

# EDMOND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



[www.edmondgensoc.org](http://www.edmondgensoc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/EdmondGenSoc](https://www.facebook.com/EdmondGenSoc)  
email: [info@edmondgensoc.org](mailto:info@edmondgensoc.org)

**February 17, 2025 Program**

***Researching Oklahoma: Shedding Light on the Sooner State***

**Presented by Nancy Calhoun**



15700 N. Pennsylvania



While Oklahoma research may be a bit different from other states and therefore viewed as challenging, knowing where to look can yield success for those researching the colorful and diverse state.

Nancy Calhoun has been chasing relatives for over 40 years. While in Teacher Corps and graduate school in Kansas, she enrolled in a semester-long genealogy class and has been pursuing family, both her own and others, since that time.

Nancy was the Department Head of Genealogy and Local History at Muskogee Public Library. Her writings have placed in the annual contests held by the International Association of Family History Writers & Editors. Her memberships include APG, NGS, DAR, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Oklahoma's First Families of the Twin Territories, and many more. Her personal research includes Texas, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and, of course, Oklahoma.

## **DO YOU HAVE OUTLAWS, BLACK SHEEP OR LAWMEN IN YOUR FAMILY TREE?**

If so, we would like you to tell us all about it at our **March 2025** meeting. Any stories about disreputable ancestors, relatives who knew or interacted with them, or lawmen who rounded them up, will be fun for all of us to hear about.

***Start planning ahead for YOUR presentation!***

Please email any photos, documents, newspaper articles, etc. that you would like to use in your presentation to **Jan Beattie at [jankb80@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jankb80@sbcglobal.net)** She will create a PowerPoint presentation with everyone's slides.

Also, please **limit your presentation to 5-10 minutes**, in order to allow time for all who are participating.

***PLEASE SEND YOUR PHOTOS to JAN by MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>!***

## **EGS Meeting Location**

EGS monthly meetings are held at the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 15700 N. Pennsylvania, Edmond.**

**Entrance is at both the east and the south doors for all attendees. *The SOUTH door is much easier for those of us unable to climb steps!***

***If you're experiencing signs of illness, please stay home!***

The Edmond Genealogical Society meets on the third Monday evening of each month, except December.

**Meetings begin at 6:30 pm and last approximately one hour.**

**GENEALOGY TIP**  
**HOW TO WRITE YOUR  
OWN OBITUARY**

*What? NO! Why should I write my own obituary?*

Once you have passed, you will have little control over how you and your life are presented to the world. Therefore, if you want to be remembered *on your own terms*, you might try writing your own personal obituary. *Many people do it as part of their planning, right alongside drafting a will and other essentials.* It lets your survivors know how you want to be remembered.

These do not have to be solemn, formal pieces of writing. It is okay to discuss the things you loved most, the people who are important to you, or even just your general thoughts about life. YOU can present your life story and showcase your unique personality.

**Choose a Tone for Your Obituary**

Your obit is all about you, so it should reflect your personality and style. Whether you are humorous, verbose or plain-spoken, it's not only okay to let your character shine through, it is encouraged! A humorous obit can showcase your unique perspective on life and provide a much-needed laugh for your grieving loved ones.

If you want to express your **gratitude** for those who helped you along the way, you can include a sincere thank you to special friends, family members, teachers, or others who inspired you.

You can use your obit as a **platform to inspire and encourage** others: talk about obstacles you overcame, times you failed but tried again, or your hopes for future generations.

What is the use of **hard-won wisdom** if you're not able to share it? You've learned a lot in your life. You can share your accumulated knowledge by offering lessons learned, tips for living well, or a detailed guide to making the best lemon icebox pie.

Most of us do not publish our memoirs, *so writing your obituary may be your best chance to tell the story of your life from beginning to end.*

There is no need to limit yourself! An obituary can be biographical, inspiring and funny, all at the same time. It's okay to be personal in your obituary. It's okay to be quirky. It's okay to be you! *When you write your own obituary, you get the last word!*

**To be continued next month with:**

***“DO'S & DON'T OF OBITUARY WRITING.”***

Credit: Legacy.com



**Our Genealogy Library has had several requests to open on Saturdays, which is the only day that many people who work can come in. Therefore, we would like to begin opening one Saturday afternoon each month. If you can volunteer for Saturday, or any other day, please contact Sara Memmott at [sinememott@gmail.com](mailto:sinememott@gmail.com)**

*We need YOUR ideas  
for program suggestions!*

If you have a topic you would like to hear discussed, let us know so that we can try to find an appropriate speaker.

Or if you would like to do a presentation, there is no better way to learn about a subject or topic than to research it and bring a program to the group.

One such idea for a presentation is how you solved a “brick wall” in your research. Can you think of other subjects?

**Please email Iris May at [purplemayflower@yahoo.com](mailto:purplemayflower@yahoo.com)  
with your ideas  
and suggestions.**

