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

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



Photo by Neka Scarbrough-Jenkins

President's Message

As you read this, the year 2020 has finally drawn to a close. And I have never been happier to turn to a new calendar! The year actually started out on an upbeat note with our Grand Opening of the Dwyer Center in January. It's hard to believe that the following 11 months would bring us challenges and disappointments such as: Fiesta cancelled, facilities closed, Founders Day Luncheon cancelled, vacations cancelled, meetings and seminar conducted virtually, and most of all the COVID-19 effect on the health and well-being of our family and friends.

On the bright side, we did get a lot of projects finished, and for that I would like to thank all of our Board members for working so well together. I was told more than once by long time members that this current board seems to get along very well. I believe it was a case of really good people dedicated to doing a job in difficult circumstances. But whatever the reason, our 10 member board has been exceptional. Throughout the year, we have had a great attendance record, with Pat Merk (Treasurer), Carole McBee (Secretary), Kurt Kneeland (Director) and Charles Brussells (Director) all managing to attend every Board meeting. Every motion that was presented to the Board was fully discussed and, remarkably, almost every vote of the Board was unanimous.

Our next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM on January 16th. We will be trying something new on that day: what some are calling a hybrid meeting. We have recently significantly upgraded our Wi-Fi capabilities so that we can hold our meetings live in the Dwyer Center while at the same time "broadcasting" the meetings via Zoom to those of you who live outside of the San Antonio area, and those of you who remain homebound. We will be doing this on our own for the first time, and I expect we may have some rough patches, but hopefully we will improve every month. I want to emphasize that this is being done as a permanent change, and not just due to the current pandemic.

Regardless of how you attend the January meeting, you will also be voting on two very important subjects. First, we will elect (cont. pg. 7)

Spotlight on our most remote member, *and the first from the "Down-Under"!*

Submitted by Ray Weiland

From time to time, we like to showcase one of our members who might have an unusual story or have an interesting background. Such is the case of one of our newer members, Don Armitage. Don lives in Whangarei, Northland, New Zealand, and joined SAGHS in October. He is researching David Kirkwood (1835-1913) who lived in Bexar County between 1878 and the mid-1890s. He desires to find and alert local descendants to an increasingly amazing story that has been unfolding in New Zealand as more information is found out about Kirkwood and a schooner he owned, "*The Daring*". Don is now working with our Larry Luckett to tell this story in a 2021 edition of *Our Heritage*!

Don now 71, was born in New Zealand, is affectionately referred to as a "Kiwi", and has been associated with the sea most of his life. Born in Auckland in 1949, went to the University of Auckland and grew up close to the sea. He was involved with diving, fishing, yachting and golfing before voyaging on a 43 ft. keeler to some of the islands in the South Pacific, mainly to dive. In 1971, he ventured 400 miles east of New Zealand to the Chatham Islands where he was a commercial abalone diver. A couple of years later, he bought his own fishing vessel and fished for rock lobster and continued diving for them and abalone. In 1975, he took a break as a Government Fisheries Officer and at the same time got his private pilot's license. Along with flying, he took up gliding and hang-gliding as well. Don returned to fishing in the Chatham Islands. In 1981, he became a Fish Factory Manager. Shortly after that, he built a house in Auckland on Great Barrier Island, an outer island of Auckland. With a small population of about 1,000, Don explains it offered beautiful, clear water and great diving.

When the millennium came, Don came up with the idea of writing a book on the Great Barrier Island. Never having done a book before, it was published 22 months later. The book became a best seller, and Don went on to become an author of mainly, maritime subjects.

Don is looking forward to everyone reading his story of David Kirkwood. He told me, "The next edition of *Our Heritage* will explain it all, and rest assured, you won't be disappointed!" The picture of Don in front of a ship model has everything to do with the *Our Heritage* story!



Membership Meeting
January 16, 2021 10 am
Roosevelt Auditorium, Dwyer Center

Guest Speaker: James Earl, Writer, Poet, Performer
Topic: "Historical Significance of Black Confederates in the War of the Rebellion"

It is a little known fact that significant numbers of blacks supported the South in the late War Between the States (Civil War to those from north of the Mason -Dixon Line). Not just a few here and there, but thousands lent their support not only as laborers, teamsters and cooks, but as real armed soldiers as evidenced by military rosters, diaries, pension records and news accounts.

