

THE JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.



Stirpes



DNA

**TOOLS
METHODS
EXPERIENCES**



Contents

Features

- 4** TxSGS 2017 Conference Cancelled Due to Hurricane Harvey Damage
- 6** Genetic Genealogy Tools to Achieve DNA Discoveries
by Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM
- 10** 60 Years a Captain of Mystery, Identified Through DNA
by Jeannette Piecznski
- 14** DNA Illuminates Kilgrove Connection
by Randy Whited
- 16** A DNA Change of Heart
by Devon Noel Lee
- 19** DNA Discoveries: Applying DNA Evidence to
Genealogical Questions.
by Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM
- 25** The Coats and Cox Lineages of Callahan County, Texas
by Russell A. Rahn
- 30** At a Location Near You: 17th Annual Lock-In Features Library
Resources, Genealogy Presentations, and More
by Bill Buckner
- 32** TxSGS Dues Set to Increase 1 January 2018
- 34** Amazing to Disappointing -TxSGS Members Share Their
DNA Testing Experiences
by Susan E. Ball
- 48** Index to Biographical Sketches of Gospel
Preachers by H. Leon Boles
Index compiled by Jeanne Sellers, Proofread and formatted by Scott Fitzgerald
- 59** GPGS Volunteers!

Columns

- Editorial Policies **2**
- From the Editors' Pen **3**
- New Members & More **5**
- Volunteer Spotlight **5**
- Book Review **33**
by William D. "Bill" Buckner
- Genealogy Backroads **41**
by Susan E. Ball
- Who's behind the Camera? **45**
by Scott Fitzgerald
- Partner Society Roundup **59**
- Texas Heritage Certificates **62**
- TxSGS Society Leadership **64**
- TxSGS Policies **65**



Why Name our Journal Stirpes? Pronounced "STÛR'PEZ," it perfectly describes the core understanding of our passion in researching ancestry and family history: The phrase "... to my heirs, per stirpes" means that the legal heirs share their inheritance based on their relationship to the deceased." (See full story in *Stirpes*, 2016, Volume 55, Number 3-4)

From the Editors' Pen



Genetic genealogy has revolutionized understanding of personal ancestry. Through DNA testing, a bright light has shined upon some of the most closely held secrets of our families, illuminating the true sources of our genetic makeup. Who would have dreamed, 200 years ago, that descendants could discover that a son born “a little too early” wasn’t the true heir, that the children of a marriage weren’t fathered by the same man, or that a family patriarch had multiple child-producing liaisons? Genetic genealogists can find themselves in the midst of dramatic discoveries, and in the process comprehend anew that the same emotional forces beset their ancestors as people today.

This issue of *Stirpes* includes articles on DNA, from tools and methods to results achieved by the avid genealogist to the casual dabbler. Even Bill Buckner’s book review addresses the workbook “Genetic Genealogy in Practice.”

Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM, pens two excellent articles on applying DNA to genealogy: “DNA Discoveries: Applying DNA Evidence to Genealogical Questions” and “Genetic Genealogy Tools to Achieve DNA Discoveries.” Through Debbie’s extensive use of examples, readers gain insight into methods for successfully applying DNA to genealogy brick walls.

Personal examples of how DNA unraveled tangled family trees are especially useful in learning how to apply genetics to genealogy research.

- Jeannette Piecznski shares her family’s search for the ancestry of her great grandfather in “60 Years a Captain of Mystery, Identified Through DNA.”
- “A DNA Change of Heart” charts Devon Noel Lee’s initial reluctance to test her DNA through challenges with poor results and on to eventual success.
- Randy Whited describes how he used DNA to discover the ancestry of his adopted mother in “DNA Illuminates Kilgrove Connection.”
- TxSGS members’ candid responses to our request for DNA experiences feature in “Amazing to Disappointing—TxSGS Members Share Their DNA Testing Experiences.”

To round out the issue, we include another excellent lineage researched by Russell A. Rahn, “The Coats and Cox Lineages of Callahan County, Texas.” Texas Genealogy Backroads visits the Texas Ranger Research Center in Waco. Scott Fitzgerald researches the brief career of an East Texas photographer in “Who’s Behind the Camera.” Another passion of Scott’s is creating indexes for

genealogically useful books lacking that critical component; he graciously shares for publication in *Stirpes* an index to “*Biographical Sketches of Gospel Preachers*” by H. Leon Boles.

Next up for *Stirpes* is a popular item on most everyone’s genealogy “bucket list”—travel to the “old home place.” Have you visited the ancestral homeland, castle, or battlefield where your ancestor fought or died? Please share your experience with us—we’d love to know what you learned about your ancestors and their lives. Do you have tips for others who yearn to travel back in time? Share those as well! **Start your article now**—we’re featuring items on “Going Home” in the December issue of *Stirpes* and the submission deadline is November 15th. Please let us know you’ll be submitting an article so we’ll expect it.

This issue of *Stirpes* reflects more input from our members than any previous one; we gratefully thank those who so candidly responded to our DNA survey. With hopes that this trend leads to more participation by our members, we direct your attention to page 24 and the link to our next issue’s “Going Home” survey.

~ *Stirpes* Editors ★

Connect with TxSGS



Learn more at TxSGS.org

TxSGS 2017 Conference Cancelled Due to Hurricane Harvey Damage

As many of you are aware, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Houston in September, causing widespread damage. Our host hotel for the 2017 Family History Conference, Omni Westside in Katy, was not spared and the ground floor did take on some water. The hotel had expected to reopen on October 1 and be fully operational in time for our conference. The Conference Committee, the Executive Committee, and members of the TxSGS Board discussed our options at that time. We felt that canceling the conference would be the simplest choice. **But, we more strongly felt that moving forward was the right course to take.** If the hotel and surrounding area were open and ready for business, we wanted to be there to support that resiliency, if even in a small way.

Unfortunately, after further examination of the damage and timeframe for repairs, the hotel pushed the date back past our scheduled conference dates of October 20-22. There were no other facilities in Houston that could host the Conference at this time, and moving to another city at this late date was not possible. It is with disappointment and regret that we cancelled the 2017 TxSGS Family History Conference.

We are continuing to work on bringing you the 2018 Conference; watch our [website](#) for updates.

Registration refunds have been issued for those who had already signed up for the conference. Please contact Betsy Mills, TxSGS Treasurer, at treasurer@txsgs.org if you have not received your refund.

The TxSGS Conference Committee, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors appreciate your patience during this challenging process. We support the strength and courage of the Houston residents and businesses and look forward to returning there for a future TxSGS Family History Conference.

Thank you for your support of TxSGS and our community.

Randy Whited
TxSGS President
2017 Conference Chair



Calling All Descendants of Early Texans!★

Your Lineage Could be Included in
the Soon-to-be Published

Texas First Families Lineages, Volume III

Interested?

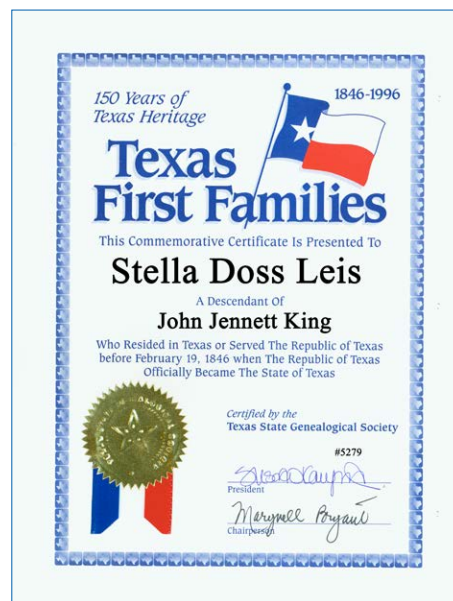
For more details, see the Heritage Certificate Application at

http://www.txsgs.org/TSGS/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/tsgs_cert_app.pdf

Questions?

See the Frequently Asked Questions section of
the Heritage Certificate Application.

