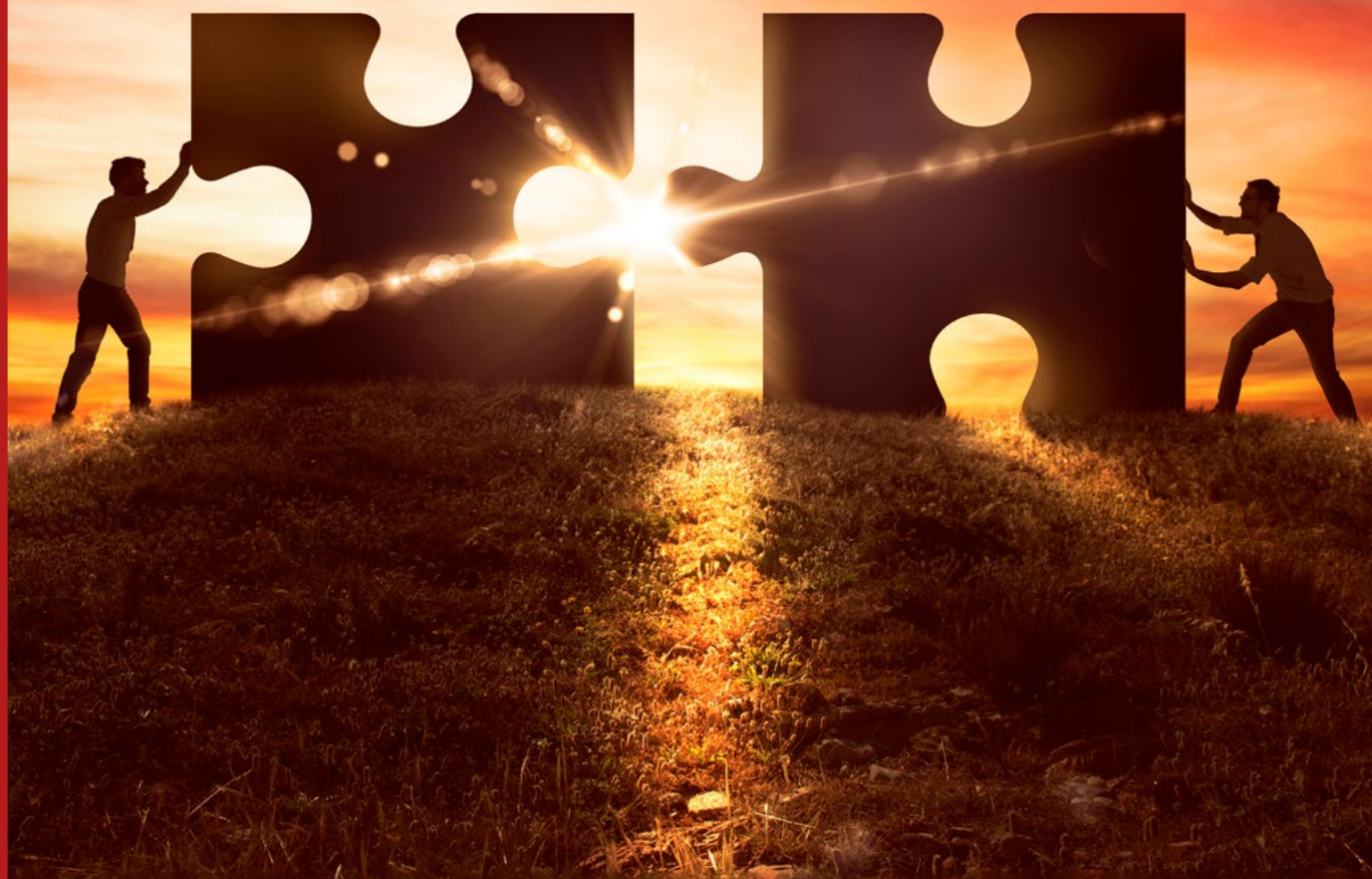


THE JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.



Skill Building:

Putting the Pieces Together





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Contents

Features

- 7** Evaluating Evidence
by Nancy Gilbride Casey
- 13** Passengers on the Grand Condé to the Republic of Texas
From Le Havre, France in 1842
by Karen Stein Daniel, CG®
- 21** Which Citation Tool is Right for You?
by Melody Hooper Woods
- 30** Introducing New Officers
- 33** TxSGS 2022 Annual Business Meeting Highlights
by Sandra J. Crowley
- 35** Amendments to the Bylaws of the Texas State
Genealogical Society
by Sandra J. Crowley
- 36** 2022 TxSGS Awards Ceremony
- 38** The Texas Institute of Genealogical Research
Expands to Seven Courses in 2023
- 43** Strategy Quick Tip: The Research Question
by Susan Kaufman
- 44** Using Evernote as a Genealogy Project Powerhouse
by Emily Coffman Richardson
- 48** Genealogy Wishes for the Holidays
- 50** The Census: More Than a 10-Year Checklist
by Jim Thornhill
- 53** 2022 TxSGS Family History Conference Highlights
- 59** GNT's October Event Reaches Thousands
by Susan E. Ball

Columns

- Editorial Policy **2**
- From the Editors' Pen **3**
- New Members & More **4**
- Volunteer Spotlight **5**
- Book Review: *Research Like a Pro with DNA*
by William D. "Bill" Buckner **28**
- TxSGS Partner Society Roundup **60**
- TxSGS Partner Societies **64**
- Society Program Support Continues
in 2022 with New Recordings **66**
- Texas Heritage Certificates **68**
- Policies of the Texas
State Genealogical Society **73**

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)

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From the *Editors' Pen*



Researching a family tree is much like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. Even though we might want to cut a few corners, we'll more likely get the results we want if we work with the family history "pieces" to see how they fit in our family tree rather than forcing them to match preconceived notions. Putting the pieces together requires practice and skills that we can improve through learning resources such as the articles in this issue. New skills can help us obtain the answers we need from the sources we have and records we find by introducing us to new techniques for analyzing resources.

As an example of using new skills to analyze records, "Evaluating Evidence: The Casey-Coe Marriage Record" by Nancy Gilbride Casey examines the inconsistencies in various records of the marriage of her husband's fourth-great-grandparents, showing how careful evaluation resolved the quandary. Through "Passengers on the *Grand Condé* to the Republic of Texas from Le Havre, France, in 1842" by Karen Stein Daniel, we discover through Karen's example new avenues and techniques for finding our mid-1800s immigrant ancestors. Karen also provides a helpful list of passengers on the *Grande Condé* for use by other researchers as a resource and a template for researching these records.

Recording citations is a necessary task for genealogists dealing with complex research problems. Melody

Hooper Woods introduces readers to a number of citation tools in "Which Citation Tool is Right for You?" and discusses the basics of creating citations. "The Census: More than a 10-Year Checklist" by Jim Thornhill provides an excellent overview of the many types of census enumerations available to genealogists, how to access them, and how to use them to enhance your family history.

Emily Coffman Richardson shows how to set up, organize, and manage research using Evernote in "Using Evernote as a Genealogy Project Powerhouse." Bill Buckner delves into this issue's skill building theme with his review of Diana Elder's book, "Research Like a Pro with DNA." In "Strategy Quick Tip: The Research Question," Susan Kaufman shows how developing a research question prior to delving into a records search can help maintain focus and maximize results.

Stirpes applauds the many 2022 award winners in "2022 TxSGS Awards Ceremony" and proclaims "Good job!" to all those who submitted books, manuscripts, websites, and publications for award consideration. In "Volunteer Spotlight," we salute those volunteers receiving Presidential Citations and the efforts they've made on behalf of TxSGS.

This issue also includes TxSGS articles to keep members and readers abreast of events including "TxSGS 2022 Annual Business Meeting Highlights" and

"Changes to the Bylaws of the Texas State Genealogical Society." "2022 TxSGS Family History Conference Highlights" shares an overview of our most recent event. *Stirpes* applauds conference volunteers with "Recognition and Acknowledgments"; sponsors, exhibitors, and door prize donors are highlighted as well. We especially want to draw your attention to the incoming TxSGS board of directors in "Introducing New Officers for the 2023-2024 Term."

As TxSGS closes 2022, we invite you to join us in June 2023 as TIGR expands to seven courses, including new classes in forensic genealogy, laws in the Lone Star State, and researching Mexican ancestors in Texas and Mexico.

The "Partner Society Roundup" presents news from TxSGS's Partner Societies and includes a list of current Partner Societies. In other Partner Society news, "GNT's October Event Reaches Thousands" highlights the impact of this annual production hosted by the Central Texas Genealogical Society and the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library.

Finally, in this 2022 holiday season, we wish to all our readers a "Happy Holidays" and share with you the hopeful, heartfelt, holiday desires of our readers in "Genealogy Wishes for the Holidays."★

—*Stirpes* Editors

New Members & More

**New Members since
September 2022**

Heritage Circle

Benefactor

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



Supporter

Susan Ball
Jennifer Hunt Bostick
Robert A. Bostick, Jr.
Carol Brooks
Marna Cooper Genes
Charles N. Nobles
Christine A. Smith
Carol Steakley
David C. Taylor
Linda Woodworth
Merlin Woodworth

Friend

Elizabeth D. Ardell
Carol Diamond
Belle Paradise Eanes
Peter J. Gulden
Roseann Hogan
Rebecca F. Hubert
Joel K. Levy
Judi F. Levy
Valencia Linton
Kelvin L. Meyers
Viviana L. Prieur
Bess Schulmeister
Bernd H. Strassner
Liz D. Strassner
Mary Frances Townsend

Individual and Household Members

Yusuf Adeyami
Sherri Taggart Ahmadzadeh
John Alderson
Sandra Alderson
Kelly Atkins
Cynthia C Austin
Karen S. Balthrop
J. Beard
Shirley L. Brown
Catherine Gobel Caldwell
Leslie Carney
Guerrmo Allen Changstein
Brenda M. Crump
Kathy Crusco
Christopher Dean
Jana K. Diamond
Diana Dirk
Marie S. Dulak

E. Ann Embrey
Norene P. Fiocco
Shari L. Galloway
Jean Gilmore
Rebecca Fay Green
Fred Olin Hargis, Jr.
Monica S. Havelka
Terry L. Henderson
Michelle Marie Hinojosa
Garysue Hooper
Dinell Jacob
Jennifer N. Johnson
Linda Judd
Cindy Koplin
Karen L. Kossie-Chernyshev
Barbara LaClair
Davena L. Liepman
Gary Wayne Meador

Jeffrey Meador
Caroline Miller
Pat Collins Miller
Felicia A. Mintz
Rhonda L. Mullins
Cindy Joy Stevens Neff
Eleanor Ortiz
Emily Ann Palmer
Judith Antoinette Pastusek
Carolyn W. Phillips
Laura Lee Politte
Melody K. Porter
Venecia S. Price
Viviana L. Prieur
Ginney Pumphrey
Lisa Richardson
Janisue Rigel
Stephanie Sauls

Sharon Seiling
Joanna Shear
Amber Lynn Sinclair
Chuck Sinclair
Debbie Smith
Adele K. Stewart
Shanna E. Stowe
Mary W. Todd
Dr. Maria Tovaresh-Ashmanskas
Kathy Whiting
Wendy Winstead
Bernadette Wolfe
Allen D. Wright

Partner Societies

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

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Volunteer Spotlight

TxSGS is fortunate to be sustained by dedicated volunteers who passionately support TxSGS and its mission. Some of them have invested numerous hours over many years in TxSGS events, programs, and projects. At the Annual Business Meeting on November 12, 2022, President Susan Ball highlighted efforts of thirteen of those volunteers who made a difference this year for TxSGS and genealogists who live and research in Texas.

