NEWSLETTER

April 2024

San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society
911 Melissa Dr San Antonio TX 78213
A member society chartered in 1959 as a 501(c)(3) Non-profit.



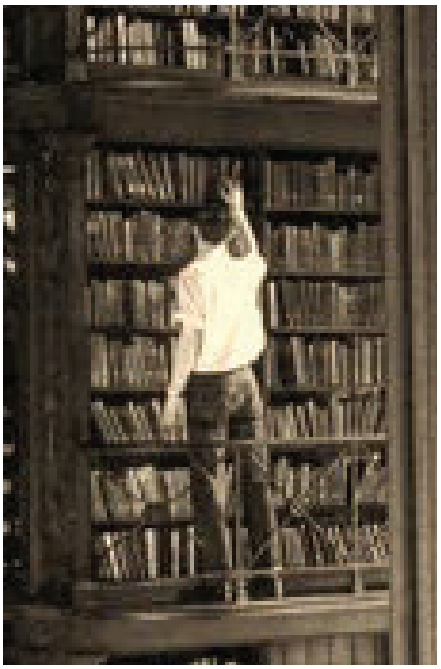
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COVER STORY: A Library Tale....



BY **CAROL THOMPSON**



The story of a good library is that it's continually collecting, adding new books, materials which would produce the eternal need for more space, more room.

Your Newsletter editors hesitate using a first person singular opinion piece. There are so many good writers, so many poignant insights from vetted members, scholarly exposits, useful items that can create research tools to be shared, for us to wander into frivolous humorous asides.

However, given that the month of April flashes to mind...taxes....IRS....sour, dour thoughts of flattened wallets, it has occurred to us to bring forth something to lighten the mood.

So, we selected this cover photo for you! Someone noted that our very own library was, could be, might even, just about is – approaching this highly exaggerated photo's example of the need for more user friendly space.

BJ Johns, one of our very own librarians has assured,

> "High wire training is not necessary for our patrons! You can easily browse our state rooms' top shelves with a step stool. If needed, the librarian will spot you. Some of those books on the top shelf are a bit heavy for our delicate patrons. The reference room and Texas room have easy rolling shelves, our board approved, so that we can easily house more books. Don't miss strolling through the state books. Check out where your ancestors lived. It is such a treat. Very therapeutic!"

she explained, ever helpful.

So, please be assured that your visit with easy parking, no stairs, can be an exploration of mountains of material – maps, books, eBooks, periodicals – a helpful Website Card Catalogue.... all under with watchful, knowledgeable eye of a seasoned librarian eager to make your visit a productive one....without high wire equipment.

Unlike our little fellow balancing multi-stories up, searching for just the right book, there will be a friendly face and a helping hand..... in easy reach, ready for your visit.

Now....how does our eye-straining cover photo relate to what is to be accessed at 911 Melissa Drive.....NOT ONE SINGLE THING.

We just wanted you to appreciate how easy, how accessible help is here for you at your library. Happy April!

Duty Librarians Needed!

We are always looking for new duty Librarians. They typically work one day/month, no experience needed, and on the job training is provided.

If you would like to know more about this, come to a Librarian meeting (next on is April 16 at 1 pm, or contact Barbara Johns at: artyjohns27@gmail.com

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Mary Souter, "SAGHS Queen Worker Bee"

BY **KITTY MASSEY**



Mary has been a member for 34 years and counting, joining SAGHS in 1990. She became active in 1996.

For 28 years and counting, **Mary Souter's** commitment to SAGHS has been unwavering. She started out as a volunteer in 1996 and stuck around after being assigned the dreaded task of inventorying periodicals. With grace and humor, she has buzzed from job to job: preparing new and donated books for shelving; stuffing mail send-outs (mammoth chores before we could pay to outsource these jobs or use eblasts); binding periodicals; inventorying again and again; shelving and re-shelving books again and again; dusting and sweeping (UGH), again and again; painting; moving furniture; helping with supplies and lunches; assisting with every fundraising event from Merry Librarian Days (garage sales for the discerning shopper) and seminars (particularly the ones where we raffled baskets of booze), to book sales (for genealogy and general books and a cookbook). Great with names and a friend to all, she's usually the smiling greeter at luncheons and receptions.

