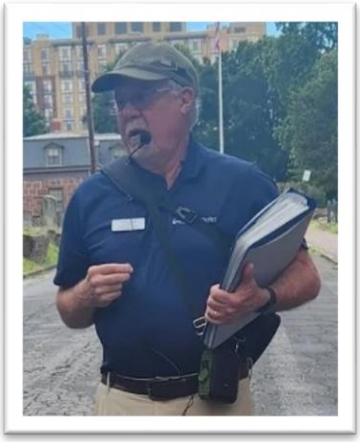
Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, Inc.

Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria, VA 22308
www.mvgenealogy.org

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 19 – The Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex



Speaker: David Heiby - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm – Room 218 HHSC – In Person

Description: The presentation will introduce the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex to the membership and provide some interesting stories from the more than 35,000 people buried within that might interest those attending the lecture.

David Heiby is Alexandria's premier historical tour guide, whose passion for history was ignited by a childhood trip to Appomattox Court House. Growing up surrounded by history in the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, David developed a profound love for American history that would shape his future. David launched Gravestone Stories in 2022 to share his extensive research and the true stories of those buried in Alexandria. As the Superintendent of the Presbyterian Cemetery and a leader in local historical societies, David has made significant discoveries, including locating long-lost graves of notable Alexandrians. His engaging tours span Alexandria's historic sites and Civil War battlefields and even include a top-rated Lincoln Assassination tour in Washington, DC.

December 17 – Yuletide Reflections: Favorite Holiday Memories 12:00 - 3:00 – Room 112, Hollin Hall Senior Center



Let's travel back in time and share our favorite holiday memories and family traditions from the 50's, 60's and beyond! Please bring in one of your vintage photos plus one dozen cookies to share, along with your recipe.

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

November 4 – Using FamilySearch.org

Instructor – Linda MacLachlan – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Room 214, Hollin Hall

The purpose of the workshop is to learn how to use the Familysearch.org website more effectively. Workshop is limited to 6 folks.

Please remember to create a free account, if you don't already have one, ahead of the workshop date. Please remember to bring your user id and password with you.

To register for the workshop, please send an email with the workshop name and date, and your name and phone number to Amy Breedlove at albreedlove@comcast.net. Thank you.

There is another handout titled "Calling Famsearch for Help" available in the Training Forum portion of the MVGS website.

Download: 1714881377_UsingFamilysearchHandout2024.pdf

November 15 - Researching your French Ancestors from Home

Instructor – Amy Breedlove - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - ZOOM

Do you have ancestors that originated in France? If so, come learn about France, what's unique about it that could affect your genealogy research, how and what types of records were created, where and how to find and access them, and much more.

To register for the class, please send an email with your name and phone number, the class date and title, to Amy Breedlove at albreedlove@comcast.net.

Once you've registered, a reminder email will be sent to you a few days before the class with the zoom link and any handouts.

December 2 – Using FamilySearch.org

Instructor – Linda MacLachlan – 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Room 214, Hollin Hall

The purpose of the workshop is to learn how to use the Familysearch.org website more effectively. Workshop is limited to 6 folks.

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Please remember to create a free account, if you don't already have one, ahead of the workshop date. Please remember to bring your user id and password with you.

To register for the workshop, please send an email with the workshop name and date, and your name and phone number to Amy Breedlove at albreedlove@comcast.net. Thank you

There is another handout titled "Calling Famsearch for Help" available in the Training Forum portion of the MVGS website.

Download: 1714881419_UsingFamilysearchHandout2024.pdf

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

November 12 - African American SIG

Coordinator: Carol Campbell – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm – Room 214, Hollin Hall

The African-American SIG was formed to explore the rich history of our ancestors and their experiences. A combination of learning tools (group discussions, computer searches, lectures, presentations, case studies, site visits, etc.) will assist the genealogist in uncovering clues that help tell and document their stories. Generations to come will appreciate and enjoy the care that went into preserving this bit of history.

