

THE JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.



# Stirpes

Your Ancestors' *FAN* Club

*FRIENDS ASSOCIATES NEIGHBORS*



**2018**  
**Texas State Genealogical Society**  
**Family History Conference**

*Journey through Generations*

**November 2-4, 2018**



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*at the Omni San Antonio at the Colonnade*

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**#TxSGS2018**



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



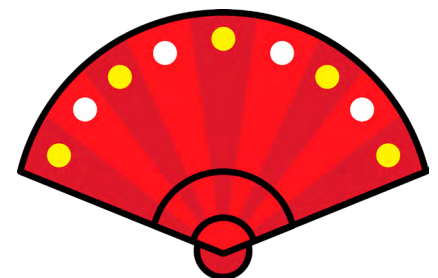
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*Why Name our Journal Stirpes?* Pronounced "STÛR'PEZ," it perfectly describes the core understanding of our passion in researching ancestry and family history: The phrase "... to my heirs, per stirpes" means that the legal heirs share their inheritance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

# The FAN Club – Your Ancestor’s Entourage

by Susan E. Ball

**B**ecause we view our ancestors through the limiting lens of available documents, we tend to forget that they had close friends, participated in community events, involved themselves in local government, joined clubs, and more. When they moved across the ocean or to the next state, they traveled with or planned to join people they knew and trusted.

Introduced by Emily Ann Croom as Cluster Research and coined by Elizabeth Shown Mills as the FAN Club, these friends, associates, and neighbors in conjunction with collateral relatives can help pin down even the most difficult-to-trace ancestor. Who might be in an ancestor’s FAN Club?

Possibilities include members of the same church, fraternal organization, quilting circle, or military unit, business partners, in-laws—anyone with whom the ancestor interacted on a regular basis through a personal, professional, financial, or other long-term relationship.

Maintaining a list of an ancestor’s FAN Club can provide clues for linking generations, finding collateral relatives, providing additional proof of ancestral connection, locating “missing” ancestors in records, or verifying that a person with the same name who appears in a different location is your ancestor. Looking for your ancestor in association with a large group of friends, associates, and neighbors is much easier than searching for just one person.

How is an ancestor’s FAN Club created? In its most simple form, the

FAN Club is just a list of every person found associated with the ancestor in a record. Good sources of these names are census records, land records, military records, court records, church records, and newspapers, among many possibilities. Record these names in a

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table or spreadsheet along with the record where the name was found, names of other persons in the record, the location, and the date. As always, you’ll save yourself a lot of time in the future if you include a good source citation. Another column indicating the type of association (business, friend, neighbor, and such) can be added as well as any other information that will help you further classify these FAN Club members.

Tracking this information for each FAN Club member will help show which persons are most likely to appear with the ancestor in a particular situation or place. A person’s FAN Club will change over time and the

friend your ancestor had as a youth may have passed away or moved to a completely different locale.

## Census Records

Census records are especially helpful for identifying neighbors. A good rule of thumb for each census is that all persons in ten families on either side of your rural ancestor should be added to the FAN Club. If your ancestor lived in a town or city, read through the census for several pages on either side of your ancestor to identify those families that were neighbors based on recorded addresses.

Census enumerators were

provided specific instructions on how to canvass a neighborhood. The U.S. Census Bureau has enumeration instructions available for 1790 and 1850 though 2010 at [https://www.census.gov/history/www/through\\_the\\_decades/census](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instructions/)

[instructions/](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instructions/). Review the instructions to learn how an enumerator would canvass persons in your ancestor’s neighborhood. Likely, these neighbors will join your family as in-laws.

The FAN Club is especially useful in helping find missing census records, especially when an ancestor’s name is mangled or obscured in a census enumeration. Make note of the neighbors in the census just previous and just after the missing census. Keep in mind that ages will change by a decade. You’ll want to focus on younger persons in the previous census and older persons in the following census.

Locating the Johann Hill family in

Austin County, Texas, in the 1870 census required a diligent application of FAN Club principles plus collateral research. Born about 1807 in Germany, Johann Hill and his family immigrated to Texas 30 January 1854. In 1860, Johann and his family are enumerated with first name initials only in the Cat Springs, New Ulm, and Industry Precincts of Austin County, Texas. Johann is enumerated with his daughter's family in the 1880 census in Welcome (Justice Precinct 2), Austin County, Texas. None of the "Hills" found in 1870 in Austin County correspond with Johann or his family. Could he have moved? Johann's sons, Christian, Heinrich, and Balthasar Hill all married between 1867 and 1871. Christian married Mrs. Anna Sassenberg (nee Anna Margaretha Mueller) in 1867 in Austin County, Texas; Heinrich married Emelie Lehman in 1868 in Austin County, Texas; and Balthasar married Amalia Schaffner in 1871 in Austin County, Texas. These marriages clustered around 1870 show that the Hill family was most likely still living in Austin County.

