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A Member Society Chartered in 1959

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A newsletter to inform members of Society Activities and Library Acquisitions
April 2020



Photo by Neka Scarbrough-Jenkins

President's Message

Whew!! What a month it's been since our last newsletter. I am reminded of the famous opening sentence from the classic by Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*:

> "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

You will have had ample opportunity to have heard all the bad news you can stand from other sources, and it is in my nature to look for the bright side of everything. With that in mind, I will endeavor to share my optimism with you.

I am pleased to inform you that when our library does reopen, you will find three new computers available for our patrons. Thanks to Director Kurt Kneeland, who also serves as our IT Chair, these computers were installed and are now fully up and running. Also fully operational are the new computers for the Treasurer and the Membership Chair. Over in the Dwyer Center, thanks to the fine efforts of Director David Ringer, the Classroom alcove floor has been tiled, and the new refrigerator, donated by Robert and Nancy McNamara, is now positioned and fully operational. Others who have helped keep our Society going during the shutdown and who deserve special recognition include Mary Souter, Barbara Holmes, Rob Lewis, Sir Oliver (Smitty), Treasurer Pat Merk, Librarian Laura Grover and Director Charles Brussells. (cont. pg. 6)



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

An often overlooked role, but one that is vital to every library is the person who accessions and catalogs the collection. At SAGHS this vital volunteer is Jo Anne Horne.



Photo by Neka Scarbrough-Jenkins

Jo Anne became involved with SAGHS when she retired from NEISD. She was an English teacher for 10 years (at various schools) and a school librarian for 20 years at Larkspur Elementary. Her first 'job' at SAGHS was to create an inventory of the periodicals. In the late 1990's she moved over to her current role. This role requires her to give every item in our collection an accession number, a catalog number (the number researchers use to find the item on our shelves), and a subject classification. After that the title, author and other data is entered into the digital catalog.

Jo Anne first became involved in genealogy when her Mother was creating a pedigree chart of her parent's lines (the Bennacks and Bellingers). Together they went on genealogical research trips to authenticate the information they had accumulated. Jo Anne did not begin her own research until she retired. She participated in the research trips to Salt Lake City with Ann Roberts and DeDe Wilson. These trips were not only educational, but the ladies had a great time.

Jo Anne's ancestors came mostly from Western Europe. Her grandparents had a strawberry farm in Atascosa County. She is a recognized descendant of a First Family of Bexar County, through her ancestor: Marianna Gulskamp. Jo Anne is also recognized as a 30-year member of SAGHS.

Thank you, Jo Anne, for your service to our Society.

Membership Meeting and Educational Program

Our April General Membership meeting will be held on **April 18 at 10 am** in the Roosevelt Auditorium of the Dwyer Center and will feature a presentation by Elvira Sanchez Kisser, MLIS, Director of Archives & Records Management of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. We will be conducting the meeting by video conference. Check your email for instructions on how to access the meeting. **IN ADDITION:** During the Business portion, we will be voting for our three (3) Directors-At-Large. As there were no additional nominations from the slate submitted by the Nominating Committee, the nominees: Kurt Kneeland (second term), Charles Brussells (second term) and Kitty Massey (first term), can be voted in by acclamation.

Submitted by Barbara Froebel

SAGHS ANNUAL EVENTS…. SAVE THE DATES

Founders Day: (new date) **13 June!**
Location: Ft. Sam Houston Golf Club
Speaker: Paula Allen, columnist for the San Antonio Express News

More details to follow

SAGHS Seminar: 24 October
Location: TBD
Speaker: J. Mark Lowe, CG, CGL

More details to follow

Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 19-25, 2020)

We appreciate all that our volunteers do for the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society.

Thank You All!

SAGHS Volunteers come in all **shapes, colors and sizes** (not a reference to their physical descriptions).

Shapes: Our volunteers shape the activities offered to the membership by:

- Providing leadership to the Society
- Helping to determine the classes/workshops and seminars offered.
- Enlisting the support of members and people in the community who can provide the classes to meet those needs.
- Arranging and supporting the requirements needed to host classes.
- Teaching classes /workshops, leading SIG's.
- Maintaining a Library of materials and databases to support genealogical research.
- Cataloguing the Library collection.
- Staffing the Library and assisting patrons in locating and using the Library materials.
- Keeping financial and membership records of the Society.
- Maintaining an award-winning website.
- Providing and maintaining computers, printers and copy machine.
- Producing award-winning Books, *Our Heritage,* and Newsletters.
- Encouraging the writing of family histories and stories.
- Organizing, creating and providing items for fund raising.
- Keeping the buildings clean, and maintained.
- Keeping the grounds well kept and attractive.
- Donating funds, or in-kind goods, in support of our goals.

