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

May 2022

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A newsletter to inform members of Society activities and Library Acquisitions
May 2022



Photo by Ray Weiland

President's Message

Dear Friends,

At the April General Membership Meeting, our new slate of Directors were elected for the 2022-2024 term. Rob Lewis and Stephen Mabie will be serving their first terms as directors, while Kitty Massey will be starting her second term. They will be formally welcomed and lauded, along with our greatly appreciated outgoing Directors Charles Brussells and Kurt Kneeland, at our Founders Day Luncheon. We are very grateful for their willingness to serve.

Book Donation: The 2020 revision of the Genealogical Data of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, 1638-1774, was recently presented to us by Trish Ford on behalf of the Texas Court of Assistants, Women Descendants of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company. Trish says the information in the new revision is not limited to Massachusetts and is alphabetized by surname, making it easier to find ancestors. We welcome this new edition with grateful thanks to Trish and her organization.

Save the Date-June 25! This is the date we will hold our Founders Day Luncheon. The menu details and registration form will be sent to you by e-blast soon. I hope we have your most up to date email! Remember to check your spam file frequently. It will also be posted on our website.

"Land Records" is the theme Larry Luckett has chosen for the next issue of *Our Heritage,* but if you have a story with a different theme, I am sure it will be welcomed. Now to finish mine by the middle of May!

Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS) is hosting a series of podcasts titled *Lone Star Family Trails*. Episode #101 (April 2022) features the Texas Collection and Archives at Baylor University in Waco. This episode's host, Ron Barnett interviews Amie Oliver, the Interim Director of the Texas Collection. (Cont. p 3)



Betty Awbrey
Stuart Awbrey
Philis Barragan Goetz
Carol Bolton

Submitted by Linda Monts

Happy Cinco de Mayo

Have you visited the SAGHS Facebook page lately? Have you noticed that content is pretty sparse?

We're seeking an individual to re-vitalize the page, providing posts that publicize SAGHS activities and that reflect interests in genealogy and history topics.

If you are interested in serving SAGHS while you scroll Facebook, contact publications@txsaghs.org

Meetings

Board Meeting:
Sat. May 14th at 10 am
Roosevelt Auditorium

General Membership Meeting:
Sat. May 21st at 10 am
Roosevelt Auditorium and via Zoom

SAGHS Wants You!

To step up to volunteer for one of these positions:

1st. VP: To obtain speakers for our General Membership Meetings, Plan for the Founders Day Luncheon & Seminar.

Memorials Chairperson: Post obituaries of members & their immediate family member(s) on the board, and send condolence cards to the family.

BOOK SALE

Our sale of duplicate books will be held in the Dwyer Center from 10 am – 4 pm on
May 17 & 18.

Payment for purchases may be made in either exact cash or check.

Submitted by Nancy McNamara

More Than Just Texas

In the library, in the area known as the Texas Room, it is more than just books about Texas. As you walk into the room, the shelves begin with the books about Bexar County, the most used in the old Texas room. The rest of the shelves are organized with general Texas books with classification numbers TX 00000 to TX 00009 covering statewide subjects on history, census, immigration, land and more. Next in order are books in alphabetical order by county name and includes books on most of the 254 counties in Texas. The last of the Texas books are the periodicals on Texas. There are 96 different periodicals produced from genealogy societies around the state.

The rest of the shelves in the Texas room, are books that are not limited to Texas, covering Family History, Multi-Families, and Surnames. The Family History is for any family in the United States and foreign countries. These are organized from A-Z by the family surname. Most of the books have been donated by researchers that were able to produce a book on their family. Next comes Surnames that are a combination of different books covering surnames for a school, state, or specialized indexes of surnames. Multi-Family is a little different with genealogies covering many Surnames on a subject. Our own Barbara Dehle authors three volumes in the Multi-Family area.

Over the last few years there has been a reorganization of the collection as it has grown. The library now has 17,950 items cataloged in the system including, books, maps, e-books, audio-visual, rare books, microfilm and microfiche.

Submitted by Bev Rakowitz

President's Message (cont.)

Celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2023 this large privately held collection is used by historians, filmmakers, journalists, students, and genealogists from across the world. I listened to the podcast and found it very interesting and informative. Find it on https://www.txsgs.org/lone-star-family-trails-podcast-library/ or use a direct link to Baylor University https://sites.libsyn.com/411830/texas-collection-at-baylor-university and enjoy.

Kurt Kneeland has added links to the Weblinks 1950 Census folder for Family Search and Ancestry Library Edition.



Make us Smile, when you shop at Amazon! Login at:

https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6053342
and designate SAGHS for Amazon to donate .5% of the price of your eligible purchases to us.

METHODS and SOURCES

by Leslie Tomlinson, CG

County Court Records: Court Minute and Order Books

Matters brought before county courts are recorded by clerks in different ways in different counties and states. Typically county clerks used minute books to record a short entry and order books for a longer synopsis of the day-to-day occurrences in county courts. Minute books usually recorded the month and year of the events, such as "October Term 1840," but if you carefully page through the records you may find the exact day of each session of the term. Officers of the court are listed and the beginning and the meeting place of the court, often at someone's house. When you find a filing of interest you should follow it until it is resolved to be sure you understand its full meaning. Counties may have one or both kinds of books for separate courts, such as *probate* minute books or *chancery* order books. There are many types of events recorded, from civil and more minor criminal cases to manumission of slaves, appointment of officials, tax matters, and licenses for taverns and mills. Below is a sampling of record types. Many have been digitized and are easy to access at Family Search or Ancestry, but to get the most use out of these records, find out what records live at your county clerk's office and local and state archives and then plan to explore them. There's nothing like looking at the originals. It's time to get out on the road again!

Why research these records?

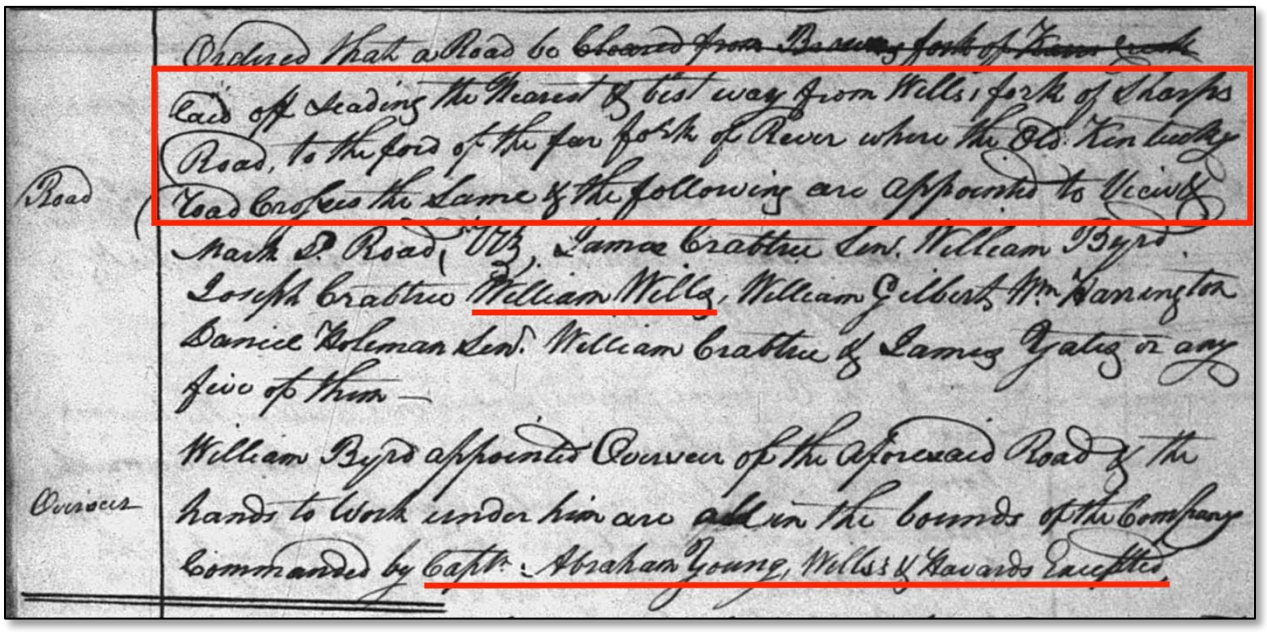
Trace the movements of an ancestor.
Finding the earliest mention of an ancestor in a particular place can be helpful to establish his identify and movements. On 17 October 1796 William Wills was ordered to lay out a road with other named individuals. A description of where the intended road was to be located is included in the minutes—"… leading the nearest and best way from Wills' fork of Sharps Road, to the ford of the far fork of River where the Old Kentucky road crosses the same … ."[1] This information will be useful in understanding when William came to the county, in what part of the county he lived, and in locating deeds and tax records. Also noting the people who were appointed with him may give you clues to neighbors who may have migrated to the county with him from another area. Look at all the pages during your ancestor's purported lifetime to see in what other actions he participated.

