NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

CLASSES ARE BACK!











PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Rob Lewis

Greetings:

My thanks go to all who contributed to the wonderful June 28th Founders' Day Celebration that so many enjoyed in our own Dwyer classroom. We had many volunteers involved in the program planning, in our room arrangement; so many kind benefactors who even funded the refreshments. I hope all had a good time, and maybe learned a little about our beginnings. Here's to another 65+ years of research and education in genealogy and history.

Also, congratulations to our newest First Family recipient, **Diane Baird-Barger.**



We currently have some volunteer chairman positions that need filling. I'm sure there is something you can contribute, either as a chairperson or in serving on a committee. Specifically, we are looking for a Membership Chairman, a Research/ Registrar, and a Buildings and Grounds Chairman. These are important roles to maintain our library and classroom facilities. As your new leadership team well knows, many hands make the task easier and, given our membership, even fun!

If your time is limited, we often have ad-hoc tasks that need to be accomplished on a quicker timeline. Let me know of your interest and availability; I can use your help.

As you may have noticed—we are 'back in business' offering a wide variety of fall classes. **Larry Luckett's** Researching Ancestors in the Republic of Texas & Early Statehood drew full classroom, Sunday August 11! Please review our weekly email, and/or our website txsaghs.org to find interesting topics. We always feature knowledgeable instructors in a comfortable classroom setting. All of this to help you on your journey to complete your family tree.

Plans are being made to have our usual Fall Seminar. Save the date: October 19th.

For now, stay cool, and keep researching.

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FROM COMPASSION TO ACTION

Member Spotlight: Ann Sullivan Hunt

Thinking right off the cuff, when someone mentions a Tuesday Volunteer, the image of **Annie Hunt** comes to mind. Yes, one of many genteel but vigorous, dedicated folk who faithfully gather around 8:30 a.m. each Tuesday at the library door, Annie has been for many years carrying out those needful things that keep our library humming – *Accession*.

My right-hand man Webster writes that accession is "an adding, an enrichment, as to accessions to a library." Interim librarian **Bev Rakowitz** has a list of jobs waiting for Annie and others, all things that need doing to keep labels on book spines, vertical files managed, incoming boxes of genealogical material winnowed, etc.

A Texas native, Ann Sullivan hails from Denton, of farming stock, Irish and English descent. And, she adds proudly, there is a bit of Cherokee in her. "I've made two trips to Tahlequah, Oklahoma, trying to find where that root's tendril led," she laughed.

She met Mr. Right at Petrolia, Texas, a fellow high school student: Ronnie Hunt - handsome devil. Growing up in that small Texas town she picked peaches and cotton, learned to can, hauled hay, milked goats, and raised a garden. After a church wedding in 1962, they moved to Wichita Falls where Ronnie found work in a foundry, making items from molten metal. He made a bronze wall hanging for her, one of her prized possessions, now proudly framed, displayed on her dining room wall.



They arrived in San Antonio, bought their two-story home that she helped him roof, in 1976. That, by the way, was the end of her roofing career, she told him! During these years, raising two children, she followed their progress through life as a Cub Scout and Blue Bird leader and a PTA volunteer. She, besides all of this, modeled for shops at Los Patios and Frost Brothers, was the "button buyer" for Scrivener's, and helped create/sew Fiesta gowns!

"There was one modeling job that was really important. It was a runway job, modeling clothes from many shops, with the last catwalk (model lingo for how models move) as mother of the bride! There was a write up in the paper, wine served! Another fun job was modeling at the Grand Opening of the Cultural Arts Center in Market Square," she bragged . . . modestly!

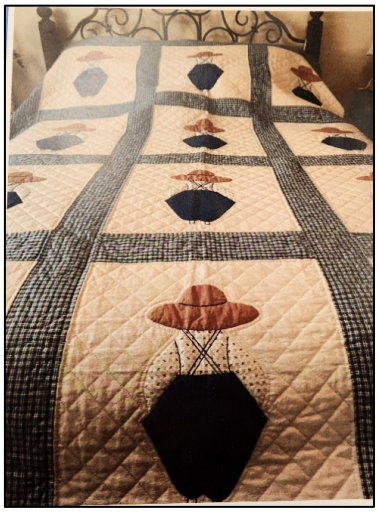


And, following in the footsteps of not only her father, but his father's Odd Fellows membership, she was the leader, the Grande Noble, of their female/wives' group – the Rebekah's.

