

Lock-in slated Saturday at genealogical library

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Saturday will offer a special opportunity for genealogists and family historians to do research at the Hopkins County Genealogical Society Library and Archives at 212 Main St. The library will be open from 9 a.m. Saturday until midnight to accommodate researchers.

Volunteers will be available to assist patrons using materials and computer web sites such as Genealogy Bank, Ancestry, Fold 3 and Family Search. Wi-Fi connections will be available for those with laptops.

A workshop on using "DNA for Genealogists" will be presented from 10 a.m. until noon by HCGS Librarian Marynell Bryant, who is a project administrator for Family Tree DNA company in Houston. She will give information about the three most popular and successful genealogical DNA tests now offered. Participants will receive several helpful handouts that explain how to interpret the test results and how to find out about possible matches through the DNA.

"Testing DNA for genealogy purposes is gaining momentum as more people begin to understand what they can learn from the testing," Bryant said. "Even the Daughters of the American Revolution will begin accepting DNA matches as proof for lineages this year.

"I've been using DNA testing for about 14 years and it has helped me get past several roadblocks in my research process," she said. "Sometimes you have exhausted all normal research tactics and can use DNA as a last resort to extend your lineage."

Registration for the day costs \$15 and participants can stay from opening until closing or come and go during the day. Refreshments and a snack supper will be provided and door prizes awarded.

"This extended research day is a great opportunity for beginners to come get acquainted with our library," Ronny Glossup, HCGS president, said. "We have one of the best independent genealogical libraries in Texas. We have a great collection of Hopkins County records but we also have a nice variety of other Texas counties and other state resources."