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



A newsletter to inform members of Society activities and Library Acquisitions

January 2022

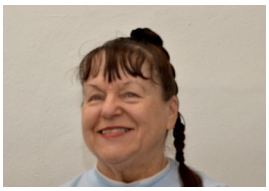


Photo by Ray Weiland

President's Message

Happy New Year to our members and friends! I am hoping for a much better 2022 for all of us.

Congratulations to all who submitted articles to the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS) Writing Awards program. Several of you were TxSGS award winners (see list on page 9). For those of you who did not win an award this time, I would like to encourage you to keep submitting. I heard positive comments from several of the judges regarding the talent of our members and that they hoped you would keep submitting. Be encouraged! It might take 2 or 3 efforts. We have an incredible amount of talent in our organization and we are so proud of all of you.

We're having a good response to the Annual Fund Drive. Thanks to all who responded so far! Your donations of time, talent and funds are deeply appreciated. More on this at a future date.

Our speaker for the January 15th general meeting will be Col. Larry Carter, USA retired, from the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association. The BCBSA is a multicultural organization, dedicated to educating the general public about the history of the Buffalo Soldiers, Black Indian Scouts including their contributions in settling the Western Sector of the United States. This organization is noted for historical teaching, establishing a listing of resources available at the Institute of Texan Cultures and the San Antonio Public Library and involvement in civic activities. The organization is open to all who want to share in their mission and expand the public knowledge of these unsung heroes of America's past.

The meeting will be virtual as well as in person. Masking is optional. Do what is best for you. Hope to see you at 10:00 on Saturday, January 15th!

(cont. pg. 7)

January 2022

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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

Member Survey

Attached to the email with this Newsletter is a Membership Survey. As a member driven and directed Society, we rely on your input to guide the Board and Committees on how to direct our resources. In addition to your survey input, please consider supporting the Society with you kind donations of money and time.

We ask that you complete the survey and return to us either by email to: Education@txsaghs.org, or mail to SAGHS 911 Melissa Dr. San Antonio Tx 78213. You can always drop it off with the duty Librarian during regular business hours.

2022 Education Plans

The Education Committee has planned a very energetic education program for 2022 that we hope will help many of you with your family research. The committee thanks those who preregister for the training programs to insure that we have adequate seating and handouts. We truly appreciate our instructors who volunteer their time to research and to present these programs to the attendees. They are what makes the Education Program. We will continue to offer two Sunday educational classes each month during 2022. We are scheduling many new program topics this year, including a class on the 1950 U. S. Federal Census, which will be released in April 2022.

We are introducing a new One-on-One Consult Hour to assist individuals with their research on various topics. These consultations will be held the last Saturday of each month except May. In May, because of the Memorial Day weekend, the consultations will be held on Friday, May 27. Each month, there will be three one-hour individual sessions available for registration. As usual, please call the SAGHS Library at 210-342-5242 to register. The hours will be 10:30 -11:30 am, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, and 12:30 -1:30 pm in the Dwyer Center Classroom. This is different from our Registrar Program in which the Registrar looks for answers to submitted requests. During the One-on-One Consult Hour, the consultant will assist individuals in finding their own answers. The first topic for the One-on-One Consult Hours is "Using FindAGrave."

For both the new One-on-One Consult Hour and the DNA Consult Hour, we are increasing the contribution amount to $20 for SAGHS members and $30 for non-members. We are also asking that these amounts be paid in advance of the consultation, when you preregister.

