Sports

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).



## Speaking Engagements in the Community



### **Upcoming Speakers Bureau talks:**

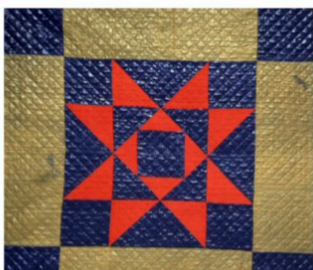
April 29: Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum/Carriage House;

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 thru our website under "In the Community" (direct link: <https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/reservation-request/>), 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!

## Historic Quilt Display



We would like to display quilts from 1700s-1800s in our Jackson Community Room this summer in commemoration of the America's 250th anniversary.

We would love to have a display showing traditional quilts dating from the late 1700s to 1800s using our new quilt hangers that go with our display system. If you have a quilt that could be shown, please include any information you know about the quilt—who made it, year or time period, type of cloth, what did they use the quilt for, and a picture of the person who made the quilt if possible. We will also need your name and contact information. (*Quilt shown:* Calimanco, pre-1799, made from wool, hand-stitched, DAR Museum, <https://quiltindex.org/results/?collection=DAR> )

Please contact Holly at [outreach@sbgen.org](mailto:outreach@sbgen.org) before bringing your materials to Sahyun Library if you'd like to submit a quilt.

## SBCGS Out in the Community

### Community History Day, Saturday, May 9 11am-2pm



Location: El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, 123 E. Canon Perdido

If you'd like to attend this family-friendly event, please stop by our table and say hi! For more information, view their event page:

<https://www.sbthp.org/chd>

We could use one more volunteer for Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation's Community History Day. Contact Holly Snyder at [Outreach@sbgen.org](mailto:Outreach@sbgen.org) for more information and to volunteer.

### Goleta Senior Expo, Thursday, April 23



Our first time at the Goleta Senior Expo was a success! Our volunteers counted just over 90 visitors to their table. Wow! We will definitely sign up for their next senior expo event next year. Thank you to our volunteers Larry Basham, Matt Grul, and Lynn Adams!

### Local historical library and Museum Tours for SBCGS Members



Our first scheduled tour of an archive in Santa Barbara took place at the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library on April 24th. SBCGS members were shown some of the archive's art collection and manuscripts, plus some of the genealogical records that they hold, including a list of Indigenous persons buried on/around the mission, copies of historical baptismal records, and a US directory/census of Catholic Church personnel posted throughout the US. The latter series dates to around 1869 and continues through the present. Look for an announcement in early fall for the next tour at the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library!

### 2025 Carpinterian of the Year



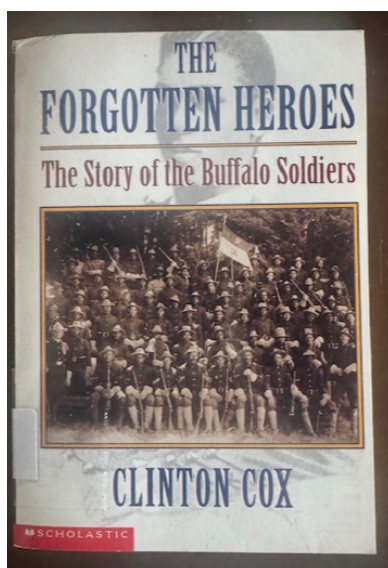
The SBCGS would like to extend a huge congratulations to local historian **Jim Campos** for being honored as the 2025 Carpinterian of the Year! We are so excited for you and proud to have you as a member of our society!

You can read more about Jim and his community contributions here: [https://www.coastalview.com/news/historian-dr-jim-campos-is-2025-carpinterian-of-the-year/article\\_f16c186b-c63a-464d-bfd7-600e07e465d5.html](https://www.coastalview.com/news/historian-dr-jim-campos-is-2025-carpinterian-of-the-year/article_f16c186b-c63a-464d-bfd7-600e07e465d5.html)

## Book Reviews — From the Shelves of the Sahyun

by Pat Caird

### **The Forgotten Heros The Story of the Buffalo Soldiers** By Clinton Cox



This book was an eye-opener for me. Many of us know that the Buffalo Soldiers were thousands of black cavalry men recruited by the United States government from 1865 – 1890. Their mission was to help open the west to settlers by escorting wagon trains, protecting forts, and fighting off Native American attacks as they helped mostly white people attempt to safely cross the country, settling along the way.

