



MATT WEINTRITT/THE HUNTSVILLE ITEM

The Huntsville Public Library and Walker County Genealogical Society will host a weekend devoted to family history research for local residents at their two-day Genealogy Weekend, which begins today.

GENEALOGY WEEKEND

Library, society host program to help local residents find out about their past

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The Huntsville Public Library and Walker County Genealogical Society are teaming up to educate future historians on their past.

Genealogy Weekend will run from Aug. 9 to 10 and feature experts on family history and public information to aid in those interested in learning about their family's past. Events and workshops include database searching, family documents, online searches, African-American genealogy, and more.

"We have several truly gifted individuals speaking at our Genealogy Weekend event," Denise Tilson, a spokeswoman for the library, said. "We have several out-of-town speakers who will bring specific areas of expertise and special skills to our already extensive genealogical resource center."

Speakers include David Dilts, senior research consultant at the Family History Library in Utah; Marian S. Hunter, and experienced FamilySearch trainer; Kevin Klaus, an information specialist with the Texas General Land Office; Johnnie Jo Dickenson, a professional genealogist; and Emily Anne Croom, a professional genealogist and author.

Croom is a member of the National Genealogical Society, the Association of Professional Genealogists, and several local and state societies. She has written numerous articles in magazines and society journals, she has written a number of family histories as well as widely acclaimed books on genealogical research.

Tilson said guest speaker Dilts is also well versed in genealogical studies and served on several state and national associ-

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ations including the Utah Genealogical Association.

"David Dilts will be invaluable to our Genealogy Weekend, especially because he likes to answer questions about research throughout the U.S.," Tilson said. "Another of our speakers, Marian Hunter, will also be an excellent person to ask questions. She has worked at the Family History Center in Salt Lake Center and is considered an expert in teaching how to successfully navigate through the multiple levels of FamilySearch.org."

Kevin Klaus is another speaker scheduled to appear at the event has served as one of the lead researchers in the Texas General Land Office Archives and Records Program Area for the last 10 years.

"During his time at the Land Office, Klaus has searched the early Court of Claims files and

archival collection to learn more about the history of Texas and discover the amazing collection of personal letters of early soldiers and pioneers who helped settle our great state," Tilson said.

Huntsville Public Library is an affiliate library of FamilySearch, a free, non-profit family history organization.

Portions of the event are supported in memory of the past president of the Walker County Genealogical Society Frances Marie Sprott Goforth

Registration for the event will begin at 8:45 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 9 with a tour of the library at 9:30 a.m. The library is located at 1219 13th Street. Anyone requesting materials during the weekend may place an order at www.familysearch.org/films, which will be delivered to the library for use.

For more information, contact Tilson at dtilson@huntsvilletx.gov, or by phone at (936) 291-5471 or visit www.myhuntsvillelibrary.com.