

THE JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

101stirpes

Researching
in the

20th Century



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Errata

The December 2022 issue of *Stirpes*, Volume 60, number 4, incorrectly published the titles of two manuscripts that won awards at the 2021 TxSGS Awards Program. The correct titles are:

- Manuscript by a Non-Professional, 2nd Place: "The Scrapbook and the Interview: Two Records of a P.O.W. Experience" by Laura Anne Thomas
- Manuscript by a Non-Professional, 3rd Place: "David Kirkwood: Entrepreneur in Scotland, New Zealand, Japan, British Columbia, and Bexar County, Texas" by Don Armitage.

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



Great excitement is sweeping the genealogy world – the 1950 U.S. Federal Census will be released on April 1! Thinking of the challenges of exploring this era, *Stirpes* editors focused on researching in the 20th century as the theme for this issue. Many 20th century records are difficult to access. The dates of these records fall past the cut-off date for 1970s microfilm preservation efforts yet are not quite as widely available as those created in the digital age. Access to other records is limited due to privacy concerns.

What resources and research tips are available for those researching elusive 20th century ancestors? Starting with the 1950 census, Bernard N. Meisner's article, "The Release of the 1950 Population Census," addresses what information was included in the census, who was enumerated, and how to locate your ancestor even before an index is created. *Stirpes* asked readers about their 1950 census expectations in "The 1950 Census: *Stirpes* Readers Share Their Hopes." Their responses may expand your thoughts on who you'll be researching and questions that might be answered in this newly available resource. Jim Thornhill extends the discussion on U.S. census records in "Pinpointing Your Ancestor's Location Using the U.S. Census," showing how you can find your ancestor's residence from census enumerations.

In "School Yearbooks - Awkward Photos, Awesome Resource," Jessica Horne Collins discusses the rich context revealed in yearbooks as well as how to locate those resources. Pat Gordon shares numerous ideas for tracing the ladies in your family in "Resources for Finding Your Women Ancestors in the Early 20th Century." While not uncommon prior to the 1900s, divorce rates rose dramatically in the 20th century. Susan E. Ball provides an overview of Texas divorce law, discusses records generated in the divorce process, and shows how to locate divorce records in "A Look at Divorce Records in Texas."

Interest in genealogy exploded during the 20th century. Sandra Crowley tracks this growth through the development of genealogical products, programs, companies, and societies in "Timeline of 20th Century Genealogical Events." Thinking of the many societies and volunteers that toiled during the 20th century to preserve, abstract, and publish records valuable to genealogists, *Stirpes* salutes them in "Volunteer Spotlight: the 20th Century Preservation Army."

The typical genealogical research method in the 20th century involved letter writing plus a plethora of stamps. Russell Rahn analyzes one such missive in "Correspondence and the Family Genealogist." His article, "When Dates Don't Agree," addresses a conundrum encountered by genealogists of all centuries: how

to deal with inconsistent records. Plus, William D. "Bill" Buckner shares his look at a city history and the genealogical gems found in it with "Book Review: The Progressive City: History of Downtown Sulphur Springs 1914."

Earlier this year, TxSGS, Texas, and the greater genealogical community lost a dear friend and genealogical giant in Debbie Parker Wayne. "In Memoriam: TxSGS Fellow Debbie Parker Wayne" remembers her impact on DNA research, TxSGS's Early Texans DNA database and project, and more.

This issue introduces a new TxSGS educational program in "Lone Star Family Trails Podcast." Read also about the 2022 TxSGS Family History Conference slated November 4-5 and "Benefits of Attending a Virtual Conference" by Sandra J. Crowley. Don't miss the "Partner Society Roundup" with events and updates for societies in your area.

Finally, as we segue from winter to spring, enjoy the beautiful weather. Grab some time between spring chores to research your ancestors and maybe even go to a library or repository for some deep diving in records! The next issue addresses DNA research. Have you solved a family history mystery through DNA? Share your breakthrough with *Stirpes*! ★

–*Stirpes* Editors

New Members & More

New Members since
November 2021

Heritage Circle

Benefactor

Terry L. Cochran
Geneva Shannon Cochran
Mary Kay Snell
Susan K. Thompson



Supporter

Susan E. Ball
Carol Brooks
Alexa M. Frazier
Monica E. Frazier
Stephanie P. Sparkman
Carol Steakley
David C. Taylor
Linda Woodworth
Merlin Woodworth

Friend

Elizabeth D. Ardell
Jennifer Hunt Bostick
Robert A. Bostick, Jr.
Manester Yvonne Bruno
Murry T. Bruno
Henrietta Christmas
Carol Diamond
Janis Minor Forté
Evaristo T. Garcia
Marta I. Garcia
Tom Henry
Lynda L. Henry
Roseann Hogan
Rebecca Lynn Hubert
Joel K. Levy
Judi F. Levy
Valencia Linton
Kelvin Meyers
Viviana L. Prieur
Bernd H. Strassner
Liz D. Strassner
Mary Frances Townsend

Libraries

Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library, Lake Charles, Louisiana
Georgina Cole Library, Carlsbad, California

Partner Societies

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Washington, D.C.

Individual and Household Members

Kim Alfano	Beverly Easley Dorris	Thomas Ingle Jackson	Milli Pope
Jurgen Bach	Linda Fish	Cathylou Jones	Carol A. Preece
Alana L. Ballard	Rachael Flippo-Howell	Patty L. Lemery	Viviana L. Prieur
Ron Barnett	Deborah Smith Font	Kimberly E. Lindsey	Katharine Ann Saunders
Charlsa Boren Bentley	Marna Cooper Genes	Donna K. Mauldin	Charles C. Snyder, Jr.
Janice Hosking Brazil	Joanna Barnett Gibson	Mark E. Mauldin	Judith Stewart
Martha M Chamness	Bill Guy	Brittney L. Mckenzie-Smith	Kevin Welborn
Joan Crittenden	Lily Kamngoen Hayes	Ann R. Patton	

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Volunteer Spotlight:

