

RECORD OF BIRTHS, PROBATE COURT, VINTON COUNTY, OHIO, 1867-1870

DATE	NAME	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF RESIDENCE	NAME OF FATHER	NAME OF MOTHER	EDUCATION OF FATHER	EDUCATION OF MOTHER	BY WHOM REGISTERED
1867	John Henry King	M	25	Ohio	Ohio	John King	Rebecca King	Common School	Common School	John King
1868	William Williams	M	25	Ohio	Ohio	William Williams	Rebecca Williams	Common School	Common School	William Williams
1869	Thomas	M	25	Ohio	Ohio	Thomas	Rebecca	Common School	Common School	Thomas
1870	John	M	25	Ohio	Ohio	John	Rebecca	Common School	Common School	John



The WHAGS Journal



Volume 3, Issue 4

Just The Facts

January 2023



From the Editor

Christmas and the new year are behind us. Can you believe its already the year 2023. It seems just yesterday that the new century began. I'm still worrying about Y2K. But here we are beginning another active calendar year with the West Houston Area Genealogy Society. I know it will prove to be an interesting and productive time.

We have a star-studded cast of presenters coming up. In January, Barry Wolff will speak about a great genealogy software called "RootsMagic." As you will see, it's a resource that will allow you to record your primary genealogical information on your own computer, while at the same time enjoy the convenience of sharing information on the web.

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Feature Article

Researching an African American Family By Bridget Demby

The goal for most African American genealogical researchers is to find families in Africa by documenting each generation in public records back to 1870. Finding the last slaveholder is very important in this journey so that we will be



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President's Note

Welcome to 2023! The 2022 calendar year was a great success for WHAGS. Our membership numbers were the best they have ever been; the programs were informative and well-presented; we expanded our SIG offerings. The Technology SIG started in November with a review of Zoom to help members

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WHAGS Launches New Logo By Neal Scott

You've seen it... the new WHAGS logo is now a big part of our society's overall branding and identity. It's on our website, Facebook page, membership application, name badges at meetings, calendar, meeting flyers, and, well, basically it's everywhere! And that's the purpose, to add a consistent and professional image to help us unify our mes-

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January Program
Saturday,
January 21, 2023

RootsMagic: Versatile Software to Meet Your Genealogy Needs

By Barry Wolff

More Information Page 10

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From the Editor

In February, genealogist and family history writing professional Lynn Palermo returns for a presentation around publishing and distribution of your work. As you may recall, she gave a great talk last November about writing the family history and turning your research into shareable stories.

Special Interest Groups (SIG) are becoming more popular in our society. A special interest group is made up of members who have a common interest or skill to share. Two groups have already formed and have been active over the past several months. The DNA SIG hosted by our president, Gail Colby meets on Saturday morning each month. (see the WHAGS' website events page for dates and times). Gail is our in-house DNA expert and if you are interested in using that science to help you discover your ancestry, then you won't regret visiting this SIG.

Another SIG recently up and running is the Technology SIG, hosted by our webmaster, Neal Scott. We hope this group will attract people with a desire to learn the technology connected with our hobby.

Another SIG on the horizon is a family history writers group. Watch for more information about that.

Well, I think this will get us started in calendar year 2023. It looks to be a great start with lots of fun and sharing of information. See you at the general meeting and in the SIGs.

RDW

Our Committees at Work

Membership Team Update

We had a wonderful time at the December "Show & Tell." A potluck serving was provided by our members and the food was delicious. Then we shared stories and enjoyed learning something interesting and unusual from our presenters. My sincere thanks to those who brought something to share.

Our next program is on Saturday, January 21, 2023. Come early during our Meet and Greet time before the official program begins. Have a snack and visit with us. We want to get to know you and what you are interested in learning. If you can't come in person, don't forget that we also have a Zoom setup. This allows those that can't come in person to join in, too.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on January 21st.

Liz Philip
Membership

Program Committee Report.

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Logo

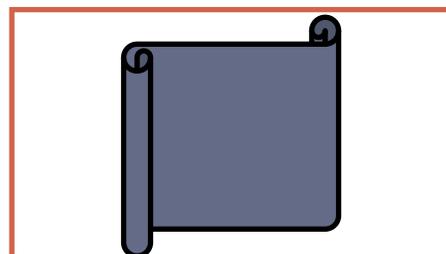
sage and our impression on both our members and the public.

