



# PIONEER TRAILS

**Newsletter of the Birmingham Genealogical Society**



**July 2023**

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## **BGS June/July Meetings**

The BGS Board met at 1:00 PM on Saturday, June 24, 2023. The April minutes and April and May Treasurer's reports were approved. Issues discussed were: future programs, the 2023 Nominating Committee, the AGS grant program, and a member suggestion that we follow up on a project from 2009. Five Board Members were present.

A General Membership Meeting was held at 2:00 PM on June 24, 2023. Terri Hicks, BGS Board Member, presented a program on the *Alabama Cemetery Alliance*. Everyone was fascinated to hear about the work that the Alliance does and the work that Terri does for them. Especially interesting was the history of the Oak Hill Cemetery. Six Members were present. Welcome to new member Mark Chesebro!

Please join us on July 22, 2023 at 2:00 PM in the Linn-Henley Research Library Computer Lab for our July General Meeting and Program. Paul Boncella will offer us a special presentation of his *Advanced Tools for Genetic Genealogy at 23andMe*.

## July is French American Heritage Month

"In the United States, July is designated as National French American Heritage Month, and it was established to honor the significant contributions made to the country by people of French descent. Currently, approximately 11.8 million Americans of French or French Canadian descent live and work in the United States with about two million of those speaking French at home."

[nationaltoday.com](http://nationaltoday.com)



Photograph compliments of *Canva*

### Did You Know?

"The existing design of Washington, D.C.'s architectural layout was designed by French-American architect, engineer and city planner Pierre "Peter" Charles L'Enfant."



[brevardschools.org](http://brevardschools.org)

## Resources for More Information

- The French-American Cultural Foundation --- Honoring the past, celebrating the present, and building for the future ([frenchamericancultural.org](http://frenchamericancultural.org))
- French-American Foundation ([frenchamerican.org](http://frenchamerican.org))
- French Heritage Society

*brevardschools.org*

## Advanced Tools for Genetic Genealogy at 23andMe



July 19, 2023  
12 - 1 PM  
With Paul Boncella

"23andMe's current DNA ancestry product includes two unique genetic genealogy tools that are underutilized by most users, and its paid subscription service offers several other unique mechanisms for this purpose. Paul Boncella shows how to access and use the current product tools, demonstrates how the paid subscription service can further enhance research, and then answers questions on this and any aspect of genetic genealogy. Registration required only if attending online via Zoom."

Birmingham Public Library  
Computer Lab (LH 4th Floor)  
Contact Name Mary Beth Newbill  
Contact Phone Number 205-226-3665  
Contact Email [mary.newbill@cobpl.org](mailto:mary.newbill@cobpl.org)

**BGS will offer an additional in-person presentation of this class  
at our meeting on July 22, 2023 at 2:00 PM.**

# **Genealogical Pits I Have Fallen Into and How to Avoid Them!**

**Monday, 6:00pm CDT, July 10, 2023**

**Speaker: Pam Vestal, Professional Genealogist & Lecturer**

"Genealogy is a great treasure hunt, but sometimes the clues are easy to misunderstand, or to miss altogether. Learn to dodge eight obstacles that can get in your way. Here's your chance to learn from my mistakes without making them yourself!" Pam Vestal is a full-time genealogist and lecturer in Oregon whose research extends far beyond the Pacific Northwest, with clients all over the U.S. and research that reaches beyond our borders. From family histories to house histories, she tailors her work to the unique needs of each client, but as a professional writer, she specializes in digging into the genealogical facts to tell the ancestors' stories. Whether lecturing to professionals or newcomers to the field, she welcomes the opportunity to share what she has learned through genealogical coursework, conferences and years of on-site and online research.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Monthly programs are free for members and non-members alike. --- [familytreewebinars.com](http://familytreewebinars.com)

## **Why We Should Look at In-Laws When Doing Genealogical Research**

**Wed, Jul 26, 2023: 1:00 PM CDT**

**J. Mark Lowe, FUGA**

Often, when the records of family members can't be easily found, a review of fictive kin and other connections might bring those missing individuals into view. Let's look at some cases when broadening our focus might bring the target directly into our view.

[familytreewebinars.com](http://familytreewebinars.com)

# Find it Online: A Guide to Locating Family Histories On the Web

Wednesday, July 26, 2023 12:00 – 1:00 PM

When you need that one book for your research and your local library doesn't have it ... what do you do? In this course we'll look at numerous resources for locating books, magazines, and other genealogical materials online.

Location: Central Library Computer Lab (LH 4th Floor)

Contact Name Mary Beth Newbill

Contact Phone Number: 205-226-3665

Contact Email: [mary.newbill@cobpl.org](mailto:mary.newbill@cobpl.org)

Registration Required: Yes

## Alabama Genealogical Society Fall Seminar

August 12, 2023 --- 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

See [algensoc.org](http://algensoc.org) for Registration and Pricing

### ***"Building an Alabama Research Toolbox"***

Alabama Department of Archives and History

624 Washington Avenue

Montgomery, Alabama

A New Look at FamilySearch

The FamilySearch Wiki

Alabama Research: Beginner's Guide and Case Study

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Bonus Presentation: Connecting Faces Through Time



Julia Anderson  
FamilySearch  
Library



Lyn Rasmussen  
FamilySearch  
Library



Tina LaFreniere  
Luncheon  
Speaker

# **Indentured Servitude in the Mid-Atlantic States**

July 12, 2023 --- 7:00 PM CDT --- [familytreewebinars.com](http://familytreewebinars.com)

This webinar examines the practice of indentured servitude in the Mid-Atlantic states prior to the Revolutionary War. Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG, FUGA has authored seventeen books and several articles in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, the Magazine of Virginia Genealogy and other genealogical publications. He is the President and CEO of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm with over 8,500 titles in print. A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than thirty-five years, he specializes in military records, problem-solving, Quakers, and publishing. He is a member of the Company of Military Historians and on the editorial board of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly. He is a former Treasurer and Director of the Association of Professional Genealogists. He was a faculty member for several years of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and once at the Genealogical Institute of Pittsburgh. He is currently the Coordinator of the SLIG Guidance and Consultation Track, helping students solved their brick wall problems. He is the host of the @JustGenealogy YouTube channel where he has recorded over 275 videos. He is a recipient of the Grahame T. Smallwood, Jr. Award and UGA Silver Tray Award. He became a Fellow, Utah Genealogical Association in 2014.

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**Newsletter Editor: Caroline Thomas**

## **2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Caroline Thomas, President**

**Vacant, 1st Vice President**

**Vacant, 2nd Vice President**

**Patrick Henry, Secretary**

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**Barbara Tillery, Director**

**Scott Martin, Director**

**Jyl Hardy, Director**

**Mary Beth Newbill, Director**

**Barbara Adams, Director**

**Terri Hicks, Director**

**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**