

THE JOURNAL OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

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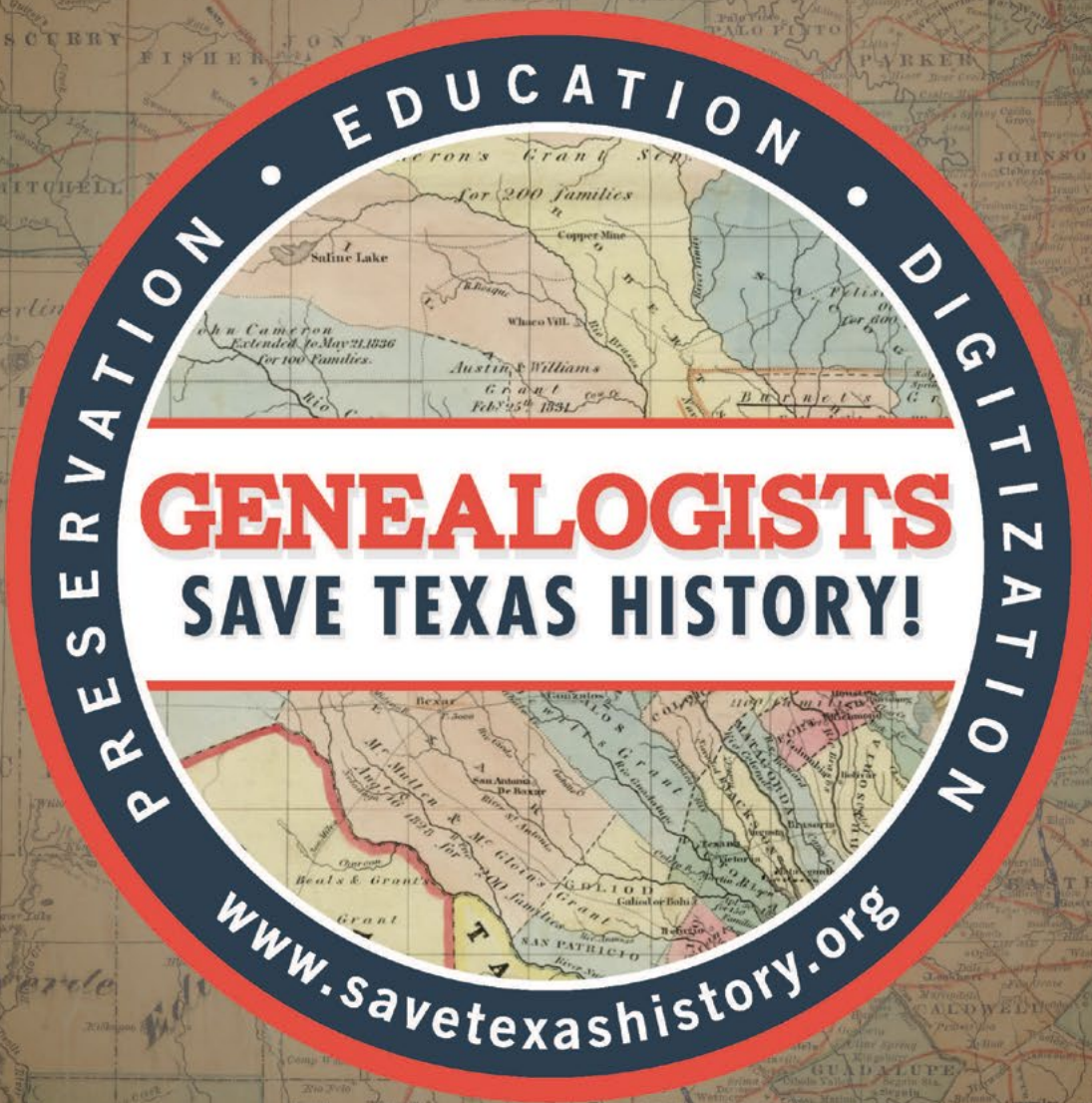
Following the Trail of
Early TEXANS



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On the cover: "A Texas cowboy" circa 18 May 1908, photo by Erwin E. Smith, Bonham, Texas, LOT 13593, no. 22 [P&P], Photographs of cowboy life in Texas and Arizona, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Caption: A day herder, Bert Killion, on a knoll overlooking the grazing herd, LS Ranch, Texas, 1907. The LS ranch was located in the Texas Panhandle.

Why Name our Journal *Stirpes*? Pronounced "STÛR'PEZ," it perfectly describes the core understanding of our passion in researching ancestry and family history: The phrase "... to my heirs, per stirpes" means that the legal heirs share their inheritance based on their relationship to the deceased. (See full story in *Stirpes*, 2016, Volume 55, Number 3-4)

From the *Editors' Pen*



As March 2 is Texas Independence Day, the *Stirpes* editorial team thought a focus in this March issue on early Texan research would be appropriate, especially as TxSGS has new developments in our Heritage Certificates Program and the Early Texans DNA Database. “Texas Heritage Certificates Now Accept DNA Proof” announces the addition of DNA as acceptable proof for Heritage Certificate applications and congratulates Larry Green as the first recipient of a heritage certificate using DNA to prove a parent-child connection. An important part of a lineage relying on DNA proof is a written analysis of how DNA proves that connection; Jessica Horne Collins shows how to craft that document in “Writing a DNA Proof Argument for Texas Heritage Certificates and the Early Texans DNA Project.” In “The TxSGS Early Texans DNA Database: Explore, Connect, and Join to Further Your Early Texan Research,” Debbie Parker Wayne, DNA Program Committee chair, shares the newest developments in the TxSGS Early Texans DNA Database.

Early Texas records and research techniques are the focus of several articles. In “Tips for Researching Your Non-Hispanic Ancestor Using Spanish Documents,” Henrietta Martinez Christmas shows researchers how to find their non-Hispanic ancestors in early Spanish Texas records. Susan E. Ball

addresses tax and homesteading records in “Researching Texas County Tax Rolls” and “Homesteading the Texas Frontier.” Pat Gordon introduces over a dozen websites often overlooked by early Texas researchers in “Looking for Early Texas Ancestors? Check Out These Websites.” Paula Perkins reminds us of the importance of TxGenWeb as a research resource in “TxGenWeb Project Celebrates 25 Years!” A new research resource for Freestone County is reviewed by William B. “Bill” Buckner in “Book Review: *The Year of 1890 in Freestone County.*”

Russell A. Rahn continues his series of articles based on unusual documents in “Son of an Itinerant Preacher Becomes the Sheriff of Breckenridge, Texas” and “Dr. Earl William Clawwater of Tyler, Texas.” Both of these articles focus on Texas families.

“Unforeseen Consequences” by Beverly E. Stimson shares the fascinating and moving tale of research into the Armstrong-Baugh Cemetery, an old African American cemetery that dates back to the Texas Revolution. David Bowles shares examples from his early Texan roots as he describes the importance of recording family history narratives in “Why I Write Stories.” “The Rockin’ Beech Grove of Jasper County” by Jim Thornhill recalls the outsized influence a former slave had on the community of Jasper, Texas.

In addition, this issue’s Volunteer Spotlight honors TxSGS committee chairs and the commitment they bring in promoting preservation and the mission of TxSGS. Check out the “Partner Society Roundup” to see what genealogy activities are taking place in your area. As many societies are hosting virtual events, genealogists from all across Texas can get a look at a multitude of societies and perhaps even support a few through membership. Details about the 2021 Awards Program are included in this issue as well as the usual features on Heritage Certificate recipients, new members, and TxSGS Heritage Circle members.

The June 2021 issue features newspaper research. Have you solved a research problem or uncovered new information using newspapers? Please share your newspaper research results with *Stirpes* at stirpes@txsgs.org.

–*Stirpes* Editors

Connect with TxSGS



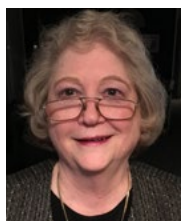
Learn More at www.txsgs.org

Volunteer Spotlight:

TxSGS Committee Chairs

Preservation, a key component of the TxSGS mission, has many facets: preserving records, recognizing quality genealogical publications, and maintaining access to public records, for example. While all genealogists do their part to preserve their own family history, these volunteers are committed to preserving records for genealogists now and into the future.

Volunteers are important to any organization, but committees are devoted to specialized projects that focus on the heart and soul of an organization. It takes a special group of individuals with dedication and a certain skill set to lead these committees. In this issue, *Stirpes* features these committee chairs and says “Thank You” for their critical part in furthering the mission of TxSGS.



Marynell Bryant, Heritage Certificates Chair: Marynell became chair of the Heritage Certificates program in 2011, bringing

to the position her experience as registrar for a variety of lineage societies. She encouraged TxSGS to establish the Texas First Families certificate program and promoted publication of First Families volumes 1 and 2, which listed the lineages of certificate holders. Her association with TxSGS began as a district representative, which led to her service for two terms as president in 1990-1993. Marynell served a third

term as TxSGS president in 2008-09. Under her leadership, the state society established a membership category for Partner Societies that increased membership and attendance at conferences. She was named a Fellow of TxSGS in 1996.