But, like anything else, it is not as simple as that and the title, *The Forgotten Heros*, brings this to light. The in-depth, well researched stories of the lives these men endured, the contributions they made, and the complexity of their situations is poignant. “Their military mission was to take freedom away from people who had always known it – Native Americans.” Cox calls it a tragic story, and indeed, it is (Interestingly, many African Americans married Native-Americans).

You will read about Geronimo, Quanah Parker, Red Cloud, Custer, and many more Native American names well known to us by now. And you will learn of people whose names you probably have never heard of. The Native-Americans (legend says the Apache and Cheyenne in particular) called them the Buffalo Soldiers

The author’s very extensive bibliography documents the stories of what the government expected from the Buffalo Soldiers and how loyal they were. Although 30 of these soldiers became Black Congressional Medal of Honor Winners in the West from 1870 – 1890, overall, there was little recognition for their efforts.

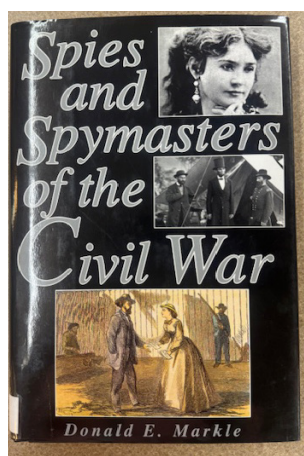
Along with the names of the medal winners, Cox provides a good map to help the reader visualize where most of the action took place, and his index is extensive.

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### Book Review

#### **Spies and Spymasters of the Civil War**

By Donald E. Markle



As I read various books at Sahyun Genealogical Library and attempt to write reviews, I give thought to what a genealogist might find, not only interesting historically, but how one might discover his or her own ancestors amid the content of the time-period or subject matter. In this case, it is the Civil War period with its spies and spymasters.

Donald E. Markle’s detailed information is broken down into 13 chapters which cover, among other things, Civil War “Spy Chiefs,” Intelligence Courier Systems, Secret Organizations, Technology Assists in Civil War Spying, Intelligence Gathering by Cryptography, Unique Spy Groups, Imprisonment, Exchange and Execution of Spies, Individual Spies, Confederate Male Spies, Union Male Spies, Confederate Female Spies, Union Female Spies and a lengthy Listing of All Known Civil War Spies.

His Glossary of Civil War Spy Terms helps the reader to better understand the titles of the various levels of men and women who had the courage to do the work they did. It also describes words used by the military at that time and which are still used today.

He even lists 28 Books written by Civil War Spies. The following are just a few titles which sound particularly interesting: *Military Memoirs of a Confederate*; *Belle Boyd in Camp and Written by Herself*; *The Thrilling Adventures of Daniel Ellis*, and *The Spy of the Rebellion*.

The author’s extensive bibliography is an asset to anyone doing research on the Civil War and specifically spies of those times.

In summary, “Markle examines the spies’ overall impact on the outcome of the Civil War, as well as on the modern world of intelligence . . . His account carries most of the stories beyond the Civil War itself and describes the difficulties and experiences of spies trying to acclimate to normal life, finding that some did and some did not [taken from the jacket of the book].”

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

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*




**SAN DIEGO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
EST. 1942



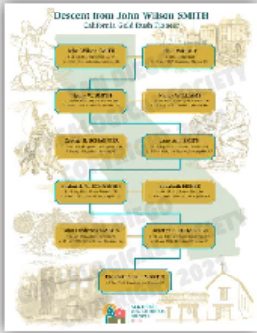
**San Diego Genealogical Society Launches California Pioneer Certificate Program**

**Date:** May 2023

**Contact:** Colin Whitney, SDGS Educational Programs, [pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com](mailto:pioneercertificateprogram@gmail.com)



*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 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.

*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.