

THE JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

13th Airborne



Remembering WWI

SAVE THE DATE



2017 TxSGS Family History Conference

Texas State Genealogical Society

October 20 - 22, 2017

Omni Houston Hotel Westside | Houston, Texas

Featuring J. Mark Lowe & Michael Lacopo



www.txsgs.org

[#TxSGS2017](https://twitter.com/TxSGS2017)



Contents

Features

- 6** Over There: Wartime Life Seen through a Soldier's Legacy of Letters and Diaries
by Pamela Slutz
- 10** Read Before Opening: Clues Found on Envelopes from the WWI Front
by James R. Miller
- 15** Women's Clubs and the WWI Home Front in Hunt County, Texas
by Carol Taylor
- 20** "Hello Heroine" to Battlefield Nurse: Women's Roles Transformed by WWI
by Pat Gordon
- 29** Two Books, Different Periods in History—
Women Step Up During Time of War
by Sandra Crowley
- 31** Adoption Mystery Solved: DNA Match with WWI Soldier Reunites the Gamble Family
by Marilyn Cleves Souders, introduction by Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM
- 36** "I Drop You A Few Lines" The Civil War Letters of Pvt. David S. Kennard, C.S.A.
by Patricia R. Reed
- 45** Armistice Day Celebrations Unite Americans in Remembrance
by Susan E. Ball
- 51** Visit the Clayton Library in Houston
- 54** The 8th Annual Save Texas History Symposium: Texas and the Great War
by James Harkins
- 56** World War I Military Records that Survive the 1973 NPRC Fire: Payroll and Discharge Papers Reveal the True Story of Alfred Parker's Service
by Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM

Columns

- Editorial Policies **2**
- From the Editors' Pen **3**
- New Members & More **5**
- Volunteer Spotlight **5**
- Genealogy Backroads **47**
by Susan E. Ball
- Book Review **50**
by William D. "Bill" Buckner
- Heritage Certificates **63**
- Texas Heritage Certificates **64**
- Who's behind the Camera? **65**
by Scott Fitzgerald
- TxSGS Policies **69**
- TxSGS Society Leadership **70**



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



2017 marks 100 years since the U.S. entered WWI on 6 April 1917. Remembering WWI brings to mind incredible hardships in Europe, voluntary food rationing in the U.S., the incredibly difficult trench warfare, the devastating flu epidemic—the effects of the war touched every U.S. citizen.

This issue of *Stirpes* includes soldiers' letters, war efforts on the home front, a DNA search for a WWI soldier, and the transformation of women's roles in the U.S. due to the war. Each of these articles is the result of extensive historical or genealogical research by the authors. A keen eye will notice details in each article and its sources that illuminate new directions and resources for research. We encourage you to read *Stirpes* from cover to cover—let us know how the articles helped you with your genealogical research!

Debbie Parker Wayne shows how to locate WWI records through a case study in "World War I Military

Records that Survived the 1973 NPRC Fire." Like many genealogists gifted with family stories "too amazing to be true," Debbie set out to verify family tales of a WWI ancestor's service in spite of the reported records loss at the National Personnel Records Center. Jim Miller shows how old envelopes can be used to enhance genealogical research in "Read Before Opening: Clues Found on Envelopes from the WWI Front."

The focus on WWI broadens to encompass the Civil War with "I Drop You A Few Lines," by Patricia Reed, which tells the poignant tale of a young Civil War soldier's life through his letters. Texas Genealogy Backroads visits the Texas Heritage Museum's Historical Research Center, Scott Fitzgerald pursues a West Texas lady photographer in "Who's Behind the Camera," and Bill Buckner reviews "WWI Soldiers of Hopkins County."

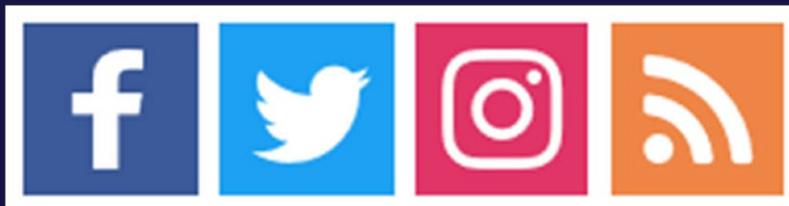
The Q3 2017 issue of *Stirpes* highlights DNA discoveries and success stories. We invite you

(encourage you!) to send your DNA discovery or case study to stirpes@txsgs.org for the next issue. You don't have to be a DNA expert to share how DNA helped you discover new ancestors and unravel tangled family trees. We want articles any length from a few paragraphs to a handful of pages. Your DNA discovery can help others understand how to make the most of their DNA results. Start your article now—the submission deadline for the next issue is July 15. If you need additional time, just email us.

Looking forward, the Q4 2017 issue asks you to share how you walked in your ancestor's footsteps by traveling to the old home place or sifting through old documents or photos. We've all dreamed of finding a big trunk in the attic full of valuable memorabilia or walking through the ancestral castle. Share your experiences with us! If you need additional time, just email us.

~ *Stirpes* Editors ★

Connect with TxSGS



Learn more at TxSGS.org

Share your DNA Results

The Q3 2017 (July-Sept) issue of the Texas State Genealogical Society Journal *Stirpes* has a DNA theme.

- Do you have a DNA story to tell?
- Has DNA helped you locate a missing family member or a new family?
- Have you broken through that brick wall?
- Have you solved a question about adoption or birth?
- Do you have another interesting find?



TxSGS wants to hear more. We're seeking articles or even a few paragraphs for our next issue of *Stirpes* that describe what you've learned in your DNA journey.

Send your submission to stirpes@txsgs.org in Word format.

Calling All Descendants of Early Texans!★

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

Texas First Families Lineages, Volume III

Interested?

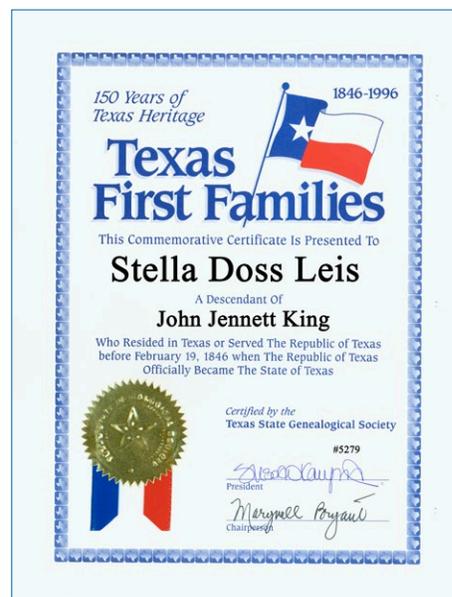
For more details, see the Heritage Certificate Application at

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

Questions?

