**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**

## March 2021 Inside this issue:

President's Message..... 1
Membership Meeting ..... 2
New Members ..... 3
Events ..... 3
Meetings ..... 3
Finance Report ..... 3
Methods & Sources ..... 4
Methods & Sources ..... 5
Methods & Sources ..... 6
Methods & Sources ..... 7
Methods & Sources ..... 8
New Books ..... 9
Genealogy Tidbits ..... 10



**A newsletter to inform members of Society Activities and Library Acquisitions**
**March 2021**



Photo by Neka Scarbrough-Jenkins

## President's Message

It was just about a year ago that most of us first started hearing about COVID-19 and we became familiar with terms like pandemic and lock-down. In the interim, we have learned how to have virtual meetings, wear masks and maintain adequate spacing. And now, in an unbelievably rapid response, the pharmaceutical companies (who we all used to love to hate) have been rolling out vaccines as fast as they can be produced. So, are we back to normal?

SAGHS is a volunteer organization. We have never had any paid employees. We have always relied on our members to volunteer their time to do whatever jobs were needed. And we have been successful with that paradigm for over 60 years. But as your president, I have to warn you that this pandemic may yet do harm to our Society. Many of our long time volunteers were also among the most vulnerable to the virus. And a significant percentage of them have chosen to no longer volunteer their time, despite the fact that none of us who have remained active have gotten ill through contacts at SAGHS. Yes, I am also in that "most vulnerable" category, as are several of your representatives on our Board. But what has hurt is that our less vulnerable members have failed to step up in sufficient numbers to keep our Society viable, with the result that those who do come out find themselves having to do multiple jobs.

Moreover, in trying to adapt to the "new normal", we have had to create even more jobs. Our General Membership Meetings used to be rather simple affairs, in terms of volunteer hours. A few volunteers would pick up some pastries at an HEB and lay out the treats and someone would make a pot of coffee. Presto, we would have our meetings. After a couple of virtual meetings last year (ably facilitated by members of the Texas State Genealogical Society) we have now gone to a hybrid meeting, in which you have a choice of attending in person or via Zoom from home. Unfortunately, this has significantly increased the volunteer workload, and it is all falling on two people. Were it not for Rob Lewis and Kurt Kneeland, we could not possibly be trying the Zoom part of this hybrid approach. But they don't mind the hours of extra work because they know how grateful you all are. After all, it was our locked down members who

(cont. pg. 2)

# Membership Meeting
# March 20, 2021

Our meeting will be held, as usual, at 10 am in the Roosevelt Auditorium, at the Dwyer Center. Come at 9:30 am to enjoy some coffee and treats.

Our program presenter will be Dr. David Carlson, who will be speaking about the Spanish Archives.

We look forward to your attendance on location or through our virtual meeting presentation using Zoom. As with last meeting, the link to sign onto the Zoom meeting will be sent via email the week of March 15th.

Our Nominating Committee continues to recruit for additional nominees for the Officer positions of: President, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Vice President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. At present, the slate of nominees is:

President: Barbara Froebel;
1st Vice President: Martin Soward;
2nd Vice President: Linda Monts;
3rd Vice President: Ray Weiland;
Treasurer: Pat Merk;
Recording Secretary: William Mabie.

Nominations for these positions will also be accepted from the floor at the March meeting, as per our By-Laws.

In addition, we are always recruiting for volunteers for the various other tasks and responsibilities that support San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society.

President's Message (cont.)

repeatedly asked for this. And it was our members who live outside of the San Antonio area who repeatedly requested live streaming our meetings.

So, we signed a contract with Zoom, and we had AT&T change our Wi-Fi service, all at added expense, and we have imposed on Rob and Kurt. Did you know that most of the electronic equipment we use is the personal property of Rob? And he has to cart it all back and forth each month? And set it up? And then operate it all morning? And then tear it all down?

So, how many of you have been attending our meetings? Remember, they are always held on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00. For our most recent meeting (February 20th), 21 of you registered for the meeting on Zoom, but only 15 managed to join us from home on Saturday. Nonetheless, those 15 outnumbered the 14 who actually came to the auditorium. Thus 29 out of roughly 380 members. That's gratitude? Perhaps you can do better on March 20th at 10:00.

Steve Mabie




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.

