SAN ANTONIO GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Website:

https://txsaghs.org

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

February 2022

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



Photo by Ray Weiland

President's Message

Greetings Members and friends! I am delighted to say we have worked the bugs out of our internet connection! We have not had a fail in several months! Special thanks to Kurt Kneeland, Rob Lewis and Jack Merrill for their hard work! They saved us a LOT of money in the process.

Many thanks to all our volunteers for working on our various problems and solving them. Because of you, our library is still open and functioning. Work is continuing; book donations are being cataloged, and accessioned. We have had a generous year for donations of books, and if you imagine everything you need is on the internet – please think again. Only a small portion of recorded history is on the internet. "Everything" won't be there in our lifetime. Most treasures are in libraries, where you should be!

Our February 19th General Membership meeting will feature Beth Standifird, Librarian of the Conservation Society of San Antonio. We hope to see you in person or online.

Congratulations to Barbara Holmes who won the Design the Fiesta Medal Contest with the Alamo logo entry. Since medal factories are closed for the entire month of February, the completed medal will be for 2023, due in part to your President's forgetting to put the contest on an earlier agenda. (Once again, my apologies.)

We hope you are enjoying our many classes and the speakers at our membership meetings. I think we have had some great ones this year. Our grateful thanks to Nancy McNamara for her work in coordinating our volunteers and finding teachers for our classes!

Our Heritage journal and other publications are often prizewinners

(Cont. p. 3)



HELP WANTED!!!

SAGHS is in need of volunteers to fill several key positions in the Society. Some of these positions have been vacant for a while. Members wearing other hats have been bridging the gaps to make certain our Society is able to continue to run. However, each of these positions needs someone to step up and claim the position on a permanent basis. Job descriptions can be found in the Society's Standing Rules that are posted in the Members Only section of the Website (txsaghs.org) under "Organizational Documents." More information is available upon request. Please consider applying to president@txsaghs.org for one of the following volunteer positions:

First Vice President: This officer fills in for the President in case of her absence. The First Vice President is also chair of the Programs Committee which plans the programs for membership meetings, Founders Day, and the Fall Seminar.

Vertical Files Committee Chair: This committee oversees the Library's Vertical Files that consists of the printed and digital records of genealogical research material donated by SAGHS members.

Memorials Committee Chair: This committee oversees the memorial board at the Library and communicates with the families of the deceased, informing each family of donations made in their loved one's memory.

Periodicals Committee Chair: This committee manages the periodicals that SAGHS receives from other genealogical or historical societies and ensures that SAGHS maintains membership in each of those other societies.

Keep in mind SAGHS is a totally VOLUNTEER organization. We depend upon our members to fill these essential duties.

Submitted by Barbara Froebel

Other opportunities to help the Society

The Publications Committee is seeking volunteers who will be able to perform their work from the comfort of their own homes. The project requires volunteers to extract information from digital record images of Wills and Probate Records and to summarize the information in a Microsoft Word document. This work can easily be done on a personal computer from the comfort of your own home. Even if you can only help with one or two of these documents, your volunteer efforts will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Nancy Mabie (Publications Committee Chair) at publications@txsaghs.org or (210) 490-9997, if you are willing to participate in this project.

Submitted by Nancy Mabie

You Should Write Your Story for *OUR HERITAGE*

But I haven't finished my research. Genealogical research is a never-ending quest. There will always be another detail or record group that will need to be found or verified. In fact, writing an article can help you identify gaps in the story that may need to be investigated.

But it's my research. Why should I share? You are not alone in studying the lives of your ancestors. Publicizing or distributing your story might connect you with another researcher or distant relative who could have information that complements the data you've found.

But I'm going to publish a book (someday). That's a great goal, but how do you get there? Write a story now that can become a chapter in your future book. Practice your style and voice to gain experience and familiarity with writing. Obtain some free feedback and comments from the editor and your peers. An article is a first step towards your ultimate goal.

But all those citations/notes are too hard. They can be, but the publications staff can help you. If you have the rudimentary "who, what, when, and where" of the fact or source, we can help you get it into the appropriate format. Ask any of the published authors if they had perfect citations when they submitted and whether the editing helped the citation formatting. Authors are not alone.

But all those citations/notes are too hard. So don't use them. If you are the source of the information in the story, citations are not necessary. Write about a childhood memory, about your parents or grandparents—something you can vouch for. Don't let citations intimidate you.