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

For further inquiries, contact Certificates@txsgs.org



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

Over There: Wartime Life Seen through a Soldier's Legacy of Letters and Diaries

by Pamela Slutz

My grandfather, Lt. Robert Fleming Slutz (born 29 August 1894 in Carthage, Jasper, Missouri), served with the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in Europe during World War I, from October 1917 until April 1919.

An infantry officer, Lt. Slutz served in the Ohio 166th Infantry Regiment (figure 1) which was part of the famous 42nd Infantry Division, also known as the *Rainbow Division*.^{1 2}

His legacy, of which I am the current custodian, was a cornucopia of diaries and letters to his parents (Reverend Dr. Worthington and Esther Slutz) and his future wife (Ethel Young) spanning his entire military service. Many of the letters, written on stationery provided by the Y.M.C.A. and printed with the return address, "On Active Service with the American Expeditionary Force," contained newspaper clippings, photos, and cards as well as copies of the *Ohio Rainbow Reveille*, a newsletter published 'occasionally' in the field headquarters of the 166th Infantry (publisher Chaplain J. J. Halliday).³

Consistent with official government policy, his letters home were censored. Several of his first letters were opened by censors who clipped out whole sentences and sections, presumably because they contained mention of his whereabouts or activities (figures 2 and 3). He quickly learned to practice

to his parents, 10 November 1917) His diaries, which were not subject to censorship, provide much more detailed accounts of his whereabouts and activities, often accompanied by maps and diagrams of trenches and defensive sectors.

Robert, or "Bob" as he was called, enlisted in April 1917 and trained at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Lawrence, Indiana, from May to August 1917 in preparation for departure to the Western Front. In August

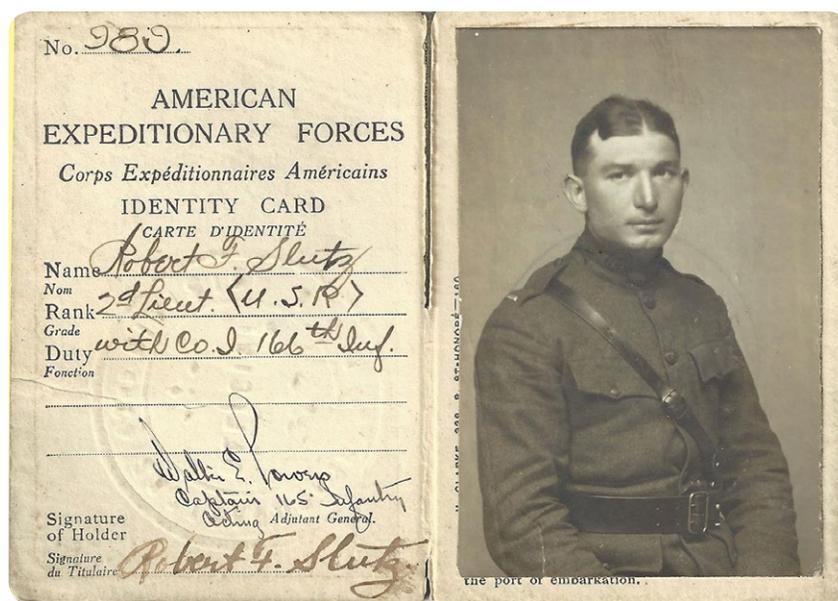


Figure 1: Robert F. Slutz's photo ID showing his military service in Company I, 166th Regiment.

self-censorship, noting that "mother wrote that my first letter had been 'Opened by Censor' [and] was all cut up with large chunks of it missing." (Letter to Ethel Young, 16 November 1917) "So, if some of my letters seem to be sort of superficial, you must remember that I cannot mention anything in regard to my whereabouts or what I am doing. You'll also notice that my letters and envelopes now carry the annotation 'O.K.' which is my way of saying to the censor that I have been very careful not to mention anything that would be of value to the enemy. In response to your requests for more information, all I can say is I'm 'somewhere in France'." (Letter

1917 he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry section of the U.S. Army Officers' Reserve Corps. He bade farewell to his parents and friends in Wooster, Ohio, in late August and departed the United States in early September 1917, sailing from New York City on the *SS Mongolia* as part of a 14-ship convoy of commercial ships escorted by American destroyers. It took 24 days to cross the Atlantic, evading German torpedo boats and landing in Brest in early October 1917. In keeping with the censorship policy, the 4 October 1917 telegram he sent from France to his parents advising them that he had 'arrived safely' was postmarked 'Sans

Origine' to disguise the location of the sender.

Bob wrote repeatedly for news—and chocolate—from home. In a letter to his mother on 9 October 1917, the twenty-three year old complains that he has “received no letters from you as yet, but hope to get some in a few days. Say, you can send me anything, tho I can't send many things home. I would so appreciate getting some chocolate or something of that nature. It takes about 15 to 20 days they say for mail to get here... All my baggage came through from the boat crossing and in it I found a Hershey [chocolate] bar with a card from Zulene Hatfield,” a ‘neighbor’ from Winona Lake, Indiana, where the Slutz family had a summer home. “I am parceling the bar out, trying not to eat it all at once.” The “thoughtful gift” was so memorable that Bob saved the card—with the annotation, “opened Hersheys on 9 October 1917 at La Valbonne.”

After additional training in trench warfare at the French infantry school, La Valbonne, located near Lyon in southern France, Bob was assigned in December 1917 to be Intelligence

and Scout Officer (and acting Liaison Officer) in Company I/U.S. 166th Infantry Regiment/U.S. 3rd Infantry Battalion/U.S. 42nd Infantry Division, which served from June to mid-August 1918 under the command of the French 17th Infantry Regiment/4th Army. His four semesters of college French qualified him to serve as interpreter and liaison with the French military. Bob regularly “took mess” with the French Colonel in command of the 17th French Infantry Regiment and on 10 July 1918—in a goodwill gesture—was given the daily menu as a souvenir (figure 4): “There are 12 officers at the mess, three of whom are Americans. Our Major sits on the Colonel's left and I'm on his right. At every meal the mess officer arises and after addressing the Colonel and “Sirs” reads the menu, every day printed in a different way. This is the first time I've been honored by having the old boy hand it to me as a souvenir.” (Letter to Ethel Young, 10 July 1918)