Colors	Sizes
Our volunteers bring a variety of knowledge and expertise to the Society:	Our volunteers dedicate various amount of time to the Society:
Leadership Skills Engineering Skills Computer and Information Technology Skills Library Skills Graphic Arts Skills Landscaping Skills Research Skills Writing Skills	Some volunteer 2-3 times per week, for several hours. Some volunteer 1 day per week, for several hours Some volunteer 1 day per month for a full day Some volunteer from home and at our facilities. Some volunteer only at our facilities. Some volunteer only from home.

If you have any of these **shapes, colors or sizes**, please join our wonderful group of volunteers.

(And at SAGHS if that involves a Tuesday at our facility, coffee and donuts!)

Why Volunteer?: The more we give, the happier we feel. As a **volunteer** you are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a **volunteer** can also give you a sense of pride and identity. **Volunteering** helps counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety. **Volunteering** combats depression, makes you happy, increases self-confidence, and provides a sense of purpose. Editor

"There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." Lt.Col. Jimmy Doolittle

METHODS and SOURCES

by Leslie Tomlinson, CG

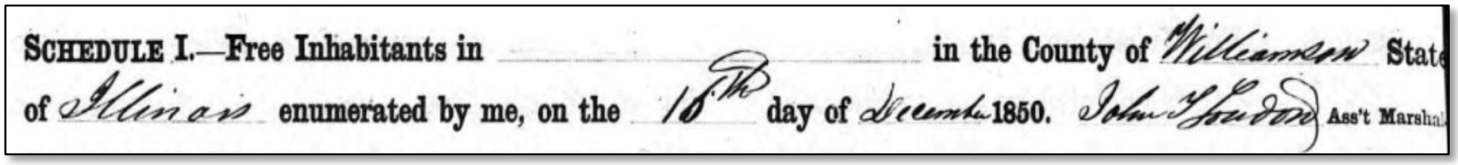
Getting the Most out of Census Records – Part Two

1850 Census Methodology

In 1850 for the first time the census listed each free member of the household (whatever color) and where that person was born. Other new information gathered was age, sex, color, occupation, value of real estate owned, if married within the year, if attended school, if over 20 and could not read or write, and whether deaf, dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict. This census also came with detailed instructions for the census takers and provided rationale for why the questions were asked. Because three copies were made and sent to different places, more versions were preserved.

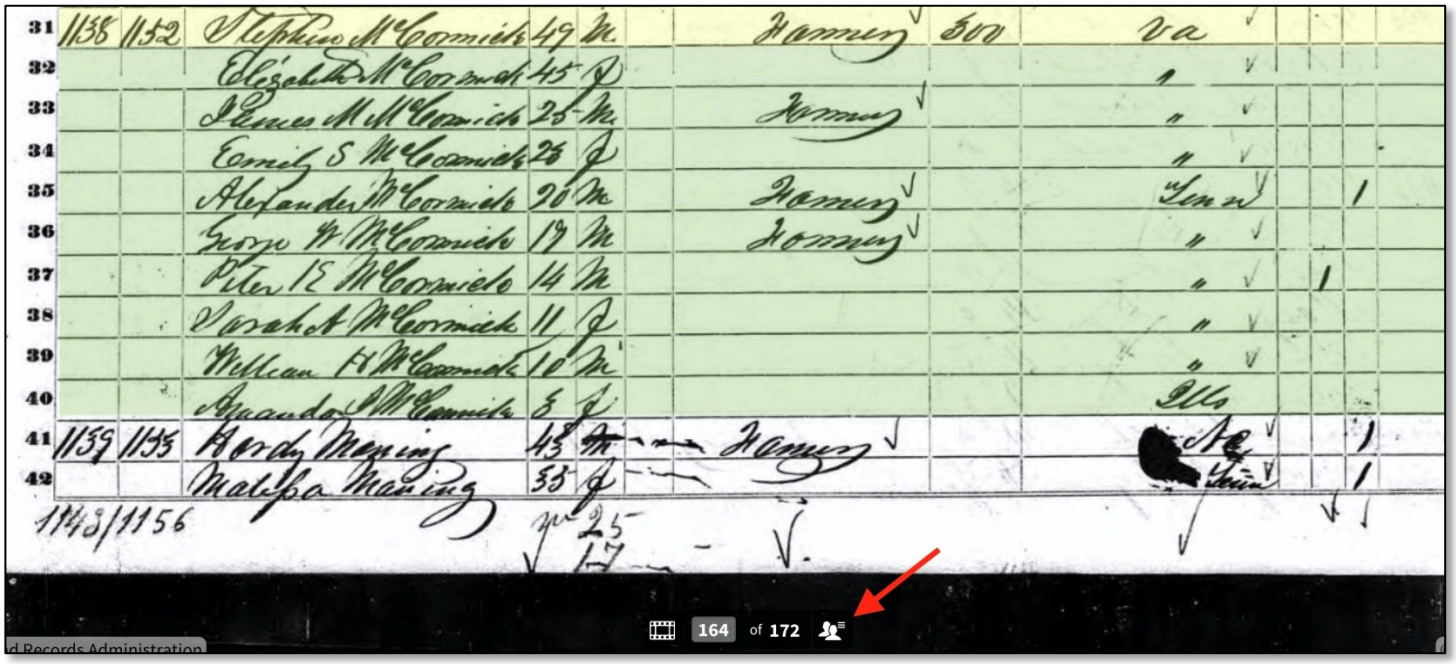
In the example below, the entire household of Stephen McCormick is enumerated for the first time. Let's see how much information we can gather, analyze, and speculate over.

