Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Established 1957

November 2026

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER MEETINGS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friday, November 20, 2026
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Fort Worth History Center
501 E. Bolt St., Fort Worth
Just north of La Gran Plaza.

NEW!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

SATURDAY, Nov. 21, 2026
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Fort Worth History Center

FREE PARKING is available at the Fort Worth History Center and in the lot across the street.

Message from the Editor



We're excited to welcome our new Board of Directors at this month's general membership meeting! Please join us to greet our incoming board and to share your experiences as members.

2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Karrisa Moseley
Vice President: Debra Lochtrog
Secretary: - OPEN -
Treasurer: Crystal Barth
Program Director: Rick Springer
Membership Director: Janet Minke
Newsletter Editor: Janice Blakely
Footprints Editor: - OPEN -
Historian/Archivist: Debbie Pearson
Director at Large: Brenda Crump
Director at Large: James McLaughlin
Director at Large: Nancy Pardo

Happy Thanksgiving

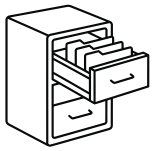
Janice

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

In Collaboration with the Fort Worth Library



SCAVENGER HUNT



AT THE

Fort Worth History Center

We're trading our usual format for a fun, hands-on opportunity to explore the Fort Worth History Center and discover the many resources it offers. A librarian will introduce us to the center and its collections, and then it's time to put your research skills to work!

Follow the clues, explore the resources, learn a few things along the way, and maybe even win a prize.

Whether you've visited the Fort Worth History Center before or have been meaning to see what it has to offer, this is a great chance to get acquainted with this valuable local research destination.

Bring your curiosity—and your best detective skills!

NEW WEEK THIS MONTH

DAY: **Saturday, November 21, 2026**
TIME: **10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Fort Worth History Center, 501 E. Bolt St.
Free Parking on site and in the parking lot across the street.

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Area Events in November

GRAND PRAIRIE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

"Introduction to WikiTree: from Beginner to Brick Wall Buster!"
Presented by David Randall
Thursday, November 5, 2026 — 6:30 - 8:30 pm
This meeting is both in person and virtual.
Contact: info@gpgstx.org to register for link to Zoom.
GP Memorial Library
9012 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie, TX



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

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.

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

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.

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

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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!*
EXHIBIT CLOSES AT 5:00 p.m.			

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

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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*
11:15AM	11:30AM	Break	
11:30AM	12:30 PM	Larry Thomas	*Correlation Strategies for Complex Genealogical Problems*
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*
EXHIBIT CLOSES AT 5:00 p.m.			

Workshop
Connecting Faces through Time

Tina LaFreniere
10:30 am - 12:30 pm

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CENTER FOR TEXAS STUDIES AT TCU

PRESERVING OUR PAST



Japanese War Brides and the Politics of Belonging at Fort Bliss

TCU PhD Candidate Riley Ford will discuss her research into Japanese war brides in Texas. Following World War II, Japanese women entered the United States in large numbers with their American servicemen husbands, some of whom ended up stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso. While living at Fort Bliss, they banded together to create the Japanese American Women's Club, a group dedicated to learning all about America—from how to vote in elections to cooking a fine pot roast. The Club enabled members to use cultural exchange to both maintain their Japanese identity and claim citizenship through participation in club activities focused on learning American ideals.

Riley Ford is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at Texas Christian University. Her dissertation examines Japanese war brides and Brides' Schools. Brides' Schools were an initiative to Americanize foreign wives of U.S. servicemen following World War II. Her research situates Brides' Schools in the larger history of the military, occupied nations, the Cold War era, domesticity, immigration laws, and American culture and customs.

NOV 7

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

TCU-Betsy and Steve Palko Hall

Zoom Registration

This facility is wheelchair-accessible. For accommodations, auxiliary aids, sign interpretive services or Spanish translation, please call 817-392-7323, or TDD 817-392-8926 48 hours in advance. If the Library does not receive notification at least 48 hours in advance, we will make a reasonable attempt to provide the necessary accommodations.

TCU ADDRAN COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS Center for Texas Studies

FORT WORTH HISTORY CENTER Fort Worth Public Library

STAY CONNECTED FORTWORTHLIBRARY.ORG

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SHARED INTEREST GROUP

GENETIC GENEALOGY

FIRST MEETING
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Panera Bread
4611 S Hulen St, Fort Worth, TX 76132

NEW GROUP HAS FORMED—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 shared interest group to discuss matches, troubleshoot methodology, share DNA research tips, and collaborate on real family history questions.

