

Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society

Researching the World

April 2021

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 37, No. 4

No Easy Button: Using Immersion Genealogy to Understand Your Ancestors Speaker: Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A. Saturday, April 17, 2021



Family history is so much more than just names, dates, and places, or boxes, lines, and charts. For 21st century genealogists, it is easy to limit our research to the documents or other facts we find online, or to what others tell us to be true. Learn how to take your research a step further to understand your ancestors' lives through "immersion genealogy"—the process of discovering where they lived, worked, and worshipped, and experiencing those customs and traditions they passed down through the generations. Key resources, methodology, and tips for reaching out to relatives and repositories, and how to make the most out of a trip to your ancestor's hometown (whether in North America or

across the pond) will be discussed. Register here.

Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A., is a freelance writer, instructor, and internationally recognized lecturer, specializing in Eastern European genealogical research, writing your family history, and using the Internet to trace female and immigrant ancestors. Lisa is the author of eleven books, including The Family Tree Polish, Czech and Slovak Genealogy Guide, and the award-winning Three Slovak Women, and hundreds of magazine articles. Lisa is a contributing editor for Family Tree Magazine and works as an online educator and writing coach through her website Research, Write, Connect, <<u>https://www.researchwrite-connect.com</u>>. She also developed the Eastern European Research Certificate Program for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. An avid genealogist for more than 30 years, Lisa chronicles her family history adventures on her blog, The Accidental Genealogist <<u>https://www.theaccidentalgenealogist.com</u>>. Visit <<u>https://www.lisaalzo.com</u>> for more information.

Saturday, April 17, 2021

You must register for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the class.

9:30 - 10:25 am PDT Virtual Special Interest Groups will meet prior to the general meeting using the same Zoom link.
10:30 - 11:00am Business Meeting with President and Committee Reports
11:00 - 12:00 Noon Elizabeth O'Neal, VP, Introduction of Speaker Free Virtual Two Day Seminar with Lisa Louise Cooke and Allen County Public Library librarians. Friday, April 9 through Saturday, April 10 7:00 am to 2:45 pm The conference is being sponsored by VIVID-PIX (www.vivid-pix.com)

Goldie May - Your Genealogy Research Assistant Tuesday, April 20 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm

See **Events Schedule** for more information about these and other events.

VIRTUAL EVENTS, MEETINGS & GATHERINGS



REGISTER HERE

You must register for April general meeting and virtual classes. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the class.



Outreach by Holly Snyder

Santa Barbara African American Life, Culture, and Contributions, 1890-1990

Member Sneak Peak 4/5-4/10, Public Access Starting 4/11

20 featured local African American families and individuals, plus additional individuals recognized in these special areas: Arts and Culture, Athletes, Businesses, Churches, Famous Visitors, Military, and Organizations and Social Clubs.

More information about the "member sneak peak" and the "Virtual Panel Discussion" in the attached Outreach flyer.

Free Virtual DNA Day Seminar Monday, April 26 8:00 am to 2:30 pm In commemoration of DNA Day, the Family History Library is sponsoring this seminar.

Virtual Heritage Trip to Germany from the Homelands of Ostfriesland to Pomerania Thursday, April 29 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm Presenter: Charmien Carrier

See **Events Schedule** for more information about these and other events.

President's Message: Karen Stanton Ramsdell, President Pro Tem



Dear SBCGS members,

Thank you SBCGS Volunteers! April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week, and we shine a light on our volunteers and the important work they do. Under normal circumstances, it takes 80+ volunteers logging about 11,000 hours each year to run every aspect of the Society. The last year has been anything but normal.

The impact of the Library's closure and cancellation of in-person meetings could have been much worse. However, thanks to our volunteers, we did not skip a beat.

Before you could say "ahnentafel," we had a subscription to Zoom, and our volunteers designed a full schedule of classes and monthly meetings with speakers from near and far. The board and committees continued to carry out the Society's work and programs. Ancestry.com was made available remotely to members. Class and monthly meeting attendance surpassed pre-COVID numbers. In fact, members and non-members who live outside our county, state, and country were able to participate. This past year, 90 volunteers logged over 8,000 hours ensuring our members were engaged and operations continued as usual.