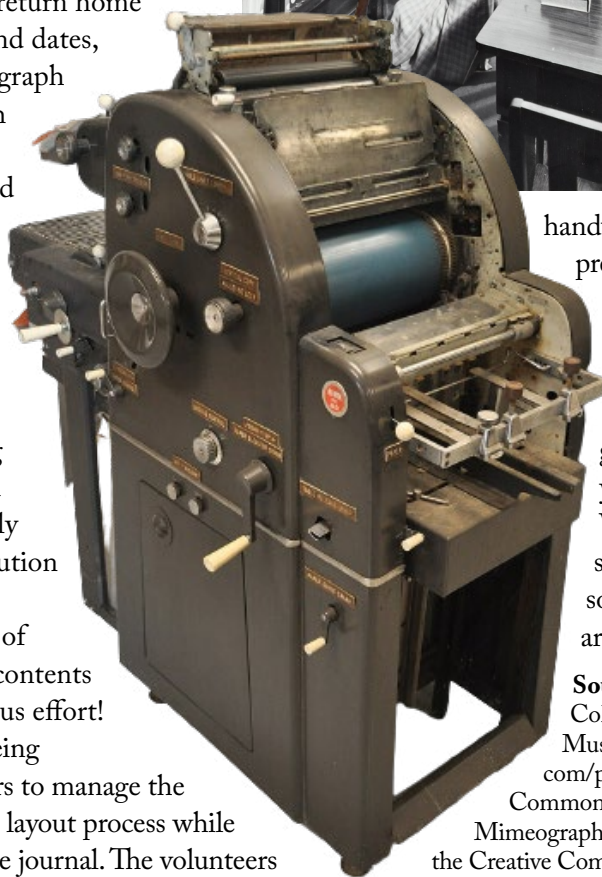
The 20th Century Preservation Army

Focusing on 20th century research in this issue of *Stirpes* highlights the vast effort expended by genealogy societies and volunteers during the 1900s to abstract, transcribe, publish, and preserve records for future genealogists.

Stirpes editor Susan Ball recalls stories shared by long-time members of the San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society in their abstraction and publication efforts. Members of the society and the SAGHS editorial team would abstract county records by hand onto paper while they sat in county courthouses throughout the Concho Valley. Others would inventory area cemeteries, transcribing grave markers by hand into tables.

These volunteers would return home with their recorded names and dates, then type them onto mimeograph stencils for publication. Each stencil could be used for 50 copies. As SAGHS published 200 copies of their journal, *Stalkin' Kin in Old West Texas*, four stencils were required for each page in each issue. A team would gather in the editor's garage and copy the pages by fitting a stencil on the mimeograph machine's drum and manually rotating the drum, one revolution for each copy. They then manually collated each copy of the journal, and stapled the contents with a cover. It was a laborious effort!

The *Stalkin' Kin* is still being published, but with computers to manage the abstraction, editing, and page layout process while a print company publishes the journal. The volunteers on the first issue of the *Stalkin' Kin* in 1972 could never



have imagined how easy it would be today!

Throughout the 20th century, this scene was replicated in numerous genealogy societies. Hundreds of journals and quarterlies as well as books of records were published each year with abstracted records genealogists are still accessing today. *Stirpes* salutes those tens of thousands of genealogists who pored through county records, reading poor

handwriting and transcribing records by hand to preserve those records for us.

For genealogists today, we urge you to investigate these journals and quarterlies for the areas where your ancestors lived.

Some helpful volunteer may have already gathered and published the information you need to break through that brick wall. We also encourage you to volunteer in some manner in one of your local genealogy societies or in TxSGS – future genealogists are depending on you! ★

Sources for images: (Top) Emily McPherson College Library, Russell St., circa 1960s. Photo by Museums Victoria on Unsplash.com. <https://unsplash.com/photos/5g3m1WPjrLI>. (Bottom) Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mimeograph_in_MOP.jpg by Printhusiast licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license. Alteration for this use: background of original photograph removed.

In Memoriam



TxSGS Fellow Debbie Parker Wayne, CG[®]

19 January 2022

TxSGS and the genealogical community have lost a leading genealogical educator and supporter. TxSGS Fellow Debbie Parker Wayne, CG[®], passed away 19 January 2022 due to complications of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. An early adopter of genetic genealogy, Debbie generously shared her expertise through presentations, publications, and client research, helping many to find their ancestors through DNA and document-based genealogical research.

A board-certified genealogist who was self-taught in DNA analysis, Debbie specialized in teaching others so they could also learn to use DNA analysis for genealogy even without a biology degree. Among her many educational legacies, she developed the online

autosomal DNA course offered by the National Genealogical Society. Debbie also developed and coordinated the first week-long DNA courses for four major institutes in the U.S.: Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), Institute for Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), and the Forensic Institute of Genealogy. Courses taught by Debbie have trained genealogists of all experience levels how to use DNA effectively to further genealogical research. She taught many workshops focused on analyzing DNA from start to finish and presented topics to genealogy societies and at genealogy conferences across the U.S.

Debbie authored and compiled two important books on using DNA analysis

in genealogy: the *Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies* and, with Blaine T. Bettinger, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*. In addition, Debbie was a regular author for *Stirpes*, contributing twenty-eight articles on DNA research from 2009 to September 2021.

Chair of the TxSGS DNA Committee since its inception in 2011, Debbie managed the TXStateGS DNA Project for TxSGS at FamilyTreeDNA. Through her vision, the TXStateGS DNA Project became the springboard for the TxSGS Early Texans DNA Project and Database and the wealth of information that can be discovered for genealogists with Texas ancestors through DNA connections. In conjunction with the TXStateGS DNA Project, Debbie launched a lineage-linked database for the ancestry of each DNA project member. She also worked with Marynell Bryant, TxSGS Heritage Certificates Chair, to incorporate DNA evidence in TxSGS Heritage Certificate applications.

In addition to her volunteer work with TxSGS, Debbie was actively involved with the greater genealogy community, serving as a Trustee and member of the BCG Executive

Committee from 2018–2020, as a trustee of the BCG Education Fund, as Advocacy Committee Chair of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), and as past president of the Lone Star Chapter of APG.

In 2008, before the recent popularity of genealogy-related shows, Debbie worked on an episode of the Canadian series *Ancestors in the Attic*. This episode featured the descendants of a slave family in Smith County, Texas, who had migrated to Canada. In 2011, Debbie worked on an episode of the PBS series *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., featuring a descendant of another East Texas slave family. This episode with Ruth Simmons, president of Brown University, was broadcast on April 29, 2012. She did additional research for *Finding Your Roots* and *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Debbie and her husband, Jim, moved to Tyler in late 2019 after living in Cushing, Texas, for a number of years. One of her proudest achievements was receiving her Certified Genealogist designation. She had many friends in the genealogy world and beyond, and we will all miss her very much.

