

The Kern County Genealogical Society (KCGS) was formed in 1964 in the southern portion of California's Central Valley. As of 1981, per an agreement between the Kern County Board of Supervisors, the Library, and the KCGS, the Society integrated its collection into the Kern County Library and is currently housed in the Genealogy Room at the Beale Memorial Library in Bakersfield.

## **Mission**

The Kern County Library relies on the generosity of donors to build its Genealogy Room collection. The mission of the Genealogy Room is to collect, organize, and provide access to a non-circulating collection of genealogical resources, including Kern County obituaries.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Genealogy Room at the Beale Memorial Library is to:

- Educate and assist the general public and members of the KCGS in all areas of genealogical research
- Establish, conduct, and manage the genealogical library
- Preserve, collect, and disseminate genealogical data and family histories worldwide through available online resources

## **Responsibility Statement**

Although the KCGS voluntarily oversees the operations of the Genealogy Room per the 1981 agreement, the Director of Libraries is ultimately responsible for the collection and weeding/deselection of the genealogical library materials.

## **Collection Philosophy**

The Genealogy Room seeks to collect genealogical resources in print format of genealogical instructional guides, genealogical information from the US and other countries, published family histories from Kern County and the United States, personal family histories of Kern County individuals, other genealogical ephemera, and histories of cities, counties, states, and regions in the United States.

## **Scope of the Collection**

It includes:

- Books
- Periodicals
- Printed vital records
- Books on heraldry and family names
- Obituary indexes
- Online access to the California State Library - Suro Library which has a large collection of publications and items dating from the 13th to the 21st centuries as well as one of the largest genealogy collections in the US

- Online access to websites important for genealogical research

## **Selection Criteria**

Emphasis is given to the acquisition of those materials which will contribute to family history research for all who use the Genealogy Room.

## **Gifts and Donations**

In accepting donations, the Library shall be cognizant of the suitability of the materials as well as space limitations inherent in the room. The Genealogy Room is unable to accept gifts that are inappropriate to the collection. Donated materials will become the property of the Kern County Library. To review the full policy, [click here](#).

## **Weeding/Deselection and Withdrawal of Genealogy Room Materials:**

This is a research collection where weeding rarely occurs except for condition and the addition of superior replacement copies.

If not reassigned, the remaining weeded materials are transferred to the Friends of the Kern County Library, Inc. for inclusion in their book sales at the Beale Memorial Library per the Kern County Board of Supervisors agreement (Approved on 1/18/2000). All proceeds from the book sales are donated to the Library in support of its mission, programs (ex. Summer Reading efforts), and to enhance the Library's collection. The Friends reserve the right to dispose of unneeded materials in any manner they deem appropriate.