The other new education program is planned to assist with DNA Genetic Testing subscriptions. These are designed to help members, who have had their DNA tested, learn how to sort their matches into family surname groups. These will be held on seven first Saturdays of the month. There will be four offerings on Ancestry DNA (as it is the more popular of the testing programs) and one offering each on 23andMe DNA, FamilyTree DNA, and GEDMatch DNA. Since attendees will be providing their personal codes and data, a signed confidentiality contract will be required to keep any personal information in the classroom. Each of these DNA classes will be limited to only eight (8) attendees, in order to provide more personal assistance.
In recognizing that we all struggle with brick wall mysteries, this year we are hosting a six-member panel discussion class on Sunday, May 15, 2022. Each panel member will have 25 minutes to provide a step-by-step explanation on how they solved their own family brick wall. The idea is to provide examples of individual experiences that may assist attendees to use in their own ancestral research. To allow adequate presentation time, the class hours for this class will be 1:30 – 4:30 pm.

We look forward to seeing you in 2022…

Submitted by Nancy McNamara



Time to wrangle with the 1950 U.S. Federal Census!

On April 1, 2022 the National Archives will release the results of the 1950 Census; the 72-year wait is OVER! As with prior releases, the 1950 census will **NOT** be searchable as soon as it is released in April. We will host several educational sessions in which you can learn about the 1950 census, and the things you can do prior to the availability of the search index (in case you just can't wait), to find your families in this census.

The first class will be on January 17 (MLK Day) from 10 – noon. It will be repeated on other dates in February, March & April. **Check our website for exact dates and times.**

Submitted by Barbara Holmes

METHODS and SOURCES

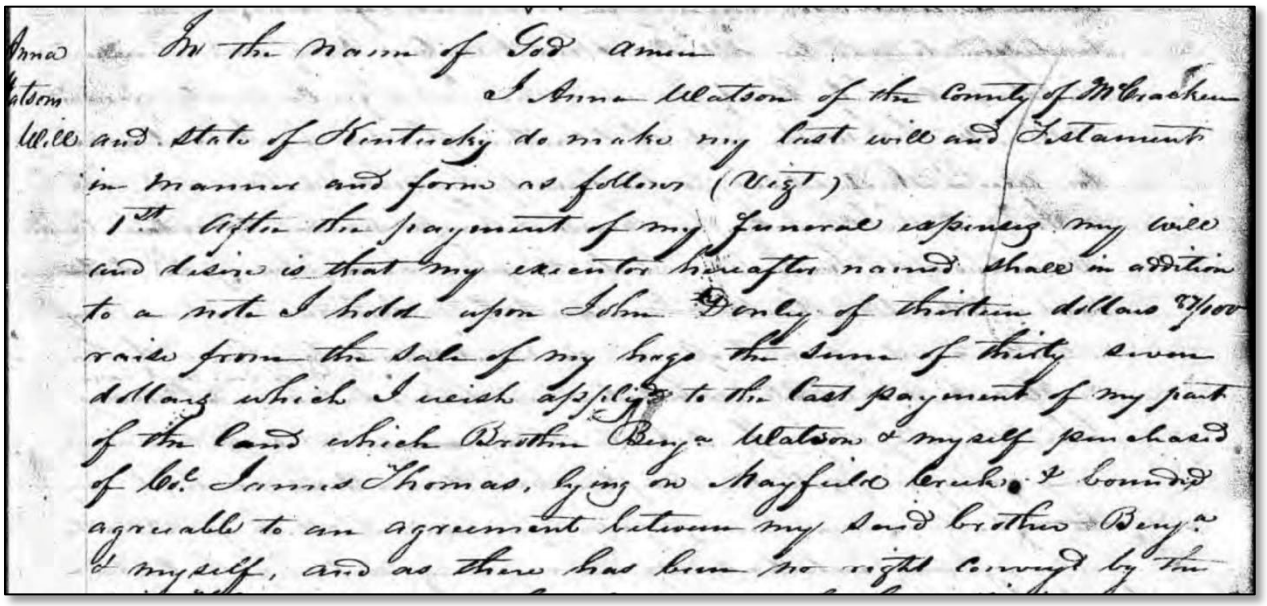
by Leslie Tomlinson, CG

County Court Records: Probate Records—Wills

When a person dies, his estate is disbursed. The records associated with this process are called probate records. "The probate process transfers the legal responsibility for payment of taxes, for the care and custody of dependent family members, for the liquidation of debts, and the transfer of property title to the heirs of a deceased person."[1] Many types of records are created during this process. See Szucs and Hargreaves, *The Source,* for a list of 81 different types of records that may be generated from probate proceedings.[2]