Lt. Slutz saw trench combat action in all four of the campaigns in which the 42nd Division participated: Champagne-Marne, the Aisne-Marne, the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, and the

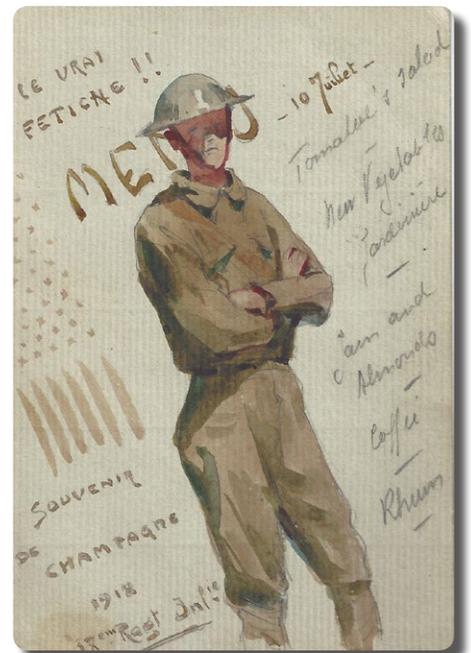


Figure 4: A souvenir menu presented to Lt. Robert Slutz at a meal with the colonel of the 17th French Infantry Regiment.

Meuse-Argonne Offensive. In a letter dated 14 July 1918 to his mother, Bob begins with a description of the celebration of France's Bastille Day at the officers' mess earlier that day. Halfway through the first page, he updates his narrative: “What do you think ... It's now July 20th and I'm going to continue this letter. I suppose you've read in the newspapers about the circumstances

[the Battle of Champagne, 15-18 July 1918] which caused my delay in finishing this letter until now. Of those circumstances, I can only say that we stopped them dead still and the men of our Division were great. There soon will be no fight left in the Hun. They know the Americans are here now, alright!”

In a November 1923 (draft) letter to the Historical Section, 166th Infantry, Adjutant Generals Department of the State of Ohio, (former) Lieutenant Slutz cites the action at Champagne-Marne “as the outstanding engagement of the war, as far as my company was



Figure 2: Envelope for a letter from Lt. Robert Slutz showing the censor's label.

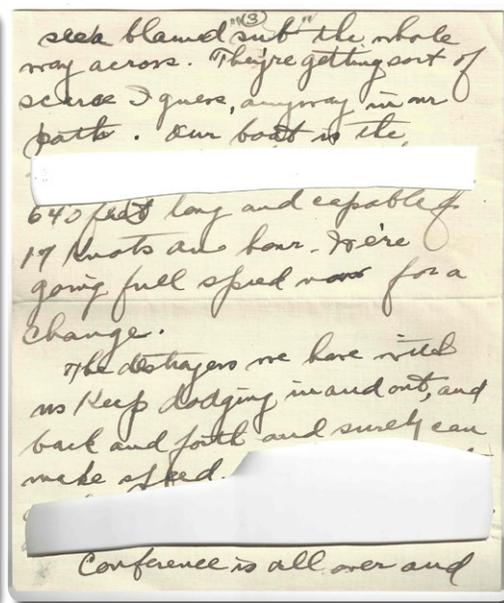


Figure 3: One of Lt. Robert Slutz's early letters was heavily censored by excising portions of the letter.

**LOOK
INSIDE**

Sample a few pages from this issue of *Stirpes*, then **join TxSGS** to receive your digital version of the complete issue.

Just click the link below and sign up today.

<http://www.txsgs.com/membership/>

Women's Clubs and the WWI Home Front in Hunt County, Texas

by Carol Taylor

As U.S. generals marshaled their troops for war, 1917 saw a mobilization of a different sort on the home front in the homes and gardens of America's citizens. "Use food wisely and minimize waste" was the call to arms for the housewife.

Without immediate action, food shortages loomed as the U.S. accommodated the vast amounts of food needed for armed forces and desperately hungry people in war-torn countries. A host of government entities from the USDA to the War Garden Commission and the Federal Food Administration urged citizens to grow their own food and preserve it to supplement a tightened food supply. The effort was supported enthusiastically in counties across Texas such as Hunt County where Women's Clubs provided the organizational support for success.

Hunt County is located in northeast Texas, approximately sixty miles northeast of Dallas. At the time of the First World War, the population

of about 50,000 was involved primarily in rural cotton production. The soil was mostly heavy blackland soil, some loam, and sandy loams with level ground to rolling hills. The largest town was Greenville, a commercial center with four railroads, three colleges, a Carnegie Library, and numerous stores, banks, seed houses, and wagon yards. Approximately twenty doctors and dentists practiced in the town. The county had more than one hundred rural school districts that educated students in several primary grades with classes seldom in session for more than six months each year.¹

The majority of farmers were small landowners who maintained subsistence farming until the arrival

of the railroad in 1880 made cotton production feasible on a large scale. Historically, women of rural Hunt County worked fields alongside their husbands, fathers, and sons. During the financial depression of the 1890s, many of these farmers lost their lands and became sharecroppers on farms owned by large landholders. These landlords generally lived in Greenville and allowed the sharecroppers and their families to live and work on the land for half or less of the cotton raised.

Families living in Greenville and the second largest town, Commerce, were typically more financially secure than farm families. This allowed women in both towns more leisure time with servants to help with household tasks and childcare. As early as 1891, some women of Greenville formed a Chautauqua Society for the enlightenment of their minds; for four years they studied a core curriculum of literature, history,



Providing an opportunity to socialize around shared interests, early 1900s Women's Clubs such as this cemetery association in Ohio worked to educate themselves and accomplish worthy goals.

and geography. At the end of the prescribed course of study, the ladies formed the Women's Review Club for the purpose of continuing book discussions, weekly social gatherings, and the eventual creation of a Carnegie Library in 1903.²

Other women's clubs were formed in the interest of music, art, literature, and religious study. The majority of women's clubs organized the Greenville Federation of Women's Clubs by 1905 and worked to support the library, provide art in the form of patriotic prints to public schools, develop a mobile lending library for rural schools, and urged the city council to establish the positions of meat and dairy inspector. Few, if any, members of the Greenville women's clubs were rural residents.³

Rural women were not organized into clubs until the beginning of World War I. Women's clubs usually met in fall and spring, which were often rainy, keeping the roads in the area virtually impassable. Chores at home also kept these women more closely bound to their families and farms.