For further inquiries, contact Certificates@txsgs.org



*Open to direct and collateral descendants of persons who settled in or served the Republic of Texas prior to 19 February 1846.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM

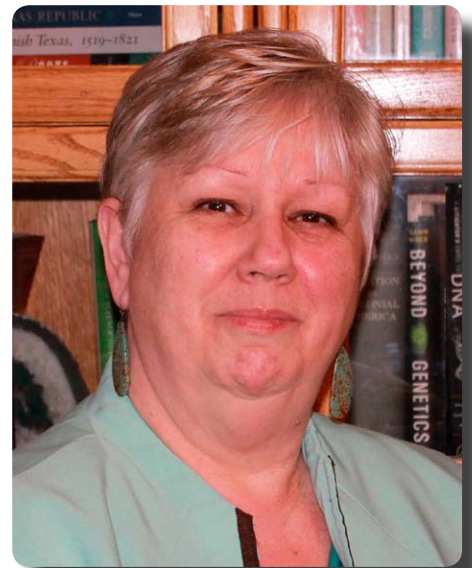
Debbie Parker Wayne, TxSGS's DNA guru, is a board-certified genealogist and genealogical lecturer experienced in using DNA analysis and traditional techniques for genealogical research. Debbie writes a series of DNA articles that appear in each issue of *Stirpes*. Her instructional and insightful articles include applications and examples that help neophyte to advanced genealogists better understand the role of DNA in their genealogy research.

Debbie also lends her expertise to TxSGS as the DNA Project Chair, a position that includes managing the Early Texans DNA Project. This geographically oriented project focuses on analyzing the DNA of those with ancestors who settled in Texas before 31 December 1900. Participants are separated into two groups: those whose ancestors who settled in Texas before statehood (Group 1) and those whose Texas ancestors settled in Texas after statehood (Group 2). The purpose of the project is to study the DNA of descendants of early settlers

to discover information that can contribute to Texas history including determining which admixtures are found in living Texans today and linking those admixture results to early colonies or settlements.

Through this project, Debbie also expects to learn which segments of DNA are shared with other descendants of early settlers of Texas. DNA matches in the Early Texans Project may support claims of descent from a common ancestor and can provide clues as to where to locate documentary evidence, facilitating application for TxSGS Heritage Certificates. More information on the Early Texans DNA Project and registration information can be found at <http://www.txsgs.org/programs/dna-project/early-texans/>.

Debbie is the co-author with Blaine T. Bettinger of the award-winning DNA workbook, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, published by the National Genealogical Society (NGS). She is the author of the online, self-paced course *Continuing Genealogical Studies: Autosomal DNA*,



Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM

offered by NGS. Her publications include a column on using DNA analysis for genealogical research in *NGS Magazine*. She coordinates and presents workshops, seminars, and comprehensive, interactive genetic genealogy courses at genealogy institutes. See <http://debbiewayne.com/> for more information and for archived versions of many of her articles. ★

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New Members & More

New Members since May 2017

Partner Societies

Walker County Genealogical Society

Subscribing Libraries

Brigham Young University
Nesbitt Memorial Library

Individual and Household Members

John C. Barron
Dorothy Ann Brown
Lynda B. Collins

Jeannine M. Connors
Don Davis
Daniel Doty
Sheri Rider Feitshans
Martha J. Garrett
David R. George
George Horton
Carmen B. Jacobs
Jeweltee Kuenstler
Dana R. Leeds
Sheran McCants
Malcolm Scott McCorquodale

Nancy J. McNamara
Cynthia Millis
Jennifer M. Mitten
Shelley Moreno
Stephanie S. Morgan
Vivian Morgan
Allison L. O'Toole
Margaret J. Schoener
Linda Stewart
Caroline Coffield Vetterling
David O. Williams

Genetic Genealogy Tools to Achieve DNA Discoveries

by Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM

One look at the results we see once our DNA test is completed makes it clear that we need to learn more about analysis, we need to be organized to make sense of the enormous amount of data, and we need good tools to help us achieve our goals. Articles and books we read, webinars and videos we study, classes and lectures we attend all help us learn more. While some tools help us be more organized, we also need to structure our

file system folders in a way that makes it easier to find specific data. Other tools help us in analyzing the DNA data. Many more tools are available than can be discussed in one article, but this will introduce you to some useful tools.

In this article the term “focus person” refers to the person whose DNA account or profile is being used for the analysis. The term “test-taker” identifies the DNA matches of the focus person.

Match Lists

Each DNA testing company and many third-party tools compare the focus person’s DNA to the DNA of other test-takers in the database or folder. When the focus person and a test-taker share enough DNA to meet a threshold that is imposed by the company or tool, the name of each will be on the match list of the other. These “DNA matches” are related in some way even if the family tree is not complete enough to name the common ancestor.¹

The total amount of DNA shared by the focus person and the test-taker is used to predict how the two may be related. The companies display the total amount of shared DNA in percentages or centimorgans (cM). Centimorgans are a logical measurement of the “length” of the shared DNA (this is a simplified definition for those new to genetic genealogy).² Centimorgans are not a physical measurement where one cM is always the same length; some 15 cM blocks are physically longer than other 15 cM blocks in a different place on the chromosomes, but they

are logically the same—they represent the same value for the analysis we are doing. The percentage is the total of the DNA tested that matches between the two test-takers.³

This match threshold is important to understand. It means you can have two people who are known cousins that, due to random recombination, do not appear on the match list as cousins. To date, all known second cousins share enough DNA to be on each other’s match list. Beyond the second cousin level, it becomes possible that both did not inherit enough DNA from the common ancestor to meet the company’s matching threshold.

This does not mean the two test-takers are not cousins or that the family tree is incorrect. This is a limitation of the level of testing available today and the technology used in the labs. Researchers must understand these limitations in order to accurately interpret DNA test findings for application as evidence in a genealogical problem. Some think we will have better match predictions once we are testing more DNA (as will be done once we have reasonably-priced

whole genome sequencing). A major improvement will be realized when and if lab procedures are able to differentiate which of a test-taker’s DNA came from each parent (phased DNA data that has been assigned to a specific parent)—this will allow the matching algorithms to be much more accurate.

Match lists may contain thousands of matches. A researcher will be most efficient by focusing first on the matches where it is more likely a common ancestor can be identified. Start by scanning the match lists looking for test-takers

1. who are known cousins (perhaps from documentary research),
2. whose surname matches an ancestral surname,
3. who have listed an ancestral surname of interest (in a surname list or as part of a family tree),
4. who have ancestors of any surname in the same location at the same time as ancestors of the researcher, or
5. who share the most DNA with the researcher.

DNA Discoveries: Applying DNA Evidence to Genealogical Questions

by Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM

Introduction

DNA evidence leads to many kinds of discoveries, expected and unexpected, welcome and not welcome, supporting or refuting hypotheses and family legends. Some unexpected discoveries are related to ancestors many generations back and some to those still living. DNA is not unique in this way. Documentary records have always been able to uncover unexpected family relationships and attempts to conceal certain situations.

DNA results and documentary evidence may contradict each other. At times, the two work together to support a credible conclusion. DNA test results are the hot, new type of evidence for genealogical researchers. However, we need to include documentary evidence with DNA results for our research to reach a credible conclusion and meet the criteria of the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). The cases described here illustrate only a few of the ways to use DNA with documentary research to make discoveries in genealogical research.

Confirm Prior Research

While it is not technically a discovery, an important benefit of DNA testing is to confirm prior research. Knowing that the correct ancestors fill the branches of a tree promotes future research in the right place and time. This may lead to discovering the parents of a person in a tree. The DNA confirmation is especially important for ancestors with a common name and when more than one person of the same name lived in a place at the same time.

So many people in the US have tested today that many of us can confirm branches of a tree using DNA cousins who were not known before showing up in a match list. If matches do not show up in our list, we may need to recruit and pay for tests for relatives in the line we wish to confirm.

Tree accuracy and completeness is important for all aspects of genetic genealogy, including confirming prior research. An incomplete tree with a blank where an ancestor name should be means there could be a shared ancestor who cannot be identified.

Figure 1 illustrates that the accuracy of the trees is more important than the fact that multiple trees list the same ancestor. If one person published an inaccurate tree that dozens of others copied then it may appear to confirm a common ancestor, but the error will likely be uncovered once thorough research is done.

Tracking speculative ancestral links before the line is thoroughly researched can be useful for DNA matches, but entering speculative lines into a genealogy program or an online tree may mislead others. Some users add speculative ancestors to a private tree and keep a public tree for the lines more credibly linked with thorough research.

