

THE JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

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Road Trip!



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TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
2019 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

Blazing FAMILY TRAILS

OCTOBER 11-13, 2019

OMNI HOUSTON HOTEL WESTSIDE | HOUSTON, TEXAS



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

From the

Editors' Pen



Planes, trains, or automobiles ... whatever your mode of travel, summer's the time for genealogy road trips! This issue of *Stirpes* celebrates the in-person search for genealogical clues in cemeteries, courthouses, libraries, archives, and visits with family. We're all hearing about the dangers of too much "screen time." It's the same for genealogy – take a weekend or more this summer to get away from the computer and out in the wild, tracking those elusive ancestors!

Looking at the challenges and joys of a genealogy research trip, Allen Wright shares his experiences and lessons learned in "Where in the World is that Darned Motel?" Traveling for research with kids brings an opportunity to bond over family connections as Jessica Collins shows in "Three Generations in a Car." Our readers shared their amazing genealogy road trip adventures ranging from poignant to hilarious, collected in "Road Trip Adventures Lead to Connections." An especially surprising find by H. Martin Soward, III, is described in "Full Circle Genealogy."

Russ Rahn writes about virtual cemetery research and cemetery restoration in "Finding Facts in Cemeteries: In Person or Virtually." Added to this article is a list of useful items any cemetery researcher should consider for their "cemetery kit."

In addition to the adventures related by intrepid genealogy road warriors, we've included a few "how to" articles. Sandra J. Crowley describes the "must have" and "nice to have" tech items that can make the difference between a good research trip and a great research trip in "Tech for Your Trip." "Scoping out the Texas RHRD Program," by Susan E. Ball describes the libraries and archives that participate in the Texas Regional Historic Resource Depository Program; these facilities are important research destinations that house government documents that may be critical to your research. Susan has researched in several RHRD facilities and the common refrain from all is, "We wish we had more genealogists researching here." For those seeking family or locality specific historic ephemera, Russ Rahn provides tips for

finding items in antique stores and online auctions in "Antique Mall Clutter or Family History Treasure?"

In addition to genealogy road trips, this issue of *Stirpes* includes an article on DNA Painter by Debbie Parker Wayne, a review of Debbie's new book, *Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies*, the "Partner Society Roundup," plus lots of information about the 2019 TxSGS Family History Conference, *Blazing Family Trails*, slated October 11-13 in Houston, and more.

The upcoming September issue focuses on ethnic research. Have you researched your immigrant ancestors, visited your ancestral homeland, or collaborated with cousins in the old country? America is a melting pot, and we'd like to hear from all the "ingredients:" German, Czech, Polish, Irish, Scots, Jewish, African American, Native American, Hispanic, Asian, Middle Eastern, and more. Contact stirpes@txsgs.org to learn more or to submit your article. Start now! The submission deadline is July 15.

~ *Stirpes* Editors ★

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Volunteer Spotlight:

John Wylie and the GPGS PCS Crew

Over the past few years, John Wylie has guided the TxSGS Preservation Capture System from conception to completion with the assistance of the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society and the TxSGS PCS Committee. John developed the PCS concept based on digitization work being done by FamilySearch. In the spring of 2015, FamilySearch approached TxSGS to assist in placing a similar system, the Records Capture Kit, in various locations around Texas. John soon realized that valuable records were being overlooked because specified criteria such as collection size or date excluded records from digitization consideration by FamilySearch.

John then approached the GPGS with the opportunity to serve as developer and beta tester for a system similar to the Records Capture Kit that could be used by TxSGS partner societies to preserve these overlooked records through digitization. GPGS enthusiastically embraced their role, working with John to

design the PCS, test and refine the system, and volunteer thousands of hours in digitizing Grand Prairie records. Their work has been so successful that the Grand Prairie Historical Organization purchased a system for permanent use by Grand Prairie volunteers.

In addition to John, the following Grand Prairie volunteers deserve recognition for their efforts in launching the PCS and digitizing over 75,000 records:

Lynn Shumaker, PCS Committee, Full Time Volunteer
 Lee Ann Stone, PCS Committee, Weekly Volunteer
 Kathy Ritterhouse, PCS Committee, Weekly Volunteer
 Marilyn Waters, Weekly Volunteer
 Sherry Hilliard, Weekly Volunteer
 Bonnie Cockrum, Weekly Volunteer
 John Cockrum, Weekly Volunteer
 Karel Wheat, Weekly Volunteer

Larry Wheat, Weekly Volunteer
 Melissa Manuel, Past Weekly Volunteer
 Mike Hutchins, Past Weekly Volunteer
 Ruth Goodman, Past Volunteer
 Ruth Lloyd, Rho Kappa Committee
 Don Stone, Monthly Volunteer
 Stephanie Moreno, Monthly Volunteer

Stirpes also wishes to recognize the PCS Committee: John Wylie, Chair; Randy Whited, TxSGS President during development of the PCS; Linda Reynolds, TxSGS Archivist; and Teri Flack, Chair of the TxSGS Records Preservation and Access Committee. ★



GPGS members John Cockrum, Bonnie Cockrum, Marilyn Waters, Karol Wheat, Sherry Hilliard, and Larry Wheat pose with the PCS in 2016.

Three Generations in a Car: Planning a Family-Friendly Genealogy Road Trip

by Jessica Horne Collins



As genealogists, our ideal family history road trip probably includes visits to courthouses, libraries, and archives. We connect with our ancestors by finding a marriage certificate or uncovering an obscure newspaper clipping. But for the rest of our family, spending days buried in dusty old books is not that enjoyable. For your next road trip, skip the research stops and plan a vacation that showcases your findings and brings your ancestors to life for the entire family.

I organized my first family history road trip a few months after my mother died. I wanted to take a trip with my father, to do something to distract us from our loss. Although I had only been researching our family history for a year, I had many records documenting our earliest known ancestors in Mississippi. With a little additional research and planning, my father, 4-year-old son, and I embarked on a three-day, 700-mile journey through four states. We walked where our ancestors walked, saw what our ancestors saw, and made memories to last a lifetime.

Since this first family history road trip, I have taken several day excursions and other weeklong trips with my father and young children. You can also highlight your research with a family history road trip for all ages.

Know Your Constraints

Just like any other vacation, it is important to know your constraints—time, distance, and budget. How many days can you be away? Are you limited by vacation days or a school or work schedule? Do you want to drive or take a flight? Will you need a rental car? Can you stay with family, or do you need hotel accommodations? Answering these questions will help you decide how far you can travel and how long you can be away and will lead you toward an ancestor as the focus of your journey.

Choose an Ancestor

When I planned our trip, I immediately knew who our focus would be—my father’s earliest known paternal ancestor, Elisha Thomas Horn of Leake County, Mississippi. I already knew much about his life as a farmer and Primitive Baptist preacher from land

patents, census records, and a family history published in the 1980s. My father and I discussed him often, so I knew we were both interested in seeing where he lived.

Perhaps you also have an ancestor who has captured your attention. If so, he or she is an obvious choice as the subject of your road trip. You can also browse your family tree for an ancestor with inspiring accomplishments or for a location that engages your curiosity. Whomever you choose, you will need adequate research about the ancestor to continue. Do you have records placing your ancestor in a specific location at a specific time? If you have studied this family for years, you likely have many of these records already—census population schedules, marriage certificates, land patents, and more. If this ancestor is a new discovery, you may need to find more records before planning the trip.

Susan Kaufman Honored with NGS Filby Award

A groundswell of tributes submitted by Clayton Library friends and patrons propelled Susan Kaufman to recognition by the National Genealogical Society with its annual Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship.

The award, along with its \$1,000 prize, was presented to Kaufman on May 7 at Librarians' Day, an event held a day in advance of the NGS 2019 Family History Conference in St. Charles, Missouri. Created in 1999 by NGS, the award is named for the late P. William Filby, former director of the Maryland Historical Society and author of many core genealogical reference tools that genealogists have relied on for decades.

During the nomination process, patrons, colleagues, and volunteers offered tributes that tell the story of a generous and skilled researcher who is always willing to help other family historians. Reflecting the deep appreciation that genealogists in Texas

and across the US have for Kaufman, NGS reports that she received more nominations than any other award recipient.

In 2005, Kaufman was appointed manager of the Houston Public Library's Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research. Previously, she held positions as a genealogy librarian at the Peoria Public Library in Peoria, Illinois, and the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. During her tenure, the Clayton Library has become one of the finest genealogy libraries in the nation with some 100,000 research volumes, 3,000 periodical titles, and an extensive microfilm collection. It also is a FamilySearch affiliate library, which



allows patrons to access extensive genealogical records held by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Kaufman supports the genealogy and library community beyond her duties at the Clayton Library. For TxSGS, Kaufman served as Executive Vice President, 2010-2011; President, 2012-2013; and has been Director of Education since 2014. She has participated on the boards of many other genealogical organizations, including the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). Kaufman has also supported the American Library Association and the Texas Library Association in a variety of elected positions.

TxSGS is thrilled that NGS through the Filby Award has acknowledged Kaufman's dedication to the genealogy community in Texas and beyond. Along with a host of others, we say, "Congratulations on your well-deserved award!" ★



**TxSGS Announces the
\$1,000 College Scholarship Contest**

For High School Seniors and College Students

Requirements

- Must be a major in history, government, library science, or education
- Must be sponsored by a TxSGS member or Partner Society

Application Contents

Send the following via email to president@txsgs.org

- A 500-word essay on "The Importance of Family History"

Plus

- Application Letter
- Resume
- Certified Transcript
- Recommendation Letter



For more details, visit the Scholarship Contest page at:
<http://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/scholarship/>

Last Date to Apply for Scholarship -- September 15, 2019

Full Circle Genealogy:

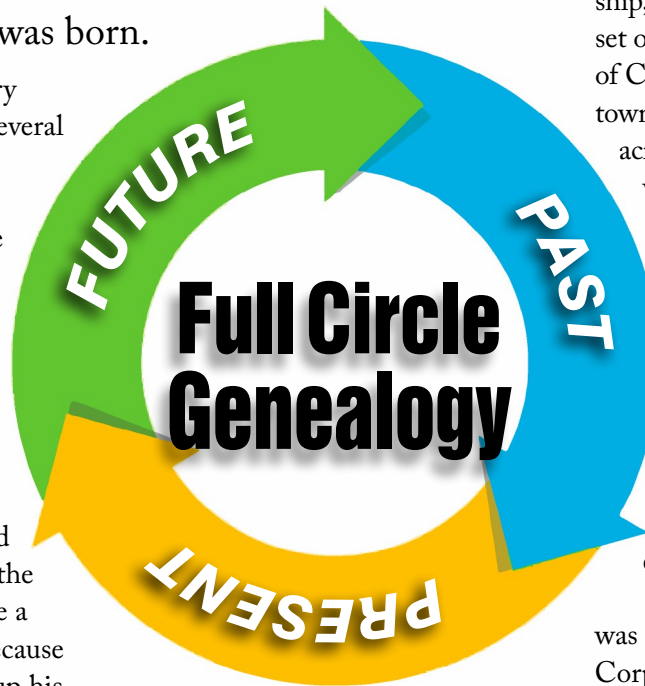
Past Connections Revealed in Courthouse Find

by H. Martin Soward III

Before I get to my genealogy road trip, I need to provide some background information. When I first started researching at the age of eighteen, I knew very little about the family of my maternal grandfather whose surname was Porter. In fact, all anyone in the family knew was the name of my great-grandfather Porter, his date of birth, and the date and place of his death and burial. No one knew where he was born.

My wife's grandmother, Mary Burmeister Franklin, asked me several times if I was related to Lake Porter. I responded that I didn't know and didn't know who Lake Porter was. She explained, "Well, he was a well-liked sheriff of McMullen County (Texas) and participated in the famous cattle drives" following the Civil War. She knew him and his family when she was a young girl. She even remembered his aged mother who lived with the sheriff and his family. It got to be a joke between my wife and me because her grandmother kept bringing up his name, and we were soon telling her to stop talking about Lake Porter.

As time went on, my research eventually determined that Lake Porter was indeed related and was actually a brother of my great-great-grandfather, William S. Porter (not the famous short story author, but, strangely enough, they both lived in Austin at the same time). I discovered that the Porter family lived in Goliad County at the time of the Civil War and that the father of Lake and William was Dr. Stark P. Porter.



Mrs. Franklin, my wife's grandmother, began telling us about her family who lived in Goliad County during the same time period. She told us about her grandfather, Charles Arden Russell, who came to Texas in 1845 with General Zachary Taylor's forces as hostilities were about to commence between the US and Mexico in what became known as the Mexican-American War or the Mexican War. Mr. Russell's enlistment expired while the troops were stationed

at Corpus Christi, and he began what would have been a long trip back to New York to see his mother. He somehow missed a boat that would have taken him to Galveston and from there he would have sailed to New Orleans and up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to get to New York.

Not willing to wait for the next ship, he and his traveling companions set out on horseback. The first day out of Corpus Christi they reached the town of Goliad at midday, were ferried across the San Antonio River, and were then invited to have lunch at the home of the ferryman, George Claver Brightman, a veteran of the War of 1812 and a native of Rhode Island. At lunch, Mr. Russell became enamored with the ferryman's daughter, Emeline Camille Brightman. In fact he was so stricken that he decided to stay in Texas and eventually married Emeline.

For my last year in the Navy, I was transferred from Virginia to the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station. Goliad kept coming up time and again in our conversations as we discussed these family legends. Now that I was back in Texas and only an hour away, we decided that we should all go to Goliad and let me find out what I could at the courthouse. My wife's mother, Rose Mary Franklin Haynes, the aforementioned Mrs. Franklin, and my mother all lived in Pleasanton. Arrangements were made that we would all meet at the Dairy Queen in Goliad.

Finding Facts in Cemeteries: In Person or Virtually

by Russell A. Rahn

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[Editor's Note: When weather warms, genealogists begin to yearn for a visit to a family cemetery. As we search for clues to our ancestry among the headstones, we are drawn to clean up headstones and family plots, reset stones, take photos, and preserve the records represented by the stones both physically and virtually. Here, Russell Rahn shares the results of these preservation efforts in restoring a pauper's cemetery and posting supplemental information in online resources such as Find-A-Grave.]

At the time of death, several genealogical records are created. In a general way, it is possible to separate these into two categories. The first category contains those records that, once created, do not usually get changed.

Basic to these is the official death record that eventually finds its way into the Register of Deeds office of the county where the death occurred. Newspaper obituaries and church records follow and can range from simple entries to rather elaborate documents for persons of high social prominence.

The second type of record is a record that can be changed or modified, even after it is produced. Generally these are burial records that are accessible through the 'Find-A-Grave' Index. In its present incarnation, the entries in the index are continually being created and updated through the efforts of individuals as well as entire genealogical societies who have made it their "project" to read and report on the tombstone inscriptions in cemeteries everywhere.

The efforts of one such individual have recently been reported from the Tacoma, Washington region.¹ This



Bill Habermann straightens up a fallen stone in an abandoned cemetery. (Photo Credit: David Montesino, The News Tribune, Tacoma, Washington).

person, Bill Habermann, is an associate of the Piper-Morely Funeral Home in Tacoma. He has discovered an abandoned two acre burial plot of land adjacent to the Oakwood Cemetery in Tacoma, where he has single-handedly taken on the project of cleaning up the overgrown brush, setting the stones upright again, and making them as legible as possible. He researches these

individuals in the records of his firm and any other local history sources available to him. Finally, all this gets published in the Find-A-Grave Index, making his work available to genealogists and historians as a resource for their research. To each index entry, he adds any supplemental information he can find such as newspaper accounts, military records, and the like.

1. Peterson, Karen: "1,600 stories buried in forgotten Tacoma pauper cemetery," *The News Tribune*, Tacoma Washington, 28 August 2016 (<https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article98258267.html>).

Capture Your Cemetery Visit with the Right Photos

by Sandra J. Crowley

It's time to hit the road for your family research, but you want to do more than visit repositories looking for records. You want to walk in your ancestor's footsteps, and you want to discover their final resting place. You might even have a chance to discover other family members buried in the same location.

In the past, you've visited cemeteries on these trips and taken a few pictures. However, when you got back home, you realized that something was missing; the photos do not contain everything you remember seeing. Since the trip is hours away in another state, you won't have an opportunity to retake those pictures any time soon.

Here are some TIPS on the photos you should take on your visit to be sure you've captured the information that will help you fill in the gaps in your family tree.

In the Beginning— The Cemetery Entrance

The cemetery sign should be the first photo you take each time you go to the cemetery. As you enter or as you leave, be sure that you take a picture of the entrance to the cemetery. You can create a digital album for your images with the cemetery entrance included.

This habit is especially beneficial if you visit several cemeteries on the same trip. It's easy to lose track of which one was which; in one area that I research, there are four cemeteries within about a 15-mile radius. My ancestors apparently decided that each branch of the

family would have their own separate resting place! Having the sign as the first photo for that cemetery helps me visualize it after I get home.

If you are researching an old cemetery with no sign, then make your own by adding the name of the cemetery digitally to the photo or taking a picture of a sheet with the handwritten name. We have an old family cemetery in Tennessee known as "The Smith Family Cemetery." I have a picture of a road sign leading to the turn-off from the main highway, but there is no formal sign. Since it is on family property, no new burials happen there. Photo 1 shows the "sign"



Photo 1: Photo of cemetery "entrance" created digitally by adding text to the image.

I created to distinguish this cemetery from the others in my files.

Many of my dad's family are buried in Walnut Grove Cemetery in Hardeman County, Tennessee (shown in photo 2). It was on an early visit to this site as a teenager that I learned about my great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents, and children who died too young.

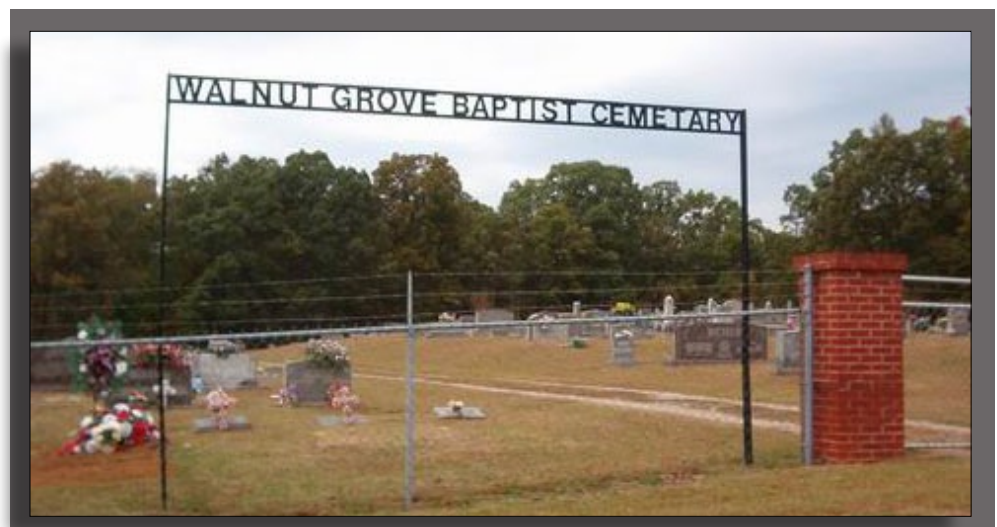


Photo 2: Entrance of the Walnut Grove Baptist Cemetery.

Where in the World is that Darned Motel!

by Allen Wright

A few years ago, I spent three nights in Gaffney, South Carolina, a town of only 12,500 people on Interstate 85, and every night I got lost trying to find my way back to my motel. Losing your way is just one of the trials and tribulations of a genealogy road warrior.

But, finding those golden nuggets about your ancestry is the reward for patience and perseverance.

Every genealogist dreams about the road trip in search of his or her family past. Whether it is a trip to the house or farm of a great-great-great-grandfather, the old cemetery lost deep in the woods, or the library or archive containing information or family stories, we want to see it. Driving across the county to grandma's grave is easy enough. Summoning up the gumption to pack the car and head out across the country to parts unknown, however, can be daunting. I did just that back in April 2016, driving over 5,000 miles in a month on one of the most rewarding trips of my life. I discovered an enormous amount of information about my ancestors, and learned a few things along the way about making a genealogy road trip.

Now, about those pesky motels ... most people these days book hotels online. It's a great way to be assured of having a room when you get to your destination. I only made reservations for a few nights and left most of the trip open, since I was not sure where or when my wanderings would take me. That turned out to be a good decision, because even with a GPS, I had trouble

finding a few of them.

In Georgia, I had made a reservation for a motel "near" Carrollton. I left the interstate at Bremer, Georgia, and drove south ten miles. I could not find the darned motel for the life of me. After about an hour, I looked at my confirmation and realized that "near Carrollton" meant Bremer. I had passed right by my motel when I left the interstate. Back I went; and when I finally had the motel in sight, my GPS told me to turn left. I dutifully did so and ended up driving down the interstate access road for five miles, AWAY from my motel! I finally worked my way back, again had the motel in sight, and again my GPS told me to turn left. Hah! Fool me once ... I ignored the sweet lady's voice on the GPS and finally got to my motel, which I had passed twice in the last hour and a half.

The next night was a similarly frustrating experience in Greenwood, South Carolina. The GPS would direct me to the motel then suddenly tell me to make a U-turn as I had passed it! I made the U-turn and, according to the GPS, drove by it again. Where is that darned thing? After about a half dozen times, including driving around the block entirely, I finally saw the place on



another street, a half block off of the one I was on and over a berm through some trees ... so much for modern technology!

After the debacle in Gaffney, I stopped booking motels until I had one in sight.

Finding the right hotel in an unfamiliar place is a little like researching genealogy. You can spend a lot of time looking in the wrong places but, given that patience and persistence I mentioned, you can find what you are seeking. Sometimes, you just have to wander around and see what you can find.

Now, here are a few hints before getting on the trail.

First of all, think about what you have learned from your closest family, the stories Mom and Dad told you, the cousins at family reunions. Try to write them down. You've got to start someplace and collecting what you already know or can find out is the base on which your research will grow.

Antique Mall Clutter or Family History Treasure?

by Russell A. Rahn
russandmarionrahn@gmail.com

The study of genealogy, no matter what its purpose or what the intent of the student may originally be, is totally dependent upon photographs and documents. Someone once said that ‘genealogy without documentation is mythology.’¹ This immediately implies that one must be able to locate the documents and then either obtain them as originals or get good quality copies with permission of the owner to study and use them, either for family history purposes or for study and publication.

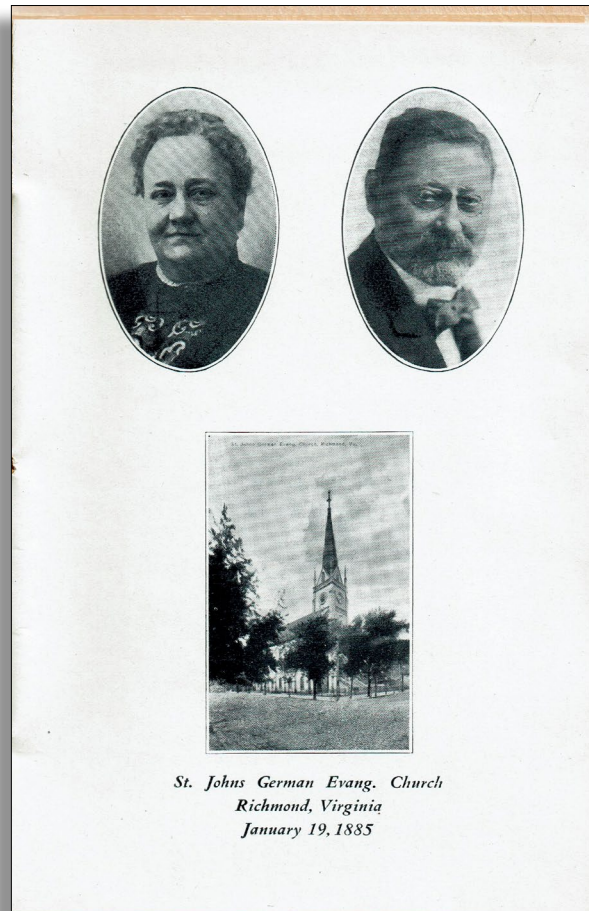
If the purpose of someone’s study is to be the family historian, then basements, attics, closets, garages, and such hiding places take on new importance. Boxes need to be inspected and messy looking piles of “stuff” should be checked thoroughly. Once located, the genealogist is usually met with one of three general responses. These are cooperation, indifference, or private hoarding. The first one is good news and the second can usually be overcome by a careful display of personal enthusiasm and diplomatically phrased requests for assistance. The third (hoarding) is often encountered from an individual who believes that his own personal fortune will be diminished by giving or sharing, and a polite ‘thank you’ is usually

the best (and only) manner of dealing with someone like that.

A second general source of study materials comes outside the family, either from dealers in antique malls or from online internet sellers who work through auction sites, a very familiar one being eBay. Materials available through these sources are most likely not related to the family on which someone may be working. It seems to me to be little short of a miracle to be able to find an old family Bible for sale and then discover that it is your family. It’s not impossible, but if that is what you are hoping for, you may as well go to Las Vegas because your chances of winning are far greater.

These “outside” sources are primarily for the person who enjoys finding a document or a photograph, then investigating the person or persons involved and working up a family tree or a family history on that person. We could refer to such an individual as a ‘hobby genealogist.’ This description fits me perfectly.

A trip to an antique mall is often planned as a family affair, as several members of our family enjoy spending the day just looking at all the old stuff. For the genealogist, the trick is to locate what may have genealogical significance in the assortment of

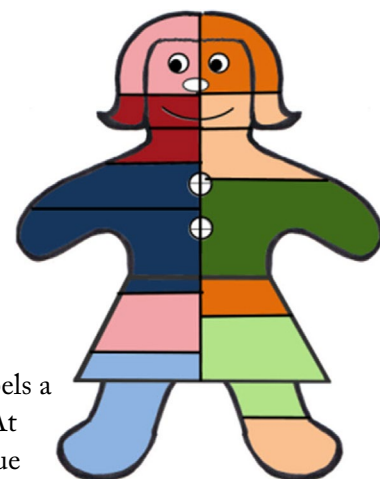


Cover of "Rudolph A. John, Emilie Wenzel, January Nineteenth, 1885-1935," worship service commemorative booklet, image courtesy of the author ("Let us Celebrate Together," *Stirpes*, September 2018, vol. 57, no. 3, p. 28)

¹In a blog post describing his search for the originator of this quote, Tamura Jones attributes “Genealogy without proof is mythology” to Mary L. Henke (<https://www.tamurajones.net/GenealogyWithoutProofIsMythology.xhtml>).

DNA Painter—Part 1: Chromosome Mapping & Analysis Tool

by Debbie Parker Wayne, CG[®], CGLSM



Introduction to DNA Painter

DNA Painter is a website created by Jonny Perl of London, England, that provides tools to help with autosomal DNA analysis.¹ The site also offers access to tools created by others, with permission of the creator, and sometimes modifies or automates the tool-using rights granted through a Creative Commons license.² These additional tools include the Shared cM Project³ by Blaine T. Bettinger and What Are the Odds? (WATO)⁴ by Leah LaPerle Larkin. Access is free for the basic tools. Some useful features require a subscription.

There is an ongoing discussion in the genealogical community about whether genealogical databases should be available to law enforcement investigators and researchers working with law enforcement when no

warrant or subpoena compels a company to allow access. At this time, this is not an issue with DNA Painter. Data imported to an account is only available to the account holder unless explicitly shared with another person. Additionally, raw DNA data is not uploaded to DNA Painter; only the information about shared matches is needed and aliases can be used in place of real test-taker names when privacy is a consideration.

This article gives enough information to get started with using DNA Painter to analyze DNA matches and map shared segments. More advanced features may be covered in future articles.

Access and Profiles

An account must be created before the site can be used. Access the website (<https://dnainter.com/>) and click on “Register for a free account.” Enter first and last name with a valid email address. Choose a unique user name and a password for the account, read the “Terms and Conditions,” click the box indicating agreement, then click “Sign me up.” Once the account is set up, log in anytime to access the tools and any data entered and saved.

A profile will contain the matching DNA data for one person and any matching test takers for that profile person. Click on “Create a new profile” to create the first profile. Free accounts are allowed only one profile. Subscriber accounts are allowed multiple profiles

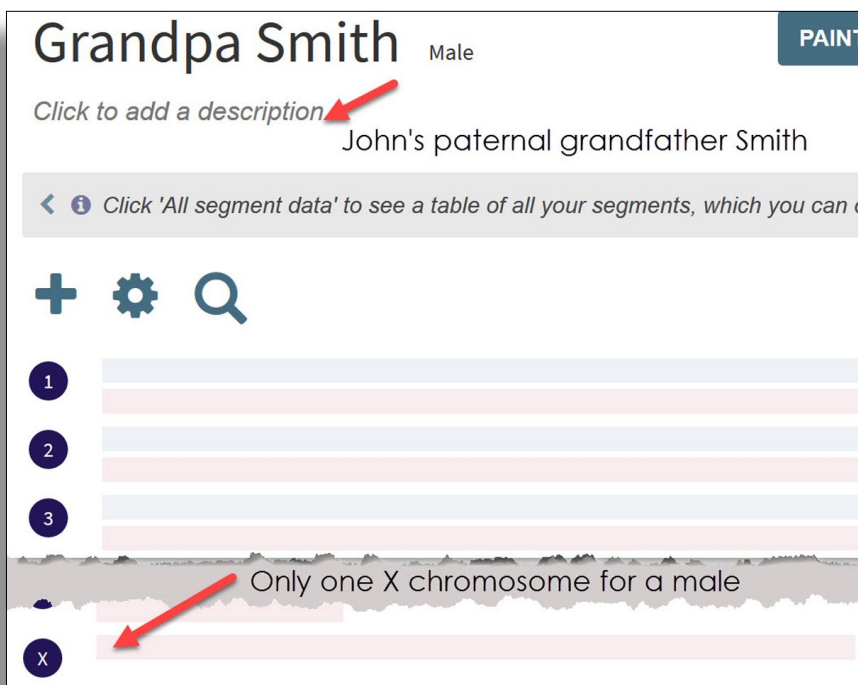


Figure 1. DNA Painter new profile showing profile name (Grandpa Smith), gender (Male), one X chromosome for a male, and a description for the profile (John's paternal grandfather Smith)

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).



Blazing Family Trails with TxSGS at the 2019 Annual Family History Conference

Join the Texas State Genealogical Society in Houston, October 11-13, for *Blazing Family Trails*, our 2019 Family History Conference. This year's event features 33 speakers presenting 56 sessions plus 4 add-on workshops.

For the convenience of attendees, purchased lunches are available. On Friday and Sunday, the lunches include a light-hearted genealogical topic by well-known Texas speakers. Open each day, the exhibit hall showcases a host of genealogical products, services, and societies that can help meet your research needs.

Our ancestors started *Blazing Family Trails* when they immigrated to a new land with dreams of finding home and prosperity. As genealogists, we follow their path by identifying

our immediate family and traveling backward in time via records, DNA, and much more. We learn methods for researching and analyzing these records; we trace and document our ancestors' ethnic roots. Along the way, we make sure to preserve and share their stories for future generations. *Blazing Family Trails* provides you with knowledge and tools to help you on this journey.

Preview the program and speakers below and make plans now to join us for a fabulous genealogy weekend!

DNA

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

Ethnic

Texas is a diverse state and each ethnic group presents unique research challenges. Learn how to discover more information about your African American, Jewish, Hispanic ancestors, and more.

Methodology & Problem Solving

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

Military

Beyond the soldier, military records capture genealogically rich information on widows, heirs, and more. Discover the wealth of data available for the Civil War and Spanish-American War as well as other record sets such as pensions and Gold Star Mothers.

Publishing, Storytelling, Preservation

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

Records, Resources, Repositories

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

Skill Building

Expand your abilities beyond the basics! Learn how to analyze facts and multiple record sets to uncover hidden stories, organize your genealogy for effective research, develop advanced search strategies, and more.

Technology

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

Omni Houston Hotel at Westside Serves as Host Hotel for 2019 TxSGS Family History Conference *Blazing Family Trails*

by Sandra J. Crowley

Join us for a fabulous genealogy getaway weekend at the Omni Houston Hotel Westside on Friday through Sunday, October 11-13, 2019. Hotel rooms must be booked by 5:00 pm Friday, September 19, 2019 to get the TxSGS Conference discount. Details are listed below.

Lectures, exhibits, workshops, the banquet, and more will be held in the newly-renovated meeting area conveniently located on the first floor. A final map of conference activities will be available on site and in the syllabus as locations are subject to change during final staging of the event.

About the Hotel

Omni Houston Hotel Westside

13210 Katy Fwy
Houston, TX 77079

Phone: (281) 558-8338

Make your reservations online using the reservation page link below.

Conference Guest Room Rates

Standard Guest Room, one King or two Doubles

- \$119.00/night
- Includes free self-parking
- Valet parking available for \$15
- Includes free in-room Wi-Fi

All rates are per night plus taxes and fees. Rates are valid 3 days prior and 3 days after the official dates of the conference, based on availability.

BOOK YOUR CONFERENCE HOTEL ROOM TODAY!



Check-In/Out Time

Check-in time is 3:00 pm; checkout time is 12:00 noon. All guests arriving before 3:00 pm will be accommodated as rooms become available. Omni guest service staff can arrange to check baggage for those arriving early when rooms are unavailable and for guests attending functions on departure day.



Early Departure Fees

In the event a 2019 TxSGS Family History Conference Omni guest checks out prior to the guest's reserved checkout date, the hotel will add an early departure fee in the amount equal to one-night's room and tax to the guest's individual account/credit card. Guests wishing to avoid an early departure fee should advise the Omni San Antonio Hotel at the Colonnade at or before check-in of any change in planned length of stay.

Omni Guest Select

For more information and to enroll: <http://www.omniselectguest.com>.

Reservations

You must book your room by 5:00 pm on September 19, 2019 to get the TxSGS Conference discount. Reservations requested after 5:00 pm on September 19 will be accepted based on guest room availability at the prevailing rate.

Reservation Guarantee

All reservations must be guaranteed by a valid major credit card, which will be supplied at the time of reservation. Any guaranteed reservation not cancelled by 12:00 pm the day prior to arrival will be subject to one night room and tax cancellation fee.

Any reservations that fail to arrive on the scheduled arrival date will be considered "No-Shows" and a charge of one night's room and tax will be charged to the individual's credit card on file.

Online Reservations

When booking online, you **must use the address below** in order to get the correct discount group booking.

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/houston-westside/meetings/texas-state-genealogical-society-annual-conference-2019>

Phone Reservations

Reservations can be made over the phone: (800) THE-OMNI.

When making your reservations by phone, be sure to provide the following information:

Group name: Texas State Genealogical Society

Parking Information - Hotel Guests

- Free self-parking, including in-and-out privileges.
- Valet parking is also available at \$15 per night for overnight parking.

Parking Information - Non-Guests

- Conference attendees who are not staying at the hotel have access to the same parking options as hotel guests.

Area Information

For further area information visit:

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/houston/things-to-do/area-attractions>

Visit the Clayton Library Center For Genealogical Research In Houston

Come early or stay late for the
2019 TxSGS Family History Conference in Houston

Take advantage of your travel to Houston for this year's TxSGS Family History Conference by planning a research trip to one of the top 10 genealogical libraries in the US.

The Houston Public Library's Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research houses an international collection that contains materials from all 50 states and many foreign countries. This includes approximately 120,000 books; 3,000 periodical titles; 70,000 reels of microfilm; as well as a microfiche and microfilm collection. Numerous electronic databases are also accessible. The staff at the library have varied and deep specialties in addition to being generalists. They will help you with your specific research quest. Learn more about Clayton's collections to help you develop your research plan. Clayton Library links that will help you develop your research plan and plan your trip

are on the following page.

Additionally, the Clayton Library is a library partner of FamilySearch. Ever find a film that is "restricted" to view when you are home? If the information bubble that comes up says, "visit a 'library partner'" ... well, write down those film titles and visit the Clayton Library on Thursday, October 10, 2019, with extended hours beginning at noon until 9:00 pm!! The Clayton Library Friends are sponsoring a reception with light snacks while you are researching.

Join us for the extended hours on October 10, 2019. The library would love to see you before or after the conference also!



Blazing

FAMILY TRAILS

2019 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

Enjoy some genealogy "R&R"

Research & Reception

Hosted by the Clayton Library Friends

Thursday, October 10, 2019

EXTENDED HOURS:
NOON TO 9:00 PM

*Join us for light snacks
& heavy research!*

Houston Public Library
Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research
5300 Caroline Street Houston, TX

Here are a few tips to maximize your experience:

Know the hours:

Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
 Thursday 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm

October 10, 2019, extended hours

Noon to 9:00 pm plus reception sponsored by Clayton Library Friends 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
 Friday & Saturday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
 Closed Sunday & Monday

Parking is free. [See a map and view a list of upcoming events at Clayton.](#)

Develop a research plan by evaluating your current research and identifying specific questions you want to answer. The library has expert staff to help you. Planning makes the most efficient use of your time.

[Search Clayton's online catalog](#) before you go to save time once you're there.

Learn more about what's going on at Clayton before you go. Subscribe to Clayton's email newsletter, the *Clayton Town Crier* and the *Clayton Extra*, to learn about programs and materials at the library. [Read back issues and sign up](#) to have them sent directly to your email.

Things to bring:

- Your laptop and/or mobile devices** to connect to Clayton's free WiFi. Clayton has computers available for your use; however, it's always nice to be able to make notes and save photos on your own device.
- Your Texas driver's license or ID** so you can get a Houston Public Library PowerCard. This gives you access to some of the library databases remotely. Be sure to ask the staff for details on how you can use it!
- Notebook or paper** for taking notes (*always* have these as a backup for digital devices).
- Money for the copy machines** (small bills; they are unable to provide change). Clayton is part of the Houston Public Library system so use of its resources are FREE to all users; however, there is a nominal fee for copies.
- Flash drive** (saving from computer or microfilm is free)
- A sweater or light jacket.** Yes, even in Texas, it's often cold in buildings during the summer!
- Your pedigree chart**, which can help Clayton's staff evaluate your research and guide you to the resources specific to your needs.
- Snacks**, if you want them. There is a snack room and lockers so you have a place to take a break and lock up your belongings. You will need a quarter to use a locker; it will be returned to you when you return the key. There are also vending machines in the snack room.



Clayton Library for Genealogical Research

5300 Caroline St., Houston, Texas 77004 • (832) 393-2600

Clayton Library Links:

Learn more about Clayton's collections:

<http://houstonlibrary.org/research/special-collections/clayton-library-center-genealogical-research/collections>

Find driving directions and view a list of upcoming events at Clayton:

<http://houstonlibrary.org/research/special-collections/clayton-library-center-genealogical-research/directions-clayton>
<http://houstonlibrary.org/research/special-collections/clayton-library-center-genealogical-research/clayton-library-events>

Search the Houston Public Library online catalog:

www.houstonlibrary.org

Search library catalog, then limit the search to the Clayton Library.

Clayton Library Friends:

www.claytonlibraryfriends.org

2019 TxSGS Family History Conference, Blazing Family Trails Lunch Speakers and Topics

As a convenience to conference attendees, TxSGS is offering an optional add-on lunch for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. On Friday and Sunday, those that purchase the lunch will be treated to genealogy on the lighter side by well-known speakers Cari Taplin and Susan Kaufman.



Cari shares tales of raising kids while chasing family connections in “How Potty Training Can Improve Your Genealogy: True Tales of Dragging My Kids Through Cemeteries.” According to Cari, “When I got started in genealogy, my first child was the proverbial bun in the oven. As I learned how to be a genealogist and a mom, we experienced some fun lessons together.” Hear about the crazy things kids say and moms do while on the quest to discover their roots.



Susan Kaufman, TxSGS’s own Filby Award honoree, will recount “Tales from the Reference Desk.” Walking into a research facility can be overwhelming—you need to be organized, directed, and know what you are looking for. In this lighthearted view of situations from the other side of the reference desk, you might just get some ideas on how to be more successful when engaging an information professional.

The menu and fee for each lunch will be available when registration is opened in early July. Friday and Sunday lunches include the added speaker.

Be part of the TxSGS Team!

TxSGS operates like a small business and it takes a team of volunteers to get things done.

- ✓ **Elected directors and leaders** fill major roles: President, Education, Development, Membership, Secretary, Treasurer.
- ✓ **District Representatives** serve as liaisons between TxSGS and Partner Societies.
- ✓ **Committees** contribute to ongoing programs such as Heritage Certificates, events, marketing/publicity, *Stirpes*, and more.

Think about what you have to offer—expertise, skills, talents, and interests. Do you enjoy editing or proofreading, creating brochures or newsletters, working with social media? Are you the “meet and greet” type who thrives on event planning, publicity, and hospitality? Whatever your skill,

CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING WITH TXSGS.

Learn more about these opportunities on our website at www.txsgs.org/volunteers/



Get involved in TxSGS and “pay it forward” to the genealogical community.

The TxSGS 2019 Annual Awards Banquet Features

Deborah Abbott, Ph.D.

Becoming an Ancestor: Is Your Story Ready for Your Descendants?

Saturday, October 12

How do you want to be remembered? Why not answer the questions now? Who knows better than you the joy, pain and laughter of your life? In her banquet presentation, Deborah A. Abbott, PhD, asks thought-provoking questions and challenges genealogists to think about their own family legacy.

Illustrating the need to craft our own narrative, one that will be passed down to future generations, Dr. Abbott shares a moving story told with amazing pictures in an entertaining manner. Through her examples, learn the importance of reliving your past and reflecting on who you are today and explore ways to remember the past that no record could possibly provide.

A professional genealogist, Dr. Abbott specializes in African American research, manuscript collections, and genealogical methodology. She is a Trustee on the Board of the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS), a member of the



Board of Directors for the Federation of Genealogy Societies (FGS), and a member of the Cuyahoga County Ohio Archives Advisory Commission. An affiliate with the Kentucky-Tennessee Associates, Deborah is past president of the African American Genealogical Society, Cleveland, Ohio, and a retired professor of Counseling from Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland. She holds both the BS and MEd degrees from Tuskegee

University in Alabama and the PhD degree from Kent State University in Ohio.

Dr. Abbott is coordinator/instructor of the African American Track and an instructor in Researching in the South and Intermediate Genealogy at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) in Athens, Georgia, an instructor at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) in Salt Lake City, and the African American Genealogy Colloquium at Alabama State University, in Montgomery, Alabama. She presents lectures and workshops for national, state, and local genealogy conferences across the country, in addition to colleges, businesses, and libraries. She has articles published in the *Ohio Genealogy News* and *Family Tree Magazine*. Dr. Abbott is also featured in "Needles & Threads" on Ancestry Academy, an educational video course for Ancestry.com.

For more information about the conference and to purchase banquet tickets after registration opens in early July, please see www.txsgs.org/2019-conference/.

Road Trip Adventures Lead to Connections

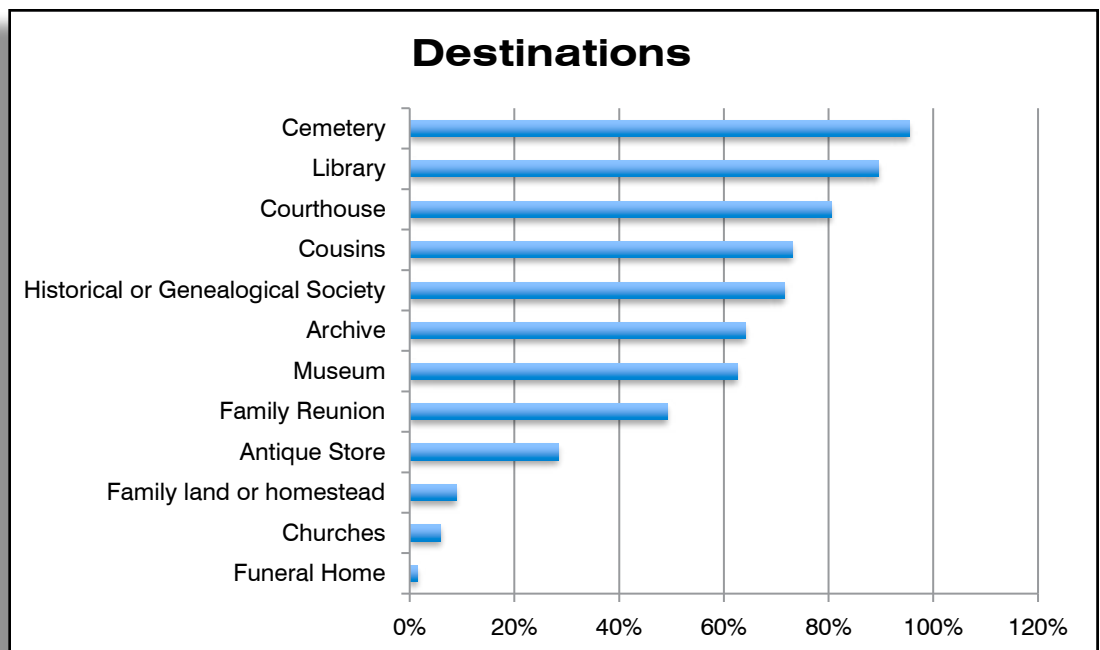
by Susan E. Ball

As reported by our Genealogy Road Trip survey respondents, genealogy trips can be fun, insightful, challenging, and sometimes a little dangerous. The rewards can be amazing: discovering documents demolishes brick walls; visiting locations brings our family history alive; and connecting with cousins forms friendships that last a lifetime.



