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Why Name our Journal Stirpes?

Pronounced "STÚR'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)

STIRPES



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, <u>stirpes@txsgs.org</u>.

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/submissionguidelines

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 (email: <u>treasurer@txsgs.org</u>), at Texas State Genealogical Society, attn: Treasurer, 2028 E Ben White Blvd #240-2700, Austin, TX 78741. 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

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From the



G enealogists are, in a sense, sleuths. No detail is too small for investigation as we track down our elusive ancestors. However, as we research our families, it's easy to get caught up in the search for records and data. In the midst of this consuming hunt, we at *Stirpes* remind you not to lose sight of the story. It's the story that matters. To that end, this issue of *Stirpes* focuses on storytelling, capturing the narrative of your family for future generations.

In "Start to Finish: Tips for Writing Your Family Story," Pat Gordon shares insights gained from a lifetime of writing as a journalist and writing instructor. Adele Stewart discusses her experience with Storyworth, a product that uses prompts to turn reminiscences into books, in "Mother's Day Gift Sparks Family Stories." "Just Imagine: Creating Your Ancestor's Story with Senses in Context" by Nancy Gilbride Casey shows how to expand a family tale from dry facts into a riveting account using contextual information.

Learn how to enliven your family writing with "Using Facts and Social History to Write Your Family's Story," by Jim Thornhill. "In Their Own Words ... Sort Of" by Gay Solomon with Beth and Brad Moffett expands the storytelling technique to monologues you can craft about an interesting ancestor and perform for your family. How better to get your family interested in their ancestry than by a reenactment? Bill Buckner reviews a must-have book for all family historians who aspire to leaving a written legacy for their descendants in "Book Review: How to Tell A Story."

Jessica Horne Collins describes a handful of methods for self-publishing your genealogical work in "Self-Publish Your Family History Research: Five Options for Telling Your Ancestors' Stories."Tim de la Vega, owner of HV Chapman & Sons, Bookbinders, describes the process of working with a printer to publish your research as a cherished family heirloom with "You've Done All This Research – Now What?"

In addition to the "How-to" articles for storytelling, this issue includes examples shared by family history authors. Donna Gholson Cook uses excerpts from books, newspapers, and an autobiography to tell the tale of her ancestor in "Samuel Sullivan 'Sam' Gholson (1840-1926)." Karen Kossie-Chernyshev shares her family's rich Texas experience from enslaved to influencer in "Texas, 'Our' Texas: My Family's Deep Roots in the Lone Star State." Recounting her findings about her family, she discovered that their story and Texas history are interwoven more deeply than she would ever have imagined.

"Uncle Bert's Pajamas" by Bernard N. Meisner shows how analyzing a memory told by one cousin along with a photograph shared by another cousin expanded his family tree to a previously unknown branch. William Allen Veselik describes the Collup family's migration from Virginia to Texas along with a genealogical summary of two generations of descendants in "Transplants from Southwest Virginia: The Collup Family of Tarrant County."

Russ Rahn discussed a research project focused on finding the names of seven young women shown in a cabinet photo card in "Who's Who??" Sec. Sec.

"Discovering a Second-Great-Grandmother in the Newspaper," by Susan Brandt Graham follows the discovery of Susan's ancestress and their surprising commonalities.

The Partner Society Roundup features fall genealogy events hosted by TxSGS's Partner Societies. Be sure to investigate those societies in your area and events of interest to you. Societies in Texas are thriving thanks to the Partner Society Leadership Forum led by Tony Hanson and Emily Richardson. Both Tony and Emily are honored in "Volunteer Spotlight" for their efforts in providing challenging programs for Partner Society leaders.

Join us November 4-5 at the 2022 TxSGS Family History Conference, "Unlock Your Past." Read about speakers and topics in this issue, watch our website for updates, and plan now to attend! Do you have early Texas ancestors? Check out the latest Heritage Certificate recipients – someone may have proved your ancestor's early Texas connection.

Fall is just around the corner; we'll soon be gathering for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, holidays that focus on family. These are perfect times to share your newly-learned storytelling techniques with family far and near!

Our next issue focuses on skill building. Have you recently developed new research methods or learned a new skill? We would love to hear your tips and techniques for locating those elusive ancestors. Send them to stirpes@txsgs.org.

-Stirpes Editors

New Members & More

New Members since May 2022

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Learn more at www.txsgs.org

Volunteer Spotlight:

Cony Hanson and Emily Richardson Partner Society Leadership



Stirpes commends Tony Hanson and Emily Richardson for their passion for helping TxSGS Partner Societies thrive. Concerned in 2021 with the effect that COVID was having on genealogy societies in Texas, this dynamic duo has hosted quarterly Leadership Forums since the program's inception in early 2021.

As stated on the TxSGS Society Forum page, "Managing a Society is not easy. We are providing help by hosting a series of Forums to provide information and allow Society Leaders to exchange ideas and information." Meetings are held quarterly on a Saturday, starting at 9:00 a.m. and generally ending by 11:00 a.m.

Topics for 2022 include:

- Developing and Using Metrics for Your Society, January 22
- Program Planning, April 30
- Models for Organization, July 30
- Award-Winning Publications, September 24.

Participation in the Partner Society Leadership Forum has been high, with society leaders praising Tony and Emily for their timely topics, excellent presentations, and impact on their local society. A plus for those attending has been the dialogue developing between Partner Society leaders about the issues facing all societies, large and small, and methods being implemented to conquer these challenges.

Thank you, Tony and Emily, for your support of genealogy societies across Texas and beyond.

Are you a society leader or concerned about the health of your society? If you haven't yet participated in a Partner Society Leadership Forum, make plans to attend in 2023. Past meetings have been recorded; they are available for viewing on the TxSGS website under "Events."

5

Start to Finish: Tips for Writing Your Family Story

by Pat Gordon

So, you want to write a family history, but you just don't know where or how to start. I get it. Even professional writers often need a start boost. Finding a muse—can be a person, place, or thing—helps as inspiration. After you find your muse, you are on your way from being a wannabe writer to being a writer.

Muses take many forms, even for genealogists.