It was her New Mexico aunt who caused Annie to find 911 Melissa in 2004. The goal – to prove DAR eligibility. They were searching for a library to research the genealogy, satisfy those stringent requirements. As Annie was visiting, **Barbara Dehle** overheard Annie state that "I can quilt" and that, as they say, was that. Annie became A Quilter. This group of talented seamstresses, hobbyists, created ideas, patterns, made quilts as a fundraising effort to support the library. Sadly, the quilters numbers are reduced now but the spirit of volunteerism continues today as strong as ever. Over these years, Ann has served two terms as a SAGHS Board Director, and for many years, was our Chaplain, attending so many funerals, as our representative to let families know our respect for their loved one.

Annie invites all who have a Tuesday morning available to come, join in the fun of our still thriving Tuesday Volunteer Group. The ladies and gentlemen arrive about 8:30 at the library doors to greet head honcho **Bev**, be given the day's work assignments, always something interesting. Libraries always have jobs that need hands to work!

Annie wants to invite members to join her and this tried and trusty group of good friends to come for fellowship and accomplishment. And, once a month, they even go for a birthday celebration lunch!



Quilt Tickets

"Little Dutch Boy"

Donated by Barbara Dehle

This Queen-Sized Quilt could be yours!

Tickets on sale now, still only $1.00 each.

❖

See our duty librarians to purchase your tickets.

The quilt will be raffled off during our Seminar, October 19. The winner does not need to be present.

Proceeds are used to support our Library functions and purchase new books.

DID YOU KNOW: Silesian Profiles in SAGHS Library

By Janet Dawson Ebrom

Do you have ancestors who immigrated to Texas from the region of Upper Silesia in present-day Poland? If so, you have a valuable resource since all three volumes of ***Silesian Profiles*** are now in the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society Library:

Silesian Profiles: Polish Immigration to Texas in the 1850s (69 profiles) ©1999;

Silesian Profiles II: Polish Immigration to Texas 1850s – 1870s (79 profiles) ©2004;

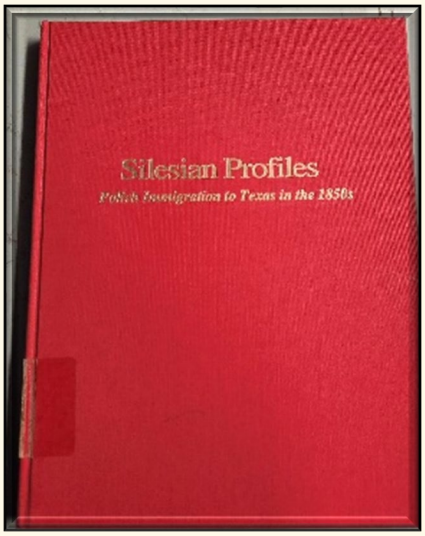
Silesian Profiles III: Polish Immigration to Texas 1850s – 1890s (130 profiles) ©2020

Sacramental records in Europe and Texas were researched by the Silesian Profiles Committee. This was accomplished primarily through Baptism, marriage, and burial records by using microfilmed and digitized parish records. Each profile includes Catholic records for the profiled couple as well as a Baptism chart for their children, the second generation of the family in Texas.

Secular records include ship lists and documented federal census records which often had distorted spellings of names, so a list of surname and maiden name spelling variations is provided in each profile. Research in Texas involved military records, tax rolls, citizenship records, land deeds, agriculture schedules, and probate records. In some instances, documents reflected the actual signature of an original immigrant, and copies of these prized signatures have been included in the profiles.



