

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

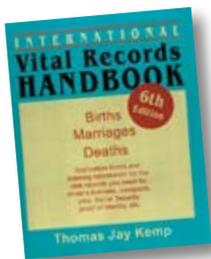
FORUM

Volume 26 Number 1



GONE TO
TEXAS

Acclaimed Titles from Genealogical.com



International Vital Records Handbook. 6th Edition. *Thomas Jay Kemp.* 8½" x 11". 714 pp., illus., paper. 2013. ISBN 978-0-8063-1981-0. **\$69.95**

"Lately it's more important than ever to track down that proper piece of paper, whether it's to prevent identity theft or in pursuit of an interest in genealogical research. Kemp here collects

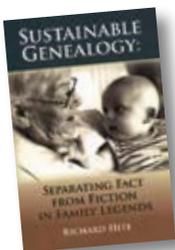
the current required request forms to obtain official as well as "informational" copies of birth, marriage, death, divorce, or pre-adoption certificates and other vital records from around the world. . . . Kemp's handbook serves as a beneficial offline aggregation tool that can help readers avoid—or supplement—the rabbit hole of online records research."—*Library Journal*, April 1, 2014



Genealogy at a Glance: Ancestry.com Research. *George G. Morgan.* 4 pp., laminated, paper. 2013. ISBN 978-0-8063-1983-4. **\$8.95**

"Ancestry.com, while extremely popular and fairly user-friendly, is massive in scope and can be overwhelming to navigate, especially for the new user. . . . This quick-reference guide to the website offers a wealth of information

distilled to its most salient points and organized within a four-page foldout. . . . [It] will help users understand the basics of Ancestry.com and become familiar with the tools and tricks of this leading resource."—*Library Journal*, May 1, 2014



Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from Fiction in Family Legends. *Richard Hite.* 126 pp., illus., paper. 2013. ISBN 978-0-8063-1982-7. **\$18.95**

"Hite . . . reveals how critically to evaluate sources from Grandma's stories to state issued death certificates and avoid common missteps and false leads. . . . The author describes how to avoid pitfalls such as assigning a specific ethnicity or region to a name or assuming that a famous surname leads to a famous progenitor and illustrates the importance of questioning the research of others and accounts published in county and family histories. Especially helpful are Hite's clear explanations of how family legends can easily . . . develop and how following them can divert from the more sustainable effort of finding truly related ancestors. . . . Essential reading for beginning and experienced genealogists. Highly recommended."

—*Library Journal*, December 2013

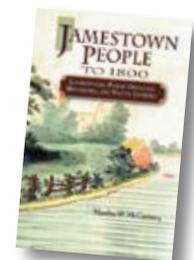
Without Indentures: Index to White Slave Children in Colonial Court Records. *Richard Hayes Phillips.* 332 pp., indexed, paper. ISBN 978-0-8063-1979-7. **\$29.95**

"This . . . title concerns a terribly sad and largely overlooked group: it lists 'the names of more than five thousand children kidnapped from Ireland, Scotland, England, and New England, and sold into slavery in Maryland and Virginia, c. 1660–1720.'" —*Library Journal's Reference* 2014, November 1, 2013



Jamestown People to 1800: Landowners, Public Officials, Minorities, and Native Leaders. *Martha W. McCartney.* 556 pp., indexed, paper. 2012. ISBN 978-0-8063-1872-1. **\$39.95**

"The Introduction sets the stage, describing the roles of geography and events of the day in the formation of counties. Equally helpful, a 28-page synopsis of Jamestown's history precedes the bulk of the book: biographical sketches of its inhabitants. However, it is the inclusion of more than a thousand non-landowners that sets this work apart . . . [for] one gleans a more complete picture of what American society was like 400 years ago. . . . A one-of-a-kind treasure for Jamestown historian and genealogists."—*Library Journal*, December 2012



Kinship: It's All Relative. Enlarged 2nd Edition. *Jackie Smith Arnold.* 158 pp., illus., indexed, paper. ISBN 978-0-8063-1953-7. **\$14.95**

In an informal, somewhat folksy tone, Arnold addresses multiple interpretations of kinship and how changing customs and laws affect our understanding of it. Degrees of kinship are explored within contexts such as marriage, adoption, surrogacy, inheritance . . . naming conventions, and more . . . [This] edition also offers a 'kinship update' exploring same-sex marriage. . . ." Overall Arnold makes a dizzying variety of complex kinship connections easy to follow, helping both beginning and experienced family researchers."—*Library Journal*, December 2012



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Sue Zacharias



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Founded in 1976, the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) is a nonprofit organization comprised of more than 500 genealogical/historical societies and libraries, ultimately representing more than one million individual genealogists. The Federation actively represents and protects societies, coordinates and facilitates their activities, and monitors events that are critical to the future of genealogy. The Federation aims to serve the needs of member societies, provide products and services to improve organizational management, and marshal the resources and national efforts of historical and genealogical organizations.

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Gramps wasn't kidding about sweeping Grandma off her feet.

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Making the Most of Your Conference Experience

By D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS, FGS President



My first encounter with the Federation of Genealogical Societies was at one of our national conferences. Already being involved in my local genealogical society, I had volunteered to help stuff registration bags, staff the FGS booth, and assist with on-site registration. I will never forget that amazing experience, from the many people I met for the first time, to the incredible education I received over the four days. This year's conference in San Antonio promises to be another fun-filled experience, a place for making memories, gaining knowledge, and diving into local history.

With excellent facilities, unique entertainment, and an array of dining options, San Antonio is an absolute destination for any conference attendee. As you prepare your visit to the home of the Alamo, here are a few tips to make the most of your time with FGS:

1. Come early and stay late. There is so much to see and do, not only as part of the conference activities, but also in San Antonio and the surrounding areas. It is a region rich in culture and history that deserves an extra day or two to explore.
2. Shake up your conference routine. For frequent conference goers it is easy to settle into a rhythm of activities at each conference. Consider attending a few sessions outside your current research focus (you never know what you might pickup), start at the back of the exhibit hall rather than the front, or sit with someone new at each event.
3. Attend Focus on Societies events. We often find it easy to network with individuals, but FGS offers an important opportunity to network between actual genealogical societies and other organizations. Take the time to strike up a conversation if you see representatives from societies that are important for your research. Attending Society Day is one way to get to know those involved from organizations across the United States.
4. Take a breather. It can be easy to overwhelm yourself by Thursday evening and miss out on something happening Friday or Saturday. You don't have to attend a class every single hour. Look for sessions that are being recorded to give you an "out of the classroom" experience.
5. Be friendly. From social media to FGS events, there are multiple opportunities for you to engage with others who share your passion for family history at an FGS conference. An Evening in Old San Antonio is the perfect place to reconnect with conference friends and make new ones.

In closing, there is one more important piece of advice to share—volunteer. Spending an hour or two stuffing conference bags or monitoring a session can be a great way to get involved, *and* give back to the genealogical community. It is a great icebreaker if you are new to an FGS conference, and gives you a chance to mingle with fellow attendees.

See you in San Antonio!
Josh



GONE TO

TEXAS

The Despallier family

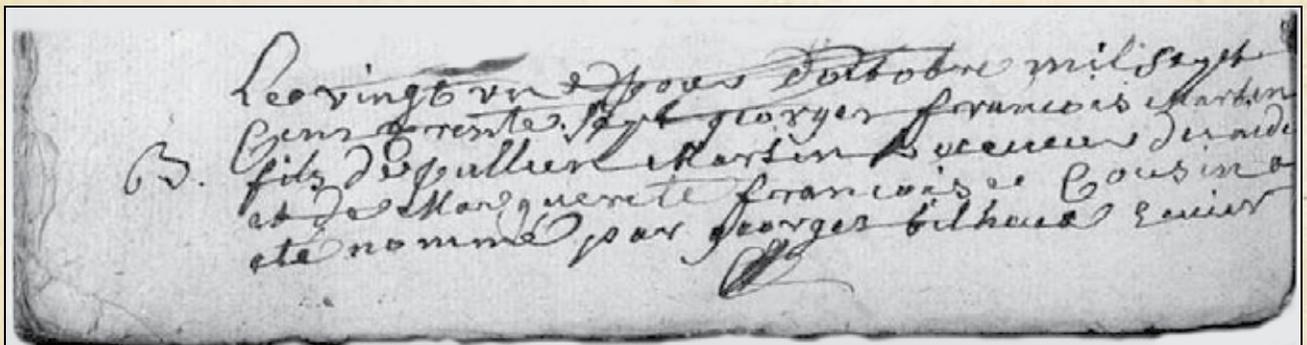
By Rasmus Dahlqvist

Years ago, I started researching the ancestry of my grandmother, Justine D’Espallier. She was born in Belgium in 1896, and kept a small chemist shop near the city of Antwerp. I hoped to find the necessary documents regarding her ancestors just as smoothly as I did when compiling my father’s genealogy. Fourteen generations of his ancestors never moved from Belgium and they even stayed in the same province since 1620.

The D’Espallier quest was going to be quite different. Research in various archives taught me that the family appeared in Belgium around 1745. I also soon found out the surname was written in many different ways, Despallier, Espalier, even Spallier. Even more variants were found when researching in France, Paslier, Pallier,

Pallièrre, but they were not linked to the family I was looking for. Furthermore, France is a big country (compared to Belgium, anyway) and after a few years, I gave up looking for the “French Connection.”

Then, I received a letter from a relative who sent me a photograph of the Alamo Memorial in San Antonio, Texas. The picture showed the name Charles Despallier carved in stone—a hero of the Texas War of Independence! Perhaps this could lead me to my grandmother’s family? Other stories began to circulate in my family. It was said that the D’Espalliers had a general among their ancestors and that a distant American cousin had once claimed to have found “a rock of gold as big as a child’s head.” I restarted my quest in the United States, and to my



October 21, 1737, Brécey, Normandy, France. Baptism of Georges Francois Martin, son of Despallier Martin and Marguerite Françoise Cousin. [From *Martin to Despallier*, 2013, Dahlqvist. Courtesy of the Conseil général de la Manche, arch. dep., actes paroissiaux, cote #5Mi1980(1730-1740).]

surprise, the surname I should have been looking for during all these years was Martin!

I became quite obsessed with Charles Despallier's family history. To understand the events and to find out in what country, colony, or province to look, I had to study the history of Louisiana, Texas, and the Caribbean. The surname was also tied to the history of France, Mexico, Saint-Domingue (Haiti), Spain, Guadeloupe, Cochinchina (Vietnam), Senegal, and even China. No wonder it took me more than fifteen years to complete the research, and to write a book about it.

I traced the Martin family back to 1610. They lived in and around the village of Saint-Martin-de-Landelles in Normandy. A century later, a Julien Martin was described in various records as being a clerk registrar and a tax collector for the French King. It was then when the Martins added the toponym "des Pallières" to their surname. They were involved in the French administration and jurisdiction and also served in the military and merchant navy.

A Charles-Bon Martin des Pallières had the opportunity to become chief registrar of the Superior Council of Saint-Domingue on the island of Hispaniola. This was France's "Jewel of the Antilles," a very wealthy colony, if not the most successful colony of the French Empire. That is, successful for the white colonists, plantation owners, and the French Crown, not for the hundreds of thousands of black African slaves. However,

Despallier Colonies 1763.
58. 6. 8. Quel. Despallieres cydevant Sec. des Travaux entretenus
à la Louisiane, pour le décompte de sa pension, seigneur
le 16.7. bis jusqu' au 2. décembre 1763. à 200. par an
De par le Roy
Treasurier general des Colonies M. Georges Nicolas
Baudouin de Vaudeuil, sous ses mains et ordonnance.
Donné à Versailles le 30. aout 1767.

April 30, 1767, Versailles, France. Pension file for 58.6.8 Livres (yes, the currency had two decimals) payable by the Treasurer-General of the Colonies for the French Crown. Georges Martin Despallières received 200 Livres a year. [From Martin to Despallier, 2013, Dahlqvist. Archives nationales d'outre-mer, Aix-en-Provence, France, cote #FRANomColE127, Secretariat de la Marine ancien.]

Nous medecin du roy au Cap Souffigné, Certifions que messieurs
Despallieres greffier en chef du Conseil Supérieur du Cap, a depuis
pres de deux ans, a la suite d'un tenesme dysenterique, des
Coliques périodiques accompagnées de diarrées, qui ne peuvent
provenir que de la faiblesse et du débilement de son estomach,
ce qui pourroit par la suite se changer en lenterie, qui
deviendroit mortelle, pourquoy nous luy avons conseillé de
passer en France, comme le seul moyen qui puisse retablir
son estomach, ayant déjà epuisé tous les autres remedes. en
foy de quoy nous luy avons donné le present Certificat au
Cap le 13 juin 1771 Baradat

June 13, 1771, Cap Francais, Haiti. Medical certificate, written by Dr. Baradat. The entire file consists of more than 70 letters, 1771-1784. Dr. Baradat, Physician to the King, stated that Mr. Charles-Bon Martin Despallier had been ill for years. He suffered from "dysenteric tenesmus", accompanied by strong and frequent colics, produced by the weakness of his stomach. In short: Mr. Despallier had a bad case of diarrhea. The doctor recommended a sick leave in France. [From Martin to Despallier, 2013, Dahlqvist. Archives nationales d'outre-mer, Aix-en-Provence, France, cote #FRANomColE127, Secretariat de la Marine ancien, May 10, 1771.]

