

Coordination of Genealogy Services at SFPL

Brian Weaver

Program Manager

General Collections & Humanities Center

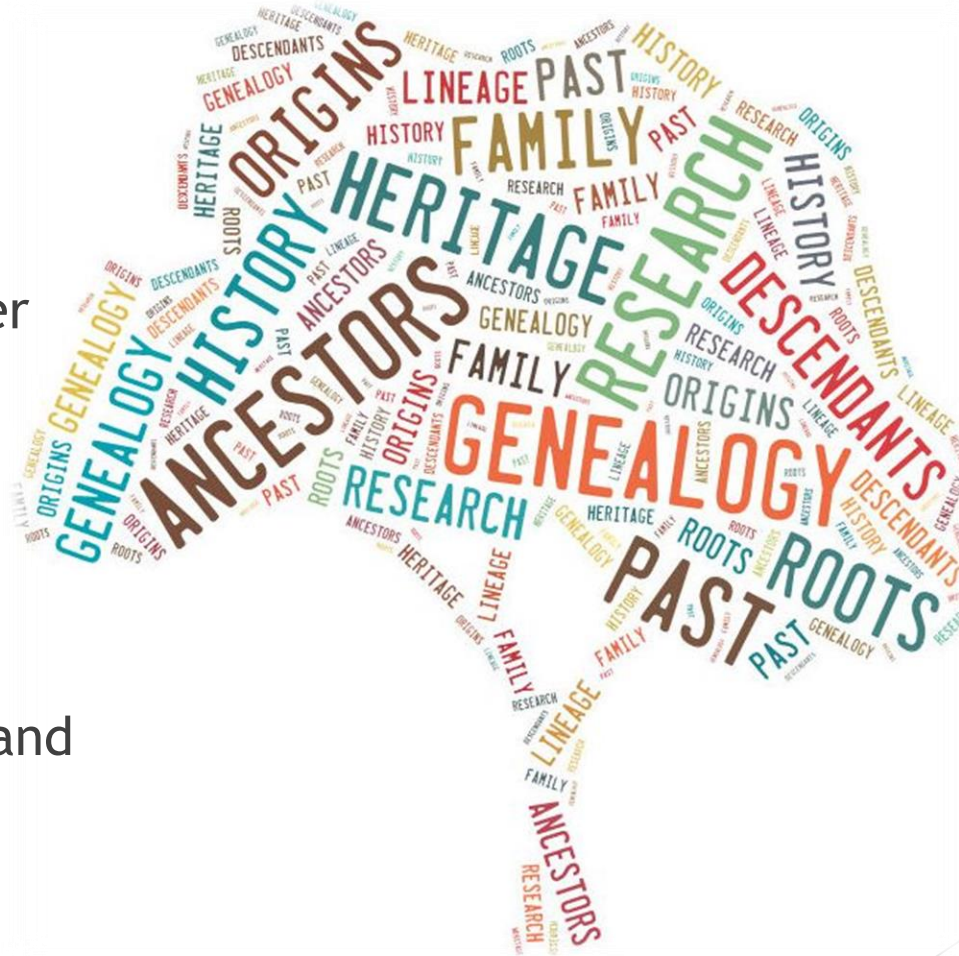


2017 Innovation Fellowship

Coordination of Genealogy Services at the Main and System-wide

Including...