After a host of fruitless searches on Johann, John, Hill, and every variation of first and last names of the family, a search for "Christian" born 1840 in Austin County returned Christian Mueller, age 30, presumably married to Anna Mueller, age 28, with children Emilie, age 2, and Freidrich, age 5. Also in Christian's household were George Mueller, age 22, Herman Mueller, age 17, and Christine Mueller, age 21. Next door to Christian Mueller was Heinrich Mueller, age 26, with presumed wife Emilie, age 18, and August, age 7/12. On the other side of Christian's household was John Mueller, age 63, and Catharine Mueller (his presumed wife), age 62.

Comparing this family with Johann Hill's family shows striking similarities, with George, Herman, and Christine the children of Johann and Catharine Hill:

Johann Hill Family	John Mueller Family, 1870 Census
Johann Hill, born 1807	John Mueller, born 1807
Catharine Hill, born 1817	Catharine Mueller, born 1808
Christian Hill, born July 1840	Christian Mueller, born 1840
Anna Margarethe Mueller Sassenberg Hill (The 1870 census is the only source for her birth year)	Margaretha Mueller, born 1842
Emilie Hill, born 9 Mar 1870	Emilie Mueller, born 1868
Freidrich Sassenberg, born 1862 (from Anna Margarethe Mueller's first marriage)	Friedrich Mueller, born 1865
George Hill, born 22 Feb 1845	George Mueller, born 1848
Hermann Hill, born 31 Mar 1850	Herman Mueller, born 1853
Christine Hill, born 1848	Christine Mueller, born 1849
Heinrich Hill, born 9 Feb 1842	Heinrich Mueller, born 1844
Emelie Lehmann Hill, born 1853	Emilie Mueller, born 1852
Gustav Hill, born 31 Jan 1870	Augustus Mueller, born Dec 1869

Why the Mueller surname? The first suspicion is that the enumerator couldn't understand the Hill's thick German accent. However, Prussian-born enumerator Max Meissner, a Justice of the Peace and Notary Public, should have easily understood the heavily accented answers to his questions. Perhaps a neighbor provided the information as incorrect ages were given for nine of the twelve persons in these households.

The only connection to Mueller is

through Christian's wife, Anna Margarethe, nee Mueller. Why were Johann and Catharine's adult children enumerated with Christian? This enumeration leaves lots of questions and few answers. Likely this is the Hill family enumerated as Muellers—further application of FAN Club principles can verify this conclusion by confirming the Hill family's location and land-owning neighbors in 1870 through deed records.

302	305	Mueller, John	63	M.	W.	Farmer	3000	800
		—, Catharine	62	F.	W.	Keeping house		
303	306	Mueller, Christian	30	M.	W.	Farmer laborer		
		—, Margaretha	28	F.	W.			
		—, Emilie	2	F.	W.			
		—, Friedrick	5	M.	W.			
		—, George	22	M.	W.	Farmer laborer		
		—, Herman	17	M.	W.			
		—, Christine	21	F.	W.			
304	307	Mueller, Heinrich	26	M.	W.	Farmer/proprietor		100
		—, Emilie	18	F.	W.	Keeping house		
		—, August	7/12	M.	W.			

Figure 1: 1870 U.S. Census in Austin County, Texas, for the households of Johann, Christian, and Heinrich Hill incorrectly enumerated as John, Christian, and Heinrich Mueller.

# Using FAN Clubs to Disprove a Family Legend

by Jean Wilcox Hibben; PhD, MA

I started working on my genealogy, officially, in 1978. After over 40 years of research, it seems I am back to where I started. Sometimes the FAN (Friends, Associates, Neighbors) system can disprove a lineage connection just as easily, and perhaps more thoroughly, as it can prove one.

I began as most do—I asked my living relatives about the family, particularly my paternal grandfather’s father’s line. Part of the family lore included my paternal great-grandmother’s Lee lineage that was supposedly the source of my father and grandfather’s first names. It was these Lees that led me on a convoluted chase through military records, census records, church minutes, and more.

Before I go further, I will add that I have been at both an advantage and a disadvantage when it comes to personal knowledge of family members. The advantage came through starting my genealogy research while my grandparents and a grandaunt were still living. My grandfather, Lee Wilcox, did not die until I was about 17 years old and he lived only three blocks from our home. I visited him at least once a week and often spent hours next to him, listening to his stories and recollections of his family. In addition, my mother took the time to

“interview” Lee, her father-in-law, taking notes and recording the interviews on reel-to-reel tape.

Eventually, even with our frequent visits, my grandfather could no longer live alone and he made plans to enter a nursing home. Sadly, he died before his move to the nursing home, but not before he completed the required questionnaire about his life, all of which my mother typed up and kept. This questionnaire included specific queries about his childhood and

family members.