To our volunteers - thank you for your dedication, creativity, and persistence!

Interview with Past Presidents

As you know, the Society is conducting a search for a new President. There seems to be a mystery about the job of President. Who better to de-mystify the office of President than a Past President? I contacted Cheryl Jensen (1994-1996), Art Sylvester (2006-2010), Mary Hall (2010-2012), Bob Bason (2012-2014), and Marie Sue Parsons (2014-2016) and asked about their experience as President.

KR- Why did you say "yes" when asked to serve as President?

Cheryl - When I was asked to be president, I was assured that I would have the help and support of the Board of Directors, and this was the case. The Board was very supportive throughout the time I was president.

Art - Jan Cloud recruited me only a few months before I stepped into the position as the Society's president that had been vacated abruptly. I had no previous experience in the governance of the Society - I had not been a Board of Directors member.

Mary - Thanks to the inimitable and unforgettable Jan Cloud, it was my honor to serve as SBCGS President. It was a rewarding and humbling experience.

Bob – It was one of the most fun experiences I've had – combining, as it did, my personal hobby (passion?) for genealogy and an opportunity to lead a remarkable charitable organization in Santa Barbara.

Marie Sue - When I was first asked if I would serve, I was

initially flattered. Then a bit nervous, feeling a bit inadequate, and finally I thought "This will be fun!" And it was.

KR – There is a saying that "it's lonely at the top". What was your experience?

Mary - As President you have a unique view of a "Society" of dedicated, resourceful, and self-less individuals, who also happen to share the joy of discovering and preserving family history.

Bob - What makes our Society stand out from others is its entirely volunteer leadership. I'm not sure I know of another like it. I'm a ham by nature, so it was pure joy to lead the monthly meeting – usually with a story of my own genealogy and the antics of my Benshoof family. I got to set the agenda for the board meetings, but the work was done by the chairs of the committees – the real heroes of the organization, all of them responsible hard workers.

Marie Sue - The president need only to let one of the committee chairs know that something is needed and voila! It's handled. The tremendous support that is available makes the top position easier. Someday (if I ever retire) I would do it again!

KR – What accomplishment, during your term as President, are you most proud of?

Cheryl - During the time I was president we began our search for a permanent home for the Society. A search committee was formed and tasked with evaluating possible properties. We considered and evaluated several properties and options before the opportunity of the Sahyun property presented itself, and eventually became the permanent home of the Society.

Art - The Board and elected officers were plenty capable in their positions, and the operations, problems, and challenges were straightforward so things ran well through the capital campaign and the planning that led to the construction of the new wing of the library.

Mary - The \$1.92 million and year-long expansion of the Sahyun Library, achieved through thousands of volunteer hours – from fundraising to shelf building – remains impressive even today. A special highlight was joining together on April 2, 2012 to celebrate the release of the 1940 US Census.

Bob - A brand new library, a growing and enthusiastic membership, a balanced budget, no debt and a healthy endowment fund, a group of friends sharing their love for genealogy and a built-in audience for my Benshoof stories who didn't roll their eyes when I enthused about my most recent discovery. What's not to like? Those years went by in a flash - and left a hole in my life when they were done.

Thank you, Cheryl, Art, Mary, Bob, and Marie Sue, for sharing your experiences. I noted some recurring themes including Jan Cloud's gift of persuasion; unwavering support from the board, committees, and volunteers; it was fun; and it was an honor to lead our wonderful organization.

I hope you enjoyed reading about the real-life experiences of some of our Past Presidents. If your interest has been piqued and you would like more information, please contact me at <u>ksrams-dell1107@gmail.com</u>. Hopefully, before too long the Library will be open, and we will meet again in person.

