



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

July 2026

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 42, No. 7

WELCOME TO SBCGS's JULY MEETING IT'S FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society invites the public to its free monthly meeting on Saturday, July 18, 2026, featuring the Mission Canyon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Saturday, July 18, 2026

9:30 - 12:00 Noon

**Location: Trinity Lutheran Church
909 N. La Cumbre Road, Santa Barbara**

Virtual attendance via Zoom is available with advance registration at SBGen.org

<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2026/7/18/monthly-meeting>

Five DAR members will present **"Our Patriot Ancestors,"** sharing their ancestors' stories in 18th-century costume — including an authentic hooped gown — and bringing to life the ordinary men and women whose courage made America possible. Farmers, blacksmiths, teenagers, and elders: these were the people who defied the world's most powerful army 250 years ago. Their stories are as entertaining as they are historically compelling. A Live In-Person Presentation

Schedule:

- *Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and informal discussions with the Society's Special Interest Group topics from beginning genealogy to writing family histories*
- *Brief business meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.*
- *The DAR presentation is at 11:00 a.m.*

Parking:

There is ample free parking at the church.



Founded in 1890, the Daughters of the American Revolution counts among its members direct descendants of Patriots who contributed to the American Revolution — on the battlefield and in support roles. The Mission Canyon Chapter was organized on October 4, 1928, and has been continuously active for 98 years, supporting veterans and student scholarships.

The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society helps people discover, document, and preserve their family histories. Our research library at 316 Castillo Street offers 16,000+ books, eight subscription genealogy databases, research assistance, and classes for all levels. Membership starts at \$40. Learn more at SBGen.org

President's Message

by Kate Lima



Hello everyone! Greetings from Bloomington, Indiana where I am in the middle of a family research trip. I'm enjoying this foray into the 19th century - green farmlands with old homes that once housed the farmers of yesterday. Large towns with homes that come straight from a Norman Rockwell painting. Allen County

Public Library in Fort Wayne and the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis hold vast arrays of books containing families and histories.

Yesterday I traipsed through the wilderness – literally – in search of an old cemetery. (A bust.) Still, I'm seeing so much of America that takes my breath; the journey is as thrilling as the destination.

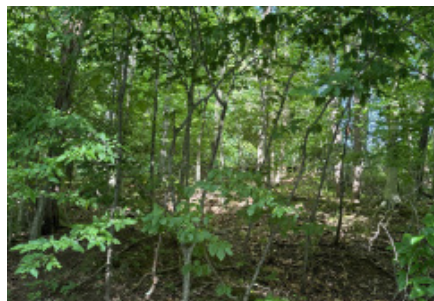
Let me tell you a bit about my own history. I grew up in Los Angeles then moved to Santa Barbara in 1978 for college, Other than one brief year away I've lived here ever since. I joined the SB County Genealogical Society in 2014, about a year after I caught the fever. I grew up hearing a couple of family stories: "We're related to Anneke Jans! We're related to Robert E. Lee! We're related to King Carter of Virginia!" The search began and I've been on this road ever since.

I'm excited to start a new journey, that of being the president of the society. It's an honor to continue my service to this wonderful group; I've met so many friends who share my love of service – and of course genealogy as well! I know it will be an exciting year and I can't wait to meet more of you!

Kate Lima, President



Above: A photo of Lemon Lake, en route to the hidden cemetery



Left: Tramping through the wilderness - where's that cemetery?

Educational Offerings



Writers' Group Meeting

Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10:00-11:00 am on Zoom

Monthly, on the third Wednesday

Moderator: Sharon Summer

ZOOM ONLY

This month let's talk about writing a grabby beginning to your ancestor's story... and writing an ending at the end. Hear examples. Discuss anything else about genealogy writing. Join us for inspiration!



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/>



More Than Just Books

by Chris Klukkert, Book Chair

You may have seen my article in the latest Ancestors West about my black sheep relative, Newell Ordway. My Ordway cousins couldn't help but wonder why, when I finally chose to write about their side of the family, I selected an issue devoted to rogues, misfits, and criminals—and then contributed not one article, but two! Ah, but those are the people who are so much fun to write about. Sometimes they're easier to find, too.

