October 2026

Fort Worth Genealogical Society NEWSLETTER

Established 1957

OCTOBER MEETINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FRIDAY, October 16, 2026
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Fort Worth History Center
501 E. Bolt St., Fort Worth

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
SATURDAY, October 31, 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

ELECTIONS - October 31, 2026

A vote will be taken at this month's general membership meeting to elect your board of directors for the next term. Please attend and have your vote count.

2027 NOMINEES

PRESIDENT: Karrisa Moseley
VICE PRESIDENT: Debra Lochtrog
SECRETARY: PENDING
TREASURER: Crystal Barth
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Janice Blakely
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: PENDING
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR: Janet Minke
FOOTPRINTS EDITOR: APPOINTED
HISTORIAN / ARCHIVIST: OPEN
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Brenda Crump
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: James McLaughlin
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Rick Springer

OCTOBER PROGRAM

In Collaboration with the Fort Worth Library

A French Enclave in Texas: Parker County to the Panhandle

with

Dr. Marie Schein

The French explorers of the 1700s were not the only French to settle in Texas. Come hear Dr. Schein tell you about French colonization right here in the Tarrant/Parker County areas and the Panhandle. Find out what brought them here, where they settled and hear about the many families who left France in the late 1880s to make their own dreams come true.

DAY: Saturday, October 31, 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.



Marie Schein, Ph.D., is an Emerita Senior Instructor of French in TCU's Department of Modern Language Studies, where she teaches a wide range of courses spanning introductory language study to advanced seminars on French and Francophone culture. She holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of North Texas, with a dissertation on contemporary Native American literature, as well as master's degrees in French and English from the University of Colorado Boulder and Université Paul Valéry–Montpellier. Her teaching and curriculum development reflect broad expertise in French and Francophone studies, including Quebec and Louisiana literature, multiculturalism, immigration, and national identity. Schein has led study-abroad and service-learning programs in France, contributed to the creation of innovative courses, and earned distinctions such as the Knight in the Order of the French Academic Palms and the Helen Lorenz Excellence in Teaching Award.

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OCTOBER events at the

FORT WORTH HISTORY CENTER
Fort Worth Public Library

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

FORT WORTH

Family History Binge
Friday, October 16, 2026

1- 1:50 pm Building Your Digital Family History Archive
PresentedbyEvaAnne Johnson, Genealogy&LocalHistory Librarian at Wilmette Public Library

2 - 2:50 pm Researching Your Scottish Ancestors
Presented by Erika A. Ward, PGCERT (Genealogical, Palaeographic & Heraldic Studies)

3 - 3:50 pm Texas and Southern Genealogy Resources at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History
Presentedby MargaretSchlankey,AssistantDirectorforPublic Services, DolphBriscoeCenterforAmericanHistory

4 - 4:50 pm Researching Your Revolutionary War Soldier: A Case Study
Presented by Craig R. Scott, CG, FUGA, President and CEO of Heritage Books Inc.

5 - 5:50 pm Gen Z + Genealogy: Getting the Younger Generation Interested in Genealogy Research
Presented by Carl Smith, MLIS, Manager of the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus.



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, OCTOBER 17, 2026
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
FW History Center, 501 E. Bolt Street

FORT WORTH

Finding Mexican Ancestors

Saturday, October 24, 2026 | 2:00pm | HistoryCenter

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by discovering your Mexican ancestry. Explore how to begin tracing your family tree, uncover records that can reveal your ancestors' stories, and learn the best ways to organize and preserve what you find. You'll also learn how to preserve your family's culinary traditions and stories through inherited recipes. This year's session includes new and updated resources to support your family history journey.

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and

Area Societies

GRAND PRAIRIE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

"Why Finding Atlantic Shipping Records is Challenging"
Presented by Tony Hanson
Thursday, October 1, 2026 — 6:30 - 8:30 pm
This meeting is both in person and virtual.
GP Memorial Library
9012 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie, TX

MID-CITIES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

"Hart Island"
Presented by Joyce Reid
Monday, October 19, 2026 — 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Bedford Public Library
2424 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford, TX 76021

PARKER COUNTY GENEALOGY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Their building is currently undergoing renovation but nearing completion. While we wait, check out their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/355636322014857/.