Place and date: Williamson County, Illinois, 15 December 1850. No township name is given, but it is the only one in Williamson County.



SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in _____ in the County of Williamson State of Illinois enumerated by me, on the 16th day of December 1850. John Y. Loudon Ass't Marshal

Household of: Stephen McCormick.[1]

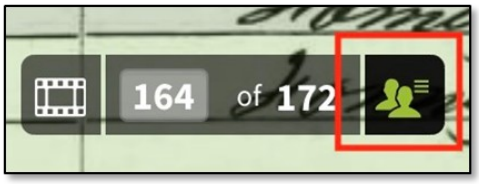


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Saving information for your notes.

If you are viewing a census at Ancestry, there is an easy way to save the information for a family (or entire page of individuals) into your notes. Click on the symbol found at the bottom of your browser window:

Methods and Sources
(continued from page 4)



This exposes the window seen below. If you put the cursor on the first name and drag to end of the names you want to copy, you can paste the data into either a Word document or Excel spreadsheet, for example, and you will have most, not all, of the information that you see on the census itself. You will want to add columns for dwelling number, occupation, value of real estate, if married within the year, etc.

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Family Number	Surname	Given Name	Age	Birth Year	Gender	Birth Place
1152	McCormick	Stephen	49	1801	Male	Virginia
1152	McCormick	Elizabeth	45	1805	Female	Virginia
1152	McCormick	James M	25	1825	Male	Virginia
1152	McCormick	Emily S	23	1827	Female	Virginia
1152	McCormick	Alexander	20	1830	Male	Tennessee
1152	McCormick	George W	19	1831	Male	Tennessee
1152	McCormick	Peter K	14	1836	Male	Tennessee
1152	McCormick	Sarah A	11	1839	Female	Tennessee
1152	McCormick	William	10	1840	Male	Tennessee
1152	McCormick	Amanda J	3	1847	Female	Illinois

Now for the analysis.
Stephen has nine individuals with the same surname living with him on 15 December 1850. You don't know how they relate to Stephen from this document, but it suggests that they may be a wife and children. You must still verify relationships using other documents. The ages of the younger members follow a plausible pattern of birth. There are gaps which alert us to events such as possible deaths of offspring, say between 1840 and 1847.

Patterns about this family's migration emerge.
Three different states are listed. Stephen and Elizabeth were born in Virginia and probably married there before 1825 when the oldest probable son was born. By 1830 this family moved to Tennessee where at least four more probable children were born. Next they moved to Illinois between 1840 and

Cont. from p 5
1847 and probably had at least one more child. Other scenarios could be possible: Elizabeth could be Stephen's sister or sister-in-law. Emily could be James' wife, and so on. Be flexible on your understanding of this household until you can verify it with other records.

Occupation and land ownership suggest other records to find.
Stephen owns real estate worth $300. He and the three oldest boys all work in farming. Information about the size of the farm, crops grown, etc. will be found on the *1850 agricultural census*, part of the non-population schedules which will be addressed more fully in a future article. Briefly he owns 80 acres, one horse, and one cow, and grows mainly wheat and tobacco.[2] Since Stephen owns real estate look for a deed for this property.

