

THE EPOCH TIMES

LIFE &

TRADITION

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CANDACE CRISCIONE



Candace Criscione traveled to Sicily in search of her relatives and family history. She now lives in Tuscany with her Italian husband and their three sons. (Above) Her wedding in Tuscany in 2013 brought together family from the U.S. and Sicily.

FAMILY ROOTS

The Joys and Labors of Genealogy

As many people explore their family trees, surprises often await

JEFF MINICK

Norman Rockwell's 1959 painting "Family Tree" offers viewers an entertaining and instructive look at ancestry and pedigree. A pirate who weds a Spanish beauty, a Confederate and a Union soldier, a Native American woman, a mountain man and cowboy, a starchy New England clergyman—all these progenitors lead to a modern-day couple and their smiling son.

At the beginning of "Look Homeward, Angel," Thomas Wolfe, like Rockwell, reminds us of our exhaustive heritage: "Each of us is all the sums he has not counted: subtract

We humans are living links between the past and the future.

us into nakedness and night again, and you shall see begin in Crete four thousand years ago the love that ended yesterday in Texas."

We humans are living links between the past and the future. The blood of our deceased grandparents runs in our veins even as we tenderly repair a granddaughter's knee cut in a fall while running on the sidewalk. In the gray eyes and dimples of our grandson we see the inherited gifts of his great-grandmother.

And while many of us either through indifference or neglect lack the interest to explore our own family tree, content with a few family stories gleaned from relatives, others enjoy the pursuit of their heritage, exploring their ancestors for fun and to learn more about their roots.

Americans and Lineage

Unlike much of the rest of the world, where caste and ancestral lines determined status, Americans have often shown little regard for titles and heredity. This was a country where men and women came to make of themselves what they could by dint of their hard work and intelligence. "Root, hog, or die," was the maxim of Westward bound settlers, meaning those pioneers needed to struggle and fight against circumstances if they were to survive. Bloodlines mattered less than grit.

But there were exceptions. In Massachusetts, those who claimed descent from the Pilgrims, and later from the Puritans, took pride in their lineage. To a lesser extent, the same held true for New York City. Families like the Cabots of Boston and the Roosevelts of New York knew where they



Candace and her husband on their wedding day in Tuscany in 2013.

hailed from and believed it bought them a special ranking in society as well as greater responsibilities.

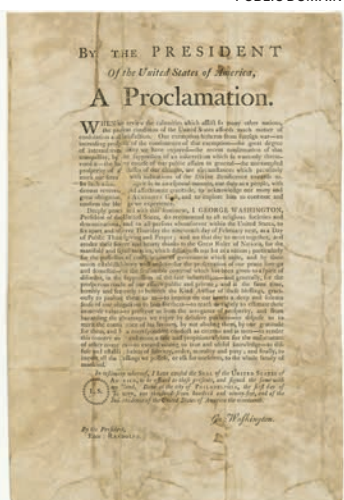
Unlike New England, parts of the South were settled by aristocrats, often gentlemen who were seeking to escape the rule of primogeniture, which gave the family estate intact to the oldest son. Names like Lee, Byrd, Berkeley, and Page were signposts of this informal aristocracy, eventually leading to the organization "the First Families of Virginia (FFV)." Citizens of South Carolina, particularly Charleston, also claimed status based on rank and name. An amusing aside: Because of its humble beginnings, North Carolina was once called "a vale of humility between two mountains of conceit."

A Genealogical Sea-Change

Today is different. More and more people have taken up investigating their ancestors. Genealogical societies abound.

Continued on Page 2

PUBLIC DOMAIN



George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation from 1795.

Don't Let Anyone Steal Your Gratitude

This Thanksgiving Day, let our hearts and minds be focused solely on gratitude

DUSTIN BASS

Ingratitude has somehow become vogue in America. It seems the more we progress in technology, science, entertainment options, food and clothing accessibility, self-managing appliances, and a laundry list of other blessings, the more opportunities there are to complain rather than be thankful. Even the middle-class, and some lower-class, individuals and families in America possess lifestyles that would rival the kings and queens of old.

Americans can point to the many pioneers and geniuses who have walked this land in order to provide such a quality of life. From before our nation's founding to today, we have so much to be thankful for and so many to thank.