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.



Registration Link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfy9fSKezFrKr9gpRsifkQj-CfQLOgnvS1shGo3zkZUyFq35w/viewform

Fort Worth INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



The *Billy W. Sills Lecture Series* and

JAMES EVERETT

present

"North Texas Crossroads: Indigenous Cultures and Early Frontier History"

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.
FWISD Service Center
7060 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth

Coffee and "nibbles" begin at 9:30 a.m.

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https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/family-history-month/

The National Genealogical Society
ngsgenealogy.org

Visit the website to learn more ways NGS may be of value on your journey.



Click on, or follow, the links below for flyers presented by the NGS. They include lists of resources to help you

SCAN,

SCAN and LABEL FAMILY PHOTOS and DOCUMENTS
https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/NGS_ScanFamilyPhotosDocs_2025.pdf

RECORD,

RECORD and PRESERVE FAMILY MEMORIES
https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/NGS_RecordFamilyMemories_2025.pdf

and WRITE *your* *Family History*

WRITE and SHARE FAMILY STORIES
https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/NGS_WriteFamilyStories_2025.pdf

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September

Program Summary

America 250: Revolutionary War Ancestors



Our September program was presented by **Suzanne Fritz** on Saturday, September 26 at the Fort Worth History Center. Suzanne's presentation was rich with new information about celebrating America 250 throughout the year, and resources for tracing ancestors who served.

Search tips are to: 1) Identify an ancestor who may have served in the Revolutionary War. Keep in mind your ancestor may have died in a different state from where his family was living; 2) Note that your ancestor may not have applied for a pension if he survived the war, but if they did, he or his widow may have applied for that pension or a bounty land warrant; 3) Identify the state and county where your ancestor lived between 1775-1783; 4) Find your ancestor's military unit or naval service; 5) Search DAR (Ancestor Search) and SAR (Patriot Research System); and 6) DAR Patriots of Color, which contains the names and details of documented service for Revolutionary War Patriots of African, African American, Native American and mixed descent (or perceived descent). Suzanne also pointed out that not everyone drafted actually served, and that there were Loyalists (aka Royalists or King's Men or Tories) and Black Loyalists.

During and after her program, Ms. Fritz encouraged questions and audience participation.



James McLaughlin and Suzanne Fritz
Photo credit: Janice Blakely

Contribution

FWGS member James McLaughlin was pleased to announce that the Fort Worth History Center has accepted a donation of his latest volume of the history of the McLaughlin family.

This has been a passion project of James and his brother for the past 3 years. The volume is a culmination of 21 years of research and 10,642 names.

Congratulations, James, on your accomplishment. This addition to the Fort Worth History Center's holdings will certainly be an asset to many family researchers.

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

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SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

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 preferences:

- How often: monthly / bi-monthly
- Days: Wed / Sat / Sun (your preference)
- Times: morning / afternoon / evening (or a specific window)
- Locations: café with WiFi / FW History Center / member's home

HOW TO SIGN UP / RSVP
Send a message with your choices above and any questions to **Rick Springer** at storyheritage@gmail.com.



MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE FORT WORTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for a few good members to help man the **FWGS table** at this conference. Time slots available:

8:30-10 am (includes table setup)	1-2:30 pm
10-11:30 am	2:30-4 pm
11:30 am-1pm	4-5:30 pm (includes table takedown)

Please contact Karrisa at webmaster@txfwgs.org to sign up. THANK YOU!



Join us this fall for the 2026 TxSGS Family History Conference, themed "A Journey of Discovery." This event will be held Friday and Saturday, November 6-7, at the Riley Center in Fort Worth, Texas, as well as virtually – a truly hybrid event.

But that's not all! All livestreamed sessions on both days will be recorded and available to registrants on demand following the conference. In addition, the conference includes an additional 28 pre-recorded lectures from many of your favorite speakers and internationally acclaimed presenters. These sessions will be available online for 90 days following the conference, giving you the flexibility to learn at your own pace.