Having conducted extensive research on the subject, James Earl, son of long time San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society member and contributor Jim Earl, has set out to capture the drama and complexity inherent in the Black Confederate story in his new work of historical fiction, *TRUE GRAY*. Be sure to attend our meeting on January 16, when James will speak on the historical significance of Black Confederates and the genesis of his novel to include a few readings.

James "Jim" Earl, writer, poet and performer, has written songs, theater, and screenplays as well as having founded and fronted the Arbuckle Boys, a band dedicated to the preservation of music from the Trail Drive era of the 1870's.

ALL ARE INVITED!

Submitted by Barbara Froebel

Recommendations for Honorary Memberships in SAGHS

Article III, Section 2 of the SAGHS Bylaws states, "Upon written recommendation to and approval of the Board of Directors and a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting of the Society, Honorary Membership may be conferred upon a member who has made significant contributions to the Society." A written request from Beverly Rakowitz recommended that Honorary Memberships in SAGHS be conferred on four of our esteemed members:

Arnold Birdsong, Barbara Dehle
Jo Anne Horne, and Helen Parker.

Besides being long-time SAGHS members, these individuals have each made significant contributions to the Society over the years by volunteering their valuable time and talents to enhance the mission of SAGHS.

At the November 14th meeting, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to submit these names at the next General Membership meeting. On January 16th, a vote will be taken to determine if the society will confer Honorary Membership upon these four members. We urge you to vote in favor of this motion.

Submitted by Nancy Mabie



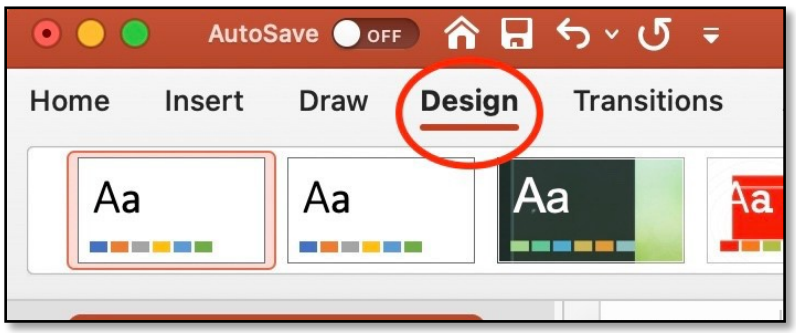
METHODS and SOURCES

by Leslie Tomlinson, CG

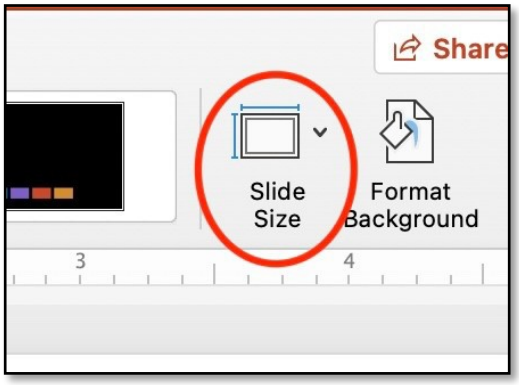
Creating a Simple Family History Book–Part 2

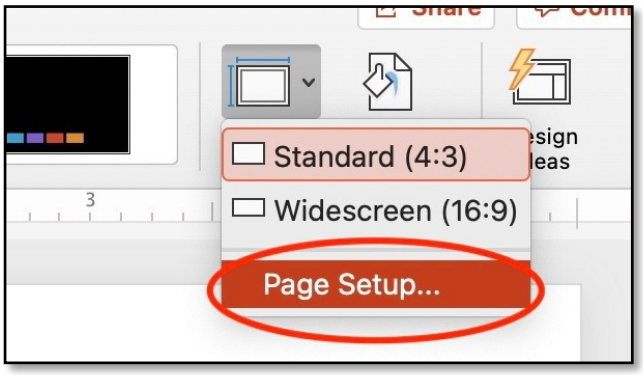
In the November newsletter we set up a simple 4-page book. To print your book on your home color printer using standard 8.5 x 11-inch paper you will need to set up your pages for that size. Here's how:

Setup pages for letter size. Go to the Design tab at the top of the PowerPoint app.

