



Stirpes

Develop a
Genealogy
Network

Remember
the Basics

Revisit
and Review
Research

Resolved 2019

Explore
New
Horizons

Share Your
Story



TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

TEXAS INSTITUTE of GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

JUNE 10-14, 2019

Crown Plaza, Austin, Tx

2 Field Trips Available

- Texas State Land Office
- Texas State Library & Archives

2 Tracks



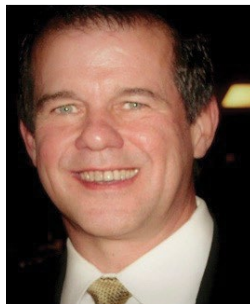
Kelvin L. Meyers



Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA



Teri Flack



John Sellers



Ari Wilkins



Patti Gillespie

TIGR REGISTRATION

Open: Register Online at <http://www.txsgs.org/tigr-2019-registration>.

Online Closes: Midnight June 5, 2019 (after that, it's walk-ins)

Early Bird Registration Ends: Midnight April 30, 2019

Pricing: Walk-ins: Everybody, Member and Non-Member **\$425**

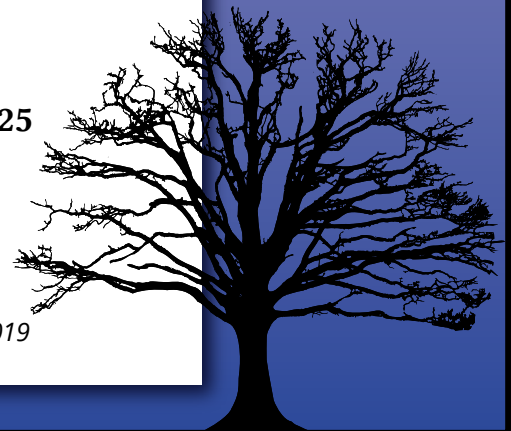
June 5 - June 10, 2019 - Walk-in Pricing Only

Non-Member: Regular Price **\$375** - Early Bird **\$355**

Member: Regular Price **\$355** - Early Bird **\$335**

Between May 1 and June 5, "Regular" Pricing is Active

Early Bird Pricing Available Nov. 30, 2018 - Midnight April 30, 2019





Contents

Features

- 6 Remembering Carolyn Reeves Ericson
- 8 Organize Your Family History Digitally with the Help of Metadata
by Carl Smith
- 15 Resolved for 2019: Develop Good Genealogy Habits
by the *Stirpes* Staff
- 17 Providing Reasons Leaves a Trail for Others to Follow
by Devon Noel Lee
- 20 A Question of Spelling
by Russell A. Rahn
- 24 Archival Grants Help Partner Societies Preserve Local Records
- 25 Source Citations: Nothing to Fear!
by Susan E. Ball
- 28 Genealogy Wishes for the Holidays
- 36 Converting Media for Long-Term Access
by Sandra J. Crowley
- 40 Early Texans DNA Database: It's Finally Online!
by Debbie Parker Wayne, CG®, CGLSM
- 52 Two Honored with Presidential Citations
by Susan Kaufman
- 53 On the Value of Family History
by Keely Shaw
- 60 Timelines in Genealogy - Definitely Worth the Time
by Diane L. Richard
- 70 The Must-Have Book for Genealogists in 2018:
Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards
by Lisa Reed

Columns

- Editorial Policies 2
- From the Editors' Pen 3
- Volunteer Spotlight 5
- New Members & More 7
- Book Review 47
by William D. "Bill" Buckner
- Who's Behind the Camera 66
by Scott Fitzgerald
- Partner Society Roundup 72
- Texas Heritage Certificates 77
- Texas Institute of Genealogical Research**
- What is the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research? 30
- TIGR 2019 Faculty 31
- TIGR Class Schedules 34
- TxSGS Society News**
- 2018 Family History Conference Wrap Up 48
by Sandra J. Crowley
- 2018 Awards 50
- Annual Business Meeting 55
- Introducing New Officers 57
- TxSGS Society Leadership 78
- TxSGS Policies 80

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

From the

Editors' Pen



2018 is coming to a close, with our efforts feverishly focused on the holiday season while 2019 looms just around the corner. The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to reflect on all manner of ways in which we'd like the next twelve months to unfold. Perhaps we yearn for better results in our genealogical research—more answers from less effort. This December issue addresses some good habits we can develop that, with a little willpower and effort, will make that desire a reality.

Along with the very popular "Holiday Wishes" in which we all dream for amazing answers to our difficult research problems, the December *Stirpes* addresses genealogy research problems we might wish to conquer, from inadequate source citations to organizing our files. A list of resolutions is presented for your consideration in "Resolved for 2019: Develop Good Genealogy Habits."

Source citations are addressed in Devon Noel Lee's "Providing Reasons Leaves a Trail" and Susan Ball's "Source Citations: Nothing to Fear!" Sandra Crowley shares ideas on preserving old media in "Converting Media for Long-Term Access" while Carl Smith tackles digital organization in "Organizing Digital Files with Metadata." Diane Richard shows how to incorporate a new tool in our research analysis techniques in "Timelines in Genealogy – Definitely Worth the Time."

Good genealogical habits are evident in "A Question of Spelling" by Russ Rahn and "Who's Behind the Camera" by Scott Fitzgerald. Russ is thorough in his research of possible surname spellings for his research target while Scott expands his research on old photos to include the photographer.

Our Texas Institute of Genealogical Research added a second course on southern research and launched registration on November 30. Check out the schedule, course descriptions,

faculty, and more, and make plans now to join us in June for either "Texas Research Essentials" or "Advanced Southern Research Techniques."

The upcoming March issue of *Stirpes* centers on DNA: Tools, Techniques, and Methods. Do you have an interesting DNA story? Have you solved a family history conundrum with DNA? Please share these stories and your DNA tips, techniques, and successes with our readers. The deadline for the March issue of *Stirpes* is February 1. Submission details and *Stirpes'* themes for 2019 can be found on the inside back cover.

Whether you have your own list of genealogy resolutions or goals for 2019 or adopt some of the ones we've suggested, we hope you enjoy the holidays with your family and friends. We look forward to sharing more genealogy news and tips next year. In the meantime, Happy Hunting!

~ *Stirpes* Editors ★

Connect with TxSGS



Learn more at TxSGS.org

Volunteer Spotlight:

TxSGS 2018 Family History Conference Volunteers

Reviews for the 2018 conference have been overwhelmingly positive, with many recognizing the work required to produce an event of this magnitude:

"Thank you for your planning and work. Enjoyed the conference."

"Truly enjoyed and learned quite a bit. Thanks to all who made this possible."

"One of the best genealogical conferences I've attended to date. Kudos to the conference team for all their hard work in bringing in a great slate of speakers and topics, and choosing a good venue to host the conference."

"How do you improve perfection? Just keep up the good work."

"I have been to many conferences and this was one of the best."

On that note, the *Stirpes* editors are spotlighting our conference volunteers in this issue. The Conference Committee, consisting of Sue Kaufman, chair, Ari Wilkins, Randy Whited, Kelvin Meyers, Susan Ball, Sandra Crowley, and Betsy Mills, logged hundreds of volunteer hours to produce this event. At the conference, dozens of attendees volunteered at



assisted Betsy and the conference committee with everything from running errands to helping with registration. Vicki was happy to help with any task, large or small.

Among our many volunteers were John Allen, Esther Bohannon, Pat Boone, Melinda Culpon, Teri Flack, Kathie Kochanowsky, Katrina Mattingly, Pat Merk, Ofelia Olsson, Donna Peterson, Lisa Reed, Lisa Ross, Susan Thompson, and Suzan Younger. It's likely we don't have a complete list; if your

name was omitted, please let us know!