For those who like to have a compact document with maximum information to print and carry, my solution is to keep a tree with the status of ancestors color-coded or highlighted. A seven-generation

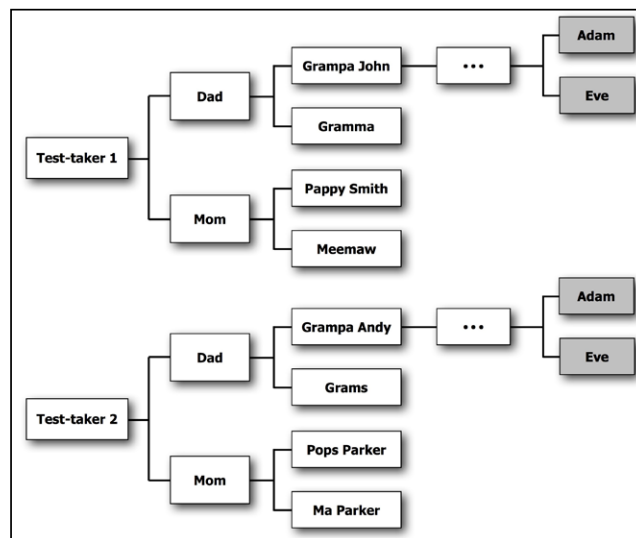


Figure 1. Family trees naming Adam and Eve as ancestors are unproven, no matter how many copies are found.

compact pedigree chart (in Microsoft Word table format) uses pink and blue shading to indicate potential X-DNA ancestors. For those with access to an 11x17 printer, a ten-generation version of the chart is available.¹ My 11x17 X-DNA inheritance chart includes names of all thoroughly researched ancestors (those “proven” by documentary research) in boldface print, speculative ancestor candidates in plain text (without boldface), and an

added highlight in yellow marking the ancestors who have been confirmed with a DNA match (see figure 2). With this information in a compact format, it is easy to quickly compare to the tree of a DNA match and see what is known and which links are speculative.

Discover Cousins In Your Circle of Genealogy Friends

DNA is proving how small our world really is and how we are all more related than we may think. Keep your

eyes open for names you recognize as you peruse DNA match lists. Exploring your DNA matches will often reveal some cousins you never knew were related, but have known for years.

My own results and those of my siblings link to eighteen colleagues known through the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Board for Certification of Genealogists; six known through the Texas State Genealogical Society, National Genealogical Society, and local societies; many who attended a lecture or institute where I was

speaking; and several who recognized common ancestral names in DNA articles I wrote in journals.

Find Cousins With Whom to Collaborate

Experienced researchers collaborating have a better chance of breaking through brick walls than any one researcher working alone. I have made contact with researchers on my Ryan and Black lines with whom I now work so we can identify our common ancestor. On the Ryan line, we all trace back to different ancestors whom we suspect are siblings. Our shared DNA, assuming we have no other common ancestors, proves we are related. Once one of us makes a breakthrough in identifying the parents, it will help the others.

Learn of Unknown Living Relatives (Who may have records such as a Family Bible or photographs of ancestors.)

One person on my DNA match list shared with me several photographs she had of my grandfather as a boy with his father, my great-grandfather. These are the only photos I have of my great-grandfather.

Refute or Confirm a Family Legend

All genealogists learn that family stories may have a kernel of truth, but not be completely accurate. My father's Parker family had a story that we were related to Quannah Parker, who was the son of a captured Anglo girl named Cynthia Ann Parker and a Comanche tribal chief. Using the Y-DNA that my father inherited and passed on to his descendants, we

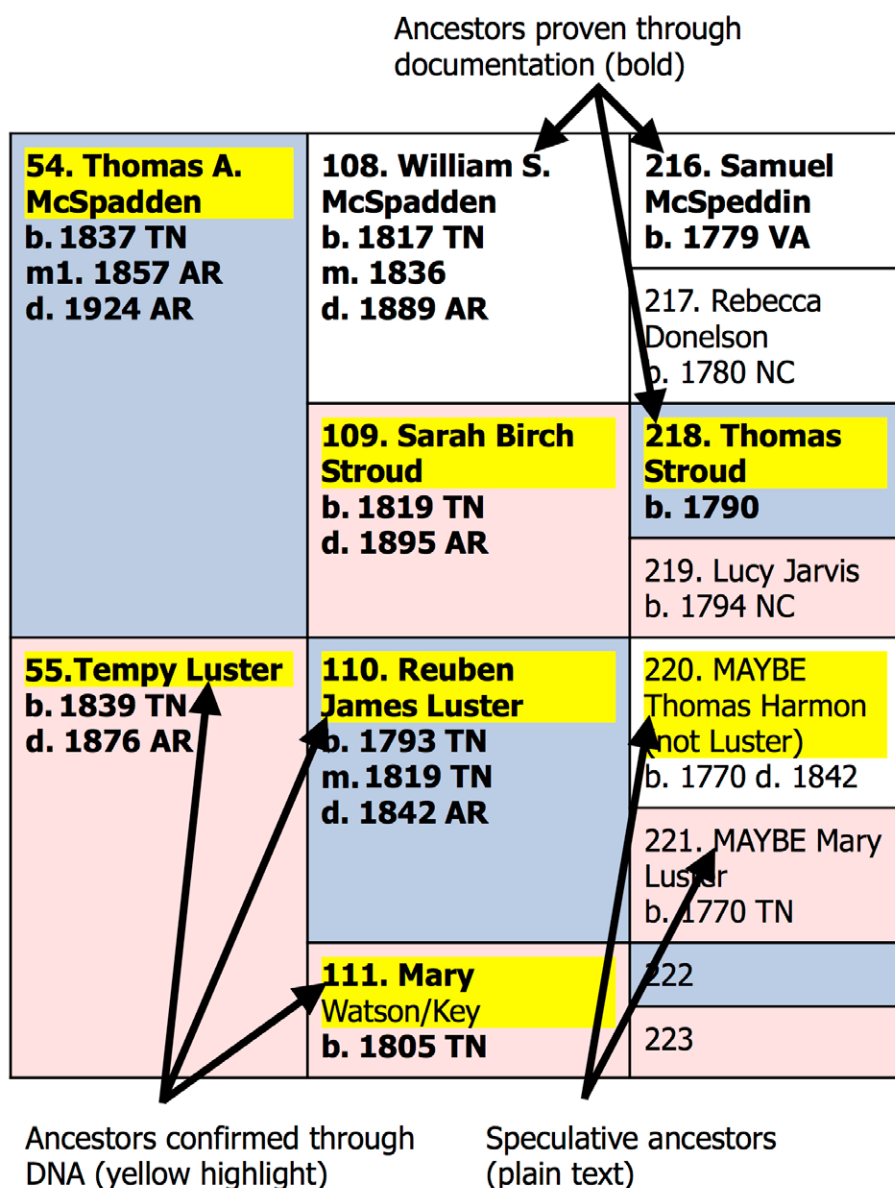


Figure 2. Debbie's X-DNA Chart shows ancestors confirmed through DNA, ancestors proven through documentation, and speculative ancestors.

At a Location Near You: 17th Annual Lock-In Features Library Resources, Genealogy Presentations, and More

by Bill Buckner

The Waco-McLennan County Library Genealogy Center, in cooperation with the Central Texas Genealogical Society, will host the 17th Annual Genealogy Lock-In in celebration of Family History Month. This event takes place Friday, October 20, from 11:00 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. at the West Waco Library & Genealogy Center (5301 Bosque Blvd).

Over 25 libraries and genealogy societies across Texas will be celebrating with their own events and activities as

part of the Genealogy Network of Texas (GNT). For locations near you, check the listing of participating libraries and societies at <http://bit.ly/2ukKrpU>. This statewide initiative to connect libraries and societies with the public through educational and research opportunities is spearheaded by the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library. The GNT will provide a series of eight live-streamed programs with up-to-date topics accessible at participating libraries and genealogical societies:

❑ ***Orphan Train Riders: Tracks to Texas & Beyond, All Aboard 1854 to 1929*** with Paula Perkins, 11 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. One in every 25 Americans has a connection to an Orphan Train rider between 1854 and 1929. Over 200,000 children were relocated from the East to the West coast on trains. Texas was a vital part of this history. Research techniques and resources will be demonstrated.

❑ ***Beginner's Guide to Documenting Your Family History*** with LaToya Devezin of the Austin History Center, noon – 1:30 p.m., can get you started or refresh your knowledge. Researchers will learn how to use resources to create a family tree, record and organize their information, and navigate online and archival records to find their ancestors. Learn a fresh approach and up-to-date information in this class for beginners taking their first step.

❑ ***Discover Local History through a Regional Depository*** with Laura Saegert of the Texas State Library & Archives, 1:40 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. The Regional Historical Resources Depository (RHRD) Program of the Texas State Library & Archives Commission

collects, preserves, and makes available for public use the historical records of the local governments of Texas. The RHRDs house records with genealogical interest in microfilm in addition to original paper records. The presentation will introduce you to these wonderful sources of information for your genealogical and historical work.

❑ ***My Texans during the Republic*** with Sharon Farnsworth, 2:50 p.m. – 3:50 p.m., answers questions about your Texas Republic era ancestors. Learn how to track your generations back to your ancestors during the Republic of Texas through birth and death certificates, census records, and wills. Learn ways to find where your ancestors lived and their contributions to Texas during the Republic through land grants, military records, and other documents.