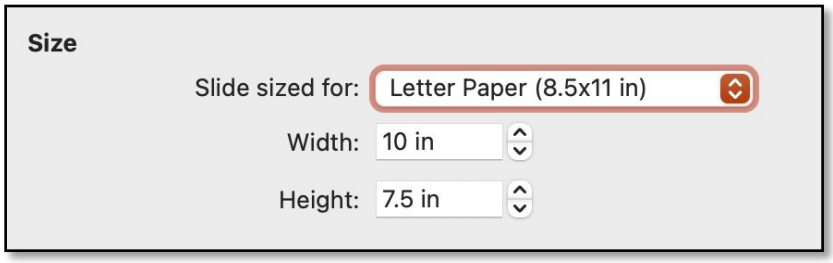


On the right-hand side of the window, click on the down arrow beside Slide Size. Next select Page Setup.

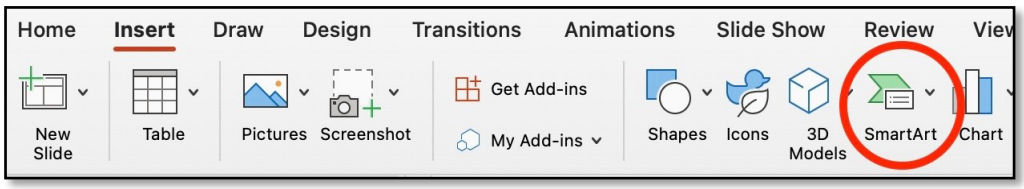




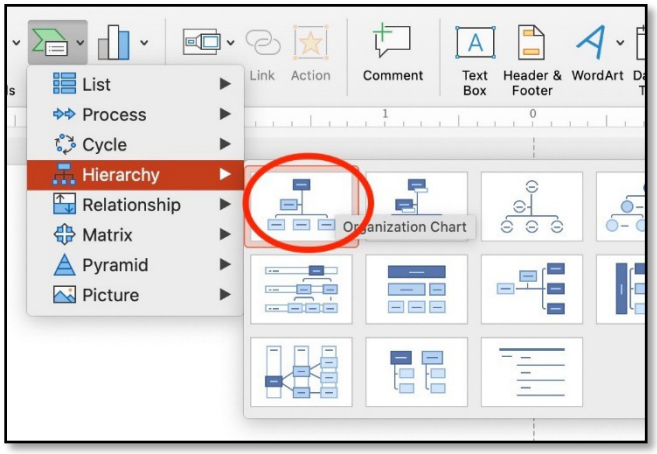
Choose Letter Paper. Now all your slides should print correctly on a home printer.



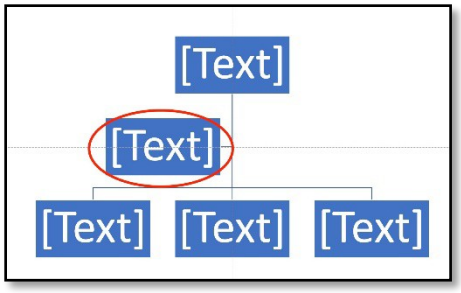
Use SmartArt to create a simple family tree to add to your book.



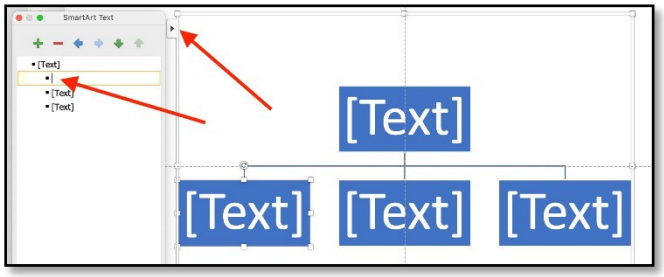
Choose Hierarchy > Organization Chart.



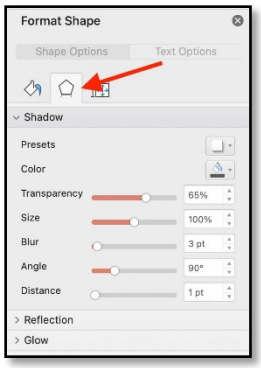
Next, click on the second-tier box and delete it. You should now be left with just two levels.



