



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World

February 2024

Tree Tips Newsletter

Vol. 40, No.2

“Exploring Records of the Freedmen’s Bureau: What’s In It For Me?”

Speaker: Renate Yarborough Sanders
Saturday, February 17, 2024



Exploring Records of the Freedmen’s Bureau: What’s In It For Me? Though the nickname “Freedmen’s Bureau” suggests a complete focus on the formerly enslaved, this presentation highlights information about ancestors of all backgrounds – black and white.

About the Speaker:

Renate Yarborough Sanders is the descendant of formerly enslaved ancestors, enslavers, and free people of color. She authors two blogs: “Into the LIGHT” and “Genea-Related;” and produces a “(Mostly) African American Funeral Programs” online database.

Renate is a member of the National Genealogical Society, the North Carolina Genealogical

Society (Publicity Director), the Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society (member of National Editorial Board and the Scholarship Committee, and Vice-President and Newsletter Editor for the Hampton Roads Chapter), the Wake County Genealogical Society, and the Tyrrell County Genealogical and Historical Society. She is a member and Deputy Registrar of the lineage society, “Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage.” Renate cohosts “Let’s Talk North Carolina Genealogy,” an online platform and YouTube show, presenting genealogy programming and virtual events for North Carolina researchers; and she has served as a panelist and guest on numerous web shows and podcasts. Renate provides genealogy education for conferences, societies, employee groups, and for institutions of higher learning; and her research has been featured on PBS Radio and in a National Geographic cover story and podcast. She is currently engaged in a research project for Wake Forest University, seeking to find descendants of enslaved persons who were sold for the benefit of that institution.

Renate is an instructor for the Midwest African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI) and will join the faculty of the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburg (GRIP) in Summer 2024. She provides coaching and consultation services for individuals seeking guidance with genealogical research, and she continues to engage in project work for various organizations and institutions.

Renate lectures on a variety of genealogy topics but specializes in teaching beginning to intermediate research methodology and sharing specific techniques for researching ancestors of color – both pre- and post-Emancipation. She is a retired elementary school educator, mother of two daughters, and grandmother of four beautiful granddaughters (and a granddog).

HYBRID Event!

This special program will be in person at the First Presbyterian Church (State and Constance, Santa Barbara), and on Zoom.

Only Zoom attendees are required to register.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ1qd-6gqjgiGNLQbmHIFoCjwX10yblAeF91>

Observing Black History Month February 1 — March 1, 2024

February Meetings

Find links to all Zoom events here:

<https://sbgen.org/meetings-classes/calendar/>

Beginning Genealogy SIG Meeting ZOOM ONLY

Presented by Jean Foster
Thursday, February 8, 2024; 11:00 am-12:30pm

Jewish Genealogy SIG Meeting In-Person Only

Presented by Harriette Hinderstein
Thursday, February 8, 2024; 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Lunch and Learn In-Person Only

Presented by Rosa Avolio
Tuesday, February 13, 2024; 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Zoom Lunch and Learn ZOOM Only

Presented by Rosa Avolio
Wednesday, February 21, 2024; 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Scanning Workshop

February 28, 2024
10:00 am

DNA Lunch & Learn In-Person Only

Presented by George LaPlante
Thursday, March 7, 2024; 12:00pm -1:30pm

Society Monthly Meeting - HYBRID Saturday, February 17, 2024

More Information:
9:30 - 10:25 am

Special Interest Groups will meet in person at the church.

10:30 - 11:00am

Business Meeting will be in person and on Zoom.

~11:00 - 12:00 Noon

Featured Speaker

Presidents' Message

by Ted Tazer-Myers



The Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society is unique in our region. We are the lighthouse leader for access to family history records, both print and digitized, and we provide expert training, assistance, and support to our members and the community at large in DNA plus traditional genealogical techniques. We provide intangible social benefits, too, as we help connect members and friends to

the resources they need to build their family trees and solve the inevitable family mystery.

As a local nonprofit, we are also unique. We are a large (500+) membership organization completely run by volunteers that owns its own property (1.5 acres), operates a library free and clear of debt, maintains a healthy operating reserve, and has a growing endowment fund. More than that, we own and operate storage and rental units that contribute a net total (revenue minus expenses) roughly equivalent to Society membership dues and our Annual Appeal combined. Most nonprofits would be over the moon to have such an income stream!