❑ ***Connecting Your DNA Matches*** with Diahann Southard, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. While it is possible for you to analyze your DNA matches one at a time to determine how you are related, there is much that can be accomplished by first identifying the connections between those on your match list, and then working together to determine how you are related. Learn the tips and tricks to

this powerful method of match analysis.

❑ ***Researching Your Czech Immigrant Ancestor's Background in the Old Fatherland*** with Dr. Miroslav Koudelka from the Czech Republic, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. This presentation will cover the strategies and sources (both online and in print) to trace your Moravian or Bohemian ancestry. Explore obstacles in identifying place of origin and tools to overcome them. Learn which documents to research first and which records are the “icing on the cake.” Also addressed are Czech/German/Latin forms for names, places, and professions. Following up research with a visit to the ancestral area and meeting relatives? Learn what to know beforehand and what to expect on the spot.

❑ ***Get the Scoop on Your Ancestors with Newspapers*** with Lisa Louise Cooke, 7:10 p.m. – 8:10 p.m. Yearning to “read all about it?” Newspapers are a fantastic source of research leads, information, and historical context for your family history. Learn the specialized approach and tech tools required to

achieve success in locating newspapers and uncovering the genealogical gems they contain about your family.

☐ **Discovering Your WWI Ancestor: Sources & Resources** with Earl Pogue, 8:20 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Do you know or suspect that you have a WWI veteran in your family tree? If so, discover what resources are available to identify and provide information about your ancestor that served in the Great War. A variety of resources including draft registration records, service cards, newspapers, plus vital and cemetery records will be discussed. ★ Do you have a road block in your

Ancestors Roadshow at the Lock-In

family research and need some special help? During the event at the Waco location and via Skype at participating libraries (see <http://bit.ly/2u1eoMa>), the Lone Star Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) will be hosting an **Ancestors Roadshow** from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ancestors Roadshow is an opportunity for you to enjoy a free 15-minute consultation with a professional genealogist from the Lone Star Chapter. You can ask questions about a specific genealogical problem or get general information on how to approach a research quandary. This is

an excellent chance to get expert advice on that brick wall dilemma or elusive ancestor in your family history research. Roadshow appointments are limited to one per customer. To register, fill out a questionnaire at lonestarapg.com/roadshow_forms.htm and email the form beginning October 16th to WMCLGenealogyCenter@wacotx.gov or bring the form and register on-site at the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library starting at 3 pm. on October 20th. You must be present during the lock-in at a participating library or genealogy society to be assigned a time slot.

Sponsored by the Waco-McLennan County Library
Genealogy Center in cooperation with
the Central Texas Genealogical Society

**West Waco Library
& Genealogy Center**
5301 Bosque Blvd, Suite 275

October 20, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Genealogy Beginners' Class at noon
- Hereditary societies from around the state
- One on one research assistance
- Eight LIVE virtual programs
- Visiting genealogy professionals
- Snacks & Door Prizes



For more information call
254-750-5945
or visit
www.wacolibrary.org
OR
www.ctgs.org



TxSGS Dues Set to Increase 1 January 2018

TxSGS dues haven't changed since 2008, yet our expenses have continually increased. One of our key costs has been the publication of *Stirpes*. Transitioning to a primarily digital publication mitigated the effect of increasing print and postage expenses; however, the Board of Directors realizes that in order to maintain the quality of our programs, a moderate increase in dues is necessary.

Beginning 1 January 2018, our new dues for individuals and households will be:

- Basic - \$30
- Household - \$35

A household membership is for two persons living at the same address.

Extended memberships are

available at the following levels:

- Friend - \$50
- Supporter - \$100 (includes a print edition of *Stirpes*)
- Patron - \$250 (includes a print edition of *Stirpes*.)
- Benefactor - \$500 (includes a print edition of *Stirpes*.)

All individual and household

members automatically receive a digital edition of *Stirpes*. Advantages of the digital edition are that you get it earlier, in color, and all URLs are active and can be clicked.

Members at the Basic and Friend levels may purchase a year's subscription to the print edition of *Stirpes* for \$15.00. Members whose membership expires before 31 December 2017 may renew for one year at the present rate of \$25.00.

Partner Society dues and Subscribing Library subscriptions are also increasing to \$30.00. However, they automatically receive a print edition of *Stirpes* at no additional charge.

Need
Program
IDEAS?

Check the TxSGS
Speakers Bureau!

<http://www.txsgs.org/progrms/speakers-bureau/>

- **Over 75 Speakers from Texas and Beyond**—New speakers added every month
- **Find Speakers Nearby**—Use the browser “find” to search for listing for district number; Find your district on the TxSGS District Map at <http://www.txsgs.org/about/district-map/>

Browse the Speakers Bureau list for inspiration and ban boring programs forever!

Speakers: List with the TxSGS Speakers Bureau by emailing

SpeakersBureau@txsgs.org



Amazing to Disappointing— TxSGS Members Share Their DNA Testing Experiences

by Susan E. Ball

The genealogy media is awash with news about DNA testing, from which DNA test provides the best results and how-to tips to heart-warming tales of reunions between long lost relatives or adoptees and their birth families. What are the results of typical genealogists?

Stirpes launched a TxSGS member survey to answer this question and more. Two simple questions opened a floodgate of

responses: “What made you decide to submit DNA for testing?” and “What did you learn and how did it help you in your genealogical research?” Almost 80 responses were posted, with members reporting results ranging from stunning insights to confusion and disappointment. The survey is still open; readers are encouraged to participate at <https://goo.gl/KbYKuz>.

DNA Abolishes Brick Walls and Family Lore

Some DNA testers uncovered unexpected family history. “I learned that my last name should be Hawthorn instead of Crawford,” shared *Everett Crawford*. *Sunny Williams* pursued DNA testing for her husband; there has always been a question about his nationality. None of the information learned through DNA testing agreed with her husband’s cousin’s research. According to Sunny, “I really wasn’t surprised because we knew there were some questions, but honestly, I thought it would prove all of the gossip wrong. Well ... it didn’t, but we’re not completely sure what the answer is now. More testing, more checking for things ...”

Betty Prybil wrote of meeting many “new” cousins with whom she greatly enjoyed sharing family history. Results from DNA testing provided new avenues of research as well. “I have proven my lineage back to an ancestor for whom I had no paper trail,” Betty attributed to DNA testing. She

continued, “The biggest surprise was discovering a non-paternal event¹ in my father’s family—our family name is most likely different than we thought. Telling my 91-year old father that information was a bit eye-opening! They always tell you to be prepared for what you might find, but I don’t think I really was. I have enjoyed using DNA so much that I have given DNA test kits as gifts to all three of my sons-in-law, and they have each expressed that it was a great gift!!! I highly recommend everyone getting tested!”

“I was excited about applying DNA results to further my never-ending search for elusive ancestors,” wrote *Virginia “Ginny” Fields*. “As almost everyone else, I have brick walls and thought this might help break through a few of them.” Ginny continued, “The autosomal test has helped to solidify some relationships that I knew or suspected through research. Recently, it proved that one of my great-great grandfathers had additional children

through his second marriage. I was only aware of one child. Even more recently, the DNA test results on this same line helped me find his birth family in North Carolina. I had a match on descendants in Alabama that led me to records and the entire family. Now, if I can just find the one child from that family who I think is my ancestor, it will be a complete success!!”

Bill Matthews submitted his sample for DNA testing hoping the results would aid in his research. According to Bill, “My DNA results confirmed some existing cousins and found several new cousins on both my father’s and my mother’s lines. I was also able to confirm a connection where public documentation was extremely limited but family stories did exist.”

As her reason for embracing DNA testing, *Betty Robbins Fowler* explained, “It’s a new tool to help document and further my genealogy research and provide links to others researching the

Texas Genealogy Backroads: Tobin & Ann Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center

by Susan E. Ball

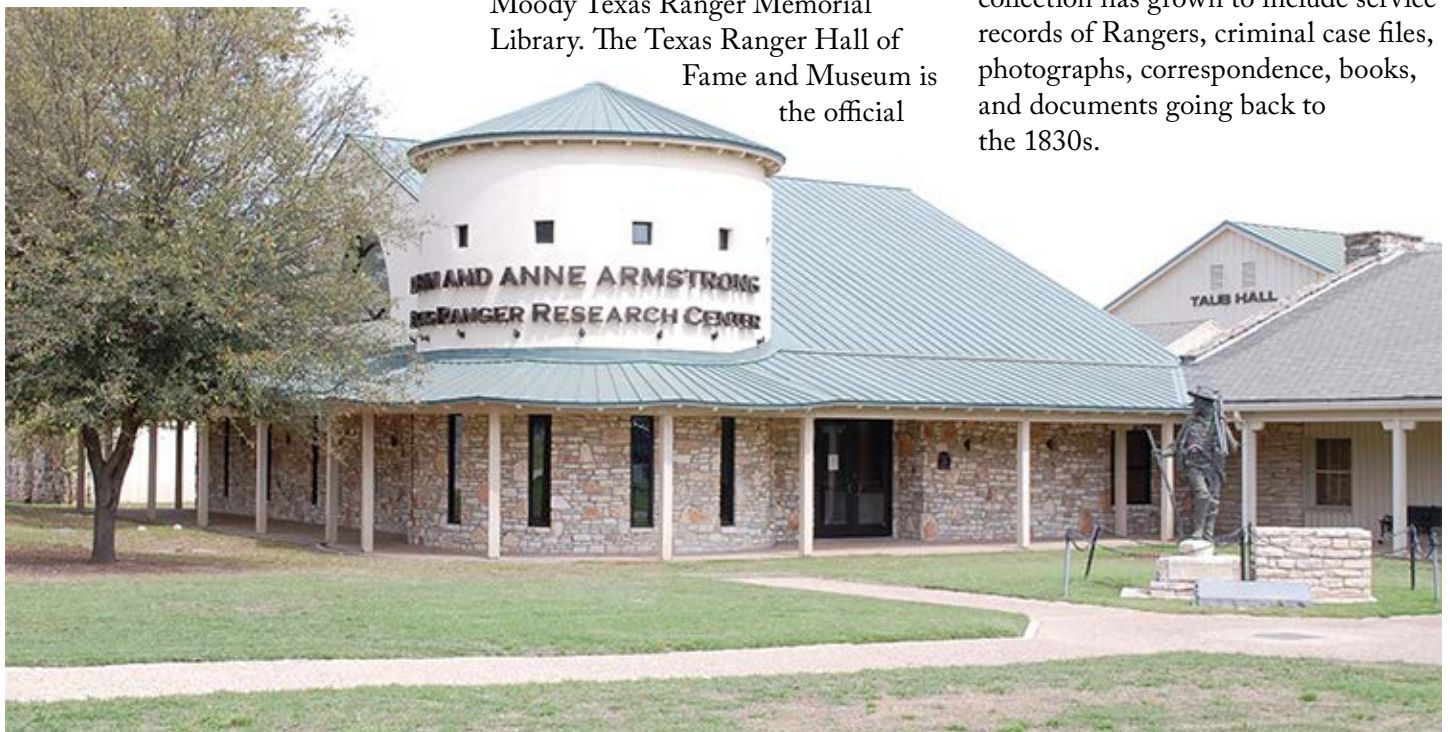
Created in 1835 for the purpose of protecting Texans from hostile attacks, the Texas Rangers have a storied legacy that has, in many cases, ascended to legend personifying rugged individualism, courage, honesty, and virtue. This romantic western legend was cemented by the exploits of Rangers such as Captain W. J. McDonald of “One Riot, One Ranger” fame. For genealogists with their own legends of Texas Rangers in their family, the Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center is the best repository for verifying family lore.

The Research Center is part of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco. Research Center Director, Christina Stopka described its evolution from a small library housed in the Texas Ranger Museum and Hall of Fame to its present facility. “The museum itself was dedicated in 1968,” Christina shared. “In 1971, the legislature created the Texas Ranger Commemorative Commission

to do something to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the Rangers in 1973. The commission decided they wanted to build a Hall of Fame and connect it to the museum that was already here in Waco.”

The present Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum was opened in 1976. A grant from the Moody Foundation of Galveston established the initial book collection of the Moody Texas Ranger Memorial Library. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is the official

repository for memorabilia, archives, and other materials relating to the Texas Rangers. Along with the State Library and Archives in Austin, it is the primary research center on the history and popular culture of the Texas Rangers. Over the years the collection has grown to include service records of Rangers, criminal case files, photographs, correspondence, books, and documents going back to the 1830s.



Partner Society Roundup Streamlined for Easier Input

Through *Stirpes*, our blog, Facebook, and more, TxSGS delivers Texas genealogy news to thousands of researchers, hobbyists, and professionals across the nation. Wouldn't you like to get your society news and events publicized among this large group of avid genealogists?

Good news!

Texas State Genealogical Society now has two streamlined methods for Partner Societies and Partner Society Delegates to publicize society events: (1) an event/news item form and (2) a calendar form. Please use both for your society events!

News and Activities

To submit activities and news items for *Stirpes*, the TxSGS blog, the TxSGS Facebook page, or our e-News newsletter, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yclrdp94>.

Stirpes editors, for example, will format submissions for use in the Partner Society Roundup, a review of genealogical events and news from our Partner Societies. The editors recommend that you create and edit your submission in Word or some other text-editing program, then cut and paste the text in the appropriate box on the form. This is an ideal forum for posting press releases.

All entries will be considered for the TxSGS blog, the TxSGS Facebook page, or our e-News newsletter. **Please note: events scheduled for the first**

quarter of 2018 will be considered for the December issue of *Stirpes*. These entries must be submitted by November 15! Entries that occur in the second quarter of 2018 or that are submitted after November 15 will be considered for the March 2018 issue of *Stirpes*.

Each form allows three event or news entries. If you have more than three event or news items to share, please use a new form. You are welcome to submit speakers, seminars, research trips, or any other event your society is planning. If we get overwhelmed with entries, that will be a good thing!

Calendar

To submit information for the TxSGS calendar, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y9fph4va>.

There is no deadline for calendar events. Please provide enough advance notice so that the calendar volunteer has time to get them posted.

You'll notice that the information required for the two entry forms is different—go ahead and submit your event items on both forms. The calendar volunteer doesn't necessarily have access to the event and news form. ★

GPGS Volunteers!

by Susan E. Ball

The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society has developed a well-earned reputation for volunteerism by their extremely active group of 70 members who have embraced a number of projects.

Volunteers are photographing, indexing, and updating cemetery data for Grand Prairie indexes using FindAGrave and the GPGS website. According to John Wylie, over 80% of the known graves in Grand Prairie have been documented. Over the past



five years, a dozen members have helped inventory the cemeteries, with a cadre of six still very active. "This is where some of our new members first volunteer," shared John. In addition,

in response to a critical TxSGS need for managing their First Families books, GPGS agreed to store and ship the books for a nominal handling fee attached to each order.

The highest profile GPGS project utilizes the TxSGS Preservation Capture System.¹ Through encouragement by GPGS, the Grand Prairie Historical

Society purchased a second PCS; GPGS now operates two capture systems. With ten volunteers working 20 hours per week, nearly a thousand

Index

A

Abdullah, Jrenda 5
 Absher, Janet Jacobs 5
 Albertsen, Seidi 10
 Allen, Abraham L. 48
 Allen, F. G. 48
 Allen, Thomas M. 48
 Allison, Sarah 48
 Altars, Abraham 48
 Andersen, Karen Margrethe 10
 Anders, John Demostinie 62
 Anders, James A., Jr. 62
 Anderson, Henry T. 48
 Anderson, J. C. 48
 Anderson, Per 11
 Anderson, William 48
 Andrews, James, Sr. 62
 Armstrong, Anne 41
 Armstrong, Tobin 41
 Arrowood, J. W. 48
 Atwood, Myrna 39
 Austin, Stephen F. 37

B

Bacon, Annie (Miss) 48
 Bailey, W. H. 48
 Bains, Lavena Katherine 48
 Baird, ___ (Dr.) 48
 Baird, Paula Hamiter 63
 Baldwin, Jane 62
 Baldwin, William D. 62
 Baldwin, Benjamin Franklin, Sr. 62
 Ballard, Paula 64
 Ball, Susan E. 1, 2, 41, 64, 65
 Barbee, W. J. 48
 Barber, Nancy 48
 Barger, Leroy 63
 Barnes, Elkanah 48
 Barnes, E. R. (Prof.) 48
 Barnes, John M. 48
 Barnes, Justus McDuffie 48
 Barnes, Mack 48
 Barrett, Thomas 49
 Barrett, Wade 49
 Bastrop County Genealogical Society 5
 Batey, J. S. 49
 Beal, Charles 49
 Beal, Presley 49
 Berger, Jeannie Stover 62, 63
 Berry, John 49
 Berry, Margaret Kendall 62
 Bettinger, Blaine T. 33
 Bilbrey, Joe (Capt.) 49
 Billingsley, Courtney (Miss) 49
 Billingsley, Elizabeth (Miss) 49
 Billingsley, Hannah Myers 49
 Billingsley, James 49
 Billingsley, John M. 49
 Billingsley, W. N. 49
 Blackman, James Kennard 49
 Blair, R. C. 46
 Blanche, Tennessee 49
 Boatwright, Precilla 62
 Boatwright, Amy 62

