



# Trilogy Genealogy Club

## Newsletter April 2022

### **A Busy April Meeting**

Our April meeting was jammed packed with information. For the first time in years, it lasted the entire two hours (and exactly two hours.)

### **Treasurer's Report**

Cheryl started the meeting with a treasurer's report. We came out \$155.45 ahead on the Family History Conference and now have \$2,116.53 in the bank. The most significant expense this year will be the new name badges. You can view the full report on the new website under Members Only/Financial Reports.

### **Introducing the new website**

I introduced and demonstrated the new website. The new website address is TVAGenealogy.club, which replaces TrilogyGenealogyClub.org. The old site will disappear from the Internet in early May. Those who attended the meeting received invitations to join the new site the next day, and most of them have accepted and are starting to use the new site. For those who didn't attend the meeting and have no idea what I am talking about, please see the next section of this newsletter.

### **Vicki's Tools from Rootstech**

Vicki Reisenfeld shared information from the Rootstech 2022 sessions on several tools that could be of great value in genealogy research. You can download her slides from the handout section of the new website. Her slides contain many links to videos from Rootstech that demonstrate and describe these tools.

Note: You will find the handouts in the members-only section on the new website, where you can access handouts from past meetings by date or topic. To access Vicki's presentation on the by date listings, go to 2022 and download the files for April. To access the same presentation by topic, select Tools and Techniques from the topics listed. Vicki's presentation is the last (most recent) item under that topic.

Vicki has also updated her OneNote genealogy research database with many links to great videos and other information from Rootstech. If you are not a subscriber to her OneNote database, I strongly recommend contacting her at (vreisen01@comcast.net). She will share access to this with club members for free. Take advantage of the great opportunity.

### **The Revolutionary War – Up Close and Personal**

I presented the Revolutionary War – Up Close and Personal. This presentation is the story of a small boy who grew up during the war. His father and his older brother served in George Washington's Army, his

oldest brother served in the new country's fledgling Continental Navy, his uncle was a Major in the Minutemen, and his grandfather was captured and held prisoner by the British. The war was all around him, and battles took place in his backyard.

You can download the slides from this presentation from the handouts section of the new club website.

## **AZ Genealogy Day Conference**

I hope many of you attended the free Arizona State Genealogy Conference using the link I sent you. I especially enjoyed the two-afternoon presentations. For those who were unable to participate, here are links to the recordings of those two presentations.

Brittany Styles, MLIS, & Janelle Breeveld, MLIS, "Genealogy Gems in Government Documents"  
- <https://youtu.be/g09C2Iok8YQ>

Thomas MacEntee, "The Genealogy Do-Over: A Year of Learning From My Mistakes"  
- [https://youtu.be/F\\_mmP0vW6\\_U](https://youtu.be/F_mmP0vW6_U)

## **A New Website**

This newsletter section is for people who did not attend the April meeting. We have a new club website and a new website address:

<https://www.tvagenealogy.club/>

The old site is still running but will go away around May 1, 2022.

### **What is wrong with the old website?**

- The old site was getting old, outdated, and rusty. It was state-of-the-art when I created it twelve years ago, but times changed.
- In 2010, Mike O'Beirne, the club founder and President, decided we needed a password-protected site to protect handouts provided by speakers and content provided by members.
- At that time, GUI website builders didn't support member websites
- I developed the site in HTML, SQL, Php, and JavaScript.
- Websites done this way are very flexible and powerful but are challenging to maintain
- I have hosted the old website on my hosting account on ipage.com at no cost to the club.

### **What do we need in a new website?**

- We need a membership website with controlled access.
- It should be hosted on a club owned and paid for hosting account
- It should be constructed using a GUI builder design for maintainability
- It needs a more modern appearance than the old site.
- It must be easy to navigate so new members can understand it quickly.
- It must be mobile compatible to work with all mobile and desktop devices.

## Why a New Address?

Having a different URL allowed me to quickly develop the new site while maintaining the old one. In addition, the Weebly account came with a free URL for the first year.

The new site address is: [TVAGenealogy.club](http://TVAGenealogy.club)

- TVA stands for Trilogy at Vistancia Association
- We are a chartered club under the Association incorporation
- Our official name in Trilogy at Vistancia Association Genealogy Club

## Site Development

The Board authorized the development and up to \$200 for hosting fees last Fall. Considering the requirements, I looked at many GUI design and hosting alternatives. At first, I favored using WordPress, but meeting our needs required multiple add-ins that caused the subscription fees to skyrocket. Instead, I chose Weebly, which Square now owns.