By the spring of 1915, the citizens of Hunt County were mindful of events connected with the Great War in Europe and the scarcity of food suffered by conquered Belgians. Greenville High School student Mamie East wrote an essay, "America to the Rescue," in her senior scrapbook. She noted, "America is between Belgium and starvation. America is daily sending food and clothing to relieve Belgian women and children ... canned pork, soup, condensed milk, and many other things, which are necessities for life."⁴

The occupation of Belgium, northern France, and Russian Poland by the Germans led to severe malnutrition of civilians as well as military personnel. In the war

zone during 1917, the consumption of fish, eggs, and sugar was halved while supplies of potatoes, butter, and vegetables declined steeply.⁵ As a result of a hard winter followed by summer droughts in the Plains States, the United States harvest was dramatically decreased. The U.S. export of wheat to Great Britain dropped from 92 percent to 64 percent of the total required.⁶

"...every housewife who practices strict economy puts herself in the ranks of those who serve the nation."

Immediately upon the entry of the United States into the war, President Woodrow Wilson addressed the nation and appealed to American farmers saying, "the supreme need of our own Nation and of the Nations with which we are cooperating is an abundance of supplies, and especially foodstuffs. Without abundant food, alike for the armies and the peoples now at war, the whole great enterprise upon which we have embarked will break down and fail. This world's food reserves are low." To the American housewife he strongly suggested "that everyone who creates or cultivates a garden helps and helps greatly to solve the problem of feeding the nations, and that every housewife who practices strict economy puts herself in the ranks of those who serve the nation. This is the time for America to correct her unpardonable fault of wastefulness and extravagance. We must supply not only abundant food for ourselves, our armies and our seamen, but also for a larger part of the nations with whom we now have made common cause."⁷

Soon afterwards, the Committee on Women's Defense Work, better known as the Woman's Committee, was formed in Washington with one

function, to urge conservation of food and encourage food production in cooperation with national food administrator Herbert Hoover's dictum that "food will win the war."⁸ George Creel, appointed to head the Committee on Public Information (CPI), began recruiting a group of journalists dedicated to spreading the word of the war's righteousness across the land. Creel would claim after the war that more than twenty thousand newspaper columns were derived from material issued in CPI handouts.⁹

The Federal Food Administration was created to regulate quantities and prices of food, assuring adequate supplies for both military and civilian needs. The administration was also successfully involved in agricultural relief programs to the Allies. 'Victory Gardens' and the observance of 'wheatless' and 'meatless' days were encouraged. Every effort was made to curb the anxieties of the people over possible shortages of food and to make the public conscious of the disastrous effects of hoarding and waste.¹⁰

All of the efforts were tremendously well received and accepted in Hunt County. The *Greenville Messenger*, a weekly newspaper with a wide circulation in the rural area, carried numerous stories each week of canning classes for women and victory gardens planted by churches, neighborhoods, and school children, along with recipes requiring limited use of flour, butter, and meat. Hoover's propaganda drive was aimed at persuading Americans to think that they too could do their bit in the war effort by eating everything and leaving no waste (the clean plate). As in other quarters of U. S. civilian life, this basically sound idea soon developed into a nationwide frenzy.¹¹

Another innovation by the War Garden Commission and the USDA

**LOOK
INSIDE**

Sample a few pages from this issue of *Stirpes*, then **join TxSGS** to receive your digital version of the complete issue.

Just click the link below and sign up today.

<http://www.txsgs.com/membership/>

Adoption Mystery Solved: DNA Match with WWI Soldier Reunites the Gamble Family

by Marilyn Cleves Souders

with introduction by Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM

Newspapers and television shows are full of touching stories of adoptees, donor-conceived persons, and foundlings reunited with biological families through the discovery of shared DNA.

Some of these discoveries are accidents and some were due to the purposeful and targeted testing of individuals. While Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) led to some discoveries in earlier years, the explosion of autosomal DNA (atDNA) testing after 2009 led to a corresponding growth in the number of success stories for those seeking to identify unknown parents.

Autosomal DNA allows more ancestral lines to be connected. Only those who share a man's patrilineal line (his father's father's father's father, and so on) can be found using Y-DNA. Only those who share a person's matrilineal line (his or her mother's mother's mother, and so on) can be found using mtDNA.* Both Y-DNA and mtDNA can match to cousins who are related much further back in time than can be supported with documentary evidence. Using atDNA, DNA matches to cousins on any ancestral line of a test-taker can be found, but due to recombination, those matches are more likely to be within five to nine generations of the test-taker.

Even when there is no living descendant in the patrilineal or matrilineal line, atDNA opens up more avenues of research and more potential

test-takers. The Y-DNA test-taker must be a son of a son of a son in a straight line back to the male ancestor of interest. The mtDNA test-taker must be a child, male or female, of a daughter of a daughter in a straight line back to the female ancestor of interest. With atDNA, the test-taker can be either gender, the ancestor of interest can be either gender, and the line back to the ancestor of interest can zigzag through sons and daughters.

Relationships are predicted based on the amount of atDNA shared by two test-takers. Parent-child and sibling relationships are clearly indicated by the amount of atDNA shared by two people. For other close relationships, within a couple of generations, relatives share enough DNA that it is generally easy to estimate a relationship or narrow it down to a few possibilities. As relationships grow more distant, less DNA is shared and there is more overlap between

the minimum and maximum amount of shared DNA documented for any specific relationship. Those distant relationships are harder to estimate.

Genealogists also seek to identify unknown parentage. Every time we discover a new ancestor, we encounter a new unknown parent situation. We also discover ancestors who were adopted, officially or unofficially. When working to identify a parent in



Figure 1: Anna Phoebe Gamble held by her mother, Anna Louise Weaver Gamble in 1920.

a more distant time, it is important to correlate the DNA evidence and the documentary evidence.

DNA can provide evidence to answer these relationship questions

* For more information on mtDNA, see "Matrilineal Lines: Mitochondrial DNA Tests" in the March 2017 issue of *Stirpes*, Volume 56, No. 1, pp. 9-12.

The words Certified Genealogist are a registered certification mark, and the designations CG, CGL, and Certified Genealogical Lecturer are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists®, used under license by board certificants after periodic evaluation.

for separated families no matter the reason for the separation. Some of the analysis is the same whether working on an unidentified parent of a child born in 1850 or 1990. Some of the analysis needed is different depending on the birth date of the focus person. When working an adoption case for someone born in 1990, there may still be living people willing to test who remember events and can confirm a theory of a parent's identity. An adoptee often just wants the name and contact information for family members. They are not as interested in research that meets the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS).