Charles-Bon became very ill. An extensive medical file was found in the archives describing his tropical disease and his voyages back and forth to France, trying to cure

himself by drinking special sulphurous spring water. His wife looked after their small coffee plantation and slaves. Surprisingly, his son Bernard-Charles later became his successor, taking up his father's seat in the Superior Council.

His brother, Léonard Martin des Pallières, who joined the Merchant Marine, served as a naval officer in the East India Company. Léonard married a girl from a well-known family of apothecaries and medical doctors. He could have used their influence to boost his career, but things didn't turn out well. Léonard made use of a brand new revolutionary law giving the French the right to divorce and the marriage ended. He never moved to the colonies.

Another brother, Georges Martin des Pallières, served the French King in Fort de Chartres (Illinois) as an infantry officer. After the French and Indian War (1754–1763), and after participating in negotiations with the Indian tribes allied to the French, Georges left for southern Louisiana, where he tried to exploit a plantation, later moving to the island of Saint-Domingue, where his brother Charles-Bon and his nephew were chief registrar.

Georges' son, Bernard Martin Despallières, was stationed at the Poste des Rapides, a French fort at the Red River, serving as captain of the dragoons and as an Indian agent. The archives reveal a moving letter, where Bernard expresses his gratitude to have found a new life at Rapides in which he tells the reason why he had to leave his home in Saint-Domingue. After the French Revolution, the idea of freedom spread to the colonies. The white population was divided into two sides: the monarchists and those who wanted independence from the European motherland. The countless black slaves working at the plantations, leading appalling lives, also heard of the Declaration of the

Rights of Man and of the Citizen. Those rights, however, only seemed to apply to white people, and thus began the Slave Revolution of Saint-Domingue. Most of the white population fled to nearby colonies like Louisiana. Others returned to France, like Chief Registrar Bernard-Charles did.

Louisiana became Spanish, and Bernard Martin Despallières became Bernardo Martin Despallier. Still serving at Rapides, he purchased large tracts of lands in and around what is now the Pineville-Alexandria region. International politics, however, crossed his path. Louisiana was again turned over to the French. Eventually, Napoléon Bonaparte sold the entire territory to the United States. Bernardo was loyal to the King of Spain, and turned his eye south, where the vast colony of New Spain, especially Mexico, looked promising. Bernardo moved to Nacogdoches and became friends with the local Spanish authorities where he had big plans. He wrote a very extensive proposal to the King of Spain, requesting the right to establish a new settlement in Nuevo Reino de Filipinas: La Provincia de Texas. It would be populated with a thousand malcontent families from Louisiana, and it even included building a new port to enable the settlers to immigrate and to trade with Spanish Cuba. A thousand families moving south would have a big impact on Texas, but also on Louisiana, which

<i>Compagnie des Dragon du Rapides</i>		
<i>officiers</i>	<i>Fusillers</i>	
<i>1^{er} Bernard Martin Despallieres Capou</i>	<i>Actis quit</i>	<i>David Gray</i>
<i>2^e Pierre Bailliot, Lieutenant</i>	<i>Jama quit</i>	<i>Simon Gray</i>
<i>3^e Thomas Tomson, P. Lieutenant</i>	<i>Robert Wuitsin</i>	<i>Michel Kaprairie</i>
<hr/>	<i>Louis Bargo</i>	<i>Salanton Beville</i>
<i>Serjent</i>	<i>Joseph Boutbe</i>	<i>Stienne Deville</i>
<i>Guillaume Bargo</i>	<i>Philippe Boutbe</i>	<i>Joseph Lessage</i>
<i>Benjamin Grab</i>	<i>Jacot Boutbe</i>	<i>Joseph Bradelay</i>
<hr/>	<i>Jean Andrieux</i>	<i>Richard Bradelay</i>
<i>Coporceaux</i>	<i>Jean fauler</i>	<i>Jean quit</i>
<i>Jean Baptiste Bellegarde</i>	<i>Thomas Neugont</i>	<i>Thomas Monfombry</i>
<i>Jean Etomayer</i>	<i>Simon Tenie</i>	<i>Altoine Deshotel</i>
<i>Daniel Wuisin</i>	<i>Guillerm suets</i>	
<i>Josep homs</i>	<i>Leonard Layon</i>	
<hr/>	<i>Edmen Michlaens</i>	
<i>Coporceaux</i>	<i>Josque paul</i>	
<i>Jean Cois huit</i>	<i>Richard orter</i>	
<i>George paul</i>		
<i>Louis Deville</i>		
<i>Nathieu Neugont</i>		

About 1790, Rapides, Louisiana. List of the Rapides Company of Dragoons, mentioning Bernard Martin Despalliere, Captain. [From Martin to Despallier, 2013, Dahlqvist. Papeles Precedentes de Isla de Cuba, Archivo General, Sevilla, Spain, Legajo #211-A, folios "799-801.]

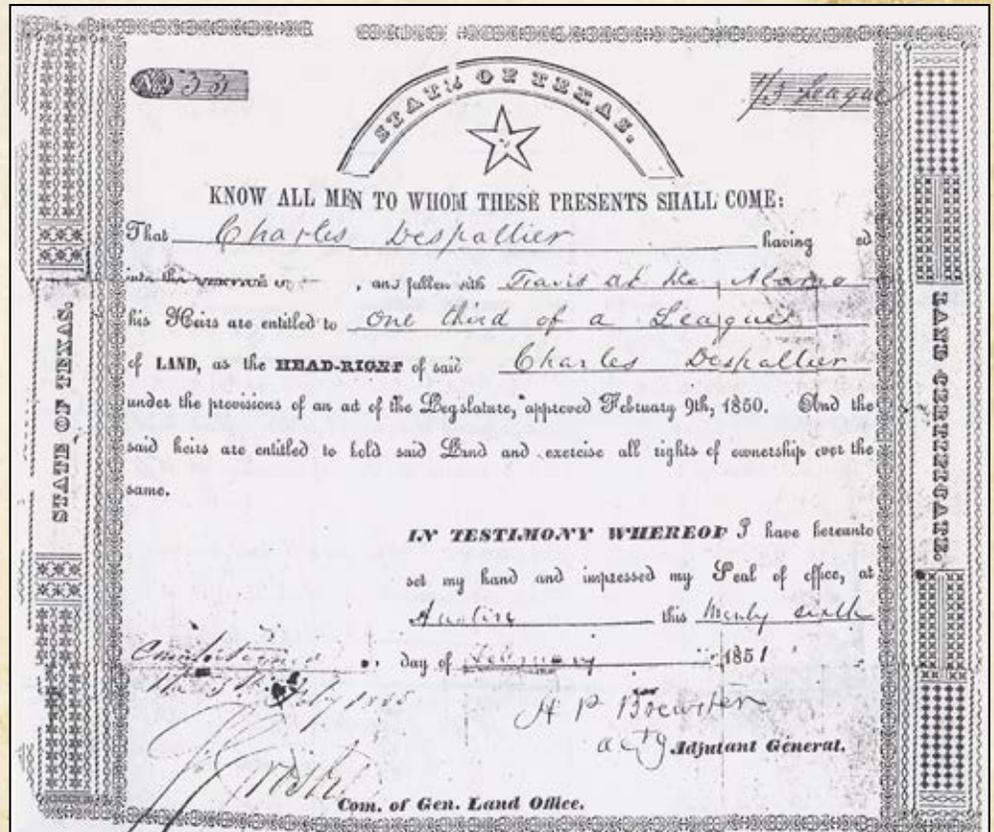
would be drained of the best and wealthiest of its inhabitants. Should they be allowed to bring their servants and slaves with them, the new settlement would easily include thousands of people. The King authorized the San Bernardo port by a royal decree of September 1805, but Viceroy José de Iturrigaray didn't publish it in Texas until late February 1806, due to the amount of time it took decrees to reach New Spain.

The new port of San Bernardo never came to fruition, despite the King's approval. Local Mexican authorities tried to block the idea of opening another seaport. Meanwhile, Bernardo received a military appointment in 1806 and was given the rank of second in command at Orcoquisac. Tensions rose between Spain and the United States, both nervous about the exact border between their countries. The two nations tried to persuade Indian tribes near the border (the so-called Neutral Ground) to become allies. Despallier had to investigate the coast and the border, and visit and befriend the local Indian tribes. After his relieve from duty at the border, Despallier married a young girl, Candida Grande, and had several children in the village of Santísima Trinidad de Salcedo. However, his career did not prosper. Governor Manuel María de Salcedo commented on Despallier's "suspicious activities" and the government began secretly watching him. It was reported that Bernardo Despallier was seen in Nacogdoches on several occasions while wearing a Spanish captain's uniform and having breakfast with American officials, conduct not in accordance with the decorum and dignity of a Spanish officer. Despallier was expelled in 1809 and had to return to Louisiana with his family. With his Texan dream shattered, and his proposed colony

boycotted, Despallier lost all his Texan properties. It is perhaps this reason, along with future events, that shed an entirely new light on the reasons why his sons fought at the Alamo and in Béxar some twenty-seven years later.

The life of the Despallier family was influenced by politics and wars in Europe, where the War of Spanish Independence would have its effect on the overseas colonies like Mexico, taking advantage of the weakness of the Spanish motherland. One by one, the colonies declared their independence during the years to come. The Crown lost its grip and the old colonies became new republics. When the Gutiérrez-Magee "filibustering campaign" was planned and started, Bernardo Despallier joined forces with the invading Republican Army of the North in 1812. He also wrote revolutionary pamphlets, fulminating against the royalist and colonialist authorities in Mexico. As the filibustering campaign ended, Bernardo was again forced to return to Louisiana for good. He developed a deep hatred towards the Spanish.

When Mexico gained its independence in 1821, it be-



February 26, 1851, Land Certificate. Head Right: 1/3 league of land to the heirs of Charles Despallier, fallen with Travis at the Alamo. [From Martin to Despallier, 2013, Dahlqvist. Copy obtained from the Texas General Land Office, Austin.]

came first known as Imperio Mexicano (Mexican Empire) and later became República Mexicana (Mexican Republic). The new Mexican authorities opened the north Texas area for foreign colonization. US settlers were people who accepted the conditions for settlement and gave allegiance to the Constitution of 1824. Known as empresarios, settlers were given land in exchange for loyalty to the Republic of Mexico. Bernardo Despallier never made an attempt to revise his old plan to relocate Louisianan families. His name was probably too connected with Gutiérrez, and he might have lacked the financial backing. However, Despallier would have made a great empresario.

Enough has been written about the events leading to the battles in northern Texas. Allow me to only mention the role the Despalliers played in the battles and skirmishes that took place in Mexico. Bernardo had three sons. Blaz Philippe Despallier published a Louisiana newspaper, the *Frontier Reporter and Natchitoches & Claiborne Advertiser*, a bilingual English/French weekly publication with the alternate French title *Écho des Frontières*. Blaz Philippe published revolutionary articles in which he clearly made his statement: He was not in favor of an independent Republic of Texas, but wanted to incorporate Texas into the United States. One of the few newspaper copies that survived mentions his brother Victor Madison Despallier. Victor acted as an attorney in fact for Jim Bowie, who was involved in fraudulent land sales. Blaz Philippe Despallier left Natchitoches and arrived in San Antonio de Béxar in November 1835, on the day of the Grass Fight. It is not known whether Blaz Philippe took part in that fight, but he did fight during the Siege of Béxar. After the fall of Béxar, Blaz Philippe became a scout but fell ill. He was honorably discharged and returned home.

By then their youngest brother, Joseph Charles (known as Charles), who was 20 at the time, had enlisted as a volunteer. He must have at least arrived in Goliad by early December, but had been enlisted on the first day of October 1835. On the 20th day of December, a "Declaration of Independence" was proclaimed. One of the ninety-one signers was C.M. Despallier (Joseph Charles Martin Despallier). The declaration preceded the "real" Texas Declaration of Independence by seventy-three days.

Charles Despallier joined Colonel William B. Travis' company, attached to him as a personal aide. Young Charles was probably acting as either a scout or messenger or both for Travis, taking over his brother's Texian rebel cause.

Mexican General Santa Anna was on the move with his army. He crossed the Rio Grande with thousands of soldiers, planning to capture, expel, or execute every foreign rebel and to replace the settlers by Mexicans, wishing to stop US immigration for all time. Santa Anna reached San Antonio and captured it quickly on the 23rd of February, beginning what has become known as the famous Siege of the Alamo.

Despallier left the Alamo as a courier, no doubt delivering Travis' letters and requests to Major General Samuel "Sam" Houston and other commanders. He may have even convinced the people of Gonzales, because on the first of March, during the siege, he returned to the Alamo with thirty-two Texians, coming from the DeWitt Colony. These men, of whom twenty-five belonged to the Gonzales Ranging Company of Mounted Volunteers, are now known as the "Immortal Thirty-Two." The men most likely knew they would never come back.

On 25 February 1836 just one day after sending his famous "Victory or Death" letter, Travis sent another letter from the Alamo. He wrote to Houston, commander-in-chief of the Texas Army, citing his men for bravery. He wrote: "Charles Despallier and Robert Brown gallantly sallied out and set fire to houses which afforded the enemy shelter, in the face of the enemy fire."

We all know how it ended. Charles died in battle on 6 March 1836.

My research didn't stop there. I wanted to know what happened next. In short, Victor Madison Despallier, who lived in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, had a son also named Blaz Philippe. After the death of his



June 14, 1810, coat of arms granted by Napoleon Bonaparte to Bernard Charles Elisabeth Martin Despallières, Chevalier de l'Empire (Imperial Knight). The lower part a silver background with three birds; the middle part red with a silver star as worn by knights, and the top part blue and

gold with green climbing ivy. [From Martin to Despallier, 2013, Dahlqvist. Drawing by Rasmus Dahlqvist based on the original found in *Titres et armoiries du Premier Empire* (1808-1815), #BB/29/972 p5. and #BB/29/1073 p.38.]

parents, the child grew up on the estate of his grandmother in Pineville-Alexandria. Interestingly enough, the first African American senator of Texas, Matthew Gaines, also grew up on the Despallier estate. Blaz Philipe became the sole surviving heir of his uncle, Charles. Charles' mother, Candida Grande, had applied for head-right, bounty, and donation land grants, dying before the claims were granted and well before the land was surveyed. The majority of the land, 1,920 acres, was surveyed in Denton County and was patented to the Despallier heir in March 1857. In short, Blaz Philipe became a wealthy young man. During the

Civil War, Blaz Philipe served the Confederate Army as a soldier, captured and paroled at Vicksburg in 1863. He was later accused of killing a black man. His trace leads north: he moved his family to California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Charles Despallier's name is engraved on the Spirit of Sacrifice in San Antonio. And yet another hero is mentioned on that same monument—Carlos Espalier. Could they be the same person or just near namesakes? Land grants and head rights were given to their respective heirs, so the authorities did decide they were two different men. Or was it a fraud? I studied their family ties and came to the conclusion that Despallier and Espalier were at least second cousins...Carlos' mother, Luzgarde Grande was Candida Grande's sister.

I was of course interested to know what happened to the Despalliers who returned to France after the Haitian Revolution. After 1795, Chief Registrar Bernard-Charles made a career in politics, justice, and diplomacy. He also became acquainted with Napoléon's wife and was knighted by the Emperor. The family again employed the old surname of Martin des Pallières. Bernard-Charles was able to recover some of the wealth he had lost in Saint-Domingue. He was elected as a member of the local parliament of the French Vendée and later became consul of France in Belgium. His children and

grandchildren all made careers in the French Navy and Army. Many of them had a significant military career, serving in Africa, Cochinchina, Guadeloupe, the Middle East, and China. One of them, Charles-Gabriel fought in the Franco-Prussian War, held the rank of division general, and barracks were named after him. I ended the Despallier story with those who gave their life during the First World War.

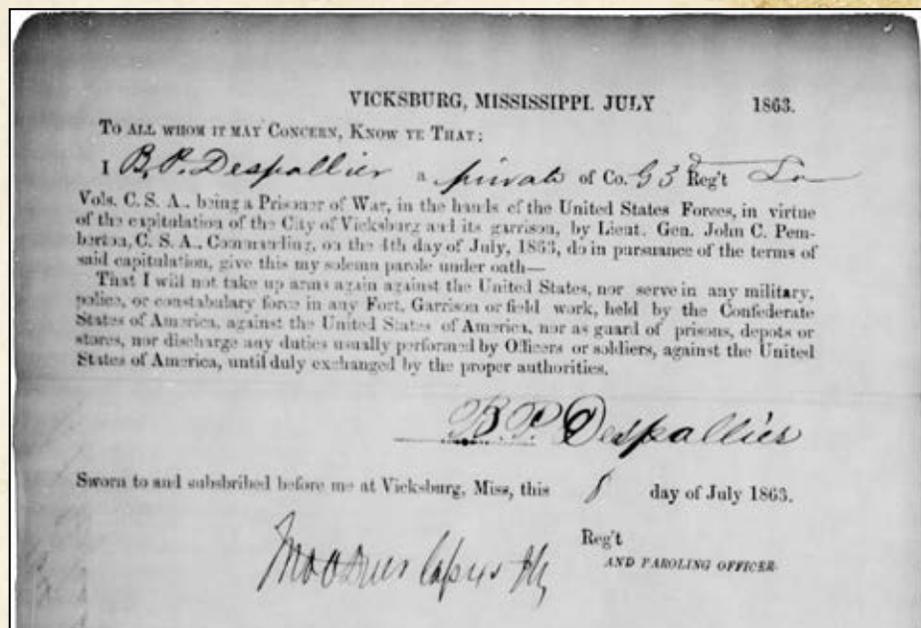
In the end, did I find a firm connection between Charles Despallier and my grandmother? No. But the US Despalliers were so interesting, I just had to keep on researching them and glad I was able to publish their story, *From Martin to Despallier: The Story of a French Colonial Family (1610–1914)*. The research in

Europe is still going on. After all, I still have to find that “rock of gold as big as a child's head.”

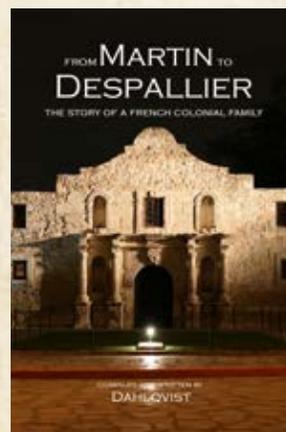
Front cover of “*From Martin to Despallier, the Story of a French Colonial Family*”
Author: Dahlqvist, Rasmus
Publ.: Nov. 2013, 438 pp,
non-fiction

ISBN: 978-1493603251

All details: www.dahlqvist.be



July 8, 1863, Vicksburg, MS. Parole of BP (Blaz Philipe) Despallier, G3 Regiment, LA.
[From Martin to Despallier, 2013, Dahlqvist. Civil War Soldiers 1861-1865, Louisiana Confederate Army. Soldier, veteran, and prisoner files.]





GOING TO TEXAS SINCE 1528

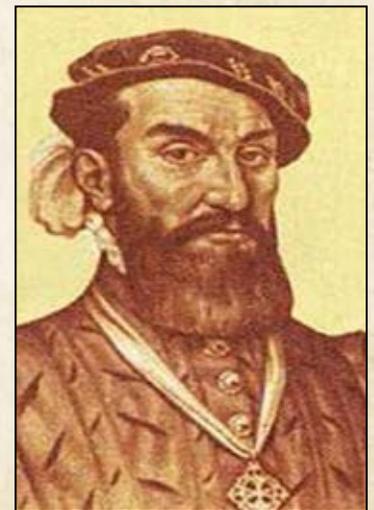
A short history of Hispanic Texas

By Janet Paulos Khashab, AG

Three hundred years before “GTT” was written on doors throughout the Midwestern and Southern states, the first outsiders were washed ashore at Galveston Island in 1528. About eighty men were the remnants of an ill-fated Spanish expedition to Florida which had numbered near four hundred. The survivors ominously named their landing place “Malhado” which loosely translates as “Island of Doom.” They were the first, but not last, of the “accidental tourists” to visit Texas.

Of course, these Spaniards were not the first humans to set foot on Texas soil; a lot of Native Americans were living there as the Spanish survivors soon found out. There were four main cultural groupings of the native inhabitants of Texas. The most well-known, the Apache and similar groups, were nomadic plains Indians who followed the migratory buffalo herds into Texas according to the season. The Caddo and allied groups were settled or semi-settled agriculturalists living in east Texas. From them came the word “tejas” or with an alternative Spanish spelling “texas” meaning “allies.” The various nomadic tribes along the Gulf Coast region were hunter-gatherers. The southwest area along the upper and middle Rio Grande Valley was inhabited by both pueblo dwellers and nomadic groups which are known as Jamano.

Our knowledge of these pre-literate groups comes from two sources: archaeology and the accounts of Spanish explorers.¹ The earliest Spanish explorers wandered around the southeastern, southwestern, and the panhandle area of Texas all within a few years of each other, guided by the reports of the previous explorer. The most interesting and most influential explorer of Texas was the first one, Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca, who wrote his account of living seven years in Texas with the hunter-gatherers of the Gulf Coast region after landing on Galveston Island in 1528. He and three other survivors, one being an African named Estavania, walked from southeastern Texas westward until they encountered Spanish soldiers of “Bloody” Guzman who were busy enslaving Native Americans in the far northwestern region of New Spain.²



Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca

After returning to Spain, de Vaca wrote up a formal report for the king called “La Relación y Comentarios” but popularly known as “Shipwrecks.” It made a great impression in government and religious circles especially as de Vaca declared the Native Americans were receptive to Christianity and should be treated kindly. Some natives who had accompanied de Vaca’s group and showed them the way to the Spanish soldiers had suffered the effects of enslavement by these same soldiers. De Vaca told them they must return to their villages and put crosses on their houses and carry them when meeting such soldiers to avoid becoming slaves. Unfortunately it was not that easy.

Hearing the stories of de Vaca, two separate expeditions set out within a year of each other. After De Soto found the Mississippi River and was buried in it, his next in command, Moscoso, wandered around Arkansas and East Texas before retracing his steps back home with half his men. Coronado, believing the stories of “cities of gold” in the southwest, did a well-planned tour of the area from Western Mexico to Kansas with stops at the Grand Canyon and the Palo Duro Canyon in the Texas Panhandle.

Except for these exploratory trips through parts of Texas, there were no attempts at settlement until 1590. Gaspar Castaño de Sosa led what was the first group of Spanish settlers up the Pecos River in 1590, but it all ended badly. The most northern Spanish settlements had centered in the areas south and east of the Rio Grande. Captain Castaño had been second in command at the new settlements in Nuevo León when its Governor Luis de Carvajal was arrested in 1589 by the Inquisition authorities on charges of being a crypto-Jew or a Jew who had publically converted to Christianity but still practiced Judaism secretly. In July 1590, Castaño left Almaden with between 160–170 people and travelled northward towards the pueblos of New Mexico to establish a settlement near them. He had no government permission to do this and soon the Inquisition sent out forces to bring him back. In March 1591 the group was found near the Pecos and Castaño was arrested. The would-be settlers were returned to Saltillo and Castaño was taken back to Mexico City for trial. He was exiled to the Philippines and died there in a native rebellion. The journal of his journey up the Pecos has been published (of course he took a scribe with him) and it has been used to trace his route using satellite maps.

Learn more about Hispanic genealogical research at FGS 2014

Janet Khashab, AG, will present two sessions on Hispanic Genealogical Research on Saturday, 30 August at the FGS 2014 Conference. Part 1 on Saturday morning discusses overcoming hurdles by understanding naming patterns, locating the hometown of immigrant ancestors, and overcoming language problems of Spanish and “genealogese.” Part 2 on Saturday afternoon teaches how to find, use, and evaluate Hispanic sources that will provide information needed to prove the facts of your ancestors’ lives.



In 1598, it was Ormate who made the first Spanish settlement in Sante Fe, but for almost one-hundred years, Texas was “the land that was so bad nobody wanted it.”

By 1682 the French explorer La Salle had reached the Mississippi River’s outlet on the Gulf of Mexico and had returned to France to gather backing for a French settlement at the mouth of the river. The discovery of a route from Montreal to the Gulf of Mexico had enormous implications for French commerce and within two years he was back with provisions and settlers. Unfortunately he missed the entrance and became the second famous accidental tourist of Texas. He set up his colony and founded Fort Saint Louis, on Garcitas Creek in Victoria County, Texas. He set out on foot three times to try to locate the Mississippi River, but was killed by his own men in 1687 while on an expedition near the Caddo settlements in East Texas.

Meanwhile the Spanish had heard rumors that a French colony had been established in Texas and

ordered General Alonso de León, a Spaniard born in Northern Mexico to investigate. He made five expeditions into Texas from 1686 to 1690 to locate the colony. Finally in 1680 he found the remains of the fort which had been destroyed by hostile Indians in 1688. His men buried the bones of colonists they found along with the cannons. He also recovered five French children who had been spared and were living with Native American tribes. He named many of the rivers he crossed in his expeditions, including the Trinity, and established the road from northern Mexico through Texas, the latter known as the Royal Road or Camino Real. In his reports to the authorities de León stressed the need to set up missions and military posts along this road to deter further French advances.

De León's recommendations were not fully implemented and only a few missions were established in Texas and these did not succeed in their goal of converting the Indians who were more interested in trading pelts for French goods than changing their religious beliefs.

The French traded guns, knives, metal objects in addition to beads, clothing, and blankets. Spanish trade with the French was forbidden by the authorities in Spain. But this did not stop an enterprising Frenchman named St. Denis from traveling from the new French post at Natchitoches in Louisiana to the Spanish post on the Rio Grande in 1714 to break the embargo. He was promptly arrested and sent to Mexico City but he escaped and returned to the Rio Grande where he married a relative of the commandant of the Spanish post. It seems that under the cover of Catholic religious conversion of the Texas Indians, a new underground trade route was being established.

The only port on the Gulf allowed for

Spanish trade was Veracruz which the French were forbidden to enter. However, the road which de León marked across Texas connected Mexico City and the new French port of New Orleans by 1720, opening the way for an overland trade route using mule trains. The French had much to offer the rich market of Mexico City, luxury goods including fabrics and laces, porcelain, and wine. What did the Spanish have to offer?

There were open-range longhorn cattle and horses, descendants of Spanish imports, roaming the plains north and south of the Rio Grande. Twenty thousand head of cattle were driven to Louisiana every year for most of the eighteenth century. Also horses were in demand and this led to trouble in the early nineteenth century with the Anglo-American mustang smugglers (like the infamous Philip Nolan). But what was needed by the French in Louisiana was hard currency in the form of silver pesos. These were the Pieces of Eight beloved by pirates, which were coins cut into eight pieces for smaller purchases. Texas suddenly became a profitable commercial highway and Spanish settlements soon followed.

The pattern of Spanish colonization methods followed certain procedures in New Spain which were used in Texas. In this ideal system the first arm of colonization was the mission with perhaps a fort (presidio)



for protection. Civilian settlement would follow into pacified areas and the mission would be replaced by a church and the presidio with a local militia force. In reality, mission and presidio would exist or disappear without civilian settlement especially in the east Texas area. Nacogdoches was formally established in 1779 on an abandoned mission site by the families of former soldiers of the old presidio of Los Adaes (which was withdrawn from what became Louisiana after the 1763 transfer of power from the French to the Spanish). The various missions and presidios centered around San Antonio and Bahia (Goliad) also gradually evolved into civilian settlements. Only the Spanish settlements along the Rio Grande, which were settled by groups organized by the *empesario* Escandon in the 1750s, managed to combine all elements. There were extensive regulations separately governing all three branches, but the most detailed was that for setting up civil government. It was based on Roman civil codes and has entered the regulations governing modern municipalities from Texas to California.

Let's look at the ethnic structure of Texas in the late eighteenth century just before the great number of Anglo American settlers arrived. The graph in illustration 3 is taken from the census figures from 1777 to 1793. Spaniards make up from 40 to 55 per-

cent of the total population, but soldiers and wealthy individuals (including a few foreigners) were counted as Spanish. The Indian percentage varied from year to year from 30 to less than 10 percent. These numbers only reflected the Indians who were living in the missions and not those in their own villages and many mission Indians returned to their villages after working for a time at the missions. Mestizos and other colored together made up about 20 to 30 percent of the population. These two categories were not well differentiated in the censuses. Blacks were never more than 3 percent of the population. Slave labor agriculture was not prevalent in eighteenth century Texas and many of the blacks were runaways from Louisiana seeking freedom.

The registered total population for all of Spanish Texas settlements for these years was just over three thousand individuals. After the Spanish government was abolished and Mexicans took over in 1821, the need for settlers led to the "*empesario*" system being extended to Anglo Americans. The Alamo was just down the road.

Endnotes

1 *Texas Beyond History* is a fascinating website, <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net>, which illustrates the diverse cultural heritage of Texas through archeological research.

2 Texas State University in San Marcos has a very comprehensive website concerning de Vaca and his influence. <http://www.txstate.edu/cssw/research-and-public-programs/cdvresources/windows.html>

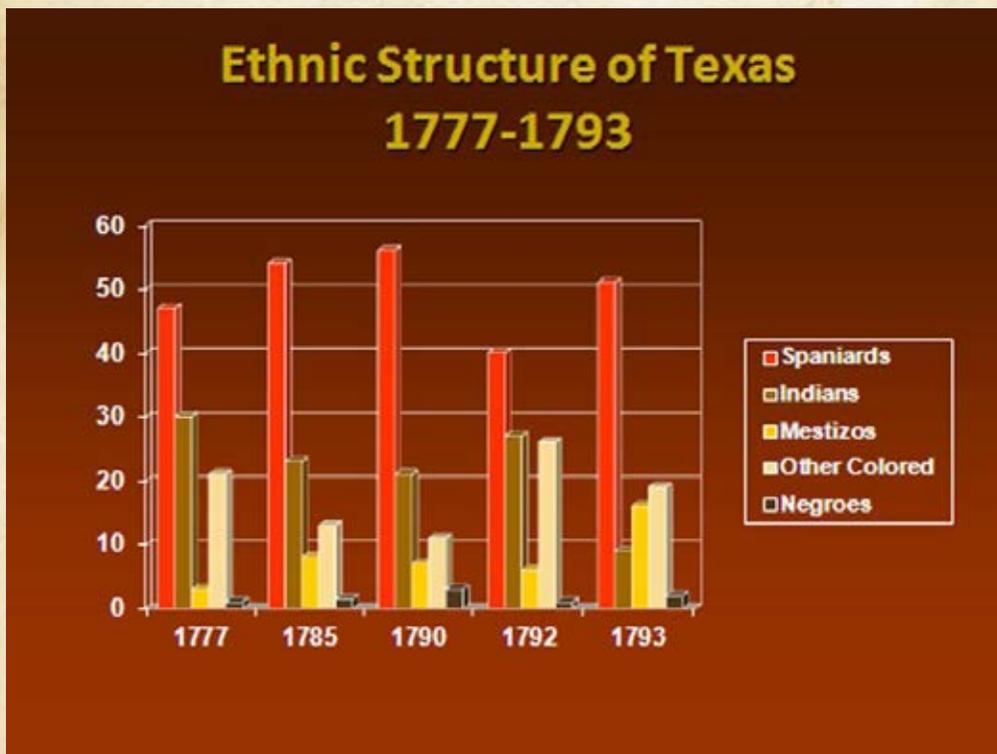


Illustration 3



French Settlement of Castroville

By Judy Knight

While attending the FGS Conference in San Antonio, discover your French heritage in Castro's Colony. The center of the colony in Medina County is Castroville just 15 miles southwest of San Antonio.

Castro's Colony was founded by Henry Castro, who brought the first immigrants from Alsace, France, in 1844. They sailed into Galveston and ferried to Houston where they bought hand carts and walked across the Republic of Texas.

Castroville is a historic town nestled in the Medina River Valley. It is known as "The Little Alsace of Texas." The first European emigrant settlers in this area were mostly Catholic farmers from Alsace, a region of France, brought over to fulfill Castro's contract to colonize vacant Texas land. Calling themselves Alsatians, they were mostly of German descent speaking a dialect of German and French.

Castroville has fertile Texas land and an invigorating climate and was seen as having endless possibilities to the Europeans. Land in Europe was expensive and hard to come by and usually only promised to the first born son. Henri Castro and his "Free Texas Land" were a dream to these settlers.

There are many sources to research this French heritage.

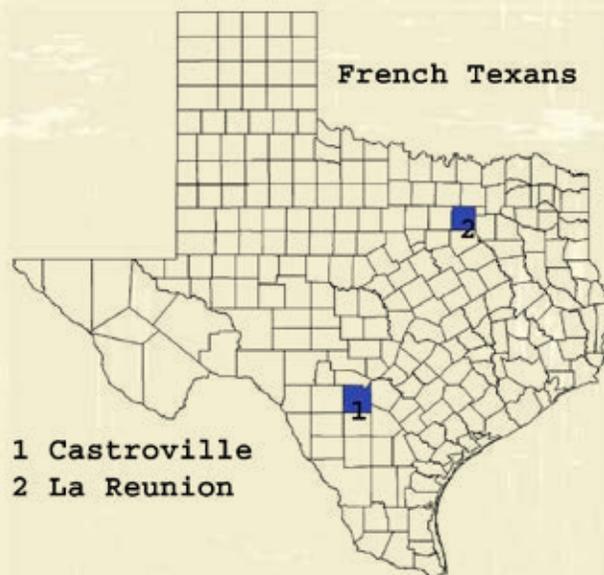
The Castroville Public Library, located at 802 London, houses a genealogy section with an extensive collection of information on Medina County residents. The library's Oral History Collection provides an invaluable source of unwritten history. The library also has church histories, family histories, Commissioners court minutes, and newspaper clippings.

The Library is open Monday – Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The St. Louis Catholic Church, located at 610 Madrid Street, is the first Catholic Church built in Medina County and west of San Antonio. It is a small building located on the grounds of the Moye Retreat Center. The cornerstone of the very first St. Louis Church was laid 12 September 1844. The church was completed two years later and the formal dedication was conducted 9 November 1846.

The Saint Louis Cemetery is located on the west end of Castroville on the left side of Texas State Highway 90. It is owned and maintained by the Saint Louis Catholic Church. Many of the early residents are buried here.

The courthouse of Medina County is located in



1 Castroville
2 La Reunion



Hondo at 1100 16th Street. Many county records, including land records can be found in Room 109. Naturalization records from the 1840s are found in Room 209 of the courthouse.

The Hondo Public Library at 1011 19th Street has a local history area. Their hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The General Land Office in Austin houses Medina County historic maps and land grants. The San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society Library contains in-

formation on Medina County, along with the Texana/Genealogy Department of the San Antonio Public Library.

This year the 132nd St. Louis Day Celebration in Castroville will be held on Sunday, 24 August in Koenig Park, under the shady pecan trees on the Medina River. Come to the conference a few days early and enjoy a wonderful day filled with great food, fun, and entertainment.

Learn more about the heritage and history of Castroville, Texas, on their website, <http://www.castroville.com/heritage--history.html>.



Norwegian Immigrants to Texas

By Judy Knight

The first Norwegian settled on land in northeastern Texas in 1845 near the present town of Brownsboro near the Neches River in Henderson County. They called this community Normandy.

Most of these immigrants were Lutheran farmers seeking a better life, freedom to practice the religion of their choice, escape the strict government, and avoid being so poor.

The colony of Normandy endured malaria, cholera, and drought. As a result, many moved westward in 1848 and founded a second colony in Van Zandt and Kaufman counties. This settlement was established at

Four Mile Prairie, with the village of Prairieville as the center. In 1867 sickness struck Four Prairie and twelve died. Many families moved to the Norwegian settlements in Bosque County.

In 1853 a group of Norwegians from Illinois came to Texas and founded the largest of the Norwegian colonies in the Bosque Valley northwest of Waco.

It was established by Ole Canuteson, a farmer from the Fox River colony in Illinois who had visited Texas three years earlier. They settled the towns of Norse, Clifton, and Cranfills Gap in Bosque County. The land looked much like Norway with its hills, meadows, forests and streams.

In the winter of 1854 the first Norwegian Lutheran church in Texas was built in the Bosque County colony in Clifton. This church later became an academy and junior college. Clifton is well-known for being the largest Norwegian settlement west of the Mississippi River.

Early settlers in Bosque County held “fencing bees” to build stake fences. When the ground was not suited to posts and wire, they built stone fences.

Old St. Olaf’s Lutheran Rock Church east of Cranfills Gap was constructed on land purchased in 1884 for \$25. Ladies of the town’s churches held an annual smorgasbord of lutefisk, a favorite food in Norway. Lutefisk is dried codfish. It is soaked for three days in lye water, then three days



in lime water. After which it is soaked for four days in clear water before being cooked.

For the annual dinner in Cranfills Gap, more than 400 pounds of fish are ordered from Norway. The fish arrive in large pieces that look like gray boards. After soaking there is 1,000 pounds of thick, juicy, white fish. Lutefisk is served with boiled potatoes, melted butter, and white sauce. Later, different kinds of Norwegian cold foods, such as pickled herring salad, pickled beets, brown beans, and *lefe* (a mashed potato flatbread made with a grooved rolling pin) were added. This meal is also served on Christmas Eve.

Norwegian weddings were huge events with food and a band playing Norwegian folk music. Several nights after the wedding, friends would hold a “shivaree.” Everyone would make a lot of noise banging on pots and blowing horns to embarrass the couple. Then all would gather for more good food.

Norway was second only to Ireland in the percentage of its population that immigrated to America. About 51 percent of the population of Ireland immigrated to the United States, compared to 49 percent of the Norwegian population.

Clifton, Texas, was designated “The Norwegian Capital” of Texas by the Texas Legislature in 1997.

Attendees wishing to research Norwegian immigration can do so at the [Cleng Peerson Research Library](#), located inside the Cleng Peerson Institute in Clifton, named for Cleng Peerson, the Father of Norwegian immigration to America. The Institute was formed in 2012 as an education center, a research library, and a cultural center.

The Research Library houses the Bosque County Museum’s archives, books, and photographic collections concentrating on the land, people, and culture of Bosque County. It is known as the largest repository of Norwegian immigrant history in the American South and Southwest and focuses on early Norwegian immigration to Bosque County, the Norwegian experience on the Texas frontier, and the absorption of these Norwegians and their children into American society.

The collection includes personal papers and diaries, documents and correspondence from Four Mile Prairie, Civil War correspondence from Norwegian volunteers, and archives concerning the community of Norse. Also included are early Norwegian books dating from 1754–1895 that were brought to Texas by the first Norwegian immigrants. Over 4,000 photographs are housed here. Many represent various aspects of early Norwegian life and culture on the Texas frontier.



Painted Churches of Texas

By Judy Knight

While you are in San Antonio for the FGS 2014 Conference, be sure to visit the Painted Churches of Texas, one of the

state’s little known gems.

Scattered among the state’s dusty plains and the rolling hill country are twenty extraordinary churches that were built more than one hundred



years ago by Germans and Czechs who immigrated to Texas between 1830 and 1900. The exteriors are like any other country church. Inside, brilliant paintings cover the walls, ceilings, pillars, even organs. Stained glass adorns the windows.

These immigrants left cherished, richly decorated churches. The new Texans scrimped and saved to build new places of worship. They are known for elaborate faux-finished interiors. What looks to be gold-leafed columns and ceilings is actually finely-fitted woodwork. The paint is still vibrant after all these years.

Many of these churches are off Interstate 10 between San Antonio and Houston.

St. Mary's Catholic Church in High Hill is known as the "Queen of the Painted Churches." It was built in 1906. From the outside the red brick building is an example of Gothic revival architecture. Inside are intricately detailed paintings, a large host of statuary and glittering stained-glass windows with interior columns connected with fine scrollwork.

The first Saints Cyril and Methodius Church in Dubina was built in 1876, but was destroyed by a 1909 hurricane. It was rebuilt in 1912. It has simple stenciling and framed Stations of the Cross. Other than Sunday, the church can be viewed from the entry only. It can be opened for groups.

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church in Ammannsville has pink walls and ceiling, heavenly murals with stenciling, and marbled columns painted around 1919.

St. Mary's Church of the Assumption in Praha was founded in 1854. When the Czech immigrants arrived they named the town Praha, which is Czech for "Prague." The stone church was dedi-

cated in 1895. The ceiling is decorated with symbols, angels, gold scrolls, vines, and sixty-six different types of flowers and shrubs. Behind the altar is painted Prague's main cathedral, St. Vitus, and an important Moravian convent.

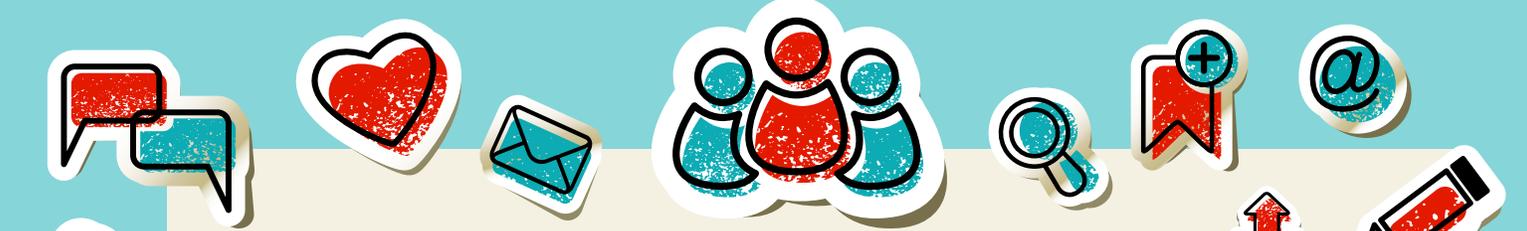
St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the Serbin community is one of the smallest and least ornate of the painted churches. It is made mostly of wood. Its blue-on-white theme gives it a charm of its own. Wendish immigrants from eastern Germany, who came to the area via Australia in 1854, built the church. The balcony pulpit is said to be the highest in Texas.

Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church is in the Moravia community. It has delicate, muted designs of wood-slat interior. Light paint staining covers most of the walls. Soft-colored designs, wooden ceiling fans, and subdued stained-glass give a rural feel.

Saints Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in Shiner has an elaborate, Romanesque Revival-style exterior of red brick. Inside, a large, dramatic mural depicting the Garden of Gethsemane towers over the altar, which is set below a fanciful, softly clouded sky ceiling.

Many of the [Painted Churches of Texas](#) are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and have no official website. Twelve are a short drive from the small town of Schulenburg, on Interstate 10 between Houston and San Antonio. The Chamber of Commerce there offers tours.

Many of the Painted Churches are open daily, but [guided tours](#) offer much background information. Stories about these churches, including photographs, have appeared in magazines, on television programs, and in newspaper features around the state and beyond. Take a look online at some of the amazing photographs in a [visual tour](#).



Be part of the Genealogical Community

By Tony Humphreys



Genealogy is the fastest growing hobby in the world and you can become part of the community as a member or volunteer in a genealogical society. You will encounter people who share your passion for researching family history and who are often the first to learn about new resources and technology to help further your search.

Many people believe that if you live in a state, you need to be researching family in that state to benefit from being a member of the local society. That is just not true. There are so many reasons to join a local society. Here are just a few:

- 
1. **Education.** Regular general meetings, often with local speakers, focus on everything from new resources in local and online repositories to the latest technology and ways to break down brick walls.
 2. **Discounts on special programs.** Receive advance notice and discounts on special events and seminars hosted by the local society. As part of the society, you may also have an opportunity to suggest speakers that you would like to hear.
 3. **Camadarie.** Develop lifelong friendships with others who share your interests. As your circle of friends expands, you

might even find a relative or two!

- 
4. **Publications and databases.** Many societies offer newsletters, quarterlies, or journals that are available for free to its members. These publications often include articles about methodology, research techniques, or technology that can be applied anywhere you live. Some individuals also benefit from joining out-of-state societies, which provide publications and access to online databases as a member benefit.
 5. **Road trips.** Visits to local and out-of-town courthouses, libraries, and other repositories are part of the agenda for many societies. In some cases, the society may sponsor a research trip to the Salt Lake City Family History Library, a state or national archive, or to a conference, such as the FGS 2014 Conference in San Antonio. Even if the society does not sponsor such trips, it only takes two to three people to plan a small road trip of their own!
 6. **Online resources.** More and more societies are establishing “Member-only” areas that provide access to specialized data in their area.

7. **Shared knowledge.** Learn from other members in a group. Each member brings their own unique knowledge and experience to the group. Your local group offers the perfect opportunity to broaden your own knowledge and share your skills with others. Genealogists love to share their experiences and your local society is the perfect place to do so.

8. **Pay it forward.** For previous generations, researching your family history meant traveling to other locations, spending time in courthouses, and digging through the records manually. Their work in preparing and publishing indexes, microfilm images, and photographs has made our research easier. Societies play a role in preserving records for future generations. Whether you donate money, time, or both to preserving records, you are part of paying it forward. It is a small price to pay to say thank you.

These are just a few reasons to become part of this remarkable community of genealogists. Something else may prompt you to join. The important thing is to join in! Once you have joined, become an *active* member. You will be glad you did!



Avoiding Volunteer Burnout

By Nancy McNamara

Genealogical societies, like many nonprofit organizations, are led by volunteers. These volunteers represent the heart and soul of the society, taking care of everything from recruiting members to planning and executing programs, workshops, and seminars, to writing and publishing newsletters, journals and a website. A society is like a business and volunteers are the staff, yet they are not paid staff.

Finding volunteers is not always easy; finding and retaining skilled volunteers is even more challenging. That is why the best volunteers are usually the ones most prone to burnout. They are dedicated, often fail

to take breaks, or ask for help. And because they are so dedicated, organizations often pile more and more responsibility on them.

Here are just a few ways to minimize burnout.

Set proper expectations

Be as clear as possible about expectations when recruiting volunteers. State to the prospective volunteer exactly what their responsibilities will be and what time commitments might be required. If the organization has a list of job descriptions, use it. If there is no list of job descriptions, create it. A society needs to make sure it has contingency plans in place in case of an emergency or illness in the volunteer's family.





Communicate, communicate, communicate

Be sure to know the volunteers well. Ask about their interests and hobbies, their family, and how they spend their time when not volunteering for the organization. Make sure they know the lines of communication go both ways and that they can verbalize their time restraints if they don't have the time to complete something. This helps to avoid missed deadlines, allowing the organization to provide additional support early enough to the volunteer experiencing time limitations.

Manage projects effectively

Make sure everyone understands how many volunteers are needed for an activity or event. It is a balancing act continually played out for each event. Sometimes there are too many volunteers and sometimes not enough. If the organization has the same small group of members handling every event, those volunteers are prone to eventually burnout. On the other hand, if the organization has too many volunteers with nothing to do, over time those volunteers will leave because they no longer feel useful. It is critical to the organization to pay attention to the details to ensure it has the right number of volunteers to handle each of the jobs required for an event or activity.



Say thank you

Recognition is a key ingredient to recruiting and retaining volunteers. Everyone likes to hear "thank you." It lets them know their efforts are appreciated. There are plenty of options available to recognize volunteers. Mailing a personal thank you card for a job well done is always good; however, with today's technology a "shout out" on social media may accomplish the same thing, especially if a photo is included of the volunteer. For organizations with a newsletter, a section spotlighting a volunteer can be an effective and public way of recognition. No matter how you express the organization's gratitude, the key is to recognize volunteers for their service. Remember, they are committing their time, energy, and talents to perform a job for the organization

Switch jobs occasionally

For several reasons, volunteers can get stuck in a rut. And when they do, it is time for the organization's leadership to take charge and switch responsibilities. This allows volunteers to learn new skills and it gives them a renewed sense of focus and energy. In the beginning, this will entail a little more work for the organization as volunteers are trained for new tasks; but in the end, it will help the organization recruit more volunteers. Because it will show potential volunteers that the organization is willing to train its volunteers to perform a variety of jobs, not just one or two.



Create positions that fit an organization's mission

Today, organizations face a new challenge: How to effectively use technology and social media to attract not only members, but volunteers. This has caused many organizations to rethink and reevaluate what skill types will be necessary to maintain itself into the future. For many, it means creating new volunteer positions and dropping old ones. As the organization adapts to fulfill its mission in today's environment, it is extremely important that its volunteers support that mission. Volunteers need to know they play an integral role in the organization. It is their passion for "the cause" which continually drives the organization forward.

Take a break

No organization likes to say goodbye to good volunteers. To minimize this, organizations need to encourage its volunteers to take a break. Make the process easy. It could be as simple as setting a time limit on volunteer positions. By giving volunteers a break, chances are they will come back with renewed interest and energy. An organization that provides no breaks will eventually create a situation ripe for volunteer burn out. And when that happens, the volunteer's break will be permanent.

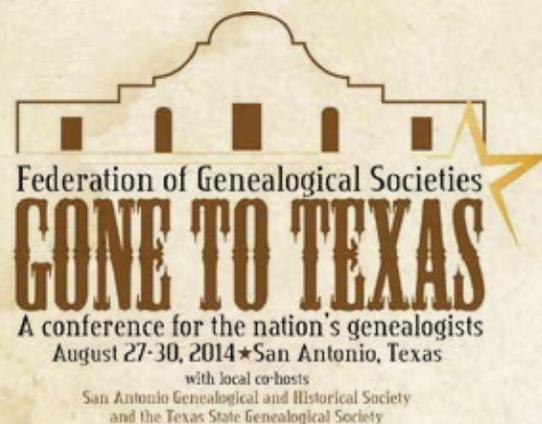
SAN ANTONIO BOUND



Hopefully by now you have scheduled your trip for the FGS 2014 Conference, Gone to Texas.

FGS and local hosts, the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society (SAGHS) and the Texas State Genealogical Society (TSGS), invite you to San Antonio, 27–30 August 2014. Enjoy Texas hospitality, network with other genealogists, learn from speakers and other attendees, and experience plenty of fun. Both groups will have many volunteers to assist you inside the convention center, providing help locating restrooms, lecture rooms, ATMs, registration, and anything else you might need during your trip. San Antonio is one of the top destination cities in the country. You are sure to find a number of things to do both before and after the conference!

By Sandra Crowley





Conference site

The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, home of the conference, is located at 200 East Market Street in downtown San Antonio, along the banks of the San Antonio River Walk and directly across the street the conference hotel, the Marriott Riverwalk. The convention center rests in the shadow of the soaring Tower of the Americas, a 750-foot tall building that provides guests the most spectacular view of the Alamo City. Attendees can enjoy the gorgeous panorama from the Tower's revolving restaurant, take in the scenery from an observation deck or experience a thrilling 4D theater ride.

This state-of-the-art facility is the central component of the city's successful convention industry. The Center, named for the late US Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, hosts over three hundred events each year, bringing in 750,000 convention delegates from around the world.

The original convention center was built as part of 1968 HemisFair by a joint venture of two general contractors, Darragh & Lyda Inc. of San Antonio, and H.A. Lott Inc. of Houston, but has been significantly altered and expanded since then. Today, the Center has 1.3 million square feet, with 192,000 sq. ft. of meeting space; three ballrooms; four contiguous exhibit halls totaling over 440,000 sq. ft.; and the adjacent 2,307 seat Lila Cockrell Theatre, a performing arts venue, which is part of the original construction. The theatre, named after a former mayor of San Antonio, is located in the northeast corner of the convention's complex.

Lodging

The conference hotel, the Marriott Riverwalk, overlooking San Antonio's enchanted River Walk, is just steps away from fabulous dining, peerless shopping, and a sizzling nightlife. Located at 889 East Market Street, directly across from the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, the 30-story hotel invites guests into a contem-

Attending the FGS 2014 Conference

Who should attend

- Genealogists
- Family historians
- Hobbyists
- Anyone interested in finding and sharing their family history

Level of Experience in Genealogy

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

There is something for everyone!

Why attend

- Learn about the latest resources and research techniques
- Build your research skills
- Network with other genealogists
- Meet people who share the same interests (you might even find a relative!)
- Find additional resources in the exhibit hall

porary lobby with Texas flair: chili-red walls, dark-wood trim, and wrought-iron accents. Balconies on the hotel's Water View rooms overlook the River Walk, offering patio seating with room to relax and enjoy the sights below. A special conference room rate of \$129 per night is available when you mention FGS at the time of your booking. The rate includes complimentary Wi-Fi and reduced parking rates. For additional details, visit the Marriott Riverwalk [website. Online reservations can be made at https://aws.passkey.com/g/20192270.](http://aws.passkey.com/g/20192270)

Conference program

FGS 2014 kicks off with Librarians' Day on Tuesday, 26 August from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sponsored by ProQuest, this annual event is designed for librarians, archivists, and other information professionals serving family history researchers.

Featured speakers include David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FIGRS, FUGA; Craig Roberts Scott, MA, CG; Frank Faulkner; and James Harkins, MPA, CA. Of course, all librarians are invited to register for the entire conference, as many

topics will feature resources useful to librarians and archivists in building and maintaining their genealogical collections. Registration for Librarians' Day is \$10. Questions regarding Librarians' Day should be directed to info@fgs.org.

Programs

FGS conferences include a variety of programs. Whether you are just beginning your journey into family history, have years of experience, want to learn more about a specific topic or methodology, or are interested in finding out more about running a genealogical society, FGS 2014 is the place for you.

The four-day conference begins with Focus on Societies Day, Wednesday, 27 August. The plenary session in 2014 will be replaced by "Strong Business Strategy = Sound Strategy Workshop," featuring David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FIGRS, FUGA, and Ed Donakey. This workshop will be geared to all FGS society delegates, members-at-large, and other interested parties to help them understand how sound business principles can be used to run a society as successfully as a business. In this half-day workshop, participants will engage in:

- Understanding the need to plan sources of income/expenditure
- Understanding the cost of every great idea
- Working through social media constructs
- Forecasting results based on plans
- Embracing the written plan
- Supporting your society and leaving it better than you found it

Attendees will walk away with a workbook including worksheets, notes, and ideas that can be used to enhance and guide any society forward.

After the workshop, plan on joining the FGS Board of Directors for the Focus on Societies Luncheon. Dive into the current state of genealogical societies and network with other society-minded individuals. A short FGS business meeting and Society Shout-Out will also be held during the luncheon. Tickets for this luncheon are \$29.

In the afternoon, eighteen sessions will be offered for society leaders and members to delve deeply into specific topics, such as strategic planning, society technology, outreach and education, society projects, and



advocacy and legal issues. For further details on Focus on Societies Day, visit <https://www.fgsconference.org/program/schedule/>.

The Program Committee has assembled an exciting lineup of speakers and workshops for this year's conference with topics of interest for all genealogists and family historians. The FGS 2014 [program](#) is ready to meet your needs. What's on your checklist?

How about learning more about the ways to track down information on female ancestors, adding to your knowledge of research in Texas and neighboring states, getting invigorated and on the right track for writing and publishing your family history, understanding DNA, discovering newspaper research, or comprehending genealogy and copyright? Do you need some assistance on your German, English, Polish, or other ethnic research? How about building your skills for researching migration trails and immigration records? Yes, there truly is something for everyone!

The early bird registration deadline is 1 July 2014 for those wishing to take advantage of a registration discount. The most convenient means of registration is on the FGS 2014 Conference [website](#).

Workshops

Take advantage of the ten workshops offered during the conference. Seating is limited in these workshops and pre-registration is required. You will have a chance to spend hands-on time learning about research, publishing, mapping, Hispanic records, and more. Check out the [conference brochure](#) for complete details on each workshop.

Luncheons

More than twelve “lunch & learn” programs will make lunchtime easy, fun, and educational. There will be time for networking with others at your table, followed by

listening to a speaker specially chosen by the organization hosting the luncheon. All luncheons are open to anyone wishing to purchase a ticket. Be sure to sign up for luncheons when you register. Tickets are generally not available on-site.

If you have already registered for the conference and did not purchase a lunch, it is not too late. Simply return to the [registration website](#) and sign in using your user name and password. You will then be able to select a lunch or workshop that you wish to add.

Luncheon talks will cover a variety of topics. See the sidebar for detailed information. Two types of lunches will be available. Some sponsoring organizations will

Conference luncheons

Here is a summary of luncheons and organizations hosting educational mid-day gatherings during the FGS 2014 Conference.

Wednesday, 27 August, 12:00–2:00 p.m.

Focus on Societies Luncheon: The State of Our Societies (Plated Lunch) by FGS Leadership

Join the FGS Board of Directors in a discussion of the current state of genealogical societies in the United States. You don't want to miss this annual luncheon designed for FGS society delegates and other society volunteers. Ample time is provided to share information about your society, ask questions of other volunteers, and learn techniques for running societies. Following the meal is an open-microphone session for everyone with more of the same sharing and problem-solving.

Thursday Luncheons, 28 August, 12:00–1:15 p.m.

“Genealogy Standards: Fine Wine in a New Bottle”

Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA
Sponsored by the Board for Certification of Genealogists

“Texas Cattle and the American Revolution”

Lynn Forney Young, BS
Sponsored by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

“The Skansens of Poland”

Cecile “Ceil” Wendt Jensen, MA, CG
Sponsored by The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools

“Effective Search Techniques and Sourcing Your Conclusions on FamilySearch.org”

Robert L. Kehrer
Sponsored by FamilySearch

Friday Luncheons, 29 August, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

“Your Missouri Roots”

Patricia Walls Stamm, CG, CGL
Sponsored by the National Genealogical Society

“How Genealogy Hasn't Changed in Fifty Years”

Thomas W. Jones, PhD, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA
Sponsored by the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society

“The Messages Our Ancestors Leave Behind”

Paul Milner
Sponsored by the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History

“The Life and Times of Judge Robert Williamson or Three Legged Willie”

Robert R. “Bob” Payne
Sponsored by the Texas State Genealogical Society

Saturday Luncheons, 30 August, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

“Publications at NEHGS, from 1847 to Today”

Chris Child
Sponsored by the New England Historic Genealogical Society

“Quality Research in a Pop Genealogy World”

Laura G. Prescott
Sponsored by the Association of Professional Genealogists

“From Texas with Love: Six Points for Spicing Up Your Family Stories”

Loretto (Lou) Dennis Szucs, FUGA
Sponsored by the Genealogical Speaker's Guild and the International Society of Family History Writers & Editors

“Lessons My Grandmother Taught Me”

Teri E. Flack, MA, MBA
Sponsored by the Austin Genealogical Society

We hope to see you in San Antonio this August!

offer box lunches at \$14 and others will offer a plated lunch for \$29. You will be pleased with the selection of speakers and the luncheon menu!

Keynote session

The keynote address at this year's conference promises to be both educational and entertaining. Plan now to attend the opening session, "Riders on the Orphan Trains," on Thursday morning, 28 August. Using multi-media, Phil Lancaster and Alison Moore will tell the story of the Orphan Trains that carried over 250,000 orphans and unwanted children across the United States between 1854 and 1929. These children were taken out of New York City and given away at train stations in every state in the continental United States with the last train stopping in Sulphur Springs, Texas, in 1929. See a preview of their program on their [website](#).

Special events

The social aspect of an FGS conference is important too, and special events provide ample time for networking and socializing. On Wednesday, 27 August, spend [An Evening at the Institute of Texan Cultures](#), an event ideally suited to genealogists. This amazing museum showcases the ethnic and cultural history of Texas, telling the stories of the people who settled there, including Hispanic, English, Irish, Scottish, Jewish, French, Lebanese, Belgian, Dutch, Greek, Italian, Swiss, Japanese, Chinese, Polish, Czech, German, Wendish, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, African American, Native American, and Hungarian. An air-conditioned motor coach will be available to transport you from your hotel to the Institute or feel free to walk the short distance. Attendees will enjoy a true Texas barbeque dinner, including slow-smoked beef brisket and chicken, potato salad, beans, rolls, dessert, and iced tea. Tickets for this event are \$35.

On Friday, 29 August, the San Antonio Conservation Society hosts [A Night in Old San Antonio](#), a truly festive evening in the historical art village of La Villita. Colorful decorations, entertaining music, mariachis, folkloric dancing, and a huge Mexican buffet promise a night in San Antonio you won't soon forget! Tickets for this event are \$35.

Exhibit hall: The ultimate "show and tell"

Free and open to all attendees, as well as the general public, the large exhibit hall at this year's conference will open on Thursday, 28 August and will feature the latest software, books, maps, databases, and gadgets on the market for genealogists and family historians, not to mention information on genealogical organizations.

Society Showcase

The Society Showcase, near the entrance to the exhibit hall, will provide you a chance to visit with organizations across the country to learn more about their groups and the benefits of becoming part of a genealogical society. Interested in having your society exhibit at FGS 2014? There is still time to register. See [Society Showcase](#) on the conference website for more information.

Cyber Cafe, presentations, and demos

Inside the exhibit hall attendees will be able to visit a cyber café and lounge area during the conference. Use one of the many computers to check e-mail or to print a document, connect (and charge) your own laptop, notebook or tablet, and rest your feet for a bit. The exhibit hall will also feature two stage areas. One area will be used to provide a platform for vendors, societies, and other speakers to demonstrate products, talk about research resources, and highlight other topics of interest to all those interested in researching and sharing their family history. The second area will be sponsored by findmypast and hosted by the Texas State Genealogical Society. This stage will offer twenty 30-minute presentations geared towards educating and motivating all attendees, but with a special focus on beginners or the casually curious. Topics will include categories from basic and introductory genealogical instruction to DNA and family medical history. Be sure to check out the presentation schedule when you pick up your conference materials in San Antonio!

Learn more and stay connected

FGS will continue to let you know more about the conference, city, lectures, special events, updates, breaking news, special sponsors, participating organizations, and all the neat things associated with an FGS conference. We hope to see you in San Antonio this August!

2014 Conference Committee • FGS/TSGS/SAGHS 2014 Conference
San Antonio, TX 26-30 August 2014
 FGS web site: www.fgs.org

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FGS/TSGS/SAGHS 2014 Conference Committee

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Hospitality Chair	Diane Scannell	dscannell@satx.rr.com
Librarian's Day Coordinator	Susan Kaufman	kaufmansusan@gmail.com



SAN ANTONIO GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND LIBRARY

The mission of the San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Library (SAGHS) is to teach and promote genealogical and historical research, publish and preserve records, and increase awareness of genealogy and history.

SAGHS was chartered in 1959. It maintains an outstanding library of over 15,000 books, publishes an award-winning semiannual journal, and conducts educational seminars, classes and workshops. In addition, through its First Families of Bexar County Program, it recognizes descendants of people who were in Bexar County in 1850 or before.

Regular Hours:	Extended hours for FGS Conference:
Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Thursday, August 28 – 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.	Friday, August 29 – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Saturday, August 30 – 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Sunday, August 31 – 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

911 Melissa Drive, San Antonio, TX 78213
(mailing address: PO Box 790087,
San Antonio, TX 78279-0087)

phone: (210) 342-5242

fax: (210) 342-0386

website: www.txsgahs.org **after 1 June 2014**

e-mail: saghs@sbcglobal.net

SAGHS Library Collection

The San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society and library is situated in an historic Spanish colonial revival house in north central San Antonio. The library houses a rich international collection of books, periodicals, maps and other materials. The library is open to the public four days a week — including weekends — with free parking and lovely facilities and grounds. Society librarians are on duty to assist whether you are a beginning genealogist or more experienced researcher. We invite you to come in and explore our extensive collections onsite or view the catalog online at our website.

Books

The SAGHS library includes an extensive collection of genealogical and historical books covering nearly all of the United

States plus England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Canada and Mexico. Texas titles include general state historical material as well as hundreds of Texas publications such as county histories and vital records. Other states well represented are Virginia, North and South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York. The catalog is viewable online on the website, www.rootsweb.com/~txsaghs2 .

Periodicals and Journals

The library has a huge collection of periodicals from 45 states and hundreds of counties, including the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *The American Genealogist*, and *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, *Barbour Collection*, *Dictionary of National Biography* and others.

City Directories

The collection includes city directories for forty-eight Texas cities and towns as well as a few cities and counties outside of Texas and assorted phone directories.

Vertical Files

Our vertical files contain valuable family records of deeds, vital records, wills, military papers, obituaries, and more ... and, they are nearly all digitized and searchable at the library!

Family History Books

The library has nearly two thousand books featuring published and unpublished family histories, genealogies, and lineages from Texas and other states.

Maps

Over six hundred historical maps of many states dating from the colonial period to nineteenth century are in the library.

At the SAGHS library you can:

Research online! Access the Internet and databases: Computers and high speed wireless internet access are available for our patrons. Website subscriptions to databases include Ancestry.com, Fold3, New England Historic Genealogical Society (American Ancestors), Ohio Genealogical Society, and New York Genealogi-



cal and Biographical Society. SAGHS has obituary and cemetery records for the San Antonio area.

SAGHS Publications for Sale:

Over two dozen books of Bexar County Records have been published including

Bexar Co. Texas Confederate Pension Records, *Bexar Co. Texas, District Court Minutes*, *Bexar Co. Texas, Marriage Books*, *Bexar Co. Texas, Naturalization Index*,

Bexar Co. Texas, 1890 Tax Rolls, *Bexar Co. Texas, Voter Registration 1865 & 1867-69*

Bexar Co., Texas, Wills and Inventories, 1742-1899, *Cemeteries of Bexar County, Texas*, *Our Heritage Recipes*, *San Antonio, Texas Newspaper Abstracts 1848-1865*,

San Antonio, Texas Sexton Burial Records, and *San Antonio Daily Light Excerpts of 1890*

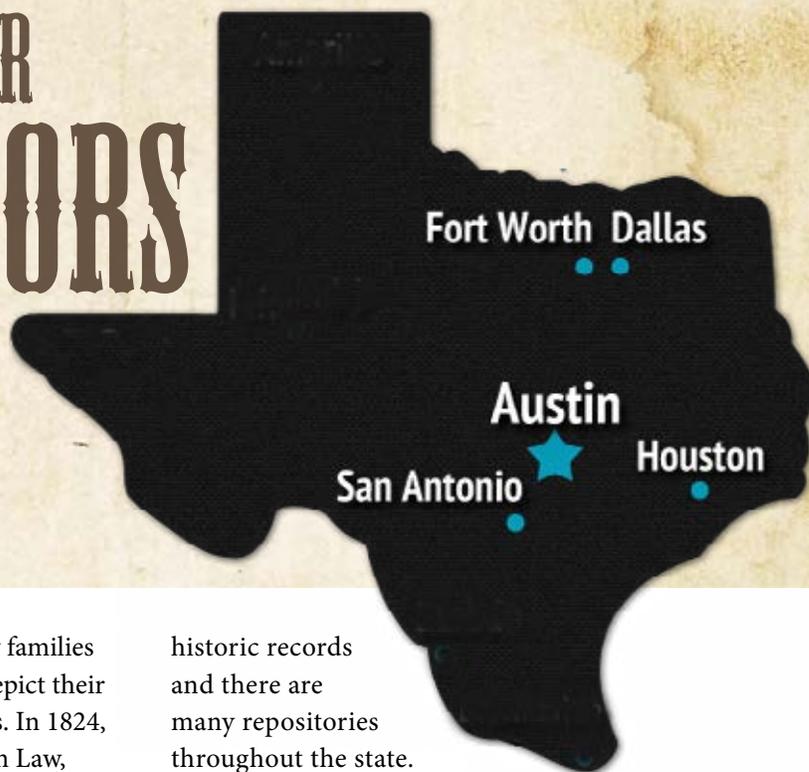
More information about [SAGHS](#)

Take a video tour of the [SAGHS Library](#)

FOLLOWING OUR ANCESTORS

Texas Trail

By Sandra Crowley



Gone to Texas, that is what many families claimed in the early 1800s to depict their migration to new opportunities. In 1824, Mexico passed the General Colonization Law, formally opening Texas to colonization. Empresario grants were offered to individuals to encourage settlement and economic growth in what was then the remote Mexican land of Texas. The result was an influx of people seeking to find a better life for their family. In many cases they left signs posted on doors or carved in fences with the initials *GTT*, which meant “gone to Texas.” Even today, those letters appear in penciled notations in records from that period in many other states.

This year, FGS conference attendees will also be able to say they’ve “gone to Texas.” Perhaps some of their ancestors did. A number of research opportunities in San Antonio and throughout Texas await attendees. Early Texans valued

historic records and there are many repositories throughout the state.

Texas is home to two of the top genealogical libraries in the country and a branch of the National Archives.

Here are just a few of the resources attendees will find during their trip to Texas. Learn more about these and other resources in the coming months at the 2014 FGS Conference [blog](#).

Dallas/Fort Worth

The J. Erik Jonsson Central Library of the Dallas Public Library in downtown Dallas is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections for family history research in the Southwest. The Library was opened in 1982 and is named for and dedicated to J. Erik Jonsson, the late esteemed



*Dallas
Public
Library*

*National
Archives at
Fort Worth*



mayor of Dallas, whose leadership and interest culminated in securing funding for building the library. Located on the eighth floor, the [Genealogy Section](#) has been enlarged and reorganized through the fundraising efforts of the Dallas Genealogical Society and in-kind donations to both the library and the City of Dallas. Mr. Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck, supervisor from 1973 until his retirement from the library in 2009, led the Dallas Public Library's genealogy section to nationwide recognition as one of the most comprehensive collections for family history research, largely due to his membership in many hereditary and genealogy societies, frequent speaking engagements, and his participation in genealogical education programs. The collection was named one of the top ten genealogy collections in the United States by *Family Tree Magazine*, and includes books, microfilm, microfiche, maps and charts related to all states and counties of the United States, as well as resources for many foreign countries. Plus, the library maintains [special collections](#) on the seventh floor that include historical photographs and maps and other materials related specifically to Dallas and the surrounding area.

National Archives at Fort Worth

The Federal Records Centers for the National Archives have been preserving the nation's records for more than fifty years. There are two facilities in Fort Worth: one for archival records and one for microfilm research and public access computers. Records housed at the John Burgess facility date from the early 1800s to the late 1900s and include materials from over one hundred federal agencies and courts in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.



Appointments may be scheduled to view the records at this facility. The Montgomery Plaza facility located in downtown Fort Worth is open to the public Monday through Friday and the third Saturday of each month. Here attendees will have access to federal population censuses, military and pension records, Dawes rolls and other records for the Five Civilized Tribes. Access to records is free. Visit the Archive's Fort Worth [website](#) for hours and additional information. Note that the National Archives will be permanently closing the Montgomery Plaza facility in fiscal year 2016.

Austin

The [Texas State Archives](#) is part of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. It is charged with maintaining the official history of Texas government and contains records dating back to the eighteenth century. The State Archives also provides advice for preservation of book and paper-based collections held by smaller institutions. Its genealogy collection includes everything from city directories and newspapers to a variety of Texas government records. To review some of the items in its collection, visit their [Online Public Access Catalog](#).



The [Texas General Land Office](#) (TGLO) was formed as early as 1838 when John O. Borden began collecting land records from various sources scattered throughout the state. Today the TGLO maintains approximately 35 million records dating back to 1720, including 80,000 maps, sketches, and plat maps. Some highlights of the collection include the original Spanish and Mexican land grants; the first draft of the Texas Constitution; rare copies of 1836 muster rolls and military records of Texas heroes; confederate documents including scrip certificates, letters and diaries; and original signatures of Texas patriots such as Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin and others. The TGLO also provides [online access](#) to one of the largest collections of land records in the country.



Houston

The [Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research](#) covers a two city block area in the heart of the Museum District near Herman Park. The genealogy section once was housed in the original Houston Public Library and was moved to the Clayton House in 1968. The property was donated to the Houston Public Library by William Lockhart Clayton, a prominent statesman and business leader and his wife, Susan Ada Vaughan. The property consists of four buildings: the Main Building, which houses the research collection; the historic Clayton Home; and two outbuildings, the Guest House and the Carriage House. The historic property went through a \$7 million renovation project completed in 2009. The two-story Main Building contains 23,000 square feet. The first floor houses the main genealogy book collection, two small conference rooms, seating for one hundred patrons,

and work areas. The second floor houses an extensive microprint collection, offering census, ship passenger lists, military records, and many local and state records not available in book format or on the Internet, plus the unique collection of over fifteen thousand published and unpublished family histories. The Clayton Library is recognized as one of the nation's top genealogical research collections for its extensive collections covering the entire United States, as well as international sources for identifying immigrant origins in Europe, Canada, and Mexico. In addition, all the books in the Clayton Library are in open stacks for public access.

San Antonio

The [San Antonio Genealogical and Historical Society Library](#) is considered one of the best private repositories of historical and genealogical material in southwest Texas. The collection includes over 16,000 volumes, periodicals, maps, etc., which are housed in a historic 1926 two-story Mediterranean style ranch house. The Library located at 911 Melissa Drive, will offer extended hours during the conference.

The [Texana/Genealogy Department](#) is located on the sixth floor of the Central San Antonio Public Library. The collection includes 65,000 microfilms, 77,000 books, 150 drawers of archival files, 75 map cabinet drawers and approximately 300 cubic feet of archival collections that chronicle the history and development of all aspects of the rich heritage of San Antonio, Bexar County. The department is especially active in collecting materials from the South, Mexico and US military history.

There are 254 counties in Texas, all with resources and stories to tell. This is just a small sampling of research opportunities available to attendees wishing to research their Texan ancestors or to learn more about the state's rich history.



*San Antonio
Genealogical
and Historical
Society Library*



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The Irish Ancestral Research Association

By Marian Pierre-Louis



This issue of FORUM spotlights an FGS member society from Massachusetts. The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA) is a nonprofit established to promote growth, study, and exchange of ideas among people interested in Irish genealogical and historical research and education.

Society meetings are held on the second Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. except for July and August. Meetings are held on the campus of Brandeis University at the Mandel Center for the Humanities, Room G3, 415 South Street in Waltham, Massachusetts. Occasionally, meetings will be held on Saturday mornings in other locations. Some recent meetings have included programs “Photos! Memories! Data! The Irish Immigrant Experience Road Show in Context” with Joanne Riley, “Wonders in the Worker Files” by Susan Steele, “Irish Genealogy Research on FamilySearch.org” by Marie Daly, and “John L. Sullivan, America’s First Sports Hero” by Christopher Klein.

TIARA has been involved with a number of ongoing projects including the Foresters Project, the St. John’s Cemetery Project, the Worcester Irish Project, the Canton Cemetery Project, St. Patrick’s Cemetery Project, and the American Cousins Project. This last project shares information and photos about the immigrant ancestors of TIARA members. Transcriptions



from these projects are shared publicly on the TIARA [website](#).

Since 2004 TIARA has undertaken to preserve 80,000 historical records related to the Massachusetts Order of Foresters. The collection is comprised of mortuary records for members of the fraternal order which was started in 1879. The papers were then digitized by the Genealogical Society of Utah and will appear in the future on FamilySearch.org.

