



# PIONEER TRAILS

**Newsletter of the Birmingham Genealogical Society**



**MARCH 2023**

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## **BGS MEETINGS - FEBRUARY**

The Board met on February 25 at 1:00 PM in the 1st Floor Meeting Room at the Birmingham Public Library main library building. Five Board Members were present. Items discussed were future programs, membership, results of our promotions for the February program, 2022 Annual Report, and requests for a BGS Magazine. As of February 25, BGS has 16 members.

Following the Board Meeting, the General Membership met in the same location at 2:00 PM to hear a presentation by Bob Davis --- "Surprises in African American Family History: Research and Lost Legacies." Five Board Members and one guest were present. Attendees received a great deal of valuable information concerning where to research - guides, antebellum records, military records, federal land records, and special Alabama sources.

## **BGS HERITAGE MONTH - MARCH**

Our newsletter will honor **Irish-American Heritage Month** in March. Thank you to Mary Beth Newbill of the Southern History Department for recommending the Allen County Public Library YouTube presentations. Please check our Facebook and Instagram for announcements about the April 22 General Meeting.

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 in honor of your heritage.

## **ROOTSTECH 2023**

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.**

# FREE IRISH HERITAGE PRESENTATIONS

## Irish Records, Resources, and Genealogy with the Ulster Historical Foundation

**Monday, March 13 from 9:00am - 3:00pm CDT**

*Presented By Fintan Mullan and Gillian Flynn, Ulster Historical Foundation*

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society  
This event is free and can be attended online.

Please join the NYG&B as we welcome Fintan Mullan and Gillian Flynn from the Ulster Historical Foundation to speak on Irish records, resources, and genealogy. The program will run from 9am - 3pm with a 45-minute break for lunch. To register go to: **www.ancestryireland.com**. Choose Irish and Scots-Irish Genealogy Lecture Tour. Scroll to March 13, 2023 and choose registration link. Choose registration.

### *Program Schedule --- Subject to Change*

9 am - 10am	An introduction to the archives in Ireland and their websites.
10am - 11am	A review of records for genealogical research, including church records, administrative records, vestry minute books, and communicant roll.
11am - 11:45am	Break for lunch.
11:45am - 12:45pm	How to use printed sources for Irish family history, including street directories, newspapers, Ordnance Survey Memoirs, British Parliamentary Papers on Ireland, and the Irish Manuscripts Commission.
12:45pm - 1:45pm	How to use landed estate records to trace families in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
1:45pm - 2:45pm	Sources for finding 17th-century families in Ireland, including records from the Ulster Plantation.

### *Program Support*

This program is brought to you with support from the Ulster Historical Foundation and the Government of Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme. It is also supported by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

## Irish in St. Louis

***Tuesday, 25 April 2023***  
***St. Louis Genealogical Society***

Author, Patrick Murphy, will discuss his two books on the Irish in St. Louis and their unique journey from being one of the most despised ethnic groups in the city to one of the most beloved. All Irish Special Interest Group Meetings are free and open to the public.

Registration is now open for the Zoom Meeting. Go to: [stlgs.org](http://stlgs.org). Choose the Irish Special Interest Group Page. Go to April 25 and choose register button.

**7:00 p.m. (Central Time)**

## Discover Your Irish Family History in Beyond 2022's Virtual Record Treasury --- YouTube

**Elizabeth Hodges, Senior Librarian in The Genealogy Center  
at the Allen County Public Library**

On June 30, 1922, the Irish Civil War began with the destruction of the Public Records Office of Ireland, located in the Four Courts building in Dublin. One casualty of this incident was the destruction of roughly 700 years of Ireland's archival history—making researching Irish family history incredibly difficult. But there is still hope! In honor of the 100 year anniversary of the explosion of the Four Courts building, the Beyond 2022 project released their Virtual Record Treasury. This all-island, International collaborative research project is a virtual reconstruction of the Public Records Office of Ireland using substitute records from over seventy repositories across the globe to replace records that were lost in addition to salvaging the records that were not completely destroyed in the blaze. Join senior librarian Elizabeth Hodges for this first look into this new resource!