For years and years, Mary opened and distributed the mail. She supported Jim Earl's Picture Wall fundraiser with a donation and her father's World War I photo. She also contributed his story to Our Heritage and our Remembering World War I Anthology. She is one of our trained librarians and has been elected secretary and director. Under the leadership of **Janey Joyce**, she has walked cemeteries with enthusiastic, muddy footed volunteers, recording gravestone information for our cemetery books. She's also joined trips to Salt Lake City, and knew Yvette, our elusive Dwyer Center benefactor. Encouraged by her worker bee circle of friends, who can't get enough of each other, she's a member of the Ol' Shavano Chapter DAR. With her sweet disposition and gentle persuasion, she's been able to drum up candidates for SAGHS offices for innumerable nominating committees, even when willing candidates were hard to find.

Mary Therese Worthing grew up in Southside San Antonio, in a close knit neighborhood where everyone knew her name and her three older sisters, Betty, Joann and Carolyn. Purchases were charged at corner stores;



Worker Bees: Seated: Esther Hardin, Martin Soward, Standing: Shirley Quintrell, Barbara Dehle, Mary Souter, late 1990s, at the second Isom location on Martin's birthday.

orders were placed over "party line" telephones with same day deliveries. Mary's parents, **Franklin Clay** and **Mary Louise Lulu Worthing**, didn't own a car until Mary was in high school, but popular haunts—the Harlendale Movie Theatre, Sears and JCPenney's, or Joske's with its captivating escalators—were just a bus ride away. During World War II, Lulu worked in a government censorship office and could never talk about "her day." Later, she worked in a doctor's office while Clay worked at Kelly Air Force Base.

After graduating from Burbank High School, Mary's first out-of-school job was in the office of the Nix Hospital. It wasn't long before she met an Air Force veteran working at Lackland. Within a year (1960), she and **Jimmy (James Dale) Souter** tied the knot in a double wedding with sister **Carolyn and Thomas Bertetti**.



1989: Mary, Carolyn, Joann, Betty

Twenty years later, with two daughters, Beth and Laura, practically grown, Mary (age 40) enrolled at San Antonio College, earning an associate degree in, of all things, Library Technology! The first job



opening wasn't in a library, but her secretarial position at Roosevelt High School was a good fit. That same year a cousin in Austin jump-started her genealogy research. Mary had no idea how her new job and budding interest in genealogy would cushion what lay ahead. Shockingly and tragically, in 1986, a year after she began work, Jimmy battled cancer and died. A computer expert, a genius with those cursed punch cards, Jimmy served as the Chief of the Data Processing Branch at Brooks AFB. Suddenly a widow, Mary's new job could not have been better timed. It kept her busy during the week while activities with her daughters, and pursuing genealogical research with her cousin, her sister Joann and their husbands, kept her busy on the weekends.

In 1990, Mary found SAGHS on her own at its first Isom location. In those days an endorsement by a member was required to join. The unknown man in charge that day was pleased to endorse her. She became a member but could not be active. It was the middle of her 12 year career as a high school secretary. After one year at Roosevelt and the next one at Churchill, she stayed ten years at Lee. Supporting school staff, welcoming and assimilating new students and their parents, keeping her campus calm and in order, were Mary's fortes. When she retired from Lee High School in 1996, she transferred her noble skills to SAGHS. This time, she got to work in a library, her favorite place she to be.

Over the decades, as SAGHS personalities and officers have percolated in and out, Mary has continued to do what she does so well: supporting librarians and officers; welcoming and assimilating new volunteers; leading a community of library worker bees who work so merrily together; creating a calm, fun, and orderly workplace.

Without a doubt, she is our Queen Worker Bee.

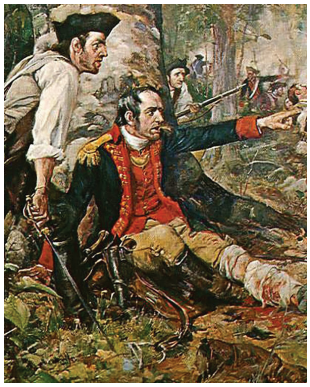
On another happy note, Mary's two daughters are close-by. Beth and her husband Joe and their two boys live in Austin. Laura and husband Les live in Boerne.