You can start with what you have: your research. Organize it if you haven't done so already. In the process, you may find forgotten information or even records that didn't seem important before. This is an easy place to start writing. Pick a document, newspaper story, or whatever you find interesting and write about it. This is also an effective way to discover holes in your research.

Visit an ancestor's property, then write about it. Describe the rolling hills, the prairies, the flowers, the trees, the buildings if they still exist. Describe how it differs from earlier property they may have owned. My Swor line came to Texas from Tennessee. They settled in Washington County, Texas, in an area of rolling hills similar to their Henry County, Tennessee, home. In fact, visit anywhere that is connected to your ancestor: cemetery, courthouse, church, school. Any place that will start you thinking about a person or family will cause a flood of memories and generate plenty of writing material.

No time for a trip? Look at old family photographs or photos taken from your research trips. I have a Head-Bogart family photo taken when

my grandmother Josie Head was about two years old. In the picture, her older sister, Zenobia, about six, has a huge scowl on her face. People didn't smile much in the 1800 photos, so no one looks happy, just not as unhappy as Zenobia. I have always wondered what caused her displeasure. Josie is sitting in her mother's lap, older brother Roy on a tall stool next to his dad. Zenobia is the only person sitting on the floor. Is that why she is scowling? She's wearing a dress with socks and shoes. Are her shoes too small, causing her feet to hurt? The mother, Jimann, is wearing a nice black dress. Was that her wedding dress? Dad, Will, has on a suit jacket. Roy, age four, is wearing a dress, and both he and Josie are barefooted. That entire photo makes me think about the young family and the hardships they were to face.

Some writers are inspired by talking to someone about their writing projects or, in the case of genealogists, their research. Sometimes just talking about inconsistencies in records, or decisions our ancestors made to move from one place to another, can get you into a writing mood. My sister and I often brainstorm about some of our ancestors' migrations from state to state. Cheap land was usually part of the appeal, but what else was



going on where they lived, inspiring them to leave? My Johnsons usually moved with a group of people. By the time they reached Texas, this friend/ neighbor group had also become relatives.

Making an outline can be helpful because it serves as a map to where the story is going. By looking at your outline, you know where you have been and where you are heading without spending much thought in planning. Creating a timeline may also start a brain avalanche, as the dates and places cause you to really consider the different decisions ancestors made. Since family histories are best told chronologically, they are typically easy to organize from a timeline.

There are plenty of ways to write a family history, as well as theories on how to write. One style doesn't fit all. You just need to find the one that best fits you. Currently, the most popular theory advises an author to completely draft a book before making any changes, including rewrites. However, many successful authors, including Stephen King, edit while writing.

The most interesting family histories are narratives, written with a beginning, middle, and end. By writing them chronologically, the family's history is easy to follow. You,

Samuel Sullivan "Sam" Gholson (1840 – 1926)

by Donna Gholson Cook

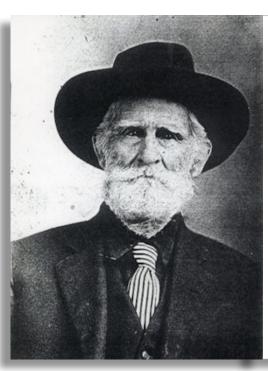
Samuel Sullivan "Sam" Gholson was born 13 November 1840, in Robertson's Colony, Republic of Texas. He was the first son of Albert Gholson, who accompanied his father to Texas in 1832 at age fourteen. Sam's mother was Elydia (Anderson) Gholson. Elydia died in 1843 after a long illness, possibly malaria, leaving two very young sons, Sam and his brother, Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Gholson. Both brothers were involved in some of the most important events of early Texas history during their long lives, and their recollections tell us a lot about the tough times endured by the early settlers.

Frank was widely known to have had a flawless memory for details,

whether he witnessed an event himself or heard the story from others who did, and he was the subject of many interviews by noted Texas historians. Sam, on the other hand, was not the subject of many interviews, but his greatest contribution to family history and Texas history was sitting for many hours writing his autobiography with a pencil and school tablet. It is filled with fascinating stories about his ranger activities, Civil War experience, and his cattle business and trail drives. Like Frank's, his memory was also incredible, down to the smallest detail. Just imagine the young cowboys sitting around the campfire at night when their only entertainment was to rehash the exciting happenings of the day. With nothing else to clutter their minds, the events stayed with them for the rest of their lives.

Burial of the Jackson Family and Rescue of Their Children

At the time the Native Americans began their depredations upon the settlers, Albert had remarried and started a family with his second wife, and he decided to move the family from Mills County to a safer place. He moved to Owl Creek in Coryell County and started a



Texas Ranger Ranger Enlistment, 17 October 1858 – 4 March 1859

Helped to bury massacred Jackson family and rescue two kidnapped Jackson children

Confederate Army

2nd Regiment, Texas Cavalry (2nd Mounted Rifles), 1862-1865

Hamilton County Sheriff 4th Sheriff of Hamilton County, Texas, 1865 – 1866

horse ranch, leaving Sam and Frank to tend the cattle ranch in Mills County. The teenage boys quickly grew bored and started making plans to head for California, while a few miles away the Jackson family made plans for an outing on Pecan Bayou to picnic and gather pecans. The October morning in 1858 started out as a picnic but turned into a tragedy when the family was ambushed by Native Americans. Frank and Sam, who had started for California, had been discouraged from continuing by a group of soldiers and returned with them to Camp Colorado, where they joined a new company of Texas Rangers. Frank was fifteen and Sam was seventeen when they helped bury the Jackson family and track the marauders for many miles to retrieve two kidnapped Jackson children. Sam told his story in great detail in his autobiography, and Frank recollected his in an interview by R. J. Gerald, published in J. Marvin Hunter's Frontier Times magazine in 1927.

Sam and Frank served with Captain Williams until their father found them and demanded that they be discharged. Because they were minors, Captain Williams could not hold them and gave them honorable discharges. The ranch employee, Andy Morris, remained until the six-month term was out. They were paid \$5 per month in

TxSGS Lone Star Family Trails Podcast Launch a Success Mew episodes available monthly



Catch up on episodes in our podcast library at https://www.txsgs.org/lone-star-family-trails-podcast-library/

Episode #101 – April 2022

The Texas Collection and Archives at Baylor University Host: Ron Barnett; Guest: Amie Oliver, Interim Director of the

Texas Collection and an assistant librarian. This episode features the Texas Collection and University Archives at Baylor University in Waco. Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2023, this large, privately held collection is used by historians, filmmakers, journalists, students, and genealogists from around the world.

