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

Nov. / Dec. 2021

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A newsletter to inform members of Society activities and Library Acquisitions

November / December 2021

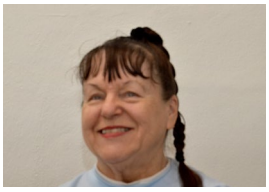


Figure 1 Photo by Ray Weiland

President's Message

Our Seminar was a success! 51 people attended in person or online, some did both. Everyone who attended appeared to enjoy the event, and we heard many positive comments. An example from Carol Elizabeth Thompson and Jenny Fultz: "*The seminar was most useful, illustrating just how extensive a thoughtful, a thinking approach to the research of one individual could and should be. The speaker was delightful, funny, and thorough. This was time and funds well spent. Thank you to the education committee, leadership for making arrangements, sponsors, gifts and promotional, facilities to include that most valuable live feed operation/operators, including the person/persons (Ray Weiland & Mary Souter) who raced about with the live microphone so that all could hear both questions and answers…thank you to all. And to those ever-so-talented, steady hands who created the quilts……..thank you…your creations are beautiful, the winner, a lucky member. Good seminar.*"

I have to thank our wonderful volunteers who are probably the best in the state! First of all, where would we be without our 'Tech-spert' Rob Lewis? We are so blessed with his many talents and willingness to serve. Cindy Kennedy obtained prizes from Ancestry.com (3), Legacy Family Tree (2), Family Tree Maker and Myheritage.com. Other prize donors were Patti Gillespie, SAGHS, HEB, Nancy McNamara, Barb Froebel and an anonymous angel who donated 5 envelopes of quilt tickets!

Mary Souter and Sue Seiler handled Registration, and athletic Mary also trotted prizes to the happy recipients. Ray Weiland toted the microphone to attendees who had questions and aided Rob when needed. Barbara McPherson was in charge of decorations and did a beautiful job! Nancy McNamara headed the book sale with help from Bev Rakowitz and others. Nancy Mabie monitored the Zoom chat and relayed questions from online attendees. Carole McBee and several others brought delightful snack items. (cont. p 2)

Annual Seminar a Huge Success!

Our speaker, Patti Todd Gillespie was amazing! Those in attendance (onsite or virtually) enjoyed a great day. Patti was very informative and humorous. She kept the audience's attention throughout the day. This was all possible through our subscription to Zoom Webinar and the countless hours and use of equipment by our technical volunteers: Rob Lewis and Hal Curry. Thanks!



Photo by Ray Weiland



Photo by Ray Weiland

The Quilt winners were Sir Oliver Smith (Smitty) and Peggy Peterson. Congratulations! The quilt ticket sale yielded a profit of $748. Our duplicate book sale yielded a profit of over $1170.

These 'profits' would not be possible, were it not for those who purchased tickets and books, but for the diligent work of our volunteer quilters, the donation of a second quilt, to all who developed the book listing, carried & organized the books, and sold and staffed the sales days.

(For those not onsite to receive their door prize, and those who reserved duplicate books, but have not yet picked them up; they are available from the duty librarian during regular business hours). Thank you and congratulations to all!

President's Message (cont.) brought delightful snack items. Barbara Holmes designed the logo for the bags and got them ordered. Annie Hunt supplied the contents and manned the quilt ticket sales. I know I am forgetting names. Since I cannot remember all who helped, I OWE YOU VOLUNTEERS LUNCH! How about **Tuesday November 16,** here in the Dwyer Center? Let me know if that works for you.

We raffled 2 quilts this year, selling a total of $748. Two names were drawn, Peggy Peterson and Sir Oliver Smith. We called Peggy who chose the twin, and so Smitty won the beautiful Vintage Sampler quilter which was originally won in 2013 and donated back. Smitty, Ann Hunt and Quilt are pictured above, but still need one of Peggy with her Quilt.

I am afraid our Mission Tour did not work for November; I have had no response from our Tour Guide. So we will try again for another day, perhaps in the spring.

On another note, we, The Board members, are working on a solution for the Wi-Fi frustrations and hope to have a solution before Christmas if not sooner.

You are invited! Ol' Shavano Chapter NSDAR will honor the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with guest speaker Ryan Richardson on Friday, November 5th, here at the Dwyer Center. The event begins with refreshments from 9:30-10:00, the presentation will be from 10:00 – 11:00. This is a once in 100 year event. Please attend if you can.