Boatwright, Thomas, Sr. 62
 Boles, Henry Jefferson 49
 Boles, H. Leon 3, 49
 Boles, Ida Mae 49
 Bonner, T. F. 49
 Boren, Sallie (Miss) 49
 Bormann, Dorothea 62
 Boss, George W. 63
 Boss, Laura Lou Ella 63
 Boyd, Elliott Hodge 49
 Boyd, Frank 49
 Boyd, Jasper 49
 Boyd, John 49
 Boyd, Lesley R. 49
 Boyd, Marjorie 49
 Boyd, Sandra Vickar 40
 Branum, Joshua Ruben 62
 Branum, Kenzie Lynn 62
 Breckinridge, John 49
 Brents, T. W. (Dr.) 49
 Bridgeman, ___ (Col.) 49
 Brooks, John A. 49
 Brothers, Barbara Jo 36
 Brown, Alcie (Mrs.) 49
 Brown, Dorothy Ann 5
 Brown, Jane Park 62
 Brown, John T. 49
 Brown, Phyllis Williams 62
 Bryant, Marynell 5, 36, 64
 Buckner, William D. (Bill) 1, 2, 30, 33, 64
 Bull, Terry 64
 Burgess, O. A. 49
 Burke, Samuel (Col.) 49
 Burnet, David S. 49
 Burnet, Jacob (Judge) 49
 Burrow, Philip John 62
 Busch, Dennis 38
 Butler, James A. 49
 Butler, W. L. 49

C

Cambron, E. L. 49
 Campbell, Alexander 49
 Campbell, George 49
 Campbell, Thomas 49
 Capps, Michael D. 63
 Carmack, E. W. 49
 Carmack, F. M. 49
 Carnes, Alexander 49
 Carnes, W. D. "Pap" 49
 Carnes, William David 49
 Carter, Edward 49
 Carter, John W. 49
 Carter, N. W. 49
 Carter, William Harrison 49
 Cartwright, Peter 49
 Cary, Donna 36
 Casey, S. F. 49
 Caskey, T. W. 49
 Castañeda, Carlos O. 35
 Cave, R. Lin 49
 Chaffin, Abner 49
 Chaffin, Benjamin F. 49
 Chaffin, Rebecca R. (Loveall) 49
 Chaffin, William Roley 49
 Chapman, Mary 49
 Christopher, A. B. 63
 Cimino, Nick 64

Clay, Henry 50
 Coate, Marmaduke 25
 Coats, Anna Mae 26
 Coats, Arlene Ernestine 26
 Coats, Ellen Marie 26
 Coats, Frances Emma 26
 Coats, George Washington 26
 Coats, George Wesley 26
 Coats, Gladys Mary 26
 Coats, Iris Victoria 26
 Coats, Mabel Carrie 26
 Coats, Marvin "Buck" 26
 Coats, Otis Hammett 26
 Coats, Samuel Lee 26
 Coats, William Jennings B. 26
 Cobb, Pattie (Miss) 50
 Coberley, Brandie 64
 Cochran, Curtis Thomas 62
 Cochran, Emmy Jane 62
 Cochran, Kyle McGrady 62
 Cochran, Thomas 62
 Cochran, Thomas Charles 62
 Cochran, Tyler Curtis 62
 Collins, Laura D. 63
 Collins, Lynda B. 5
 Collinsworth, J. R. 50
 Conners, Jeannine M. 5
 Conner, Susie (Mrs.) 50
 Cooke, Lisa Louise 30
 Corneigle, Jane 50
 Couch, E. P. 50
 Cox, Bernetta Fern 26
 Cox, Cecil Albert 27
 Cox, Elijah 27
 Cox, Elijah Andrew 27
 Cox, Herman Andrew 26
 Cox, Herman Andrew 27
 Cox, Jasper Clovis 26
 Cox, John Henry 27
 Cox, Lois Mae 27
 Cox, Louella 27
 Cox, Martha Victoria 27
 Cox, Noah 27
 Cox, Orville William 27
 Cox, Ruby Leota 26
 Cox, Sarah Ellen 27
 Cox, Virgil Elijah 27
 Cox, William Robert 27
 Coz, Zerida Melody 26
 Craig, Elijah 50
 Crawford, Everett 34
 Creath, Jacob, Jr. 50
 Creath, Jacob, Sr. 50
 Creel, J. C. 50
 Crenshaw, Isaac H. 62
 Crowsley, Sandra J. 1, 2, 64
 Crum, W. A. 50
 Curlee, Calvin 50
 Curlee, J. P. (Dr.) 50
 Curlee, Rebecca 50

D

Darby, Patricia 38
 Darnell, ___ (Bro.) 50
 Davis, Alla May 14
 Davis, Andrew P. 50
 Davis, Don 5
 Davis, F. H. 50
 Davis, F. N. 50

Davis, Frank 50
 Davis, John William 15
 Davis, Joseph Frank 14, 15
 Deanes, J. P. (Dr.) 50
 Deans, James P. 50
 Deans, S. P. 50
 Denton, Elijah Curlee L. 50
 Denton, Isaac 50
 Denton, Joseph 50
 Derryberry, Newt 50
 Devezin, LaToya 30
 Dewhitt, Samuel 50
 Dickey, Drucilla Sparks 38
 Dickson, W. H. 50
 Dill, William 50
 Ditzler, Jacob 50
 Dixon, W. H. 50
 Dobbie, Sally Titus 62
 Dodson, Mary N. 51
 Doty, Daniel 5
 Dow, Lorenzo 51

E

Easterling, J. C. 63
 East, Joseph 51
 East, ___ (Miss) 51
 Eckert, Karl Friedrich 63
 Edwards, Jonathan 51
 Eitzmann, Elizabeth 63
 Elam, E. A. 51
 Elley, G. W. 51
 Elliott, J. D. 51
 Ennis, Bonnie Elaine 39
 Errett, Isaac 51
 Escobedo, Mary Esther 39
 Estes, John Garrett 63
 Eubanks, Sam 35
 Evans, Nancy (Miss) 51
 Ezell, James 51
 Ezell, J. Pettey 51
 Ezell, Mary Caroline (Miss) 51

F

Fall, Carrie (Miss) 51
 Fall, James S. (Prof.) 51
 Fall, Philip Sydney 51
 Fall, William R. 51
 Fanning, A. J. 51
 Fanning, Charlotte (Mrs.) 51
 Fanning, Jack 51
 Fanning, Tolbert 51
 Fanning, Tolbert (Mrs.) 51
 Farnsworth, Sharon 30
 Faulkner, Ella (Miss) 51
 Feitshans, Sheri Rider 5
 Ferguson, Jesse Babcock 51
 Ferguson, Robert French 51
 Fields, Bettie A. 63
 Fields, Virginia "Ginny" 34
 Finley, Martha (Miss) 51
 Fitzgerald, Scott 1, 45, 64
 Flack, Teri 64
 Fleming, William Harrison 51
 Floyd, John D. 51
 Formby, Martha 62
 Forrester, ___ (Mr.) 51
 Fortenberry, Rebecca 51
 Foust, Mary (Miss) 51
 Fowler, Betty Robbins 34

Fowler, Thomas M. 51
 Franklin, Benjamin 51
 Franks, Elizabeth Jane 63
 Franks, Lela 63
 Freed, Arvy Glenn 51
 Freed, Elisa Hayes 51
 Freed, Joseph 51
 Friesenhahn, Bonita Scholz 62, 63
 Froebel, Barbara 64
 Frogge, T. C. 51
 Frogge, Timothy 51
 Furgeson, Jesse B. 51

