

THE JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

Starirpes

Curating Your Family Collection

***for Future
Generations***



Contents

Features

TxSGS Focus

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>10 Volunteer of the Year: Walter Steets</p> <p>11 TxSGS Honors Three with Fellow Designation</p> <p>15 40 Boxes and 4 Filing Cabinets: Now What?
by Emily Coffman Richardson</p> <p>20 Streamlining Your Family History Archive
by Nancy Gilbride Casey</p> <p>22 Archival Storage for the Family Collection
by Melody Hooper Woods</p> <p>28 Creating A Personal Data Backup Plan
by Tony Hanson</p> <p>36 Converting “Stuff” Into a Lasting Legacy
by Emily Coffman Richardson</p> <p>38 Why Write if You Have No Descendants?
by Beth Leggieri and Sally Austin</p> <p>40 Genealogy Wishes For The Holidays</p> <p>42 TNG: The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding
as Your Personal Digital Repository
by Melody Hooper Woods</p> <p>46 Your Family’s History for All to See
by Jim Thornhill</p> <p>48 Rescuing Your Genealogy From the Dump
by Susan E. Ball</p> <p>52 Introducing New Officers for the 2024-2025 Term</p> <p>56 Preserving Your Research Through Writing
by Emily Coffman Richardson</p> <p>61 No Descendants? No Problem! Where to Donate
Your Genealogical Materials
by Nancy Gilbride Casey</p> <p>64 Preservation from Film to the Cloud and Everything in Between
by Sandra J. Crowley</p> | <p>Editorial Policy 2</p> <p>From the Editors’ Pen 3</p> <p>New Members & More 4</p> <p>Volunteer Spotlight 5</p> <p>2023 TxSGS Awards Ceremony 7</p> <p>2023 TxSGS
Family History Conference 30</p> <p>TxSGS 2023 Annual Business Meeting
Highlights by Sandra J. Crowley 50</p> <p>TxSGS Partner Society Roundup 68</p> <p>Texas Heritage Certificates 77</p> <p>TxSGS Leadership 81</p> <p>Policies of the Texas
State Genealogical Society 82</p> |
|--|---|

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.)

The words Certified Genealogist and letters CG are registered certification marks, and the designations CGL and Certified Genealogical Lecturer are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists®, used under license by board certificants after periodic evaluation.

From the *Editors' Pen*



*I*t's 2024! The beginning of a new year is a great time to take stock of your genealogical collection, whether it's a few folders or dozens of boxes and files. Is it organized? What steps are you taking to preserve it?

This issue of *Stirpes* provides a roadmap for transforming your accumulation of stuff to a legacy your family will cherish. The first step is organizing your collection. Emily Coffman Richardson shows how she is meeting this challenge with her mother's research files in "40 Boxes and 4 File Cabinets: Organizing Genealogy Research." Once you get tagged as the family genealogist, you'll find yourself gifted with a host of items, including many that don't belong to your family. In "Streamlining Your Family History Archive," Nancy Gilbride Casey provides a few examples of how to distribute those items.

As you organize your genealogy, take steps to preserve those precious documents and mementos you've collected. Melody Hooper Woods provides preservation "how-tos" for physical documents and photos in "Archival Storage for the Family Collection." In "TNG: The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding as Your Personal Digital Repository," Melody discusses how to implement an online family tree using TNG as a digital repository and a means for sharing your family history virtually. Internet Archive can also become a digital repository. Jim Thornhill shows how in "Your Family's History for All to See."

For digital files stored on your personal devices, "Creating a Personal Backup Plan" by Tony Hanson covers the basics of backing up your data, a key element in preserving your family history. Sandra J. Crowley gives tips for dealing with old media in "Preservation from Film to the Cloud and Everything in Between."

"Preserving Your Research Through Writing" by Emily Coffman Richardson discusses how to get started writing your family history. Storytelling is a tried-and-true method for engaging family members in genealogy while also leaving a treasured legacy for your descendants. "Why Write If You Have No Descendants?" by Beth Leggieri and Sally Austin shows the value of your family's story even if you do not have a genealogical heir in your family.

The further we get into our family history, the more we yearn to leave a legacy for our descendants. A trio of articles addresses how to ensure our decades of research is treasured. "Rescuing Your Genealogy from the Dump" by Susan E. Ball uses a real-life scenario to illustrate basic tips for finding a future home for your genealogy. Nancy Gilbride Casey gives tips for finding a recipient for your family history collection in "No Descendants? No Problem! Where to Donate Your Genealogical Materials." "Converting 'Stuff' Into a Lasting Legacy" by Emily Coffman Richardson shows a technique for conveying the background and importance of family history treasures to genealogy heirs.

This issue also includes TxSGS

articles to keep members and readers abreast of events. "TxSGS 2023 Annual Business Meeting Highlights" provides an overview of 2023 accomplishments and 2024 plans. Winners announced at the 2023 Awards Ceremony are listed in "2023 Awards Ceremony." Presidential honors conveyed at the awards ceremony are highlighted in "TxSGS Honors Three with Fellow Designation," "Volunteer of the Year," and "Volunteer Spotlight."

"2023 TxSGS Family History Conference" shares the highlights of this highly anticipated annual event. *Stirpes* applauds conference volunteers with "Recognition and Acknowledgments." Sponsors, exhibitors, and door prize donors are noted in this issue as well.

We especially want to draw your attention to the incoming TxSGS board of directors in "Introducing New Officers for the 2024-2025 Term." Two additional board members are announced in "Meet Our Recently Appointed District Representatives."

Be sure to read the "Partner Society Roundup" for genealogical society news from TxSGS's Partner Societies across Texas. You might find an event of interest in your area.

Finally, in this 2023 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

Volunteer Spotlight

TxSGS is fortunate to be sustained by dedicated volunteers who passionately support TxSGS and its mission. Some of these volunteers have invested numerous hours over many years to TxSGS events, programs, and projects. At the Annual Business Meeting on December 1, 2023, President Susan E. Ball highlighted efforts of eight volunteers who made a difference this year for TxSGS and genealogists who live and research in Texas.

Certificates of Appreciation

TxSGS showed appreciation to five outstanding volunteers through a Certificate of Appreciation. As a member of the sponsors and exhibitors committee for her second year, **Barbara Coakley** was responsible for soliciting sponsors and exhibitors and coordinating deliverables from them for their booths at the fall conference. Acting as *TxSGS Live!* host for the fourth year, TxSGS Director of Education **Susan Kaufman** added that extra pizzazz that won rave reviews from conference attendees. **Nancy Gilbride Casey's** writing and editing skills have added depth to the *Stirpes* editorial team. Her keen eye for grammar and knowledge of endnote formatting are a bonus greatly appreciated by the *Stirpes* editors.

Thank you Barbara, Susan, and Nancy!



Barbara Coakley



Susan Kaufman



Nancy Gilbride Casey

Presidential Citations

President Susan Ball conveyed Presidential Citations on those volunteers who provided outstanding service to TxSGS in 2023. The first recipient was TxSGS Director of Membership, **Tony Hanson**. Tony is passionate about society management. For the third 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. Attendees have raved about the timely topics

he's planned. Based on feedback, society leaders are implementing what they've learned to good effect in their societies.

In early 2022, **Emily Richardson** conceived the concept of a podcast focused on genealogy resources in Texas. Launched in April 2022, the TxSGS *Lone Star Family Trails* podcast has since recorded 14 episodes, reaching an expanding audience of genealogists across Texas with insights on repositories, archives, and unique Texas resources.

Bill Buckner, chair of the Awards Committee, has served in this position for a decade. His leadership has made this program a driving force in preservation of family history and records through quality publications by individuals and societies. Each year competition grows stronger, a testament to the increasing quality of submissions. With his guidance, the Awards Program added a new category this year for blogs, recognizing their importance in recording family history and genealogy.

In addition to her regular financial responsibilities, **Betsy Mills**, TxSGS treasurer, served as TIGR and conference registrar. Whether ensuring that registrations are processed efficiently, payments expedited on time, or preparing financial reports, it's her attention to the details that stands out.

Thank you Tony, Emily, Bill, and Betsy!



Tony Hanson



Emily Richardson



Bill Buckner



Betsy Mills

Presidential Commendation

A special honor was bestowed on **Sandra Crowley**, director of development. As in past years, Sandra worked tirelessly in 2023 in almost all aspects of TxSGS. She served as administrator of TIGR 2023 as well as chair of the budget and the nomination committees. A driving force behind TIGR 2023, Sandra managed many of the details involved in presenting seven parallel virtual events. Among her many responsibilities for the 2023 TxSGS Family



Sandra Crowley

History Conference, Sandra worked with Playback Now to ensure the conference ran smoothly. In addition to co-editing *Stirpes*, Sandra created seven TIGR syllabi and 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 Lock-In in October. Sandra's efforts contribute directly to TxSGS's success and the quality of our events and publications. Thank you, Sandra, very much – we couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you all from TxSGS and TIGR 2023!