President's Message

We are still waiting for the City to finish their excruciatingly slow approval process, with all of the permits, and hopefully bring our contractor's blood pressure back to normal soon! We will alert you with an e- blast when it is time to park so that the construction crew will not have any problems bringing in materials.

Coming up April 20th at our General Membership meeting, Steve Mabie will be giving us a history lesson on the Revolutionary War "Battle of Oriskany" Steve will discuss the British plan to defeat the rebellion with a decisive blow on August 6, 1777, and how an army consisting largely of German and Dutch speaking farmers managed to disrupt that plan. I can't wait to hear "the rest of the story." Come & Brings friends! Also, at the April meeting, we will vote on 3 Directors, and we have 5 candidates! So, a real election. Come and participate.



FYI, Steve Mabie will also be speaking to the Kerrville Genealogical Society on Wednesday, April 17, from 2-4 pm. He will be conducting a 90 minute workshop on Preparing and Getting the Most Your Research Time and part 2, an Introduction to PERSI (Periodical Source Index.)

At our May 18th Membership meeting, our guest speaker will be Michael Patrick Carroll, owner of AHP Digital. Michael wrote an interesting book in April, 2022, entitled, "Property Research and *Definitive Guides to the City Directories and Sanborn Maps of San Antonio, Texas*". Michael received a grant from the Conservation Society to publish this book. Now even if you are not researching San Antonio, there will be enough information on methodology to make it interesting and valuable

In June we install our 3 new directors, at our Founder's Day Luncheon. This year's tentative date is Saturday, June 15th!

We are Thankful for all our volunteers, who work so well to keep us functioning and helpful to our community in this our 65th year! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy McNamara at Education@txsaghs.org for more information.

Hope your Easter was wonderful!

Barbara Froebel



New Members

Milton Beck
Darrell Berry
Kevin Brown
Mark Brown
Adri Faber
Rob Gloria
Jan Gorman
Jo Ann Koehn
Kevin Koehn
Kathy Mackenzie
Amy Milick
Amanda Pagan
Karen Perretta
Carolin Sinkfield
Rick Sinkfield

Meetings

Board Meeting
Saturday, April 13 at 10 am
Dwyer Center Auditorium

Membership Meeting
Saturday, April 20 at 10 am
Dwyer Center Auditorium

Backing Up Your Genealogy Research

BY **SCOTT ATKINSON**



If you're like me, you often think about backing up your Family Tree and the associated data which is stored in a **line linked data base** on your computer, external device or online.

I don't know about you, but I have lost a Tree due to computer corruption. I know that I lost over 100 entries on my tree. As a result of that experience, I imported an older backed-up version. That process required that I rename my Tree. I then tried to remember the names that were lost.

So this leads me to again focus on **backing up your tree**. I know you have heard about losing all your hard work gathered over many years.

Let's take another look at this.

What is the real concern about storage and backing up your Family Tree. According to research from the World's Largest Technical and Professional organization IEEE, their Computer Scientists and Engineers in a recent article said the following:

> *"Over the past few decades, individuals, businesses, and governments have transitioned from storing their records and sensitive information on paper, to storing them online. While physical records still pose security risks, the risk to online records is on the rise. The IEEE Magazine ComputingEdge (March 2024) highlights the increasing impacts of cyberattacks and the need for better security in software development and automation."*

Time for some analysis. You need to develop a plan to ensure keeping all the hard work you have accomplished to create your Family Tree. First you need to prepare a plan to minimize the potential risks to losing your information.

More and more these days, we turn to electronic storage, either on hard disks, thumb drives, external disks, DVDs and CDs. One of the best courses of action is to use multiple storage devices, paper, and electronics (offline and online).

If you have elected to create your family tree(s) in an online program, like Ancestry, My Heritage, Family Search or WikiTree, your data is relatively safe. But even then, you should download it periodically and store it separately, especially if you are updating your data often. As you probably know, online trees tend to limit the amount of data they will store for you. Storage does cost money but at the rate that we create it, pennies soon become dollars.

