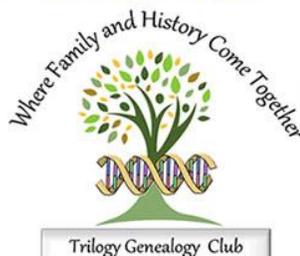




Newsletter  
October 2022



## Trilogy Genealogy Club Newsletter October 2022

### October 3, 2022 Meeting

Kristen Mercker from Chicago joined us via zoom at our October meeting to present her talk *Style, Story, and Substance*. She showed us how she organizes her data, then gave us a lot of ideas about how to enhance the telling of the family story using pictures, maps, and historical events. I hope those that attended enjoyed it, and I know I picked up a few ideas that I will put to good use.

### November 7, 2022 – Our Next Meeting

Our November meeting will be a workshop, but it will be different than any workshop we have held in the past. To start the meeting, Vicki will spend about 20 minutes telling us about tools to use in our research. Following this, I have some information for you, including several short videos, on websites, I frequently use in my research.

We will then put up on the screen issues submitted by members with which they would like help. I am looking for at least six research problems you would like help solving. If you have one, please email me a description of the issue. Please include the era and geographical information, the names you have, and the information you seek. Not all problems are solvable, but having a small group of people work together to see what they can find might be able to help.

Please bring your notebook computer or iPad and your research skills, and be ready to work together on some challenging genealogy problems. This event should be fun.

### Survey Results

Twenty-seven people responded to the recent club survey. The survey was anonymous; I can't tell who responded. Here are the results.

#### 2023 Club Officers

It is that time of year again when we need to elect officers for next year. This question asked for volunteers to serve in 2023, and everyone said no.

Officers serve for one-year terms and can serve no more than two terms. Hattie and Cheryl are on their first terms and have indicated they are willing to stand for re-election. Trey and I are in our second term and are not eligible for re-election.

**We need at least two individuals to step forward to run for President and Vice-President in 2023.** The Association rules require that I notify club management of the officers for 2023 by late December. **If we cannot fill all four positions, we must shut down the club and dissolve all operations.**

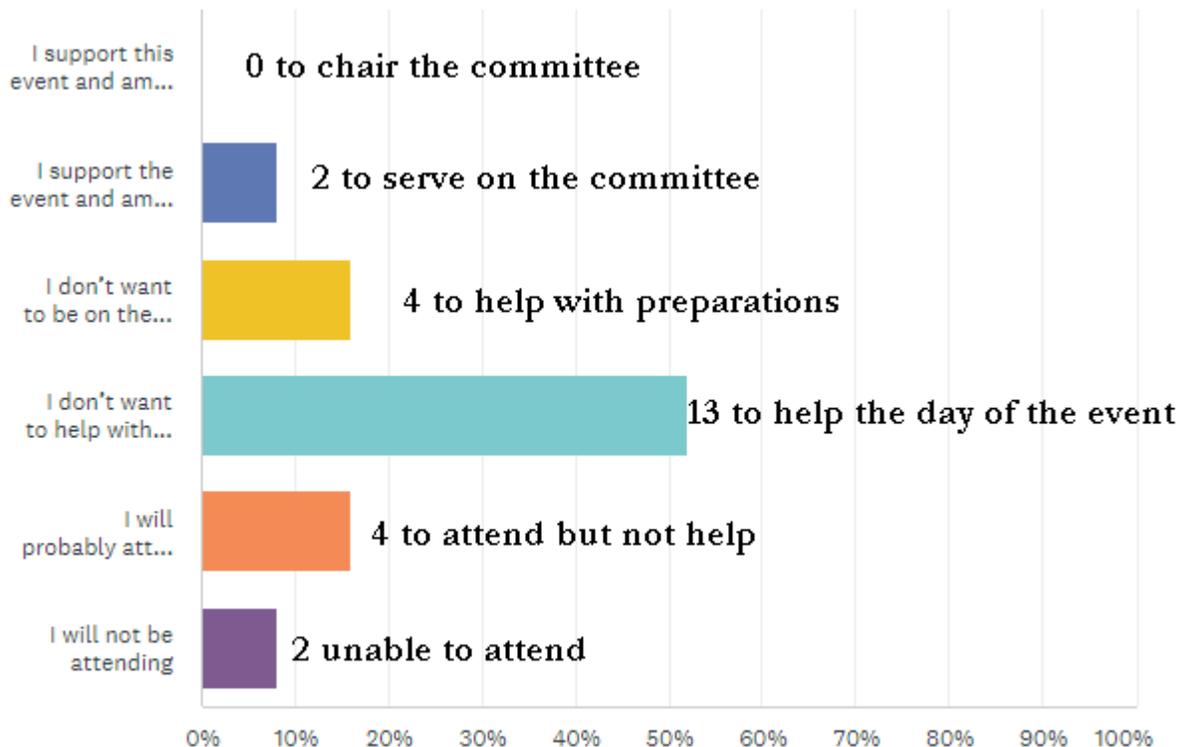
We must finalize the list of candidates by the November meeting. The election will be held by email ballot in November, and the results will be announced in December.

