



Programs and Classes for Organizations

The Pinellas Genealogy Society has developed a number of classes to assist researchers in various areas of family history research. We will be glad to present these to neighboring genealogy or historical societies or other interested groups. Each presentation is approximately 60-90 minutes. The fee for each class is normally \$100.00 for all locations within a 70-mile radius of Largo, Florida, but exceptions can be made for the location and type of organization. Please call Bob Bryan at 727-595-4521 or email him at BBryan84@gmail.com for more details or to schedule a presentation. Here is a brief description of the available classes:

1. **ANCESTRY FAMILY TREES** – Publishing your tree on Ancestry.com can be a great way to share your research with others, as well as to provide a backup for your work. This presentation covers how to start a family tree on Ancestry.com, and how to maintain it. That includes working with people, events, images, and sources. Internet access is preferable but not necessary.
2. **ANCESTRY.COM**—(Internet access is required) This site is the largest, most comprehensive collection of genealogy data on the internet. This class will focus on search techniques for getting the most from *this* huge collection of databases.
3. **BACKUP & PROTECTING COMPUTER DATA**--How to assure your genealogy (and other) computer data is safe from natural disasters, computer failure, viruses, spyware, etc. We will discuss what data you need to backup and specific means to safely backup that data. We will show how to protect your computer from viruses and spyware.
4. **BOUNTY LANDS IN GENEALOGY RESEARCH** -- Bounty Lands were used from before the Revolutionary War up until 1858 to reward military service and stimulate enlistment. Those records can confirm military service and even locate ancestors during and after hostilities. This class gives the history of the subject, what records are available, and where to find them.
5. **BRICK WALL SOLUTIONS**—some ideas and suggestions for overcoming dead ends in your family history research.
6. **CITY DIRECTORIES IN GENEALOGY RESEARCH** -- City directories are a valuable genealogy resource. They can give information on household composition, residence and business location, and insights into the lives our ancestors led. They can also be used as a substitute for the US Federal Census, or used in conjunction with the census to locate hard-to-find ancestors. This class explores the history of this resource, the research value of the information they provide, and where to find the records.
7. **CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS- FINDING YOURS** -- How to use both print and on-line resources to find your Civil War ancestors. The discussion briefly mentions use of Ancestry.com, but principally focuses on other resources that are not fee-based.
8. **CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS: HISTORY AND RECORDS** – The CCC was a major governmental program of the New Deal that sought to employ millions of destitute young men of the Depression Era. Although the term “CCC” is usually recognized, few specifics are generally known about the program. This presentation recounts the history and accomplishments of the CCC, as well as characteristics of the corps members and

Programs and Classes for Organizations

camp life. It will also explore where records can be found and how to order them if needed.

9. **DEATH RECORDS**—This class will focus on finding records to establish the death date of your deceased kinfolk. We will describe and demonstrate how and where to find many types of records and resources that will enable you to determine death dates. In addition to the commonly used records such as death certificates, tombstones, obituaries, death indexes, etc., you will discover some that you may not have considered.
10. **DIGITAL CAMERAS FOR GENEALOGY** -- The digital camera is one of the most important tools for the genealogists. This class will discuss the important features of cameras, and demonstrate how to make the best use of the digital camera in your research.
11. **DIGITIZED GENEALOGY BOOKS ONLINE** – (Internet access is required) Searching the internet for thousands of scanned genealogy books available online (from Google Books, Heritage Quest, familysearch.org, et al).
12. **DNA TESTING FOR GENEALOGY**—What you can and cannot do with DNA testing relating to your family history—an introduction and example.
13. **DOCUMENTING YOUR SOURCES** -- How to write proper source citations and how to enter them into a genealogy computer program (*PAF*, *Roots Magic*, and *Family Tree Maker* will be addressed).
14. **DROPBOX, AND EVERNOTE**—This is an explanation on how to use Dropbox (a popular site for synchronizing and backing up your files) and Evernote (a program for making, organizing, and synchronizing notes). Both are popular free utilities that can aid in your research.
15. **FAMILYSEARCH.ORG-- GETTING THE MOST OUT OF** -- This is an introduction to the features and techniques of using this huge free database collection of the LDS Church. The content is rapidly expanding along with updates to the website.
16. **FEMALE ANCESTORS** –Some tips and case studies on how to find maiden names and trace your maternal lines.
17. **FOLD3**—is an online database focused on digitized military records. It is a fee site that is free if accessed at the Largo Library. This presentation explains how to get the most out of using it.
18. **GENEALOGICAL PROOF** -- A method to evaluate the strength of the evidence you have collected to “prove” your family history.
19. **GENEALOGY NUMBERING SYSTEMS AND HOW TO USE THEM:** -- Have you ever been confused by the array of numbers you see in printed genealogies? Family lineages presented in text format require an organizational system to allow the user to “easily” follow family lines. This class explains several of the most common systems you may come across, and may give you some ideas on how to construct your own.
20. **GENEALOGY PHOTOS: ORGANIZING, MANAGING AND ENHANCING** -- This class will demonstrate how to organize and manage your digital genealogy photos so they can be

Programs and Classes for Organizations

easily found and how to enhance their appearance. This includes cropping, straightening, one-touch fix, removing blemishes, adding captions and text to the photo, making a collage, and much more. All this can be done using Picasa, the powerful free program from Google.