Cattle brands were also researched, and the earliest brand found for each couple was selected for reproduction in the profiles; such brands offer insight as a personal reflection of the individuality of each original immigrant. For example, the Carl Zigmond brand shown was recorded in Bexar County Marks and Brands, Volume D, p. 359, on September 2, 1870.



Most profiles present a married couple with all the genealogical and historical information supported by detailed documentation which is the hallmark of the Silesian Profiles project. An extensive bibliography in each book includes primary and secondary sources referenced in our research. An index completes each volume and lists females according to their maiden names as well as their male counterparts.

With 25 years of research, this endeavor represents the most comprehensive accumulation of Silesian-Texan family histories to date.

BRANCH BAR "BLING"

By Kathy Totten



During our Founders' Day celebration, a curious new member spotted this adornment worn on the blouse of long-time member **Diane Scannell** sitting close by. I was asked to identify what was first thought to be jewelry. In fact, what you see are the proud metal insignias of honored lineages, held for display, easy to wear.

Many of us are members of lineage groups and see our friends wearing their "Bling" to meetings. I'm using the newly coined word "bling" to describe that shiny pin jewelry that caught everyone's eye! There have been times that I was envious of all the insignia and ancestor bars that I've seen adorning jackets and blouses. We are encouraged to store each set separately but to wear them with something that can hold the weight of these insignias. A good solution? Wear this bright little metal **Branch**!

The **BRANCH** has loops to attach miniature insignia of multiple organizations and can be worn anywhere as a piece of jewelry. There is a central loop and 11 additional small loops so it will easily hold 12 miniatures if you have gotten the bug and joined lots of groups. The one displayed has 10 attached. From left to right they represent:

Jamestowne Society - Their mission is to discover and record the names of all early settlers of Jamestowne in the Colony of Virginia who made the great sacrifice to establish our English-Speaking Nation. Members are direct lineal descendants of Qualifying Ancestors.

Daughters of the Republic of Texas - Members are lineal descendants of a man or woman who rendered loyal service for Texas prior to the consummation of the Annexation Agreement of Republic of Texas with the U.S.A. on 19 Feb. 1846.

Colonial Dames 17th Century - Members are lineal descendants of an ancestor who lived and served prior to 1701 in one of the Original Colonies in the geographical area of the present-day U.S.A.

There are 20 categories of service.



Pictured: Diane Scannell and Kathy Totten

National Huguenot Society - Members are direct lineal descendants of men and women in France known as Huguenots who were persecuted in the 16th and 17th centuries because of their adherence to the basic tenets of the Protestant faith and their devotion to liberty, and who emigrated directly or through other countries to North America and contributed by their character and ability to the development of the U.S.

Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America - Members are lineal descendants in an unbroken paternal line of either of the member's father or mother, going back to a FOUNDER who arrived in one of the Colonies between May 13, 1607 and May 13, 1687, and in this unbroken line, an intermediate PATRIOT ancestor who, by personal service in a civil or military capacity or by acts proving his unfailing loyalty, assisted in establishing American independence during the Revolutionary Period, 1775-1784. Note: The Patriot can be established with a D.A.R. ancestor.

Daughters of the American Revolution - Members are direct lineal descendants of a Patriot of the American Revolution.

National Society New England Women - Members are lineal descendants of one or more ancestors born in New England prior to the adoption of the Constitution of the U.S. in 1789 or before 1700 in Nassau or Suffolk County, Long Island. Notes: Ancestors can be either man or woman. New England does not include N.Y. but does include the two counties on Long Island while they were part of Connecticut.

National Society Daughters of American Colonists - Members are descendants of men and women who were residents of America when it was under foreign government as colonies and who served in 28 categories of acceptable patriotic or civil service prior to July 4, 1776.

National Society U.S. Daughters of 1812 - Members are descendants of American patriots who rendered civil, military, or naval service to our country during the years 1784 to 1815 inclusive. Note: They did not have to serve in the "War of 1812."

Mayflower Society - Members are direct lineal descendants of a passenger aboard the *Mayflower* who stayed on to establish the colony.

Oh yes, there are many more linage organizations. I've only just explained what was photographed here. So, next time you spot such a display, you will appreciate the proud heritage such "Bling" represents.