When working a genealogy case where no living person has memory of the event, we are dependent on documentary research correlated with DNA analysis to support our conclusion. In these cases, the standards allow us to evaluate the credibility of our research and conclusions to increase the likelihood a child is linked to the correct family. We may start with comparing surnames and family trees of two test-takers, as is done in the story below. We often progress to analyzing the total amounts of shared DNA and even the exact locations of shared segments on chromosomes.

The story below illustrates how a family separated after the death of the mother was reunited. This is not the story of an unwed young mother giving a baby for adoption, but is an adoption situation many of us may find when our families encountered hard times. The genealogist's decades of documentary research findings did not uncover the missing family. For several years, the DNA matches did not provide an answer. However, DNA is the genealogical record that keeps on giving. After many years, a new test-taker appeared in the match list. That new test-taker held the key to solving this family mystery.

Test-takers should never give up hope. Keep checking for new DNA matches periodically so you do not miss that key when it appears.

This reunion resulted in sharing family information, including the story of a World War I soldier with accompanying photographs. These photographs are not only precious to the Gamble family, they reflect our American history during The Great War, what we wish had really been The War to End All Wars.

Reuniting the Gamble Family

George Risely Gamble and Anna Louise Weaver were married on 6 October 1895 in Polk County, Iowa.¹ Moving around Iowa and Nebraska, the Gamble family eventually settled in Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.²

The second of the ten children born to George and Anna Gamble, Harry Wilbert Gamble was born in 1899 in Lincoln County, Nebraska.³ Leaving his family during World War I to serve his country,⁴ Harry joined the U.S. Army 13th Cavalry on 18 March 1918 and was stationed in Brownsville, Texas. Harry chose the Army rather than the Navy because he didn't like the Navy uniforms.⁵ Discharged on 10 September 1919, he said that his time as a cavalryman helped to toughen him so he was prepared for the hard times later in his life. Little did he know that a hard time was rapidly approaching.

In 1919, shortly after Harry returned home from his stint in the Army, George and Anna Louise Gamble had their ninth child, Anna Phoebe Gamble. Even though twenty years separated the children, Harry adored his baby sister. When Anna Phoebe was only 3 ½ years old, her mother died on 3 June 1923, leaving a newborn infant only a month old and a house full of children ranging in age



Figure 2: Betty Mae and Anna Phoebe Gamble taken in 1923 after their mother died.

from 3 ½ to Harry's 24.⁶

Fifty years old and unable to care for his large family without his wife, George Risely Gamble made the heart-wrenching decision to place his four youngest children in an orphanage. He wanted those children to be adopted by young families who could give his children the home that he could not provide. Harry was separated from his four youngest siblings including his beloved Anna Phoebe. George created a list of family names and birthdates that he gave to the orphanage (see table 1, left column). George assumed his children could use that list to find each other in the future. What he did next made it nearly impossible for any of the younger children to find him – George moved to Los Angeles County, California, to start a new life with his six oldest children. He died there in 1951.⁷

A year after her mother's death, Anna Phoebe Gamble was legally adopted by Harriet and Fred McGee who changed her name to Edna Mae McGee. Along with two photos (figures 1 and 2), the orphanage gave the list of Gamble children names and birthdates to the McGees. They agreed to give the names and photos

**LOOK
INSIDE**

Sample a few pages from this issue of *Stirpes*, then **join TxSGS** to receive your digital version of the complete issue.

Just click the link below and sign up today.

<http://www.txsgs.com/membership/>

World War I Military Records that Survive the 1973 NPRC Fire:

Payroll and Discharge Papers Reveal the True Story of Alfred Parker's Service

by Debbie Parker Wayne, CGSM, CGLSM

Records for U.S. service members in World War I and later wars are housed at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR), National Archives at St. Louis. A fire on 12 July 1973 destroyed many of these records.¹ After learning about the destruction of records in the 1973 fire, many genealogists go no farther researching their World War I service members. This is a mistake.

While many records were lost to the fire, some records survive. You will not know if you are one of the lucky ones until you ask what records are available. Even if the service file was lost in the fire, some records stored in different areas of the NPRC and in other repositories survived. We learn much about our service members using these surviving records, as shown in the story following.

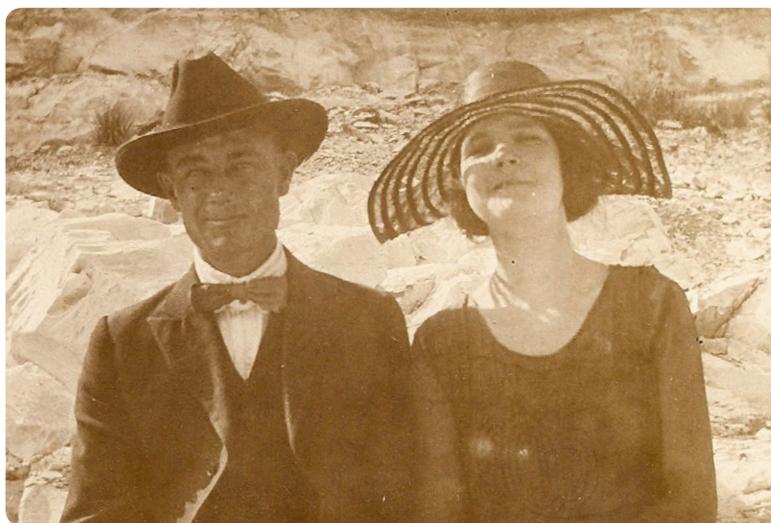


Figure 1: Alfred Parker and Mary Bessie (Rogers) Snyder Parker, 1920, near the time of their marriage and shortly after his WWI service. Original photo is in the collection of the family.

online for many years for men who served and those who did not serve but were required to register. If your ancestor served, there may be more information available at the NPRC. Instructions online explain how to request a search for and obtain copies of records. Check the website for current directions.⁵ In addition to the documents at the NPRC, county clerks

in the state of residence of a service member recorded some military records such as discharges.

Finding and Using the Records

We may know about Compiled Military Service Records, Bounty Land Warrants, and other records at the U.S. National Archives from our Civil War or Revolutionary War research. We may be less familiar with records of modern wars. Almost every genealogy conference and institute has informative sessions on finding and using military records of all kinds. Check out World War I records on *Cyndi's List*,² the U.S. National Archives,³ *FamilySearch*,⁴ and many other sites you can find with a *Google* search.

World War I Draft Registration cards have been

The Family Legend

Alfred Parker was born 1 February 1897 in Milam or Lee County, Texas, and died 30 January 1955 in Dallas.⁶ He married Mary Bessie (Rogers) Snyder on 25 June 1920 in Dallas County.⁷ Figure 1 shows the couple on or near the date of marriage. After Alfred's death, Bessie told her children that Alfred had been wounded in France during World War I and left for dead in a room at a medical facility. After several days, he was found alive and treated before being sent home.

