SAN ANTONIO GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

911 Melissa Dr,
San Antonio TX 78213-2024

210-342-5242

Website:
https://txsaghs.org

A Member Society Chartered in 1959 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

January 2024

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Our Heritage Editors
Former: Kitty Massey and Larry Luckett

Current: Kathryn M. Jones and Trish Champion

See February Issue for more details.

NEWSLETTER

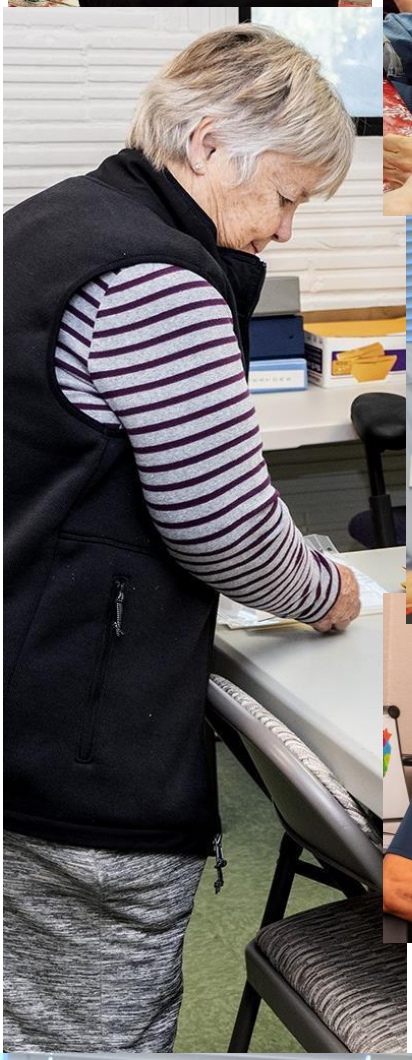
January 2024









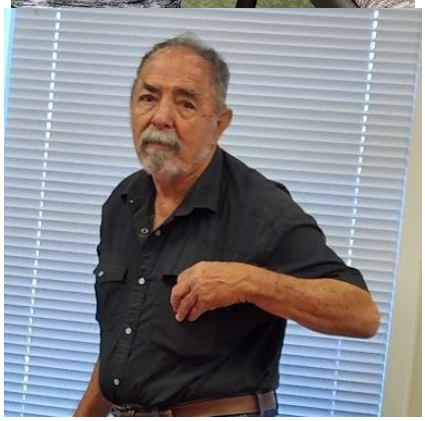












Your Seat Is Saved!

As most have experienced over the years, research in various scenarios can be a bum-flattening endurance test.



And to a large degree, this is but testimony to the value of scholarly collections – their continual, incessant use; the wear and tear, the wearing out of those seating arrangements - the chairs.

Now, most of us just make a mental note of the discomfort, thinking to, (as **Nancy McNamara** suggested when this subject was brought up), bring some sort of cushion for those longer sessions of research. And this would have been the helpful solution except for what newer member **Jackie Meldrom** had in mind. Yes, most of us do know the difference between a Phillips and Slot screwdriver, but that would pretty much sum up the knowledge base that such a project as upholstering would require, not so with Jackie.

One day while your editors, in the Texas Room, were in steely-eyed concentration, jigsaw-ing an issue of this Newsletter, our attention was shattered by the rapid pounding of Jackie's hammer – an upholstery project her sole focus. She was whacking away at one of those library chairs.

As can be seen in these **Gaspar Gomez**, (Newsletter Photographer) photos, her single-chair project has grown. Joining Project Leader Meldrom are "posse" **Ellen Cotton**, **Lisa Forbus**, **Deborah Knippa**, and '**Smitty' Smith.** They are in the process of refinishing those wooden library chairs, adding new 3" high-density foam padding and upholstery fabric to as many likely seats as possible.



"All of these fabrics will enhance a quilt selected by **Ann Hunt** and **Bev Rakowitz** which is hanging on the wall in the Reference Room of the library," Jackie explained.

