

THE JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.



# Stripes

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

*Discover Your*

**FANs\***



**\*Friends, Associates, Neighbors**



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### *Why Name our Journal Stirpes?*

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

# From the

# Editors' Pen



Genealogy is akin to searching for one tree in a forest, one needle in a haystack, one fish in a lake. However, focusing too tightly on just that one ancestor can lead to tunnel vision, preventing us from seeing our ancestor in the context of their life. Researching using the FAN (Friends, Associates, and Neighbors) club method expands our vision and enables us to use our ancestor's social network to uncover more information about their life and connections. By examining the lives of those who were closely associated with an ancestor, genealogists can often find new clues and pieces of information that may have been overlooked.

This issue of *Stirpes* focuses on FAN club research with tools and techniques that can make your research more efficient and productive, and perhaps even help you find that clue that solves your family history mystery. In "Fan Club Records," Melody Hooper Woods introduces FAN club research and discusses records where FAN club members can be found. Researching your ancestor's FAN club can lead to an overwhelming number of persons who interacted with your ancestor. Nancy Gilbride Casey shows how to organize and evaluate all these names in "Analyze Your Ancestor's FAN Club with Spreadsheets."

FAN club members can be found in a wide variety of records. "Location! Location! Location!"

by Jim Thornhill illustrates how to find your ancestor's land, the first step in identifying neighbors. Emily Coffman Richardson shows how land records and the FAN club method can uncover family connections in "Exploring Maps to Discover Your Ancestors' Neighbors."

In a broad overview, Pat Gordon introduces Freemasons and how to get started with researching your ancestor's Masonic FAN club in "Open the Door to your Freemason Ancestors' Masonic FAN Club." "Historic Cookbooks Illuminate Female Ancestors and FAN Clubs," by Joy Oria highlights an overlooked source for researching females and their FAN clubs. William D. "Bill" Buckner reviews *The Writings of Celia M. Wright*, a compilation of columns and articles focused on the history and families of Hopkins County.

Researching FAN clubs often uncovers people who share the same name. Hannah Kubacak discusses a technique for keeping their identities separate in "Untangling the Lives of Individuals Who Share the Same Name." Starting with a marriage license, "Follow the Families" by Russell A. Rahn uses the FAN club method and census records to discover the family of an African American couple.

In "Walking in Our Great-Great-Grandfather's Footsteps," Mary Anthony Startz shares the impact

she and her sister experienced when they explored the historic Texas forts where their ancestor served in the 1870s.

Leadership of the Heritage Certificate Committee has recently changed. After 12 years of service as Heritage Certificate Chair, Marynell Bryant has stepped aside; the new chair is Lela Evans. Read about Marynell's impact on TxSGS's Heritage Certificate Program, and get to know Lela Evans in this issue's Volunteer Spotlight.

In TxSGS news, read about the 2023 TxSGS Family History Conference, "Roots and Branches: Climbing Your Family Tree," slated November 10 – 11, 2023. The "Partner Society Roundup" presents news from TxSGS's Partner Societies; be sure to investigate events occurring in your area of Texas and beyond.

The next issue of *Stirpes*, themed "Technology for Genealogists," addresses tools that help genealogists with research, organization, and more. What are your favorite genealogy tech tools? Share your thoughts with *Stirpes* ([stirpes@txsgs.org](mailto:stirpes@txsgs.org)) by July 15. We'll include responses as we have room. ★

—*Stirpes* Editors

# New Members & More

**New Members since  
February 2023**

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## Volunteer Spotlight

# The Heritage Certificates Program Leadership

**T**xSGS offers family historians a heritage certificate program to recognize those with descent from Texas pioneers and Texas Rangers. The First Families and Texas Ranger certificates honor direct or collateral ancestors. Additional certificates requiring direct descent are Gone to Texas Pioneer, West Texas Pioneer, and Greer County, Texas, Pioneer.

Managing the Heritage Certificates Program requires a detail-oriented person who can evaluate lineage applications. A willingness to work with applicants in getting the documentation required to prove their lineage is a plus. Since 2011, Marynell Bryant has embodied these ideals as Heritage Certificates Chair. She has selflessly donated countless hours in this role, approving over 1,500 TxSGS heritage certificate applications during her tenure. In addition to her work with the Heritage Certificates Program, Marynell served as president of TxSGS for three terms. For her outstanding leadership, she was named Fellow of TxSGS in 1996.

Lela Golightly Evans assumed the position of Heritage Certificates Chair in March, bringing to the position her genealogical research experience as a librarian at the Veterans Memorial Library in Lancaster plus a familiarity with lineage applications. She is a member of the DAR, TxSGS, and the Lancaster Genealogical Society. Her

ancestors have been honored with First Family of the Twin Territories (Oklahoma) and Gone to Texas certificates.

Passionate about the TxGenWeb Project, Lela began volunteering with the organization as a county coordinator and has served as a TXGenWeb Project volunteer coordinator, mentor coordinator, and the annual meeting coordinator. Lela is now the coordinator for Parker and Palo Pinto Counties.

Lela became interested in her family history in high school. Her father and her grandfathers were storytellers who enjoyed recounting tales about their lives and older family members. She learned to take those narratives, find the details, prove the event happened, and preserve them for future generations.

When asked her thoughts about the TxSGS Heritage Certificate Program, Lela shared, "Much like preserving those family legends, applying for heritage certificates is a



way of honoring our ancestors and their accomplishments as well as making us better researchers." She added, "The process of completing an application can show you the holes in your research and highlight missing sources."

For Lela, volunteering is an important aspect of genealogy. She commented, "Working with the Texas State Genealogical Society Heritage Certificate program is a way that I can give back to the genealogical community, help other researchers improve their skills, and honor their ancestors."