Meetings are normally scheduled on the second Tuesday of the month from 1:00-3:00 pm in the MVGS Research Library, Hollin Hall Senior Center. If you'd like more information or have a question you'd like help researching, send an email to MVGSaaSIG@gmail.com.

November 18 – Virginia SIG – South Central Virginia

Coordinator: Amy Breedlove - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm – Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 214 **NOTE:** Meeting is set for one week earlier than usual due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

The topic will be South Central Virginia. The focus will be on Brunswick, Pittsylvania, Halifax, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, Charlotte, Prince Edward, Appomattox, Nottoway, Bedford, and Campbell counties.

Any handouts will be sent out to members a few days before the meeting.

If you have any questions, please email Amy Breedlove at albreedlove@comcast.net.

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November 26 - Modern Genealogy SIG – A New SIG!!

Coordinator: Jo Pearson - The meeting will take place via Zoom on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

What to Expect in Our First Meeting - To kick things off, we're starting with something straightforward and practical: using AI to enhance our genealogy research! I'll demonstrate how you can take a timeline or biography you've crafted about an ancestor and use AI to add new insights. We'll explore the different AI tools available today, like ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot, Gemini, and Meta AI, and discuss how each can serve unique needs in genealogy.

We'll also cover a crucial topic when working with AI—hallucinations. This is when AI might provide information that sounds credible but isn't based on actual facts. I'll share tips on recognizing and handling these situations so you can get the most accurate insights from these tools.

Come prepared for an interactive session with practical tips you can implement immediately. This will be a fantastic opportunity to learn, share, and explore how modern tools can add new depth to our family histories.

I also wanted to share an article that I recently read about AI Developments in Genealogy on the FamilySearch Blog "AI Developments in Genealogy and How They Impact You." https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/ai-developments-genealogy

If you're an MVGS member and would like join the "Modern Genealogy SIG" or have any questions, please email moderngenealogysig@gmail.com

MVGS Book Club

Co-discussion leaders - Janell Blue and Gerry Ward BookClub@mvgenealogy.org
Meets: Second Tuesday of each month – 10:30 am – 11:30 am on Zoom.

November:
THE COVENANT OF WATER, by Abraham Verghese

December:
A MIDWIFE'S TALE: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary 1785-1812, by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

Register your email with bookclub@mvgs.org to receive monthly notifications and Zoom invites to virtual discussions.

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Links to Sites to Help Put Your Ancestors' Lives in Context

Some of you may not have received the handout at the conference that tells you how to get to a 25 page document on our website. That document contains links to a wide variety of sources that can be used to help put your ancestors in historical context. There are 35 subject areas including among others, advertising; the church and its role in daily life; economics, prices, wages, etc.; fashion and clothing; immigration experiences; leisure, sports, amusement parks, etc.; medicine; newspapers and magazines; technology and communications; and more.

You can get to the document at https://www.mvgenealogy.org/forumThread.php?r=0&th=103, if you click on the file attachment name, you will find the document of web links.

If the link should fail, go to the MVGS website at https://www.mvgenealogy.org, click on Forums and under Training and Education, click on "Links to Sites to Help Put Your Ancestors' Lives in Context."

A BIG THANK YOU!

Amy and the Research Library want to thank whoever returned the Mayflower Silver Books. They were missed!!

Volunteers Needed! Cemetery Clean-Up 16 November 2024

Volunteers ages 16+ (SSL hours available) are needed for our cemetery clean-up event on Saturday, November 16 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Join the Friends of Moses Hall when you can, but please RSVP by email or if you have any questions to morningstarmosescj@gmail.com. Event details will be shared by email. Rain date TBD. Your participation is critical to the success of this clean-up day and the ongoing efforts to preserve and protect this important historical site.

Volunteers are welcome to join us for as long as your Saturday plans will allow. Refreshments provided.



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