Certificates of Appreciation

In 2022, TxSGS showed appreciation to five outstanding volunteers through a Certificate of Appreciation. The first four helped make the 2022 TxSGS Family History Conference a huge success. For



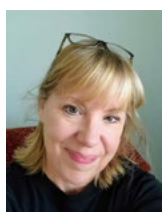
the fourth year, **Elizabeth Hicks** served as chair of the Door Prize Committee, soliciting donations for 29 door prizes this year. As a member of the Sponsors and Exhibitors Committee,



Barbara Coakley was responsible for coordinating deliverables from sponsors and exhibitors for virtual booths at the fall conference. As host of



TxSGS Live! for the third year, TxSGS Director of Education **Susan Kaufman** added an extra pizzazz that won rave reviews from conference attendees.



Nancy Gilbride Casey's keen eye for grammar and knowledge of endnote formatting has been greatly appreciated by the *Stirpes* editors.

Thank you, Elizabeth, Barbara, Susan and Nancy!

Presidential Citations

President Susan Ball conferred Presidential Citations on those volunteers who have provided exceptional service to TxSGS. The first recipient was TxSGS Director of Membership,



Tony Hanson. Tony has a passion for society management. For the second year, he and Emily Richardson have planned and hosted quarterly meetings of the Partner Society Leadership Forum to help society leaders develop the skills and tools to help their societies thrive.



In early 2022, **Emily Richardson** conceived a podcast focused on genealogy resources in Texas. Through her leadership, the TxSGS *Lone Star Family Trails Podcast* was launched and has recorded seven episodes, reaching genealogists across Texas with insights on repositories, archives, and unique Texas resources.



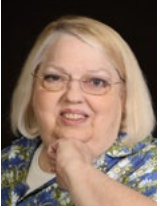
Melody Hooper Woods and **Paula Perkins** were honored for their work on the DNA Committee. After the death of DNA Committee Chair Debbie Parker Wayne in early 2022, Melody assumed responsibility for the Early Texans Database and Paula became administrator for the Early Texans DNA Project at Family Tree DNA. The two are working closely to continue the work started by Debbie in linking early Texans through DNA.



Serving as chair of the Heritage Certificates Committee, **Marynell Bryant** has managed the work of this committee for almost a decade with competence and a touch of humor. The Heritage Certificates program is one of our most popular endeavors, helping genealogists document their family's place in Texas history.



Bill Buckner, chair of the Awards Committee, has served in this position for almost a decade. His leadership has made this program a driving force in the preservation of family history and records through quality publications written by individuals and societies.



Betsy Mills, TxSGS Treasurer, served as conference registrar in addition to her regular financial responsibilities.

Thank you, Tony, Emily, Melody, Paula, Marynell, Bill, and Betsy!

Presidential Commendation



A special honor was bestowed on **Sandra Crowley**, Director of Development. In 2022, Sandra worked tirelessly in almost all aspects of TxSGS. She served as chair of the Bylaws Review Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Nominations Committee. A driving force behind the 2022 TxSGS Family History Conference, Sandra worked with Playback Now to ensure the conference ran smoothly. In addition to co-editing *Stirpes*, Sandra created much of the conference syllabus, wrote the TxSGS blog, published many of TxSGS's Facebook posts, and edited videos for TxSGS and the Genealogy Network of Texas event in October. Thank you, Sandra, very much – we couldn't have done it without you!

Get Involved!

The Texas State Genealogical Society is an all-volunteer organization, and we'd love to have you join us. There are a number of volunteer opportunities, from active involvement to just a few hours at the annual conference.

Think about what you have to offer – expertise, skills, talents, interests, and more. Do you enjoy editing or proofreading; creating brochures, forms, or templates; or working with electronic databases and other software? Are you the “meet-and-greet” type who thrives on event planning, publicity, and hospitality? Maybe you're active on social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram), or some other forum for promoting genealogy.

Whatever your skill, consider volunteering to help with the 2023 Texas Institute of Genealogical Research (TIGR) or other programs and events. Volunteering for TIGR is open to those planning to attend as well as those who just want to help get ready for the event.

Volunteering is a great way to get to know TxSGS and its leaders, as well as network with fellow genealogists. In

addition to TIGR, TxSGS has several committees and ongoing programs; new projects will be launched in 2023. Listed below are just a few volunteer opportunities. To learn more about each of these, email volunteers@txsgs.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Abstractors, indexers, data entry – help build a database of heritage certificate lineages for publication in books or on the TxSGS website.
- Communications/Publicity – using a newsletter, Mailchimp, and social media, engage TxSGS members and friends with information about events, programs, Partner Societies, and more.
- DNA Committee – work with the Early Texans DNA Project and database to review processes, web content, and future plans.



- District Representatives – serve as the TxSGS Partner Society liaison in a designated district and promote TxSGS and its events to genealogists in that district. Residence in the designated district is not required.
- *Stirpes* Admin – provide administrative support such as coordinating with authors and advertisers on deadlines and required materials.
- TIGR Committee – provide support as indicated on the TxSGS website at <https://www.txsgs.org/volunteers/>.
- Volunteer Coordinator – identify persons interested in volunteering for TxSGS.

And more!

Evaluating Evidence: The Casey-Coe Marriage Record

by Nancy Gilbride Casey

Perhaps you've had this experience: You're searching for an ancestor's death date, for example. You find an entry in a book or a document which seems to answer your question. You rejoice: "I found the record! Hurrah!" Cue happy dance.

As a beginning genealogist, I did that dance too. I took any record which stated a fact about an ancestor at face value. *I found it. It's proven. Case closed.*

But what did I really know about evaluating the evidence I found? Over time I realized that I had a classic case of "I didn't know what I didn't know." It's only been in the past few years, after learning about the genealogical proof standard (or GPS), that I've understood the value of evaluating evidence. And, as it turns out, some of the records I found early on were not really what I thought they were.

Recently, I re-examined two records I had found regarding the marriage of Jesse Casey, Junr., and Martha "Patsey" Coe, fourth-great-grandparents to my husband. Both records were found in Ancestry's collection "Tennessee, Marriage Records, 1780-2002."

The first is an image of the original marriage bond issued in 1817, shown in figure 1; the transcript of this bond is shown in figure 2. It names Jesse Casey, Junr.,

and John Thomas as bondsmen for the marriage of Casey to Patsey Coe.¹ Neither the marriage date nor the name of the minister is visible on this bond. There are several bonds on one page in each image - in this instance there are six bonds on the page, laid out two bonds in each of three rows.

The second is a marriage bond (shown in figure 3) from a marriage register book. The book consists of pre-printed pages, with three records per page. This register must have been created some time after 1900, as each entry has a space for the year printed as "19__." Interestingly, this marriage bond records a marriage date of "10 day of April 1817" for our Jesse Casey, Junr., and Patsey Coe. It also names "James McPherson, J. P." as the officiant.²

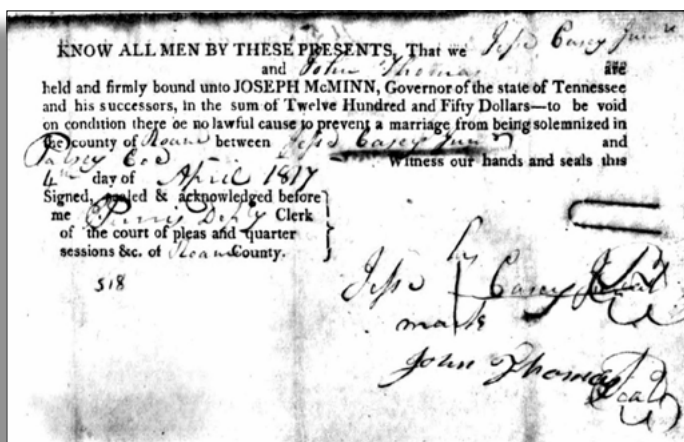


Figure 1: Front of original 1817 marriage bond as viewed on Ancestry.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we Jesse Casey Junr
and John Thomas are
held and firmly bound unto JOSEPH MCMINN, Governor of the state of Tennessee
and his successors, in the sum of Twelve Hundred and Fifty Dollars—to be void
on condition there be no lawful cause to prevent a marriage from being solemnized in
the county of Roane between Jesse Casey Junr and
Patsey Coe Witness our hands and seals this
4th day of April 1817
Signed, sealed & acknowledged before
me J. Purris Depty Clerk
of the court of pleas and quarter
sessions &c. of Roane County.
his
Jesse X Casey Junr { SEAL }
mark
John Thomas { SEAL }¹

Figure 2: A transcription of the original marriage bond.

Passengers on the *Grand Condé* to the Republic of Texas From Le Havre, France in 1842

by Karen Stein Daniel, CG®

In late 2019 and early 2020, I was completing nearly five decades of research and busy into the writing of a compiled genealogy of the ancestry of my mother's French great-great-grandparents, Victor Massé and his wife, Emilie Lucile Vincent.¹

The couple, with their two young sons, Thomas Eugene Massé and Hypolite Ludovic Massé, arrived in Liberty County, Texas, between 1842 and 1846, I had reasoned, based on the following:

- The family relocated to the Paris area from the ancestral town of Corbeil just south of Paris after the 1836 French census and was last documented living at La Chapelle (Seine), rue de Jessaint no. 5, an address in the northern suburbs of Paris. On 12 March 1842, the family's eldest child and only daughter, Julie Victorine, died at home at the rue de Jessaint address. She was twelve years old and died of an unrecorded cause.
- Victor appeared on a Republic of Texas poll list for 1846.
- Victor first appeared on a tax roll in Liberty County in 1847.
- Victor is recognized by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas as having established himself in the Republic prior to 19 February 1846, the date of completion of the annexation

agreement between the Republic and the United States of America.