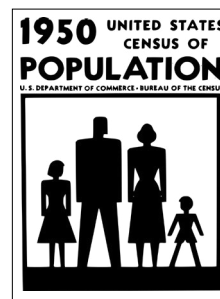
Debbie Parker Wayne Memorial Fund for DNA Education

To honor the memory of Debbie Parker Wayne, TxSGS has created the “Debbie Parker Wayne Memorial Fund for DNA Education.” The fund will sponsor lectures and attendance at conferences as determined annually by the TxSGS Executive Committee. Donations to the fund are welcome; see <https://www.txsgs.org/debbie-parker-wayne-fund/> for more information.

The Release of the 1950 Population Census

by Bernard N. Meisner

The upcoming release of the 1950 U.S. Federal Census reminds us of the importance of census records to family historians. Each enumeration provides a snapshot of our ancestors – where they lived, who lived with them, their lifestyle, neighbors, and more.



The U.S. Federal Census has been conducted every ten years since 1790, as specified in Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution.¹ The images of the 1950 census will be released on 1 April 2022, 72 years after the census was conducted. After the National Archives was established, the Director of the Census Bureau and the Archivist of the United States agreed that the records of the 1790 to 1860 censuses would be made public upon transfer to the Archives. The records of the 1870 census were subsequently made public when they were transferred in 1942, 72 years after that census was taken,² establishing the 72-year precedent for restrictions on access to population census records. Public Law 95-416 (dated 5 October 1978) allows the census records release date to be negotiated by the Director of the Census and the Archivist of the United States.³

Who Was Enumerated?

The official date of the 1950 U.S. Federal Census was 1 April 1950. Individuals who died on or before 31 March 1950, or were born on or after 2 April 1950, were not to be enumerated. Nearly every residence in the (then) 48 states, the territories of Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands was visited by an enumerator. More than 151 million people were counted by over 140,000

enumerators.

On “T-Night,” 11 April 1950, a special enumeration was made of persons in hotels, YMCAs, tourist courts, and other places where transients usually paid for quarters. Thursday, 13 April 1950, was the date for a similar effort at missions and flophouses. “Missed Person” forms were published in newspapers at the end of the field canvassing operations so persons who thought they had been missed could complete a form and mail it to the district supervisors.

Native Americans living on many reservations were enumerated on two forms: Form P1 - 1950 Census of Population and Housing, used in the 48 states, and Form P8 - Indian Reservation Schedule. Copies of both forms will be released on 1 April 2022. Form P8 included information regarding other names by which the individual was known, their tribal and clan affiliation, degree of Indian blood, languages spoken, read, and/or written, and any recent participation in native ceremonies. In the case of all



1950 Presidential Enumeration. Enumerator Eileen Nolte interviews the First Family on Census Day, April 1, 1950. US Census Bureau, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons. This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license.

reservations in Alaska or Oklahoma, Population Schedule forms were completed, but the Indian Reservation Schedules were not.⁴

Also enumerated in 1950 were members of the armed forces, crews of U.S. flagged military and civilian vessels, whether at sea or in a foreign port, and U.S. government employees and their family members living in foreign countries. However, those persons were not allocated to any region or state or included in the population for purposes of calculating congressional apportionment. *With only a few exceptions, none of the census forms for those individuals will be included in the 1950 census release.*^{5, 6} Others who were temporarily living

The 1950 Census: *Stirpes* Readers Share Their Hopes

by Susan E. Ball

With great anticipation, American genealogists are awaiting the release of the 1950 U.S. Federal Census on April 1, 2022. For many genealogists, this census may provide long awaited clues for understanding family structure and solving relationship mysteries. Others may find the answers provided in this census confirm what they've already known.

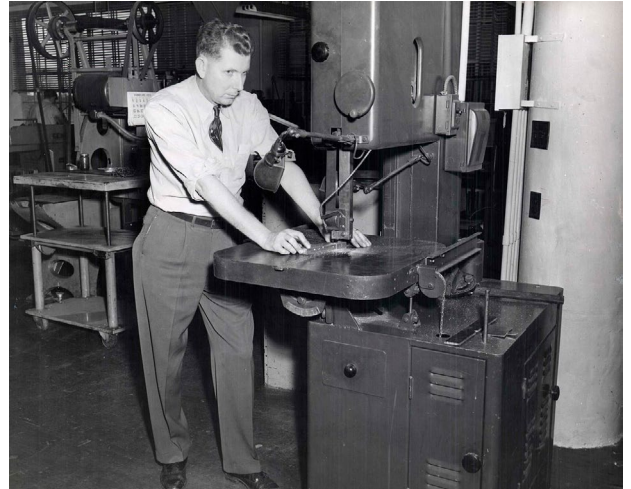
Stirpes asked our readers what they were hoping to find in the 1950 census and whether they were enumerated on April 1, 1950. Of the responses received, almost two-thirds expected to see their names in this census. For some, this is the second census released to the public that includes their names, and for a few, it's their third. Anna Holtkamp, born in 1929, has been found in the 1930 and 1940 censuses. When enumerated for the 1950 census, she was newly married and living on a farm in Bailey County, Texas, with her husband, Richard Black. Her daughter, Susan, is eagerly anticipating delving into the census and exploring their lives and those of their parents, siblings, neighbors, and friends, with her mother narrating the exploration.

Most of the survey respondents are already making lists of the persons they are seeking, focusing on parents, grandparents, and siblings. Take a look

at these responses – they might jog an idea for your searches.

- I'm looking for my parents, Arville L. and Dorothy Dyer Cox. – *Karen Masterson*
- Where did my grandmother Lola Carrol live? I want to answer this question and to learn details about other family members. – *Bill Guy*
- I'd like to find my parents and siblings and especially want to see reported ages. – *Wanda Folz*
- My 1950 focus is Eugene Pettit, my father, and where he lived in Garland, Texas. I'm also investigating East Texas natives that immigrated to Garland after WWII. – *Larry Pettit*
- I want to see how my family answered the census questions. – *Michael Belcher*

• My first search will be for my parents Robert and Ella Whitehead and grandparents Georgia Whitehead and Lillie Martin. I want to see their occupations, family units, street



Early US Census Machines 1950. Author: U.S. Census. In public domain via Wikimedia Commons.