Karen Stanton Ramsdell Past President (2016-2020)



Membership Corner by Molly Gleason

Hello all,

Spring has arrived and so have the cherry blossoms! The National Cherry Blossom Festival is underway in Washington, D.C. You can view the show via the National Park Service "Cherry Blossom Cam" at <u>https://www.nps.gov/subjects/cherryblossom/bloom-watch.htm</u>

The cherry tree in the photo next to this article is not among the trees in our nation's capital but is located in Japan. It is of particular significance to our annual cherry blossom celebration, however, because 50 trees propagated from this 1,500 year old Usuzumi cherry tree growing in the village of Itasho Neo in Gifu Prefecture were planted in West Potomac Park in 1999. According to legend, this National Treasure of Japan was planted by the 26th Emperor Keitai Tenno to celebrate his ascension to the throne. It is the oldest known living cherry tree.

The fascinating history of the exchange of cherry tree saplings and cuttings between the United States and Japan reads somewhat like a genetic genealogy story. These gifts were made between the two countries as symbols of cooperation and later as means to preserve the genetic lineage of the cherry trees and to restore groves damaged by war, flooding and disease. Most interestingly, this plus the annual explosion of color along the Tidal Basin and in Potomac Park came about because of a dream by an intrepid traveler and writer, Mrs. Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore, who visited Japan in 1885 and was captivated by the blossoming cherry trees. But that's another story...

Check out the history at: <u>http://www.nps.gov/subjects/cherryblos-</u> som/history-of-the-cherry-trees.htm Enjoy!

A Warm Welcome to our newest members since the last *Tree Tips*: Phyllis Brady, Michael Downey, Steve and Terri Frenkel, and Kathy Rayburn.

And Thank You, continuing members, for your renewals last month!

New members: The SBCGS New Member Packet is available for viewing on our website. Click on Members Area then New Member Packet.

The packet includes helpful information about the library and instructions for renewing as well as adding or changing information in your individual profiles. In addition, it includes "how to get started in genealogy" tips, forms, and references to several genealogy sources including free websites and Santa Barbara County facilities for local and worldwide family history research. Paper copies of the New Member Packet will also be available at the Sahyun Library and the monthly General Meetings once we resume normal operations.

March Tech Tips by Milt Hess, IT Chair

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you visit

If

the Society's website just to check the events calendar, you're missing out on some potentially useful genealogical resources. If you log into the Members Area, for example, you can access several of our Library subscriptions from home while the Library is closed due to the pandemic. Just click on Access from Home to use Ancestry® Library Edition, American Ancestors, and Genealogy Bank.

If you need help with your research, mentors are available to help you. Click on **Mentors for Members** to see all the subject areas for which you can get support. You'll find videos of past webinars in the **Webinar Archive** and speakers' handouts in **Speakers' Handouts.** Finally, while you're in the Members Area, take a mo-

ment to check your **Profile** to ensure that all the information is still current.

REMINDERS AND TIPS

- Help Wanted! We need volunteers to help with several of the Society's on-going operations. To view a list of the volunteer opportunities on our website, click on Volunteers.
- Need help with your research? Work with a Mentor. The Society has over thirty volunteer mentors in our Mentor Program who are ready to share their extensive expertise in several areas of genealogical research with our members. Please contact our Mentor Coordinator, Kathy Cremeen, <u>kajcremeen@</u> <u>gmail.com</u>, if you would like help – or would like to become a Mentor. To view a list of our mentors and contact information on our website, click on Members Area then Mentors for Members. You may also contact the volunteers directly.

Need help renewing? Contact Membership at <u>membership</u> <u>sbgen.org</u>. Happy Spring!



Contact SBCGS www.sbgen.org info@sbgen.org <u>sbcgs-education@sbgen.org</u> 806-884-9909 316 Castillo Street, SB

Volunteer Corner featuring Jo Anne Treloar



This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks Jo Anne Treloar. Jo Anne joined the Society in the 1980s and is a long time volunteer. She has spent several hours a week cataloging and digitizing periodicals in the Sahyun Library along with her other volunteer activities. Her efforts have contributed to regaining much needed library shelf space and placing these valuable resources at our fingertips. Many thanks, Jo Anne, and

thank you for sharing your most interesting family history!