My grandfather’s half-sister, Mary Louise, was alive long after my genealogy work had started AND she lived in Southern California, near where I lived. Mary Louise’s mother, Leonore, was my grandfather’s stepmother. From this grandaunt, I was able to get a lot of information about my great-grandfather that no one else knew.

But, as I said, there were disadvantages in this wealth of information I gathered from my relative’s memories, stories, and tales. Like anyone who has lived well into their 80s, years and events can blur together—I’m already experiencing that at age 66! My grandfather didn’t accurately remember some of the

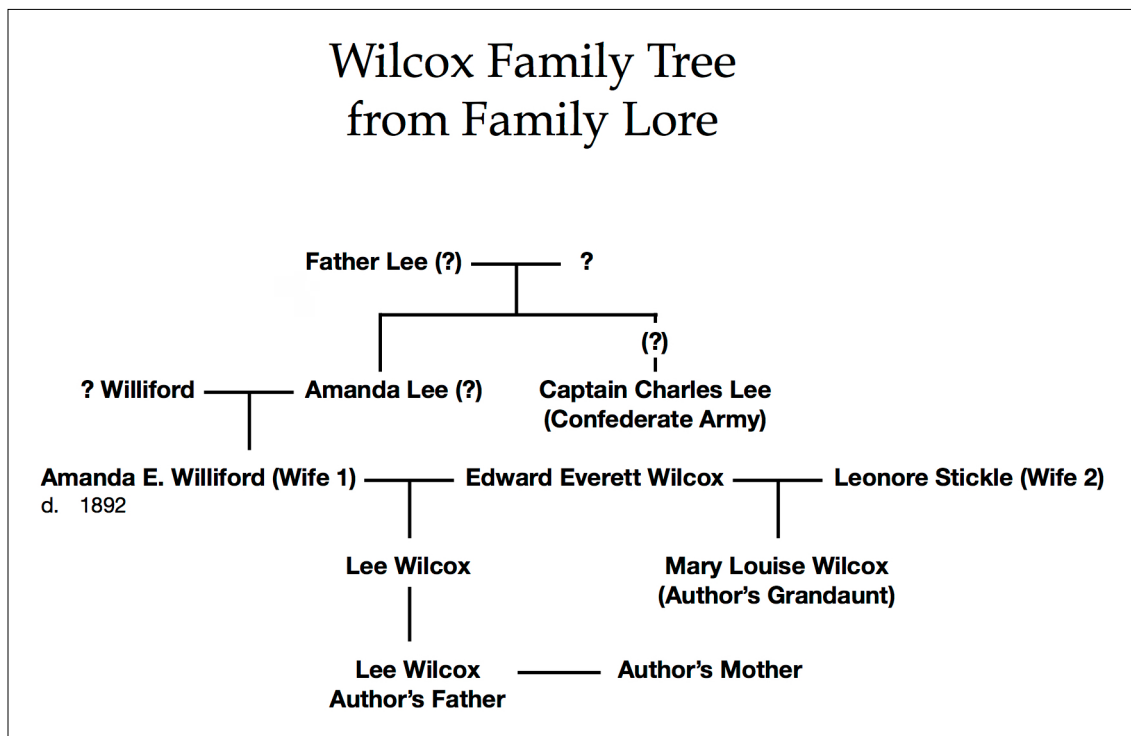


Figure 1: Jean Hibben’s family tree based on family lore.

family members' ages and names or locations of family events.

My father did not know or particularly care about his father's family. My grandaunt Mary Louise knew her mother's side of the family quite well, but that was not the line that interested me. I wanted, instead, to fill in blanks about my great-grandfather's first wife. My grandaunt called her the "Winchester woman"

and, when she said "Winchester," she bit off the word with what sounded like contempt. I never did understand this attitude since my grandaunt had

never known my great-grandmother, my great-grandfather's first wife. Perhaps my grandaunt's mother had told my grandaunt unfavorable stories about my great-grandmother since my grandaunt's mother (wife #2) did know, and was the nurse for, wife #1.

People lie. Or they tell partial truths. Often they tell the story as they heard it so it is not a purposeful lie. These lies, intentional or accidental, can be perpetuated, carried from one generation to the next, until the genealogist working on the family gets a legend that just doesn't ring true.

With all these caveats in mind, here is the family: Edward Everett Wilcox was my great-grandfather, father to my grandfather Lee. Edward was also known as Ed, E. E., and, on

one record, "Edwin," which I am fairly certain was a typo. He married a woman he met when he, his parents, and siblings lived in Franklin County, Tennessee. Her name was Amanda E. Williford, but the spellings I got from the family were Wilford, Wilfred, and Willaford. The alternate spellings were not a real problem for me; after all, those who talked about her either had never met her or were severed from

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her at a young age. My grandfather, third oldest of four by Amanda, was five when she died in 1892, allegedly from face cancer. I have the obituary and a funeral card, verifying the date, but neither mention anything about her personal history or even her birthdate and place.