Information about economic status
Compare the value of Stephen's property to others living nearby. Three-Hundred Dollars ($300) is on the low end of what some of his neighbors own, but he *is* a landowner. Look at the agricultural census and compare his crops, livestock, etc. to his neighbors to get a good picture of how he fits economically into the community.

Look at the neighbors.
See if any other neighbors (at the very least on the page before and after) have the same migration background as Stephen that might suggest friends travelling with the McCormicks or collateral families. Look at the surnames for families who might marry into Stephen's family. I have gone so far as to search for marriages between McCormicks and each surname on the surrounding census pages just to see what pops up. Especially note the names of witnesses on deeds to see if they live on adjacent land. They very likely are important to the family and may be related.

You can see from this brief look at one census how you begin to get a broader understanding of your ancestor and how he or she fits into his social, economic, and cultural surroundings. Keep comparing records to each other to reveal changes in status, family size, and events affecting them. Let me know what you find from *your* ancestor's 1850 census.

1 1850 U.S. census, Williamson Co., Ill., pop. sch., p. 293B, dwell. 1138, fam. 1152, Stephen McCormick household; *Ancestry*; NARA microfilm M432, roll 133.
2 1850 U.S. census, Williamson Co., Ill., ag. sch., p. 705, line 41, Stephen McCormick household; *Ancestry*; NARA microfilm T1133, roll 4.

Presidents Message (cont. from pg 1)
Our next General Membership Meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. on April 18th in the Roosevelt Auditorium of the Dwyer Center. For those who will be unable to attend, we are working with the Texas State Genealogical Society to have our first ever virtual meeting using their video conferencing capabilities. You will hear more on this as developments progress. Our program for the meeting will feature Elvira Sanchez-Kisser, MLIS, Director of Archives & Records Management of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, speaking on changes in the archives and the digitization of sacramental records for public release. I trust you will find Elvira's presentation both educational and interesting. And as always, we will have coffee and pastries for your enjoyment, but since you will be at home, I will eat all the pastries.

Submitted by Steve Mabie

Meet Your Officers

(*Each month, one SAGHS officer will be featured in this column.)*

Director-at-Large: Charles Brussells



Photo courtesy of Charles Brussells

Charles has many roles within SAGHS, including publishing the annual *Membership Yearbook*, laying out the Journal (*Our Heritage*) and working on the vertical files. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology before taking the required courses for teaching. He taught grades 4 and 5 in the Medina Valley ISD for 12 years before moving to the Natalia ISD where he taught Mathematics to grades 6, 7 and 8. In 1986, while visiting his parents in San Antonio, Charles came across a box which his mother described as his grandfathers' papers. As it happens, Charles thus learned that his grandfather had worked for a newspaper in Houston and also wrote for his own enjoyment. With this, Charles caught the genealogy bug, and soon learned that his mother still had two cousins (first cousins, once removed) in Denmark, and that their grandfather, his grandfather's brother, had been a Math teacher in the Faroe Islands. Ultimately, Charles visited his cousins in Grenaa, Denmark, and also travelled to the Faroe Islands to see the school where his great uncle had taught.

Little known facts: Charles is a real fan of Folk Music, and he likes to write music and play his guitar. His favorite singers include Joan Baez and Peter, Paul and Mary.

Submitted by Steve Mabie

Easter is the only time when it's perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket. Anonymous

Meetings

Sat. April 11: Board Meeting 10 am
Sat. April 18: General Membership Meeting 10 am
Note: At this Meeting we will be voting for our Directors

Upcoming Events

Classes are in the new classroom in the Dwyer Center
Located at the corner of Blanco & Melissa Dr. next to the Library, except where noted.

While we are closed, please register for the classes scheduled for May and beyond ONLY via email to: *education@txsaghs.org*

Saturday April 4 & 11
DNA Consultation Hour
10, 11 & 12
SAGHS Library

Wednesday April 8
Family Tree Maker/Wikitree
10 am – 12 (noon)

Sunday April 12
Library Closed—Easter

Sunday April 19
Pre & Post Civil War Migration
2 pm—4 pm

Saturday April 25
Beginner's Genealogy Class—Part 1
9 am—1 pm
SAGHS Library Annex

Saturday April 25
Google Earth SIG
10 am—12 pm

For up to date information about cancellations, please go to our website: https://txsaghs.org

While we are closed, please register for the classes scheduled for May and beyond ONLY via email to: *education@txsaghs.org*