Episode #102 – May 2022

The San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society Library Host: Sue Kaufman; Guest: Barbara Froebel, President and Historian of the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society This episode features the library of the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society (SAGHS). Containing more than 15,000 books and 700 maps, the library is an important destination for Texas researchers. In addition to Texana, U.S. and international holdings, maps, and more, researchers have access to a multitude of online resources when visiting the library.

Episode #103 – July 2022

The Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University Host: Ron Barnett; Guest: Dr. Monte L. Monroe, archivist for the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University in Lubbock and State Historian for Texas.

This episode features the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. As an archivist, Dr. Monroe works to extend the collection to include manuscripts of family history that provide "unique, tangible evidence of a person's existence; how they lived, how they thought, and how we all remember them."

Episode #104 – August 2022 The Portal to Texas History

Host: Randy Whited; Guest: Jake Magnum, *UNT Program Development Librarian at University of North Texas in Denton.* This episode features The Portal to Texas History at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton. Their collections include not just newspapers, but 732 unique collections that have been digitized and can be searched on their website.

Mother's Day Gift Sparks Family Stories

by Adele Stewart

Adele Stewart,

To celebrate you this Mother's Day, we have gifted you a subscription to Storyworth so you can record your stories for the family. After a year, we'll print a beautiful book with your stories!

- the Lemkes and Stewarts

The email received on May 10, 2020, from *Storyworth* introduced my best Mother's Day gift ever! I was told that for the next year, as a gift from my children, I would receive from *Storyworth* an email each Monday containing

a question submitted either by one of them or generated from *Storyworth*'s seemingly endless list. What an exciting and novel gift—especially for an amateur genealogist wanting to track down and pass on her family history to the next generations. I saw this book as a chance to start with "I was born the child of ..." and then delve into the lives of past generations, even as I catalogued my own years.

As promised, the very next day I received the first of my questions, and I realized that this adventure offered much more than delineating dates and names. Here was an invitation to reveal more of ME to my children, grandchildren, and even to myself. As I opened neglected and dusty photo albums, including those kept by my parents, I relived long-ago occasions that needed to be shared many of which I hadn't visited for years. Yet

while proofing the stories at the close of my extended year, I realized that those genealogical facts that I first thought of listing were there—they just were couched naturally in the stories of my life and in the lives of my parents and grandparents.

Each weekly question invited me to delve into either a memory or a feeling. My assignment was to think about it, then write about it, then send it back. Sounds simple, doesn't it? And sometimes it was. But occasionally I would open the weekly email to find a question that sparked a kneejerk response: *I don't want to talk about This*—or—*I can't relate to That*. Sometimes, during a week's worth of thinking and fretting, I would work out a response to an uncomfortable question. Sometimes I was still working on the current week's question when Monday arrived again, and with it a new question. More than once I rejected a generated question in favor of another



one from the website's list. Or, I would create my own. That opportunity allowed me to submit the accounts of meeting my husband-to-be, of our engagement, and of our wedding. I also related my memories and my emotions at the bedside of each of my parents as they passed away. These were stories that I wanted my children and grandchildren to have, events that needed to be saved and shared.

I addressed issues from the sublime to the spiritual, from humorous to philosophical. Dusty scrapbooks brought to light dusty memories. I answered questions about each of my parents, of events in their lives, and of events in my childhood.

In doing so, I felt a nearness to each of them not often experienced since their deaths over ten years ago. I journaled my own reactions to parenthood and of the joys of being a grandparent. I celebrated the gift of family past and present throughout the submissions, even as I wrote thinking of family future.

I wrote of my own life journey, of my personal growth, of my beliefs, thinking especially of my four grandchildren as I wrote. One of them graduates this year from college while the youngest will enter third grade in the fall. I wanted each to be able at some time to know me more

Just Imagine: Creating Your Ancestor's Story with Senses and Context

by Nancy Gilbride Casey

t is always the story that captures my imagination.When I read, I usually form a picture in my mind of what is happening. When I write successfully, I attempt to do the same—to capture my reader's attention and draw them into the story of my long-ago ancestors.

In the course of researching my Gilbride ancestors in newspapers, I came upon a brief article about the November 1900 attempted robbery of my third-great-uncle Francis Gilbride. He was an Irish immigrant who settled with his family in Wayne County, Pennsylvania, in 1850, and the son of my fourth-greatgrandparents, James G. Gilbride and Mary Catherine Hart.

The article reads:

Frank Gilbride, a bachelor, peaceable and good natured always aged about 63 years and who lives a recluse life on the old homestead farm a short distance from the village, was surprised Sunday night by the entrance of three masked men in his humble home who at once demanded his money. Upon informing them he had none in the house they at once proceeded to tie his hands and gag him, when a thorough search of the premises was made, but no valuables or money were found. Gilgride [sic] was then released from the gag and asked if he knew whether George Shearer, a near neighbor farmer, had money in the house. On information that Mr. Shearer never kept any money in the house the trio departed, leaving Mr. Gilbride with his hands tied. He managed to free himself. Then he hastened to Mr. Carey's and Mr. Tuttle's and with them went



Figure 1: Wilsonville detail, Paupack map from the atlas Wayne County 1872. "C. Shearer" and "F. Gilbride" are shown as neighbors. C. Shearer is likely the neighbor Francis leaves to warn about the robbers in the article and story.

immediately to Mr. Shearer's but the masked men had not been there and made good their escape. Arrests on suspicion are likely to follow to-day.

This robbery attempt in and of itself was so intriguing that I wanted to share it on my family history blog, *Leaves on the Tree*. But something just wasn't clicking for me while attempting to write about the incident. I couldn't find the words to pull a reader in.

After several failed attempts (and setting it aside for a while), I finally had an epiphany: How might Frances have *felt* in those moments when he was tied up? Did he muse on his life while wondering what the robbers might do to him?