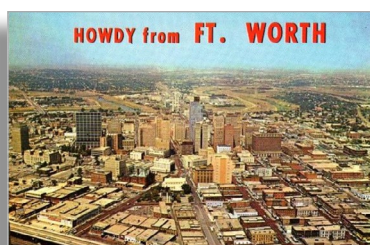
addresses, education, ages, and more. I can't wait 'til April 1st! – *Christine Earle*

• I'm searching for my Aunt Connie. She was married a number of times, and I'm not sure of her last name in 1950. It will be the first time I see MY name and my brother's name on a census! I find that exciting! – *Janis Trayler*

• The main person I'm searching for is my grandfather, William Melton Ritchey. Also, I want to learn where my grandparents lived and what they did for a living. – *Bertha Hall*

• I want to find the neighbors of my grandparents; I'm searching for the birth father of my uncle. Maybe he was one of my grandparent's neighbors. Also, my other grandparents were totally omitted along with their entire street in the 1940 census. I want to locate them in the 1950 census just to prove they were there (we know they were). – *Jana Jenkins*

• My search goal is my maternal



1950 Fort Worth, Texas. Author R. Orville Lyttle. Wikimedia Commons.

A Look at **Divorce Records in Texas**

by Susan E. Ball

Divorce, that scandalous event parents and grandparents never discussed around the children, was much more prevalent than many genealogists realize. Of the first fourteen civil court cases recorded in Tom Green County, thirteen were divorces; and by 1939, 50 percent of all civil cases in that county were divorces.

Divorce records can provide a wealth of information gleaned from the pages of “he said,” “she said” that constitute a typical divorce case prior to no-fault divorce. The search for your ancestor’s divorce record starts with understanding Texas divorce laws, learning the anatomy of a divorce to know what might be found, and discovering where the court records for your ancestor’s divorce can be located.

Texas Divorce Laws

As you search for your ancestor’s divorce, it’s helpful to keep in mind the law in effect when the divorce was granted. How and where were divorces granted? What were the circumstances under which a divorce might be granted? Were there residency requirements? How would the couple’s community property or the wife’s separate property be distributed? Who retained guardianship of the children? Knowing the details of the law in effect at the time a couple divorced provides a great deal of context for your ancestor as well as guiding you to where divorce records can be found.

When the laws of the Republic of Texas were first enacted, divorce fell under the jurisdiction of district courts.¹ Among the listed circumstances under which a husband or wife could sue for divorce was the requirement that the husband or wife have abandoned their spouse for three years or left their spouse and lived in adultery. The law would allow divorce by separation in the case of “excesses, cruel treatment, or outrages.” Under this law, the only requirement for residence in Texas was that if the divorce was requested on grounds of adultery, the husband must have been an inhabitant of the Republic of Texas at



Wedding picture, man seated and woman holding flowers and standing, c. 1894, W.J. Hazenstab, St. Louis, Mo. From the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington DC, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003681234/>.

the time the adultery was committed and at the time the divorce petition was filed.²

However, as the law did not preclude petitioning the Republic legislature for divorce, some couples took that route for dissolving their marriage. In January 1839, the Republic of Texas granted a divorce to Sophia Aughinbaugh and Jesse A. Aughinbaugh as well as Louisa Beasley and Seymore S. Beasley.³ Under Private Acts and Joint Resolutions, another dozen couples were granted their divorces in July 1842.⁴

In 1842, a law of the Republic of Texas was enacted that allowed process to be served by publication in divorce and other civil cases when the residence of the defendant was unknown, or the defendant was a non-resident of the Republic of Texas. In this case, a notice to the defendant to appear and defend the suit was published for four consecutive weeks in a newspaper printed in the county

Resources for Finding Your Women Ancestors in the Early 20th Century

by Pat Gordon

By the time the 20th century debuted in 1900, women had become politically active by speaking out against inequity, including the right to vote, joining labor unions, having professional careers, attending universities, serving on juries, and eventually joining the armed forces. As they discovered, change is a slow process that requires patience, persistence, and tenacity, all traits suffrage advocates and their supporters had on steroids.

From 1900 to 1920, major events nationwide created numerous opportunities to find women ancestors recorded in newspapers, organizations, and government records. In 1848, the women's suffrage movement started in New York and spread slowly nationwide. In fact, legislation was introduced in 1869 Texas to allow women to vote but failed because voting was "unwomanly." The first Texas suffrage organization formed in 1893 in Dallas, but within a few years this group, the Texas Equal Rights Association, became inactive. Other Texas organizations formed, but it wasn't until 1916 with the formation of Texas Equal Suffrage Association that women once more actively joined the movement.

A flyer by suffrage organizations asks: "Who Represents Her? If a woman forges a check, does her father, her husband, her employer, go to jail for a felony? ... Why is it that the only place in the world where man wants to represent woman is at the ballot box?"



National American Woman Suffrage Association. National American Woman Suffrage Association Records: Miscellany, -1950; Printed matter; 2 of 34. - 1950, 1890. Manuscript/Mixed Material. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mss.3413202071/>.

By 1918, Texas had 98 suffrage organizations for Whites only; African Americans and Mexicans formed their own. The 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, was finally ratified in 1920 with Texas becoming the ninth state in the U.S. and the first in the South to do so. In 1918, the state legislature also gave Texas White women the right to vote in local primaries, which they did in

unexpected numbers. The Texas Equal Suffrage Association became the League of Women Voters shortly before the suffrage amendment passed.

So, was your great-great-granny a suffragette? She was more likely to be involved in a Texas suffrage organization if she lived in an urban area as opposed to a rural area, and after 1916. Many women's clubs supported the right to vote but never mention the dreaded

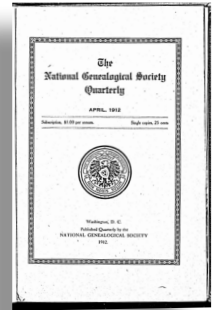
"suffrage" word in their name or literature. For example, women found ways to support women suffrage by linking it to patriotism, prohibition, domestic work, and other issues that were considered "womanly."