Directly after this entry is another one appointing an overseer for a new road. Hands that will work the road are identified as well. In this case they are to come from the local militia units commanded by Captains Abraham Young, Wills & Havards E_____. Apparently, the above-named William Wills held the rank of captain in the local group.

Referenced websites were accessed on 20 April 2022.

[1] *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007642499) digital film 007642499, image 41, Robertson Co., Tenn., Court Minute Book 1:7, William Wills order, 17 October 1796.

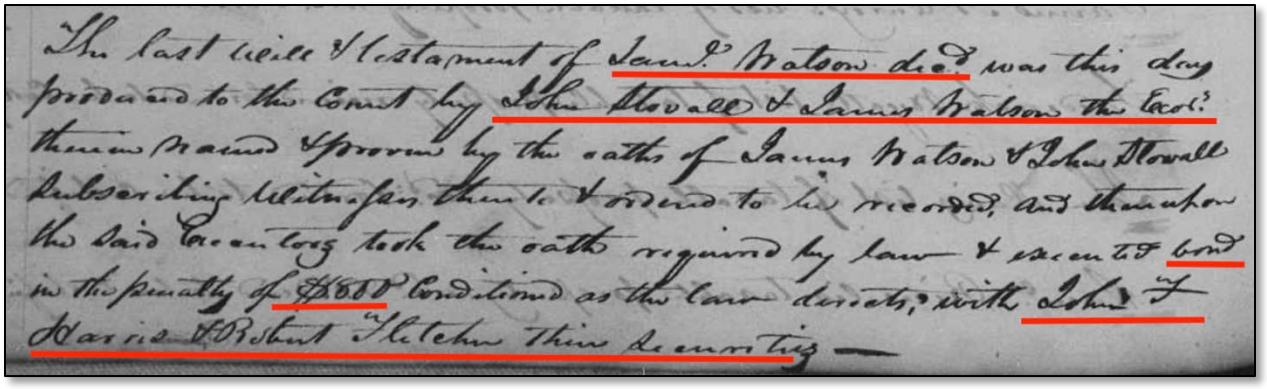
"During Tennessee's first years, the militia was useful as a support mechanism for Tennessee's bureaucratic processes. It was the framework by which men paid taxes and voted. Militiamen also built roads."[2] The hands were neighbors who had a vested interest in keeping up the roads in the area. Knowing their names will help you place your ancestor on the map. Correlate these names with those in deed books, censuses, and tax records to pinpoint residences and ensure same-named individuals aren't confused.


Road
Ordered That a Road be ~~Cleared from Beaverdam fork of Green creek~~ Laid off leading the Nearest & best way from Wills's fork of Sharps Road, to the ford of the fork of River where the Old Kentucky Road Crosses the Same & the following are appointed to View & Mark s^d Road Viz. James Crabtree Sen^r. William Byrd Joseph Crabtree William Wills, William Gilbert Wm. Harrington Daniel Coleman Sen^r. William Crabtree & James Yates or any five of them —
Overseers
William Byrd appointed Overseer of the aforesaid Road & the hands to Work under him are all on the bounds of the Company Commanded by Capt^n. Abraham Young, Wills's & Havards Companies

1796 Tennessee Road Order

Find an ancestor's death date before civil registration.
On 10 June 1833 the executors of Samuel Watson's estate presented his will in the McCracken County, Kentucky court.[3] Civil registration in Kentucky began in 1911 so this may be the only evidence of his death.[4] If the will books are extant then you may find a copy of his will there, but if not, this is direct evidence that he died close to this date. Carefully examine the other names listed, such as the subscribing witnesses to his will and the securities for the bond. They may be relatives, neighbors, or close associates and should be identified. The amount of the bond posted is significant and depended upon the estate's worth. This will give you an idea of your ancestor's economic standing in the community if you compare the amount to others in the county.

