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14th Annual Genealogy Lock-In – Discover History for Yourself

In celebration of “Family History” month in October, the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library System, in cooperation with the Central Texas Genealogical Society (CTGS), will be sponsoring the 14th Annual Genealogy Lock-in on Friday, October 17 from 12:00 noon to 10:30 p.m. at the West Waco Library & Genealogy Center, 5301 Bosque Blvd., Suite 275 in Waco. This event is free and open to any members of the public who have an interest in genealogy.

The purpose of the event is to showcase the Library’s genealogy collection and provide an awareness of the hereditary and historical societies represented in this area. It is a great opportunity for both the novice and experienced researcher to learn more about genealogy, pursue their individual family’s history, and to learn about local hereditary and historical societies. The Lock-in will include genealogical advice, instruction, snacks, and door prizes.

This is the 4th year the Lock-in will share ‘virtual programming’ with other libraries and genealogical societies from across the State of Texas. This year’s participants include: Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Denton Public Library, Plano Public Library, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research (Houston Public Library), San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society, Amarillo Public Library, Abilene Public Library and Corsicana Public Library.

Programming includes a series of in-house and virtual classes from Noon-10:30 p.m. For the beginner family historian there will be a ‘Fundamentals for Beginning Genealogy Research’ class (in-house) at 6:00 p.m. Virtual classes include a lecture on ‘Five Civilized Tribes Indian Research’; a discussion about ‘Building the West Texas Digital Archives’; a look at the genealogical potential of the AncestryDNA autosomal test; a demonstration of search strategies for FamilySearch.org; a discussion on how to ‘Think Like a Historian to Expand Your Research’; and a presentation on ‘Using Evernote for your Genealogical Research.’ An additional in-house program will be at 1:45 p.m. ‘Genealogical and Historic Records Available at the Texas Military Forces Museum,’ by Deputy Director Lisa Sharik.

Numerous McLennan County and Central Texas hereditary societies will be represented. Look for the local chapters of the NSDAR, SCV, DRT, Colonial Dames, UDC, Texas German Society, SRT, SAR, Czech Heritage Society of Texas, Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Texas, as well as, the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, Texas Czech Genealogical Society, Central Texas Genealogical Society and more. Additionally, representatives will be on hand from the Waco Family History Center, Findagrave.com, Baylor University Institute for Oral History, Texas General Land Office, McLennan County Cemetery Interest Group, McLennan County Archives, McLennan County Historical Commission, Historic Waco Foundation, and the Texas Collection at Baylor University. Find out what records, research tools, databases, services and products these groups have to offer.

The Lone Star Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) will host an “Ancestors Roadshow” from 3:30-9:30 p.m. The Roadshow is an opportunity to have a free 15-minute consultation with a professional genealogist. You may ask questions about a specific genealogical problem or get general information on how to approach a research problem. Time slots are limited. Roadshow appointments are limited to one per person on a first-come, first-served basis. Walk-up registration will begin at 3:00 p.m. The registration process includes completing an online questionnaire and initial screening interview. The questionnaire can be found at http://lonestarapg.com/roadshow_forms.htm.

Additionally, visit the Demo Showcase for informal website tutorials; discussions; collection overviews; and re-enactors, such as Charles Oliver representing a Confederate soldier or Bill Covington representing the common soldier of the American Revolution.

Early registration for the Lock-in begins at 11:45 a.m. in the foyer at the West Waco Library & Genealogy Center. Security will be provided after 6:00 p.m. Library facilities other than Genealogy will not be available for use after 6:00 p.m. during the Lock-in. Children under the age of 16 attending the event must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact Bill Buckner, Genealogy Center Manager of the West Waco Library & Genealogy Center at (254) 750-5945 or e-mail bbuckner@ci.waco.tx.us or visit www.wacolibrary.org / www.ctgs.org.

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