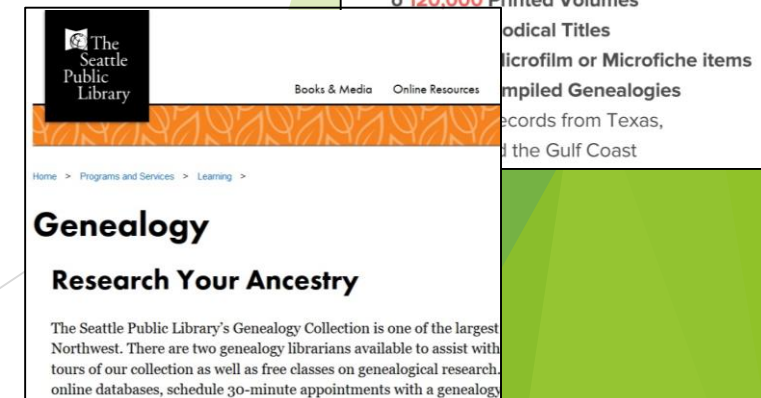
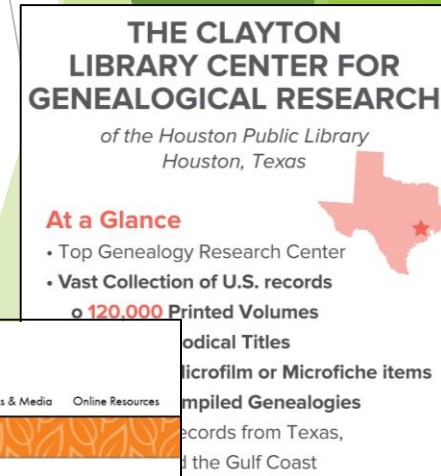
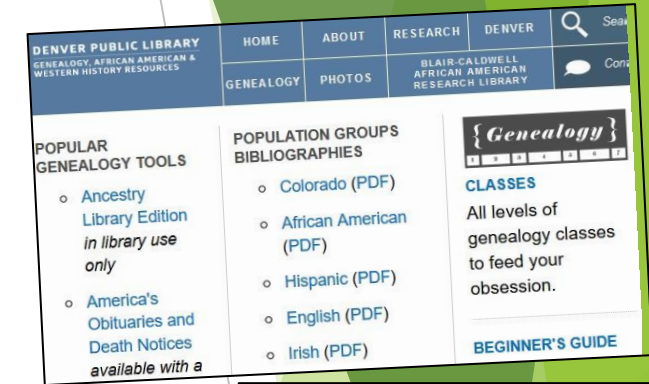
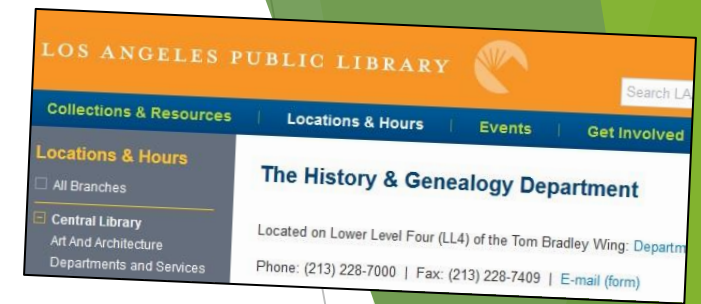
- ▶ How to make patrons and staff better aware of our resources
- ▶ Ensuring institutional knowledge is passed on to future librarians
- ▶ Partnering with other organizations and individuals



Why Genealogy?

- ▶ Institutional knowledge
- ▶ SFPL's multitude of resources
- ▶ Many urban public libraries around the country have genealogy departments...
 - ▶ [Los Angeles Public Library](#): "History and Genealogy Department"
 - ▶ [Denver Public Library](#): "Western History/Genealogy Department"
 - ▶ [Houston Public Library](#): "Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research"
 - ▶ [Dallas Public Library](#): "Genealogy Section"
 - ▶ [Miami Public Library](#): "Genealogy Department"
 - ▶ [New York Public Library](#): "Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy"
 - ▶ [Seattle Public Library](#): "Genealogy Collection" (and two designated genealogy librarians)

...so why not SFPL?



What I've learned...