My parents James Hamilton Moss and Irene Elliott Moss, welcomed me, JoAnne Moss Treloar, in 1937 right here in Santa Barbara. For most of my life I have resided in Santa Barbara County.

After losing my father to an accident in 1947 my mother and I lived in Los Alamos, CA. Mother taught school in the old Los Alamos four room school. I attended the fourth through the eighth grade at the same school. If anyone were ever to ask if there were a person in my life who had made an impact, I would immediately say Olga Reed. She was my teacher for those four very important years of my life.

Santa Maria High was my next destination. Those bus rides from Los Alamos carry many special memories. I read recently in the Santa Maria Times where my bus driver, Carl Hinton, had just celebrated his 100th birthday!

My mom and I moved back to Santa Barbara where I entered UCSB in 1954, the first graduating class from the Isla Vista campus. Mom transferred her teaching expertise to Santa Barbara Elementary Schools where she taught the remainder of her teaching career. She was a very respected and talented teacher at Washington and Adams School.

I married Dennyson Treloar in 1956. We moved to Rancho de los Tios located at the upper end of the Santa Ynez Valley. Two daughters, Lucinda Treloar Williams and Lori Anne Haynes, and two teaching credentials later we moved to Goleta and began our teaching careers in the Goleta Union School District. Upon retirement we found ourselves back at Rancho de los Tios. Denny's GG Uncles homesteaded there in the mid-1800s. The Kelly brothers as they were known, had some pretty good stories written about them. They were evidently quite the characters on the mountain.

My family claims a few notables as well. Nancy Kelsey, said to be the first woman to make it over the Donner Pass, was my Maternal grandmother's 3rd cousin. Thomas McCroskey was said to be the youngest stage coach driver on the San Marcos Pass. And his sister, Cora McCroskey Glines, was the first teacher at the Manzana School House. The James Madison McCroskeys, my GGGrandparents, homesteaded in Long Canyon, upper Santa Maria Valley, around 1870.

Denny and I joined the Santa Barbara Genealogical Society in the 1980s. I first volunteered in the stacks of the old library. Then in the new library I helped with the entering of the new periodicals. And now I have learned to digitize all of those periodicals and am

Ancestors West by Kristin Ingalls



One of the themes of our next issue of Ancestors West will be stories of the bachelors and spinsters in your family – who they were, how they lived unmarried, what you learned from researching them.

I would love to include an article about the Shaker communities.

You do not need to have a relative who joined the Shakers. I think that it would be a fascinating research project for anyone! In these communities, married couples, often with children, joined, and then....were not married!

If this is a subject that interests you, let me know – the first YES will be included in the upcoming issue.

Other themes: the ancestral line you can trace back the furthest...OR the oldest lived of your ancestors. They did not all die young! Do you have any that lived to be 100? 90?

As always, if you have other stories -- all are welcomed. Send stories as a Word document to me: antkap@cox.net Send any photos or visuals as separate high-resolution jpegs. Thank you all for your continued support! Kristin Ingalls

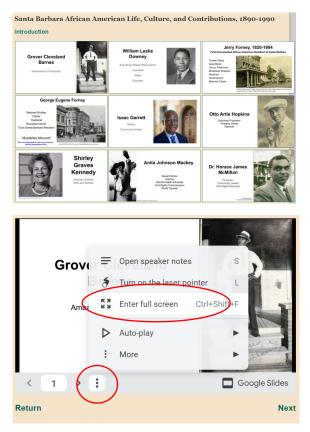
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0	Book Buy: Christine Klukkert, ordway2@aol.com
N	IT Chair: Milt Hess, itchair@sbgen.org

able to help in that project .I was interested in researching my Father's side. We enjoyed many road trips in our camper looking for folks as well as taking trips abroad finding family we didn't know we had. Our most exciting discoveries happened in Cornwall for the Treloar side and in Alberta, Canada for the Moss side.

Probably the most wonderful perk of volunteering with the Genealogical Society is all the wonderful people you meet at the library and hear their stories and discoveries.