G

Galveston County Genealogical Society 5
 Gano, ___ (Gen.) 51
 Gano, Mary G. (Miss) 51
 Garfield, James A. 51
 Garner, David Hess 62
 Garnet, R. E. 51
 Garrard, James 51
 Garrett, John 51
 Garrett, Martha J. 5
 George, David R. 5
 Giles, Emily P. (Miss) 51
 Gilleland, Nancy 62
 Gilleland, Daniel, Sr. 62
 Gillentine, L. S. 51
 Gillentine, Richard Leek 51
 Gillentine, "Squire" John 51
 Goins, Judith 63
 Golden, Adina (Miss) 51
 Golden, Dorcas Irene 62
 Goodall, Charles 51
 Goodall, Lucy A. 51
 Goodpasture, B. C. 51
 Goodwin, Aaron 51
 Goodwin, Elijah 51
 Gordon, Pat 37
 Gowen, B. S. 51
 Gowen, George 51
 Graham, Robert 51
 Grana, Hermann Ferdinand 63
 Gray, Connie 39
 Gray, Mary A. 51
 Green, George S. 51
 Griffith, Marian 51
 Grime, J. H. 51
 Grundy, Felix 51
 Guetherole, Eva Christine 63

H

Haden, Joel H. 51
 Hahn, Rhonda Corasue Garner 62
 Haile, Amon 51
 Haile, Dudley Brown 51
 Haile, Lockey Brown 51
 Haily, Margaret 51
 Halbrook, Joseph H. 51
 Hall, B. F. 51
 Hall, J. N. 51
 Hall, John (Dr.) 51
 Hall, R. B. 51
 Hall, S. H. 51
 Hamiter, John C. 63
 Hamiter, Sherri Ann 63
 Hampshire, Matilda 62
 Hansen, Herman 10

Harden, James Henry 51
 Harden, Leila Varnon 51
 Harding, Amos 51
 Harding, James A. 51
 Harding, James W. 51
 Hardison, ___ (Bro.) 51
 Hardison, Marguerite (Miss) 51
 Hardison, S. T. (Dr.) 51
 Harmon, Peter 23
 Harmon, Thomas 23
 Harod, ___ (Dr.) 51
 Harper, Martha A. (Miss) 51
 Harrington, Lula Maude 63
 Harrington, Richard T. 63
 Harris, Marion 51
 Hart, B. F. 52
 Hassell, W. R. 52
 Hawthorne, J. Paul 37
 Hayden, William 52
 Hayes, Rutherford B. (Pres.) 52
 Helmo, Birgitte 11
 Hightower, Sarah Jane 27
 Hill, Abner 52
 Hix, Ottie F. (Miss) 52
 Hobbs, Tom 37
 Hoffman, Jason Paul 62, 63
 Holbrook, R. W. 52
 Holden, Dora Bronk 63
 Hooker, W. H. (Dr.) 52
 Hoover, E. H. 52
 Hopkins, Hardy 52
 Hopson, W. H. 52
 Hopwood, Willis 52
 Horton, Charles Douglas 63
 Horton, George 5
 Hubbard, Stephen 52
 Huffman, Wilkinson C. 52

I

Irvin, Elizabeth 52
 Irvin, John 52

J

Jackson, Lee 52
 Jacobs, Carmen B. 5
 Jeter, J. B. 52
 Johnson, John T. 52
 Johnson, Theopolis 39
 Johnston, John T. 52
 Jolly, Mary Catherine 15
 Jones, J. Harrison 52
 Jones, Matthew 63
 Jones, ___ (Miss) 52
 Jones, Sandy E. 52
 Jones, S. E. 52
 Jones, S. R. 52
 Jordan, Mary F. (Miss) 52
 Jordan, Samuel 52
 Jordan, William (Dr.) 52
 Jourdan, ___ (Dr.) 52

K

Kaufman, Susan 64
 Kellogg, James K. 52
 Keloedon, England 52
 Kendrick, C. 52
 Kenemore, William Thomas 63
 Kern, Anna 10
 Kidd, Sam 39

Kidd, Sherry 39
 Kidwill, J. M. 52
 Kidwill, Susan (Mrs.) 52
 Kidwill, Thomas J. 52
 Kidwill, T. L. 52
 Kidwill, W. T. 52
 Kilgrove, James D. 15
 Kilgrove, Mary Elizabeth 15
 Killebrew, Ellen (Miss) 52
 Kirkpatrick, M. L. 52
 Klaerner, Johann Phillip 62
 Knight, Carrie (Miss) 52
 Knight, Reva 63
 Knight, Sidney Harrison 63
 Knox, Philis 36
 Koudelka, Miroslav 30
 Kropp, Diane Tofte 10
 Kuenstler, Jewellee 5
 Kurfees, Marshall Clement 52
 Kuykendall, Garland 52
 Kuykendall, Lucy (Miss) 52
 Kuykendall, William 52

L

Lake, James D. 63
 Lamar, J. S. 52
 Land, E. A. 52
 Landrum, Catherine 62
 Landrum, Sarah 62
 Landrum, Zachariah 62
 Lard, Leaven 52
 Lard, Moses E. 52
 Lard, Robert 52
 Larimore, T. B. 52
 Lauderdale, B. W. 52
 Lawson, P. B. 52
 Leasure, Susannah 52
 Lee, Devon Noel 16
 Leeds, Dana R. 5
 Lee, W. T. 53
 Leonard, ___ (Bro.) 53
 Lester, Mary 23
 Lillie, William A. 53
 Lindley, Samuel Washington 37
 Lipscomb, David 53
 Lipscomb, Granville 53
 Lipscomb, William 53
 Lipscomb, William, Sr. 53
 Little, T. C. 53
 Litton, James P. 53
 Lofton, George A. (Dr.) 53
 Long, William Slaughter, Sr. 53
 Longworth, Nicholas 53
 Long, W. S., Jr. 53
 Lovelady, Henry 53
 Lowe, Marjorie Johnson 37
 Lowry, M. P. 53
 Luce, Mathias 53

M

Magnus, Johannes Peter 63
 Malory, W. A. 53
 Manire, Benjamin Franklin 53
 Manire, John A. 53
 Manire, Mary Smith 53
 Mann, H. N. 53
 Mann, R. N. 53
 Mark, James 53
 Marlin, Ashley S. 63

Martin, James Claude 53
 Mathes, J. M. 53
 Matthews, Bill 34
 Matthews, James E. 53
 Maulsby, Ella (Miss) 53
 McCants, Sheran 5
 McCarthy, Barbara 64
 McClure, Mary Annie Laura 63
 McCorquodale, Malcolm Scott 5
 McCoy, Debbie Blanton 64
 McDaniel, Y. W. 53
 McDonald, Captain W. J. 41
 McDonald, Mary E. 53
 McDuffie, Gabriel 53
 McGarvey, J. W. 53
 McLaughlin, Patsy 38
 McMichael, Telitha 62
 McMillin, Benton (Gov.) 53
 McNamara, Nancy J. 5
 McQuiddy, J. Clayton 53
 McQuiddy, Nancy Shofner 53
 McQuiddy, Newton 53
 Meadows, Jacqueline Schmidt 62
 Merrill, J. S. 53
 Metcalfe, Charles 53
 Metcalfe, V. M. "Uncle Minor" 53
 Miller, Catherine Elizabeth 63
 Milligan, Robert 53
 Millis, Cynthia 5
 Mills, Betsy 2, 64, 65
 Mills, ___ (Bro.) 53
 Mitchell, R. H. (Mrs.) 53
 Mitten, Jennifer M. 5
 Mize, Tami Osmer 2
 Mobley, James 53
 Montague, William 53
 Moody, J. B. 53
 Moore, C. A. 53
 Moore, E. D. 53
 Moore, M. L. 53
 Moreno, Shelley 5
 Morgan, John H. (Gen.) 54
 Morgan, Stephanie S. 5
 Morgan, Vivian 5
 Morton, James H. 54
 Mosley, ___ (Mr.) 54
 Moultrie, Mollie (Miss) 54
 Mulkey, John Newton 54
 Mulkey, Jonathan 54
 Mulkey, Philip 54
 Murdock, Mary Wilhoite 54
 Murphree, L. N. 54

N

Nance, Joseph 54
 Nance, Lucy Jane (Miss) 54
 Neely, G. W. 54
 Nelson, Karin 64
 Newkirk, Gayle Clemons 40
 Nichols, John H. 54
 Norris, Martha J. 63
 Northcutt, Adrian (Gen.) 54
 Northcutt, Laura E. (Miss) 54

O

Oakley, John T. 54
 O'Neal, Mahala Pearl 27
 O'Toole, Allison L. 5
 Owen, Jordan 54