The focus of this article is wills. If a person has left a will, he is said to have died "testate," and if he left no will, he has died "intestate." There are limitations—not everyone leaves a will, not all heirs are named in wills, the date of death may not be explicitly stated, maiden names of married women may not be disclosed, and/or you may not know the place of death or residence of the deceased person at time of death. Also, the amount of property the deceased owned may not have been sufficient to qualify for probate, the property may have been gifted or transferred prior to the date of death, the property may be in multiple counties or states, and for females, usually only widows or unmarried women could own property. As usual in genealogy research, you need to know the laws of the time and place you are researching.

Will for an Unmarried Woman



In the Name of God amen

I Anna Watson of the County of McCracken and State of Kentucky do make my last will and Testament in manner and form as follows (Viz)

1st After the payment of my funeral expenses my will and desire is that my executor hereafter named shall in addition to a note I hold upon John Denby of thirteen dollars 87/100 raise from the sale of my hogs the sum of thirty seven dollars which I wish applyed to the last payment of my part of the land which Brother Benja Watson & myself purchased of Wm Isaac Thomas, lying on Mayfield Creek & bounded agreeable to an agreement between my said brother Benja & myself, and as there has been no right conveyed by the

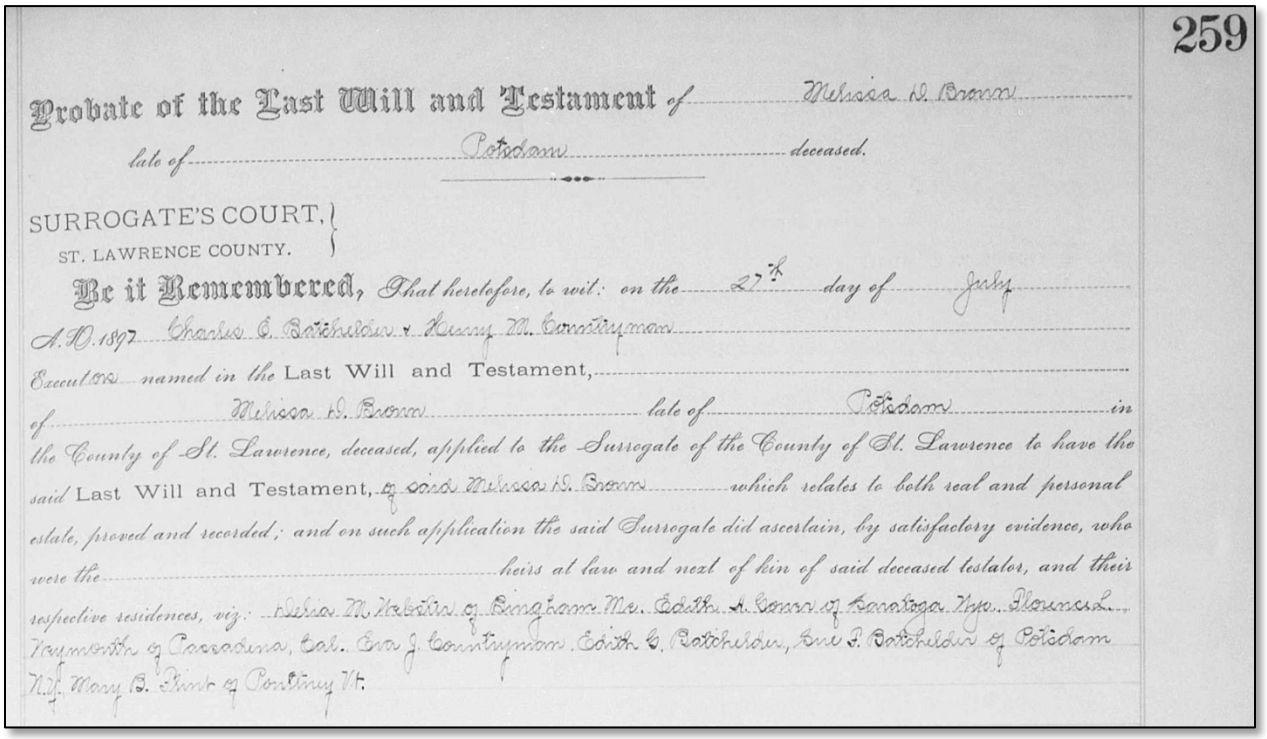
"Kentucky, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1774–1989," *Ancestry (*https://www.ancestry.com : viewed 15 Nov. 2021) > McCracken > Wills, 1826–1867, img. 62, Anna Watson will, Wills Book A:79, written 10 Sep. 1835, proved 9 Nov. 1835. This will gives much evidence of family structure.

