

Genealogy Open House, Silent Auction set

SPECIAL TO THE ITEM

The Walker County Genealogical Society (WCGS) in conjunction with the Huntsville Public Library (HPL) host a Genealogy Open House and Research Lock-in on Saturday, Feb. 15. Starting at noon and continuing until HPL closing at 2 p.m., the public is welcomed to learn what WCGS does, learn about their ancestors, or could use a little help with their research.

WCGS members will be on hand at the Johnnie Jo Sowell Dickenson Genealogy Room to help with all those interests. Beginner genealogy packets are available along with all the genealogical resources HPL offers.

Guest can browse the room and see the thousands

of books available to help research advance. Genealogical Librarian Toni Herrington asked WCGS to help find and purchase at least one genealogy reference book on all 254 Texas counties.

As of this moment, the genealogy room has books on 252 Texas counties. But that's not all, genealogy books are available for any state and several foreign countries. This is a great chance to check out the genealogical databases that are free to use at the library – Ancestry.com Library Edition, Fold 3 Library Edition, Sanborn Insurance Maps, Heritage Quest, and more.

HPL is also a Family Search affiliate library which means that through its partnership with Family Search, the library can access many records that are unavailable to you at home.

Not to mention the microfilmed records of Walker County government documents, newspapers, TDCJ records, or Texas Ranger information.

How about vertical files with over 45,000 names

and subjects?

Even better, the Genealogy Room will stay open and available to research until 6 p.m. – four hours after HPL closing.

The catch? Visitors must be in the genealogy room by 2 p.m. when the library closes. WCGS members will be staying to help everyone understand all that is available and to help access the databases. Take advantage of this opportunity offered by HPL and WCGS.

The Open House also wraps up the week-long Silent Auction hosted by WCGS and HPL.

Over 500 books will be available for inspection during the week of Feb.

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10-15, in the library lobby. These books cover all genres not just genealogical. Looking for romance, westerns, biographies, children's books, gardening, cooking, art books? All these and more are available for review and bid. Must not be present to win. Place a bid and the winner will receive a telephone call from WCGS.

The Silent Auction is the only way WCGS raises money for books and equipment.

All monies from the Auction are dedicated to the Genealogy Room. Everything from book carts to shredders have been purchased with these funds. Genealogy books are notoriously expensive because many are rare, out-of-print, and hard to find. Silent Auction funds are used to buy the \$300 books that increase the value of the collection. All purchases go a long way toward the purchases of those rare books.

For more information, contact Mary Kokot at HPL at

[936-291-5471](tel:936-291-5471), see the HPL website, or the WCGS website wcgtx.org.



The Walker County Genealogical Society is hosting a silent auction fundraiser.

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