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OCTOBER 1-2, 2021

**2021 TxSGS
Family History Conference**



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Generations**

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10 PRESENTATIONS

WITH Q&A BY SPEAKERS

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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)



Editorial Policy

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

Submission Guidelines

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

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

Deadlines: January 15 for the March issue; April 15 for the June issue; July 15 for the September issue; and November 15 for the December issue.

Back Issues

Copies of previous issues of *Stirpes* are available at the price of \$15.00 per issue, if available, which includes mailing. Contact: Betsy Mills, Treasurer, at Texas State Genealogical Society, attn: Treasurer, 2028 E Ben White Blvd #240-2700, Austin, TX 78741; e-mail: treasurer@txsgs.org. **Claims for lost issues must be made within 60 days of the last day of the publication month.** Claims made after the 60-day period are handled as a sale.

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About TxSGS

TxSGS is a non-profit, tax exempt 501(c)3 organization registered with the IRS. All donations are tax exempt to the full extent allowed by law.

From the *Editors' Pen*



Digitized historic newspapers may be the most rapidly expanding resource available to genealogists. In addition to the “for pay” newspaper databases, a plethora of free sites from university repositories to the Library of Congress are regularly adding to their online newspaper collections. With the ability to explore these resources from home, newspaper research is becoming a priority for every genealogist.

This issue of *Stirpes* focuses on newspaper research with “how to” articles, resources, examples, and background. Jim Thornhill gives an overview of newspaper research methods in “Oh My! Did You See What Was in the News?” *Stirpes* readers shared their insight and discoveries in “Newspapers: Black and White and Clues All Over” and “Search Tips for Digitized Historical Newspapers.” Both of these articles are filled with examples and hints that can help even a seasoned researcher. Diane L. Richard discusses using newspapers to research African American ancestors in “Colored News: Easily Overlooked Columns Indispensable for African American Research.”

Two university newspaper collections are highlighted in this issue. “Free Digital Newspaper Collection for Southwest Researchers” by Susan E. Ball features Texas Tech’s Southwest Collection while “The Portal to Texas History: Making Connections with Digital Newspapers” by Dreanna Belden

updates digitization efforts by the University of North Texas. Paula Perkins describes the process of working with The Portal to digitize local papers in “Collin County Newspaper Digitization Project.”

Emily C. Richardson shares how she resolved a difficult research problem in “Newspaper Articles Shed Light on Dark Family Story.” “Evolution of Print News: Content Analysis Narrows Search,” a background on newspapers by Pat Gordon, discusses the transition of newspapers in the U.S. over the years. This article is especially helpful for understanding when and how an ancestor might be mentioned in a newspaper. In his book review, William E. “Bill” Buckner examines *People and Things from the Cullman, Alabama, Tribune, 1938-1941*, a transcription of vital records reported in that newspaper during those years.

Russell A. Rahn continues his series on research using unusual sources. Continuing the theme of newspaper research, “The Tragedy of Rufus Hughes” describes the investigation of an event referenced in a 1906 letter using newspaper articles. “Problem Solving 101” deals with resolving name inconsistencies between various documents, beginning with a baptismal certificate.

TxSGS unveils the 2021 Family History Conference in this issue – take a look at the speakers and topics and plan now to attend! The 2021 Texas Institute of Genealogical Research (TIGR) just wrapped up, and attendees were overwhelmingly

positive about their experience. TIGR leaders, faculty, and volunteers worked tirelessly to assure attendees received a quality experience while the event added two courses and transitioned to a virtual platform. In recognition of all their efforts, *Stirpes* says “Thank You!”

This issue’s Volunteer Spotlight features TxSGS District Representatives and their efforts to connect and engage with Partner Societies and members. TxSGS is working with Partner Society officers and board members to help societies thrive; “The Genealogy Leadership Forum” describes one phase of this effort. “Partner Society Roundup” highlights activities by genealogy societies – check out what’s happening in your area. Be sure to review the Heritage Certificate recipients; someone may have submitted your ancestor in their lineage!

As you follow your family through newspapers, perhaps you’ll discover them in multiple locations. *Stirpes*’ September 2021 issue features the pushes and pulls of migration and our mobile ancestors’ travels in search of a better life. Have you tracked your family as they immigrated from the old country? Perhaps you followed their migration across the U.S. Have you explored their journeys with maps, diaries, or other resources from that time period? Please share your findings with *Stirpes* at stirpes@txsgs.org.

–*Stirpes* Editors

New Members & More

New Members since
December 2020

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Volunteer Spotlight:

TxSGS District Representatives

Stirpes salutes TxSGS's District Representatives, who connect local societies to each other and TxSGS while engaging genealogists throughout the state.

Texas's immense size and large number of genealogy societies introduces challenges in communicating and developing relations. To address these challenges, TxSGS districts, managed by the District Representatives, were formed to provide personal contact with societies and members. COVID forced genealogists and societies to embrace virtual engagement and allowed TxSGS and the District Representatives to reach more genealogists throughout Texas, making us all better connected.

District Representatives, who serve on the TxSGS Board of Directors, are communication liaisons for TxSGS. Working with the genealogy societies

in their districts, they serve as a resource for TxSGS Partner Societies, alerting them to society training programs, educational events, publicity opportunities, and more. District Representatives also share Partner Society events with Texas genealogists through society summaries published in *Stirpes'* Partner Society Roundup and encourage societies to post events on the TxSGS Event Calendar; take advantage of the publicity opportunities offered through *Stirpes*; and promote their societies through conference exhibits.

Our appreciation goes to these critical members of the TxSGS Board of Directors:

- District C – Emily C. Richardson
- District E - Tim de la Vega
- District F – Pete Jacobs
- District G - Tony Hanson
- District H - Bill Buckner
- District I - Paula Perkins
- District J - Tina McGuffin
- District L - Randy Whited
- District M- Terry Cochran
- District N - Frances M. Ellsworth
- District O - Linda Reynolds
- District P - Barbara J. Froebel
- District R - Susan Kaufman
- District S - Mary O. Torres
- District Z - John Wylie

Openings exist for District Representatives in Districts A, B, D, K, and Q. Do you know someone passionate about genealogy societies? Are you interested in volunteering in this capacity? Contact Sandra Crowley, Nomination Committee Chair, at nominations@txsgs.org. ★



Emily C. Richardson



Tim de la Vega



Pete Jacobs



Tony Hanson



Bill Buckner



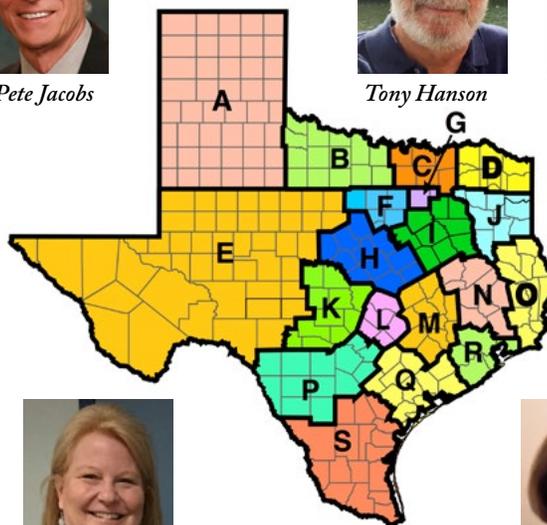
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Randy Whited



Terry Cochran



Frances M. Ellsworth



Linda Reynolds



Barbara J. Froebel



Susan Kaufman



Mary O. Torres



John Wylie

The Portal to Texas History: Making Connections with Digital Newspapers

by Dreanna Belden

Almost nothing tells the story of a community like newspapers, blending history and snapshots of people's lives into a fabric that captures moments both large and small. For genealogists, newspapers represent a key resource for providing the nuanced details that help us make a meaningful connection to those who came before us, revealing stories that may have been forgotten.

