

Genealogy course

Learn about your family's history

"Finding your roots" and tracing your family history can be one of the most interesting and exciting hobbies that a person can pursue. But, getting started is the hardest part.

With the help of others who have traced their families, the job is made lots easier. A course in basic genealogy is being offered through the HEAP program on Saturday, June 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Johnnie Jo Dickenson and members of the Walker County Genealogical Society will be teaching the course. It is designed to let a beginner know how to begin, where to look, where to write, how to file data and documents, how to use books and microfilm, as well as learn about migration patterns in the United States.

According to Dickenson, the course has been divided up into segments, breaking down the material so that it is more easily understood. The first seminar will be on the "How To of Genealogy." Dickenson will discuss how to get started tracing family roots. She explains that she will get into how to write letters and interview older relatives for family information.

The second workshop will be a panel discussion where members of the local society will discuss ideas which have worked for them in tracing their families. Dickenson says that not all methods of tracing work for all cases.

The third workshop will deal with migration trails, or how the first settlers migrated from the original colonies to the rest of the United States. Dickenson comments that knowing these patterns helps in tracing where families might have descended from. Migration maps will be provided.

The final session will be for questions and answers as well as a tour of the library's genealogical section and a lesson in how to use the section's materials.

Dickenson says that the only thing a participant need bring is note-taking material. The rest of the information and materials will be provided.

According to Linda Pease, director of the HEAP program, persons who want to sign up for the genealogy class should simply call the library and sign up. They may wait and pay their \$4 registration fee when they come to class on Saturday. The class is open to persons high school age and up.

Dickenson says that genealogy is a rewarding hobby. She has been working on her husband's family tree for seven years and says that she's enjoyed every minute of research. She is currently going through vital records to prove that his family did live in Virginia at one time.

"I like to get others started (in genealogy)," Dickenson comments, adding that they are hoping for a good turnout at the workshop Saturday.

The number at the library to call for signing up is 295-6471, ext. 24. Ask for Linda Pease. The workshop will be from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday in the meeting room at the Huntsville Public Library.