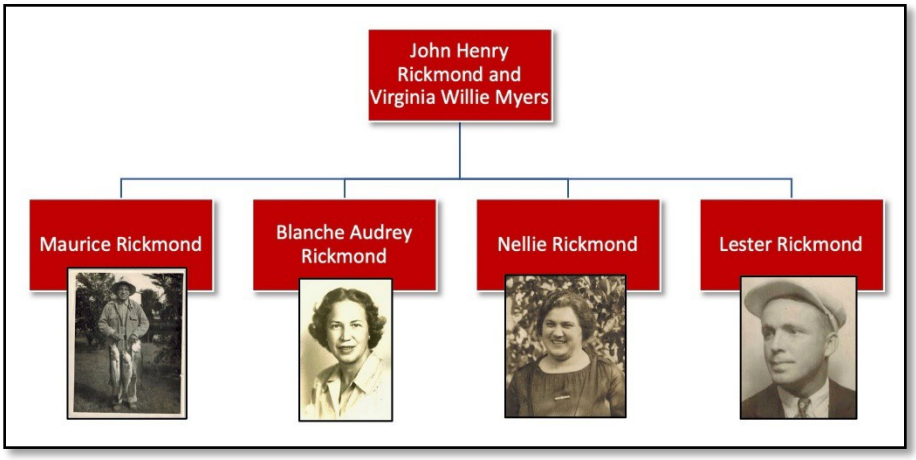
Click the arrow at the top left to open the panel where you can add more boxes and/or directly type in the names of parents and children.



Click on the boxes to change the fill color if desired. You may also want to add drop shadows using the Format shape dialog box shown below.

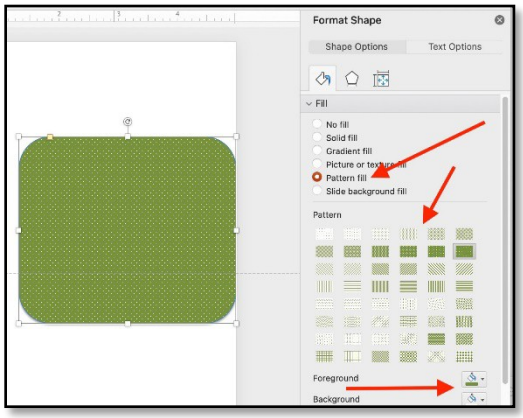


Here is a simple finished tree. You can add pictures to the page to complete the look.

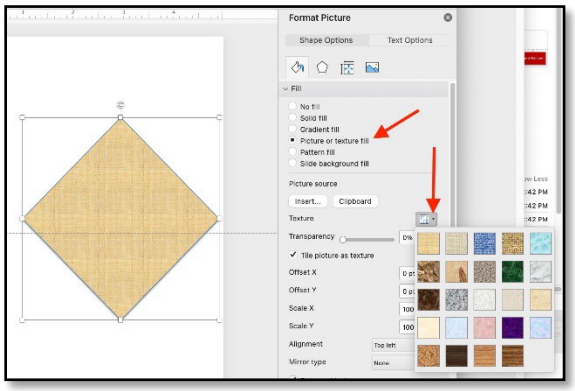


Add interest to your pages by adding colorful backgrounds or shapes.

Fill a shape with a pattern. Draw a shape on a blank page. Select it and click on Pattern fill in the Format Shape dialog box. Choose a Pattern fill and the Foreground and Background colors.



Fill a shape with texture.
Draw a shape on a blank page. Select it and click on Picture or texture fill. Next click on the down arrow next to the texture icon. Choose a texture.



Have fun with your project! Experiment with the many easy-to-use features of PowerPoint to make your Family History Book as unique as its people and stories.

Prorated Membership Rates Now in Effect

Following our usual procedures, the prorated dues for new membership in SAGHS are now in effect. Let your friends and family know that from now until the end of the membership year we are offering new individual and joint memberships in the 2020-2021 membership year for reduced rates. Since our normal membership year begins July 1st and ends June 30th, at this time of year, **new** individual members can join the society for the prorated fee of $20. **New** joint members can join the society for $30.

Former members are also eligible for these prorated fees, but ***only*** if they have not been members of the society for one full year (in other words, not since June 30, 2018, or earlier).

New members can join online:

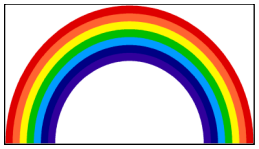
https://txsaghs.org/onlineJoin.php

or download an application to mail in today:

https://txsaghs.org/upload/files/Join/2021_saghs_membership_application-prorated.pdf

For more information, call the library at (210) 342-5242 or email our Membership chair at: membership@txsaghs.org.