Wills may be found at the county level but may also have been moved or copied and sent to state archives. In Texas, for example, most probate records were kept by the county probate clerk. Look for probate minutes, minute books, will books, and bond books for related documents. In states such as Tennessee, records were kept by county clerks and in a few cases, separate probate courts. Check the Family Search Wiki for your counties of interest for guidance on where to find wills.

The Probate Process

If the deceased left a will, someone began the process of probate—usually the named executor or executrix. This person was typically a relative or trusted friend and he or she petitioned the court to accept the will. If there was no will, either the court appointed an administrator or someone petitioned for the right to administer the estate, possibly a relative or in some cases a person who was owed money by the estate. In both cases, the process was similar.

Petition for Probate



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Probate of the Last Will and Testament of Melissa D. Bronn late of Potsdam deceased.

SURROGATE'S COURT, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY.

Be it Remembered, That heretofore, to wit: on the 27th day of July A.D. 1897 Charles C. Batchelder & Henry M. Countryman Executors named in the Last Will and Testament, of Melissa D. Bronn late of Potsdam in the County of St. Lawrence, deceased, applied to the Surrogate of the County of St. Lawrence to have the said Last Will and Testament, of said Melissa D. Bronn which relates to both real and personal estate, proved and recorded; and on such application the said Surrogate did ascertain, by satisfactory evidence, who were the heirs at law and next of kin of said deceased testator, and their respective residences, viz: Melissa M Hobbs of Bingham Me. Edith A Conro of Saratoga Nye. Florence L Haymonth of Pasadena, Cal. Eva J Countryman Edith C Batchelder, Eve P Batchelder of Potsdam N.Y. Mary B. Flint of Pontiny Vt.

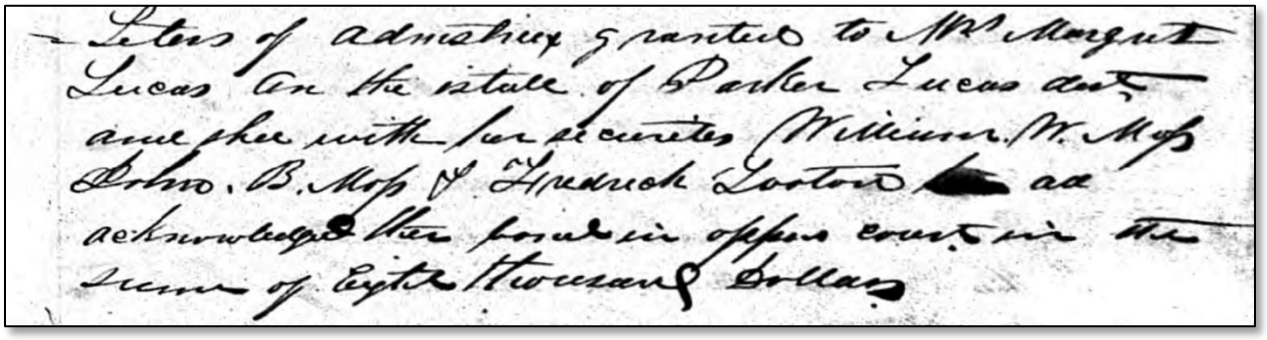
FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/005121250 : accessed 15 Nov. 2021), digital film 005121250, image 135, New York Probate Records, 1629–1971; Deed book 30:2598, Petition for probate of Melissa D. Bronn will, 27 July 1897. This petition names heirs and their residences in several states.