You can store your tree(s) in your banks safety deposit box to ensure it's safe. Keeping any documents at home is only as safe as your home, subject to fire, flood, and other disastrous situations.

If on the other hand you have an offline program, you are subject to different issues, like computer failures, disk failures, theft, etc. Here your backup takes on implementing other solutions.

You probably have papers, letters, bibles and pictures that are part of your family history besides the data stored on your computer. So how do you protect all these?

I recommend you do an inventory of what you have, then prepare a plan on how you are going to protect your most valuable information.

And if you decide to find a place that will accept all your items, there is only one that I know of that will take it all. That is the Allen County Genealogical Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

For peace of mind, do make and execute your plan today!

Cheers

T. Scott Atkinson

tscottatkinsongm@gmail.com



Education & Volunteer Report

BY **NANCY MCNAMARA**

Whenever entering the library, one is easily overwhelmed with all of those rows of shelved books – staring back at you.

Hearing a cheery "Welcome, may I help you" echoing from within, one may receive both an introduction and assistance from a librarian. Our 'duty librarian' donates a day or more to insure that someone is there to support your research quest. They are there to assist when you need help.

To further provide more directed assistance, it would help to come prepared with a list of questions, topics. This can really aid that librarian to save time. You might even prepare a list at home using the website's (www.txsaghs.org) catalog or items found in a search of PERSI for an even better experience.

Our cadre of librarians meets monthly to share information, learn about new items. Thank you **Barbara (BJ) Johns** for composing that monthly work schedule, organizing those monthly meetings. She is assisted by **Julia George** who replaced **Linda Monts**. By the way, volunteers are always welcome. Orientation will be cheerfully provided to get one up to speed.

Another group to remember – the ever dedicated Tuesday Volunteers. This group meets each Tuesday to work on the various aspects of library maintenance under the direction of **Beverly Rakowitz**. This included such jobs as organizing and scanning donated genealogical collections making them available in the vertical files, reviewing donated books determining whether those should be kept for library purpose or placed for the duplicate book sale. They repair books, affix labels, shelve books – literally whatever is needed to insure that all is ready and available for patron use.

Dorothy Hare has stepped up to replace long serving **Steve Mabie** as our Research Registrar. We are grateful to be able to continue this valuable service.

All of these job roles are open to anyone seeking to donate time. If you have questions please contact Bev Rakowitz or Nancy McNamara at Education@txsaghs.org. We're in the book!

Attached to this month's Newsletter, you will find the Duplicate Genealogy Book list. These books (in addition to novels, not listed) will be available for sale May 14–16th. If you think you might like to reserve one, please again contact Education@txsaghs.org.

Upcoming Classes & Workshops

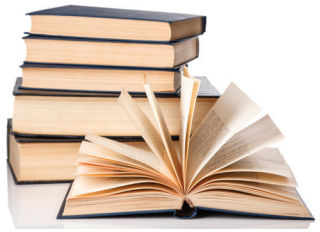
All classes are held in the Dwyer Center. Please pre-register by calling the library during business hours at 210-342-5242 or emailing education@txsaghs.org.

Sat, April 6	**iCloud Workshop** 10 am – 12 pm | *Steve Massey*
Sun, April 7	**Writing Articles & Citing Sources for Genealogical Publication** 2 pm – 4 pm | *Larry Lucket*
Wed, April 10	**Resolve Problems on Computer Genealogy Programs** 10 am, 11 am, & 12 pm | *Scott Atkinson*
Sat, April 13	**DNA Consult Hours** 10 am – 12 pm | *Annette Graham*
Sun, April 14	**Scorched and Scaling Research Challenges in South Carolina** 2 pm – 4 pm | *Melissa Finlay*
Wed, April 17	**Beginners Genealogy Class: Generation by Generation session 4 of 4** 10 am – 12 pm | *Stephanie Wells & Lois Bready*