At The Portal to Texas History, we've been building our digital collections since 2002. Digital newspapers remain one of the most used resources we provide online, with over six million uses last year for newspapers alone. The Portal to Texas History provides access to a wealth of historical and genealogical materials that enable people to better understand their ancestors' lives. As a part of The Portal to Texas History Team since 2003, I consider it a privilege to make these treasures available to all, and our collections are continually growing.

Currently, the digital newspaper collections contain over 750,000 issues, representing 8.2 million pages of local history indexed and searchable down to the word level. The content comes from 207 of Texas's 254 counties and represents twelve different languages. The Portal team adds about 100,000 new pages every year, and some recently added titles include the *Mount Vernon Optic-Herald* (1948-2014), *The Nocona News* (1906-2014), *Henderson Daily News* (1932-2020), and *The Gilmer Mirror* (1929-1968).

Besides local newspapers, the collections also include several types of specialized newspapers including many college and university newspapers such as the *Rice Thresher*, *St. Edward's Echo*, and *The Megaphone* from Southwestern University. Military newspapers

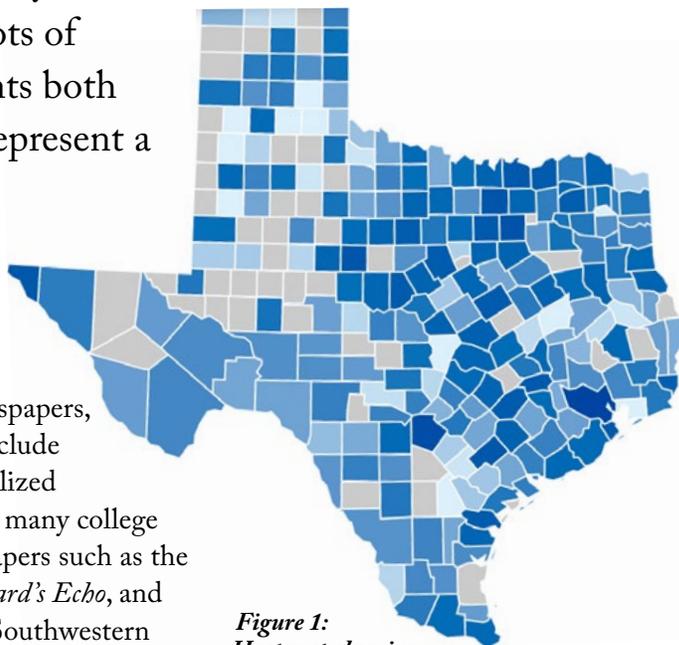


Figure 1: Heat map showing concentration of digital newspapers across Texas that are online at The Portal to Texas History. Darker blue areas represent areas well represented in the digital newspaper collections, and grey areas are without newspapers representation at The Portal.



Figure 2: Front page of the Jewish Monitor, dated 7 October 1919.

feature titles such as the 12th Armored Division's *Hellcat News*, the *Fort Hood Sentinel*, and the *Camp Barkley News*. There are even corporate newspapers such as the *Convairity*, which covered news from the mile long hanger in Fort Worth where Convair employees turned out over two thousand B-24 Liberators during WWII.

Newspapers also represent the many religious denominations present in our state such as the papers in the Texas Catholic Newspaper Collection and the *Texas Jewish Post*. Among the digital newspapers are several other special collections of note, which are highlighted on the following pages.

Oh My! Did You See What Was in the News?

by Jim Thornhill

Newspapers are an invaluable source of information in our family history research. Perhaps the best-known newspaper gem is the obituary, not the ones that say, “John Doe died at home last week,” but the ones that identify our ancestors’ spouses and children, give a brief life history, and tell where they are buried.

Beyond the obituary, newspapers can tell us about our ancestors’ lives: what activities they were involved in, what clubs or civic organizations they belonged to, what businesses they were in or public offices they may have held. Most importantly newspapers can tell us about the environment in which our ancestors lived. Whether or not our ancestors were named in the news, reading about their community can tell us about epidemics that affected them, whether they were for or against secession in 1860, the predominant religion in their area, and a host of other valuable information.

The challenging part of this can be finding the right newspaper. There are hundreds of newspaper databases, both local and national. Some are free and others require a subscription. Of the national databases, all of them cover different times and different locations. These differences can be confusing, but they can be untangled with a little research.

The first thing to consider when looking for a newspaper database is location. If you’re researching ancestors from Oklahoma, you are much less likely to find information about them in

a database that covers mostly New England newspapers. If you know where your ancestor was living, you can find which newspapers were in that area at the [Chronicling America](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/) website at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>.

When you get to this site, click on the tab that says “US Newspaper Directory, 1960–Present.” This will take you to a search screen where you can input information to get a list of newspapers in the area where your ancestors were living. When you find a result for the correct time and place, click on that link for more information about that paper. Don’t miss the link at the bottom of the page that will tell you where you can find the newspaper, if it is available.

Be sure to search Chronicling America’s large selection of over 3,400 digitized newspapers. Just click on one of the other tabs to search by newspaper, date range, name, or



El Paso (Texas) Herald, 8 January 1921, *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*, Library of Congress.

keyword. Often times, Chronicling America is the only search I need to make.

Once you know which newspapers to look for, you need to find which databases have those newspapers. At this point you have two options. You can look in the large fee-based national databases or you can search for a local newspaper database. In order to find a local newspaper database, you can look through the Wikipedia List of Online Newspaper Archives (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives) to get a list of web sites that

**Houston Public Library
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The Houston Public Library's Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, located in Houston's Museum District, is a four-building campus comprised of three historic buildings – the former William L. Clayton residence – and a newer, larger research building.

Consistently named as one of the top genealogical research libraries in the United States, the large collection of national and international materials is supported by a staff that works individually with each researcher guiding them through the discovery of their family history.

For information about the library or help with research, phone or email the Clayton Library staff at 832-393-2600 or cla.reference@houstontx.gov.

For information about programs the library is offering virtually, please visit www.houstonlibrary.org/clayton

Clayton Library Friends has a calendar listing of more virtual events at www.claytonlibraryfriends.org

Clayton Library Friends offers Donated-Duplicate books for sale. Email claytonexchange@ix.netcom.com for a list of available books, or visit our [Donated-Duplicate Online Inventory](#).