- Owen, Robert 54
 Owensby, J. F. 54
- P**
 Palaferri, Marcella 38
 Palmer, F. R. 54
 Pardee, Allen (Judge) 54
 Pardee, Mary E. 54
 Parker, Cynthia Ann 20
 Parker, Henry 22
 Parker, Quannah 20
 Park, ___ (Mr.) 54
 Patricia R. Reed 1
 Patterson, Herbert 54
 Patton, Minerva (Miss) 54
 Pearson, K. J. 54
 Pedersen, Hans 10
 Pendelton, ___ (Professor) 54
 Penry, Licinia 46
 Perkins, Paula 30, 64
 Personet, Mary (Mrs.) 54
 Phelps, A. M. (Dr.) 54
 Phelps, Nettie A. (Miss) 54
 Philputt, A. B. 54
 Pickens, J. M. 54
 Piecznski, Jeannette 3, 10, 13
 Pigg, Erica Faye Estes 63
 Pittman, S. P. 54
 Plummer, J. M. 54
 Poe, John T. 54
 Pogue, Earl 31
 Potter, P. G. 54
 Potter, Watson 54
 Powell, James 54
 Powell, John 54
 Poznick, Kathleen 38
 Prybil, Betty 34
 Purviance, David 54
- Q**
 Quindel, Johann Henrich Christian 62
- R**
 Ragan, Peter 54
 Rahn, Russell A. 3, 25
 Rains, Aylette 54
 Randolph, ___ (Bro.) 55
 Randolph, Jeremiah "Jerry" 55
 Rankin, Robert 62
 Rankin, Sarah A. 62
 Rankin, William Marshall, Sr. 62
 Rasher, Sheryl 40
 Rawlings, Mary 55
 Ready, Raymond 37
 Reagor, W. F. 55
 Reese, William Charles 63
 Reneau, Isaac Tipton 55
 Reynolds, Linda 64
 Reynolds, Nancy A. 63
 Richmond, Julia (Miss) 55
 Roane, Archibald 55
 Robertson, Corey 25
 Robinson, Hilliard J. 46
 Robinson, Ida 46
 Robinson, Mamie E. 46, 47
 Robinson, William N. 45
 Robinson, W. N. 45
 Rodgers, Adaline (Carder) 55
 Rodgers, Ephraim H. 55
 Rodgers, Thomas Jefferson 55
 Rodgers, William 55
 Rogers, Benjamin Franklin 21, 55
 Rogers, Ezekiel 55
 Rogers, John I. 55
 Rogers, Joseph K. 55
 Rogers, Samuel 55
 Rogers, William Granville 21
 Roulhac, J. H. 55
 Rowe, F. L. 55
 Rowe, John Franklin 55
 Rowe, Martha M. 55
 Rowe, Martin 55
 Russell, Ellen Blaine 55
- S**
 Saegert, Laura 30
 Sanders, Nathan A. 47
 Sauer mann, Ernestine 63
 Saunders, D. W. 55
 Schmidt, Lorenz 62
 Schoener, Margaret J. 5
 Scott, Lawrence W. 55
 Scott, Walter 55
 Sevier, John 55
 Sewell, ___ (Bro.) 55
 Sewell, Caleb, Sr. 55
 Sewell, Elisha G. 55
 Sewell, Isaac 55
 Sewell, Jesse L. 55
 Sewell, Stephen 55
 Sewell, W. B. 55
 Sewell, William B. 55
 Shackelford, John 55
 Shackelford, ___ (Judge) 55
 Shaw, Knowles 55
 Shaw, Thomas J. 55
 Shaw, T. J. 55
 Shehane, C. F. R. 55
 Shepherd, J. W. 55
 Siddens, Dee Louise Ray 63
 Siddens, James Marcus 63
 Siddens, Kristopher Matthew 63
 Siddens, Rhonda Kay Tower 63
 Slayden, J. Paul 55
 Slutz, Pamela 16
 Smith, Bunzy Jeanene 26
 Smith, Carl G. 55
 Smith, Carrie Marie 26
 Smith, Champion E. 55
 Smith, Edward H. 55
 Smith, Edward Lynn 26
 Smith, Ephraim A. 55
 Smith, F. W. 55
 Smith, Fletcher Walten 55
 Smith, G. Dallas 55
 Smith, G. W. 55
 Smith, John Calvin 55
 Smith, John T. 315 56
 Smith, Joseph William 26
 Smith, Lucy C. 56
 Smith, Mary Rawlings 56
 Smith, Mary Walten 56
 Smith, Robert D. 56
 Smith, "Raccoon" John 55
 Smith, Sarah 56
 Smith, Zerida Barbara 26
 Smithson, J. M. F. 56
 Smithson, John 56
 Snelson, John Polan 63
 Souders, Marilyn Cleves 1, 38
 Southard, Diahann 30
 Sowell, F. C. 56
 Speegle, James William 63
 Speer, Aaron 56
 Speer, Elizabeth 56
 Speer, J. K. 56
 Speer, Joshua Kennerly 56
 Srygley, F. B. 56
 Srygley, F. D. 56
 Srygley, James H. 56
 Srygley, Sarah J. 56
 Stacy, Louisa (Miss) 56
 Steele, John D. 56
 Steinke, Betty Jean 35
 Stephenson, May Eugenia 46
 Stewart, Linda 5
 Stewart, Marion 64
 Stewart, W. H. 56
 Stine, ___ (Dr.) 56
 Stockwell, Sandra 37
 Stone, Lee Ann Ayars 63
 Stopka, Christina 41
 Stover, Anthony 63
 Strother, Johnny 35
 Stuart, Debi Hill 63
 Sugarek, Patricia 64
 Sutton, William Howard 66
 Sweatt, Edward 56
- T**
 Taplin, Cari 64
 Taylor, Allen 56
 Taylor, John 56
 Taylor, ___ (Mrs.) 56
 Teel, Emily Jane 63
 Thompson, Kevin Paul 62
 Tiller, William 62
 Tine, Letitia 62
 Titus, Andrew Jackson 62
 Titus, James 62
 Tofte, Anne Marie Hendrichdatter 10
 Tofte, Charles 10
 Tofte, Hans Peder 11
 Tofte, Henrik Hansen 11
 Tofte, Jorgen 11
 Tofte, Marstaller 11
 Tofte, Peder Hansen 11
 Tofte, Peter Hansen 10, 13
 Tofte, Walter 10, 11
 Torres, Mary 64
 Townsend, Perry 17
 Trent, ___ (Mr.) 57
 Trimble, Robert Baker 57
 Trott, J. J. 57
 Tumlinson, James S. 62, 63
 Tumlinson, John Jackson, Jr. 63
 Turner, Judy Lynn 64
- U**
 Ulbricht, Herman Paul 63
 Usry, Debra 38
 Ussery, William 57
- V**
 Varnon, Leila (Miss) 57
 Vaughn, Michael J. 35
 Vetterling, Caroline Coffield 5
 Vickers, Dan 57
- W**
 Wade, James 57
 Wainson, ___ (Gen.) 57
 Walden, Joanna Brooke Estes 63
 Walker, Betsy Peach 62
 Walker, Karen Claridge 33
 Walling, H. L. 57
 Walling, Jay 57
 Walling, J. K. 57
 Walton, George 57
 Warncke, Heinrich H. 63
 Watson, Ezekiel 58
 Watson, J. P. 58
 Wayne, Debbie Parker 1, 3, 5, 6, 19, 33, 64, 34, 24
 Webb, Melvina (Miss) 58
 Wesch, Henrich C. 62
 Wetz, Conrad 62
 Wetz, Katharina 63
 White, B. 58
 Whited, Randy 3, 4, 14, 64
 White, Hugh L. 58
 White, Kate 58
 Whiteside, ___ (Mr.) 58
 Wilkerson, T. L. 58
 Wilkes, L. B. 58
 William D. "Bill" Buckner 1
 Williams, ___ (Bro.) 58
 Williams, C. A. (Mrs.) 58
 Williams, David O. 5
 Williams, Ebenezer 58
 Williams, Henry Franklin 58
 Williams, Isaac N. 58
 Williams, James 58
 Williams, John R. 58
 Williams, Rolene 62
 Williams, Sunny 34
 Williams, William Allison 58
 Williams, William Greenberry 62
 Wilson, J. D. 58
 Winnie, ___ (Mr.) 58
 Winstead, Albert 58
 Witmer, W. W. 58
 Womack, Emily Frances 62
 Womack, John N., Jr. 62
 Womack, Tabitha 62
 Wood, J. S. 58
 Woodley, Elizabeth Martha 62
 Woodley, William 62
 Wood, Mary G. (Miss) 58
 Worsham, Israel 62
 Worsham, Jeremiah 62
 Wright, H. C. 58
 Wulst, Carolina Auguste 63
 Wylie, John 59, 64
- Y**
 Yeamans, Asa 37
 Young, Jonathan H. 58
 Young, ___ (Mr.) 58
- Z**
 Zellner, Margaret (Miss) 58

LOOK
INSIDE

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