TxSGS Lone Star Family Trails Podcast Launch a Success

New episodes available monthly



Catch up on episodes in our podcast library at

<https://www.txsgs.org/lone-star-family-trails-podcast-library/>

Episode #101

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

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

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

The Portal to Texas History
Host: Randy Whited; Guest: Jake Magnum, UNT Program Development Librarian at University of North Texas in Denton

Episode #105

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

Episode #106

Texas Archives of the Moving Image (TAMI)
Host: Susan Kaufman; Guest: Elizabeth Hansen, Managing Director of the Texas Archive of the Moving Image

Episode #107

Houston Public Library – Family History Research Center at the Clayton Library Campus
Host: Randy Whited; Guest: Sue Kaufman, Senior Manager, Clayton Library Campus

Episode #108

Texas General Land Office
Host: Sue Kaufman; Guest: James Harkins, Director of Public Services for the Texas General Land Office Archives and Records Program.

Episode #109

Texas Institute of Genealogical Research (TIGR)
Host: Emily Richardson; Guest: Kelvin L. Meyers, TIGR Director

Episode #110

Houston Public Library, African American History Research Center, At the Gregory School
Host: Sue Kaufman; Guest: Miguell Ceasar, Manager

Episode #111

Franklin County Genealogical Society
Host: Ginny Fields; Guest: Jana Capps and Don Easterling

Episode #112

Dallas Public Library – Genealogy & History Division
Host: Tony Hanson; Guest: Ari Wilkins, Public Service Specialist

Episode #113

Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College, Hillsboro, Texas
Host: Ron Barnett
Guest: John R Verslius, Dean of the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College, Hillsboro, Texas

Episode #114

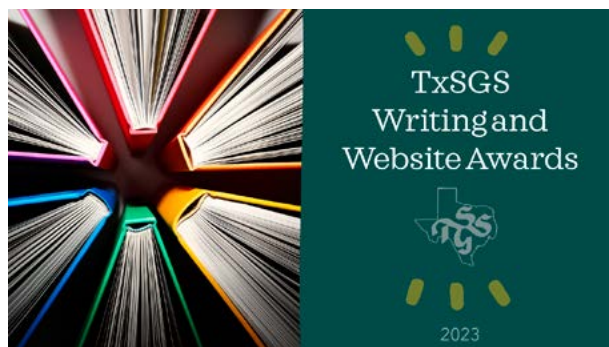
West Waco-McLennan Genealogy Center
Host: Sue Kauffman
Guest: Bill Buckner, Genealogy Supervisor of the Genealogy Center

2023 TxSGS Awards Ceremony

The 2023 TxSGS Awards Ceremony, which took place on Friday, December 1, was truly an exceptional event that celebrated the art of genealogical writing and publication. Attendees were treated to a diverse array of genealogical narratives and insights into the stories behind each submission.

Congratulations to all the authors, editors, societies, compilers, indexers, transcribers, and webmasters who submitted their work for consideration. Their dedication and passion for preserving and sharing family histories were evident, and the awards served as a fitting tribute to their efforts.

The TxSGS Awards Program presents awards in the categories of books, manuscripts, periodicals, websites, student projects, and the newest award category, blogs by individuals or Partner Societies. In all, 32 prizes in 15 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 blogs and



websites. TxSGS thanks the chairs of the various categories including Pat Gordon, manuscripts; Karen Stein Daniel, periodicals; Bill Buckner, books; Pat Metcalfe, student projects; Jaycie M. Smith, blogs; and Randy Whited, websites, along with the judges they recruited.

To view a video of the 2023 Awards Ceremony, visit our website at <https://www.txsgs.org/2023-award-recipients/>. Entry requirements for submitting can be found at: <http://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/writing-awards/>. We encourage you to begin or continue your writing journey and consider entering in 2024. Judging criteria are subject to change, so please check the website prior to submitting your entry.

Book Awards

Chair: Bill Buckner

Grand Prize (\$400)

Winds & Bloodlines: Our People, Our Stories (2023) by Kathryn Brogdon



Category I: Books by Non-Professional / Family History

1st Place (\$200)

Some Descendants of Thomas Williamson the Elder of (Old) Rappahannock County, Virginia (2023) by Michael Vaughn

Category I: Books by Non-Professional / References

1st Place (\$200)

Chandler Cemetery and Its People: 1882-September 2022 by Jaycie M. Smith

2nd Place (\$100)

Sulphur Springs, Texas: a Pictorial History by Julie Parker

3rd Place (\$50)

A Collection of Stories: Life and Legacy of Bernardo de Gálvez (2023) by Rueben M. Perez

Category VII: Books Published by Partner Societies

1st Place (\$200)

Breaking Through Walls: Proven Methods and Sources to Break Down Genealogical Brick Walls (2023) by Leslie Watson Tomlinson (San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society)

2nd Place (\$100)

Czech Churches (2023) (Texas Czech Genealogical Society)

3rd Place (\$50)

Veterans of Runnels County Volume VI, Books 1-5 (2023) (Runnels County Historical Commission)

Manuscript Awards

Chair: Pat Gordon

Category III: Manuscripts (Non-Professional)

1st Place (\$100)

"The Conrad and Marie (Otto) Flaig Family: Embracing German American Culture in San Antonio, Texas" (published in *Stirpes*, v. 63, no. 1, March 2023, pgs. 24-33) by Larry W. Luckett

2nd Place (\$50)

"Analyze Your Ancestor's FAN Club with Spreadsheets" (published in *Stirpes*, v. 62, no. 2, June 2023, pgs. 15-19) by Nancy Gilbride Casey

3rd Place (\$30)

"Genealogical Observations and Y-DNA Findings for Luis Peña (1820-1890) of Nacogdoches, Texas" (published in *Stirpes*, v. 62, no. 1, March 2023, pgs. 34-39) by Richard Peña

Category III: Manuscripts (Professional)

1st Place (\$100)

"Untangling the Lives of Individuals Who Share the Same Name" (published in *Stirpes*, v. 62, no. 2, June 2023, pgs. 38-42) by Hannah Kubacak

2nd Place (\$50)

"Passengers on the Grand Condé to the Republic of Texas From Le Havre, France in 1842" (published in *Stirpes*, v. 61, no. 4, December 2022, pgs. 13-20) by Karen Stein Daniel

Blog Awards

Chair: Jaycie M. Smith

Category IV: Blogs (Individual)

1st Place (\$100)

"Leaves on the Tree," by Nancy Gilbride Casey (<https://myleavesonthetree.blogspot.com/>)

2nd Place (\$50)

"Fortitude, A Family History Narrative," by Dale Spalding (<https://dalespaulding.com/blog>)

Category IV: Blogs (Partner Societies)

1st Place (\$100)

San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society (<https://saghs-tx.org/blog-php?sid=4>)

Periodical, Quarterly, and Journal Awards

Chair: Karen Stein Daniel

Category VI: Official Periodicals of Partner Societies / Newsletters

1st Place (\$100)

DCGS News, Denton County Genealogical Society, Nancy Gilbride Casey, editor

2nd Place (\$50)

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

3rd Place (\$30)

SAGHS Newsletter, San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, Barbara Holmes, 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)

Hopkins County Heritage (Hopkins County Genealogical Society), CarolAnn Dixon, editor

3rd Place (\$30)

The Clayton Advocate (The Clayton Library Friends), Pat Palmer Metcalfe, editor

Category VI: Official Periodicals of Partner Societies / Journals

1st Place (\$100)

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

2nd Place (\$50)

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

3rd Place (\$30)

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

Category VIII: Student Projects

Chair: Patricia Metcalfe

1st Place (\$100)

Jeffrey Collins, Elementary Grades 4-6 (Sponsor:
Jessica Horne Collins)

1st Place (\$100)

Jonathan Collins, Intermediate Grades 7-9 (Sponsor:
Jessica Horne Collins)

1st Place (\$100)

Evan William Cheek, Secondary Grades 10-12
(Sponsor: Patti Huff Smith)

Website Awards

Chair: Randy Whited

Category I: Website for a Partner Society

1st Place (\$100)

Dallas Genealogical Society (www.dallasgenealogy.org), Todd DeDecker, webmaster

2nd Place (\$75)

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

**Category II: Website for an Individual
(Personal Genealogy)**

1st Place (\$100)

My Family History by Kathleen Murray (www.rayson.us.KRMurray/)

2nd Place (\$75)

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

**Category II: Website for an Individual
(General Genealogy)**

1st Place (\$100)

Jaeger Witte Heritage Cemetery Association by George Zemanek (jwhca.com)



Deadline for TxSGS Award Submissions

September 15, 2024*



The Texas State Genealogical Society recognizes individual and society excellence in the genealogical community with several awards. Winners are announced year at our Awards Ceremony.