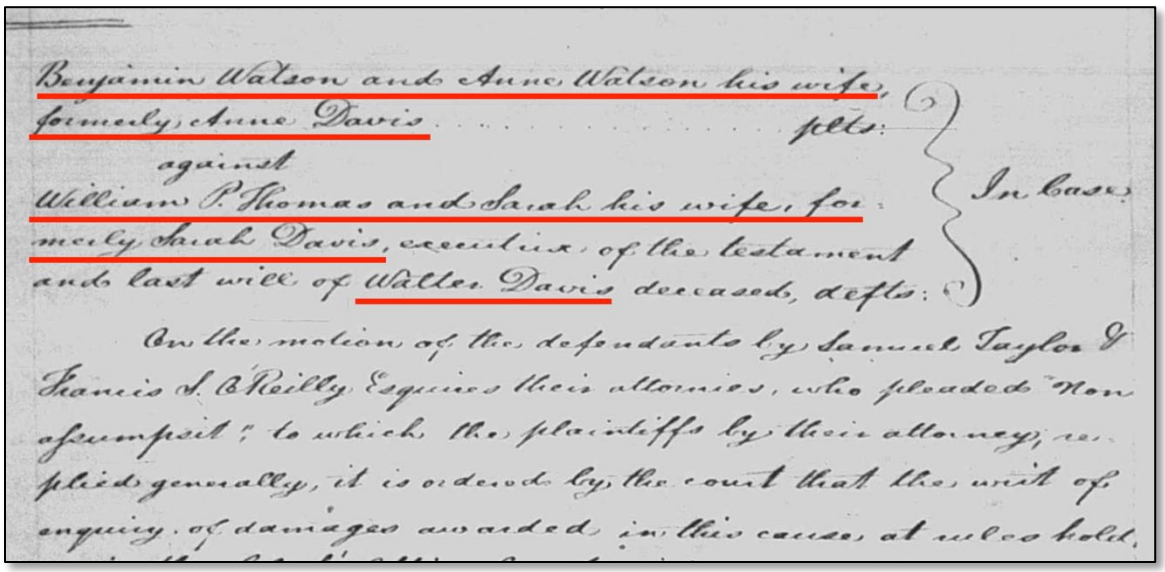
[2] Smith, Trevor Augustine, "Pioneers, Patriots, and Politicians: The Tennessee Militia System, 1772–1857," PhD diss.; University of Tennessee, 2003, ix.
[3] *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008114423) digital film 008114423, image 137, McCracken Co., Ky., Court Order Book A:166, Samuel Watson will presented, 10 June 1833.
[4] Bettie Cummings Cook, *NGS Research in the States Series: Kentucky* (Arlington: National Genealogical Society, 2012), 41.



The last Will & Testament of Jam.s Watson dec.d was this day proved to this Court by John Stovall & James Watson the Exec.rs therein named & sworn to by the oaths of James Watson & John Stovall subscribing Witnesses thereto & ordered to be recorded, and thereupon the said Executors took the oath required by law & entered into bond in the penalty of $600 Conditioned as the law directs, with John F. Harris & Robert Fletcher their Securities —

1833 Will Presented in Kentucky Court

Determine maiden names and family relationships.
The document below lists a case between two couples: Benjamin Watson and wife Anne, formerly Anne Davis, and William P. Thomas and wife Sarah, formerly Sarah Davis.[5] The wives carry the same surname, and the case is over the estate of Walter Davis. Likely these are two sisters whose father is Walter Davis. However, more research is needed. This entry might be the only record giving the maiden names of these two women.