## Upcoming Events at SAGHS

Classes are held in the Dwyer Center
*(Located at the corner of Blanco & Melissa Dr.)*

**COVID-19 Restrictions will be followed**
Preregister by calling the Library at 210-342-5242 or via email to: education@txsaghs.org

***Thurs. Mar. 4***
**Beginner's Genealogy Part 2**
***10 am—2:30 pm***
Stephanie Wells

**Sat., Mar. 6 & 13**
**DNA Consultation Hour**
**10, 11 & 12**
*Annette Graham*

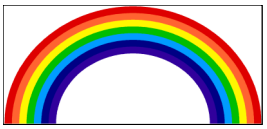
**Wed. Mar. 10**
**Family Tree/Wiki Tree Workshop**
**10 am – noon**
*Scott Atkinson*

**Thurs. Mar. 11**
**Beginner's Genealogy Part 2**
**10 am —2:30 pm**
*Stephanie Wells*

**Sun., Mar. 14**
**Migration Patterns into Alabama and Mississippi (parts 1 & 2)**
**During the Early 1800's**
**2 pm – 4:30 pm (Remember to Spring Ahead!)**
*Jim Keith*

**Sat. Mar. 20**
**Computer SIG: Fonts, Accents, & Special Characters**
**Noon– 2 pm**
*Barbara Holmes*

| **Board** Meeting | **Membership Meeting** |
|---|---|
| Sat. Mar.13, 10 am<br>Roosevelt Auditorium | Sat. Mar. 20, 10 am<br>Roosevelt Auditorium and via Zoom |



## WELCOME New Members

Skip Alexander
Kris Betz
Bernadine Coleman
Marianne Gardner
Oscar Gooden
Ginny Kerr
Cynthia Luna
Rachel Mauldin
Carla Stone
Meg Vernal

Submitted by Nancy Mabie

### Finance Committee Report

Your Finance Committee has had a very busy year! Thanks to our members, Nancy Brennan, Valerie Guenther, Barbara Holmes and Kitty Massey, and to our Treasurer and President for their commendable work in developing an annual budget, managing the Dwyer Memorial investment account, leading our annual fund drive and performing a financial records review this past year.

We will begin drafting a budget for the FY 21-22 fiscal year at our early March meeting. We have asked Board Members and key committee chairs to submit detailed requests for budget items anticipated for the next year. We also encourage the general membership to make suggestions. Please submit them, by March 15, to Finance Committee Chair Bill Myers (thirdvicepres@txsaghs.org).

Submitted by Bill Myers

# METHODS and SOURCES

by Leslie Tomlinson, CG

## Researching with Tax Records

Tax records are among the most useful documents to research, especially when it comes to placing your ancestor in a certain place and time. Censuses, at least federal ones, come every 10 years but the taxman comes every year. The following examples provide strategies for how to use these records to further your genealogical research. Also needed is a knowledge of the laws for your focus area which will tell you who is taxed and when. Determining when a man was first taxed could indicate when he came of age—at 16, or 18, or 21, depending on where he lived and when.