To all of our volunteers, we offer a heartfelt thank you. We gratefully acknowledge the key part that our volunteers played in the success of the 2018 Family History Conference. ★

registration and as room monitors. Barbara Froebel and Mary Torres, Volunteer Co-Chairs, managed our room volunteers while Betsy Mills, Conference Registrar, managed the registration table. Supporting Betsy was Vicki Neisler, who graciously



New Members & More

**New Members since
September 2018**

Heritage Circle

Benefactor

Susan K. Thompson



Supporter

J. B. Roberts
Jo Ann Oliphant
David C. Taylor

Friend

Genevieve T. Harris
Roseann Hogan
Dorothy N. Perkins
Susan Pinciotti

Linda Hudson
Bonnie G. Kuykendall
Shelia M. Le Beauf
Jessica B. Leslie
Karan Mathes
Flori McCluney
Patricia L. Merk
Cecilia Metoyer-Charles
DeWayne G. Mobley
Amanda E. Nelson
Allyson Newcombe
Kay F. Owen
David Passman
Kathleen L. Pierce
Nancy Regalado
David J. Riley
Karen S. Robertson
Donna Rosenberg-Tidwell
Shelley Scott
Vicky Seibel

Sherry S. Selby
Jennifer Sepulvado
Starla Sims
Barbara Guynes Sloan
Toni Y. Smith
Bridget T. Stamos
Charles Staudt
Peggy Staudt
Emma R. Stock
Larry D. Tidwell
Susie Tumlinson
Beverly Waak
Wanda Weber
William Weber
Bob L. Wegner
Jan Mize Wilkins
Karen Williams
Patte W. Wood
Robert Yawn
Andrea Young

Individual and Household Members

William P. Arthur
Cherie L. Baden
Craig D. Bergvall
Nancy Bergvall
Deneise "Dee" Bormann
Jeanette Brown
William G. Brown
Sara L. Buntyn
Sally Buntyn
Phyllis Bustillos
Patsy Castanon

Ruby Casteel
Wincy W. Cheney
Barbara Coakley
Elizabeth Coffin
Jamie Glenn Cone
Nicki Berry Cone
Mike Cox
Judy Ditmore
Mary Esther Eck
Barbara Foots
Albert R. Gallatin

Moises Garza
Don Goehering
Mary Anne Goehering
Sharon Gomez
Susan Brandt Graham
Karen J. Grover
Sharon Ann Harmon
Jeanne L. Harris
Phillip H. Harris
Carolyn Hennessee
Patricia M. Higgins

Need Program Ideas?

Check the TxSGS Speakers Bureau!

- Over 75 speakers from Texas and beyond - New speakers added each month
- Find speakers nearby - Use the browser "find" to search for listing for district number. Find your district on the TxSGS District Map at <http://www.txsgs.org/about/district-map/>

SPEAKERS BUREAU

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

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



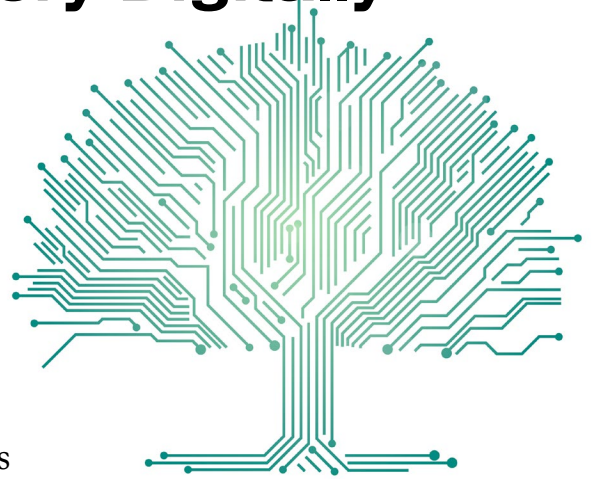
SPEAKERS: List with the TxSGS Speakers Bureau by emailing SpeakersBureau@txsgs.org.



Organize Your Family History Digitally

With The Help of Metadata

by Carl Smith



Genealogists all agree that having a good organization system is critical to successful genealogical research. In the past, many researchers have relied on the time-honored filing system that uses binders and papers to organize their findings. With the myriad of technological developments over the past few years, creating and maintaining a digital filing system becomes a viable, and in some ways superior, method of organizing records. Finding a way to include details, or metadata, about images and documents within a digital file is the perfect solution.

What is Metadata?

Metadata is defined as data that provides information about other data.¹ In the case of computer files such as digital images or documents, metadata elements (or tags) can be collected in three different categories. The first is descriptive metadata, which describes a resource in order to discover and identify it. Common descriptive metadata fields or tags include title, author, and keywords. The second category is structural metadata, which describes containers of data and how compound items and objects are put together. Structural metadata includes components such as page numbers, chapters, and versions (print vs. digital). The third category is administrative metadata, which gives information on a resource to help manage it. Administration metadata

components include when a file was created, how it was created, who created it, file type, technical specifications, and who has permission to access the file. All computer files are packed with different metadata elements or tags. The trick is learning which metadata tags are pertinent to organizing your genealogy files.

Additionally, metadata can be stored in one of two ways: embedded or as separate sidecar file. Embedded metadata is stored inside the file it describes. Wherever the file goes, it goes along as well. Sidecar metadata describes a separate file that has to be kept with the original file in order to remain meaningful. For genealogists, who share and transfer files on a regular basis, embedded metadata is the preferred choice.

Adding Metadata to Files Via Windows File Explorer

The Windows File Explorer in both Windows 7 and 10 contains the ability to add EXIF and XMP metadata to image files (JPEG or TIFF) as well as .doc and .xlsx file types, providing the simplest way of adding metadata. For an overview of metadata standards and field types, see the end of this article. The most important metadata tag in Windows File Explorer is labeled “Tags.” There are an unlimited number of keywords you can input into the tags field. For my personal research, I like to tag people captured in the photo or mentioned in the document as well as locations and record types. Any keywords put into these fields become searchable via Windows File Explorer, making sorting and organizing your files a breeze.

Other important metadata tags to utilize are “date taken” and “comments.” The comments field may be labeled as “description” or “caption.” The process for adding metadata via Windows File Explorer is straightforward, as outlined in the following steps.

Resolved for 2019: Develop Good Genealogy Habits

by the *Stirpes* Editors

As a hobby or a profession, genealogy is a lot more fun when we're solving mysteries or locating elusive ancestors. The challenge arises when the person we're searching for refuses to be found or no matter how hard we look, the family

connections we need to prove a lineage just aren't there. Perhaps it's time to revisit our research process and plan to develop some good research habits in the



coming year. Adopting these ideas can streamline your research and make the time you spend more efficient – making your research time more enjoyable. Some would call these genealogy resolutions, others a commitment to efficient and effective research. Either way, take a look at

these ideas the *Stirpes* editors have compiled from experience gleaned through decades of successful (and sometimes not so successful) research.

Remember the basics:

1. Learn how to create a research plan and apply it to the research of one ancestor.
2. Keep a research log.
3. Research all the collateral lines for one ancestor.
4. Record the source for every piece of information you find when you find it! Be sure to annotate your findings with a short description or reason why this document supports your conclusions (see Devon Noel Lee's article on page 17).

Revisit and Review your Research:

5. Spend some time in research evaluation for one ancestor or lineage – read all documentation again, searching for clues with an eye to information you've learned since the last time you looked at the document.
6. Assess your genealogy subscriptions and memberships – are they worth the money you're spending?
7. Monitor and update your online passwords.

Explore new horizons:

8. Learn about new genealogy research techniques through educational resources such as conferences, seminars, workshops, webinars, and books (see Lisa Reed's review of an excellent book on page 70).
9. Adopt a new technique such as how to use timelines and apply what you've learned to the research of one ancestor (see Diane L. Richard's article on page 60).
10. Visit a new repository, or investigate a new-to-you website.
11. Take a DNA test. If you've done your DNA, join a DNA project to maximize the insight you can gain from your DNA (see Debbie Parker Wayne's article on the Early Texans DNA Project on page 40).
12. Learn how to write a source citation (see Susan Ball's article on page 25).

Develop a genealogy network:

13. Follow through social media a society in the area where an ancestor lived.

14. Join your local and state genealogy societies and volunteer!
15. Support a local preservation project with your time and talents.

Share Your Story:

16. Record and preserve an oral history of an older relative.
17. Put pen to paper – start writing the stories of your ancestor.
18. Submit your research writings to a society journal or quarterly such as *Stirpes* or one published by your local society.

