

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF OUR PRESENTERS - 2022

Charles Baclawski, Ph.D.



Charles Baclawski, PhD was born in San Francisco and raised in Ft. Worth. He and his wife Jackie are the proud parents of three, and love their 2 grandchildren.

Charles has given over 30 presentations on topics ranging from managing government systems to steam boating in the early 1900s. He developed an interest in oral histories while working on his eagle project, conducting interviews with world war I and II military veterans living in Ft. Worth. Over the years he has researched life histories for his grandparents and others. His work on an oral history project on midwifery and childbirth in Northeast Arkansas contributed to his doctoral dissertation and his PhD in Heritage studies from Arkansas State University in 2015.

He and his wife met in 1978 at BYU and were married in the Washington DC temple in 1980. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from BYU in Youth Leadership and holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso (1985), a Master of Heritage Studies (2012) and A Master of History (2016) from Arkansas State University. He currently teaches History for Collin College and tutors at risk students in the Dallas Independent School District.

Maggie Braun:



Maggie Braun, a Texas native, grew up in Orlando Florida. She literally “fell” in love with genealogy research at the age of eight when she stumbled over a four-foot obelisk grave marker that had tumbled down and was buried at the bottom of a knoll. With that fateful fall, she discovered a family cemetery that had disappeared from living memory. Eventually, twenty individuals were found, and Little Maggie made the local paper!

Maggie graduated from Valdosta State University (Valdosta, Ga) with a BA in General Studies with an emphasis in History and Humanities. She went on to earn her Master of Art in Secondary Social Studies. She taught Texas History, American History, World History, and Art for many years and now works for the State of Texas.

Walter Braun:



Walter Braun grew up in the Greater Atlanta, GA area and served in the US Navy. The Navy took him to Florida, South Carolina, back to Georgia and then Hawaii. He came to Texas as soon as he could get here! He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Hawaii Pacific University and currently works in the field of Cybersecurity.

His love of computers has served him well throughout his life. He built his first computer when he was 16 and as a young man, his grandfather, Henry, shared his passion for the family genealogy. Walter was hooked! He has since catalogued and digitized thousands of family photos over the years. He serves as the Arlington Stake Technology Specialist and volunteers monthly at the Family History Center.

Suzanne Fritz:



Suzanne Fritz is a Librarian with the Genealogy, Local History and Archives Unit of the Fort Worth Public Library. She relocated to Fort Worth, Texas from Naples, Florida where she worked as a Public Service Librarian and Genealogy Specialist. Suzanne received her B.A. from Mount Holyoke College and her M.S., L.I.S., from Simmons College, Boston. Suzanne is interested in a variety of topics including: Italian-American immigration, German-American genealogy, and Native-American records. She's realized that one of the benefits of moving to Texas has been discovering how much there is to enjoy in regard to Texas genealogy and history.

award-winning *Perfectionism: A Practical Guide to Managing Never Good Enough*. A former teacher, school administrator, and Youth & Education Ambassador for Mensa, she shares resources for educators and parents on her website giftedguru.com. An avid family historian, she serves as a volunteer genealogist for the Daughters of the American Revolution and as her ward's Lead Family History Consultant.

Ila Johnson:

Ila Jean Fichtner was born in Seattle, Washington in 1942 to John Fichtner and Anne Fern Woods. She was raised in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. She served in the U.S. Army from 1961 until 1964 where she met and married David Johnson. She is the mother of three sons, and the grandmother of 4 grandchildren. Ila has moved a lot, living in 11 different states including Alaska.

Ila started her journey into genealogy at a young age going to courthouses with her mother to look for records on her ancestors. She and her mother use to spend hours in the National Archives looking at Micro-Films as well as at the Family History Centers. She has some of her lines back into the 1600 century and a very large database now. She works at the Family History Center the third Saturday each month and spends hours every day working on Family Search/Family Tree as well as Odessa3.org. Ila has ties to lines from Germany, Russia, England, Ireland, and Scotland. Her sons also have ties to Norway, Sweden, France, and Native American on their father's side.