What little information I knew about Amanda Williford came from one of my grandfather's taped interviews. In that interview, he shared that Ed's first wife, my great-grandmother, was from Tennessee. He gave her name as he knew it (Amanda Wilford) and said she was the daughter of Amanda Lee. This implied that Amanda Lee had married a man named Wilford, though no one seemed to know anything about him.

According to Lee, the song "Mandy Lee" was named for her (this is total fabrication, of course, but sounds good as a family tale). As I mentioned earlier, the other family legend is that the Lee lineage is the source of my grandfather's and my father's first name, "Lee." My grandfather also claimed that Amanda Lee had a brother, Charles, who had been a Captain in the Confederate Army,

although from what state, no one seemed to know.

Trying to verify these family stories surrounding the Lee connection, I began the search for a Captain

Charles Lee from Tennessee or possibly Georgia, due to the proximity of Franklin County to the state line. I found many Charles Lees, mostly privates and one or two officers, but when I researched the family ties, nothing got me close to a sister named Amanda. I never found any Amanda Lee that would have been the mother to an Amanda Wilford (or any similar spelling). Yes, there were many Amanda Lees and Amanda Wilfords/Willafords/Willifords, but none connected to a mother named Amanda. Being thorough, I checked for common nicknames for Amanda as well.

We start with the known and move to the unknown. I knew that Amanda Williford Wilcox had died by 1892 (another case of "if only I had

104	189	Lee J. O.	"	40		1	Brick Mason
"		- SA	"	41	wife	1	have sleeping
"		- Charlie	"	18	son	1	Robert
"		" Annie	"	8	Daughter	1	at school
"		- Eva	"	6	" "	1	so so
409	490	Wilford Amanda	"	20		1	
"		Lee S. A.	"	30		1	
"		Wilcox Ed	"	24		1	Chris Aug 40

Figure 2: 1880 census showing Amanda Wilford, age 20, in J. O. Lee's household.

# Finding Your FANs in Quilts and Samplers

by Lisa Reed

A needlework sampler created in 1792 gave the United States all the proof it needed to grant a Revolutionary War pension for the family of John McKenzie.<sup>3</sup> The Daughters of the American Revolution have drawers of such samplers, which might be “the only proof of a young girl’s existence.”<sup>4</sup>

An estate was resolved and heirs made happy in a case that involved a sampler, a Scottish genealogist, and New Zealand heirs.<sup>1</sup> A mailbox-themed quilt records the names of postal patrons along a rural delivery route.<sup>2</sup> As a teenager, I discovered a lifelong love of genealogy in a humble signature quilt. What secrets hide in your homemade quilts and samplers?

Seeking genealogy clues in quilts, samplers, and other textiles might be an “out-of-the-box” strategy, but it is one that can pay nice dividends. The various benefits available in textile research are many.

## Women’s history

Textiles offer a unique source created by and for females, in general. Samplers, originally crafted as records of patterns, gradually became a medium for schoolgirls to embroider their alphabets and scriptures. Girls’ schooling was separate from boys’ in early America. “Family record samplers” were a way to

record genealogy. Signature quilts grew out of the early 1800s fad for auto-graph albums. Quilting “frolicks,” where both girls and boys would gather, were lively parties where those of marriageable age would meet, gossip,

on the number of quilts made range from 250,000 to 400,000, most of which were signature quilts. Depression era homemakers made useful bedcoverings out of cloth flour sacks.

## Genealogical data

Some samplers are explicitly devoted to family trees, giving the general genealogical data still being collected today: names, dates, places, and relationships. Others may simply have a signature and a date. Along with names, signature quilts may also provide data on entire family groups.

## Family history

In addition to raw genealogical data, quilts and samplers offer a broad spectrum of information that can add texture to family histories. Photographs of quilts can enhance a written history. The stories handed down can be recorded and preserved. Modern quilts can record family relationships and events.

## Unexplored sources

Though the genealogical value of quilts and samplers has been known for some time, it may be one of the least explored areas by amateur or professional genealogists.



*Miriam Robbins treasures this sampler, made by her paternal grandmother’s great-great-grandmother. “That I have it at all is a small miracle, because Grandma was adopted out of the family. It’s the only tangible thing left of her life...No obituary, no tombstone, no vital records, other than censuses.”*

and flirt. Later, during the Civil War, women could and did contribute to the war effort by making quilts; estimates

has been known for some time, it may be one of the least explored areas by amateur or professional genealogists.