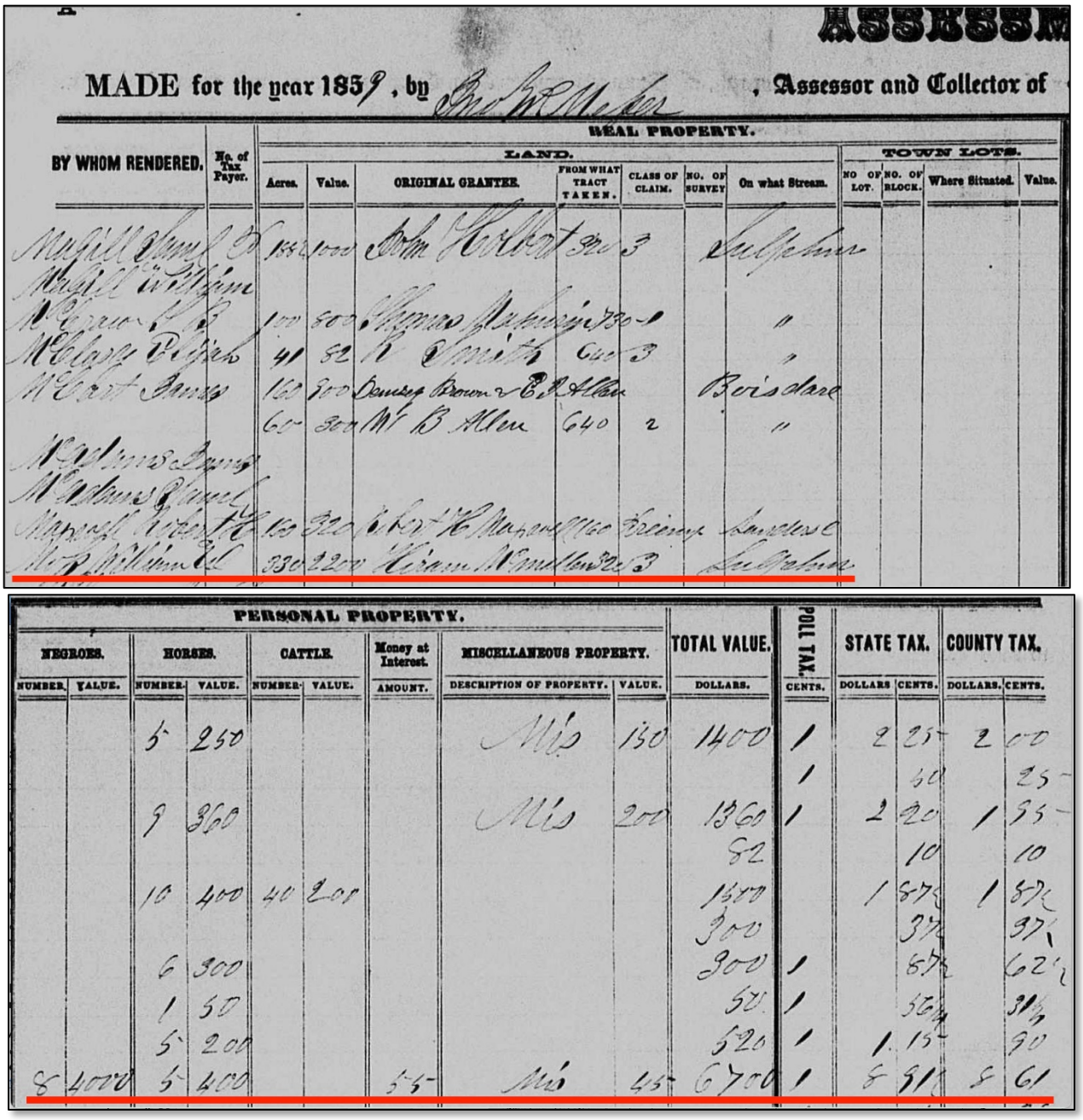
***Tax records can:***

• ***Help determine a death date before civil death records.***
By following an individual over a period of time and watching for his disappearance from the tax records it is possible to predict a death date and narrow your search for other records, such as probate. In the case below a man was followed over a period of five years. By 1815 his estate, designated by "est," was taxed but no tithable tax was assessed.

| Year | Name | White Tithables | Horses | Cattle | Dollars | Cents |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1811 | Stephen McCommack | 1 | 4 | | | 48 |
| 1812 | Stephen McCommack | 1 | 3 | | | 36 |
| 1813 | Stephen McCommack | 1 | 3 | | | 48 |
| 1814 | Stephen McCommack | 1 | 2 | | | 42 |
| 1815 | Stephen McCormick est | | 2 | 5 | | 57 |

Virginia Commissioner of the Revenue, Personal Property Tax Lists, Buckingham Co., 1811–1826, for Stephen McCommack/McCormick, (1811, John T. Bocock's district, p. 12), (1812, John Bocock's district, p. 12), (1813, Saml Patteson's district, p. 17), (1814, John Bocock's district, p. 13), (1815, J.T. Bocock's district, unpag.); Virginia State Library, Richmond, FHL microfilm 29,291.

• ***Indicate economic status.***
In Texas, for example, personal property and real estate property tax were combined in one report. These lists can be compared with neighbors to see how an individual fit into the community from an economic standpoint. The record below shows the name of the owner; acres of land and value; the original grantee and tract; stream location; town lot description; number of slaves, horses, and cattle and their value; and amount of state and county taxes—a wealth of information. By looking at this one page, it appears that William Moss held property valued greater than others in the area.



