



West Houston Area Genealogy Society



"Helping to Find Your Roots!"

February 2022

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Presenting Virtually!

Speaking at our hybrid presentation on February 19 is Linda Worsham. Her topic is "Best Practices for Writing Family Stories." All of us have family stories we want to record or share with others. Linda will share with us tips and techniques to help us write those stories and information on how to

publish our family history stories!

Save the Date!

**February 19, 2022**

Saturday!!

The meeting opens at **10:00 am and the program will begin at 10:30 a.m..** We will be meeting in person at the **Steve Rad-dack Center at 18650 Clay Road or you can attend**



virtually.

Register at **www.whags.org** to attend virtually.



*"Every man is a quotation from all his ancestors."*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Best Practices for Writing your Family History" by Linda Worsham & Jenny Sharrer©

Many of us never write our family history because we don't write that first sentence. Let's avail ourselves of three things to help us with that first sentence: 1) attend the upcoming

presentation de- scribed herein, 2) answer a few ques- tions, and 3) con- sider purchasing an additional 'how to' book, or two, on how to write that history!

**1. Upcoming presentation:**

George Bernard Shaw, the Irish play- wright, once wrote, "If you cannot get rid of the family skele- ton, you may as well make it dance."

Cont. on pg 3



## *The President's Note....*

### **West Houston Area Genealogy Society Mid Program Year Report**

We have reached the midpoint of the 2021-2022 WHAGS program year and are looking forward to the next. Our membership is growing. Hopefully, it will continue to grow in the coming years. Membership dues and donations are WHAGS primary sources of income, providing quality programming and services to our members. These member benefits include:

- the Members only section of the WHAGS website
- the WHAGS newsletter
- the DNA special interest group (SIG)
- Members Helping Members sessions
- WHAGS RelativeFinder site on FamilySearch
- WHAGS trip to Clayton Library

Providing these benefits and others, in addition to the monthly programs and the administration of WHAGS, requires the time and effort of dedicated members. Without volunteers, WHAGS would be a shell of an organization and many of the things we enjoy and benefit from, would not be possible. Most of us have busy lives outside of WHAGS. All of us would like to spend more time doing our genealogy research and writing.

This year as we moved into hybrid meetings, some members have volunteered and provided refreshments for in-person attendees; welcomed visitors and new members; helped with setup and takedown of the room; worked on committees; served in leadership roles; etc. A successful society needs many people to maintain its viability. Some areas where WHAGS needs help are:

- Programming committee and chairperson
- Marketing/Publicity committee and chairperson
- Telephone committee and chairperson
- Audit committee and chairperson
- Master Files committee and chairperson
- Library committee and chairperson
- Membership committee
- Vice President candidates
- Director candidates
- Volunteers for the workshop on May 14
- Volunteers to host Members Helping Members (no expertise required)
- Articles for the newsletter
- Articles for the website
- Ancestor photos and stories for the website
- Family history SIG coordinator
- Anything you might like to do

Volunteering is also a great way to get to know fellow members. Please consider volunteering, it takes all of us to make WHAGS successful.

## Cont'd from page 1

There will be a mix of people among our ancestors. Let's write about them and make them come alive instead of keeping them hidden in the closet!

Our speaker will make suggestions of how to write our family histories And where to publish them. We will learn new skills for writing about our relatives, as well as how to illustrate our stories to make them more appealing. The presentation will also provide an exercise to motivate each of us to get started writing our very own family history. Save the date and join the society, either in-person or on Zoom, on the 19th!

### 2. Questions to consider:

What is my purpose for writing a family history?

- What is my purpose for writing a family history?
- Who is my audience?
- Will I just focus on facts?
- Will I strive to give my audience some thrills?



- How will I inspire my descendants to read and understand where they came from?
- Will I publish my family history?
- If I wish to publish, where will I publish ?

### 3. How to books for writing family histories:

There is an overwhelming amount of information available to assist with writing your family history. Here is sample of books available:

- *A Recipe for Writing Family History*, 2017, Devon Noel Lee & Andrew Lee, 100 pgs. Available on Amazon for \$9.99.
- *Reimagine Family History*, 2019, Devon Noel Lee & Andrew Lee, 96 pgs. Available on Amazon for \$9.99.
- *Writing a Captivating Family History*, 2015, Gary W. Clark, 50 pgs. Available on Amazon for \$5.95.
- *Writing your Family History*. 90 pgs. Available at <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/product/writing-your-family-history/> Download for \$19.99

*"If you don't know history, you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree."*

— *Michael Crichton*

## "A Place in Time — Personal Experiences Make for Great Stories to Pass On!" by Joe Carrington

Editor's Note: All of us have stories to tell. The following are some examples from Joe about his childhood. I'd bet his kids love these stories and will pass them along. They do make for great teachable moments!