I could easily imagine how the ropes felt on his wrists, scratchy and tight. I could imagine how he fondly recalled his dear family members. I could almost feel how cold the coming Pennsylvania winter already was. I could feel how his heart swelled with gratitude for his adopted homeland and how proud he was to be an American citizen. From there, everything clicked,

and the story flowed.

I had accumulated plenty of *facts* on Francis's life from my research, but imagining his *feelings* and *thoughts* was the entry point into his story.

The resulting story was not a typical family history narrative, but rather part-fact, partimagining. It was not *untrue* to the facts, but rather, wove the facts into a narrative about what *might* have happened—we will never really know. My hope was that

readers—members of my family and others—would more easily be able to put themselves in Francis's shoes and relate to his feelings of love, honor, duty, and gratitude.

In telling our family stories, it might be helpful to go beyond dates and places and consider the context of an ancestor's life—the time and place they inhabited. A useful exercise might be to close your eyes for a moment and put yourself in their place.

Imagine:

- What might they see if they looked around?
- What does their environment look like? Their clothes? Their belongings?
- What is happening around them?
- What is the weather like?
- What might they hear or smell?

Texas, "Our" Texas: My Family's Deep Roots in the Lone Star State

by Karen Kossie-Chernyshev, PhD

From my earliest days at home and Sunday school, which were often one and the same in my father's house as he was a pastor, the significance of history was interwoven into all aspects of life. History was instructive and essential. It provided context and a meaningful way to understand the past, its influence on the present, and implications for the future.

As my father walked through what he believed to be his calling to establish a church that is still thriving in Houston's historic Fifth Ward the birthplace of such dynamic Texas originals as Barbara Jordan, Mickey Leland, and Ruth Simmons—he often described the experience as a kind of tug-of-war between him and God, with God telling him, "Son, you can't tell your story about how this work [the church] is being developed. I'm telling mine."

As a little girl who loved stories, I decided to wait around and watch the drama. The stories my father told

Name:	Mrs Delia Tyres [Mrs Delia Schields]
Gender:	Female
Race:	Colored (Black)
Age:	57
Birth Date:	15 Sep 1870
Birth Place:	Texas
Death Date:	2 May 1928
Death Place:	Houston, Harris, Texas, USA
Father:	George Schields
Mother:	Adline Richardson

Figure 1: Ancestry.com transcription of the death certificate of the author's grandmother, Delia Shields Tyres (1870-1928).

eventually became the foundation for my PhD dissertation at Rice University. Not long before my father passed, I asked him for a favor I knew he would find irresistible despite his weakened physical state: "Dad, will you pray with me about a history project I'm working on?" He waited for a moment and then interjected, "Your roots are very deep." I presumed he was referring to my longstanding commitment to Texas Southern University, where I have labored in the groves of academia for almost 30 years. In retrospect, I realize he was referring to what I would soon learn about my family's historical connection to Texas history just a few days before my birthday, thanks to a timely email from Ancestry.com: a transcription of my paternal great-grandmother's death certificate: Delia Shields Tyres (15 September 1870-2 May 1928). Her age at the time of death—57 caught my attention. Inspired by the document, I set out to trace my family's genealogy to the period of slavery as a birthday present to myself. I found an answer that left me speechless and brimming with gratitude.^{1 2}

TEXAS STATE MARD DEVELALTH BUREAU OF VITAL SPATISTICS STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH No. 2416 Dowling PLACE OF DEATH Reg. Dis. No.10377 County Larris ¥D Registered No. cur Hauston FULL NAME Mrs adline Shields (a) RESIDENCE. No. e in city or town where death occurred 9 yrs..... WELL-INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE SIDE
 NAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

 COLOR OR
 5 SINGLE. MARRIED, WIDOWE:

 RACE
 OR DIVORCED (write the word)
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Figure 2: Death certificate for the author's great-grandmother, "Adline" Richardson Shields.

Uncle Bert's Pajamas

by Bernard N. Meisner

Jim O'Hara, my mother's cousin and one of my last living relatives from her generation, recently told me a story about his father's—and my grandfather's—youngest brother, Robert. Here is the story from my perspective:

My grandfather, Daniel J. O'Hara, lived at 269 Dinwiddie Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.¹ His extended family included his parents, James and Margaret (Kearney) O'Hara, his five surviving brothers and his sister Anne, his mother's widowed brother Bernard (Uncle Barney) with his son and two daughters, and his mother's bachelor brother, Henry.² The seven boys slept in the attic with their Uncle Henry allegedly keeping order.

The news that John McClory, one of my grandfather's second cousins from Illinois, would be coming for a visit was a cause for some concern. Where, and with whom, would he sleep? The decision was made that Uncle Barney would temporarily move up to the attic with the boys, while my grandfather's youngest brother, Robert (Bert), and the visiting cousin would share Uncle Barney's bedroom. Although the O'Hara boys typically slept in their underwear, it was decided that Bert should have some pajamas to keep up appearances. He was understandably proud to receive such special treatment because, as the youngest member of the household, he likely had worn hand-me-down clothes his entire life!

As night fell on the first day of the cousin's visit, Bert happily put on his new pajamas and got into bed, expecting his cousin John to do the same. Imagine his surprise when Cousin John climbed into bed in his underwear! Apparently, the sleeping attire for the Illinois branch of the family was no different from that of the Pittsburgh branch.

After Cousin Jim had told me the story, I recalled that some years previously another of my mother's cousins, Marian (O'Hara) Schlicht, had sent me some photographs including one with the visiting cousin!

In a note accompanying the photo, Marian had written:



Figure 1: Photograph documenting the visit of John McClory of Trowbridge, Illinois, to his Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania cousins, the O'Haras and their extended family, circa 1905.

Front Row -- C. Stuart O'Hara, Robert J. (Bert) O'Hara Second Row -- Jack Kearney (cousin), John McClory (cousin visiting from Trowbridge, Illinois), James J. O'Hara, Daniel J. O'Hara

Back Row -- William B. (Ibb) O'Hara, Bernard John Kearney (father of Jack, uncle of O'Hara brothers), Harry W. O'Hara

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Transplants from Southwest Virginia: The Collup Family of Tarrant County

by William Allen Veselik, Archivist F.B. Kegley Library, Wytheville, Virginia

The image of a young family and their belongings packed into a prairie schooner headed west is all too common in American film and literature, but in the case of the Collup family of Southwest Virginia, that stereotypical image does not match the facts.