A Photographic Reminder

Photographic portraits of SAGHS members who wish to participate will be a new feature in the upcoming *Membership Yearbook*. The Publications Committee would like to encourage all members who have not yet had their membership photo taken to submit a photographic portrait of themselves via mail or email. Those members who wish to submit a member photo of themselves by post or by email should note the following guidelines –

- Photos should be received in the required format no later than 31 August 2020.
- Photos received after the deadline of 31 August 2020 will be used in the following years.
- Member photo should contain head and shoulders only, preferably with a solid or uncluttered background. All submitted photos will be rendered in the *Membership Yearbook* with a neutral background after being converted to black and white.
- No group photos or full-body photos.
- No newspaper photos or clippings.
- Photos should be reasonably recent (no childhood photos, for example).
- Mailed-in photos will not be returned unless the member includes a self-addressed stamped envelope with adequate postage.
- Submitted photos may be used for a five-year period.
- Emailed photos should be at least 300 dpi resolution.

Although member photos will be included in the *Membership Yearbook* in black-and-white, both color and black-and-white photos will be accepted. Photos submitted by post must be clearly labeled on the back of the photo with the name of the individual. Separate photos are required for joint memberships. Hard copies of photos should be mailed to SAGHS, 911 Melissa Dr., San Antonio, TX 78213. Digital copies of photos should be emailed to: publications@txsaghs.org

The SAGHS Publications Committee looks forward to your cooperation.

Submitted by Charles B. Brussells
Editor and layout,
SAGHS Membership Yearbook



WELCOME

New Members

Linda Bulger
Annie Gwin
Linda Monts
Thomas O'Neill
Janet Todd

Submitted by: Nancy Mabie

Memorials

Pedro Garza died on March 5, 2020.
He was the father of member
Alicia O'Neal.
Donations made in his name are used
to purchase
Library Resources.

2020 Fiesta Medals



SAGHS is taking pre-orders for our 2020 Fiesta Medal. Cost is $10.00, each

We are still taking orders for these medals. However, requests need to be mailed until we reopen.

Mail request with a check to:
SAGHS
911 Melissa Dr
San Antonio TX 78213

2021 Suggestions for Classes/ Workshops

Our survey of suggestions for classes / workshops that we might offer in 2021 is now available, and sent with this Newsletter.

We ask that participants narrow the topics given to express their interest, or to suggest other narrow / focused topics.

This year we are experimenting with a 'fill-able' form. If you have access to Word, the fill -able form will allow you to easily complete it on your computer (save, then attach to an email addressed to: Education@txsaghs.org).

If you don't have Word, or would rather complete by hand, you can always print this form, fill out, and mail to us at SAGHS, 911 Melissa Dr, San Antonio, Tx 78213.

Thanks for your input.

Submitted by Education Committee

COVID 19 Survival

Things to do while waiting for the isolation to be lifted:

Tackle that (long overdue) project:

Photos:
Sort through pictures, (label and organize).
Scan the pictures and file the digital copies in an organized method.

Research:
Log onto your favorite Genealogical websites and search for more ancestral data.
Find new (free, or cheap) websites with data.
Interview family members & record their stories.

Record:
Record your new findings, or ones that just haven't been recorded into your Genealogical Software, (or file that you use).

Investigate:
Ask Google a question to find answers to things you know nothing about, such as: What is fly-fishing?

Read/Write:
Read books, and other materials that have nothing to do with COVID 19.
Do some creative writing, maybe your family story, and consider submitting to the SAGHS journal: *Our Heritage* (see page 10)

Watch/Listen:
Watch your favorite movie.
Listen to your favorite performer.
Tune into a webinar.
Watch a YouTube presentation.

House:
Clean an area, closet or room.
Discard un-used items.
Organize, /reorganize to meet current needs.

Children and Adult Stimulation:
Playtime (age appropriate)
Quiet activities (checkers, chess, cards, board games, puzzles, sew, crafts).
Active games (tag, hide n seek, races)
Exercise (calisthenics, aerobics, yoga, bike rides, walk, jog, skate).

At this time it is important for **ALL** of us to keep a healthy body and mind. Being involved in both physical and mental activities, alone or with others is helpful.

Editor

Tell your WWII Family Story

In summer 2020 the SAGHS journal, *Our Heritage*, will publish an issue dedicated to articles about family experiences during World War II. Will you tell yours?



In World War II, millions of U.S. men and women served in uniform to face an enemy or to support those who did. Through periods of bravery or boredom, military service bought victory 75 years ago in August 1945. You have the interest and the tools to uncover the stories of many of these individuals. Write the story, and get it published, so that the valiant episodes of these brave men and women will not be forgotten.