From Joe:

I don't know if this goes under "words of wisdom" or "what I've learned for sure" but here goes. When I was about 17 months of age, I was out in the front yard of the apartments where my mother and I lived. This would have been in October of 1944. My father was in the war at the time. My mother and I were going through the potty training process, and I had learned how to "aim." I was out in the yard with only diaper and a small shirt on. I saw the largest caterpillar I had ever seen. It was very fuzzy and black. Well, I brought all of my training into play and took careful aim and "peed" all over it. I then took my barefoot and stomped. At this point, I learned wisdom, "Never pee on a caterpillar and stomp it barefooted be-



cause it stings like HELL."

Retrieved from: <https://scienceblogs.com/grrlscientist/2007/10/27/giant-leopard-moth-caterpillar> on 27 Jan 2022.

Editor's Note: Go here to learn more about

the "asp of Texas." Many stings at once sent me to the hospital as a child.

<https://www.click2houston.com/health/2018/11/12/5-things-to-know-asps-poisonous-stinging-caterpillars-in-season/>

They appear black but when they roll up show red to orange color.

Back to Joe:

Another thing I learned was at the age of 5 was: "Never throw a large rock straight up in the air without moving out of the way. It will come down." At the age of 6, I found out that if you run the garden hose through your bedroom window and turn it on, "you cannot create a swimming pool in your bedroom." My sister, who was two years older helped me learn this lesson. I think it was also about the time she was going through a phase and wanted to know what would happen if she hit me in the head with a baseball bat. Now, we both know.

That was the same year that I learned something when my small dog and I were out walking. We were walking through a vacant lot when a neighbor's bulldog spotted my little dog and took out after him. I, being very brave at the time, decided to protect my little dog by stepping in front of the bulldog, between my dog and the bulldog. That bulldog didn't even slow down when he ran over me. I woke up sometime later flat on my back looking up at some of the neighbors who came over after they heard the "thunk" when my head hit the ground.

I'll end my "great stories to pass on" with this thought, "there are a lot of things to be learned from life, if you can only live through it. I agree with Robert Fulghum in his book, "All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten."

What stories do you have to pass on? Share Your "Stories of Our Lives!" on FB or here!

## “Getting to Know Your Genes: A Personal Example” by Mark Winzenburg ©

I have been searching for the parents of Jane Rickard, one of my 3rd great grandparents, for many years. Below is how I used DNA to advance that search.

My pedigree: Jane Rickard > Nancy Rickard > Mary McLaren > Wallace Huppler > Mary Lou Huppler > Mark Winzenburg (me).

Jane Rickard (abt 1792-1839) is buried at Rickard Cemetery, Euphemia Township, Lambton County, Ontario, Canada, on land that was once part of the Rickard farm. Her gravestone says she is the wife of Thomas Rickard, buried next to her. His gravestone lists him as a native of Nova Scotia. My mom’s brother, who had access to the family bible and interviewed the older generation, prepared a family tree in the 1970s. My uncle lists her maiden name as Jane McDermand. From family and census records, I know that many of the Rickard children and grandchildren were Baptist. It seems likely that Thomas and Jane were Baptist. Several of Jane’s grandchildren list Nova Scotia as the place where their mothers, Mary Ann Rickard and Margaret Rickard, were born. It seems probable that Jane Rickard lived in Nova Scotia and married there before coming to Ontario.

So, who were Jane McDermand Rickard’s parents? The 1894 book “A Genealogy and History of the Chute Family in America...” lists a Jane McDormand as member of the Robert McDormand family of Nova Scotia. Most of that family moved from Nova Scotia to Southwest Ontario about 1811. They were prominent Baptists, including several ministers. After moving to Ontario, the McDormand family changed the spelling of their name to McDermand. My hypothesis

is that Jane Rickard was born Jane McDormand, later Jane McDermand.

