



PIONEER TRAILS

Newsletter of the Birmingham Genealogical Society



September 2023

BGS August/September Meetings

The BGS Board met at 1:00 PM on Saturday, August 26, 2023 in the Central Library's 1st Floor Meeting Room. The July Minutes and July Treasurer's report were approved. Issues discussed were: future programs, the 2023 Nominating Committee, and the upcoming October election. Five Board Members were present.

- The October General Meeting and Program are cancelled as the Central Library will be closed on October 28, 2023.
- The October Board Meeting will be held on Zoom.
- BGS is up to date on our IRS Form 990N that we file each year.
- The Board voted to hold electronic elections in October of this year as we did in 2021. Please watch for your ballot to come by email in September following the Board Meeting.

The August Program was held at 2:00 PM on August 26, 2023 in the

Southern History Department at the Linn-Henley Building. Four Members were present for a tour of the Archives and Special Collections rooms where we saw a lot of old and interesting pamphlets, bibles, maps, and other documents. Thank you to the library staff for keeping all of these important materials available for us.

Board Member, Terri Hicks, will present the September Program at 2:00 PM on September 23, 2023 in the 1st Floor Meeting Room of the Central Library. Please check our website, Facebook, and Instagram for further information. The Board will meet at 1:00 PM on Saturday, September 23, 2023 in the Central Library's 1st Floor Meeting Room.

Election ballots will be sent by email to all members eligible to vote immediately after the Board Meeting in September. They should be returned with your vote by October 21, 2023. The ballots will be counted and announced at the Zoom Board Meeting on October 28, 2023 at 1:00 PM. The results will be emailed immediately to the membership after the meeting.

Hispanic American Heritage Month Begins September 15



“We celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success. The observation began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988.”

--- Free September Presentations ---

Connecting Generations through Probate and Property

As our research moves back in time, particularly once we've gotten to the 19th century, connecting one generation to the previous generation becomes more difficult. Vital records expressly stating a parent-child relationship are rare. Consequently, to establish kinship we must broaden our research approach. Using case studies, Teri Flack will demonstrate how to use probate and property records to identify family members and connect them to their ancestors.

September 1, 2023 --- 9:15 AM CDT --- familytreewebinars.com

Beyond Names and Dates: Filling in the Stories of Our Female Ancestors

Speaker: Pam Vestal, Professional Genealogist & Lecturer

Monday, 6:00pm CDT ----- **September 11, 2023**

Oklahoma Genealogical Society

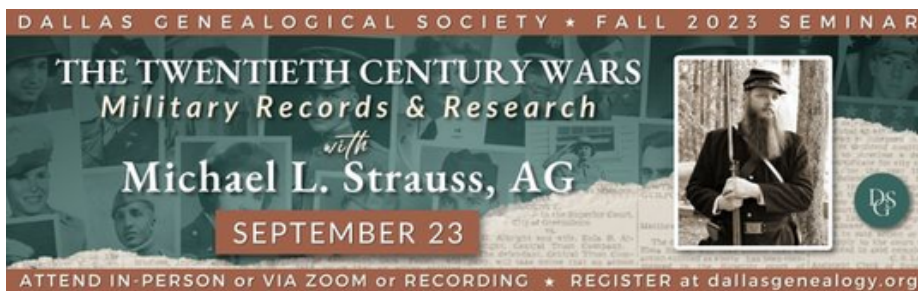
okgensoc.org

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.

For most of recorded time, women didn't leave much of a paper trail, but they still had remarkable stories to tell. Although it may appear that they haven't left many documents behind, deeper research into underutilized records will often lead to a better understanding of the women in our family trees. In this talk, we'll explore a variety of records, and also look at local history, the law, politics, and the cataclysmic events that confronted them to help us bring their hidden stories to light.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

--- Fall Genealogy Conferences ---



Dallas Genealogical Society --- Have you had the experience of ordering your relative's WWII records, only to get charred and missing pages? On **September 23**, genealogical military expert, Michael L. Strauss, will teach us ways to help reconstruct records lost in the devastating 1973 federal fire.

Session 1 9:30-10:40am The Great War: Researching World War I Relatives

At the beginning of this global conflict, fought between 1914 and 1918, the United States officially declared neutrality. On April 6, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany and to mobilize the resources of the United States for the fight ahead. By searching for our ancestors' WWI records, we may also learn about the feelings and attitudes of the public towards this conflict.

Session 2 10:55am-12:05pm World War II

With the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, the United States was plunged into another global conflict. On the battlefield and home front alike, our country mobilized to defeat the Axis powers. Resources include draft registrations, service records, morning reports, as well as records from the home front. This lecture will also feature ways to reconstruct those records most seriously affected by the 1973 fire.

Session 3 12:50-2:00pm Researching the Korean and Vietnam Wars

Following the end of World War II, America became involved in two subsequent wars: the Korean War, fought from 1950-1953 and the Vietnam War (aka 2nd Indochina War), which took place from 1955-1975. The Korean War is often referred to as the twentieth century's "forgotten war", as it was overshadowed by both WWII and the Vietnam War. Resources from all military branches in both wars will be covered, including service records, draft records and morning records.

Session 4 2:15-3:35pm Tracing the Movements of a Military Unit

Knowing where your ancestor's military unit served will help determine the events in which that unit was actively engaged. Understanding the lineage and order of battle for the military unit will assist in knowing the command structure of the organization. This lecture will look at a wide variety of records to trace the steps of military units over multiple war periods.

Registration By Sept. 3: Nonmembers \$60 After Sept. 3: Nonmembers \$80

Minnesota Genealogy Society
16th Annual North Star Genealogy Conference
October 27-28, 2023

Michael Lacopo Plenary Talks

Estate Files: Are You Getting the Most Out of Them?

Genealogists love to find wills and probate records for their ancestors, but are you reading between the lines? How can you milk the most information out of a boring accounting of an estate? What gems are you missing by just stopping at the will book?

The Published County History: A Valuable Research Tool

Those old county histories hold many clues to further your research even though your ancestor may not be directly mentioned. Are you milking these tools for all they are worth?

The Genealogist's Quadfecta

In the age of digital databases and online resources, genealogists forget the four-pronged approach to research onsite: visiting the state Archives, Historical Society, Genealogical Society, and Library. Although the roles of each seem self-explanatory, digging deeper reveals treasure for your research!

Kimberly Powell Plenary Talks

History is Not Boring! Research in Historical Books Online

The answer to many burning genealogical questions can be found buried among the thousands of digitized books available online. In this session we'll explore how to locate books on sites such as Google Books, Internet Archive, HaithiTrust, and FamilySearch Books, and how to use the social, historical, and legal context they provide to advance our research.

Bits & Pieces: Piecing Together Families Despite a Lack of Records

Record loss, deficiencies in record creation, and ancestors who left very few records can leave significant gaps in our family tree. This session will demonstrate alternative strategies for working around the challenges posed by incomplete or missing records to rebuild those missing links and reconstruct forgotten families.

Registration and Pricing: mngs.org/northstar-registration

Check Out These Resources for Hispanic American Heritage Month

- Hispanic Heritage page in Research section of archives.gov
- Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans at federalregister.gov
- Guide to Puerto Rican Records in the National Archives at New York
- Records of the Spanish Governors of Puerto Rico at archives.gov
- Records of the Provisional Government of Cuba, 1906–1909 at archives.gov
- Private Land Claims Records in the National Archives at Riverside
- Spanish Land Grant Records at the New Mexico Commission of Public Records, a NARA Affiliated Archives

Newsletter Editor: Caroline Thomas

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Membership Dues: \$20 Individual \$25 Family