Many women opposed the right to vote, so they participated in such organizations as the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage (NAOWS). To gain other women's support, the organization

Timeline of 20th Century Genealogical Events

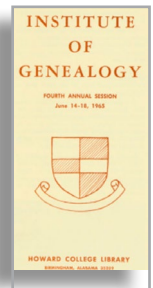
by Sandra J. Crowley

- 1912:** The General [Society of Mayflower Descendants](#) was established.
- 1915:** The [National Genealogical Society](#), Washington, D.C. was founded; they began publishing *The National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.
- 1938:** The Genealogical Society of Utah (now FamilySearch) began microfilming records from archives around the world.
- 1945:** The National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century was organized.
- 1947:** The American Society of Genealogists was created as an honorary organization limited to fifty scholars in the genealogical field.
- 1950:** Everton published the first edition of the *Handy Book*; their magazine, *Genealogical Helper* was established. *Genealogical Helper* magazine ceased publication in 2009. This collection can be found online on [Internet Archive](#).
- 1960:** The [Texas State Genealogical Society](#) was established.
- 1962:** The National Institute on Genealogical Research was founded; in 2015 its name was changed to the [Genealogical Institute of Federal Records](#) (Gen-Fed). Their educational program focuses on federal records of genealogical value located primarily in the Washington, DC area.



The *Annual Index to Genealogy Periodicals* is started.

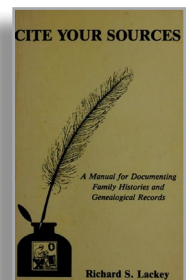
The [Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research](#) was established at Howard College, now Samford University, in Birmingham, Alabama. It offered seven courses ranging from beginning to more specialized topics. It was originally known as the Willo Institute of Genealogy. In 2016, IGHR moved to its current home, the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education, in Athens, Georgia, where it continues to thrive.



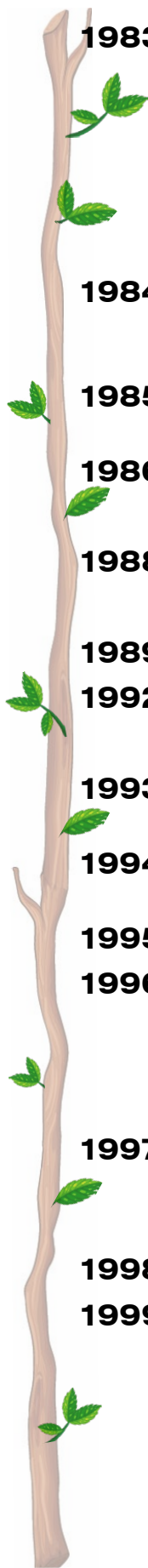
- 1964:** The [Board for Certification of Genealogists](#) was organized.
Accreditation program begun by the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 1976:** The [Federation of Genealogical Societies](#) was launched; FGS merged with National Genealogical Society in October 2021.
- 1979:** The [Association of Professional Genealogists](#) was established by nineteen professional genealogists. Their membership today is nearly 3,000 in forty countries around the world.

A genealogy software program, "Genealogy: Compiling Roots and Branches," by John J. Armstrong was advertised in the September issue of *Personal Computing Magazine*. The program sold for \$250, and the source code was printed in the magazine. Readers typed the code into their computer, which was a common way of publishing software in the early days. It was written in Microsoft BASIC for the TRS-80 by Radio Shack.

- 1980:** *Cite Your Sources: A Manual for Documenting Family Histories and Genealogical Records* by Richard S. Lackey was published.
- 1981:** The first national genealogical conference sponsored by the National Genealogical Society was held in Atlanta, Georgia.



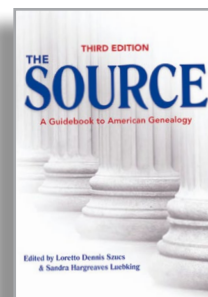
Genealogical Computing Magazine started publication.



1983: The fund drive originally known as the Genealogical Coordinating Committee NARA Gift Fund and now known as [Malcolm H. Stern-NARA Gift Fund](#) was established. The gift fund's purpose was to create finding aids and microfilm significant research materials at the National Archives.

Ancestry Publishing was founded; this company is now known as [Ancestry.com](#).

The first edition of *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy* was published by Ancestry, Inc.



1984: Personal Ancestral File (PAF) Version 1 released. It was written in BASIC for the IBM PC (also Microsoft) and did not include GEDCOM. Commsoft's Roots II came out in May of 1984 for the IBM PC.

1985: FamilySearch introduces the GEDCOM file format (GEnealogical Data COMmunication) to provide a uniform format for genealogy data file sharing.

1986: PAF 2.0 was released. It was the first genealogy program to include GEDCOM exchange capability. The National Genealogical Society established the [Genealogy Hall of Fame](#).

1988: PERSI (the Periodical Source Index) was published.

The Social Security Death Index became public record.

1989: Family Tree Maker genealogy software was first introduced by Banner Blue.



1992: The [Genealogical Speakers Guild](#) was founded.

The Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) was established.

1993: The Genealogical Institute of Mid-America was launched. GIMA is a four-day program of intensive study at the University of Illinois, Springfield.

1994: Banner Blue Software (creator of Family Tree Maker software in 1989) acquired Automated Archives, Inc., who developed CDs containing genealogical records.

1995: Broderbund Software, Inc. acquired Banner Blue Software.

1996: The [Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy](#) launched a week-long seminar that offered students hands-on learning experience at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The website [Ancestry.com](#) is launched

[Cyndi's List](#) was established on the Internet.



1997: *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* by Elizabeth Shown Mills (Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland) was published.

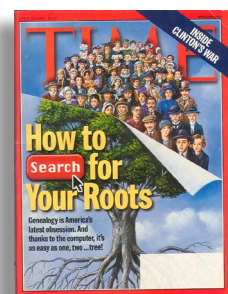
PBS's [Ancestors](#) television series aired nationwide.

1998: Broderbund Software, Inc., was purchased by the Learning Company.

1999: The Learning Company was purchased by Mattel, Inc. A few months later, A&E Television Networks, Hearst Interactive Media, Mattel, Inc. (NYSE: MAT), Thomas H. Lee Partners and Weston Presidio Capital formed Genealogy.com, LLC, formerly the Broderbund genealogy unit of Mattel.