Ron asked me to write an article on how the logo came to be and I'm happy to share that with our readers. The idea of a logo has been on the minds of our leadership team for many years and when I joined the society a few years ago I saw the need for a logo as well. But first, we needed to settle on the society's name, and that was done in 2021 as we transitioned from Houston West Family Genealogical Society to the simpler West Houston Area Genealogy Society, or WHAGS.

With the name set, we could now work on a logo. I certainly don't have the graphics skills, or creativity to design one myself, but I do know a person who does.

A friend of mine, Kay Krenk, is an artist, a graphics designer, a creative professional, who owns her own advertising agency, and after just a little arm-twisting, she very graciously accepted my request to work on a logo design for us. She agreed to take it on as a pro-bono project and she and I talked at length about what it should - and shouldn't - look like. Here are a few of the constructs we agreed on....

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DON'T MISS THE BUS!

March 2023 Bus Trip

Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

(<https://digital.houstonlibrary.org/clayton>)

Tuesday, 14 March 2023

9:15 AM: Bus leaves Radack Community Center parking lot

10:15 AM: Library tour by Irene Walters

3:00 PM: Bus departs Clayton Library
(Stay tuned for further details!!!)

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African American Family*

able to find the first family member to arrive in the Americas. When the Civil War ended, many African Americans tried to find family members that were sold away without a lot of success. However, with today's technology and DNA, it's still a challenge but not impossible.

Most of us began our genealogical research by confirming family stories we have heard for years. For example, I was told that my paternal grandmother died in

To understand and reconnect with our stories, the stories of the ancestors, is to build our identities.

Frank Delaney, novelist, & journalist.

the birth of my father and since my dad died when I was very young, I never question this information. Imagine my surprise when reviewing the 1910 census and finding her very much alive, living next door to her parents. As we move back in time using the census reports it is very important to read the information about your family and make note of any other names you have heard over the years. This might prove valuable later.

Also, we must not assume that after emancipation the Freeman took the name of the last enslaver. Unbeknown to the enslaver many of these people already had family surnames and used those after slavery. So, once you get your family back to 1870 you can't just search for that surname in the 1850 and 1860 slave census in the area family is currently residing in because this may belong back to several prior owners. Sometimes in your journey to 1870 you will find that people changed their surname several times and moved to new towns. That is why it is so important to read each source document carefully, make note of the people around your family.

Many times, when looking for family they may not be listed on the census report under the surname because they are living with family members with a different surname. This means you must research this

surname checking for a connection to your family. The 1890 census is lost to many of us, but all is not lost. Research tax records and city directories is a good way to track your relatives. State/City Archives and Libraries are a good place to find clues along with newspapers. Many states have their birth, marriage and death record online for your review. These records are good for placing your relatives in a current place and time.

Fortunately, I have been able to document my family using all the records mentioned above and have been able to get to the 1870 census. Many people think that they are at the "brick wall", but you need to keep digging. If your State had a Voter Registration you need to check for male family members. The Freeman's Bureau Records contains a lot of valuable information and for African Americans this is a must review. I was able to locate a labor contract between my great grandfather and the current plantation owner. This contract contained the names of 95 people including 2 aunts that I didn't know about. When searching under the plantation I was able to locate tax records and discovered a school was built for the Freeman's children paid for by the owner. Remember when doing slave research to look for Slave Manifest, Deeds, Will, Probate records and dispute con-

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African American Family

tracts.

The real challenges in doing African American Genealogy research are to keep in mind that this is a journey, have patience and to remember read each document twice.



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Presidents Report

feel more comfortable in the virtual world. The next meeting is scheduled for 24 January at 10:30 am via Zoom. Check the website under the Members Only section for information and the meeting link.

WHAGS finished 2022 with the annual Holiday Party and Members' Show and Tell. It was great to hear our members share their family stories and research. Please think about sharing your story next year.

As directed by the Steve Radack Community Center and Harris County Precinct 4, WHAGS has removed its library from the facility. The WHAGS' Librarian has worked diligently to catalog the library and make it accessible to members using a web-based program. We will advise everyone through the Leaflet (e-news) and the website of how and when members can access/checkout books. The library is a great asset to WHAGS and a

wonderful resource for WHAGS' members.