Like most other SAGHS projects, they 'grow'……. fun seems to multiply! And this editor can add with certain knowledge that during any given Tuesday morning, anyone is welcome to jump into a myriad of these projects going on at full speed.







SAGHS is a proud member of the following Societies:

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1903
MEMBER

Texas
State
Genealogical
Society

Spotlight on Volunteers

ROB LEWIS, Webmaster, Video Technician, etc.

Ever wonder how those enormous Dwyer auditorium TV monitors flick from image to image as the speaker pushes an unseen button, all to illustrate his/her topic? Ever wonder how while sitting at your home PC monitor or laptop that you can experience that seminar or membership meeting, live in progress? No…it's not magic.



But, taking a closer look at the fellow quietly sitting to the right of the stage, you find **ROB LEWIS**, a nice looking 6'3" fellow totally focused on multiple keyboards, a bevy of monitors, all lit, blinking, steady lights with which he makes/produces that 'magic' – the timed projection of that speaker on camera, combined with PowerPoint slides or videos. All of that equipment that you may see is his, except for those monster screens, that is. He carts all of his gear in and out, to afford us those all-important visuals that make those events enjoyable, interesting and eye catching; providing speakers with assets that enrich us all…. including those who may choose to view events from home!

He's from Missouri, as you may know; graduated from Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Missouri with a Bachelor of Science-Communications …way back when. He was a technical theatre major and got his first job at the local CBS TV station as a control room technician. These skills led to a 26-year career with Southwestern Bell Telephone, first in Missouri, then to San Antonio.



During his career, Southwestern Bell morphed into SBC and AT&T. He worked in video production, moved into marketing where he utilized the new internet and was involved in SBC's creation of their own internal intranet. His last job was producing live webcasts to facilitate AT&T senior executives' ability to communicate with employees, teaching, instructing, leading divisions of workers around the world.

His interest in genealogy stemmed from his younger brother's school project of being tasked with tracing family progenitors. Assisting his kid brother, stirred Rob's interest in his mother's Regenhardt family with their prominent history owning a major limestone quarry and

highway construction business, their journey from Germany to Missouri as well as his other ancestral lines.



One day, happenstance took him to the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society, then at the Isom Road location. Curiosity and looking for new research tools made him drop in for a quick visit.

For 35 years he freelanced as a live sports camera operator in the Midwest, and as a Spurs TV broadcast camera operator, video engineering various live television events, kept him busy nights and weekends, then full time 10 years into retirement from AT&T.

Once retired, again by chance, he found our SAGHS website and visited the library, now on Melissa Dr. Having the luxury of time, Rob found family research tools– a gold mine here.

As he saw the need, he began volunteering not only his skill but his expertise, his experience and then…. his very expensive equipment to share all with us, enriching us all with his 'magic.' He has even enlisted his good friend, a full time USAA employee, **Hal Curry** to help with the dynamics of broadcasting from our auditorium as our needs grew.

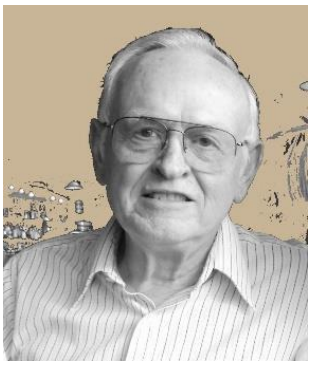
Rob has also taught classes on finding ancestors using historic maps, a distinct advantage when tracing one's ancestors' paths across America. He is also SAGHS' Webmaster, no easy task, especially now that our provider is migrating us to a new platform. In his 'free' time, he does the bulk, if not all, of the document scanning for our vertical files. In addition, we 'take advantage' of his height to do a variety of tasks. He accommodates all with a smile. Phew!

He was blessed with meeting Diane Heseman, lucky that she said 'yes.' She is a microbiologist now employed with Santa Rosa Children's Hospital in downtown SA. While he's fiddling with technical equipment, she likes to garden, tending her herbs, interested in the science of essential oils. The Lewis's like to return to Missouri to visit family, see the sights and, for Rob, another chance to continue researching his fascinating roots.