Barbara Froebel



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 provide services to our members. 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 cases of absences. The First Vice President is also chair of the Programs Committee which plans the programs for membership meetings, Founders Day, and the Fall Seminar.

Assistant Treasurer: This person assists the Treasurer with her duties, including reconciling the daily cash log sheets and documenting the moneys received so the information can be entered into the bookkeeping program by the Treasurer.

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 total VOLUNTEER organization, we depend upon members to fill these essential duties.

Submitted by Barbara Froebel

METHODS and SOURCES

by Leslie Tomlinson, CG

County Court Records: Part One

You are likely familiar with court records such as deeds, wills, and estate records. There are many more types to explore and add to your genealogy tool bucket. First, let's look at how the county court system is organized to better understand why records are created and where you might find them. In succeeding articles we will address specific types of records.

Understanding the Court System

Each state has its own county court system which varied over time. Generally, counties have jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases of a minor nature. As many articles in Methods and Sources have stated, it is important to be familiar with the laws of the time and place you are researching. A good first stop should be the FamilySearch Wiki (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page) for your state in question. Here you will find a brief history of each state system and information about how the county courts fit into the overall scheme. Jurisdiction, location of records, and resources are discussed. It's important to know the establishment and types of courts so you will know where to look for the corresponding records. For example, in the Wiki for Illinois, (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Illinois_Court_Records) you learn that all county courts were abolished in 1964 and combined into the Circuit Court. If you are researching an event that occurred close to that date, you will need to find the specific court that handled the matter before 1964 and follow up in the Circuit Court cases in 1964 and later.

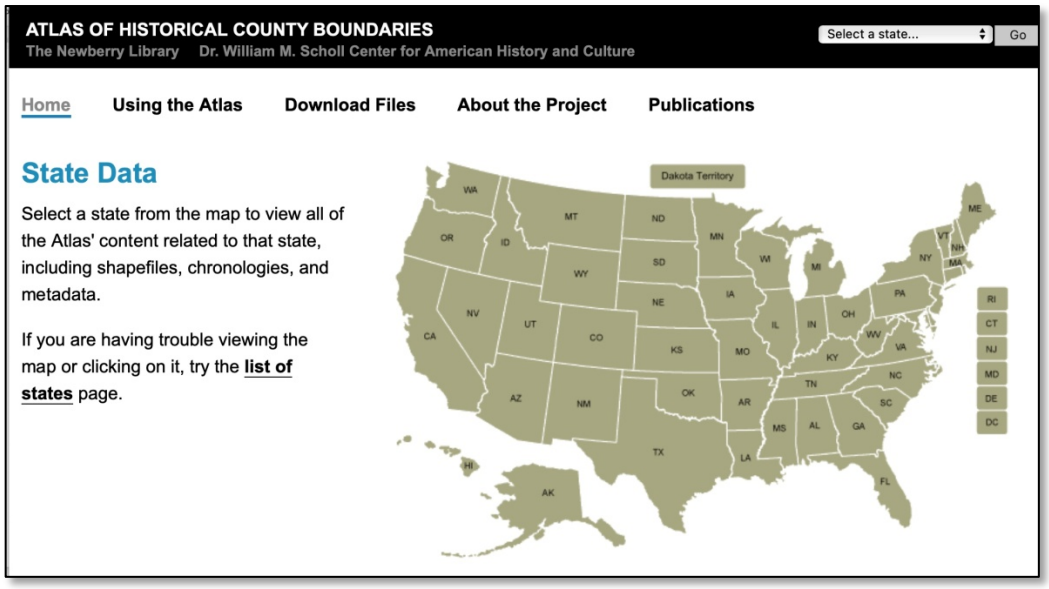


Illinois Court Records, *Family Search Wiki*.

Large states, such as Texas, have established regional archives that hold microfilmed county records which are available through interlibrary loan. Find out more at https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/local/index.