George W. Collup was nearly 65 years of age when he packed up his wife, Mary Ann, and at least four of his grown children and relocated to the Lone Star State, a distance of roughly 1,000 miles from his home in Virginia. It is very likely that the family traveled by rail, rather than by wagon, since the railroad had cut its path through Southwest Virginia more than two decades earlier, facilitating westward migration for East Coast residents.

Virginia Roots

George W. Collup was likely the son of Frederick Cullop (1772-1825), builder of the Old Stone Tavern, which is still standing near present-day Atkins, Virginia, in Smyth County.¹ Frederick Collup supposedly hanged himself in the tavern in 1825. He was married to Nancy Beard on 12 November 1797 in Wythe County, Virginia.²

George W. Collup married Mary A. Allen in Smyth County, Virginia, about 1843, since their first child, James S. Collup, was born about 1844. There is no record of their marriage in either Smyth or Wythe counties in Virginia. She was the daughter of Thomas Allen and Elizabeth (Snider) Crow, who were married on



Figure 1: This is believed to be a photo of Mary A. (Allen) Collup.

11 January 1821.³ Mary A. Allen, who often went by the name "Mary Ann," was born on 28 April 1824, according to her younger brother's family Bible.⁴ The Bible records her full name as Mary "Mcaulister" Allen. McAllister was, in fact, the surname of Thomas Allen's paternal grandmother.

George lived his early life in Smyth County, located adjacent to Wythe County on its western border. There he served in the local militia and was active in Democratic Party politics. According to Smyth County militia records held in the Virginia State Library, by 1843 George was a lieutenant colonel and commander of the 143rd Regiment of Infantry.⁵ He served with his father-in-law, Thomas Allen, and succeeded Allen as lieutenant colonel when Allen resigned the position. In 1848, he was appointed a Democratic delegate from Smyth County to the state convention in Lynchburg, Virginia.⁶ There are also indications that Collup served for a short time as the postmaster of Seven Mile Ford in Smyth County, following the death of his postmaster father-inlaw in 1843.7

The 1850 and 1860 census records of Virginia show that George pursued farming as his occupation.^{8 9} No real estate value was ascribed to George in the 1850 census. Oddly enough, in the 1860 census, Mary Ann Collup was

Curbollup -

Figure 2: The signature of George W. Collup appeared on a Virginia militia election report dated 23 June 1843.

STIRPES september 2022

Using Facts and Social History to Write Your Family's Story

by Jim Thornhill

aving a record of your family available for future generations is a great way to pay it forward. It helps to get those bits and pieces of research together in one place in a way that is pleasing for all to read. A family history brings in those who may not be interested in your research but would be willing to read a story about their ancestors. For the author, writing your family's story can be a great accomplishment as well as a rewarding legacy.

I like Webster's definition of a family history, "a record of your ancestors."¹ I like it because it tells me where I need to start, with records. Your family's history should not be the great American novel. It should be based on a soundly-documented genealogy of your family.

If you're reading this and you are not really a writer, consider teaming up with a family member who has that skill. You can provide the genealogical information; they can put it in writing. The two of you can work together to create a family treasure.

Before you start writing, your genealogy needs to contain more than just basic information. Go beyond the birth, marriage, and death dates and discover things like obituaries, newspaper articles, deeds to discover the exact location your ancestors lived, and court documents to reveal the details of their daily lives.

Once you have your research completed, then you can start using your imagination. Remember, your goal is to report the facts but in a way that is interesting to read for someone who is not a historian. One way to do this is to use social history to support your research. Social history is the history of the environment your ancestors experienced in their daily lives. What was the weather like for the time you are writing? Was the area where they lived mostly agricultural, or did they live in the city and work in a trade? What was the predominant religion in the area where they lived? Even in cases where the genealogy you have done is scant, you can supplement their story with the history of where they lived.

My grandmother was born in rural Louisiana in 1894. Her father, Jeptha Brock, was a doctor, and she was the ninth child born to the couple. Her mother, Susan, was around 37 years old when she gave birth.² How can I make these facts come alive?

My grandmother was born in August. A check of the newspaper in the closest major town indicated that August was hotter than normal and very dry that year in her community.³ Having come from a medical family, I know that it is

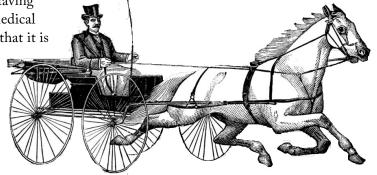
not a good practice for a doctor to treat a family member, so I feel safe in assuming that a doctor besides her husband attended to her health. I also know from deed records and his obituary that her husband was what was referred to as a planter, someone with a large agricultural operation who was financially comfortable.⁴

Combining social history with my research yielded the story shown in the sidebar on page 43.

At first glance, it might seem like I have taken a lot of literary license, but let's look and see.

Genealogy Research

- I learned the name of the community from Jeptha's obituary.
- Susan's age and the birth order I found in the 1900 census. Since there was a gap in the birth years, and Susan reported that two of her children were no longer living, I assumed the baby born prior to my grandmother had died.



BOOK REVIEW: How to Tell a Story

by William D. "Bill" Buckner, TxSGS Awards Chair

How to Tell a Story by Meg Bowles, Catherine Burns, Jenifer Hixson, Sarah Austin Jenness, and Kate Tellers. (New York: Crown, 2022): 336 pages, illustrations, indexed. Available from Amazon and other bookstores.

"Everyone has a story!" and "Storytelling is for everyone," exclaimed the authors in this essential guide. In fact, how I came to review this book is a story in itself. When presented with the "Storytelling" theme for this issue, I called a friend, Vivian Rutherford of the Heart of Texas Storytelling Guild, for advice on which book to review. She sent me an extended list, and The Essential Guide to Memorable Story Telling from the Moth: How to Tell A Story by Meg Bowles caught my eye. Not only was it new (2022), but it came from a well-known institution - The Moth (https://themoth.org/), a non-profit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling. The Moth produces a nationwide radio hour, live storytelling events, and storytelling educational events.