21. **GENEALOGY SOFTWARE UTILITIES-Part I** -- Demonstration of several utility programs useful for genealogists such as: Dropbox, Skype, Google Voice, Google Earth, Evernote, Mozy/Carbonite online backup, Online software (Googledocs), automatic backup software, GEDCOM utilities and more.
22. **GENEALOGY SOFTWARE UTILITIES-Part II**— Continuation of utility programs (not covered in Part I) useful for genealogy
23. **GOOGLE YOUR FAMILY TREE** — (Internet access is required) This presentation demonstrates how to use the powerful features of the Google search engine to discover genealogy information on the internet. Topics include: how to select keyword search terms, structuring the search term using special operators, how to interpret the results, using Google Alerts, news archive searches, book searches and more neat things that Google can do for you.
24. **HERITAGE QUEST WEBSITE, GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE ---** (Internet access is desirable but not absolutely necessary) Heritage Quest is a fee website that is usually available for free at your local public library or from home using your library website. This class explores the information available on the site (census images, genealogy books, etc.) and how to dig it out.
25. **HOMESTEAD ACT: HISTORY AND RECORDS**--A review of the historical and political significance of the 1862 Homestead Act and associated legislation. Includes a discussion of the process followed to establish a homestead on public domain land, and an understanding of the method of legally surveying and describing the land. The presentation will also cover an examination of the records that were created in establishing a homestead, their genealogical value, and where those records are found today. This is an in-depth treatment of the Homestead Act, which is briefly referred to in the presentation on property Research Basics in the US.
26. **IMMIGRATION AND PASSENGER LISTS** -- What immigration records tell us about our ancestors and strategies to find them.
27. **INTERNET GENEALOGY** – Introduces a strategy for using the Internet in genealogy research. It presents examples of the different types of websites that can aid in research and highlights the top 3 or 4 that are “musts” on everyone’s favorites list.
28. **INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY** -- (Beginner) Basics of how to get started in researching your family history.
29. **IPAD FOR GENEALOGY**--A brief general exploration of the use and capabilities of the iPad, and in particular the functions and apps that support genealogy research and data management. The class is also applicable to the iPhone and iPod Touch

Programs and Classes for Organizations

30. **KING PHILIP'S WAR, 1675-1676**; Causes & Consequences – Although largely forgotten, King Philip's War was a widespread conflict that had a significant and long-lasting impact on New England colonists and Native Americans. The class will look at causes leading up to this brutal war, analyze the course of the war, and outline the consequences that helped shape the future of the United States.
31. **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WEBSITE** – (Internet access is preferred but not required) This class will explore the Library of Congress website. In particular we will look at what genealogy help it provides, veterans' information, historic newspapers, digital collections, photographs, and use of the catalog.
32. **LIVING PERSONS-TRACING** or how to find the cousins you never knew. This class will focus on some tips and techniques for finding living kinfolks and will show a case study.
33. **LOCAL AND COUNTY HISTORIES** are often overlooked resources that can contain a wealth of resources on your ancestors and the places that they lived. This presentation explores the background of local and county history books; what information can be found in them; and, where to find them, both in print and online.
34. **LOYALISTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION** – who were the Loyalists, and how were they affected by the outcome of the war? Were they rewarded for their loyalty to the British crown, and if so, in what manner? Get the answer to these questions and more, including what records may exist and where they might be found.
35. **MAPS IN GENEALOGY RESEARCH – EVEN MORE**-Maps can reveal much about the lives our ancestors led and the conditions under which they lived. They can also reveal hints on where to look for other important documents. There are many different types of maps available to the researcher, and this class deals with military, ward, topographical, plat, and railroad maps.
36. **MAPS IN GENEALOGY RESEARCH** -- Maps can reveal much about the lives our ancestors led and the conditions under which they lived. They can also reveal hints on where to look for other important documents. There are many different types of maps available to the researcher, and this class deals with road, city, political, insurance, and migration maps.
37. **MILITARY RECORDS** -- What records exist, what they information they give us, where to find them, and how to get them.
38. **MS EXCEL IN GENEALOGY** -- How to keep track of lists generated by your genealogy computer program, sort, filter, etc. Excel is really a handy basic database program that is very useful in genealogy. An actual case of tracking census data is used in this presentation.
39. **MS WORD IN GENEALOGY** -- This presentation focuses on generating indexes and tables of contents for documents you author using MSWord.
40. **NATIONAL ARCHIVES- ORDERING RECORDS** – (Internet access is preferred but not required) This is an in-depth explanation of how to order several different records from the National Archives. The records include military (both historic and modern),

Programs and Classes for Organizations

naturalization, census, land, and microfilm. Both online and postal mail ordering procedures will be covered.