MADE for the year 1859, by [illegible], Assessor and Collector of

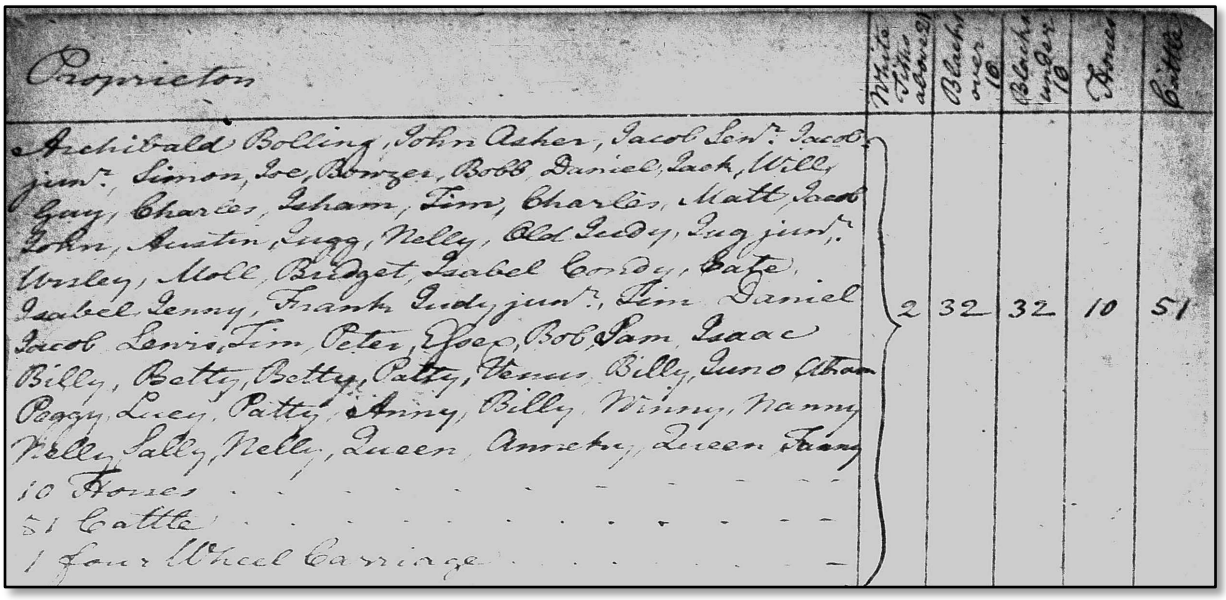
| BY WHOM RENDERED. | No. of Tax Payer. | REAL PROPERTY. LAND. Acres. | Value. | ORIGINAL GRANTEE. | FROM WHAT TRACT TAKEN. | CLASS OF CLAIM. | NO. OF SURVEY | On what Stream. | TOWN LOTS. NO OF LOT. | NO. OF BLOCK. | Where Situated. | Value. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [illegible] | | 138 | 1000 | John Hibbet | 320 | 3 | | Sec Spring | | | | |
| [illegible] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| [illegible] | | 100 | 500 | Thomas Mahoney | 320 | 1 | | " | | | | |
| [illegible] | | 41 | 82 | A Smith | Cuc | 3 | | " | | | | |
| [illegible] | | 150 | 900 | Benedy Brown & E Allen | | | | Bois dare | | | | |
| | | 60 | 300 | W B Allen | 640 | 2 | | " | | | | |
| [illegible] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| [illegible] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| [illegible] | | 160 | 320 | Robt H Mayfield | Mex | Becing | | Sanders C | | | | |
| [illegible] | | 330 | 220 | Hiram Mc Cauley | Hen Boe | 3 | | Sec Spring | | | | |

