

## Spotlight On California genealogical research facilities

*A series of articles about places to do research around the state*

### San Mateo County Genealogical Society Library

Cañada College

Building 9, Third Floor, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd. Redwood City, CA 94061

Hours: Whenever college library is open.

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

*by Diane Smelker*

In January 2010, the San Mateo County Genealogical Society Library moved to its new location at the Cañada College Library in Redwood City. The SMCGS Library has grown from a “Library in a Box,” which was carried to each society meeting, to a collection of over 6000 books, periodicals, microfilm, microfiche and CDs of genealogical records from all over the United States and many other countries. Our book collection provides the genealogist with strong holdings from New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the old north-west states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

The SMCGS shelf collection begins with materials on San Mateo County and California. Society volunteers have indexed many San Mateo County records including the Schellens Collection, *Redwood City Tribune/Peninsula Times Tribune* obituary records and the Layng & Tinney Mortuary Records. These databases can be found online at our website: [www.smcgs.org](http://www.smcgs.org). Among our San Mateo County materials are city directories, Roy Cloud’s “History of San Mateo County” and Svanevik & Burkett’s assorted San Mateo County history articles.

The Library has many special collections including “The American State Papers (9 vols.), the Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records, and the currently published “Silver Books” of the Mayflower Society. Our indexed 900 CD collection has titles covering the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Europe, Middle America and the 1880/81 United States, Canadian and British Census records.

SMCGS volunteers are available to assist patrons on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 - 4 pm and on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Wednesday evenings from 4:30 - 7:30pm. Family history researchers may use the SMCGS collection anytime during Cañada College Library open hours, Monday through Thursday 8am - 8pm and Fridays from 8am - 3pm. The College Library has computers with



Top: stacks of the SMGS Library located at Cañada College.

Right: Volunteer Beverly Thivierge working the information desk. Patron help is available Tues. and Thurs., 1 - 4 pm and the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Wed. evenings from 4:30 - 7:30 pm



internet access as well as WiFi for patrons with laptops.

The society is pleased to have its collection housed in a public space where both the college community and the public will be able to discover its genealogical resources. The new location makes Redwood City a “one stop shop” for genealogy research. Not only can researchers use the SMCGS collection but they can quickly drive to downtown Redwood City to access records at the Courthouse, the Redwood City Library History Room and the Historical Association Archives.

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## Society News

### News from Root Cellar—Sacramento

The 12th annual Family History Day at the California State Archives will be held Saturday, October 9, 2010, from 8:30 am to 4 pm. This fun and informative day will include over 20 classes from beginning genealogy, to internet resources and specialized research topics; classes in the Preservation Lab to see how to preserve family papers; research in the Root Cellar Library; and tours of the Archives to learn about the historical documents held there. Genealogical, historical & lineage societies, research libraries & archives will be on-hand with displays and information. Admission is free and open to the public. No registration required. The State Archives is located at 1020 "O" Street, Downtown Sacramento. Sign up for our blog <http://fhd2010.blogspot.com> to receive updates about the day's events or subscribe at [familyhistoryday2010@gmail.com](mailto:familyhistoryday2010@gmail.com). Sponsored by the California State Archives, Root Cellar – Sacramento Genealogical Society, and Genealogical and Historical Council of Sacramento Valley.

Root Cellar – Sacramento Genealogical Society has just released its new publication titled *Divorces, Sacramento County District Court 1850-1879*. The cases are indexed, and each court record found was abstracted. Also included is an addendum to the Index of Defendants and Plaintiffs containing divorce filings that were dismissed. There is wonderful genealogical information in these records, including maiden names, date of migration to California, children's ages, names, and sometimes birth dates, date of marriage, where married, reason for

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SMCGS is excited about its new partnership and looks forward to developing projects that will benefit both SMCGS and the Cañada College Library. Aiding class projects such as studying migration patterns between Redwood City and the Mexican state of Michoacan and exploring the history of the California Land Grant on which the Cañada campus sits are topics for consideration.

Check the SMCGS website, [www.smcgs.org](http://www.smcgs.org), for directions to the Cañada College Library, our monthly meetings, seminars, classes, First Families of San Mateo County project and research services.

the complaint, property legal descriptions, names of witnesses, and close relatives. This would be a valuable source for individual researchers and any genealogical society library as well. See [www.rootcellar.org](http://www.rootcellar.org) for information about ordering and other publications.

### Event Calendars

In addition to the event calendar located on the CSGA website ([www.csga.com](http://www.csga.com)), there are two other regional calendars online. They are <http://sfbagenealogy.blogspot.com> (San Francisco Bay Area) and <http://www.littlebytesoflife.com/search/label/Genealogy%20Calendar> (Central Coast)



The Federation of Genealogical Societies will host its annual conference August 18-21, 2010 at the Knoxville Convention Center in Knoxville, Tennessee. This year's theme is "Rediscovering America's First Frontier." Co-sponsors for the event are the East Tennessee Historical Society and Kentucky Historical Society. Speakers from across the United States will present lectures and workshops on topics of interest to genealogists and family historians. Regardless of one's level of experience, learning opportunities abound for those seeking to improve their research. The exhibit hall will be filled with booths displaying print and electronic publications, software, membership opportunities, and services. Complete information on the conference and online registration is available at the conference web site, <http://www.fgs.org/2010conference/index.php>. Be sure to check the conference blog (<http://www.fgsconferenceblog.org/>) for regular updates. Be sure to take advantage of the early bird discount by registering before June 1, 2010.