In researching Newell, I was fortunate to discover references to “my guy” in a book published by the Tunbridge Vermont Public Library. A local historian had taken the time to record the stories and recollections of several longtime residents and preserve them in print. What a gift to the rest of us! Those are exactly the kinds of books genealogists treasure, and they are the kinds of resources we are always pleased to add to our collection.

Sometimes a small town, rural area, or ancestral homeland may have very few surviving records. In those cases, local histories, memoirs, and community reminiscences may be the only sources that bring our ancestors' lives into focus.

So don't overlook public libraries—especially if you're traveling this summer in search of ancestral roots. You never know what hidden treasure may be waiting on a dusty shelf.

But this column is really about our library—your Sahyun Library. It is filled with countless books, reference materials, and research guides that can help you discover more about your family and research more effectively.

Please stop by this summer and let us help you find the book that holds some genealogical answers for you. We look forward to seeing you!

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

- *Researching Ulster Ancestors, 1800–1914*
- *German Immigrants in American Church Records (Vol 47)- Pennsylvania*
- *A Researchers Guide to Virginia's Historical Records (2026)*
- *Open Houses in New England*
- *The Shelby seekers: Allied families of Cannon, Clinton, Dodds, Love, Posey, and Stenbridge*
- *Roster of Confederate Soldiers buried in Stonewall Cemetery, Winchester, Virginia*
- *Crane Country Day School Alumni Directory 2006*
- *Grand-Pre: Heart of Acadie*
- *Index to Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and their Descendants: A History of Frederick County, Virginia*
- *Surname books on: Libbey, Hillsboro, Adkins*
- *Arkansas Military Bounty Grants (War of 1812)*
- *Persons Naturalized in the Providence of Pennsylvania 1740-1773.*

We want to thank the following generous donors:

Carol Diamond Karen Harris Kate Aver

Five Little Known Resources to Add to Your Search Toolkit

by Laurie Hannah, Librarian

In the Sahyun Library

Digital books—you may be familiar with our scanned periodicals, all of which are word-searchable pdf files. They help immensely in searching for a surname through multiple issues. But did you know we have hundreds of digital books you can read and search in? The scope of titles is worldwide. A few of these are:

Irish Army Lists, 1661-1685

Swiss Emigrants to Germany in the 17th Century

Early Landowners of Pennsylvania, Berks County Township Warranty maps

New South Wales Post Office Directory 1904

Vertical files—We have two separate sets of files—the Surname files that contain all sorts of miscellaneous genealogical material on hundreds of families; and the Locality files. The locality files contain pamphlets, clippings, brochures, maps and more on places around the world. There are also subject files, such as Monterey, California baptisms from the Spanish period, the Oregon Trail, and German research.

On the SBCGS Website <http://sbgen.org>

Remote access to subscription databases—All SBCGS members can search the complete MyHeritage set of databases from home. Also available as a member benefit is access to the North American set of newspapers provided by NewspaperArchive. Log in to these databases in the members section of our website (requires you to log in as a member first).

Free webinars—While you are in the members section of our website, check out all the available webinars you can watch. There are many especially helpful to new genealogists, such as the “Tips and Tools” series of eight webinars on organizing your genealogy, backing up files, and choosing genealogy software. If you are more advanced, try the different webinars under “Genealogy Tech Talk.”

Digital collections on our website <https://sbgen.org/start-your-search/other-society-materials/#gsc.tab=0> We have uploaded a variety of different documents, compilations and transcriptions, and scanned books and photos about Santa Barbara. A few examples:

- a) 1850 US federal census for Santa Barbara, California, transcribed and annotated by Marie Northrup, an authority on early California families.
- b) Digital photos of early Santa Barbara school classes with the names of all the children. The oldest photo is from the 5th Ward School taken in 1885. <https://sbgen.org/photo-gallery/elementary-school-photos/>
- c) Yearbooks from local nursing schools in Santa Barbara. These compliment a growing number of hardbound yearbooks in the library collection.

Important Zoom Meeting Reminder!

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 Zoom meetings and classes. Society programs may not be recorded or shared without prior permission.

Spotlight on Christine Klukkert - SBCGS Board Member +



**Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz
County Lecture Series:**

**Christine Klukkert, Presenter
Sept. 1st, 1:00 - pm**

*“Utilizing Ancestry with Tips, Tricks &
Tree Tactics”*

Christine has used Ancestry.com as her
main research platform since 2000, and

will share the methods she uses to keep her research organized, flexible, and meaningful.

