

A gathering of descendants

Helen Cornell, left, looks over family photos with cousin Carmen Esparza, a direct descendant of the Herman family.



The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation welcomed members of some of Santa Barbara's founding families with a barbecue on Sunday afternoon at the Presidio.

Descendants of the soldiers who were stationed at the Presidio in the 18th and 19th centuries gathered in the courtyard. Many of those in attendance are related to each other.

"It's fascinating how everyone is starting to come together to find their roots," said Suzi Calderon

Bellman, who brought pictures of her Calderon family relatives.

Trust President John Poucher said honoring the families who settled the area is an important part of understanding Santa Barbara's historical background.

Mary Moreno is a fifth-generation Santa Barbaran whose great-grandfather, Jose Lobero, founded the Lobero Theatre.

"I've lived here all my life. I'll probably die here," Ms. Moreno said.

— Kyle Harding



NIK BLASKOVICH / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

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Santa Barbara News-Press
December 9, 2013