Visit the TxSGS website for categories, guidelines,
and additional details.

www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants

Submissions must be received by September 15, 2024.

**Committee must receive submissions by deadline to be considered.*

Volunteer of the Year: **Walter Steets**

Nominated by the Houston Genealogical Forum

TxSGS recognizes a worthy individual as Volunteer of the Year to acknowledge their value to genealogy societies and commitment to the mission of their organization.

Nominated by Partner Societies, candidates are judged on their genealogical or historical research, service to the society, service to their community, and service to a local or genealogical library. The volunteer's service must have been within the last two years, and the nominee must be a member in good standing in the Partner Society at the time of nomination.

The 2023 Volunteer of the Year is Walter Steets of the Houston Genealogical Forum (HGF). Walter began making an impact on HGF by working with the HGF website. At the time, the society was struggling financially and membership was dwindling. The website was costing a great deal of money and time. Walter guided the HGF board through the process of creating a new website

and spent a significant amount of time creating it from scratch. He has supported HGF as their webmaster for seven years.

From this beginning with HGF, Walter became a critical member of the HGF team. He guided HGF as they transitioned to virtual meetings during COVID and hybrid meetings after COVID. When better presentation equipment was needed for these hybrid meetings, Walter researched the options and made recommendations appropriate for the needs of HGF.

Walter has been a key factor in the success of other HGF activities and projects. His website acumen led him to create a website for the Houston Suffragists Project (<https://houstonsuffragists.org/>) that included



geocoded layered maps and an analysis/statistics page. While he was chair of the DNA special interest group, his classes helped many to untangle DNA results and find answers.

Walter has made significant contributions to HGF which continue today. According to Deborah Turkelson, president of HGF, "Walter exemplifies the very best volunteer in our society. He is selfless and dedicated to the work of our special HGF groups and to providing educational opportunities for our members and the community at large."

Thank you, Walter, for your wholehearted support of your local genealogical society! ★

Do you have Early Texas Ancestors?

Submit your DNA to the Early Texans DNA Project!

- Learn which parts of your DNA are linked to other early Texans.
- Facilitate your application for TxSGS's heritage certificate programs.
- Confirm documentary trail by correlating DNA with related descendants.
- Find cousins who may be able to expand your knowledge of your Early Texas ancestor!

Your DNA will contribute to an understanding of early Texas history by.

- Determining which admixtures are found in living Texans,
- Linking those admixtures to early settlements in Texas colonies, and
- Determining Y-DNA and mtDNA signatures for early Texas settlers.

Who is eligible?

Group 1: Descendants of Republic of Texas settlers and early Mexican and Spanish colonists – those who settled Texas before 19 February 1846.

Group 2: Descendants of early settlers of the state of Texas who arrived by 31 December 1900.

Interested? Learn more at <http://www.txsgs.org/programs/dna-project/>

Questions? Email dna@txsgs.org

All reasonable efforts will be made to maintain the privacy of project members while sharing non-identifying information that may help researchers link to Early Texas ancestors

TxSGS Honors Three with Fellow Designation

TxSGS is pleased to announce that the honor of TxSGS Fellow was conferred on three individuals who, between them, have provided genealogical education and insights to thousands of genealogists in Texas and across the U.S.

Colleen Robledo Green, MLIS, Ari Wilkins, and

Kelvin L. Meyers are each named TxSGS Fellow. The designation was bestowed on Colleen, Kelvin, and Ari on Friday, December 1, at the virtual 2023 TxSGS Awards Ceremony.

To be designated a Fellow, the honoree must have made significant contributions either to TxSGS over a period of several years or made significant contributions of state-wide impact on the Texas genealogical community.

Colleen Robledo Greene, MLIS

Colleen Robledo Greene, MLIS, is an academic librarian, college educator, and tech nerd who lives and works in Orange County, California. By day, Colleen is the digital scholarship librarian at California State University, Fullerton, where her primary work involves helping other faculty integrate more digital tools and strategies into their teaching and curriculum and helping faculty and students integrate those same tools into their research and scholarship. She frequently guest teaches in history classes, introducing students to genealogical methods and sources. Colleen has also taught an online, graduate-level genealogy research methods and librarianship course for the School of Information at San Jose State University since 2016. Her students are future librarians and archivists who gain a solid introduction to the Genealogical Proof Standard while also learning how to deliver high-quality genealogy video instruction and research assistance to their patrons.

In her spare time, Colleen is a nationally recognized genealogy educator and speaker specializing in methodology; Mexican, Chicano, and

Hispanic research; libraries and archives; and technology. She is a regular presenter at TxSGS conferences and for Legacy Family Tree Webinars, for whom she coordinates their Mexico Research Series. Colleen has served as faculty in courses for Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), SLIG Academy for Professionals, and the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR). She co-coordinated, with Kelvin Meyers, the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research (TIGR) 2021 course "From Spanish Rule to the Republic: Researching in the Lone Star State," and she coordinated the TIGR 2023 course "Researching Families of Mexican Descent on Both Sides of the Border."

Colleen became interested in genealogy in 1997 when her beloved maternal grandfather, Michael John Flanagan (1927 – 1997), died. Orphaned young, Michael did not learn the names of his parents until he had children of his own and did not know anything about his family except that they were Irish. Michael later reconnected with one of his brothers, but still sought many answers to questions he never learned. Having



studied history in college, Colleen started trying to learn more about how to research her grandfather's childhood. When she expressed her interests to a history professor, that professor sent Colleen to the nearby National Archives facility to seek help. The friendly archivists gave her some starting tips, told her about the genealogy classes they offered each month, and referred her to the local genealogical society. Those first classes and connections provided her start at doing genealogy research.

Colleen proudly refers to herself as a Latina Leprechaun. Her own family history research focuses most heavily on her Mexican half. Colleen's Mexican ancestors hail from the Mexican states of San Luis Potosí, Chihuahua, Durango, Tamaulipas, and Nuevo Leon,

as well as from Texas, New Mexico, and California. In recent years, Colleen started dabbling in learning about Irish genealogy, and she looks forward to focusing her learning time on that more next year.

A well-known expert in Mexican and Mexican American genealogy, Colleen noted early on the disparity in related educational offerings provided at most mainstream (non-Hispanic-focused) genealogy conferences,

institutes, societies, and libraries. In response, she strives to provide education for the underserved Hispanic genealogy community. Colleen recognizes TxSGS's emphasis in ethnic research, "TxSGS has prioritized Mexican and Hispanic genealogy education since at least 2015 when I first spoke at their conference, which is why I continue to prioritize teaching for TxSGS." Colleen epitomizes the criteria for

TxSGS Fellow for her transformational impact on Hispanic research. Her educational acumen is shown in her approach, preparation, and delivery. She emphasizes the need for quality research and works to provide insight into difficult research problems facing those with Hispanic interests. Colleen's commitment to continuing education for all genealogists, especially Hispanic researchers, enriches all of Texas genealogists.

Ari Wilkins

Ari Wilkins is a genealogist who has been actively researching family history for over twenty-five years. As a lecturer, she has spoken nationally at the National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference, TIGR, IGHR, SLIG, the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), RootsTech, and a multitude of state and local societies. She was also the coordinator of the African American course for TIGR in 2021 and 2023.

Ari first became involved in genealogical research when her paternal grandfather passed away in 1998. "Suddenly, I became obsessed with all of the family stories and photographs that he shared with me throughout my childhood," she recalled. "I wanted to document everything that he told me. At the same time, I realized that I had the opportunity to interview my grandmother about what she knew and all the documents that the family held."

This desire to record her family's story and their history led Ari to a class in beginning genealogy that taught her how to document her research and common records used in family history research. At the time,

she was working as an interior designer and spending her nights and weekends consumed with research. Attending genealogical institutes and seminars furthered Ari's expertise; she joined societies and became active in special interest groups. Her activities led to being asked to assist the esteemed genealogist, Dr. James Rose. For years, Ari contributed with research and helped publish his final project, "Generations: The WPA Ex-Slave Narrative Database." Her research with Dr. Rose led to a full-time grant position in genealogy research.