**Go to Allen County Public Library ([www.acpl.lib.in.us](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us)). Choose Research. Choose Genealogy. Choose "Library's YouTube Channel." Enter the title of the program.**

## Why They Left: A Conversation About the Irish Diaspora YouTube

**Elizabeth Hodges, Senior Librarian in The Genealogy Center  
at the Allen County Public Library**

A brief overview of 19th century Irish history followed by a collaborative storytelling. Included with the YouTube presentation is a handout listing the Key Websites and Resources for Researching Ancestors' Lives Prior to Emigration.

**Go to Allen County Public Library ([www.acpl.lib.in.us](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us)). Choose Research. Choose Genealogy. Choose "Library's YouTube Channel." Enter the title of the program.**

*\*\*\* The AllenCounty Public Libaray has 227 genealogy videos on their YouTube channel including: individual US states, preservation, forensic genealogy, city directories, DNA results, maps, Y DNA, using tax reccords, using Fold3, probate records, Mayflower research, military records, brick walls, researching ship passenger lists, european immigrants, Scots-Irish, Polish Immigrants, Native American research, and Genealogical Proof Standard.*

## **IRISH GENEALOGIES & DNA: BACK INTO THE MYTHOLOGICAL PAST**

**Presented by Bart Jaski**

When people research their Irish family history and ancestry, their surname is probably the most important part of their identity. Surnames are inherited from father to son, and certain Irish (Gaelic) surnames can be traced back to ancestors who lived more than a thousand years ago. This makes Irish surnames unique in the world, and they are therefore also important for DNA research worldwide. This research can take us even further back in time – perhaps even into the ‘mythological’ past before the coming of Christianity when Irish tribes dominated the island.

*Available in Legacy Family Tree Library*  
Legacy Family Tree Webinars at [familytreewebinars.com](http://familytreewebinars.com)

## **YOU KNOW YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS CAME TO AMERICA, BUT WHAT WAS THE VOYAGE LIKE?**

**Presented by Tom Kemp**

Learn how to uncover the 'rest of the story' of your ancestor's difficult voyage to America from the pages of old U.S. newspapers. Track the ship before it arrived at the departure port in Europe & during the voyage and the arrival here in America. Get the whole story.

*Available in Legacy Family Tree Library*  
Legacy Family Tree Webinars at [familytreewebinars.com](http://familytreewebinars.com)

## **Irish American Heritage Month Facts from [census.gov](http://census.gov)**

31.5 million or 9.5% =  
The number and percentage of U.S. residents who claimed  
Irish ancestry in 2021.

118,539 =  
The number of foreign-born U.S. residents who reported Ireland  
as their birthplace in 2021.

## ***OTHER FREE EVENTS***

### **BRITISH GENEALOGY ONLINE: THE TOP ENGLISH AND WELSH FAMILY HISTORY WEBSITES**

with Rick Crume --- Saturday, ***March 4th at 10:00 AM Central*** --- FREE

Presented by: International Society for British Genealogy and FamilyHistory

Our Winter Webinar Series is back! Webinars are free to watch during the live presentation. Access to recordings is a member benefit. Please see our Winter Webinar Series page for a list of the webinars, dates, presenters and to register.

Zoom registration links are added a week before each webinar at  
**[www.isbgfh.com/Winter-Webinar-Series](http://www.isbgfh.com/Winter-Webinar-Series)**

### **Introduction to Forensic Genealogy**

**1 Mar 2023**

**7:00 PM - 8:15 PM CST**

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.