| PERSONAL PROPERTY. NEGROES. NUMBER. | VALUE. | HORSES. NUMBER. | VALUE. | CATTLE. NUMBER. | VALUE. | Money at Interest. AMOUNT. | MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY. | VALUE. | TOTAL VALUE. DOLLARS. | POLL TAX. CENTS. | STATE TAX. DOLLARS | CENTS. | COUNTY TAX. DOLLARS. | CENTS. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 5 | 250 | | | | Mis | 130 | 1400 | 1 | 2 | 25 | 2 | 00 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 40 | | 25 |
| | | 9 | 360 | | | | Mis | 200 | 1360 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 1 | 95 |
| | | | | | | | | | 82 | | | 10 | | 10 |
| | | 10 | 400 | 40 | 200 | | | | 1300 | | 1 | 87½ | 1 | 87½ |
| | | | | | | | | | 300 | | | 37½ | | 37½ |
| | | 6 | 300 | | | | | | 900 | 1 | | 67½ | | 62½ |
| | | 1 | 50 | | | | | | 50 | 1 | | 56¼ | | 31¼ |
| | | 5 | 200 | | | | | | 520 | 1 | 1 | 15 | | 90 |
| 8 | 4000 | 5 | 400 | | | 5 5 | Mis | 45 | 6700 | 1 | 8 | 91½ | 8 | 61 |

Texas County Tax Rolls, 1837–1910, Fannin County, p. 39, img. 40, William W. Moss, personal and property tax, 1859, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1827575 : accessed 16 Feb. 2021); Comptroller's Office, State Archives, Austin.

• ***Name slaves***

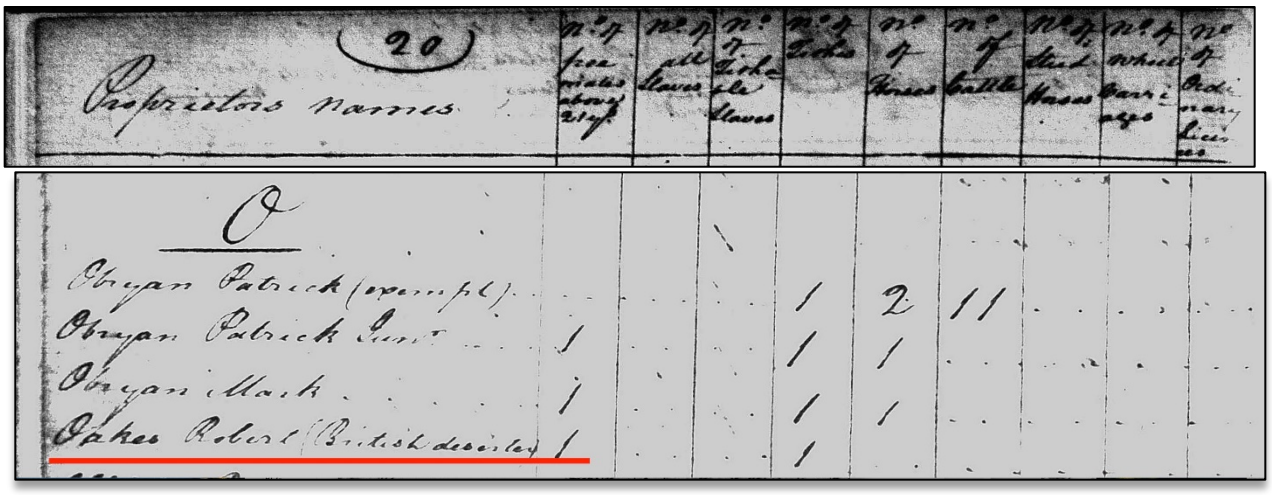
These records may be useful in tracking slaves named in wills, deeds, or manumission. Consult the probate records for the deceased's files to see if slaves are mentioned by name. They may be gifted to a child or spouse and appear later in censuses after Emancipation, perhaps living near the family who enslaved them.



| Proprietor | White Tithes above 21 | Blacks over 16 | Blacks under 16 | Horses | Cattle |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Archibald Bolling, John Asker, Jacob Sen.r Jacob jun.r Simon, Joe, Bonzer, Bobb Daniel, Jack, Will, Gay, Charles, Isham, Tim, Charles, Matt, Isaac John, Austin, Pugg, Nelly, Old Judy, Pug jun.r Wesley, Moll, Bridget, Isabel Condy, Kate Isabel Jenny, Frank Judy jun.r, Tom Daniel Jacob Lewis, Tim, Peter, Joe, Bob, Sam, Isaac Billy, Betty, Betty, Patty, Venus, Billy, Juno Alton Peggy, Lucy, Patty, Jinny, Billy, Winny, Nanny Nelly, Sally, Nelly, Queen, Amethy, Queen Isaac | 2 | 32 | 32 | 10 | 51 |
| 10 Horses | | | | | |
| 51 Cattle | | | | | |
| 1 four Wheel Carriage | | | | | |

*FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007862490 : accessed 15 Feb. 2021) digital film 007862490, img. 10, Archibald Bolling, personal property tax lists 1782, microfilm of original records at the Virginia State Library in Richmond, Virginia.