Benjamin Watson and Anne Watson his wife, formerly Anne Davis . . . . . pltfs:

against

William P. Thomas and Sarah his wife, formerly Sarah Davis, executrix of the testament and last will of Walter Davis deceased, defts:

In Case

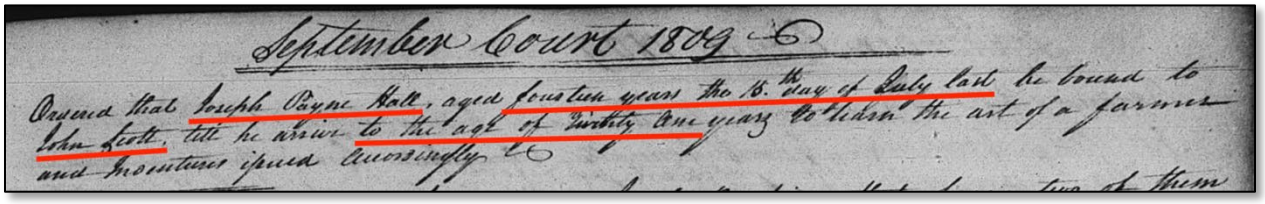
On the motion of the defendants by Samuel Taylor & Francis S. O'Reilly Esquires their attornies, who pleaded "Non assumpsit" to which the plaintiffs by their attorney, replied generally, it is ordered by the court that the writ of enquiry of damages awarded in this cause, at Nisi hold,

Civil Case Virginia 1814

Find your ancestor in apprenticeship records.
Very often when a child became orphaned or the family came under difficult circumstances they were "bound out" to learn a trade so that they would not become a burden to the community. In the example below several detailed pieces of information are presented—the boy's full name, Joseph Payne Hall, and his age of 14 on 15 July 1809. The man who was to be his master was John Scott who was to teach him the "art

[5] *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008357570), digital film 008357570, image 41, Powhatan Co., Va., Record Book 12:35, Watson and wife vs Davis's estate, 18 February 1814.

of farming."[6] If Joseph or John are your target individuals look for other records of their relationship in apprenticeship bonds books if available in your county or state archives. Find the men in censuses to see how successful the apprenticeship turned out to be.

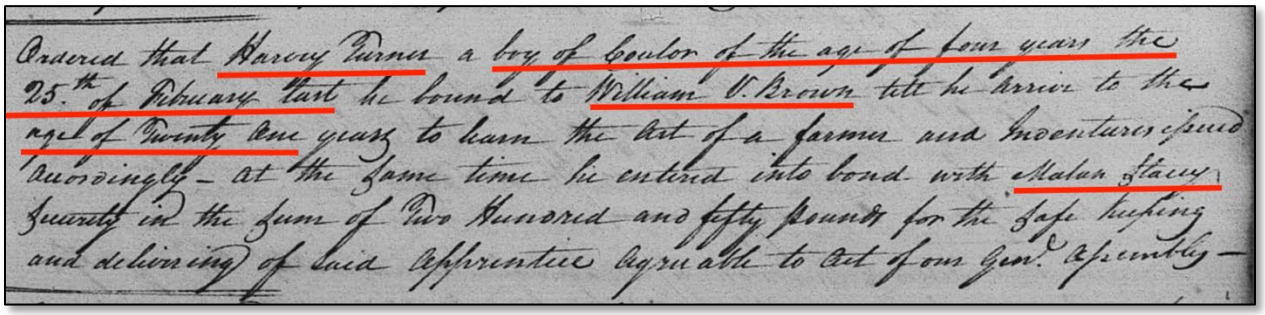

September Court 1809

Ordered that Joseph Payne Hall, aged fourteen years the 8th day of July last be bound to John Scott, till he arrive to the age of Twenty one years to learn the art of a farmer and Indentures issued accordingly

North Carolina Apprenticeship Indenture 1809

Find African American individuals before Emancipation.
African American research can be quite challenging. In North Carolina "Pre-Civil War records consist of slave importation declarations, plantation records, emancipation records, apprenticeship bonds for freedmen, North Carolina hiring practices, census records, white family records, church and cemetery records, military records, vital records, and numerous North Carolina court records. African American vital records were usually recorded in separate books for many years."[7]

Below is evidence of a boy's full name and birthdate, something seldom found in county records for an African American child. Knowing where your slave or freedman ancestor lived and where to look for records is key. This young boy of color named Harvey Turner was four on 25 February 1809. He was to be indentured until he reached the age of 21. He was bound to Michael V. Brown with Malar Stacey providing the security.[8] Research all three individuals to learn the fate of Harvey.