Maintain Your Personal Archive:

19. Organize photos and files, digitizing and analyzing as you go (See Carl Smith's article on page 8).
20. Back up your data weekly (or monthly). Periodically convert to new media as old storage methods become obsolete (See Sandra Crowley's article on page 36).

Just do it!

Providing Reasons Leaves a Trail for Others to Follow

by Devon Noel Lee

Editor's Note: While Devon addresses providing “reason statements” for entries in the FamilySearch Family Tree, this approach can and should be extended to personal family trees and those trees we have posted online. It’s a good habit we should all embrace!

If you have worked on the FamilySearch Family Tree, you either love it or hate it. FamilySearch forces researchers to collaborate. There are no private trees on FamilySearch. There is one “world tree” into which we’re all working to link our different branches.

To be honest, I want to say FINALLY! Finally, we can sift the wheat from the chaff in genealogy by correcting mistakes and building upon the shoulders of those who have previously paved the way. FamilySearch, like other platforms, has a lot of falsehoods in the user-created

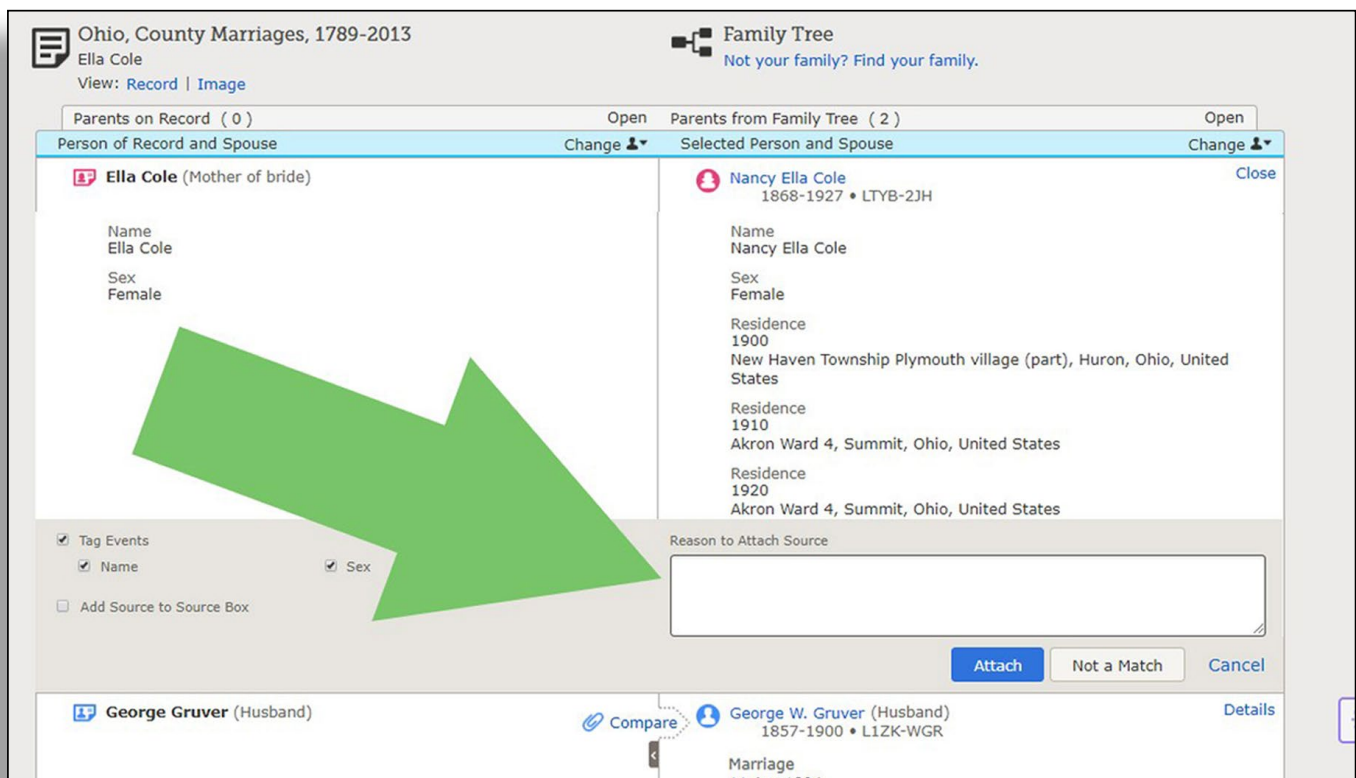
digital pedigree and family group records. Collectively, we can achieve more accuracy.

As you may know or have heard, things aren’t smooth sailing just yet. The reason is not the fault of other users as much as it is our own. That’s right. We have to step up our game in

the shared-tree environment before we can invite others to do the same.

Let’s commit to improving how we use the FamilySearch Family Tree. The best thing you can do is to fill in the REASON STATEMENT boxes every time you make a change to the FamilySearch Personal Pages through attaching sources, detaching sources, adding family members, disconnecting family members, correcting names, dates, and places, merging two individuals, and unmerging two individuals.

Did I catch every reason statement box?



Reason Statement Box

Source Citations: Nothing to Fear!

by Susan E. Ball

If your passion is cooking, what you create is intended for the moment. Your culinary masterpiece is admired, tasted, consumed ... then gone. Do you really want your genealogy to be treated the same way? If you wish to ensure that your genealogical masterpiece lasts beyond this generation, perhaps it's time to start thinking about recording the sources of the data on which you built your family tree.

Laying the foundation for the next generation's research is a good goal for any genealogist, and the best way to do that is by capturing and citing your sources. Creating a source citation for complex genealogical sources can appear intimidating, but practice with basic sources and a few shortcuts can help conquer that fear.

The primary purpose of a source citation is to show the reader or researcher relying on your work where you found the information you used in your research and conclusions. This informs the researcher on the credibility

of your work. If the source for your data relies on "because I said so" or "that's what my mother told me," it's not perceived as believable as a source that is an original document with primary evidence. The citation for that source includes directions to where an original document containing the facts you state can be found so that the future researcher can look for themselves and draw their own conclusions.

In its very basic form, a source citation includes the following:

- The creator of the work;
- The owner of the work; and
- Where you found the work.

While we'll be addressing citations

for the facts you use to build your family tree, it's also important to remember that citations should be used for direct quotations, some other person's ideas; or someone else's train of logic or organizational pattern.¹ Don't be a plagiarist, either accidentally or on purpose. If you are careful to record where you found your information, you'll be more likely to attribute the creator of the work.

The bible on citing sources is Elizabeth Shown Mills's *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*. Without a doubt, every genealogist needs a copy on their bookshelf. Mine takes residence on my desk anytime I'm working on an article or editing.

Citations are not inherently difficult if you plan in advance to capture the basic source information as you research. I have discovered over the years that it's much easier to craft a citation if I collect the facts that make up the citation as I research. When I neglect this step in my research, I find myself going back and wasting time, recreating research I've already done.