COURSE 1 *Methods & Sources*

Pamela Boyer Sayre, CG, CGL, FUGA,
Coordinator
23 July - 28 July 2017

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2017 IGHR Course 1

Methods & Sources

Coordinator: *Pamela Boyer Sayre, CG, CGL, FUGA*

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Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research

*Sponsored by the
Georgia Genealogical Society*

This is the certify that
IGHR
Brian Weaver
Completed Course One
Methods & Sources
Georgia Genealogical Society

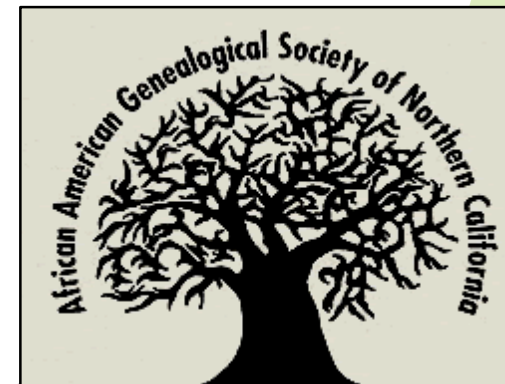
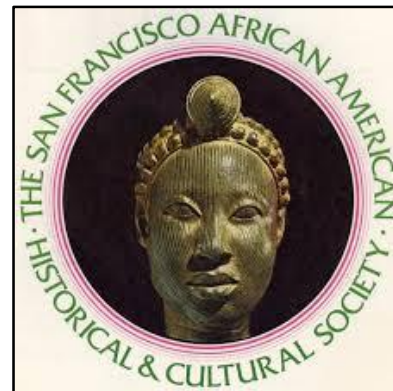
July 23 - 28, 2017

Laura W. Carter
IGHR Director

Pamela Boyer Sayre
Course Coordinator

Accomplishments

- ▶ Conferred with fellow department managers (SFHC, MNC, GIC)
- ▶ Created tally sheet at General Collections reference desk
- ▶ Met/partnered with...
 - ▶ Sutro Library
 - ▶ California Genealogical Society (Sandra Britt-Huber and Jane Knowles Lindsey)
 - ▶ African American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC)
 - ▶ San Francisco African American Historical & Cultural Society
 - ▶ Genealogists Jeanie Low and Grant Din



GENEALOGY QUESTIONS		
DATE	TALLY	NOTES
9/24	111	Ship entry logs in ancestry is there a printed version of these national Archives list? Patron says there is/hard to read digitized entries
9/26	1	received call from Jama @wpo about this question. she gave patron my phone # and he called me.
09/28	1	family history in township on Long Island
9/29	1	PATRON ASKED WHY WE DON'T HAVE A GENEALOGY ROOM.
9/30	1	Two calls about Richard Woodhull's arrival in New England & New York in 1640s?
10/3	1	Patron asked for info on the fraternal organization in the 1920s called "The Green Valley Grange." This was referenced in the obit of his Italian grandfather. (Referred to 6th floor)
10/04	1	PATRON ASKED WHERE TO GO FOR LOCAL PERSONAGES IN SF (REFERRED TO 6TH FLOOR SF HISTORY)



Accomplishments (contd.)

- ▶ Created *Genealogy Resources at the Main Library* pamphlet
- ▶ Created Genealogy Resources at the Library web page

San Francisco Public Library

Keyword, Author or Title

Log In

Home Books & Materials eLibrary Services Kids Teens Calendar Libraries About

Home > Libraries > Main > General Collections and Humanities Center > Genealogy

Genealogy Resources at the Library

sfpl.org/genealogy

General Collections

- Biographies
- Education
- Genealogy**
- History
- Language Learning
- Library Science
- Literature
- McComas Science Fiction
- Occult/Paranormal
- Psychology
- Reference
- Religion and Philosophy
- Social Sciences
- Travel
- True Crime



The General Collections & Humanities Center's Genealogy Collection

The General Collections and Humanities Center on the 3rd floor of the Main Library maintains a thorough circulating and library-use-only print collection of materials that can aid the amateur genealogist. Genealogy handbooks can be found primarily in two places in the General Collections & Humanities Center: in the Dewey areas 025.0692 and 929.1. These are books on how to do genealogic research, organizing your results, researching different populations, and using online resources. The department also has titles like *Burke's Peerage*, for those trying to trace their family back to nobility in Great Britain; and many books on family crests, heraldry, etc. Additionally, doing a [Subject search](#) of "genealogy" in our classic catalog will yield all the print books and ebooks the library has to offer.