Ordered that Harvey Turner a boy of Coulor of the age of four years the 25th of February last be bound to William V. Brown till he arrive to the age of Twenty one years to learn the art of a farmer and Indentures issued accordingly - at the same time he entered into bond with Malar Stacey Security in the sum of Two Hundred and fifty pounds for the safe keeping and delivering of said Apprentice agreable to Act of Gen.l Assembly -

North Carolina Apprenticeship Indenture 1809 for Person of Color

[6] *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008579294 : accessed 18 April 2022) digital film 008579294, image 11, Caswell Co., N.C., Court Minutes 1809–1823, unnumbered, Joseph Payne Hall apprenticeship order, 27 September 1809.
[7] *FamilySearch Wiki* (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page), "African American Resources for North Carolina," rev. 17:07, 7 March 2022.
[8] *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008579294 : accessed 18 April 2022) digital film 008579294, image 11, Caswell Co., N.C., Court Minutes 1809–1823, unnumbered, Joseph Payne Hall apprenticeship order, 27 September 1809.

Minute and order books are great sources of information about our ancestors. Taking the time to page through them can provide context and perspective and undoubtedly enrich our understanding of their lives.

Resources

Elizabeth Shown Mills. "QuickLesson 23: No. Records Do Not Speak for Themselves." *Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation & Source Usage*. https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quick-lesson-23-no-records-do-not-speak-themselves : 2022.

Christine Rose. *Courthouse Research for Family Historians*. San Jose, California: CR Publications, 2004. At SAGHS library: RF 00000 (258).

Judy G. Russell. "Order in Virginia courts." *The Legal Genealogist,* 2 April 2019. https://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog : 2019.

Szucs, Loretto and Sandra Luebking, editors. *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, Third Edition. Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2006. See pages 283–284. At SAGHS library: RF 00000 (151).

***Our Heritage* Deadline Approaches**

The next issue of *Our Heritage* goes to press in mid-July. For consideration please submit your articles by 15 May 2022 to: publications@txsaghs.org

The theme of this edition is Land Records, but articles on other subjects are also acceptable.

Let's See Those Smiles!

The opportunity to have your photo included in the 2022-2023 Membership Yearbook is approaching for:

- New members and members whose photos are not in the 2021-2022 Membership Yearbook, but who would like to have their pictures in the 2022-2023 Yearbook.

- Members whose photos are in the 2021-2022 Yearbook, but who would prefer to have a *different* photo in the 2022-2023 Yearbook. If your photo appeared in the 2021-2022 Yearbook and you are *satisfied* with it, *do not send in another photo*.

Members may submit a photo **until 31 July 2022**. For those wishing to stop in at the Dwyer Center to have their photo taken, our in-house photographer, Ray Weiland, will be available to take photos at the Dwyer Center on the following dates and times:

Tuesday June 28 -- 10 am to 12 noon
Saturday July 16 -- 10 am to 12 noon
Tuesday July 26 -- 10 am to 12 noon

Those 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 2022.**
  - Any photo received after 31 July will not appear in the 2022-2023 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. All submitted photos will be changed to a neutral background and 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 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" to publications@txsaghs.org and may also be emailed to cbbrussell@sbcglobal.net.**