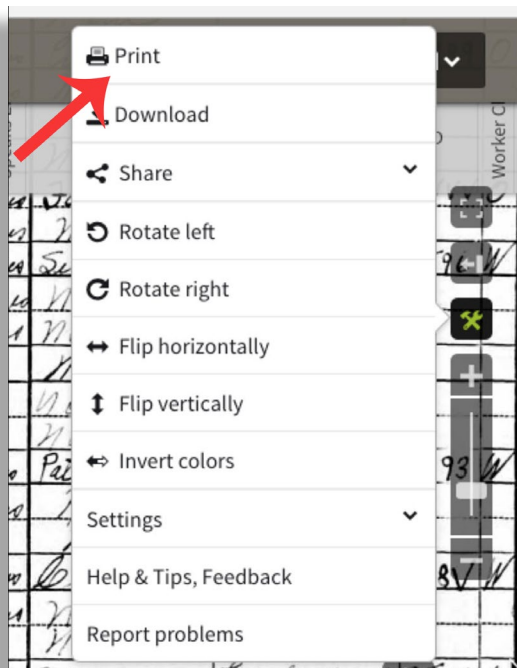


Figure 1

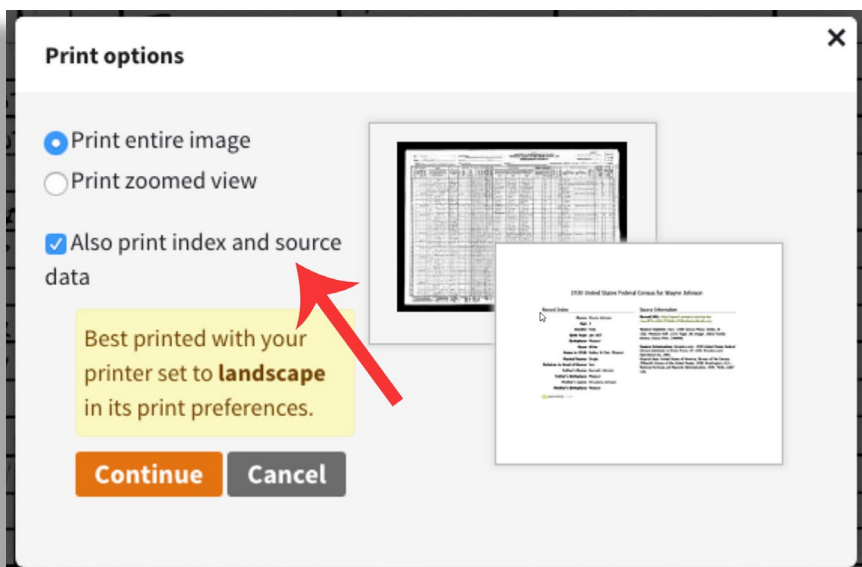


Figure 2

What is the **Texas Institute of Genealogical Research?**

Educational opportunities for genealogists come in a variety of forms, from one-day workshops or multiple-day conferences to webinars and online tutorials. Conferences provide a wide variety of diverse topics delivered in a one-hour lecture format. In-depth genealogical education on an institute level is extremely popular for genealogists who want an immersive educational experience.

The Texas State Genealogical Society's institute, TIGR, promotes learning in an instructional classroom atmosphere, taking each attendee's skills to another level. A course coordinator and instructors lead students for five days in the same classroom on a progression of topics on the same subject, Texas Research Essentials or Advanced Southern Research Techniques. This format provides a hands-on learning experience during the week along with great discussions with your instructors and classmates.

In contrast, the TxSGS Family History Conference is designed to allow attendees to craft their own learning experience, traveling from lecture room to lecture room and choosing which subject to hear that hour from a menu of lectures each session. Your schedule is unique, exposing you to many subjects at various levels each day. National conferences are four days while the TxSGS Conference is three days. Local seminars or workshops are typically one day with a well-known speaker who gives four lectures.

Prior to the launch of TIGR, institutes were available only in Salt Lake City, Pittsburgh, or Atlanta. TIGR brings the institute experience to Texas, making this intense learning experience more convenient to researchers in the Southwest. In addition, TIGR's inclusion of a unique course on Texas research addresses a critical need for genealogists researching complex Texas records. TIGR's popularity has prompted the

addition of a second high-quality week-long course, Advanced Southern Research Techniques, led by internationally recognized instructors.

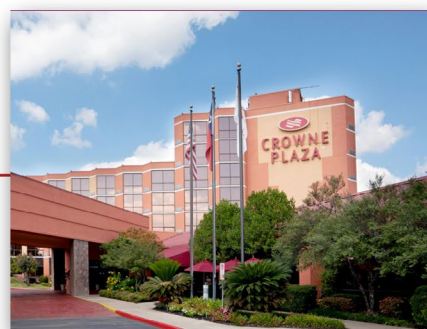
What can you expect at TIGR? Your week of learning will be shared with students that have the same passion for genealogical research as you. Each course features hands-on learning in a friendly atmosphere that leads to socializing during meals or in the evenings.

All instructors are experienced genealogical researchers and lecturers. Along with case studies, discussions, and problem solving exercises, their expertise will enhance your learning experience (Please see the Faculty page for biographies of faculty and staff.). While bringing a variety of viewpoints and backgrounds to the shared institute experience, TIGR students all share a passion for genealogical research and discovering how to conquer "brick wall" challenges.

Book Your TIGR Hotel Room NOW! **June 9-14, 2019**



TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
TEXAS INSTITUTE
of GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH



Venue and Hotel:
Crowne Plaza Austin
 6121 N Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78752
 Phone: 512-313-5466

Conference Guest Room Rates

**Standard Guest Room:
 one King or two Doubles**

\$109.00/night

- Free self-parking
- Free in-room WiFi
- Hot breakfast buffet served in Crossroads Grille

Reservations

Online Reservations:

When booking online you must use the link below or on our website to get the correct discount group booking.

Book Your TIGR Hotel Room Today! OR **TIGR on www.txsgs.org/registration/**

Phone Reservations:

You may also reserve your room by calling the hotel directly or contacting Crowne Plaza Toll-Free Reservations at 800-227-6963. When making reservations by phone, be sure to provide the following information: Group Name: Texas State Genealogical Society.

All rates are per night plus taxes and fees. Rates are valid 3 days prior and 3 days after the official dates of TIGR, based on availability. TIGR is a Texas State Genealogical Society event.

#TXIGR @TXIGR

Class Schedule - Course One

Texas Research Essentials

Times	Class Title	Instructor
Monday, June 10, 2019		
8:00 a.m.	Welcome	Kelvin Meyers
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Texas History, Part 1	John Sellers
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	Texas History, Part 2	John Sellers
11:00 a.m. – Noon	Texas Geography	John Sellers
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Early Settlements, Part 1	Teri Flack
2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Early Settlements, Part 2	Teri Flack
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Migration & Settlement	Teri Flack
Tuesday, June 11, 2019		
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Texas County Land Records	Patti Gillespie
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	Tracking the Land: Tax	Kelvin Meyers
11:00 a.m. – Noon	Tracking the Land: Inheritance	Kelvin Meyers
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.	General Land Office	Christopher Walsh
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Using Maps & the GIS System	Laura Newman
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Treasure Hunting in Texas: The Robert Bruce Blake Research Collection	Theresa Howell, MLIS
Wednesday, June 12, 2019		
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Field Trip to the Texas GLO	
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Texas & Her Wars	Kelvin Meyers
2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Military, Bounty & Donation Grants	Kelvin Meyers
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Records of Reconstruction	Teri Flack
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Manuscripts of the South	Ari Wilkins
Thursday, June 13, 2019		
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Texas Court Records, Part 1	John Sellers
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	Texas Court Records, Part 2	John Sellers
11:00 a.m. – Noon	Texas Probate	Kelvin Meyers
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Miscellaneous Records in the County Courthouse	Patti Gillespie
2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Texas State Library Archives, Part 1	Teri Flack
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Texas State Library Archives, Part 2	Teri Flack
6:30 p.m.	Banquet Cash Bar at 6:30 p.m.; Banquet at 7:00 p.m.	J. Mark Lowe, Speaker
Friday, June 14, 2019		
8:00 – Noon	Field Trip to Texas State Library & Archives	
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Using Timelines in Your Research	Kelvin Meyers
2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	Cluster Research	Ari Wilkins