Asked about a memorable accomplishment or genealogy project, Ari shared:

Growing up, my family moved as my father was transferred from one state to another. In the late eighties, we moved to Rapides Parish, Louisiana. It was here that I attended and graduated from high school. The entire time that we lived there, my family considered this town to be an arbitrary place to which we had no ties.

Many years later, when I was deep into my genealogical research, I discovered that my third-great-grandfather, who was enslaved in North Carolina, had been sent to



Louisiana by his enslaver. For many years, he toiled in Rapides Parish on a sugar plantation. I found him there and was able to document his movements using the plantation records. This was the very same parish where I had lived – and I had no clue about my personal connection to this area.

I created a presentation, "Records of Ante Bellum Southern Plantations," using this ancestor as a case study. Later, I was invited by the Alexandria Genealogical and Historical Society to give the presentation. During my visit to Rapides Parish, I had the opportunity to stay on the land where my ancestor was enslaved. It was an incredible and deeply emotional experience.

Additionally, I created a

working database of more than four hundred enslaved people that were documented in the plantation records and other documents from this one slaveholding family.

Ari has served NGS in various capacities including the delegate steering committee and SLAM committee. She also volunteered for the Texas State Genealogical

Society on the executive and annual conference committees. Earlier this year, Ari was awarded the Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award by the Dallas Genealogical Society for her outstanding contributions to the genealogical community on a national level.

A popular speaker, her topics

bring an African American sensibility to her presentations, showing researchers of all backgrounds the African American experience and skills needed to effectively tell their stories. Her contributions and influence on the African American researcher in Texas make her a shining star, one TxSGS has added to the constellation of Fellows.

Kelvin L. Meyers

Kelvin L. Meyers is a fifth generation Texan and has been a professional forensic genealogist since 1996. A frequent speaker to genealogical societies and family associations throughout the United States, he specializes in southern brick wall problems for clients.

When he was quite young, Kelvin listened to his grandmother tell stories of her childhood in central Texas. That early exposure to family stories and a love of history led to an interest in genealogy. When he moved to Dallas in 1984, Kelvin began researching his family history at the Dallas Public Library. At the suggestion from Lloyd Bockstruck, director at the time of the Dallas Public Library Genealogy Section, he applied for a part-time job at the library that turned into full time. With Lloyd's encouragement, he began a career in genealogy.

After leaving the library in 1996 to pursue a career in genealogical research, Kelvin decided to focus on what is now called forensic genealogy. "I work with attorneys and trust officers, identifying missing and unknown heirs to estates," he explained. In June 2022, Kelvin completed a \$3 million case with over 500 heirs. Most recently he did research for the "paper trail" and gave expert witness testimony in a case in

which SNP DNA testing was used for the first time to determine kinship between the decedent and an alleged half-sister.

A 1989 and 1990 alumnus of IGHR at Samford University, Kelvin returned to IGHR as lecturer in the Southern Course and the Professional Courses. In 2019, Kelvin coordinated the "Burned Counties and More: Overcoming Record Loss" for SLIG. He also taught in the popular Fundamentals of Forensics and Beyond Fundamentals courses. Kelvin is a course coordinator at IGHR and at GRIP.

Kelvin is member and president of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) Forensic Genealogy Special Interest Group, a past board member of APG, and a past president of the Lone Star Chapter of APG. He is also the historian/archivist for First United Methodist Church, Dallas. The Dallas Genealogical Society awarded Kelvin the Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award in December of 2018.

In 2016, Kelvin published *Research in Texas* for the NGS *Research in the States* series. Kelvin was instrumental in creating TxSGS's Texas Institute of Genealogical Research (TIGR); he served as director of TIGR from its



2017 inception to 2023.

Through his efforts as TIGR director, Kelvin Meyers brought the TIGR vision to life. Under his leadership, Kelvin grew TIGR from one course in 2017 to seven courses in 2023, a tremendous achievement. As TIGR has grown, so has TxSGS.

Kelvin is a dedicated educator, forensic genealogist, and lecturer. Whether he is researching his own family history, sharing his knowledge with others, or resolving a question forensically, Kelvin inspires other genealogists in Texas and beyond to develop better genealogical skills while giving them the tools to do so. His contributions to genealogical education have significantly impacted TxSGS, reflecting the attributes of a TxSGS Fellow. ★

40 Boxes and 4 Filing Cabinets: **Now What?**

by Emily Coffman Richardson

Filled to the brim with over 60 years of genealogical research, a legacy of 40 boxes and 4 filing cabinets was left to me by my mother upon her death. A note left at the top of the box labeled “open first” made my mother’s wishes clear – “I did the research; you need to figure out how to share it with the world and write their stories so that others will know about our family.”

Assessing the Collection – Boxes First

So, where do you begin when you receive a legacy such as this? You begin by assessing the contents and working to grasp what is contained in the boxes, filing cabinets, or binders. In this case, I decided to start with the boxes, thinking they would be the easiest to review. I planned to open them all, review their contents, and only then decide on what to tackle next.

The boxes’ contents consisted of books, binders, loose papers, smaller boxes, CDs, cassette tapes, and thousands of slides and pictures. I created a log of the items found in each box in a table format. Shown right in table 1 are the logs for a few of the boxes.

Although I had been in and out of my mother’s genealogy room for years, I had no expectations for what was in the boxes. Even so, I was surprised with the number of boxes containing loose papers – four in total. One box consisted of deeds, probates, wills, and vital records. Another box was devoted to my mother’s correspondence with others: copies of each letter written to relatives, courthouses, and researchers. Paper-clipped to each letter was the response if one was returned. In total, over 500 letters spanning her 60 years of research were discovered in the boxes. A third box contained maps of all sizes, shapes, and ages. Some were old-fashioned colorful maps of counties my mother had visited with cemeteries marked. Others were copies from books with land ownership noted.

The fourth box of papers surprised me the most.



A small representation of my mother’s 40-box collection.

Box	Material Included	First Thoughts
Box 3	Filled with books - both hardbound and soft sided	Will need to get 1 to 3 bookshelves; review each to determine whether to keep.
Box 6	Binders – every color, size, some have letters, others have documents by location; finding 3 copies of Coffman line; 2 copies of Yoder lines	Make decisions about what stays in each binder (15); what is scanned and saved; how many copies of things do I need.
Box 18	Cassettes, CDs, and discs	Some of these I can use to learn more about genealogy – need to make sure that I can read all the discs.
Box 24	Loose papers plus small boxes	Find a time to start sorting the loose papers. What is in the small boxes? Don’t get sidetracked!
Box 30	Photo albums	Some of these are from 1941. Others are from my maternal grandfather from 1916 when he graduated from high school. Can these wait until later?
Box 39	Maps, maps, and more maps	They are divided by state and location; why are these needed? They seem old.

Table 1: Logs created for a few of the boxes in my mother’s collection.

Streamlining Your Family History Archive

by Nancy Gilbride Casey

Like many of you, I have become the family archivist and have inherited the heirlooms, memorabilia, documents, photographs, scrapbooks, and ephemera that belonged to my mother, father, and maternal grandmother, as well as my husband's mother, sister, and several grandparents. We call the space where this collection is stored "the archive closet." You may have one of these as well.

And like some of you, as my husband and I face our own aging, we must step into that closet and begin to make some decisions. It's daunting!

Recently, I began to pull down boxes to begin the task of downsizing them. That is challenging, because each item, photo, or card brought back memories – or the urge to conduct further research. Though I still have many boxes to go through, I have managed to discard a few things. Here are a few examples of how I did it – from the creative to the downright utilitarian.

One box was full of **work life items** – lots of paper, some awards, things I kept on my desk. I've been retired for nearly two years. Do I really need all my old resumes or my work notes? I kept a single copy of each of my resumes, which I plan to scan and save to my family tree software. Other items, like personality test results from workshops, recognitions, or conference handouts, I gleefully shredded. That felt good!

In a box of my grandmother's belongings, I found a collection of **funeral cards**. Most of them were for people I did not know. They likely were friends from the senior center she visited, possibly workmates or

customers from her Woolworth's lunch counter days, or fellow parishioners at her church. Still, I hesitated to throw the cards away because they have genealogical value. Some included a woman's maiden name, birthdates, funeral home names, cemetery locations, etc. What to do with these?



My grandmother's collection of funeral cards. I uploaded each to the deceased's Find a Grave memorial or created a memorial if needed.