#### About the Speaker:

A fifth-generation Texan and professional forensic genealogist since 1990, Kelvin is a frequent speaker to genealogical societies and family associations throughout the United States. As a graduate of Texas Tech University with a history major, Kelvin is an avid research-historian. After being employed for ten years in the Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library, Kelvin now has a solo practice as a forensic genealogist serving clients that include probate attorneys, trust department of banks, the U.S. Immigration Service, and energy companies. Kelvin is a 1989 and 1990 alumnus of the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research at Samford University and has return to IGHR as a lecturer. He is a past board member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, a past President of the Lone Star Chapter of APG, and a founding member for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy. Kelvin currently serves as the chairman of the history and archives committee for First United Methodist Church in Dallas.

#### **Registration:**

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

# CHURCH RECORDS

*Presented by Town & Country Public Library*

**Thursday, March 2nd at 7:00 PM Central**

You will learn how to find church records, use them to find your ancestors, and solve programs you may come across in your family tree. Many people forget the value that church records can provide in a person's search for their family's history. You may think that the only information available is records on baptism, marriage, and deaths. That may not be the case; church records can provide links to immigration or towns in which the family originated. Church records have been around for centuries, and long before governments made it mandatory to keep records. For the very early recorded town records, churches by their very design and function were the repositories for their parishioner lineage.

**[elburn.librarymarket.com/event/genealogy-seekers-church-records](http://elburn.librarymarket.com/event/genealogy-seekers-church-records)**

## GENETICFREE 2023

***SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023 – A VIRTUAL FREE EVENT***

"***The Southern California Genealogical Society*** is committed to providing genealogical education for all. Traditionally, during our conferences, we offer educational opportunities that are free and open to the public." **Register at: [scsgenealogy.com](http://scsgenealogy.com)**

There will be 10 roundtables during GeneticFree. Each time slot has two rooms. You can switch from one room to another. **Times are PDT.** Here's the line-up:

	Room #1	Room #2
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Y-DNA	Big Y
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Autosomal DNA	Leeds Method
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Unknown parentage	Mitochondrial & X-DNA
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	DNAGedcom	GedMatch
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Genetic Affairs	DNA Painter

## **Let's Get Lost in Ledgers: Much Genealogically-Leverageable Data Waiting to be Discovered by Diane L. Richard**

Have you explored "small business" ledgers? You can learn so much about your family and neighborhood through these records. Store, business (e.g., hotels, livery, stable, distillery, blacksmith, etc.), and health-related (e.g., Physician, Insane Asylum, etc.) ledgers can link family members and provide content invaluable to your family history narrative. Diane L. Richard has authored over 500 articles for such publications as Internet Genealogy and Your Genealogy Today, and is editor of the North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal.

**Wednesday, March 15 - 8:00PM (CST) --- Register at: [scsgenealogy.com](http://scsgenealogy.com)**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023**  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Central) - Speaker - Diana Crisman Smith**  
**"The Last Vital Event: Finding Even More Beyond the Death Certificate"**

Is the death certificate REALLY the last document in a person's life? There are records leading up to the death; there are the records at the time and surrounding death; there are also records AFTER death. Diana Crisman Smith began researching in childhood, and has been researching, speaking, writing, and teaching ever since. She has presented at conferences around the country (in person and virtually), and at sea, and is currently enjoying "traveling" through virtual programs.

**4:15 - 5:15 p.m. (Central) - Speaker - Hal Horrocks**  
**"Cemeteries - What We Can Learn"**

This lecture will discuss what we can learn from our visit to a cemetery. Through careful examination and a little research, you will be able to read the cemetery and all the great history that is available to the knowledgeable eye. Hal Horrocks is a professional genealogist, teacher, author and lecturer. He has been doing family research for over 25 years and is a member of several genealogical societies in the US and UK. He is the current past president of the Orange County California Genealogical Society and still a board member dealing with special events and projects.

**Register at: [scgsgenealogy.com](http://scgsgenealogy.com) --- Lunch and Learn Programs**

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

**2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**The Birmingham Genealogical Society, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 2432**  
**Birmingham, Alabama 35201**

**501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization ----- Founded March 15, 1959**  
**Website: [bgsal.org](http://bgsal.org)**  
**Email: [birminghamgenealogy@yahoo.com](mailto:birminghamgenealogy@yahoo.com)**

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