My hope was that I could learn how to tell a good or even better story and possibly translate that skill into writing family history. It is in the telling of a story that something happens, something magical—like blowing fairy dust at the boy-meetsgirl story—that transforms the mind of the reader and makes a story or book a delight.

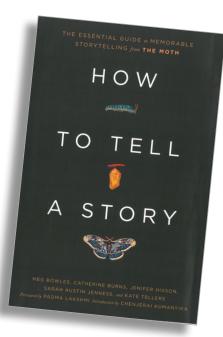
I was not disappointed. This howto book gives you the tools you need to guide yourself in learning how best to craft, tell, and present a story or to approach a story for any situation in a logical manner. What story should I tell? Why is it important? What questions should I ask to develop the story? The authors teach "The Moth process."

- Moth stories are true stories, told out loud in the first person.
- Moth stories are not read or recited.
- Moth stories always involve stakes (tension) and some sort of transformation.
- Moth stories are told with a specific time frame.

Meg Bowles made me a believer in The Moth formula.

Real examples pulled from the archives of The Moth's storytelling events abound within these pages to illustrate every step of the process, to inspire and encourage you. The examples made the book highly readable and interesting. The book is divided into four sections:

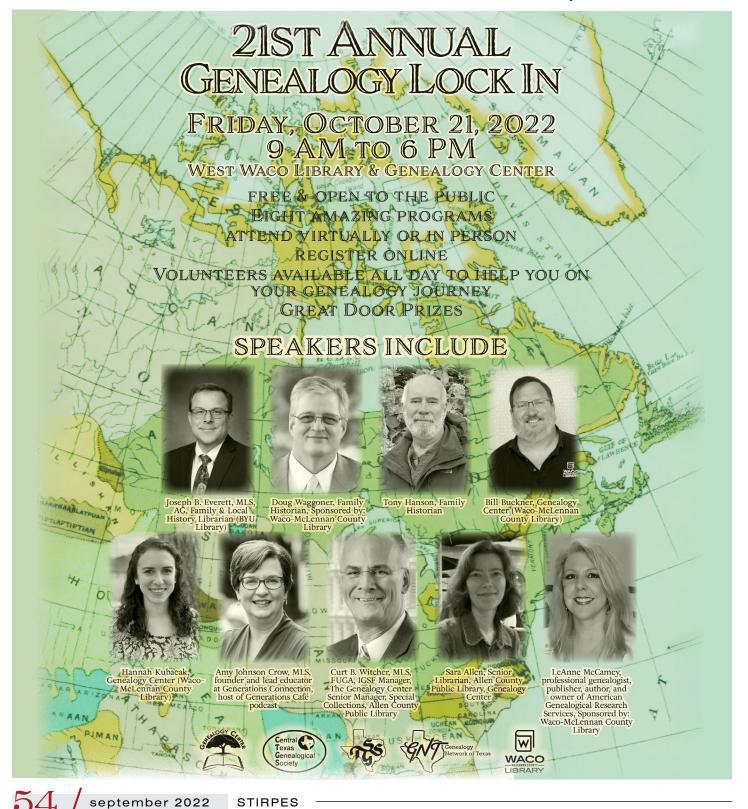
Part 1: Everyone Has a Story; Part 2: Developing Your Story; Part 3: Telling Your Story; and Part 4: The Power of Story. Takeaways called "Director's Notes" sum up the major points in the sections "Part 2: Developing Your Story" and "Part 3: Telling Your Story." For example, Director's Notes in chapter 5, "The Materials," in "Part 2: Developing Your Stories" recapitulates, "Identify the important information you need to build the arc of your story. Create a bulleted list of these narrative steppingstones..."



The importance of stories is woven into this book with every turn of the page. We learn that we all have important stories to tell. They are stories no one else can tell, and we must be willing to do the work to develop them. "Our stories tell us who we are, who we were, and who we hope to be. They're how we form our very identity... Stories are how we keep our collective history alive" (page xiv). Because we have the capacity for imagination, stories bring other people's experiences and events to life.

Stories are to be shared. I especially liked chapter 11, "The Ripple Effect," in "Part 4: The Power of Story." In this chapter, the authors (i.e., Moth Directors), give us examples of how to share and use the stories you have created. Discussion topics include "Stories at Work," "Stories in the World," and "Stories with Family." Stories with Family hit home with the message of don't wait, it will be too late. Examples of how to encourage family to share include prompts to get the conversation going.

While the focus of this book is entirely on the living, I felt that my ultimate goal—improving how best to approach and tell my ancestors' stories—found a unique resource. Will telling stories help me be a better researcher? Yes! Because this book helps you ask the right questions, it guides you to ask different questions about your ancestors. Will telling stories help me be a better writer? Yes! "Part 2: Developing Your Story," provided multiple examples of structural and literary devices that resonated with me on a personal level. This book took twenty-five years of The Moth experience, organized their advice into clear, logical order, and encouraged and inspired me. I heartily recommend it as a primary resource for anyone wanting to tell or write a story.



In Their Own Words...Sort Of

by Gay Solomon, CG® with Beth and Brad Moffett

Se your flair for drama to interest non-genealogists in a family story! Whether or not you have family letters or diaries, you can bring your relatives to life with a well-written monologue.

Have you discovered an exciting or unexpected story that you would like to share with civic organizations, nursing homes, or in school classrooms? If you think you want to appear in character to bring another dimension to your presentation, then read on to get tips on writing your monologue!

A monologue can be described as a small one-person play. The single character speaks to imaginary people onor off-stage, and/or directly to the audience. Presentations for the groups usually last between twenty and thirty minutes, and monologues make an excellent choice. How do you write one? We will walk through the process, using an example of a Texas citizen during Texas's conflict with Mexico in 1843.