Class Schedule - Course Two

Advanced Southern Research Techniques

Times	Class Title	Instructor
Monday, June 10, 2019		
8:00 a.m.	Welcome	Kelvin Meyers
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Early Southern Settlement & Migration	J. Mark Lowe
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Agriculture, Records & Land Use, Part 1	J. Mark Lowe
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Agriculture, Records & Land Use, Part 2	J. Mark Lowe
2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Strategies for Southern Research	J. Mark Lowe
Tuesday, June 11, 2019		
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Land Claims, Deeds & Surveys, Part 1	J. Mark Lowe
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Land Claims, Deeds & Surveys, Part 2	J. Mark Lowe
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Southern Historical Collection: Finding Aids & Access	Ari Wilkins
2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Southern Historical Collection: Analysis & Problem Solving	Ari Wilkins
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Treasure Hunting in Texas: The Robert Bruce Blake Research Collection	Theresa Howell, MLIS
Wednesday, June 12, 2019		
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Tracking Migration & Movement with Military Records	Teri Flack
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Uniquely Southern Military Records	J. Mark Lowe
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Federal Records of the South	J. Mark Lowe
2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Cluster Research	Ari Wilkins
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Manuscripts of the South	Ari Wilkins
Thursday, June 13, 2019		
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Southern Church Records, Part 1	J. Mark Lowe
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Southern Church Records, Part 2	J. Mark Lowe
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Wills, Estates & Guardianship	J. Mark Lowe
2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Resolving Land & Estate Settlements	Kelvin Meyers
6:30 p.m.	Banquet Cash Bar at 6:30 p.m.; Banquet at 7:00 p.m.	J. Mark Lowe, Speaker
Friday, June 14, 2019		
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Southern Courts & Legal Resources, Part 1	J. Mark Lowe
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Southern Courts & Legal Resources, Part 2	J. Mark Lowe
12:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Field Trip to Texas State Library & Archives	

Converting Media for Long-Term Access

by Sandra J. Crowley

As we begin researching our family history, one of the first things we learn is that it doesn't make much difference if we have a lot of facts and stories about our ancestors if we don't know where they are or can't access them. We quickly realize the importance of getting organized, and that's just the beginning. Then we're on a quest to discover HOW to organize!

Depending on when we started our research, we may have file cabinets full of information, 3-ring binders for each family, a genealogy software program filled with data, digital photos, and files, or some combination of these. We may even have some of this information stored online in a family tree on one or more sites.

Several years ago, as technology improved and storage became less expensive, we were encouraged to "go digital." The genealogical community was and continues to be filled with individuals and publications sharing ways to go paperless or to at least insure that we have backup files stored in digital format. This article assumes that many of us adopted that approach and have a quantity of our documents and photos digitized.

Do you have files stored on one or more of the devices pictured in Figures 1 and 2?

It Seemed So Easy

It all seemed so easy at the time. Store those photos and you'll be able to pass them to future generations at the same quality as they are in today. They won't fade; they are protected from

natural disaster; they won't tear due to overhandling. These images will be available for generations to come. It was a time-consuming task to complete; many of us continue to work toward this each year. The size of the task depended on two key factors: (1) the size of our collection and (2) how organized we wanted to be (how much detail we want stored with each photo). Digitize them and they were safe.

It wasn't long, however, before we discovered the digital storage facts of life: technology changes. Technology that can be accessed today may not be so easy to read in a few years. For example, early computers used an 8-inch floppy disk, which was quickly replaced by a 5¼ inch floppy disk and then a 3½ inch floppy disk. As each disk was introduced, the amount of data it could



Figure 1

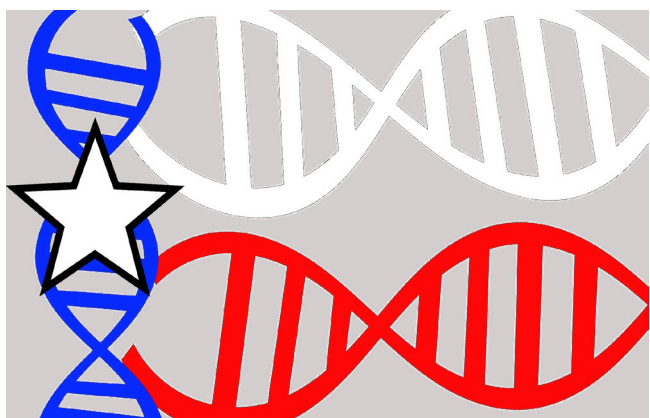


Figure 2

hold increased and the cost of ownership decreased.

The recognition of ongoing technological innovation presents us with a challenge: how can we make sure future generations will be able to take advantage of the research, images, and stories we leave behind?

We need a conversion plan that is sustainable.



Early Texans DNA Database: It's Finally Online!

by Debbie Parker Wayne, CG[®], CGLSM

We first announced the Early Texans DNA Project three years ago at the Texas State Genealogical Society Family History Conference. Two years ago, we demonstrated proposed sample pages and promoted a PDF fillable application form to make it easier for project members to provide lineage information. This year, the background work to process applications automatically (reducing manual

intervention) comes to fruition. The automation process converts lineage information on application forms to ahnentafels then into GEDCOM files to be imported into a database. The database is a customized version of *The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding* (TNG). The online Early Texans DNA Project was displayed live in the conference exhibit hall this year and generated a lot of interest.

Privacy and Informed Consent for the Early Texans Database

In the last issue of *Stirpes*, the DNA article focused on informed consent.¹ Since 2015, our community has supported *Genetic Genealogy Standards* aimed at researchers and related to ethical and privacy issues.² The Early Texans DNA Project application form specifies the permission and consent granted to Texas State Genealogical Society by members. For more information on the project see <http://www.txsgs.org/programs/dna-project/early-texans/>. The application form is online at [\[content/uploads/2016/11/TxSGS_DNA_application.pdf\]\(http://www.txsgs.org/content/uploads/2016/11/TxSGS_DNA_application.pdf\).³](http://www.txsgs.org/TSGS/wp-</p>
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To protect project members' privacy as much as possible while sharing DNA data and analysis, information on twentieth and twenty-first century people is anonymized. The database provides no names, birth, death, or other event information for those project members and ancestors in our database born after 1900. Project members have been assigned the surname "Member" and a given name such as TX000001, TX000036, and so on. Ancestors born after 1900 are

assigned the surname "AncestorOfMember" and a given name such as TX9900001, TX9900055, and so on. Project members may be able to find their own data by searching for the names of ancestors they submitted. As more descendants of each early Texan are added to the database, it may become more difficult to differentiate between members. The project administrator privately holds a cross-reference list and can be contacted at dna@txsgs.org for members with questions on their assigned numbers.

The words Certified Genealogist and designation CG are registered certification marks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and the designations Certified Genealogical Lecturer and CGL are service marks of BCG, used under license by certificants after periodic competency evaluations (and only during the current five-year period for which they are certified).

Journey through Generations was a Hit

by Sandra J. Crowley



The energy at this year's TxSGS Family History Conference, *Journey through Generations*, was evident from the first day. As conference organizers, volunteers and exhibitors came together to begin setting up the event, there was a noticeable excitement.

Perhaps it had something to do with the fact that the 2017 Conference was cancelled at the last minute when Hurricane Harvey came through Houston and stayed for a while, flooding the conference hotel just a few weeks before the conference and leaving registrants disappointed. Maybe it was a tribute to the 30 speakers slated to give 56 presentations over the three-day event on a variety of topics from DNA to Ethnic Roots to Records & Resources and much more. It might also have been a combination of both of these and more as genealogists gathered to share information, learn new techniques, and network with others.

On Sunday afternoon before the exhibit hall was cleared, the most telling question heard was "where's the conference going to be next year?" A sure sign of success!

The 2018 Conference attracted almost 300 attendees, 30 presenters, and 22 exhibitors. Speakers from 14 states discussed 56 topics during several parallel tracks. The TxSGS Conference is more than just a Texas event; it has transitioned to a regional conference that draws people from all over the U.S. We are thrilled to provide a top-quality conference for those interested in a diversity of topics from a variety of speakers into an event that is easily accessible to anyone in the state.

This year's conference included

sessions on a variety of topics, including: DNA, Ethnic Roots (African American, Hispanic, German, and more), Methodology & Problem Solving, Land Records, Military Research, Publishing and Preservation, Records & Repositories, and Technology. Whether participants were beginning their genealogical journey, seeking ways to break through brick walls, or hoping to identify new records and repositories, there was something for everyone.

The proximity of the exhibit hall to the session rooms made it a favorite stop during breaks between lectures. Our Platinum Sponsors, Texas General Land Office (GLO) and FamilyTreeDNA, were just inside the entrance to the exhibit hall, making them easy to find and quick to access. H. V. Chapman Book Binders, our Gold Sponsor, also had a prominent position. TxSGS, Partner Societies, Friends of the Clayton Library, and other vendors and organizations completed the list of those who participated. Traffic in the Exhibit Hall was consistently busy all three days – just the kind of Exhibit Hall exhibitors appreciate!

