



# The Campaign for Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Santa Barbara, California

March 2009

## Why a Library Expansion?

Our Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society is here to furnish support in all areas of family history research. We provide monthly meetings and seminars to educate our members and introduce them to new techniques and sources for genealogical research. We co-sponsor Santa Barbara City College's Adult Education classes in genealogical research to further the skills and knowledge of all genealogical researchers. And we help preserve important local records so that those researching their Santa Barbara roots can find listings of county cemeteries, indexes to early marriages, births, and deaths, funeral home records and very soon, indexed and scanned images of Santa Barbara County naturalization records—most compiled or transcribed by volunteers from our society!

But is this all we do? NO! In addition, we maintain a **WONDERFUL LIBRARY!**

So, what does this library provide that one doesn't have at home? Does it store precious works from the past? Yes, there is much to be gleaned from scholarly works of earlier times. Good books do not become obsolete. (And they continue to take up space until the space runs out!)

Can the Internet provide these same resources? Can we do wonderful, sufficient genealogy in our pajamas at home? Not really. Sure, there is a lot of family history "stuff" out there on

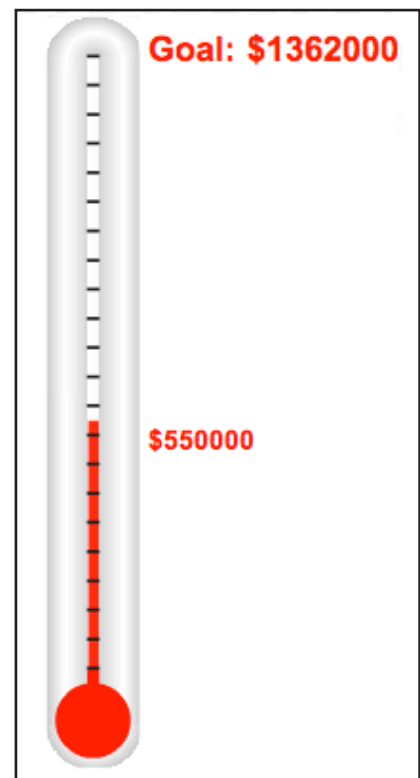
the Internet. But is this all we need to produce a quality family history? Definitely not!

A good genealogy is based on research and evidence—not copying someone else's undocumented compilation. It may provide some clues, but good genealogy requires documentation of all statements in our family history. Without this documentation, our account becomes a questionable history of the family.

And is the library a place to meet with knowledgeable people who may just point out a source that we hadn't yet considered? Definitely!

Our Sahyun Library is a place to find recently published genealogical works and helpful electronic databases. These new books and CD's contain copyrighted material that likely cannot be reproduced online for years to come. This is one of the principal reasons we need to add a new wing to our Sahyun Library. A good reference library must be able to add new works and new technology to stay abreast of advances in the field.

We're out of space in the book stacks and out of room in our computer area. With the rapid advance in electronic technology, we urgently need more computers, both to read materials in the library and also to access the Internet for new databases as they come online. And we need larger meeting and classroom space. What better place to hold a class on English,



Irish, or German research, than a place where reference materials on the subject are readily available?

Yes, our country is in an economic slowdown, but the building of our new library wing is **A PROJECT THAT CREATES JOBS.** We've raised more than 55% OF THE CONSTRUCTION BUDGET so with all of us working together, **LET'S GET THIS PORTION OF THE PLAN DONE!**

See you in the trees,  
Jan and Michol  
Campaign Co-Chairs