Character

First, decide the climactic event. For our short timeframe, the monologue needs to build to one main event in someone's life. As you consider different people, try NOT to think of their entire life history. Think about individual events. Also, consider your audience. Are you speaking in schools? Perhaps choose a subject which would be exciting to a youngster. Are you speaking to civic groups? Perhaps select a subject who rendered service to others.

> Example: Captain Samuel Walker served in the Seminole wars, participated in the Black Bean Episode as a prisoner in Perote Castle in Mier, Mexico, served as a Texas Ranger, and helped develop the Colt pistol. We chose one of those events the Black Bean Episode.

After you select the main event, decide if the character will speak in first person or in third person. Will your character talk about their own experience or describe an event in the life of someone they knew? Once you know the event and the character, it is time to dig up the details! Example: Captain Walker survived the Black Bean Episode and, as our character, will speak in the first person. However, we could choose as the subject one of the men who did not survive then use Captain Walker speaking in third person to describe the incident focusing on the other man.

Resource Material

To create the script, you will need to project what you think the character may have said or thought. Although the conversation will be your creation, it is important to try to come as close to the historical facts as possible.

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Figure 1: Page 1 of Samuel Walker's letter to Mrs. Ann M. Walker, dated 6 May 1843.

You've Done All This Research – **Now What?**

by Tim de la Vega HV Chapman & Sons, Bookbinders

believe genealogy levels the playing field between all groups of society and economic levels. Every family has connections to greatness and almost always ties to the infamous. That is what makes things interesting. We all have a story to tell, but only if we know the story.

Collected Data Becomes Content

If you are like most genealogists, you have been researching your family for many years.

You may have several three-ring binders full of charts, pictures, and other things accumulated over the years. You also probably have a lot of information stored on your Ancestry account.

Most of the genealogists I have spoken with over the years are the "Indiana Jones" of their family. They have spent many years trying to find everything they can about their family. The information they have acquired is vital to them.

The widespread problem for most people researching their genealogy is what to do with all their research once they accumulate it.

From my perspective, the logical answer to that problem is to publish your research. Once you publish, you can share your work with your family, libraries, and others interested in your story. Depending on the type of books you make, they can be an instant family heirloom and, at the very least, are a durable way to preserve your research.

I have heard many reasons for not publishing over the years. Most

commonly, I hear, "I'm not a writer."

You do not have to be an accomplished writer. The research data and pictures will do most of the work for you. Your main job isn't writing; it's tying the pieces together.

Another popular reason would be, "I have been researching for 20 years, and I'm only halfway through."

If you are halfway through, consider publishing your work in two volumes. Breaking your history up ensures all your current research is safe and provides a catalyst to finish volume two. Your family is going to eagerly anticipate the final chapters!

Decide What to Publish

Once you have a stopping point in sight for the end of your research, publishing your family history is simpler than you might think. With your research complete, you can begin organizing and formatting your materials and writing the connections between your data, documents, and photographs.

It is important to remember that there are people who can help you at any point along the way.

While working on building your



project, you should begin to develop a budget. As a book manufacturer, I use four components to determine a price.

- 1. Binding type (hard/soft cover etc.)
- 2. Number of books desired
- 3. Number of pages
- 4. Printed in color, black-andwhite, or a combination (Note, in today's digital printing world, a single word in color will make that page a color page.)

Many other details can affect your cost, but these are the main components.

Set a Budget

Developing your budget will rely heavily on who you want to make your books for you. A quick internet search will show you that there are many online publishers. They are usually cost-effective if your book fits their sometimes-limited parameters. These limitations usually require you to submit a completely designed book; what is referred to in the industry as camera/print ready.

STIRPES september 2022

Self-Publish Your Family History Research: Five Options for Telling Your Ancestors' Stories

by Jessica Horne Collins

Let me tell you what I wish I'd known When I was young and dreamed of glory You have no control Who lives, who dies, who tells your story. – from *Hamilton: The Musical*

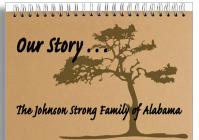
One way to ensure our ancestors' stories are preserved is by committing them to paper. Publishing a family history gives you ultimate control over who tells their and even your own—story. Technology makes publishing a book faster, easier, and more affordable than ever. Here are five ways to see your family history research in print.

Print & Copy Services

A simple, lowtech method used by family historians for decades is making copies and binding them into book form. These copies can be

attached with staples or other binding methods, such as comb, coil, three-ring binders, or screw-and-post binders. Your local "mom-and-pop" print shop offers these services, as do national office supply and business service providers like OfficeDepot/OfficeMax, Staples, and FedEx Office. If your document is in a digital format, you can also upload to online printers, like VistaPrint, and have the bound copies shipped to you.

Copies are usually priced about ten cents per page, with additional charges for double-sided printing, weight or quality of paper, color ink, and type of



binding and cover. The finished product is usually available quickly—within a few days, if not the same day.

Photo Books

If your content is

primarily photographs and their captions, a photo book is a good way to share your family history. Photo books showcase your scanned photos with high-quality printing and attractive formatting options. Many familiar retailers with photo processing departments—like Walmart, Target, Walgreens, CVS, Sam's Club, and



Costco—offer design interfaces on their websites to create your photo book. Online photo processors also offer these services; two popular online options are Shutterfly and Snapfish.

Photo books usually range in price between forty to sixty dollars each, depending on number of pages and type of cover. Some cost savings can be realized by ordering in bulk. If ordering a small quantity, retailers often have coupons or promotional codes for better pricing. Once ordered, photo books are usually printed and shipped within one or two weeks.

Print-on-Demand Books

The advent of digital printing now allows for the publication of books in small quantities. Print-on-demand (POD) is a technology and business model where books are not printed until the company receives an orderand that order can be as small as a single copy. Self-published authors who use POD services typically format, proofread, edit, and market their own works. The POD service provider may offer assistance with these tasks for additional fees. Typically, POD publishers will have online interfaces to help with basic formatting and making your content compatible with their software. Leading POD service

september 2022 / 6

Discovering a Second-Great-Grandmother in the Newspaper

by Susan Brandt Graham

Those of you who have done genealogical work know, in general, it is much easier to find information about your male ancestors than your female ancestors. The men did work that was thought worthy of recording.