Reflecting on the Miracles of the Pilgrims and Indians

In regard to our ancestors, many of us are already bracing for the inevitable assault on Thanksgiving. It shouldn't be a day of reflection upon the ills of our country's past, but rather on the good. We should think fondly upon those Pilgrims and Indians who met 400 years ago and indulged in a three-day festival together. We should think fondly on Tisquantum (Squanto), who practically saved the Pilgrims. William Bradford, governor of Plymouth at the time, called him "a special instrument sent of God." We should think fondly on Bradford and the rest of the Puritans who stuck together and, by the providence of God, survived and eventually thrived.

Continued on Page 2

HOMESCHOOLING

Homeschooling Your High Schooler

A conversation with homeschool expert Julie Bogart

BARBARA DANZA

Many homeschool parents can wrap their minds around teaching the ABCs and 123s. They can easily read books with their children on their lap and enjoy crafts, experiments, and field trips as they progress through the elementary years.

As children advance, though, subjects such as math become more complicated, and their children grow in independence and competence. Parents can envision the high school years more clearly on the horizon and it can be intimidating. Can Mom and Dad really give each child what they'll need to cross the finish line and head out into the world to college or to begin a career?

I asked Julie Bogart for her advice for homeschooling parents trying to wrap their minds around the high school years. She's a homeschooling veteran, curriculum creator, and author of "The Brave Learner: Finding Everyday Magic in Homeschool, Learning, and Life." Here's what she said.

The Epoch Times: Homeschooling parents often feel intimidated by the idea of homeschooling high school. How does homeschooling typically change as kids enter the high school years?

Julie Bogart: Homeschooling high school is a time to "triangle in" other adults in your child's life. It's a time for teens to do some big, bold activities that expand their horizons and provide them with meaningful risks and adventures. For instance, some teens will join a Shakespeare acting troupe in town, others will volunteer at a local animal shelter or elementary school in the middle of the school day. Some teens take up rock climbing or a select sport. Others will hire tutors to learn Latin or they'll join a co-op to learn chemistry. Lots of teens travel whether as exchange students or backpackers in Europe. Other teens develop talents like writing their own music and performing or joining an e-sport.

The key to homeschooling high school is to get clear on who your teen is and what that teen needs. In my own family, some of my teens were even able to participate part time in the local public high school for activities like marching band or choir. Look at the college trajectory of your student and then reverse engineer the life that makes the most sense for that student. Not all kids want college right at 18. There's no harm in allowing a teen to explore options and make that decision later in life. High school is a great time to dive deep into a passionate interest, even while still learning the core subjects.

A great book on the topic is "The Teenage Liberation Handbook" by Grace Llewellyn.

The Epoch Times: Some homeschooling parents wonder if they should enroll their kids in a traditional high school when the time comes. What factors do you recommend they consider when working through such a decision?



COURTESY OF JULIE BOGART

Author and curriculum creator Julie Bogart.

“High school is a great time to dive deep into a passionate interest, even while still learning the core subjects.”

Julie Bogart, author and educator

Ms. Bogart: This is a great question. I had one child who tried the local high school experience and hated it. I had another who chose it and thrived! Each homeschooled student has learned a valuable lesson by age 13: Their appetite for learning is more important than the method. If the method quells that love of learning, they will resist. That said, lots of teens are ready for the experience of competing with peers or participating in the group-oriented extracurricular activities that a high school can provide. Talk with your teen about their goals. Take a look at whether the local school district allows for part-time enrollment. I had a daughter who took classes like French, chemistry, and acting at the local high school while doing all the rest of her education at home or with tutors. She loved that halftime experience.

The Epoch Times: What can homeschooling parents do to best prepare themselves and their children for the high school years?

Ms. Bogart: Be careful not to borrow worry



MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

Teens may explore their interests in bolder ways—whether that's volunteering, traveling, arts, or sports.

from the teen years into the preteen years. It's not more important that you "prepare" for high school than that you enjoy junior high with your preteens now. Making comments like "A high school teacher would never let you get away with that" or undue pressure on your preteen to make up for lost time or to get ahead undermines the power of home education in the present moment. Instead, use these years at home to indulge all the ways home makes learning a joy. Do the experiments, go on the field trips, read a book for an entire day curled up by the fire, take the necessary time to learn math—don't race through. As you prepare for high school, think about what gives your child the best chance to flourish as a person; think less about being a student. Colleges love homeschoolers and homeschooled kids are quick to make up any lost ground because they are usually more motivated and less burnt out than traditionally educated kids.