Because of our rental property (including the newly renovated Victorian house that now accommodates a family of five who take good care of it and whose very presence helps make our property more secure), the Society is able to keep its membership fees low, deliver high quality educational programming, purchase new library acquisitions, meet the increasing cost of online subscriptions, continue to develop our state-of-the art website, keep our IT equipment in working order, sponsor special events, and pay for the general operating costs that come with owning property.

Our Society provides a tremendous service to our members and the community—and we have a well-deserved reputation as being responsible stewards. However, we still must rely on unrestricted donations to balance the operating budget and deliver the services and programs you enjoy. We have almost met our very reasonable goal of \$18,000 this year. If you have already made your donation, thank you! If you somehow forgot to do so in the hubbub of the holiday season and the start of the new year, or you didn't realize that the Society is absolutely dependent upon donations above and beyond our membership dues and rental income, please consider making a generous donation to put us over the top and help your volunteers relax as they continue their good work of doing all that they can to make SBCGS the genealogy service of choice in our area.

As always, I am grateful for all of you. It is fun to be part of such a fun-loving group of like-minded enthusiasts for family history!

Ted Tazer-Myers, President

Very Important Announcements

Attention All Library Volunteers!

Library Training Workshop

Sunday March 3

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Ann Dwelley, Library Volunteer Coordinator and Laurie Hannah, Library Director, will be offering a new training workshop for library volunteers this spring that will focus on 1) in-depth customer service and 2) advanced topics related to our library collections, including digital resources available in the library and on our website. Whether you are a frequent library visitor or only come to the library once a month, this class is for you!

Please RSVP to Ann Dwelley at libraryvolunteers@sbgen.org by February 25.

All library volunteers are urged to attend!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Used A/V equipment needs a home!

The Sahyun Library is cleaning house. As part of this effort, the IT Team has taken an inventory of the Society's Audio/Visual equipment and uncovered some older and unused A/V electronics that need to retire. Listed below is a high-level list of these items. The equipment has not been used for some time and the functionality has not been verified. If you think any of these items could be of value to you and would like to take a look, please contact Molly Gleason at ITChair@sbgen.org. Please note, this "opportunity" will not last long so please let us know as soon as possible.

- Wireless microphones – Radio Shack (one clip-on, one hand held)
- PA system – Small desktop model
- AM/FM receiver amplifier – Sony with 2 table speakers
- DVD player – Sony
- Computer speakers – Dell
- Camera – Canon PowerShot - Small handheld digital
- Projectors – Optima, Kodak (Slide type)

Beginning & New Member Special Interest Group with Jean Foster

Now meets on the 2nd Thursday of each
at 11:00 am on Zoom.

Everyone is welcome and be sure to bring your questions!

sbgen.org (Click on Calendar)

Website News

Rosa Avolio, Webmaster

Don't forget to check our **Blog** and subscribe to receive an email notification when new posts are added.

[\(https://sbgen.org/start-your-search/sahyun-library-updates/\)](https://sbgen.org/start-your-search/sahyun-library-updates/)

Job postings: SBCGS is an all volunteer organization, please check our volunteer page for information on committees/teams and volunteers needed for specific tasks.

[\(sbgen.org/get-involved/volunteer/#!board/VolunteerPositions\)](https://sbgen.org/get-involved/volunteer/#!board/VolunteerPositions)

All About Our Books at the Sahyun

Chris Klukkert, Book Buy Chair

As I write this the rain has come. We need the rain, and maybe it is as good an excuse as we need to expand our genealogy research.

February is Black History Month, and coincidentally, I have been digging deeper into my southern plantation/slave-owning biological roots. Several DNA related black researchers have reached out to me and together we work to determine which slave owner we “share,” and also how to trace down descendants as yet unknown to us. It is a new area of research for me and so I have turned to (what else?!) our library collection to assist me in the how’s and even the where’s of that kind of research.

A very good resource for me has been Heather William’s *Help me to find my people: The African American search for family lost in Slavery*. She gives some very good practical advice on researching slave families, as well as resources for such a project.