We at *Stirpes* offer our heartfelt gratitude to Marynell for her twelve years of leadership in the Heritage Certificates Program and welcome Lela to our volunteer community.

For more information about the certificate program, see <https://www.txsgs.org/programs/heritage-certificates/>.

# Save the Date!

**VIRTUAL**

## Roots and Branches: Climbing Your Family Tree

**November 10-11, 2023**

Texas State Genealogical Society  
FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

[www.txsgs.org](http://www.txsgs.org) #txsgs

Explore your “roots and branches” at the virtual 2023 TxSGS Family History Conference! With *TxSGS Live!* plus on-demand sessions, this unique conference offers a wealth of information for those who are new to genealogy as well as seasoned researchers.

Slated for November 10-11, *TxSGS Live!* features presentations from expert speakers with live Q&A. Attendees will learn about the latest techniques, tips, and tools for researching their family history.

Virtual access to recorded *TxSGS Live!* sessions plus pre-recorded On-Demand presentations allows attendees to learn at their own pace and revisit topics that are of particular interest to them.

One of the highlights of *TxSGS Live!* and the Whova Exhibit Hall experience is the opportunity to interact with fellow genealogy enthusiasts and experts in the field. Attendees can ask questions and get feedback from experienced genealogists. Additionally, participants will be able to engage in networking opportunities to connect with others who share their passion for genealogy.

A few comments from 2022 Conference attendees indicate the conference’s impact:

- This has been **wonderful, especially for those of us in different states.**
- I’m **having lots of fun!**
- Thank you for the opportunity to join virtually as I would not have been able to join otherwise!! The topics/speakers are diverse and provide a **good range of skill building options.**
- I was so happy when I learned that this **would again be offered virtually – it’s the only way I can attend!** This is my third conference and I love having online access for a period of time for all the presentations that I can’t fit into the schedule. **Thank you for having this conference!**
- **One of the best virtual conferences around!** Thank you so much for inviting me!
- Thank you for another wonderful conference, **looking forward to [2023].**

Don’t miss this tremendous opportunity to learn from some of the best genealogists in the business and expand your knowledge and skills in genealogy research.

# FAN Club Records

by Melody Hooper Woods

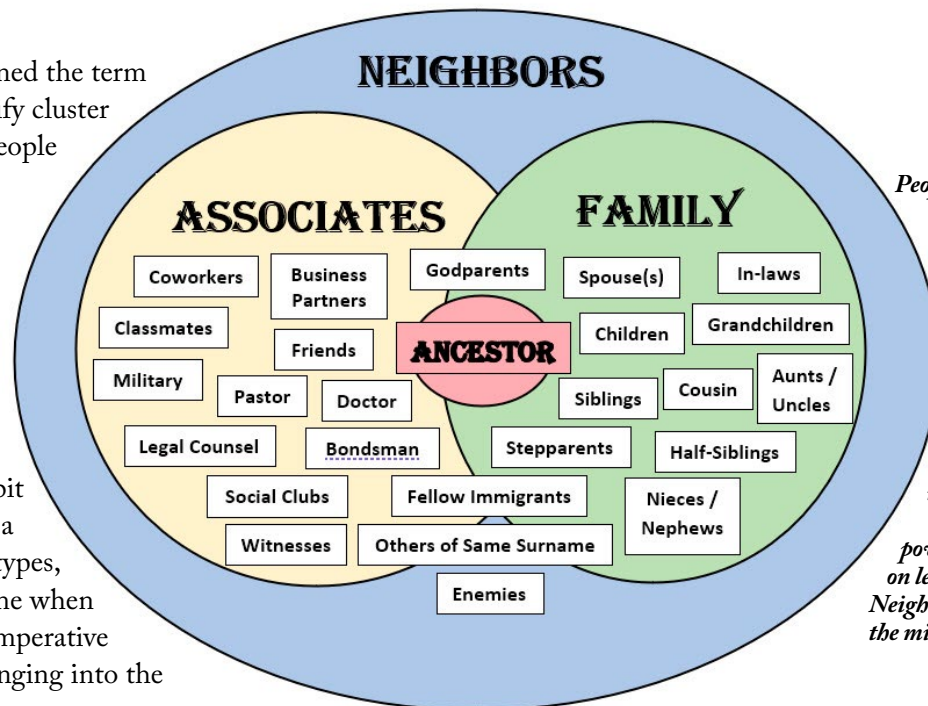
When there is conflicting or scant evidence of an ancestor's life, researching the records of their Friends, Associates, and Neighbors, or their "FAN club," can fill in the gaps.<sup>1</sup> Oftentimes, this method is the only way to locate an elusive female, sort out people with the same name, and break through brick walls.

Elizabeth Shown Mills coined the term "FAN Club Principle" to simplify cluster research, which examines the people who surrounded our ancestors throughout their lifetimes. Instead of researching direct ancestors in isolation, this technique researches them within their communities.

## First Things First

It is easy to get into the habit of diving into research without a plan or using just a few record types, but to make the most of our time when researching many people, it is imperative to follow these steps before plunging into the FAN records.

