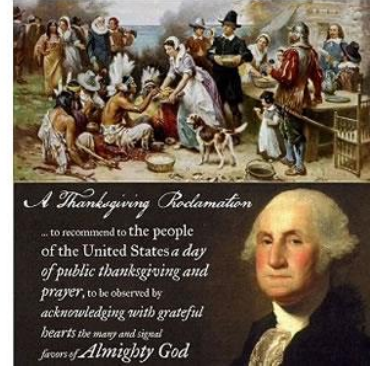




## Newsletter November 2022



# Trilogy Genealogy Club Newsletter November 2022

## November 7, 2022 Meeting

November was an exciting and information-packed meeting. Vicki Reisenfeld gave an excellent presentation on ten ways to use Excel with your family history research. I was incredibly impressed with her macro-enabled sheet for entering and tracking census data, although all of the sheets she discussed look useful. The slides for this are available on the club website, along with several templates you might find helpful.

After that, we watched two videos, the first about using the Ancestry Card Catalog. Ancestry has a vast collection of records, and using the card catalog will help you find the records you seek. While the card catalog works only for documents stored on Ancestry, their collection is so extensive that this could become a valuable tool to help you with your family history.

The second video focused on Archive.org, the Internet Archive. Archive.org is one of my go-to sites for research, especially for older histories and records. Sunny Morton, the presenter, provided some valuable pointers on using the site but only scratched the surface of the capabilities. Laurie is looking into providing links to these videos on the website.

Finally, we had a short workshop where groups worked on problems that others had submitted. I received a few responses with valuable information I will pass on to the original submitters.

## 2022 Election

The election for 2023 officers is now underway, and everyone should have received a ballot via email from me. According to the current version (2.0) of our bylaws, we need 50% +1 of all paid members to vote to certify the election. **Congratulations! You guys did a great job!** I now have forty approvals out of fifty-eight members, which is more than enough to certify the election. Usually, I spend several weeks sending out reminders and begging people to vote.

The 2023 Officers are:

President: Vicki Reisenfeld

Vice-President: Albert Schwarzhaupt

Secretary: Hattie Dixon

Treasurer: Cheryl Widlak

## Club Bylaws Revision

The Board has approved a major revision to the club bylaws. I have attached a copy to this email, and we will take an up or down voice vote in the December meeting to obtain your approval.

The new bylaws:

- **Remove all references to SIGs.** The SIGs were added in 2021 but proved to be unpopular. Since we no longer have SIGs, we have removed this section from the bylaws.
- **Add the webmaster as a permanent member of the Board.** The webmaster has always played a significant role in the club's operation and needs to be part of the Board.
- **A Revised Election Process.** The current election process requires an email ballot with 50%+1 participation by paid members. As defined, this has proven to be an awkward process, especially considering that we usually have only one nominee for each position. Version 3.0 allows the President to seek approval in a club meeting with a yes or no voice vote. If there are multiple nominees for an office, a paper ballot will be used at the meeting.
- **A New section on Administration replaces separate job descriptions.** Each board member's responsibilities are outlined in this Bylaws revision, eliminating the need for individual job descriptions.
- **General wordsmithing to improve readability.**

No action is required on your part at the moment. Please review these before the December meeting, where I will answer any questions you have and seek your approval to adopt these changes.

## Our Next Meeting

At the December meeting, I will give the new officers a chance to speak, and you will all have the opportunity to vote on version 3.0 of the Bylaws (attached.)

This meeting will be my last as President of the Club. I want to take this opportunity to tell you about my journey through family history and the lessons I learned along the way. I hope to make this entertaining and educational for everyone. I warn you that it has been a long journey, and I have made my share of mistakes along the way and learned a lot of lessons. Therefore, this will be somewhat longer than my usual presentations.

Please join us. If you get bored, you can always leave. I won't be offended.

## The Year Ahead

2023 promises to be an excellent year for the Genealogy Club, with new officers bringing new ideas and skills to the table. We have booked two excellent speakers for January and February to start the year.

### January 9, 2023 – Dr. Duane Roan

In January, our special guest speaker will be Dr. Duane Roan, Professor, ASU. Those of you who have been with the club for a long time will remember him from the past as one of our favorite speakers. His past presentations are available on the club website. Duane Roan has been tracing his roots since his teenage years, building a database with more than 32,000 ancestors. He and his wife, Maureen Roan, have recorded their family history since 1978 by writing more than 16,000 daily journal entries on their children and other family members. Combining his professional and personal interests, Duane worked with colleagues to establish courses on writing and recording family history at Arizona State University. He also is a founding coordinator of the Project for Writing and Recording Family History in the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts at ASU. Although Duane loves family history and life writing, he spends most of his waking hours serving as a faculty member at ASU.

## **February 6, 2023 – Kim Harrison - Using County Histories as a Resource**

Published county histories are a popular resource, but the researcher needs to understand their limitations, as well as the rich clues they provide for the genealogist. These clues may provide some of the best information at the local and county level—tips about disasters, financial expansion, business, and the ethnic make-up of the community.

Kim Harrison is a Teacher of Genealogical Classes, Librarian, Archivist, Historian, Accredited/ Certified Genealogist, etc.) Currently AzGAB President and 2nd VP of West Valley Genealogical Society, and genealogy consultant. She has worked for online providers, lobbied the National Archives for records preservation, & lecture on various genealogical topics. From 1998 to 2015 worked at Ancestry, NewsBank (GenealogyBank), ProQuest, Otherdays.com, and Gale, selling and later a product manager for genealogical and historical materials to the library world.