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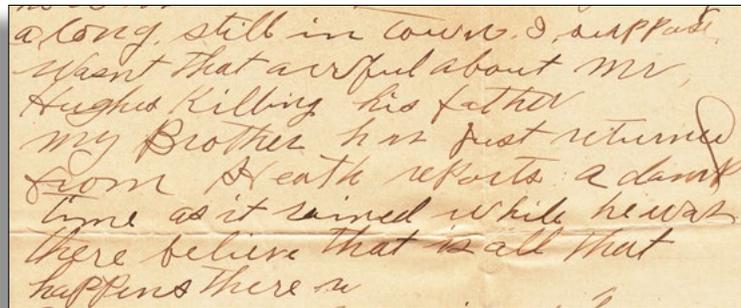
The Tragedy of Rufus Hughes

by Russell A. Rahn
 russandmarionrahn@gmail.com

Recently, I was able to acquire a few pieces of correspondence from someone living in the El Paso area of Texas about 100 years ago. My interest was to learn who were the senders and the receivers, and was there anything of historical interest in those letters which could lead to a study in genealogy?

The actual correspondence was one directional only, going from El Paso to Rockwall. I was not able to get anything going in the other way, although the text of the letters clearly implied that there was mail going in both directions. A careful reading also indicated that it was correspondence between friends and not family. In order to make sure of this, I did a short family tree for the sender and for the recipient and discovered no linkage between the two family trees. The sender was someone named Charles Darr, from El Paso, and the recipient was Chester Edwards, who lived in Rockwall County. It seems evident that they both knew each other from childhood and had grown up together in the Rockwall County region.

In general, the contents of the letters were interesting but not largely of great impact or very eventful – with one exception. The letter dated 8 January 1906 included a brief comment about someone named “Hughes” who had recently killed his father. This, I believed, could be investigated more closely, and it did not take long for some very tragic events to unfold. The relevant portion of this letter is shown here.



1906 Letter from Charles Darr, El Paso, to Chester Edwards, Rockwall County, referencing a murder: “wasn't that awful about Mr. Hughes killing his father.”

The story of Rufus Hughes begins with his marriage to Emmeline Criswell in 1880 in Calhoun County, Alabama. Over the next ten years, they had six children: four sons and two daughters. By 1900, the family had moved to Kaufman County, Texas, settling near the town of Forney. On 11 May 1902, the eldest daughter in the Hughes family, Jenny Mary Ella Hughes, married Samuel Shaw Ashley at Rockwall. The marriage clearly appears to have been carried out without the blessing of the father of the bride, who apparently opposed the match vigorously on the grounds that the two were cousins and should not marry.

Eleven days later, the following news appeared in the *Dallas Morning News*, 22 May 1902: “Mrs. Ella Ashley,

daughter of R. H. Hughes of Forney, killed herself with a pistol. She shot herself in the head three times. She had been married only two weeks.”

According to the newspaper accounts, Rufus Hughes had warned Sam Ashley not to attend the funeral of his daughter. Whether or not Sam

complied with this directive is not known. The *Dallas Morning News* of 5 September 1902 reports that less than four months later, the bereaved husband exacted his revenge upon his estranged father-in-law – Sam Ashley shot Rufus

Hughes with a load of buckshot from a Winchester shotgun. Rufus Hughes survived this attack.

This tragic story would continue in 1905 with two additional acts of violence. In the *Dallas Morning News* of 5 January 1905, we read that the second daughter of Rufus Hughes took her life: “Rockwall, Tx. Jan 4th – Miss Hughes, daughter of Rufe Hughes, who lives near Heath, in this county, shot herself in the head with a pistol today. She was a girl only 16 years of age. Her father is a farmer. At noon today, while eating dinner at home in company with some friends, a pistol shot was heard from the yard and on investigation it was found she was dead.”

Although Rufus Hughes did survive the earlier attack from his son-in-law, his days were truly being

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Registration Opens in mid-July!

OCTOBER 1 - 2, 2021 Learn more at www.txsgs.org

Connecting Generations

2021 TxSGS Family History Conference

Join us for the 2021 TxSGS Family History Conference, where we focus on *Connecting Generations* across borders and time! This year's event remains virtual due to the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we wish we could be together in person, we're taking advantage of the latest technology to bring us together "virtually." On Friday and Saturday, October 1-2, *TxSGS Live!* features ten presentations by some of the top speakers in genealogy on

research techniques, records, DNA, and more.

That's not all! These lectures will be recorded, including the live question and answer session, and combined with 30 additional pre-recorded lectures from some of your favorite speakers plus well-known presenters from across Texas and the U.S. Even though you won't be able to see them in person, you will be able to access their lectures online through December 31, 2021.

What will take your genealogy research to the next level? The 2021 TxSGS Family History Conference, *Connecting Generations*, seeks to help

hundreds of attendees discover the tools needed to answer your genealogy questions. Featuring 32 speakers presenting 40 sessions, the TxSGS Family History Conference promises opportunities for learning in a variety of areas, or tracks. Use the tracks to plan your conference experience. Go back and review them as often as you like during the replay period.

See the TxSGS website at www.txsgs.org for more information, including topic descriptions, speaker bios, and more. Register for the conference at <https://www.txsgs.org/2021-conference/registration/>.

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.

- *Start an mtDNA Haplogroup Project and Extend Your Maternal Lineage* by Mic Barnette
- *A Roadmap to Solving Genealogical Problems with Autosomal DNA (Part 1)* by Patti Lee Hobbs
- *A Roadmap to Solving Genealogical Problems with Autosomal DNA (Part 2)* by Patti Lee Hobbs
- *Finding Grannie's Daddy* by Andrew Lee
- *DNA Next Steps: Shared Matches, Cluster Charts, DNA Painting and WATO Analysis* by Alan Rabe

Ethnic

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

AFRICAN AMERICAN

- *Connecting a Family Through WPA Slave Narratives: Using A Circular Method in Family History Research* by Deborah A. Abbott
- *Researching Family History Records in the Collections of the 1890 Morrill Act Universities* by Deborah A. Abbott
- *The 1870 Community-Cluster: Gateway to Your Ancestor's Enslavement* by Franklin Smith

- *Underutilized Texas Sources for Identifying Texas Enslaved Ancestor's Slaveholder* by Franklin Smith
- *Unique African American Records* by Ari Wilkins

HISPANIC

- *Conquering Obstacles in Hispanic Genealogical Research* by Esther Camacho
- *Nacogdoches Archives: A Treasure Trove of Pre-Republic Texas Spanish and Anglo Records* by Henrietta Martinez Christmas
- *Getting Started Researching Your Mexican & Tejano Ancestors* by Colleen Robledo Greene
- *How to Conduct Research in the Cuban Papers* by Mary Anthony Startz
- *Hispanic Records at the Texas General Land Office* by Dr. Brian Stauffer and Carlos Varela

OTHER

- *They Came in Waves: The Pushes, Pulls, and Records of German Immigrants to America* by Bernard Meisner
- *So You're Irish, Are You Now? – Beginning Irish Genealogical Research* by Mary Kircher Roddy

- *Tracing Female Ancestors in WWI Military and Non-Combatant Records* by Debra Dudek
- *Military Bounty Land in Genealogy* by Zachary Hamilton
- *Home Guards, Confederate Veterans, and GAR in Texas* by J. Mark Lowe
- *Researching Your Colonial War Ancestors* by Michael Strauss
- *Crossing the Border: Records of the Punitive Expedition of 1916* by Michael Strauss

Records & Resources

Burial, voter, census records, and beyond! Learn more about using these valuable resources to expand your ancestor's story. Plus, begin now to prepare for the 1950 census, scheduled for release on April 1, 2022 – a date marked on every genealogist's calendar!