This year's banquet was one of the most well-attended awards banquets as 30 awards were handed out in 11 categories. Bill Buckner, Awards Chairman, stated, "The quality of entries has been amazing."

TxSGS Recognizes Quality Research, Writing, and Websites with 2018 Awards



TxSGS was pleased to award thirty prizes in eleven categories, celebrating the effort represented by the books, manuscripts, student projects, and websites submitted by TxSGS members. The TxSGS Writing and Website Awards program in the spirit of competition:

- Encourages members to write, to tell their story.
- Recognizes scholarly research and professional writing.
- Values the recording of information for future generations.

“Passing on our legacy and being the gatekeepers of our own family stories is the responsibility of each and all of us,” remarked Bill Buckner, TxSGS Awards Chair. He continued, “It is also our duty to take an interest in and to

protect the records that document our ancestor’s lives.

The TxSGS Writing Program provides the motivation to help our members achieve these goals.”

“Recognition by one’s peers and TxSGS gives us that shot of encouragement to write even more and to know that our efforts have not gone unnoticed,” Bill observed, having chatted with many who submitted their work for awards consideration. The TxSGS Writing and Website Awards present awards in the categories of books, manuscripts, periodicals, websites and student projects. Be sure to check out the requirements at <http://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/writing-awards/> and <http://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/website-awards/> and consider entering in 2019.

Book Awards

Chair: Bill Buckner

Grand Prize (\$400)

Empresario’s Son : E. S. C. Robertson of Salado (2017)

by Michael W. Kelsey, Nancy Graff Kelsey, and Ginny Guinn Parsons of Belton, Texas.



Category I: Books by Non-Professional / Family History

1st Place (\$200)

John T. Paschall and his Wife Mary Cook Paschall, Two Hundred Years of Our Family’s History (2018) by Linda Clark Stewart of Anahuac, Texas.

2nd Place (\$100)

Memoir (2017) by Frank Wilson Kiel and Alice Ruth Kiel of Comfort, Texas.

3rd Place (\$50)

The Pribyl Family ... From Frenstat to America : Descendants of Andres and Magdalena Mocek Pribyla (2017) by Bettye W. Pribyl of Victoria, Texas.

Category I: Books by Non-Professional / References

1st Place (\$200)

From Cotton Field to Oil Field : A History of Van, Texas (2017) by Linda Lantrip Mays and Tommie Lantrip Mayo of Van, Texas.

2nd Place (\$100)

Stories Beneath the Stones : The Hidden History of a Small Town Told Through the Lives of Those Buried in the City Cemetery (2017) by Lawrence O. Greer and Benja Pittman Mize of Canton, Texas.

3rd Place (\$50)

Early Settlers of San Antonio de los Llanos (2017) by Rueben M. Perez of San Antonio, Texas.

Thank you

to our Sponsors, Exhibitors and Volunteers for helping make the 2018 TxSGS Family History Conference a success!

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VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped at the TxSGS 2018 Annual Conference. Some of you worked behind the scenes before and during the event, others served as room monitors during the sessions or performed a myriad of tasks necessary for an event to run smoothly. Not only was this a great way to give something back to the genealogical community, but it was also a great way to meet people and network – maybe even meet a cousin. Whether you signed up as a volunteer ahead of time or simply stepped in and helped where necessary during the conference, your efforts are appreciated. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed having you on the team.

Timelines in Genealogy – Definitely Worth the Time

Or, how to “organize” your genealogy data for genealogical success!

by Diane L. Richard



In February 2018, TxSGS hosted a virtual event and I spoke on timelines. For those who missed the virtual event or seek a refresher, this article looks at timelines and provides some new examples. I consider timelines that are formatted as matrices as amazing tools for organizing genealogy research projects. I use them for just about every project I work on as a professional genealogist.

Let’s get started. Have you hit a brick wall? Wondering why your ancestors did what they did? Learn about timelines and how they might just help you solve your puzzles! Visual representations of data can make gaps, conflicts, and paths to future discoveries easy to spot. If you use color-coding or other distinguishing methods to identify genealogy facts, connections sometimes just jump out at you. And, these are NOT the timelines you learned to make in school!

When I work on complex research problems or receive a thick packet of research from a client, one of my first steps is to create a timeline for the project. Timelines are very visual. Creating a multi-columnned matrix can help you focus on missing gaps, seemingly contradictory information, previously invisible relationships, and so much more. Color-coding or other distinguishing methods can highlight details such as

locale or surname overlaps and related records.

I often footnote my references in a

*Why Use
Timelines?*

- Assist in getting a grasp of who is doing what, where, and when
- Resolve seemingly contradictory data
- Help to identify “gaps” in your research
- Facilitate strategizing what to do next
- Help if you are a visual person

timeline. This way, I have an immediate grasp of the nature of the source data and its relevance to the research objective. A great source analysis overview is this Board of Certification of Genealogists (BCG)

page, “Skillbuilding: Guidelines for Evaluating Genealogical Resources,” with a discussion on sources, information, and evidence—what they are and how they allow you to evaluate the information you have.¹

As you summarize your data in a spreadsheet, it’s not unusual to have questions jump out at you. I then insert these as comments. Found a “gap” in your knowledge? Add this research to your “to do” list.

Have you put your project aside for a while? Now, as you resume your research, you can just review your timeline for all the key details in the context of time and space, along with family and the FAN (Friends, Associates, and Neighbors) club.²

These timelines are “living” summaries as well. As you acquire new data, add it in! I will sometimes include a notation of [NEW] in a timeline to indicate newer information.

Besides helping you visualize information, timelines save you from having to constantly refer to your paper or digital files. What is there not to like about that convenience?

As you will see, these are not simple linear timelines. These are multi-column matrices that can involve very complex information in an easy-to-see format.

Best of all, no special software is needed. I have created these timelines

Index

A

Addicks, Neponusino Edward 78
 Aich, b. 22
 Allen, Charles 68
 Allen, John 5, 28
 Armke, Ken 29
 Armstrong, R. C. 67
 Arthur, William P. 7
 Austin, Stephen F. 46

B

Bach, Gustav Brandt 79
 Bach, Ida 79
 Baden, Cherie L. 7
 Baker, Oscar Dudley 80
 Ballard, Paula 59
 Ball, Susan E. 1, 2, 3, 5, 15, 24, 25, 56, 58, 82
 Ball, Teresa Ann 79
 Barger, Arthur 12
 Barnette, Mic 51
 Barth, Crystal 29
 Beauf, Shelia M. Le 7
 Bechhold, Rhonda 51
 Beeman, Rhonda Kathleen 79
 Bell, Mary McCampbell 72
 Bergvall, Craig D. 7
 Bergvall, Nancy 7
 Bettinger, Blaine T. 72, 74
 Biehlmeyer, Catharina 21
 Bihlmaier, Anna Maria 22
 Bihlmaier, Caroline 22
 Bihlmaier, Maria Ann 22
 Bihlmayer, Caroline 22
 Bihlmayer, Friedrich 22
 Bihlmayer, Rosina 22
 Bihlmeyer, Bertha Emma 21
 Bihlmeyer, Christian 21
 Bihlmeyer, Christine Katherine 21
 Bihlmeyer, Gottried 21
 Bihlmeyer, Jacob 20
 Bihlmeyer, Jacob George 21
 Bihlmeyer, Johannes 21
 Bihlmeyer, Joseph Friedrich 21
 Bihlmeyer, Unnamed 21
 Bilhmaier, Christoph 21
 Bihlmeyer, Amanda Friedericke 21
 Bihlmeyer, Edwin Simon 21
 Bihlmeyer, Frederick Gottfried 21
 Bihlmeyer, Jacob George 21
 Bihlmeyer, Leora Christina 21
 Bihlmeyer, Matilda Amelia 21
 Bihlmeyer, Rosina Anna 21
 Bihlmeyer, Walter Lorenz 21
 Boaz, H. A. 67