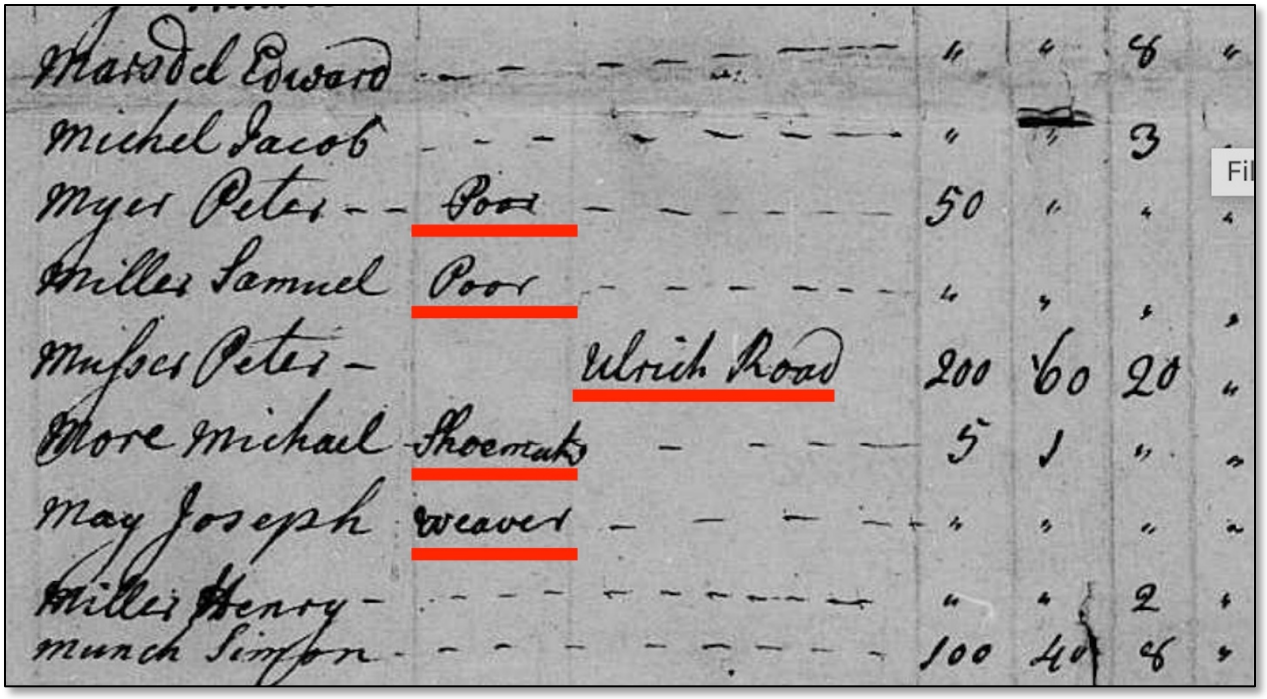
• ***Reveal political leanings.***
One Robert Oakes was listed as a British Deserter in this example from 1785 in Buckingham County, Virginia:



| 20 Proprietors Names | No. of free males above 21 yrs | No. of all slaves | No. of Tithable slaves | No. of Tithes | No. of Horses | No. of Cattle | No. of slaves Horses | No. of wheel Carriages | No. of Ordinary Licences |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | | | | | | | | | |
| Obryan Patrick (exempt) | | | | 1 | 2 | 11 | | | |
| Obryan Patrick Junr | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Obryan Mark | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Oakes Robert (British deserter) | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | |

*FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007862490 : accessed 15 Feb. 2021) digital film 007862490, img. 87, Robert Oakes, personal property tax lists 1785, microfilm of original records at the Virginia State Library in Richmond, Virginia.