- *The American Southwest: Digitized Collections & Archival Finding Aids* by Colleen Robledo Greene
- *A Grave Situation: Burial Records & Practices* by Jean Wilcox Hibben
- *Prepare to Find Your Family in the 1950 U.S. Census* by Devon Noel Lee
- *"The Best and Neerist Way" – Invaluable Road Records* by Diane L. Richard
- *1867 Voter Registration and Beyond* by Diane L. Richard
- *Expansion and Growth: Finding Clues in the Federal Census, 1850-1900* by Michael Strauss

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.

- *Anna and Her Brothers – Finding Relations When No Family Stories Exist* by Debra Dudek
- *The Mississippi River: Migration, Commerce, Travel, and Exploration* by Zachary Hamilton
- *Proving Kinship Prior to 1850* by J. Mark Lowe
- *Wishing for a Boy Named Sue? Don't Let Family Naming Customs Confuse You!* by Bernard Meisner
- *Dealing with Record Loss* by Kelvin L. Meyers
- *A World of Clues – Using County Histories to Find Your Family* by Mary Kircher Roddy
- *Your Ancestor's Education – More Than The Three R's* by Ari Wilkins

Military

Beyond the soldier, military records capture genealogically rich information on widows, heirs, and more. Discover the wealth of data available for conflicts from the Colonial Wars to WWI and more.

Skill Building

Expand your abilities beyond the basics! Learn how to analyze facts and multiple record sets to uncover hidden stories, conduct effective research, develop advanced search strategies, find free digital content, and more.

- *Genealogy Surprises, Discoveries and Outright Lies: Sorting Out the Facts* by Melissa Barker
- *That's in the Archives! Digging Deeper In the Archived Records* by Melissa Barker
- *Finding Free Digital Content to Enhance Your Family History Storytelling Without Violating Copyright* by Colleen Robledo Greene
- *Locating the Wanderer* by J. Mark Lowe
- *Are the Records Really Lost?* by Kelvin L. Meyers

Speakers & Topics



Deborah Abbott

Connecting a Family Through WPA Slave Narratives: Using A Circular Method in Family History Research – Using a case study, learn how a slave narrative from Texas reconstructed the brick walls of a slaveholding family in Georgia.

Track: Ethnic - African American

Availability: TxSGS Live!, On-Demand

Skill Level: All levels

Researching Family History Records in the Collections of the 1890 Morrill Act Universities – This Act created 19 historical Black land-grant institutions. Learn about the records that can be found at these universities to enhance one's genealogical research.

Track: Ethnic - African American

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: All levels



Melissa Barker

Genealogy Surprises, Discoveries and Outright Lies: Sorting Out the Facts – Most genealogists have made discoveries, found surprises, and documented some family information that was outright lies. Whether we are doing the happy dance or shocked by what we have found, it is important that we document this information for future generations. Good or bad, it all tells the story of our ancestors. Learn from a seasoned genealogist and archivist the best way to handle the genealogy surprises, discoveries, and outright lies that come our way.

Track: Skill Building

Availability: TxSGS Live!, On-Demand

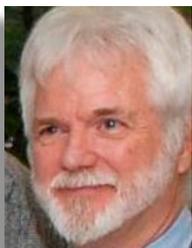
Skill Level: All levels

That's in the Archives! Digging Deeper In the Archived Records – Genealogists use archives every day to locate records about their ancestors. Are there records that you are not accessing because you don't know they exist? Not all records are online, indexed, or microfilmed. Digging deeper in the local and state archives to find unique and relatively unknown records just might be the next step in your genealogy research.

Track: Skill Building

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: All levels



Mic Barnette

Start an mtDNA Haplogroup Project and Extend Your Maternal Lineage – Learn the ins and outs of starting, organizing, and recruiting project members for an mtDNA project. Discover the tools available to help extend one's knowledge from ancient anthropological ancestry to more recent historical genealogical ancestry. A case study is presented that uses mtDNA and the collective lineages of project members to extend a pedigree from six to nine generations.

Track: DNA

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced



Esther Camacho

Conquering Obstacles in Hispanic Genealogical Research – Struggling with Hispanic genealogical research? Get tips on locating Hispanic documents. Learn the keys to naming structure, record patterns, reading dates, and basic vocabulary without having to be proficient in the Spanish language.

Track: Ethnic - Hispanic

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate



Henrietta Martinez Christmas

Nacogdoches Archives: A Treasure Trove of Pre-Republic Texas Spanish and Anglo

Records – Explore the treasures in one of the largest online Spanish colonial archives, which encompasses Colonial Texas. With dates ranging from 1729 to 1836, this collection includes census enumerations, military enlistments, rosters, migration records, decrees, and more. Learn how to access this vast array of records on early Texas farmers, soldiers, and fortune hunters, and gain tips on navigating these early Spanish documents to find your early Texas ancestor.

Track: Ethnic - Hispanic

Availability: TxSGS Live!, On-Demand

Skill Level: All levels



Debra Dudek

Anna and Her Brothers – Finding Relations When No Family Stories Exist – Unmarried immigrant women living outside the family unit generate a different set of records, which makes piecing together their ancestry more of a challenge. This presentation examines a combination of family stories, photographs, and both direct and indirect evidence to rebuild the journey of an immigrant Czech family in Ohio and Nebraska.

Track: Methodology

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Tracing Female Ancestors in WWI Military and Non-Combatant Records – Women were essential to the success of America’s troops in World War I. This lecture will outline a plan to locate and use a variety of local, state, and national records to discover the stories of female ancestors serving in military and volunteer roles.

Track: Military

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate



Colleen Robledo Greene, MLIS

Finding Free Digital Content to Enhance Your Family History Storytelling Without Violating Copyright – Genealogists often incorporate digital content created by others into our personal, society, or professional work. What can you freely use without violating U.S. copyright law?

Track: Skill Building

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: All Levels

Getting Started Researching Your Mexican & Tejano Ancestors – This overview explains key online U.S., Mexican, and colonial Spanish record collections; naming conventions and search strategies; and essential reference tools for digging deeper.

Track: Ethnic - Hispanic

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

The American Southwest: Digitized Collections & Archival Finding Aids – Learn about key finding aid portals to locate in-person repositories and collections, as well as consortia-shared digitized collections available online for free.

Track: Records & Resources

Availability: TxSGS Live!, On-Demand

Skill Level: All Levels



Zachary Hamilton

Military Bounty Land in Genealogy – Often given to encourage enlistment, reward service, or entice soldiers to stay longer, bounty land records hold a wealth of genealogically important information. Deconstruct the records and look at the background of these documents, their creation, where to access them, and their related laws and changes over time.