A recent addition to our collection is the two-volume set of *The Business of Slavery: evidence of control, power and wealth* by Christine Mitchell. Although it concentrates on the South Carolina slave trade, it was illuminating in the type of paperwork and resources I should be looking for in my own State research.

As my southern historical family is large and many, I have also had the need to use our book, *Index to Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations: Locations, Plantations and Collections* by Jean I. Cooper. I have located several of my family’s plantations in this book, and found it especially helpful when I only have a surname or locale to start my search. It has also guided to me to collections of family records that I would not otherwise been aware of.

Most of my family was in either Virginia or North Carolina and the holdings we have at the Sahyun Library are abundant with great books that assist me in my research. Here are a few of my favorites: *North Carolina Wills and Inventories* by J. Bryan Grimes, *Bertie County (NC) Heritage Book, 1792 – 2010* and *William Byrd’s In Full Force & Virtue: North Carolina emancipation records, 1713-1860*.

The list goes on and on, and I am always grateful for the gift of having our very own library of riches right here in Santa Barbara. Please come in and dig into YOUR area of research in our very own library stacks. We look forward to your visit, and also welcome your suggestions for other books for our collection.

Here are the books from the **New In The Library Shelf**:

Early Charles County Maryl and Settlers 1658-1745
The Slave Trade: The Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade: 1440-1870
The Bebout Family: in Flanders and North America
Family Maps of Winnebago County, Illinois
The Passing of the Grand Army of the Republic
The History of the Town of Stoddard, New Hampshire
Jefferson County, Illinois Marriage Record Index 1819-1900

Please come in and have a look at our newly purchased books and all the other resources awaiting you at the Sahyun.

We want to thank the following generous donors:

Mary Stoltz Susan Warnstrom Elizabeth Courtney
Jan Hills Johnson Gregory Tyler Holly Stanton Snyder



Books of interest for researching African American history, slavery, and other topics focusing on Black History Month all available at the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Membership

Kate Lima, Membership Chair

Welcome to Our Newest Members

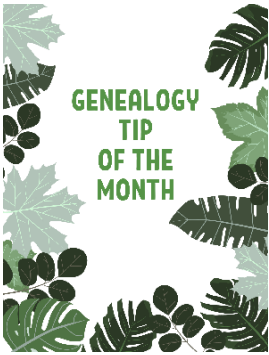


Janet Sempere
Richelle Gates
Andrea Harrison
Nicole McGrath
Elizabeth Carlson
Robin Riley Martin

A big welcome also to returning members
Amrita Salm
Nanette Forte

Also, a big thank you to our continuing members who renewed in January. Thank you, we're so glad you're here!

“Were They Responding to an Ad?”



If your ancestor apparently picked up and moved to where he knew no one, is it possible he was responding to an advertisement? Speculators, land agents, promoted their projects and developments in a variety of ways—including newspapers. It might have been an advertisement that caused your ancestor to pick up and move to where he knew no one (From “GenealogyTipOfTheDay.com,” April 30, 2017.)

Let's Talk About the Survey!



This month we share the results of the question “What changes would you like to see to the Society’s current facilities (i.e. library, parking, outdoor spaces, rental buildings, etc.) One answer stood out among all: more parking! Some people wanted a greater focus on the grounds (for outdoor events), and others wanted

to skip the focus on outdoors and just work on the library itself. We also heard from a number of you that you’d like to see the entrance to our property improved because it can be difficult to enter or leave the premises. This has all gone to the Property Committee and they’re working diligently to improve all that they can.

Trip to Salt Lake City

Our society will once again visit the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. We’ll head over for the week of March 19-26, 2024. You can stay longer or shorter than this, depending on your schedule. The rate will be the same regardless of how many days you stay: \$108 for a standard room and \$118 for a deluxe. If you’re interested please contact Rich Williams at the Plaza Hotel to secure a room, 801-521-0130. And don’t forget to email me at membership@sbgen.org to add you to our list. I hope you can join us!

I look forward to hearing from you! Please contact me at membership@sbgen.org with your questions, comments, and suggestions. Cheers! Kate

Book News

Kristin Ingalls, BookNook Manager



HAVE YOU BEEN to the Library lately?