## **Family History Day 2023**

We will have a Family History in March of 2023, thanks to six members who stepped forward at our November meeting and volunteered to serve on the organizing committee. You will hear more from them in the future. In the meantime, block out March 6, 2023, on your calendar for our annual Family History Day Conference.

## **Quick Tip of the Month – Collateral Ancestors**

Collateral ancestors are our ancestors' brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, and uncles. Because they are not our direct ancestors, we tend to ignore them. There are times when they can help us resolve brick walls, which is best explained by example.

Let's assume you have great-great grandparents whose country of origin is unknown. You have their names, children's names, and death records, but you don't know where they came from or when or where they were born. You have been unable to locate an immigration record and are frustrated with this seemingly insurmountable brick wall.

While there is no guarantee of success, examining some collateral ancestors from that era may be worthwhile. Did either of your great-great-grandparents have siblings who lived nearby? If so, their parents are your ancestor's parents as well. Perhaps you can find a record on one of them that references where their birthplace. Look at the records of all their children, especially the older ones who may have been born before your great-great-grandparents immigrated. Looking at the marriage records of these collateral ancestors may indicate where they were born. Look at other people's trees of these collateral ancestors, not for hard facts, but for clues about the country of origin.

Here is another example from my family history. I have an ancestor named Isabel Browne, who married Anthony Hoskins in Windsor, Connecticut Colony, on July 16, 1656. Many genealogies and several old books report she was the daughter of Peter Browne of Plymouth Colony, which is easily proven false with currently available Plymouth Colony records. So, who was she?

One clue is that Peter Browne, who appeared in Windsor at about the same time, is believed to be her brother. Peter is a very common name, but Isabel is more unusual. From their marriage records, we can estimate that both were born in the early 1630s. Another clue is that many of the early settlers of central Connecticut came from Cheshire, England.

The recent publication of the Bishop's Transcript of Cheshire, England, contains baptismal records for Peter Browne, son of Peter Browne, on February 5, 1632, in Tarvin, Cheshire, and Isabel Browne, daughter of Peter Browne, baptized on December 14, 1634, at the same location. There are other Isabel Brownes born in England, but none with a brother named Peter and none about the right age. There are

also no records of either of these two living as adults in England. These are probably the brother and sister who first appear in the Windsor records in the mid-1650s. Peter became a Freeman on May 20, 1658.

I have to do some more research to prove it, but I have likely found my ancestor.

## This Month's Banner

November is Turkey month, so a banner themed on the first Thanksgiving seems appropriate. The picture on the left is a Wampanoag "nush wetu," or communal home. The Pokanet branch of the Wampanoag were natives local to the Plymouth area who befriended and helped the Pilgrims. This group's leader was Ousamequin, who was referred to as Massasoit, meaning Great Sachem. Massasoit brought ninety Wampanoag to the three-day feast at Plymouth we know as the first Thanksgiving. Only fifty-three of the over one-hundred original Pilgrims were left to celebrate after the harrowing voyage and the frigid winter of 1620-1621. Without Massasoit's help, it might have been a lot fewer. Governor Bradford returned the favor a few years later when he saved Massasoit's life, but that's a story for another day.

The first Thanksgiving, and for that matter, much of Plymouth's history bears little resemblance to what I learned in school. We now have digitized versions of the journals and records from that era to tell us what actually occurred. I have left the original spelling in these quotations. It was not that Winslow and Bradford were bad spellers; instead, the spelling of many words has changed over the past 400 years.

This quote is from the writing of Edward Winslow, recorded in 1621:

*"our harvest being gotten in, our governour sent foure men on fowling, that so we might after a speciall manner rejoyce together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labours ; they foure in one day killed as much fowle, as with a little helpe beside, served the Company almost a weeke, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Armes, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoyt, with some ninetie men, whom for three dayes we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deere, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governour, and upon the Captaine and others. And although it be not always so plentifull, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so farre from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plentie."*

This is from the diary of Governor William Bradford

*"They begane now to gather in ye small harvest they had, and to fitte up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health & strenght, and had all things in good plenty; for as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were excersised in fishing, about codd, & bass, & other fish, of which yey tooke good store, of which every family had their portion. All ye somer ther was no want. And now begane to come in store of foule, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besids water foule, ther was great store of wild Turkies, of which they tooke many, besids venison, &c. Besids, they had about a peck a meale a weeke to a person, or now since harvest, Indean corn to yt proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty bear to their freinds in England, which were not fained, but true reports."*

So, despite what some modern rewriters of history claim, the first Thanksgiving happened, and they probably had Turkey as well as other meats. Bradford and Massasoit became good friends and established a peace that lasted fifty years.

The picture on the right of the banner commemorates the first United States official Thanksgiving. On October 3, 1789, President George Washington issued a proclamation declaring a National Day of Thanksgiving on November 26, 1789.

### ***By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation.***

*Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor-- and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer to*

*be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.*

*Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be-- That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks--for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war--for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed--for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted--for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.*

*and also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions-- to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually--to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed--to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord--To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us--and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.*

*Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.*

*Go: Washington*

All of us in Trilogy have much to be thankful for on this 401<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the first Thanksgiving. I plan to spend the day with family and friends, and I hope all of you will be doing the same and wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

## **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 to benefit our members? Please write to me at [rsalford@gmail.com](mailto:rsalford@gmail.com). I'm listening