REGISTER HERE: [https://santacruzpl.libnet.info/
event/16852465](https://santacruzpl.libnet.info/event/16852465)

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.”

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

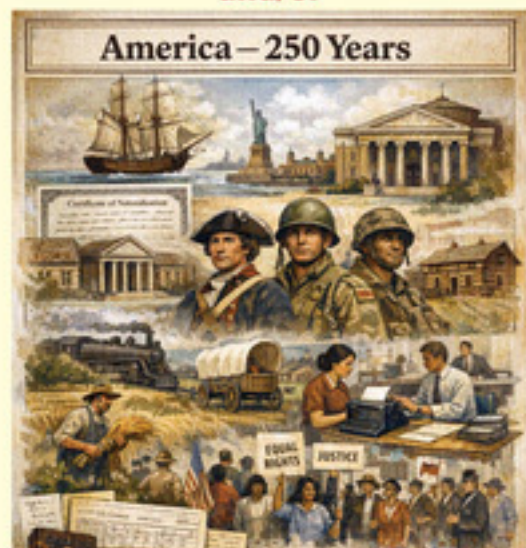
Charmien Carrier, Editor

Ancestors West suggested themes for August 1st edition



and/or

MS CoPilot



MS CoPilot

**Please send stories to:
Editor, Charmien Carrier,
charmien2940@gmail.com**

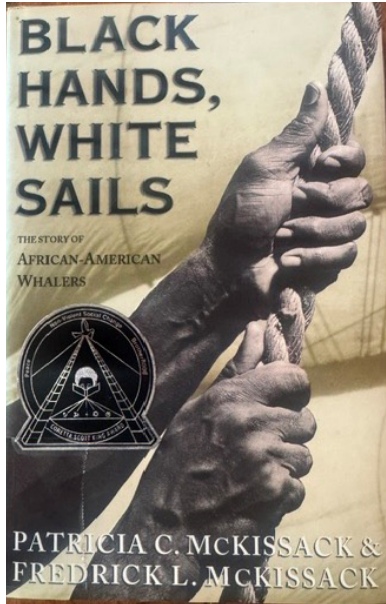
Book Reviews — From the Shelves of the Sahyun

by Pat Caird

Black Hands, White Sails

The Story of African American Whalers

by Patricia C. McKissack & Fredrick L. McKissack



As authors of numerous books, the McKissacks delve deeply into the history of the black experience in America, this time into the roles of African Americans in the whaling industry from 1730 – 1880. I wonder how many people know this story.

The McKissacks explain the rich and complex history of Nantucket, the southeasternmost town in Massachusetts and its African American population (both free and enslaved) which was drawn to the kindness and support of the Quaker residents in the period of 1700-1800.

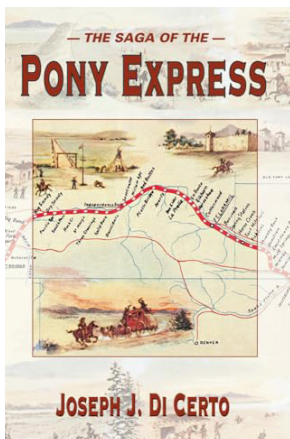
The abundance of whales in those times made for good whaling and many free blacks chose whaling as an occupation. The complexity of the times included playing a part in the Underground Railroad as escaped slaves chose to become whalers to flee their masters. There was nothing easy about the job, and often, black whalers were paid the lowest wages and sometimes mistreated. Because of this, many went into business for themselves.

The reader learns about the evolution of whaling from “shore whaling” to ship-based whaling (about 1712). Ships continued to evolve in size and capability to where the whalers could render the oil while far out at sea. While the oil was called “liquid gold,” “black gold” was the term used in the slave trading business which often took place on these ships and was more lucrative than the whaling business.

Nautical terms, job descriptions, the hunt, whaling techniques, “greenies,” arts and crafts of the period, stories of individual whalers, the Abolitionist Movement, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, all a part of whaling, are intertwined throughout the narrative. Photographs, drawings, a bibliography, a list of important dates from 1441 – 1917, notes, and an index are included.