- Step 1:** Identify your research problem.
- Step 2:** Evaluate and summarize the information you know about your ancestors, especially their residences and immigration or migration paths. Establishing where your ancestors were located at specific times in their lives is key to proving their identities, family ties, and origins.<sup>2</sup>
- Step 3:** Write a clear research objective that states your goal using who, what, where, and when questions. Example: *Who is the father of Nathan Aaron Taylor, born about 1802 in Tennessee and died about 1854 in Alabama? Nathan married Anna Stone in 1824 in Jefferson County, Alabama.*
- Step 4:** Brainstorm: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How Frequently – make a list of *who* your ancestor might have known, *what* they may have done



*Figure 1: People in the FAN club overlap, especially in smaller communities. Relatives were also neighbors and coworkers. Friends and in-laws served as a witness or power of attorney on legal documents. Neighbors enlisted in the military together.*

together, *when* and *where* in your ancestor's lifetime they possibly knew each other, *why* they interacted with each other, and *how frequently*.<sup>3</sup>

- Step 5:** Create a research plan and a system to organize your research. This will keep you on track toward your goals and prevent you from spending too much time researching other people's family trees.
- Step 6:** Select a variety of sources and research methods useful to your unique research goal. Read how successful genealogists have used FAN club records to solve challenges like your own.

## Records to Use When Researching the FAN Club

The records used in FAN club research are the same as those used when researching direct ancestors (see table 1). Instead of looking only for direct ancestors' names, search for their siblings, the family listed next to them on the

# Analyze Your Ancestor's FAN Club with Spreadsheets

by Nancy Gilbride Casey

Your coworkers. Your softball teammates. The neighbors on your street. Members of your church. All these groups form your own personal FAN club – your Friends, Associates, and Neighbors – those people who surround you and with whom you interact. Examining an ancestor's FAN club – also called cluster research – is a terrific methodology for finding missing ancestors, separating same-named people, or connecting people in various localities.

## Similarities and Differences

Your ancestors might have some FAN club members in common. But there will also be differences.

As to similarities, think about your own life: you and your parents may have attended the same church when you were young, thus your churchgoing FANs might be the same. You also shared the same nuclear family members, the same neighbors, and so on.

As you grew older, your FAN club began to deviate from that of your parents. Perhaps your father was on a bowling team, and your mother belonged to a quilting group,

but you were on a baseball team and joined a stamp collecting club. You may have moved to another city, so your neighbors differed from those you shared with your parents as a youngster. Each group has different people associated with it.

Tracking these groupings may show where identities diverge, separating people of the same name. In the same manner, the same FAN club members might also congregate around one individual in different localities, helping to solidify their identity as one person in multiple places.

## Where to Find FANs

FAN club members can be found in any record created by or for your ancestor. FANs can be:

- Neighbors on a census, historical map, or city directory
- Witnesses to marriages, baptisms, land transactions, deeds, wills, and such
- Grantors or grantees in land transactions
- Classmates in yearbooks or group photos
- Informants for birth, death, or other vital records
- Teammates on sports or academic teams
- Associates mentioned in newspaper articles such as survivors in obituaries (see figure 2), fellow club members, or parties to lawsuits or other civil actions

There are many more FAN club members whose lives intersected those of your ancestors and records where these FANs can be found.

A good first step to finding your target ancestor's FANs is to review every source you have, noting any FANs in each record. With a list that may contain dozens or hundreds of people, what's next? Read on...

| Date | Name         | Document   | How Associated?  | Location         |
|------|--------------|------------|--|------------------|
| 1823 | Casey, Jesse | Land Entry | <a href="#">No. Car. &amp; Tennessee, U.S. Early Land Grants</a>         | Roane County, TN |
| 1824 | Casey, Jesse | Lawsuit    | <a href="#">2693 Jesse Casey vs Ben &amp; Joel Hembree Sci Fi Fa</a>     | Roane County, TN |
| 1824 | Casey, Jesse | Lawsuit    | <a href="#">2693 Jesse Casey vs Benj &amp; Joel Hembree</a>              | Roane County, TN |
| 1824 | Casey, Jesse | Lawsuit    | <a href="#">2693 Jesse Casey vs Benj &amp; Joel Hembree, Bill of</a>     | Roane County, TN |
| 1825 | Casey, Jesse | Land Sale  | <a href="#">Casey to Spencer, Crab Orchard Creek Sale</a>                | Roane County, TN |
| 1826 | Casey, Jesse | Newspaper  | <a href="#">Sheriff's Sale, Knoxville Register</a>                       | Morgan, TN       |
| 1830 | Casey, Jesse | Entry      | <a href="#">Entry 1213 Morgan County on Emery</a>                        | Morgan, TN       |
| 1830 | Casey, Jesse | Entry      | <a href="#">Entry 1214 Morgan County on Clifty Creek</a>                 | Morgan, TN       |
| 1831 | Casey, Jesse | Survey     | <a href="#">Jesse Casey, 100 acres on Clifty Creek on entry 1214</a>     | Morgan, TN       |
| 1831 | Casey, Jesse | Newspaper  | <a href="#">Justices Appointed in Tennessee legislature (for</a>         | Morgan, TN       |
| 1832 | Casey, Jesse | Survey     | <a href="#">#915 Survey/Entry 1213 on Emery</a>                          | Morgan, TN       |
| 1832 | Casey, Jesse | Survey     | <a href="#">Jesse Casey Survey 943</a>                                   | Morgan, TN       |
| 1807 | Casey, Jesse | Pioneers   | Goodspeed's History of East Tennessee, p. 841                            | Morgan, TN       |
| 1815 | Casey, Jesse | Lawsuit    | <a href="#">1815 Lawsuit</a>   | Roane County, TN |
| 1815 | Casey, Jesse | Lawsuit    | <a href="#">287/1530 State vs Jesse Casey &amp; John Kenely, Bill of</a> | Roane County, TN |

Figure 1: Spreadsheets are a powerful tool for organizing and analyzing FAN club members.



# Location, Location, Location!

by Jim Thornhill

As I watch the stars of many family history television shows, I find that we share something in common – I like to see where my ancestors lived. To “walk in their footsteps,” to know the terrain and imagine what it was like for them to make that land produce helps me more fully imagine who my ancestors were.

When I combine this experience with the research on their lives and the social history of the area, I learn the kind of people my ancestors were, well enough that I would feel comfortable buying them a birthday present!