If you have you have probably noticed our newest addition to the bookshelves – **SALE BOOKS!!**



We have received many donations of books that we want to offer to our members and visitors at greatly reduced prices.

If you have NOT been to the library for a while, it may be time for a visit.

New books will be added as they arrive, so continue to hunt for bargains!

SALT LAKE TRIPPERS ~ and all other travelers



Before you close that suitcase, come by the library and check out our “travel aids.”

Our very roomy, SBCGS book bags are now on sale for just \$5.00 !!!

Perfect for all the bits and pieces you will want to have when you visit the library.

We also have thumb drives, lanyards and cases for thumb drives, small password books, charts, magnifiers, and books you

might want to read on the plane. **We wish you all happy travels!**

Outreach

by Holly Snyder, Chair

Happy February! Outreach has been busy planning the upcoming Picnic in the Cemetery event as well as a couple of projects in the works partnering with other organizations (more details to come!).

Speaking Engagements in the Community



This month, Dr. Larry Basham will be speaking to Vista del Monte on February 27 at the Sahyun.

Outside groups can request a visit and/or tour here:

<https://sbgen.org/in-the-community/reservation-request/>

Please share the link to anyone who may be interested.

Has your group already had a talk with Larry, but would be interested in a follow up talk or a workshop style activity? We can do that too!

Picnic in the Cemetery 2024



Outreach is beginning their preparations for the next Picnic in the Cemetery! Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 26, 2024. More details coming soon!

Interested in being an actor? We have some great historical figures to portray and we will help you with the script process and rehearsals. Please email Outreach@sbgen.org if interested!

1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake Centennial



Did your family live in Santa Barbara during the 1925 earthquake, or maybe you know of a family who lived here during this time? If so, we would like to hear from you! Maybe you have a diary with written accounts or remember stories your parents or other family members told. We would like to share these recollections during the centennial commemoration in 2025. Please contact Outreach@sbgen.org if you have anything to contribute or can put us in touch with someone whose family lived in Santa Barbara in 1925.

Photo courtesy of Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Museum

SB Chinese American Association invitation



Chinese New Year Festival
Saturday, February 10, 7-9pm
Marjorie Luke Theater, \$20

An evening filled with beautiful performances
not to be missed.

Email Outreach@sbgen.org for tickets.

Volunteer Spotlight

• Sharon Summer •

This month, SBCGS recognizes and thanks Sharon Summer, a member since 2011. Sharon wears many hats; she serves as a Library Volunteer, an editor for “Ancestors West,” instructor for the Society, and also the leader of the Writing Special Interest Group. She is so sweet and thoughtful, we all love working with her and I, personally, learn new things from her all the time. Here is some of her story.

My name is Sharon Summer. I began my genealogy pursuits with photography. In the 2000s I used my digital pictures of the city of Santa Barbara and closeups of flowers to make greeting cards, some of which were sold in local stores. In 2008 in Los Angeles at a memorial gathering for my father, Allen F. Knickrehm, my family poured over old unlabeled photographs of great grandparents and others. After the event I scanned all those old photos, creating digital frames and captions. Once that was complete, I began wondering who these deceased relatives were, beyond their names and dates. Thus my genealogy quest began.

Currently, I like contributing to our society by being a library volunteer and the leader of the monthly Family History Writing special interest group. I am also an editor of Ancestors West. I have given classes on writing your family history and was a co-leader for a class on traveling to your ancestor’s locations. My own writing began when I was asked to write an article for Ancestors West in about 2016 by then-Editor David Petry. That was a shock since I had never envisioned writing for publication. But that led to writing a number of articles. I made twelve notebooks for my own ancestors and those, along with further research, were the basis for my three published books about the Knickrehm family. Now I am working on a fourth book.