If approved, the executor was issued Letters Testamentary. In the case of no will, Letters of Administration were issued. The court minutes may note when these actions were accomplished and may be your only evidence that a person died.

Next, the county court confirmed the executor or administrator (or appointed another), a hearing date was set, and a bond was posted, unless specifically stated in the will that no bond was required. Bondsmen were usually relatives, so look for clues of kinship in the case of a widow settling her husband's estate.

Methodology example: In order to make a case for Margaret Lucas of Robertson County, Tennessee, to be the daughter of William Moss of the same county, repeated associations between the Moss and Lucas families were complied. These associations were evidence of a high degree of trust, reliance, and dependence, suggesting they were more than simply neighbors. One of the records demonstrating this reliance was the Letters of Administration issued when Parker Lucas died in 1843 (see below). His wife, Margaret, was granted Letters with two of her sureties being William W. Moss and John B. Moss, sons of William. Also note the bond of $8,000. The bond amount is usually roughly equal to the assets of the estate.

Letters of Administration



"Tennessee Wills and Probate Records. 1779–2008," *Ancestry* (http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9176 : accessed 15 Nov. 2021) > Robertson > County Court Minutes, Book 9–12, 1826–1851 > image 825, Mrs. Margaret Lucas, Letters of Administration on estate of Parker Lucas, 15 Apr 1843.

On the day of the hearing, the witnesses to the will appeared and attested to the signature and sound state of mind of the testator. If no one challenged the will then it was considered proved. The will was then copied into the record by the clerk. What we see today in bound books is not an original will, but some originals may be found in loose papers in the probate records or among family papers.

After the will was proved, several other steps over the next months and sometimes years were taken. Upcoming articles in this series will address inventories, dower rights, widow's support, accounts and settlement, and guardianship.

Check points

- If the will does not begin with "In the name of God Amen" or a similar phrase, the deceased could have been a Quaker or a member of a similar pacifist religion.
- Note the date the will was written, proved, filed, and/or recorded. Make a timeline to see if all the dates make sense with what you know of your ancestor.

- If a young widow was named executrix for a deceased husband, she may have named a father or brother to be administrator giving an indication of her maiden name.
- Look for newspaper notices of petitions to the probate court, letters, heir searches, etc. Most letters of administration or testamentary were filed within 14 days of death.
- You may find probate records in the county your individual came from or planned to move to.

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

[1] Marsha Hoffman Rising, *The Family Tree Problem Solver* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2005), 91.
[2] Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, *The Source,* 3d ed. (Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 2006), 274.

President's Message continued:

The Texas State Genealogical Society announces a Call for Presentations for the 2022 TxSGS Family History virtual conference, *Unlock Your Past,* Nov. 4th and 5th. Selected presentations will be included in a TXSGS Live! 2-day event with live speaker Q&A; other presentations will be recorded for an On-Demand program available for replay for 90-days after TxSGS Live! Deadline for proposals is March 14, 2022.

So, do you have an area of expertise you are passionate about? Want to excite others about your topic? Follow the TxSGS guidelines at https://www.txsgs.org/2022-conference-call-for-presentations/. Presenter requirements, compensation details, timeline etc. are referenced here. Speakers may submit up to 5 proposals for presentations or workshops via the online submission form.