Learning where your ancestors lived can aid in your research as well. Locating your ancestors on a topographic map can reveal details you might never have considered. Did your ancestor live on a river? Was there a rock quarry or clay pit nearby? Does the map show a cemetery near your ancestor’s home that is currently unknown? Did your ancestor live on flat land, a gently sloping field, or in the middle of the mountains? These details can provide insight into your ancestor’s day-to-day activities.

Finding where your ancestor lived can also help you identify the important people in your ancestor’s lives, those members of their FAN club. When choosing someone to witness the signing of a legal document, our ancestors rarely chose the next person they saw walking down the street! It was usually someone they were familiar with, a friend or a family member. When people migrated to an area, they usually migrated in groups, settled in the same area, and became neighbors. When hurdling the brick walls we all face, identifying the FAN club, those people living near our ancestors, can help with those breakthroughs.

The first step to identifying the location of your ancestor’s land is to find a property description. One of the easiest ways to find this description is to look at any legal document describing or transferring ownership of the property. Property descriptions can be found on many documents, not just deed records. The same descriptions can be found in probate documents, divorce decrees, deeds of trust, *lis pendens*, judgments, mortgage papers, court documents, and any other record that discusses your ancestor’s property. They can also be found on real

estate tax records. If your ancestor was one of the first to arrive in their area and bought land from the government where they were living, then you may be able to search for them as a grantee or patentee for that piece of property on one of the government land websites (more on that later).

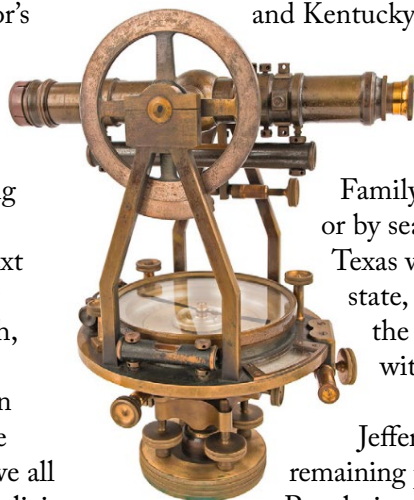
I wish I could tell you that there is one site to visit to find where your ancestors lived. Because parts of America were settled at different times, several different systems exist. The thirteen original colonies each developed their own system before the U.S. became one country, so each of them has their own method of identifying land. Because Virginia claimed what is now West Virginia and Kentucky, and North Carolina claimed what is now

Tennessee, those states also have their own systems of apportioning the land.

The way these states partitioned the land can be found on genealogy sites such as FamilySearch or the GenWeb site for that state or by searching state archives or historical sites.

Texas was a separate nation before it became a state, so it too has a unique system based on who the land was granted to originally. We’ll deal with Texas later.

For the rest of the country, Thomas Jefferson developed a grid system to survey the remaining portions of the country shortly after the Revolutionary War. This system was passed into law in 1785 and became the Public Land Survey System (PLSS), which divided the undeveloped part of the U.S. into north-south and east-west lines called meridians and baselines. These meridians and baselines formed a grid where the remainder of the country would be subdivided into tracts as small as 40 acres for settlement. As the country expanded westward, the system was adapted to cover new areas. You will notice in some cases these gridlines seem rather convoluted. In regions such as Mobile Bay in Alabama, land was granted in the 17th and 18th centuries prior to the development of the PLSS. Consequently, the PLSS was modified to honor those grants.



# Exploring Maps to Discover Your Ancestors' Neighbors

by Emily Coffman Richardson

A key to identifying the FAN club is locating neighbors, which can be challenging. For rural research, we typically rely on census records to find those FANs based on proximity, but only those few names on the same census page can be easily designated as true neighbors due to how census enumerators canvassed the area

Few records surpass the land ownership map for pinpointing your rural land-owning ancestor's neighbors. Also known as township or plat maps, land ownership maps depict an area's land parcels with the landowners' names listed on each parcel. Once you've located your ancestor's land on the map, you can see at a glance the names of neighboring owners and add them to your ancestor's FAN club. Analyzing the neighboring families can help you tease out relationships, potentially pointing you to brick-wall scaling information such as marriage relationships, maiden names, names of parents, and collateral relatives.

U.S. land ownership maps from the colonial area to present day are available, and many are online. Some are even indexed. However, availability is spotty. Some counties have maps over many years, others have no maps available at all. See the sidebar on page 29 for tips on locating

land ownership maps for the areas where your ancestor owned land.

Presented here are two examples of collateral research using land ownership maps showing slightly different research approaches. In the Ohio example, a land ownership map shows plots and owners in 1874,

allowing correlation between families at a specific time. The Texas example uses a map of original landowners (patentees) to identify FAN club members over a broader range of time.

## An Ohio Example

A partial depiction of an 1874 land ownership map of Fox Township, Carroll County, Ohio, is shown in figure 1. Available online, figure 1 is reproduced from *Illustrated Historical Atlas, Carroll County, Ohio: from Recent and Actual Surveys and Records*, a booklet produced by H. H. Hardesty in 1874.<sup>1</sup> Included in the booklet are full-page maps of the different townships in the county along with a list of

