

Spotlight

On California Genealogical Research Facilities

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

Heritage Pavilion

Santa Clara Central Park Library
2635 Homestead Rd.
Santa Clara, CA 95051
408-615-2900

<http://www.library.ci.santa-clara.ca.us>

Local History Librarian/SCCHGS Library Staff Liaison: (408) 615-2909 or mhanel@ci.santa-clara.ca.us.

Hours:

Monday-Tuesday 9 am - 9 pm
Wednesday 12 noon - 9 pm
Thursday-Saturday 9 am - 6 pm
Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm

The Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year — a real milestone. The article below was submitted to the newsletter by Trina Gentry, President Pro-Tem of the society. It provides some background on the society and also on the wonderful genealogy and local history collection available at the library. The collection consists of about 7,000 books plus CDs, microfilm, pamphlets and tapes. In addition to the Early Settlers File there is large collection of local and California history. A new library was recently built and the setting is picture perfect and the facility exceptionally well equipped. Most genealogical materials are reference only. The Heritage Pavilion is open during regular library hours and consultants are often available to assist.

50th Anniversary of the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society

The Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society (SCCHGS) was founded on May 29, 1957, by members of a San Jose Adult Education Genealogy class. The charter and by-laws were drawn up by Mr. Eugene Rendler, a San Jose attorney and society member. An insignia was designed by Mrs. Mildred Bolton. The primary purpose of the organization was "to discover, procure, preserve and perpetuate whatever may relate to genealogy, biography and family history and to Santa Clara County's colorful and interesting local history."

The first president was Josiah E. Dewey, a 10th generation descendant of Governor William Bradford of the Massachusetts Plymouth Colony. Clyde Arbuckle, San Jose historian, and Price Webb, director of Adult Education in San Jose were named honorary vice-presidents. A genealogical and historical library was started immediately by donations of books by the members.

By 1960 the society secured a location for its headquarters, including a library in a small building located at 726 Terraine Street in San Jose. In 1966 it was learned that this building was in the path of a highway re-routing project and might have to be torn down. At this time the Santa Clara City Central Library was under construction and set to open in April 1967. Santa Clara City Librarian Miss Francis Klune had an interest in preserving local history and genealogy, and an agreement between the City of Santa Clara and the SCCHGS was drawn up in late 1966 enabling the society to move its files and library into a section of the soon-to-be open Central Library at 2635 Homestead Road. Thus for forty of its 50 years, SCCHGS has been affiliated with the Santa Clara City Library.

Over the years, the society and library's genealogy collection has grown to one of the best in Northern California. The society has undertaken many projects to preserve Santa Clara County family and local history.

These projects have included walking the cemeteries in the county and recording the names and dates on tombstones; indexing funeral books; collecting records, information and obituaries on early settlers of Santa Clara County; keeping and indexing local history scrapbooks, and more. Databases that have resulted from this work can be viewed on the society's homepage: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascchgs/>

On Saturday afternoon, May 19th, the society will throw a party in the Central Park Library Redwood Room in honor of its 50th anniversary. The public is welcome to drop in for cake, refreshments and to learn more about genealogy services provided by SCCHGS.

Send Your News!

Please send news about your society for publication in the CSGA newsletter to newsletter@csga.com