I hit on the idea of scanning them and uploading them to Find a Grave. I created memorials for those who didn't already have one. I uploaded the

funeral cards (both sides) in the photos section of the memorial with a note that they belonged to my grandmother, Margaret Simonik Kozlina.

Then, I created a spreadsheet of all the names, dates of death, and cemeteries where each was buried. Since Grandma lived in Cleveland, I shared this spreadsheet in a post on the Greater Cleveland Genealogical Society Facebook page, stating that I would happily send originals to anyone who wanted them. So far, no one has reached out, so I will eventually dispose of the cards. Since the cards are saved online, I can rest easy if I choose to discard them.

In a small jewelry box among my husband's grandmother's items, I found a tiny black and white **photo** of a woman. There was no context for the photo, other than the name "Thelma Ratcliff, Crescent, Oklahoma," written in pencil on the back. My father-in-law did not know the woman's identity. After some online research I found her obituary. She had been a teacher in Oklahoma, including Crescent, where my husband's grandmother Claretta Hall Casey had lived. My theory was that she was perhaps Grandma Casey's friend or teacher. What to do with this item, which had no relevance to my husband's family?

In this case, I found a profile for Ms. Ratcliff online on FamilySearch, and uploaded her photo there. I also noticed a contributor to her profile with the same surname, so I messaged him. Turns out he was a distant relation. I offered to send the photo to him, and he gratefully accepted. Her photo has

2023 TxSGS Family History Conference

Held virtually, the 2023 TxSGS Family History Conference featured presentations filled with tips, techniques, and resources for *Climbing Your Family Tree*.

The conference kicked off with *TxSGS Live!*, two days of presentations, each of which was followed by a live Q&A with the speakers. In addition to those two days of topics, another 36 sessions were recorded and are available on demand to registrants through February 10, 2024.

TxSGS Live! starred favorite speakers and a few who were new to the conference: Jim Brewster, Henrietta Martinez Christmas, Debra Dudek, Colleen Robledo Greene, Jean Wilcox Hibben, J. Mark Lowe, Jill Morelli, Diane L. Richard, Renate Yarborough Sanders, and Craig R. Scott.

Returning for her fourth stint as

host of *TxSGS Live!*, Susan Kaufman, TxSGS director of education, kept the day lively with her genealogical knowledge, enthusiasm, and engaging personality.

Sponsors and others contributed six bonus sessions, with topics covering DNA to storytelling. These are available through February 10, 2024, to every person who registered, regardless of the package level they purchased.

The conference's popular Virtual Expo Hall hosted on the Whova platform provided opportunities for attendees to connect with exhibitors, sponsors, and other attendees through "communities." Community boards

included a variety of topics such as "TxGenWeb," "DNA Mysteries," "Multiple Marriages," "Favorite Scanning Apps," "Celtic Connections," and more. The exhibit area featured virtual booths for sponsors and exhibitors listed on pages 32 and 34. Images on this page and the next provide a glance into expo hall activities.

Exhibit booths and engagement opportunities remain open to registrants through February 10, 2024. An interactive photo gallery was available for sharing genealogy photos during the Virtual Expo Hall's initial week, beginning on November 6. Prizes were awarded to the most-liked photos as selected by the viewers.

Attendees for this event came from 28 different states and three


2023 TxSGS Family History Conference
 Nov 6 - 11, 2023

[Home](#)
[Agenda](#)
[Attendees](#)
[Community](#) 42k
[Messages](#) 180
[Photos](#)
[Win a Prize](#)
[Exhibitors & Sponsors](#)
[Resources](#)

[My Stuff](#)

[Feedback to Whova](#)
[Organizer Tips](#)



Join us for the 2023 TxSGS Family History Conference, where we focus on *Roots and Branches: Climbing Your Family Tree*. This year's event kicks off on Friday and Saturday, November 10-11, 2023, with *TxSGS Live!* featuring ten presentations by some of the top speakers in genealogy on research techniques, records, DNA, and more.

That's not all! The conference includes 36 additional pre-recorded lectures from some of your favorite and well-known speakers. The *TxSGS Live!* lectures will be recorded and combined with the pre-recorded lectures to provide you with 46 presentations broken into seven tracks as listed below. Even though you won't be able to see them in person, you will be able to access their lectures online through February 10, 2024.

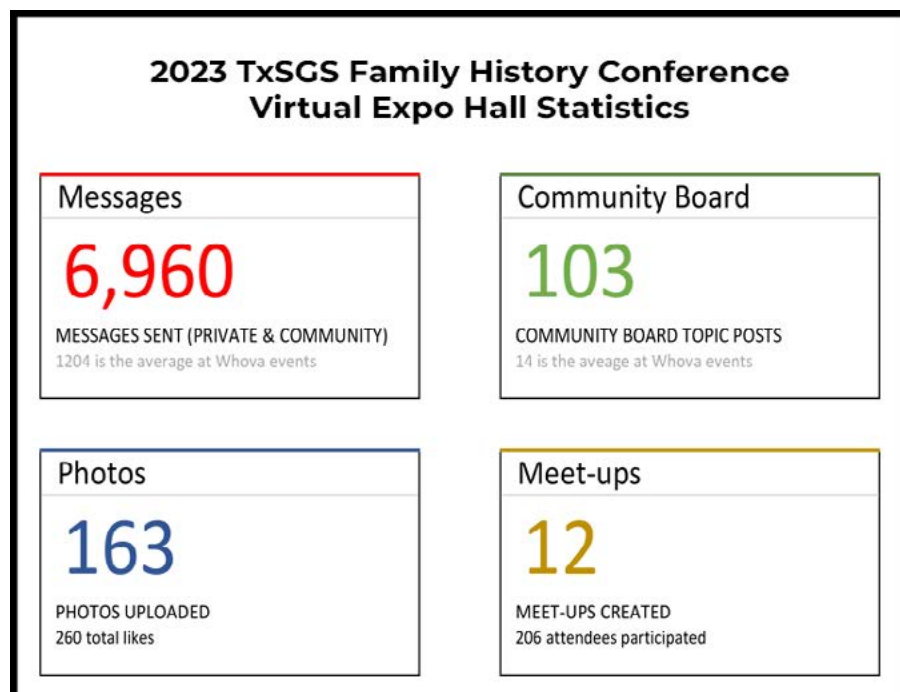
What will take your genealogy research to the next level? The 2023 TxSGS Family History Conference, *Roots and Branches: Climbing Your Family Tree* seeks to help hundreds of attendees discover the tools needed to answer their genealogy questions. Featuring 29 speakers, the TxSGS Family History Conference promises something for everyone.

This year's Family History Conference promises opportunities for learning in a variety of areas, or tracks. Use the tracks to plan your conference experience. Go back and review Family History Conference webinars as often as you like during the replay period.

This event is also available on the Whova Mobile App: [Download Link](#)

countries, including Arkansas, California, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Connecticut, Canada, 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. and other countries to attend this virtual event.

Our experience in "going virtual" the past three years helped us grow and expand the 2023 event. We look forward to meeting in person again at some point in the future. We hope you'll join us at the 2024 TxSGS Family History Conference! ★



A few comments from TxSGS Fall Conference Attendees:

- "... top-tier genealogical education ..."
- "The genealogical presentations, on a wide variety of topics and by so many well-known speakers, were top notch!"
- "Fantastic hosts, sponsors, and exhibitors."
- "... Challenges, games, networking, photo galleries, expo hall, and more!"
- "... [I will] definitely sign up for next year ..."
- "[The Whova platform makes the conference] fun and informative."
- "... one of the best society conferences I have attended."
- "Fascinating lineup of speakers and comprehensive topics."
- "...what a well-organized conference ..."
- "Community topics ... learn, give advice and tips, network, make new friends, and more!"

TNG: The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding as Your Personal Digital Repository

by Melody Hooper Woods

Digital storage solutions for genealogists include personal computers, genealogy desktop software, online cloud services, and genealogy subscription sites. With all the options for storing your digitized family history research, records, and media, why choose TNG: The Next Generation of Sitebuilding as your digital repository?

Online Database

TNG – a web-based software installed on your website, not your computer – is a searchable database that functions as an online digital repository where genealogists, surname projects, societies, locality projects, and family associations can organize, store, preserve, and publicly or privately share family trees, media, sources, and more while maintaining full control. Visit <https://tngsitebuilding.com/usersites.php> to browse over one hundred user sites.

TNG Repository Features

Trees and Branches: If you maintain your family tree on a genealogy desktop program or a subscription site, then you are already familiar with TNG's tree format. Trees serve as containers for categories labeled Families, People, Sources, Media, DNA Tests, Places, and more. TNG can store multiple independent family trees.

