



A World of Knowledge

**MAIN LIBRARY
CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
115 West C Street
Newton, NC 28658**

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LIBRARY COLUMN

Workshops can jumpstart ancestor search

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CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

NEWTON—If you've thought about tracing your family but don't know how, Catawba County Library System has the answers.

Two free workshops will be offered this month at Southwest Branch. Librarian Kim Wetmore will lead both sessions at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20 and Sept. 27. There's no need to pre-register. Just show up with your questions and a notebook.

Beginning Genealogy on Sept. 20 will outline the basics including what questions to ask, how to organize materials and how to use resources at local libraries. It may surprise you that our county has two local history rooms: the Rhodes Room at the Main Library in Newton and the Boyd Family History Room at Patrick Beaver Library in Hickory. These resources complement one another and are worth visiting often, particularly if you are searching families from North Carolina or the Southeast.

The second workshop, Using U.S. Census Records, will explore the valuable information contained in the enumerations. The federal census began in 1790 and has been conducted every 10 years, though the latest available to the public is 1930. Searching these records can be done on-line and the information can identify where and when a person was born, the relationships within a household, where the family lived, what the parents did for a living and whether they spoke English, among other things.

Genealogical research can make excellent school history projects and lead to a lifelong love of history, culture, geography and solving mysteries. For more information about the workshops, contact

Kim Wetmore at 294-2343.

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