The words Certified Genealogist are a registered certification mark, and the designations CG, CGL, and Certified Genealogical Lecturer are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists®, used under license by board certificants after periodic evaluation.

The family genealogist wants to know more. Where was this hospital? What battle was Alfred fighting when he was wounded? What other battles did he fight? What records can be used to support this family story or find the true story? As we know, sometimes the story we hear at home changes as it is passed down. The search for records begins.

World War I Draft Registration

World War I Draft registration cards are online at *Ancestry.com* for a fee and are now available at no cost at *FamilySearch*. Alfred Parker's draft registration card, filed with the Local Board Lee County at Giddings, Texas, is shown in figure 2. Alfred's birth date was 1 February 1897. He registered on 5 June 1918 at age twenty-one. He was born in Tanglewood, Texas, and lived there on rural free delivery route one. His father was born in Texas. Perry

Figure 2 (below): Alfred Parker's WWI draft registration card.

Serial No.	2	Registration No.	29
1 Name in full	Alfred Parker		Age, in yrs. 21
2 Home address	RD #1 Tanglewood, Texas		
3 Date of birth	Feb 1 1897		
4 Where were you born?	Tanglewood, Texas USA		
5 I am	1. A native of the United States. 2. A naturalized citizen. 3. An alien. 4. I have declared my intention. 5. A merchant seaman or seaman Indian. (Strike out lines or words not applicable)		
6	If not a citizen, of what Nation are you a citizen or subject?		
7 Father's birthplace	Texas USA		
8 Name of employer	Self		
9 Name of nearest relative	Perry A. Parker		
10 Race	White		

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Alfred Parker (signature)

P. M. G. O. Form 1 (blue) REGISTRATION CARD. 3-2729

RECORDED 9

Voucher No. 4601

(Name of Quartermaster.)

Paid, 1-19, 1918

FINAL PAYMENT ROLL

OF

3rd Group, 165 Depot Brigade (Organization) (Regiment.)

Discharged on January 24th, 1919 (Date)

APPROPRIATIONS

Pay, etc., of the Army, 1919 \$3,496.90

Pay, etc., of the Army, 1918

General appropriations, Q. M. Corps, 1919 \$12,621.75

Pay of the Army, Deposit Fund \$

AMOUNT, \$17,600.07

COLLECTIONS

Quartermaster \$37.08

Post Exchange \$

Post Laundry \$10.00

Paid in Cash \$4708.49

TOTAL, \$17,600.07

A. Parker was Alfred's nearest relative and was living at the same address. Alfred was a white male who was self-employed at the address where he lived. He had gray eyes and light brown hair. Alfred's signature is at the bottom of the card.⁸

This record indicates Alfred registered for the draft as the law required. It does not indicate he served in the military. More research might determine if he served, but first we analyze the information here and correlate with what we already have to be sure we have the right Alfred Parker.

In this record, some information conflicts with and some confirms prior research. Family stories indicate Alfred was born in Milam County. Tanglewood is in northwestern

Figure 3 (left): Part 1 of Alfred Parker's WWI military record showing his Final Payment Roll.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT 42-1-42-B

1 Thin Medium Slender (Strike out words not applicable)

2 Color of eyes Gray Color of hair Light Brown

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he palpably physically disqualified (specify)?

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge, are true, except as follows:

Ed Ramsey (Signature of Registrar)

June 5, 1918 (Date of Registration)

Local Board Lee County, Giddings, Texas. (Stamp of Local Board)

(The stamp of the local board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

Lee County. Milam and Lee share a border with Milam just north of Lee. The family is found in census records for both counties and land records show they owned property on each side of the county line at different times. These census records also list P. A. Parker as Alfred's father and their occupations as farmers on a home farm.⁹ This correlates with the information on the draft card to show we have the right Alfred Parker. The birthplace conflict can be easily explained as the family moved between the two counties.

World War I Payroll Records and Historical Context

We can find out whether Alfred actually served in the military by following the instructions online at the National Personnel Records Center and submitting Standard Form 180. We should receive a reply indicating which records were found and how we can obtain copies of these documents.

Alfred's record consists of three sheets with five parts: figures 3 through 5 represent parts of one

Camp Travis, Texas, January 24th, 1919
(Station) (Date)

I CERTIFY that the men borne on this roll were discharged this date; that this roll exhibits the true pay status of each man borne herein on such date; that the entries opposite the name of each man are correct; that, unless otherwise noted in the remarks, each man borne herein is entitled to travel allowances and to foreign service pay to include _____, 1918 ~~1918~~ and was last paid to include December 31st, 1918 by Capt. S. J. D. Marshall, Quartermaster.

ROBERT C. GRESHAM
CAPT. INF. U.S.A.
PERSONNEL ADJUTANT
1st Group
Personnel Adjutant.

I CERTIFY that I witnessed the payment of this roll and that prior to the signing of this certificate each man received the amount set opposite his name, with the exception of those men marked "Not paid."

Ther E Cooper
Commanding Organization.

NOTE.—This certificate to be signed only on the copy of the pay roll which bears signatures of the men for payment in cash.

I CERTIFY that this roll is a true copy of the roll upon which payment, witnessed by me, was made, excepting as to the signatures in the receipt column and the certificate as to witnessing the payment thereof.

NOTE.—This certificate to be signed only on the copy of the roll not received, and which constitutes the quartermaster's retained voucher.

Figure 4: Part 2 of Alfred Parker's WWI military record showing Alfred's discharge from the Army at the end of WWI.

1. The instructions governing the preparation of pay rolls and final statements should be followed as far as practicable in the preparation of final payment rolls.

2. All officers, noncommissioned officers, and others that may be concerned in the preparation of this roll are enjoined to exercise every care that it be made complete. It is not only the guide for immediate payment of the men interested, but, when filed in the Treasury Department, it will become the record to which reference will be made in the investigation and settlement of all claims or questions affecting the men whose names are borne on the roll, and their heirs, for the period covered.

3. Columns marked "Q. M." will be filled in by Quartermaster; columns marked "P. A." will be filled in by officer preparing roll.

4. In column "Partial pay previously received" should be entered the total amounts previously received as partial pay only when soldier is credited on this roll with payments in full from date to which last paid in full. When settlement is not made in full and soldier is credited with partial pay on this pay roll, such amount not be entered in this column.