Track: Military

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced

The Mississippi River: Migration, Commerce, Travel, and Exploration – The early highways of America are its rivers, and none may be more critical to American expansion than the Mississippi. Explore the settlement, migration, and life along the river through the history of French and Spanish rule, American acquisition, and its role in the development of Mid-America. Breaking down the history and understanding the records around river travel and life may help you learn about your ancestors and trace them across important pages of American history.

Track: Methodology

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: Intermediate



Jean Wilcox Hibben

A Grave Situation: Burial Records & Practices – Over the years, and in different locations, behaviors and documents dealing with death are varied. Some of the most commonly found practices and documents regarding death in the U.S. today are much different from those of previous generations or in different locations. Here we look at some things that may be found, as well as circumstances where documents and records may be lacking, including disasters, wars, epidemics and pandemics, and regions where recording demise of populations may be less exact. A brief discussion of occupations dealing with death, and the perception of them, will also be covered. Records and methodology examined will include newspaper sources, vital records (including death codes), church registers, and memorial cards, among others.

Track: Records and Repositories

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: All Levels



Patti Lee Hobbs, CG®

A Roadmap to Solving Genealogical Problems with Autosomal DNA (Part 1) – Tools abound to aid the genetic genealogist in problem solving. These two sessions give an overview of foundational principles in understanding autosomal DNA inheritance. Selective use of tools, both DNA-company and third-party, demonstrates logical processes to confirm or identify ancestors. These sessions focus on different methods and sequences in using DNA with documentary evidence.

Track: DNA

Availability: TxSGS Live!, On-Demand

Skill Level: All Levels

A Roadmap to Solving Genealogical Problems with Autosomal DNA (Part 2) – This session continues the discussion of Part 1.

Track: DNA Availability: On-Demand Skill Level: All Levels

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Andrew Lee

Finding Grannie's Daddy – A case study in identifying the unknown father of an adoptee uses DNA from her children and grandchildren. Learn how to combine DNA plus historical records and indirect evidence to solve a one-hundred-year family mystery.

Track: DNA

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate



Devon Noel Lee

Prepare to Find Your Family in the 1950 U.S. Census – No joke. The 1950 U.S. Census records will be released on the NARA website on April 1, 2022. Are you ready? Learn how you can prepare to find your ancestors in the documents and what you can do to make them searchable faster.

Track: Records & Resources

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: All levels



J. Mark Lowe, FUGA

Locating the Wanderer – Are you stymied by an ancestor who appears and then vanishes when you pinpoint a location? Perhaps you have a wanderer – one who had a genetic penchant for travel – or one who is running from the law. There are some basic steps we can follow to keep track of wanderers and understand their movement. Real life stories will be shared.

Track: Skill Building

Availability: TxSGS Live!, On-Demand

Skill Level: All levels

Home Guards, Confederate Veterans, and GAR in Texas – Soldiers maintained ties to family whether Gray or Blue. Some were forced to cross the line or change uniforms. Learn about finding the uniform of choice or no uniform at all, and what happened to them and their organizations after the Civil War.

Track: Military

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: All levels

Proving Kinship Prior to 1850 – Identifying relatives or kinfolks is an essential part of adding to your family history. When all else fails, are there documents and records to help you prove kinship, when your regular sources are missing or fail? Try the techniques in this presentation to learn more about your pre-1850 ancestors.

Track: Methodology

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: All levels



Bernard Meisner

They Came in Waves: The Pushes, Pulls, and Records of German Immigrants to America – German immigration to the United States can be grouped into four waves, based on time period. The waves can be differentiated by the pushes and pulls that drove the immigration, and the types of records produced during each wave. Learn the factors that may have drawn your German speaking ancestors to the United States, and the records where they most likely can be found.

Track: Ethnic - Other

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced

Wishing for a Boy Named Sue? Don't Let Family Naming Customs Confuse You! – Can't find your ancestors in the records? Have you found two couples with the same names? Which family is your ancestor's? What were the names of the parents of your ancestors? What was that mother's maiden name? In the absence of any unique family names, learn some of the traditional naming customs that may enable you to answer these and similar questions.

Track: Methodology

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: All levels



Kelvin L. Meyers

Dealing with Courthouse Record Loss – We all face it: record loss. Whether the courthouse burned; the clerk tossed them; the relative, autograph hunter, lawyer or surveyor took them; they succumbed to heat, humidity, insects, or fading ink or war or distance from the courthouse which was a barrier to their creation – the records that we want, the records that could answer our questions, aren't there. The solution: in many cases it's possible to overcome the problem, but it requires diligence, perseverance, and willingness to look beyond the obvious.

Track: Methodology

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: All levels

Are the Records Really Lost? – Whether you go to a courthouse face to face, via mail, or utilize online records, you should recognize what you are searching for. Is it a marriage that you are searching for? Is it a birth or a death record? In any case, none of these are the most vital thing that you are searching for. You are searching for RELATIONSHIPS: father to son, father to daughter, and so on. Much of the time you may never locate a correct birth or death date. Regardless of whether or not the courthouse burned, you can still discover confirmation of connections.

Track: Records & Resources

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: All levels



Alan Rabe

DNA Next Steps: Shared Matches, Cluster Charts, DNA Painting and WATO Analysis – You have done an Ancestry DNA test and made links to all close family. You have used leaf connections to identify more cousins. Now you are interested in identifying more of your DNA matches—your mystery cousins. This presentation discusses four amazing tools to utilize the power of DNA in your genealogy. These techniques are of special interest to people looking for birth parents.

Track: DNA

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: Intermediate



Diane L. Richard

“The Best and Neerist Way” – Invaluable Road Records – Road records provide incredible insight into the nitty gritty of creating early road infrastructure. Most importantly for genealogists, the records tell who was involved. The roadwork may have been based in your ancestor's house. Your ancestor may have led the crew or served on the road crew. Sometimes, family relationships are stated. As men from small communities performed the roadwork, the records are stuffed with FAN Club (Friends, Associates and Neighbors) information. Road records can also help establish “where” your ancestors lived and age them as they join or are dropped from a crew.

Track: Records & Resources

Availability: TxSGS Live!, On-Demand

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced

1867 Voter Registration and Beyond – Learn about the Reconstruction Acts of 1867, which implemented regulations regarding voter registration. Males 21+ years of age, regardless of skin color, were eligible to vote. Surviving 1867 voter registrations are invaluable. After rampant late 19th-century racist restrictions on voters, Grandfather Clause laws were passed in many states. Though these laws significantly reduced the voter registrations of African Americans, immigrants, and the poor, they often help us link sons to fathers or grandfathers. Plus, many formerly enslaved or their descendants did register. Let's explore the resulting records.

Track: Records & Resources

Availability: On-Demand

Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced



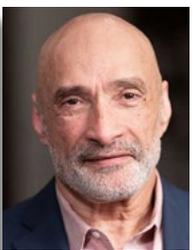
Mary Kircher Roddy, CG®

A World of Clues – Using County Histories to Find Your Family – Hundreds of county histories were created in the late 19th and early 20th century. They are filled with valuable information about the counties where your ancestors lived and include biographical and genealogical detail about some of the prominent citizens in the area. Learn where to find these books and how to use them to explore your ancestor’s life and community. Even if your ancestor wasn’t featured in a biographical sketch, a county history can be a great resource for discovering your ancestor’s story.