New Books

BY **BEV RAKOWITZ**

SC abbe8	Abstracts of Old Ninety-Six and Abbeville District Wills and Bonds as on File in the Abbeville, South Carolina Courthouse	Young, Willie Pauline	**South Carolina**
SN 281	Trinity University Mirage 1981; Vol. 65		**Surnames**
SN 282	Trinity University Mirage 1982: Vol. 66		
SN Quillian	Branch of Quillians; From Ireland Through Georgia to The Texas Lineage	Quillian, Thelma B.	
TN 00006 (7)	Earliest Tennessee Land Records & Earliest Tennessee Land History	Griffey, Irene M.	**Tennessee**
TX 00000 (70)	Traditions and Visions: San Antonio Architecture	Fisher, Lewis F. and Maria Watson Pfeiffer	**TEXAS**
TX 00004 (373)	Revolutionary Women of Texas and Mexico: Portraits of Soldaderas, Saints, and Subversives	Sosa, Kathy, Clark, Ellen Riojas, & Jennifer Speed (editors)	
TX 00004 Rare Books	History of Texas Together With a Biographical History of Milam, Williamson, Bastrop, Travis, Lee and Burleson Counties		
TX bexa4	Ghosts of Old Brack, The: A Pictorial History of the Brackenridge Park Gold Course, the Birthplace of Public Golf in TX	Meyers, Reid E. Meyers	
TX bexa4 (148)	San Antonio Conservation Society, 1924-1974, Golden Jubilee Celebration	San Antonio Conservation Society	
TX bexa4 (149)	Missions of San Antonio, The: A Plan		
TX bexa4 (150)	San Antonio Liederkranz: Hundertjahrfeier; A Celebration of One Hundred Years 1892-1992	The San Antonio Liederkranz	
TX bexa4 (151)	San Antonio Lawyer: Memoranda of Cases and Clients	Matthews, Wilbur L. Matthews	
TX bexa6	Bexar County Historic Inventory 1973: Historic Resource Catalog Cards and Location Map	Lance, Larcade, and Bechtol: Architects	
TX bexa7	Bexar County Wills 1837-1899	Hickman, Mary Jane, Louis Lutich, & Harry Meyer	
TX elpa4	El Paso: A Borderlands History	Timmons, W. H.	
TX jasp6	First Settlers of Jasper County, Texas	White, Gifford	
TX jasp8	Jasper County, Texas Marriage records, 1849-1880	Ingmire, Frances Terry and Helen M. Swenson	



Annual Duplicate Genealogy Book Sale

May 14 – 16

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. | Dwyer Center

A potpourri of general reading books will also be sold at the book sale as an additional fundraiser

How Can You Help?

- **Donate your books** to SAGHS for resale at the library or Dwyer Center between now and May 10th.
- **Volunteer to assist** us with organizing these collections by subject on May 11 after 12:00 p.m. (and if needed, Sunday and Monday)

The money received from this 2-day tax free sale, plus the third taxed day sale, is added revenue to our general fund.

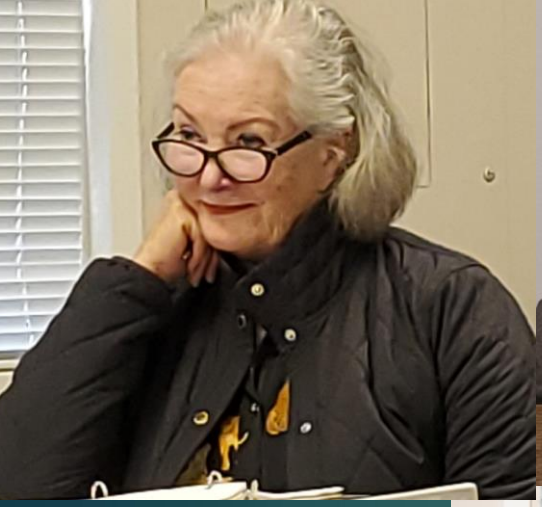
Email Nancy McNamara at Education@txsaghs.org