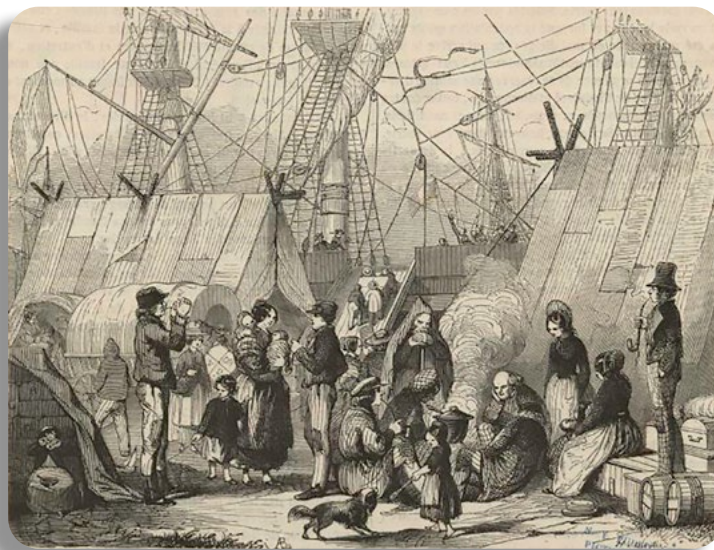
Little did I realize COVID-19 was about to change our world, including our research world. I was scheduled to spend two weeks in the Paris area in April 2020 to finish the remaining part of the French research. I would be taking photographs and visiting Corbeil on the Seine River about twenty-five miles southeast of Paris, where I could walk where these ancestors might have walked and absorb the feeling of being in the town where this family lived at least as early as the 1600s. I was fortunate to have two researchers in the

Paris area who had visited archives and libraries for me, as I am not a French speaker or reader except for a few key words and phrases. I had also used the French holdings of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City over several years with the assistance of French translators.

In March 2020, Air France cancelled my trip, the railroads around Paris were on strike, and the archives and libraries in France suddenly closed to researchers, placing on indefinite hold my remaining research goals. I was forced to face the possibility I might never have an answer to the most important remaining questions: "When and from what port did the family leave Europe?" and "When and into which port did the family arrive in the Americas?"

In the decades I had researched this family, I had never identified them on a passenger arrival list, and the prospect of doing so grew dimmer over time as I was exhausting options. I had searched all passenger arrival sources into North American ports known to me that seemed probable, but with no real success. Several additional challenges worked against my efforts:

- Carl Brasseaux indicated in his work on French immigration into Louisiana that there was significant loss of early arrival lists into New Orleans, undercounting by agents, and lax record keeping. He quoted Debow's statistics from 1854, for



"Familles d'émigrants campées au port du Havre" New York Public Library Digital Collections. The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Picture Collection, The New York Public Library. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e1-37d1-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

Which Citation Tool is Right for You?

by Melody Hooper Woods

For many of us, it is hard to slow down the research to write citations when it is more fun to hunt for sources. What we need is an efficient way to record our citations so we can move on to that next hit of research adrenaline! Fortunately, there are citation tools available today that are designed to help you do just that.

What are Citation Tools and Why Use One?

Citation tools are software or web-based programs that format and/or manage source citations.¹ First, what is the difference between a source and a source citation? A source is any evidence that is used to support genealogical facts and conclusions – documents, artifacts, books, articles, photos, indexes, websites, journals, and so on. A source citation describes a source.² It is a statement that provides information about a source and tells where it is located. Citations should be written in research logs; attached to facts in family trees, charts, and images; and included in lineage reports, proof statements, conclusions, family histories, or any other work that genealogists produce.³ Writing citations is time-consuming, so tools that help us generate citations for sources we use on a regular basis, such as census records, give us more time to research and write.

Which Citation Tool is Right for You?

There are several types of citation tools; the one you choose will depend on your comfort level with technology, your budget, and your research and writing goals. Three types of tools currently available are citation tools



using Word and Excel, genealogy software, and web-based citation generators.

Citation Tools Using Word and Excel

If you use Microsoft Word to manage your research, both the reference and macro functions can insert citations into documents. The reference function allows the user to add endnotes, footnotes, and bibliographies. Footnotes are inserted at the bottom of a page, while endnotes and bibliographies are added to the end of a document. Superscripts, such as the number found at the end of this sentence, link footnotes and endnotes to the specific information they support.⁴ Bibliographic citations are not connected to a specific reference in the document, so are not superscripted.

A macro is a group of recorded commands that automate tasks in Word documents and Excel spreadsheets. They are created when the macro function records your keystrokes and mouse clicks. Macros make convenient citation templates because they are instantly inserted into a document and can be edited.⁵ For example, you can create a census template macro for U.S. census records. Every time a citation for a census is needed, the census template macro can be inserted into the document or spreadsheet. Edit the template to reflect the source's information, and the citation is finished.

Reference tools and macros can be combined to create citations. Simply insert a blank endnote or footnote, then run a citation template macro within the reference note space as seen in figure 1. Edit the macro's inserted text, and the reference note is complete. The reference citation tools are beginner-friendly, but the macro function is more complicated. Macros are well worth the effort to learn because they save time in the long run. If you need help using the reference and macro functions, consult Microsoft Support at <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us> to find instructions for your specific version of Word or Excel.

Introducing New Officers for the 2023-2024 Term

TxSGS was founded more than 60 years ago by a group of dedicated volunteers with a passion for genealogy and a vision to share that passion with the community through education, preservation of records, and a commitment to serving both individual researchers and genealogical societies.

Through the years, countless other volunteers have followed in their footsteps. We are grateful for them and strive to follow their example by continuing to build on their legacy. TxSGS is managed by a team of individuals who play a variety of roles from officers and directors, to committee chairs, to supporting roles on programs and events.

To ensure leadership sustainability and continuity, TxSGS elects half of its board members each year. Each board member serves a two-year term. Below are the officers elected at the 2022 Annual Business Meeting for

the 2023-2024 term who will serve from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2024.

Dedicated to supporting TxSGS, all these board members are returning to serve another term in their position, having filled that role for the 2021-2022 term. Thanks go to them for their commitment to TxSGS and genealogists living and researching in Texas.

To view a listing of the entire board, please see the TxSGS website at <https://www.txsgs.org/about/leadership/>.

Executive Committee



President: Susan Ball

The current president of TxSGS, Susan has previously served TxSGS as District E representative and as director of membership. Susan is also co-editor of *Stirpes*. Outside of TxSGS, Susan is a local and regional speaker. She serves as president of her

local society, the San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society (SAGHS), where she is the newsletter editor and co-editor of the SAGHS journal, *Stalkin' Kin in Old West Texas*. She edited four compilations of local records, one of which won the TxSGS Grand Prize. Her primary genealogical passion is researching, writing, and editing genealogical articles and publications. Susan has an MS in electrical engineering, has been CEO of her own database development company, and worked as a patent engineer for a Silicon Valley patent law firm.

genealogy librarian. Starting her career in Peoria, Illinois, she then moved to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Throughout her career, Susan has held numerous genealogical society board positions at the national level, and in Illinois, Indiana, and Texas. She is a past president of the Texas State Genealogical Society, and currently serves as its director of education and District R representative. In 2019, the National Genealogical Society recognized Susan's contributions to the field of genealogy with the Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship, and the Dallas Genealogical Society bestowed on her the Lloyd D. Bockstruck Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Genealogical Community. Susan is a well-known speaker specializing in general and specific research sources, including using archives and libraries for family history research.



Director of Education: Susan Kaufman

A TxSGS Fellow and senior manager of Houston Public Library's Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus, Susan has over 30 years of experience as a



Director of Membership: Tony Hanson

The director of membership since 2019, Tony Hanson has been a genealogy society volunteer since 2010. Active in the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS), he has held various board positions including webmaster and president.

Tony has received numerous awards from DGS including Volunteer of the Year, Heritage Preservation, and Award of Merit. He has also received the Volunteer of the Year award

TxSGS 2022 Annual Business Meeting Highlights

by Sandra J. Crowley

The Texas State Genealogical Society, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, held its Annual Business Meeting and Awards Presentation virtually on Saturday evening, November 12, 2022, at 5:30 pm. TxSGS President Susan E. Ball called the meeting to order by welcoming TxSGS members, Partner Society delegates, and guests.

The objective of the annual business meeting was to discuss the society's accomplishments during the past year, vote on proposed amendments to the TxSGS Bylaws, and elect officers and directors for 2023-2024. Following the business meeting, Curt B. Witcher presented a brief talk, and Awards Chair Bill Buckner and his committee chairs presented the 2022 awards.

2022 in Review

President Ball provided a brief review of TxSGS's current financial status and accomplishments during fiscal year 2022 and a snapshot of plans for 2023.

The TxSGS financial position remains strong. Our 2022 TxSGS Family History Conference was well attended, and our Virtual Expo Hall and Community Discussion Groups were popular, with attendees receiving about 3,000 interactions in more than 130 discussion groups. Educational events provide approximately 75 percent of our income. Another 20 percent comes from membership dues. Print *Stirpes* fees and Heritage Certificates supply the remaining income.

Membership in TxSGS is comparable to 2021 levels and is expected to continue at this level in 2023. TxSGS continued its successful Partner Society Webinar Series, a program that offered six recordings that could be used as program alternatives for Partner Societies.

The return to in-person meetings following the end of the pandemic reduced technical support needs for virtual Partner Society meetings. Many of these organizations have developed their own virtual programming or a combination of

in-person and virtual activities using what they learned from TxSGS during our virtual support and training program. TxSGS will continue to offer a limited number of webinar recordings for use by Partner Societies in 2023. A list of available recordings will be posted on our website in January 2023.

The 2022 TxSGS Family History Conference was held virtually and consisted of *TxSGS Live!*, an event that featured ten speakers with live Q&A. The conference also included a virtual exhibit hall plus 42 pre-recorded On-Demand and Bonus sessions accessible online through February 6, 2023. (See the conference wrap-up on page 50 for additional details.)

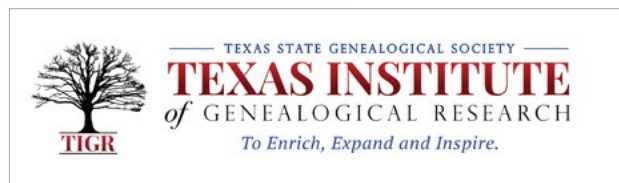
In 2023, TxSGS continues its commitment to educational programming for the genealogical community. The Texas Institute of Genealogical Research (TIGR) provides an in-depth learning experience in a week-long classroom environment. Slated to be held virtually June 12-16, TIGR

expands to seven courses in 2023. See the article on page 38 for more information.

The Partner Society Leadership Forum,

launched in 2021, continued their quarterly meetings. Topics this year included "Program Planning Part II," "Developing and Using Metrics for Your Society," "Models for Society Organization," and "Successful Publication Strategies." Dates for 2023 Forums can be found on our website.

In April, TxSGS launched *Lone Star Family Trails*, a monthly podcast led by Emily Richardson. Each podcast highlights a specific Texas repository or collection and features holdings they have of special



2022 TxSGS Awards Ceremony

“The Power of Story: Knowing Our Best Possible Selves,” presented by Curt Witcher, set the tone for the 2022 TxSGS Awards Ceremony held Saturday, November 12, by inspiring attendees and reminding them of the importance of preserving and sharing family stories.