Track: Methodology Availability: On-Demand Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

So You’re Irish, Are You Now? – Beginning Irish Genealogical Research – Are you ready to begin tracing your ancestors in Ireland? What must you know before jumping into Irish records? What’s in them? How can you access them? This presentation is geared toward genealogists beginning to trace their 19th and 20th century Irish immigrant ancestors.

Track: Ethnic - Other Availability: On-Demand Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate



Franklin Smith

The 1870 Community-Cluster: Gateway to Your Ancestor’s Enslavement – Learn how to use the 1870 census community-cluster to locate the gateway that identifies the slaveholder and build a narrative around their history of enslavement.

Track: Ethnic - African American Availability: On-Demand Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced

Underutilized Texas Sources for Identifying Texas Enslaved Ancestor’s Slaveholder –

Learn tips and strategies for accessing seldom-used Texas sources. These materials supplement standard sources to identify the slaveholder of your Texas enslaved ancestor.

Track: Ethnic - African American Availability: On-Demand Skill Level: All levels



Mary Anthony Startz

How to Conduct Research in the Cuban Papers – A collection of Spanish Colonial records primarily for the Gulf Coast region, the Cuban Papers consist of more than 100 reels of microfilm comprising more than a million documents relating to the Spanish Colonial era. Part of the Spanish Colonial administrative records, this collection began in the 1570s with the founding of St. Augustine and ends in the 1820s after cession to the U.S. If your ancestor was in Spanish territory prior to 1821, there may be records of them here. Learn what this collection holds and how to drill into it.

Track: Ethnic - Hispanic Availability: On-Demand Skill Level: All levels



Dr. Brian Stauffer and Carlos Varela

Hispanic Records at the Texas General Land Office – The Spanish Collection at the Texas General Land Office houses the earliest records for Texas land ownership. Learn about the Spanish and Mexican land granting programs and dig deeper into the “anatomy” of a Mexican Title. See how to use GLO finding aids to explore these pre-republic records of Texas.

Track: Ethnic - Hispanic Availability: On-Demand Skill Level: All levels





Michael Strauss, AG®

Crossing the Border: Records of the Punitive Expedition of 1916 – On March 1916, forces of Pancho Villa attacked the U.S. The resulting Punitive Expedition launched by the U.S. proved to be a training ground for World War I and produced a records bonanza for participants including Buffalo Soldiers, regular Army soldiers, Marines, and National Guard. Learn how to access the Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) plus military claims and pensions for those who participated in this expedition.

Track: Military Availability: On-Demand Skill Level: Intermediate, Advanced

Expansion and Growth: Finding Clues in the Federal Census, 1850-1900 – The period of 1850-1900 witnessed growth in the U.S. as we expanded westward. The United States census records made it possible to record these changes. Learn about the various census enumerations including population schedules, non-population schedules such as manufacturing, agriculture, mortality, slave, veteran, and social enumerations, plus how instructions to census enumerators affect your census research.

Track: Records & Resources Availability: On-Demand Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate

Researching Your Colonial War Ancestors – During the Colonial Era, local militia played an important role for our male ancestors as they provided for the common defense during times of crisis and emergency. Rich genealogical records highlight each war period with records of muster rolls, ledgers, militia accounts, provisions and supplies, plus letters, journals, and diary accounts.

Track: Military Availability: TxSGS Live!, On-Demand Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate



Ari Wilkins

Unique African American Records – A wide variety of unusual records can be used for African American research. Many of these documents can be used to identify parents, dates of birth, and names of former slave holders. Learn about some of the most unusual and underutilized African American records and where to find them.

Track: Ethnic - African American Availability: On-Demand Skill Level: All levels

Your Ancestor's Education – More Than The Three R's – When your ancestor said that he had a sixth grade education – what did it mean? Learn about education in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Track: Methodology Availability: TxSGS Live!, On-Demand Skill Level: All levels



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Evolution of Print News: Content Analysis Narrows Search

by Pat Gordon

Newspapers. Love 'em or hate 'em, they've turned out to be one of genealogists' best resources. Even the earliest newspapers published in colonial times are of some value to family historians, especially for those interested in social history. While early colonists had access to newspapers from England, the news was months old, but truth is, many colonists couldn't read, and even those who could were often too busy trying to survive.

Still, it was only a matter of time before the press came to town. Just exactly what was the first colonial newspaper depends on whom you ask. Some believe it was *Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick* published 25 September 1690 in Boston. Most scholars define a newspaper based on the following qualification: folded, unstapled, multiple pages, containing timely news, and issued regularly (usually daily or weekly). *Public Occurrence* was four folded, unstapled pages with news and advertisements. Here are examples of some stories:

- A front page story told how “The Christianized Indians in some parts of Plimouth [*sic*], have newly appointed a day of Thanksgiving to God for his Mercy in supplying their extreme and pinching Necessities under their late want of Corn ...”

- A story about a man committing suicide after the death of his wife (no names)
- 26 house fires that resulted in one death (no victim's name)
- A story about Maqua (Mohawk Indians) carrying off two colonial children
- A story about Indian allies of the English mistreating French captives
- A story questioning the morals of a French royal family

While *Publick Occurrence* seems to have all the qualifications of a newspaper, it failed at one requirement: published regularly. The newspaper's first edition was also its last edition. Not that the publisher wanted it that way. The British government closed the publication for failing to have a printing license and for publishing



unfavorable information about the British military.

It took 14 years before another newspaper was published in Boston. In 1704, the *Boston News-Letter* satisfied qualifications required for being considered a “real” newspaper, including continuous publication until 1776. The first edition, published 24 April, was filled mostly with reprinted news from London newspapers about the French (Papists) being a threat to Scotland, Ireland, and England. Only one column was devoted to local news (<http://www.masshist.org>):

- “Boston, April 18 Arrived Capt. Sill from Jamaica about 4 Weeks Passage, says, they continue there very sickly. Mr. Nathanael Oliver,



Newspapers: Black and White and Clues All Over

Stirpes Readers Share Their Discoveries

by Susan E. Ball

Until recently, searching newspapers for family information and stories has been time consuming and difficult, requiring locating a microfilmed copy of the newspaper and traveling to a repository housing that microfilm, followed by hours of reading the newspaper page by page. With the rapid acceleration of newspaper digitization, online access to the hometown newspaper of your ancestor is becoming a reality, allowing you to search newspapers that your ancestor read from the comfort of home.

The promise of what might be found seems incredible: vital records for counties with burned courthouses; family names to bolster the family tree; mentions of employment; identification of friends, associates, and neighbors (the FAN club); snippets of family activities; and context for your ancestor's life. To see if the promise held up to the hype, *Stirpes* surveyed TxSGS members to determine which online newspaper resources they used and whether newspapers were useful in solving genealogical puzzles.

Asked which newspaper sources they had used, almost all of the survey respondents indicated they had accessed online digital newspaper repositories. About a third had also researched microfilmed or print newspapers. Newspapers.com was the most often used resource, followed by GenealogyBank.com, Chronicling

America (Library of Congress), and The Portal to Texas History.

