



# Texas State Genealogical Society

July 29, 2023

# Agenda

- Curt Witcher, Senior Manager for Special Collections, Allen County Public Library
- Things to consider to get your members writing
- Results of our Survey





**Save the Date**

**VIRTUAL**

# *Roots and Branches:* **Climbing Your Family Tree**

**10-11 November 2023**

Texas State Genealogical Society  
FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE



[www.txsgs.org](http://www.txsgs.org)

#txsgs



# 2023 Partner Society Webinar Series

***“Using Timelines to focus your Research”***

- Susan Ball

***“Extend Your Direct Maternal Line Using Mitochondrial DNA”***

By Mic Barnette

***“Immigration, Passenger and Naturalization Records”***

By Paula Perkins

***“Relatively Cheap Research and Education for the Frugal Genealogist”***

By Kim Richardson

***“Take a Deep Dive in the US Census”***

By Jim Thornhill

***“Delving into Divorce: Finding Family Details in the Civil Court Docket”***

By Susan Ball



- The webinars are free for use with your Society during 2023.



# Texas State Genealogical Society

Impacting genealogy in the Lone Star State since 1960.

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## 2023 Partner Society Webinars

TxSGS is providing five new webinars for use by Partner Societies in the 2023 Partner Society Webinar Program. These programs are available for use by Partner Societies at their general meetings February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.

2023 Partner Society Webinar Program Topics \*

<https://www.txsgs.org/partner-society-resources/2023-partner-society-webinars/>

# Curt Witcher

Senior Manager for Special Collections  
At the Allen County Public Library





# How to Help Your Membership Write

# Possible Methods to Organize the Effort

- Starting a SIG
  - Denton County Genealogical Society – summer writing
  - GFO – Discover your Heritage (Portland) - online
    - SIG – “The Writers’ Room” [GFO: The Writers' Room Special Interest Group](#)
  - Johnson County Genealogical Society (Kansas) – in person
    - Writers Group (meets monthly)
- Provide a Goal (producing a newsletter or a Journal)
- Assign a “Writing” Leader



# Yes – there are different types of writing our stories

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- Blog
- FACEBOOK Post
- Books
- Newsletters
- Journals
- Audio tape



# Writing for a Purpose - Robson

- Declared this was the year (in January)
- Kept talking about it!!!
- Planned and Executed a Writing Workshop (2 hours)
- Set Deadlines
- Provided editing and help sessions (group and personal)
- Publishing first Journal – August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Have announced second challenge already!!







# Writing Workshop

- Why Write
- What are the options
- Set a Goal
- Smart Small (Prompt Activity)
- Craft a storyboard (outline activity)
- Find Your Space and Your Rhythm
- Deadline
- Writing Considerations
- Sources
- Leave with a writing Start

# Why Write

“We need to write in order to prove, preserve and propagate what we have learned. Without it our work will be dust in the wind.”

Harold Henderson, 2019





# ELEPHANT(s) in the room!

- I can't write – not in school and not now!
- No one cares about my grandparents; they won't read this!
- I do not know my grandparents, they died before I was born.
- I do not know my grandparents, they never immigrated to the US.
- I'm adopted, who am I writing about?
- Other?????



# *The Dash* by Linda Ellis

“I read of a man who stood to speak  
At the funeral of a friend  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone  
From the beginning . . . To the end

He noted that first came the date of birth  
And spoke of the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the dash between the years

For that dash represents all the time  
That they spent alive on earth.  
And now only those who loved them  
Know what that little line is worth.”





Use Prompts to help you think of stories



# Remember

Good writing comes from

Emotion

Feelings

The Best & Worst of Times

Values & Beliefs

Social & Cultural Constructs

Events





# What worked – What did not work

- 20 initial submissions (25% of membership)
  - 19 final submissions
- Endnotes (citations) were a disaster!
  - Holding Citation class in the fall; providing templates
- Each is unique and different in style - that works for us
  - Trying similar theme in Fall; but in spring going to just “military”
- Planned for two; really had only one editor
  - Definitely going to find a second one, two or three for round two
- Offering samples – now we have more to share!





# TxSGS Fall Conference – Story Track

- “How to Write Ancestral Stories Your Relatives Will Want to Read”
- “Just Do It” Self-Publishing Your Work”
- Others that also deal with writing
  - Write as you Research
  - Family history Details



# TxSGS Writing Awards – September 15

- Books by Non-Professionals
- Books by Professionals
- Books Published by Partner Societies
- Manuscripts (short articles)
- Blogs
- Official Periodicals of Partner Societies

# Results of our Survey



# Thank You for participating!



# Future Meetings

Saturday, 9:00 am – 11:00 am Central Time

- September 30 – David Rencher will be the guest speaker



# Texas State Genealogical Society

May 13, 2023