Whether you're just starting out or looking to take your research to the next level, the 2026 Family History Conference offers tools, techniques, and inspiration for every genealogist. Alongside our 38 featured sessions and pre-recorded lectures, we've launched a new series of recordings called "Short Takes." Short Takes focus on a single topic for about 15-20 minutes – a great way to learn how to solve a problem or use a new tool! These recordings will be available to our virtual audience during the conference program and accessible by all conference registrants following this year's event.

We will have an exhibit area where attendees can meet with vendors and genealogical societies. Watch for additional details about an online Discovery Hub for sponsors and exhibitors.

Hope to see you in Fort Worth or virtually!

See the full list of 2026 TxSGS Conference speakers and topics on the following page.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION--IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL
https://www.txsgs.org/2026-conference-registration-2/

Earlybird rate ends October 8. Deadline to order lunch is October 10, 2026.



Schedule for 2026 TxSGS Family History Conference

FRIDAY, November 6, 2026

Central Time		Speaker	Topic
Start	End		
8:55 AM	9:00 AM	Emily Richardson	*Welcome*
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Sarah Day	*Three Flags, One Family, Researching Ancestors Across Northern New Spain, Mexico, and the Republic of Texas*
10:00 AM	10:15 AM	Break	
10:15 AM	11:15 AM	Debbie Gurtler	*Migration Patterns and Strategies: From Mexico to Texas*
11:15 AM	11:30 AM	Break	
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	Michelle L. Spencer	*One Horse Town, One Tough Search: Small-Town Research Strategies for Texas Ancestors*
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	Lunch & Exhibits	Box Lunch with time to visit Exhibits *Turn*
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Rachel Trotter	*Your Research Into a Great Story*
3:00 PM	3:15 PM	Break	
3:15 PM	4:15 PM	Ari Wilkins	*Maps! Maps! Maps!*

EXHIIBIT CLOSES AT 5:00 pm

Workshop
From Probate to Equity and Back

Kelvin Meyers
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Workshop
Google My Maps: Visualizing Your Ancestors' Lives

Linda Debe
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm



Schedule for 2026 TxSGS Family History Conference

SATURDAY, November 7, 2026

Central Time		Speaker	Topic
Start	End		
8:55 AM	9:00 AM	Emily Richardson	*Welcome*
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Katy Rowe-Schurwanz	*The Match Game: Strategies to Identify Unknown Family Finder Matches*
10:00 AM	10:15 AM	Break	
10:15 AM	11:15 AM	Laurel Neuman	*Documenting Identity through Land Records: An Archival Study of African American Preemption Land Grant Claims, 1870-1900*
11:15	11:30	Break	
AM 11:30	AM 12:30	Larry Thomas	*Correlation Strategies for Complex Genealogical Problems*
AM	PM		
12:30 PM	2:00 PM	Lunch & Award Ceremony	Buffet Lunch followed by Award Ceremony
2:00 PM	3:00 PM	Randy Whited	*Artificial Intelligence Overview for Genealogists: Terms, Tools, and Embedded Apps*
3:00 PM	3:15 PM	Break	
3:15 PM	4:15 PM	Kelvin L. Meyers	*Apprenticeships, Indentures, and Binding Out*

EXHIIBIT CLOSES AT 5:00 pm

Workshop
Connecting Faces through Time

Tina LaFreniere
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM







Join the FWGS this October – because every family has a few skeletons, and we know exactly where to dig.

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
ACTING SECRETARY: Janet Minke
TREASURER: Crystal Barth
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Janice Blakely
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Debbie Pearson
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR: Janet Minke
FOOTPRINTS EDITOR: Vicky Seibel
HISTORIAN / ARCHIVIST: - OPEN -
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Brenda Crump
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Karrisa Moseley
DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Cecelia Van Donselaar

"Every life holds an epic tale, even if no one alive remembers it."
— Greg Melville,
Over My Dead Body:
Unearthing the Hidden History of
America's Cemeteries

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 info in the Members Only section of our website, or contact webmaster@txfwgs.org.

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