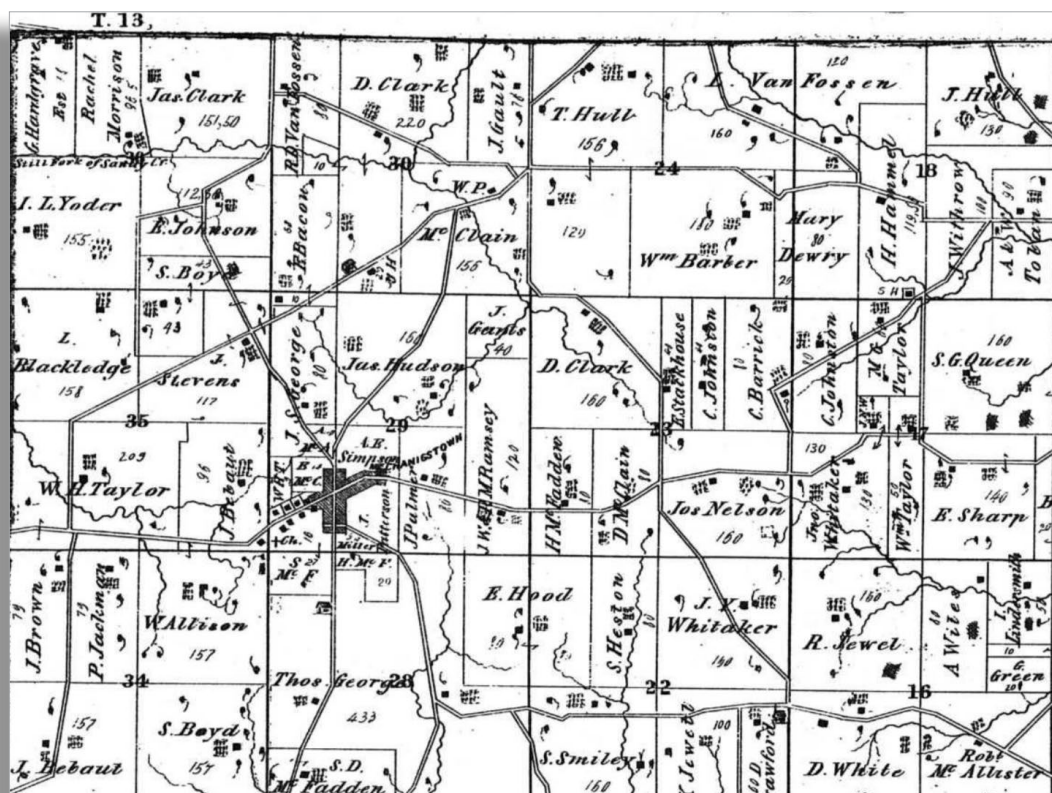


Figure 1: Northwest corner of an 1874 land ownership map of Fox Township, Carroll County, Ohio.

# Open the Door to your Freemason Ancestors' Masonic FAN Club

by Pat Gordon

Just as immigrants brought their religion with them to America, they also brought their fraternal organizations. Of these, one of the oldest and largest is the Masonic fraternity. Because members create close ties with other members, Masonic Lodge records are an important source for FAN club, or cluster genealogy, research.



## Background

A Masonic lodge is a private or local lodge that has received a charter by a Grand Lodge. A Grand Lodge is the governing organization of lodges in an area. Masons who arrived in America earlier than 1730 found no Masonic lodges to welcome them. They had to organize their own, which they did. Since Freemasonry was popular in England, Scotland, and Ireland in the 1700s, several colonial lodges were chartered under the Grand Lodge of England. However, some confusion still exists as to whether the first Masonic lodge was chartered in 1731 in Philadelphia or in 1733 in Boston. Regardless, other lodges soon followed. By the time the American Revolution started, the colonies had more than 100 lodges with about 3,000 members. After the war, Masonic lodges formed across the United States.

For many years, African Americans could not belong to a Masonic lodge. In 1775, Prince Hall and other free African Americans in Boston joined an Irish military lodge, which in 1784 became the first Prince Hall Lodge No. 459 with a charter from England. All U.S. lodges, including Prince

Hall lodges, continued under the Grand Lodge of England until 1813, when they all became independent. Although African Americans can now join any Masonic lodge, some still prefer a Prince Hall lodge.

Texas Masonic lodges began forming in 1835. Stephen F. Austin, who belonged to a Masonic lodge in Missouri, and other early settlers were Masonic members in the state from which they migrated. Historian James D. Carter estimated at least 300 Masons lived in Texas by 1835, 20 of whom were part of Austin's Old Three Hundred.

As Masonic members arrived in Texas, they soon wanted to form

lodges near their new homes. While in San Felipe in 1828, Austin, along with other Masons, petitioned the Grand York Lodge of Mexico for a charter. Instead, the Mexican government banned Freemasonry in Texas. Finally, the Grand Lodge of Louisiana granted a charter in 1835 for the organization of the Holland Lodge in Brazoria, followed by the Milam Lodge (Nacogdoches) and McFarland Lodge (San Augustine).

After the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas was organized, it could charter Masonic lodges in the Republic. After statehood, it continued as the Grand Lodge of Texas, chartering Masonic lodges in the state.

## *Affiliated Organizations Requirements*

As with many organizations, requirements often changed.

- Scottish Rite: for Master Masons to earn more fraternal degrees
- York Rite: for Master Masons to earn additional degrees
- Shriner: for Master Masons and their wives, serving primarily as a social organization
- Eastern Star: no longer requires that a woman be married to a Master Mason; now must be related to one
- DeMolay: for boys, ages 12 to 21
- Rainbow Girls: for girls, ages 11 to 20; no longer requires father to be a Mason
- Job's Daughters: for girls, ages 10 to 20, related to or sponsored by a Master Mason

# Historic Cookbooks Illuminate Female Ancestors and FAN Clubs

by Joy Oria

We can find many records about Hispanic female ancestors in genealogical research, but few records created by female ancestors themselves. Although the documents created by priests, notaries, and government officials are invaluable, they do not provide us with the female perspective.

Historical cookbooks can help fill that void, as women created cookbooks for either family use, as a community project, or as a published book.