The remainder of the 2022-2023 program year is full of interesting and informative events. In addition to the monthly programs, please take advantage of the DNA and Technology SIGs and the Members Helping Members (MHM) sessions. These are provided to our members to aid in your research. MHM is an open forum for members to discuss issues, ask questions, share information, and help your genealogical research. We may not have all the answers but we can work together to move your research forward. If you would like to host an MHM session, please let Gail Colby know.

Ricky Armes is coordinating a WHAGS trip to the Clayton Library on 14 March, check the WHAGS' calendar of events on the website whags.org/annual-calendar and the Trips page whags.org/trips. More information will come through the Leaflet, website, and/or the Journal (newsletter).

Let's make 2023 another wonderful year for WHAGS and your genealogy endeavors!

Gail



A Texas Story Episode 2

Joe Carrington's great grandfather, Joe C. Carrington's story about growing up in Central Texas is an interesting read for anyone with a fondness for Texas history. In November Joe talked about travel from the farm to town to shop for supplies. We pick up the story in episode 2 where he talks about his dad and his job as the bookkeeper for Gilley's store.

Dad was bookkeeper for Gilleys.

Things were usually sold on a credit and not much collectable until crops came in for the farmers. Sending out bills was therefore pretty much of a job and Phronia (7) and I helped make those out. Phronia was of particular value as she had such beautiful handwriting (and, still does).

One person to whom bills had to be sent was a Chinese gentleman who ran a laundry. We did not know how to spell his name therefore bills were always sent to the name that everybody in town knew him by - John Chinaman.

I also remember another fellow who bought a dog at Gilleys. He was an extremely large German who was so big he took up the whole seat of his wagon. He would come into town to buy barrels of beer for his saloon at



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A Texas Story

the edge of the city.

As indicated earlier, my Mother had been orphaned when about 4. Some relatives, Mr. & Mrs. Asa Nix, took her to raise as their own daughter. In fact, she "was" their daughter as they ended up having a family of 6 sons. She called them Pa and Ma and the boys really were her "brothers".

The Nix family moved from Tunis early in her life and settled in what was then the Indian Territory with their home near the Arbuckle Mountains [Oklahoma]. Mama thought so much of them and wanted to visit them.

As Dad began to get better jobs, we were able to do so. Mother took Phronia (then about 2) and me (about 4) on this long train ride to Oklahoma - giving me my first chance to ride behind those snorting engines with the soot settling all over the passengers. Dad admonished us to be careful as those trains sometimes went mighty fast - often up to 30 miles per hour.

One of the uncles met us at Purcell and took us to their home in his covered wagon. It was far enough by such means of transportation that we had to spend 1 night camping out. Mama and Phronia (women folks) slept up in the wagon while "us men folks" (Uncle and I) slept under it. They had a nice little house with a storm cellar at the side which not only acted as a storm cellar but as a storage for the preserves, etc. It was stocked with

bottles of water, salt pork, etc. for emergency.

We visited in the fall of the year so the corn was harvested and my uncle took me out in his wagon to feed the native hogs - but made me stay on the wagon while the hogs were being fed as they had long, sharp tusks which he said would tear me to pieces. Hogs normally lived on the abundant acorns, but "feeding them out" on corn helped meat taste better and the fat more solid and white. Hog fat was a vital necessity in those days as it provided fat used for cooking (this prior to the days when cholesterol was unknown).

When hogs were killed for the winter, fat was rendered out by heat to make this hog lard used for the cooking and for the making of soap as well as for other purposes. Every part of the animal was utilized. Skins made the cracklings that were a part of the famous crackling bread.

There were all sorts of interesting things for a 4 year old to do and see and I particularly remember seeing, as well as hearing, the numerous coyotes on the hills during the bright moonlight.

The top memory, however, was when one of my uncles took me over to stay with him for a few days and we rode horseback with blankets instead of saddle for some half a day ride. He worked for the government in charge of the Indians on the reservation. One of the Chiefs was having a birthday party for his son. They had about a half mile track cleared for their Indian pony races (3 at a time). They also had a small merry-go-round

pulled by a horse. Where they got that is a mystery, but they had it.