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

"I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."
Abraham Lincoln

New Books		
Call Number	**Title**	**Author**
FH Johnson	Ancestors of Charles Glen Johnson of Texas	Johnson, C. Glen
FH Jordan	Yesterday in the Texas Hill Country	Jordan, Gilbert J.
FH Jordan	Richard Dudley Jordan and Bettie Ann Crawford: Their Virginia Ancestors and Descendants, 1607-1997, with Allied Families	Jordan, Richard Dudley, III
FH Newby	Newby Family History	Mills, Paul (compiler)
GA 00001 (3)	Passports Issued by Governors of Georgia, 1785 to 1809	Bryan, Mary G.
GA 00001 (4)	Passports Issued by Governors of Georgia, 1810 to 1820, and Indexes,1785-1820	Bryan, Mary G.
GA olge2	1800 Census of Oglethorpe County, Georgia	
MA 00002 (11a)	Battle of April 19, 1775, in Lexington, Concord, Lincoln, Arlington, Cambridge, Somerville and Charlestown, Massachusetts	Coburn, Frank Warren
MO wayn4	Wayne County, Missouri: Roots Run Deep	Historic Greenville Museum and Community Center
MS 00002 (3)	Mississippi 1850 Mortality Schedules	Gillis, Irene S.
MS tipp4	Heritage of Tippah County, Mississippi	Tippah County Historical and Genealogical Society
MS tipp4	Tippah County Heritage, Volume II	Covington, Tommy
NC robe6	Abstracts of Land Entries: Robeson County, North Carolina, 1787-1795	Pruitt, A. B., Dr.
NC robe8	Vanishing Ancestors: Cemetery Records of Robeson County, North Carolina, Vol. 1	Townsend, Peggy T.
NC robe8	Vanishing Ancestors: Cemetery Records of Robeson County, North Carolina, Vol. 2	Townsend, Peggy T.
NC robe8	Vanishing Ancestors: Cemetery Records of Robeson County, North Carolina, Vol. 3	Townsend, Peggy T.
PA york4	History of York County, Pennsylvania	Gibson, John
RF 00000 (282)	DNA for Native American Genealogy	Estes, Roberta
RF 01004 (100)	1215: The Year of Magna Carta	Danziger, Danny and John Gillingham
RF 01004 (101)	Plantagenet Chronicles, The	Hallam, Elizabeth
RF 01004 (102)	Manual of Costume as Illustrated by Monumental Brasses, A	Druitt, Herbert
RF 01004 (98)	Around Alfreton: Images of England	Alfreton and District Heritage Trust
RF 01004 (99)	Magna Charta Sureties and their Castles	Marvin, Dorothy Betts for National society Daughters of the Barons of Runnemede
RF 02004 (36)	Scottish Tartans; With Historical Sketches of the Clans and families of Scotland	
RF 10004 (24)	Revolutionary War Genealogy	Schweitzer, George K.

Submitted by Beverly Rakowitz

Contact Us

SAGHS, 911 Melissa Dr
San Antonio TX 78213-2024
210-342-5242
https://txsaghs.org

President:
Barbara Froebel
President@txsaghs.org
1st Vice President: **vacant**
FirstVP@txsaghs.org
2nd Vice President: (Membership)
Linda Monts
Membership@txsaghs.org
3rd Vice President (Finance)
Ray Weiland
ThirdVP@txsaghs.org
Librarian
Laura Grover
Librarian@txsaghs.org
Education & Volunteers
Nancy McNamara
Education@txsaghs.org
Registrar
Steve Mabie
Registrar@txsaghs.org
Publicity
Ray Weiland
Publicity@txsaghs.org
Newsletter Editor
Barbara Holmes
Publications@txsaghs.org
Webmaster
Rob Lewis
Webmaster@txsaghs.org

Library Hours:

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

Library Closures:

New Year's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, June 25, Independence Day, Labor Day, Seminar, Thanksgiving Eve, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day. New Year's Eve

Upcoming Events at SAGHS

Classes are held in the Dwyer Center
Social distancing will be respected
Please Pre-register by calling the Library at
210-342-5242 or via email to: ***education@txsaghs.org***

Sat. May 7
23 and Me DNA Class
10 am – 12 pm
Annette Graham

Wed. May 11
Family Tree Maker/WikiTree
10 am – 12 pm
Scott Atkinson

Sat. May 14
DNA Consultation Hr.
10 am, 11 am, 12 pm
Annette Graham

Sun. May 15
Panel of Individuals Explain Their Step-By-Step Experiences to Resolve a Personal Brick Wall
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm



Sunday May 8

History Fans:

The History Channel will broadcast the first of a two-part series "Theodore Roosevelt", beginning at 7 pm CT, on Memorial Day, Monday May 30th. The series is based on the book *Leadership: In Turbulent Times* by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

On Memorial Day, May 30th, take some time to honor those who have given so much for our freedom.