In late January, I started the design and construction of the site Laurie Rahn joined me and worked on the graphics and the text.

We announced and demonstrated the new site at the April meeting. After the meeting, I sent invitations to join the site to all attendees.

## A New Webmaster

Laurie will be taking over as webmaster. She has already made many contributions and has taken over doing most of the editing. She has added a “Contact the Webmaster” link to the bottom of every page on the site. You can also use this form to report any problems or suggest improvements.

I want to thank Laurie for taking this on. It is a great relief to me to have someone else I can trust doing the site.

## Getting Access

Like the old site, you will need a login to access most of the content. The new website is an invitation site; we can't assign you a login and password. We can send you an invitation to join, and you must set your password.

Those who attended the April meeting already have access. Laurie or I will send all who did not participate in the April meeting an invitation to join the site within the next few days. These are personalized invitations; please don't share them.

Please respond ASAP by clicking on the link in the invitation. The site will ask you to set up your password. Once you do, you will have full access to the new site. Your login will be your email address, and your password will be what you set up.

Square secures everyone's login. We can't see or change your password. If you forget your password, you can reset it through Square, or the webmaster can reset it and send you a new invite. We can't tell you what your password is as they are not visible to anyone.

## The 1950 Census

The 1950 census is now available on the National Archives website. The AWS artificial intelligence program has indexed it, but converting so many people's handwriting requires human review and editing. Frank Van Vleck forwarded the attached bulletin from the National Archives describing this and soliciting help with this review.

I used the links provided and was able to find my family quite easily. The computer converted all the names of my family correctly. Take a look at the attached document from the National Archives, then see if you can find your family. Join in and help the National Archives make the index to the 1950 census as accurate as possible.

## Genealogy Quick Hint of the Month

One of the most powerful resources available for family history research is the FamilySearch Wiki. This is a go-to site for finding where information on your ancestors may be located. If you have never used it or have tried it and become confused, you are not alone. It is organized differently than other websites, and it takes some time to learn how to use it effectively.

Sunny Morton, a well-known Genealogy instructor from Family Tree Magazine and Rootstech, has a new six-minute video that provides a good overview of the Wiki.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoL3S5v8Y44&t=6s>

This video is worth six minutes of your time, but don't stop there. After watching it, go to the Wiki and explore locations where your ancestors lived. The more you use the Wiki, the more proficient you will become.

## Upcoming Meetings

### May 2, 2022

Our guest speaker will be Carleen Watts, a retired Federal Investigator, who will talk to us about applying professional investigation techniques to Family History.

Carleen's mother became interested (obsessed) with her genealogy years ago, and she was able to trace her German and English roots back to the eighteenth century (and, in some cases, even further back). Then she started on Carleen's father's side and hit a few brick walls with Cherokee lines. Carleen has since picked up the torch and, thanks to Ancestry DNA, has uncovered some interesting tidbits about who her 4Xs great grandfather was.

She is currently in the process of publishing a book, *Proving Richard Cranch*, which provides a detailed account of her research (investigation) into the provenance of her family's eighteenth-century Boston secretary given to her mother over 65 years ago by an old gentleman with the last name of Dawes. Researching all of his genealogy lines and digging out ancient public records enabled her to identify who in his family once owned this magnificent piece. Her search took her all the way back to Richard Cranch, Mr. Dawes' great, great grandfather. In addition to being a Revolutionary War Patriot, Cranch was married to Abigail Adams' sister and best friend to John Adams.

### June 6, 2022

We will view a webinar by our old friend James Tanner on researching your family history. James spoke to the club several times while working at the Family History Center in Mesa. After the Family History Center closed, he moved to Utah and is currently at BYU. In addition to his teaching and researching at BYU, he is a

frequent speaker at Rootstech and conducts online courses. This hour-long class provides helpful information from a real expert on Family History Research.

We will then discuss his techniques and have a research Q&A.

## Summer

The club will be on break during July and August, as per our regular schedule. However, this year, Hattie Dixon, our Club Secretary, is offering a unique Genealogy Summer School to members who are getting started or perhaps need a little assistance with their genealogy.