Some particularly useful books in the General Collections & Humanities Center collection for genealogical research in San Francisco are:

- *Raking the Ashes: Genealogical Strategies for pre-1906 San Francisco Research* by Nancy Simons Peterson
- *Who Perished: a List of Persons Who Died as a Result of the Great Earthquake and Fire in San Francisco on April 18, 1906* compiled by Gladys Hansen ; introd. by Deanna Paoli Gumina.
- *A Useful Guide to Researching San Francisco Ancestry* by Kathleen

Upcoming Genealogy Programs


Genealogy Research Lab
Sat., June 8
10:00-11:30 AM
North Beach Meeting Room
North Beach Branch Library

San Francisco Genealogy Group
2019 Meeting Schedule:
Sat., Jun. 8
Sat., Jul. 13
Sat., Aug. 10
Sat., Sep. 14
11:00 AM-1:00 PM
3rd Floor Paley Room
Main Library


Genealogy and Family History Class
Tues., Jun. 11
6:15 PM-7:15 PM
North Beach Meeting Room
North Beach Branch Library

Beginning Genealogy (Class 1)
Tues., Jun. 18
1:30-3:30 PM
5th Floor Learning Studio
Main Library

GENEALOGY RESOURCES at the Main Library




Ancestry Library Edition, censuses, city directories, classes, databases, funeral home records, genealogy group, HeritageQuest Online, high school yearbooks, historical photos, how-to books, librarians, maps, newspapers, obituaries, orphanage records, voter registers, workshops...



San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin St., San Francisco, CA 94102

Accomplishments (contd.)

- ▶ Founded Genealogy Resource Group
- ▶ Answered numerous genealogy questions referred to me by other librarians
- ▶ Programming
 - ▶ Hosted/led/participated in a multitude of programs
 - ▶ Established the ongoing San Francisco Genealogy Group (library-sponsored, meets monthly)
 - ▶ Added 55 people to Genealogy Programs email distribution list



**SFPL+SUTRO
UNITE!**

**Tuesday
July 17
5:30-6:30pm**

Join us for a **FREE** talk about **San Francisco Public Library's genealogy resources with Brian Weaver.**

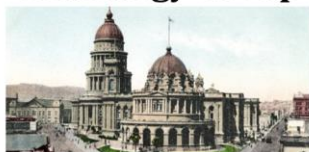
Sutro Library Reading Room
J. Paul Leonard Library, 5th floor
San Francisco State University
1630 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco
(extended research hours: 10am-5:30pm)

sutro.library.ca.gov

Please RSVP at sfplatsutro.eventbrite.com.

The General Collections and Humanities Center
of the San Francisco Public Library presents


**San Francisco
Genealogy Group**



Whether you're just starting out researching your family history or have been doing it for years and need ideas how to get past some brick walls, join the conversation at monthly meetings (second Saturday of the month) led by a genealogist from the California Genealogical Society. Her specialty is San Francisco and California but will help anyone with any questions you might have.

Second Saturdays of the Month
Apr. 13, May 11, Jun. 8, Jul. 13 & Aug 10
11am-1pm
3rd Floor Paley Room
Main Library


All programs at the Library are free.
Supported by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library



San Francisco Public Library
Main Library 100 Larkin St. (at Grove) (415) 557-4277 sfpl.org

The General Collections and Humanities Center and the
International Center of the San Francisco Public Library present


**Finding Your
Asian American Roots**



Grant Din, a certified genealogist with over thirty years of experience researching family histories, especially for those with roots in Asia, will recount immigration stories of people from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and India, and how these family histories were discovered. Learn how to use the resources of the library to embark on your own searches, and find out about other local sites that can help with your research.