Congratulations to Steve and Nancy Mabie who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in December!

Lastly, if you can be a volunteer, we really need you. One of the positions we need to fill is Memorials Chairman. It's an easy job. A complete 'how to' list is available. We are also in desperate need of a First Vice President. The 1st VP provides program speakers and serves as back-up for the President. (knock on wood, I have not been sick for 2 years!) I have to thank Laura Grover for helping with the 1st VP duties, but we really need a person dedicated to the job. Are you the one who could fill this need? Contact me at President@txsaghs.org, or give me a call at the Library 210-342-5242. Thanks.



Jonathan Breeden
Lynne Breuer
Antonio Garanzway
Elida Gonzales
Valerie Gunn
Janine Harper
Christopher Jones
Charles Matt
Jeanie Ritchie-Blaski
Dawn Smith

Submitted by Linda Monts

MEMORIALS

Leopold Castanon Jr.
Mr. Castanon was a member of SAGHS for 26 years. He passed away on November 5, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Patsy, also a member.

Dorothy Lee Pope
Ms. Dorothy Pope was a member of San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society for 8 years. She passed away on November 19, 2021.

Memorial donations in their names can be made in person during normal Library hours, or with a check mailed to: SAGHS Memorials, 911 Melissa Dr. San Antonio, TX 78213-2024

(Please direct your memorial in the memo section of your check.)

Funds donated for Memorials are used to purchase Library Collection Resources.

Meetings

Board Meeting:
Sat. Jan. 8th at 10 am
Roosevelt Auditorium

General Membership Meeting:
Sat. Jan. 15th at 10 am
Roosevelt Auditorium
Program presentation by
Col. Carter of the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association



Photo from Buffalo Soldier Museum



Peggy Peterson, winner of the 2nd Quilt, during our Seminar in October.

Happy New Year!!

2021 Texas State Genealogical Society Writing Awards Winners from SAGHS

On November 13, the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS) held their annual business meeting and awards ceremony. SAGHS and our members who entered the competition, won our fair share of the awards for writing and websites. Here are the SAGHS award winners:

Category I (1) - Books by Non-Professional Genealogists (Family History):
1st Place: **Karen Claridge Walker** for *Rupert and Evelyn: the Lives and Lineages of Rupert Claridge Jr. and Evelyn Wisdom, v. 2: Wisdom, Gibbons, and related Families* (2020)

Category III (1) - Manuscripts by Non-Professional Genealogists:
1st Place: **Larry Luckett** for "Researching a World War II Ancestor," in *Our Heritage* Vol 61 #1&2
2nd Place: **Laura Thomas** for "Thomas Scrapbook," in *Our Heritage* Vol 61, #3&4
3rd Place: **Don Armitage** for "David Kirkwood: Entrepreneur in Scotland, New Zealand, Japan, British Columbia, and Bexar County, TX," in *Our Heritage* Vol 62 #1&2

Category III (2) - Manuscripts by Professional Genealogists:
1st Place: **Nancy Brennan** for "Descendants of Jose Manuel Casanova and Maria del Carmen del Toro" in *Our Heritage* Vol. 62 #3&4.

Category IV (1) Official Periodicals of Partner Societies: Newsletters
2nd Place: **SAGHS Newsletter**, Barbara Holmes, Editor

Website Awards, Category I, Website for a Partner Society
3rd Place: **SAGHS Website**, Rob Lewis, Webmaster

Also of note:
Category I (2) - Books by Non-Professional Genealogists (References):
2nd Place: former SAGHS member **Reuben Perez** for *San Antonio River: Gateway to the City's Historical Past* (2020)

"Your talent determines what you can do. Your motivation determines how much you are willing to do. Your attitude determines how well you do it."
— Lou Holtz