Not every World War II story involves soldiers, sailors, or marines in uniform. Those on the home front also served by their actions to ensure troops had the beans, bacon, and bullets to maintain the fight. Whether it is a woman taking a man's job in the factory, or a housewife struggling to feed a family under the constraints of rationing, there is a story worth recording. Write about experiences on the home front of those who also served.



Images source: www.wikimedia.com

Write your story, and record your family's service.
Submit by email to publications@txsaghs.org
or contact Larry Luckett, Editor, *Our Heritage*

Stories received after 15 May 2020 may appear in a later issue

Calling all Aficionados, Experts, and Nerds (or those who aspire to be):

A Computer/ MS Office Special Interest Group (SIG) has been established for SAGHS to address digital / computer assistance to aid in genealogical research, and proficiency in various digital and computing devices and programs.

For example, the first session consisted of one hour of instruction in using Excel and Word to develop one's locality guide. The guide is a useful document for one to develop, to have as a handy reference of websites, archives, or repositories in the locations in which they are researching. The second hour provided practical techniques for saving, and finding files on one's device.

It is expected that future Compute SIG's will follow the same plan, but this is not set in stone. At this time the SIG is scheduled for Saturday from 10 – noon on the following dates: June 6, September 5, and December 5 (the first Saturdays of those months).

Topics for future sessions have not yet been set, but suggestions from members and others who have attended our classes are:

Drop Box (Cloud Storage): How to Use. **Storage Devices:** How to backup data. **Scanning**: Converting from hard copy to digital. **Search Engines**: Which, Why, & How to use for genealogy research. **Lineage Charts:** Using Genealogy software and/or develop your own. **Keyboard Components**: What are they, how are they used. **Clipart/Photos:** How to download, how to insert, transferring from one device to another, photo editing. **Adobe Acrobat:** Using .pdf files, creating, opening, saving. **MAC Computer:** everything.	**Word**: Use Footnotes/Endnotes. Use Bullets. Tabs and Indents. Insert Backgrounds. Adjust spaces between sentences. Merge files letter/envelopes. Number pages. Change fonts. **Excel**: Headings/Column titles on 2nd page. Number pages. Change fonts. **PowerPoint**: Everything.

If you are able and willing to lead any of these topics, please let us know, and we will work on scheduling you at a date most convenient. If the scheduled date is a hindrance, please also let us know, and we can schedule a different date/time. Other topics can also be considered. Send emails to education@txsaghs.org.

Submitted by Barbara Holmes



San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society

Important Contacts

President: Steve Mabie
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Newsletter Editor
Barbara Holmes
Purchasing@txsaghs.org

Webmaster
Rob Lewis
Webmaster@txsaghs.org

Facilities are temporarily closed due to COVID 19

Library Hours:
Sun.: 1 pm – 5 pm
Mon.: 10 am - 4 pm
Wed.: 10 a m – 7 pm
Sat.: 10 am — 4 pm

Library Closures:
Membership Meeting dates: Library will open after the meeting

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.*

Genealogy Tidbits

Free webinars

Legacy Family Tree webinars:

Fri. April 10, at 1 pm: "General Land Office website, A Genealogical Gem", presented by Rick Sayre, CG.

Wed. April 15 at 1 pm: "Was Grandmother Really a Native American"? Presented by Janice Lovelace, PhD.

Tues. April 21 at 7 pm: "Maryland State Archives Decoded", presented by Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG.

Tue. April 28 at 1 pm: "Working with DNA Segments on My Heritage".

Tues. May 5 at 9 pm: "Smarter Search Strategies for Genealogy", presented by Thomas MacEntee.

To register go to: familytreewebinars.com

2020 Census

The invitations to complete the 2020 census were sent out in the US Mail in March. For those who do not complete the census online, a paper form will be sent. As good genealogists we will promptly answer the call. However, with all the ways people dream up scams, AARP reminds us of another opportunity. The scams may consist of a phone, text, or email linking an unsuspecting person to a phony website. The scammers could even show up at your doorstep.

NOTE: "Real census workers will never threaten a fine of jail time if you don't participate, nor will they ask for your Social Security number, credit card, or bank account number." To check if a census request is legitimate go to: 2020census.gov, click on 'Privacy & Security', then 'Avoiding Frauds and Scams'. If you suspect fraud, use the options on the website page to contact the Census Bureau representative, or alert your local police, thru their non-emergency contact method.

<AARP Bulletin, March 2020. p22. >