There are war records, service records, various kinds of land grants and purchases, and such. Beginning with the 1850 census and beyond, family members were given names as well as a statement of what they did: "farmer," "merchant," "stock raiser" (rancher in today's world), and so on. For adult women, the entry almost invariably was "keeping house," because that is what they did by societal expectation.

Death certificates can be an invaluable source of informationsometimes. Those death certificates filed in Texas after 1903 provided a space to record the name of the deceased person's father and the maiden name of the deceased person's mother. I found a death certificate for my greatgrandmother, Mary Julia Dunn Casbeer, for which the informant was her son and my grandfather, Newton Isom Casbeer. Newton knew his maternal grandfather's name, Jasper Dunn, but for Mary's mother's maiden name, he put "unknown."

Thanks to the work of a cousin, I knew her maiden name was Camilla Elvira Bond, daughter of Jesse Bond and Mary Ann Hester. She married Jasper Newton Dunn at age 15 by permission of her father. The 1900 census in the Territory of New Mexico showed Camilla and her husband lived in the same household in Eddy County. After 1900, records for Jasper can be found in Arizona, but Camilla seemed to have vanished.

Beath of Mrs. C. E. Dunn.

Mrs. C. E. Dann died Tuesday night at the Eddy Hospital. Her death followed an operation for cystic tumor that took place 8 week before. At the operation the doctors found that the malignant growth extended into the vital organs, and that it could not be removed without causing a fatal hemorrhage. Mrs. Dunn's cidest daughter, Mrs. R. B. Burnett, of Houston, Texas, was with her from the time of the operation, She has two grown daughters. both married, and a foster son, whom she raised from infancy. All of these live at a distance, and none were present at the funeral.

Mrs. Dunn was born uear San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 5, 1853. She was mrrried in 1868, and soon after this united with the Christian Church. She has lived in Eddy

Figure 1: "Death of Mrs. C. E. Dunn," Carlsbad (New Mexico) Argus, 12 July 1912; citing Eddy County Courthouse, Carlsbad.

Although I had tried unsuccessfully to find records in Eddy County before, one night I decided to try an internet search one more time. Much to my surprise, I found a listing of obituaries that included my secondgreat-grandmother with a note as to which paper it appeared in and where the archive was held. The other was a listing of probate papers. Both were in the Eddy County Courthouse.

Within a couple of hours the following morning, I had the probate papers via email. Camilla had left everything to one daughter. Her husband, in Arizona, had to sign off on that, as did her other daughter, my great-grandmother. It raised a lot of questions.

The Eddy County clerk told me it would take time to find the archived newspaper. I really did not expect to obtain a copy. However, a week or so later, they called to say they had found it—it was an interesting obituary, and did I still want it? Yes, I was happy to pay the \$5.00. Reading it was both a jawdropping and affirmative experience for me.

Camilla had lived in the Territory of New Mexico for 24 years, from 1888 to 1912. New Mexico became a state shortly before her death in 1912. She died a week after an unsuccessful cancer operation. The daughter who inherited everything had come from Houston to help her mother as she convalesced after the surgery, but she did not stay for the funeral. No family members were there for the funeral or burial in the Carlsbad Cemetery.

What I learned from the newspaper obituary is extremely meaningful to me. Camilla lived her life in New Mexico as a lay midwife



Partner Society Roundup

To find your society's district, check the Partner Society map on the TxSGS website at <u>https://</u><u>www.txsgs.org/about/district-map/</u>. Click on your region to see your district representative's name and contact information, plus a list of genealogical resources in that district.

Is your Partner Society missing? Perhaps our contact information is out of date or your society's membership has lapsed. Please contact your District Representative and memberinfo@txsgs.org to update your society's contact data and confirm your society's membership status.

Partner Societies are encouraged to investigate the

District C

Emily Richardson, District Representative

The *Heritage Ranch Genealogical Society* (HRGS) continued with in-person meetings through May. HRGS does not meet from June through August, so President Ginny Fields started a DNA small group in June, with plans to continue these in the fall. HRGS now has an active program committee led by Vice President Bill Busby. They have developed some great program ideas and are working on getting those implemented. Included will be some new ideas for recruiting and involving new members in HRGS.

The *Robson Ranch Genealogy Club* has been meeting throughout the summer with two classes monthly plus a 2-hour help session. Each month, one session has been dedicated to beginners in genealogy, providing them skills to start their ancestor quest. This fall the schedule will continue with two meetings monthly.

For several years, the <u>Collin</u> <u>County Genealogical Society</u>

(CCGS) has pursued a project to digitize historical newspapers of Collin County. CCGS partnered with the Portal to Texas History Digital Newspaper Program, which is maintained by the University of North Texas, to digitize and place online digitized newspapers, making them freely available to all researchers. This project was funded through grants from the Collin County Historical Commission and CCGS donations. On June 5, 2022, UNT completed uploading 314 issues of the McKinney Examiner from October 1953 to September 1959. In addition, the Collin County Historical Commission has awarded CCGS another grant of \$5,000 which will be used to digitize the McKinney Examiner from October 1959 to September 1967. See the CCGS website at https://www. collincountygenealogicalsociety.com to learn more about the newspaper digitization project, fall programs, and virtual registration for events.

The <u>Denton County Genealogical</u> <u>Society</u> was amazed by the results of their initiative "The Ancestor

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.

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. Names of societies with webpages or Facebook pages are hyperlinked to those pages; otherwise, just search for the society's name online.

> Project" at their September 8th meeting. Inspired by Ann Staley's March presentation, "The Everyday Lives of Our Ancestors," nearly a dozen Ancestor Project participants extensively researched the historical backdrop of an episode or event in one ancestor's life. Participants presented their written findings to the society at their September meeting and offered a brief verbal presentation and Q&A session. Researchers also participated in collaboration and brainstorming workshops during the summer months, providing motivation and encouragement to complete their research.

District D

(Open – Tony Hanson, Acting District Representative)

The <u>Red River County</u> <u>Genealogical Society</u> (RRCGS) meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce meeting room on the square in Clarksville. RRCGS had to cancel several meetings in 2021 and early 2022 due to the COVID threat, but, in spite of it all, there

Α

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