When you pass him in the halls, please be sure to give him a glad-hand of sincere thanks for that skill, his 'magic' that enriches our research efforts, makes our connection with the library, programs, and seminars enjoyable.

By Carol Thompson



Genealogy Programs for your Family Tree

No. 4

GREETINGS AGAIN!

It's my hope and the reason that I continue with these short articles monthly is to assist you in making decisions regarding the documentation of your Family Tree.

This article will address a related item associated with almost all and certainly the main genealogy programs. You individually might never have any issues with this subject, but I believe that you will find this interesting, which could mean that you become more knowledgeable about the program you are using.

Each main program stores your family tree data in a lineage-linked database**;** these databases follow a structure agreed to so that each program stores the data in a standard format. These standard formats are called GEDCOMs which stands for Genealogical Data Communication. To see the historical development of these standards, go to: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GEDCOM. The original GEDCOMs were developed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) to allow for family trees to be transferred to other programs.

Each GEDCOM file contains plain text about individuals such as names, facts (birth, marriage, death) and relationships to other individuals. The current international standard is GEDCOM 5.5.1, however the LDS Church just released version named 7.0. So, if you have a tree on FamilySearch, that could be the format in which your family tree data is stored. Only time will tell when all developers adopt the new GEDCOM release. More information on GEDCOM 7.0 will be forthcoming.

There is one interesting fact about each computer program developer that is not well known and that is that each one uses the current version with some slight modifications. These differences, for example, Ancestry and Family Tree Maker databases are not transparent. At this point I do not know for certain the format WikiTree is using, however, I have reached out to them and found that they are having discussions about their format. They are considering GEDCOM 7.0 for use in the future.



I have provided a hand-out in the past showing the differences in database formats between Ancestry and Family Tree Maker and explained in my monthly workshops about those differences and when transferring data (trees) back and forth, you could be losing important information.

If you need or could use some help in documenting your Tree via any of the main genealogy programs I've mentioned, all you need to do is reach out to me via my new email: tscottatkinsongm@gmail.com. Please use the subject as **WIKITREE**. Please let me know if you find any of my articles informative.

P. S. You do the research and I'll help you document it!

Cheers,
T. Scott Atkinson



President's Message

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year Everyone!

The Bids are in! As you may remember, several contractors were invited to bid on finishing the interior of the Valerie Guenther South Wing of the Dwyer Center. Four have responded with bids and these bids have been given to the Oversight Committee members for consideration. The Oversight Committee will meet January 2, and hopefully arrive at a recommendation for the board by the next board meeting.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, **January 20, 2024, 10:00 am**. Our General Membership Meeting will feature Joe Wiegand's Reprisal of our 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt! Joe will also perform dinner shows at the Menger Hotel at 7 pm Friday Jan. 19; at 5 and 8 pm on Saturday Jan. 20th; and at 5 pm on Sunday Jan. 21. Tickets for the dinner shows are available at www.Medora.com/TeddyTravels . Joe will have two wonderful Folk singers opening for him at the Menger Hotel on Alamo Plaza. I have seen at least a dozen of his performances and have never seen the same one twice.

On the business end of the meeting, we will select a nominating committee who will nominate three volunteers to serve as Directors for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2024.

The *Membership Yearbooks* July 2023-June 2024 are here! This one has a Lavender cover. Many thanks to Charles Brussells and the Publication Committee for all their work. We appreciate you! Pick up your copy at the library. Be sure to write your initials beside your name in the Library Desk copy. One free book per household. Extra copies are available for $6.50 each.

The Texas Historical Commission thinks we ought to start off the New Year exploring Texas Historic sites and if you agree, you can download a travel guide here: https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/publications/SHS_official_guide.pdf
The premier historic preservation and heritage tourism conference in the Lone Star State "Real Places Conference" is presented by the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission in partnership with Phoenix I Restoration and Construction LLC. It will take place April 3-5 both online and at the Renaissance Austin Hotel. Recordings will be available to all attendees, whether joining us online or in-person, so you'll be able to watch all the great presentations you missed due to concurrent sessions. Conference registration link: https://web.cvent.com/event/3c272a07-2177-4e93-ac87-583880c4d02d/summary?RefId=rp24_home

Back up your genealogy files!