~Jo Anne Treloar

New Virtual Exhibit:



Santa Barbara African American Life, Culture, and Contributions, 1890-1990

Member Sneak Peak 4/5-4/10, Public Access Starting 4/11

20 featured local African American families and individuals, plus additional individuals recognized in these special areas: Arts and Culture, Athletes, Businesses, Churches, Famous Visitors, Military, and Organizations and Social Clubs

Outreach -> Exhibits

Best Viewing:

- 1. Click on a **featured individual** to get to their presentation
- 2. Click on the **three dots** on the bottom bar of the slide presentation
- 3. Click on Enter full screen to enlarge the presentation
- 4. Press Esc (Escape) to exit full screen
- 5. Click on **Next** to go to the next presentation or **Return** to return back to the main exhibit page

Upcoming Events

 Virtual Exhibit Panel Discussion- April 30th 4:30-6:00pm <u>Registration</u> <u>https://santabarbaraca.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?eventid=33353</u>

Panelists:

Exhibit participants: Isaac Garrett, Melvin Richey, Wilbur H. Tate, and Wanda Thomas Outreach members: onja Brown-Lawson, Kate Lima, and Holly Snyder Moderator: Elizabeth O'Neal

Join us for a virtual panel discussion on the new virtual exhibit *Santa Barbara African American Life, Culture, and Contributions, 1890-1990.* You will hear from featured exhibit participants who generously shared their stories, photographs, and historical documents, as well as Outreach Committee members who put the exhibit together. Learn about the process and challenges of creating such an exhibit while learning about Santa Barbara's Black history. This event is in partnership with the Santa Barbara Public Library's Book to Action program centering around the family memoir *The Yellow House* by Sarah M. Broom. This event will be hosted by SBPL. Register <u>here</u> to attend the virtual event.

Interested in a free copy of *The Yellow House*? Register for any SBPL Book to Action event (this event included!) or contact Holly at <u>Outreach@sbgen.org</u> while supplies last.

Picnic at the Cemetery- Oct. 23 (See past <u>cemetery events</u>) <u>https://sbgen.org/cpage.php?pt=333</u> Accepting actors! No experience is necessary! Average speaking time is 7-10 minutes per group and you would repeat the same speech for four different groups.

We would love your feedback on the exhibit! Contact Holly Snyder at Outreach@Sbgen.org.

About Zoom Breakout Rooms

Zoom breakout rooms are like virtual Special Interest Group (SIG) tables at our Saturday meetings. You can join, leave, and move to any breakout room at will, just like walking to another table at the live meeting

The following SIG breakout rooms will be available.

- African-American SIG
- Beginning Genealogy SIG
- Civil War SIG
- DNA SIG
- Early California & Hispanic SIG
- French Canadian SIG

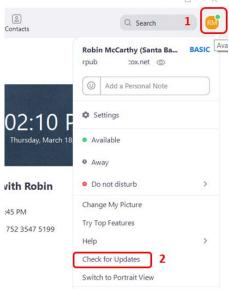
- Genealogy Tips & Talk SIG
- German SIG
- Italian SIG
- Jewish Gen SIG
- Scandinavian SIG
- Writing Group SIG

We don't have volunteer hosts yet for every room, but that doesn't mean you can't just meet and chat. Don't leave your breakout room immediately if no one else is present. Wait a few minutes to see if others show up before deciding to leave.

Preparation

Zoom publishes frequent updates to introduce new features, enhance security, and other items. Before attending a Zoom breakout room, make sure your Zoom application is up to date to use the breakout room feature. The following screenshots illustrate how to update Zoom for Apple products (iPads and Macs), PCs, and Android tablets.

- 1. Launch the Zoom application on your device (computer, iPad, or tablet).
 - a. For PCs: Click on your profile icon¹ in the upper right corner to see a dropdown list of options. Then choose *Check for Updates*² in the list. Then follow the instructions on the screen.



b. For Macs: Click on zoom.us¹ in the title bar next to the apple icon in the upper left corner to see a dropdown list of options. Then choose Check for Updates² in the list.