Several tribes had been invited and there was quite a crowd present. The women, with their papooses on their backs, did all the manual labor - as they usually did. My uncle would not let me stay for all the party as he was afraid it might be a little boisterous should they get ahold of some fire water. Later, however, some of the Indians brought us some of their barbecue - carrying it on a board.

My uncle spoke their language very fluently; however much was in sign language. I had a chance to play with some of the Indian children and had a lot of fun even with the language barrier but this sign language was sufficient, even if they did laugh a lot at my endeavors. Almost hated to go back where we were visiting with Mama.

We stayed in Oklahoma about 10 days on that visit - rid-

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Calling All Storytellers

A quality newsletter depends upon the content of its pages. Content (articles, stories, and tips) just doesn't fall out of the sky. I depend on the members to participate. Please get involved - just a few minutes of your time - and help me make the WHAGS Journal something that you will want to read. If you have a genealogy related idea or a story, please contact me at newsletter@whags.email.

Resource Gems

Try these often hidden genealogical resource gems

U.S. National Archives & Records Administration

Visit NARA in Washington DC, or branch locations in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, College Park, Denver, Fort Worth, Kansas City, New York, Philadelphia, Riverside, and St Louis as well as many records centers.

Harris County (TX) Archives

Founded in November 2002, the Harris County Archives preserves, protects and provides access to the permanent and historical records created by the government of Harris County. Collections include records from the Assessor and Collector of Taxes, Medical Examiner's Office (Institute of Forensic Science), Juvenile Probation, Social Services, Justices of the Peace, Commissioners, and County Judges to name only a few of the over 70 offices whose records are in the archives

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Helpful site for the Texas researcher. It contains a genealogy section with tons of resources, including an index of Civil War pension applications.

Tsl.texas.gov

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A Texas Story

ing back to Caldwell as we had gone - on the P & S F (Panhandle and Santa Fe Railroad).

I did not go back to Oklahoma until I was about 12 or so. I again visited this Uncle who had been in charge of the Indians. He was then sheriff of Lawton and the votes of the Indians had played a very prominent part in his election as they admired and trusted him. By this time he had two very lovely daughters.

In the meantime, the Indian Territory had been made part of the State of Oklahoma. It was quite a coincidence that my dad's father also had moved to Oklahoma from Burleson County and had become a member of the Legislature. He had presented the bill that brought about this consolidation of the territory and the state.

Our home in Caldwell, a very comfortable house with a big front and back porch that provided a good place to sit as in those days there was no air conditioning. It had a smokehouse out back as in those days there was no saran-wrapped cut up meat in air-conditioned meat counters in stores. Folks raised and killed their own beef and pork. Often, particularly in rural areas, they would take turns in killing animals and it would be a cooperative affair. There was no efficient means of keeping meat fresh therefore most was smoked, which preserved it, and stored in the smoke houses.

To be continued

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Logo

- Simple, yet bold design. Nothing complex.
- Clean and modern look. Nothing trendy that wouldn't stand up to the passage of time.
- Easily and quickly recognizable.
- Emphasis on the acronym, WHAGS, but also include full name *West Houston Area Genealogy Society*.
- Incorporate some form of a tree design element. Perhaps a bit cliché, but it is universal to genealogy.
- Include color elements, but also be functional as a b/w image for some applications when needed.

Kay got to work and sketched out an initial set of eight draft images. All were creative and met the criteria, but not all had quite the right feel to them and we whittled the list down to four, discussing what we did and didn't like about each. She then took those four and tweaked them a bit more, and she then presented them to the logo team, which at this time consisted of Gail Colby and myself. We initially had a third person, but they had stepped away from the task.

With the four "finalist" images, Gail and I quickly narrowed it to two, and after sleeping on it a few days, we both agreed that the draft design of

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Logo

the logo you now see was our favorite. In discussing the details of it we all agreed on a few more small tweaks of the colors, the font choice, and arrangement of the elements, and the final design emerged with only those small adjustments.

Kay provided us with a very professional “package” of designs with the logo in various formats such as jpegs, pngs, EPS files, etc. She also gave us a black & white image and a reverse image in case a need for those is found.

Rolling out the logo took some additional time as we re-designed our various forms and media, and finally, on December 6th, we launched it to the membership. First it was placed on the Facebook page. Then the new “Leaflet” email was sent out a short while later, and then numerous changes to the website that had been made, but kept hidden, were made public, such as the home page, membership application, meeting flyers, etc. If you were at the December meeting you saw the new name badges, the logo built into the promotional slide show that runs before meetings, and the new logo was now on the front of the podium. And lastly, you’re seeing it here as a part of the WHAGS Journal banner!

