



*Cheyenne Genealogical &
Historical Society*

Jul-Aug-Sep 2020

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Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

Message from your CGHS President . . .

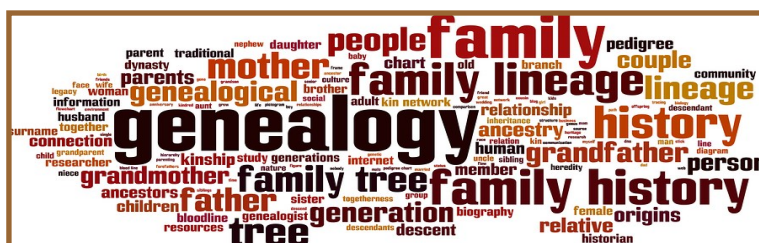
My sincere thank you to our Vice President Kris Smith and her intrepid partner, Otis Halverson in making our September and October programs happen. Kris has been able to find interesting speakers, coordinate with them for the presentations and Otis has made sure the Zoom meetings were set up, successful and recorded. Those who could attend found about Land Records through Robert Zemanek, and How Wyoming Documented Its World War I History with Rick Ewig. Both gentlemen knew their subjects well and had excellent support presentations. Look for a link to both programs soon and be sure to watch them during some free time...they are definitely worth the time.

November will also be an online Zoom meeting and the information will be communicated soon. It came to my attention that the links to the Zoom meetings seem to appear at different times in different email accounts so I will make sure they are sent out at least seven days in advance. (November 3 for the November 10, 2020 meetings). Let me know if you do not receive one judegen@gmail.com

My daughter is now a married woman which means that I have a son-in-law and a new family to explore! I know you all will be happy to know that the research has been in progress and I was able to help my SIL's mother, who was adopted, find her Native American roots in Montana. I will confess though that she already knew a lot so it was more a matter of plugging in unknowns and letting Ancestry do what I pay it for...but she was still excited and impressed which made it very worthwhile.

Feel free to share a story or two so that we can all stay connected. The library Special Collections room is open, [AncestryLibrary](#) is still free, [FamilySearch](#) is loaded with constant new information, there are webinars galore online. While we are physically apart, our genealogy research and discoveries keep us going forward.

Judy



Neanderthal Ancestor Genes May Be a Factor in Some Severe Cases of Covid-19

A team of experts on Neanderthal genetics examined a strand of DNA that has been associated with some of the more serious cases of Covid-19 and compared it to sequences known to have been passed down to living Europeans and Asians from Neanderthal ancestors. The DNA strand is found on chromosome 3, and a team of researchers in Europe has linked certain variations in this sequence with the risk of being more severely ill with Covid-19.

"Here, we show that the risk is conferred by a genomic segment that is inherited from Neanderthals and is carried by about 50% of people in South Asia and about 16% of people in Europe today," Svante Paabo and Hugo Zeberg of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology wrote, in a paper accepted for publication in the journal [Nature](#).

"It turns out that this gene variant was inherited by modern humans from the Neanderthals when they interbred some 60,000 years ago," Zeberg said in a statement. "Today, the people who inherited this gene variant are three times more likely to need artificial ventilation if they are infected by the novel coronavirus Sars-CoV-2."

Paabo and Zeberg found similar variations in the DNA from a 50,000-year-old Neanderthal skeleton found in Croatia and a few of them in skeletons found in Siberia, as well. Studies have shown that modern humans interbred with Neanderthals and a related species, known as the Denisovans, tens of thousands of years ago. Studies estimate that about 2% of DNA in people of European and Asian descent can be traced back to Neanderthals.

Upcoming Events:

5 Nov 2020
"Swedish Genealogy Files:
Mystery of the Unknown
Father in 1800" 3 p.m.
[Family History Library
Webinar](#)

10 Nov 2020
Monthly Meeting & Pro-
gram: "History of Cattle
Brands," Lee Romsa, Wyo-
ming Brand Commissioner
Cheyenne Genealogical &
Historical Society
6:00-8:00 p.m.,
Online [Zoom](#)/Virtual Event