The Epoch Times: What are some common challenges parents face when it comes to homeschooling high school?

Ms. Bogart: The biggest challenges are teaching your teens the subjects you don't know well as an adult. For instance, I didn't have a science background so I outsourced biology and chemistry to parents who were educated in science who taught a group of homeschooled kids together. I taught high school academic writing to their kids as a swap! Same goes for math or learning another language. These are seen as sometimes difficult to provide as a parent. Co-ops, tutors, and online classes can fill in the gaps there.

The other challenge is social. Teens are ready to make friends and have lives outside the home. Remember: Homeschooling is your adventure. For your kids, it's just ordinary life. By 13 to 14, your kids want to get out of the house to test their wings in the bigger world. They can do that by joining organizations, getting a job, being in a performance group of some kind—whether sports, ballet, theater, or martial arts—and travel. They need friends and it's important to find places for them to make them.

The Epoch Times: What are some benefits to homeschooling high school that parents may not realize?

Ms. Bogart: Homeschooling high school is amazing for kids who have passions that drive them. My oldest used his teen years to learn Klingon, to teach himself advanced math, computer programming, and constructed languages. He participated in a Shakespeare company for teens. He got into urban gymnastics. I know teens who've developed successful music platforms, who've started nonprofits, who've learned to build low-tech housing in their backyard, and one who cross-bred fish! Truly, when given time and space, many teens take advantage of these years to become more of who they dream of being.

Another benefit is that you get a front-row seat to the development of your teen's worldview and beliefs. This is an exciting time to watch their minds grow!

The Epoch Times: What was your favorite part about homeschooling your children through the high school years?

Ms. Bogart: I love the conversations! This is the time of life when teens are asking the big questions, testing their unconventional answers, and discovering that more ideas are out there than the ones they learned at home. It's such an incredible time of cognitive development! And naturally, I loved working on their writing with them. That was deeply satisfying. I also loved watching them perform. There's something about seeing your teen participate in a group that is satisfying. They look grown-up for the first time!

Teens are amazing and high school is a great time to explore all their interests and passions. Homeschooling allows you to do that in ways that are sometimes prevented by a full school schedule.

Missouri Artist Paints Tribute to Veterans, Law Enforcement, and First Responders

EPOCH INSPIRED STAFF

Staged with her paints set up and ready to get to work, Missouri artist Sandra Pemberton climbed the scaffold with a piece of soapstone and started etching out, freehand, the contours of a patriotic American mural on a sheet of metal siding.

The 36-year-old painter from Neosho, Missouri, has always preferred to work without the hindrance of a projector. She traversed the 20-foot-wide, 12-foot-high building side—visible from Highway 63 Pomona in Howell County, Missouri, as her patron had intended.

The process of making her mural started with an eight-by-10-inch concept painting. Then the prep work began, with the procurement of scaffolding, ladders, paint tables, and, of course, speakers for her music.

"I often must step back away from the wall and look at the design as a whole, getting all of the proportions correct," Pemberton said.

Then she and her husband Matthew started "filling in the design like a coloring book." The first stages looked rough and were just

for covering the entire surface in paint. "I will go over it to correct mistakes, shade, and add detail later," Pemberton said. "I paint in layers, working from the general to the specific, and adding layers of color."

In "The Howell County Tribute Mural," rendered in mainly warm hues, an American flag sweeps across the eaves above, arcing over a bald eagle whose wings are outstretched, as if it's lifting the Stars and Stripes. At the bottom right, flag-raising soldiers, depicted in the famous photo from the Battle of Iwo Jima, strike a bold silhouette before a glowing sunset. Centered beneath the eagle, "We The People" is rendered calligraphically on parchment. At the bottom left, a tribute to first responders and law enforcement is emblazoned.

The work was completed in five days in September—with a brewing storm costing them an evening of work. After the painting's completion, a heavy clear coat was applied to protect it from the sun fading out the colors and scratches, as well as to make the colors sing. Images of Pemberton's mural have been

“Veterans message me thanking me for painting it and it's hard to wrap my head around. I feel as if the painting is my thank you to them.”

Sandra Pemberton



COURTESY OF SANDRA PEMBERTON

shared 30,000 times on Facebook, with visitors traveling from as far as Illinois and South Carolina to check out her mural.

"I am beyond blessed to be given these opportunities. I have been contacted by people all over the United States," she said.

Since the project's completion, Pemberton has been asked to travel to more states than she can remember to paint more work.

