



# PIONEER TRAILS

**Newsletter of the Birmingham Genealogical Society**



**FEBRUARY 2023**

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## **BGS MEETINGS**

The Board met on January 28 at 1:00 PM in the 1st Floor Meeting Room at the Birmingham Public Library main library building. Six Board Members were present. Items discussed were programs for 2023, invitations to other groups to attend our programs, and how to honor various Heritage months.

Following the Board Meeting, the General Membership met in the same location at 2:00 PM to hear a presentation by Bob Davis --- "Finding the Beginnings of Jefferson County: the McAdory Family, the Amazon Bessemer Center, and The 1619 Project." The details surrounding the beginnings of Bessemer and Jefferson County, the families, and the land that eventually became the Amazon Center were interesting and informed us of a time in local history that was not familiar to most of us. Seven members and one visitor were present.

## **BGS HERITAGE MONTH PROGRAMS**

Our newsletter will honor upcoming Heritage months in 2023. We will begin with Black History Month. The February 25, 2023 program -- "Surprises in African American Family History: Research and Lost Legacies" -- will be presented by Bob Davis. Please join us in the 1st Floor Meeting Room at the Birmingham Public Library (in the main library building after entering from the parking lot) at 2:00 PM for the program. Please RSVP to [birminghamgenealogy@yahoo.com](mailto:birminghamgenealogy@yahoo.com) so that we can arrange adequate seating.

What Heritage month do you celebrate? Please let us know what month/months you would like for us to recognize, and we will try to offer a program or an article.

## **ROOTSTECH**

Registration for RootsTech 2023 is now open. Registration for the virtual event is FREE. Go to [www.familysearch/rootstech2023](http://www.familysearch/rootstech2023). The event will take place March 2-4, 2023.

**Thank You to the Southern History Department  
(Birmingham Public Library System)  
for the Following Information**

"The International African American Museum will be opening soon in Charleston, SC. Don't forget to explore their excellent blog, digitized records, and photos. You can help grow their resources by submitting your own records!"

**International African American Museum Center for Family History**

**Black History Month Free Articles:**

*Finding and Telling the African American Family Story: Beginning the Genealogy Journey*

*Beginning DNA for African American Genealogy*

*USCT Pension Files: A Rich Resource for African American Genealogy*

*Where a Death Certificate Can Lead*

*Winning Gold When Starting Genealogy*

Go to: [cfh.iaamuseum.org](http://cfh.iaamuseum.org) to find these articles

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**FREE WEBINARS AVAILABLE IN FEBRUARY/EARLY MARCH**

**DNA Testing for African Ethnicities, Updated 2023**

Wednesday, February 15                      12 – 1pm  
Central Library, Computer Lab (Linn-Henley Building 4th Floor)

DNA ethnicity testing may seem a simple and efficient way to identify your ancestral connection to the peoples and places of Sub-Saharan Africa, but what do you know about the types of tests that exist and the insights that they offer? Paul Boncella examines the current state of the science, lists the possibilities for African ethnicity testing, and explains what the various products actually deliver.

Registration required only for online attendance via Zoom.

**Ancestry Dots, ThruLines, and an Organized Plan**

by Kelli Bergheimer, MSM

Southern California Genealogical Society  
Wednesday, February 15, 6:00 PM Pacific (8:00 Central)  
Register at: <http://www.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html>

# **Unusual Places to Find Births and Naturalizations**

## **Presented by Debra Dudek**

San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society (Texas)  
Tuesday, February 7 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Virtual --- Register at [saghs-tx/org](https://saghs-tx.org)

Widen your search for birth dates and locations as well as naturalizations from underutilized resources such as military rosters, consulate applications, voter registrations, cancelled passports, frakturs, and much more. This lecture focuses on both digital and physical resources. Debra M. Dudek is Head of Adult and Teen Services at the Fountaindale Public Library District in Bolingbrook, IL. She holds a post graduate certificate in Genealogical, Palaeographic & Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. Ms. Dudek is the Book Review Editor of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, a board member of the Illinois State Historical Society, and is the author of the World War I Research Guide: Tracing American Military and Non-Combatant Ancestors, which will soon be published in its third edition.

### **INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC GENEALOGY**

March 1, 2023 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM

Presented by Kelvin L. Meyers --- Sponsored by the Minnesota Genealogical Society  
Audience Level --- Intermediate to Advanced

Description: This webinar will give the attendees an overview of forensic genealogy and the role of the genealogist in these types of cases. We will discuss some of the major types of cases in which a forensic genealogist may be involved, such as guardianship, oil and gas, unidentified and unclaimed persons, and probate. The role of the forensic genealogist as an expert witness will also be discussed.

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/859253372615407194>

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***BGS Newsletter Editor: Caroline Thomas***

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**The Birmingham Genealogical Society, Inc.**

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**Website: [bgsal.org](https://bgsal.org)**

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**Membership Dues: \$20 Individual \$25 Family**