PLEASE RSVP

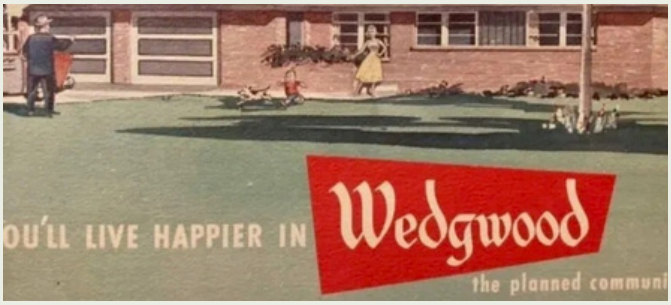
so we can prepare adequate seating,
and to get the Zoom link if
you cannot attend in person.
Send your reply and any questions to
Rick Springer at storyheritage@gmail.com.

MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE FORT WORTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY TO JOIN

FORT WORTH

Midcentury Magnificent: The History of the Wedgwood Neighborhood

Saturday, November 14, 2026 | **11:00 a.m.** | History Center



If you love midcentury houses, come learn about the history of Fort Worth's largest midcentury neighborhood – Wedgwood. Members of the Wedgwood Historical Association will review the historical development of the neighborhood, highlight some properties, and discuss their ongoing journey to achieving Historic District status on the National Register of Historic Places.

Fort Worth History Center
501 E. Bolt Street, Fort Worth, TX 76110 • history@fortworthtexas.gov

North Texas Crossroads: Indigenous Cultures and Early Frontier History

Saturday, November 14, 2026 | **2:00 p.m.** | History Center



Join us as we celebrate Native American Heritage Month with archeological scholar James Everett as he shares the Indigenous history of North Texas in this engaging program exploring from the Paleo and Archaic cultures to the Comanche, Caddo, and Wichita peoples who lived in the region during the 1830's and 1840's. We'll also dive into local history such as the Battle of Village Creek, Bird's Fort, and more.

Fort Worth History Center
501 E. Bolt Street, Fort Worth, TX 76110 • history@fortworthtexas.gov

FORT WORTH

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MID-CITIES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

“20 Websites Genealogists Should Use”

Presented by Emily Coffman Richardson

Monday, November 16, 2026 — 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Bedford Public Library

2424 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford, TX 76021



***The Billy W. Sills Lecture Series* and**
Dr. Rick Selcer
present
"The Tuskegee Airmen of Fort Worth"

Saturday, Nov. 21, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.
Trinity Terrace, Longhorn Ballroom
1600 Texas Street, 76102, Fort Worth

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



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“Generations pass like leaves from our family tree. Each season new life blossoms and grows, benefiting from the strength and experience of those who went before.”

— Heidi Swapp

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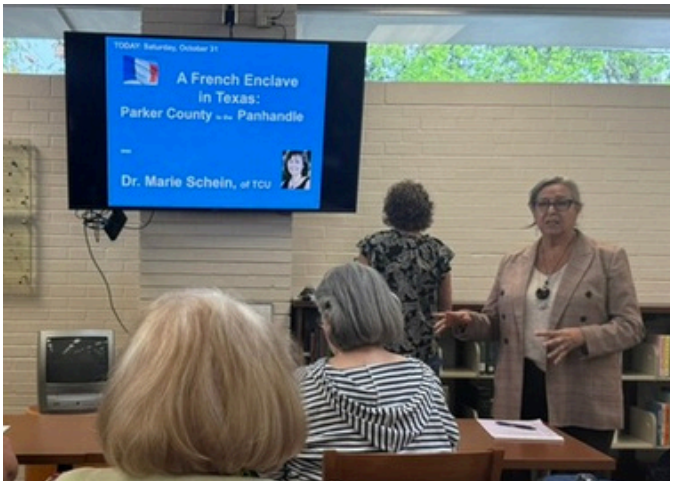
OCTOBER PROGRAM *Summary*

A French Enclave in Texas: Parker County to the Panhandle

We thank Marie Schein, Ph.D., Emerita Senior Instructor (Retired) of French in TCU's Department of Modern Language Studies, for her engaging presentation. She shared the stories of several French families who came to the United States from three regions of France and eventually settled in Parker County and the Texas Panhandle. Among the most rewarding discoveries in her research were letters that revealed the changes these families had to navigate and the many challenges they faced as they made their way to West Texas.

Dr. Marie, as she is affectionately known, did not begin her research as a genealogist. Since discovering the joy of the craft, however, she has looked forward to more opportunities to pursue this shared passion. She is egaer to find descendents of the families in her research. Thank you again, Dr. Marie, for sharing your time and research with us.





VETERANS DAY

November 11th

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MEMBER ONLY

Renew your FWGS membership this November—before the scarecrow in your family tree starts asking for a straw-paternity test!

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 entry to FWGS 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
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PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Debbie Pearson
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR: Janet Minke
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DIRECTOR AT LARGE: Cecelia Van Donselaar

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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