• ***Give occupation and personal details, including location.***
When trying to identify individuals, knowing the occupation, condition, or locality may help you narrow the field.




*FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008248914 : accessed 15 Feb. 2021) digital film 008248914, img. 41, detail from Hempfield Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania tax records 1758; Lancaster County Historical Society.

Many characteristics of taxpayers were noted by the collector, whether "Jr." or "Sr." for example. This designation doesn't imply relationship, merely indicates the oldest man in the area of that name vs. the next same-named man as the next oldest. When a senior is noted on the next year, he may be the one from last year, the junior from last year who is now the oldest after last year's senior died, or someone completely new. You must use other records to corroborate your hypothesis. Often you will see abbreviations such as "SH" which could mean son of Henry or indicate a location feature. Read articles written about the tax records of your state and county and review how the tax collector recorded other names in the records to get a sense of what the abbreviations mean.

• ***Suggest proximity to those of the same surname.***
Tax lists are most often alphabetized, so you won't have a clue to your ancestor's neighbors. Creating a table such as the following example can help sort out those more closely associated with one another, such as two branches of a family living in two different parts of the county. This is not a definitive answer as to relationships, but by studying the lists over the years it will help build a case for people living near each other. The tax collector in 1814 most likely rode a horse out to meet the heads of households and would group his visits to houses in the same vicinity.

| Date | Dist. | Last name | First name | WT 16+ | Slaves 16+ | Slaves 12-15 | Horses |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11-Mar | 2 | McCormack | David | 2 | | | 1 |
| 13-Mar | **2** | McCommack | Stephen | 1 | | | 2 |
| 13-Mar | **2** | McCommack | Duke | 1 | | | 1 |
| 13-Mar | **2** | McCommack | David | 2 | 2 | | 3 |
| 2-May | 2 | McCommack | John | 1 | | | |
| 9-May | 2 | McCommack | Samuel | 1 | | | 1 |
| 27-Mar | 1 | McCormac | John | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| 3-Mar | **1** | McCormac | Daniel | 1 | | | |
| 3-Mar | **1** | McCormac | Wm | 1 | | | |

Virginia Commissioner of the Revenue, Personal Property Tax Lists, Buckingham Co., 1811–1826, for McCommack/McCormick, 1814; Virginia State Library, Richmond, FHL microfilm 29,291.

**Finding tax records**
Tax records are most often found at the county level. Search the FamilySearch catalog by entering your state and county to see what is available. Also check local and state archives and genealogical societies.

**Resources**
Carol Cooke Darrow and Susan Winchester, *The Genealogist's Guide to Researching Tax Records* (Westchester, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2017).




## MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS






**Remember**

Daylight Savings Time begins
**Sunday March 14.**

# NEW BOOKS

| Call Number | Title | Author | Pub. Year |
|---|---|---|---|
| FH Horton | Descendants of Thomas Horton | Horton, A. J. | 1912 |
| FH Horton | Thomas Horton of Milton and Rehoboth, Massachusetts | Jenks, Margaret R. and Frank, C. Seymour | 1984 |
| FH Johnson | Biography and Genealogy of Captain John Johnson from Roxbury, Massachusetts; An Uncommon Man in the Commonwealth of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1630-1659 | Johnson, Gerald Garth | 2008 |
| FH Lake | Genealogy of the Lake Family of Great Egg Harbor, in Old Gloucester county, in New Jersey, Descended from John Lake of Gravesend, Long Island; with Notes on the Gravesend and Staten Island Branches of the Family | Adams, Arthur & Risley, Sarah A. | 1915 |
| FH Moore | Ancestry of Moore/Rowan Families | Linn, Jo White | 1995 |
| FH Rutan | Third Rutan Family Index | Keegan, James J. | 2002 |
| FH Sanford | Sanford Genealogy; the Branch of William of Madison, New York | Sanford, Heman Howes | 1894 |
| FH Smith | Cohographs | Smith, Coho and Logan, Iva Roe (editor) | 1976 |
| FH Townsend | California Diary of General E. D. Townsend, A | E. D. Townsend, Edwards, Malcolm (editor) | 1970 |
| FH Waitsburg | Waitsburg Family; 1858-1900, the Beginning | Torres, Sandra | 2014 |
| FH Whitney | Whitney Family of Connecticut, and its Affiliations, Being An Attempt to Trace the Descendants, as well in the Female as the Male Lines, of Henry Whitney, From 1649 to 1878; Volume 3 | Phoenix, S. Whitney | 1878 |
| FH Whitney | Whitney Family of Connecticut, and its Affiliations, Being An Attempt to Trace the Descendants, as well in the Female as the Male Lines, of Henry Whitney, From 1649 to 1878; Volume 2 | Phoenix, S. Whitney | 1878 |
| FH Whitney | Whitney Family of Connecticut, and its Affiliations, Being An Attempt to Trace the Descendants, as well in the Female as the Male Lines, of Henry Whitney, From 1649 to 1878; Volume 1 | Phoenix, S. Whitney | 1878 |
| FH Whitney | Whitney; The Descendants of John Whitney, Who Came From London, England to Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1635 | Pierce, Frederick Clifton | 1895 |
| FH Willis | Willis - Maddox Reunion | Willis-Maddox Reunion Committee | |
| FH Willis | Willis Family Notes (1st thru 7th Generation) | Willis | |
| FH Willis | Willis Family Notes (8th thru 12th Generation) | Willis | |
| FH Willis | Time To Remember, A; Genealogy of the Elijah Newton Willis Family, including his ancestors and descendants 1653 to 1988 | Willis, Joel A., Jr. | |