I’ve heard many positive comments and hope you like it — not just the final logo design, but also how it is being incorporated into all our media. Maybe t-shirts and ball caps will be next?

Recipes From the Past The Cooking Corner



The Weis Recipe Box Presented by Liz Phillip Great Dishes from the Past

Mom’s Recipe Box

By Liz Phillip

Once upon a time, my mom had a Weis wooden recipe box filled with handwritten notes on 3 x 5 index cards, containing newspaper clippings and recipe inserts from Pillsbury flour. I don’t really remember this recipe box or Mom being interested in cooking though. She must have been because I remember going to Gerland’s grocery store on Long Point Road to shop. Sometimes we would go to Weingarten’s or the A & P store. We would watch ‘The Galloping Gourmet’ on TV.

The box is fascinating. There are recipes in her and others handwriting, a couple of air mail postage stamps, and a photo of her mother with her parents, the Griffins. The newspaper clipping is from her paternal Grandmother’s 90th birthday celebration. So, a collection of recipes

from the past and family as well.

While going through the box I came across a couple of recipes that intrigued me. Pearl’s Apricot Nectar Cake and Mrs. J.W. Stiles Pound Cake. Who were these people that shared their recipes. Who was Pearl? Who was Mrs. J.W. Stiles?

Mom had an Aunt Pearl. She lived on a wheat farm outside of Pendleton, Oregon and died in 1961. Perhaps the recipe box was hers and she passed it on to Mom?

Mrs. J.W. Stiles’ recipe for pound cake was written on the back of a Meyer Bros. store check. Do you remember when stores had checks? You could pay for your purchases even if you didn’t bring your check-book.

Mom was a hairdresser at Meyer Bros. department store in the 50’s. It seems probable that Mrs. Stiles was a beauty shop client. In the 1950 Census, there is a listing for J.W. Stiles on Bradshaw Street in the Heights. But Meyerland Plaza is in Bellaire. How far would you drive for a favorite hairdresser? I drive 17 miles to see mine. Perhaps she was a client as well as a friend?

Now I have the Weis wooden recipe box filled with recipes gathered by my mother and maybe by my Grand Aunt, and a

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Mom's Recipe Book

pound cake recipe from a client who perhaps became a friend. What will I add to the box? Will of my descendents open it one day and discover these treasures? Only time will tell.



Mrs. Stiles Pound Cake

Ingredients:

- 3 sticks oleo
- 1 box powdered sugar (1 lb.)
- 6 eggs (room temperature)
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 1 powdered box of cake flour (1 lb.)
- Angel food pan, greased

Instructions:

- Cream oleo with powdered sugar. Save box.
- Add one egg at a time, beat after adding each egg.
- Fill empty powdered sugar box with cake flour.
- Then sift flour, add to oleo powdered sugar, egg mixture.
- Then add vanilla, bake in angel food pan 1 hour at 350 degrees
- Let cool in pan, then take out.
- Grease pan before you put in batter.

These instructions are directly quoted from the handwritten recipe on the Meyer Bros. store check from Mom's Recipe Box. Notes in () added for clarification.



Joy to the World

By Ron Ware

The December gathering of members of the West Houston Area Genealogical Society proved to be a fun and joyful event. Members participated in the annual Christmas "Show and Tell," with about 25 attending in person and 5 via Zoom. Seven members showed us and told us about interesting research and even a way to record those ancestral finds.

First Liz Phillip shared some of the contents of her grandmothers, "Mom's Recipe Box" which not only contained delicious holiday recipes but also photos of grandparents. Debbie Behling followed with the search for her great great grandfather, William Golf and an 1816 document. Third to present was Maury Schlossman who told of his wife's great grandfather's murder in a Nevada mine. Newspaper articles told of the gruesome way he was murdered. Next Kyla Bayang who discussed her research of her great grandfather from Missouri, his three marriages and the importance of sharing your research online.