The SAGHS journal, *OUR HERITAGE*, is produced to provide a venue for our members to practice, publicize, and publish their genealogical and family stories. Why don't you submit and participate? Contact the editor at:

publications@txsaghs.org *submitted by Larry Luckett*

President's Message (cont.)

due to the outstanding quality of our members' contributions and our excellent Editor, Larry Luckett. Thank you! Keep them coming!

For now, we are open and operating on our regular schedule with masking optional. Meanwhile, the efforts of past President Steve Mabie and board members have set us up for success, and because of their efforts, we are doing well.

The 1950 Census will be released in April and I haven't heard yet if Family Search will ask for volunteer indexers or not, but it was great fun indexing the 1940 census. Kurt Kneeland was the star of that show for our Society and it is a way to volunteer from home. We will let you know if and when…

Our Library is staffed by willing volunteers. Thanks to all who have given your time and expertise to SAGHS. If you haven't volunteered yet or are looking for something new, please feel free to volunteer your own time and talent. It is a *very* rewarding experience. We have a place for **You**.

Barb Froebel

"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands – one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." - Audrey Hepburn

METHODS and SOURCES

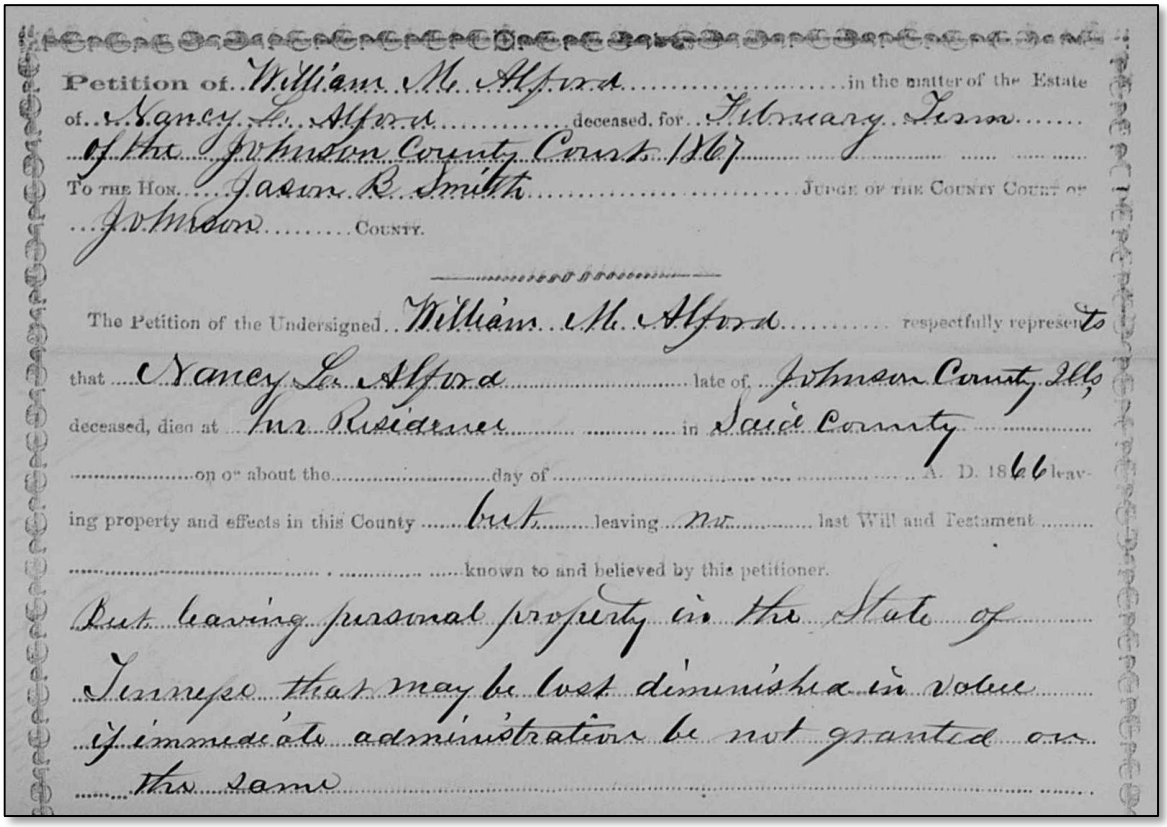
by Leslie Tomlinson, CG

County Court Records: Probate Records—Administrations, Bonds, and Inventories

When you don't find a will or believe your ancestor had no estate, consider that even individuals with little property may have generated records among probate files. This article addresses administrations, bonds, and estate inventories. It is also well worth your time to understand the relevant laws of the place and time where your ancestors lived and died to understand the nuances of any records you may encounter.

