

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society “Working Together Statements” For Cañada College

How can the San Mateo County Genealogical Society Library compliment the work of Cañada College Library?



The following statement regarding Genealogy is from the Board Certification of Genealogists, a nationally and internationally known certifying organization.

“Genealogy is the study of families in genetic and historical context. It is the study of the people who compose a family and the relationships among them. At the individual level, it is biography, because we must reconstruct each individual life in order to separate each person’s identity from that of others bearing the same name. Beyond this, many researchers also find that genealogy is a study of communities because kinship networks have long been the threads that create the fabric of each community’s social life, politics, and economy.”

Good genealogists use every resource and tool available, emphasizing original records created by informants with firsthand information. Genealogists have long studied economics, geography, law, politics, religion, and society in order to properly interpret records, identify individuals and relationships correctly, and place their families in historical context.”

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society can work with the Cañada College community to benefit the student body and the College in the following ways:

1. The SMCGS Library can provide materials used to research and study family and community history. The collection could facilitate the integration of family and community into the study of history at Cañada College. To further that purpose the society could
 - Provide Mentors to assist students with their research.
 - Work with faculty to incorporate family history into the classroom.
 - Work with Cañada to develop beginning and intermediate Genealogy classes, both as Continuing Education and as part of the regular curriculum. SMCGS has a member who currently teaches Genealogy classes and is qualified to teach at the community college level.
2. The study of genealogy and family history can assist the immigrant student population of Cañada College to understand that the United States is a nation of immigrants and that their recent experiences, although modern, have an historical perspective to which most Americans can relate. In order to work more closely with recent immigrants, SMCGS could:
 - Develop finding aids for materials relevant to the ethnicity of Cañada students.
 - Expand collections in areas relevant to the majority of Cañada students
 - Provide links to ethnic research on the SMCGS website.

3. The SMCGS library includes a collection of “How To” books on writing family history. We have in the past had groups that meet to work on writing their “history” together. These sessions could be opened to Cañada students who would like to work on their writing skills outside the regular classroom.

4. SMCGS Library Volunteers (currently numbering 21 people) can provide coverage to assist Cañada College Library patrons interested in using the genealogy collection.

- SMCGS volunteers would be scheduled for specific hours each week to help patrons utilize the collection. These hours would be posted in the Library and on the SMCGS website.
- Volunteers would continue to catalog the collection with direction from the Cañada cataloguer so that integration into the Peninsula library catalog can be facilitated with little or no use of Cañada personnel.
- SMCGS would provide or seek funding for a Work Study Library Assistant Position for a Cañada College student.