41. **NATURALIZATION RECORDS** — Many of our immigrant ancestors went on to become naturalized citizens of the United States. This class outlines the naturalization process, the documents produced during that process, the information they contain, and where they can be located.
42. **NEWSPAPERS.COM**- is an online database focused on digitized historical newspapers. It is a fee site that is free if accessed at or through the Largo Library. This presentation explains how to get the most out of using it.
43. **NEWSPAPERS ONLINE IN GENEALOGY**— This class will explore the genealogy data to be found in newspapers (obituaries, weddings, human interest stories, etc.) and show where to find the online repositories and how to use them.
44. **ORGANIZING YOUR FILES— PAPER AND ELECTRONIC** -- How to name them...how to file them. Adopt a system that is consistent and reliable for both paper and electronic systems
45. **PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS TO ENHANCE AND REPAIR PHOTOS**— Shows how to digitally repair/recover old photos using the Photoshop Elements program. It also shows how the program can be used to save and organize photographs.
46. **PROPERTY RESEARCH BASICS IN THE US**— This is a general treatment of property research in the United States. It will explore ownership documents from land grants to land patents to deeds; it will explain the difference in land descriptions in state land states and public land states; it will examine the historical context of military bounty land, the Homestead Act, and the cash purchase of public land. We will also survey where to find the records generated during the ownership and transfer of property.
47. **PUBLISHING YOUR FAMILY TREE ONLINE** -- How and where to easily publish your research online at no cost with a discussion of things you should consider; advantages and disadvantages of an online tree.
48. **RESEARCH TRIP PLANNING**— This session will lay out some steps to take to ensure that your trip to your ancestral home area is as successful as possible. (This class does not cover planning a trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City). Areas to be covered include: scope of the trip—duration & things to accomplish, make a detailed plan of attack—what, where, when, paving the way for when you arrive, supplies and materials to take, accumulating and recording the data, and processing the data back home
49. **ROOTS MAGIC- INTRODUCTION TO** -- This is one of the popular computer programs used to organize genealogy information.
50. **ROOTSWEB.COM, GETTING THE MOST OUT OF**-- This is an introduction to the features and techniques of using this huge free source of genealogy information including the use of message boards and mailing lists.

Programs and Classes for Organizations

51. **SIX KEY RECORDS IN FAMILY RESEARCH** — (Beginner) This is a class aimed primarily at beginning genealogists. It identifies six records that are a must for early concentration in research. It identifies what those records are, why they are so important, and where they can be found.
52. **SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR** -- This class is an exploration of the causes, conflicts, and results of the United States' war with Spain in 1898. In addition to the history of the conflict and its consequences, the types of records generated during the conflict will be discussed along with guidance on where to find those records.
53. **UNDERSTANDING HISTORICAL CAUSES OF DEATH**-Death certificates are important resources when researching the lives of our ancestors. However, due to factors such as outdated terminology and the limits of medical knowledge in the past, it can be hard to interpret the causes of death given. This presentation examines some of those factors, and points to resources that can help you find out what your ancestors really died of.
54. **US CENSUS BEFORE 1850** — **RESEARCHING WITH THE** Many researchers become frustrated with the difficulty in researching the US Census prior to 1850 because of only the heads of households being explicitly named. However, those early censuses contain more information than one might initially think. This class
55. **US CENSUS --NON-POPULATION SCHEDULES**— Most of us are familiar with the population schedules of the US Census. But there is a wealth of information about our families in other schedules that were created in certain census years. This class identifies what those other schedules are (Agricultural, Mortality, DDD, etc.), what information can be found in them, and where they can be located today.
56. **US CENSUS TIMELINES** -- Discovering ancestor information by focusing on responses to similar questions asked over different census years and the instructions given to enumerators.
57. **US CENSUS TRACKING** -- Probably the fundamental way of using the US Federal Census is to track ancestors from one census year to the next. In that process we seek to uncover relationships and lost or heretofore unknown ancestors. This class shows a strategy on how to do that, using an actual family as an example. In addition it also shows how to uncover hints on using resources outside of the census itself.
58. **WALKING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS**-One of the fun things about genealogy is getting to know our ancestors as people, not just as names and dates on a chart. This presentation will help you to identify sources that can assist you in locating the precise locations where your ancestors lived and worked.
59. **WAR OF 1812** — This class seeks to provide an understanding of the historical significance of the War of 1812: it looks at the causes of the war, how it was fought, and its consequences. It then explores the genealogically relevant records generated in relation to the war: what they are, and where to find them.

Programs and Classes for Organizations

60. **WAR WITH MEXICO** -- This class is an exploration of the causes, conflicts, and results of the United States' war with Mexico. In addition to the history of the conflict, the types of records generated during the conflict will be discussed along with guidance on where to find those records.
61. **WITCHCRAFT TRIALS**--Was Your Ancestor Accused of Being a Witch?: Exploring the Colonial New England Witchcraft Trials.
62. **WRITING BRIEF NARRATIVE SKETCHES – SHARING INTERESTING ANCESTORS WITH FAMILY**--Do you want to share your family history research and enthusiasm with your relatives, but find that their eyes tend to glaze over when you pull out your pedigree charts and family group sheets? Try presenting the information to them in bite-size chunks, one interesting ancestor at a time, using brief, 1-3 page narratives with visual impact.s