She has been teaching Beginning Genealogy, Advance Genealogy and Genealogical Research at TCC south campus now going on 12 years. She loves helping others also discover who their ancestors are, where they came from, what communities or states they lived in, what their occupations were and about what their life's where like.

Sabra Johnson: (pictured with Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.)



Sabra Stewart-Johnson has been an avid researcher in African American genealogy for over 40 years. Her research experience is in records from her birth state of Tennessee (Maury, Davidson, Macon, Trousdale and Macon counties), as well as Alabama (Lee County), North Carolina (Burke and Caldwell counties), Georgia (Dodge and Lee counties), New Jersey (Essex), Ohio (Cuyahoga) and Texas (Bexar and Tarrant counties). Sabra is a graduate of Draughon's College with an Associates in Accounting, Dallas Baptist College with a Bachelors of Arts in Applied Business Administration and Masters of Arts in Organizational Management. Sabra is a current member of several genealogical societies both local and national. She is the author of "Skippy's Big Adventure" a coloring book about her first pet. Sabra is a married mother of 5, grandmother of 15 and great grandmother of 3 with one on the way.



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Bernard Meisner:

Bernard N. Meisner Ph.D., CCM GenealogyTalks@att.net 817-575-7451 (cell) 817-545-6512 (home) 1309 Danielle Drive Bedford TX 76021 Bio: Bernard is a genealogist and lecturer based in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. He began researching his family 30 years ago and enjoys sharing lessons learned from that experience, including his mistakes. Although he knew only one grandparent (his maternal grandfather) he has successfully identified all of his great-great grandparents, several triple- and quadruple-great grandparents, and his Meisner 8th great grandparents. He is a past president and current social media chair of the Mid-Cities Genealogical Society, a co-leader of the Dallas Genealogical Society's German SIG, and is a member of the Texas State and the National Genealogical Societies. Bernard retired from the National Weather Service Southern Region Headquarters where he was the Chief of the Science & Training Branch. He is certified as a consulting meteorologist by the American Meteorological Society. He has taught at the Universities of Texas, Oklahoma and St. Thomas (Houston). Bernard earned a B.S. in physics/German from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in meteorology from the University of Hawaii. He has completed coursework of the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, and has attended the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research and, each of the last six years the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, completing courses in Irish, German, and Pennsylvania Research, Digital Research Skills, and Practical Genetic Genealogy. Presentations: Getting Ready For the 1950 Census The images of the 1950 census will become available on 1 April 2022. It is estimated that an index will not b

Lynell Moss:



Lynell Moss is a 6th generation Dallasite. She has been researching hers and other's families since 1968. She has been in a leadership position with the Plano Family History Center for 24 years and is the Director of the Great Family Search Conference

Becky Savoie:



Becky Savoie was born in the swamps of southeast Texas: right on the Gulf Coast and the Texas/Louisiana border. She is the sixth daughter of nine children. Growing up, the family didn't eat at the dining room table much: it was usually covered with genealogy papers. When her parent's evacuated for Hurricane Rita, they took both their vehicles. One contained their personal belongings. The other, a small truck, was filled to capacity with boxes of genealogy. That little truck sat in the Savories' garage for about two weeks until it could be driven home. Becky worked full-time at the Family History Center in Arlington for four years, and now substitutes there occasionally. She has worked many years on her own and her husband's genealogy; concentrating on New York and Nova Scotia.

Lisa Van Gemert:



Lisa Van Gemert shares best practices in education with audiences around the world. She is an expert consult to television shows including Lifetime's "Child Genius," a writer of award-winning lesson plans, numerous articles on social psychology and pedagogy, and three books, including the award-winning *Perfectionism: A Practical Guide to Managing Never Good Enough*. A former teacher, school administrator, and Youth & Education Ambassador for Mensa, she shares resources for educators and parents on her website giftedguru.com. An avid family historian, she serves as a volunteer genealogist for the Daughters of the American Revolution and as her ward's Lead Family History Consultant.