Thursday, May 31, 2018, 6:00 PM
5th Floor Computer Training Room
Main Library

All programs at the Library are free.
Supported by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library



San Francisco Public Library
Main Library 100 Larkin St. (at Grove) (415) 557-4277 sfpl.org

THE OTHER BLACK MIGRATION Genealogy Workshop Series



African American
Historical & Cultural Society



San Francisco Public Library

AAACC African American
Art & Culture Complex

Celebrate **Black History Month** and learn about your family history with the San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society (SFAAHCS) and the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) by attending workshops and a presentation about DNA and genealogy at the African American Art and Cultural Complex.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: All workshops will be held at the African American Art and Cultural Complex (762 Fulton Street, 2nd floor, San Francisco). To register, call 415-292-6172 or email: info@sfaahcs.org to reserve a space. Leave your name, phone number/email, and the dates/times of workshops you plan to attend. *Bring your laptop, tablet or other Internet enabled device. Bring your family tree, research and questions to these workshops.*

SCHEDULE

Research Your Family Tree 1

Search on your own or ask for assistance. Share your experiences.

Wednesday, February 6

2:00 - 4:00 PM & 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Call 415-292-6172 or email: info@sfaahcs.org to register for one or both sessions.

Research Your Family Tree 2

Search on your own or ask for assistance. Share your experiences.

Wednesday, February 13

2:00 - 4:00 PM & 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Call 415-292-6172 or email: info@sfaahcs.org to register for one or both sessions.

African American Genetic Migrations

Learn resources and skills to discover your family tree through genetic technologies.

Presented by Lajuan Hall

Saturday, February 23

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Call 415-292-6172 or email: info@sfaahcs.org to register for this session.

Research Your Family Tree 3

Search on your own or ask for assistance. Share your experiences.

Wednesday, February 27

2:00 - 4:00 PM & 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Call 415-292-6172 or email: info@sfaahcs.org to register for one or both sessions.

African American Historical and Cultural Society
762 Fulton Street, 2nd floor, San Francisco

Findings

- ▶ Questions tallied (Jul. 2017 - Jan. 2019)
 - ▶ 125 questions (1 to 2 questions/week)

- ▶ Programs well attended: **2 years, 37 programs, 432 attendees**
 - 08/23/17 Research Your Ancestors at ANZ - 13
 - 09/29/17 Research Your Ancestors at EVA - 9
 - 01/25/18 Research Your Ancestors - 12
 - 02/01/18 Ethnicity and Culture that Harmonize with African Genealogy (with Alvis Ward/AAGSNC) - 14
 - 02/15/18 Genealogy Drop-In - 10
 - 03/22/18 Genealogy 101 - 10
 - 04/26/18 Research Your Ancestors - 15
 - 05/25/18 Introduction to Genealogy on Techmobile at MAR - 5
 - 05/31/18 Finding Your Asian American Roots (w/Grant Din) - 25
 - 06/06/18 Introduction to Genealogy at PAR - 3
 - 06/28/18 Genealogy 101 - 12
 - 07/14/18 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - 13
 - 07/17/18 Genealogy Resources at the San Francisco Public Library (at Sutro Library) - 20
 - 08/11/18 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - 9
 - 09/08/18 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - 8

Findings (contd.)

► Programs well attended: **2 years, 37 programs, 432 attendees**

- 10/13/18 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - **10**
- 01/12/19 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - **11**
- 01/24/19 Genealogy Resources at the Library (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - **8**
- Feb. 2019 The Other Black Migration series of 5 workshops and DNA program (at AAACC with Ginger Smyly) - **62**
- 02/09/19 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - **9**
- 03/09/19 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - **6**
- 04/13/19 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - **10**
- 05/11/19 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - **10**
- 05/11/19 Family Legacies - Chinese American Genealogy (with Jeanie Low) - **29**
- 06/08/19 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - **9**
- Jun.-Sept. 2019 Beginning Genealogy (series of 4 classes with Jane Lindsey Knowles/CGS) - **57**
- 07/13/19 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - **11**
- 08/10/19 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - **12**
- 09/14/19 San Francisco Genealogy Group (with Sandra Huber/CGS) - **10**

Findings (contd.)