See you on the 20th!



Connie Jean Ewald
Lisa Gambill
Brad Roach
Patty Schmidt
Megan Stacy

By Linda Monts



Volunteer & Education Chair

Happy New Year!!!

As you begin your New Year's resolutions, perhaps you have found time for some new challenges. At SAGHS volunteers are needed to fulfill the society's various offerings. A few samples of a one-time activity could be providing refreshments for a general meeting, assisting in organizing the book sale, preparing facilities for Founder's Day or Seminar, and patchwork painting.

January also signals the time for appointment of the Nominating Committee for the Board members election. This year it is time for the three Directors-at-Large 2024 – 2026 terms. These folks monitor SAGHS activities, greatly assist in the direction of the society's voting board members and may obtain other role appointments as needed. We thank **Kurt Kneeland, Rob Lewis** and **Kitty Massey** for their tenure.



Karen Boyers

The Nominating Committee of 5 volunteers will be contacting members who would be willing to serve in these positions on the Board.

The New Year also reminds us of other positions that need to be filled. First, is the Head Librarian to oversee the daily operation of the library and serves as a voting member of the Board. Another is relieving our current membership chair who is responsible for keeping the members list current for communications and contacts. Lastly but just as important is being a duty librarian. Typically, this person works one day a month. A sincere thank you **Jean Schlather** as you retire after many dedicated years as duty librarian.

To know about other areas to volunteer, please review the attached *Opportunities to Volunteer* List.



Carole McBee & Mary Souter

Whatever your decision, members stand ready to assist in orienting you to the role. Not only do you gain new friends and the satisfaction of a job well done but your time benefits the continued success of SAGHS.

Please contact President, **Barbara Froebel** at President@txsaghs.org, Volunteer Chair, **Nancy McNamara** at Education@txsaghs.org or for duty librarians, **Barbara Johns** at Artyjohns27@gmail.com. Thanks.

Nancy McNamara, Education Chairman

Photos by Gaspar Gomez

Opportunities to Volunteer

Welcome to SAGHS! This is a totally **Volunteer** organization, so please look over some of the possible areas in which you might like to help. At each opportunity most volunteers find that they learn so much more about the Society, the library, its resources and make new friends. Our folks will be glad to show you the ropes and have fun in the process.

Board members who make decisions for the Society's direction.

Library:

Librarian oversees Library operations, voting Board member, currently vacant.
Volunteer Duty Librarians assist visitors during the open hours of the Library.

- **Tuesday Volunteers** to help organize the library resources, usually work Tuesdays:
  - Process new books, maps, periodicals, placing Book labels, stamping books.
  - Shelving and shifting books as needed.
  - Review donated books against the collection, replace books when appropriate.
  - Receive Periodicals and shelve them in designated areas.
  - Special projects such as Indexing Obituaries, add names to FindaGrave, etc.
  - Assist in the Duplicate book sale: list books, sort books, help with the sale.
- **Scan the Vertical Files into digital collections.**
  - Sort and label Vertical File collections
- **Mail person** sorts, post and distribute incoming mail, posts income to Daily Cashbook.
- **Treasurer's Assistant** aids Treasurer with organizing money collected.

Society Support Volunteer areas:

- Building and Grounds oversees property and grounds, oversees housekeeping.
- Book Selection Committee selects books, periodicals and media for Library acquisitions.
- Chaplain sends get well or sympathy cards, provide prayer before meetings.
- Education Committee plans classes, available to coordinate classes.
- Finance Committee develops the Budget, oversees investment portfolio, oversees the Annual Fund Drive
- The Grant Committee identifies SAGHS needs and locates sources for grants.
- Historian maintains scrapbooks on SAGHS.
- Information Technology (IT) Manager oversees Society's IT needs, the computers and Wi-Fi.
- Webmaster manages Society Website.
- Membership Coordinator posts new members to membership database and emails welcome letter and dues reminders.
- Memorial Coordinator finds and posts memorials of SAGHS members, sends cards.
- Photographer takes pictures for membership yearbook and at a variety of events.
- Preparation Assistants set up for monthly meetings, Founder's Day, and Seminar.
- Program Committee obtain speakers for meetings, Founder's Day, Seminar.
- Publication Committee – produces our genealogical Journal *Our Heritage*; and a monthly Newsletter.
- Purchasing Agent obtains all supply purchases for SAGHS buildings.
- Quilt Committee provides quilt, sells quilt raffle tickets.
- Research Registrar responds to research requests submitted for added information.
- Volunteer Coordinator is volunteer contact, organizes Newcomers Orientation

By Nancy McNamara

Upcoming Events at SAGHS
Classes are held in the
Dwyer Center
Please Pre-register by calling the Library during business hours at 210-342-5242 or via email to: education@txsaghs.org

Sun. Jan. 7
2 pm – 4 pm
Periodicals: A Key Source for Genealogical Research that No One Uses
Steve Mabie

Wed. Jan. 10
Resolve Problems on Computer Genealogy Programs
10 am – 12 pm
Scott Atkinson

Sat. Jan. 13
DNA Consult Hr.
10 am, 11 am, 12 pm
Annette Graham

Wed. Jan. 17
Beginners Genealogy Class 1 of 4
10 am – 12 pm
Stephanie Wells & Lois Bready

Sat. Feb. 3
9 am – 12 pm
Family Tree Maker
Scott Atkinson

Sun. Feb. 4
Migration 1607-1800
2 pm – 4 pm
Peter Baron

Classes without sufficient pre-registration may be cancelled.

Letter to the Editor

"I'm a new member, and I've been told that we have a membership yearbook that lists all the members' names and contact information. I understand that due to unforeseen circumstances the publication of the book has been delayed. Recently while researching in the SAGHS Library, another member gave me some very useful tips, which have advanced my research. I did get the member's name but not the contact info and would like to send a thank you note. Do you know how I can get this information?"

Dear Member:

Yes, we have an 'online' member listing with names, addresses and phone numbers, restricted to Members Only!

To access this list, you need to log in the 'members only' section on our website: www.txsaghs.org . (You were given a login name and password, if you forgot, please call or email: membership@txsaghs.org). Once in, scroll down the left side of the page to 'membership list'. On this page the default search is by last name, thus in the box adjacent the 'for' type in the last name. You do not need to type the entire name, but 3 or 4 letters will get you a list from which to choose. If you only know the first name, change the default 'last name' to 'first/preferred name', by clicking the down arrow. Then next to the 'for' enter the name. First name searches may give you a large number, especially for the common first names.

Happy hunting…. Remember if you encounter problems, you can call the Librarian during business hours or send an email to membership@txsaghs.org or askus@txsaghs.org.

Note: There may be 'hands-on' classes on how to make the most of our website, including the library catalog. Stay tuned!!

Dear Members,
As the Society grows further into its role of being a top organization through fulfilling its mission to: ***"teach and promote genealogical and historical research, publish and preserve records, and increase awareness of genealogy and history"***, we seek to establish ourselves more visibly in the San Antonio region among San Antonians and other organizations. To aid in this effort it would be useful to develop an easy to recognize brand. Toward this end the Society would like to use its 'Alamo-like' logo combined with a short identity phrase or branding statement that captures our purpose. This would be used in all of the Society activities such as publications, solicitations, and grant requests.

Toward this end, your input is being sought regarding the selection of the Society **branding statement** to go with the Society's Alamo logo. Please take a few moments to consider the 3 branding statement suggestions below and provide your choice of option A, B, C, or another phrase you would like considered. Send your feedback to the Grants Committee at the following email address, grants@txsaghs.org.