EDUCATION AND VOLUNTEERING

By Nancy McNamara

Our Publication Committee has undergone many changes since our beginning 65 years ago, responding to growth and needs.

Presently *Our Heritage*, our Society's' journal, is co-chaired by **Kathryn Messec Jones** and **Larry Luckett**, both seasoned veteran editors. They encourage gathering informative material from our membership for publication. They also create, as an income producing avenue, various publications of general interest to genealogists: marriage books from 1837 – 1905, a *Bexar County Naturalization Index*, a walking guide to cemeteries, a list of burials found in the many volumes of the Cemeteries of Bexar County, Texas. More publications are even now being written which will be for sale in the future.

Kathryn Messec Jones joins a celebrated group of former editors who have developed this journal as an award-winning publication. In 1997 **Janey Joyce,** CGT, recognized a need update *Our Heritage's* format. Eventually, some of these articles were made into books for sale. She continued in this role until 2004, and was acknowledged, winning several publication awards.

Others followed in her footsteps. **Kitty Massey** edited for several years. **Larry Luckett's** 10 years as editor, gained even more recognition. *Our Heritage* relied on our members to write their family histories/stories. This in turn becomes a permanent record for tomorrow's researchers. All past issues are housed, are accessible in the library, as well as being recorded into the **Allen County Library's PERSI** collections.

Our Heritage wouldn't be complete nor as interesting without the skills of **Charles Brussells**, graphic designer. He adds graphics, incorporates photos, designs colorful covers for each issue. And also, that of **Julia George**, who provides the handy index to each issue. Charles is also, another part of the Publication Committee, the sole composer of our annual membership Yearbook/Roster. He can place member's personal head photos in these pages, a most useful tool for helping new members get acquainted!

Larry Luckett has been instrumental in writing many free-standing publications: *First Families of Bexar County: Descendant Lineages of Residents of Bexar, San Antonio* and Bexar *County prior to 1850*, *Remembering World War I*, to name a few currently for sale as a fund-raising effort. He is now editing World War II material for publication soon.

Larry faithfully enters our varied publications for recognition by Texas State Genealogy Society judging competition. These categories for competition from which our candidates have won awards are for website design, newsletter, society journals publications.

Historically, the newsletters were written by our

former presidents. In 2013, **Larry Luckett** became the first volunteer to edit/compose this timely news carrier. **Pat Merk** replaced him until 2016 when **Barbara Holmes** stepped forward, is our current editor. Her abilities as a graphic designer have brought interest and eye appeal to these pages.

In 2023 **Barbara Holmes'** committee staff was expanded to add another graphic artist **Amanda Pagan**, writers **Kitty Massey**, **Carol Thompson,** (who also co-edits) columnists **Nancy McNamara** and **Scott Atkinson**! Talented volunteer photographers **Gaspar** and **Mary-Catherine Gomez** and **Judy McKee** have followed, adding color photos of our events and our members, in action. So large now is the newsletter, responding to the modern web-based world, the newsletter now needs to be downloaded from our award-winning website managed by **Rob Lewis** www.txsaghs.org. This...a far cry from those Tuesday Volunteers who folded, taped, hand addressed, stamped and sent to the post office those printed sheets of yesteryear!

The Publications Committee is a busy place, a proud group who strives to keep members informed and enlightened.



ASK THE LIBRARIAN:

What Do I Do with The Family Bible?

By Beverly Rakowitz

So many visitors to our library have similar questions. Our Interim Librarian, Beverly Rakowitz has been asked to share some of those frequently given answers, aided by her uber able fellow librarians pictured here:



"What do I do with my family Bible?"

I am always being asked what to do with a Bible. Family Bibles often are wonderful primary sources of first-hand witnesses to events, dates, often family details found no other place.

- I suggest a site that I've heard about through Facebook. It sounds helpful – Bible Rescue. (Biblerescue.org) They accept Bibles and provide an online, searchable database on the Bibles.
- Another source is the Tennessee State Library and Archives has a Family Bible Records Project. (sos.tn.gov/tsla)
- Family Bible Preservation Project from Yancey Family Surname Resource Center. (yanceyfamilygenealogy.org)
- Family Search has Family Bible Records dedicated to locating, preserving, transcribing and sharing information about Family Bibles.
- I also frequently use "Google" to search for answers and check out questions when asked for help.



COMPUTER GENEALOGY

By T. Scott Atkinson

I hope that you have been tracking my monthly articles. I'm available every second Wednesday of the month during our Dwyer classroom Workshops, if you could use some help with your computer in documenting your Family Tree.

If you've been following along, then you know that I am a supporter of the programs **Family Tree Maker** and **WikiTree** for documenting your family's history (genealogy). You probably also know that I work with Ancestry, Family Search, My Heritage, Find a Grave and others. We use both Apple Mac and Microsoft Windows computers.

This month, I want to suggest a new WikiTree function - **"Tree Apps."** Under that menu you will see 32 different functions that include the following: Ahnentahel Ancestor List, CC7 Views, Descendants, Fan Chart, **One Name Trees**, Surname List, Ancestor Explorer, Bio Check, Brick Wall Ancestors, Maps, Profile Overview and Research with Roots Search plus many more.

One that is relatively new is **One Name Trees**. Info from WikiTree states the following: "You may have seen and/or used the stand-alone version of this new Tree App before, but it's finally made it to the Tree Apps page/tab/dropdown. As the name suggests, **One Name Trees** gathers all people with the same family name (or a group of name variants) and sorts them into descendant trees. This may be useful for people working on One Name Studies or just anyone wishing to utilize this tool in your search for ancestors."

Here are some of the options that you can select to narrow down your search interests:

Centuries box - As some surnames have tens of thousands of results, we need to narrow down the dataset a little. There was already a Location box for this, but I've added a 'Centuries' box to narrow it down to one or more century/centuries.

Migrants/Migration visualization - Go to the Statistics section and look for the Migrants button. This shows how many migrants have been identified in the dataset. Click the button to see where people migrated from and to. Use the arrow buttons in the top left corner to see migrants from previous or subsequent periods. Click a green or red dot to see who the lines represent. (Migrants are identified simply from there having been born and died in different countries. It considers some cases as someone being born in Massachusetts Bay Colony and dying in the United States, for example.)

Unsourced, Unconnected, and 'No connections' lists - Also in the Statistics section, you'll find buttons to show lists of profiles with 'unsourced' templates or categories, those who are not connected to the big tree, and those with no

parents, spouses, or children in the database.

Period setting - For the period statistics, you can choose how long you want a period to be (10 years, 50 years, 100 years, etc.).

Last Name at Birth Only setting - You can restrict the results to only those who were given the target surname(s) at birth.

DNA tags - For profiles that have DNA data attached to them; you can see the relevant data by clicking the tag.

Surname variants - As before, you can add your surname variants to the Google file, but now you can also put a comma-separated M list of surname variants in the Name box without adding them to the Google file.

More information on using WikiTree will be presented at our class on Saturday, September 7th, 9 am to noon. Be sure to register at 210-342-5242 or www.txsaghs.org if you'd like to attend.

Cheers,

T. Scott Atkinson,
tscottatkinsongm@gmail.com



Tuesday Volunteers - Master Gardner **Smitty Oliver** explaining why our Butterfly Garden Project enriches our community.



NEW MEMBERS

Connie Barber

Paul Baumi

Ron Beesley

Michael Carroll

Frank Chance

Linda Comeaux

Karen Condit

Steve Dial

Susan Dial

Wvyonna Folks

Vanessa Miller

Leslie Pickett

Charles Stricklin

Jack Uptmore

Jacob Weaver

Annmarie Woodley Esparza

Kacey Zinsmeyer



CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, AND MEETINGS

All classes are held in the Dwyer Center. To pre-register, call 210-342-5242 during library business hours or email education@txsaghs.org.