Traditional genealogy has not gotten me very far. The Jane McDormand of Nova Scotia was the daughter of Robert McDormand (1755-1840) and Mary Morrell (1756-1832). Jane McDormand’s christening in 1794 is recorded in the Nova Scotia archives, but I could find no record of her marriage or death. The McDormand family are well documented as early adopters of the Baptist faith in Nova Scotia. Most vital records were kept by the churches, and few of the Baptist records survive.

Turning to Ancestry DNA, I found that I have over 30 DNA matches with descendants of the Nova Scotia McDormand family. These matches form a cluster of over 60 people, including my Rickard cousins, who match each other. One of the McDormand DNA matches is 42 cM. Several more are in the 20-30 cM range. This amount of shared DNA is significant, not coincidental. I researched the family tree of each of these matches back to a common McDormand ancestor in Nova Scotia. This autosomal DNA evidence supports my hypothesis, but does not prove it. My connection to the Nova Scotia McDormand family may be through some other ancestor, possibly even Jane’s husband, Thomas Rickard.

Several years ago, I found Scott F. as a new Ancestry DNA match. After looking at his family tree, I realized Scott’s dad, John F., was my third cousin. John F. is a matrilineal descendant of Nancy Rickard McLaren (1838-1920), Jane’s youngest child and my 2nd great grandmother. John agreed to take a full sequence mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test from Family Tree DNA (FTDNA).

***Cont’d on page 7.***

## "Resources to Broaden Your Knowledge—Oklahoma " by Linda Hudson ©

Most of us can recall learning about the land run events of the late 1800s that divided up land of former Indian Territory to settlers seeking land. The first "run or-rush" occurred in 1885. The last and smallest took place in 1895. You might have seen the movie, "Far and Away," starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. While the movie is more about their relationship and the trials of making it in America, it does recount the scene of wagons furiously trying to beat each other to land that could be staked out and claimed. Some 55,000 people were there on April 22, 1889 hoping to stake a legal claim. "Sooners" were the settlers who cheated and staked their territory before the legal date.



Retrieved from: <https://sites.google.com/a/isd477.org/apr22lmpms7w/main> on 28 Jan 2022.

This plan was developed as more non-Native American people wanted to settle the land and remove the Native Americans from the unassigned territory. Approximately two million acres would be made available to settlers. Eventually, the U.S. government removed most of the Indian Territory from Indian control. A settler could claim 160 acres of land and receive title, if they lived on, and improved, the property during the next five years. Women were able to do this despite the fact they could not vote. And the women settling the west received their right to vote before women in the Eastern states. Later,

the State of Oklahoma would be created in 1907 in this region.

If your ancestors lived in Oklahoma and were there in the late 1800s, they may have obtained land via one of these events? If that is possible, how do you find out?

To begin your search, go here:

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oklahoma\\_Land\\_and\\_Property](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oklahoma_Land_and_Property)

FamilySearch has information on Indian Lands, how they were sectioned, and claimed, and provides access to digitized records available through it or NARA. There are lists that identify who claimed territory. There are also land records that identify the tract of land, and the number of acres.

Owning land throughout history meant something. It still does. It is a wonderful thing to be able to research and see how long ago your family had a stake in this area. What a story to tell to your descendants about how the family must have lined up at the border of the territory and raced for their pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Perhaps, they participated in a lottery and hit the land jackpot!

If you had ancestors in the Oklahoma Territory, it is well worth a look to check your lines in these resources. There are also resources for various areas of the Plains States beyond Oklahoma Territory!

Happy Searching!!

#### References:

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oklahoma\\_Land\\_and\\_Property](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oklahoma_Land_and_Property) Date: 30 Jan 2022

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-oklahoma-land-rush-begins> Date: 30 Jan 2022

<https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=UN001> Date: 30 Jan 2022

## "All Aboard!! For a Bus trip to Clayton Library!"

by Jenny Sharrer

Ever been to Clayton? "No, never!" "Yes, but not in a long time." "Went recently but would like to go again."

If you are up for an organized trip to do genealogy research at the Clayton Library, here is the arrangement your society has with the Library and Precinct 3 for a bus trip to Clayton.

**Date:** Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Times:** Leave from the Radack Community Center at 9 a.m. Leave the Library at 3 p.m. for the return trip.