Then follow the instructions on the screen.

- c. For iPads:
 - i. Click on this <u>link</u> to take you to Zoom in the App Store on your device.
 - ii. If Zoom is installed on your iPad, you will either see the word Open or Update.

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- If it says *Open*, no update is required. You have the current version.
- If it says *Update*, click on the Update button to apply the update.
- Alternatively, you can follow the instructions here: <u>https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT202180</u>

d. For Android tablets:

- i. Click on this <u>link</u> to take you to Zoom in the Google Play Store on your device.
- **ii.** If Zoom is installed on your tablet, you will either see the word *Open* or *Update*.



- If it says *Open*, no update is required. You have the current version.
- If it says *Update*, click on the Update button to apply the update.

Attending a Breakout Room

 Join the main meeting using the Zoom link provided for the meeting as usual. When the meeting host opens the breakout rooms, a message in a green box will appear on the

screen like this one.



2. As soon as that message appears, a new icon will appear on the Zoom control panel near the Chat box on PCs and Android tablets, <u>or in the upper left corner on iPads and Macs</u>. Use this icon to access the SIG breakout rooms.

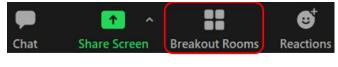


Figure 1 - Breakout Room button on PCs and Androids



Figure 2 - Breakout Room button on iPads and Macs

3. Click/tap the Breakout Rooms icon for the list of available SIG breakout rooms. Sample screens are shown below. (The actual list at the meeting will be longer and have names.)



Figure 3 - Breakout Room list on PCs and Androids

Click on **Join** for the breakout room SIG you want to attend.

Tap the name of the room you want to attend, then tap the **Join** button at the bottom.

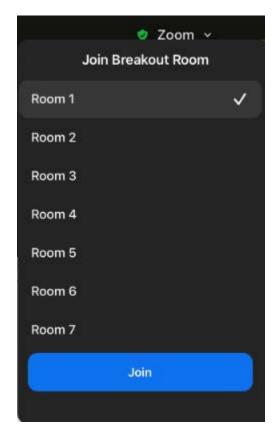


Figure 4 - Breakout Room list on iPads

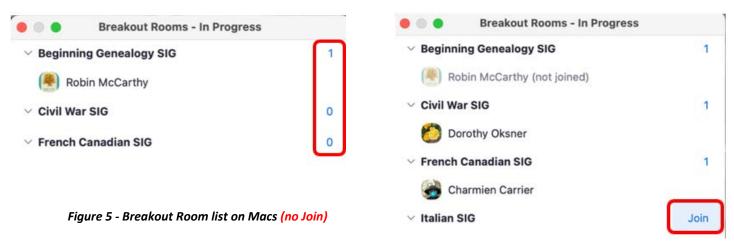


Figure 6 - Breakout Room list on Macs (with Join)

NOTE: Unlike PCs, on Macs there is no visible **Join** icon. You must hover your mouse over the room name to make the **Join** word appear.

- **4.** Click the **Join** icon associated with the SIG breakout room you want to attend. (If you have difficulty, ask the meeting host to assign you to the SIG breakout room you want to join.)
- 5. The main Zoom screen will momentarily disappear followed by a message indicating you are entering a breakout room.



6. Once you arrive in a breakout room, your Zoom screen returns but only with the people in that room. Make sure you are unmuted, and your camera is on (if possible) to begin conversing with the others in that room. You can also use the Chat box but are limited to chatting with only the people in your room.

7. You can leave a breakout room at any time by clicking on the Leave icon in the corner of your screen. Your Zoom screen will stop again momentarily and display a message that you are returning to the main Zoom meeting room.



- **8.** If you want to switch to another SIG breakout room, click/tap on the Breakout Room icon again and choose the new SIG breakout room from the list that you want to enter.
- **9.** SIG breakout rooms will close 5 minutes before the start of the general meeting. Once the host closes the SIG breakout rooms you will be automatically transferred back to the main Zoom session, if you haven't already left the SIG breakout room.