The power of story was further emphasized as Bill Buckner, Awards Committee chair, and chairs of the various categories described the many submissions by authors, editors, and web designers. With the focus on stories and the benefits of leaving a legacy for future generations that includes more than facts and figures, the Awards Ceremony was the perfect time to recognize those who are actively engaged in leaving memories for their descendants.

In all, 26 prizes in 10 categories celebrated the effort expended by authors, genealogists, society volunteers, and more across the state of Texas and beyond in writing books and manuscripts and creating websites. Congratulations to each and every author, editor, society, compiler, indexer, transcriber, and webmaster for your success. Thank you for submitting your work to be considered for an award.

The Awards Program received many quality submissions. Competition was tight; in some instances the difference between first, second, and third place was

miniscule. Judges faced tough challenges in making final selections in several categories. TxSGS thanks the chairs of the various categories including Pat Gordon, Manuscripts; Karen Stein Daniel, Periodicals; Bill Buckner, Books; Pat Metcalfe, Student Projects; and Randy Whited, Websites, along with the judges they recruited.

The TxSGS Awards Program presents awards in the categories of books, manuscripts, periodicals, websites, and student projects. The newest award category, blogs by individuals or Partner Societies will be offered in 2023. To view a video of the 2022 Awards Ceremony, visit our website at <https://www.txsgs.org/txsgs-award-recipient/>.

Entry requirements for submitting can be found on the TxSGS website: <http://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/writing-awards/>. We encourage you to begin or continue your writing journey and consider entering in 2023.



Book Awards

Chair: Bill Buckner

Grand Prize (\$400)

Beth Fortner Moseley: Her Story (2021) by Beth Moseley & V. Sutton Price

Category I: Books by Non-Professional / Family History

1st Place (\$200)

Voices Among the Leaves: An American History As Seen From Our Family Tree (2021) by Janice Hosking Brazil

2nd Place (\$100)

William McNamara First Sergeant Fourth United States Cavalry 1856 to 1887 (2021) by Mary Anthony Long Startz

Category I: Books by Non-Professional / References

1st Place (\$200)

Images of America: Erath County (2022) by Sheryl Reed Rascher

2nd Place (\$100)

Caminos, Calles, and Streets of Old San Antonio (2021) by Rueben M. Perez

Category VII: Books Published by Partner Societies**1st Place (\$200)**

The Writings of Celia M. Wright (2022) compiled by Earl Pogue (Hopkins County Genealogical Society)

2nd Place (\$100)

Czech Family Histories, Volume 5 (2022) (Texas Czech Genealogical Society)

Manuscript Awards

Chair: Pat Gordon

Category III: Manuscripts (Non-Professional)**1st Place (\$100)**

"Just Imagine: Creating Your Ancestor's Story with Senses and Context" (published in *Stirpes*, v. 61, no. 3, September 2022, pgs. 19-22) by Nancy Gilbride Casey

2nd Place (\$50)

"A Guide to Genealogical Goldmines in North Texas" (published in *Stirpes*, v. 60, no. 4, December 2021, pgs. 57-61) by Paula Perkins

3rd Place (\$30)

"Texas 'Our' Texas: My Family's Deep Roots in the Lone Star State" (published in *Stirpes*, v. 61, no. 3, September 2022, pgs. 23-27) by Karen Kossie-Chernyshev

Category III: Manuscripts (Professional)**1st Place (\$100)**

"Pinpointing Your Ancestor's Location Using the U.S. Census" (published in *Stirpes*, v. 61, no. 1, March 2022, pgs. 50-53) by Jim Thornhill

2nd Place (\$50)

"Joshua Lawrence Horn: Gone to Texas and Back Again" (published in *Stirpes*, v. 60, no. 3, September 2021, pgs. 15-24) by Jessica Horne Collins

3rd Place (\$30)

"In Their Own Words ... Sort Of" (published in *Stirpes*, v. 61, no. 3, September 2022, pgs. 55-58) by Gay Solomon with Beth and Brad Moffett

Periodical, Quarterly, and Journal Awards

Chair: Karen Stein Daniel

Category VI: Official Periodicals of Partner Societies / Newsletters**1st Place (\$100)**

Collin County Genealogical Society eNews, Collin County Genealogical Society, Paula Perkins, editor

2nd Place (\$50)

Dallas Genealogical Society's eNews, Dallas Genealogical Society, Michelle Dwyer Cohen, editor

3rd Place (\$30)

Arlington Genealogical Society Newsletter, Arlington Genealogical Society, Lauren Geppert Jacobs, editor

Category VI: Official Periodicals of Partner Societies / Quarterlies**1st Place (\$100)**

Heart of Texas Records (Central Texas Genealogical Society), Mary Bullard, editor

2nd Place (\$50)

České Stopy (Texas Czech Genealogical Society), Charlene Hurta, editor

3rd Place (\$30)

Bosque County Genealogical Society Journal (Bosque County Genealogical and Historical Society), LeAnne McCamey, editor

Category VI: Official Periodicals of Partner Societies / Journals**1st Place (\$100)**

Our Heritage (San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society), Larry W. Luckett, editor

2nd Place (\$50)

Stalkin' Kin in Old West Texas (San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society), Allen Wright, editor

3rd Place (\$30)

Keys to the Past (The Genealogical Society of Kendall County), Kathryn Adam Hurst, editor

Website Awards

Chair: Randy Whited

Category I: Website for a Partner Society**1st Place (\$100)**

San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society (www.SAGHS-TX.org), Jana Jenkins, webmaster

2nd Place (\$75)

San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society (www.txsaghs.org), Rob Lewis, webmaster

3rd Place (\$50)

Hopkins County Genealogical Society (www.hcgstx.org)

Category II: Website for an Individual**1st Place (\$100)**

My Family & Me (www.rayson.us/achanson/), by Tony Hanson

The Texas Institute of Genealogical Research Expands to Seven Courses in 2023

Are you ready to take your genealogy research to the next level? Do you want to learn from some of the top genealogy lecturers from the comfort of your home? Would you like to spend time with like-minded individuals in an interactive environment while sharing experiences and tackling some of the questions you face in your own research? If so, the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research (TIGR) is just what you need in 2023.

Genealogical institutes are designed to provide in-depth and extensive instruction on a particular topic or timeframe. The Texas Institute of Genealogical Research is just that – an educational event that focuses on topics important to genealogists who want to advance their research skills.

Held every other year, TIGR is a unique five-day learning experience offered to address a critical need for genealogists encountering complex challenges. TIGR promotes learning in an instructional classroom atmosphere, taking each attendee's skills to another level. Course coordinators and instructors lead students through a progression of topics on the same subject. Throughout the week, TIGR combines in-depth lessons and great discussions with instructors and classmates to enhance attendees' learning experience.

Established in 2017, TIGR began with a single course, expanding to four courses in 2021 as TIGR added classes to meet the needs of its growing audience. Held virtually for the first time due to the pandemic, TIGR 2021 drew participants from more than 30 states. Many attendees were grateful to attend virtually as they were constrained from travel yet still wanted the intensive instruction provided by TIGR coordinators and lecturers.

Each TIGR strives to build on the solid foundation of the previous event with new topics and speakers dedicated to providing courses that meet the demands of an audience eager to take a deep dive into the subjects designed to further their genealogical journey.

What began as one course offering an immersive learning experience in 2017 has expanded into a program with the following seven courses in 2023.

What can you expect at TIGR?

Your week of learning will be shared with students that have the same interest in genealogical research as you. All instructors are well-known genealogical authorities and lecturers. Along with their expertise, case studies, discussions, and problem solving exercises will enhance your TIGR adventure. While bringing a variety of viewpoints and backgrounds to the institute, TIGR students all share a passion for family history and discovering how to conquer "brick wall" challenges. Make this your year to attend TIGR. Whether you discover the key to unlock your brick wall challenge or rekindle your passion for research, TIGR is an experience you won't want to miss.

Registration opens in February 2023.

Watch our website for additional details: <https://www.txsgs.org/tigr-2023/>.

Using Evernote as a Genealogy Project Powerhouse

by Emily Coffman Richardson

Whether working on a client project or one of my own genealogy projects, remaining focused on one topic at a time is necessary for success.

Many professional genealogists recommend “writing as you go” to help stay focused. That process works, but you also need a way to organize your materials as they are collected to ensure that you are capturing images and information, creating citations, and transcribing as needed. Using Evernote as your singular organizing “bin” and project management workspace might just be the solution you need to become a more focused researcher.

Why You Should be Using Evernote

Evernote has been used in the business world since 2008 and by 2011 already had over 11 million users.¹ Designed as a cloud-based note-taking tool, it allows users to quickly record memos, audio, tasks, jokes, or recipes. You can tag notes and search for information that has been uploaded to your personal account. The information is available 24/7/365 if you have access to the internet. Your information is backed up by Evernote to one of their servers, which means you don't have to be on your computer to see the notes. In fact, using the mobile app allows you to work on the project without your computer.

I'm sure I'm not the only person who has arrived at a library to do research and realized that the papers I needed to reference are sitting on

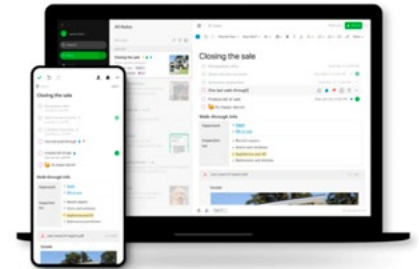
my desk at home. Imagine having everything available at your fingertips for your research project regardless of where you are researching.

Evernote also allows you to collaborate, sharing things you've found with others, and allowing them to add to your notes. At one point in my pre-retirement career, I and four others wrote and revised a 20-page research paper on Evernote. We were thrilled with the ease of collaboration. Imagine using this same concept to share with other researchers working on your ancestral surname, all adding their materials to one project. Yes, Evernote can make that happen.

Finally, Evernote costs no money to get started. You can “take it for a ride” before committing to the extras they have available, such as syncing across unlimited devices and allowing 10 GB of uploads in a month. More information can be found at <https://evernote.com/compare-plans>.

Setting up Evernote for a Project

Starting a new research project in Evernote is easy. First, create a Project Notebook. In this case we will call it the Combs Genealogy Project Notebook. Think of the Project Notebook like a 3-ring binder. Inside the binder are tabs for different sections that comprise documents and other media. These tabbed sections



or sub-folders are notebooks within the Project Notebook. Sub-folders are organized in Evernote within the Project Notebook as a stack. Some of the standard sub-folders that I use in my project work include:

- Research report, Citations, To-Do List
- Research Findings, Research Log, Timeline
- Documents
- DNA analysis

After using Evernote for several projects, I found that I spend most of my time in the first sub-folder, “Research report, Citations, and To-Do List.” Each one of those concepts becomes a separate note. The research findings and research logs are where I analyze and log all the records that I find. Each time I find a document, I save it into the document notebook.