Irene Walters will be our 'guide' for a tour and overview of the Library. Because of COVID restrictions, this will be somewhat abbreviated. We will then have the opportunity to do individual research. The library is fully staffed on Wednesdays which will allow for one-on-one assistance. Jenny Sharrer will be in touch with those confirming participation to learn how the Library staff can help with your research.

This will allow the staff to be prepared to assist with individual research. It is expected that some will just want to search on their own.

Email Jenny at [jennysharrer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jennysharrer@sbcglobal.net) **only** if you are sure you will participate. The bus is limited to 26 people, so let her know when your participation is definite.

Additional details will be provided once your participation is confirmed. Let's have some shared fun and excitement as we learn more about our ancestors.



<https://transit.harriscountytexas.gov/pages/aboutus.aspx> Retrieved 27 Jan 2022.

### *Cont'd from page 5.*

The mtDNA results were haplogroup **H1k1** with four additional mutations. This means that Nancy Rickard McLaren, Jane McDermant Rickard, and Mary Morrell McDormand were all H1k1, as would be all of their female line descendants. Using traditional genealogy, I started building family trees for as many of Mary Morrell's female line descendants as I could locate. After several years, I discovered Sherry A., a living descendant of Mary Morrell, through Mary's daughter, Nancy Ann Dormand. Sherry agreed to take the FTDNA mtDNA test, and I recently received the results.

This allows the staff to be prepared to dual

Sherry is haplogroup H1k1 and an EXACT match (zero genetic distance) to my cousin John F. The mtDNA match proves that John and Sherry have a common female ancestor in the past thousand years or so. Is this common ancestor Mary Morrell? I'm 99% convinced of it but recognize that this is still not proof. So, I continue my search for records!

Image: Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/07/books/suit-says-sherlock-belongs-to-the-ages.html> 30 Jan 2022.



## “Helping to Find Your Roots!”

The Leadership Team has really turned up the heat on preparing WHAGS’ first-ever Genealogy Beginner’s Workshop! All committees and individuals are hard at work, hoping to make this endeavor a positive experience for all. We have the venue. We have the speakers. We have a number of our members who have volunteered their support and ideas.

We need more volunteers to support the sessions where attendees go through hands-on tutorials using Ancestry.com and FamilySearch. You don’t need to be an expert. Our guests will be learning only the basic aspects of each program.\*

The two sessions will run from 12:15 to 1:45. That’s only an hour and a half.

The workshop will be held on May 14, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fire House on Saums Road. If you can help in any capacity, please contact someone from the list below!! See the membership list on the website for phone numbers or emails!

Thank you for participating in this event. When we share our knowledge, everyone benefits!!

Venue— Tom Woltz  
 Hospitality — Meg Philpot  
 Small Group\* — Linda Hudson



Retrieved from: <http://www.evangelistalab.org/2019/01/fortecon-2018/>  
 Retrieved on: 06 Feb 22 Retrieved on: 28 Jan 2022

## Editor’s Corner: With Appreciation!! By Linda Hudson

Hi WHAGS members,

As I put this newsletter together and read quotes about writing family history, I came across this one by Hodding S. Carter. *“There are only two lasting bequests we can give our children — one is roots, and the other wings.”*

I come from a large family, like many of us. Both of my parents had six siblings, which added up to 24 aunts and uncles. My mom’s family was always together. My dad’s parents passed before I was born. I only knew his sisters. In my mom’s family, there were 27 first cousins and we got together for anniversaries, birthdays, deer season, Christmas (no presents exchanged), and summer BBQs.

Today, most of my cousins live else-

where. On my tree, I have two kids and a brother who has two kids. Those four kids know each other, but they rarely see each other. Their lives have them all over the U.S. I have a ranch that my folks retired to that will one day pass to my kids. I don’t know that they will live here. I have hopes that the land that connects us to our roots will be blessed by the next generation who will choose to embrace it. I hope they will be proud and happy for their wealth of history, and maybe have some babies. I hope their roots give them wings — so they can leave and fly back!

All my best, Linda



# West Houston Area Genealogy Society (WHAGS)

*Helping to find your roots*

Our monthly meeting will be hybrid...both in-person and on Zoom. For the latest event updates, visit our website at [www.whags.org](http://www.whags.org)

Everyone researching for ancestors...*Novice to Expert*...is invited to participate!