Submitted by Nancy Mabie



WELCOME New Members

Monica Ashley

Kyle Baker

Debra Davis

Kristy DeWinne

Tammy Gabelmann

Gaspar Gomez

Kirk Oden

Bryan Ramstack

Submitted by Nancy Mabie

President's Message (cont.)

our Nominating Committee. This committee consists of 5 members who must then report back at the February meeting with a slate of candidates for the 6 officer positions to be elected at our April meeting. You will also be asked to vote on honoring four of our long term members with Honorary Memberships, in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of our By-Laws. Your participation is important to the continued success of our Society. As always, there will be coffee and snacks available for all those attending the meeting on the 16th.

Steve Mabie

Upcoming Events at SAGHS

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

COVID-19 Restrictions will be followed

Pre-register in person with the Librarian during Library Business Hours or via email to:
education@txsaghs.org

Sat., Jan. 9
DNA Conultation Hour
9, 10 & 11
Annette Graham

Sun., Jan. 10
Researching City Records & Resources
2 pm – 4 pm
Pat Merk

Wed. Jan. 13
Family Tree/Wiki Tree Workshop
10 am – noon
Scott Atkinson

Sun. Jan. 17
Beginning Genealogy, Part 1
1 pm – 4 pm
Stephanie Wells

Sun. Jan 24
Beginning Genealogy, Part 2
1 pm – 4 pm
Stephanie Wells

Sun, Jan. 31
Beginning Genealogy, Part 3
1 pm – 3 pm
Stephanie Wells

Sunday Classes Resume

To enhance genealogy research skills, our SAGHS 2021 Education program will offer Sunday classes twice monthly, when we have presenters available. Please review the year's offerings as posted on the *Events & Education Section* located on the SAGHS Website.

Due to the Covid-19 guideline requirements, it is essential for us to know the number of attendees, thus pre-registration is a **MUST**. Pre-registration can be accomplished by either an e-mail to: *education@txsaghs.org*, or by telling the duty Librarian, during business hours.

Usually, classes are held in the Dwyer Center Classroom however depending upon the number of participants, the Roosevelt Auditorium may be used as an alternative room. We look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Submitted by Nancy McNamara

MEETINGS

Board Meeting
Sat. Jan. 9, 10 am
Roosevelt Auditorium

Membership Meeting
Sat. Jan 16, 10 am
Roosevelt Auditorium

"Once your choose hope, everything's possible"
Christopher Reeve

NEW BOOKS

TX guad4	Cibolo Texas, the Early Years	Womack, Judy & Sandra Lee Cleary
TX karn8	Karnes County, Texas Marriage Records 1867-1894	McMinus, J.
TX kend4	Sheriffs of Kendall County, Texas 1862-2020, The	Genealogical Society of Kendall County
TX lava8	Lavaca County, Texas Cemetery Records Volume II	Tise, Sammy
TX lava8	Lavaca County, Texas Cemetery Records, Volume I	Tise, Sammy
TX park4	First Baptist Church Weatherford, Texas; "The First 140 Years"	McClung, Bill and Martha
VA ches7	Chesterfield County Virginia Wills 1749-1774	Weisiger, Benjamin B. III
VA wash8	Cemeteries of Washington County, Virginia; Additions and Corrections to High on a Windy Hill	Gregory, John, Troy Taylor, Charlie Barnette, Carol Hawthorne-Taylor, Doris Wells, Don Helton & Barbara Stewart
VA wash8	High on a Windy Hill	McConnell, Catherine Sanders

Volunteer Opportunities

We are still looking for a volunteer who can fill the role for the Building Maintenance Chair. This person is one who can identify needed repairs (eg. burned out light bulbs, leaks, plumbing issues, etc.) and to make sure they get corrected either by doing the repair, or making sure a contractor (or other volunteer) will make the repair. This person also monitors the schedule of preventive maintenance actions (eg. A/C filter replacement, Annual HVAC inspections and Irrigation System Backflow Inspection). This does not take a lot of time, but does require coming to the facility on a regular basis.