For this project, I chose to number the first three sub-folders as 1, 2, and 3, which places those folders at the beginning of the folders list and makes them easy to view. I also added a folder numbered “4” that contains copies of my mother's correspondence from the 1960s and 1970s on the Combs family. Many of the suppositions about the father of Robert Combs come from those letters and are useful for me to

Genealogy Wishes

I would absolutely LOVE to find a proven/ documented Republic of Texas ancestor. I love heritage organizations, and I'm a member of many different ones. I have been researching in the broader U.S. for 30+ years; Republic of Texas research is new to me. I have found collateral ancestors in the Republic but have not yet been able to locate lineal ancestors. I do have some prospects. I love the GLO Land Grant database, but even when I locate records for a possible ancestor, I don't always understand all the information on the record itself. It would be great if Santa had this wonderful gift in his sack for me!

— Karla McDonald Jones

The gift I'd like is a *History of Texas, Together with a Biographical History of Milam, Williams, Bastrop, Travis, Lee and Burleson Counties*.

— Janet Dugart

(Christmas came early! Nancy Gilbride Casey found the book on FamilySearch.org and we passed the link to Janet.)

My wish is to break through a couple of brick walls: a 2nd-great-grandfather (Foster) from England who came to Central Texas and a 3rd-great-grandfather (Whitehead) from Virginia who also came to Central Texas.

— Christine Earle

I wish Ancestry would let us search ALL our trees for a name and the same for a location. It would sure make life easier for working genealogists!

— Christine Garrison

One of my great-grandmothers was supposed to be American Indian, but my DNA is not registering it. Santa, can you tell me how I can find out why? Just wrap the answer and put it in my stocking!

— Suzanne King

My wish is to break through the brick wall that prevents me knowing who my 4th-great-grandparents were and where they lived before migrating to Pennsylvania in the early days of that territory. Their son, who was my 3rd-great-grandfather, Jacob Hamerly, was born in Pennsylvania in about 1794.

— David Rudd Hamerly

Santa, I'd love to have pictures of the Donaho Family, especially James Ransom Donaho or Daniel Louis Donaho.

— Wyona Donaho Ballard

I wish I could travel to coastal Virginia and Staunton, Virginia, to explore where my Hardgrave ancestors lived in the mid-1600s.

— Karen Walsemann

Dear Santa, If you could miraculously drop all my unscanned photos into my computer, that would be greatly appreciated. Oh, and it would be nice if they were all identified and tagged, too!

— Sandra J. Crowley

My wish — to break my 1832 brick wall: John Taylor (1832 Nash County, North Carolina - 1900 Ballard County, Kentucky)

— Caroline Miller

Santa, please bring an out-of-print book, *Hammack Cousins: Hammack & Hammock Families in England and America, 1569-2010*. I have been trying to locate a copy of this book for several years!

— Ginny Fields

I'd love to know the parents of James M. (Mack) Hardy (1817-1882)! Mack married Lydia Davis Mullins (1819-1883) on 28 Nov 1844 in Chickasaw County, Mississippi. They may have moved to Arkansas for the birth of their first two children, then to Anderson County, Texas, for the next five children. Mack, Lydia, and all of their children except one died in Anderson Co., Texas, in the Providence and Alderbranch communities. Any info, even a hint, would be wonderful!

— Phyllis Vaughan Moody

for the Holidays

Something I'd really like is a crystal ball that looks backwards about 450 years.

— *Henrietta Christmas*

Santa, please bring active and excited leaders to all societies, plus an abundance of volunteers, growing membership, and enough money to fund exciting projects.

— *Susan E. Ball*

My wish is to make progress on identifying where my Gilbride ancestors originated in Ireland; to discover the parents of Catherine Ryan Gilbride, a 2nd-great-grandmother; and to learn how to utilize my husband's YDNA effectively to uncover the connection to his closest Casey matches. Elvish help welcome!

— *Nancy Gilbride Casey*

Dear Santa, Who is my immigrant ancestor on my Sullivan line and when did he arrive? While you're in my neighborhood, please bring the family Bibles for each of my four grandparents' lines.

— *Patsy McLaughlin*

If you can find this in your workshop, Santa, I'd like to be able to confirm that my 6th-great-grandfather was General Andrew Lewis, a hero of the American Revolution and reportedly a brother-in-law to President George Washington.

— *Terry Cochran*

My wish is to write as much of the family history as possible from info I have recorded, even though I know I never will have a complete record of every ancestor.

— *Don Sharon*

Santa, please bring a great big box of time so I can finish recording my mother's many years of handwritten genealogical notes, contained in numerous manila folders in our file cabinet.

— *Pat (Maxfield) Blair*

I wish (hope!) that one of my nieces or nephews will pick up the family research torch, so I have someone to pass my work on to.

— *Liz Strassner*

Dear Santa, I have a two-fold wish. First, that everyone receives their genealogy wish. Second, I'd like to be able to prove the link between my great-grandfather and his father, Francis J. Beard, to Thomas Carson Beard. While I've found no wills, deeds, or census records to document this link, I'll bet you can find them in your bag!

— *Margaret Anderson*

My wish is to find my family black sheep, Stanley Polansky (b. 1902, Lavaca County). He was last seen visiting Lavaca County in October 1924 and was presumed to be living in Goose Creek.

— *Irene Szwarc*

The genealogy gift I'd like most is to find my great-grandfather on my mother's side.

— *Gail McMillan*

With your help, Santa, I'm sure I could discover the parents of my 2nd-great-grandmother, Mary Ann Powers Blackwell. She was born in Louisiana on 22 January 1816 and married Elemander H. Blackwell about 1835. She died in Mississippi on 23 March 1891 and was buried in Oakahay Cemetery in Covington County. Of course, her parents are listed on Ancestry.com incorrectly.

— *Mary Todd*

My wish? Finding the family of Robert C. Hearin in Scotland. He left Scotland due to religious persecution and went to Ireland. He later left Ireland basically due to discrimination and came to the U.S., settling in South Carolina.

— *Carol Brooks*

Santa, please drop the maiden name of Mary Jane (Mollie) Wiley (1866, Georgia — 1925, Texas) in my stocking!

— *Milli Pope*

I'd like to finally get a response from NARA about my Mexican War pension file request. Santa, could you just shortcut the process and bring it to me on Christmas Eve?

— *Christopher Dean*

Santa, please find the parents of John Hollingsworth (b. 1820, South Carolina) or the location and date for his marriage to Lucinda Barnes (b. Tennessee).

— *Jayme Cartmil*

2022 TxSGS Family History Conference Highlights



Held virtually, the 2022 TxSGS Family History Conference featured presentations filled with tips and techniques to *Unlock Your Past*.

The conference kicked off with *TxSGS Live!*, two days of presentations, each of which was followed by live Q&A with the speakers. In addition to those two days of topics, another 32 sessions were recorded and made available on demand to registrants through February 6, 2023.

TxSGS Live! starred favorite speakers and a few who were new to the conference: Deborah A. Abbott, Debra Dudek, Colleen Robledo Greene, Jean Wilcox Hibben, Kevin Klaus, J. Mark Lowe, Bernard Meisner, Diane L. Richard, Renate Yarborough Sanders, and Lori Thornton. Returning for her third stint as host of *TxSGS Live!*, Sue Kaufman, TxSGS Director of Education, kept the day lively with her genealogical knowledge, enthusiasm, and engaging personality.

Sponsors and others contributed 10 bonus sessions, with topics covering DNA to Santa's mailbox. These are available through February 6, 2023, to every person who registered, regardless of the package level they purchased.

The conference's wildly popular Virtual Expo Hall hosted on the Whova platform provided opportunities for attendees to connect with exhibitors, sponsors, and each other through "communities" on a variety of topics such as "DNA Unraveled," "Genealogy Trip Planning," "Citing Sources Tool," "Favorite Genealogy YouTubers," "Chat with FTDNA staff," "Serendipitous Moments," and more. The exhibit area featured virtual booths for sponsors and exhibitors

listed on pages 53 and 55. Exhibit booths and engagement opportunities remain open to registrants through February 5, 2023. An interactive photo gallery was available for sharing genealogy photos during the Virtual Expo Hall's initial week, October 28 to November 6. Prizes were awarded to the most-liked photos as selected by the viewers.

Attendees for this event came from 20 different states including California, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Nevada, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Connecticut, and more. Word about the TxSGS Family History Conference is growing far and wide, and we're excited to see all these people come from across the U.S. to attend this virtual event.

Our experience in "going virtual" in 2020 and 2021 helped us grow and expand the 2022 event. We look forward to meeting in person again at some point in the future. We hope you'll join us at the next TxSGS Family History Conference! ★



The Census: More Than a 10-Year Checklist

by Jim Thornhill

The U.S. census is a great resource for family historians. It's widely available, it's free, it helps us connect our families together, and, as a whole, it's one of the most comprehensive record sets we have. Here are a few insights into the census and about researching those records that you might not have known existed.

Census Tools

There are two tools available for free for anyone who uses the census regularly. The first tool is one you can make for yourself. Simply make a booklet of blank census forms, one for each year of the census. Often, when you are looking at a census, the headings are either not visible on your screen or are unreadable. Printing out a blank census form for each census year will help you analyze the data more efficiently and will be a welcome rest for your tired eyes! Collecting the forms in a booklet makes finding them when you need them much easier. The forms are available on many sites, but you can also get them at <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms>.

Another tool is *Measuring America*, a booklet available from the U.S. Census Bureau. It contains a description of each census and an overview of the instructions to the enumerators. If you ever wondered about the dates for a particular census, the definition of a dwelling, or who was allowed to answer questions in the household, *Measuring America* has many of these answers. You can find it at https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2002/dec/pol_02-ma.html.

1885 Census

No, that's not a typo. There was an optional U.S. census taken in 1885.¹ As part of the appropriations bill for the 1880 census, Congress authorized an 1885 census. The trick was the U.S. government would only pay for half the cost of conducting the census. Each state chose whether to participate. As a result, only Florida, Nebraska, Colorado, and the territories of New Mexico and the Dakotas (North and South) took this census. If you have ancestors in those areas, the gap between the 1880 and 1900 censuses just got a little smaller! You can find links to the 1885 census at <https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/the-forgotten-federal-census-of-1885-online-for-free/>.

One Big Collection

The tendency with census research is to focus on one census enumeration at a time to answer questions about your ancestors in a specific time and place. You can expand your understanding of your ancestors by thinking of the census as one large collection that spans your ancestor's entire life. This approach leads to creating a timeline, one of the genealogist's most valuable tools, for your ancestor. A timeline provides a valuable picture of your ancestor's lifelong activities.



For example, starting with the 1850 U.S. census in Beinville, Louisiana, we can create a timeline for Barny Ragsdale by studying the information provided for Barny and his children.² This census enumeration tells us a birthplace and an estimated birth date for Barny. It also shows that Barny's three older children were in school and that Barny and his wife could both read. Subsequent census enumerations provide even more information.

Once you find several enumerations, you'll begin to correlate the information about your ancestor. Hopefully, the information in each census is in agreement. Whether or not the information provided to the census enumerator for your family is the same from census to census, you can use this information to check new records against the censuses to see if they are correct.

