



# Trilogy Genealogy Club Newsletter March 2022

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

## Family History Conference 2022

Our Family History Conference was a success and seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended. We sold fifty-six tickets and had four outside guest speakers bringing the total attendance to sixty. I don't have the final numbers yet, but we are very close to our goal of breaking even on the event.

I would like to give a special thanks to all the many volunteers who helped organize and put on this event. I would also like to thank all who loaned their family history material to the exhibits. It was amazing to see the wide variety and the high quality of what so many people have been doing on their family history.

All the handouts, including the slide from four of the six speakers, are now available on the club website.

## Club Social – Let's Party

Our long-awaited Club Social will be held on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at my house starting at 5 PM. If you didn't receive an invitation to this, please let me know. If you did receive an invitation and haven't responded yet, please do so as soon as possible so we can get a count and adequately prepare.

## What's Ahead

**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. I will also introduce you to the new website at this meeting.

**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 provides helpful information from a real expert on Family History Research.

**Summer Break.** We will be on break for July and August.

**September – November** – We are currently planning these meetings. If there is a subject you would like us to address or any meeting format you prefer, please let me know.

**December** will be my last month as Club President, as Trey and I will be term-limited out. For my last meeting as President, I have a special presentation for you I call “My Family History Journey and Lessons Learned.” I think you will enjoy it.

## **A New Club Website**

Over the last few months, I have developed a new club website. I will introduce this to you at the April meeting and give you access. For those unable to attend the April meeting, the information will be in next month’s newsletter.

A complete refresh of the website is long overdue. When I developed the current site twelve years ago, Mike OBeirne, the club founder, and I decided that having a login wall was necessary to allow us to post both member’s information and the handouts from our guest speakers, who often feel their information is proprietary and do not want it openly posted on the Internet. We always ask their permission before posting, but when we assure them that their documents will be password protected and only available to our members, they usually give us their consent. This has paid off as we now have an extensive collection of valuable documents on Genealogy.

The problem was that none of the graphical web page builders supported logins twelve years ago, so I had to develop the whole site in code (HTML PHP, SQL, and JavaScript.) The downside is that only someone who has the necessary skills can maintain it. For the last twelve years, I have hosted the site on my personal hosting account at iPage, a very large hosting company headquartered in Boston, at no cost to the club. The only thing the club has paid is the annual URL fee for the web address.

Technology has improved, and there are now alternatives that allow the creation of a “member website” without writing code. Such websites are much easier to maintain and can be managed by anyone who can create a PowerPoint. The Board authorized the development of a new site last year, and I started evaluating website builders for both capabilities and cost.

While many of these graphical website builders are available in some form for free, and many now support member logins, all of them charge extra fees for the “value-added” features, including the login systems. In addition, many require additional payments for storage and for many pages, all of which we need.

One common and popular website builder is WordPress. Many people use this for blogs, and for that application, it is free. It also has several technical advantages, including many third-party add-ins. The basic system and advertised pricing do not include any of these. When I dug deeper, I

discovered that providing the functionality of our current website would be prohibitively expensive due to the third-party add-ins required and extra hosting fees.

Instead, I chose Weebly as the platform. The website builder, the hosting account, and the URL fees are all bundled with one reasonable annual fee. In addition, many Trilogy club websites are hosted on Weebly, and it has proven to be relatively easy for a new webmaster to take over an existing Weebly site, even if they have little or no experience in website development.

I started the development in early February, and the site is in final testing at this point. Most of the content has been loaded, and the Board Members have started to go through it looking for errors and evaluating ease of use issues. I am confident it will be ready for your use by the April meeting, and I am looking forward to showing it to you. I think you will really like the new look and find it much easier to use than the current site.

## This Month's Banner

This month's banner depicts several scenes from the Revolutionary War with colonists engaged in a battle against British soldiers. This is the topic of our April meeting.

## Genealogy Quick Tip of the Month

Did you ever want:

1. Make a backup copy of your tree?
2. Move or copy your tree to a different software package?
3. Send a copy of your tree to a relative?

This is easily done using GEDCOM files, the widely recognized standard for saving genealogy trees. Almost all PC and cloud-based platforms recognize this format and provide tools for you to download or upload trees.

### On Ancestry

To create and download a GEDCOM file of your tree on Ancestry,

1. Click on Trees on the menu bar
2. Select Create and Manage Trees from the dropdown menu
3. This will show you a list of your current Ancestry trees (yes, you can have more than one tree.) Click on Tree Settings on the tree you wish to download.
4. Scroll down on the page and click on Export Tree.
5. This will create a GEDCOM file of your tree. This process may take a few seconds, so be patient. When it is ready, a button will appear that says Download your GEDCOM file. Click on this to download the file to your computer. When the file finishes downloading, save it to your disk.

To upload a GEDCOM to Ancestry,

1. Click on Trees on the menu bar
2. Select Create and Manage Trees from the dropdown menu. This will show you a list of your current Ancestry trees. Below these are links labeled **Create a New Tree, Upload a GEDCOM file**. Click on Upload a GEDCOM file.
3. This will take you to a screen that allows you to select the file on your disk that you want to upload. It must be a GEDCOM file previously downloaded from Ancestry or other genealogy software.

4. Enter a name for your new tree, check the accept box, and click on Upload. Ancestry will do the rest.

### **On MyHeritage**

The download and export links are under Family Tree/Manage Trees

### **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.

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