

2025 Finding Your Roots with WHAGS Marathon Speaker Bios



Barbara Coakley, Genealogy Researcher, Speaker, Author

Barbara's interest in family history began over 40 years ago with an envelope of family papers. She traveled throughout the U.S. and Europe, visiting her ancestral homelands and doing research. To further her education, Barbara completed ProGen49 and attended all the major institutes and many national and regional conferences. Her current focus is on sharing the stories of her ancestors.

Barbara is the President of Genealogy Friends of Plano, TX Libraries, the Treasurer for the Texas State Genealogical Society, and a volunteer for the Dallas Genealogical Society. She is a member of DAR and many national, state, and local genealogical and historical societies.

Before she retired, Barbara taught genealogy continuing education classes at Collin College for 15 years. Now she lectures on a wide variety of topics for genealogical societies, libraries, and senior communities across the U.S.



Adrienne A. Cain Darough, MLS, CA, Assistant Director and Clinical Associate Professor, Institute for Oral History

Adrienne A. Cain Darough is a librarian, oral historian, and certified archivist who currently serves as the assistant director of the Institute for Oral History at Baylor University. In this role, she supports the Institute by providing training and workshops to community groups, students, educators, and researchers who desire to create an oral history project for their neighborhoods, classrooms, communities, and research. As another part of her role, she serves the oral history profession as the secretary-treasurer for the Texas Oral History Association.

As an oral historian, she has worked on several projects in the role of a trainer, creator, and consultant. She has presented her work and research on oral history use and methodology at several regional, national, and international associations. Her oral history projects, research, and interests center around ethical and legal considerations for oral history as well as preserving community histories through oral histories.

She has held memberships and served in numerous positions in the Oral History Association, Texas Library Association, Society of Southwest Archivists, Society of American Archivists, and the Academy of Certified Archivists.



EvaAnne Johnson, Genealogy & Local History Librarian, Wilmette Public Library

EvaAnne Johnson is a Genealogy and Local History Librarian with a passion for connecting people with their roots. She has been researching her own family history since 1998. She earned a Master of Library and Information Science (MS/LIS) degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and a Bachelor of Arts from Illinois College. She is currently the chair of the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board, on the board of the Illinois State Genealogical Society, and a Consultant at the Wilmette FamilySearch Center. EvaAnne has presented at public libraries and historical societies in Northern Illinois, Allen County Public Library, the National Genealogical Society conference, Dallas Genealogical Society, and other organizations. She also contributes to DeKalb County's Cornsilk magazine and has written two locality guides.

2025 Finding Your Roots with WHAGS Marathon Speaker Bios



Margaret Schlankey, Assistant Director for Public Services, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin

In addition to coordinating access to collections by the public, Margaret Schlankey actively promotes the Briscoe Center and its holdings by giving presentations to both graduate and undergraduate classes on the University campus. After graduating with an undergraduate degree in English from The University of Texas, Margaret began her career as a library assistant for the Rosenberg Library's Galveston and Texas History Center in her hometown of Galveston, Texas. She later decided to make the archival field her career, earning a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from UT at Austin. Margaret processed the records of the Texas Catholic Conference as part of a two-year grant-funded project with the Catholic Archives of Texas. She then worked as the photo curator at the Austin History Center before joining the staff of the Briscoe Center in 2006.



Craig Roberts Scott, CG, FUGA, President and CEO, Heritage Books, Inc.

Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG was the co-editor of Northern Virginia Genealogy (1996-97) and the editor of the Scott Genealogical Quarterly (1987-1995). He is the author of The 'Lost Pensions': Settled Accounts of the Act of 6 April 1838 and Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, Inventory 14 (Revised). He has co-authored several books relating to records in Northern Virginia. He has authored articles in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly and Family Chronicle and many other genealogical publications. Craig is the CEO and President of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing firm located in Westminster, Maryland, with over 2,950 titles in print. A professional genealogical and historical researcher for more than twenty-one years, he specializes in the records of the National Archives, especially those that relate to the military. He is the current president of the Association of One-Name Studies and was the Clan Scott Genealogist (1985 – 2000). He is a member of the Company of Military Historians, a citizen member of the Library Board of Virginia, a Governor-at- Large of the Virginia Genealogical Society, on the editorial board of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, and a Director of the Association of Professional Genealogists. A faculty member for several years of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University, he was the coordinator of the 2005 Advanced Military Records Course.



Carl Smith, MLIS, Manager of the Family History Research Center, Clayton Library Campus

Carl's passion for family history research began as a child growing up and listening to stories that his grandparents would share during summer vacations to Oregon. A native of Mesa, Arizona - Carl received his Bachelor's degree in Family History/Genealogy from Brigham Young University and his Masters of Library and Information Science from Syracuse University in Upstate New York. Before coming to work at the Clayton Library, Carl was the Genealogy Librarian for the Montgomery County Memorial library system in Conroe, Texas as well as Branch manager for the Aldine Branch Library in Harris County, Texas. His research areas of interest include Southern USA, Mexico, Brazil, and Scandinavian research. He's also passionate about digitization and record access, library advocacy, as well as getting the next generation interested and involved in family history research. When not working and doing genealogy Carl enjoys hiking and camping, singing with the International Voices Houston (a local choir), playing piano, and spending time with his family.

2025 Finding Your Roots with WHAGS Marathon Speaker Bios



Jessica M. Trotter, Genealogy Presenter and Researcher

Jessica Trotter is an archivist by education—but works in public libraries by day. She has presented regionally for the past eight years including annually for the Archives of Michigan Barbara J. Brown / Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar, for the Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library, at the Ohio Genealogical Society Conference and Fall Retreat in 2022, and at the NGS Conference in 2018 as well as part of their Virtual On-Demand Lectures in 2020. Her genealogy research areas include Midwest, African American, British Isles, Canadian, and Early American research. She also maintains a genealogy research related blog called Genie Road Trip at genieroadtrip.com.



Erika A. Ward, PGCERT (Genealogical, Palaeographic & Heraldic Studies)

Erika Ward is an experienced genealogist with a postgraduate credential in Genealogical, Palaeographic, and Heraldic Studies from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland. She has taught classes for the BYU Family History Library and volunteered with the Center for Genealogy and Family History's Early British Census Project. Erika currently works with the FamilySearch Ground Truth Team as an AI Data Annotation specialist, contributing to innovative advancements in historical record accessibility.

Originally from the suburbs of Chicago and now living in rural Utah, Erika balances her professional work with a full family life alongside her husband of more than three decades, seven adult children, and nine—soon to be eleven—grandchildren. With experience in British, European, and U.S. research, she is passionate about helping genealogists confidently navigate complex historical records and uncover the stories of their ancestors.

These programs are provided by the **Genealogy Network of Texas (GNT)**, a state-wide initiative to connect libraries/genealogical societies and provide educational and research opportunities that is spearheaded by the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library. Co-sponsors include the Central Texas Genealogical Society and the Texas State Genealogical Society.