Do you like to shop without having to pay the bill?? This might be a fun opportunity for you. We have a need for a volunteer to fill the role of Purchasing Agent. This position involves shopping for and purchasing needed supplies for SAGHS. It does require coming to our facility, and communicating with various Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs, but most can be accomplished on your own schedule. Purchases are reimbursed by the Society Treasurer. Our outgoing Purchasing Agent volunteer will train.

Facility Improvements

Our dedicated volunteers are continuing to make improvements to our facilities to improve our service to members and help new and potential members find their way around.

We continue to perfect our video presentation capabilities in the Roosevelt Auditorium. This will allow for a large in-person viewing (even with social distancing) for our meetings. When combined with our improved WiFi system, those of you who cannot attend the meetings in person, will still be able to attend while at home.

Additional building signs for the Dwyer Center and the Library have been installed. These will clearly define the buildings and help direct visitors and members to the correct facility.

We now have an accessible ramp to assist in movement between the two buildings. We encourage Library patrons and volunteers to park in the paved lot of the Dwyer Center, when possible.

One of our second floor rooms has been converted to a Periodicals Reading Room.

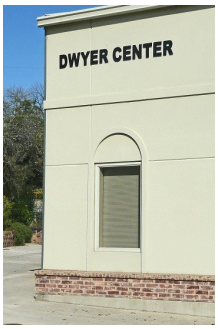


Photo by Charles Brussells



Photo by Charles Brussells



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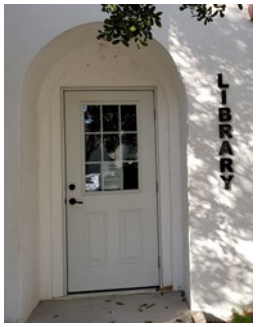


Photo by Charles Brussells



Photo by Charles Brussells



Photo by Barbara Holmes

Winning Another Award — A Pleasant Surprise for Christmas!



Our popular publication *First Families of Bexar County, Texas* was recognized by the San Antonio Conservation Society as one of the ten books published in the last two years that is a work most serving "to preserve Texas History and to educate the public with knowledge of our inherited values." The Conservation Society holds the publication recognition every other year, and we are cited for the 2021 group of honorees. The formal ceremony will be in March, if they can have a public assembly by then. This award compliments the book's recognition as Third Place winner in the Texas State Genealogical Society 2019 Writing Competition.

This new award is further recognition of the extensive efforts of the editor, Larry Luckett; our writing/research group: Rose Arciniega, Nancy Brennan, Patsy Castanon, Annette Graham, Katherine Nelson Hall, Jo Anne Horne, Velma Keller, Nancy Mabie, Robert Schenk, and Mary Lee Sloan; indexer Julia George; and article reviewer, Barbara Johns.

Of course content of the book is based on the initial research and efforts of the 103 First Families Honorees, and the SAGHS First Families Committee, Nancy Brennan, Barbara Froebel, and Rushelle Mason, who also share this recognition for preserving Texas history.

Cindy Kennedy,
Chair, Publications Committee

Memorials

The following members/former members have passed away.

Helen B. Kyse 11/8/20

Jaclyn (Jackie) Helmke 11/24/20

Floy Kropelin 11/28/20

Beth Forsen 12/12/20

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.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Martin L. King Jr.

San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society

Important Contacts

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3rd VP (Finance)
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ThirdVP@txsaghs.org

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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, 3rd Sat in October (Seminar), Christmas Eve & Day. *Early closings on Thanksgiving & New Years Eves.*

Late Opening:
Membership Meeting dates: Library will open after the meeting

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. Jan. 12 at 1 pm:
"My Heritage Mobile App, All New Features, 2020" by Marsha Novak.

Tues. Jan. 26 at 1 pm:
"The New ethnicity Estimates" by Ran Snir.

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Genealogy Society of Bergen County, NJ:

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

Mon. Jan. 11, from 1 – 2:30 pm (Part 1) ""Picturing" Your Research" by Michelle D. Novak. *Note: Part 2 is scheduled for March 8.*

Mon. Jan 25, from 6- 7:30 pm: "Silent Voices: Telling Stories of Your Female Ancestors" by Lisa Alzo.

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American Ancestors Webinar

To register go to:
https://www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes#ar

Thurs. Jan 28 at 2 pm:
"The Federal Census: Moving Beyond the Population Schedule" presented by Lindsay Fulton.

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