Bockstruck, Lloyd DeWitt 74
 Bohannon, Esther 5
 Bond, Jesse 79
 Boone, Pat 5
 Bormann, Deneise "Dee" 7
 Boyce, A. G. 67
 Boyd, Sandra Vackar 79
 Bronaugh, Thomas 51
 Brown, Bernard 78
 Brown, Jeanette 7
 Brown, Mollie 67
 Brown, William G. 7
 Bryant, Marynell 55
 Buckner, William D. "Bill" 1, 2, 47, 48, 50, 53, 59, 74
 Buehlmaier, Barbara 22
 Buehlmaier, Ludwig 22
 Buehlmayer, Friedrich Ludwig Fr. 22
 Buehlmayer, Friedrich Wilhelm 22
 Buehlmeier, Dominikus 22
 Buehlmeier, F. 22
 Buehlmeier, Franz 22
 Buehlmeier, Franz Erwin 22
 Buehlmeier, Franz Friedrich 22
 Buehlmeier, Maria 22
 Buehlmeier, Rosina 22
 Buehlmeyer, Carl Herman 22
 Buehlmeyer, Catherine Heubach 20
 Buehlmeyer, Christiana 21
 Buehlmeyer, Christian Ludwig 22
 Buehlmeyer, F. 22
 Buehlmeyer, Jakob Friedrich 22
 Buehlmeyer, Joh. Ludwig 22
 Buehlmeyer, Johannes 21
 Bullock, Mary Sue 67
 Buntyn, Sally 7
 Buntyn, Sara L. 7
 Bustillos, Phyllis 7

C

Campbell, Chas. M. 67
 Canu, Susie Le 29
 Carroll, Andrew 49
 Carter, Mary A. 68
 Casbeer, Josiah S. 80
 Casbeer, Lavina Adeline Witt 80
 Casey, John 19
 Castanon, Patsy 7, 51
 Casteel, Ruby 7
 Cheney, Wincy W. 7, 29
 Childs, Elmer 19
 Childs, Emery 19
 Childs, E. T. 19
 Christian Ludwig 22
 Clarke, John Henrik 53

Coakley, Barbara 7
 Cochran, Christopher John 78
 Cochran, Johnnie Ray Jr. 78
 Cochran, Travis Elton 78
 Coffin, Elizabeth 7
 Cole-Calcote, Colby Jo 78
 Cole, Cody James 78
 Collins, Jessica Horne 29
 Cone, Jamie Glenn 7
 Conely, Mamie 67
 Cone, Nicki Berry 7
 Cooper, John Joseph 80
 Cox, Jackson B. 67
 Cox, Mike 7
 Crow, Jan 51
 Crowley, Sandra J. 1, 2, 3, 5, 15, 28, 48, 52, 56
 Crump, James Albert Chance 79
 Crump, Lou Ella 79
 Crutcher, James Slater Baker 78
 Crutcher, Susannah 78
 Culpon, Melinda 5
 Cumba, Georgia A. 79
 Cumba, Elige Grant Marshall 79

D

Daniel, Karen S. 29
 Daniel, Karen Stein 51
 Ditmore, Judy 7
 Dunn, Brian Clint 78, 80
 Dunn, John MacAlister 80

E

Easley, Mary Pawnee 68
 Easterwood, A. Y. 67
 Eck, Mary Esther 7
 Edens, Jon 28
 Ellsworth, Frances M. 59
 Elrod, Caleb Alexander 79
 Elrod, Jackson Blaine Thomas 79
 Elrod, Owen Tucker 79
 Elrod, Reagan Elizabeth 78
 Ericson, Carolyn Reeves 1, 6
 Ericson, Joe Ellis 6
 Ericson, John 6
 Ericson, Joseph 6
 Evans, Shirley 29

F

Fincher, Sandra McGuairt 80
 Fitzgerald, Scott 1, 3, 56, 67
 Flack, Teri E. 5, 31
 Flexer, Jeanette Katherine 78
 Foots, Barbara 7
 Franz Erwin 22

Franz Friedrich 22
 French-Todd, Kathie 28
 Friedrich, Ludwig 22
 Friedrich, Wilhelm 22
 Fritz, Suzanne 29
 Froebel, Barbara J. 5, 60

G

Gage, David 78, 79, 80
 Gallatin, Albert R. 7
 Garcia, Ana 51
 Garza, Moises 7
 Geiszler, George 18
 Geiszler, Penny 19
 Gillespie, Patti 31
 Gillet, Jacques 78
 Gillette, Joan Vivian 78
 Gillette, Vernon George 78
 Gilmore, Darwin 52
 Goehering, Don 7
 Goehering, Mary Anne 7
 Gomez, Sharon 7
 Goodwin, Gloria 73
 Graham, Brandt Gordon 79, 80
 Graham, Susan Brandt 7, 79, 80
 Gräter, Christian Friedrich 51
 Gräter, Gottlob Friedrich 51
 Gräter, Johannes Gustav 51
 Greenwood, Val D. 72
 Greer, Lawrence O. 50
 Grover, Karen J. 7

H

Hall, Sharon 51
 Hampton, Jno. W. 67
 Hanke, Anton Johannes Tschoepe 79
 Hanke, Elenora 79
 Hanson, Tony 56, 58, 73
 Harmon, Sharon Ann 7
 Harris, Genevieve T. 7
 Harris, Jeanne L. 7
 Harris, Phillip H. 7
 Henderson, Birdie 67
 Henderson, Harold 72
 Hennessee, Carolyn 7
 Hernandez, 'Alférez' Francisco 51
 Hester, Jesse Bond 80
 Hester, Mary Ann Margaret 80
 Hester, Robert H. 79, 80
 Hettler, Tonya 29
 Heubach, Catharina 21
 Hicks, Elizabeth Nitschke 28
 Higgins, Patricia M. 7
 Hilhmeyer, Johann David 21
 Hill, C. W. 67
 Hix, Heather Gillette 78
 Hix, Jean Gillette 78
 Hogan, Roseann 7

Hood, Jackie 51
 Horacek, Rebecca Elizabeth 78
 Houston, Sam 46
 Howell, Theresa 31
 Howren, Daisy 67
 Hudson, Linda 7

J

Jedele, Anne Marie 21
 Jelle, Eric 29
 Jenkins, Jana 29
 Jennings, Gordon C. 78, 79
 Johnson, Nancy 41
 Johnson, Samuel Christopher 41
 Johnston, Ken 73
 Jones, Jeffrey Kyle 80
 Jones, John 18
 Jones, Mable 18
 Jones, Martin 18
 Jones, W. D. 67

K

Kaufman, Susan 1, 5, 56, 58
 Kelsey, Michael W. 47, 50
 Kelsey, Nancy Graff 47, 50
 Kemp, Benjamin Anderson 79
 Kemp, Prudence 79
 Kennedy, Cynthia M. 51
 Kiel, Alice Ruth 50
 Kiel, Frank Wilson 50
 King, J. T. 67
 Kirkpatrick, Jerry 51
 Klement, Kim Roy Tredenick 51
 Kochanowsky, Kathie 5
 Krause, Connie 29
 Kuykendall, Bonnie G. 7

L

Landt, Mark R. 78, 79, 80
 Lane, Linda L. Hillyer 29
 Large, Sarah Jane 78
 Leary, Helen F. M. 72
 Lee, Caleb J. 52
 Lee, Devon Noel 1, 17, 19
 Lee, Hannah K. 52
 Lee, Jessie 18
 Lee's, Devon Noel 3
 Lee, Simon K. 52
 Leet, Duane Gary 79
 LeMaster, Samuel S. Lewis 78
 LeMaster, Sarah 78
 Leopold Castanon 51
 Leslie, Jessica B. 7
 Lewis, Elizabeth 78
 Lewis, Joseph Sidney Cochran 78
 Littlefield, M. C. 67
 Lockett, Pearl 67
 Long, J. W. 67