**THANKS!**

# UPCOMING PROGRAMS and EVENTS

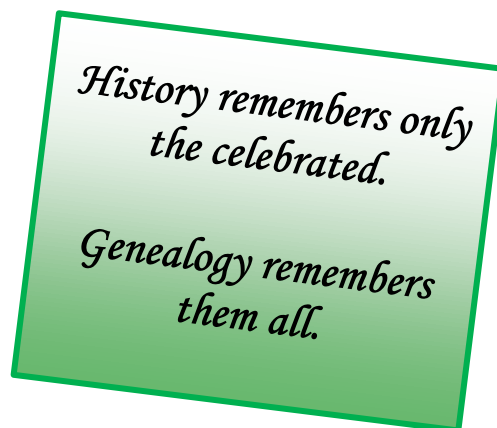
Feb. 19 10 am	OHCE Genealogy Group <i>"Researching Ship Passenger Lists and Naturalization Records"</i> Held at Okla. County Extension, 2500 NE 63rd St., OKC. For info: <a href="http://www.ohcegenealogy.com">www.ohcegenealogy.com</a>
Feb. 19 12 – 1 pm	Oklahoma Historical Society <i>"Lunch &amp; Learn - Finding Your Native Roots: The Dawes Rolls"</i> Presented by Laura Martin. Held at the Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., OKC Register at <a href="http://okgensoc.org/spho">okgensoc.org/spho</a> or at 405-521-6249
Mar. 3 6 pm - 7:30 pm	Oklahoma Genealogical Society <i>"Genealogy Research in Mississippi,"</i> presented by Jimmy Chesteen. Oklahoma History Center, Musser Learning Lab, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr., OKC For more info go to <a href="http://okgensoc.org">okgensoc.org</a>

## RECURRING MEETINGS

**OHCE Genealogy Group** is currently holding meetings in-person at the OSU Extension Center Conference Center, 2500 NE 63rd St, in Oklahoma City. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10:00am. Visit [www.ohcegenealogy.com](http://www.ohcegenealogy.com) for info.

**The Central Oklahoma Chapter of AHSGR – American Historical Society of Germans from Russia** has meetings on the 3rd Sat. of each month. Visit [www.ahsgr.org/?CentralOklahoma](http://www.ahsgr.org/?CentralOklahoma) for more information.

**Logan County Genealogical Society** meets the 3rd Saturday at 1:00pm at the Oklahoma Territorial Museum in Guthrie. For more information visit: [www.sites.rootsweb.com/~oklclgs/](http://www.sites.rootsweb.com/~oklclgs/) or contact Nelda Brown at [LCSG1419@gmail.com](mailto:LCSG1419@gmail.com)



## **FOUR MORE NEW NAMES ON THE SURNAME PROJECT!**

**THANK YOU** to new member **Donna Kucera Le**, who added four new names of ancestors to the Surname Project, including **Weathers, Newdiger, Wilhelm and Kucera**. Many (but not all) EGS members have submitted their family surnames to be added to the **SURNAME PROJECT** spreadsheet, bringing us up to **337 surnames so far!**

This project will help you and fellow members who may be researching the same family lines or have a research dilemma. This is your opportunity to pay it forward to everyone in our great genealogical society!

If you haven't already done so, please fill out a sheet listing the family surnames you are researching and their locations, dates and other pertinent information. Such as: "Jenkins in North Carolina in the 1800's." **VOLUNTEERS ARE INDEXING THIS INFORMATION AND IT WILL SOON BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE!!**

**A BLANK FORM IS INCLUDED AS THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.** Use as many sheets as you need. Please return them to any board member at our meetings, or mail to:

EGS, c/o Edmond History Museum, 431 S. Boulevard, Edmond, OK 73034



Genealogical Library at Edmond History Museum



**EGS BOARD MEMBERS 2024-2025** Standing, left to right: Joyce Gendill, Karen Blagg, Jay Cress, Sara Memmott, Jan Beattie  
Seated, left to right: Iris May, Edie May Parmeter, Libby Holshouser

**EDMOND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
Officers 2024-2025**

- Jan Beattie:** President
- Iris May:** 1st Vice President/Programs and Publicity Chairman
- Karen Blagg:** Treasurer
- Sara Memmott:** Past President, Museum Liaison/ Genealogical Library and Research Center Chairman and Recording/ Corresponding Secretary
- Libby Holshouser:** Hospitality Chairman
- Edie May Parmeter:** Surnames Project Chairman and Membership Committee
- Jay Cress:** Webmaster
- Joyce Gendill:** Newsletter Chairman



Due to inclement weather our January meeting was cancelled, but our speaker, **Karen Blagg**, generously allowed us to send her presentation notes to all members along with our January newsletter. *Karen has also allowed us to keep a copy of her entire presentation on file in the Edmond Genealogical Library, located in the Edmond History Museum.* Here are highlights of what her extensive presentation covers:

**RESEARCHING IN WASHINGTON D.C.**

**Library of Congress**

- Library has collected over 50,000 family histories and over 100,000 local histories.
- Many of the family history and local history books are also digitized and available online at FamilySearch Books, Google Books, th HathiTrust Digital Library, and Internet Archive. All these sites are free.

**National Archives**

- Holds permanent historical records of federal agencies and courts, including Papers of the Continental Congress, Civil War service records and pension files, census records, immigration records land records, and American Indian records.
- Research appointments are highly encouraged and may be scheduled on **Eventbrite**; you can also conduct research as a walk-in.
- Ancestry and Fold3 have digitized many of the National Archives holdings with genealogical interest, and are available online.

**DAR Library**

- The DAR Library acquires and preserves historical materials related to genealogy research (primarily focused on United States)

**Please come into the Genealogy Library to access this great information, especially if you are planning a trip to Washington, D.C. *The information presented will save you a LOT of time and frustration!***

**THE FOLLOWING PAGE IS THE SURNAME PROJECT FORM** (see info on Page 3 of this newsletter). Please fill out the form and return it to any board member at our meetings, or mail to:  
EGS, c/o Edmond History Museum,  
431 S. Boulevard, Edmond, OK 73034

# Edmond Genealogical Society

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Researcher: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) you are researching (last name first)	Location(s) (e.g. country, state, county, city)	Comments (e.g. dates)
<b><i>Return to any EGS Board Member</i></b>	<b><i>or mail to: EGS c/o Edmond History Museum</i></b>	<b><i>431 S. Boulevard Edmond, OK 73034</i></b>