



Trilogy Genealogy Club  
Dec. 2021 Newsletter



# Trilogy Genealogy Club Newsletter December 2022

If you are having trouble reading this online, a pdf version is attached

**If you have moved out of Trilogy or no longer wish to be a club member, please reply to this email and let me know. I will remove you from the email list and the club roster.**

## Happy Holidays!

The holiday season is upon us, and we all have busy schedules with family and friends. Two of my daughters are coming with their husbands and children. Two is good, any two. If all three get together, it never ends well. I had three older sisters, and it was like that with them as well. We will enjoy having them, especially the grandchildren, and we are busy decorating the house and getting and wrapping presents. May your holiday season be as happy and blessed as I am sure ours will be.

## December Club Meeting

We had a great meeting in December. It was a workshop, and perhaps for that reason, the attendance was a bit low, but it went very well. Those who attended did a fantastic job working together and helping each other.

We have now had two workshops, one in October and one in December. Most of the folks who attended enjoyed them, but we don't currently have any workshops scheduled for 2022. If you liked them and would like to do that again, or if you missed out on these and would like to attend one, let me know. If enough people are interested, we can schedule one in the Fall.

## 2022 Officers

I also announced the 2022 club officers at the December meeting. They are:

- President – Bob Alford
- Vice President – Trey Higgens
- Secretary – Hattie Dixon
- Treasurer – Cheryl Widlak

I would like to sincerely thank Jane Ammeson and Mark Miller, who served as Treasurer and Secretary in 2021. It was my pleasure to work with them, and I appreciate their contributions to the club.

2022 will be the last year for Trey and me, as we will be term-limited out. Next Fall, I will be looking for candidates for these two positions. We MUST fill the position for the club to continue operating. Please keep that in mind and consider stepping up when the time comes.

## **December Board Meeting**

The Board met on Friday, December 10, 2021. The minutes are posted on the website. Go to Club Organization/Exec Board, then click on the blue bar that says “minutes.”

## **Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board**

The Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board (AZGAB) is a state-wide organization of public and private genealogical societies, clubs, and professional genealogists in Arizona. AZGAB’s stated objectives are:

- “Facilitate communication among organizations and individuals who are dedicated to the promotion of genealogy and family history.
- “Facilitate and foster an atmosphere for the opportunity to educate its members and the genealogical community with regard to information resources, standards, and ethics.
- “Facilitate the dissemination of information to its members with regard to the availability, the use, and the preservation.
- “Keep its members informed of the changes in legislation with regard to the preservation of records and the public access to those records. AZGAB shall express its concern regarding these issues where it is appropriate.
- “Undertake and promote such projects as the Arizona Genealogical Advisory Board of Directors approves.”

They also have a speaker’s bureau, a newsletter, an events calendar for member societies, and other shared information available to members. Membership for an organization such as ours is only \$25 a year. The Board voted to join AZGAB for one year at the December meeting. At the end of 2022, we will determine if it is worth continuing the membership.

## **The Future of SIGs**

Our Special Interest Groups seemed like a good idea to address the widely varying interests of club members. In the survey I conducted last Spring, members expressed a high degree of interest in various proposed SIGs. Unfortunately, it has not worked out as I had hoped. Participation has been poor, SIG leaders have stepped down, and most of the SIGs don’t meet anymore.

We discussed this at the Board meeting. Eileen reported that the Finding Living Relatives SIG is also running out of steam. The Tools and Platforms SIG that I have been running after our regular meetings, while reasonably well attended, could be handled in other ways. The bottom line is that there isn’t enough interest among club members to continue the SIGS.

The Finding Living Relatives SIG can continue to meet as needed, and I will leave that to Eileen. I will drop the tools and Platforms SIG I have been running after the meetings and incorporate the videos I have been using as “bonus material” at selected club meetings. In January, I will show the last five tips and tricks video near the end of the regular club meeting. The first half was well attended and well received by those who attended. If there is enough interest in continuing this, I will incorporate these short videos as “bonus material” in future club meetings.

Anyone interested in starting a SIG, either on an ad hoc basis or as an ongoing thing, is welcome to do so. I can provide facility space before or after the regular club meeting.

## Badges

Trey has made significant progress in lining up a source of new badges for us. They will cost the club less than \$10 each and look nice. Once we have paid the small initial setup fee, we can order as many or as few as we want at a time, which is essential in the future as new members join. Those who have renewed already may get their badges as early as the February meeting. We hope to have badges for everyone by the Family History Conference in March.

## Family History Conference 2022

The early planning for our annual conference is coming along nicely. We have the room reserved, we have the program set, we have arranged for catering, and we have all the speakers signed up. Those who volunteered to help with preparations and those who volunteered to help on the day of the event will probably hear from the team leaders sometime in January.

The Family History Conference is not something the club officers put on for the members. It is an annual event that the club members put on for the community. Many of you are already involved, and more of you will be.