Thank you,
The Grants Committee

The Branding Statements for your consideration and feedback are:

A. "Preserving family history in San Antonio and the World "

***B.* "Solving the mystery of family history"**

***C.* "Enriching lives through genealogy and family history"**

***D.* - Other Phrase -**

MEMORIAL

COL. WILLIAM COLLINS BUELL IV
40 Year Member SAGHS died
November 28, 2023

Memorial donations in his name 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 in the memo portion of your check.

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Congratulations to Linda Cotton:

Quilt Winner!



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Meetings

Board Meeting
Sat. Jan. 13 at 10 am
Roosevelt Auditorium

Membership Meeting
Sat. Jan. 20 at 10 am
Roosevelt Auditorium

NEW BOOKS			
Call No.	**Title**	**Author**	
VA gooc7	Abstracts of Wills from Goochland and County, Virginia 1727-1777	Margaret V. Henley	VIRGINIA
VA gree8	Virginia Historic Marriage Register Green County Marriages, 1838-1850	Vogt, John and T. William Kethley, Jr	
VA gree8	Greene County Marriages, 1838-1850	Vogt, John and William Kethley, Jr.	
VA lane8	Lancaster County, Virginia Marriage Bonds 1652-1850	Ida J. Lee	
VA loui8	Louisa County Virginia Marriages 1766-1815		
VA newk8	Parish Register of Saint Peter's, New Kent County, Virginia, 1682-1758	National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the state of Virginia	
VA oran7	Orange County, Virginia, Court Orders, 1734-1741: an Every-name Index	T.L.C. Genealogy	
VAloui6	Louisa County, Virginia Deed Books C,C1/2, D, D1/2 1759-1774	Rosalie Edith Davis	
WV 00000 (7)	Guide To Genealogical Research in West Virginia Records	Elliott, Wendy L.	WVA
AL clar4	Historical Sketches of Clarke County, Alabama: A Story of the Communities of Clarke County, Alabama	The Clarke County Historical Society	ALA
AL tall4	Heritage of Tallapoosa County, Alabama	Tallapoosa County Heritage Book Committee	
FH Fishburne	Fishburne Family of South Carolina, The	Fishburne, Henry G.	FAM HISTORY
FH Fuller	Life Story of James R. Fuller, The	Fuller, James R.	
FH Parramore	Parramore Families		
FH Rose	Ancestors and Descendants of the Brothers Rev. Robert Rose ad Rev. Charles Rose of Colonial Virginia and Wester Alves, Morayshire, Scotland: With Information on Their Brothers Patrick, James, Hugh, George, and Alexander	Rose, Christine	
GA 00009 (1)	Grand Lodge of Georgia: 1854	Freemasons	GA

By Beverly Rakowitz

Contact Us

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Library Hours
Sun.: 1 pm – 5 pm
Mon.: 10 am – 4 pm
Wed.: 10 am – 7 pm
Sat.: 10 am – 4 pm

Closures:
New Years Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Founders Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Seminar, Thanksgiving Eve, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve.

Texas State Genealogical Society

The Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS) announced the 2023 Writing Award winners at their annual business meeting on December 1. SAGHS came out winners in several categories:

- First Place, Manuscript by a Non-Professional, 'The Conrad and Marie (Otto) Flaig Family: Embracing German American Culture in San Antonio, Texas," **Larry W. Luckett**, *STIRPES*, vol. 63, no. 1, March 2023.
- First Place, Books by a Partner Society: *Breaking Through Walls* by **Leslie Watson Tomlinson**
- Third Place, Society Newsletters: SAGHS Newsletter, **Barbara Holmes**, Editor
- Third Place, Society Journals: *Our Heritage*, **Larry W. Luckett**, Editor

Please join us in congratulating these winners.

By Nancy Mabie

The Editors of *Our Heritage* Need Your Stories

Please send your stories to them by the January 31 deadline, for the upcoming issue of *Our Heritage*.

The theme is stories from Grandpa, but any topic is **ALWAYS** encouraged.

Also: We are publishing a new book:

WWII Memories.

Articles previously published in *Our Heritage* will be considered for re- publication in this book.
Additional articles must be submitted by **March 15, 2024** to be included. For questions, please contact:
Larry Luckett at: publications@txsaghs.org.