Bill Buckner, Awards Committee Chair: The prestige of the TxSGS Awards Program has increased significantly under

Bill’s leadership due to his attention to detail and desire to reward quality genealogy writing, drawing authors from both historical and genealogical genres. Bill also serves as District H Representative for the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS). In 2011, Bill received the President’s Award for his contributions to TxSGS.

In addition to serving as the Genealogy Supervisor of the Genealogy Center of the Waco-McLennan County Library for the past nineteen years, Bill Buckner lectures and teaches in Waco and across Texas.



Teri Flack, RPAC Committee Chair: A fellow of the Texas State Genealogical Society, Teri chairs the TxSGS Records

Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) and serves as the Texas state liaison to the national RPAC. Teri serves on the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board, a state-level board dedicated to the preservation and use of Texas’ documentary heritage.

A 6th generation Texan, Teri E. Flack is a genealogy and historical researcher, consultant, and lecturer specializing in research methodology, Southern research, and finding Texas ancestors. She is also a member of the Travis County Historical Commission, serving as the county’s Historical Marker Chair. As a volunteer archivist at the Texas State Archives, Teri is currently processing Galveston County records to make them accessible to the public.

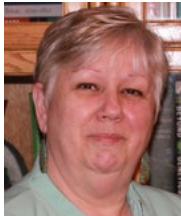


Linda Reynolds, TxSGS Archivist: Archivist for TxSGS since 2010, Linda manages the TxSGS collection at the

East Texas Research Center (ETRC) at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) in Nacogdoches, Texas. As part of her role as TxSGS Archivist, Linda responds to requests for copies of heritage certificate applications by those interested in obtaining certificates on the same lineage. Linda also responds to queries regarding preservation questions for both individuals and societies.

Linda has been involved in higher education and archives for almost 20 years and has been the Director of the ETRC since 2007. In 2001, she received her M.S. from the University of North Texas, and she became a Certified Archivist in 2008.

Debbie Parker Wayne, DNA



Project Committee

Chair: In addition to chairing the DNA Project Committee, Debbie also guides the Early Texans

DNA Project focusing on autosomal, Y-DNA, and mtDNA of descendants of those who arrived in Texas prior to statehood. Debbie is experienced using DNA analysis, as well as more traditional techniques, for genealogical research. Debbie edited the book and authored one chapter of *Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies*; coauthored the award-winning DNA workbook, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, and developed the online, self-paced course, *Continuing Genealogical*

Studies: Autosomal DNA, offered by the National Genealogical Society. She writes the “Genetic Genealogy Journey” column for *NGS Magazine* and has done so since 2013.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any organization. The examples set by these leaders and their committees illustrates the impact that volunteers can have on an organization for generations to come. TxSGS appreciates their contributions, and encourages all genealogists to consider “paying it forward” by volunteering. ★

New Members & More

**New Members since
December 2020**

Heritage Circle

Benefactor

- Terry L. Cochran
- Geneva Shannon Cochran
- Mary Kay Snell
- Susan K. Thompson



Supporter

- Susan E. Ball
- Carol Brooks
- Michelle L. Michon
- Jo Ann Oliphant
- Kitty M. Olson
- David C. Taylor

Friend

- Elizabeth D. Ardell
- John R. Boleslawski
- Marie Elaine Boleslawski
- Pam Bryant
- Jamie Etakorn
- Janis Minor Forté
- Evaristo T. Garcia
- Marta I. Garcia
- Roseann Hogan
- Rebecca Lynn Hubert
- Joel K. Levy
- Judi F. Levy
- Kelvin Meyers
- David Peavy
- Bernd H. Strassner
- Liz D. Strassner
- Mary Frances Townsend

Partner Societies

North Collin County Genealogical Society

Individual and Household Members

- Susan M. Adams
- Albert Baines
- Kenyatta Berry
- Corinna L. Bilbrey
- Janet Branstetter
- Kristin Brooks
- Debbie Budge
- Mary Bullard
- Barbara Burgell
- Marcy L. Carter-Lovick
- Barbara Christensen
- Karen Clardy
- Agnieszka Davis
- Christopher Dombrowski

- Rachael Flippo-Howell
- Gary R. Franklin
- Tina Underwood Gafford
- Kimberly Michelle Gay
- Sarah E. Gunderson
- Amy S. Hamilton
- Allyson S. Hamilton
- Tyler Lynn Hancock
- Suzy Harper
- Lily Kamngoen Hayes
- Michelle Susberry Hill
- Anthony B. Hill
- Tamara Huse
- Carol B. Jenner

- Kathleen Kaldis
- Katherine Kuehler Walters
- Michael Laird
- Jamie L. Mayhew
- Dwight M. Meixner
- Loyd Morris
- Christina Murat
- Joy J. Oria
- Judy Ann Osborne
- Ann Peeler
- Kimberly T. Powell
- Alan Rabe
- Keith Allen Rainey
- Ann D. Rainey

- Linda J. Richmond
- Candy Risher
- Marty Lynn Roberts
- Nelda R. Rodgers
- Laura Sandidge
- Gay Solomon
- Karen D. South
- Marilyn Stewart
- Kay Timme
- Nan Powers Varoga
- Kitty G. Ward-Van De Kamp
- Vanessa A. Williams
- Jean F. Wunderlich

Homesteading the Texas Frontier

by Susan E. Ball

If your ancestor was an early Texan, they likely came to Texas for a new start and a chance to make something of themselves. Key to these dreams was the acquisition of land. The earliest settlers, those who immigrated to Texas prior to 1 January 1842, received land grants as an enticement to settle, build towns, and generate taxable income for the fledgling republic.

Even after land was granted to veterans of the Texas Revolution, railroads, schools, and early emigrants, Texas still had vast amounts of public land and little control. Many of those who immigrated to Texas after 1841 simply settled or “squatted” on unowned vacant land. These squatters would select a location in the public domain then build a home and make other improvements without obtaining the land through either purchase or land grant.

To create a path for legal ownership of this land, Texas passed a law on 22 January 1845 granting preemption privileges to settlers on the vacant public domain. This law conveyed to settlers the right to purchase up to 320 acres of land that included their improvements “in preference to all other claims or claimants,” preempting any other claim, hence the name “Preemption Grant.”

Building homes or barns, digging wells or irrigation systems, or cultivating crops

were all considered improvements. Depending on the laws at the time the settler filed a claim for a preemption grant, a fee may have been levied for the land in addition to surveying or processing fees.

In 1846, the Texas legislature established land districts for the

General Land Office (GLO) based on the boundaries of the 36 original counties: Austin, Bastrop, Bexar, Bowie, Brazoria, Colorado, Fannin, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Harris, Harrison, Houston, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Lamar, Liberty, Matagorda, Milam, Montgomery, Nacadoches [sic], Paschal, Red River, Robertson, Refugio, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Patricio, Shelby, Travis, Victoria, and Washington. The GLO uses these districts for organizing land files. Knowing the name of the land district in which your ancestor settled is helpful in identifying which, if any,

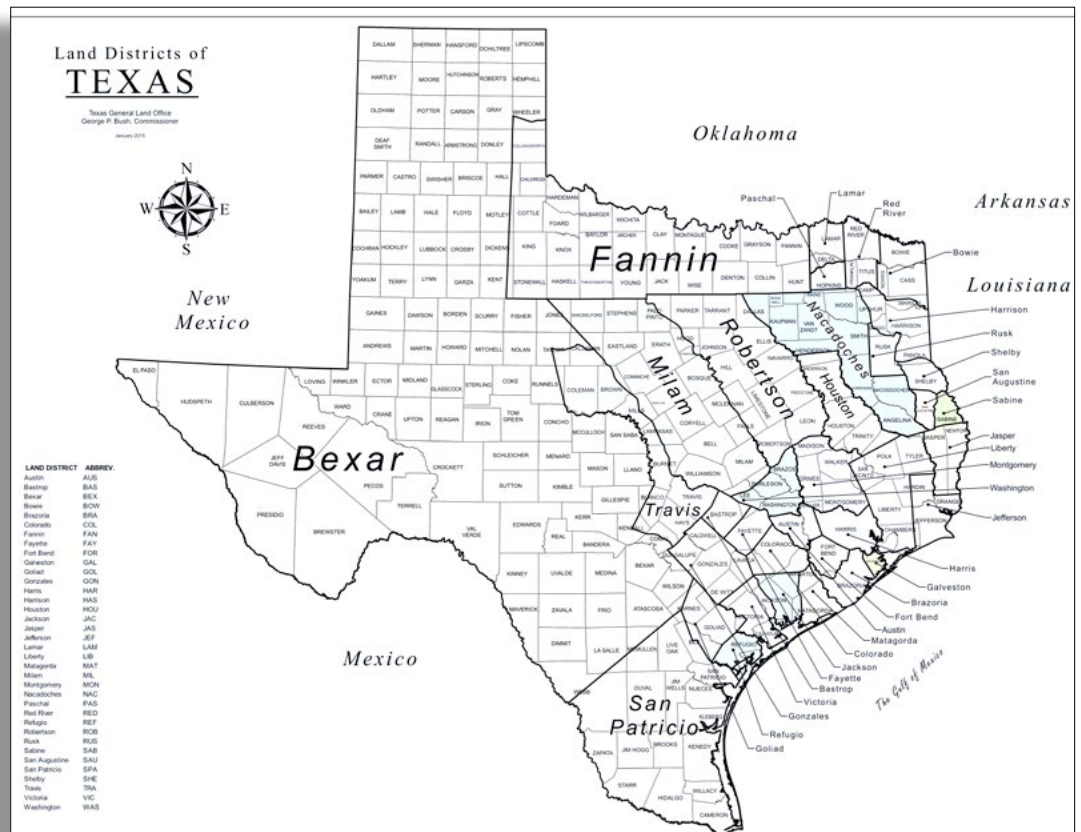


Figure 1: General Land Office Map of Land Districts, used by permission of the Texas GLO.

