



Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

web site: www.TXFWGS.org

MAY 2017

2017 Board of Directors

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Director at Large
Sheryl Rascher

Director at Large
Carol Reeves

May FWGS Meetings:

Board of Directors: Sat. May 20, 2017
10:15 Southwest Regional

Beginners: Sat. May 13, 2017
10:30-12:30 Chappell Rm.—Central

Computer Users: Sat. May 13, 2017
2:00-4:00 Intel Lab—Central

General Meeting: Tues, May 30, 2017
6:30-7:45 Auditorium-Central

Refreshments at 6:00

Refreshments: Don Crews

Can You Help? debeejay@aol.com

MAY GENERAL MEETING

Our May meeting will be **Tuesday, May 30, 2017** in the **Tandy Auditorium** of the Central Branch Library. **Connie Gray**, Adoption Activist and Researcher, will present: **“The History of Adoption and Birth Certificates in the State of Texas.”** You won’t want to miss this very rare topic and event.

Time will be **6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.**

Refreshments begin at 6:00 p.m., with the meeting starting at 6:30.

Adoption Research is a most difficult subject and highly requested as a topic in genealogical circles. Connie Gray will address historical documentation, adoption law, birth certificates, birth books, as well as the movement to ensure accuracy of records.

CONNIE GRAY is a Texas adoptee. Adopted at the age of nine, Connie was determined to uncover her own genealogical truths. Upon turning 18 in 1976, she petitioned the Travis county court, obtained her original birth certificate, and within two years located her entire biological family. In 2013 she founded the organization Texas Adoptee Rights, which has been the driving force to restore access to original birth certificates for Texas adoptees.

Connie also devotes time to being a **“SEARCH ANGEL.”** These volunteers help reconnect those families separated by adoption. She also will be actively testifying and lobbying in the Texas Legislature through the end of May for Adoptee Rights.

FW LIBRARY NEWS



Have You Explored Digital Books

FWL has many ways to download & use works on your own device. Try... <http://fortworthtexas.gov/library/digitalibrary/>

APRIL FWGS MEETING

FWGS rolled out the RED CARPET for the April General Meeting (or was it royal Purple?) Members and Guests were drawn to hear about researching Royal Lineages with **Thomas Morton**, who has helped over 150 people trace their lines back to Kings or Emperors. Tom has linked people back to Biblical lineages too. He gave us fascinating numbers of how many ancestors we possible can have. And makes the case that we *all* are truly related! He showed us how to use **Rootsweb** and the Advanced Tab to find lineages to download from others who share the same lines. He extolled the ease of Family Tree Maker software to turn these lineages into beautiful books to share or give to relatives. Tom also shared a handout with a list of over 50 surnames that he says are sure bets to link you back to at least the Middle Ages and to Royalty. If you have questions, you can email Tom at:

Tmorton975@gmail.com

PARKING IS EASY!

Meters are FREE at 6 PM and you can always park FREE in the 3rd Street Garage (only a block E. from the library door) for 2 ½ hours with your ticket validated at the library desk.



From the FWGS Mail Bag



Center For Texas Studies - TCU & FW Lib

Saturday, May 6th 10:30-12:00 noon

“One Hundred Years of Weather in DFW”

by **Mark Fox**, Warning & Coordination

Meteorologist, National Weather Service Fort Worth
in **Tandy Auditorium, Central Branch, FWL**

Hear about historic weather events in the Metroplex. Find out why the National Weather Service put an office in Fort Worth.

NEXT: School’s Out For Summer! Check back in the Fall

Billy W. Sills Center for Archives/FWISD presents

Saturday, May 27, 2017 10 am-12 noon

Presenter: **Ron Abram**, preservationist & operations manager

Topic: **“A History of Fort Worth’s Black Community Through Calvin Littlejohn’s Photos ”**

2720 Cullen, 2nd Floor

Fort Worth, TX 76107

(817) 814-2040

NEXT: Taking A Summer Break. Look for us in the Fall!

Lunch Time Lectures @ NARA Noon-1 p.m.

1400 John Burgess Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76140

Training Room

NO Lectures scheduled Until October

Next: The NARA web site doesn’t show another Lunchtime Lecture until **October 3, 2017.**

Topic: Flight 19: The Lost Squadron.

Deals with flights lost in the Bermuda Triangle

IMPORTANT: DATE CHANGES FOR CLASSES IN MAY!



Beginners Classes

Saturday, May 13, 2017

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

VP **Terri Meeks** will lead this 5th class at the Central Branch Library, in the Chappell Room at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Parking on the street meters & at the 3rd St Garage are free all day on Saturdays. **Library opens at 10:00 a.m.**

5th Session Topic: Church, Cemetery and Vital Records

Both classes are FREE & available to non-members too.



Computer Users Group (CUG)

Saturday, May 13, 2017

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Debbie Pearson chairs CUG this year. This class includes hands-on computer time in the **Intel Lab** at the Central Branch Library. Time will be spent in instruction with time to explore the web using what you have learned. Space is limited to FWL computers available.