NEW BOOKS		
Call Number	**Title**	**Author**
IA hard4	History of Hardin County, Iowa, 1981	Hardin County Historical Society
IN warr8	Inscriptions From Eastern Warren County, Indiana Cemeteries, 1826-1974, Vol. 1	Jenkins, Rosella Rasmussen and Diane Marion Knowles
KY 00009 (1)	Long Line of Plumed Knights; The Kentucky Knights Templar, 1819-1992	Guthrie, Charles Snow
KY clin4	Clinton County, Kentucky: A Pictorial History	Clinton County Historical Society
KY harl4	Coal Mining Town of Cumberland City, Kentucky: A History of Coal Mining and Early Citizens of the Town	Drumright, Dorothy Shelton
MA bris4	Easton's Past as shown through Maps	Oliver Duncan
MA bris4	Easton's Neighborhoods	Hands, Edmond C.
MD balto	1804 Tax Assessment, Baltimore County, Maryland	Ports, Michael A.
ME 00008 (3)	Maine Families in 1790; Vol. 1	Gray, Ruth A. (Editor)
ME 00008 (3a)	Maine Families in 1790; Vol. 2	Gray, Roth A. (Editor)
ME 00008 (3c)	Maine Families in 1790; Vol. 4	Anderson, Joseph Crook II and Lois Ware Thurston
ME 00008 (3d)	Maine Families in 1790; Vol. 5	Anderson, Joseph Crook II
ME 00008 (3e)	Maine Families in 1790; Vol. 6	Anderson, Joseph Cook II
ME 00008 (3f)	Maine Families in 1790; Vol. 7	Anderson, Joseph Crook II
ME 00008 (3g)	Maine Families in 1790; Vol. 8	Anderson, Joseph Crook II
ME 00008 (3h)	Maine Families in 1790; Vol. 9	Anderson, Joseph Crook II
ME 00008 (3i)	Maine Families in 1790; Vol. 11	Anderson, Joseph Crook II
ME 00008 (3j)	Maine Families in 1790; Vol. 12	Anderson, Joseph Crook II
NG 00004 (2a)	Ancestral Roots of Sixty Colonists Who Came to New England between 1623 and 1650	Weis, Frederick Lewis
NJ berg4	Revolutionary Bergen County: The Road to Independence	Marchant, Barbara Z. (editor)
NY dutc4	Settlers of the Beekman Patent, Dutchess County, New York, Taber to Tupper, Vol. 14	Doherty, Frank J.
RF 02004 (35)	John Knox House; Gateway to Edinburgh's Old Town	Smith, Donald
RF 02008 (1)	Jock Tamson's Bairns: A History of the Records of the General Register Office for Scotland	SInclair, Cecil
RF 04000 (33)	German - American Names	Jones, George F.
SN 257	International Society of the Descendants of Charlemagne	International Society of Descendants of Charlemagne

Submitted by Beverly Rakowitz

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Library Hours:

Sun.: 1 pm – 5pm
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. Jan. 8
DNA Consultation Hr.
10 am, 11 am & 12 pm
Annette Graham

Sun. Jan. 9
Forging A Nation from 13 Colonies to American Freedom
2 pm – 4 pm
Peter Baron

Wed. Jan. 12
FT Maker/WikiTree Workshop
10 am – 12 pm
Scott Atkinson

Sun. Jan. 16
Proving Revolutionary War Ancestry Lineage and Service
2 pm – 4 pm
Peter Baron

Mon. Jan. 17
Preparing for the 1950 Census
10 am – 12 pm
Laura Grover & Barbara Holmes

Wed. Jan. 19
Part 1 Beginner's Genealogy
10 am – 2:30 pm
Payment due Jan 8
Stephanie Wells

Wed. Jan. 26
Part 2 Beginner's Genealogy
10 am – 12 pm
Stephanie Wells

Sat. Jan. 29
Find-A-Grave 1:1 Consult Hour
10:30 am, 11:30 am, and 12:30 pm
Barbara Johns

Sat. Feb. 5
Why Use WikiTree?
10 am – 12 pm
Scott Atkinson