13 Nov 2020
"Sjeleregister (Index of
Literacy & Religion) for
Norway" 2 p.m.
[Family History Library
Webinar](#)

16 Nov 2020
"Skimming the Surface: A
Look Into Quebec Notar-
ial Records" 1 p.m.
[Family History Library
Webinar](#)

20 Nov 2020
"Pre-1867 Emigration for
Norway" 2 p.m.
[Family History Library
Webinar](#)

30 Nov 2020
"Using the Wiki and
Scotlands People for
Scots Research" 8:30 a.m.
[Family History Library
Webinar](#)

30 Nov 2020
"Scotland Land & Proper-
ty Records" 10 a.m.
[Family History Library
Webinar](#)

30 Nov 2020
"Och Aye! Understanding
Weird Scottish Words &
Phrases" 11:30 a.m.
[Family History Library
Webinar](#)

30 Nov 2020
"Scotland Probate Rec-
ords" 1 p.m.
[Family History Library
Webinar](#)

Get to Know Your Genealogy Colleague: *Susan Jean Searles Seniawski*

This newsletter column will introduce you to the genealogical work of members of the Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society, to help you get to know your colleagues and perhaps to provide a few ideas or hints—maybe even a family connection!

What is your full name?

Susan Jean Searles Seniawski

Are you named after any relative; if so who & why?

No, I wasn't named after anyone. In fact, my Mom and Dad worked to avoid naming me after anyone.

What is your maternal ethnic heritage?

My maternal ethnic heritage is English. My grandfather was born in the United States, but his brothers and sisters and parents were born in England (Channel Islands); however grandpa's mother's heritage is unknown—maybe Irish. My grandmother is from a long line of Englishmen and women.

What is your paternal ethnic heritage?

My paternal heritage is English and Norwegian. My grandfather was born in England. My grandmother was born in the USA, but her parents were born in Norway.

Give your maternal surnames three generations back:

My maternal surnames are: (mother) Berky, Harmon and Byington; (father) Matthews and Davis

Give your paternal wives' or mothers' surnames three generations back:

My paternal surnames are: (father) Mower, Dottridge and Taylor; (mother) Sahol and Olsen

Give a few generations of your spouses's maternal surnames:

Hanneman, Praedel, Miller and Remer, and Hryncyszyn

Provide some information about yourself, your background, your family:

I was born and raised in Great Falls, Montana, as were my mother and

grandmother. I graduated from the University of Montana (Missoula) with a degree in Elementary Education. I taught first grade for one year in Great Falls, before marrying an Air Force Officer (Chuck Seniawski) who was stationed in Great Falls. We traveled around the United States for 20 years while he maintained the missile systems. We retired in Cheyenne, Wyoming and have been here for 30+ years. I worked for LCSD1 for 4 years as a substitute teacher and an education assistant, then worked for the Laramie County Library System as the Genealogy Specialist. Since leaving that position, I have been volunteering in the Genealogy Room. We have two children, Barbara and David (and daughter-in-law, Elizabeth), and three grandchildren, Natalia, Isabel and Luca.



Olea and Hans Sahol, Sue's paternal Norwegian great great grandparents.

What got you interested in this crazy genealogy hobby?

Actually, I got started in Genealogy when I got my job as the Genealogy Specialist. At that time I couldn't even spell "Genealogy." When I was hired, I confessed that I knew nothing about genealogy, but they said that was okay, the volunteers would teach me, and indeed they did.

Are you doing direct-line only or collateral research?

I'm mainly interested in the direct line ancestors, but have learned a lot about the collateral lines and have included what I've learned in my database.

Who in (or outside) your family provided you with the most background or help?

My mother and a couple of cousins have provided the most background and help. My mother really didn't want me researching the family history, but reluctantly provided the information I needed. A couple of cousins on my mother's side have also filled in background information on the family.

When is the furthest back that you have researched; what have you found?

I think the furthest back I have researched is the Harmon line back to 1650. My family were farmers as far back as I've gone with that line and several others.

What is the most interesting/funniest/most bizarre story you have uncovered? Explain what it was and was it accurate, or if not, why not?

I learned early on that my maternal grandfather, Walter Matthews, was illegitimate. My great grandfather, John Thomas Matthews, had a wife and six children in Canada plus a mistress he brought with him to the USA and one or two children including my grandfather. My grandfather was raised by my great grandfather's wife. She told the family her husband had died shortly after grandpa's birth. I was surprised to learn from the Channel Island



John Thomas Matthews

Her Harmon Ancestor Research Shows They All Worked the Land Back to the 1600s

(continued from page 2)

censuses that he didn't die then; he went back to the Channel Islands and lived another 36 years. While he was back in the Channel Islands, he married his sister's daughter (his niece). That marriage was annulled by her parents.

