

Virtual Family History Month



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We have a full month of virtual offerings for you! Twenty-two programs are scattered throughout the month, including our new program series, *Wednesdays with Witcher*. Find inspiration with Friday Facebook Questions to ask yourself or family members and learn five Family History Month Genealogy Tips posted on Facebook throughout the month. Lastly, meet sixteen Genealogy Center staff members, who will share their insight into family history in Facebook videos. Join us every day for new family history information!

To learn more or register for the programs, visit [genealogycenter.org](https://www.genealogycenter.org), call 260-421-1225, or email genealogy@acpl.info.

Beginning Virginia Genealogical Research

Tuesday, October 5 • 2:30 pm
Presented by John Beatty

Many families have roots extending back to Virginia. This talk offers an overview for the beginner on the many sources and methods for doing genealogical research in the Old Dominion. We will examine both online tools, books, and how to find original records.

Let's Talk about Listening: Some Practical Advice on Getting More from Our Family Interviews

Wednesday, October 6 • 2:30 pm
Presented by Curt Witcher

Spend a quick 30 minutes with Curt Witcher reviewing how we can put a little spark in our family history activities. Proven strategies will be highlighted on how to listen better and the benefits of doing that listening.

Interpreting DNA Results

Thursday, October 7 • 6:30 pm
Presented by Sara Allen

Looking at mtDNA, Y-chromosome, and autosomal DNA results, we will cover common questions and give general guidance on how to interpret your results. For beginning and intermediate level participants.

Working with Unusual Single Records

Tuesday, October 12 • 2:30 pm
Presented by Cynthia Theusch

Have you found a document, postcard or an article in a collection that was given to you, and don't know how they connect to the family? This program will show you ways to find the connections, friends, neighbors or family

What Are You Going to Do with All That Stuff?! Preparing Our Research for the Future

Wednesday, October 13 • 2:30 pm
Presented by Curt Witcher

There are some basic steps we can take to help ensure our research lives beyond our years, or not.

Watching Historical Context: Using Historical Videos

Thursday, October 14 • 6:30 pm
Presented by
Allison DePrey Singleton

While researching our family trees, often we wish we could see what life was like for our ancestors. For some, we have that opportunity with early films found on the Library of Congress website and more. Learn how you might use these videos and find some for where your ancestors lived.



All-Day Opportunities on Friday, October 15

A series of eight video programs recorded specifically for this event will be presented this Friday. The programs are provided by the Genealogy Network of Texas (GNT), an initiative to connect libraries and genealogical societies as well as provide educational and research opportunities. Spearheaded by the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library, topics covered will include NARA, timelines, a genealogy beginner's class, German town of origin records access, using ancestral origins to identify ethnic heritage, building historical context, understanding motivations of migration, DNA tools, understanding social history, and maps as a tool. The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library is collaborating with the Genealogy Network of Texas to provide these programs for individuals who register through our Center.

9:00 to 9:50 am

NARA Mythbusters: Your Family IS in the Archives

Presented by Judy G Russell, JD, CG, CGL, *The Legal Genealogist*

Sponsored by Friends of Corpus Christi Public Libraries

"All the military records were burned in the fire." "There isn't any birth, marriage, or death information in federal records." "There aren't any details about ordinary families at the National Archives." These kinds of myth-statements stop genealogists from breaking down all kinds of brick walls using the wealth of information in NARA records. Join the mythbusters with the treasures the National Archives holds for your family.

10:00 to 10:50 am

Methodology: Using Timelines to Focus Your Research

Presented by Susan Ball, *President TxSGS*

The most important tool you can use to research your ancestor is a timeline. Learn how to construct a timeline for your ancestor and how to use it.

11:00am to 12:15 pm

Beginning Genealogy Workshop

Presented by Kathy Huber, *MLS, Director of the Tulsa Genealogy Center, Hardesty Public Library*

This workshop will explain the steps necessary to begin your family history research and introduce useful records that will assist you in getting started on the right track. Exploring some basic genealogy research records, we'll discuss how to locate and use them to your advantage. Bring lunch and join us for this informative and fun workshop.

All-Day Opportunities on Friday, October 15 (cont.)

12:25 to 1:30 pm

So, You've Found Your German Town of Origin, Now What?

Presented by Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG

Sponsored by Waco-McLennan County Library

Finding your ancestor's town of origin can be exciting. Once this piece of information is found, you might be left wondering how to get records from the other side of the ocean. This lecture focuses on how to get records for German towns. Highlights include: verifying the location, strategies for identifying misspelled town names, finding historical jurisdictions, finding records for that town, useful aids for reading those records, tips for hiring a professional genealogist in Germany, when necessary.

1:40 to 2:35 pm

Fingerprinting Our Families: Using Ancestral Origins as a Genealogical Research Key

Presented by Curt B. Witcher, MLS, FUGA, IGSF Manager, The Genealogy Center Senior Manager, Special Collections, Allen County Public Library

Explore how the concept of "America, the Great Melting Pot" may really be a flawed concept. Identifying the ethnic group of one's ancestor or potential ancestor can pay some significant research dividends. Topics covered include how to build a historical context for one's ancestor, studying population clusters, paying attention to patterns of all sorts (naming, migration, settlement, etc.), understanding the motivations of migration, and locating resource repositories.