- Staff appreciative of someone to whom they can refer patrons

Suggestions & Comments

San Francisco Public Library

8/18/18

Date: [redacted]

Name: [redacted]

E-mail: [redacted]

Address: [redacted]

State/Zip: AURORA, IL 60504

We are impressed with how you have organized your genealogy information. The librarian did a very good job.

Thank you for your comments. Your suggestions help us to evaluate our services and better meet your needs. While it is not possible to respond to each comment, your suggestions will be carefully considered. Again, thank you for your interest and for helping us to make the San Francisco Public Library a better resource for everyone.

This form may be turned in at any library service desk or mailed to
Public Affairs, San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

For office use only: Action taken: _____ By: _____ Routing: Branch/Section Head: _____ Library Chief: _____ Date: _____

SFPL-901 03/10

- Patrons appreciative of someone knowledgeable willing to help them

From: Dennis [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Alvarez, Yemila (LIB) <Yemila.Alvarez@sfpl.org>
Cc: Dennis [redacted]
Subject: Brian Weaver

Ms. Alvarez:

You have an excellent employee in the person of Brian Weaver. I am currently writing an article about a famous New York policeman for a police journal and came across a technical problem in using the SFPL version of ancestry.com. I am not unfamiliar with this SFPL research tool and used it extensively in writing the April 2016 cover story article for *Air Classics* magazine and for other projects. When the local head librarian could not figure how to resolve the issue, she referred me to Mr. Weaver.

While his expertise in this area apparently makes him in high demand, he got back to me within a few hours. I found him to be personable and patient, and he took the time to convert unreadable handwritten text in a 1886 government document into printed form and then somehow was able to copy it and then emailed it to me.

D.M. [redacted]

Moving Forward

► More Programming

- October Family History Month programming
 - DNA and Genetic Genealogy w/Stephen Morse
 - Hispanic Genealogy w/Lucy Jennings Sweeney
- Genealogy 101 at ORT in Nov. and at NVA in Jan.
- San Francisco Genealogy Group
 - 2020 schedule with extended hours and additional month



► Fold3

- Library recently acquired access to this database of military records

► Genealogy Resources StaffNet page

- Includes Genealogy Resource Group

A screenshot of the StaffNet website's Genealogy Resources page. The page has a blue header with the "StaffNet" logo and a search bar. Below the header, there's a "Staff Directory" section with a search bar and a list of links: Email, eMerge, Forms, ReqForm, Delayix eTime, SFPL.org, New Catalog, and Classic Catalog. To the right of this is the "Genealogy Resources" section, which contains a paragraph about SFPL's resources and a list of links: Genealogy Resources at the Library, San Francisco History Center, Where to Find Vital Records in San Francisco (PDF), SFPL's History & Genealogy Databases, Obituary Search Request Form, Obituary-Related Resources, and Genealogy Resource Group. Each link is followed by a brief description of the resource.

A poster for Family History Month at the Main Library. The poster has a green header with the text "The General Collections and Humanities Center of the San Francisco Public Library presents". Below this is the title "Family History Month At the Main Library" in a large, bold, black font. To the right of the title is a graphic of a tree with green leaves and a pink circle at the base. Below the title is a paragraph: "October is Family History Month, and the Main Library will be celebrating with the following three programs...". This is followed by three program listings: "DNA and Genetic Genealogy" presented by Stephen P. Morse on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 6:00-7:30 PM in the Latino/Hispanic Rm.; "San Francisco Genealogy Group" on Saturday, Oct. 12, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM in the Paley Rm.; and "Hispanic Genealogy" with Spanish records by Lucy Jennings Sweeney on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2:00-3:00 PM in the Computer Training Center. The poster also includes the San Francisco Public Library logo and the text "All programs at the library are free. Sponsored by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Main Library 100 Larkin St (at Grove) sfpl.org".