According to the survey participants, the primary choice of online repository depended, logically, on whether the repository had newspapers from the area in which they were searching. Cost was a key factor in whether to purchase a subscription to an online newspaper database. The survey responses reflected the approach of most genealogists – search in the free digitized newspaper databases first; then consider purchasing a subscription to one of the “for pay” sites.

Stirpes was particularly interested in whether or not our readers had made any breakthrough discoveries with newspaper research. The responses were amazing! Nancy Brennan shared, “I was able to prove a DAR patriot through a newspaper



article advertising for heirs to the estate of the father.” According to Neal T. Scott, a short newspaper mention of his great-grandfather’s death in a distant city led to finding death and burial information, which had been a mystery to the family for years. “I was able to find the death announcement for a female ancestor in the 1870s who had no other death records or a marked grave,” wrote Candy Risher. Leading DNA genealogist Dana Leeds responded, “As I work with adoptees and others with unknown parentage, it is often critical to find obituaries linking more recent generations.” *La Prensa*, a Spanish language newspaper in San Antonio for generations, provided Peggy Ann Weyel with the news articles on her grandfather’s murder. “I have not seen that story in any of the other area newspapers,” she declared.

“Colored News:” Easily Overlooked Columns Indispensable for African American Research

by Diane L. Richard

Until the Civil Rights Act of 1964, “white” newspapers printed little news of the African American, Colored, Negro, Black, etc., community. Crimes by “negros” and other sensational news are the type of article typically found. That said, some “white” newspapers did publish “colored news” or similar columns in their newspapers. This article explores this aspect of African American newspaper research.

Though not all “white” newspapers included a column where news of the African American community was reported, some did. As with other newspaper research, access to digitized newspapers has improved our ability to research newspapers as we seek to discover if such a column was published in newspapers serving the communities we are exploring. Though “on the ground” newspaper research is still an option, and sometimes maybe the only option, for newspapers not yet digitized, online research helps in what is often more of a “fishing expedition.” Until we know with certainty that such a column was published, in what particular newspaper, and typically where it could be found in any given issue, researching physical newspaper editions is more challenging. We are fortunate that most newspapers, issue to issue, were typically structured the same way. Once you figure out which page included such a column, future research for these columns is easier.

As is typical, my first exposure to newspaper columns of this nature was through twentieth-century research, most often seeking death notices for

African Americans. I discovered some newspapers like *The Leaksville News* (Leaksville, North Carolina), which had a tiny column called “Colored News,” and the *Reidsville Review* (Reidsville, North Carolina), which periodically had short entries of “Colored News.”

As is the case with many genealogical “rabbit holes” that we go down, that’s all it took to start me on a project identifying newspapers and newspaper resources with these columns in “white” newspapers.

Included

Depending on how big the column was, all kinds of news items were reported. Referencing two 1916 columns from the *Indianapolis News*, reported things were:

- People visiting out of town and out of town visitors as well as events to honor such guests;
- Club and society meetings (social, “Modern Priscilla Club” [sewing and fancy works], O.N.T. Club of AME Church, Woman’s Club, Women’s Council, Woman’s Improvement



The “News of the Colored Folk” column, Indianapolis News, 12 October 1916, page 7— a wide diversity of news items reported.

Newspaper Articles Shed Light on Dark Family Story

by Emily C. Richardson

When looking for their ancestors in newspaper databases, many genealogists use their ancestors' birth and death dates as boundaries or parameters for the search. But, one thing that should be considered is whether their ancestors' history followed them to a more current time. Expanding the search for one Texas family led to multiple other resources and articles that helped to tell a more complete family story.

Basic research on *Ancestry* led to the knowledge that Thomas Hoskins (1809-1884) married Elizabeth Rowe on 21 January 1841 in Gonzales, Texas.¹ Yet, information about Elizabeth was elusive except for an 1850 United States census, where she was enumerated with Thomas Hoskins and five children who ranged in age from 16 years to 5 months.²

A 1948 newspaper article titled "Descendants of Alamo Battle Victim Aid Centennial Plans" in *The Austin American* helped tell Elizabeth's story more fully.³ Elizabeth's first marriage was to James George, who died at the Battle of the Alamo at the age of 34. James and Elizabeth arrived in Gonzales on 20 February 1830, where he had secured a grant of land from the Mexican government near the present town of Lockhart on 28 June 1831. The newspaper article explained that after James' death at the Alamo, Elizabeth lived on this land and married Mr. Rowe. When Rowe died, she married Thomas Hoskins. They had two children, Sarah Ann Hoskins and John Hoskins.

This article led to multiple research questions and their answers. James George's original land deed from the Mexican government can be found at the Texas General Land Office, along with the original land survey done by Byrd Lockhart.⁴ Several sites have information on James' participation in the Alamo, including loaning oxen and a wagon to haul the famous "Gonzales Cannon."⁵ On 24 February 1836, James George, along with his brother-in-law, William Dearduff, joined Major Williamson's command as privates and left for the Alamo where they both died 6 March 1836.⁶

Research on Frederick Rowe shows he arrived in Texas and married Sarah Grogan about 27 September 1832 in Gonzales Texas.⁷ Frederick was a member of the DeWitt Colony along with William Dearduff and James George, all living on the outer west side of Lockhart.⁸ By 1838, he is listed in the tax rolls as the responsible individual for James George's property; thus, the belief is that Elizabeth and Frederick married prior to that time.⁹ They had one child, Elizabeth Rowe, born sometime between 1838 and 1840.¹⁰ In the 1839 tax rolls, Elizabeth Rowe is shown as the responsible individual for James George's land.¹¹

As mentioned earlier, Elizabeth Dearduff George Rowe Hoskins is listed in the 1850 US census along with Thomas.¹² In this household is a mix of children who now can be traced to one of her three husbands: James, Frederick, and Thomas. It was unusual to see initials after each child in the census, but now they do mean something. Those named are Matilda G(eorge), Elizabeth R(owe), Sarah Ann H(oskins), John H(oskins), and Elizabeth Craig (name spelled out). Elizabeth Craig was the daughter of Mary Jane, the oldest child of James and Elizabeth George, who married John W. Craig on 27 May 1839.¹³ Elizabeth George Hoskins died in January 1854.¹⁴ Her husband, Thomas Hoskins, was appointed guardian of Sarah and John, while J. Alexander was appointed guardian of Elizabeth Rowe.¹⁵

Thomas Hoskins came to Texas in March 1836, as



Free Digital Newspaper Collection for Southwest Researchers

by Susan E. Ball

Are you researching ancestors in Texas or New Mexico? The Southwest Collection/Special Collections (SWC) at Texas Tech University has an amazing FREE digital newspaper site with issues from over 150 small town newspapers, primarily in the Panhandle and West Texas, along with large newspapers such as the *Dallas Morning News*, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, and the *Midland Reporter-Telegram*. You can read the personal items in newspapers such as the *Hansford Headlight*, the *Hereford Brand*, the *Sterling City News-Record*, and my hometown newspaper, the *Sudan Beacon-News*.