County Boundary Changes

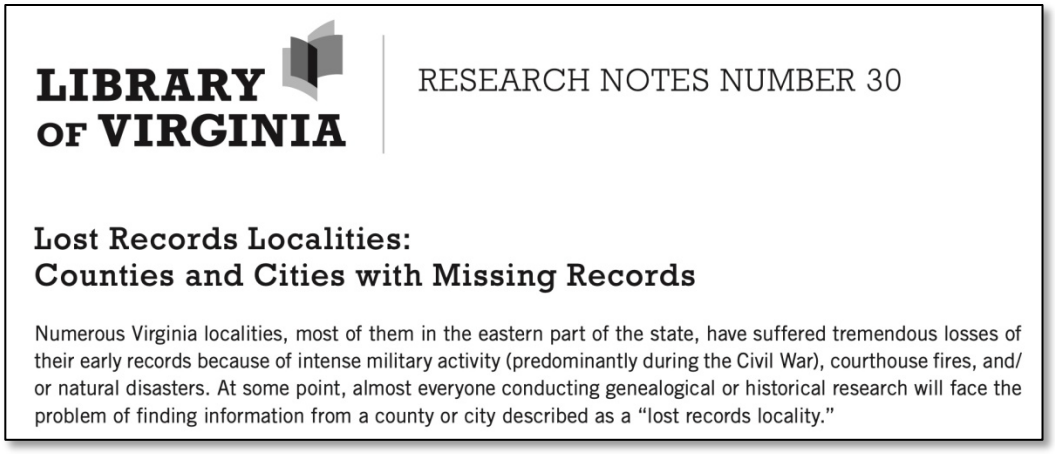
Another event that occurred frequently was a change in county boundaries. Use the Newberry Library's Atlas of Historical County Boundaries (https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/) tool to match the timeframe of your ancestor's county residence to the boundary changes for that state. Click on a state, then view an interactive map of boundary changes, an index of counties and equivalents, chronology of state and county boundaries, bibliography, historical commentary, and more. If you are looking for your ancestor in a certain county and he suddenly disappears, investigate boundary changes. He may not have moved or died—his residence simply may have been incorporated into a new county or combined with another.



Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, The Newberry Library.

Record Loss

Most every county has some record loss, whether through natural disasters, war, neglect, or "spring cleaning" by over-zealous county officials. Find out what records are missing in your county of interest and what alternates are available. Check out the FamilySearch Wiki for your county as well as the state archive for a list of known record loss. The Library of Virginia, for example, maintains research notes (https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/rn30_lostrecords.pdf) listing the counties with record loss by degree, whether "Catastrophic" or "Considerable."



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

RESEARCH NOTES NUMBER 30

Lost Records Localities:
Counties and Cities with Missing Records

Numerous Virginia localities, most of them in the eastern part of the state, have suffered tremendous losses of their early records because of intense military activity (predominantly during the Civil War), courthouse fires, and/or natural disasters. At some point, almost everyone conducting genealogical or historical research will face the problem of finding information from a county or city described as a "lost records locality."

Example of Record Loss description by county. Library of Virginia.

You might consider developing a mini research plan just to help you locate alternate sources. Where was the person or family living before and after residing in the area with the record loss? Who was in their FAN club, i.e., their friends, associates, and neighbors? What might their records tell you about your individual? Try to stick with one event and find alternate records before moving on to another. If you are looking for evidence of death, for example, try probate records, newspapers, or other court records that may have survived, such as court minutes or tax records. Similarly, another town, neighboring counties, the state, or even the federal government, may have the record you are seeking or a comparable one. Also check out the local and regional genealogical and historical societies and libraries for county court records.

In upcoming articles, a variety of county court records will be discussed, such as estates—to include wills, probate, and guardianship; property records—including types of deeds, surveys, and warrant books; court orders, minutes, and jury registers; and vital records—including births, deaths, and marriages.

Resources

General

NGS: Research in the States series (Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society).

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

Record Loss

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. "A Case Study in Family Reconstruction within a 'Burned County'." *Genealogy* [Indiana Historical Society] 78 (July 1983): 1–10; reprinted from "Anderson of Buckingham: A Case Study in Family Reconstruction within a 'Burned County,' Part 1: Family of William and Mary (Polly) C. Anderson," *The Virginia Genealogist* 27 (January–March 1983), 3–19. PDF download. Elizabeth Shown Mills. *Historic Pathways*. https://www.historicpathways.com : 13 Oct. 2021.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. "Anderson of Buckingham: A Case Study in Family Reconstruction within a 'Burned County,' Part 2: Parental Family of William Anderson (1788–1852)." *The Virginia Genealogist* 30 (July–September 1986): 174–87, and (October–December 1986): 263–73. PDF download. Elizabeth Shown Mills. *Historic Pathways*. https://www.historicpathways.com : 13 Oct. 2021.