SEPT 02 MON
SAGHS Library Closed (Labor Day)

SEPT 04 WED
Beginner's Genealogy Class - Week 2 of 4
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Instructors: Stephanie Wells & Lois Bready | **Description:** Those beginning genealogy research will learn the various aspects of research such as definitions, forms, census records, finding resources, etc. | **Cost:** Attendees should have already paid

SEPT 07 SAT
WikiTree Class
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Instructor: Scott Atkinson | **Description:** A class to further one's understanding and use of Wikitree.com. | **Cost:** $15 for members; $25 for non-members

SEPT 11 WED
Workshop to Resolve Problems on Genealogy Programs
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Instructor: Scott Atkinson | **Description:** A monthly workshop that includes Roots Magic, Family Tree Maker, Ancestry and WikiTree. | **Cost:** Free for members; donation appreciated for non-members

SEPT 14 SAT
DNA Consult Hours
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Instructor: Annette Graham | **Description:** One-on-one sessions to help you interpret your DNA results and use them with your research. | **Cost:** $20 for members; $30 for non-members

SEPT 17 TUE
Duty Librarian Meeting
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

SEPT 18 WED
Beginner's Genealogy Class - Week 3 of 4
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Instructors: Stephanie Wells & Lois Bready | **Cost:** Attendees should have already paid

SEPT 21 SAT
SAGHS General Membership Meeting
10:00 am – 12:00 pm (library closed)
Guest Speaker: Dr. David Katerndahl presenting the Trials of Mary Woodwell

SEPT 29 SUN
German Migration into the United States
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Instructor: Lloyd Shenberger | **Description:** This class looks at the different immigration waves, possible reasons for immigration, the voyage to the new world, the records they may have left, and a strategy to find them. | **Cost:** Free for members; donation appreciated for non-members



NEW BOOKS

CALL #	TITLE	AUTHOR	Donor	
FH Babb	Border Healing Woman: The Story of Jewel Babb	LittleDog, Pat (as told to)	Barbara Johns	Family History
FH Magoffin	Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846-1847	Drumm, Stella M. (Editor)	Barbara Johns	
FH Stewart	Letters of a Woman Homesteader	Stewart, Elinore Pruitt	Barbara Johns	
FH Semme	Maryland Semmes and Kindred Families: A Genealogical History of Marmaduke Semme(s), Gentleman and his Descendants	Newman, Harry Wright	Frank Kebelman	
FH Harvey	George Barnett Harvey of Kentucky, Mississippi, and Texas: Four Generations of an American Migration	Daniel, Karen Steel	Karen S Daniel	
FH Grater	German Immigrant Family in 19th Century Texas: Jphannes Gustav Grater, Christian Friedrich Grater, Gottlob Friedrich Grater, Ancestors and Descendants	Daniel, Karen Stein	Karen S Daniel	
FH Burke	Three Generations of Descendants of John Munday Burke of Virginia, Kentucky and Illinois	Daniel, Karen Stein	Karen S Daniel	
FH Ross	Three Generations of Descendants of Shapley Prince Ross: An Early Texas Pioneer	Daniel, Karen Stein	Karen S Daniel	
FH Vincent	Victor Masse and Emilie Lucile Vincent: From the First French Republic to the Republic of Texas	Daniel, Karen Stein	Karen S Daniel	
GA clar7	Records of Clarke, County Georgia, 1801-1892: In the Georgia Department of Archives & History	Davis, Robert Scott and GA Department of Archives and History	Frank Kebelman	Georgia
MF 358	History and Genealogy of the Families of Bellinger and De Veaux and other Families	Bulloch, Joseph Caston	JoAnne Horne	Multi-Families
MF 360	Pedigree Charts for the Bennack - Bellinger Family Reunion	Horne, JoAnne (compiled)	JoAnne Horne	



Ready to take your genealogy research to the next level?

The 2024 TxSGS Family History Conference, ***Navigating Your Family History*** seeks to help hundreds of attendees discover the tools needed to answer their genealogy questions. Featuring 24+ speakers, 41+ presentations, and 31 on-demand lectures the TxSGS Family History Conference promises something for everyone.

All lectures will be accessible online through February 2, 2025.

Click here to register online.

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