Do you have anyone famous in your tree? If so, tell us who and a bit about this ancestor:

No, I don't have anyone famous in my family.

Do you think it is important to share your research or keep it to yourself? Why?

I share my research. I've been helped by other's research and want to pay it forward. Plus I'd love to make contact with others researching my line.

Have you had a DNA test...if so, what has it confirmed, disproved or confounded for you?

I've had a DNA test. The latest results confirmed that I am basically $\frac{3}{4}$ English and $\frac{1}{4}$ Norwegian. This last result left off any mention of Irish heritage that the previous one listed.

Where/what place are you yearning to visit to find information?

I'm most interested in visiting the Northeast United States, Maine, Vermont and Connecticut. I have many lines there. I'd like to see the area and to find original records. Of course, I'd like to visit England and the Channel Islands, too.

What do you think are the best methods or best resources (tools, sites, etc.) for researching? Why?

I employ a combination of the Internet and original records. I use Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. I've also written for copies of military pensions, land records and probate records.

Do you use timelines or research plans to help you stay on track or learn what you need to research?



Anders & Rachel Sahol's family, about 1914.

No I don't use either timelines or research plans. When I went back to Great Falls to get the records there, I made a list of names and dates to look for, but that's as organized as I've been.

Are you a skatter-shot, jump-around, location-focused, plow-through-one-line-only, or grab-em-all-in-a-family type of researcher? Explain a bit...

I'm a skatter-shot, jump-around researcher. I research one line for a while, then jump to another line. I think it's interesting finding intersecting lines by researching several families at once.

Do you have a favorite place, method or time for doing your researching?

I do my research in my office of my house. I usually do research in the evening—sometimes dragging on into the wee hours of the morning. I like going to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to look at the microfilms and books there.

What software program do you use for your own documentation and keeping your family tree?

I use Legacy Family Tree and Ancestry.com.

What is your biggest brick wall on which you would like assistance?

I wish there were some way to confirm my great grandmother's identity. A second cousin found the right name and approximate birthdate in a

neighboring town in Ontario, Canada, but I can't prove it. There are two deaths in Chicago, Illinois that would fit the name and time period, but the clerk's office is closed because of the Coronavirus so I can't write for the death certificates.

Have you ever had a serendipity moment in doing genealogy (when something you weren't expecting appeared or surfaced unexplained? Share it with us:

I read early on in my research that we're related to one of the founders of the Morgan Stanley financial institution, but now I can't find where I read or found that.

What is the most recent "Ahah!" moment you have had?

It isn't recent, but I learned that my Berkey/Berky's were Mennonites.

Do you have a favorite website? Why is it your favorite?

I love Ancestry.com. I've found so many records and so much information on that site.

What is your biggest frustration, irritant or money-waster in this "line of fun"?

My biggest money-waster is writing for a record only to receive it and it's not my ancestor or the packet doesn't contain any more information than what is available online.

How do you save and store your records, organize your results (paper, digital, notebooks, folders, backups)?

I save and store paper records digitally. Someone once told me to digitize a paper record and then ditch it if it can be obtained again.

What is your long-term goal for your research?

I really don't have a long-term goal other than to learn as much as I can about my ancestors and their lives.

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FamilySearch Announces "RootsTech Connect 2021"—A Multicultural Celebration To Be Offered Virtually (Fully Online), Worldwide and FREE From February 25-27, 2021

FamilySearch is thrilled to announce that the RootsTech 2021 Conference previously planned for February 3-6, 2021, in Salt Lake City, Utah, will now be held on February 25-27, 2021, as a free, virtual event online. [RootsTech Connect 2021](#) will enable attendees to participate from around the world and will feature inspiring keynote speakers, dozens of classes in multiple languages, and a virtual marketplace. Every year, genealogists, family history enthusiasts, and industry-leading companies come together for the largest genealogy conference in the world—RootsTech. It's truly a genealogist's dream, with multiple days packed with hundreds of classes, thousands of participants, exciting events, and opportunities to connect with family past and present. This year, RootsTech will look a little different. To make RootsTech a safe and accessible experience for as many people as possible, RootsTech will go fully online and will be called RootsTech Connect. A full schedule of classes, speakers, and events will be available in coming months. Attendees won't miss out on any of the amazing opportunities or immersive classes. It will even come with some major advantages. For one thing, RootsTech Connect will be completely free. You read that right—**free**. And as a fully online conference, RootsTech Connect also makes it possible for the first time to fully participate from anywhere in the world.

Tyler Stahle, RootsTech marketing manager, said about the online conference, "RootsTech Connect is different than any other virtual event—no boring speakers or falling asleep at your computer screen. Rather, enjoy dozens of inspirational learning sessions, uplifting messages from celebrity keynote speakers, and hands-on activities to help you celebrate your heritage all year long." RootsTech Connect is aiming to make this year's classes, speakers, and activities as engaging and interactive as possible. Here's everything you need to know.

A Multicultural Celebration

To celebrate worldwide cultures and family heritage, RootsTech Connect is also offering activities from around the world, such as cooking demonstrations, yoga, dance, and music. Attendees can submit videos sharing aspects of their lives, such as their hometowns, family traditions, cultural celebrations, or dances. It will be a unique way to honor homelands, people, and ancestors from all over.



Speakers and Classes

This year's keynote speakers will join RootsTech Connect from all over the globe, delivering inspirational keynote addresses in their native languages. Stay tuned to learn about each of the speakers and their areas of expertise. Over 150 classes will be available from experts worldwide. You'll be able to dive in and learn about anything from DNA and research, to preserving family memories, to sharing your heritage. Ever want to learn about family traditions in Argentina? There will be content for that too, and much more! One major benefit to having RootsTech online is that it opens doors to having content available in multiple languages. Classes will be available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, German, French, Italian, Dutch, Korean, Chinese, and Russian. Hoping to see more languages on that list? As the event gets closer, more languages might be added, so keep an eye out for new information.

The Salt Lake City RootsTech events have had a huge showroom filled with vendors and products that can help you on your family history journey. This year, you'll have access to a virtual marketplace where you can find groundbreaking innovations and resources to help you in your research. Plus, you'll

Using "Randy Majors.com"

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5. AncestorSearch: Google Custom Search

Specify as many or as few items as you like for your search, and then hit the return key. Use the resulting Google hit list as you would any other Google list.

6. Subscribe to Randymajors.com Tool Updates

Clicking either or both of the Subscribe icons will get you notified of any updates to the tools offered on randymajors.com.

have the same access to experts and help. You'll also be able to connect with other attendees through messaging, social media, and video chats. Finding and connecting with cousins and relatives will be possible, just like at any other RootsTech event.

Participating in RootsTech is easier than ever with RootsTech Connect. All you need to do to participate is register with your name, email address, and location. That's it! Once you have registered, you can attend all the classes, speakers, and activities offered during the conference on Feb 25-27. You'll also be able to connect with other attendees through messaging, social media, and video chats. Finding and connecting with cousins and relatives will be possible, just like at any other RootsTech event. Register and join in from the comfort of your own home at [RootsTech.org](#). And once the conference is over, you'll have full access to all the recordings for the following year.

Advice From Sue Seniawski: *Genealogy Should Be Fun!*

(Continued from page 3)

Do you have anyone in your family who will take over your research and continue this adventure? Who is it and why are they the selected, volunteer or chosen one?

No, none of my children or grandchildren are interested. Any cousins interested in the family history are older than I am.

What or how (if anything) have you paid forward, given back, or shared your expertise?

I volunteer once a week in the Genealogy room helping other genealogists, and I work with the duplicate books in the Special Collections trading or selling them in order to increase the size of the genealogy collection at the Laramie County Library.

Do you have any thoughts or words of wisdom for your colleagues, on doing genealogy? Have fun doing it!

Genealogy News You Can Use...