The fifth presenter was Rick Armes who showed us a tool that promises to be a boon in organizing our research. Rick has a background in software development and has spent the past five years developing an add-on program to

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Christmas Gathering

Legacy Family Tree, that truly manages data in a format that makes it easy to publish a book. He calls it GENESSYS and beta testing begins in the Spring.

Gail Colby in her research of her great grandmother, Helen Williams, discovered that she had several unknown sisters. That discovery opens several paths that Gail can explore to learn more about Helen.

The last of the presenters, Neal Scott, talked about his discovery of unexpected treasures. While visiting relatives, the lady of the house told Neal that she had something she wanted him to have. She left the room and returned with an album of photos from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is one of those genuinely old artifacts that makes the heart race. Researchers dream of a find like that.

Let's thank Tom Woltz for keeping the presenters on track and organizing the drawing for door prizes. The prizes ranged from a DNA test kit to "how to do" genealogy books.

Let's thank the presenters for making the "Show and Tell" so interesting. It makes me look forward to Christmas 2023.

RDW



Program Committee Tidbits

By Pacquitta Laverents

Can you believe we're already halfway through the program year? Planning for next year's general programs is already underway. The WHAGS program committee relies on members' feedback to determine what topics are important to you and which speakers will help most in your family history research. Be on the lookout for our annual event survey coming out by email in early 2023. Your responses will go a long way to ensuring the 2023-2024 program year is interesting and satisfies your expectations.

Meanwhile, please continue to share your ideas about topics and speakers with any of the committee members - Ricky Armes, Meg Philpot, Ron Ware, and Pacquitta Laverents.

WHAGS.org

Don't forget to visit our website often. It is full of information for the enjoyment and use of our members. Check there for upcoming events. Don't miss the members only page where you will find a membership roster, and much more.

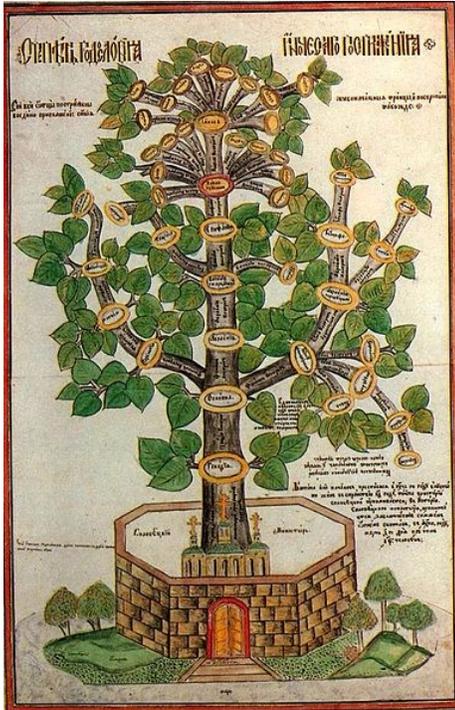
Google "whags.org"

See You in February
For More Entertaining and
Educational Stories.

"When the grandmothers speak, the earth will be healed."

Hopi Proverb





P.O. Box 842661
Houston, Texas 77284-2661
www.WHAGS.org

Helping to Find Your Roots

RootsMagic

Versatile Software to Meet Your Genealogy Needs

Hybrid presentation by **Barry Wolff**

We are meeting both in-person and via Zoom!



As you build your family tree, do you prefer to record your primary information on your computer and control what is shared online? Or do you keep your primary work online and want to keep a local computer copy "just in case"?

RootsMagic software is able to handle either approach. In this presentation, you will discover key features of RootsMagic and see a live demonstration to help you grow your family tree.

Barry Wolff leads the RootsMagic Special Interest Group for the Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO), a free and open discussion group for RootsMagic software users of all experience levels. After a 37-year Engineering/Program Management career with the Boeing Company, Barry retired and decided to do more than just talk about his ancestors. He selected RootsMagic as the software to document and record his genealogy research across several branches of his family tree.

Barry also supports the RootsMagic User Facebook Group. He is a native of New Jersey, and currently resides in Philadelphia.

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023

Time: Meet & greet 10:00 am Program begins at 10:30 am

If you will be joining virtually, visit our website for the link to register for the Zoom presentation: www.whags.org. Those joining in-person will meet at the new Steve Radack Community Center at 18650 Clay Road. Visitors welcome!

The WHAGS Journal
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2022-23

Trade Snow Days for Genealogy Days