I was born in Santa Monica and grew up in Los Angeles until I was seven when my family moved to a brand new house in Pasadena, California. After high school, I attended Chapman College for one semester before I transferred to USC (University of Southern California) and earned my BS and my teaching credential. After teaching in LA for one year I moved to Orange County, CA, raising my son there with my first

husband. I worked in the Anaheim City School District, eventually teaching all elementary grades with third grade being my favorite. Additionally, I was a Mentor Teacher who trained new



teachers and I presented numerous related seminars. I was also invited to be a guest lecturer at several local colleges to train teachers. Eventually I became the district’s version of a vice principal (though the without the title). To fully qualify for that position I took classes and earned an administrator’s certificate. But by then I knew that administration was not for me. I also became a reading specialist and a “released teacher” with various responsibilities. Then I earned my Masters degree at Cal State Fullerton in Counseling and School Psychology and also a Marriage Family Therapist’s license. At Cal State I met, Ray Choiniere, future husband who was an instructor in my graduate program.

In year 2000 more of my dreams came true. I retired from the school district, Ray and I were married, and we moved to Santa Barbara, a place I always wanted to live.

Very Important Announcements, Con’t.

Website Records Database Update!

Robin McCarthy

The local records database has been successfully migrated to it’s new home on our own servers. This change is accompanied by several improvements.

- Source citations have been standardized to follow Evidence Explained guidelines. The database access date is included.
- The Search screen has undergone a few small aesthetic adjustments.
- In the navigation panel, record counts more than 999 are separated by commas.
- Filter options, such Exact, are no longer partially overlaid by search field boxes.

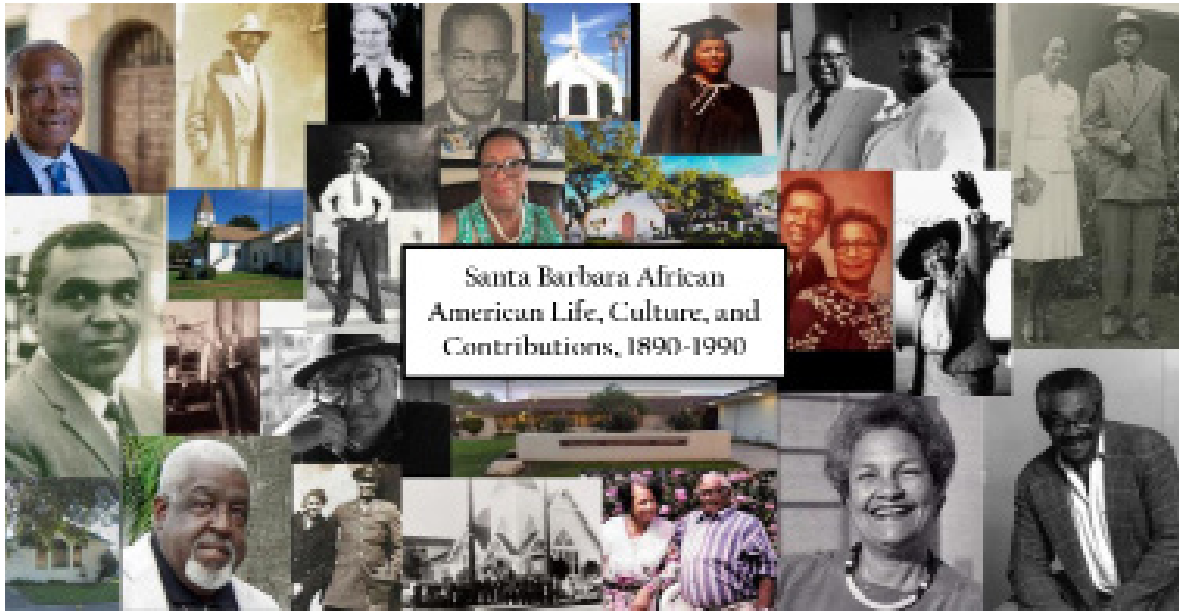
One thing that has NOT improved is performance. When you first use the database search page, it loads rather slowly. The loading time could reach one minute. Nothing can be done about this without spending a significant amount of money. Please be patient!

More content is being added regularly to the database. We have no control over the appearance, sort sequence of the data, or search results behavior. This is a third-party tool that we cannot modify so enhancement requests cannot be accepted. Please contact [Robin McCarthy](#) if you find any data errors or encounter problems.