Use "RandyMajors.com" to Enhance Your Research Using Boundary & ZIP Code Maps

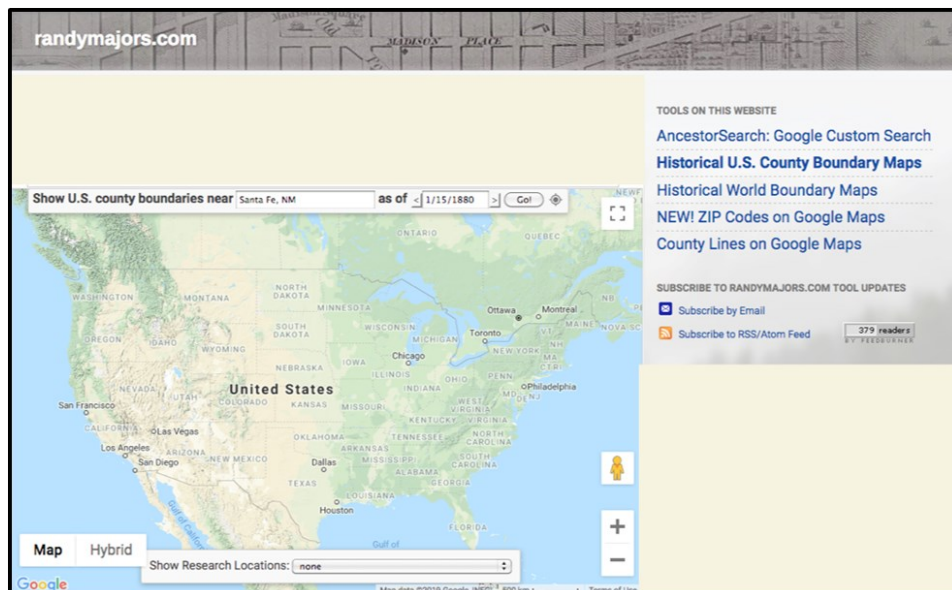
Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D., genealogist, writer, speaker, teacher and regular contributor to the *Cheyenne Genealogy Journal*, provided this article.

Editor's note: Randy Majors is a name well-known within the genealogy community. He is the person who has created all those add-ons for Google Maps, adding county lines and much more information to the maps than what Google ever imagined. He has created an "add-on" to assist users in searching Ancestry or FamilySearch. It is his free Historical U.S. Counties Auto-Checker extension for Google Chrome, which automatically checks that the county existed in the year you are searching, warns of boundary changes, and links to historical county lines on Google Maps for the place and years you are searching.

To search for government records about ancestors one must know which state, county, and other governmental bodies had jurisdiction over the places where events occurred. RandyMajors.com, a powerful new and free internet site easily provides that information for places and dates of interest to any genealogical researcher. The site also provides information about nongovernmental research resources in the area of interest. To use this site, focus on the menu area and the map area. Other elements of the home page are worth exploring, especially for first-time visitors, but working in the site will draw your attention to the menu and map areas predominantly. Use each of the six menu selections as described in the numbered sections below.

1. Historical U.S. County Boundary Maps

Click this menu item then type the modern name of a place, the state it is in now, and a date into the boxes at the top of the map. Use the formats shown in the sample data the site provides. Click **Go!** and then click the icon at the top right of the map to get a full-screen display. You will see a modern map of that area, with county boundaries superimposed as they were on the date you specified. Now you know which county court house should have the records for the time and date in which you are researching. You can zoom the map in and out by using the + and - symbols at the bottom right of the map, and you can pan in any direction. At the bottom of the map, click **Show Research Locations:** and then, in the drop-down menu that appears, choose the kind of resource you want to use. Locations of several resources of that kind will appear on



Home page of randymajors.com, showing map & menu areas, with other elements masked out.

the map. Clicking an icon will give you some information about the place it represents. Zoom in to your exact target location to see different icons for these resources. Immediately below the map is a check box for **Show complete county change chronology ...** and then a pull-down menu for **Update interval: ... second(s)**. Set that box to the timing you prefer, and then click the box for **Show ...**. You will see a series of maps, showing all county boundary changes from the date you specified until today. Sometimes you will discover that the location of interest to you was in different states or territories at different times. (For example, Toledo, Ohio used to be in a county of Virginia!) Those resource indicators are not exhaustive, so you should use additional finding aids to locate more of the kinds of resources you want. For example, to find more cemeteries than randymajors.com shows, go to findagrave.com, click **Cemeteries** in the menu bar at the top of their home page, and then use one of the three following methods to locate cemeteries near the site of your research problem:

- On the main menu click "cemeteries" and type a name in the box provided. (This is an auto-fill box. Use it as above.) Click "search". A hit list appears. Click the name of the cemetery you want. That cemetery's page of information appears.
- On the main menu click "cemeteries" and type a place in the other box. (This also is auto-fill.) Click "search". A hit list

appears. Click the name of the cemetery you want. That cemetery's page appears.