Historical cookbooks can also be a source of a female ancestor's FAN club, those Friends, Associates, and Neighbors that were uniquely hers through church, clubs, women's groups, and more. Many women's groups created cookbooks to sell as fundraisers. Not only will those cookbooks yield names for the FAN club, they will also provide insight into your ancestors and their community.

In the cookbook *Cocina michoacana*,<sup>1</sup> we find recipes from women across Mexico. Originating as a serialized guide to the cuisine of Michoacán, its coverage expanded beyond the state's borders as subscribers across Mexico sent in their favorite recipes.<sup>2</sup> When the editor and main author, Vicenta Torres de Rubio, published her guide as a cookbook in 1896, she included many recipes from her readers, acknowledging contributors by name, town, and date.

Use the table below to identify familiar names or towns. While some contributors were identified by full name, town, and date, other contributors may only be listed by initials or first name and may not show a town or

date. The table entries are sorted by place and then by last name to aid in identifying any FAN clubs of women who submitted recipes.

Browse the full cookbook on HathiTrust (<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.31822031038037>) and admire the skills and abilities of female ancestors. Modern readers accustomed to step-by-step cooking instructions will be amazed at the lack of measured amounts, specified temperatures, or cooking times. The recipes assume a common understanding of cooking procedures with the reader, almost like chefs sharing trade secrets. In a chapter on sauces, Rosa de la Barrera writes in the broadest terms:

*Se ponen en una olla las tajada de la carne que se quiera, ya cocida, con cebollas grandes cabezonas, limpiadas: se sazonan con sal, pimienta, clavo, canela, una ramita de tomillo y una o dos hojas de laurel, y se reboga todo con aceite...*<sup>3</sup>

Put in a pot the slices of the meat you want, already cooked, with large, cleaned onions: season with salt, pepper, cloves, cinnamon, a sprig of thyme, and one or two bay leaves, and sauté all with oil ...



The selection of recipes in *Cocina michoacana* is a blend of traditional dishes and European influences. Food enthusiasts may enjoy the regional recipes: *mole tarasco*, *mole tapatío*, *mole oaxaqueño* and *mole michoacano*. Enjoy spending time in the kitchens of 19th century Mexican women and get a taste of your ancestor's past. ★

## Endnotes

1. Vicenta Torres de Rubio, *Cocina Michoacana* (Zamora: Imprenta Moderna, 1896); digital images, *HathiTrust* (<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.31822031038037>): accessed 24 April 2023).
2. Jeffrey M. Pilcher, "Tamales or Timbales: Cuisine and the Formation of Mexican National Identity, 1821-1911," *The Americas* 53 (October 1996): pp. 193-216, e-journal (<https://doi.org/10.2307/1007616>): accessed 24 April 2023).
3. Torres de Rubio, *Cocina Michoacana*, 148.

**About Joy Oria:** Houston native Joy Oria helped customers discover their family history at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research for seven years before enrolling in the University of North Texas graduate program for library science with a concentration in archival studies. She has spoken nationally on Hispanic genealogical research and completed the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy course "Advanced Hispanic Research" in 2020. Her earlier career experiences include zookeeper and park ranger.

# Untangling the Lives of Individuals Who Share the Same Name

by Hannah Kubacak,  
Genealogy Reference Librarian, Waco-McLennan County Library

Inevitably, every family historian bemoans the challenge of sorting out the differences between individuals who share the same name. The puzzle can be difficult enough when the two are a father and son, but the situation can be made even more confusing when a cousin, uncle, or a few apparently random strangers are thrown into the mix.

Often researchers find that these individuals may have spouses, children, or parents with similar names. Variations in reported ages and places of birth between records make the question of identity even harder to answer.

Identifying the correct individual is essential to compiling accurate and well-documented information in the family tree. To resolve issues of confusing identities, there are several strategies that can be employed.

## Research Your Ancestor's Name-Doubles

If someone else shares a name with your ancestor and their name is popping up in your research, you cannot ignore them. Even if this person shares no obvious ties to your family, researching their life will help you better evaluate the records of your ancestor. This is crucial if, in addition to a shared name, any of the following statements are true:

- They were born/lived/are buried in a geographically similar area.
- They are of a similar age.
- They had similar occupations in a comparable time period (including military service).
- They are often mentioned in the same newspaper searches.
- They often appear in the same indexes.

Researching the name-double (or doubles) will make it easier for you to evaluate whether a record belongs to your ancestor or another person. Research involves more than just keeping in mind that multiple people had the same name. You'll need to make an intentional effort to track those name-doubles so you can separate them into different people.

Use a timeline to keep track of the information you find about each individual. As more information is found, the evaluation process will often become



easier. Using a spreadsheet program like Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets, you can set up a table like the one shown below. A spreadsheet allows you to easily add a new line for a date as new records are found. The headings shown in the template of table 1 are intentionally kept simple to make it easy to glance at a summary of the key details for each individual.

## Clear Your Preconceptions

Ignore the information in online trees and written family histories – including your own research. Often information is incorrectly linked in online trees or added prematurely. Instead, start with one record you know is truly your ancestor or their name-double. Carefully evaluate each record as you add it into your timeline. As with any genealogical research, keep an open mind with regards to variations in spelling, dates, and birthplaces that appear in different records.

The example in table 2 shows how the headstones of three individuals who

Table 1: Ancestors' Name-Doubles Spreadsheet Template

|      | Individual 1 |       | Individual 2 |       | Individual 3 |       |
|------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| YEAR | Event        | Place | Event        | Place | Event        | Place |
| XXXX |              |       |              |       |              |       |

# Follow the Families

by Russell A. Rahn

A marriage certificate from the state of Mississippi, dated 1888, suggested the possibility of further research into the families involved. It did not take long to determine that the married couple was African American.