The website [FamilySearch.org](#) went live, providing free access to historical records.

The cover story in the April 19, 1999, issue of *Time Magazine* was "[Roots Mania](#)."



Benefits of Attending a Virtual Conference

by Sandra J. Crowley

Whether you're just getting started with genealogy research or have been researching for several years, there are benefits to attending a genealogy conference. The key is to find the conference that offers lectures or workshops that match your educational needs. Do you want to learn about research in a specific location? Are you interested in focusing on a particular topic, such as DNA? Are you interested in learning or improving a specific skill, such as researching land records?

In the past, most genealogy conferences have been conducted as in-person events, often located in a city with research facilities near the venue of the conference, allowing you to combine an educational event with a research road trip. Not only could you learn and develop new skills and visit local repositories, but you could also meet and make friends researching the same area.

The recent pandemic combined with travel restrictions and new technology has changed the way many of these events are conducted today. Although we must accept that virtual events do not provide the same experience as a physical event, they do bring many of the same benefits – plus some that physical events cannot deliver.

Cost-Effective

Virtual events are less expensive to attend. Generally, the registration fee for the event may be the same as it would be for an in-person event. However, the in-person conference often includes add-ons such as lunch each day, dinners or evening banquets,

special optional workshops, and more. Plus, the cost of attending is not confined to just the registration fee; there is the additional cost for travel, accommodation, and more. A virtual conference eliminates those 'extra' costs and provides an opportunity for attendees to participate in more than one event each year, if desired. You might be able to attend two to three events from the comfort of home for the same expense of travel, hotel, and registration at one in-person event.

Time Saving

In-person events are often not only costly but also time consuming. Consider the time it takes to travel to the event. If you live in the event city and are staying at home at night, you must consider the time it takes to travel to and from home each day of the event. You might experience traffic delays or

be side-tracked with family or home activities as well. If you are traveling to another city or state for your event, you should also plan for unexpected delays in flight or train travel. Rather than taking your laptop with you to the event, the virtual event comes to your laptop in your home. Connect to the session that you wish to attend, and you are all set. Between sessions, you can check out the resources you've just learned about, or you can continue other work in between sessions as you are only one click away.

Sit back and Relax

In-person meeting feedback often includes comments such as "the room was too cold," "I couldn't hear the speaker," "I couldn't see the screen." A virtual event allows you to attend from your home office with your desk, your favorite office chair, lighting that works for your work area, all the equipment and supplies you need to take notes – in fact, a very relaxed environment. No searching for the right room in a hotel or conference



TxSGS Launches ***Lone Star Family Trails* Podcast**

Want to learn more about Texas resources, records, and historical context for your Texas ancestors? Join TxSGS as we launch *Lone Star Family Trails*, a new monthly podcast conceived and managed by Emily Richardson.

Each podcast will highlight one specific element that adds to your genealogical knowledge when researching your Texas ancestors.

Listen to a TxSGS host interview an expert guest during this 35- to 45-minute audio program.

Hear about Texas State Genealogical Society events, programs, and projects.

Follow up with a corresponding blog on the TxSGS website with additional information for your reference.

Introducing Our Hosts

We are excited to introduce our hosts: Sue Kaufman, the Senior

Manager of Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research and past president of TxSGS; Randy Whited, TxSGS District L Representative and past president of TxSGS; and Ron Barnett, Central Texas Genealogical Society's webmaster and TxSGS 2021 Volunteer of the Year. Each brings a wealth of genealogical experience in Texas resources to their role as a host. Beginning in the second quarter of 2022, *Lone Star Family Trails* will feature:

- The Texas Collection and University Archives at Baylor University
- The Texas General Land Office
- The Portal to Texas History

Join TxSGS on this Journey of Discovery!

From Amarillo to Brownsville and Texarkana to El Paso, Texas is filled with records and stories that capture the history of intrepid pioneers and early settlers. Each month, *Lone Star Family Trails* will take you on a genealogical journey to discover the valuable Texas resources that can help preserve your ancestor's story!

Travel along with us as we embark on *Lone Star Family Trails*. Watch the TxSGS website for more information and scheduled release dates at <https://www.txsgs.org/lone-star-family-trails-podcast/>. ★



School Yearbooks: Awkward Photos, Awesome Resource

by Jessica Horne Collins

Yearbooks have been a rite of passage for over 100 years in American high schools. Sitting for a graduation photo in a cap and gown, squeezing into a club’s group shot, and autographing friends’ annuals at the end of the year – all are traditions we remember fondly. For genealogists, these books hold more than nostalgia; they offer a peek into our research subjects’ lives and can provide genealogically useful data.

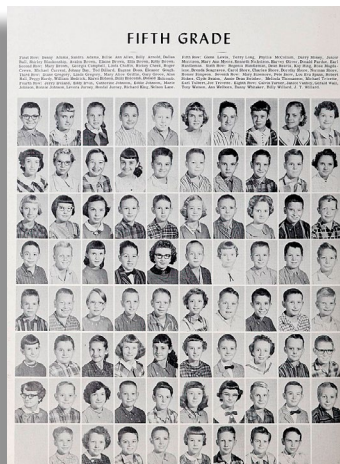


“Group portrait of Yale graduates and staff, 1893.” *The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Picture Collection, New York Public Library Digital Collections.*

What Is a Yearbook?

Yearbooks are school publications, usually produced once a year, that document students and their activities. Although yearbooks are most often associated with high schools, educational institutions at all levels produce these volumes. Elementary, middle, and junior high schools, as well as colleges and universities, have yearbooks.

Modern yearbooks have their roots in early colonial America. The first yearbooks were scrapbooks filled with mementos and classmates’ autographs and were created by students at East Coast schools in the late 1600s.¹ Student scrapbooks evolved into more formal yearbooks by the early 1800s. The oldest known college yearbook, *Profiles of the Class Graduated at Yale College*, was published in 1806; the first known high school yearbook, *The Cue*, from Albany Academy in Albany, New York, dates to 1814. Advances in photography led to the incorporation of photos in yearbooks by the 1880s. Improved printing processes and mass production made yearbooks affordable to the average family by the 1930s.² The result for genealogists is a valuable resource documenting the early lives of our 20th century ancestors and family members.



The Eagle, 1959. Yearbook, West Yadkin High School, Hamptonville, N.C. Collection of Yadkin County Public Library, on Wikimedia Commons.