Letters of Administration

When a person leaves no will, i.e., dies intestate, his estate is administered by a relative, a creditor, or some other court-appointed person. The first step for the administrator is to apply to the court for permission to handle distribution of the estate. Below is an example from Johnson County, Illinois, found in a probate record packet along with payment receipts and an administration bond.



Petition of William M. Alford in the matter of the Estate of Nancy L. Alford deceased, for February Term of the Johnson County Court 1867

To the Hon. Jason R. Smith Judge of the County Court of Johnson County.

The Petition of the Undersigned William M. Alford respectfully represents that Nancy L. Alford late of Johnson County Ills deceased, died at her Residence in said County on or about the day of A. D. 1866 leaving property and effects in this County but leaving no last Will and Testament known to and believed by this petitioner.

But leaving personal property in the State of Tennessee that may be lost diminished in value if immediate administration be not granted on the same

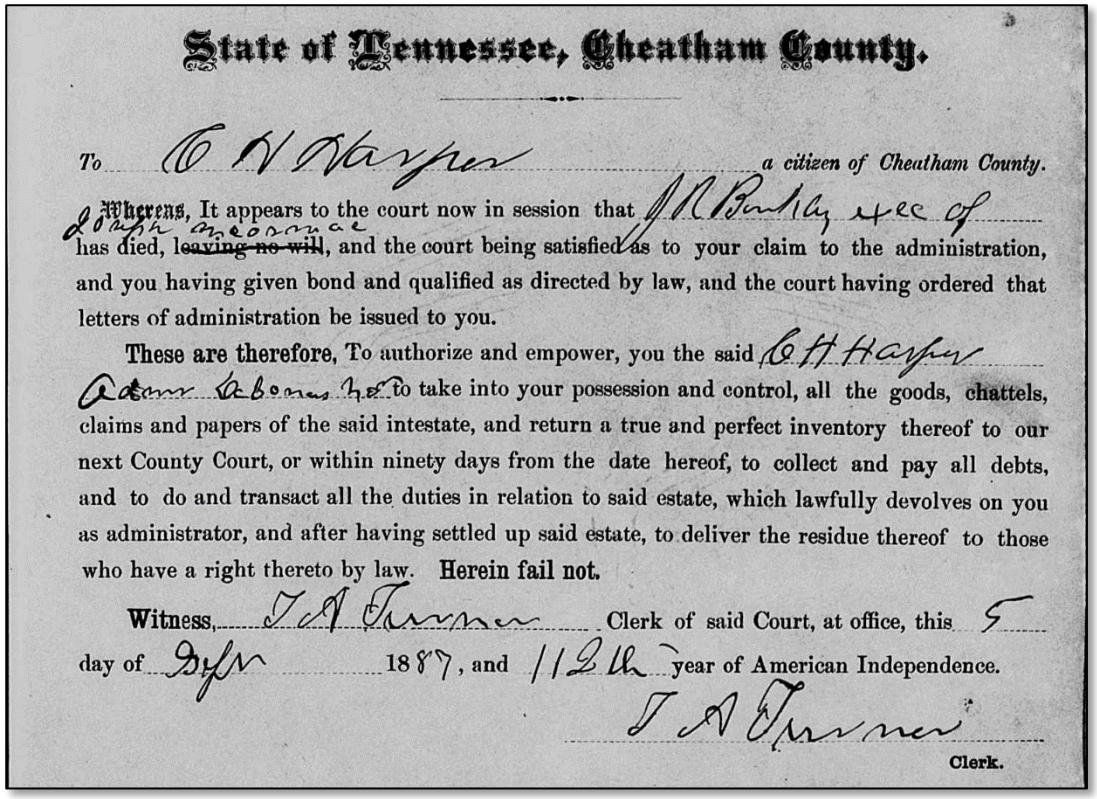
FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007656367 : accessed 14 Jan. 2022), digital film 007656367, image 65, Johnson Co., Illinois, Probate records, 1859–1948; Packet box 1, petition to administer estate of Nancy L. Alford, 1 Jan. 1867.

