NEWSLETTER

July/August 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.



Front row: Ellen Cotton, Finance Chair; Kathy Totten, Secretary; Beverly Rakowitz, Interim Librarian; Dr. David Katerndahl, Director-at-Large; Back row: Peter Baron, Vice President; Bill Myers, Director-at-Large; Rob Lewis, President; Dr. Judy Castleberry, Director-at-Large; Linda Manchester, Chaplain; not pictured Barbara Holmes, Treasurer
Photo credit: Judy McKee

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Rob Lewis

Can you believe it… 65 years, have gone by in a wink of an eye. We are looking forward to another 65 plus years of helping the community find their roots.

As with any family, we have had our ups and downs. Currently we are undergoing a transition with a new energetic and energized Board of Directors who are dedicated to supporting our non-profit mission. While some things will be different, we will do our best to honor the traditions of the past. In that light, we recently had our usual annual Founders Day Celebration in a different format.

Of course, we honored our new First Family, and all those from previous years. We installed the newly elected Directors-At-Large and Board of Directors. But the big difference was that it was not the traditional luncheon, but a formal reception in the Dwyer Center building, newly scrubbed, ready for many more years of use for classroom, meeting, and assembly space.

A surprise bonus this year, all refreshments were provided by donations, an act of kindness that made the event simple and carefree for all to enjoy.

That brings me to another important message - **it's that time of year - membership renewal**.

Those many who have already renewed, we thank you. Those who have not or who have forgotten, please do so today or before August 31. We are planning, as usual, to publish the annual yearbook, and August 31 is our cut-off date to list member's names. We want everyone to sign up to have your photo taken, too! It's free!

We have been blessed by some very generous donors during the past month. We have been faced with the usual utility expenses and some unexpected items in the past 45 days. These donations have been a blessing. We will be re-vamping our "Annual Fund Drive" to reflect more defined needs; so, look for some changes in the fall.

Our library is open at our normal hours, and thanks to an army of dedicated volunteers, a book inventory has been completed. We anticipate starting our schedule of classes in July. Please check txsaghs.org our easy-to-read website for details.

Thanks to all for donations of time and money. Your steadfast physical and financial support is truly appreciated.

My "door" is always open to suggestions, as we seek to continue to provide the best physical genealogical research facility, open and comfortable, accommodating to those who search for their roots…together. Our future is ever so bright!



ONE OF A KIND: BARBARA DEHLE

By Kitty Massey

Barbara Dehle has always been a “One of a Kind” member. When she joined SAGHS in 1978, she was in her early forties and a seasoned researcher. She began investigating her family as a young mother in 1966, prompted by the gift of a baby book with a generational chart. After more than a decade of genealogical digging, she knew exactly which books our library needed. Over the years, she watched our shelves fill up, book by book. When she talks about SAGHS, she often says “We’ve come a long way, Baby.” She should know.

The fact that she grew up on a farm wasn’t unique to the early membership, but her family’s farm was in MONTANA. Being from Montana and living in San Antonio was an eye catcher. As Barbara noted, the early affluent socialite leaders had southern roots. Our starter library, built with their donations, featured the southern states. As a member of the book committee, Barbara reminded them that the country also has a western shore.

Barbara has always had the nose of a blood hound and has been a “One of a Kind” researcher. Achieving membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution was particularly challenging. The trail to her ancestors was filled with roadblocks and hazards but her search for them was relentless and triumphant. Along the way she found disappearing men, evaporating marriages, lost and doctored records, denied pension applications, mistaken transcriptions and tragedy. Foremost among the



tragedies was the death of her father at age 21. Before she walked, her dad Robert Tull sat her on a horse. Soon after, he rode off to the rodeo in Missoula, Minnesota, and never returned. He was thrown from a bull and then stomped. Twenty days later he died.

Barbara has had many responsibilities at SAGHS. She has served as registrar (fulfilling research requests); historian; chairman of Merry Library Day (a multi-thousand-dollar annual fundraising event); and quilter. For the annual fundraiser, Merry Library Day, she made dozens of aprons, adorable children's clothing and pumpkin bread to sell (see our cookbook for the recipe). The event brought in thousands of dollars. In the early 1980s, she joined the quilters' circle of the Society. Since then, raffles of handmade quilts have been a highlight of our year and fundraising.

By the early 2000s, Barbara had become the principal of librarian school—she trained most of our librarians until 2020. Her beginning genealogy classes pointed the way for countless researchers, like **Cathy Bohnak** and **Nancy McNamara**. They remember the impressive "how to" genealogy book she compiled. Others recalled field trips to the downtown Central Library and Courthouse.



One of Barbara's favorite activities was going to Salt Lake City and the Mormon Library with a SAGHS group. She explained to **Carol Thompson** in a recent series of emails that she began going when she turned 60. In the mid 1990's, about 20 ladies made the trip together every year, staying a full week, enjoying the city on Saturday and Sunday when the library was closed, but otherwise working from 8 a.m. to 9 or 10 p.m., every day. One lady in the group, she noted, had a deep French accent. On the first day in town, she took a cab to a liquor store. "By dinner time, she had had her wine, and we could not understand a thing she said."

"Oh, such fun," Barbara wrote Carol, "and the 'wine' lady who went with us willed us over a million dollars. She had no children, was a military wife, no clue how that much amassed from a military career, but it was certainly a gift from Heaven for us."



Many of our members say the same thing about Barbara. She had a way of finding the perfect job for volunteers; jobs that merrily continued for years and years. **Annie Hunt** joined in 2004

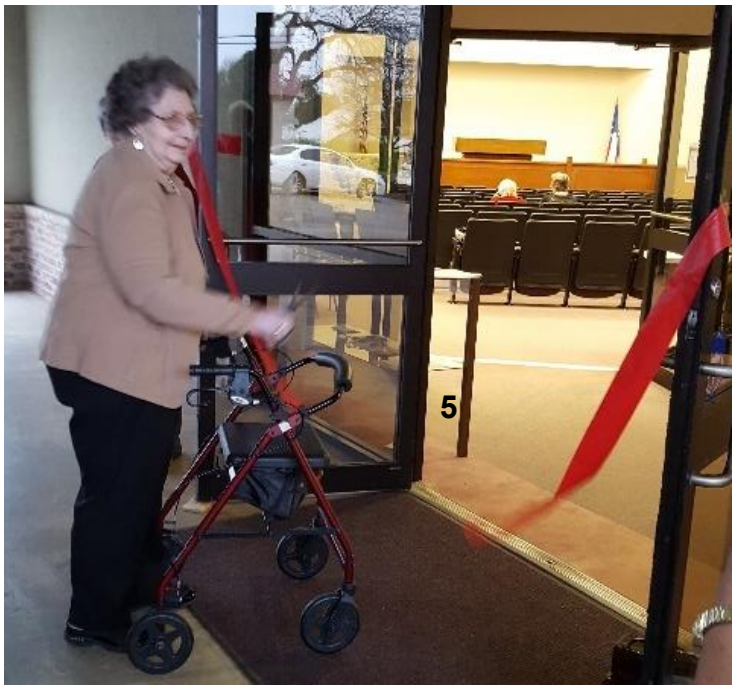
and is now the last representative of the quilters. Annie was barely through the library door when Barbara discovered she could quilt. In the thump of a thimble, she found herself upstairs in the quilting room. As the ladies stitched, they shared family stories. Barbara's, Annie recalls, included driving a semi-truck on her grandfather's farm as a teenager, packed with cattle and hay, and a lifelong back injury from a falling, heavy barn door. There were tales of Darius, Barbara's husband, a railroad employee who passed away in 2004—and news of their son Derek and his family who live in the Hill Country. On the surface, Annie jokes, Barbara is an Amy Vanderbilt protégé—perfectly coiffured, likely to wear pearls, properly attired and somewhat strait-laced. Look out, however, for her devilish sense of humor.

As a profession, Barbara was a telephone operator who directed calls. At SAGHS she directed people. **Sir Oliver Smith**, our Smitty, came by SAGHS in 2015 to consult with **Helen Parker** about landscaping. Barbara corralled him, got him to join in 2016, and turned him into a librarian-landscaper.

When **Mary Souter** began volunteering (1996), Barbara was part of the "kitchen cabinet," President **Ann Robert's** workers. Among their duties was processing our mail. In those days, the Newsletter was mimeographed. It could be a messy job. Mary became a part of the group and has been attached to our mail for more than a couple of decades. It was so slick how Barbara and the others turned the job over to her.

In the early 2000s, when I was the new editor of *Our Heritage* (2004-2011), Barbara gave me her family research for publication. We spent lots of time going over the details. For me, it was a lesson in advanced genealogy. Barbara helped me learn to research and to write. See her stories in *Our Heritage*, Vol. 46, Nos. 3 & 4 (Spring & Summer 2005) and Vol. 47, Nos. 1 & 2 (Fall & Winter 2005-2006). Our journal won awards in 2005 and beyond.

And look at me, Barbara. I'm still writing. This time it's about YOU because you are "One of a Kind." And look at YOU, still researching. According to your new friend Carol Thompson, you are, right now, putting together albums about your grandparents.



GREENIES ONLY…

By 'greenies' I'm describing those folks who are fairly new to this HOBBY. The one that you've put off until you have the luxurious, lavish time provided by a well-earned retirement.

Like so many, you've gotten bitten by this 'bug' when your mom passed away; that stark sit-right-up-in-bed-at-three o'clock in the morning-realization that everything you ever knew about your grands and greats…. just evaporated.

So…now…you've joined the library, taking these almost free courses so freely and frequently given by your betters who have decades of research behind those shared words, here in our student-friendly Dwyer classroom.

Some of you, having gotten various degrees of head-starts from others' work, are now skipping into the library, knowing just the right questions to ask that tutored-and-ready duty librarian. Some of us, like me, are clueless. We need to be filled with…. everything.

If this is YOU - you're a greenie. And I've got some grand news to share with you. It's called *Stirpes*. It's the quarterly magnificent magazine created by erudite, caring genealogists centered at the Texas State Genealogical Society…. yep… there is one. In these pages, I've found ideas that have supplemented Dwyer classes, raised topics I hadn't known existed! These brilliant folks, generations ahead of us greenies, request, compile and publish, just like **Kathryn Jones** does with *Our Heritage*, one of the finest compilations of practical genealogical information, for all those different research needs - technical, physical record keeping, map reading, historical site clues, pointers on where or what to look for; this list could take another paragraph. I'm saying that the scope of their knowledge, coverage is literally 'wall to wall.'

Annual dues for this state membership are $30, but if you want to get a physical *Stirpes* copy mailed to your mailbox, there is an additional annual $15 fee - worth every single pence! Now, if you can manage with their online presentation, download, there is no additional fee.

We show their professional logo www.txsgs.org in every issue of our newsletter. After a while, it's a fact that the eye doesn't SEE it anymore; but please DO visit these folks! The value added for invested dollar….is off the scale.



New Members

Patricia Anders

Marty (Margaret) Marie Moore Corcoran

Kay Cotter

Jonathan Cotton

William Robert Cotton

Judy Crawford

Hal (Harold) Curry

Diana Devore

Travis Dixon

Gina Garrison

Dean Richard Hobart

Jim (Jimmie) Dee Massingill

Barbara Northern

David Sawtelle

Kurt Schrader

Tessie Skulski

RESEARCH TIPS

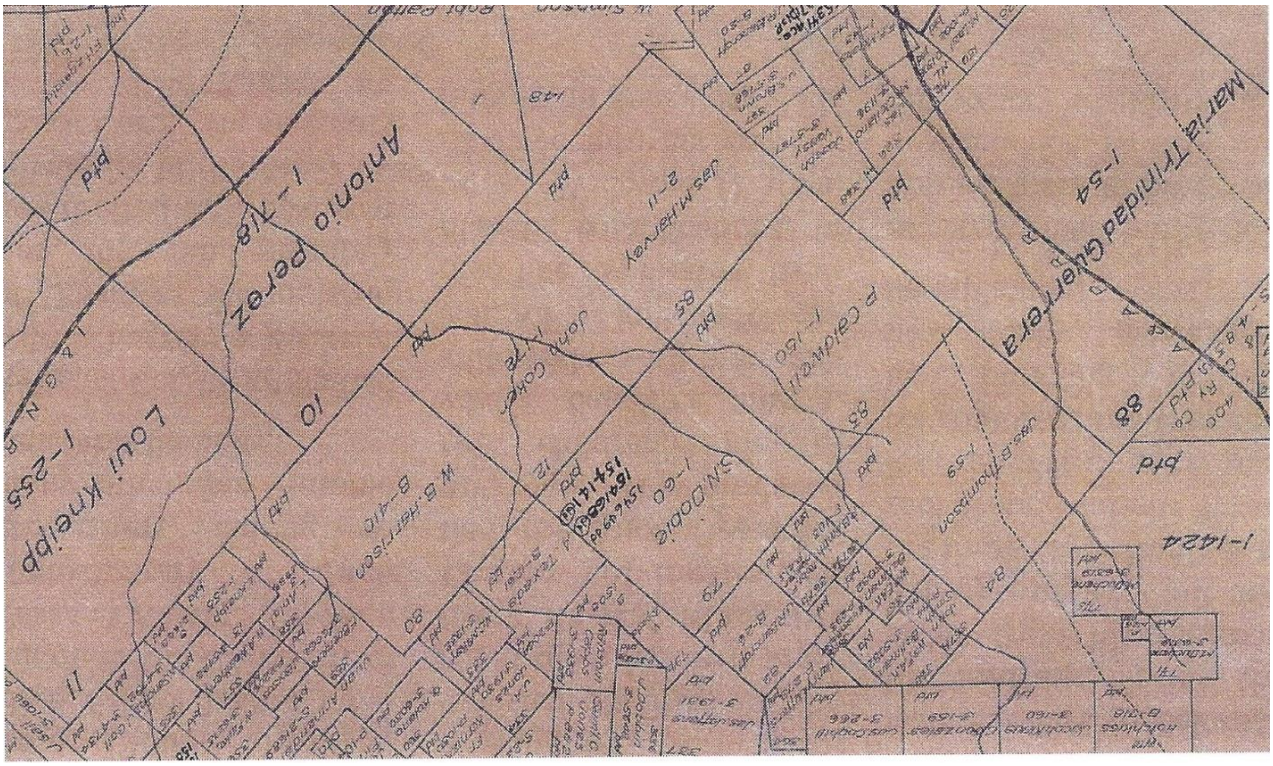
By Daniel Snell, RPLS

Being one of the new volunteer Duty Librarians, I would like to introduce a way to find information about your Texas ancestors that perhaps you have not tried. If they came to Texas prior to 1900 and filed an application to obtain land from the Texas General Land Office, some interesting records may await your discovery.

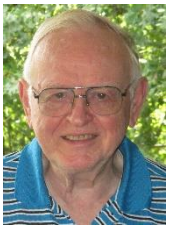
The General Land Office or GLO kept detailed records of early settlers to Texas who may have applied for or received land. Some of these records may contain dates when your ancestor arrived, whether he served in the Army, or whether he was single or married. Depending upon these and other factors he may have been entitled to a Land Grant to be selected out of the unappropriated public domain anywhere in the state.

The simplest way to get started finding out if your ancestor qualified or received land in Texas is to visit the GLO website. Just Google Texas GLO
Land Grants and fill in any portion of the search categories to get access to their extensive database.

The library now has both a digital and hard copy of a GLO map of Bexar County showing the location of those grants of land made within its boundaries. The map is contained in the map drawers under Bexar County. Happy researching!



P.S.: In the map cabinet we also have maps from many other states and some countries!



Something OLD, Something NEW

By T. Scott Atkinson

Over the previous months I have discussed several topics relating to documenting your family tree (history) using a computer. Many of you have probably heard me say, “You do the research, and I will help you document it.” When we discuss documenting our family tree, there are several things we should know about, so in this column I will provide you with some information that all researchers should already know and follow.

The practice of genealogy involves many things that we encounter during those tasks. Many times we just want to know who we are descendant from and skip the processes that a genealogist should perform.

OK, yes there is a set of standards, some that I will be sharing with you today.

Needless to say, accuracy is essential to documentation. As some would say, good documentation is fundamental to all research. As you develop your family tree, you probably will be capturing all that research information on your computer. I would now say that making certain your information is accurate is paramount, especially if you intend to share your research with family, friends and others.

There are several good reference books that contain examples of what is called **The Genealogical Proof Standard**. I will cite some of the books at the end of this column. Mainly, good, accurate and complete citations are required for each source to support each fact relating to any individual in your search. Key facts are maiden name, birth date, parents’ names, marriage date and locations.

According to the Book **Genealogy Standards**, there are eight standards that address genealogical documentation. I share them with you to pique your interest:

- Scope
- Specificity
- Purpose
- Citation uses
- Citation Elements
- Format
- Short cuts
- Separation safeguards

Unfortunately, to keep this column within a reasonable length, I must defer going into detail on each of the eight above. My intention is to raise the subject and implore you to study these in some detail to ensure your family tree facts are indeed as accurate as humanly possible.

Here is a list of the books worthy of your review:

Noel C. Stevenson, *Genealogical Evidence, A Guide to the Standard of Proof Relating to Pedigrees, Ancestry, Heirship and Family History,* Revised Edition. Walnut Creek CA: Aegean Park Press, 1979

Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained, Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, Third Edition Revised. Baltimore MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017.

Board for Certification of Genealogists. *Genealogy Standards, Second Edition Revised*, Nashville, TN: Ancestry.com 2021.

As part of our Education program, **Larry Luckett** offers a class on how to write genealogical citations. If you would like this class to be repeated, please let SAGHS know.

I welcome your thoughts and feedback. Email tscottatkinsongm@gmail.com.



EDUCATION AND VOLUNTEERING

By Nancy McNamara

Our family of volunteers and educators is meeting new opportunities to help us grow again, as we've experienced in the past, to be ready to address our future.

The Membership voted for new Board members at the regularly scheduled May 18th meeting. We are thankful to long-time member **Rob Lewis** to step forward as President to support the many functions of the SAGHS Society. Especially important were those folks offering to fill the vacated Board voting positions – **Kathy Totten** as our new Secretary; **Barbara Holmes** our new Treasurer; **Ellen Cotton** assuming duties as the Finance Chairman, and **Bev Rakowitz** remaining as Interim Librarian. While **Kitty Massey** and **Dale Bingham** were kept in their board positions, both **Bill Myers** and **Dr. Judy Castleberry** became the next 2024-2026 Directors-at-large a month early. **Kitty Massey** will complete her term as Director-at-Large and will be replaced by **Dr. David Katerndahl**, who was elected in April. **Peter Baron** is stepping in a Vice President replacing an ailing **Dale Bingham**. Other replacements to complete some other roles to keep our society functioning were **Linda Manchester** as Chaplin, **Rebecca Boles** our new Membership chair and **Lois Bready** replacing **Nancy McNamara** when she leaves in January as Education chair!

A long-needed



inventory of Library resources and buildings possessions has just been completed. Of the latter, it was our Tuesday volunteers and assistants who spent several days performing a full library inventory. Under the direction of **Bev Rakowitz,** the busy bees went to work quickly to check off our collection of 18, 898 books, journals, maps, and periodicals.

These 26 volunteers include: **Scott Atkinson, Cathy Bohnak, Jonathan Cotton** and his conscripted friend **Jackson Mosqueda**, **Julia George**, **Laura Herold, Annie Hunt, Pat Johnson**, **Margaret Linn**, **Carole McBee**, **Mitzi Jackson**, **Rob Lewis**, **Kitty Massey, Barbara McPherson, Rita McSorley, Linda Monts, Peggy Peterson**, **Elizabeth Prike**, **Daniel Snell**, **Denise Sonnichesen**, **Mary Souter**, **Sue Sieler, Susan Stieler**, **Carol Thompson**, and **Kathy Totten**. We all welcomed the able assistance of **Brooklynn Holmes,** age 8 who nimbly



read off those book call numbers on those pesky floor-level shelves!

Thank you - all who came to the rescue, to preserve the integrity and functions of SAGHS for tomorrows' researchers. Without dedicated volunteers, our non-profit 501c society would perish. Be proud of your loyal, meaningful efforts!

This Year, our Annual Duplicate Genealogy Book Sale also included a Potpourri of Miscellaneous Books that were solicited and donated by SAGHS members. This portion was coordinated by **Kitty Massey**. After the Toastmaster's Meeting on Friday 10 May and again on 11 May, the books and journals were transferred to the classroom for organization. On 11 May, a team of volunteers arrived to assist to organize the books and an additional miscellaneous book organization was done on Monday 13 May. The sale was held Tuesday 14 May thru Thursday 16 May. The left over books and journals were removed so the room was re-organized for the next day's Toastmaster's Meeting. The remaining genealogy books were placed on the hallway book sale shelves and the remaining miscellaneous books with the assistance of **Mary-Catherine** and **Gasper Gomez**'s church group, were taken to St. Mark's Catholic Church for their sale.

A total of $485.00 (genealogy books -$169.00; potpourri miscellaneous books - $316.00) was made for the SAGHS general fund during these 3 days. The final results were confirmed with **Kitty Massey**, Book Sale Co-coordinator.

Our long-time member, savvy landscaper, Master Gardner and all around great guy, **Sir Oliver 'Smitty' Smith**, applied for and received a grant to plant a Pollinator Garden on our grounds. With the help of **William 'Tex' Mahoney** a large plot was turned along the Blanco Road side of our grounds. Thanks to all who labored to set those plantings. And thanks to **Ellen Cotton** for stepping in to help dig and take photos to let us all see this project in action. Let's take a few moments to enjoy the butterflies who will soon be swarming.












TOM
A Man in Full
WOLFE
POTATO CHIP
VARIETY PACK
ORIGINAL
Reagan
A LIFE IN LETTERS
VOTE
FOR



YEARBOOK PHOTO TIME!

Let's see those selfies!

Charles B. Brussells
Editor and Graphics Layout | SAGHS Membership Yearbook

The opportunity to have your photo included in the 2024-2025 Membership Yearbook is approaching for:

- New members and members whose photos are not in the 2023-2024 Membership Yearbook, but who would like to have their pictures in the 2024-2025 Yearbook.
- Members whose photos are in the 2023-2024 Yearbook, but who would prefer to have a different photo in the 2024-2025 Yearbook. If your photo appeared in the 2023-2024 Yearbook and you are *satisfied* with it, *do not send in another photo.*

Members may submit a photo until **31 July 2024**. Members who wish to submit a photo of themselves by post or by email need to follow these guidelines:

- Photos must be received no later than 31 July 2024.
  - Any photo received after 31 July will not appear in the 2024-2025 Membership Yearbook.
  - Late submittals will be archived and used in future yearbooks.
- Either color or black and white photos may be submitted, even though the member photos will appear in the yearbook in black and white only.
- Member photos should contain head and shoulders only – not a group photo or full body photo.
- Photo should have a solid or uncluttered background. The background of all submitted photos will be changed to a neutral background and the photos converted to black and white.
- No newspaper photos or clippings should be submitted.
- Photos should be reasonably recent (no childhood photos, for example).
- Joint members should each submit a separate photo. Mailed-in photos will not be returned unless the member includes a self-addressed, stamped envelope with adequate postage.
- Submitted photos may be used for a five-year period.
- Photos submitted by post should be clearly labeled on the back of the photo with the full name of the individual.
- Hard copies of photos should be mailed to SAGHS, 911 Melissa Dr., San Antonio, TX 78213.
- Digital photos should be emailed with the subject line "Photo Submission" directly to cbbrussell@sbcglobal.net.

Memorials



Barbara Elizabeth Lingo

Sister of Member Peggy Durack

September 20, 1954 – April 24, 2024

James Vernon Campbell, Jr.

Member

January 18, 1939 – May 4, 2024

Col Sigmund 'Alex' Alexander

Husband of Member Virginia 'Ginny' Alexander

April 2, 1928 – May 17, 2024

Memorial donations in their names help fund the various programs and resources of SAGHS.

You may submit your memorial donation in person with cash or check to our duty Librarian, or by mail to SAGHS 911 Melissa Dr. San Antonio, TX 78213.

Please indicate the person's name(s) in the memo portion of your check. **Thank you.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Wednesday, July 10

Resolve Problems on Computer Genealogy programs

10 am – 12 pm

Scott Atkinson

Sunday, July 28

Scorched and Scant: Scaling Research Challenges in South Carolina

2 pm – 4 pm

Melissa Finlay

Saturday, August 10

DNA Consult Hours

10-11 am, 11-am 12 pm & 12-1 pm

Annette Graham

Sunday, August 11

Researching Texas Ancestors in the Republic and Early Statehood

2 pm – 4 pm

Larry Luckett

Wednesday, August 14

Resolve Problems on Computer Genealogy Programs

11 am – 12 pm

Scott Atkinson

Wednesday, August 21

Beginner's Genealogy Class - Week 1 of 4

11 am – 12 pm

Stephanie Wells & Lois Bready

14

Call Number	Title	Author	Donor	
FH Bennack	Bennack Family Notes	Horne, JoAnne (Compiled)	JoAnne Horne	Family History
FH Horne	Ivan Francis Horne Ancestors	Horne, JoAnne (Compiled)	JoAnne Horne	
FH Bellinger	Journal of Mary Caroline (Carrie) Bellinger Beaumont	Horne, JoAnne (Transcribed)	JoAnne Horne	
FH De Witt	Lillie Mae DeWitt Horne, Miscellaneous Genealogy Notes	Horne, JoAnne (Compiled)	JoAnne Horne	
FH Quillian	Reference Manual on Quillian Ancestors for Descendants of Roy and Nancy Quillian	Horne, JoAnne (Compiled)	JoAnne Horne	
FH Sievers	Sievers Timeline from LDS Films	Horne, JoAnne (Compiled)	JoAnne Horne	
FH Ludwick	Account of the Life and Character of Christopher Ludwick,: Late Citizen of Philadelphia, and Baker-General of the Army of the United States During the Revolutionary War	Rush, Bemjamin	Frank Kebelman	
FH Bell	Bell Family in American		Frank Kebelman	
FH Alexander	Records of a Family of the House of Alexander From 1640 to 1909	Butterworth, Frances Alexander	Frank Kebelman	
FH Dwight	Journey to Ohio in 1810: as Recorded in the Journal of Margaret Van Horn Dwight	Dwight, Margaret Van Horn		
FH Bell	Bell Family Records	Seaver, J. Montgomery	Frank Kebelman	
FH Shaver	Shaver Childhood Memories and Photo Album	Bishop, Fay Shaver	Frank Kebelman	
FH Hill	Jane Evelyn Sanders Hill-Neill (Jane Hill) "Family Forest"	Hill, Janie	Nicholas E Hill	
FH Middleton	Robert Middleton (ca 1651-ca 1707) of Charles and Prince Georges Counties, Maryland and Numerous Descendants of His	Herndon, John Goodwin	Frank Kebelman	
FH Rowland	As Long As Life: The Memoirs of a Frontier Woman Doctor: Mary Canaga Rowland, M.D.	Rowland, Mary Canaga and F. A. Loomis	Barbara Johns	

Treasurer's Report

We are solvent, our funds are secured, all known current and past due bills have been paid. Our current 'liquid" funds total $145,528; and our investment funds total $1,286,694.

TOTALS: $1,432,222

Texas State Genealogical Society

Family History Conference: Registration opens July 1



SAGHS is a proud member of:

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Texas State Genealogical Society

Contact Us

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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