What’s Inside a Yearbook?

Because yearbooks are common items from our own school days, genealogists may not immediately recognize their research value. The contents of yearbooks are familiar and contain both obvious and not-so-obvious information.

Student life comprises most of a yearbook’s content. Other individuals appear in yearbooks, too. Faculty – teachers, principals, and administrators—are often included, and some yearbooks identify cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, and other support staff. The activities of parent-teacher organizations may also be chronicled in yearbooks, providing an opportunity for parents to be included in its pages. Even if a yearbook does not include a research subject in a given year, annuals from around the same time may provide a history of the school and add social context. Finally, yearbooks were often financed by local advertisers. Browsing the ad section may uncover business contact information, addresses, and photos, making school yearbooks a source for learning about local businesses and their owners.

How is this information useful for genealogists?

Pinpointing Your Ancestor's Location Using the U.S. Census

by Jim Thornhill

A large part of discovering your ancestors' social history, the context for their lives, and their environment is to discover where they lived. The more precise you can be, the more you will learn about what they experienced in their daily lives. One of the best record sets for determining where your ancestors lived is the U.S. Federal Census.

During the first half of the 20th century, Americans began a migration from the countryside to communities large and small.¹ People who lived in towns are easier to locate in the census because the enumerators were instructed to record their addresses. Although you can still locate your rural ancestors, having an exact street address makes things easier!

City Folk

If your ancestor lived in a town, the census enumerator was directed to record the street they lived on and the number of their house on that street.² That information can be found in the left margin and first few columns of the census document. For every census since 1900, there has been a column for house number, and the street was either written in its own column or in the left margin. If you don't see the street name, look at the previous census pages. For long streets, the enumerator typically only wrote down the street name when they started counting on that street and didn't record another street until the enumerator changed direction or the street ended.

If you are unable to find your ancestor's address in the U.S. census, you may be able to find it in other places and then use census enumeration maps to find their location. Look for addresses on old letters and envelopes, the backs of pictures, deeds or other legal documents, and city directories.

On the Farm

If your ancestors worked the land or just liked the wide-open spaces, another strategy is in order. If you have a deed or other legal document

4						Francis Lee
5	411	130 R	30	R		Renell Oswald
6						Montine
7						Renell Jr.
8	401	131 O	6250	R		Road Phil R.
9						Will M
10						Annelle
11						M ^{rs} Gehue G. P.
12	431	132	2500	R		Williams William A
13						Velma Scott

Figure 1: Screen shot of U.S. Census, McComb, Pike County, Mississippi.

with a legal description of their property, you can use that information, along with mapping software such as HistoryGeo or Google Earth with Earthpoint to find the exact location. Texas researchers can use the Texas General Land Office's GIS mapping system to locate their ancestor's land. When referenced in land and tax records, a Texas property description includes the original land patentee, the person or entity that first owned the land, and the abstract number. Those two pieces of information with the name of the county can locate any piece of property in Texas. If you don't have that information, you can still get close with the U.S. census.

Often enumerators would write down the highway or road where they were counting in the left margin of

Walthall County, Mississippi, and being described as follows, to-wit:

Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter, Section 10, Township 2, Range 10.

Title to said property is believed to be good, but I will sell only such title as is vested in me as trustee.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SIGNATURE, this the 18th day of October, A.D. 1940.

Figure 2: Property Description in Trustees Notice of Sale.

When the Dates Do Not Agree

by Russell A. Rahn

When comparing several records for the same person, it's not too unusual to find that the recorded dates for events in that person's life are not in full agreement. The question in such cases would be how much latitude will be accepted before concluding that this is, or is not, the correct person, and what factors, if any, can be used to "override" the discrepancy of dates?

A group of documents relating to the life of Coleman Isaacs contained a number of interesting items, including a pilot's license, an airman's identification card, and a card authorizing the operation of a radiotelephone. The pilot's license is shown on the right.

Having acquired this small collection of items, I thought it might be interesting to see what could be learned about this person and his ancestry. Information for more than two generations back for the Isaacs family was not easily found, but the Webb family (Coleman's grandmother) was a slightly different story. Her lineage can be traced to the early 1500s in England. Because Coleman was born in Indiana, I chose to focus the research and resultant family tree on those ancestors that lived in Indiana.

During the course of this study, it became obvious that many of the folks in this family were not certain of the year of their birth or their actual age. A listing of some of these discrepancies can be seen in the table below. A discrepancy of one year can often be explained by the time of year in which a birth occurred. For example, someone

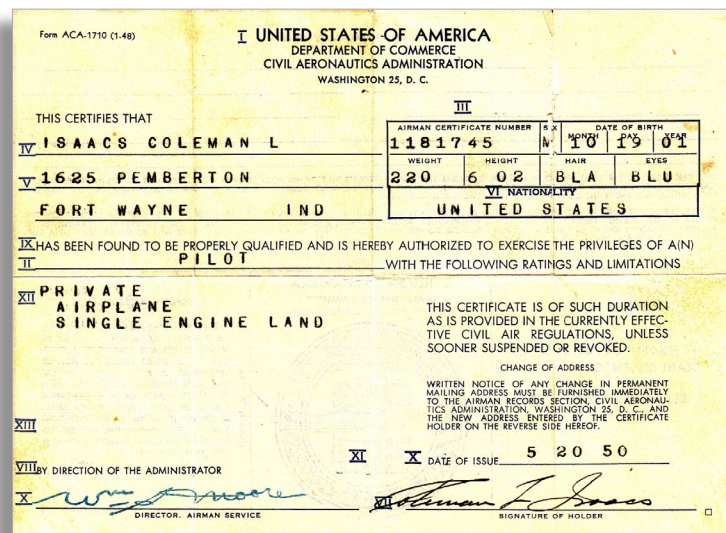


Figure 1.

born on 1 February 1870 would be recorded in a marriage license application as 29 if married on 1 January 1890, and 30 if married on 2 February 1890. However, a discrepancy of 11 years as for Aletta Rudolph is not so easily explained away.

