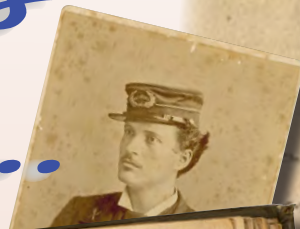


THE JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

Stirpes

Photographs,
Postcards
& More...



*Mrs. Milna: I am getting
to hear from my old
neighbors once more. I
hope to
of it on
last on
ear from
yden for
so by the
wondering
to make*



2018

Texas State Genealogical Society
Family History Conference

Journey through Generations

November 2-4, 2018



Photo Credit: VisitSanAntonio.com



Photo Credit: VisitSanAntonio.com

at the Omni San Antonio at the Colonnade

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Texas State Genealogical Society
Impacting genealogy in the Lone Star State since 1960.



Editorial Policy

Neither the Texas State Genealogical Society, the board of directors, nor the editors assume any responsibility for information or material included in the publication *Stirpes*. We expect all contributions to be factually accurate and will print corrections as they are brought to our attention. We solicit material that is Texas related or of a general research nature. The editors reserve the right to accept or reject data submitted and to edit such material. Electronic submissions are preferred, as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or in rich text format (.rtf). For a copy of our style sheet, please contact the editors: Susan E. Ball and Sandra Crowley, stirpes@txsgs.org.

Submission Guidelines

Stirpes, a periodical of the Texas State Genealogical Society, Inc., is generally published four times a year in March, June, September, and December. The editorial board solicits articles and materials such as letters, diaries, photographs, and book reviews relating to genealogy, Texas, and history. *Stirpes* has no quotas with respect to authorship or content. Statements of fact beyond common knowledge should be documented with endnotes and located at the end of the manuscript. For specific questions about the use of endnotes, please contact the editors. Edited works may be submitted to the author for review at the end of the editing process prior to publication. The author retains copyright to his work. The Texas State Genealogical Society retains the right to print this material exclusively for one year dating from its first printing in *Stirpes*. The writer may use and distribute his material for presentations, lectures, seminars, or for similar purposes.

- One digital copy of manuscript sent to the editor at stirpes@txsgs.org.
- Preferred manuscript length of 1,500-5,000 words, exclusive of source notes.
- Please use 11-point type and double spacing, both for text and notes.
- Photo images, illustrations, maps, and tables that enhance the article are encouraged.
- Images should be accompanied with captions, source citations, and permission from the image owner to publish or proof that the image is in the public domain.
- Please follow *The Chicago Manual of Style* (16th ed., 2010) for general form and style, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (11th ed., 2003) for spelling and word division, and *Evidence Explained* by Elizabeth Shown Mills (3rd ed., 2015) for citation models unique to genealogy and history. *Stirpes* follows Chicago's recommendation with regard to the use of the ellipsis to indicate omissions.
- Please do not embed images into text.
- Deadlines: January 15 for the March issue; April 15 for the June issue; July 15 for the September issue; and November 15 for the December issue.
- View submission guidelines online at www.txsgs.org/publications/stirpes/submission-guidelines

Back Issues

Copies of previous issues of *Stirpes* are available at the price of \$10.00 per issue, if available, which includes mailing. Contact: Betsy Mills, treasurer, at Texas State Genealogical Society, attn: Treasurer, 2028 E Ben White Blvd #240-2700, Austin, TX 78741; e-mail: treasurer@txsgs.org. Claims for lost issues must be made within 60 days of the last day of the publication month. Claims made after the 60-day period are handled as a sale.

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About TxSGS

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From the

Editors' Pen



This issue of *Stirpes* has illuminated the love affair that genealogists have with photos. Almost like a time machine, they transport us to a moment in our ancestors' lives that leaves us with a sense of wonder. Repeatedly expressed by our March *Stirpes* survey participants, that sense of wonder infused their insightful responses relating research experiences, fascinating family stories, and more, as presented in "Got the Picture? Readers Respond with Photos and Stories." Bill Matthews, in "Student Assignment Launches Ancestral Adventure," describes how a school assignment spurred his genealogy quest and exposed him to cousins, photos, stories, and more.

Several TxSGS members described their efforts to return found photos to family members. "A Box Full of Family" chronicles Tony Hanson's endeavors to locate living persons who might be interested in a box of photos he discovered in his attic after purchasing his home. In a similar vein, Lisa Kay Reed shares her experiences with a consignment store purchase that contained an abundance of photos in "A Consignment Store Treasure Chest."

"Real Photo Postcards from Texas" by Jim Miller and "Taking Photos that Tell a Story" by Pat Gordon explore photographs as a genealogy resource, both past and present. Jim Miller shares historic photographic treasures and shows how a photo postcard can be used in genealogical research while Pat shares techniques that help genealogists elevate their photo-taking efforts beyond elementary snapshots to capturing a quality photo for your present generation collection and more.

Dreanna Belden discusses the University of North Texas' photographic repository and access to their photographs in "Reading their Faces." Whether you have ancestors in their photographic collection or not, reading her article should spur thoughts of finding your family's photos in other university or historic collections.

Developments in printing and sharing photographs are included in two articles by Sandra Crowley. Sandra reviews new photo printing technology for genealogists in "Mobile Photo Printing with HP Sprocket" and shares "Digital Scrapbooking"

techniques for preserving photographs and mementos for future generations in a visually appealing digital format.

In addition to all of this ... Debbie Parker Wayne continues her quarterly series on DNA with "Chromosome Mapping: What It Is, Tools for Mapping, Why We Do It," discussing DNA analysis techniques and more. Scott Fitzgerald shares an index to the N. H. Rose Photographic Collection now housed at the Western History Collection of the University of Oklahoma. Plus, we have "Who's Behind the Camera," book reviews of two TxSGS award winners, another excellent family tree from Russ Rahn, and much more!

The June issue addresses FAN Clubs, that catchy phrase introduced by Elizabeth Shown Mills to encourage expanding our research to include friends, associates, and neighbors. Watch for an email about our survey quizzing *Stirpes* readers about research successes using the FAN Club approach plus unusual records for researching ancestors and their FAN Club.

~ *Stirpes* Editors ★

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Volunteer Spotlight:

Ari Wilkins

Well-known to patrons of the Dallas Public Library Genealogy Section, Ari Wilkins served on the TxSGS Board of Directors as secretary. She is also heavily involved in the TxSGS Family History Conference, acting as co-chair or committee member from 2015 to present. According to Randy Whited, TxSGS President, "Everything Ari does for the conference brings a level of professionalism that is immediately evident. Her eye for detail adds tremendously to a successful conference." Randy continued, "In addition to her role as a volunteer, Ari conveys a great deal to TxSGS through her outstanding knowledge of subject matter and her presentations."

A graduate of Louisiana State University, Ari has been actively researching family history since 1998. Ari worked with the esteemed

genealogist, Dr. James Rose, for many years on his final project *Generations: The WPA Ex-Slave Narrative Database*. She is the owner of the genealogical consulting company, Black Genesis. Ari also works as a contributor for Proquest's African American Heritage database.

Ari has spoken nationally at the National Genealogical Society, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Texas State Genealogical Society, and Ohio Genealogical Society conferences as well as Samford Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research, American Library Association, and a multitude of local societies. In addition, she just presented "Organizing and Preserving Photograph Collections" at RootsTech 2018. Her recorded presentation is still available for



Ari Wilkins

viewing at <https://tinyurl.com/WilkinsVideo>. Her handout can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/WilkinsHandout>.

Ari has been a Library Associate at Dallas Public Library since 2007. She teaches a series of basic research classes using popular genealogical websites and also specializes in African American research. ★

New Members & More

New Members since November 2017

Heritage Circle Associate Level

- Genevieve T. Harris
- Dorothy N. Perkins
- Susan Pinciotti
- Ramona & J. B. Roberts
- James & Dr. Carol Westermeier

Partner Societies

- Cass County Genealogical Society

Individual and Household Members

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- Vickie Barry
- Marjorie L. Bill
- Zada Blayton
- Sandra Borinstein
- Hugh L. Caraway, Jr.
- Douglas E. Carter
- Wanda R. Carter
- Joy Clark
- Wanda Bowlin Davis
- Nikole Dearborn
- Crystal D. Delao
- Teresa B. Devine

- Darby Frantz Drake
- Doyle Brooks & C. Fron-Brooks
- Christine Garrison Rodriguez
- Lisa Gorrell
- Lawrence Greer
- Ginger Hanks
- Charles J. Henderson
- Kay Holly
- Toby Hurley
- Laura Jeffers
- Marianne Jones
- Laura F. Kaspar
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- Wanda J. Langford
- Julie Holland Looney
- Debbie White Machac
- Sharon McCollins
- James T. McKinney

- Sarah R. Mitchell
- Benja Mize
- Charleen Mullenweg
- Karen E. Nace
- Kitty M. Olson
- Sally A. Parker Corcoran
- Ginny Guinn Parsons
- Dorothy N. Perkins
- Karen Rasmussen
- Daniel Rodriguez
- Terri Lynn Rogers
- Mary Scudder
- Cheryl Smith
- Lizabeth A. Smith
- Roy & Cecilia Stapp
- Karen Thirtle
- Marsha Van Ham
- Marilyn Waters
- Rellis E. Worley



