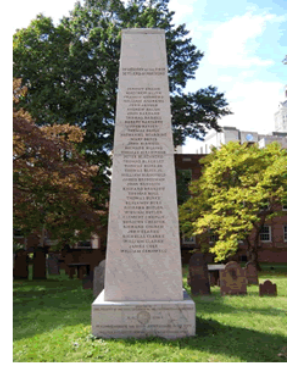




Newsletter June 2022



Trilogy Genealogy Club Newsletter June 2022

Our June Meeting

Our June meeting focused on research using two videos.

The first was on the David Rumsey Map Collection at Stamford University, presented by Sunny Jane Morton of Family Tree Magazine. This collection has over 150,000 maps, with over 114,000 available online for free downloading. Sunny described all of the different types and how to locate what you need using the site's search engine. She then demonstrated several tools available through the site for working with maps. I especially appreciate the ability to overlay a historical map on google maps so you can see exactly where things are.

You can view this video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6hfgT3p-T0>

Next, we viewed a webinar by our old friend, James Tanner, on Improving Your Genealogy Research Skills. Years ago, James lived in Mesa and worked at the old Family History Center. During that time, he spoke at the Trilogy Genealogy Club numerous times. James is an excellent speaker and teacher. When the Family History Center shut down, he moved to Utah and now is associated with the BYU library.

In this hour-long presentation, he covered a broad range of topics concerning research and described his research methodology.

You can view this video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxdv-iOfH4&t=3511s>

After the video, we discussed some of the points he made, especially his Rules of Genealogy, which I included on the slides posted on the club website.

Several members then shared their recent experiences in family history. Overall it was an excellent meeting, and I enjoyed it, and I hope others did as well.

Genealogy Summer School

Our club secretary, Hattie Dixon, will host "summer school" working sessions during our regular meeting hours in July and August. Some of our club experts will be joining her to answer questions and provide assistance with your Family History.

Just need a kickstart? This meeting is an excellent opportunity for beginners wondering where to go next, midlevel 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 Wi-Fi 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](https://www.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.

September 12, 2022 Meeting

The first Monday of the month is Labor Day, so the meeting will be held on the 12th. Trey and I will be out of town that day so Vicki Reisenfeld will host the meeting.

Vicki has done and continues to do extensive research on her family history. Along the way, she has learned many lessons that can be of great value to club members. Tools used, techniques developed, information resources, detecting true and false information, overcoming brick walls, and much more.

Be sure to attend the September meeting where Vicki will share her Adventures in Family History.

October 3, 2022

Style, Story, and Substance -- Kristen Mercker (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

WORKSHOP

The November meeting will be our only workshop for the year. Last year we held two, and all who attended said they 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 challenges. If you have a notebook computer or an iPad, bring it to the meeting. If not, you can borrow one from Member Services.

December 5, 2022

My Journey Through Family History and Lessons Learned Along the Way -- **Bob Alford**

The December meeting will be my last as president of our club. I want to tell you about “My Journey through Family History and Lessons Learned Along the Way.”

The American Genealogist

Do you know about the American Genealogist? Perhaps you have seen it referenced in a source, or maybe just TAG with some numbers after it. The American Genealogist is a journal for professional genealogists that publishes peer-reviewed papers and has been in publication since 1922, usually published quarterly. The following is from their website, <https://americangenealogist.com/>.

“**The American Genealogist** is an independent quarterly journal dedicated to the elevation of genealogical scholarship through carefully documented analyses of genealogical problems and through short compiled genealogies. For almost one hundred years, *The American Genealogist*, affectionately known as TAG, has been America’s premier independent genealogical journal. TAG was founded in 1922 by **Donald Lines Jacobus** (1887–1970), the father of scholarly genealogy in the United States and the first person elected to the National Genealogical Society’s [National Genealogy Hall of Fame](#). TAG was Jacobus’s vehicle for elevating genealogical scholarship to the same high standards as other scholarly disciplines, and it was at the center of what is now known as the “Jacobus School,” a group of professional and amateur genealogists who were dedicated to these standards.