**San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society**

## Important Contacts

President: Steve Mabie
President@txsaghs.org

1st VP (Programs)
Barbara Froebel:
FirstVP@txsaghs.org

2nd VP (Membership)
Nancy Mabie
Membership@txsaghs.org

3rd VP (Finance)
Bill Myers
ThirdVP@txsaghs.org

Librarian
Laura Grover
Librarian@txsaghs.org

Education & Volunteers
Nancy McNamara
Education@txsaghs.org

Registrar
Barbara Wright
Registrar@txsaghs.org

Publicity
Ray Weiland
Publicity@txsaghs.org

Newsletter Editor
Barbara Holmes
Purchasing@txsaghs.org

Webmaster
Rob Lewis
Webmaster@txsaghs.org

**Library & Class capacities may be restricted due to COVID-19**

**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 Years Day, Easter, Mothers Day, Memorial Day, 2nd Sat in June (Founders Day), Fathers Day, July 4, Labor Day, 4th Sat in October (Seminar), Christmas Eve & Day. *Early closings on Thanksgiving & New Years Eves.*

And, late Opening: At the end of Membership Meetings.

**Daylight Savings Time begins: March 14**

# Genealogy Tidbits

### Legacy Family Tree webinars:

**To register go to: *https://familytreewebinares.com***

**Additional details also can be found on the website.**

*The webinars remain on their website for viewing for 3 days from the air date, in case you miss the date, and are not a Legacy subscriber*

**Tues. Mar 2 at 7 pm:** "British Genealogy Online: The Top English and Welsh Family History Websites" by Rick Crume.

**Wed. Mar. 3 at 1 pm:** "Italian Parish Records" by Suzanne Russo Adams AG.

**Fri. Mar. 5 at 1 pm**: "The Ten Percent: Free People of Color" by Nicka Smith.

**Wed. Mar. 10 at 7 pm**: "Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussion Genealogy Records" by Nancy E Loe MA MLS.

**Fri. Mar. 16 at 7 pm:** "Reporting on Research Standards to Encourage Better Communication" by Nancy A Peters CG CGL.

**Wed. Mar. 17 at 1 pm**: "FamilySearch.org—10 Links You Have to Try" by Devin Asby.

**Fri. Mar. 19 at 1 pm:** "Tracing Your War 1812 Soldier" by Paul Milner.

**Wed. Mar. 24 at 1 pm:** "20th Century Imigrants to the West Coast" by Linda Harris Okayaki.

**Wed. Mar. 31 at 1 pm:** "Fifty Overlooked Genealogical Resources in Fifty Minutes" by Diane L. Richard.

### Genealogy Society of Bergen County, NJ:

To register go to: ***https://www.njgsbc.org/gsbc-genealogy-classes/***

**Mon. Mar. 8, from 1—2:30 pm:** " Part Two: Picturing Your Research: Finding, Procuring and Preserving Images" Michelle D. Novak.

***Note: All times are stated in Central Time.***