Name	Birth Year*	Estimated birth years from reported ages	Discrepancy
Sarah Webb Isaacs		1847 in the 1870 Census; 1845 in the 1880 Census	2 yrs
Gertrude Isaacs	1868	1867 in her 1888 marriage record	1 yr
Elizabeth Storms	1877	1876 at her marriage in 189	1 yr
Thomas Linegar	1833	1838 in the 1900 Census	5 yrs
Joanna Castle Linegar	1846	1848 in the 1900 Census	2 yrs
Christian Rudolph	1870	1873 in the 1900 Census	3 yrs
Aletta Rudolph	1872	1877 in the 1900 Census	5 yrs
Christian Rudolph	1870	1877 in the 1910 Census	7 yrs
Thomas Linegar	1833	1837 in the 1910 Census	4 yrs
Joanna Linegar	1846	1850 in the 1910 Census	4 yrs
John Isaacs	1873	1875 in the 1920 Census	2 yrs
Mildred Isaacs	1897	1894 in the 1920 Census	3 yrs
Aletta Rudolph	1872	1883 in her burial record	11 yrs
Christian Rudolph	1870	1875 in his burial record	5 yrs

* Birth year recorded is that year found in the most accurate record or the birth year most consistently reported in all records found.

Congratulations and Happy Anniversary!

While there were a few genealogical societies founded in the 19th century, the majority were founded in the 20th century. As interest in genealogy grew, so did the number of genealogical societies. Early societies were often formed as a way for individuals in a city or county to join together to research, to share information about their families and community, and to produce journals or books that would help preserve the information in local records or provide a finding aid for

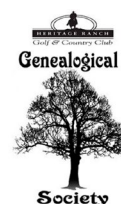
others. These books included abstracts of wills, indexes of land records, wills, birth and death records, marriage records, and more. Today many of these publications are in genealogical libraries and collections around the world.

This year, fourteen TxSGS Partner Societies are celebrating a major anniversary, ranging from ten to 65 years. We are pleased to say thank you to these societies for their contribution to genealogy education and preservation.*



Cedar Hill Genealogical Society

10 YEARS



Heritage Ranch Genealogical Society



Bosque County Genealogical Society

15 YEARS



CLAYTON
LIBRARY
FRIENDS

Clayton Library Friends

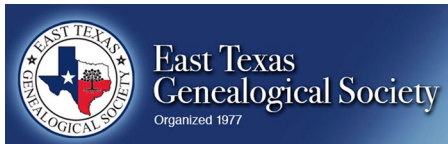
35 YEARS

40 YEARS



Comal County Genealogical Society

45 YEARS



East Texas Genealogical Society



Tejano Genealogical Society of Austin



AAHGS

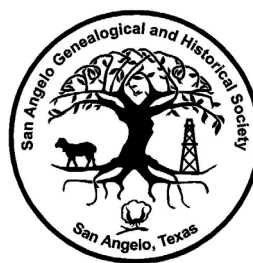
Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society

50 YEARS



Chaparral Genealogical Society

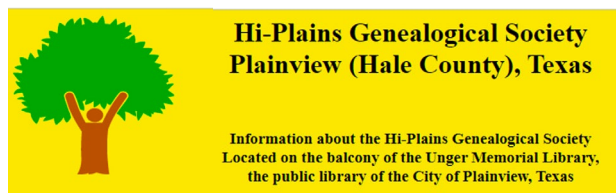


San Angelo Historical and Genealogical Society

55 YEARS



Grand Prairie Genealogical Society



Hi-Plains Genealogical Society

65 YEARS



Amarillo Genealogical Society



Houston Genealogical Forum

Partner Society Roundup

Is your Partner Society missing? Perhaps your contact information is out of date or your society's membership has lapsed. 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 webinars to use for society programs, publicity support for society events, media downloads, preservation and access support,

awards, digitization equipment loan grants, and much more. TxSGS is continuing Partner Society meeting support by facilitating virtual meetings for partner societies for free through May 31, 2022, for those societies that are not meeting in person. See page 67 for more details.

Read the reports from around Texas to identify events and societies in your area. TxSGS recommends that persons interested in society events check the society's website and Facebook page to make sure the event is still scheduled and whether it will be held in-person, virtually, or in the hybrid (in-person and virtual) format.

District C

Emily Richardson,
District Representative

The [*Collin County Genealogical Society*](#) (CCGS) featured Mic Barnette on March 9, presenting "It's Coming ... the 1950 Census!" On April 13, a virtual and in-person hybrid meeting will be held with the [*North Collin County Genealogical Society*](#) at the Collin County History Museum. To register to attend the April meeting virtually, see the CCGS website <https://www.collincountygenealogicalsociety.com/events--happenings.html>.

One CCGS project supports efforts to digitize Collin County newspapers. Early *McKinney Examiner* newspapers will be available digitally on The Portal to Texas History. Learn more about CCGS's digital newspaper project here: <https://www.collincountygenealogicalsociety.com/digital-newspaper-project.html>.

The [*Denton County Genealogical Society*](#) is meeting monthly both in person and via Zoom. In February,

a presentation was offered titled "Blacksmithing on the Texas Frontier: Historic Archeology at the Tom Cook Blacksmith Shop in Bolivar, Denton County, Texas." In March, Ann Staley will present "The Everyday Life of Our Ancestors." More information can be found at <http://www.genealogydentontexas.org/>.

The [*Heritage Ranch Genealogical Society*](#) (HRGS) in Fairview, Texas, began the fall of 2021 with an in-person meeting but then went virtual because of the uptick in COVID. In February 2022, HRGS again met in person and plans to do so for the foreseeable future. The focus for 2022 is rebuilding membership numbers and providing interesting programs to increase attendance. Other plans include starting a small newsletter and perhaps a couple of Special Interest Groups (SIGs): one for DNA and one for helping those beginning their family research.

The [*Robson Ranch Genealogy Club*](#) (RRGC) continues to meet twice

per month plus a 2-hour help session for members. In February, Sandra Crowley presented "I Remember: Sharing Your Stories." The beginning of March will see Bernard Meisner discussing "Preparing for the Release of the 1950 Census." The club will also see a webinar on Irish internet sites to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. RRGC is meeting in person; all are enjoying the opportunity to meet new members and share genealogy success.

District E

Tim de la Vega,
District Representative

The [*West Texas Genealogical Society*](#) meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the conference room at the Southside Abilene Public Library at the Mall of Abilene (except for November and December).

There was no meeting in January due to COVID concerns, but an in-person meeting was held February 8. The following topics were discussed:

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