2:45 to 4:00 pm

Attacking 18th and 19th Century Mysteries with DNA

Presented by Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D., *The Genetic Genealogist*

Sponsored by Waco-McLennan County Library

You have an arsenal of Secret DNA Weapons at your fingertips! These tools can help you attack those mysteries from the 1900s and 1800s! Learn to harness the power of Shared Matching to pull out matches related via a mystery ancestor, how to build Research Trees to quickly identify common ancestry, and more!

4:10 to 5:00 pm

Filling in the Family Stories

Presented by Susan Kaufman, Senior Manager, Houston Public Library, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

Understand the context in which your family lived, celebrated, cooked, listened to music, and other daily activities that all help provide the stories that make our families come alive. Stories in context go beyond just a name, date and place on a pedigree chart. Social history helps us to better understand lives, provides context to our research, adds interest to the pedigree chart, and can also lead to additional records.

5:10 to 6:00 pm

Discover Genealogical Treasure Using Historic U.S. Maps

Presented by Hannah Kubacak, Genealogy Librarian, Genealogy Center Waco-McLennan County Library

Maps provide a valuable tool for understanding the world as it was when our ancestors were living. Explore a variety of resources for finding and using historic maps, including Fire Insurance maps, county boundaries, Public Land Survey System maps, and land grants.

Researching Tennessee and Kentucky Ancestors

Tuesday, October 19 • 2:30 pm
Presented by Sara Allen

Learn how to track your Tennessee and Kentucky ancestors, including the best print sources, physical repositories and online resources.

Wait, What? You Want to Know My Story? How Telling One's Own Story Can Get Other Family Members Interested in Their History

Wednesday, October 20 • 2:30 pm
Presented by Curt Witcher

Hear how interest in you, your life experiences, and your thoughts and musings, can generate unexpected and welcome interest from other family members.

Family Food: Using Family Recipes for Family History

Friday, October 21 • 6:30 pm
Presented by
Allison DePrey Singleton

As we approach the holidays, it is time to start thinking about how family recipes can help us learn about our family history. Learn how family recipes can be used to bring back memories and encourage family story sharing.

Using Scholars to Leverage Your African American Research Success

Saturday, October 23 • 1:00 pm
Presented by Tim Pinnick

Significant amounts of research and writings have been compiled on engaging in African American family history. An expert in the field will guide participants through the process of finding and using these works to one's greatest advantage.

The Salem Witchcraft Trials of 1692: History and Sources

Tuesday, October 26 • 2:30 pm
Presented by John Beatty

The trials and executions of the men and women charged with witchcraft at Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692 has become an iconic event in American history. Many genealogists today are descendants of one of these unfortunates or one or more of their accusers. This talk provides an overview of the event and discusses some of the historical and genealogical sources for researching this event.

Putting the Family Back into Family History: Adding Context and Character to Our Ancestors

Wednesday, October 27 • 2:30 pm
Presented by Curt Witcher

Enjoy seeing some unusual records and sources helpful in truly finding family stories.

Brick Walls and Busting Through Them

Thursday, October 28 • 6:30 pm
Presented by
The Genealogy Center Staff

Did you submit a brick wall question to us for our Facebook prompt? If so, you might be one of the lucky few to have your question answered live during this brick wall session!

After Hours with The Genealogy Center

Friday, October 29 • 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Presented by
The Genealogy Center Staff

Have you ever wanted to chat with a genealogist or just hang out with one after the library closes? This is your opportunity. Genealogy Center staff members will be hosting a virtual hang out session for you!



Friday Facebook Questions

October 1

Who is your favorite ancestor and why?

October 8

What is the biggest surprise in your research?

October 15

When did the majority of your ancestors immigrate?

October 22

Where did you have to travel to find family history materials?

October 29

Why did you start your family history research?

Tips

Monday, October 4

Find That “Photo” Negative Vibe with Kay Spears

Monday, October 11

ArkivDigital for Swedish Research with Sara Allen

Monday, October 18

Are Your Ancestors from Luxembourg?
with Cynthia Theusch

Monday, October 25

Choose the Right Image File with Kay Spears

Sunday, October 31

Using Matricula Online to find Eastern European Church Records with Sara Allen

Meet the Genealogy Center

Staff will introduce themselves and share what they do at the Genealogy Center and/or how they became interested in family history research. These videos will be posted on the Genealogy Center Facebook page.

Saturday, October 2
Curt Witcher

Wednesday, October 13
Michele Carroll

Sunday, October 24
Sarah Wright

Sunday, October 3
Charlotte Li

Saturday, October 16
McKayla Friskney

Wednesday, October 27
Sara Allen

Wednesday, October 6
Cynthia Theusch

Sunday, October 17
Elizabeth Hodges

Saturday, October 30
Adam Barrone

Saturday, October 9
Kasia Young

Monday, October 18
Kathy Burd

Sunday, October 31
Allison DePrey Singleton

Sunday, October 10
Kay Spears

Wednesday, October 20
John Beatty

Sunday, October 11
Melissa Tennant

Saturday, October 23
Aaron Smith





Allen County Public Library

900 Library Plaza
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

(260) 421-1225

genealogy@acpl.info

www.genealogycenter.org

Visit us during regular library hours for full access to our physical and digital collection. Our staff is available to assist with your family history research.

Monday-Thursday	9:00 am-9:00 pm
Friday-Saturday	9:00 am-6:00 pm
Sunday	12:00 pm-5:00 pm

CONNECT WITH OUR GENEALOGY STAFF!

 facebook.com/genealogycenter

 [@acplgenealogy](https://twitter.com/acplgenealogy)

 [@genealogycenter](https://instagram.com/genealogycenter)

 pinterest.com/allencountylib/genealogy