Post Exchange collections hereon paid by checks on Treasurer of the United States dated _____, as follows:

Ft. _____, \$ _____, No. _____

Ft. _____, \$ _____, No. _____

Ft. _____, \$ _____, No. _____

Post Laundry collections hereon paid by checks on Treasurer of the United States dated _____, as follows:

Camp Travis, Tex, 1/15/19, No. _____

Ft. _____, \$ _____, No. _____

Ft. _____, \$ _____, No. _____

WAR DEPARTMENT
Form No. 571
Approved by Comptroller of Treasury
November 27, 1918

Figure 5: Part 3 of Alfred Parker's WWI Military record showing laundry fees at Camp Travis.

**LOOK
INSIDE**

Sample a few pages from this issue of *Stirpes*, then **join TxSGS** to receive your digital version of the complete issue.

Just click the link below and sign up today.

<http://www.txsgs.com/membership/>

Index

A

Abdullah, Jrenda 5
 Absher, Janet Jacobs 5
 Agee, Frederick M. 10
 Agee, Joe F. 10
 Agee, Joe Fred 10
 Agee, Mrs. F. M. 10
 Amber, Hilda S. 26
 Ann, Leah 33
 Arey, Angie 5
 Arey, Steve 5
 Arnett, LaVerne 64
 Audie Murphy Gun Museum 47
 Austin, Stephen F. 36

B

Bacon, Mrs. William 18
 Badger, Rebecca 5
 Baer/Bear, Nell Grace 11
 Baer/Bear, William S. 11
 Baker, Mrs. 65
 Ballard, Paula 70
 Ballard, Zora Madeline 26
 Ball, Susan E. 1, 2, 45, 47, 69, 70
 Barcos, Vivian Catherine 64
 Bastrop County Genealogical Society 5
 Beckham, W. L. 18
 Bell, Holly 25
 Benavides, Louis 5
 Benavides, Sandra 5
 Benson, O. H. 18
 Berger, Jeannie S. 5
 Bickerstaff, Ben 19
 Blair, E. L. 38
 Bocoock, Charles William 11
 Bocoock, C. W. 10
 Bocoock, Mrs. C. W. 10
 Brevard, Alice V. 12
 Brewer, Japhe Edwin 11
 Brewer, J. E. 11
 Brewer, Joe B. 11
 Brewer, Lucy Bell 11
 Brown, Phyllis Williams 64
 Bryan, James B. 64
 Bryant, Marynell 5, 70
 Buckner, William D. "Bill" 1, 2, 50, 70
 Bullock, Bob 47
 Bull, Terry 70
 Burrow, Effie Sina 64
 Burrow, Philip John 64
 Burrow, Zachariah 64

C

Cantner, Grace/Mary 11
 Capps, Jana Bryan 64
 Christine, Carol 33
 Churchill, Thomas 40
 Cimino, Nick 70
 Clayton Library Center for Genealogical
 Research 51, 52

Cleveland, Grover 41
 Cleves, Marilyn 33
 Collins, Annie H. 11
 Cox, Patrick 55
 Creel, George 16, 18
 Crowley, Sandra J. 1, 2, 5, 29, 70

D

Darby, Patricia 5
 Darden, Christine 30
 Davila, Adrian 5
 Davila, Monica G. 5
 Davis, Peter 5
 Deshler, James 40
 Dickerman, Nellie 10
 Drew, Anthony Jr., 37
 Dunn, Kerissa 5

E

East, Mamie 16
 Elaine, Linda 33
 Enerson, Craig 5
 Erickson, Jno. H. 18

F

Fanthorp, John H. 38
 Fanthorp, Rachel V. 37
 Farnsworth, J. E. 23
 Faust, Drew Gilpin 29
 Fitzgerald, Scott 1, 65, 70
 Flack, Teri 70
 Fox, Peggy 48
 French, Gale L. 5
 Friesenhahn, Bonita Scholz 64
 Fritsche, Kay 5
 Froebel, Barbara 70

G

Galveston County Genealogical Society 5
 Gamble, Anna Louise Weaver 31
 Gamble, Anna Phoebe 31, 32, 33
 Gamble, Betty Mae 33
 Gamble, Effie Myrtle 33
 Gamble, George Risely 32
 Gamble, George William 33
 Gamble, Glen Archibald 33
 Gamble, Harry Wilbert 32, 33, 34
 Gamble, Irma Billy 33
 Gamble, Pearl 33
 Gamble, Robert Arthur 33
 Gamble, Vivian 33
 Gardner, Lena 21
 Giddins, Reubin 64
 Gilbert, Charles E. 11
 Gilbert, Miss Olive 11
 Gilbert, Ollie 11
 Gilbert, Walter G. 11
 Gilbert, Walter George 11
 Gillespie, Patti 5
 Gilmer, Lucinda 66
 Godwin, Mamie 25
 Goode, Annette 5
 Gordon, Beverly Stickney 5

Gordon, Pat 1, 20, 42
 Grant, Ulysses S. 41
 Greene, Colleen 2, 70
 Gutz, Wilhelmina 64

H

Halliday, Chaplain J. J. 6
 Hardin, Debra J. 5
 Harkins, James 54
 Harman, Susan 11
 Harris, Adison B. 12
 Harris, Alfred Guy 12
 Harris, Eula 12
 Harris, Guy 12
 Hastings, Katherine 25
 Hatfield, Zulene 7
 Heartstill, W. W. 40
 Henderson, Roxie 25
 Hern, Elizabeth 5
 Hinde, Mary 24, 25
 Historical Research Center 48
 Holder, Angela 55
 Holt, Marjorie M. 5
 Honeycutt, Leone 25
 Hoover, Herbert 16, 21
 Hopkins County Genealogical Society 50
 Howard, Marcella 5
 Howard, Montgomery 5
 Hudgins, Mrs. S. N. 12
 Hudgins, Sallie N. 12
 Hudgins, William T. 12
 Hudgins, William Thomas 12
 Hunt, Estelle 25
 Hunt, Jeff 55

J

Jackson, Martha 64
 Jackson, Mary 30
 Jackson, William W. Trussell 64
 Jackson, Sally 64
 Jackson, Zachariah
 Jared, Peggy C. 5
 Jenkins, Janice 5
 Johnson, Katherine 30
 Johnson, Retta 27

K

Kantner, Grace/Mary 11
 Kaufman, Susan 5, 70
 Kennard, John R. 37
 Kennard, Anthony Drew 36
 Kennard, Anthony Drew Jr. 36
 Kennard, Anthony Sr. 37
 Kennard, Sarah (Moore) 36
 Kennard, Sarah (Smith) 36
 Kennard, David S. 36
 Kennard, John R. 38
 Kennard, John Robert 37
 Kennard, Marquis Lafayette 37
 Kennard, Michael 36
 Kennard, Michael M. 37
 Kennard, Sarah 37