The Saga of the Pony Express

By Joseph J. Di Certo



Di Certo’s extensive research on the short-lived Pony Express gave him all the tools he needed to tell us what an amazing piece of United States history this venture was. It is yet another tale of what our ancestors dared to do to bring us to where we are today.

The Pony Express grew out of an ambitious plan by “Three Mighty Visionaries” who operated the Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Company, which transported mail and goods between the East and California in the mid-1800s. As California’s population increased, so did the demand for faster news from the East, because messages sent by sea or overland could take months to arrive. To meet that need, the Pony Express was launched with a daring goal: to carry mail 2,000 miles in just 10 days.

Their ad for riders read “Wanted, Young skinny, wiry fellows not over eighteen. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred.”

Nearly 200 Pony Express Relay and Home stations were built, managed, and supplied with food and horses, among other necessities. Perils included rough terrain, harsh weather, insects, scarce water,

Indian attacks, and stolen horses.

Photographs, maps of Pony Express stations and trails, and a list of more than 200 riders help bring this history to life. The extensive index reflects and describes the many people, places, and events of the era, including slavery, the Civil War, and the Crash of 1857. Steamships and ferries also contributed to mail transport. Indexed and described is the history of the Western Union Telegraph Company, whose telegraph service ultimately ended the Pony Express.

But, from April 3, 1860 – October 24, 1861, mail was carried and delivered every single day, made possible by dedicated and daring people of the times.

Could your ancestors have been involved in some part of the Pony Express?



**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

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:

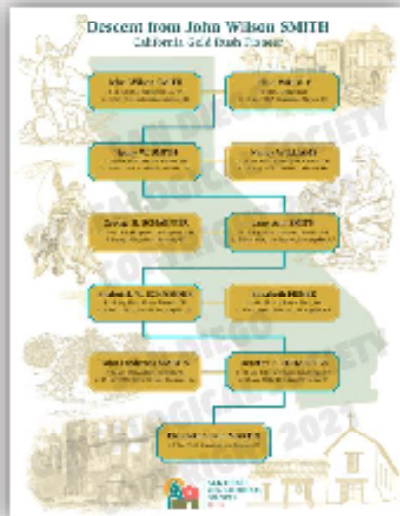
- California's Admission of Statehood (1850)
- The Gold Rush (1848-1860)
- The San Francisco earthquake (1906)
- California Mission period (before 1850)

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

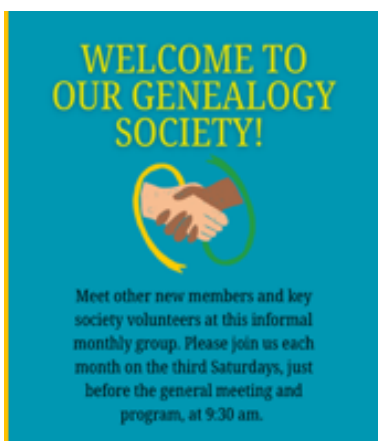
Membership Spotlight

Kathryn Field, Membership Chair

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

NEW MEMBERS in June:

Lynn Montgomery
Kathleen Talley
Kim Wendel
Linda Marie James
Michael Ayala
Shannon Luck-Brilliant
Jennifer Nichoson
Lynne Pritchard
Kathryn Boschke



Between 9:30-10:30 am at each General Meeting -- before the business meeting begins -- new members can get to know each other and meet key volunteers in the Society. Those who've been in the society for less than a year are encouraged to stop by this table and learn from other members.

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 to pick up.

Genealogy Tip of the Day



by Michael John Neill on July 28, 2022

Individuals whose birth was not recorded when they were born may have filed for a delayed birth certificate when they reached the age of majority, realized they needed a certificate and did not have one, applied

for a social security number, or a combination of reasons. The majority of delayed birth certificates in the United States were filed for individuals who lived into the 1930s and beyond.

How the delayed certificates are filed depends on the location. Some kept an entire separate set of certificates that were filed some time after the fact. Some areas just filed the delayed certificates with the original certificates filed when the individual was born. Some changed their procedures over time.

Find out how areas in which you have an interest filed these records.

Volunteer Luncheon

It was a pleasure to honor 34 of our 80+ volunteers at the annual luncheon June 20. On a mild afternoon, we gathered on the Sahyun patio for salad, beverages and cake. President Marie Sue Parsons expressed gratitude for the dedication of our volunteers who contribute about 1,000 hours of labor each month. Photos taken during the event will be available at the July 18 General Meeting.