Taking Photos that Tell a Story

by Pat Gordon

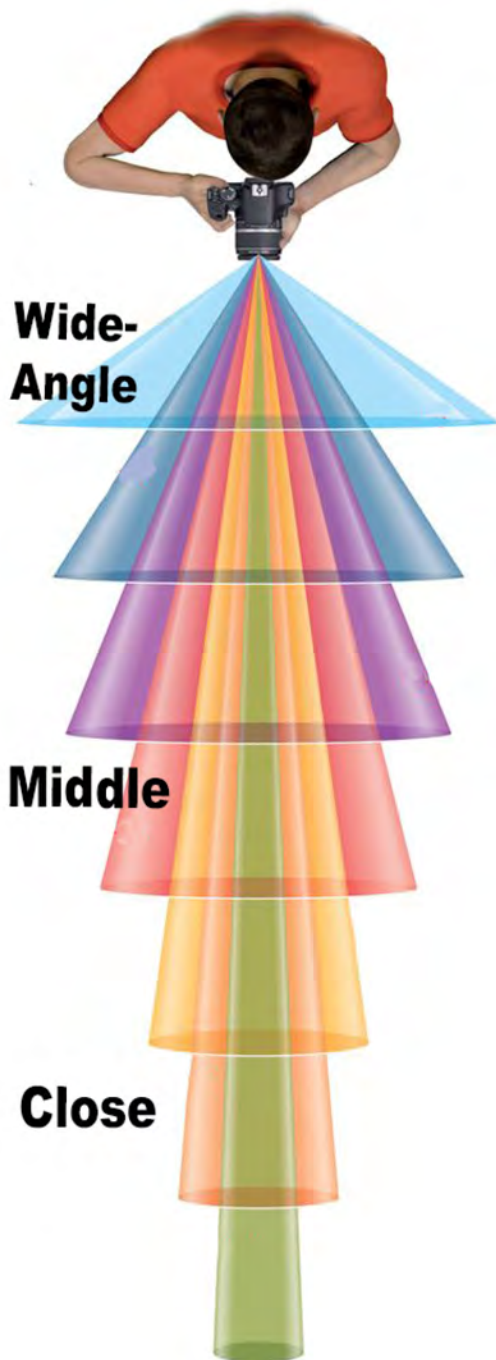
Like most inexperienced photographers, I started out taking photos with the big view. I didn't pay much attention to what was behind or to the side of the subject.

I just stuck the subject in the middle of the viewfinder and started snapping photos. But thanks to a photography class I was required to take in college, I soon discovered that the wide-angle view, while it served a purpose, was only one of many views I should be capturing. Thus began my love of photography.

As a genealogist, that photography class has served me well. By taking a variety of photos at different angles and from different distances, I have pictures that not only make for interesting views of my ancestors' surroundings, but also aid me with my research.

Photos serve a variety of purposes in genealogy. I'm not just looking for pictures to support vital statistics, but also pictures that give a feel for what my ancestors' lives were like.

The following are three of the most useful camera angles. They give you the variety you need for many different uses. Examples of each may be found on the following pages.



- **Wide-angle shots** are taken from a distance so that you get the subject of the photo surrounded by its environment.
- **Middle shots** are taken as you get closer to the main subject. Photos of the Carloss Family Cemetery and Sneed Log Cabin highlight the effect of this distance in capturing an effective image.
- **Close-up or zoom photos** show the details that are often overlooked in your excitement of visiting ancestral places.

Cemetery

Carlross Family Cemetery, Macon County, Georgia

- **Cemetery, Wide Angle:** As I approach a cemetery, I take a photo from outside, capturing the fence and gate, which are often ornate, as well as the name of the cemetery. The nice thing about this photo is I always have the correct name of the cemetery, just in case I happen to forget it at some future time (as if that would ever happen, right?).



Distant shot captures ornate fencing and gate.



Distant shot establishes location of cemetery in the context of landmarks, fencing, and markers.

- **Cemetery, Middle Shot:** As I approach an ancestor's grave, I take a photo far enough away to show its location within the cemetery. In this picture, I want to see other graves, trees, or even the fence around the family plot. This photo can be especially helpful to future researchers who may be trying to locate an older grave where tombstones have been destroyed by vandals, the weather, or even trees or bushes.



A middle shot shows five large flat markers in a line.

- **Cemetery, Close-up:** When I am finally standing by an ancestor's grave, it is time to fill the frame with a front and back shot of the gravestone. I want every detail to be legible, if possible. I may even take other detail shots, such as an ornate carving. Other possible photos at the cemetery can include a historical marker (It's always nice to know when the cemetery was established.) and flowers in bloom, whether planted at your ancestor's grave or growing wild in the cemetery. While flowers may be captured as part of the middle shot, there is nothing like a close-up shot of a flower in bloom.



This gravestone is in good condition, making the lettering easy to read on this close-up photograph.



Since the name on the gate was hard to read, a close-up photograph solves that problem.

A Box Full of Family

by Tony Hanson

Several years ago, I was cleaning out my attic and came across a small box that contained pictures, several pairs of old eyeglasses, letters written in the 1940s and a few other tidbits obviously left by a previous resident.

As a genealogist I knew how much something like this would be appreciated by any living descendant, and I made a pledge to myself to do everything I could to find someone in the family that would like to have the box.

There was just enough information in the letters allowing me to begin assembling a family tree, so whenever I hit a brick wall on my own family I came back to this little mystery.

The two main people of interest were:

- Sarah E. Miles (born Sarah Elizabeth Slutts on 11 October 1862 in Lee, Iowa, died 01 January 1956 in Polk County, Iowa, married to Phineas Young Miles born 15 January 1850 in Lee, Iowa, died 24 Oct 1929, buried in the Corydon Cemetery, Wayne County, Iowa), and
- Her sister Mary Bell Hunt (born Mary Bell Slutts abt. 1867 in Van Buren County, Iowa, died after 1943 in Keosauqua, Van Buren County, Iowa, married to John C. Hunt b. abt. 1861).

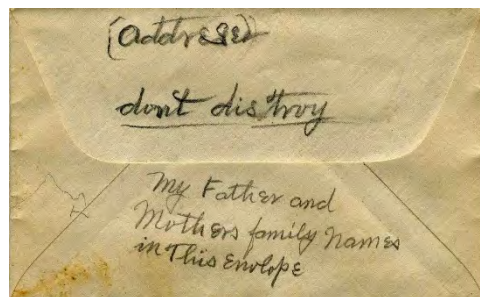
Over time I made a lot of progress, but I never could make the leap to someone in the family who was still alive.

I subscribe to the RootsWeb NORWAY mailing list and have always been impressed by the level of knowledge exhibited by the people who are active there. One day I decided to ask them for some help. I posted what I knew and hoped for the best.

Four hours and twenty-seven minutes later I received a reply from "Ron." He had already traced the ownership of my house using online records and started comparing names to the family tree I had assembled. He had also found some possible connections in the Social Security Death Index; those names led him to an online family tree that included many of the same names. He also contacted the owner of that tree and let her know that I was looking for someone to contact.

I received several more updates over the next couple of hours from several others but mainly from Ron as he happily went about filling in more blanks in my adopted family's history. I think my post back to the list the next day says it all:

*Dear Jerry, Joan, Hank, Dennis but especially Ron:
I watch the postings on this list on a regular basis and so I should be used to the skill, talent and generosity that is demonstrated here every day, but still I am overwhelmed ... thank you all so very much for all the suggestions and the help!*



Real Photo Postcards from Texas

by James R. Miller

Stamp and postcard collectors and vendors have saved and studied envelopes and postcards for years and many are sources of family history. In the early 1900s, Kodak and others developed techniques for printing monochrome photos on postcard backs called “real photo postcards” that enabled customers to make a postcard from any picture they took.

Especially popular from 1910 to 1920, real photo postcards (RPPCs) were produced singly or in limited quantities by amateur and commercial photographers.¹ The picture on an RPPC is often the sender or someone in the sender’s family.

Because of their photographs, RPPCs are exceptional sources of family history information. To illustrate how genealogists can use RPPCs, this article presents six examples from Texas with genealogical details on the senders and recipients discovered through basic research.*

The RPPCs shown in this article illustrate their possibility as a rich source of information for family researchers. Seen in these examples is handwritten correspondence between cousins, friends, siblings, a granddaughter and grandmother, and a grandniece and grandaunt. The pictures show babies, children, young adults, and adults; birds-eye views of a city from years ago; two old cars; and handwritten signatures. Text from four postcards lets us glimpse a moment in the writer’s life.

In addition to RPPCs, many more envelopes and postcards involving Texans are available. Some reveal where a person lived before emigrating to the United States, employment, travel, recreation, military service, and their political and social interests. While all people pictured on these RPPCs have not yet been identified, it may be possible by comparison with other photographs.

These RPPCs will be added to *Philgen.org*, an online

*Text taken from RPPCs shown in this article appears in quotation marks. All locations are in Texas unless noted. As with any source of genealogical information, postcards must be studied in combination with other sources before reaching a conclusion. Figure 5 is courtesy of an online postal history vendor from whom *Philgen.org* has permission to use photographs.

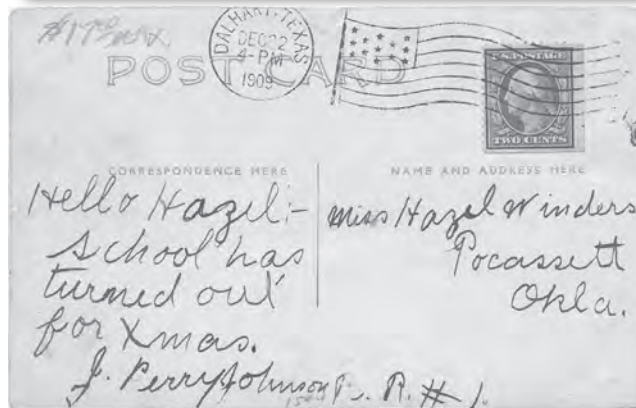
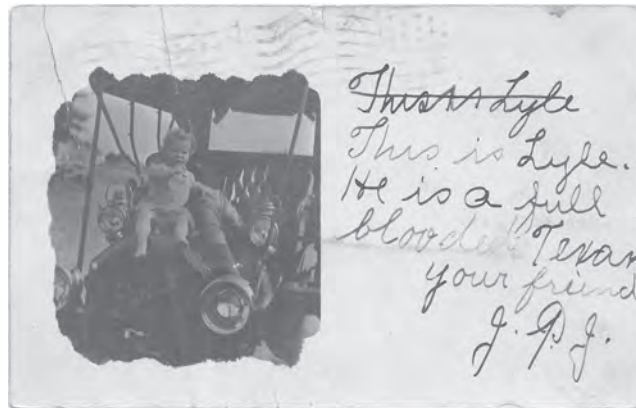


Figure 1. 1909 RPPC of Lyle Johnson, a “full blooded Texan,” Dalhart, Texas, to Pocasset, Oklahoma (Author’s collection).

collection of envelope and postcard photographs with genealogical details on the senders and recipients. Please contact the author (jim@philgen.org) if you identify someone in one of these RPPCs, have additional information, or have corrections.

Joseph Perry Johnson to his friend Hazel Winders

“Miss Hazel Winders” in “Pocasset [Pocasset],” Oklahoma received an RPPC postmarked in Dalhart on 22 December 1909 and signed “J. Perry Johnson” (Figure 1). Hazel Winder was born 29 August 1895 in Shelby County, Iowa, the daughter of Edward H. Winder and Amanda Mitchell.² Joseph Perry Johnson was born 20 February 1896 in Texas, the son of Joseph N. Johnson and Carrie Ardella Brown.³

Hazel and J. Perry may have met while growing up in Iowa. Hazel is with her parents in Shelby County, Iowa, in the 1900 U.S. census, when J. Perry was in neighboring Harrison County.⁴ William Lyle Johnson, “a full blooded Texan,” is pictured on the postcard atop an early Buick automobile (shown on the radiator); he was born in Texas 20 September 1907.⁵ Lyle and J. Perry are with their parents in Hartley County in the 1910 U.S. census.⁶ J. Perry writes, “school has turned out for Xmas.” J. Hazel married, and she died 30 October 1964 in California.⁸ Lyle married, and he was buried in Dallas in 1996.⁹

A Consignment Store Treasure Chest

by Lisa Reed

I found a suitcase full of pictures at a consignment store, a treasure chest brimming with the past of an unknown family. Its appearance was ordinary — an old cosmetic case, creamy white and wrinkled on the outside, red and faded on the inside. About 500 old photos crammed into the tiny space “called out” to me as I strolled the aisles.

Cosmetic cases used to be a standard part of a hard-case luggage ensemble, about the size of a basketball, if you squared it off. In it you would carry necessities such as prescriptions, hair spray, lipstick, shower cap, ointments, and perfume—whatever you needed.

“What is inside” was my first question when I saw the cosmetic case. It soon became “*Who* is inside?”

I worked the latches, which seemed a little stuck. Good! The case was not locked. I did not know what was inside, but I knew that I felt like Howard Carter breaking the seal on King Tut’s tomb. Excited. Apprehensive. What if it were nothing?

I wiggled the latches again, and they both popped open. I lifted the lid by the hard plastic handle. And inside ...

Inside were hundreds of pictures covering about a hundred years of family history. Surely you may have seen something like this. I thought, “This is where those orphan pictures on eBay and deadfred.com come from. *This* is a treasure. *Who* are they?”

Polaroids and tintypes occupied the same space with yearly postage-stamp-sized school pictures and a couple of old driver’s licenses and greeting cards. Families, singles, cars, houses—these were all ordinary subjects, which made the pictures seem so familiar. Christmas

and new babies and all the old aunts—the quantity of subjects overwhelmed me.

I recognized these people, for it was obvious soon that the photos covered several generations of one family in approximately the same “wonder years” and places that I grew up in. I have the “same” pictures in my own photo storage.

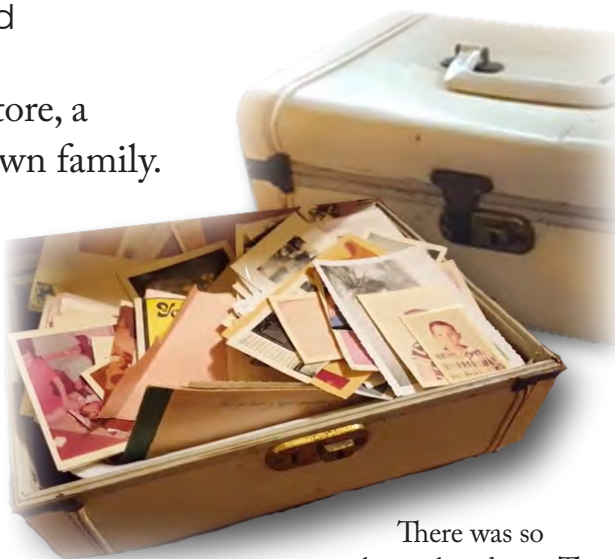
Who was inside?

I couldn’t wait to meet them. I couldn’t wait to figure them out and to find out *why* they were lost, for they must have been lost to find their way into an old auntie’s cosmetic case and



out into the wide world, separated from family. They reminded me, these portraits did, of passengers crammed on a tour bus. They had found a new stop on the way to their ultimate destination, which I hope will be a relative.

Four sisters. Or four cousins?



There was so much, an abundance. They reminded me of my own family. I had to find out. It was like a big-city high-rise with millions of stories, and I had this suitcase with *three generations* of stories. You have the “same” photo in your collection, don’t you?

Oh, little child! Who were you, and who did you grow up to be?

Though the rhapsody and the dreaming and the connection to this family was nice, I had to switch to an analytical mindset to be able to apply genealogical techniques to this family.

To figure out family groups, I decided the first thing to do was sort the pictures, sepia, black and white, color, polaroid, double-prints ... A serendipitous outcome of this sorting by technological changes in printing also sorted the photos into chronological order. I could see which was oldest, and I could follow a familiar face through decades. They did not know me, but I was beginning to know them.

People with Names

A breakthrough! The oldest picture I found had *names* written right on the front. Who was “Great-grandmother Woods?” Was “Bryan Woods” the baby of the family? Did the suitcase originally belong to “Susie?”

So many babies ... over so many

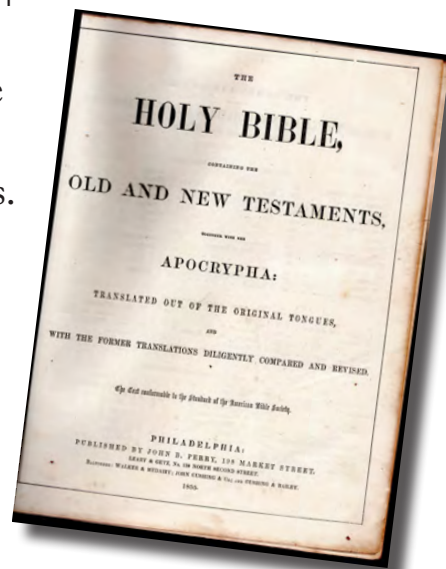
Bible Records of the Mercer and Hoopes Family of Chester County, Pennsylvania

by Russell A. Rahn
russandmarionrahn@gmail.com

Some time ago, I had occasion to acquire the family Bible of the Mercer family who lived in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Bible was published by John B. Perry on Market Street in Philadelphia in 1855 and contained several pages of family data in the usual location between the testaments.

In addition, it had laid in quite a few newspaper clippings, some correspondence, and some formal death notices of various family members. There seems to be at least some evidence that the owner of this Bible had some interest in preserving a record of the family history, because the letter had a listing of the “grandchildren” with their birth dates. An additional item, in a different handwriting, was a four page listing of birth dates for members of the Hannum family.

The Bible records themselves are found on four pages—one of marriage, two of birth, and one of death records. The person entering these records did not generally use the names of the months, but chose instead to indicate which month by giving the number of the month, such as 2 month, 11th month, and so on. These entries are as follows:

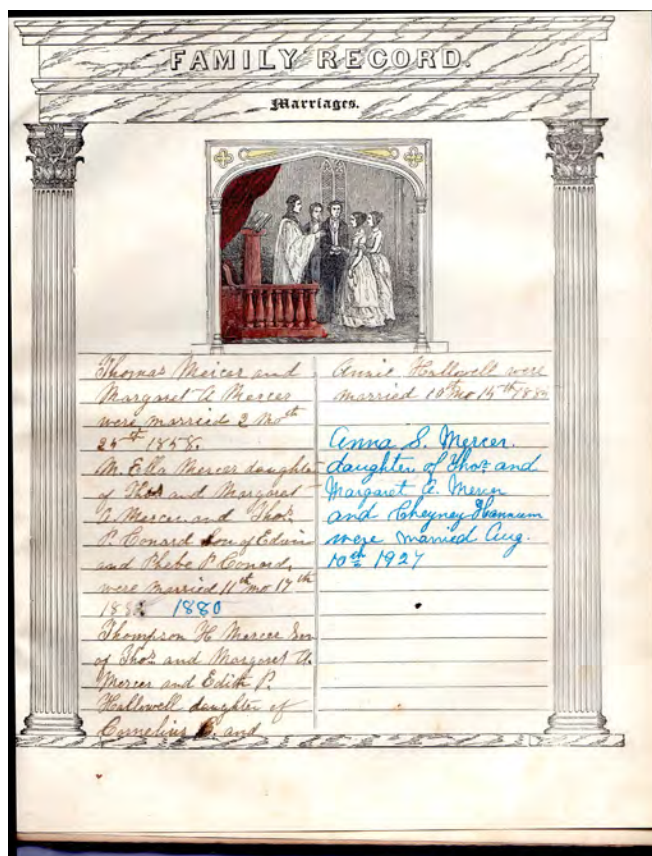


Marriages:

- Thomas Mercer and Margaret A. Mercer were married 2 month 25th 1858.
- M. Ella Mercer, daughter of Thomas and Margaret A. Mercer and Thomas P. Conard son of Edwin and Phoebe P. Conard were married 11th month 17th 1880.
- Thompson H. Mercer son of Thomas and Margaret A. Mercer and Edith P. Hallowell daughter of Cornelius and Annie Hallowell were married 10th month 15th 1885.
- Anna S. Mercer daughter of Thomas and Margaret Mercer and Cheyney Hannum were married Aug. 10th 1927.

Births:

- Thomas Mercer son of Hatten and Elizabeth Mercer was born the 11th of 1st month 1832
- Margaret Ann Mercer (late Hoopes) daughter of Halliday and Sarah Ann Hoopes born 19th of 12th month 1835
- Mary Ella Mercer daughter of Thomas and Margaret Ann Mercer born the 5th of 2nd month 1859
- Thompson H. Mercer son the Thomas and Margaret A. Mercer born 10th month 18th 1861
- Anna S. Mercer daughter of Thomas and M. A. Mercer born 23rd of 8th month 1868
- Helen P. Conard daughter of Thomas P. and M. Ella Conard born 11th month 17th 1881



2018 Virtual Conference: Great Presentations Wow Attendees

An antidote to winter weather, the TxSGS 2018 Virtual Conference delivered two days of fascinating and educational presentations to an enthusiastic group of internet attendees. Comments included “Great conference,” “Well-balanced topics provided an interesting weekend,” “A great success,” and “I enjoyed the Virtual Conference this weekend very much. Y’all are doing great things at TxSGS! Keep up the good work.” One appreciative attendee captured the goals of this conference in her comment: “I really enjoyed the sessions. The presenters were very confident and informative, and presented the materials well. It was so nice to be able to attend without having to make a trip.” TxSGS thanks all who registered for making our first-ever virtual conference a huge success!

Nationally recognized genealogy lecturer J. Mark Lowe anchored a slate of seven speakers with expertise in areas from methodology to DNA, discussing timely topics and facilitating in-depth learning. Joining Mark at the conference were Henrietta Christmas, Janice Lovelace, Kelvin Meyers, Diane Richard, Debbie Parker Wayne, and Eric Wells.

TxSGS gratefully acknowledges

the assistance and support of Legacy Family Tree, MyHeritage.com, and the Texas General Land Office. Geoff Rasmussen and Marian Pierre-Louis of Legacy Family Tree hosted the conference sessions and guided the conference organizers through the process of producing a virtual

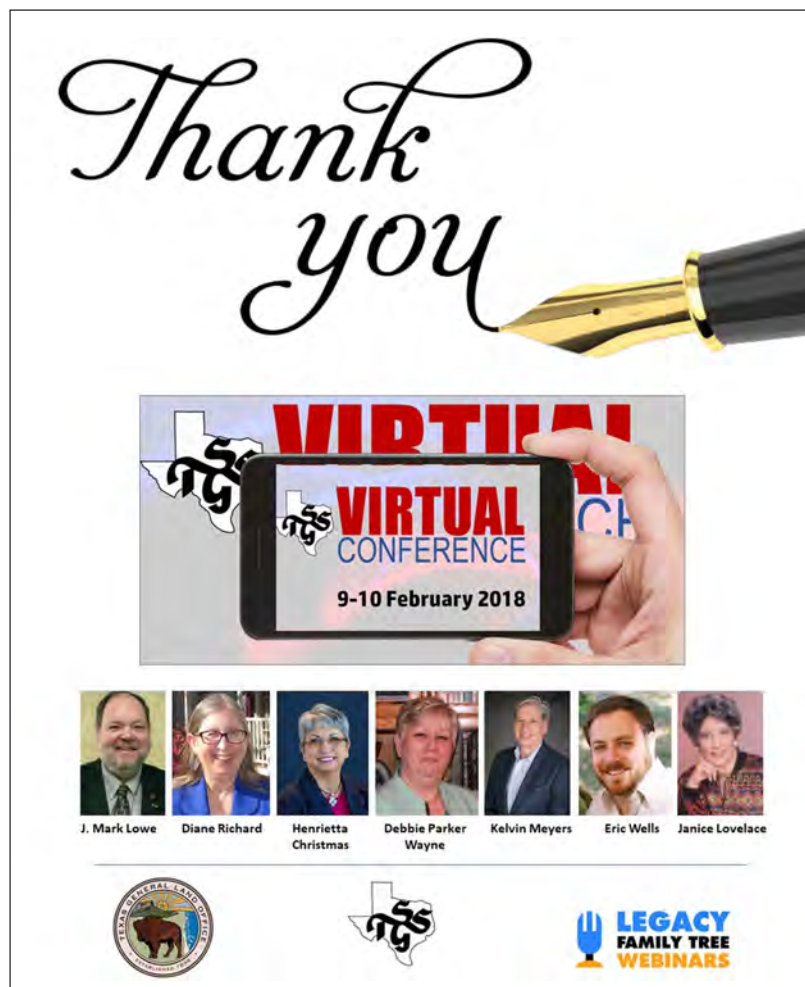
work in all the many details necessary for making this conference happen.

Door prizes at the 2018 Virtual Conference featured the 2018 TxSGS Family History Conference and DNA. Wanda Carter won a copy of the DNA workbook by Debbie Parker Wayne and Blaine Bettinger, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*.

Zada Blayton and David Moyer each won an Ancestry DNA kit. Our grand prize, a free full registration for the 2018 TxSGS Family History Conference, was awarded to Susan Pinciotti.

In addition to finding new ways to research elusive ancestors, investigate resources referenced in the presentations, and digitize and share family photos and documents, each registrant received a boost of enthusiasm for re-engaging in their genealogical journey. The [2018 TxSGS Family History Conference](#), Journey Through Generations, slated November 2-4 at the Omni San Antonio at the Colonnade provides the same experience as the Virtual

Conference on a much grander scale: more topics and parallel sessions plus an exhibit hall, genealogy vendors, personal interactions, and the opportunity to meet cousins and genealogy buddies. ★



conference. The Texas General Land Office backed the 2018 Virtual Conference as a Silver Sponsor. A special thanks goes to these organizations and our conference committee, Sandra J. Crowley, Susan E. Ball, and Randy Whited for their

Reading their Faces: Photographs in UNT Libraries Special Collections and the Portal to Texas History

by Dreanna Belden

Confession: my favorite finds in genealogy are juicy newspaper articles that reveal clues and interesting facts about ancestors, but a very close runner up is finding photographs of them. Looking at an ancestor's face is like viewing a roadmap that inspires you to surmise their personality and the choices and paths that have brought them to the time and place

where their image is captured. The University of North Texas holds rich collections of photographs both in physical formats and online in the Portal to Texas History through our many partners across the state. This article will cover strategies for finding photographs as well as an overview of the types of materials you may find here on our campus or online.

The Physical Photography Collections at UNT

The UNT Libraries Special Collections holds a wealth of photography collections, with many new collections added since 2010. The Special Collections department collects and preserves a variety of unique historic materials - including rare books, oral histories, historical manuscripts, maps, microfilm, photographs, art, and artifacts. The public can access the collections in the fourth floor Reading Room of the Willis Library, and representative samples from

One of the oldest photography collections at UNT is the **University Photography Collection, 1891-2012**. This collection consists of 284 boxes of photographs, negatives, slides, contact sheets, and digital photography that document the history of the university since its founding in 1890. Among these photographs are the students, faculty, administrators, and buildings that form UNT's history and development. Nearly 14,000 of these photographs can be

many of the collections can be found in the Portal to Texas History or the UNT Digital Library [<https://digital.library.unt.edu/>]. Each collection has an online finding aid that describes the content of these collections down to the folder level,¹ which can be searched and browsed.



Members of the Spring Oratorical Contest, Spring 1902.²

found online in the Portal to Texas History; they are a rich resource not just for the history of the university, but also for genealogy. This past decade, the photography collections have grown dramatically, with several significant additions that have greatly enriched the materials



Cookie Cooper with Bow and Arrow Aiming Left.³

offered to researchers, students, and genealogists. In 2010, we decided to start collecting photography and other materials focusing on a significant business sector right here in our backyard that no one was preserving and saving for posterity. Did you know that the North Texas region is one of the largest concentrations of horse farms in the country? In Denton County alone, there are more than 350

Digital Scrapbooking

by Sandra J. Crowley

We've all heard that "a picture is worth a thousand words." Most of us have photographs of our youth taken by our parents, grandparents, and other family members. Some of us may even have photos of our ancestors that have been handed down for generations. In fact, struggling to identify the people in these pictures may have been what prompted our interest in genealogy in the first place!

Our challenge today is to take these photographs and mementos and begin to preserve our family's story for future generations. Learning about our ancestors helps us know who we are; sharing that information with family and friends insures that future generations get to know and understand that as well.

Scrapbooking Timeline

One way of sharing our memories is through scrapbooking, something that has survived the ebb and flow of popularity for centuries. Scrapbooking goes back to the 15th century when "commonplace" books were popular in England. Each of these books was unique to the individual, including quotations, letters, poems, and

more that was meaningful to that person. Colored plates were incorporated into these books in the late 1500s.

Many genealogists today remember creating scrapbooks as a child. In addition to photographs, these often included ticket stubs from events, invitations and cards for special occasions, and journaling to explain the reason each item was so meaningful.



Digital Scrapbooking Resources

Here are a few popular web sites about Digital Scrapbooking. You can find more by Googling "Digital Scrapbooking." Most of these sites include templates, freebies, kits, tips, and some type of learning program or tutorial. Check them out to see what works for you.

www.digitalscrappers.com – offers a number of free online tutorials on photo editing and scrapbooking
www.digitalscrapbooking.com – published by Digital Scrapbooking magazine
www.digitalscrapbookplace.com – now part of My Memories; you will find it at www.mymemories.com/store/digital_scrapbook_place
www.freedigitalscrapbooking.com – freebies, kits, and tips
www.scrapbookgraphics.com – backgrounds, embellishments, kits, and templates
www.scrapbookflair.com – galleries, downloads, and templates
www.digitalscrapbookmemories.com
www.cottagearts.net

www.designerdigitals.com
www.digitalscrapbookfaves.com
www.bestscrapbookingsites.com
www.digitalscrapbookingnow.com
www.thedigitalscrapbookteacher.com
www.shutterfly.com
www.mymemories.com
www.smilebox.com
<http://www.toptenreviews.com/home/crafts-sewing/best-digital-scrapbooking-software/>

Visit www.youtube.com and search for "digital scrapbooking" to find tutorial videos. Adobe and other vendors also offer free tutorials on their sites. Adobe can be found at www.adobe.com.

Scrapbooks Go Digital

Scrapbooking has long been a way to create keepsakes for family history and to make a record of your children's achievements through life or for children to save memories. While many people continue to create scrapbooks using the traditional paper method, many others are embracing the latest technology trend—going digital! Once the scrapbook page is created digitally, it can be printed and shared with several people as gifts or it can be stored digitally and made available to a much wider audience.

Today, there are web sites focused on what is referred to as digital scrapbooking. These sites offer pre-designed templates that make it easy to just drop in the photos.

“Digital scrapbooking is the term for the creation of a new 2D artwork by recombining various graphic elements. It is a form of scrapbooking that is done using a personal computer, digital or scanned photos, and computer graphics software.”



Quick Page Template



Selected Photo



Completed Scrapbook Page

Using a quick page for layout.

They also offer complete kits by popular designers that include background “papers,” embellishments, titles, quotes, and other materials to help make your scrapbook file unique.



Digital Scrapbook Kits.

Why Digital Scrapbooking

There are several benefits to creating digital scrapbooks:

- It's less expensive than paper scrapbooking.
- You can buy a variety of “kits” and reuse the elements (flowers, ribbons, buttons, stamps, page backgrounds, etc.) as many times as you like.
- There is no mess! It's much easier to organize your digital supplies and find them later than it is to organize and find paper, stickers, and other embellishments.

- You can do it in steps without having to leave everything spread out on a table. If you have ten minutes, you can edit a photo or start a page, save it, and go back later. With paper scrapbooking, many people have set aside a room or table dedicated to the craft.

- It's easy to change the page if you decide you don't like the way it looks!
- Once you've created a book for the family, you can share it with as many family members as you wish.
- You have the advantage of creating a digital scrapbook and printing selected pages to make unique gifts.

Try it!

The best way to determine if digital scrapbooking is something you would like to use for sharing your family history is to try it.

Here's what you need to get started. You may already have many of these components, particularly if you are already digitizing your photographs.

- Digital editing software such as Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, or Corel Draw. You can use free online editing software such as Picasa or GIMP as well, but they may or may not have all the features that you want. The main criterion is that your software must be able to handle “layers” for editing. Make sure that the software is easy to use and can read multiple photo file formats (TIFF, JPG, PNG, etc.).
- Computer with sufficient memory and disk storage; these files are often large.
- Printer—this may determine the size of your scrapbook pages if you decide to print copies. You can purchase a printer that will print on 12x12 paper, but it is more expensive than most printers. There are other alternatives for printing these pages.

TxSGS 2018 Family History Conference Set for November 2-4 in San Antonio — Hotel Reservations Now Open

The Texas State Genealogical Society announces that its 2018 Family History Conference, *Journey through Generations*, is slated November 2-4, 2018, at the Omni San Antonio at the Colonnade, 9281 Colonnade Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78230, 855-516-1090.

Make your hotel reservations early to insure you receive the TxSGS discount. Visit [2018 Conference Lodging and Venue](#) for more information and to make your reservations online.

The conference program will focus on topics ranging from getting started to finding records and repositories for land, probate, tax, and other records with an emphasis on Texas and the southern states. Some presentations will help develop your methodological and analytical skills as a researcher. Other topics will give you a better grasp on

your ancestors' ethnicity, military experience, associations, and occupations. Plus, the program will feature tracks targeted at using technology and understanding DNA results. Program details will be announced soon on our website at <http://www.txsgs.org/2018-conference-program/>

The Omni is offering the TxSGS conference rate three days before and three days after the conference, so participants can research or go sightseeing in the area. Come early or stay after the conference to enjoy San

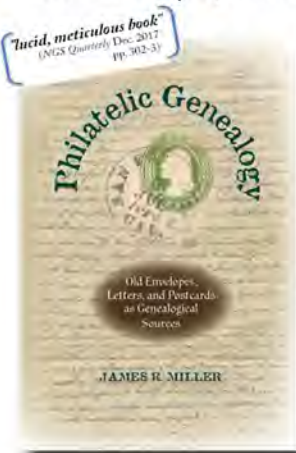
Antonio sites or research your family history. San Antonio has a variety of facilities to research your ancestors. Two include the San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society Library and the Texana/Genealogy Department of the San Antonio Central Library.

Please check the hotel's website for cancellation rules and additional amenities. Full details and links for TxSGS discounted, online reservations can be found on the [TxSGS website](#). Attendees must request the Texas State Genealogical Society rate if making phone reservations.

The three-day TxSGS 2018 Family History Conference is a great opportunity for family historians to advance their research, hone their skills, and network with fellow genealogists. Be sure to reserve your hotel accommodations as soon as possible.



Old Envelopes, Letters, and Postcards as Genealogical Sources



Philatelic Genealogy: Old Envelopes, Letters, and Postcards as Genealogical Sources by James R. Miller was published in December 2016. The book presents 100 old envelopes and postcards in ten categories: folded letters, westward expansion, the war of 1861-1865, work, immigrants, family and friend correspondence, real photo postcards, social and political interests, travel and vacation, and World War I. Genealogical details for each sender and recipient are cited. An introduction stresses correct identification and appendices discuss an online database and how philatelic genealogy can help postal historians and postcard collectors.

The book is available in paperback for \$37 (check only) to Philatelic Genealogy, Inc., 112 Irving Pond Road, Caroga Lake, NY 12032, or as a downloadable PDF file for \$3.95 with color photographs that can be enlarged via this link: <https://dashboard.inypps.com/download/did-Dbndw4>

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Got the Picture? Readers Respond with Photos and Stories

by Susan E. Ball

Of all the flotsam produced by our ancestor's lives—Bible records, deeds, tax documents, baptismal records, and such—photographs are among the most treasured. We examine the images carefully for insights into their lives. Were they successful in their chosen profession?

Were they happy? What type of person were they? These images provide a glimpse into our ancestors' lives that can't be discovered through any other source. It's no wonder genealogists search earnestly for photos of their ancestors and celebrate when one is found.

Photos Create Memories

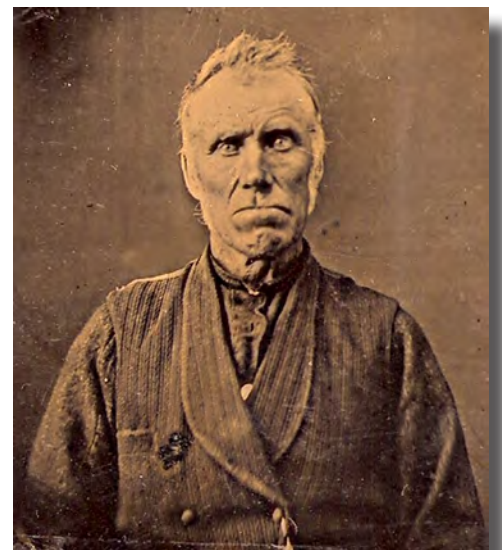
Photos can capture pivotal points in our ancestor's lives. John Wylie shared a picture of his parents at such a juncture. "My grandparents, The Reverend and Mrs. Herbert E. Wylie, arranged for my parents to meet at a Methodist church camp in 1927 where this photo was taken," John wrote. "They married in 1933." Family photo collections have many photos such as this one, which captures a special moment that grows in significance over time.



Laurence Wylie and Ethel Brewer, soon after meeting at a church camp in Michigan. (Photo courtesy of John Wylie.)

Photos from our family's distant past can evoke a wide range of emotions, including terror in one instance. Jana Jenkins related an experience she and her cousin Nina had when playing in the attic of Nina's home. "We were digging through a bunch of boxes and came across a pile of photos. We picked up one with a silvery finish and as we were examining it, an eerie image seemed to disappear and reappear," Jana recalled. Both girls screamed and ran down the stairs to Nina's mother, desperately frightened. "We saw a ghost in the attic!" they exclaimed.

After investigation, Nina's mother determined that the photo was a daguerreotype of an unknown relative, relegated to attic storage. Long after this incident, Nina rediscovered the photographs. "My cousin found a photo album and a couple of daguerreotypes after her mother passed away," Jana Jenkins recounted. "It had pictures of our Irish immigrant relatives and most had names written on the back!" One of the photos was of James Collins, who immigrated with his family from Ireland to Scotland during the potato famine, then to the U.S. about 1870, when Jana estimates the photo was taken.



Irish immigrant James Collins, circa 1870. (Photo courtesy of Nina Harrison.)

Photos paired with family stories can provide powerful connections with ancestors. Teresa Penny shared her feelings evoked by photos from her mother's birth family. "After a twenty-year search, I was finally able to prove my mother's biological father's family," Teresa Penny wrote. "I have since met several members of the family who have blessed me with many family photographs that I truly treasure." She continued, "There was one photograph that particularly touched me. It was taken just one year before both parents passed away leaving all the children orphans, including my great-grandfather."

Partner Society Roundup

Heavily involved in Rootsweb websites, Paula Perkins, District I Representative, and Betsy Mills, TxSGS Treasurer, brought attention to the recent issues with society websites on Rootsweb. As Rootsweb has been down since November, society's Rootsweb webpages are also down. To contact a particular society about programming or other inquiries, use the contact information available on the TxSGS Partner Society page at <http://www.txsgs.org/partner-societies/>.

Is your Partner Society missing? Perhaps our

contact information is out of date. Please contact your District Representative and memberinfo@txsgs.org with current contact data. Partner societies are encouraged to investigate the many benefits and resources available from TxSGS at the new Partner Society Resource page at <http://www.txsgs.org/partner-society-resources/>. Benefits include publicity support for society events, media downloads, preservation and access support, awards, digitization equipment loan grants, and much more.

District A

All three Partner Societies of District A are collaborating on their first annual Caprock Genealogy Conference, slated May 12. Sponsored jointly by the **Amarillo, South Plains** (Lubbock) and **Hi-Plains** (Plainview) **Genealogical Societies**, the conference features Kelvin Meyers speaking on land, probate, newspaper, and marriage records. See page 6 for more information.

District B – Paula Ballard, District Representative

North Texas West, District B, has grown this year to include two more counties. Welcome into our fold, Haskell and Wise Counties! In Wichita County, the **North Texas Genealogy Association** meets the first Thursday of every month (except July) at 7:00 p.m. for social and 7:30 meeting at The Museum of North Texas. NTGA invites any and all to join with them in sharing their love of genealogy. This year, NTGA has started out with programs that encourage member participation in such activities as computer hands-on evenings that let attendees explore the web in ways they may not have tried before or were

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?

unaware existed. Members have learned to navigate Family Search and will be exploring Ancestry.com soon. NTGA has also started its first volunteer program at the local public library assisting in the genealogy area. Working together, NTGA and the Wichita Falls Public Library will sponsor a beginning genealogy class, March 24. And last but not least, in the works is a fall seminar that will showcase Patti Gillespie, October 13.

Interested? Contact North Texas Genealogy Association, PO Box 4602, Wichita Falls, TX 76308. See their website at www.northtexasTrailTracers.org

District C

The **Collin County Genealogical Society** meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the first

floor meeting room at the Haggard Library in Plano, TX. Upcoming programs include:

- April 11 – “WWII Regimental Combat Team” by Eric Nishimoto
- May 18 – “Involving Kids in an Archaeological Dig” at a Family Homeplace by Alfred Arias
- June 13 – Year End Social & Open Forum

For more information, see www.collincountygenealogicalsociety.com.

The Plano Library's Genealogy Center now has a Genealogy DNA Interest Group. They will meet to discuss and explore the use of DNA in genealogy research at the Haggard Library, Plano, TX, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, see <https://www.plano.gov/907/Genealogy-Center>.

Who's Behind the Camera?

Miss V. A. Ribble, Lampasas, Texas

by Scott Fitzgerald

Editor's Note: Photographs often languish in a family photo collection because there are no names associated with the subjects. Careful research of the photograph and photographer may yield clues that lead to avenues for future research. A good example of research into the person "behind the camera" and documentation follows in this analysis by Scott Fitzgerald.

Size of Photo: 4-1/4 inches by 6-3/8 inches.

Source of Photo: Purchased from Ebay seller DILSMON on 7 September 2017 as part of a group of eight different cards, with different photographers and cities.

Information from Photo:

Photographer's Imprint: "Miss Ribble, Lampasas, Texas."

Back of Photo: Blank, no information.

Description of Photo: Young lady dressed in all black dress with elaborate beading.

Date of Photo: Unknown, circa 1889-1897

Research on Subject: None at this time.

Research on Photographer: The reference book *Catching Shadows: A Directory of 19th Century Photographers* by David Haynes lists V. A. Ribble with the title of both Mrs. and Miss:¹

Mrs. V. A. Ribble	
1892	Lampasas. TSG (Miss)
1896-97	Lampasas. TSG

Another reference book on photographers, *Lens On The Texas Frontier* by Lawrence T. Jones III, had the earliest entry for Lampasas photographer Ribble:²

Ribble	Miss	ca. 1890	Lampasas
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The Portal to Texas History has uploaded many Lampasas newspapers through its Texas Digital Newspaper Program. Only one mention was found for Miss Ribble and her photo business. An old issue of the *Lampasas Dispatch* dated 10 December 1890 was featured in *The Lampasas Leader* on 21 May 1926.³ This retrospective showed the following advertisement:



Figure 1

Miss V. A. Ribble, Photo Gallery.

From these three sources, Miss (or Mrs.) V. A. Ribble is established as a Lampasas photographer from 1890 to 1897.

A perusal of the *Lampasas Leader* on the Portal to Texas History reveals over 50 mentions of Virginia Ribble or her family from 1888 to the 1930s, including an obituary for Virginia A. Ribble Hall⁴ and her father, George H. Ribble.⁵ From their obituaries and other records, a timeline of their lives can be constructed. On 6 July 1851, G. H. Ribble married Harriet Ann Poteet in Parke County, Indiana.⁶ Virginia was born to the Ribbles on 12 April 1852 in Montezuma, Indiana.⁷

George Ribble's obituary indicates that he traveled to California to engage in mining in 1852; no mention of

Index to “A Catalog of the World Famous N. H. Rose Collection of Old Time Photographs of the Frontier”

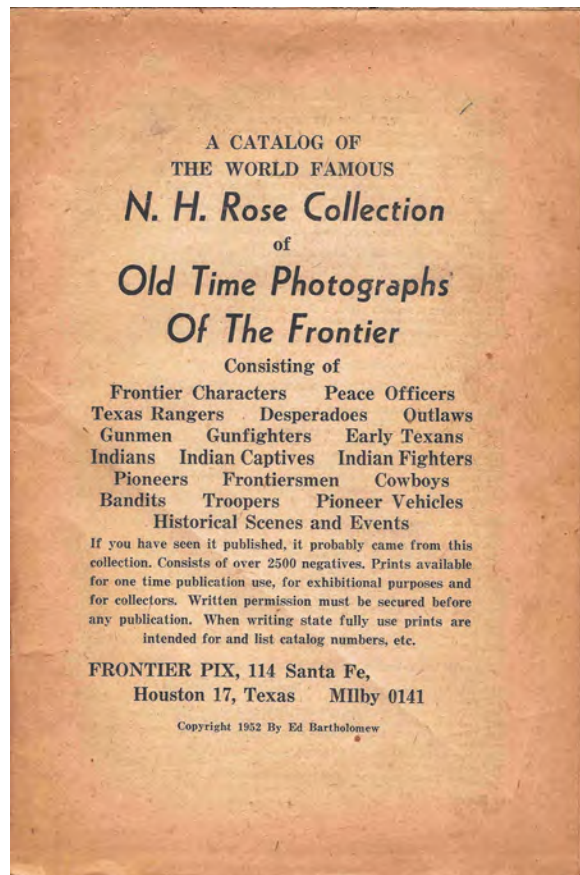
Submitted by Dr. Jeanne Sellers and Scott Fitzgerald

The photographer N. H. (Noah Hamilton) Rose was featured in “Behind the Camera” in the September/December 2016 Volume 55, Number 3/4 issue of *Stirpes*:

In 1921, Noah moved to San Antonio, Texas. After an illness of several months, he was struck by a car, suffering a fractured skull. The accident and the illness left him in debt with large medical bills. To help pay his debt, he printed a mailorder catalogue of the negatives he had collected. He sold photographs made from the negatives to magazines and collectors. His collection included pictures of Jesse James, Billy the Kid, Belle Star, Bob Younger, and the Dalton gang. He also sold pictures of peace officers, Indians, Texas Rangers, and pioneers.

After Rose’s death in 1951, his collection was acquired by Ed Bartholomew. In this 52-page catalog copyrighted in 1952 by Bartholomew, the pages were hand numbered starting at the front cover as page 1 and back cover as page 52. Every effort was made to index all names, places, and subjects. The Western History Collection of the University of Oklahoma at Norman acquired the collection in 1969 through a gift from Ed Bartholomew.

As this is a separate index, names appearing in the index of the N. H. Rose Collection Catalog are not included in the *Stirpes* index.



- | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| 118th Infantry - 23 | Alamo - 2, 3, 7, 13 | Anderson, L. B. (Cowboy) - 31 | Arizona Indian campaigns - 16 |
| 14th Cavalry - 23 | Alamo Plaza - 3, 38 | Antriem, ___ (Mrs.) - 44 | Arizona State Rangers - 36 |
| 20th Infantry - 22 | Alaska, Dawson - 38 | Apache baby - 17 | Arizona, Bisbee - 10, 24 |
| 33rd Infantry, Camp Presidio,
California - 22 | Aldrich, R. W. (Capt.) - 10, 28 | Apache camp - 17 | Arizona, Cochise County - 36 |
| 4th Cavalry - 24 | Algiers, Africa - 14 | Apache Indian girls - 17 | Arizona, Florence - 36-38, 43 |
| 4th F. A. - 23 | Alice, Texas - 27 | Apache Indian scouts - 17 | Arizona, Fort Apache - 16, 21 |
| 5th and 14th Cavalry - 10 | All-Ways gun harness - 9 | Apache Indians - 21 | Arizona, Fort Bowie - 16, 20, 21 |
| 6th Cavalry - 21 | Allee, Alfred - 29 | Apache Kid - 16 | Arizona, Fort Defiance - 21 |
| 7th Cavalry - 20 | Allison, Clay - 43 | Apache Kid's gang - 16 | Arizona, Fort Huachua - 17, 21,
23 |
| 9th Infantry - 22 | Alpine, Texas - 27, 28 | Apache medicine man - 16 | Arizona, Fort San Carlos - 23 |
| Aa-O-Ta, Kiowa Indian - 49 | Alto Frio, Texas - 11 | Apache Spy Squaw - 17 | Arizona, Globe - 17 |
| Abilene, Kansas - 34, 45 | Alton, Kansas - 12 | Apache squaws - 17 | Arizona, Morenci - 10, 37 |
| Ada, Oklahoma - 8 | Alverson, Leonard - 35 | Apaches - 37 | Arizona, Pima County - 36 |
| Adobe House - 12 | Alvord, Burt - 35, 36 | Aparahoe women - 19 | Arizona, Prescott - 21 |
| Adobe Walls fight - 6 | Amarillo, Texas - 27, 29 | Aqueduct, old - 5 | Arizona, San Carlos - 7, 16 |
| Africa, Algiers - 14 | American Legion parade, San
Antonio - 7 | Arapahoe Joe - 45 | Arizona, Sulphur Springs - 37 |
| Aguero, M. Sancho - 14 | American Standard Bearer - 14 | Arapahoe School - 12 | Arizona, Tombstone - 10, 35, 36-
38, 46 |
| Airey, ___ (Rev.) - 10, 12 | Ames Ranch, El Cajon,
California - 12 | Archduke Maximillian - 10 | Arizona, Tucson - 5, 37 |
| Al-Che-Say, Chief, White
Mountain Apaches - 16 | Anadarko, Indian Territory - 19,
47-49 | Arickaree - 13 | Arizona, Yuma - 10, 19, 21 |
| | | Arickaree monument - 20 | Arkansas City - 19 |
| | | Arizona “Canaries” [burros] - 38 | |
| | | Arizona Cattle Co. - 30 | |

Index

A

Abney, W. B. 71
 Akin, Yvonne 66
 Alexander, Melanie 5
 Allen, Rhoda 71
 Allen, Robert 71
 Allen, Virginia R. 71
 Andrews, Margaret 17
 Appleton, David 58
 Arias, Alfred 64
 Marks, H. R. 42

B

Badu, Erykah 41
 Ballard, Paula 86
 Ball, Susan 37, 86, 87
 Ball, Susan E. 1, 55, 84, 86
 Bankston, Joyce 40
 Bankston, Ray 40
 Barry, Vickie 5
 Bartholomew, Ed 74
 Bartlett, Jim 23
 Bedford, Sethora 16
 Belden, Dreanna 1, 3, 39, 42
 Bennett, Lucy Ann 63
 Bernhard, Joseph 17
 Bernhard, Mary 17
 Berry, Halle 41
 Bettinger, Dr. Blaine T. 25, 37, 67
 Bill, Marjorie L. 5
 Birsinger-Miller, Elisabeth 18
 Blackshear, William 42
 Blayton, Zada 5, 37
 Bohls, Florenz J. 17
 Bohls, Thekla (Ganzert) 17
 Borinstein, Sandra 5
 Brown, Carrie Ardella 15
 Brown, Phyllis 65, 86
 Brown, Phyllis K. 56
 Brown, Sarah Ann 4, 36
 Bryant, Marynell 86
 Bryson, Peabo 41
 Buckner, William D. "Bill" 1, 2, 21, 29, 66, 84, 86
 Bullock, E. J. 17
 Bullock, Elizabeth Jane (McCrary) 17
 Bullock, Randolph Lewis 17
 Bullock, R. L. 17
 Burgess, Jerry 40
 Burton, Mattie J. 18

C

Cannata, Norma 66
 Caraway, Hugh L. Jr. 5
 Carter, Douglas E. 5
 Carter, Douglas 38
 Carter, John 40

Carter, Wanda R. 5
 Cauble, Rex 40
 Champlin, Mary Francis 58
 Childs, Carl Lamont 63
 Childs, Charles Bales 63
 Childs, David Edward 63
 Childs, Henry David 63
 Christmas, Henrietta 37
 Clark, Joy 5
 Coffey, Annie E. 35
 Coffey, Cheyney Hannum 35
 Collins, James 55
 Conard, Edwin 32
 Conard, Gula M. 33
 Conard, Gula Margaret 34
 Conard, Helen P. 32
 Conard, Helen Phoebe 34
 Conard, Horace 33
 Conard, Horace Edwin 34, 36
 Conard, Marian Ella 34, 36
 Conard, Marion E. 33
 Conard, Phoebe P. 32
 Conard, Roland 33
 Conard, Roland Mercer 34, 36
 Conard, Thomas P. 32
 Conard, Thomas Phillip 34
 Conard, Thomas Phillips 35, 36
 Conard, Thomas Phillips Jr. 34
 Conard, Walter T. 33
 Conard, Walter Thomas 34, 36
 Conrad, Mary Ann 65
 Cooke, Lisa Louise 65
 Cooper, Cookie 39
 Cooper, Kitty 23
 Corcoran, Sally A. Parker 5
 Crews, Don 65
 Crowley, Sandra 1, 3, 37, 52, 86
 Crowley, Sandra J. 2, 46, 54

D

Davis, Andi 65
 Davis, Wanda Bowlin 5
 Dearborn, Nikole 5
 Deering, James 71
 Delao, Crystal D. 5
 Devine, Teresa B. 5
 Drake, Darby Frantz 5

E

Eichholt, Mary 16
 Ellsworth, Fran 67
 Ellsworth, Frances M. 86
 Elston, Elizabeth 11
 Elston, John 11
 Engelbrecht, Bettie 16
 Engelbrecht, Henry W. 16
 Estes, Roberta 23
 Evans, Shirley 59

F

Feitshans, Sheri 38
 Ferguson, Alice Margaret 36

Fitzgerald, Scott 70, 74
 Flack, Teri 86
 Fox, Steven 25
 Franks, Elizabeth Jane 63
 Franks, Lela 63
 Fries, Helen P. Conard 35
 Froebel, Barbara 67
 Froebel, Barbara J. 86
 Fron-Brooks, Doyle Brooks 5

G

Ganzert, Fritz 17
 Garrett, Jim 69
 Gentry, Carroll 18
 Gentry, John Washington 18
 Gentry, Leslie 18
 Gentry, Bertha 18
 Getty, Noah Jones 63
 Gilmore, Darwin 38
 Gordon, Pat 3, 7, 11
 Gorrell, Lisa 5
 Gossett, Lou 41
 Gredler, Sara 68
 Greer, Lawrence 5

H

Haddock, Helen Ruth Airheart 63
 Haley, Alex 41
 Hall, John 71
 Hall, Mrs. V. R. 71
 Hollowell, Annie 32
 Hollowell, Cornelius 32
 Hollowell, Edith P. 32, 34
 Hall, Virginia A. Ribble 70
 Hanks, Ginger 5
 Hannum, Cheyney 32, 34
 Hannum, Preston 33
 Hanson, Tony 1, 3, 12, 14
 Harris, Carrol 63
 Harris, Genevieve T. 5
 Harrison, Nina 56
 Harrison, Sally 40
 Harward, Edith L. 36
 Haynes, David 70
 Henderson, Charles J. 5
 Hollis, Laura 59
 Holly, Kay 5
 Hoopes, Halliday 34, 35
 Hoopes, Holiday 35
 Hoopes, Margaret Ann 34
 Hoopes, Sarah Ann 32, 33, 35
 Hoppe, Minnie 16
 Hoppe, Oscar 16
 Hoppe, Will 16
 Hunt, John C. 12
 Hunt, Mary Bell 12
 Hurley, Toby 5
 Hurta, Charlene 21

J

Jacobs, Pete 66
 James, Jesse 74

Janzen, Dr. Tim 23
 Jasek, Frank 29
 Jeffers, Laura 5
 Jenkins, Jana 55
 Johnson, Aleene 10
 Johnson, Joseph N. 15
 Johnson, Joseph Perry 15
 Johnson, Leonard 10
 Johnson, Matilda 16
 Johnson, William Lyle 15
 Johnston, Dr. Kathy 25
 Jones, Marianne 5
 Jones, William Bates 63
 Jones III, Lawrence T. 70

K

Kapp, Mrs. James 42
 Kaspar, Laura F. 5
 Kaufman, Susan 86
 Kelsey, Nancy Graff 5
 Kitt, Eartha 41
 Knight, Pamela 56
 Knost, Chip 40
 Knowles, Henry Gilbert 58
 Knowles, Mary Francis Champlin 58
 Kolakowski, Vicky 69
 Kostura, Sherrie 56
 Krause, Connie 68

L

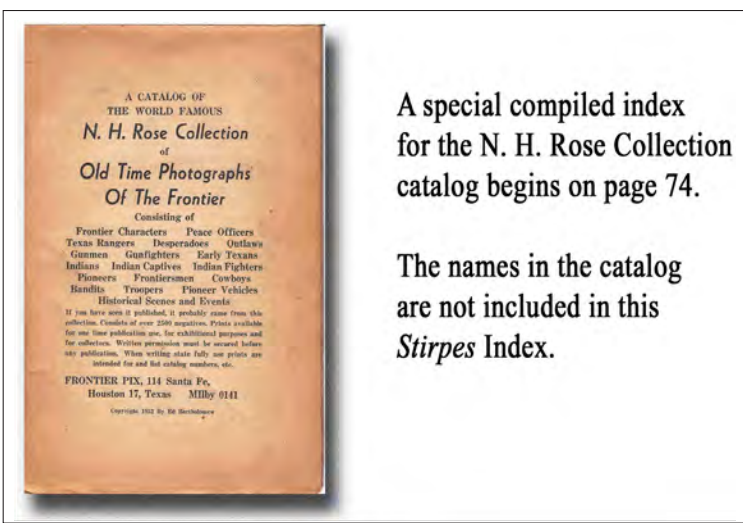
Langford, Wanda J. 5
 Lee, Devon Noel 1
 Lillie Engelbrecht 16
 Livingston, ale 40
 Looney, Julie Holland 5
 Love, David 25
 Lovelace, Janice 37
 Lowe, J. Mark 37, 66
 Luckett, Larry 56, 69

M

Mabee, Douglass Mather 63
 Machac, Debbie White 5
 Machu, Nancy 21
 Manaker, Emma 16
 Manaker, Philip H. 16
 Marks, H. R. 42
 Marsalis, Wynton 41
 Martin, Lucy Jane 41
 Martin, Mary L. 18
 Mata, Ed 68
 Matthews, Bill 3, 61
 Matthews, Erastus Allen 61
 Matthews, Loderick 61
 Matthews, Mary 61
 McClanahan, Elton 13
 McClanahan, John Newton 13, 14
 McCollins, Sharon 5
 McCoy, Debbie Blanton 65, 86
 McCrary, Elizabeth Jane 17

McEntire, Becky Rucker 58
 McGuffin, Tina 86
 McKinney, James T. 5
 McKinney, John Myers 63
 McManus, Catherine Wheeler
 Coons 63
 Meisner, Bernard 66
 Mercer, Ann S. 34
 Mercer, Anna S. 32, 35
 Mercer, Austell H. 36
 Mercer, Autel H. 34
 Mercer, Cheyney Hannum 35
 Mercer, Edith P. 33
 Mercer, Elizabeth 34
 Mercer, Elizabeth Anita 34, 36
 Mercer, Ernest D. Spencer 36
 Mercer, Hassan 34
 Mercer, Hatten 32, 33
 Mercer, M. Ella 32
 Mercer, Madelon 34, 36
 Mercer, Margaret A. 32
 Mercer, Margaret Ann 32
 Mercer, Margaret Ann Hoopes 35
 Mercer, Marguerite 34
 Mercer, Mary Ella 32, 34
 Mercer, Raymond Thomas 34, 36
 Mercer, Thomas 32, 33, 35
 Mercer, Thomas A. 34
 Mercer, Thompson 33, 36
 Mercer, Thompson H. 32, 33
 Mercer, Thompson M. 34
 Meyers, Kelvin 37, 64, 66, 69, 86
 Middleton, Arter 57
 Middleton, Earvey 57
 Middleton, George Albert 57
 Middleton, Lovenia Johnson 57
 Miles, Maude 13
 Miles, Phineas 13
 Miles, Phineas Young 12
 Miles, Sarah E. 12
 Miles, Sarah Elizabeth 14
 Miller, Clel 13
 Miller, James 18
 Miller, James R. 15
 Miller, Jim 3
 Miller, Michael P. 18
 Miller, Mrs. 42
 Mills, Betsy 2, 64, 86, 87
 Mills, Elizabeth Shown 3
 Mitchell, Amanda 15
 Mitchell, Sarah R. 5
 Mize, Benja 5
 Mize, Tami Osmer 2
 Moore, Mrs. 61
 Mordhorst, Heinrich 68
 Morris, Ruth 38
 Moss, Lynell 57
 Moyer, David 37
 Mullenweg, Charleen 5
 Munhall, Selwyn T. 17

N



A special compiled index for the N. H. Rose Collection catalog begins on page 74.

The names in the catalog are not included in this *Stirpes* Index.

Nace, Karen E. 5
 Newbold, Dr. Curtis 45
 Nishimoto, Eric 64

O
 Olson, Kitty M. 5

P
 Parker, Mrs. M. E. 71
 Parsons, Ginny Guinn 5
 Pearson, Debbie 65
 Penny, Teresa 55
 Perkins, Dorothy N. 5
 Perkins, Paula 64, 66, 86
 Perl, Jonny 24
 Perry, John B. 32
 Perry, Tyler 41
 Pfluger, Charlie 17
 Pfluger, Conrad 17
 Pfluger, Mary (Bernhart) 17
 Phillips, B.F. 40
 Piecznski, Jeannette 1
 Pierre-Louis, Marian 37
 Pinciotti, Susan 5, 37
 Poteet, George A. 71
 Poteet, Harriet Ann 70

R
 Rahe, Alton 68
 Rahn, Russ 3
 Rahn, Russell A. 1, 32
 Rascher, Sheryl 57
 Rasmussen, Geoff 37
 Rasmussen, Karen 5
 Ray, James Franklin 63
 Reed, Lisa 30
 Reed, Lisa Kay 3
 Reed, William Henry "Dink" 57
 Reese, William Charles 63
 Reichmann, Fritz 42
 Rencher, David E. 66
 Reynolds, Larry "Joe" 65
 Reynolds, Linda 86
 Ribble, Col. G. H. 71

Ribble, George H. 70
 Ribble, Harriet Poteet 71
 Ribble, Mina K. 71
 Ribble, V. A. 70
 Ribble, Virginia A. 71
 Richard, Diane 37
 Roberts, J. B. 5
 Roberts, Mary Mollie Bloomer
 Reed 57
 Roberts, Ramona 5
 Rodriguez, Christine Garrison 5
 Rodriguez, Daniel 5
 Rogers, Terri Lynn 5
 Rose, Carol 40
 Rose, Dr. James 5
 Rose, Matlock 40
 Rose, N. H. (Noah Hamilton) 74
 Ruffini, Oscar 65

S
 Schroeder, Arthur 16
 Scott, Shalem E. 63
 Scudder, Mary 5
 Sellers, Dr. Jeanne 74
 Shawe, Lucretia E. 63
 Shawe, Lucretia Elizabeth 63
 Shaw, Mike 56
 Shebester, Ralph 40
 Shugart, Don 40
 Siddens, Courtney Elizabeth 63
 Siddens, Morgan Leigh 63
 Sidens, Teri 65
 Simmons, Edith 42
 Simmons, Mrs. 61
 Skinner, J. F. 71
 Slutts, Ephraim 14
 Slutts, Mary Bell 12
 Slutts, Sarah 13
 Slutts, Sarah Elizabeth 12
 Smith, Cheryl 5
 Smith, Lizabeth A. 5
 Speegle, James William 63
 Speer, James Arthur 63
 Spencer, Ernest Davis 36

Stalling, Bobby 67
 Stapp, Cecilia 5
 Stapp, Roy 5
 Star, Belle 74
 Stimson, Beverly E. 1
 Strauss, Michael L. 66

T

Teja, Jesus f. de la 69
 Thirtle, Karen 5
 Tippiss, Matt 88
 Torres, Mary O. 86
 Townsend, Thomas Roderick 63
 Townsen, J. W. 71
 Turner, Judy Lynn 69, 86

V

Van Fleet, Charles Henry 16
 Van Fleet, Henry M. 16
 Vega, Tim de la 65, 86
 Villa, Pancho 40
 Villareal, Becky 65

W

Walker, Karen Claridge 21
 Waters, Marilyn 5
 Wayne, Debbie Parker 1, 3, 22,
 26, 37, 86
 Wells, Eric 37
 Wells, Jerry 40
 Wells, Tommy 40
 Westermeier, Dr. Carol 5
 Westermeier, James 5
 Wheatley, Margaret (Andrews)
 17
 Wheatley, Ray 17
 Whited, Randy 5, 86
 Wickman, Ernest 56
 Wiczorek, Sherryl Anne Scott
 63
 Wilkins, Ari 5
 Willis, T. Bradford 41
 Williams, Byrd 40
 Williams, Byrd III 40
 Williams, Byrd IV 40
 Williams, Byrd Jr. 40
 Willman, Mary 17
 Winder, Edward H. 15
 Winder, Hazel 15
 Winders, Hazel 15
 Woods, Bryan 30
 Woods, LaVirga Shipman 31
 Worley, Rellis E. 5
 Wylie, John 55, 69, 86
 Wylie, Mrs. Herbert E. 55
 Wylie, Reverend 55

Y

Younger, Bob 74

LOOK INSIDE

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of contents of this issue of *Stirpes*.

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