"Veterans message me thanking me for painting it, and it's hard to wrap my head around. I feel as if the painting is my thank you to them. I don't deserve a thank you," she said. "They put their lives on the line in order for me to have the life I am blessed with. I am just so very thankful to be able to give them something that they can feel good about."

▲ Sandra Pemberton's "Howell County Tribute Mural" is located near Pomona, Mo.



FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

Week 47, 2021

Nothing Gold Can Stay
by Robert Frost

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

PIXELICAZI/SHUTTERSTOCK

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DID PILGRIMS LISTEN TO?
PLYMOUTH ROCK

Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants.
EPICETUS (CIRCA A.D. 55-135), GREEK STOIC PHILOSOPHER

By Aidan Danza, age 15

DUCKS OF WINTER

In the autumn and winter, many species of ducks migrate from their breeding grounds in the north to various ponds, lakes, and bays all across America.

AMERICAN WIGEON

The American wigeon is a dabbling duck, meaning that, instead of diving, like the scaup, it tips its head into the water, with the tail floating above the water, sticking up, so as to eat plants growing in shallow water. In my personal experience, wigeon are less common than scaup, and arriving and leaving the lake earlier than the scaup, but this may differ from state to state, and maybe even from lake to lake. It was once called the baldpate, because of the male's head, being white on the top and green on the sides, it vaguely resembles a bald man's head. The female doesn't have these markings.

MALLARD

The mallard is the most common and familiar duck in the United States. The female is mottled brown, while the male has the trademark green head, chestnut chest, and gray body. If you see no other duck at your pond, you will probably see a mallard, whatever the time of year.

GREATER AND LESSER SCAUP

These are among the more common diving ducks. In their favorite lakes, they will form great rafts (flocks) on the water. Scaup, both male and females, are darker ducks. Lesser and greater scaup are quite difficult to differentiate. The usual technique used to distinguish between them is observation of the head: The lesser's head is more conical or pointed in shape, while the greater's is round and full.

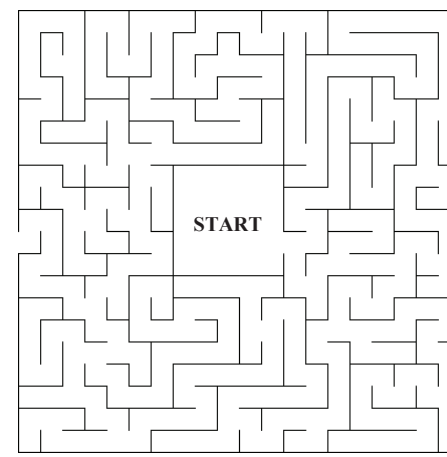
NORTHERN SHOVELER

The male of this species is at first glance similar to the mallard, but its chest is white, the sides are a rusty brown, and, above all, its bill looks like an enormous plow or shovel, perhaps. The female is a drab mottled brown and has the same enormous bill. Unlike the wigeons and the scaup, which will stay in large flocks, the shovellers stay in pairs or individually, swimming in circles and skimming algae and tiny invertebrates on the surface.



ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOCK

AMAZING ESCAPES!



USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, -, AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: 6 + (7 X 3) + 1 = 28 and 1 + (7 X 3) + 6 = 28

Easy puzzle 1

6	8
16	8
1	8

Solution For Easy 1
1 × 8 + (8 - 8)