Manually enter tree data or import it via GEDCOM files or FTP (file transfer protocol) programs. Trees can be “deleted” with all associated branches, families, people, sources, and media, or “cleared,” keeping the tree in your database, while removing only its data. TNG site administrators have the option to allow or prevent users from downloading tree GEDCOM and PDF files. See the TNG Wiki pages, “Setup – Tree” at https://tng.lythgoes.net/wiki/index.php/Setup_-_Tree and “Trees help” at https://tng.lythgoes.net/wiki/index.php/Trees_help.



Figure 1: TNG's Administration panel with the database categories.

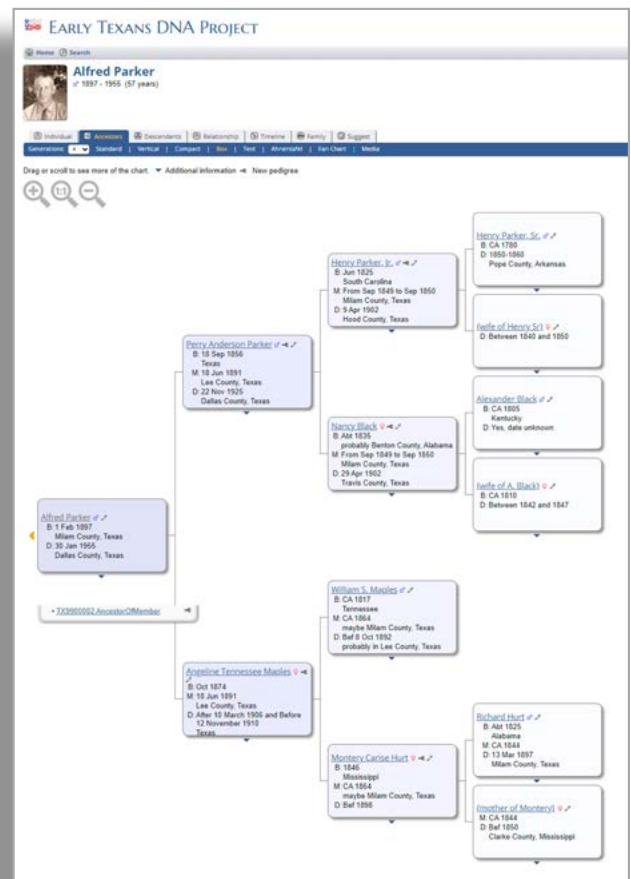


Figure 2: Public view of TNG's Family Tree Box Chart for TxSGS's Early Texans DNA Project Database.¹

Preserving Your Research Through Writing

by Emily Coffman Richardson

Why do we do genealogy? To collect documents? To join a lineage society? To solve a family puzzle? Maybe we are genealogists because all these things are important to us. No matter our reasons for doing genealogy, we need to think about what we are leaving for our descendants.

So many genealogists have no one in their family who is willing or able to take on their work. They fear that all the papers and documents they worked for decades to locate will be tossed in a dumpster by their children.

How does this result change if we leave stories? Might the stories matter to our children and descendants and live well beyond us? Maybe what we need to do is to begin to write! So, let's add writing to the work that every genealogist should do.

What Type of Genealogist Are You?

There are three types of genealogists. The first is a "hunter 'n' gatherer," a term I first heard used in a talk by Curt Witcher of the Allen County Library Genealogy Center.¹ It describes the work we typically do when researching the background of one of our ancestors. We hunt for documents that describe their life. We gather the documents into piles and place them in a file or a binder for future generations. An example of this approach is my mother's collection described on page 15.

The second type of genealogist focuses on preservation by transcribing and indexing records to make them more accessible and saving them for the future. How can I, as a genealogist, help myself and possibly my local genealogy society preserve records for the future? Numerous opportunities for this valuable work are available online and in person. Check with genealogy societies and organizations for a project that suits you. This key work often results in searchable online indexes or a transcribed book for others to research.

The third type of genealogist preserves history for their family as well as the communities in which they lived through storytelling. When my mother passed, she left me a note telling me that she had found the documents, and it



was now my job to write the stories. For years, I made the effort to put into our Ancestry tree copies of everything she had found, adding new ones as they became available. This satisfied me, but it didn't come close to adhering to my mother's wishes.

The more I thought about that desire for stories, the more I realized that writing can be powerful. In some cases, the stories could be transformational for the author as well as the reader. These tales help us bring to light what we have researched and the positive memories of things that we have experienced. In a 2019 article, Harold Henderson wrote, "We need to write in order to prove, preserve, and propagate what we have learned. Without it, our work will be 'dust in the wind.'"²

Let's look at how a "hunter 'n' gatherer" (researcher) can become a genealogist who thoughtfully analyzes documents (assessor) and assembles them into a story (compiler) that will live beyond their lifetime and into the future. Writing is the key to leaving a story that will be preserved and appreciated by our descendants.

Step One: Decide Who You are Writing for and What the Output will Look Like

Where do you begin when the urge to write strikes you? Sometimes the first thought is about your topic and the story you want to tell, and other times it's about the people you're writing for. It doesn't matter which goes first; it does matter that you give some thought to both your audience and topic before you begin.

No Descendants? No Problem!

Where to Donate Your Genealogical Materials

by Nancy Gilbride Casey

It's a reality that not all family historians have direct descendants to whom they can bestow their hard-won discoveries. "What will happen to all my work?" they rightly wonder. It's painful to think that a lifetime's worth of research, records, documents, pedigree charts, photos, heirlooms, etc., will not be appreciated, saved, or utilized by the generations to follow – or perhaps anyone.

But there is hope.

Many local and national repositories such as libraries and universities will receive donations of family history materials. Exactly what materials they will accept varies widely among these institutions. Much depends on their mission, purpose, staffing, storage space, current collection focus, etc.

Below is a sampling of organizations and their policies on accepting family history materials. Each has their own specific criteria, so be sure to contact the library or repository to find the best fit for you.

National Repositories

The Library of Congress

The Library of Congress actively seeks to identify compiled family histories to add to their collection of over 50,000 compiled genealogies. Books may be sent via FedEx or UPS or brought to the library's reading room. See this link for more information on donating: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/gifts.html>.

The Family History Library

Like the Library of Congress, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City routinely acquires books to be

added to both their physical and digital spaces. They will accept:

- Family histories (well organized, including a title, author, and publication date)
- Published genealogy books
- Published history books such as local and county histories
- Periodicals
- Indexes and transcriptions of records in book format
- Autobiographies and biographies

For more information on materials that the Family History Library does not accept or to access their general donation form, visit this website: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch_Library_Donations

Allen County Public Library

Arguably one of the most prestigious genealogical libraries in the nation, the Allen County Public Library also accepts donations. From their website: "We welcome your contributions of papers, books, and disks of data. In print or in digital formats, your work will not only benefit great numbers of researchers, but it will also be preserved for generations to come on our shelves



and web pages. Whether it's research articles, images of military veterans in your family history, completed books, indices to record groups large and small, or copies of the family record pages in your family Bible, all will find a good home in The Genealogy Center. Contributions can be mailed or sent electronically directly to The Genealogy Center." To inquire about ACPL's donation program, email genealogy@acpl.info.

Midwest Genealogy Center

Located in Independence, Missouri, the Midwest Genealogy Center is consistently recognized as one of the best in the nation. They currently accept donations of gently used genealogy books and school, college, and organization yearbooks. Other unique or noteworthy genealogical materials are considered on a case-by-case basis by library staff. For more information on their program call the center at (816) 252-7228.

Preservation from Film to the Cloud and Everything in Between

by Sandra J. Crowley

Our genealogy research takes many forms: piles of paper, binders for each family, online trees, databases, software programs on our computer, and those plastic tubs often passed to us by other family members.

Depending on when we started our research, we may have file cabinets full of information, 3-ring binders for each family, a genealogy software program filled with data, digital photos and files, or some combination of these. We may even have some of this information stored online in a family tree on one or more sites. Additionally, we have inherited research from other family members in a variety of formats. Organizing this information is likely on our “to do” list for 2024.

We have a lot of facts and stories about our ancestors, but can we access them when we want to? Can our family access them?

Organizing this information is only the first step. Technology changes quickly; the latest technology today may be obsolete a few years from now. Several years ago, as technology improved and storage became less expensive, we were encouraged to “go digital.” The genealogical community was and continues to be filled with individuals and publications sharing ways to go paperless or to at least ensure that we have backup files stored in digital format. This article assumes that many of us adopted that approach and have a quantity of our documents and photos digitized.