5th Session Topic: Church, Cemetery and Vital Records



From the Editor

May Brings Flowers & Changes

President Don Crews reminds us that in MAY the FWGS schedule will change slightly for the Library’s needs. The May General Meeting will be just as always: the *last* Tuesday of the month. But the **CUG** and **Beginners** Classes will move UP to **May 13th**. Mark it **NOW**. And speaking of marking your calendars: Save the Date **September 9th** for **LISA LOUISE COOKE** at our End of Summer Seminar on Technology! *see p. 3*

The biggest change of all will be that FWGS will have to accept the resignation in June of our **Vice President Terri Meeks**. Terri has been so involved in FWGS for the last 15 years or more. She has held several vital offices in the society, but the role we hold most dear is as instructor for FWGS Beginners Classes. Terri took the classes over after the illness and death of longtime member **Bettye Richhart**. Bettye was able to share her material with Terri and Terri has worked on it and made her outline into a wonderful series that continues to teach and train new genealogists and sometimes new members for our society. Terri will teach her last class May 13. Then new board member, **Sheryl Rascher** will take over the summer classes and conclude in August. Terri will leave a huge hole on our board, in our society, and in our hearts. *Debbie Pearson, Newsletter Editor*

FWGS Membership Report:

Rob Yoder, Membership Director reports
137 Members as of May 1st.

Welcome to these New Members:

Charles Garner	Carlene Johnson
Ann Bryant family	Janice Blakely
Louise Watkins family	Rick Herring

And Returning Member: Barbara Jones

To Join or Send Renewals, Mail to:

Fort Worth Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 471789
Fort Worth, TX 76147-1408

Individual Membership: \$23 Family Membership: \$27



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SAVE THE DATE

September 9, 2017

FWGS

End Of Summer Seminar

with Lisa Louise Cooke

Trimble Tech HS, Fort Worth



Here are the Subjects/Topics Covered in September:

1. Google Books: the tool you should use every day!

(Brand new for 2017 - this was a BIG hit at Rootstech)

25 million digitized and searchable free books are at your fingertips with Google Books. Learn how to make the most of this goldmine chock full of historical data!

2. Create a Free Google Earth Map Collection for Your Research (Brand new for 2017)

Learn how to find free digital maps for your ancestral locations, add them as permanent overlays to Google Earth, and then organize them into your personal map reference collection. You'll learn best practices for keeping them organized and enriching your research.

3. Making Evernote Effortless

Learn the best strategies for making Evernote a breeze to use for your genealogy research. Shave time off your note-taking with quick keys, shortcuts, saved searches, search operators, Reminders, note sharing, source citation, and building Evernote into any browser you use (including mobile devices!)

4. 7 Awesome Apps that Eliminate Eye-Rolling! (Brand new for 2017)

Eliminate your relative's bored eye-rolling and captivate them with compelling stories and imagery! We'll cover seven easy-to-use and free mobile apps that will help you tell your family history stories in a riveting way.



Who Do You Think You Are?

Who Do You Think You Are, season 9 has just concluded on the TLC network. Check their web site for encore showings or watch online. While there, check out their other excellent genealogy reality TV show: *Long Lost Family*, which deals with putting together families who experienced adoptions, oftentimes employing the use of DNA. In *Long Lost Family* you can literally watch an adopted child (now adult) take a DNA test, then with the help of the experts, go to Ancestry DNA or any of the other data

bases and find their blood relatives, sometimes bridging the long, lost gap to find their parents.

READ MORE AS THIS ISSUE AFFECTS TEXAS

TEXAS PONDER'S RIGHT TO ALLOW ACCESS TO ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES

The Texas Legislature is dealing with adoption issues right at this moment. Two bills are facing votes this month, both dealing with the right of adults to have access to their original birth certificates (OBC). Besides the obvious need of individuals to have access to their health histories, individuals would like to have access to their genealogical history: where they came from, their ethnicity, their global heritage .

Senate Bill 329 and **House Bill 547** are both before the Texas Legislature now, both with multiple sponsors, and importantly, with bipartisan support. The group **STAR** (Support Texas Adoptee Rights) reports wide support from both adoptees and birth parents, as well as adoption agencies, medical groups, religious groups, social workers/agencies, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and many, many more.

Ftdna.com, **Ancestry.com**, and **23&me.com** now have over **4 million people** in their DNA databases, and it grows daily. The odds of adoptees and birth parents finding a genetic match are quite good. As demonstrated on the TV show above, adoptees are matching with cousins or other family and then working their way through the family tree to find the birth parent. With such degrees of certainty, these proponents ask- why keep the original birth certificate sealed?

If you would like to read more about the Original Birth Certificate bills:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=SB329> Click on "text" to read the text of bill.

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=85R&Bill=HB547> Click on "text" to read the text of bill.

STAR group: <http://www.texasadopteerights.org/>

More on the background and support of the bills:

<http://www.texasadopteerights.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/CrashCourseonOBCAccess2017.pdf>

If you feel strongly on this issue, contact your Legislator

Find your TX Legislator:

<http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

Neither bill is on the calendar to be brought to vote yet.



Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Box 471789, Fort Worth, Texas 76147-1408

Founded A.D. 1957

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FWGS Web site: www.TXFWGS.org

FWGS Facebook: www.facebook.com/FortWorthGenealogicalSociety

Please LIKE us on Facebook.

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: 2017 2018 New Renewal