# Researching the Slave Ancestry of my African American Cousins

by Duane Helweg

This story is the result of DNA connections. Both my sister and I had Ancestry.com DNA tests done (autosomal) and as a result on April 3, 2017, I received the following Ancestry message:

*Good morning: My name is Courtney Tolbert and I am researching my family tree. You administered a test for S.H. which resulted in a possible connection in the "good" range for 4th cousin ... If you would like to explore this possible connection, please let me know ... I have been doing this in earnest for a little more than a year now, and it's quite the learning curve! I would appreciate hearing from you.*

The S.H. she referenced is my sister, whose DNA results I manage on Ancestry DNA. They connected as "distant cousins" at 16.8 centimorgans (cM) shared across two DNA segments. However, Courtney had her mother's DNA tested and she connects with my sister at the 4-6<sup>th</sup> cousin range with 26 centimorgans shared across three DNA segments. Based on my DNA understanding, anything above 12 cM is worth pursuing. Seen here in her Ancestry.com photo, Courtney has African American heritage.

Courtney shared that her DNA showed collectively 30% European and 1% Native American. She also put me in touch with her cousin, Dr. Michelle Chambers, also of African American heritage.

Now just to clarify, both my sister and I, per DNA, are 99 percent European with no ties in known African slave regions.

That means our tie to these African American cousins is through our common European

ancestors. While to some that may be a surprise, to me not so much, and I'll explain. The ancestors of the mother of my sister and I all came from Southern states. As some of those ancestors had slaves, there's no surprise that somewhere at some time there was a mixing of my family's western European DNA lines with those that came from Africa. I was more than happy to respond to Courtney.

Interestingly, among the four of us, those who share DNA are Michelle and I, Courtney and my sister, and, of course, my sister and I. No DNA is shared between Courtney and I or between Michelle and my sister. Perhaps a little inherited DNA understanding is in order here for those unfamiliar. While siblings do get their entire DNA from parents, they do not each get the same DNA. That's why if you have siblings, have them tested. Michelle reports she's 22% Great Britain; she and I share 18.2 centi-

morgans across one DNA segment.

Now for the obvious question, how do we four connect by family names? Checking "View Match" on Ancestry between the

four of us, no common names appeared in our trees. However, you can view shared DNA matches on Ancestry with each other, and in doing so a common Ancestry DNA member was found for



Courtney Tolbert



Dr. Michelle Chambers, MD



Author, Duane Helweg

all four of us, whom I will reference as “CW.” My sister, CW, and I had the family names Colson and Denson in common, while CW, Courtney, and Michelle had Denson and Chambers in common. The obvious conclusion was that we all FIVE may have shared a Denson ancestor back somewhere. Of course, Ancestry can only search in our trees for names that are in the trees, so this approach is dependent on each of us having a fairly complete tree that goes back to our common ancestor.

Based upon my research, a Shadrach James Denson was one of the largest slave holders in Mississippi, ranked number six with 25 slaves in 1850.<sup>1</sup> He was married to Alethia Chambers; her father also had slaves. My known Denson ancestry goes back to Mississippi, as does the Chambers ancestry of our newly found African American cousins. There’s a possible connection, somewhere back in time.

While we have yet to put together exactly which people gave the four of us our common DNA connections, my desire to at least attempt to identify them led to research I had never attempted, that of finding someone’s slave ancestors.

## Slave Ancestor Research

My ancestral research on behalf of these newfound cousins began in the usual fashion, by searching family names in censuses. In some cases, these cousins had already added family to their trees on Ancestry.com. However, if looking for a slave ancestor, usually the ancestor’s known specific records start in 1870. Before that, unless they were living free, only nameless numbers exist on censuses back to the first U.S. census in 1790. In 1850 and

1860, slave schedules were created, but they only reported slaves under the owner’s name, showing the gender, age, and whether “B” for Black or “M” for Mulatto (mixed) with no names.

Other means of learning slave ancestors’ names before 1865, when they were all freed at the end of the Civil War, include finding deeds of slave sales, newspaper references (though usually in a negative story), or a will of a slave owner. Wills typically gave at least first names and who inherited the slave upon the owner’s

owner’s surname or taken one of their choosing by 1870. Another research technique is to see if, in the 1870 or 1880 census, the known former slave family lived near former slave owners or others that have the same surname as the former slave owner. Researching former slave owners prior to the Civil War may also prove fruitful. Check the 1860 and 1850 slave schedules to see if known family members match reported genders, ages, and race designations Black or Mulatto.

The obvious difficulty comes in knowing whether persons found in wills and censuses are our common ancestors. A will naming a Talbot family member matches a name found in the 1870 and 1880 censuses. Also, the given name, age and birthplace for

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**...There’s no surprise that somewhere at some time there was a mixing of my family’s western European DNA lines with those that came from Africa.**

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death. Obvious clues for a surname come from either those used in the 1870 or later censuses or in a will of a slave owner, since many slaves took their owner’s surnames, having no other in pre-1865 times. One must also remember that free persons of color or freed slaves were sometimes taken against their will while living in free states or locations and brought back into slave states for sale or to replace a runaway slave.