Notice that the above record for Nancy L. Alford gives an approximate date of death—1866—which predates civil death records for this county, and a place of death—her residence. Also stated is that she left property in Tennessee, which provides clues for further investigation. Lower in the document it is recorded that the affiant, William M. Alford, is the son of Nancy. Upon examination of the other records in the box, it is learned that William's two sisters are the other heirs. Look at each one of the documents in a probate packet for evidence of relatives, friends, and other associates of your target person. Packets may also be a good source for original signatures on receipts and payments, which could help in distinguishing between two individuals with the same name.

In addition, look for a notice of the issuance of the letters in the county court records. This may be in a separate minute book or included in estate records, will records, or probate records. Find out if the petitioner was indeed granted the letters or if another person was appointed. Sometimes a widow relinquished the right to administer her husband's estate and asked the court to appoint her son or another close relative. All these instances create more records.

Changes to an Administrator/Executor

In the following example from Cheatham County, Tennessee, J. R. Binkley, the executor of Joseph McCormack's estate, died. Another person, C. H. Harper, applied to be the administrator but was unknown to the researcher. Upon further investigation he was found to be the husband of Louisa, an unknown daughter of Joseph.



State of Tennessee, Cheatham County.

To C H Harper a citizen of Cheatham County.

Whereas, It appears to the court now in session that J R Binkley exec of Joseph McCormack has died, ~~leaving no will~~, and the court being satisfied as to your claim to the administration, and you having given bond and qualified as directed by law, and the court having ordered that letters of administration be issued to you.

These are therefore, To authorize and empower, you the said C H Harper Admr Cabonas Ex to take into your possession and control, all the goods, chattels, claims and papers of the said intestate, and return a true and perfect inventory thereof to our next County Court, or within ninety days from the date hereof, to collect and pay all debts, and to do and transact all the duties in relation to said estate, which lawfully devolves on you as administrator, and after having settled up said estate, to deliver the residue thereof to those who have a right thereto by law. Herein fail not.

Witness, T A Turner Clerk of said Court, at office, this 5 day of Sept 1887, and 112th year of American Independence.

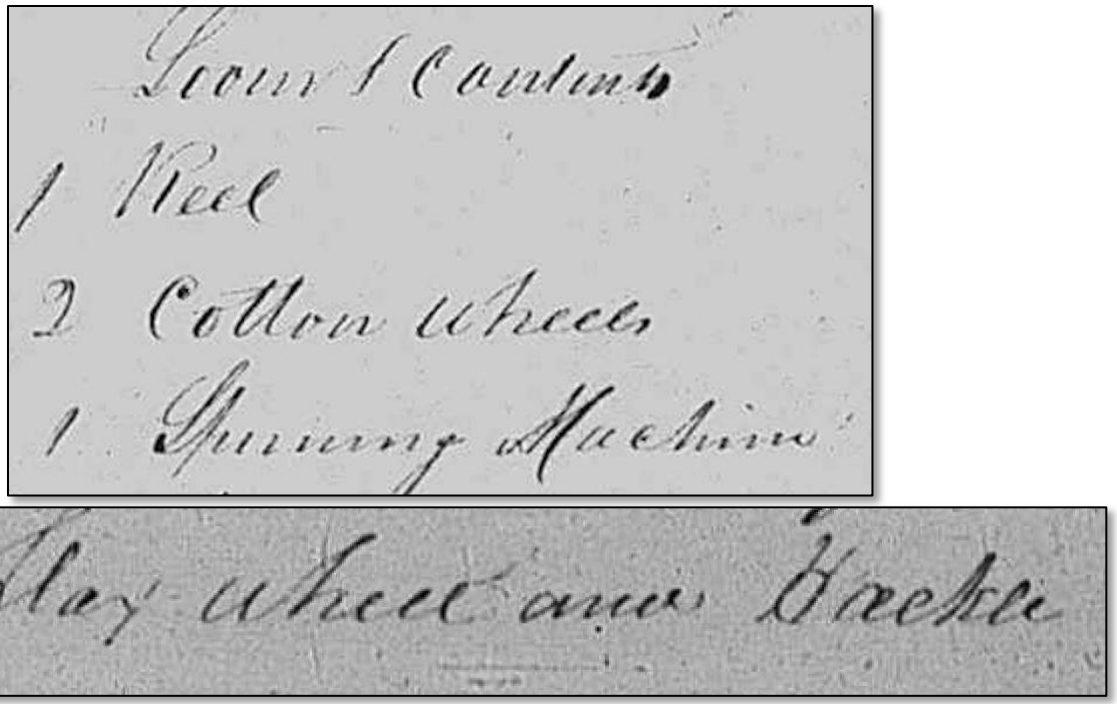
T A Turner
Clerk.

FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007642770 : accessed 14 Jan. 2022) digital film 007642770, image 145, Letters of Administration, June 1868–April 1902, p. 139, Cheatham Co., Tenn., administration change for estate of Joseph McCormac(k), by C. H. Harper, 5 Sep. 1887.

Bonds
Before an administrator is issued letters of administration, a bond is posted, usually related to the approximate value of the estate. (Executors may or may not have had to post a bond depending on what was specified in the will.) Look closely for names of the persons who guaranteed the money, as they were most likely close relatives. See "Methods and Sources," January 2022, for an example of court minutes recording the names of those who secured the bond and the implication of the information. Not only are the signers of a bond responsible for putting up the money but are also accountable for the responsible performance of the administrator/executor.

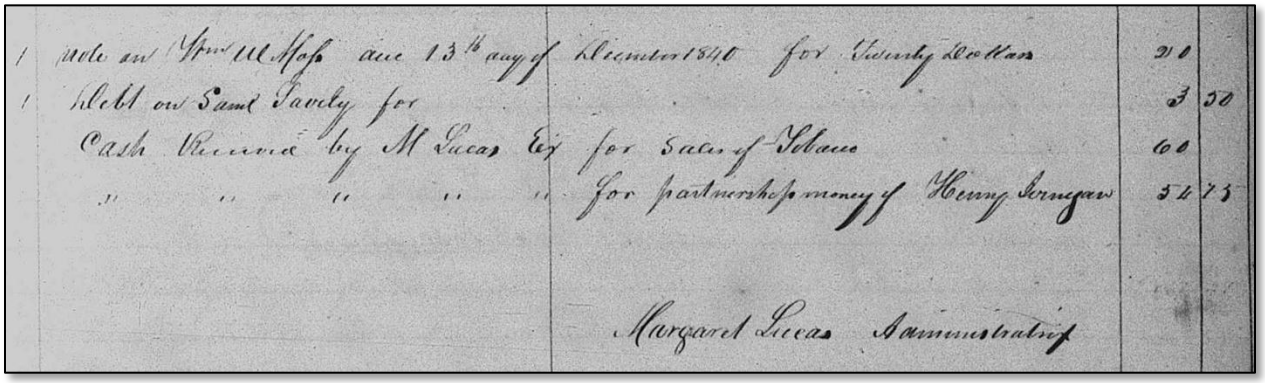
Inventories
The next step in the probate process is to create an inventory of the deceased's property. Usually, disinterested parties are appointed by the court for this activity, and you often see this order recorded in the county court's minutes. Note the names as they could be neighbors or close associates and give you clues for further research. Inventories include real and personal property, cash, and any debts owed to or by the deceased. Many things about a person's life may be learned from inventories such as "… clues to literacy, religious denomination, occupation, level of wealth, identity of slaves, household goods, and what was important to your ancestor during his lifetime."[1]

Parker Lucas's 1844 inventory from Robertson County, Tennessee, gives insight into his wife Margaret's life. Numerous implements used in the preparation of textiles, such as a spinning wheel, loom, flax wheel, and hackle (used to straighten fibers in making linen) were listed. Margaret likely used them to construct fabrics for her family's clothing and for household furnishings.



[1] Marsha Hoffman Rising, *The Family Tree Problem Solver* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2005), 96.

See also the list of notes and cash received by Margaret as administratrix.



"Tennessee, Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008," *Ancestry* (http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9176 : accessed 14 Jan. 2022) > Robertson > Will and Inventory Records > image 73, Book 12:112–116, Parker Lucas estate sale, recorded Feb. Term 1844.

Probate records are a rich source of information, and no research plan is complete without a thorough investigation of all the types.

Resources
Christine Rose, *Courthouse Research for Family Historians* (San Jose, California: CR Publications, 2004).

February Holidays







Sherry Deering
Jo Ann Fairbanks
Marshall Fairbanks
Christina Ford
Francisco Hoyos
Theresa Hoyos
John Johnson
Pat Knaupp
Rosie Mini
Ruth Mini
Mike Shults
Alexandro Vasquez
Sunni Worrell
Ruth Yos

Submitted by Linda Monts

Calling All First Families of Bexar County

Each year SAGHS honors families who prove their descent from an ancestor who was in Bexar County no later than the enumeration of the 1850 Bexar County census. If one or more of your ancestors lived in the county when the 1850 U.S. census was taken or prior to that date, you can qualify.

SAGHS will be recognizing all newly-proven First Families of Bexar County and the applying descendent at our annual SAGHS Founders' Day luncheon in June of this year. In order to be recognized at our Founders Day Luncheon, **applications must be received no later than 28 February 2022.** More information is available in the First Families section of our website:
https://txsaghs.org/cpage.php?pt=17

Submitted by Nancy Mabie

Meetings

Board Meeting:
Sat. Feb. 12th at 10 am
Roosevelt Auditorium

General Membership Meeting:
Sat. Feb. 19th at 10 am
Roosevelt Auditorium

In Memory of
Our Benefactor

Yvette Helené LeCubain Dwyer
February 15, 1927 - March 28, 2017

The San Antonio
Holocaust Memorial Museum
is open.

M-F: 9 am – 3 pm
1st Sunday 1 pm -4 pm

The museum is located at
12500 NW Military Hwy.,
San Antonio TX.

Admission is Free
Donations are gratefully accepted.

Additional information can be obtained on their website:
https://www.hmmsa.org/museum-history

NEW BOOKS

Call Number	Title	Author
AR 00005 (1)	National Society Arkansas Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, Roster 1951-1993	White, Mrs. D. Newton (Compiler)
FH Anderson	Lost Branch of the Anderson Family; Ancestors and Descendants of Thomas Allen Howard Anderson and his wife Martha Ann Stanley, Including Allied Families	Caldwell, Janice (researched & compiled by)
FH Bishop	Life of Joseph Bishop, the Celebrated Old Pioneer in the First Settlement of Middle Tennessee	Gray, John W.
FH Bone	Ten Generations of the Bone Family; Allied with the Baker, Ballard, Batchelor, Cockrell, Cron, Ellis, Gaines, Holmes, Horne(e), Keel, Mason, Mercer, Nash, Nishwitz, Poland, Pridgen, Roberson, Ricks, Taylor, Turner, VanLandingham, Vick, Winstead Families	Cron, Frederick Holmes (Compiler)
FH Cresson	Pierre Cresson: The Huguenots of Staten Island, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey Progeny; Including De La Plaine and Demarest Lines	Van Name, Elmer Garfield
FH Crispell	Crispell Family in America: The Descendants of Antoine Crispell, Patentee of New Paltz, New York	Hasbrouck, Kenneth E.
FH Harris	Harris Genealogy	Harris, Gideon Dowse (Compiled BY)
FH Hoge	Family Of Hoge	Tyler, James Hoge and James Fulton Hoge
FH Logan	Branch of the Logan Family Tree	Logan, David M.
FH McCline	Slavery in the Clover Bottoms; John McCline's Narrative of His Life During Slavery and the Civil War	McCline, John and Jan Furman (Editor)
FH Rice	Genealogical History of the Rice Family: Descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice, Who Came From Berkhamstead, England, and Settled at Sudbuby, Massachusetts, in 1688 or 9	Ward, Andrew Henshaw
FH Wooden	New Generation of the Wooden Family: Arrives on the Scene (traced back to Robert Wooden of KY)	Raymond, Charles E.
NG 00001 (5b)	Search for the Passengers of the Mary & John 1630; Volume 18, West Country Ancestries, 1620-1643, Part 2	Spear, Burton W.
NG 00001 (5c)	Search for the Passengers of the Mary & John, 1630; Volume 20, West Country Ships and Passengers, 1620-1643	Spear, Burton W.
NG 00001 (5d)	Search for the Passengers of the Mary & John, 1630; Volume 25, New Ancestral Discoveries - Part 1	Spear, Burton W.

Submitted by Beverly Rakowitz

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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, Founders' Day, Father's Day, 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. Feb. 5
Why Use WikiTree?
10 am – 2 pm
Scott Atkinson

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

Sun. Feb. 13
Fold 3
2 pm – 4 pm
Julia George

Wed. Feb. 16
Computer SIG: Basics of Computer Files & Management
10 am - 12 pm
Scott Atkinson & Barbara Holmes

Wed. Feb. 16
Preparing for the 1950 Census
1 pm - 3 pm
Laura Grover & Barbara Holmes

Sun. Feb. 20
Paleography
2 pm – 4 pm
Melissa Aylstock

Sat. Feb. 26
Quakers Research Consult Hour
10:30 am, 11:30 am, 12:30 pm
Barbara Johns

Sat. Mar. 5
Ancestry.com DNA
10 am – 12 pm
Annette Graham