Do you have files stored on one

or more of the devices pictured on this page?

It Seemed So Easy

It all seemed so easy at the time. Store those photos, and you’ll be able to pass them on to future generations at the same quality as they are today. They won’t fade; they are protected from natural disaster; they won’t tear due to overhandling. These images will be available for generations to come. It was a time-consuming task to complete, and many of us continue to work toward this each year. The size of the task depended on two key factors: (1) the size of our collection and (2) how organized we wanted to be (how much detail we want stored with each photo). Digitize them and they would be safe.

It wasn’t long, however, before we discovered the digital storage facts of life: technology changes. Technology that can be accessed today may not be so easy to read in a few years. For example, early computers used an 8-inch floppy disk, which was quickly replaced by a 5¼-inch floppy disk and then a 3½-inch floppy disk. As each disk was introduced, the amount of

data it could hold increased, and the cost of ownership decreased.

The recognition of ongoing technological innovation presents us with a challenge: how can we ensure future generations will be able to take advantage of the research, images, and stories we leave behind?

We need a plan that is sustainable.

Convert to Different Media, to the Cloud?

One of the reasons for converting is the same reason you digitized family history research in the first place: your physical media is degrading every day. V videotapes and other magnetic media have a limited life. Just as photos fade over time, magnetic molecules and substrates erode. This causes the color to fade or images to degrade. If you print something on an inkjet printer using copy quality paper, it will fade much faster than the same image printed on archival paper by a laser printer. This also depends on how the prints are stored and whether they



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 txsgs.org/partner-societies/.

To find your society's district, check the Partner Society map on the TxSGS website at 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 (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 B (Open)

Tony Hanson, Acting District Representative

The [North Texas Genealogical Association](https://www.northtexasgenealogy.org) (NTGA) meets the first Thursday night of each month except July. NTGA invites all to visit the NTGA website, <https://www.northtexasgenealogy.org>.

District C

Emily Richardson, District Representative

The [Collin County Genealogical Society](https://www.collincountygenealogicalsociety.com) (CCGS) is holding virtual and hybrid meetings the second Wednesday each month. January 2024 features special guest speaker Emily Coffman Richardson. Additional program information is listed under events on the CCGS website.

This past November, CCGS had a successful virtual exhibitor booth at the 2023 TxSGS Family History conference. In December, the society presented Marynell Bryant and her Quill and Scroll program with

audience participation. At a special program, the society presented retiring Senior Librarian Cheryl Smith of the Plano W. O. Haggard Library Genealogy Center with a surprise party to thank her for over 25 years of dedication to the society.

CCGS is seeking Collin County material and photos for their *eNewsletter* and journal, *Collin Chronicles*. Contact ccgs.president@gmail.com. The CCGS DNA project has over 200 project members; learn more at <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/collin-county-genealogical-society/about>.

Society information and upcoming programs can be found at <https://www.collincountygenealogicalsociety.com>.

Throughout the fall, the [Denton County Genealogical Society](https://www.dentoncountygenealogicalsociety.com) (DCGS) continued the monthly collaborative "Connections" program hosted by Special Collections at Emily Fowler Central Library in which genealogists from the community discussed *Stirpes* articles. DCGS began the program year in September with "The Public

Library: A Treasure Trove for Genealogy Research" presented by the director of Special Collections, Laura Douglas. Members were then directed to the genealogy collection where they located three resources supporting their research. Emily Richardson's October program, "Writing Your Family History: Learning to Assess and Compile Your Research," laid the foundation for the society's growing emphasis – encouraging members to write their family history.

Following John Versluis's "Spotlight the Holdings in the Texas Heritage Museum" in November, DCGS members enjoyed a field trip to the museum in Hillsboro at the end of the month.

The [Heritage Ranch Genealogical Society](https://www.heriteranchgenealogicalsociety.com) (HRGS) resumed their meetings in September after the summer break. They had two great presenters in September and October, Barbara Coakley and Sandra Crowley. In November, Sharon Monson from Utah spoke on "Better Analysis = Better Results." HRGS did not meet

Index

A

Adamson, Becky 71
 Aldrete, Jose Miguel 77
 Alexander, Richard M. 4
 Amburgey, Cindy 4
 Anderson, John 70
 Anderson, Laurie Tilton 4
 Ardell, Elizabeth D. 4
 Arnold, Misty D. 4
 Arredondo, Maricela 4
 Atchison, James Linn 40
 Atchison, Kathryn 40
 Austin, Sally 1, 3, 38

B

Ball, Susan E. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 33, 48, 50, 51, 81
 Bath, Sarah 40
 Beaty, Pat B. 4
 Bockstruck, Lloyd DeWitt 13
 Bower, Catherine J. 4
 Boykin, William Joseph 78
 Boyle, Andrew Leverett 77
 Boyle, Daniel Thomas 77
 Boyle, Madeline Elizabeth 77
 Boyle, Richard John 77
 Brennan, Nancy 41
 Brewster, Jim 30
 Briley, Jena L. 4
 Brinsko, Eleanor 70
 Brogdon, Kathryn 7
 Brogdon, Kathryn L. 4
 Brooks, Carol 4
 Brown, David 58
 Brown, Henry 58
 Brown, Jeremiah 58
 Brownlow, Arthur Eugene 78
 Bryant, Marynell 68
 Buckner, William D. "Bill" 1, 2, 5, 7, 50, 62, 70, 71, 81
 Bullard, Mary 8, 40
 Butt, Ann Eliza 78

C

Canady, RL 4
 Capman, James 58
 Casey, Claretta Hall 20
 Casey, James Dale 77
 Casey, Nancy Gilbride 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 20, 21, 61, 63
 Castro, Amalia Olivarez 77
 Charba, Susan D. 4
 Cheek, Evan William 9
 Cheshier, Thomas 77
 Christiansen, Aidan Eugene 77

Christiansen, Myska Blythe Joy 77
 Christiansen, Paul Dietrich 77
 Christmas, Henrietta Martinez 4, 30
 Clarke, David 33
 Clemens, Benjamin 40
 Clemens, Samuel 40
 Cleves, John William 41
 Cleves Jr., Edgar Nicholas 41
 Coakley, Barbara 5, 33, 68, 70
 Cochran, Geneva Shannon 4
 Cochran, Terry L. 4
 Cochran, Todd T. 4
 Coffman, Albert 58
 Coffman, Alva 58
 Coffman, Annie 58
 Coffman, David 58
 Coffman, Isaac 58
 Coffman, James 58
 Coffman, James Wadsworth 57, 58, 59
 Coffman, Mary 58
 Coffman, Maurice 59
 Coffman, Minnie 58
 Coffman, Morris 58
 Coffman, Nancy 58
 Coffman, Olive 58
 Coffman, Samuel 58
 Coffman, Sarah 58
 Coffman, Warden 58
 Cohen, Michelle Dwyer 8
 Collins, Jeffrey 9
 Collins, Jessica Horne 9, 33
 Collins, Jonathan 9
 Collum, Ian Mikal 78
 Conrad, James Edwin 78
 Conrad, Jim 41
 Conrad, Ludwig Johann 41, 78
 Conrad, Paula Nelson 78
 Cotton, Ellen Dean 4
 Courreges, Wayne Allen 4
 Courts, Thomas 77
 Crane, Thomas J. 4
 Crowley, Sandra J. 1, 2, 3, 6, 33, 50, 52, 64, 68, 81

D

Daniel, Karen Stein 7, 8
 Dean, Pamela Cheshier 77
 DeDecker, Todd 9
 DeLa Portilla, Tomasa 77
 Delaney, Ashley N. 4
 de la Vega, Timothy 69, 81
 Desmaris, Catherine 50

Deutch, Ronald James 77
 Diamond, Carol 4
 Dittmar, Katherine Kelley 4
 Dixon, CarolAnn 8
 Douglas, Laura 39, 52, 68
 Dresner, Brenda S. 4
 Dresner, Lydia Margaret 77
 Dresner, Wylie Ray 77
 Dudek, Debra 30
 Duke, Hayes Andrew 77
 Duke, Reid Elli 77
 Dunn, Simeon 40

E

Edge, Kim A. 4
 Elliott, John H. 16
 Epps, William 41
 Evans, Aquilla 78
 Evans, Dorothy Suzanne 77, 78
 Evans, Lela 81
 Evans, Mary 4
 Everett, Brenda 40