“Throughout its long run, TAG has emphasized **carefully documented compiled genealogy** and analyses of **difficult genealogical problems**, all directed toward providing serious genealogists with examples of how they too might solve such problems.”

Tag articles are considered to be a reliable source of information. While not quite at the same level as images of original records, it is usually safe to use the information found in these journals. Most papers published in these journals include bibliographies, providing additional sources of information. TAG is distributed in printed form and is available in most genealogical libraries. Some, but not all, back issues are available for purchase at \$12.00 each directly from TAG. But of course, what we want today is to have them digitally available online.

NEHGS (the New England Historical and Genealogical Society) has purchased a license from TAG for all back issues more than seven years old. These have been digitized and placed online on [AmericanAncestors.org](#), the website of NEHGS. You must be a member of NEHGS (which I am) to access these from home, but you can also access [AmericanAncestors.org](#) for free at the West Valley Genealogical Society library.

References to TAG articles in source listings online often take the form “TAG vnn pnnn:nnn” where the nn following the v is the volume number, and the numbers following the p are the pages. These articles are worth pursuing as they often contain a wealth of detailed information about the subjects’ lives.

[AmericanAncestors.org](#) contains an enormous amount of records in digital form stored in 487 databases, all searchable online. TAG is only one of the databases they have to offer. Some of this is available for free, but much of it requires a membership login. You can see the list of databases without subscribing (or visiting WVGS) to decide if there is anything pertinent to your research.

Quick Tip of the Month

Using a sortable time chart to understand your ancestor's life

You intend to write the story of one of your ancestors, have been researching them, and have accumulated many notes and a wealth of information, including data on many different events in your ancestor's life. Now is the time to put them in order and decide what is pertinent and what is not. Here is a quick step you can use to sort things out. I use Excel for this, but any software that can sort a table will do.

Create a new spreadsheet—label the first three columns Year, Month, Day. Label the fourth column Event and set the cells in that column to wrap text so each cell can contain multiple lines of text. Label the fifth column Source.

Now go through everything you have collected and make an entry for every event in the table you just created. Don't worry about the order; the sort will take care of that. Also, don't worry about duplications. You may have collected the same data from different sources; just add an entry in your table for each source. Events include anything that is dated; births, marriages, deaths, census data, land records, court records, church records, military records, etc. Make sure you identify the source for each entry.

Use numbers for the month, not month names. If you have records from before 1752, remember that April was the first month, not January, on the old calendar. (A woman can have had a child in February and another in April of 1642 because April was the year's first month and February was the eleventh month. The child born in April was the older sibling of the one born in February.)

When you have entered everything, sort the table by year, month, and day.

Now you can go through the list to look for conflicts and contradictions. For example, if you show a child born in one state and have a record of the mother living in a different state, something is wrong. Also, you may have multiple dates for the birth or death of an ancestor. If they are within a few days, the latter birth date may be a baptism, and the later death date may be a burial record. Remember to include the birth, marriage, and death dates for parents and siblings and children and grandchildren. Also, include dates for when they moved.

Having this ordered list may lead to further research. For example, if you notice an unusually large time gap between two children, perhaps the husband was away at war. You might look at local history records to see what was happening at that time. You may discover additional events that need to add to the table. If you have conflicts, further research may be required to sort them out. Add any new events you discover and sort the table again.

I typically have forty to fifty entries for any ancestor and have had as many as several hundred.

If you are writing the story of your ancestor's life, this list will help you tell the whole story in chronological order. Also, while this table is for your use only, it can provide milestones you can use to create a timeline chart of your ancestor's life against historical events that will add a lot to your ancestor's biography.

This Month's Banner

This month's banner features monuments to town founders. The one on the left is in Windsor, Connecticut, and the one on the right is in Hartford. Towns often have such monuments, and it is interesting and fun to visit them and see if any of your ancestors are listed. I have several ancestors listed on each of these monuments.

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. I'm listening.