In the marriage document, shown in figure 1, the name of the groom was given as Eli O'Neal (also seen in records as O'Neal and Oneal) and the bride was Eliza Richardson. As they lived in southern Mississippi just a few decades following the Civil War, I imagined that tracing their lineage could very well be more daunting than I had imagined when I first saw the certificate.

While some records were easily found, I suddenly discovered the great value of following the suggestions of Susan Ball in her article on maps in genealogical research.<sup>1</sup> In it, she points out the importance of the FAN club, which refers to "Friends, Associates, and Neighbors." In simple terms, it means that when you find someone in the records, especially something like the census records, do not stop searching with that one person. Look up and down the page on which your record is found to see who was living down the street or down the road. The census taker did not jump haphazardly all over the county on his pogo stick when taking the census. The enumerator generally went in a direct line down the block or down the road, and thus we can discover who these

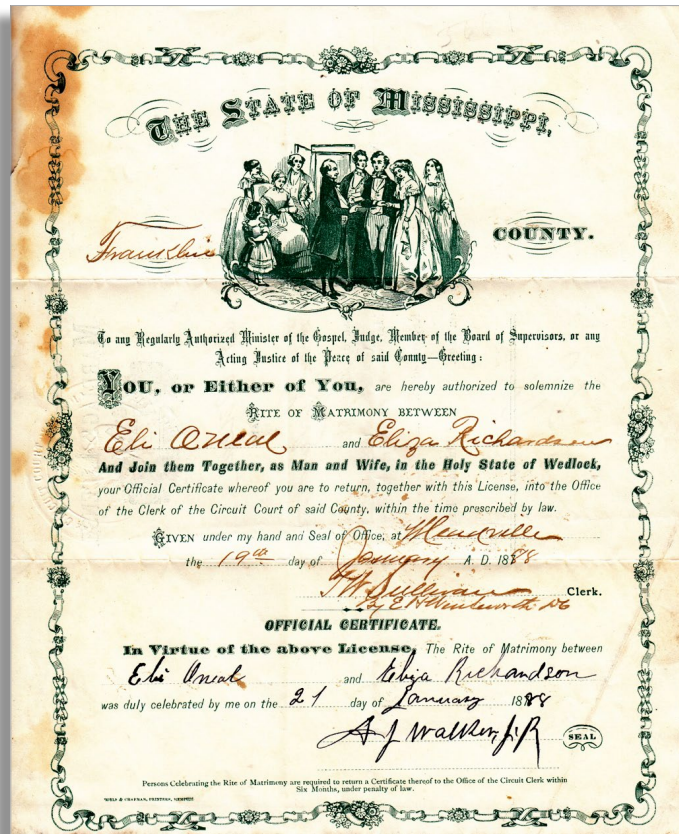


Figure 1: Franklin County, Mississippi, marriage certificate for Eli O'Neal and Eliza Richardson dated 19 January 1888.

neighbors really were.

The light came on for me when looking at the 1880 U.S. Census for Franklin County, Mississippi. In 1880, Eliza Richardson was living with her siblings in the household of George and Easter Richardson. Her implied year of birth was approximately 1873, making her 15 years of age at the time of her marriage in 1888.

By scrolling up and down the page, I found two additional Richardson families, with the heads of those households being Warren and Orrin

Richardson. Looking still further to the right on the sheet, I discovered that all three of these heads of household gave Mississippi as the state of their birth, and Virginia as the state of birth for their fathers. These men, found on page 40 of this enumeration, certainly appear to be related.

It was time to turn the page. On page 41, I found an additional Richardson household and three O'Neal households. All of these folks were living within very close proximity of each other. Hopefully they were friends; definitely they were neighbors.

Going a bit further "down the block," I discovered Eli O'Neal living in the household of John F. Porter as a household servant. Eliza

lived in dwelling number 332 while Eli was in dwelling 354. I believed that could certainly be close enough for courtship.

I then searched back two decades to the census reports for 1860 and 1870. Only one such larger family was located: the household of Robert and Nancy O'Neal. No additional associations could be found, and I have not been able to establish any firm relationship between the Robert O'Neal household and the other

# Walking in our Great-Great-Grandfather's Footsteps

by Mary Anthony Startz

In September 2022, just two weeks shy of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the North Fork of the Red River, my sister Molly Fernandez de Mesa and I joined the Order of the Indian Wars on a tour of seven Texas 19th century forts.

The Order of Indian Wars is an educational organization founded to study and preserve the history of the Indian Wars.<sup>1</sup> A lecture series is held each spring in Denver, Colorado, and a field trip to various historical sites across the U.S. occurs in the fall. These lectures and trips provide information and in-depth study on the United States military history of Indian warfare, including Native American conflicts against each other, with emigrant settlers, or with soldiers. The order also preserves and protects important sites associated with historical Indian Wars and encourages individuals and groups to aid in their communities' preservation efforts. Once these sites are gone, they can never be regained.

My sister and I wanted to follow the journey of our second-great-grandfather, Medal of Honor recipient William McNamara, who served in most of these forts after the Civil War and into the late 1870s. From his registers of enlistment and 4th Cavalry reports, we know he was at Fort Concho, Fort Griffin, Fort McKavett, and Fort Richardson during the early 1870s as 4th Cavalry commander Ranald Mackenzie began his campaign against the Comanche into the Texas Panhandle.