Kennard, Wm. E. 37
 Koehn, Karl F. W. 64
 Konen, Becky 5

L

Lane, Allison Hays 55
 Lawther, Joe E. 20
 Logsdon, E. (Elisha?) J. 10
 Logsdon, Minnie 10
 Lord, Annie Rebecca 11
 Lowe, J. Mark 5
 Ludwig, Benjamin 64

M

Marble, Sanders 55
 McBride, Martin 18
 McCabe, Deborah 5
 McCarthy, Barbara 70
 McClernand, John 40
 McCoy, Debbie Blanton 70
 McGee, Edna Mae 32, 33
 McGee, Fred 32
 McGee, Harriet 32
 Meyers, Kelvin L. 5
 Miller, James R. (Jim) 1, 10, 13
 Mills, Betsy 2, 69, 70
 Mize, Tami Osmer 2
 Mullen, Nora Marie 34
 Murphy, Audie 47

N

Nelson, Karin 70
 Newman, Timothy 34
 Norris, John N. 12
 Norris, Sally 12
 Norris, Susan 5

O

Ostrander, John H. 11
 Ostrander, Pinkie 11
 Ousley, Clarence 17

P

Paen, Col. 8
 Parker, Alfred 56
 Parker, P. A. 58
 Parker, Perry A. 57
 Patricia R. Reed 1
 Peek, Lillian 17
 Perkins, Paula 70
 Perry, Ross Carl 64
 Pershing, John J. 18
 Phoebe, Marie Anna 34
 Pierson, J. G. V. 38
 Pogue, Earl 50

Q

Quebe, Vicki J. 5

R

Rakoczy, Dr. Lila 54
 Rakoczy, Lila 55
 Ray, James F. 64

Reed, Patricia R. 1, 36, 42
 Reeh, Elisabeth 64
 Reeh, Jacob Schmidt 64
 Rembert, Mrs. Charles 24
 Reppert, Mrs. E. R. 22
 Reynolds, Linda 70
 Rhodes, Clerenda 64
 Rhodes, Josiah 64
 Rivette, Charles 5
 Rivette, Joyce 5
 Rockwall County Genealogical Society 5
 Rogers, Mary Jane 12
 Rose 37

S

Saenz, Jose de la Luz 55
 Sakaris, Kay Waters 5
 Sample, Daniel M. 5
 Sandefer, Mrs. J. D. 21
 Sanders, William R. 38
 Sapp, Vanessa 5
 Saunders, Mrs. Bacon 22
 Schmidt, Frank Frederick 64
 Scholz, Wilhelm 64
 Schultz, Dorothea 64
 Seamands, Janice Melton 64
 Shannon, William R. 38
 Sharik, Lisa 54
 Shawe, Lucretia E. 64
 Shawe, Lucretia Elizabeth 64
 Shetterly, Margot Lee 29
 Shields, Patricia 55
 Siddens, Dee Louise Ray 64
 Simpson, Harold B. 47
 Slutz, Esther 6
 Slutz, Lieutenant Robert F. 9
 Slutz, Dr. Robert F. Jr., 9
 Slutz, Pamela J. 1, 6, 9
 Slutz, Reverend Dr. Worthington 6
 Slutz, Robert Fleming 6
 Smith, Andy 55
 Smith, David 37
 Smith, David 37
 Smith, Elizabeth (Pugh) 37
 Smith, Mrs. 66
 Smith, Sarah 37
 Snyder, Mary Bessie (Rogers) 56
 Souders, James "Jim" Frank 33
 Souders, Donald Charles 33
 Souders, Marilyn Cleves 1, 31, 35
 Sparkman, Franklin Issac Cheeves 64
 Stewart, Marion 70
 Sugarek, Patricia 70
 Sullivan, Margaret 26
 Swann, Tess 17

T

Taber, Lisa 5
 Talbott, Bobbie 64
 Talbott, Emmitt Stephens 64
 Tally, Edna Ann 65
 Tally, Jesse J. 65
 Tally, Nita 65

Tally, Nona 65
 Tally, Russell 65
 Tally, Juanita 65
 Tally, Wynona 65
 Taplin, Cari 70
 Taylor, Carol 1, 15, 19
 Taylor, Rebecca S. 5
 Tellez, Krystal J. 5
 Texas Heritage Museum 47
 Texas State Library and Archives 54
 Torres, Mary 70
 Townes, John C. Jr. 25
 Turner, Judy Lynn 70

U

Uecker, Frederick 64
 Underwood, John C. 41

V

Vásquez, Rafael 38
 Vaughan, Dorothy 30
 Versluis, John 47
 Via, Brandie 70
 Visconage, Michael 55

W

Walker, Karen Claridge 50
 Warner, Phebe K. 21
 Wawro, Geoffery 55
 Wayne, Debbie Parker 31, 35, 56, 62, 70
 Weaver, Anna Louise 32
 Weaver, Lexeen 5
 Wesson, E. J. 24
 Whited, Randy 70
 Williams, Charles 64
 Williams, Rolene 64
 Wilson, President Woodrow 16
 Wilson, Woodrow 27
 Wood, Tonia 54
 Wright, Ben 54
 Wylie, John 70

Y

Young, Ethel 6, 7

Z

Zamora, Emilio 55
 Zinsmeyer, Jacob 64

Book Your TxSGS 2017 Conference Hotel Room Now!



Conference Venue & Hotel

Omni Houston Hotel at Westside
13210 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77079
Phone: (281) 558-8338



Conference Guest Room Rates



Deluxe Guest Room, one King or two Doubles
Premier King (Single or Double occupancy)
\$99.00/night (free self-parking)

Premier Rooms, Oversized corner rooms
One King or two Doubles, with sitting area
\$119.00/night (free self-parking)



All rates are per night plus appropriate state and local taxes, fees and assessments, currently 17%. Rates are valid October 19-22, 2017.

Reservations

Online Reservations

Get booking instructions and our
online group conference code at:

<http://www.txsgs.org/conference/lodging/>

Phone Reservations

Reservations may also be made
over the phone:

(218) 558-8338.



**When booking by phone, be sure to provide
the following information:**

- Group block code: TSG
- Group name: TxSGS Conference
- Event dates: October 20 – October 22, 2017

www.txsgs.org

#TxSGS2017