- On the main menu click "cemeteries" and type a place in the appropriate box. (This is an auto-fill box. Use it as above.) Don't click "search" or press the "return/enter" button. Instead, look at the map. If the map doesn't show any location markers, click the '+' button near its lower right corner. Zoom in or out and pan in any direction until you see the area you want. Click any marker to see the name of that cemetery, then click the name to see its information page.

2. Historical World Boundary Maps

Use this tool very much as you use the United States tool, but give only a year for the date you care about. (As an experiment, look at Warsaw, Poland over the centuries. At some dates, Poland completely ceased to exist and was not shown on any maps.)

3. ZIP Codes on Google Maps

Choose this menu item, type the name of a place, and hit the **return** key. You will get a map of ZIP codes as they are right now. Zoom and pan the map as you like.

4. County Lines on Google Maps

This tool works much as the first one described. It shows county Boundaries as they exist today.

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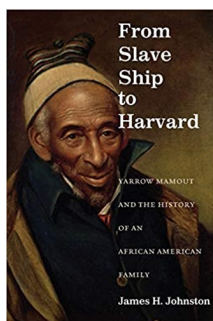
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The Cheyenne Genealogical &
Historical Society continues to
wish all its members a healthy
productive home-bound time
filed with genealogical research
wonders and inspirational learn-
ing.



"Check This Out"

Family history-related fiction & nonfiction
book reviews by CGHS members & others



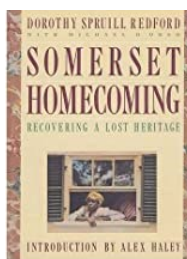
From Slave Ship to Harvard

by James H. Johnston
(c 2012; 310 pages; Fordham University Press,
New York—biography)

"Part historical narrative, part genealogical de-
fective work," this is the true story of an African
American family in Maryland over six generations
(Library Journal).

Using diaries, court records, legal documents,
books, paintings, photographs, and oral histories,
From Slave Ship to Harvard traces a family—
from the colonial period and the American Revolu-
tion through the Civil War to Harvard and finally
today—forming a unique narrative of black struggle and achievement.
Yarrow Mamout was an educated Muslim from Guinea, brought to Mar-
yland on the slave ship *Elijah*. When he gained his freedom forty-four
years later, he'd become so well known in the Georgetown section of
Washington, DC, that he attracted the attention of the eminent por-
trait painter Charles Willson Peale, who captured Yarrow's visage in
his sister, niece, wife, and son—were notable in their own right. His
son married into the neighboring Turner family, and the farm commu-
nity in western Maryland called Yarrow'sburg was named for Yarrow
Mamout's daughter-in-law, Mary "Polly" Turner Yarrow. The Turner line
ultimately produced Robert Turner Ford, who graduated from Harvard
University in 1927. Just as Peale painted the portrait of Yarrow,
James H. Johnston's new book puts a face on slavery and paints the
history of race in Maryland, where relationships between blacks and
whites were far more complex than many realize. As this one family's
experience shows, individuals of both races repeatedly stepped for-
ward to lessen divisions, and to move America toward the diverse
society of today.

—Amazon Review



Somerset Homecoming: Recovering a Lost Heritage

by Dorothy Spruill Redford
(c 2000; 266 pages; Doubleday, New York,
biography)

In 1860, Somerset Place was one of the most suc-
cessful plantations in North Carolina—and its owner
one of the largest slaveholders in the state. More
than 300 slaves worked the plantation's fields at
the height of its prosperity; but nearly 125 years
later, the only remembrance of their lives at Somer-
set, now a state historic site, was a lonely wooden sign marked "Site of
the story of one woman's unflagging efforts to recover the history of
her ancestors, slaves who had lived and worked at Somerset Place.
Traveling down winding southern roads, through county courthouses
and state archives, and onto the front porches of people willing to
share tales handed down through generations, Dorothy Spruill Redford
spent ten years tracing the lives of Somerset's slaves and their de-
scendants. Her endeavors culminated in the joyous, nationally publi-
cized homecoming she organized that brought together more than
2,000 descendants of the plantation's slaves and owners and marked
the beginning of a campaign to turn Somerset Place into a remarkable
resource for learning about the history of both African Americans and
whites in the region.

—Amazon Review