In addition to Texas newspapers, the SWC also has online newspapers from eastern New Mexico, and they are looking to expand into Oklahoma. For some cities, newspapers have gone through several iterations, merging and changing names. These “sister” publications are combined together in one link at the SWC digital newspaper site.

Access this collection at <https://newspapers.swco.ttu.edu/handle/20.500.12255/1>. If you don't want to type this URL, just Google “Southwest Collection Digital Newspapers” and click on the first hit, “Newspapers DSpace Home.” You'll see the entire list of digital newspapers as a “community” within the SWC digital collection, as shown in figure 1. In this screen, you can initially ignore the browsing and search controls on the right of the page; the same features are provided by the buttons above the

newspaper listing: “By Issue Date,” “Authors,” “Titles,” and “Subjects.” The most important buttons are “By Issue Date,” which allows you to filter your finds by year, and “Titles,” which allows you to select a specific newspaper from a global newspaper search.

To search within the entire

newspaper collection, type the name or word you're interested in finding in the search box labeled “Search within this community and its collections.” This will search every issue of every newspaper for the name you entered. However, for anything other than very unusual names, you'll get many, many hits.

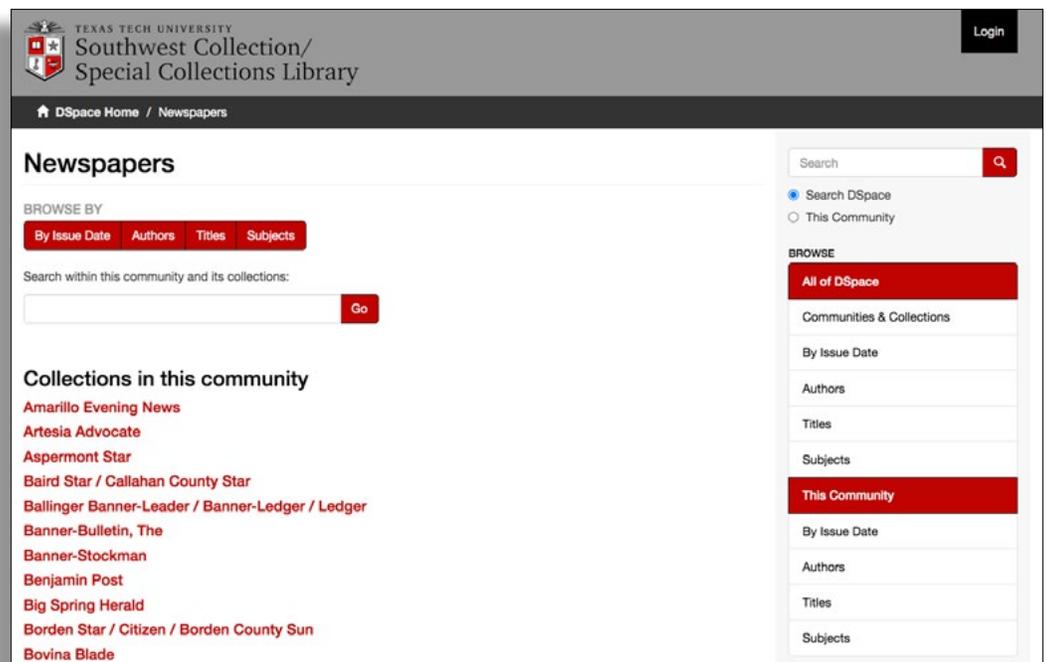


Figure 1: Homepage for the Southwest Collection's digital newspaper collection.

Search Tips for Digitized Historical Newspapers

by Susan E. Ball

As you search for your ancestors and their friends, associates, and neighbors (their FAN Club), be aware that the conversion of printed news type to searchable names and words uses optical character recognition (OCR), and it's not a perfect process by any means. Keep in mind that letters and lines may be difficult for the OCR program to distinguish. Be prepared to adapt your search approach as you go.

If you know your ancestor lived in a town represented by one of these newspapers, try browsing the newspapers for the years of their residence to see how their name was reported. Men often went just by their last name (Mr. Brown or in pre-1900 years, Messr. Brown) or initials followed by their last name; married women were reported only as Mrs. or wife, as in "Mr. Brown and his wife came to town Tuesday."

Be sure to maintain a list of different search terms you used to find your ancestor, both those that worked and those that didn't. Keeping track will help you learn how your ancestor's name appears in this particular collection, helping you to refine your search technique.

Here are some additional tips provided by *Stirpes* readers.

Be flexible!

- Check and see if the newspapers near your family are digitized and how many years they were in publication. Start searching, and if you find too much, narrow your dates of search. If you don't find enough, use various spellings as well as initials or nicknames for their names. If you put the husband's name in for older articles, the wife will frequently pop up too, because her name was "Mrs." and then his name more often than using her own name.

If you don't find what you want about one person, search another person in the family. Some people got more coverage than others, based on their service to the

community, etc. Look up articles about the town where they lived, because they might be mentioned. Pay attention to the years you have found in other research so your dates can be narrowed with common names. The dates can help you zero in on the correct time for a graduation, wedding, death, etc.

- Karen Horton Grover

- Search every variation of the name and search for married women as "Mrs." - Deta Rogillio
- Search with combinations of names and initials, home addresses, spousal names, abbreviations (Jno, Wm, etc). - Neal T. Scott
- Use alternate spellings of the name. Search for females using "Mrs." and



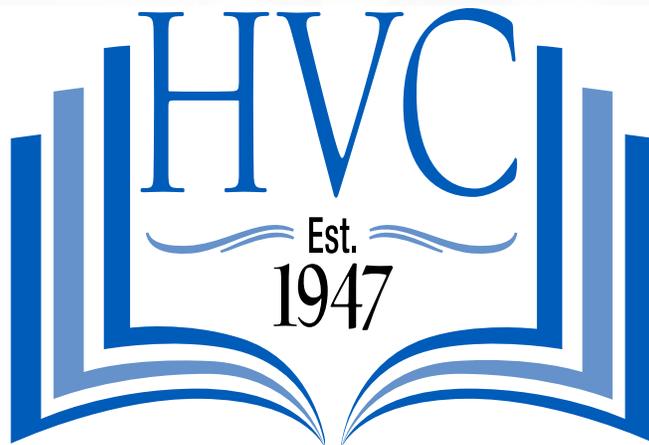
their married surnames. Search for "his" and "her" surname at the same time. Search for addresses. Use other key words. Use street addresses.

- Dana Leeds

- Be persistent and use lots of different spellings for names. Also, use men's initials and put your terms in quotation marks. - Candy Risher
- When searching, try many different terms for the topic. You never know what the author of the article used. - Cheryl Smith
- Search under variant spellings of the name(s) you are looking for. There are many instances where a reporter or typesetter misheard and/or misspelled a name. - David B. Appleton
- Names are commonly misspelled. OCR isn't accurate and will often misread a name. Browse newspapers around a particular date of interest, don't just search for an event. Make sure to broaden your search to more than just where you'll think your ancestor was – perhaps he had family in a different state! - Kathleen Williams
- If you can't find the person you are searching for, look for articles about



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