During his decade-long service in Texas, William McNamara participated in engagements against the Kiowa, Comanche, Cheyenne, Kickapoo, and Lipan Apache tribes. He was especially active in engagements at Blanco Canyon, 29 October 1869; North Hubbard Creek, 3 April 1870; Mountain Pass, 14 July 1870; Fresh Water Fork of the Brazos River, 11 October 1871; North Fork of the Red River, 29 September 1872; Kickapoo Springs on the Nueces River, 10 December 1873; Palo Duro Canyon, 28 September 1874; and the Salt Fork of the Red River, 9 October 1874. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry in charging into the main point of Comanche resistance and forcing their retreat at the North Fork of the Red River on 29 September 1872.<sup>2</sup>

During his service, he married Ellen Ryan. Neither the marriage record nor location has been found; however, it probably was around 1866, as their first child William was born in 1867 in Texas. They had three more children before 1872. Maryann was born in 1869 and Ellen in 1870, both in Texas. Our great-grandfather, Thomas, was born in November 1872 in Fort Sill, Indian



*Ruins of 4th Cavalry barracks at Fort McKavett.*

Territory. We wonder if the 4th Cavalry moved families back to Fort Sill in the fall of 1872, as the troops were moving between forts while the Comanche threatened.

Based out of Abilene, Texas, the three-day tour led by the Order of the Indian Wars encompassed Fort Chadbourne, Fort Phantom Hill, Fort Richardson, Fort Belknap, Fort Griffin, Presidio San Saba, Fort McKavett, and Fort Concho. We also toured the Frontier Texas Museum in Abilene, which is worth a visit.

We stopped near the site where the Warren Wagon Train Massacre occurred in May 1871. In the winter of 1872, Captain Wirt Davis and Company F, 4th Cavalry, built at the burial site a monument constructed of oak, pyramidal in shape, and painted olive. Inscribed in black on the monument are the words "sacred to the memory of seven brave men killed at this place on Thursday, May 18, 1871, while in discharge of their duty defending their wagon train against 150 Comanche Indians."<sup>3</sup> Surely William McNamara was here. We would like to think so.

# Tracing Heritage: More than a Surname

by Russell A. Rahn

Having been born in a German family in a very Germanic community in Wisconsin, it should be no surprise that I spoke German as a very young child. However, as fate would have it, America became embroiled in World War II just as I began my elementary education.

One of the local responses to this involvement was for a law to be passed which forbade teaching in the German language. So much for bilingual education in America. It also did not take long for the newly mandated language to replace the one I had first learned.

Although my ability with German is very limited, there are some words and phrases that seem to refuse to be erased from memory. One of these words is the word 'stammhalter.' Directly translated, it becomes "stem holder," but a far better rendition would be "the eldest son who carries on the family name." With this translation, the word takes on some importance when assembling a family tree, since without one of them, the family name dies out as the generations pass.

I recently acquired a document of good genealogical potential, shown in figure 1. It is a baptismal certificate for a person in Minnesota naming both the child and the parents, which is a good beginning for any family tree.

The history of this family in

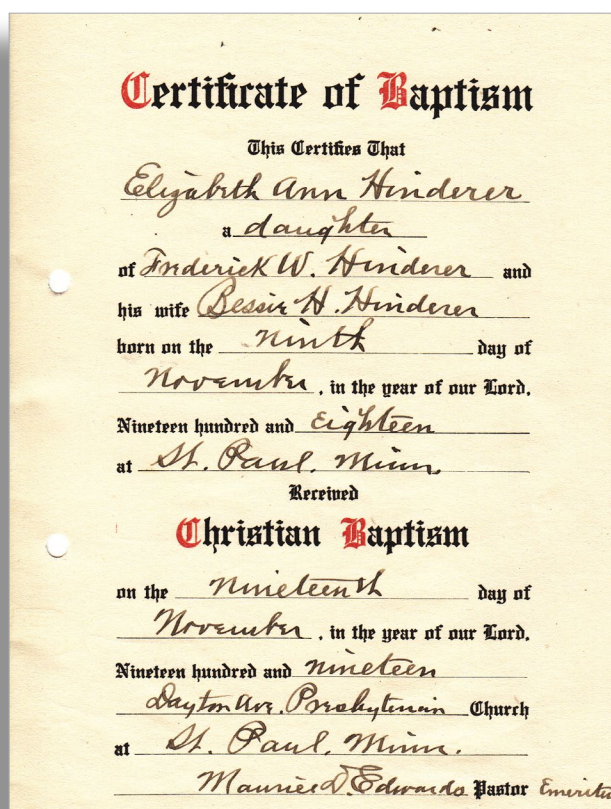


Figure 1: Certificate of Baptism for Elizabeth Ann Hinderer, daughter of Frederick W. and Bessie H. Hinderer, born 19 November 1919 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

America begins with its immigrant ancestor, Johann Georg Hinderer. Born in Rudersberg, Wuerttemberg, Germany, on 20 January 1805, he was the grandfather of the Frederick Hinderer referenced in the baptismal document shown. He married in 1844 and immigrated to the United States in 1854.<sup>1</sup> Living briefly in Michigan and Indiana, he finally settled in St. Paul,

Ramsey County, Minnesota, where he began raising a family.

A first look at the four-generation tree developed of Johann's descendants shown on pages 52 and 53 shows primarily daughters and single sons. Was there a "stammhalter" among the descendants of Johann?

Answering this research question required examination of every census enumeration for every male descendant of Johann starting in 1850, Johann's first census after immigration. Following each male each decade was critical for identifying any marriages and subsequent children.

Locating these census records proved difficult, as the Hinderer surname was apparently hard for the enumerator to understand and, once written, challenging for the abstractor to read. Variations included spellings such as Henatinn, Hinderen, Henderer, Henry, Hinetrier, Hunderer, and more. A judicious use of wild-card search characters such as "\*" and "?" helped with the investigation.

This decennial search through Johann's descendants showed they were educated and industrious. Of the first generation, Charles began making cigars and eventually owned a cigar manufacturing company. John worked



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