In my research, I searched for free people of color and for slaves named in some slave owner’s will. Both approaches were used when searching for the common family surname, Chambers, and for Courtney’s Tolbert/Talbot line. A word to the wise in any name research, whether given or surname, is to be aware of various spellings. Census enumerators sometimes spelled phonetically.

It is important to note that the maiden name of a wife in post-Civil-War years may have been the same as her married name. If the same owner enslaved both the wife and her husband, they both may have that

a free person of color found in the 1850 census matches a family story of a Chambers taken while free and placed into slavery. Certain aspects of these two discoveries lend credibility and certainly provide circumstantial evidence. Odds are improved by matching consistent data from record to record, census to census, and generation to generation.

For those who wish to research their own slave ancestry, good resources provided by Courtney are <http://www.myslaveancestors.com/> and a closed group on Facebook, I’ve Traced My Ancestor’s Slaveholders (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/188373451214240/>).

## Chambers Ancestors of Courtney and Michelle

I’ll specifically start with the Chambers family story that says Chaney Chambers, a free person of color born in Virginia in 1826, was kidnapped, taken further into the South, and sold or enslaved. However, if she was a free person of color living in Virginia, her surname would likely

# Journey through Generations with TxSGS at the 2018 Annual Family History Conference

Join the Texas State Genealogical Society in San Antonio, November 2-4, 2018, for *Journey through Generations*, our 2018 Family History Conference. There are more than 56 sessions and workshops and 31 speakers at this year's event, plus a host of exhibitors.

As genealogists, we start this Journey with a single step by identifying our immediate family and traveling backward via records, DNA, and much more. We learn ways to research and analyze these records; we trace and document our ancestors' ethnic roots. Along the way, we make sure to preserve and share their stories for future generations. *Journey through Generations* provides you with knowledge and tools to help you on this voyage.

Preview the program and speakers below and make plans now to join us! (Please note that the conference program is subject to change.)

## Speakers and Topics

### Level:

B = Beginner

I = Intermediate

A = Advanced

All = All levels

### Mic Barnette

*Researching a Texas Confederate Unit Records and Repositories*  
Level: All

Follow the sources as they reveal the narrative of Company D, 3rd Tennessee Cavalry of Red River County, Texas, from organization of the unit, to 1862 when many of its men experienced the horrors of Northern prisons, and on through their reorganization in Texas as the 23rd Texas Cavalry.



### Evan Christensen, AG®

*Mexican Civil Registration: Reading Between the Lines Ethnic / Level: B, I*

A review of traditions and relevant historical events that shaped the Mexican civil registry into what it is today and how you can leverage that knowledge to research more effectively.



*Tracing Mexican Immigrant Ancestors Across the Rio Grande*

Ethnic / Level: B, I

How to use immigration records from the U.S., Texas, and Mexico to trace your Mexican-American ancestors across the Rio Grande back to their town of origin in Mexico.

### Schelly Dardashti

*Integrating DNA and Family History at MyHeritage.com*  
DNA / Level: All

Learn how MyHeritage integrated its DNA service into our family history offerings and also about our ethnicities project — the largest study of its kind ever conducted. We'll also cover our powerful DNA Matching technology and take a look at a few exciting case studies.



### Jim Brewster

*Finding the Right DNA Test for You*  
DNA / Level: B

How can DNA help your genealogy? We will discuss the three basic types of DNA for genetic genealogy and how they can aid your genealogical research.



### *The ABC's of YDNA*

DNA / Level: I

Learn about the wonderful world of the Y chromosome and how it can enhance your paternal genealogy.

### DNA

Sessions will offer a variety of ways to analyze your DNA test results, regardless of whether you're just getting your first test results or are using the latest tools to analyze results you've had for a while.

### Ethnic

Texas is a diverse state. Examine how to discover more information about your African American, German, Jewish, Hispanic, Czech ancestors, and more.

### Methodology and Problem Solving

Discover new records and ways to analyze the records you've already found. Examine ways to use the information found in records to identify and solve problems.

### Publishing, Storytelling and Preservation

Now that you've learned about the lives of your ancestors, examine ways to share their stories and preserve your research for future generations.

### Records and Repositories

Land, migration, military, and so much more! The records are the greatest source for information about your ancestors! So many records, so little time . . .

### Technology

Learn how to preserve your family history for future generations by taking advantage of the latest technology apps, software, and cloud storage. There's something for everyone.

# TxSGS Workshops Provide In-depth Learning

The 2018 TxSGS Family History Conference, *Journey through Generations*, features dozens of excellent speakers presenting a total of 56 topics over the three-day weekend.