Please consider stepping forward and volunteering to fill one of these positions. Simply send me an email to let me know. If you want to discuss what is involved in doing this, I would be happy to meet with you.

If we don't have candidates by the end of the November meeting, I will be required to inform Resort Management that the club is shutting down, and December will be our last meeting.

## Family History Day

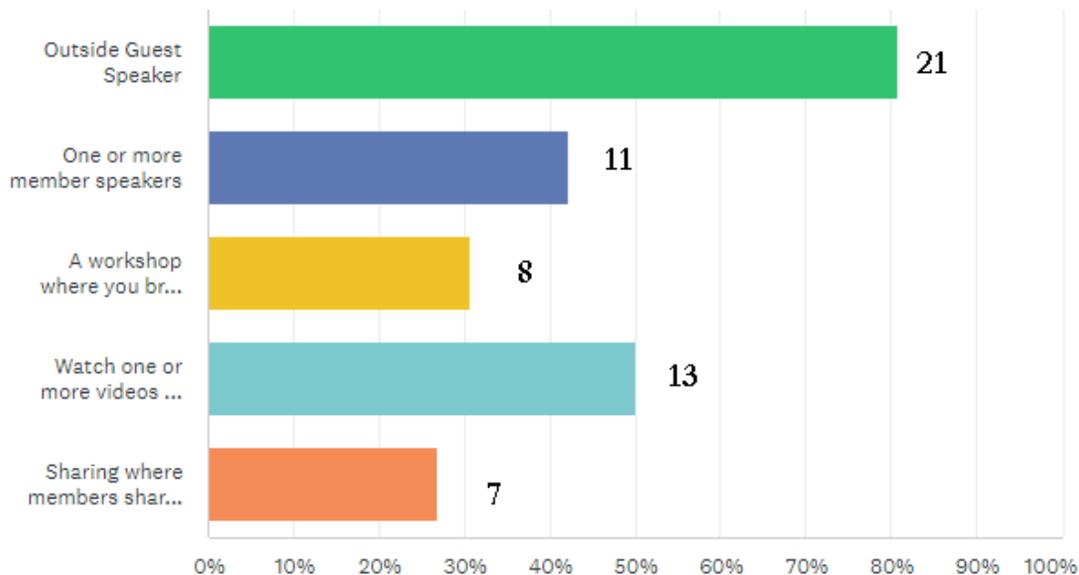
The club has traditionally sponsored a Family History Conference on the first Monday in March. There have been years, like 2021, when we skipped doing this because we didn't have enough interest from members to put it together or were short on time to do all the organizational work. This question aimed to determine the level of interest among the members in a 2023 event. Here are the results:



To put on the event, we need a planning committee and a committee chair by the November meeting. Based on this response, no one wants to chair, and only two people are willing to serve on the planning committee. If you want to have this event in 2023, please volunteer to help by sending me an email. If we don't have a committee and a chair by the November meeting, I will scratch the conference off the 2023 calendar and release the reservation I have made for the Tewa room on the first Monday in March.

## Meeting Formats

The third question asked about preferred meeting formats to help guide next year's Board.



Trey and I have already booked outside speakers for January and February to give the new Board a chance to get their feet on the ground before having to plan and organize meetings.

## Getting Started

The next question asked if anyone felt they needed help getting started and would like to attend a class on this subject. Three people responded yes, so I will try to set something up before the end of the year. **If you are interested in attending a getting started class, please send me an email.**

## Help from a Professional

Question five asked if you were interested in help from a professional genealogist. Six people responded yes, one time. Four people answered yes, probably more than once.

I have made the arrangements, and Kathleen Ackerman will meet with four people one-on-one on October 17, and four more will meet with her on October 24. I will seek feedback from those who participated in this during our November meeting.

I have also referred several people to Kathleen so they can work directly with her.

## Question Seven asked if you use the club's website

Twenty-four people said yes, occasionally. One person said it was not helpful, and another said they didn't know how to access it. Please let me know if anyone reading this does not know how to access the club website. If you have an idea of how to make the website more useful, please send an email to Laurie, our webmaster, at [laurie.rahn@icloud.com](mailto:laurie.rahn@icloud.com).

