

DISCOVER. CONNECT. BELONG.

24TH ANNUAL GENEALOGY LOCK-IN

FRIDAY, OCT. 17

 **WEST WACO LIBRARY
& GENEALOGY CENTER +
ONLINE**

 **8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.**



Scan to
register &
learn more
about the
event.

waco-texas.com/lockin

Join fellow family history researchers and enthusiasts at one of Texas's premier genealogy events, presented in collaboration with more than 75 libraries across the country.

Whether you're deep into your research or exploring new tools, the Genealogy Lock-In offers eight expert-led in-person or virtual sessions, covering topics like AI-assisted genealogy, immigration records, and writing your family story.

On-site at West Waco Library

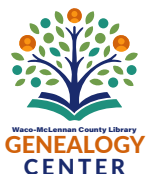
- One-on-one genealogy assistance
- Free printing for research materials
- Local archive and heritage group exhibits
- Door prizes and giveaways
- Tours of the Genealogy Center

Come and go as you like, attend the sessions that interest you, or stay for the full day. It's free and open to all.

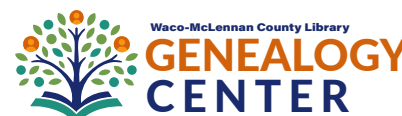
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



WACO
MCLENNAN COUNTY
LIBRARY



SCHEDULE:



9 – 9:50 a.m.

FROM NAMES TO NARRATIVES *(Beginner Level)*

Hannah Kubacak, Librarian from the Waco-McLennan County Library's Genealogy Center
Learn the art of biographical writing by weaving historical context, personal anecdotes, and family lore into your ancestors' stories. Review tips on maintaining accuracy while crafting a compelling narrative to preserve and share your family history. Join us and be inspired to transform your genealogy research into captivating biographical sketches cherished by future generations.

10 – 10:50 a.m.

FOLLOWING A CIVIL CASE THROUGH DOCUMENTS FILED IN COURT *(Intermediate Level)*

J. Mark Lowe, FUGA, Ky-Tn Research Associates Researcher
Learn the basics of the legal system. Understand the process of following a case through court including dockets, orders, depositions, etc. Find the key to solving a problem using these records.

11 – 11:50 a.m.

JAKTEN: RESEARCHING SCANDINAVIAN ANCESTORS *(Beginner Level)*

Carl Smith, Manager of the Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus
Do you have ancestors who emigrated from Denmark, Norway, or Sweden? These countries each did an amazing job of recording and preserving their church and government records from early-modern history until the present - many of which are accessible online. Review record sources and strategies for researchers ready to uncover their Scandinavian family roots.

11:50 – 12:50 p.m. **Lunch Break**

On your own!

12:50 – 2:10 p.m.

THE STORIES OF OUR LIVES: BEGINNING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY *(Beginner Level)*

Curt Witcher, Director of Special Collections at the Allen County Public Library
Discover (or review) straightforward steps to take when starting your family history. Easy steps for comfortably gathering as much information as possible will be shared along with how to organize that information to lead one to next steps and new discoveries.

2:25 – 3:15 p.m.

RESEARCH ROAD TRIPS *(Beginner Level)*

Jessica Horne Collins, President of the Clayton Library Friends
Uncover your family's past with a balance of research and family fun. Learn how to prepare yourself for research trips to libraries, courthouses, archives, and other repositories. Explore ways to take completed and in-progress research and craft a road trip that showcases your family history to loved ones of all ages.

3:30 – 4:20 p.m.

NEW ORLEANS AREA GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH *(Beginner Level)*

Stephen Stuart, President of the Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans
Family historians can access a wealth of libraries, archives, and other resources to learn more about their roots in Southeast Louisiana. This presentation provides an overview of those resources – both prominent and not so well known – and key features of their collections. Participants will also receive contact information to get started.

4:35 – 5:25 p.m.

FAMILY TREES GET SMART: AI AS YOUR GENEALOGY ASSISTANT *(Intermediate Level)*

Sherri Taggart Ahmadzadeh, Chief Genealogist at Family Tree Tracer, LLC
Artificial Intelligence is transforming how we discover, analyze, and connect family history records. We will examine the emerging ways AI tools are revolutionizing genealogical research - from document analysis to pattern recognition to breakthrough research techniques. Whether you're a tech enthusiast or just getting started with digital research, this presentation will help you harness AI's potential in uncovering your family's story.

5:40 – 6:30 p.m.

USING COLLATERAL RESEARCH TO BUILD YOUR FAMILY TREE *(Intermediate Level)*

Sandra Crowley, Director of Development for the Texas State Genealogical Society
Collateral research is a powerful genealogical method that extends beyond direct ancestors to investigate the broader family network. Uncover strategies to find additional records, reconstruct family dynamics, and navigate challenges posed by missing direct ancestor documentation. This approach is useful when primary records are scarce, offering contextual clues, migration patterns, and unexpected biographical details. Learn to transform fragmented family history into a rich and comprehensive narrative.



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