In addition to these one-hour lectures, TxSGS is offering four add-on workshops that provide the opportunity for in-depth learning in a small-group atmosphere. Want to learn how to use excel in your genealogical research, organize your digital archive using metadata, research your WWII ancestor, or analyze your atDNA? These workshops are for you! Seating is limited, so register early! Watch the TxSGS website in July for detailed information about the time and registration fee for each workshop.



## Spreadsheets 101 Workshop – An Excel-lent Hands-on Tutorial

Mary Kircher Roddy

This 2-hour workshop will cover setting up a worksheet and some basic commands including formatting, adding rows and columns, adjusting column widths and row heights, and setting up worksheets for printing. As participants gain skills and become more comfortable navigating the world of Excel, we will work on stepping up their game by utilizing color in worksheets, splitting columns, wrapping text, freezing panes, sorting, filtering, and more. *Participants should bring their laptops loaded with Excel.* (All levels)



**Mary Roddy**, a Certified Public Accountant, has been a genealogist since 2000, becoming interested in the subject in anticipation of an extended trip to Ireland. She earned a certificate from the Genealogy and Family History program at the University of Washington in 2005. She lectures frequently on various genealogical

topics in the Seattle area and at conferences across the country. She has written several articles for *Internet Genealogy* and *Family Chronicle* (now *Your Genealogy Today*) magazines as well as *Speak!* (the publication of the Genealogical Speakers Guild) and *FGS Forum*. Mary is a frequent presenter for Legacy Family Tree Webinars and writes a regular blog. She is a participant in ProGen 31.

## Anything I Can Do, You Can Do Meta: Metadata & Digital Archiving Your Family History Photos & Documents

Carl Smith

In the exciting era of 21<sup>st</sup> century genealogy, the need to stay organized has never been greater. This workshop provides a hands-on opportunity for attendees to begin to leverage the power of metadata in organizing their family history photos and documents on their personal computer. Attendees will learn the basic principles behind metadata, some common tags to use to stay organized, as well as software solutions to help organize photos and documents digitally. (All levels)



**Carl Smith** holds a Bachelor of Arts in Family History - Genealogy from Brigham Young University, and a Master of Science in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University. Carl has been extensively involved in genealogical research since 2008, specializing in the areas of Scandinavian, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century United States, and Latin American research. Carl is currently the Genealogy Librarian for the Montgomery County (Texas) Memorial Library System and head of the Genealogy and Local History Department. Carl has taught dozens of workshops covering such topics as beginning genealogical research, using family history websites and databases, researching ancestors from Scandinavia and other geographic regions in Europe, and research fundamentals, to name a few.

## Researching Your World War II Ancestors

Michael L. Strauss

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, plunged the United States into its second global conflict of the twentieth century. On both the home front and the battlefield, our country started to mobilize to defeat the Axis Powers. Researching your ancestors who served during World War II can be rewarding, but not without some obstacles. With the Fire of 1973 in St. Louis, Missouri, that destroyed tens of thousands of personnel files, genealogists need to focus their research on reconstructing lost or destroyed records. Some other primary sources of research include Draft Registrations and Classifications, Morning Reports, Submarine War Patrol Reports, and Missing Air Crew Reports. This workshop/lecture uses these records along with others presented as practical exercises to find your ancestors during World War II. (All levels)



**Michael L. Strauss, AG**, is an Accredited Genealogist and forensic investigator. He is a native of Pennsylvania, a resident of Utah, has a BA in History, and is a United States Coast Guard veteran. Strauss is a qualified expert witness in Surrogate Court and Circuit Court in

Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Virginia and an approved genealogist with the United States Department of Defense to locate DNA qualified persons MIA from Korea, Vietnam, and World War II. He is a national genealogical lecturer and instructor for military courses at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) and Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research (VIGR). He served as the film historian for the 2015

Academy Award nominated movie *Finding Vivian Maier*, in addition to doing Civil War reenacting for more than 25 years.

## atDNA Analysis Workshop

Debbie Parker Wayne

Researchers with a basic knowledge of DNA data, terminology, and tools to access match lists and DNA data at testing companies will learn analysis techniques beyond scanning surname lists and pedigree charts of matches. This workshop covers step-by-step analysis of autosomal DNA matches using company and third-party tools. Multiple tools illustrate analysis of a match list, matches in common, shared atDNA segments, and correlation of evidence to answer genealogical questions. (Intermediate level)



**Debbie Parker Wayne, CG<sup>SM</sup>, CGL<sup>SM</sup>**, is a board-certified genealogist and genealogical lecturer experienced using DNA analysis and traditional techniques for genealogical research. 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*, offered by NGS. She is the DNA Project Chair for the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS) and the Early Texans DNA Project. The Early Texans DNA Project is studying the DNA passed down from those who settled in Texas by 1900. Her publications include a column on using DNA analysis for genealogical research in *NGS Magazine* and in the TxSGS journal, *Stirpes*. Debbie was the course coordinator for the first beginner and intermediate DNA courses offered at major U.S. genealogy institutes: Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), and Forensic

Genealogy Institute (FGI). See <http://debbiewayne.com/> for more information and for archived versions of many of her articles on genealogy and DNA. ★

# Answer Those Burning Questions with Fire Insurance Maps

by Hannah Kubacak and William Buckner

Maps have always played a significant role in genealogy research. As a central component in the genealogy search technique known as the FAN Club (Friends, Associates, and Neighbors), maps

are critical for understanding community dynamics. Examining where and with whom our ancestors lived, worked, worshipped, and played illuminates their lives in a unique and meaningful way.

As communities grew and prospered, fire insurance maps were created to help insurance companies in underwriting policies. These maps were designed as a reference for understanding risks associated with specific buildings. In an unanticipated benefit, these maps also provide a historic perspective of the communities in which our ancestors lived. The maps show an aerial view of a city drawn to scale. Applying the FAN Club principle to fire insurance maps helps us answer these important burning questions about our ancestors and their homes:

- Where was their house?
- What is there now?
- Where did they work?
- Who were their neighbors?
- Where did their family and friends live?
- Where did they shop, worship, or go to school?

For suggestions on finding a Sanborn map for your ancestor's town, see the sidebar, "Finding Sanborn Insurance Maps."

In 1920, David C. Baker and his family were enumerated in the U.S. Federal Census as living at 406 North Market Street in Brenham, Washington County, Texas. David's occupation was "owner of a bowling alley." His wife, Nannie Mae, was working in the home and his daughter, Blanche, was a schoolteacher. The Baker family home can be identified using the fire insurance map for Brenham, Texas, created by the Sanborn Map Company in 1920.

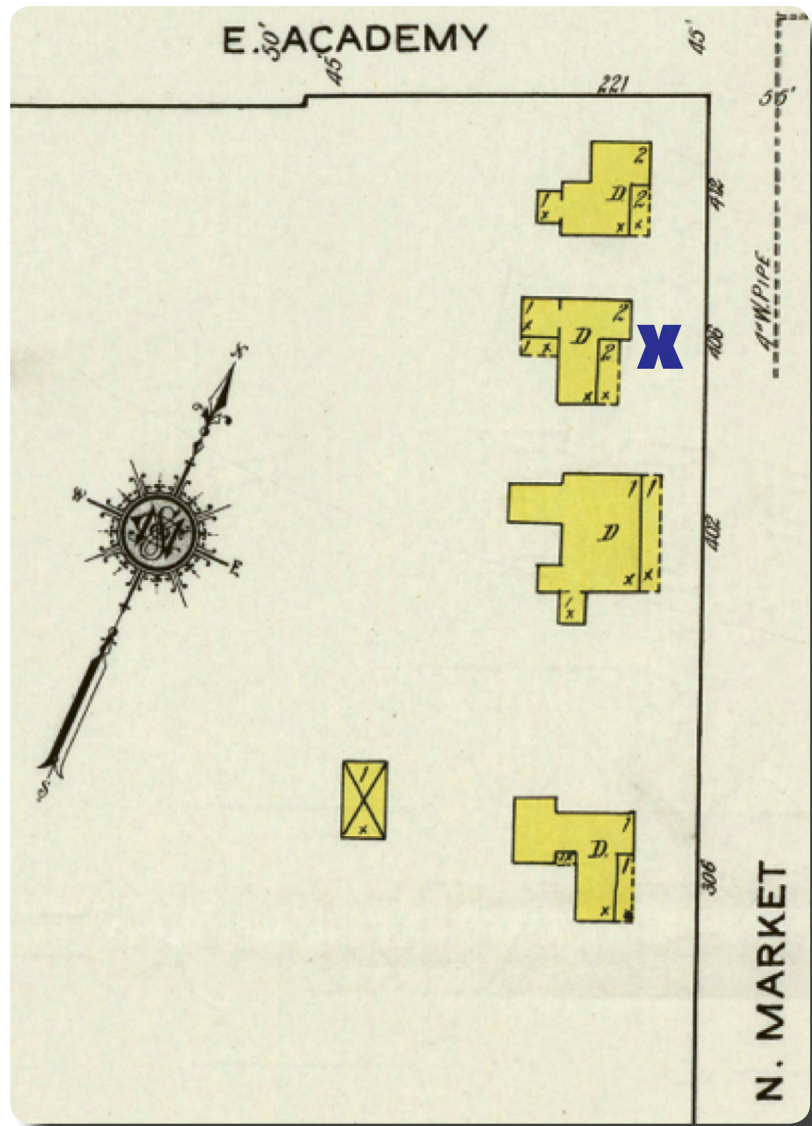


Figure 1: 1920 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Brenham, Texas, showing 406 North Market Street indicated by authors with an "x" to show the residence of David C. Baker.

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