Burned Counties Research. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Burned_Counties_Research#Think_About_Burned_County_Research_in_New_Ways.



The answer to the hints from the previous two Newsletters

A performance of the "Red Velvet Cake Wars", will take place at the Hill Country Retreat (HCR) in Alamo Ranch on Nov. 7 and 8. All performers and backstage crew members are residents of HCR. The Theater Company Club constructs all stage backdrops and supplies all props. The performance takes place in a small, fictitious town in Texas called Sweetgum. This riotously funny Southern-Fried comedy follows three main characters who are cousins, Gaynelle, Peaches and Jimmy Wyvette as they attempt to throw a family reunion. Things spin hilariously out of control. It's topped-off with a jaw-dropping high-stakes wager on who can bake the best red velvet cake. The play is a non-stop comedy which captures all of the drama and "love" found in a family reunion, no matter which side of the Mason-Dixon Line you are from! Our **Ray Weiland** plays an 'aging" 80-120 year old "Mama Doll" Hargis, a cantankerous old gal (yep…an old lady complete with stockings, garter, pearl necklace and a dress) who is hankering to get her hands on Uncle Aubrey. Uncle Aubrey is celebrating his 90th birthday and will be the judge of the cake contest. Ray is returning for his second theatrical performance at HCR.

Performances will be 2 pm on Sun. Nov 7, and 2 pm & 6 pm on Mon Nov 8 at the HCR Resort Ballroom. Tickets cost $10 each and are going fast, so if anyone is interested, please contact Ray quickly for further details.



Turn the clocks back on November 7th

Meetings in the Roosevelt Auditorium

Board Meeting: Sat. Nov. 13 & Dec. 11, at 10 am.
Membership Meeting: January 15, 2022.



WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

Mary Ann Kocurek

Irma Morales

Rafael Morales

Submitted by Linda Monts

MEMORIAL

Vernon Helmke
Mr. Helmke was a member of SAGHS for 28 years
He passed away on October 24, 2021.

Memorial donations in his name 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.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS







The 2021-2022 Membership Yearbooks Are Here!

This year's Membership Yearbooks are now available. The yearbook contains a list of each member of SAGHS as of September 7, 2021. The central section of the yearbook contains eight pages of color photos of memorable events that took place throughout the past year. The yearbook also includes the portraits of all members who submitted a photo or who took advantage of one of the four photo sessions held by our dedicated Photographer, Ray Weiland.

Thanks to all who made this edition of the yearbook possible, especially our Yearbook Chair and Editor, Charles Brussells, as well as Photographer, Ray Weiland. We also owe thanks to all our members who contributed their photos.

Stop by the Library during regular business hours to pick up your copy of the yearbook.
If you would like your copy of the yearbook mailed to you, please send a check for $4.00 to cover postage to SAGHS, 911 Melissa Dr., San Antonio, TX 78213-2024.

Submitted by Nancy Mabie

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, Christmas Day. Early closing on Thanksgiving 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. Nov. 3
Computer SIG – Columns, Tables & Indents
10 am – 12 pm
Barbara Holmes

Sat. Nov. 6 & 13
DNA Consultation Hr.
10 am, 11 am, & 12 pm
Annette Graham

Sat. Nov. 6
Enhancing Your Research with YouTube
2 pm – 4 pm
Laura Grover

Sun. Nov. 7
Is it Time to 'Wrap Up' Your Genealogy?
2 pm – 4 pm
Laura Grover

Wed. Nov. 10
Family Tree/
Wiki Tree Workshop
10 am – 12 pm
Scott Atkinson

Sun. Nov. 14
Courthouse Research in the U.S.
2 pm—4 pm
Cindy Kennedy

Sat. Dec. 4 & 11
DNA Consultation Hr.
10 am, 11 am, & 12 pm
Annette Graham

Wed. Dec. 8
Family Tree/
Wiki Tree Workshop
10 am – 12 pm
Scott Atkinson

Sun. Dec. 12
Researching New York thru the 1800s
2 pm – 4 pm
Steve Mabie