

Making Connections Through ROOTS
Researching Our Origins for Teens and Seniors

ROOTS Project | Objectives, Schedules, and Contacts

1. Program Objectives

The “Making Connections through ROOTS” project is a Burlington Library Foundation (BLF) pilot project funded by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. This project provides an opportunity for teens to learn basic research skills and to apply those skills to discover their own unique family history. The ROOTS project matches teenagers with genealogists from the local community. Together, the research teams will foster a lateral-learning environment in which the teens will learn how to search, collect, and record family history evidence from primary and secondary sources, and the senior genealogists will gain skills with mentoring and computer technologies. Training in basic research skills and library databases will be provided to all participants by the Burlington Public Library (BPL) staff.

As a result of the ROOTS project, participants will increase knowledge and confidence using traditional research resources (libraries, archives, microforms) and gain expertise with digital and online resources. The collaboration between the library, the community genealogists, and high school students will help break barriers between generations and connect the community with the library.

2. Genealogist Mentors

The term “Genealogist Mentor” refers to adult volunteers in the ROOTS project. The adult’s main role is to serve as a guide for the teens. The genealogist mentors are not professional genealogists, but they all share an interest in the process of researching one’s family history. The Burlington Public Library will provide “train-the-trainer” education for the genealogist mentors so that they are not only comfortable with their role, but knowledgeable about the subject matter that will be covered in the curriculum for the teens.

The mentoring relationship will form as the teen and adult research the teen’s family history. Hopefully, both participants will feel that they are equal contributors to the project. The mentor’s role will not be that of a teacher, but as a supportive guide as they share their own experience of family history research.

3. Supplies and Budget Allowance for Each Research Team

The ROOTS project grant provides a team allowance of \$120 per research team for mailings (postage) and fees for vital record requests and/or research books, microfilm/fiche, or other research-related orders and expenses. This allowance is to be used in the teen's family history research and not for personal research of the genealogist mentor.

- Each team will have access to BPL laptop computers to use for their research at the library. Laptops will have Legacy software installed specifically for collecting family history notes, digitalized documentation, and creating family trees, and recording family history information. **NOTE: Research and personal files may not be stored on the computer.**
- Thumb drives will be provided to teens to save their research documentation, photographs, etc. At the conclusion of each research session, please download session materials to the thumb-drive.
- A one-year Burlington Library Card will be given to both the genealogist mentors and teens that do not already have BPL library cards.

The Teen Researchers will be given a notebook containing the following;

- Acid-free pockets/sheets for storing research documentation.
- Subject divider tabs for organizing family history records.
- One "At-a-Glance" laminated Quick Sheet for citing sources.
- Calendar of ROOTS activities/events/meetings
- List of BPL, Project Coordinator and other key contact phone numbers and emails
- Pedigree Charts & Family Group Sheets
- Research Activity Log sheets (several, more copies can be made)
- A Library Activity Log for students and mentors to record their library use activities
- Other handouts and lesson plan materials as needed during the course of the ROOTS project.

4. Reporting Activities

The research teams will be asked to maintain a Library Activity Log. The activities recorded in this anonymous log will be used in the evaluation phase of the ROOTS project. The Library Activity Log will be turned in at the conclusion of the ROOTS project.

Types of activities to report:

- Number of library materials checked out with the BPL library card
- Use of the microfilm reader and whether microfilm or microfiche was used
- Use of the SVGS Genealogy Library books, magazine, articles, and other materials
- Use of the BPL databases or other library resources
- Interlibrary loan requests
- Vital record requests from County courthouses, etc.

5. Field Trips

Off-site field trips are planned as part of the ROOTS curriculum. In the spring of 2014, there will be a trip to the National Archives and Records Administration Pacific Northwest Region in Seattle, and to the Seattle Public Library genealogy collection.

6. ROOTS Genealogist Mentors Orientation

Genealogist Mentors Orientation will be held Monday, April 29 and Monday, May 20, at BPL. If more volunteers are recruited after these dates, a third orientation may be held.

7. Schedule of Classes for the Genealogist Mentors

Classes are scheduled on consecutive Mondays in June and July at the Burlington Library. All sessions are from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

JUNE

6/3	Internet Genealogy, Basic and Beyond	Facilitator:	Mary K. Kozy
6/10	Introduction to Using Legacy Software, Part 1	Instructor:	Jim Terry
6/17	Introduction to Using Legacy Software, Part 2	Instructor:	Jim Terry
6/24	An Introduction to Genealogy Research, Part 1	Instructor:	Steve Baylor

JULY

7/1	An Introduction to Genealogy Research, Part 2	Instructor:	Steve Baylor
7/8	An Introduction to Genealogy Research, Part 3	Instructor:	Steve Baylor
7/15	An Introduction to Genealogy Research, Part 4	Instructor:	Steve Baylor
7/22	Native American Family History Research Basics	Instructor:	Theresa Trebon
7/29	An Introduction to Hispanic Genealogy	Instructor:	Janice Blackurst

8. ROOTS Class Schedule

Genealogist mentors and 11th grade students of the Burlington North High School will meet at the Burlington Public Library on Thursdays, beginning on October 17, 2013.

The teens will be in the library from 12:30 pm to 1:20 pm.

Genealogist mentors will have the option to arrive one-half hour prior to the class time and remain one-half hour after the class time with the teens. This extra time will allow the genealogists to discuss the upcoming class lesson plan and/or debrief the class session and ask questions about the upcoming assignments, etc.

The final project calendar will be distributed to genealogist mentors prior to the Kick-off celebration on October 17, 2013.

9. ROOTS Project Contacts

Burlington Public Library
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