Where do genealogists go on their road trips? Most any of us could predict the top two destinations: cemeteries and libraries. Both of these are relatively easy to research, even though some cemeteries require a longing to see an ancestor's grave that overpowers the need for self-preservation. The destinations next on the list include courthouses, historical or genealogical societies, archives, and museums. Their ranking in the list reflects the realities of researching in these facilities. They may be a little less accessible, with limited hours or parking, and require more advanced research skills.

Road trips involve more than destinations, more than identifying documents and graves. Placing yourself in a location significant to your family



immerses you in an experience that connects you to your past in a deeply emotional way and brings your ancestors to life.

Genealogy is all about connections, and a genealogy road trip provides opportunities for connecting on many levels. We connect to our past when we visit cemeteries where our ancestors are

buried, research in libraries and archives, and tour old family lands, homes, and local museums. By meeting family and visiting with distant cousins, we connect with the present. We connect with the future because the information we learn and the contacts we make will help preserve our stories for future generations.

Technology for your Genealogy Road Trip

by Sandra J. Crowley

Whether you are a certified technology geek or just a weekend warrior, you need to know what gadgets you should take with you when you embark on your next road trip to conduct genealogy research. There are a few “must have” items as well as some “always handy to have” pieces. Here are just a few. You’ve probably got a few of your own to add to this list! The key is to remember to plan ahead, pack what you need, and have fun while you’re tracing your family’s story.



Camera – There are so many options today. You can take a digital camera with you or you can use your tablet or smartphone. The main thing to remember is to set your device to automatically sync with your laptop or server as soon as possible so you don’t accidentally delete the photos you’ve taken. Years ago you had to take pictures and remember to have the pictures developed from film. Today, you need to be sure the images are uploaded to a hard drive, the cloud, or both.



Computer – Take a tablet or laptop with you. If you’re taking a laptop, remember to take a lock for it to use when you’re in a repository. You can generally take your tablet with you when you’re strolling the stacks to collect books. Be sure to pack the necessary chargers and peripherals you’ll need.

Cloud storage – Have something set up before you leave that you

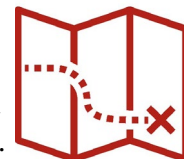


can access on your travels. Use a cloud storage service such as Dropbox, One Drive, iCloud, or other service for uploading or accessing any documents or research files while you’re in the library.

Flash drives – Most libraries will allow you to save images from a photocopier or scanner to a flash drive if you have one. Be sure you take a couple along with enough storage to allow you to save large files. Occasionally, the repository may offer USB flash drives for sale for a nominal fee; however, don’t depend on that. Take your own. TIP: Affix a label to the drive with your name and contact information in case you leave it at the library.

GPS (Global Positioning System) – You may have one in your car which will help you reach the cemetery but won’t mark where the tombstone is located when you take a photo; you definitely have one in your smartphone that can provide directions and mark the location of any photos taken. If your camera does

not have a GPS and you don’t have a phone that takes photos, you can buy a small GPS device for about \$60 that will fit in your pocket. When you take a photo, indicate that you snapped a shot in that location by clicking your GPS. Then sync the portable GPS with your camera when you return home. If you have a GPS in your car that is not built in, consider removing it from the dashboard when you’re parked to avoid tempting would-be thieves.



Recorders – Audio recorders can be handy if you’re visiting family or FANs (Friends, Associates, and Neighbors) in the area where your ancestors lived. Your smartphone and tablet also have recording apps available for download to allow single devices to have multiple uses. Having these apps in addition to the device also provides a backup system in case one does not work.

Scanners – One of the most important items to consider is how to


Partner Society Roundup

Is your Partner Society missing? Perhaps our contact information is out of date. Please contact your District Representative and memberinfo@txsgs.org with current contact data. Partner Societies are encouraged to investigate the many benefits and resources available from TxSGS at

the Partner Society Resource page at <http://www.txsgs.org/partner-society-resources/>. Benefits include publicity support for society events, media downloads, preservation and access support, awards, digitization equipment loan grants, and much more.

Tony Hanson, TxSGS Director of Membership, has updated the Partner Society listing on the TxSGS website, viewable at <http://www.txsgs.org/partner-societies/>. Updates are now semi-automated. Partner societies can easily view the list and determine whether their TxSGS dues are current; inclusion in the list indicates that dues have been paid. Otherwise, the Partner Society representative (e.g., president, treasurer, delegate) can log in to their society's TxSGS account at <https://txsgs.z2systems.com/np/clients/txsgs/login.jsp> to verify membership status, contact information, add a society description, and more. Tony has also added a complete listing of all Texas genealogy societies, which can be viewed at <http://www.txsgs.org/all-texas-societies/>, and a list of libraries subscribing to *Stirpes*, viewable at <http://www.txsgs.org/subscribing-libraries/>. These useful lists can help Partner Society board members and others keep up with the genealogical landscape in Texas.

Do you or your society have genealogy books you no longer need? Would you be interested in sharing them with a genealogy society in desperate need? The Paradise Genealogical Society Library burned to the ground during the terrible Paradise fire in northern California last year. To get a feel for



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

the devastation experienced during the fire, view the before and after photos of their library at <http://www.pargenso.org/>. Prior to the fire, the picturesque library is nestled in a lovely grove of trees. After the fire, it's a pile of ashes. PGS has issued a plea for replacement books. If you have something you'd like to share, contact Kathy Borgnogo at KLB95928@gmail.com.

District A – Open

The **South Plains** and **Hi-Plains Genealogical Societies** report that their Caprock Genealogy Conference held April 6 was a resounding success, with good attendance and excellent presentations by Marynell Anderson. On May 11, SPGS replaced their

usual May meeting with a tour of the Silent Wings Museum in Lubbock led by Sebastian Forbush, featuring WWII letters from soldiers, military equipment, and gliders.

District B

Paula Ballard,
District Representative

The **North Texas Genealogical Association** meets 6:30 pm the first Thursday of each month, except July, at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Members and guest speakers this year entertained and encouraged all with varied topics of interest, from book binding to "Christianity in Colonial America." A special fall seminar with guest speaker Patti Gillespie had members soaking up tidbits and tips

LOOK INSIDE

We hope you've enjoyed this sample
of content of this issue of *Stirpes*.

Read the rest of this stories! **Join TxSGS**
today to receive the complete issue.

As a TxSGS member, you will automatically receive
each issue as soon as it is published. It's easy! Just
click the link below and sign up today.

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

