



# Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

web site: [www.TXFWGS.org](http://www.TXFWGS.org)

APRIL 2021

## 2021 Board of Directors

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## APRIL GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting will be held Virtually on **Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** on a GoTo Meeting Webinar online. Speaker **Patti Huff Smith**, is returning to speak on **“GEDmatch.com: Getting More From Your DNA Results.”** Patti’s talk was quite popular last year, so don’t fail to register and mark your calendar!



**PATTI HUFF SMITH** is Director of Volunteer Coordination in the Dallas Genealogical

Society, and holds memberships in Navarro County, Hill County and Central Texas Genealogical Societies along with the Texas State Genealogical Society and Coppell Historical Society. Patti also enjoys lecturing on genealogical topics including Beginning Genealogy, Locating War Records, Discover Ancestors Through Social Media, DNA and GEDmatch.com.

Patti began her genealogical quest to find all her military ancestors, since she came from a military family herself. Her passion continues today with DNA studies.

She and husband Gary have worked over 20 years in church leadership and have led marriage seminars. They have been married 35 years, with 4 adult children. They live in Coppell.

**Use This Link To Register for the Webinar:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7605213489401922828>



## FW LIBRARY NEWS

On **March 30<sup>th</sup>** ALL Libraries opened for LIMITED check out. But the biggest news was that the Genealogy section (& the entire basement floor) **WILL NOT BE** reopening! At this time, you **MUST CALL** for an appointment. *Please see more from Librarians on p. 3.*

### March FWGS Meeting

FWGS had a special guest speaker from Houston & the Clayton Library. **Sue Kaufman**, Director, told us the many resources within the walls of their library, which most regrettably remains closed due to the Pandemic. But she also said their librarians are eager to answer questions by phone or email. She encouraged us to study their card catalog and refine what you know and what sources you want them to check and they will do reasonable searches for you. But the most exciting news was about their extensive collection of digitized materials and databases. Many of these are FREE online and some are available with a Houston Library Card. The best news of all, is that you do not have to be a Houston resident to get a card. She showed us how to apply online for the card. Check it out! <http://hpl.lib.tx.us/find-it/my-link> It’s called the My Link Library Card.



**Have you joined us on Facebook yet? Go to our site and hit LIKE!**

## April FWGS Meetings:

**Board of Directors:** Fri, Apr 16, 2021  
10:30 am ZOOM

**Beginners:** **ON HOLD** 2021  
ZOOM

**Computer Users:** **ON HOLD** 2021  
ZOOM

**General Meeting:** Tues, Apr 27, 2021  
6:30-8:00 pm GoToMeeting

Link for General Meeting is sent on FWGS Mailing List or found on Flyer

Email: [FWGS@Mail.com](mailto:FWGS@Mail.com)



**From the Editor .....**

I hope you got a good rain recently. It is that time of year & we already need it!

BIG NEWS was happening as we published the newsletter last month. That news was the downstairs Genealogical Unit **will not** reopen. The entire space will be closed to public use. The genealogical collection will be moved to the Seminary South Branch (which library staff say is the largest of the neighborhood branches.) The SS branch will close and move inside La Gran Plaza Mall. The entire SS Branch will then be devoted to Genealogy; although, they admit it will not hold the entire collection. In the future, if there is something you need, it can be ordered and sent to the branch later. FWGS is quite concerned about these developments and will stay apprised of the news as it happens. We encourage all interested patrons to express your opinions to the City or the Library management. See p. 3. I hope FWGS members were able to take advantage of the March FREE "Genealogy in a Nutshell" workshop. Ms. Tatyrek provided an excellent handout. It was a great event for our members.

**FWGS memberships pay off!**

*Debbie Pearson*, Newsletter Editor

**In addition to Ice Storm damage, Footprints Editor Rob Yoder fell & hurt his shoulder. Typing is difficult. The May issue will be a double issue and he hopes to have it ready by late May!**

All FWGS memberships receive 4 quarterly issues of *Footprints* (by mail) & 11 months of the FWGS Newsletter (by email).

**TIME TO RENEW**



**Membership in FWGS runs January 1 to Dec 31.**

**It's time to renew!** Individual dues are \$23 and a Household is \$27. *Make your check payable to FWGS.*

**Fort Worth Genealogical Society**

**ATTN: Membership Director**

**P.O. Box 471789**

**Fort Worth, TX 76147-1408**

*Please add your email and print neatly.*

**You may pay online or print out a membership form and mail a check go here:**

<http://www.txfwgs.org/html/membership.html>

**From the FWGS Mail Bag .....**



**Center For Texas Studies at TCU  
The FW Library Community Workshops**

**Saturday, May 1, 2021**

**10:30 a.m. - 12 Noon**

**For National Preservation Month**

**Topic:**

**"Saving a Great Neighborhood: Oakhurst and its History, Architecture, & Sense of Place"**

By **Libby Willis**, historic preservationist, author & Fort Worth community leader.

Libby discusses her experience saving her own neighborhood, Oakhurst, a 1920s-era development located on the northeast side of Fort Worth. She will explain the steps required to become a historic district and the art of maintaining the integrity of the neighborhood and its landscapes after designation. Don't miss it!

**To Register use this link:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_zdJWw\\_AnQE-BxVC4a3vixw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zdJWw_AnQE-BxVC4a3vixw)

**Next: TBD.** Most likely they will begin their Summer Break!

ALSO FROM THE CENTER FOR TEXAS STUDIES:

**The 14th Annual AddRan Distinguished Lecture Series**

**The People's Revolt: Texas Populists and the Roots of American Liberalism**

featuring

**Dr Gregg Cantrell, Ph.D.**

Erma and Ralph Lowe Chair in Texas History

Center for Texas Studies Texas Biography Series Editor

**Thursday, April 22, 2021**

**4 P.M.**

A FREE Virtual Event

No Registration, Just click this link on the 22<sup>nd</sup> near 4 p.m.

<https://tcu.zoom.us/j/96245860946?pwd=RTArQ0hJenVmMXdlMDFsS0xjeiUydz09>



**CHANGE OF ADDRESSES!**

Please, Please, Please!

**Remember to Notify FWGS**

immediately upon a move.

The Post Office **does not** forward *Footprints* without a cost to our Society.



## BURNED COURTHOUSES

If you have been working on your genealogy for any amount of time, one of the first things you find is that the county your ancestors lived in is a “burned county.” Of course, that refers to the Courthouse, the keeper of all the records from the beginning of that county. Land and deed records, court and criminal records, wills and deaths, marriages, jury lists, affidavits, road crews, brands and marks; the list is endless. All valuable clues to your ancestors’ identities.

Burned county courthouses are not always burned in a fire, sometimes it blew away in a tornado or some other tragedy such as poor workmanship and it collapsed. Sometimes the burning was due to a war; either by the opposing forces or burned by the residents, not wanting it to fall into enemy hands. (There is still much debate in some southern counties: was it burned by Sherman or by their own people?) And another cause of courthouse fires was due to criminal court cases. Sometimes a criminal would burn the court or its records to forestall a court case certain to go against the defendant. It is pretty hard to face such destruction either way; whether it was by accident or by purpose.

**Well, unfortunately Texas has a new Burned County in Mason, Texas.** On the night of February 4, 2021 a call came in about a burning house and then another call about the second floor of the Mason County Courthouse in flames too. By early the next morning, through the still smoldering ruins, it was obvious the courthouse was lost. And what was the cause? Electrical, a heater left on? No, apparently, there is nothing new under the sun. A suspect was caught on February 5<sup>th</sup> for arson of both structures. And the motive? *He was upset about a previous court case in family court.* The very good news was that no one was injured or killed. And further, the courthouse had been undergoing a renovation and most of the records had been moved to a different location! Good News Indeed!

The Mason County Courthouse has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974. It also has a Texas Historic Landmark designation. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Courthouse for Mason County, the first burning in 1877 and was replaced by a second red sandstone building. That one burned in 1900 and was the reason the Mason Fire Department was created. This third



## MOVING

By Linda Barrett of FW Library

**Did you hear?** The Fort Worth Public Library’s Genealogy, Local History, & Archives unit is moving! We will be located where the Seminary branch library is currently, at 501 East Bolt Street. Until the new location opens, the GLHA collections will be available **BY APPOINTMENT**. Please contact the staff at **(817) 392-7740** or at [genlhst@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:genlhst@fortworthtexas.gov) to schedule an appointment.

Request items by title or topic and then staff will have them ready for your appointment in the Chappell Meeting Room. Staff will stay with you in case you have questions or need other items during your appointment. Currently, the nearest photocopier is located in the plaza area, so you might want to bring a digital camera, your phone, or borrow the library’s wand scanner.

Linda Barrett

Genealogy, Local History and Archives Manager/City Archivist

Fort Worth Public Library

500 W. 3rd Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102

817-392-6643

[linda.barrett@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:linda.barrett@fortworthtexas.gov)

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

City of Fort Worth

*Working together to build a strong community.*

### ***Burned Courthouses, cont’d.***

courthouse was completed in 1910 at a cost of \$39,786. It was designed by German-born architect Edward Columbus Hosford. This courthouse was Beaux-Arts style and featured a central dome and clock tower, gable-front porticoes with two-story Doric columns, and rusticated stonework with contrasting stone lintels. Now it’s a shell: the outer walls are all that still stand.



*Photo taken by Gerzain Peralta*

# FORT WORTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

In Collaboration with the Texas State Genealogical Society

Presents

An Online Webinar

## Patti Huff Smith

On

# GEDmatch.com: Getting More From Your DNA Results

There is a lot to be learned from your DNA data, but you must take additional steps to make it happen. One way is to upload your RAW DNA data to [www.GEDmatch.com](http://www.GEDmatch.com), a website which allows users to share their DNA information with others to accelerate genealogical research and perform DNA match comparisons.

**DAY:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021

**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.

**ONLINE WEBINAR ONLY—Must Register**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7605213489401922828>

**Patti Huff Smith** comes from a marketing career as well as sales and seminar facilitator with author Zig Ziglar. She and her husband Gary worked over 20 years in church leadership positions and led marriage seminars. They've been married 34 years with 4 adult children and live in Coppell, Texas.



Patti grew up in an Air Force family of 7. Her first attempt at genealogy was to trace her military ancestors. That passion continues today with her interest in DNA studies.

Currently, Patti is Director of Volunteer Coordination in the Dallas Genealogical Society, and holds memberships in Navarro County, Hill County and Central Texas Genealogical Societies along with the Texas State Genealogical Society and Coppell Historical Society. Patti also enjoys lecturing on genealogical topics including Beginning Genealogy, Locating War Records, Discover Ancestors Through Social Media, DNA and GEDmatch.com.

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Web site: [WWW.TXFWGS.org](http://WWW.TXFWGS.org)



**Fort Worth Genealogical Society**

Box 471789, Fort Worth, Texas 76147-1408

Founded A.D. 1957

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Join us or extend your membership today. Please mail the completed form with payment to:

**Fort Worth Genealogical Society  
PO BOX 471789  
FORT WORTH TX 76147-1408**

Please print clearly

**Membership Application & Renewal Form -☆- Fort Worth Genealogical Society**

Individual Membership - \$23  
⇒ \$20 if paid before the new year begins

Family Membership - \$27  
⇒ \$25 if paid before the new year begins

Sustaining Membership - \$50 or more

Contributing Membership - \$250 or more

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your email address will be added to our mailing list in order for you to receive local announcements.)

This membership application is for:  2021  2022  New  Renewal (Newsletter)