The Membership Committee and others spent hours preparing for and cleaning up after the event, especially **Kathy Cremeen, Yolanda Perez, Rick Closson, Kate Lima, Charmien Carrier, Irene Macias and Kathie Morgan**.



Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair



Heritage Quilt Display at the Sahyun Library

Come view our heritage quilt display featuring quilts made between 1850s-2006 in our Jackson Community Room this summer in commemoration of the America's 250th anniversary. Most quilts will be up through October.

Picnic in the Cemetery (October 24, 2026)



We are looking for actors and cemetery residents at the Carpinteria Cemetery. Do you know someone buried in this cemetery who has a story that should be shared? Do you know someone who would like to be an actor? Contact us!

New to the Picnic in the Cemetery? It is a live historical presentation where actors portray cemetery residents and present to the public. View our past cemetery events here: <https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/attend-an-event/>.

If you would like to help with planning this fun event let us know! Email Holly at Outreach@SBGen.org.

Speaking Engagements in the Community



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 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!

Innovative Revolutionary War Exhibition

In celebration of America's 250th anniversary, Santa Barbara's Mission Canyon Chapter of the DAR and the Santa Barbara Public Library announce the American Revolution Experience exhibit in the Fireplace Room at the Library's central downtown location from July 10 through July 17. Hours will be M-Th 10am-7pm, F-Sa 10am-5pm, and Sunday from noon-5pm. Free admission.

This innovative pop-up exhibition includes display panels and interactive digital kiosks that use storytelling, illustration, and technology to connect us with the people and places that shaped the birth of our nation.

Created through a collaboration between the American Battlefield Trust and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, the exhibit has been traveling across the United States, providing diverse viewpoints and experiences, touching on the journeys — both literal and figurative — of Patriots and Loyalists, men and women, Black and Native populations, and international allies. Rather than focusing only on generals and famous statesmen, it introduces audiences to drummer boys, military mapmakers and other ordinary people who were impacted by global events

DAR members will be greeting the guests to the exhibit during library hours, and will assist guests to learn about the exhibition. DAR members will be available in colonial dress for photos or video shoots with prior notice.

<https://calendar.library.santabarbaraca.gov/event/american-revolution-experience-traveling-exhibit-30312>



DISCOVER THE PEOPLE BEHIND OUR NATION'S FOUNDING.

Engaging stories of Patriots, Loyalists, African Americans, Native Americans, women, soldiers, and ordinary people whose choices shaped the course of the American Revolution.

Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair



Member Tour at the Santa Ynez Historical Museum- July 22nd @ 10:30am

On this guided tour of the Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum & Parks-Janeway Carriage House, visitors explore the cultural and ranching history of the Santa Ynez Valley from its earliest years through the early 20th century.

The tour begins in the museum galleries, where artifacts, photographs, pioneer tools, and ranching objects help tell the story of everyday life, local families, and the Valley's diverse communities. From there, the tour moves into the Parks-Janeway Carriage House, home to one of the finest collections of horse-drawn vehicles west of the Mississippi, including carriages, wagons, and stagecoaches, along with Western saddles, bridles, and tack. These objects highlight the importance of transportation, horsemanship, and the vaquero tradition in shaping ranching culture and work in the region, offering a deeper look at how people lived, worked, and moved through the Valley.

****Register on our calendar. You must be signed in as a member first to register.****

<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/#!event/2026/7/22/guided-tour-of-the-santa-ynez-valley-historical-museum-parks-janeway-carriage-house>

If you'd like to carpool, please indicate this while registering. Holly will put you in touch with other carpoolers as it gets closer. If this tour fills up, please email Outreach@sbgen.org to be put on the waitlist. You have a very good chance of going!

Santa Barbara Hispanic Family Histories, 1850-1970 Exhibit



The exhibit at Sahyun will be coming down June 21st. It's next temporary home will be at the Santa Barbara Public Library in September and October in one of the Faulkner side galleries. There will be a public event on October 1st during Downtown's First Thursday.

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

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 Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, June 20 at 9:30 AM (before the general meeting). Please contact Yolanda Pérez (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.