## Calendar of Events - 2021-2022 August-May

### August

17 10-12 am WHAGS Leadership Team Meeting

### September

9 10-12 am DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)

14 10-12 am WHAGS Leadership Team Meeting

18 10-12:30 am Betsy Mills: *Solving Photo Mysteries*

25 1-3 pm Members Helping Members

### October

1-2 TxSGS Family History Conference Virtual

12 10-12 am WHAGS Leadership Team Meeting

14 10-12 am DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)

16 10-12:30 Patti Smith: *The Beatitudes of a Genealogist*

23 1-3 pm Members Helping Members

### November

11 10-12 am DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)

16 10-12 am WHAGS Leadership Team Meeting

20 10-12:30 Irene Walters: *Keys to Research Success: Breaking Down Brick Walls*

27 1-3 pm Members Helping Members

### December

18 10:00-12:30 Holiday Party & Members' Show & Tell: MC = Tom Woltz

### January

13 10-12 am DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)

15 1-3 pm Members Helping Members

18 10-12 am WHAGS Leadership Team Meeting

22 10-12:30 *Finding Genealogy Resources & Tools in National Archives* (Video followed by Irene Walters facilitating Q&A)

### February

10 10-12 am DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)

15 10-12 am WHAGS Leadership Team Meeting

19 10-12:30 Linda Worsham: *Best Practices for Writing Family Stories*

26 1-3 pm Members Helping Members

### March

3-5 RootsTech 2022

10 10-12 am DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)

13 Daylight Saving Time - Spring Forward!

15 10-12 am WHAGS Leadership Team Meeting

19 10-12:30 Mitch Clendering: *Tools for Using Google® to Research Ancestors*

26 1-3 pm Members Helping Members

### April

12 10-12 am WHAGS Leadership Team Meeting

14 10-12 pm DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)

16 1-3 pm Members Helping Members

23 10-12:30 Thomas MacEntee: *The 1950 US Census: Are You Ready?*

### May

12 10-12 am DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)

14 9am-4pm Welcome to Genealogy Workshop

17 10-12 am WHAGS Leadership Team Meeting

21 10-12:30 Jenny Sharrer: *Generating Books Using Family Book Creator*

2022-2023 Board Elections

25-28 National Genealogical Society 2022 Family History Conf. [ngsgenealogy.org](http://ngsgenealogy.org)

28 1-3 pm Members Helping Members

June, July & August - We are off for the summer

## Good to Know! Beginner Tips!

What is a **"FAN"** club? It stands for "friends, associates, and neighbors." Lisa Louise Cooke defines it as "process in which genealogists identify a list of people (family, associates, and neighbors) that lived and associated with a given ancestor." As families migrated across the land, they often did so together. If you find two neighbors together in Camden, SC and in the next census you may find similar names as neighbors in Paducah, KY. This kind of attention/sleuthing may pay off. If they keep moving together and as records get better, you might find them in Hillsboro County, TX together. It could help you fill in relationships, names, marriages and more! Keep an eye on the neighbors!

Reference:

Retrieved from: <https://lisalouisecooke.com/2016/10/29/genealogy-fan-club/> Retrieved on 06 Feb 22

### BOARD:

Gail Colby, President

Tom Woltz SR, Vice President

Tom Matchett, Treasurer

Pacquitta Laurensy, Secretary

Vacant, Director

Neal Scott, Director

Jenny Sharrer, Director

Email:

[Info@whags.email](mailto:Info@whags.email)

Website & Virtually:

[www.whags.org](http://www.whags.org)

**West  
Houston  
Area  
Genealogy  
Society**

**Currently  
Meeting  
Virtually**

## MORE TO KNOW

Mark you calendar!! RootsTech Connect is happening again. It is all virtual, no travel expense and it is FREE.

Dates: March 3 to March 5 2022.

Cost: **FREE**

Where: in your home.

Topics: They do offer presentations about connecting to the world through faith, but it is your choice to view. Genealogy speaking — they offer a wide variety from researching in various language groups/localities to varying degrees in research skills. It's great to begin!

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/>

### WE ARE COUSINS Conference

<https://wacconference.com/>

Back for their 3rd Annual Conference

Dates: **Viewable recordings start Mar 26 and continue through May 31, 2022**

**Registration is currently \$125.**

See their website for registration information. Each daily schedule with speaker is posted. This is a great resource and panel of speakers for Mexico to Texas Migration and records.