Lowe, J. Mark 31, 32,
 Lowe, Mark 55
 Luckett, Larry W. 51

M

MacEntee, Thomas 27
 Martin, George Martindale 79
 Martin, Nancy Agnes 79
 Mathes, Karan 7
 Matthews, Bill 28
 Mattingly, Katrina 5
 Maxfield, Florenc 79
 Maxfield, Joseph L. Williams 79
 Mayer, John Lewis 78
 Mayo, Tommie Lantrip 50
 Mays, Linda Lantrip 50
 McCluney, Flori 7
 McCoy, Debbie Blanton 59
 McDonald, Laurie 51
 McGehee, P. L. 67
 McGuffin, Tina 59
 McMurtry, Mary Lou 67
 McNeal, David F. Brown 78
 McNeal, Jane Frances 78
 Menefee, Laban 80
 Merk, Patricia L. 5, 7, 51
 Metoyer-Charles, Cecilia 7
 Meyers, Kelvin 5, 31, 32, 56, 73, 75
 Millis, Cynthia 29
 Mills, Betsy 2, 5, 82
 Mills, Elizabeth Shown 25, 71
 Mize, Benja Pittman 50
 Mize, Tami Osmer 2
 Mobley, DeWayne G. 7
 Moss, Gertrude 67

N

Navarro, José Antonio 46
 Neisler, Vicki 5
 Nelson, Amanda E. 7
 Neuman, Laurel 32
 Newcombe, Allyson 7
 Nixon, Beula 67

O

Oliphant, Jo Ann 7
 Olsson, Ofelia 5, 51
 Owen, Kay F. 7

P

Parker, Elder John 46
 Parker, Quanah 46
 Parsons, Ginny Guinn 47, 50
 Paschall, John T. 50
 Paschall, Mary Cook 50
 Passman, David 7
 Patterson, Clay 51
 Pearson, John T. 78

Perez, Rueben M. 50
 Perkins, Dorothy N. 7
 Perkins, Paula 74
 Peterson, Donna 5
 Pevehouse, Jacob 79
 Pierce, Kathleen L. 7
 Pilley, E. 67
 Pinciotti, Susan 7
 Pollock, Ellen 29
 Poster, Gertrude 67
 Powers, Rebecca 79
 Powers, William Ellison 79
 Pribyla, Andres 50
 Pribyla, Magdalena Mocek 50
 Pribyl, Bettye W. 50
 Price, Emma Louise 78

Q

Quigby, W. B. 67

R

Rahn, Russell A. 1,3,22
 Ramage, Michael 72
 Rasmussen, Geoff 55
 Reed, Lisa 1, 5, 15, 20, 71, 72
 Regalado, Nancy 7
 Reynolds, Linda 6, 24
 Richard, Diane L. 1, 3, 15, 61, 65
 Richards, Richard 18
 Riley, David J. 7
 Rives, Jeanne Lynn Evartt 79
 Robbins, A. L. 67
 Roberts, James Jeremiah Cates 79
 Roberts, Ella E. 79
 Roberts, J. B. 7
 Robertson, E. S. C. 47
 Robertson, Karen S. 7
 Robertson, Sterling Clack 47
 Rogers, Davy Williams 79
 Rose, Christine 72
 Rosenberg-Tidwell, Donna 7
 Ross, Lisa 5, 73
 Rusk, Thomas Jefferson 46
 Russell, Judy G. 28, 72, 75
 Ruter, Martin 68
 Rutledge, James T. 78, 80

S

Samuels, Jan 28
 Sawyer, Lisa Margarite 80
 Sawyer, Margaret Rose 80
 Sawyer, Vaughn Seguin 80
 Schmidt, Hermann Hallenberger 80
 Schmidt, Marie 80
 Scott, Aimee R. 78
 Scott, David C. 78
 Scott, Shelley 7

Seguín, Juan 46
 Seibel, Vicky 7
 Selby, Sherry S. 7
 Sellers, John A. 32
 Sepulvado, Jennifer 7
 Shaw, Keely 1, 53
 Shuffield, Lynna Kay 51
 Sills, Nancy Elizabeth 41
 Sims, Starla 7, 78
 Sloan, Barbara Guynes 7
 Smith, Carl 1, 3, 8, 14 15
 Smith, Cheryl 28
 Smith-Fallgren, Zoe Lea 29
 Smith, Toni Y. 7
 Soward III, H. Martin 51
 Spencer, William Andrew 80
 Stamos, Bridget T. 7
 Stanley, John C. Dunn 78
 Stanley, Nancy M. 78
 Staudt, Charles 7
 Staudt, Peggy 7
 Stevens, George Washington 80
 Stewart, Linda 29
 Stewart, Linda Clark 50
 Sting, Clara 19
 Stock, Emma R. 7
 Sueuro, Olivia Le 67

T

Taplin, Cari 74
 Taylor, David C. 7
 Thompson, Judith 79
 Thompson, Robert Bond 79
 Thompson, Susan 5, 28
 Thompson, Susan K. 7
 Tidwell, Larry D. 7
 Tobey, Carrie 12
 Tomlinson, Richard 28
 Torres, Mary 5
 Travis, William B. 68
 Tumlinson, Susie 7
 Turner, Adam 79

V

Vackar, Jakub 79
 Villareal, Becky 28
 Vinson, Joanna Troutman Pope 69

W

Waak, Beverly 7
 Walsh, Patrick 33
 Wayne, Debbie Parker 1, 15, 40, 46, 55
 Weber, Wanda 7
 Weber, W. G. 67
 Weber, William 7
 Wegner, Bob L. 7
 Weiner, Hollace Ava 51

Welch, Henrietta 28
 Wells, Andrew Spencer 80
 West, Alice Ann 11
 Westervelt, L. Charles 51
 West, Lydia Ann 9
 West, Isabella 78
 West, Martin Baty Cochran 78
 White, Robert Dalton Jr. 79
 Whited, Randy 5, 53, 55, 52
 Wilco, N. M. 67
 Wilcox, C. A. 67, 68
 Wilcox, Charles Allen 68
 Wilcox, Charles Grandison 68
 Wilcox, Daniel Peyton 68
 Wilcox, David William 68
 Wilcox, D. H. 67
 Wilcox, Josiah 68
 Wilcox, Nathaniel Miles 68
 Wilkins, Ari 5, 33, 74
 Wilkins, Jan Mize 7
 Williams, Jesse B. 78, 80
 Williams, Karen 7
 Wittry, Elana Marie 78
 Wittry, Jakob Liam 78
 Wolfe, Judy 29
 Wood, Patte W. 7
 Wood, R. Gibbs 67
 Woodruff, Ophelia 19
 Woodward, Ophelia 19
 Wootton, Thomas J. Sr. 78
 Wootton-Cole, Allyson Jean 78
 Wright, Allen 51, 78
 Wylie, John 28, 56, 60

Y

Yarbrough, John Swanson 78
 Yarbrough, John Swanson Sr. 79
 Yawn, Robert 7
 Young, Andrea 7
 Younger, Suzan 5

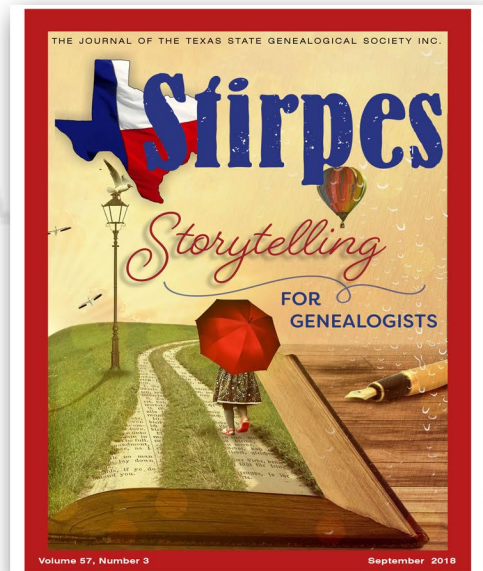
Z

Zavala, Lorenzo D. 46



TELL US YOUR STORY

Make 2019 the year you tell your family's story! Whether you're sharing information about ancestors you've recently discovered or tips other genealogists can use to help them in their research, TxSGS wants to know more!



Themes for 2019:

- Q1 - DNA (Feb 1 deadline)
- Q2 - Road Trip! (Apr 15 deadline)
- Q3 - Ethnic Roots (Jul 15 deadline)
- Q4 - Maps in Genealogy (Oct 15 deadline)

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