F

Fessenden, William Samuel 78
 Fields, Ginny 69
 Flack, Teri 81
 Flanagan, Michael John 11
 Foster, Georga 4
 Fowler, Emily 68
 Fowler, James Michael 77, 78
 Fowler, Michael Paul 77, 78
 Fowler, Ronan Gabriel 77, 78
 Fritsch, Devvin James 78
 Fritsch, Zachry Neal 78
 Fritz, Suzanne 70
 Froebel, Barbara J. 81
 Fulcher, Francis 77

G

Gage, Calvin 77, 78
 Galucki, Jonathan "JG" 33
 Galucki, Matt 33
 Gandy, Berry Hill 78
 George, Twyla "TJ" 54
 Gillespie, Patti 69
 Goen, Burton William Rawson 77, 78
 Goertz, Charles R. 4
 Gomez, Gaspar 4
 Gordon, Pat 7, 8
 Grames, Michele 4
 Greene, Colleen Robledo 11, 12, 30, 50
 Grubbs, Connie V. 4
 Grubbs, Thomas Clayton 4

Grumbles, John J. 77
 Guzmán, Monica 4

H

Hanson, Marcelle 4
 Hanson, Tony 1, 3, 5, 9, 28, 29, 33, 53, 68, 70, 73, 81, 82
 Heffernan, Gina 70
 Henriks, Diane 72
 Hensley, Robert 4
 Hensley, Susan 4
 Hibben, Jean Wilcox 30
 Hirt, Janet Elizabeth Mumford 77
 Hogan, Roseann 4, 40
 Holmes, Barbara 8
 Hubert, Rebecca F. 4
 Hufham, Hank 70
 Huling, Thomas B. 77, 78
 Hunt, Shanon 4
 Hurst, Kathryn Adam 8

I

Ingle, Cyndi 72
 Ivanyo, Peg A. 4

J

Jacobs, Pete 70
 Jacobs, Peter G. 81
 Jameson, Bryan 70
 Janis, Patrick 71
 Jenkins, Jana 9
 Johnson, Rebecca 77
 Jones, Janice L. 4
 Jones, Rebecca Wilson 40
 Joy, Constance 4

K

Kaufman, Susan 5, 30, 33, 81
 Ketner, John Travis 77
 King 17
 King, Otho 58
 Klauer, Chris 4
 Klingeman, Johann Heinrich 77
 Koudelka, Miroslav "Mirek" 71
 Kozlina, Margaret Simonik 20
 Kubacak, Hannah 4, 8

L

Lawrence, Patricia 4
 Leggieri, Beth 1, 3, 38
 Leshikar, Danny 71
 Leverett, Oscar F. 77
 Levine, Cheryl 4
 Levy, Joel K. 4
 Levy, Judi F. 4
 Lima, Kate 41

Lowe, J. Mark 30, 50
 Luce, Joe 41
 Luce, Sarah 41
 Luce, Susan 41
 Luce, Joseph 41
 Luce, William Lewis 41
 Luckett, Larry W. 8
 Lythgoe, Darrin 45

M

Machu, Nancy 4
 Madrid, Carlos T. 77
 Mahler, Lisa 69
 Marble, Kimary 71
 Martin, Doug 33
 Martin, Judge 71
 Martin, Virgie V. 4
 Massengill, George Washington 77
 Masten, Susan G. 4
 McClelland, Sarah 77
 McClelland, William 77
 McClendon, Mary 78
 McCulloch, Henry E. 78
 McGuffin, Tina 81
 McLaughlin, Patsy 41
 McVean, Deborah 4
 Meisner, Bernard 69, 71
 Metcalfe, Pat Palmer 7, 8
 Metcalfe, Patricia 9
 Meyers, Kelvin L. 4, 11, 13, 50
 Miller, David 58
 Mills, Betsy 2, 5, 33, 53, 81, 82
 Mize, Tami Osmer 2, 33
 Moeller, Catharina Dorothea 77
 Monson, Sharon 68
 Moore, Barbara A. 4
 Morelli, Jill 30
 Moss, Anne 40
 Murray, Kathleen 9

N

Naborowski, Cathy 40
 Nichols, Karen Kay 4
 Noelke, Wynnell 4
 Novak, Nancy 4

O

Olson, Kitty M. 4

P

Parker, Julie 7
 Payne, Carriall Courts 77
 Pearson, Debbie 70
 Peavy, David L. 4
 Peña, Richard 8

Perez, Rueben M. 7
 Perkins, Paula 53, 71, 81
 Pettit, Larry 55, 69, 81
 Plante, Renee 4
 Porterfield, George Lawrence 4
 Post, Mary Spencer 4
 Power, James 77

R

Rasmussen, Karen 40
 Ratcliff, Thelma 20, 21
 Reece, William 71
 Reeves, Stephanie Stiborik 71
 Reynolds, Janice M. 4
 Reynolds, Linda 54, 63, 81
 Richard, Diane L. 30
 Richardson, Emily Coffman 1, 3, 5, 15, 19, 33, 36, 37, 51, 52, 53, 56, 60, 68, 81
 Richardson, Jeffery Don 77
 Richie, Rebecca 4
 Ricossa, Carolyn Jean 77
 Rodriguez, Cary 4
 Rogers, Mary 77
 Rogillio, Deta 55, 72, 81
 Rose, James 12
 Rubel, Aaron 40
 Rueckert, Phyllis A. 4
 Ruske, Susan 40
 Russell, Judy G. 50
 Rutledge, Dale 4

S

Sample, Daniel 4
 Sanderson, Karen 4
 Sanders, Mary Anna 78
 Sanders, Renate Yarborough 30
 Sanders-Wise, Brenda 70
 Schulmeister, Bess 4, 40
 Schulze, Johann Heinrich 77
 Scott, Craig R. 30
 Shay, Evelyn Nicole 77
 Sheets, Daniel 58
 Sheets, Henry 58
 Sheets, Jacob 58
 Sheets, Mary Elizabeth 58
 Sheets, Rose 58
 Shotwell, Trent 72
 Shumway, Angie 33
 Sinclair, Alexander 41
 Sinclair, Chuck 41
 Smith, Cheryl 62, 68
 Smith, Christine A. 4
 Smith, Dehn S. 4
 Smith, Elizabeth B. 77, 78

Smith, Jaycie M. 7, 8
 Smith, Patti Huff 9, 70, 71
 Snell, Mary Kay 4
 Souders, Marilyn Cleves 41
 Spalding, Dale 8
 Sparks, Stephanie G. 4
 Spaulding, Dale R. 4
 Steakley, Carol 4
 Steele, Jeri J. 4
 Steets, Walter 1, 10
 Stephen, James 77
 Stephen, Mary 77
 Stiborik, Joseph Anton 71
 Strassner, Bernd H. 4
 Strassner, Liz D. 4
 Stuart-Warren, Paula 50

T

Taylor, David C. 4
 Taylor, Rebecca S. 4
 Teel, George Washington 77
 Thacker, Cooper Troy 77
 Thacker, Zeb Hayes 77
 Thompson, Marcie Titsworth 77
 Thompson, Susan K. 4
 Thornhill, Jim 1, 3, 46, 47, 70
 Tomlinson, Leslie Watson 7
 Torella, Roslyn I. 4
 Torres, Mary O. 54, 81
 Townsend, Mary Frances 4
 Turkelson, Deborah 10

U

Uelsen, Catherine Adelheid 77

V

Vaughn, Michael 7
 Versluis, John 68
 Voigt, Christine 4
 von Kleeves, Johannes Wilhelm 41

W

Ware, Barbara 40
 Weber, Augustin 77
 Wenzel, Pauline 78
 Whited, Randy 7, 9, 71, 72
 White, J. W. 58
 Wilkins, Ari 11, 12, 13, 50
 Williams, Pamela W. 4
 Williams, Sunny Lee Conditt 40
 Wilson, William David 40
 Wingate, Lillian 4
 Witherspoon, Sonya R. 4
 Woodbury, Paul 50
 Woods, Melody Hooper 1, 3, 22, 27, 42, 45

Woodworth, Linda 4
 Woodworth, Merlin 4
 Wood, W. Riley 78
 Worsham, Linda Alford 41
 Wright, Allen 8
 Wylie, Ermina Ellis 40
 Wylie, John 40

X

Ximenes, Juan 77
 Ximenes, Teodora Rodriguez 77

Y

Yoder 17
 Yoder, Melchoir 53
 Yoder, Rob 70

Z

Zemanek, George 9

LOOK INSIDE

We hope you've enjoyed this sample of content of this issue of *Stirpes*.

Join TxSGS today to receive your own copy of *Stirpes*. As a TxSGS member, you will automatically receive each issue as soon as it is published. It's easy! Just click the link below and sign up today.

<http://www.txsgs.com/membership/>