### Genealogy Summer School

Just need a kickstart? This is an excellent opportunity for beginners wondering where to go next, mid-level searchers who are stuck, and advanced researchers who'd like to share their skills with others. No speakers or microphones; simply a chance to get hands-on use of some of the tricks we have learned this year. The Kiva Club has good wifi connectivity; bring your computer and/or worksheets to focus on one or two ancestors--or 3 or 4 questions on "how to....". This will be one-on-one sharing. If more than six show up, it might be one on two or three.

- Hints and ways to work with Family Tree Maker (app. for Ancestry.com)
- General searching on the Internet for your ancestor or family
- Help to focus on one problem (avoiding the shiny stuff).

Meetings will be held in the Kiva Club Center for Higher Learning:

- Monday, July 11, 2022, starting at 1:00 PM,
- Monday, August 1, 2022, starting at 1:00 PM.

## Fall Schedule

### September 12, 2022

The first Monday of the month is Labor Day, so the meeting will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Trey and I will both be out of town that day, so Vicki Reisenfeld will be hosting the meeting. The topic will be announced before the meeting. Vicki and I are discussing several great ideas, and I know you will enjoy this meeting.

### October 3, 2022



Our guest speaker will be Kristen Mercker. The title of her talk is Style, Story, and Substance. Kristen lives out of state and will be joining us via Zoom.

Kristen will share her visual system for staying organized and consistent while researching different lineages. She currently manages THIRTEEN lineages, and she can find anything within a few minutes. Then she will share research ideas and examples for creating a rich family story that goes beyond the data to paint a picture of our ancestors, how they lived and what was important to them.

Kristen has always been a storyteller at heart. She studied radio, film, and television at Northwestern University, which led to her career as a Writer, Producer, and Director. She brought her entertainment and visual storytelling approach to corporate clients who were looking for new ways of engaging their employees. Her clients did not have Hollywood budgets, so she often took a documentary-style approach. Those experiences honed her research and interview skills.

In the 1990s, her parents caught the genealogy bug and started their research. Her professional skills were a natural fit for this hobby, and as a young mother looking for an intellectual challenge, she joined them on the treasure hunt.

In the process, she gained a genealogical knowledge of German and Latin, with a smattering of Danish. She has forayed through weedy, snake-ridden fields to find family cemeteries, composited 18th-century cadastral maps with 21st century Google maps, and submitted one family history to the Library of Congress, meaning she is “published.”

## **November 7, 2022**

The November meeting will be our only workshop for the year. Last year we held two, and all who attended said they really enjoyed them and that we should do more. There will be a few short presentations, but then you will have the opportunity to explore your family history, ask questions, get help, and help others with their problems. If you have a notebook computer or an iPad, bring it to the meeting. If not, you can borrow one from Member Services.

Also, in November, we will finalize the nominations for our 2023 officers. Trey and I are both term-limited out, and we MUST fill those positions for the club to continue operating. Please consider stepping forward to keep the club going.

## **December 5, 2022**

In December, we will announce the officers for 2023.

December will be my last meeting, so I would like to share *My Journey through Family History and Lessons Learned Along the way*.

## **Looking Forward to 2023**

Trey and I are both term-limited out as of the end of 2022. In the Fall, we will be looking for candidates to replace us. To make things easier and create a smooth transition, we have already booked outside speakers for January and February of 2023. The new officers will, of course, be free to change these plans, but we know from first-hand experience that lining up speakers on short notice when you first get started is very difficult.

We will also be looking for volunteers to organize the 2023 Family History Conference. Neither Trey nor I will be involved with this once we leave office. We will, however, try to recruit the organizing committee in the Fall and get them started in the right direction. Please consider joining this committee.

## **This Month's Banner**

This month's banner is from our new website and is one of the many beautiful genealogy-oriented banners Laurie has added to the site.

## **Your Feedback is Appreciated**

- How can the Trilogy Genealogy Club help you with your Family History?
- What ideas or suggestions do you have for future meetings?
- How can we improve what we are doing for the benefit of our members?

Please write to me at [rsalford@gmail.com](mailto:rsalford@gmail.com). I'm listening.

## **How to unsubscribe**

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- If you no longer wish to be a member of the Genealogy Club, reply to this email and tell me. I will remove you from the membership list and the Club Website.