Medium puzzle 1

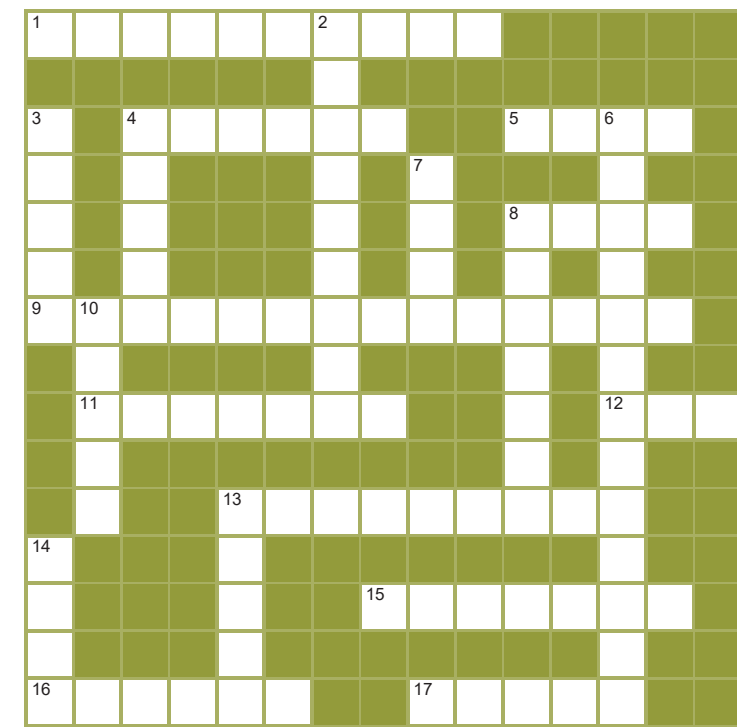
12	15
51	14
3	14

Solution for Medium 1
8 × (21 - 91 + 91) (21 - 91) × (8 + 91)

Hard puzzle 1

4	/
54	/
/	/

Solution for Hard 1
8 + 4 + 52 + 42



Across

- 1 Fall door decoration (10)
- 4 Who gathers on Thanksgiving (6)
- 5 Where people go on Thanksgiving (4)
- 8 An uncommon Thanksgiving dish (4)
- 9 Squantum (Squanto) for example (14)
- 11 Squantum's tribe (7)
- 12 Thanksgiving pork dish (3)
- 13 Early arrivals (9)
- 15 Gravy morsels (7)
- 16 Nature's Thanksgiving decorations (6)
- 17 Frank's accompaniment (5)

Down

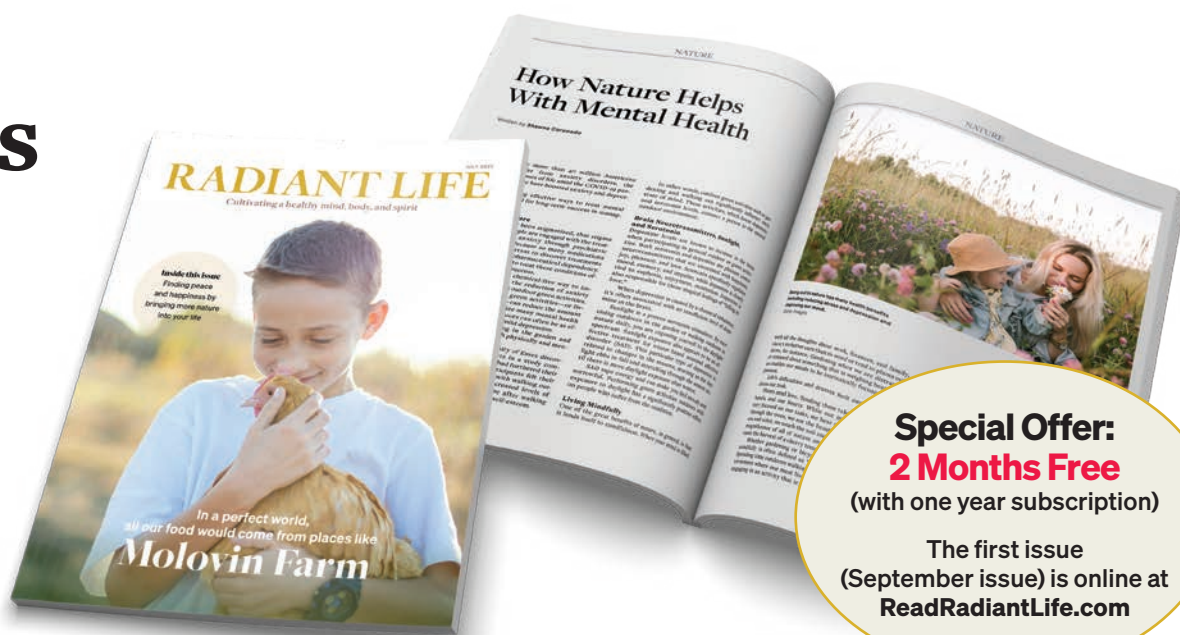
- 2 Have a party, say (9)
- 3 Squirrel's Thanksgiving stash (5)
- 4 Spread (5)
- 6 Boston ____ (13)
- 7 How you cook a Pumpkin pie (4)
- 8 "That's what ____ are for" (7)
- 10 "As American as ____ pie!" (5)
- 13 Thanksgiving honor (5)
- 14 The most colorful season? (4)

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