Imagine you have found four censuses over the life of John D. Doe from 1850 to 1880 that show him moving from eastern Pennsylvania to western Pennsylvania and then on to southern Ohio. You find a 1900 obituary for John D. Doe in which the minister of a northern Ohio Lutheran

church states that John has been a faithful member of the congregation for 25 years. Is the obituary from your ancestor? Most likely, no. The names may match, but details from the census enumerations don't agree with those in the obituary.

Non-Population Schedules

The non-population schedules can give you a wealth of new information about your ancestors. A list of where to find these is on the National Archives website:

<https://www.archives.gov/research/census/nonpopulation#agricultural>.

Unfortunately, most of the non-population schedules are only available from 1850-1880, and not all of them are available for every state. You could write a book on the non-population schedules and all they tell you, but here's a summary:

- **Agricultural** – This schedule counted all the active farms in the U.S. from 1850 to 1880. The agricultural schedule was taken each decade after 1880, but those are not available. Finding your ancestors in the agricultural schedule can tell you how much land your ancestors owned, what crops they were raising, what livestock they owned, and even how many eggs they sold in the previous year!
- **Industry/Manufacturing** – The industry and manufacturing schedules are two different schedules, but they ask about the same things – commercial

businesses. This schedule will tell you what was being manufactured in the counties and states that are available. For example, businesses such as lumbermills, gristmills, and ship builders are listed along with their owners' names, yearly production, and mode of power.

- **Mortality** – This schedule recorded the names of persons who died in the year preceding the date of the census. If the census was taken on June 1, this schedule recorded everyone who passed from June 1 of the previous year.
- **Slave** – All enslaved persons were enumerated in the 1850 and 1860 censuses. Unfortunately, the schedule does not include the slaves' names, just their age and gender, but it does include the names of the enslavers and the number of slave quarters, which can give you some ideas of how that owner may have treated the enslaved. If you find someone in the slave schedule of the right age and gender to be your ancestor, a good resource is the enslaver's probate records. If the person was wealthy enough to own a slave, they probably had a will, or the estate was probated. These documents often list the enslaved by name. If the enslaved person is young, the estate papers will often name the mother and child together, giving you the start of a family unit.
- **Social Statistics** – Out of all the non-population schedules, this is one of my favorites. This schedule

was a summary of the cultural and political aspects of each county. It can tell you how many churches of which denomination were in a county, the church's capacity, sample wages, the number of libraries, number of schools and colleges, the names and number of newspapers, and other information about the county. Learning this information will tell you about the environment where your ancestors lived, answering questions such as "What was the dominant religion?", "How important was education to the people living in the county?", and "What was the economic condition of the county?" It will also give you the name of the local newspapers so you can look for any existing copies.

- **Special Schedules** – There were two special non-population schedules taken. One was the Veterans schedule taken in 1890. If you think you have an ancestor who served in the Civil War and was still living in 1890, this schedule can give you their company and regiment. With that information, you can use a search engine to find a history of their regiment. This regimental history will tell you details about your ancestor's service from the perspective of the regiment.

The other special non-population schedule is the "1880 Federal Census Schedules of the Dependent, Defective and



Delinquent Classes.” If your ancestor was disabled, this schedule will tell you their infirmity, how long they had it, what caused it, and whether they were expected to recover. In addition to documenting the disabled, this schedule also enumerated those in poorhouses, jails, orphanages, state institutions, asylums, and such. Finding your ancestor in this schedule can lead to many other records such as death records, institution records, newspaper accounts of poor boards, and more.

Census Hints

Did you know the census gives hints? All those questions that frustrate you because they only give you a yes or no answer are prompting you to do more research. Over the years, the census enumerators asked questions about citizenship, military service, marriage and children, and disabilities that should lead you to research in other areas.

- **Marriage** – in 1850 to 1880, the census asked if people had married the year before the census date. In 1900, 1910, and 1930, the census return recorded how long a person had been married, and 1900 and 1910 recorded how many children a mother had birthed and how many were living. If one of your ancestors had an answer to any of these questions, the answer can narrow your search for a marriage record, answer questions about gaps in children’s birth years, and make you aware of any additional children you need to find.
- **Citizenship** – The U.S. census was asking questions about citizenship as early as 1820. That and the 1830 censuses both asked for the number of foreigners not naturalized. The 1870 census asked if the enumerated person’s parents were foreign

born; the 1880, 1900, and 1950 censuses asked for the birthplace of enumerated persons; in 1900 to 1930, enumerators asked how long a non-citizen had been in the U.S.; and the 1930 through 1950 census enumerations recorded whether a person was a citizen. Depending on the census year and the answer provided, the answers recorded on the census enumeration should prompt you to look for passenger records, Declarations of Intent, or the final naturalization decree. These records can give you specific information about your ancestor’s place of origin and when they arrived in this country.

Veterans

Did you know that if your ancestor received a pension for service in the revolutionary war, it’s in the census? The 1840 census required that people who were collecting a pension from that war be *listed by name*, not just by a hash-mark! In 1910, 1930, and 1950, a veteran’s service was recorded along with some information about that service. If you find that your ancestor served, your browser should instinctively be heading toward Fold3.com to research those ancestors (rumor has it that a library edition of Fold3.com will be available on HeritageQuest next year).³ You can also access military records on the National Archives website at <https://www.archives.gov/research/military>.

Disability

Many census enumerations included questions about disabilities. In the 1830 to 1880 censuses, as well as the 1910 census, some type of question was asked regarding whether a person was disabled. If your ancestor’s answer indicated a disability, the best place to research them is the county courthouse where they were living. Our ancestors

were very concerned that the disabled that owned property or some other asset had a legal representative to protect them. Not only will these records contain the names of all the people being protected and their guardians, but they also often contain – or are linked to – legal proceedings that may include the names and testimonies of family members and witnesses. Genealogy gold!

Do you think you will take a fresh look at census research? I hope so. The documents our government created every 10 years are full of direct evidence and tidbits that can lead you to further discoveries. Look at the census as one record that extends the life of your ancestor and use it to learn about their life from beginning to end. This widely-available collection, which is free for everyone, will keep you researching for years. ★

Endnotes

1. Rebecca Crawford, “The Forgotten Federal Census of 1885,” *National Archives*, (<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2008/fall/1885-census.html> : accessed 18 October 2022).

2. 1850 U.S. census, Bienville Parish, Louisiana, population schedule, Western District, p. 492, dwelling 5, family 5, Barny and ML Ragsdale and family; digital image, *FamilySearch.org* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3S3HT-6Q7S-Y3T> : accessed 17 October 2022); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 230, Washington, D.C.

3. For FY23 changes, including Fold3 provided by Proquest: “TexShare Databases: Contract Information SFY 2023,” *Texas State Library and Archives Commission* (<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/texshare/databasecontractlistfy2023.html> : accessed 17 October 2022), bottom half of page.

About Jim Thornhill: Jim Thornhill has been researching his family’s history for 17 years, five of those as a professional genealogist. Jim is president of the Dallas Genealogical Society and lead researcher for Heroes of the Past, a company that seeks to delight clients and provide context in ancestors’ lives.

GNT's October Event Reaches Thousands

by Susan E. Ball

The Genealogy Network of Texas (GNT) presented their second totally virtual genealogy event on Friday, October 15, sharing genealogy programming with societies and libraries across Texas.

The brainchild of Bill Buckner, genealogy supervisor of the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library, GNT offers eight programs streamed to participating organizations. The organizations market the event locally, branding it with their event name and offering other programs such as supplemental classes, look-ups for featured resources, refreshments, social events, and more. For many organizations, it's an opportunity to highlight their genealogy collections and gain new members.

This year, GNT featured topics for beginning and intermediate genealogists on source citations, tax records, deciphering handwriting, brick wall solutions, and more. Sharing their insights and expertise, presentations were provided by Joseph B. Everett of the BYU Library; Bill Buckner and Hannah Kubacak of the Waco-McLennan Public Library; Amy Johnson Crow, host of Generations Café Podcast; Curt B. Witcher and Sarah Allen of the Allen County Public Library; plus family historians Doug Waggoner, Tony Hanson, and LeAnne McCamey.

While the event encourages attendees to patronize genealogy collections in person, GNT began offering their programming virtually in 2021. Open to any library or genealogy society in Texas and selected organizations outside

Texas, 2022 saw 58 organizations participating either virtually or in a hybrid format, offering both virtual and in-person access. Over 3,000 avid genealogists attended virtually throughout the day and almost 500 attended in person. The most popular topics were by Tony Hanson, "Choosing Genealogy Services and Software," and Curt Witcher, "Making the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center Your Research Assistant."

This event is possible only with the support of the Central Texas Genealogy Society (CTGS) and the West Waco Library and Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library. CTGS volunteers provided hundreds of hours in planning and hosting the event for CTGS and the other 57 participating



locations. Additional support was provided by Sandra J. Crowley, TxSGS director of development, who edited the event's recorded presentations, and TxSGS, who hosted the recordings online for viewing by both in-person and virtual attendees.

In 2023, GNT is again slated for the third Friday, October 20. Plan now to attend at your local genealogy society or online at any number of societies across Texas. If you are a member of a society that's not participating in GNT, encourage your society's leaders to contact Bill Buckner at billb@wacotx.gov to learn more about the event. ★

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Partner Society Roundup

Read these 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 on the TxSGS society webpage at <https://www.txsgs.org/partner-societies/>.

To find your society's district, check the Partner Society map on the TxSGS website at <https://www.txsgs.org/about/district-map/>. 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 many benefits and resources available from TxSGS at the Partner Society Resource page (<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, and much more.

District C

Emily Richardson,
District Representative

The [*Collin County Genealogical Society*](#) (CCGS) is holding hybrid meetings the second Wednesday of each month, and an all-day virtual seminar is planned in 2023. Additional Collin County newspapers are currently being digitized by The Portal to Texas History and will be available soon. Collin County material is being accepted for the next issue of *Collin Chronicles*, the CCGS journal; for more information or to submit material, contact ccgs.president@gmail.com. Guests are always welcome to contribute, regardless of Collin County ancestry.

With two meetings per month, the *Robson Ranch Genealogy Club's* schedule is packed with great presentations. Fall programs included Patti Gillespie discussing "Brick Wall Busting Methods," Nancy Gilbride Casey presenting "Loggin' & Writin': Two Tools for Your Genealogy Toolbox," a webinar by Judy G. Russell on important laws for genealogists, and a discussion of immigration and

naturalization that incorporated a viewing of Ellis Island's history shown on YouTube. Plans are being made for a writing event focused on grandparents that will begin just after the new year.

The October meeting of the [*Denton County Genealogical Society*](#) featured Emily Richardson presenting "Expanding Your Horizons: Local to International Learning." Emily discussed learning opportunities and the importance of being active in your own learning. In November, Robin Cole-Jett discussed "The Butterfield Overland Stage and Mail."

"Dissecting a Probate Case: With or Without a Will" presented by Emily Richardson was the October topic for the [*Heritage Ranch Genealogical Society*](#). The November program, "In Their Footsteps: The Genealogical Tourist," was given by David B. Appleton.

District E

Timothy de la Vega,
District Representative

On March 25, the [*San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society*](#) (SAGHS) plans a seminar, "Finding Your Family Through DNA," led by

Diana Elder of Family Locket. Four topics will be presented: "Solving a Family Mystery with DNA," "Using Ethnicity Estimates and Locality Research to Shed Light on a DNA Project," "Pedigree Triangulation: A Key Methodology for Genetic Genealogy," and "Who's Her Daddy? Testing an Ancestry DNA ThruLines® Hypothesis for a Female Ancestor." Registration is open through March 23. See the SAGHS website at www.saghs-tx.org for more information and to register.

Held the first Tuesday of each month, virtual SAGHS meetings are open to the public. Speakers slated for 2023 include Debra Dudek, Diane Richard, Lori Thornton, and Kim Richardson. See the SAGHS Speaker Series webpage at <https://saghs-tx.org/cpage.php?pt=178> for topics, descriptions, and registration links.

District F

Peter G. Jacobs,
District Representative

On the eastern side of Tarrant County in Bedford, we find the [*Mid-Cities Genealogical Society*](#) (MCGS). Bedford was recently named a Gold

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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.*

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*

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.*

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.*

Episode #105 – September 2022

Texas Baptist Collection

Host: Ron Barnett; **Guest:** Alan LeFever, *Director of the Texas Baptist Historical Collection in Waco, Texas.*

Episode #106 – October 2022

Texas Archive of the Moving Image (TAMI)

Host: Sue Kaufman; **Guest:** Elizabeth Hansen, *Managing Director*

Episode #107 – November 2022 (Special TxSGS Conference Edition)

The Houston Public Library Family History Center at The Clayton Center

Host: Randy Whited; **Guest:** Sue Kaufman, *Senior Manager.*



Make this the year you tell your family's story! Whether you're sharing information about ancestors you've recently discovered or tips other genealogists can use to help them in their research, TxSGS wants to know more!



Themes for 2023:

- Q1 - Ethnic Roots (Jan 15, 2023 deadline)
- Q2 - Neighborhood Watch (FAN Club and more) (Apr 15, 2023 deadline)
- Q3 - Technology for Genealogists (Jul 15, 2023 deadline)
- Q4 - Curating Your Personal Archive (Oct 15, 2023 deadline)

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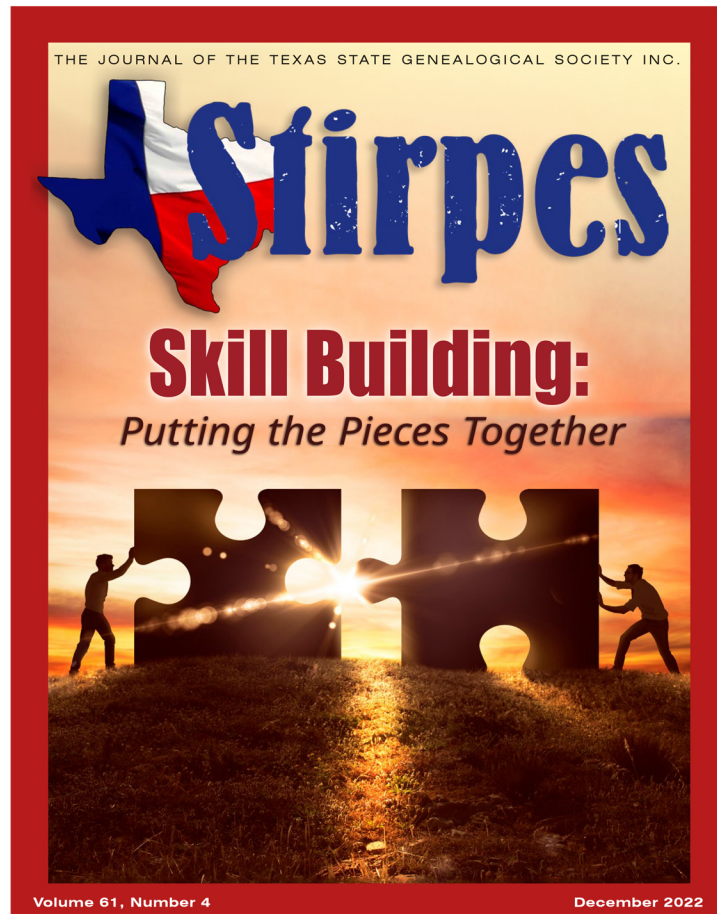
Submissions are welcome at any time to stirpes@txsgs.org.
For complete guidelines and to learn more about the upcoming themes, visit <http://www.txsgs.org/publications/stirpes/submission-guidelines/>

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Index

A

Abbott, Deborah A. 50
 Adeyami, Yusuf 4
 Ahmadzadeh, Sherri Taggart 4
 Alderson, John 4
 Alderson, Sandra 4
 Allen, Sarah 59
 Allred, Alfred 68
 Allred, Brian Alan 68
 Allred, Robert Franklin 26
 Allred Sr., Stephen 68
 Anderson, John 61
 Anderson, Margaret 49
 Anderson, Martha 68
 Andrie, Gina 62
 Appleton, David B. 60
 Ardell, Elizabeth D. 4
 Arnold, John Frederick 69
 Atkins, Kelly 4
 Aubé, Charles Louis 17
 Aubé, Pierre Daniel 17
 Austin, Cynthia C. 4
 Aylor, Martha Jane 69

B

Baker, Alpha J. 68
 Ballard, Wyona Donaho 48
 Ball, Susan E. 1, 2, 4, 5, 30, 33, 34, 49, 52, 59
 Balthrop, Karen S. 4
 Barnes, Lucinda 49
 Barr, Leslie Simpson 68, 69
 Barry, Anne Cailard 16
 Bavour, Marie Catherine Vre Annette 16
 Beard, Francis J. 49
 Beard, J. 4
 Beard, Thomas Carson 49
 Bernard, Peter 18
 Berthou, Antoine 17
 Berthou, Yves 17
 Blackwell, Elemander H. 49
 Blackwell, Mary Ann Powers 49
 Blair, Pat (Maxfield) 49
 Bostick, Jennifer Hunt 4
 Bostick Jr., Robert A. 4
 Boyd, Greg 61
 Brasseaux, Carl 13
 Brazil, Janice Hosking 36
 Brissonneau, Marie Geor* 18
 Brooks, Carol 4, 49
 Broughton, Aaron 69
 Broughton-Smith, Regina 69
 Brown, Cameron Hudson 69
 Brown-Johnican, Carolyn J. 69
 Brown, Shirley L. 4
 Brown Sr., Archie 69
 Bryant, Marynell 5
 Buckner, William D. "Bill" 1, 2, 3, 6, 28, 31, 33, 36, 37, 59, 62
 Butler, Anderson 69
 Butler, Emily Jane 69
 Butler, John Phillip 69
 Bullard, Mary 37
 Bullock, William 68
 Byrd, Micajah 68

C

Caldwell, Catherine Gobel 4
 Carney, Leslie 4
 Carothers, Joe David 68
 Cartmil, Jayme 49
 Casey, Jesse 7, 10, 11
 Casey, Nancy Gilbride 1, 3, 5, 7, 12, 37, 48, 49, 60
 Casner, Nash Shepherd 68
 Cato, Rachel 69
 Chandler, William M. 69
 Changstein, Guermo Allen 4
 Charest, Jean Baptiste 16
 Charost, Jean Baptist 18
 Charost, Françoise, née Pian 18
 Charost, Mister 18
 Chevallier, Jean Baptiste 16
 Choate, Carroll Putnam 68
 Choate, John Melvin 68
 Choate, Richard C. 68
 Christmas, Henrietta 49
 Churchwell, Laura Choate 68
 Churchwell, Logan Choate 68
 Churchwell, Tanner Dale 68
 Clark Sr., Benjamin 68
 Clarke, David 52
 Coakley, Barbara 5
 Cochran, Geneva Shannon 4
 Cochran, Terry L. 4, 49
 Coe, Martha "Patsey" 7
 Coe, Patsey 7, 10, 11
 Cohen, Michelle Dwyer 37
 Colaire, Claude 16
 Cole-Jett, Robin 60
 Coleman, Elizabeth 69
 Collins, Jessica Horne 2, 37
 Combe, Jean 16
 Combs, Charles 45
 Combs, Gilbert R. 45
 Combs, Robert 44
 Combs, Robert Lorton 45
 Conrad, Paula 62
 Crow, Amy Johnson 59
 Crowley, Sandra J. 1, 2, 6, 33, 35, 48, 52, 59
 Crump, Brenda M. 4
 Crusco, Kathy 4
 Curtean, Lisa Smith 61

D

Daniel, Karen Stein 1, 3, 13, 18, 36
 Daniell, Garrett Lee 68, 69
 Daniell, Kenzie Lynn 68, 69
 Davis, Daniel Lee 68
 Davis, Margaret 68, 69
 Davis, Shea Ashley 68
 Dayrie Alguier, Justin 16, 18
 Dean, Christopher 4, 49
 de Forny, Alexander Ferdinand 16, 18
 de Forny, Victor Edouard 16
 Degoulet, Joseph-Louis 16
 de la Vega, Timothy 60
 Desmarais, Catherine Becker Wiest 40, 41
 Desplanques, Ms. Alexandre 16
 Diamond, Carol 4
 Diamond, Jana K. 4
 Dirk, Diana 4
 Donaho, Daniel Louis 48
 Donaho, James Ransom 48
 Drège, Pierre Thomas 16
 Dudek, Debra 50, 60
 Dugart, Carl Joseph 69
 Dugart, Donald Edward 69
 Dugart, Janet 48
 Dugart, Mitchell Edward 69
 Dulak, Marie S. 4
 Dunn Jr., John Cartwright 68
 Duvar (?), Milford Charles 18
 Dyer, Nicole 28

E

Eanes, Belle Paradice 4
 Earle, Christine 48
 Echols, Elizabeth 69
 Echols, Isaac 69
 Edwards, Annie 69
 Eggleston, Permelia 69
 Eggleston, Stephen VanRensselaer 68
 Elder, Diana 3, 28, 60
 Ellis, Tom 61
 Ellsworth, Fran 63
 Ellsworth, Frances M. 32
 Embrey, E. Ann 4
 Eoff, Mary Susan 68
 Epperson, Jimmy 61
 Evans, Lela 61
 Everett, Joseph B. 59

F

Favre, Antoine Nicolas 16
 Fiocco, Norene P. 4
 Fields, Ginny 48
 Fields, Julia 69
 Foster, Louisa 69
 Foster, Mary 69
 Fourey, Nicolas 16
 FrançoisRobert 16
 Franz, Barbara 63
 Froebel, Barbara J. 32

G

Gage, Samuel Patterson 69
 Galloway, Shari L. 4
 Galucki, Jonathan "JG" 52
 Galucki, Matt 52
 Garrison, Christine 48
 Gaudeau, Jacques 17
 Gaudeau, Jules 17
 Genaille, Charlotte Virgie 17
 Genaille, Euge Jules Jean 17
 Genes, Marna Cooper 4
 Genty, Chs (?) Andrée Benoit 18
 Gernigon, Nicolas Louis 16
 Gertin, Jeanne 17
 Giboudeau, Louis-Alexandre 16

Gilbride, Catherine Ryan 49
 Gillespie, Patti 60, 61
 Gilmore, Jean 4
 Glass, James Harvey 68
 Glass, John Paul 69
 Glass, Robert Dixon 69
 Goodnight, Charles 62
 Gordon, Pat 36
 Greene, Colleen Robledo 40, 41, 50
 Green, Rebecca Fay 4
 Guillen, Yphigenie 17
 Guillot, Auguste 16
 Gulden, Peter J. 4

H

Hamerly, David Rudd 48
 Hamerly, Jacob 48
 Hamilton, Lewis Livingston 69
 Hanson, Tony 5, 30, 37, 52, 59, 61, 64, 73
 Hardy, James M. (Mack) 48
 Hargis, Fred Olin 4
 Havelka, Monica S. 4
 Hayes, Judieth 69
 Hayes, Solomon 69
 Hay, Dora 69
 Haynes, Alexander 69
 Haynes, Jerry Earl 69
 Haynes Sr., Zachary 69
 Healy, Edward 18
 Hearin, Robert C. 49
 Henderson, Terry L. 4
 Hercourt, Sophie 17
 Hester, Mildred 69
 Hester, Tabitha Jane 69
 Hibben, Jean Wilcox 50
 Hicks, Elizabeth 5, 52
 Hinojosa, Michelle Marie 4
 Hinson, Jesse James 69
 Hinson, John David 69
 Hogan, Roseann 4
 Hollingsworth, John 49
 Hooper, Garysue 4
 Horn, Joshua Lawrence 37
 Horsin Come, Jean Baptiste 16
 Hubert, Rebecca F. 4
 Huet, Barthélemy Denis 17
 Huet, Denis 16
 Huet de Condé, Caroline Françoise 18

I

Hurst, Kathryn Adam 37
 Hurta, Charlene 37
 Inman, Alana 63
 Inman, Cindy Sheppard 68

J

Jackson, Bessie Nickole 69
 Jacob, Dinell 4
 Jacobs, Laureen Geppert 37
 Jacobs, Peter G. 31, 60
 Jenkins, Jana 37
 Jennings, Darrin Christopher 69

Jennings, Richard J. 69
 Jett, Louisa 69
 Johnson, Jennifer N. 4
 Johnson, Jennifer Nicole Glass 68, 69
 Jones, Karla McDonald 48
 Jones, Mary S. 69
 Judd, Linda 4

K
 Kaufman, Susan 1, 3, 5, 30, 32, 43, 50, 52
 King, Suzanne 48
 Klaes, Carolyn Kunkel 69
 Klauk, Geri 61
 Klaus, Kevin 50
 Koplin, Cindy 4
 Kossie-Chernyshev, Karen 4, 37
 Koudelka, Miroslav "Mirek" 62
 Kubacak, Hannah 59

L
 Lachèvre, Louis Euve 17
 Lachèvre, Victor Claude 17
 LaClair, Barbara 4
 Lacy, Lillie 69
 Laurent, Jean Baptiste 16
 Lavigné, Hélène 17
 Lefebvre, Cathie Julie 17
 Leffingwell, Jeremy C. 68
 Legiemble, Henry Joseph 17
 Legiemble, Jacques 17
 LeMaire, Pierre Louis 16
 Lemmie, Bruce Thomas 69
 Lemoulbec, Mie Perrine 17
 Levy, A. Hermine (?) 18
 Levy, Joel K. 4
 Levy, Judi F. 4
 Lewis, Andrew 49
 Lewis, Rob 37
 Liepman, Davena L. 4
 Linton, Valencia 4
 Locher, Karen 62
 Long, William Thomas 68
 Louis, Renee 17
 Lowe, J. Mark 39, 41, 50
 Luckett, Larry W. 37

M
 Mangum, Stacy Ryan 69
 Marble, Kimary 62
 Martin, Doug 52
 Martin, Mie Jeanne 17
 Massé, Hypolite Ludovic 13
 Massé, Julie Victorine 13
 Massé, Thomas Eugene 13
 Massé, Victor 13, 15, 16
 McCamey, LeAnne 37, 59
 McGuffin, Tina 31
 McIntosh, Samuel K. "Pike" 69
 McLaughlin, Patsy 49
 McMillan, Gail 49
 McPherson, James 7, 10
 McPherson, John 9, 10
 McPherson, Joseph 9, 10
 Meador, Gary Wayne 4
 Meador, Jeffrey 4
 Meisner, Bernard 50
 Mercier, Eugène 17
 Mercier, Hyacinthe 17

Metcalfe, Pat 36
 Meyers, Kelvin L. 4, 39, 41
 Michel, Claude 16
 Miller, Caroline 4, 48
 Miller, Pat Collins 4
 Mills, Betsy 2, 6, 52, 73
 Mintz, Felicia A. 4
 Mize, Connie Lynn Taylor 68
 Mize, Tami Osmer 2, 52
 Moffett, Beth 37
 Moffett, Brad 37
 Mollet, Fois Marie 17
 Mollet, François Marie 17
 Monsagné, François Etienne 16
 Moody, Phyllis Vaughan 48
 Moore, D. M. Rusty 68
 Moseley, Beth Fortner 36
 Moseley, Julia 68
 Moureau, Marie 18
 Mullins, Lydia Davis 48
 Mullins, Rhonda L. 4

N
 Neff, Cindy Joy Stevens 4
 Newman, Joseph Austin 68
 Nicholas, Julianne 17
 Nobles, Charles N. 4

O
 Olivry, Michel 18
 Olivry, Michel Jean 17
 Olivry, Michel Pierre 17
 Olsen, Mark 62
 Ortiz, Eleanor 4
 O'Sullivan, Bryna 15

P
 Palmer, Emily Ann 4
 Palmer, Rebecca 68
 Pastusek, Judith Antoinette 4
 Paul, Rebecca Taylor 68
 Pellissier, Jean Dominique 16
 Perez, Rueben M. 36
 Perkins, Paula 5, 37, 63
 Phillip, Joseph Vincent 68
 Phillips, Carolyn W. 4
 Picard, Gustave Michel 16
 Pinochet, Ms. Josephine 16
 Pogue, Earl 37
 Polansky, Stanley 49
 Politte, Laura Lee 4
 Pope, Milli 49
 Porter, Melody K. 4
 Poulson, Connie Sheppard Plagens 68
 Prevot, Nicolas Désiré 16
 Price, Venecia S. 4
 Price, V. Sutton 36
 Prieur, Viviana L. 4
 Pruitt, Donna Nicole 68, 69
 Pumphrey, Ginney 4

R
 Rabb, William 68, 69
 Ragsdale, Barny 56
 Rascher, Sheryl Reed 36
 Reed, Lucy 69
 Renoult, Jean Michel 16
 Rey, Eugene 17

Rey, Michel Laurent 17
 Rhodes, Orinthia 69
 Richard, Diane L. 50, 60
 Richardson, Emily Coffman 1, 3, 5, 33, 44, 47, 52, 60
 Richardson, Kim 60
 Richardson, Lisa 4
 Rigel, Janisue 4
 Roberts, Abraham 69
 Roberts, Alexander "Buck" 69
 Rodden, Timothy Douglas 69
 Rogerie, Carlos 17
 Rogerie, Charles 17
 Rogerie, Charles Hyacinthe Marie 17, 18
 Rogerie, Charles Marie Hyacinthe 15
 Rogerie, Chas Marie Hyacinthe 17
 Rogillio, Deta 63
 Russell, Judy G. 39, 42, 60
 Russell, Ryan 62

S
 Sanders, Renate Yarborough 50
 Sauls, Stephanie 4
 Schulmeister, Bess 4
 Schweizer, Barbara 68
 Seiling, Sharon 4
 Shamhart, Luther Charles 22
 Sharon, Don 49
 Shear, Joanna 4
 Sheppard, Narrell Dene Choate 68
 Sheppard, Peter A. 69
 Sheppard, Scott Judson 68
 Simpson, William Martin "Bill" 68
 Sinclair, Amber Lynn 4
 Sinclair, Chuck 4
 Smith, Christine A. 4
 Smith, Debbie 4
 Smith, Mary 69
 Smith, Patti Huff 61
 Snell, Mary Kay 4
 Solomon, Gay 37
 Sorbonne, Cathie 17
 Sorsby-Jones, Hadley E. 68
 Sorsby-Jones, Samantha M. 68
 Stanley, Nancy M. 68
 Startz, Mary Anthony Long 36
 Steakley, Carol 4
 Stewart, Adele K. 4
 Stowe, Shanna E. 4
 Strassner, Bernd H. 4
 Strassner, Liz 49
 Strassner, Liz D. 4
 Swank, Casey 8
 Szwarc, Irene 49

T
 Taylor, David C. 4
 Taylor, John 48
 Théodore Robin 16
 Théron, Benjamin 16
 Thomas, John 7, 9
 Thompson, James Henry 69
 Thompson, Nannie Texana 69
 Thompson, Susan K. 4
 Thornhill, Jim 1, 3, 37, 56, 58
 Thornton, Lori 50, 60

Todd, Mary 49
 Todd, Mary W. 4
 Tovaes-Ashmanskas, Maria 4
 Townsend, Mary Frances 4
 Trimble, Samuel 69
 Tumblinson Sr., John Jackson 69
 Tumlinson Sr., John J. 69
 Tumlinson Sr., John Jackson 68

V
 Van Symm, David 68
 Verm, Henry 68
 Verm, Lydia Mae 68
 Vignerone, Joseph 16
 Vincent, Emilie Lucile 13

W
 Waggoner, Doug 59
 Walker, Gertie Julia 69
 Walker, James Randolph 69
 Walker, Thomas Randolph 69
 Walsemann, Karen 48
 Walton, Christy 52
 Warren, Hiram 68
 Wayne, Debbie Parker 5, 31
 Wegstein, Wilhelm 18
 Weisner, Oliver Q. 68
 Weisner, Valerie M. 68
 Whited, Randy 31, 36, 37
 Whiting, Kathy 4
 Wihau (?), H. 18
 Wiley, Mary Jane (Mollie) 49
 Wilkins, Ari 40, 42, 52
 Wilkinson, Andy 62
 Williams, James Calvin 69
 Williams, Lucilla Calvin 69
 Winstead, Wendy 4
 Wirthlin, Robin 28
 Witcher, Curt B. 33, 59
 Wolfe, Bernadette 4
 Woodbury, Paul 40, 42
 Woods, Melody Hooper 1, 3, 5, 21, 26
 Woodworth, Linda 4
 Woodworth, Merlin 4
 Wooten, Moses F. 68, 69
 Wright, Allen 37
 Wright, Allen D. 4
 Wylie, John 32

Y
 Yoder, Rob 61



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