Dr. Earl William Clawwater of Tyler, Texas

by Russell A. Rahn
russandmarionrahn@gmail.com

An interesting document that recently came to hand seemed to be some kind of information page requested by the Dean of the Faculty, University of Texas School of Medicine. The document appeared to be an excellent point at which to begin a genealogical study because it contained a specific name, a date of birth, and a place of birth for the person in question.

The critical portion of that document is shown on the right.

The importance of this document became apparent very early in the study. It gives the place of birth for Earl William Clawwater as Superior, Wisconsin. Some of the references located on the internet imply his place of birth as Vernon County, Wisconsin. Both of these birthplaces are located along the western edge of Wisconsin, but Superior is in Douglas County, which is far to the north and along Lake Superior, while Vernon County is almost the southernmost county, near the Iowa/Illinois border.

With most of his family living in Vernon County, the reason for his mother's presence in Douglas County at the time of his birth may never be fully known. It may, however, have something to do with another family emergency that occurred near that time. It seems that Earl's

grandmother passed away in Douglas County at the beginning of the 20th century, and it is certainly within the realm of possibility that his mother, Anna, may have spent some time ministering to the needs of her mother, Mary, who was living in Superior.

What is quite certain, however, is

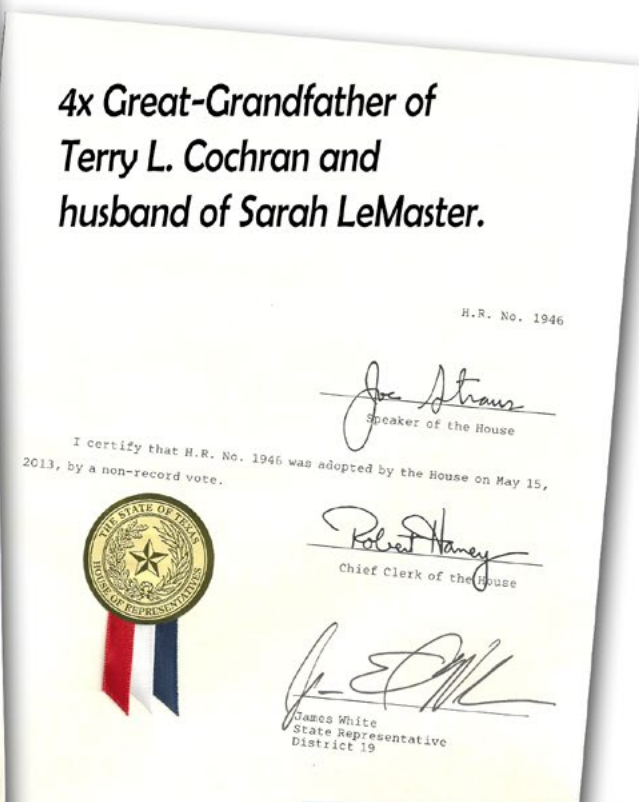
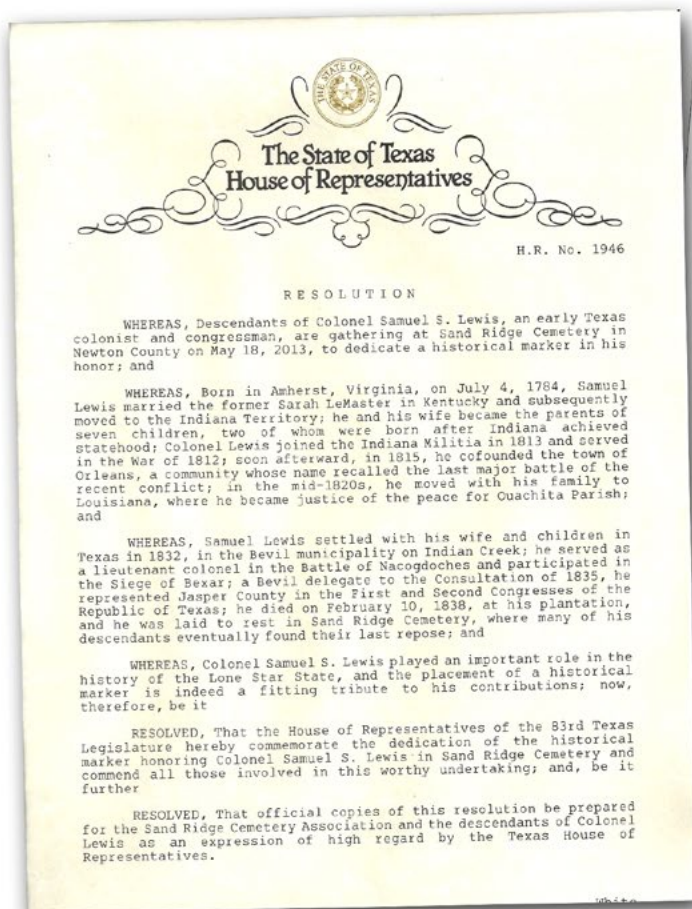
Form submitted by Dr. Earl William Clawwater to the University of Texas School of Medicine.

that Earl did spend much of his youth in Viroqua, Vernon County, which is where the large majority of his family was also located. He graduated from Viroqua High School in 1909. Subsequently, he attended the University of Wisconsin from 1909 to 1911 and the University of Texas in Galveston from 1911 to 1915, where he received his MD degree in that last year. He also served his country during World



The small farming community of Viroqua, Wisconsin, as it must have looked to Earl Clawwater during the years of his childhood and high school education. The 1910 census of this community totaled a massive 2,059 people.

Remembering Col. Samuel S. Lewis



Contact Terry L. Cochran for more information.

• Documentation supporting lineage applications for Texas State Genealogical Society, Sons of the Republic of Texas, and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas can be found at:

- o find-a-grave.com memorials,
- o family tree on ancestry.com, and
- o TXGenWeb: Newton and Jasper Counties.

Terry L. Cochran is a lifetime member of the Williamson County Genealogy Society (WCGS), an Associate member of the Newton County Texas Historical Commission (NCHC), a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and a Benefactor, member, and District M Representative of the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS).

Looking for Early Texas Ancestors? Check out These Websites

by Pat Gordon

Often genealogists don't look for their ancestors in Texas prior to statehood because they just assume their families didn't arrive that early. You might be surprised. Searching has become much easier now that so many documents are online. While many readers are likely aware of the following websites, they may not know about all the records now available. Also, many newcomers to Texas research may not even know these websites exist.

★ Texas History Timeline

Texas History Timeline provides help with learning what happened where and when. Knowing this information can help untangle a lot of roadblocks. The Master Timeline, courtesy of Bullock Texas State History Museum, starts long before Europeans discovered the Lone Star state. The Texas History Timeline is organized by twelve periods, beginning in 1820 with Mexico's independence from Spain to 2008. Other aspects of Texas history such as Texas Rangers, African Americans, Vaqueros, and more can be explored on the Texas History Timeline as well.

<https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/discover/texas-history-timeline>.



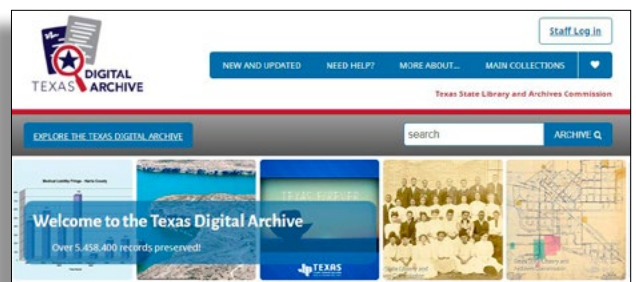
★ Texas State Library & Archives Commission

The Texas State Library & Archives Commission homepage has an extensive collection of links to other state government offices as well as Texas history websites.

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ref/abouttx/index.html>

You can also access the records through *Texas Digital Archives*, where you will find more than five million documents from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

<https://tsl.access.preservica.com/>



- **Republic Claims** are payments owed by the Republic of Texas to citizens for a variety of reasons, including property or services used by the Texas Army during the fight for independence as well as pensions. You can search the database by using a name or keyword. Every claim having that name or keyword will be listed with a clickable link to the original document. Be sure to read "How to Search the Database" for search tips as well as an explanation of initials used for types of claims.

Writing a DNA Proof Argument for Texas Heritage Certificates and the Early Texans DNA Project

by Jessica Horne Collins
TxSGS DNA Committee Member

Do you qualify for a Texas Heritage Certificate or wish to participate in the Early Texans DNA Project, but your family connection cannot be proven with documentary evidence alone? TxSGS now accepts DNA evidence to prove kinship for these programs, but this evidence must be summarized with a DNA proof argument.

A DNA proof argument serves the same purpose as a birth or death certificate in that it shows how generations are connected and proves that the person on the pedigree chart is actually your ancestor.

Writing a DNA proof argument takes in-depth knowledge of your genealogical problem and the DNA evidence that can resolve it—but putting all that knowledge into a written format does not have to be scary. This article summarizes key requirements required by TxSGS for DNA proof arguments, strategies for meeting those requirements, and resources to learn more about writing DNA proof arguments.

What Is a DNA Proof Argument?

In *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, Thomas W. Jones defines a proof argument as “a documented narrative explaining why the answer to a complex genealogical problem should be considered acceptable....” A DNA proof argument contains both documentary and DNA evidence in its analysis.

TxSGS has established policies for DNA proof arguments submitted for its programs. These policies can be downloaded from the TxSGS website (<https://www.txsgs.org/programs/heritage-certificates/using-dna-proof-arguments-for-heritage-certificates-and-early-texans-dna-project-members/>). All requirements align with *Genealogy Standards, Second Edition*, published in 2019 by the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) and amended standards (<https://bcgcertification.org/revised-standard-57-oct-2020/>). Standards 51-57, organized as “Using DNA Evidence” within “Chapter 3: Standards for Researching,” are especially relevant for correctly analyzing DNA evidence. Standards 58-61, outlined in “Genealogical Proofs” within “Chapter 4: Standards for

Writing,” provide guidance for crafting an effective proof argument.

Key Requirements

TxSGS policies for DNA proof arguments provide detailed guidance, but these requirements may seem daunting at first glance. The requirements have important purposes—they ensure DNA analysis is performed accurately, communicated clearly, and that DNA test takers’ privacy is protected. Here’s how you can meet some of these key requirements:

Narrative Form. (See *Genealogy Standards*, #60) The DNA proof argument must be in narrative form, meaning paragraphs detailing the problem, examining the evidence, and explaining the conclusion. For a simple problem, the proof argument may be a few pages in length; more complex problems result in much longer documents. Printing results from the DNA testing website is not a sufficient explanation of how this data supports the conclusion. Instead, combine these results with a written explanation of your reasoning.

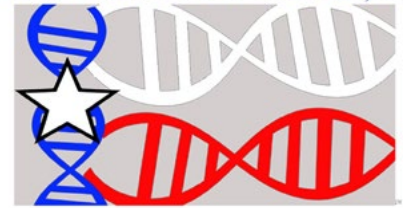
Test Takers’ Identities and Privacy. (See *Genealogy Standards*, #57, revised) The DNA proof argument must identify test takers by their real, full names. If they are identified on the testing website with initials or a pseudonym, messages exchanged on the testing website or an email that confirms their identity must be included with the proof argument. DNA proof arguments are evaluated by a small, limited number of TxSGS DNA committee volunteers who agree to keep all information within these documents confidential.

This type of distribution is considered “private sharing” and does not require test takers to provide written consent. However, if you access the DNA test results of another

The TxSGS Early Texans DNA Database:

Explore, Connect, and Join to Further Your Early Texan Research

EARLY TEXANS DNA PROJECT



by Debbie Parker Wayne, CG®, CGLSM

Do you have early Texas roots? The Early Texans DNA Database is a great resource for researching your ancestor.

You can explore the database for ancestors and connections. Join the database by submitting your DNA to the TXStateGS Project at FamilyTreeDNA. Project members can use the Early Texans DNA Project and Database to further their understanding of early Texas ancestors.

The Early Texans DNA Database is quickly becoming “The Place” for early Texan research. Goals for the Early Texans DNA Project and Database are to:

- Study the DNA of descendants of early settlers to discover information that can contribute to Texas history including:
 - Determining which admixtures are found in living Texans today.
 - Linking those admixture results to early colonies or settlements.
- Learn which segments of DNA are shared with other descendants of early settlers of Texas.
- Facilitate applicants for TxSGS Heritage Certificates. DNA matches support claims of descent from a common ancestor and can provide clues as to where to locate documentary evidence.

Joining the TXStateGS Project and submitting your information to the Early Texans DNA Database may enrich your personal family history and aid those who are researching related lineages.

Exploring the TxSGS Early Texans DNA Database

Anyone can search the TxSGS DNA Database; you may discover that someone has already submitted DNA and a lineage for one of your early Texas ancestors. The basic search interface is available at https://www.txsgs.org/TXSGS_DNA/, shown in figure 1. Clicking on “Advanced Search” provides more search options as seen in figure 2. Even more search terms can be accessed by selecting “Other Events.”

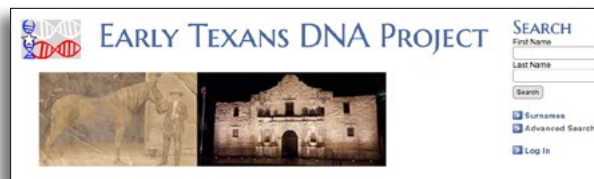


Figure 1: Use the basic search interface, in the upper right corner of the TxSGS Early Texans DNA Project main page, to search just a last and/or first name.

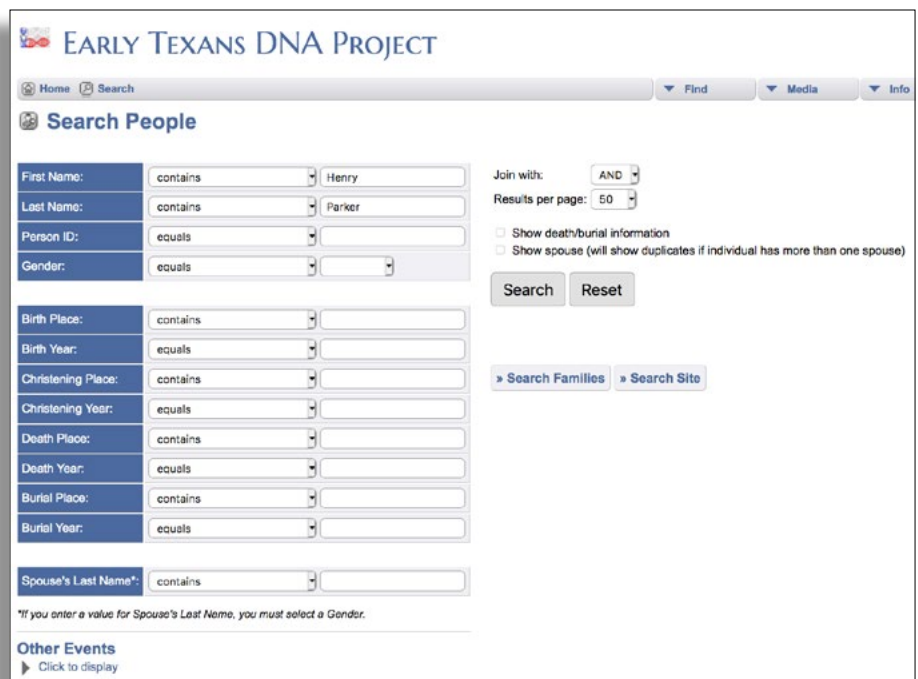


Figure 2: More search options are available in advanced search, accessed by clicking on “Advanced Search” on the TxSGS Early Texans DNA Project main page.

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TXGenWeb Project Celebrates 25 Years!

by Paula Perkins, TXGenWeb Volunteer

With the current focus on free and fee-based genealogy megasites, many genealogists overlook TXGenWeb, a volunteer-based resource with a wealth of records. For 25 years, TXGenWeb has hosted a vast website of records that have been extracted and transcribed by volunteers. All the records found at TXGenWeb are available to search and view at no charge. The website is and always has been commercial free, with no ads.



About the TXGenWeb Project

In the relatively early days of the internet, while access was still primarily through dial-up telephone connections (remember AOL?!), a group of genealogists organized the Kentucky Comprehensive Genealogy Database Project. Their vision was to provide a single entry point for all counties in Kentucky where collected databases would be stored. In addition, the databases would be indexed and cross-linked, so that even if an individual was found in more than one county, he or she could be located in the index. What a great idea!

In June 1996, as the Kentucky Project was nearing its launch, project volunteers decided to extend this concept to include all states. For the resulting USGenWeb project, state coordinators were enlisted, and volunteers were found to coordinate the collection of county pages for each state page.

Texas was quick to join the USGenWeb, creating a homepage for the state. The TXGenWeb was created to provide free genealogical resources to anyone researching their families in a specific county. Individuals interested in genealogy and helping others were enlisted to adopt county pages. Many adopted counties where they had ancestors. Volunteers throughout the state operate the TXGenWeb, and several coordinators with Texas connections even reside in other states.

For example, I began volunteering twenty-five years ago with the TXGenWeb project and have been with the project since its inception. I chose to adopt Collin County because my earliest ancestors came from Kentucky to the area in 1854, and then my ancestors from Georgia decided to move to Collin County as well. As coordinator of the Collin County TXGenWeb county site, I transcribe records, record cemeteries, do lookups

for researchers, and much more.

Texas County Pages

Volunteer county coordinators for the TXGenWeb maintain county pages. In Texas we have 254 counties represented. These county websites include a history of the county, transcription of records, cemeteries, a county map, military records, obituaries, diaries, historic photographs, plus links to courthouse contacts, family websites, genealogical and historical organizations, libraries, and museums. Surnames are listed with contacts. Lookup volunteers may provide a free search in a county book they own in response to an email inquiry. Transcriptions of Texas census records, many of which include a surname index, are available to search.

Researchers can search for a county multiple ways. There is an alphabetical list and a clickable map. The map is especially useful as you can view the surrounding counties. Each

Tips for Researching Your Non-Hispanic Ancestors Using Spanish Documents

by Henrietta Martinez Christmas

Migration of people into the southwest intertwined languages, religion, and families. In the early days of the Republic of Texas, the admixture of races brought people from all over the world and, of course, from the US east coast. Spanish speaking people who were living in Texas prior to the Republic had full use of their language, customs, and religion inherent in various documents.

Don't overlook Hispanic research records, including sacramental and land records, as a way to further your research into the new Texas immigrant.

Through a series of examples, the genealogical researcher may find that some record sets are better than others, some websites are better than others, and so on. They may also find that the abstraction of the material may have left out or ignored genealogical data. Published books with abstracted records, online materials, blogs, and the countless avenues genealogy has taken us should be consulted.

In researching back in time, we tend to look for births and marriages. Marriages are most helpful if the record names the parents. The cradle-to-grave approach can be helpful, especially as it relies on often-used Catholic Church records. If these records are written in Spanish, find a translator or some way to analyze and manage the records.

Be sure to look at migration patterns. I prefer to get a current map with highways and roads and then see which ones existed in the mid-1800s. Guidebooks, maps, and a thorough Google search can lead you in some interesting directions. If an ancestor appears in a census close to a larger town or city, plan on looking for that person in the records of all religious denominations in that town.

Tip 1: Review all online indexed databases, such as FamilySearch.org or Ancestry.com

A good example of the differences in data available on FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com is seen in a search for Matthew Willemin. In Familysearch.org, a death record recorded by the Catholic Church at San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, Texas, shows that Mathieu Willemin, married to Maria Bernard, died from an accident at the age of 63 (figures 1 and 2). In

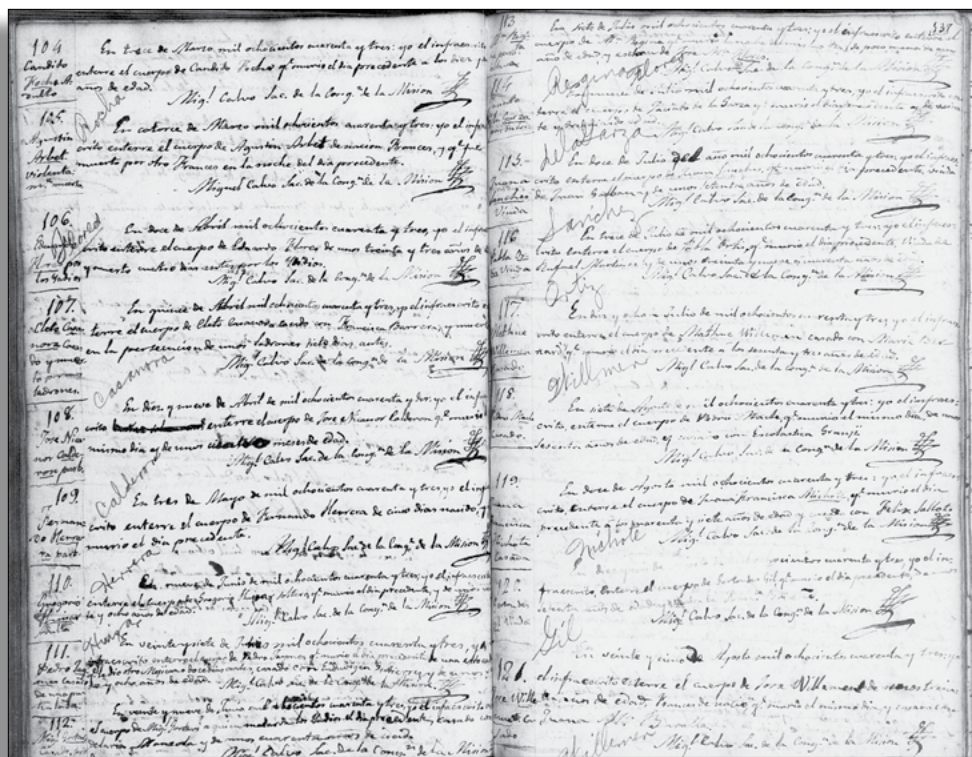


Figure 1: Two pages of burial records shown in one image, recorded by the Catholic Church at San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, Texas.

The Rockin' Beech Grove of Jasper County

by Jim Thornhill

S ometime near the year 1805, a baby boy joined the citizens of the earth. His mother gave him the name of Richard. Probably born in Virginia, Richard was a lively boy who would grow into an active man later in life. We don't know much about Richard's early life because Richard was born enslaved.

What we do know about Richard starts in the late 1830s. James Monroe Seale, son of Joshua Seale, purchased Richard at a location that is unknown. On 4 June 1842, Joshua leased Richard and his wife Phillis [sic] from James.¹

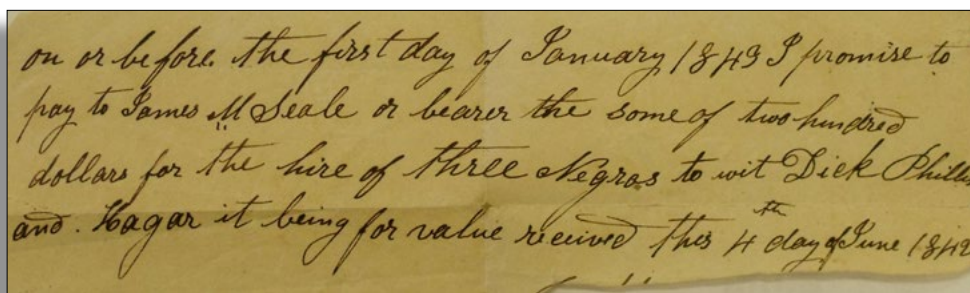
The Seale family, as was common of many families of the time, tended to move together. Even as Joshua's children got older, when Joshua moved from Marion County, Mississippi, to Hinds County and then on to Clarke County, his sons and many of his sons-in-law and their families moved with him. They shared assets and took care of each other's affairs.² Often one son stayed behind long enough to handle the family's business affairs and then joined the rest of the family. Joshua probably became acquainted with Richard, or "Uncle Dick" as he was usually called, because the family's slaves would often rotate from one property to the next, working the fields together. Whatever the reason, by 1842 Joshua knew Richard well enough to know that he wanted Richard with him during his upcoming return to Marion County.

The return to Marion County gives us our first evidence of Joshua and Richard's relationship and our first clues of Richard's influence and future impact. While in Marion County, the Seales lived in the small community of Waterholes, which was also the home of

Antioch Baptist Church. The minutes of Antioch Baptist Church report that Joshua Seale joined in February of 1843.³ Richard joined in September of the same year. Both men were coming from Mars Hill Baptist Church in Jasper County, Mississippi. Records of Mars Hill Baptist Church have not yet been found, so we don't know how long Richard was a member, but he attended enough or was active enough to get a letter of good

standing from the church.

When I read the entire Antioch Baptist Church minutes for other clues about Joshua and Richard, a fact that was not mentioned



Receipt for the lease of three slaves, Joshua Seale Papers, Briscoe Center for American History, Austin, Texas.

directly jumped off the page.⁴ During the fifteen years from 1828, when the minutes started, to 1843, when Richard joined, twelve slaves were received into the fellowship of Antioch Baptist Church and eight were either denied membership or expelled because of bad character. In the seven years from September 1843 until the available minutes stop in February of 1850, nineteen Blacks were accepted as members of Antioch Baptist Church and none left. While there is no mention of Richard in the church minutes after his admission into the church in 1843, perhaps Richard had a positive impact on Antioch Baptist Church.

Joshua and his son Lewis moved to Texas in 1851, bringing with them slaves including Richard.⁵ Almost as



— TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY —
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To enrich, expand, inspire

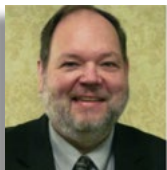
The Texas Institute of Genealogical Research Goes Virtual **June 13-18, 2021**

The bi-annual Texas Institute of Genealogical Research, TIGR, is a unique five-day learning experience offered to address a critical need for genealogists encountering complex challenges when researching Texas and Southwest ancestors. TIGR promotes learning in an instructional classroom atmosphere, taking each attendee's skills to another level. Course coordinators and instructors lead students through a progression of topics on the same subject. TIGR combines a hands-on learning experience throughout the week along with great discussions with instructors and classmates to enhance attendees' understanding.

What can you expect at TIGR?

Your week of learning will be shared with students that have the same passion for genealogical research as you. All instructors are experienced genealogical researchers and lecturers. Along with case studies, discussions, and problem solving exercises, their expertise will enhance your learning experience. While bringing a variety of viewpoints and backgrounds to the shared institute experience, TIGR students all share a passion for genealogical research and discovering how to conquer "brick wall" challenges.

Participants may select from one of the following four courses:



**Advanced Southern Research:
 Western Expansion and Families of the South**
 J. Mark Lowe, CG®, FUGA



**From Spanish Rule to Republic:
 Research in the Lone Star State**
 Kelvin L. Meyers & Colleen Robledo Greene



**African Americans
 in the South**
 Ari Wilkins

**DNA Fundamentals
 for Genealogy**
 Patti Lee Hobbs, CG®



	Early-Bird Rate Through April 30, 2021	Standard Rate Available May 1-31, 2021
TxSGS Member	\$375.00	\$425.00
Non-Member	\$425.00	\$475.00

Be part of this year's exciting event! For more information, visit



www.txsgs.org/TIGR2021



The words Certified Genealogist and designation CG are registered certification marks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and the designations Certified Genealogical Lecturer and CGL are service marks of BCG, used under license by certificants after periodic competency evaluations (and only during the current five-year period for which they are certified).

African Americans in the South

This course will cover antebellum through 21st century records and tools for African American research in the South. The class will examine genealogical sources, common hurdles, and strategies for solving African American research problems. The course will focus on critical thinking and developing research plans when approaching African American genealogy.



Faculty:
African Americans in
the South

SELECTED TOPICS:

Researching African American Family History: The Same and Different
Analyzing the African American Family in Census Records
Tracing the Enslaved Through the Enslaver: Deeds, Estates, and Tax Records
Freedmen's Bureau: The Purpose, The Organization, and The Records
Identifying the Last Enslaver
African American Toolbox Building
 — **And much more!**
 (see **African Americans in the South** course schedule)

FACULTY

- Ari Wilkins, *Coordinator*
- Tim Pinnick
- Shamele Jordan
- Franklin Smith
- Deborah A. Abbott, PhD
- Sharon Batiste Gillins

Advanced Southern Research: Western Expansion and Families of the South

We will focus on the growing continent after the establishment of the United States and how families were affected throughout the South and beyond. Records will include transportation, industrial and business, family Bibles, deeds, land surveys, land plats, manuscripts, church records, government documents, and more.

SELECTED TOPICS:

Early Tracks and Trails
Early Southern Manuscripts
Tracking Migration and Movement Using Military Records
Fractured Relationships, Divorce, and Missing People
Flatboats, Ferries, Steamboats, and Canals
Railroads and Stage Routes
Southern Church Records
 — **And much more!**
 (see **Advanced Southern Research** course schedule)



Faculty:
Advanced Southern
Research: Western
Expansion and Families
of the South

FACULTY

- J. Mark Lowe, CG, FUGA
Coordinator
- Deborah A. Abbott, PhD
- Terri E. Flack
- Sharon Batiste Gillins
- John Sellers



From Spanish Rule to Republic: Research in the Lone Star State

This course will provide a foundation for researching ancestors in pre-statehood Texas. Students will learn how to find and analyze key record collections from the Spanish, Mexican, and Republic eras, and gain an understanding of what life was like for their ancestors in those time periods.

SELECTED TOPICS:

Spanish Colonial Texas 1703-1836

Catholic Records

Language Techniques and Tools

Land and Colonization: The Spanish Collection at GLO

Republic of Texas Geography and Migration

Land Records – The Empresarios of the Republic

Military Bounty and Donation Land Grants

— **And much more!**

(see **From Spanish Rule to Republic** course schedule)



FACULTY

- Kevin L. Meyers, *Co-Coordinator*
- Colleen Robledo Greene, *Co-Coordinator*
- Henrietta Martinez Christmas
- Frank de la Teja, PhD
- Kevin Klaus
- Brian Stauffer
- John Sellers
- Ari Wilkins

DNA Fundamentals for Genealogy

This course will focus on understanding, interpreting, and applying DNA test results in genealogy. Instructional sessions will build from basic principles of DNA inheritance of all types of DNA (Y and X chromosomes and mitochondrial and autosomal DNA) and how each can be used to advance genealogical research. The pros and cons of ethnicity percentages will be discussed, as will the limitations of DNA test results. Combining DNA with documentary research will be emphasized. Hands-on sessions will integrate problem solving with the use of tools, those provided by the testing companies as well as third parties such as DNA Painter, GEDmatch, and clustering. The Early Texans DNA Project will be highlighted as an example of a far-ranging DNA project that benefits many.



FACULTY

- Patti Lee Hobbs, CG®, *Coordinator*
- Dana Leeds
- Jennifer Stone Randolph
- Debbie Parker Wayne, CG®

SELECTED TOPICS:

Case Study: The Power of Combining Shared Relatives, Shared DNA, and Pedigrees to Identify Unknown Relatives

Genetics for Genealogists

Patrilineal Lines: Y-DNA; Matrilineal Lines: mtDNA

DNA Painter + Hands-On Exercises

— **And much more!**

(see **DNA Fundamentals for Genealogy** course schedule)



Researching Texas County Tax Rolls

by Susan E. Ball

Searching for an early Texan ancestor? Tax rolls are an amazing resource for determining an ancestor's location and lifestyle. Texas county tax rolls are especially useful because of their accessibility. FamilySearch.org has digitized and placed online images of the tax rolls of many Texas counties through 1910.

Names recorded on tax rolls tend to be more accurate than those in census records as the persons taxed are recorded owners of property. The difficulty in indexing arises from mangled or stained pages, watered-down ink, and illegible handwriting. On some pages, the names are so faint that only a few pen strokes in the name are visible. Those researching ancestors with last names starting with "A" or "B" will find that the first pages in many early Texas tax rolls have been lost. However, a clear understanding of how the Texas County Tax Rolls are formatted may yield ancestors' names in other sections of the tax roll.

Most of the Texas County Tax Rolls on FamilySearch.org have been partially indexed. While the Texas County Tax Rolls index description indicates that each county's tax rolls have been indexed for years up to and including 1845 plus 1855, 1865, 1875, 1890, 1895, and 1905, in reality, not all counties have been indexed for those years. For example, a brief look at the index shows that no records

have been indexed for McCulloch, Menard, or Tom Green counties.

Indexed or not, the digitized records are available online for viewing. To determine if the year and county you need are indexed, simply enter the year and the county name (i.e., Travis instead of Travis County) in the appropriate fields, select "exact" for the county name, and leave the name fields blank. If no records appear in response to your search, you'll know

that tax roll wasn't indexed.

What types of information can be found on a tax roll? Real estate, livestock, and transportation were consistently assessed for taxation. The tax roll showed land that an ancestor owned listed by parcel. Each parcel was noted by the name of the original grantee for the land, the size of the parcel, and its value. Town lots were designated as well. The tax roll recorded wagons or buggies, horses, mules, cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs. Some years, luxury items such as watches were taxed. The financial health of a family can easily be determined by tracking their tax assessment from year to year and comparing it to others living near them in the census. The ancestor's land

Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837-1910
 Description
 Selective index to tax rolls for 231 of 254 Texas counties. The years indexed include the first year for each county included prior to 1845, as well as 1845, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1890, 1895, and 1905.

[How to Use this Collection »](#)

Search Collection
Deceased Ancestor's Information
 Name | [Alternate Name](#)

First Names Last Names

Search with a life event:
 Birth | [Marriage](#) | [Residence](#) | [Death](#) | [Tax Assessment](#) | [Any](#)

Birthplace Birth Year (Range) From To

Search with a relationship:
 Spouse | [Father](#) | [Mother](#) | [Other Person](#)

Restrict records by:
 Location | [Type](#) | [Batch Number](#) | [Film Number](#)

Country State or Province

Match all terms exactly

View Images in this Collection
[Browse through 678,887 images](#)

Citing this Collection
 "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837-1910." Database with Images. *FamilySearch*. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 11 February 2021. Citing Comptroller's Office. State Archives, Austin.

Figure 1: Texas County Tax Rolls search interface.

Why I Write Stories

by David Bowles

Author of the *Westward Sagas*

My parents, aunts, and uncles told fascinating stories about their ancestors that came to Texas during the early days of the Republic. Some of those stories were so far-fetched it was difficult for a young boy to comprehend. I heard stories of Indian raids and buffalo herds roaming the banks of the Colorado River.

My Aunt Edna, the oldest child of my grandparents, told me the story of a nine-year-old boy being captured by Indians. “Right down yonder,” Aunt Edna pointed toward Bouldin Creek that ran behind our house in south Austin. I was sure she was just trying to scare me. Then, I heard a similar story from my father about the abduction. He said the boy’s father was killed and scalped by Indians during the attack on Shoal Creek, not Bouldin Creek. Somehow, the stories were never the same. Uncle Elmer told the story of his great-great-grandfather being scalped by Indians but didn’t know any details. I asked the boy’s name who was captured by the Indians. No one knew. They didn’t know names, but they remembered the stories.

The story that impressed me most was the one about my great-grandfather when he worked on the capitol building, that beautiful granite building that stands at the end of Congress Avenue. Some family members even claimed he built it. Whoever he was!

In the seventh grade, I told my Texas history teacher, “The capitol was built by my great-grandfather.” She asked, “What was his name?” I assumed he was a Bowles. My teacher didn’t seem impressed. She suggested I research it and write a report with sources of my findings. After several hours in the library, I found no mention of a family member. When I learned prisoners from Convict Hill were used to build the capitol, I forgot about the report and hoped my teacher did too. What I did learn was the value of a public library.

In the 1980s, I started my family genealogy work and interviewed my father, aunt, and uncles. They told the same stories, but still couldn’t remember names. I was given my grandmother’s papers and the Bible of my great-grandmother, Elnora. She made meticulous notes about her family. Her father, Lorenzo Van Cleve, was born in 1806 and died in 1858. I began my search in the Austin History Center for Lorenzo Van Cleve. This was long before personal computers and digitized documents.

Lorenzo’s marriage to Margaret Smith was one of only six marriages in Travis County in 1841. Their child, Elnora, turned out to be the first female born in Austin. Margaret’s father, Thomas W. Smith, was the first county treasurer and her brother, James W. Smith, the first county judge. I found the handwritten marriage license and a letter from her father giving his consent for Margaret to marry Lorenzo Van Cleve. Lorenzo served eighteen months in the Texas Army and received a pay voucher on 21 September 1838 for \$120.80. For his service, he was also given a bounty of 1,280 acres of land in Robertson Colony, which is now on the Trinity River bottom south of downtown Dallas. He patented the property on 25 August 1845 and sold it a few years later. Today a part of it is Cedar Crest Golf Course.

More research found a payment request in the Texas Archives signed by President Mirabeau Lamar. It authorized a sixty-dollar payment to Lorenzo Van



Son of an Itinerant Preacher Becomes the Sheriff of Breckenridge, Texas

by Russell A. Rahn
 russandmarionrahn@gmail.com



Census reports are useful in providing the researcher with information about the names of married persons, their children's names, the ages and places of birth. But if that is the only way in which a researcher uses the census records, much is being lost.

Depending upon which census report is being viewed and what was designated to be included, there may be information on how these folks made a living, what their income levels and education levels were, the value of property they owned, and much more. This information really should not be overlooked and can be very useful in attempting to reconstruct the life story of people long gone from this earth.

The story of those in the Douglass family that can be traced begins with Joseph Evans Douglass who was born in North Carolina, possibly in Person County, in or around 1815. On 15 February 1838, he married Frances Carolina Jefferson Steger in Fayette County, Tennessee. From this marriage came eight children, born between 1839 and 1851, first in Alabama, then in Tennessee, and finally in Mississippi.

Suspecting what were most likely the hardships of moving around the country at that time, I wondered why they were moving so frequently and what Mr. Douglass did for a living that could allow him to do that. The federal census records for that family promptly answered the question. Mr.

Douglass was actually Rev. Douglass, a preacher and a teacher, moving from parish to parish as the needs of the church dictated over the years. It seems that at least some of his children followed in the footsteps of their father, because the 1860 census for Marshall County, Mississippi, lists their daughter Francis as a teacher as well ("teacher" [*sic*]!).

Joseph was again listed as a schoolteacher in 1870 and as a teacher and preacher in 1880. In those days, it was not at all unusual for the pastor of a congregation to serve as a teacher if the congregation also maintained a school. It was then that I noticed the 1850 Federal Census listing for a person named John Douglas[s], born in North Carolina around 1783. He was a schoolteacher! It is known from records that the name of the father of Joseph Douglass was John Douglass, and it certainly is tempting to make this leap of faith. This would suggest the son followed in his father's footsteps – not all that unusual.

The youngest son of Joseph and Frances, John Joel Douglass, did

not choose to follow this profession, however. John Joel was born in 1845 in Montgomery County, Tennessee. It was after the family had relocated to Mississippi that he met and married Elizabeth Rayford on 1 January 1867. The information available at their Find-A-Grave record tells us that in 1876 he moved to Stephens County, Texas, and lived for several years in Breckenridge.

In 1880 he served as a deputy sheriff and was subsequently elected sheriff for three terms. He then served as District Clerk and County Clerk for an additional four years. Part of his job was apparently to collect the proper taxes from the residents on the county, and the document shown on the next page shows one such collection in the year 1887. From our perspective today, it is truly difficult to imagine that the total tax bill for this person came to an enormous \$3.63!

Unforeseen Consequences

by Beverly E. Stimson

Haven't we all tossed a stone into water and watched the succession of circular waves it generates? That ripple effect, in all directions, occurs in our genealogical studies as well, with equally increasing and unanticipated results. One remarkable example I've seen first-hand is the unforeseen result of Phillips Petroleum Company (PPCo) employee Henry Hanson's assignment, back in 1997, to clean and maintain a small cemetery at the Sweeny Refinery in Old Ocean, Texas.

1997: The Armstrong-Baugh Cemetery

As Hanson would later explain, "After clearing enough brush to read the tombstone inscriptions, I read the information on the infant son, William B. Armstrong, born in January 1857, who died seven days later. The questions that popped into my head that day were the beginning of my genealogical quest that still exists today."¹

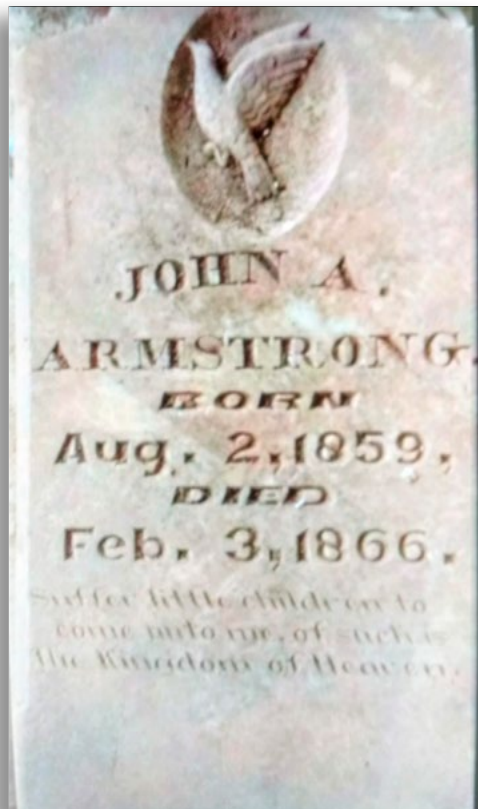
Hanson began his research. Consulting Brazoria County court house and census records, he learned that George Armstrong had come to the area from Tennessee in 1837, fought in the Texas Revolution, obtained land for his service, bought more land from the Sweeny family, and established the Armstrong plantation. In 1850, Armstrong married Ann Lucas Baugh in Tennessee, and the couple returned to Texas. Hanson also noted that several former slaves named Baugh appeared in the 1870 census, some twenty years later, living near the Armstrong plantation. Might these be enslaved people brought from Ann Baugh's family's plantation? And might some of them be buried in the cemetery?²

Hanson sought out Jerry Baugh, who also worked at Phillips. Yes, he recognized some of the names in the census. He was a Baugh descendant,

as was Maurice Grove, another Phillips employee. Hanson contacted Grove, and the two of them, working with a local resident who had once attended a funeral there, tried to establish the cemetery boundaries. Only two headstones remained, but clearly many more people had been buried there. Hanson and Grove staked out an area they thought would include all the graves. Hanson then cleared the area, fenced it, and arranged for regular mowing and upkeep.³

As Hanson later remembered, "Word got out and I started getting calls from people who wanted to visit the cemetery, including PPCo management. Then one afternoon about 4:30 p.m. I got a call from Debra Mayberry-Bess, and she asked me if I would take her to the cemetery."⁴ Debra, also a Baugh descendant, lived in the area and had been doing her own family research. Focusing on oral histories, she had obtained a list of those thought to be buried on the site. They visited the cemetery, and she and Hanson began sharing their information and exchanging ideas. Later, when her family held a reunion, Henry arranged a tour for the group.

Using later census data, family records, and state death certificates, Hanson was able to learn the names



*John Armstrong Headstone.
(Image used by permission of author.)*

TxSGS Awards Program Celebrates Individual and Society Achievements

Each year, the Texas State Genealogical Society honors worthy individual and society endeavors in publishing and excellence in the genealogical community. Generally presented each year at the TxSGS Family History Conference, the 2020 Awards were deferred until 2021 due to COVID-19. TxSGS recognizes that social isolation is slowing down the process of creating and printing books, articles (manuscripts), newsletters, journals, and quarterlies.



In addition, research capabilities are dramatically restricted, affecting the ability of genealogists to perform critical investigations necessary to publishing their work.

This year's award winners will be announced at the TxSGS Annual Business Meeting in November 2021. Nominations are now open for the TxSGS 2021 Awards; entries and nominations will be accepted until September 15, 2021. Please note that this deadline refers to the date by which the entry must be received by the designated committee chair. The TxSGS Awards Committee encourages submitters to account for potential mailing delays when sending their submissions. Late submissions will not be considered for 2021 awards.

Awards are presented in a variety of categories outlined below. A more detailed description of each of these awards in addition to submission criteria can be found at <https://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/>. We invite genealogists and societies to submit their publications and websites for award consideration in 2021. Because of the cancellation of the 2020 Awards presentation, **the submission criteria for 2021 has been amended to include materials published in 2019 as well as 2020 and 2021.**

Recognition Awards

- **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** nominations are encouraged from each TxSGS Partner Society to recognize one of its members as the Volunteer of the Year. Nominees must be a member in good standing in the Partner Society at the time of the nomination and must meet certain criteria as described on the TxSGS website at <https://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/volunteer-award/>.

Writing Awards

- **WRITING AWARDS** are offered by TxSGS in a variety of categories for both individuals and Partner Societies. For the specific requirements of each category, please see the TxSGS website at <https://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/writing-awards/>.

Books & Manuscripts

- **NON-PROFESSIONAL CATEGORIES** – Submitted books or manuscripts should be written, compiled or edited by an individual who is not a professional genealogist.
- **PROFESSIONAL CATEGORIES** – Books or manuscripts by a professional individual include those submissions written or compiled by someone who derives all or part of their income from a genealogy-related business or library. Professional individuals include but are not limited to those who are a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, an accredited genealogist (AG) by the International Commission for Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen), or a Certified Genealogist (CG) by the Board for Certification of Genealogists.

- **OFFICIAL PERIODICALS OF PARTNER SOCIETIES** – This category includes newsletters, quarterlies, and journals. The entries for this year must have been published on a regular basis during 2019, 2020, or 2021. One full year set for 2019, 2020, or 2021 should be submitted. Each society's submission will be

counted as one entry independent of the number of years included in the submission.

- Newsletters must be at least four pages and issued monthly or bi-monthly.
- Quarterlies must be at least eight pages and issued four times.
- Journals must be at least ten pages and issued at least once or twice per year.

■ **BOOKS PUBLISHED BY PARTNER SOCIETIES**

– These entries include county or community histories, cemetery or census transcriptions, extracts and abstracts of newspapers, records of local and county agencies and courts, and similar genealogical references.

■ **GRAND PRIZE** – In addition to the awards in each category, a grand prize will be awarded to the best overall entry in the book competition, regardless of the category.

Student Project Awards

These project entries may be part of a school, library, genealogical society, or museum initiative but must be sponsored by a partner society or individual TxSGS member. Entries are for grade placement for the prior school year. The categories include:

- Elementary Grades 4-6
- Intermediate Grades 7-9
- Secondary Grades 10-12

Requirements for each grade level are described on our website at <https://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/writing-awards/>.

Website Awards

Website Awards are offered by TxSGS in three categories:

- Website for a Partner Society.
- Website for an individual member’s genealogy and family history.
- Website by an individual member of a general genealogy or historical nature, not specifically on the member’s family; for example, a county web page or a DNA study.

Detailed information about each category may be found in the submission rules at <https://www.txsgs.org/programs/awards-grants/website-awards/>.

Presidential Citation

A Presidential Citation may be awarded at the discretion of the TxSGS president to recognize and acknowledge particular, dedicated efforts on behalf of TxSGS.

■ **FELLOW OF THE TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (FTxSGS)**

The Texas State Genealogical Society recognizes individuals with the special distinction of Fellow, making the recipient an Honorary Member of the society. To receive the Fellow Award, the individual must have made significant contributions to TxSGS over a period of several years or made significant contributions of statewide impact on the Texas genealogical community. This honor may not be bestowed every year and more than one individual may be recognized in any year.



Watch Our Website Grow!

We’re adding nearly 100 books weekly with 2000+ books already online.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ New books ■ Used books ■ Reference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ County Histories ■ Vital Records ■ Family Histories
--	---

Partner Society Roundup

Is your Partner Society missing? Perhaps your contact information is out of date. Please contact your District Representative and memberinfo@txsgs.org with current contact data. Partner Societies are encouraged to investigate the many benefits and resources available from TxSGS at the Partner Society Resource page at <http://www.txsgs.org/partner-society-resources/>. Benefits include webinars to use for society programs, publicity support for society events, media downloads, preservation and access support, awards, digitization equipment loan grants, and much more. In

response to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, TxSGS is facilitating virtual meetings for partner societies for free. See page 72 for more details.

TxSGS is happy to report that many genealogy societies are resuming meetings either in person or virtually while others haven't missed a beat. Read the reports from around Texas to identify events and societies in your area. Note: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, TxSGS recommends that persons interested in society events check the society's website and Facebook page to make sure the event is still scheduled.

District B – Open Acting District Representative, Tony Hanson

Located in Wichita Falls, the research area for the *North Texas Genealogical Association* (NTGA) includes Archer, Baylor, Clay, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young counties. Currently, NTGA is meeting via Zoom the first Thursday of each month, excluding July. NTGA's website is www.northtexasgenealogy.org; the society also has a Facebook page. One recent project was researching pilots killed while training at Call Field (a WWI Air Service training facility). NTGS is beginning research on Confederate veterans whose names appear on a monument at the Stonewall Jackson Camp in Archer County.

District C Emily Richardson, District Representative

The *Collin County Genealogical Society* (CCGS) is celebrating 50 years of service and programming

to the genealogical community of Collin County. All events are being held virtually through spring. CCGS is continuing the Collin County newspaper digitization preservation project, expanding the collection and including additional years of the *McKinney Examiner*.

Meeting on the second Thursday of each month, the *Denton County Genealogical Society* (DCGS) will gather virtually for their meetings in early 2021. The society supports the Denton Library by purchasing recommended publications for its Special Collections Section (genealogy).

Heritage Ranch is a 55+ subdivision located in Fairview, Texas; membership of the *Heritage Ranch Genealogical Society* (HRGS) consists of retired but very active members. Thanks to their partnership with TxSGS, HRGS has been using Zoom for virtual meetings since September 2020. HRGS now has a presence on WikiTree through the Ambassador's program.

Robson Ranch Genealogy Club (RRGS) has offered programming to their members throughout the pandemic. In January, RRGS returned to seated programs, but is limited to 50% of typical capacity in the meeting space. RRGS has been offering webinars and speakers using Zoom technology as well as conducting in-person help events on the second Wednesday of every month.

District E Tim de la Vega, District Representative

The *San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society* (SAGHS) has been meeting virtually since April 2020. While society members miss seeing each other at meetings, distance members have expressed their gratitude for being able to attend a meeting. Virtual meetings have allowed SAGHS members to learn from speakers they wouldn't ordinarily see from across the US: Pam Vestal (Oregon); Nancy Calhoun (Oklahoma); Pat Gordon, Jim

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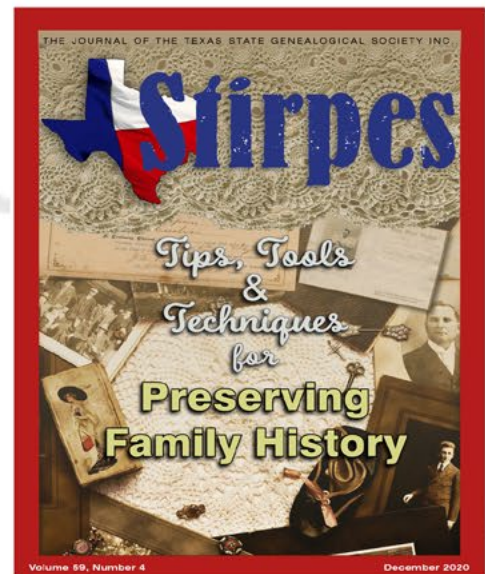
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