Genealogy Books For Sale

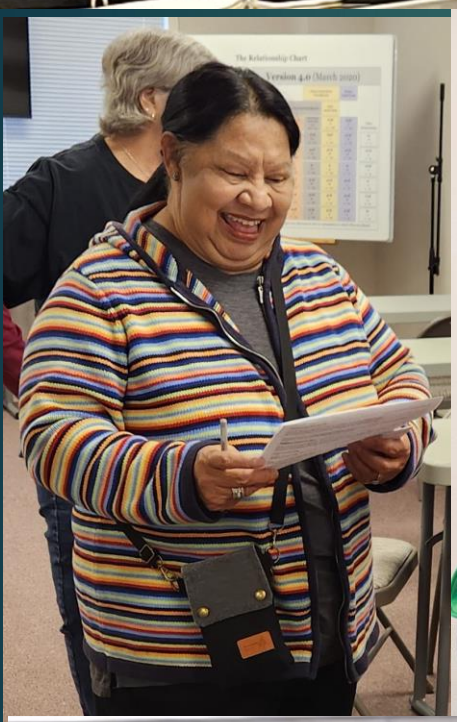
ORDER BY EMAIL: EDUCATION@TXSAGHS.ORG

Location/ Topic	Title	Author	Price
Alabama	The Early Settlers of AL.	ol. James E. Saunders	$10.00
American Indians	The Cherokees	Grace Steele Woodward	$4.00
Civil War	The Army of the Potomac	Bruce Catton	$5.00
Civil War	Gentlemen, Swords and Pistols	Harnett T. Kane	$4.00
Family History - Quillians	Branch of Quillians from Ireland through Georgia	Thelma Quillian	$5.00
Louisiana	The Bayous of Louisiana	Harnett T. Kane	$4.00
Military - 1958 Year Book	Howitzer	US Military Academy	$2.00
Military - West Point List	Registrar of Graduates and Former Cadets	1975 Edition - 1802 - 1975	$5.00
Missouri	An Index of Springfield Land Office Sales Book	Office of County Clerk	$10.00
Mississippi - Natchez	Natchez on the Mississippi	Harnett T. Kane	$4.00
North Carolina - Quakers	Encyclopedia American Quaker Genealogy	Thomas Marshall	$10.00
Oklahoma	1895-1920 Index to Probate	OK Genealogy Society	$4.00
Research	Genealogical Research - Methods and Sources	American Society of Genealogists	$4.00
Research	How to Search Genealogy Bank.com	Thomas Kemp	$5.00
Research	Handbook of Genealogical Sources	George Schweitzer	$5.00
Research	Publishing Your Family History on the Internet	Richard Wilson	$5.00
Revolutionary War - DAR 1990	Directory TX Soc of the National Soc DAR	Mrs. Hubert Johnson, State Registrar	$3.00
Revolutionary War	1775-1783 Known Military Dead	Ex-Lt Clarance Peterson	$7.00
Slavery - USA	Slaves in the Family	Edward Ball	$5.00
South Carolina - Pendleton	History of Old Pendleton District w/ Genealogy of Leading Families	R.W. Simpson	$7.00
Texas	The HX of Houston Heights	Sister Agatha [Sheebon]	$3.50
Virginia - Kent	Saint Peter's New Kent Co., VA 1690-1787	National Soc of Colonial Dames	$5.00

Click HERE to see the full list of books for sale













Introducing...

AMANDA PAGAN - a new name, a new face..... new member and our newest Newsletter graphic arts designer! She is wife to Judson High School English teacher/husband, mom to two boys aged 4 and 6, animal trainer to yearling Corgi pup, currently undergoing potty training. We are ecstatic to add her to our staff of Editor Barbara Holmes; staff writers Kitty Massey, Carol Thompson; contributors BJ John, Bev Rakowitz; columnists Nancy McNamara and Scott Atkinson, and Nikon ace Gaspar & helper Mary-Catherine Gomez.



VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

At the April 20, Membership Meeting we will be voting for our three Directors-At-Large.

The nominees are:

Scott Atkinson

Peter Baron

Judy Castleberry

David Katerndahl

Bill Myers

You MUST be a member in good standing & present to vote

SAGHS is a proud member of:

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY®

Texas State Genealogical Society

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Library Hours:
Sunday: 1 pm – 5 pm
Monday: 10am–4pm
Wednesday: 10am–7pm
Saturday: 10 am – 4 pm

Library Closures:
New Year's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Founders Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, October (Seminar), Thanksgiving Eve, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve.