August 2026

Fort Worth Genealogical Society NEWSLETTER

Established 1957

AUGUST MEETINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FRIDAY, August 21, 2026
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Fort Worth History Center
501 E. Bolt St., Fort Worth

NEW!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
SATURDAY, August 29, 2026
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Fort Worth History Center

FREE PARKING is available at the Fort Worth History Center, on the street, and in the La Gran Plaza lot across the street.

Society News

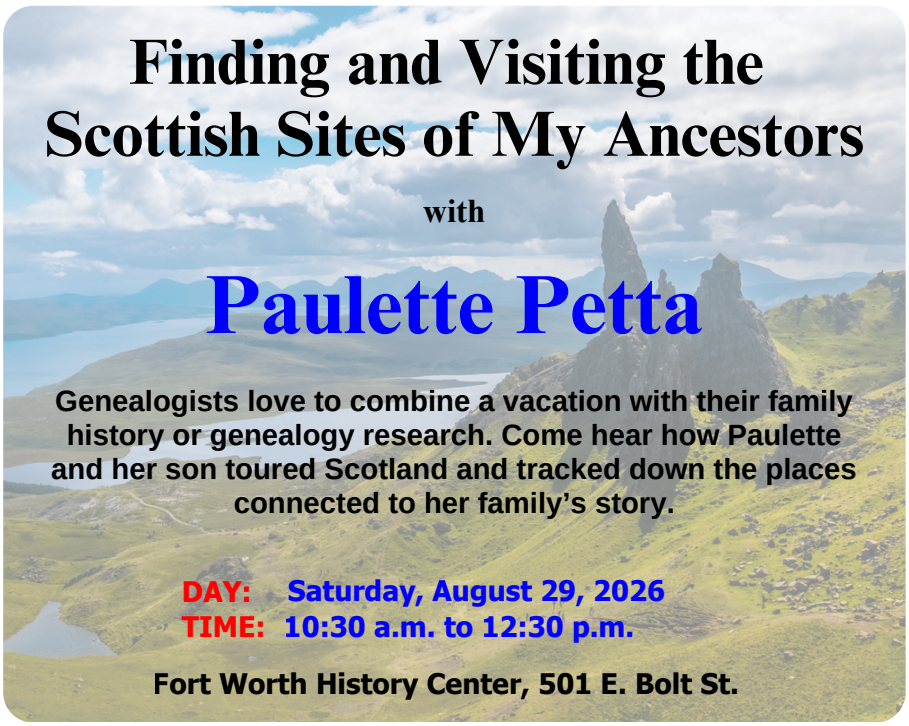
GENETIC GENEALOGY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Member **RICK SPRINGER** has stepped up to moderate a new group within our society. He is asking for feedback from those who are interested.
WHAT DAY/TIME would be best for you? Weekdays? Weekends?
HOW OFTEN would you like to meet? Monthly? Weekly?

Please write to Rick at xxxxxxx with your answers to these questions and with any questions or suggestions you may have for

AUGUST PROGRAM

In Collaboration with the Fort Worth Library



Finding and Visiting the Scottish Sites of My Ancestors

with

Paulette Petta

Genealogists love to combine a vacation with their family history or genealogy research. Come hear how Paulette and her son toured Scotland and tracked down the places connected to her family's story.

DAY: Saturday, August 29, 2026
TIME: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fort Worth History Center, 501 E. Bolt St.

Free Parking on site, on the street and in the La Gran Plaza lot.

The Center opens at 10 a.m. so consider coming early, or staying after for networking and research.

Paulette Anderson Petta is a Texas native, born in Cleburne. She has a bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Texas at Arlington and a master's degree from the University of North Texas. Before her retirement, her career choices included being a high school science teacher, working in the laboratory at the Tarrant County Health Department, and working as an industrial hygienist for the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission. Since retiring, she has more time to work on her hobby of genealogy. She has traveled with her son to Ireland and Scotland in search of her ancestors.

Moving? Changed your email address?

It's now easier than ever to update FWGS when you make a change. The post office does not forward *Footprints* without a cost to the Society, so please update your information in the Members Only section of our website, or contact webmaster@txfwgs.org. ***Thank you!***

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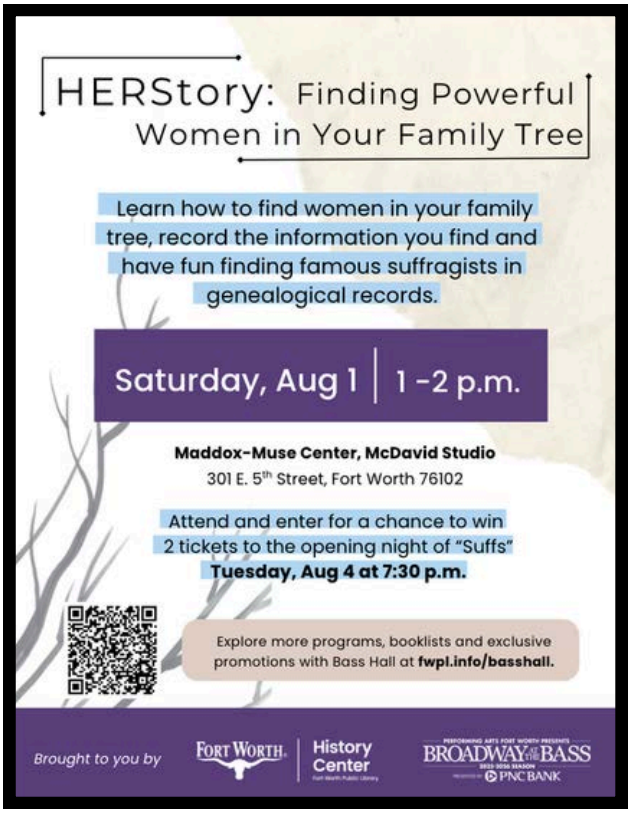
AUGUST events at the

FORT WORTH HISTORY CENTER
Fort Worth Public Library

501 E BOLT ST, FORT WORTH
817-392-7740 • history@fortworthtexas.gov



Lake Worth's French-Canadian Pioneers: The Lives and Letters of the Charbonneau Brothers

These two Canadian immigrants' intriguing journey from Quebec to Massachusetts to Texas is revealed through historical documents and letters.

Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026
11:00 a.m. to
12:00 p.m.

Do you dream about writing your own family history book but don't know where to begin?

Do you have a smaller genealogy writing project you need some advice about?

Come to the Genealogy Writing Club and get started writing your family's history. Have fun working on your writing projects in a supportive and encouraging environment.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
FW History Center, 501 E. Bolt Street

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

FORT WORTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENETIC GENEALOGY

NEW GROUP FORMING—COME MEET YOUR PEOPLE!

Are you interested in genetic genealogy and eager to connect with others who share your enthusiasm? Join our new genetic genealogy special interest group to discuss matches, troubleshoot methodology, share DNA research tips, and collaborate on real family history questions.

NEW!

MEETINGS STARTING SOON—HELP US PICK A TIME!

Reply with your availability:

- How often: weekly / biweekly / monthly
- Days: Mon / Tue / Wed / Thu / Fri / Sat / Sun (your picks)
- Times: morning / afternoon / evening (or a specific window)
- Locations: café with WiFi / FW History Center / suggestion?

HOW TO SIGN UP / RSVP

Send a message with your choices above and any questions to info@txfwgs.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

JOIN THE BOARD

✦ OF THE ✦

Fort Worth Genealogical Society

We are **seeking** a diverse group of dedicated volunteers to serve on our Board of Directors. If you're passionate about family history, enjoy community learning, and want to help shape and grow a welcoming organization for genealogists of all experience levels, we'd love to hear from you.

Board members help guide the Society's mission through leadership, planning, and support of programs and member services. Your service will make it possible for us to offer lectures, workshops, research support, records sharing, and social events that connect our members and strengthen local genealogy resources.

Nominees must have been members in good standing for a minimum of one year, and agree to serve.

POSITIONS

Turnover is inevitable and the society **NEEDS YOU**.

Positions up for election.

President
Vice President
Secretary
Membership Director
Program Director
Footprints Editor
Director at Large

Positions up for appointment.

Social Media Manager

Time commitment

Nominees should be prepared to commit a minimum of four hours per month to attend our monthly board meetings (every 3rd Friday) and general membership meetings every last Saturday), held each month except December. Each meeting runs from 10:30 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact President Carlene Johnson at president@txfwgs.org.

Thank you for considering these opportunities to support the FWGS. Together we can preserve family history and help others discover their roots.

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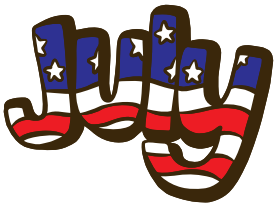

Program Summary

Was Your Ancestor An Odd Fellow? Researching the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF)

was presented by Grand Lodge of Texas Deputy Grand Master Karen Kelley-Bays on Saturday, July 25 at the Fort Worth History Center. Karen provided a useful handout for attendees to effectively navigate IOOF and Rebekah Assemblies genealogy research. It can be found in the "MEMBERS" section of our website at www.txfwgs.org.

Additional information can be obtained at the following addresses.
For IOOF Grand Lodges and Rebekah Assemblies visit:
The IOOF Lodge Directory (https://iooflodgedirectory.org)
IOOF Grand Lodges (https://tinyurl.com/34wahw86)
Rebekah Assemblies (https://tinyurl.com/bddv5sx7)

For general information about The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, write to:
The Sovereign Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows
422 North Trade ST, Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2830

For information about The Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, write to:
Grand United Order of Odd Fellows
12th & Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107
or call 215-735-8774.

Area Societies

GRAND PRAIRIE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

10 Best Practices for a Polished & Accurate Family Tree
Presented by Lisa Van Gemert
Thursday, August 6, 2026 — 6:30 - 8:30 pm
NEW LOCATION THIS MONTH ONLY
Betty Warmack Library
760 Bardin Road, Grand Prairie, TX 75052

MID-CITIES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Election and Installation of Officers for Fiscal Year 2026-2027
Monday, August 17, 2026 — 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Bedford Public Library
2424 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford, TX 76021

PARKER COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Their building is currently undergoing renovation but nearing completion. A "big grand opening, possibly more than one day" is being planned.

Vickie Ballow

TARRANT COUNTY BLACK HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Lenora Rolla Heritage Center Museum
1020 E. Humbolt St., Fort Worth, TX 76104
Museum Hours: Tue and Thu 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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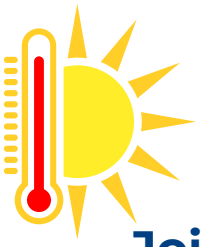

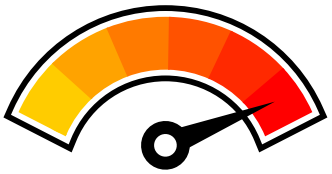

Join the FWGS in the August heat and find out the real family roots are... under all this sweat.

Your membership helps support the preservation of the stories that connect us all.

Starting at just **$26 per year**, your membership entitles you to four digital issues of our quarterly journal, *Footprints,* and access to the Members Only area of our website. There you will find resources to help with your research, as listed below. **Membership in FWGS runs from January 1st to December 31st yearly**. Join or renew online at **https://txfwgs.org/join** and pay by credit card. Help us continue our collective mission.

Benefits of Membership

- Publication access in the Members Only section of our website (our monthly newsletters, our quarterly journal, *Footprints* (also available via USPS mail for an additional fee), Bulletins from 1957-1997, and a listing of the pioneers of Fort Worth and Tarrant County from 1848- 1870),
- Quarterly journals from genealogical societies across the U.S. with which we exchange,
- Access to specialized resources (member-only databases and archival materials),
- Monthly programs on timely genealogical topics,
- Networking with experienced genealogists and local researchers,
- Access to expert help (mentoring, research advice, and consultations),
- Discounted or free entry to society events and seminars,
- Volunteer and leadership opportunities to develop research and organizational skills,
- Opportunities to contribute to published research and shared family trees,
- Social and community events that connect members with shared heritage interests ❤️

2025-2026 FWGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Carlene Johnson
VICE PRESIDENT: Debra Lochtrog
SECRETARY: Janet Minke (Acting)
TREASURER: Crystal Barth
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Janice Blakely
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Debbie Pearson
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR: Janet Minke
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HISTORIAN / ARCHIVIST: - OPEN -
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Brenda Crump
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Cecelia Van Donselaar
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Karrisa Moseley

Share this newsletter with a friend and ask them to join you for our next program.

Drive safely

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