



Trilogy Genealogy Club Newsletter May 2022

Our May Meeting

Our guest speaker was Carleen Watts, a retired Federal Investigator, who talked to us about applying professional investigation techniques to Family History.

Carleen's mother became interested (obsessed) with her genealogy years ago, and she was able to trace her German and English roots back to the eighteenth century (and, in some cases, even further back). Then she started on Carleen's father's side and hit a few brick walls with Cherokee lines. Carleen has since picked up the torch and, thanks to Ancestry DNA, has uncovered some interesting tidbits about who her 4Xs great grandfather was.

Carleen's presentation featured three investigative tools she used to determine the origin of an antique secretary (upright desk) passed down through her family. This presentation was fascinating, and the slides will be posted on the website soon.

Carleen has published a book, *Proving Richard Cranch*, which provides a detailed account of her research (investigation) into the provenance of her family's eighteenth-century Boston secretary given to her mother over 65 years ago, an old gentleman with the last name of Dawes. Researching all of his genealogy lines and digging out ancient public records enabled her to identify who once owned this magnificent piece in his family. Her search took her all the way back to Richard Cranch, Mr. Dawes' great, great grandfather. In addition to being a Revolutionary War Patriot, Cranch was married to Abigail Adams' sister and best friend to John Adams.

The 1950 Census

The 1950 census is now available on the National Archives website. The AWS (Amazon Web Services) artificial intelligence program has indexed it, but converting many people's handwriting requires human review and editing. You can help by verifying your family's information and making any corrections needed. The official site for the 1950 census managed by the National archives is:

<https://1950census.archives.gov/>

To find your family, go to that site, click on search, and enter the state, county/city, and the first and/or last name of the person you are researching. I quickly found my family this way. If you can't find the person you are looking for, they may not be indexed or indexed incorrectly. You may still be able to find

them by scanning the original records for the enumeration district in which they lived. Ancestry has a tool to help you identify the enumeration district.

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/district-map/62308>

For example, my grandfather lived in Hudson, Columbia, New York. When I type this into the search field, it brings up a street map of Hudson showing all the numerous enumeration districts. By zooming and panning, I could locate the area where he lived and found the enumeration district. I went back to <https://1950census.archives.gov/> and obtained images of the original census records for that district.

The artificial intelligence engine's fast indexing of the census is a breakthrough for genealogists. For the last 25 years or so, Ancestry, MyHeritage, Findmypast, FamilySearch, American Ancestors, and others have spent enormous resources and manual labor indexing records, so we can quickly locate them using search engines. AWS has proven to be capable of doing this much faster and more efficiently than manual techniques. Look for this approach to be used in the future to make a lot more records available online for easy access. We may be entering a new era for family history research.

A New Webmaster

I am happy to say that we have a new webmaster, Laurie Rahn. Her email is laurie.rahn@icloud.com. You can also contact her through the site by clicking on the webmaster link at the bottom of every page.

Our New Website

We are now entirely moved over to our new website, <https://www.tvagenealogy.club>. All but a handful of members have responded to the invitation to join and set up their passwords. For those few who did not, your invitations have expired, and you are missing out on a great resource containing a vast amount of information. If, in the future, you decide you would like to join the site, send an email to the webmaster or me, and we will verify your club membership and issue you a new invitation.

From the Board Meeting

The May board meeting was held Thursday, May 5, 2022. The minutes will be posted on the website, but here are a few items that might be of interest.

1. Most of our paid members now have their new badges. There are about ten members who have not picked them up yet. Trey has them and will try to contact you individually to make arrangements to get them to you.
2. Hattie raised an issue concerning the room set up for meetings. We have had the first few rows set up with tables facing the front of the space in the past, and recently the staff has set the room up with all chairs and no tables. We didn't request this, and I believe it may be because the STEM club meets in the room on the evening of that day, and the all chairs configuration is what the STEM club requires. Some members have said they prefer the tables so they can take notes. I will speak to Kiva management about this issue.

Arizona Pioneers

Were any of you or your ancestors living in Arizona before April 1, 1950? If so, AZGAB, the people who sponsored Arizona Family History Day, have a very cool frameable certificate for you. If your ancestors were here before February 14, 1912, when Arizona became a state, you qualify for an Arizona Pioneer Descendant Certificate. If they or you came after that, but before April 1, 1950, you are eligible for an Arizona Second Wave Certificate. For more information and a copy of an application, visit their website at www.azgab.org, or email them at certificates@azgabn.org.

Genealogy Quick Hint of the Month

How do I evaluate hints received from Ancestry, MyHeritage, etc.?

That shaking leaf on Ancestry and e hints from MyHeritage can be a great help. The sites will even email you to tell you they found something new for you. But is the hint valid, and should you accept it? Here are some guidelines for dealing with hints and records provided by various online programs.

1. Take your time and examine the hint closely. Compare the data to what you already know about that ancestor. Does it fit? Often the tip is about someone else with a similar name. If it doesn't work, discard it. If data is or might be about your ancestor, don't use it just yet, move on to the next step.
2. Does the hint include a digitized record? If so, always examine the document. Is it an original or just a copy of someone else's opinion? If the data is from someone else's tree or from a large, shared tree that is users complete, be careful. These items are hints only, and they may give you a place to look for proof, but you should never accept them as fact. You can record them as "to be proven" in your notes, but don't accept them into your online tree and potentially spread false information.
3. If the record is not an original record, look to see if references are provided. For example, a memorial on FindaGrave or user supplied entry on a shared tree may contain references to valuable original records.
4. If you believe the hint is correct, enter the data yourself. **Never allow an online service to add a new branch to your tree.** Should it be proven wrong, removing it can be a lot of work. Add one person at a time and check that each one is correct before adding them to your tree.
5. If you accept a hint, correct any errors that you find. For example, you should always record women by their maiden name. Many online records use their married name. If you don't know the maiden name, leave it blank or put unknown. Also, look for any other errors or typos the record may contain.
6. Always record the source of any information you add to your tree.

Upcoming Meetings

June 6, 2022

In June, we will focus on research. If you are struggling or just need some new ideas, this will be a great meeting for you. We will view a webinar by our old friend James Tanner on researching your family history. James spoke to the club several times while working at the Family History Center in Mesa. After the Family History Center closed, he moved to Utah and is currently at BYU. In addition to his teaching and research at BYU, he is a frequent speaker at Rootstech and conducts online courses.

James is an excellent speaker who explains everything clearly. This hour-long video provides helpful information from a real expert on Family History Research. If any questions arise during James' talk, we will stop the video and discuss them. The goal is to make this a valuable learning experience for everyone attending.

We will then have a research Q&A to address any questions and issues you may have. In addition, I have some bonus material I know you will enjoy if we have time.

Genealogy Summer School

Our club secretary, Hattie Dixon, will host "summer school" working sessions during our regular meeting hours in July and August. Some of our club experts will be joining her to answer questions and provide assistance with your Family History.

Just need a kickstart? This meeting is an excellent opportunity for beginners wondering where to go next, midlevel searchers who are stuck, and advanced researchers who'd like to share their skills with others. No speakers or microphones; simply a chance to get hands-on use of some of the tricks we have learned this year. The Kiva Club has good Wi-Fi connectivity; bring your computer and/or worksheets to focus on one or two ancestors--or 3 or 4 questions on "how to...". This will be one-on-one sharing. If more than six show up, it might be one on two or three.

- Hints and ways to work with Family Tree Maker (app. for [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com))
- General searching on the Internet for your ancestor or family
- Help to focus on one problem (avoiding the shiny stuff).

Meetings will be held in the Kiva Club Center for Higher Learning:

- Monday, July 11, 2022, starting at 1:00 PM,
- Monday, August 1, 2022, starting at 1:00 PM.

September 12, 2022

The first Monday of the month is Labor Day, so the meeting will be held on the 12th. Trey and I will be out of town that day so Vicki Reisenfeld will be hosting the meeting. The topic will be announced before the meeting. Vicki and I are discussing several great ideas, and I know you will enjoy this meeting.

October 3, 2022

In October, our guest speaker will be Kristen Mercker. The title of her talk is Style, Story, and Substance. Kristen lives out of state and will be joining us via Zoom.

Kristen will share her visual system for staying organized and consistent while researching different lineages. She currently manages THIRTEEN lineages, and she can find anything within a few minutes. Then she will share research ideas and examples for creating a rich family story that goes beyond the data to paint a picture of our ancestors, how they lived and what was important to them.

Kristen has always been a storyteller at heart. She studied radio, film, and television at Northwestern University, which led to her career as a Writer, Producer, and Director. She brought her entertainment and visual storytelling approach to corporate clients who were looking for new ways of engaging their employees. Her clients did not have Hollywood budgets, so she often took a documentary-style approach. Those experiences honed her

In the 1990s, her parents caught the genealogy bug and started their research. Her professional skills were a natural fit for this hobby, and as a young mother looking for an intellectual challenge, she joined them on the treasure hunt.

In the process, she gained a genealogical knowledge of German and Latin, with a smattering of Danish. She has forayed through weedy, snake-ridden fields to find family cemeteries, composited 18th-century cadastral maps with 21st century Google maps, and submitted one family history to the Library of Congress, meaning she is “published.”

November 7, 2022

The November meeting will be our only workshop for the year. Last year we held two, and all who attended said they enjoyed them and that we should do more. There will be a few short presentations, but then you will have the opportunity to explore your family history, ask questions, get help, and help others with their problems. If you have a notebook computer or an iPad, bring it to the meeting. If not, you can borrow one from Member Services. If you need help or if you are willing to help others, this is a meeting you won't want to miss.

Also, in November, we will finalize the nominations for our 2023 officers. Trey and I are both term-limited out, and we MUST fill those positions for the club to continue operating. Please consider stepping forward to keep the club going.

December 5, 2022

In December, we will announce the officers for 2023.

December will be my last meeting, so I would like to share *My Journey through Family History and Lessons Learned Along the way*.

Looking Forward to 2023

Trey and I are both term-limited out as of the end of 2022. In the Fall, we will be looking for candidates to replace us. To make things easier and create a smooth transition, we have already booked outside speakers for January and February of 2023. The new officers will, of course, be free to change these plans, but we know from first-hand experience that lining up speakers on short notice when you first get started is very difficult.

We will also be looking for volunteers to organize the 2023 Family History Conference. Neither Trey nor I will be involved with this once we leave office. We will, however, try to recruit the organizing committee in the Fall and get them started in the right direction. Please consider joining this committee.

This Month's Banner

This month's banner features two colonial-era homes in Windsor, Connecticut. Walter Fyler built the initial section of the red one in 1640. Walter came to the new world as a boy on the Mary and John in 1630 with his mother and sister. His mother married John Hoskins either on the ship or shortly after their arrival in Dorchester, Massachusetts Bay Colony. In 1635, John and Anne, along with over one hundred other settlers from Dorchester, moved their family to central Connecticut, where they founded the town of Windsor. Today, Walter's House, which has been dramatically expanded in size over the centuries, is the Windsor Historical Society's home.

The white house was built in 1750 by the great-grandson of John Hoskins, who also was named John Hoskins, on the property first settled by John and Anne. The house is still standing and is a private home.

John Hoskins and Anne Fyler are two of my immigrant ancestors. Finding them in history and discovering how they lived, what challenges they faced, and what hardships they overcame is an excellent example of why I enjoy family history.

Your Feedback is Appreciated

- How can the Trilogy Genealogy Club help you with your Family History?
- What ideas or suggestions do you have for future meetings?
- How can we improve what we are doing for the benefit of our members? Please write to me at rsalford@gmail.com. I'm listening.