## Question Seven asked about the club newsletter

Twenty people said they read it every month. Four people said they glance at it, and one person said they looked at it occasionally. No one called it SPAM, for which I am grateful.

## Quick Tip of the Month – Using a Portal

A portal is a website that points to other websites. If you know what type or record you are looking for but don't know where to find it, a portal may provide your answer. Well-known portals are sites like Cyndi's List <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/> and the FamilySearch Wiki [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page). Another type of portal is the Ancestry Card Catalog, which I will discuss at the November meeting.

Cyndi's List is enormous, and sometimes it is a bit overwhelming. The Wiki works by location, not subject, so if you don't know the place, this may not help.

An alternative I have found helpful is Genealogy Research Guides <https://www.researchguides.net/>. The first page is general topics and those things they think people will use the most often, and there are links to additional pages on the site. Two pages I have found very useful in my research are Passenger Lists and Records and People and Places.

The next time you look for a record but are unsure where to find it, try a portal and look at <https://www.researchguides.net/>.

## This Month's Banner

The picture on the left is the inside of the 800-year-old Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in Black Notley, Essex, England, which is still in use today. Edward Stebbins was baptized here on February 24, 1594/95. The statue is of Thomas Hooker, born in Markfield, Leicester, England, in July 1586. Hooker is famous as the Reverend Thomas Hooker, founder of Hartford, Connecticut.

In the late 1620s, Thomas Hooker introduced Edward Stebbins, who had become a close follower of Hooker's teachings, to his twice-widowed sister-in-law, Francis Tough. Edward and Francis married in 1629 in England and remained together for the rest of their lives. In the early 1630s, they had two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth.

In 1629, the English Court of High Commission charged Thomas Hooker with a crime for his speeches against the Church of England, and he fled to Holland. Edward Stebbins immigrated to Newtown, Massachusetts, in 1632, and in mid-1633, Thomas Hooker joined him. Hooker formed a new congregation in Newtown led by Hooker with Edward as his Deacon.

Edward was wealthy for a man of that era, and he owned seven properties in Newtown and a homestead in the center of town on the corner of Water and Braintree streets. Today Newtown is called Cambridge, Braintree Street is known as Massachusetts Ave., and Edward's property is called Harvard Square.

Thomas Hooker was a charismatic leader who believed that the government belonged to the people. A small group of elitists known as the Assistants ran the Massachusetts Bay Colony government. They didn't want this poisoning their vision of their future but didn't want to lose population. At the General Court on May 14, 1634, they passed a resolution that gave the inhabitants of Newtown (Cambridge) leave to seek out some convenient place for themselves elsewhere in an unsettled area. From the resolution's wording, they intended this to be within Massachusetts.

In 1635, twenty-four of Hooker's congregation went on an exploratory trip to the Connecticut River Valley, looking for a place to settle, and they selected what is now Hartford, Connecticut. In 1935, the plaque on the far right of the banner was erected in Hartford to honor this group of men, and Edward Stebbins' name is on this plaque.

On May 2, 1636, Edward Stebbins sold all of his lands in Newtown, and shortly after that, Thomas Hooker and most of the congregation moved to the Connecticut Colony and founded Hartford. Edward

Stebbins left a considerable footprint on colonial history, including serving twenty-seven one-year terms representing Hartford in the Colonial Court (legislature.)

There is one particular incident that deserves telling. In the Fall of 1638, with a bitter winter ahead (New England was much colder than it is today,) the colony faced a severe shortage of food as the local crops had not done well. The Connecticut Colonial Court turned to Deacon Edward Stebbings, William Wadsworth (another founder of Hartford), and Captain John Mason. Mason led the combined British and native forces that defeated the Pequot a year earlier. The court asked them to seek a solution that would prevent a famine. The three men ventured north on the river into the wilderness that is now western Massachusetts in an attempt to purchase provisions from the natives. They returned to Hartford, followed by fifty native canoes laden with corn. The government distributed corn throughout the Connecticut colony, which saved the people from almost certain starvation and death.

Deacon Edward Stebbins and his wife, Francis Tough, are two of my eighth great-grandparents. You will find incredible people if you explore your family history and look beyond the names and dates. Not all of them are heroes like Deacon Stebbins, but all of them are worth knowing. We are here because of them, and we are their legacy. Dig deep and get to know those who came before you. They are worth it.

## Help Wanted



Help keep the Trilogy Genealogy Club going. We need volunteers for the following:

- President 2023
- Vice-President 2023
- Chair – Family History Conference Planning Committee
- Members – Family History Conference Planning Committee

If you are willing to help, email me and let me know.

Also, email me if:

- If you do not have website access
- You would like to participate in a getting started class.

Finally, please send me a description of a genealogy problem for our November workshop.

## 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.