Land Acknowledgment Statement

“The land on which many of us live and where our library is located is part of the ancient homeland and traditional territory of the Chumash people. We recognize and respect the Chumash Peoples past, present, and future and their continuing presence in their homeland as we join in stewarding this land which we all cherish.”

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



In honor of Black History Month, the Outreach Committee and SBCGS would like to bring the spotlight back on the Santa Barbara African American exhibit from 2021 and these trailblazing families and organizations.

<https://sbgen.org/santa-barbara-african-american-life-culture-and-contributions-1890-1990/>

We continue to get notified of new visitors to the online exhibit, and correspondence from other Santa Barbara families who learned about our Society and wanted to get some help with researching their African American roots. We will be looking into funding sources to convert the Google Slide presentations into exhibit pages for easier navigation for years to come.

In memoriam: Sojourner Kincaid Rolle



Sojourner was a former SBCGS member and contributed to Ancestors West. She was a brilliant poet (she was Santa Barbara's Poet Laureate from 2015-2017), community peace activist, author, teacher, and so much more. Due to not wanting to overshadow the other participants' stories, Sojourner chose not to participate in the exhibit; however, she was a huge contributor behind the scenes. She met with the Outreach team frequently on Zoom to provide local history, share information of notable Santa Barbara African Americans, help refine some of our biographies, and connect us with potential participants. Sojourner was a local treasure and a pleasure to collaborate with.

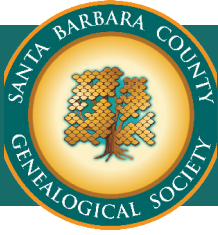
To learn more about Sojourner, read Jordan Killebrew's tribute in the SB Independent: <https://www.independent.com/2023/11/15/in-memorial-sojourner-kincaid-rolle-1943-2023/>

**Online Seminar: New England Historic Genealogical Society
Getting Started in African American Family History Research
A 10 Million Names Event
Saturday, February 24, 10:00–5:00 p.m. (ET)
Presented by Cynthia Evans, Danielle Rose, and Jonathan Hill
Cost: Free**

Want to learn more about your family's past, but don't know how to begin? This full-day, virtual seminar will provide you with the first steps in tracing your African American roots. We will look at common challenges and myths, key records and resources, and strategies for making real headway in your research. Our instructors will also share how to utilize and get involved with the 10 Million Names Project, a collaborative endeavor dedicated to recovering the names of the estimated 10 million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in pre- and post-colonial America between the 1500s and 1865.

For more information and to register, [click here](http://tinyurl.com/54acfw4tzzzz0). (<http://tinyurl.com/54acfw4tzzzz0>)

This is not a SBCGS sponsored event.



Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society and the Sahyun Genealogical Library

Researching the World



The Society's Nominating Committee is actively seeking dynamic and innovative individuals who possess a passion for advancing our Society's mission to join our Board of Directors.

The following Board positions are available, each offering a two-year term starting from July 1, 2024:

- President-Elect
- Treasurer
- Director-At-Large (1)
- Development Director

President-Elect: A one-year term shadowing the incumbent President, followed by a two-year term as President and one year as Past President. Responsibilities include serving as the Society's chief executive officer, leading monthly board and general meetings, long-term planning.

Qualifications: Demonstrated organizational leadership, prior nonprofit board experience desirable, familiarity with genealogy, and strong interpersonal and leadership abilities.

Treasurer: Oversees Society finances, including budgeting and investments. Administers outsourced bookkeeping and accounting services. Chairs the Finance Committee and serves on the Investment Committee.

Qualifications: Proficiency in financial management, accounting, and budgeting, with a preference for experience in finance and management roles with strong attention to detail.

Director-At-Large: Participates in Society leadership, governance, oversight, long-range planning, budget approval, and fundraising efforts.

Qualifications: Dedication to the Society's mission, active participation, strong interpersonal skills, and familiarity with Society operations preferred.

Development Director: Leads fundraising efforts, assists in identifying Society unmet needs, goal setting, activity planning and implementation. Chairs Development Team meetings.

Qualifications: Prior fundraising experience desired, strong interpersonal, managerial, and leadership skills.

To express interest or learn more, click Governance@sbgen.org to send an email to the Nominating Committee. A member will contact you shortly.