Here are the Team Leaders for the 2022 event:

- Program – Bob Alford
- Facilities – Jim Davis
- Table Setups and Food and Beverage – Eileen Johnson
- Marketing and Promotion – Trey Higgins
- Volunteer Coordinator – Susan Van Vleck
- Accounting – Cheryl Widlak

## What's Ahead for 2022

**In January**, Mark Andrew Davis will be our guest speaker. Mark began his genealogical journey at fifteen when he viewed his first roll of microfilmed census records. He was a long-serving officer with the South Bend [Indiana] Area Genealogical Society, editor of that society's award-winning Quarterly, and a former board member of the Indiana Genealogical Society. Mark taught advanced genealogical techniques at Indiana University and is a familiar face at genealogical events around North America. He currently lives in Buckeye, where he serves as Genealogist and Registrar for the Saguaro Chapter of the Arizona Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Sometimes we allow an absence of Primary Records to create a brick wall in our research. We may have a good idea of how two people may be related but cannot find solid evidence. In those cases, a well-constructed and documented Proof Argument may effectively establish a link between generations. This class will teach you the basics in weighing the merits of documents, how the absence of alternative information is helpful, and then writing up your Proof Argument.

**In February**, we have a special speaker, David Fryxell, coming to us all the way from Tucson. David has written columns for Family Tree Magazine and is a real professional. Because he lives so far away, he has agreed to do this via Zoom to avoid the club having to pay his travel costs. He will speak on "Finding and (carefully) using published sources such as family histories to beat your brick walls."

**In March**, we will hold our annual Family History Conference.

**In April**, I will tell you about "The Revolutionary War, Up Close and Personal." The History Club has asked me to speak about the Revolution at their March meeting. I believe genealogy is where family and

history come together, so I incorporated that into this talk. I have most of this drafted, and I think it is a story that all of you would enjoy as well.

**In May**, Coleen Watts, a retired Federal Investigator, will talk to us about applying professional investigation techniques to Family History.

**In June**, 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 research at BYU, he is a frequent speaker at Rootstech and conducts online courses. This hour-long class is packed with helpful information from a real expert on Family History Research.

## Getting Started Sessions

In the Fall Survey, I asked if anyone was interested in a Getting Started Class. A number of you responded yes, and I had every intention of doing that this Fall, but somehow I never got to it. My apologies to those who have been waiting for this. We need to do a reset.

If there are people interested, I propose to hold a Getting Started in Family History class immediately following our regular club meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to attend this, please let me know.

## Club Social

I have not forgotten the club social. We will do this in late March or early April, and it will be an evening event with spouses invited. I will give you a firm date in January so you can plan ahead.

## Upcoming Important External Events

- **Rootstech 2022** – Rootstech will be a virtual, free event. Like last year, you will be able to join any session from your computer at your convenience, and it is all free. To signup for this, go to: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/>
- **1950 Census** – The 1950 census will be released on April 1, 2022. When the census bureau releases it, it will be in the form of unindexed images. It will require six months or more and hundreds of thousands of volunteers to transcribe and index the census. You can volunteer to help with this effort. For more information about the 1950 census, go to: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/info/us-census/1950-census/>

## Time to Renew Your Membership

The time has come to renew your membership in the Trilogy Genealogy Club for 2022. Thirty-six people have already done so. If you are one of them, thank you. I look forward to working with you on your adventures in Family History during 2022. If you have not done so yet, you may do so at the January meeting, January 3, 2022. I have also attached a membership form you can use to renew by mailing it with your check for \$10 to the address shown on the form.

If you don't plan to renew for 2022, please respond to this email and let me know. I will remove you from the list, and you won't receive any nagging emails from the club reminding you to renew.

## Genealogy Quick Tip of the Month

Did you ever wonder how your surname or the surname of a maternal ancestor originated? While Ancestry offers some information on name origins, the explanations tend to be terse and not very informative. Try surnamedb.com. (remember the db on the end of the name, there is a surname.com, but

it is pretty useless.) Just type in the surname into the search box on surnamedb.com's home page, and it will usually give you at least a few paragraphs of interesting information.

<https://www.houseofnames.com/> is another site you may find interesting. They are in the business of selling heraldry memorabilia, but the site contains a lot of free information about family surnames.

### **This Month's Banner Photo**

The holidays are upon us, making us all think of good times in years past. The house on the left in the banner photo was built fifty years before the Revolutionary War. It is located in Middlefield, Connecticut, and is where I grew up. It has a fieldstone foundation, 12"x12" hand-hewed sills, four fireplaces, and pegged rafters. My parent bought this house in 1955 when I was eleven years old.

On the right is a stock photo of a colonial home at Christmas. The main room of our home in Middlefield looked very similar to this, without the spinning wheel, of course. I moved away in 1972 when I got married, and my mother sold the house in 1990, five years after my father died. The house is still standing today and is in excellent condition.

One fascinating aspect of my genealogy research is finding old colonial homes that belonged to my ancestors in the 1600s and 1700s that are still standing and in use. While most of the old homesteads from that era are gone, I have found several that are in good condition and still in use today.

### **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**

- To stop all emails coming from the Genealogy Club, reply to this email with the words Unsubscribe All.
- 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.