In August 2014 TIARA will hold a special conference called Celtic Connections. TIARA is bringing over four top researchers from Ireland to participate in the event, Brian Donovan, John Grenham, Eileen O’Duill, and Sean O’Duill. Well-known American speakers on Irish topics will include Kyle Betit, Dwight Radford, Donna Moughty, and others for a total of over twenty presenters. The conference will run two full days, 15–16 August,

including breakfast, lunch, and a Friday night banquet. Celtic Connections is being held at the LaCava Center at Bentley University in Waltham. Information about the conference can be found at <http://www.celtic-connections.org>. Celtic Connections is co-sponsored by TIARA and the Irish Genealogical Society International.

TIARA members receive a quarterly newsletter which typically includes articles of general genealogical interest, including submissions by TIARA members, a calendar of upcoming events in the genealogical community, a list of books currently available to members at a discount, book reviews, photos, members' queries, and articles and items of interest. The newsletter is available both in print and as a downloadable PDF.

The organization also maintains a library of books, periodicals, and recorded lectures at their office in Auburndale, Massachusetts. There are currently over 570 books in the collections. The full catalog can be viewed from LibraryThing at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/TI-ARAIE/yourlibrary>.

TIARA welcomes volunteers to take part in society happenings and activities. They are currently looking for volunteers to help with the newsletter in many capacities, such as calendar organizer, writer, and word processing.

For more information about TIARA or links to Irish resources, visit their website. You can also write to TIARA at Dept. W, 2120 Commonwealth Avenue, Auburndale, MA 02466-1909.



Visual Genealogy

By Randy Whited



For the past several years the primary role in my “day job” has involved data analysis and data visualizations. In essence, it has been to use tables and graphs to visually tell a story. One of the things I have learned is that different people perceive and understand in a variety of ways. While some people may inherently understand a complex set of data, most others benefit from one or more visual representations to see patterns and relationships.

Genealogists are no different. I have found this to be particularly true when dealing with complex concepts, such as autosomal DNA relationships and testing. Sometimes information needs to be presented in different ways. By visualizing multiple ways of how relationships work together, a clearer understanding of these concepts can be made.

One of the tools I have started to use in my family history research is the genogram. A genogram, sometimes referred to as a family diagram or family map, is a diagram that outlines the attributes and relationships between members of a family across multiple generations.

How is a genogram different from existing pedigree or descendant charts? For one, ancestors, descendants, and collateral lines can be represented on a single chart. This expansive view of the extended family is more complete and may better represent adoptions, naming patterns, or blended families. In

addition, through the use of simple symbols, a genogram can display gender, living status, or multiple births easily.

Annotated and color-coded line symbols may be used to represent various interpersonal connections beyond simple parent-child, parent-parent, or sibling relationships. Traditionally, the tool has been used in this manner by social workers and therapists to better understand mental health factors.

Another primary use of geno-

grams is to document family health history, especially hereditary conditions. Completing a medical genogram can help determine if patterns of disease exist in a family.

One handy website for the sole purpose of documenting and charting a family health history was created by the Office of the Surgeon General and the National Human Genome Research Institute. [My Family Health Portrait](#) provides a simple interface for recording family members, known conditions, and

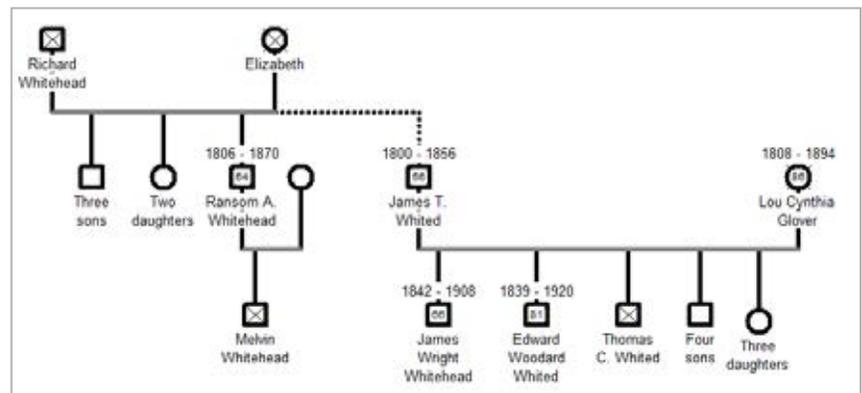


Figure 1: Sample genogram.

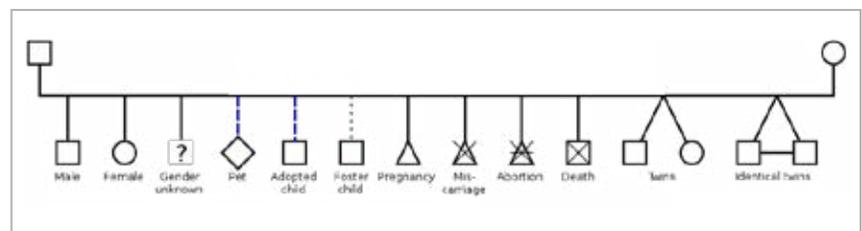


Figure 2: Genogram symbols.

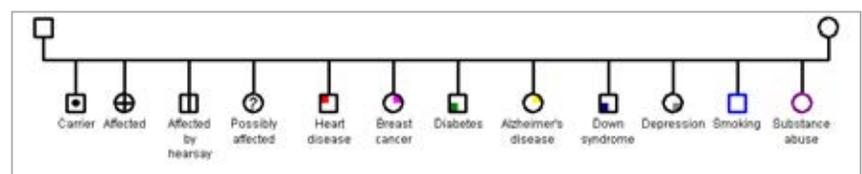


Figure 3: Medical genogram symbols.

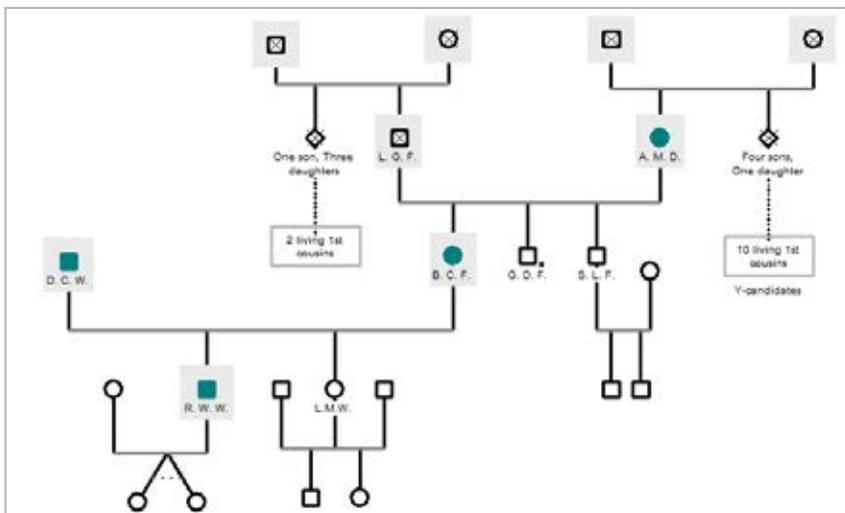


Figure 4: DNA testing genogram.

causes of death. This information can then be viewed in a table format or as a genogram and shared with other family members. No data is saved on the website. Users have the option of saving an XML copy to their own computer or saving to a Microsoft HealthVault account.

Moving beyond compiling a family health history, I have repurposed genograms to make sense of DNA test results, specifically autosomal testing. By making use of its ability to display multiple collateral families, a genogram can help visualize

relationships between DNA donors but also highlight potential new donors. In the genogram in figure 4, grey-shaded boxes represent direct ancestors. Those with green emphasis represent relatives that previously have had an autosomal DNA test or will soon be tested. Symbols marked by an X denote deceased individuals. By working up the pedigree and then down collateral lines, living relatives and their degree of relatedness can be noted. This information can be used to direct limited funds for additional tests where they

would have the greatest benefit. In the case of figure 4, next steps could be to request samples from the maternal and paternal first cousins of B.C.F., especially a candidate for Y-DNA testing among A.M.D.'s brother's sons.

Besides the website noted earlier, there are various means to create a genogram, from pencil and paper to specialized software, depending upon the complexity desired. Most any word processor application, such as Microsoft *Word* or Google Docs, has the function to insert shapes to create simple charts. For ease of use and breadth of features, I would recommend using an application dedicated to generating genograms.

While other applications exist, I have found [GenoPro](#) to be rich in features and easy to use. In addition to manually inputting family members, their biographical information and relationships, *GenoPro* also supports the import of GEDCOM files. Full details are available on their website, including tutorials, support forums, and a 14-day trial. The trial version was used to create figures 1 and 4 of this article.

Clan Munro now has a free genealogical database that can be downloaded from our website:
<http://www.clanmunrousa.org>

The database contains genealogical information on
Monro, Monroe, Munro & Munro
 and sept
**Dingwall, Foulis, Fowlis, MacCulloch, McClulich,
 Vass & Wass**

The database consists of the collection amassed by Clan Munro genealogist Allen Alger and the genealogical collection of our late Scottish genealogist R.W. Munro

References and further reading

- "Genogram," *Wikipedia*, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genogram>
- "Introduction to the Genogram," *GenoPro*, <http://www.genopro.com/genogram/>
- "Genograms: Constructing and Interpreting Interaction Patterns," *Genograms.org*, <http://www.genograms.org/>
- "My Family Health Portrait," US Health and Human Services, <http://familyhistory.hhs.gov/>

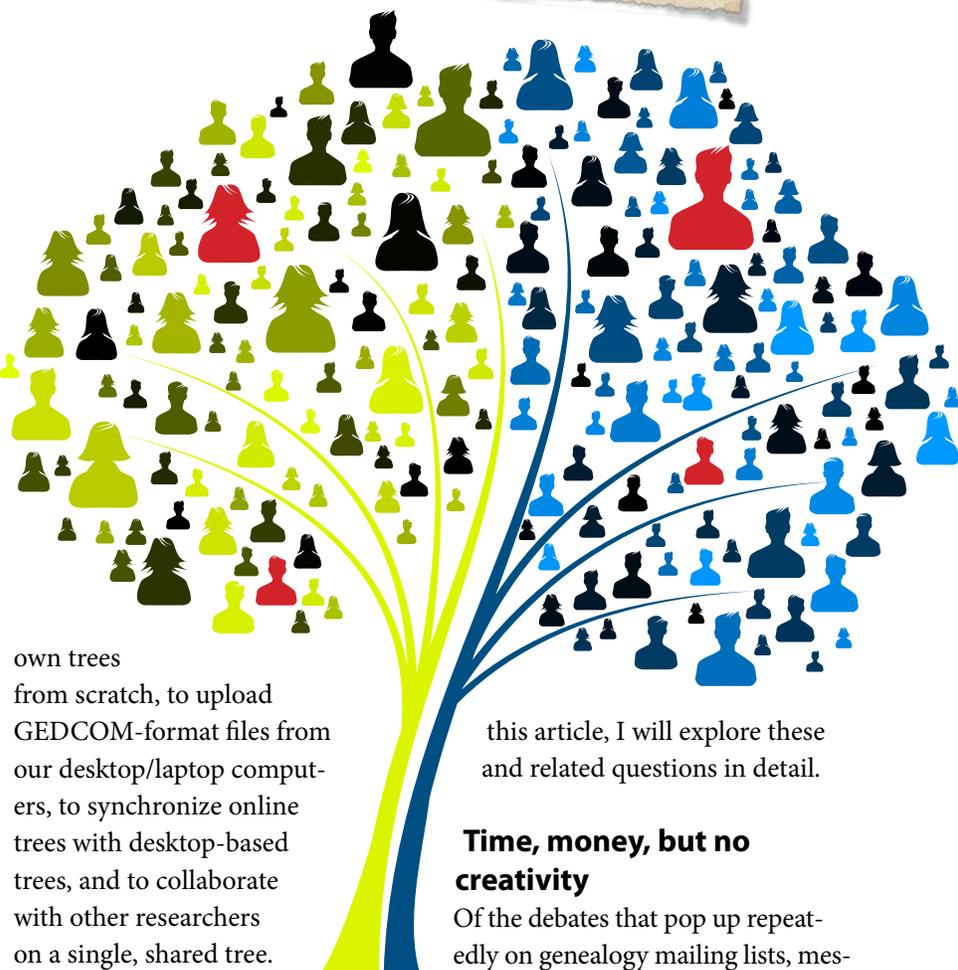
Watch Out for that Tree! (Part One)

By Drew Smith, MLS

In the pre-digital world, genealogists had only paper to record their pedigree charts, family group sheets, and narrative reports, sometimes publishing these as parts of books or journal articles. Many of these family trees were unsourced and/or erroneous, but even if they were sourced and factual, the manual act of copying them to other trees could result in the introduction of errors, perpetuated in later publications. Some of these published trees ended up on library shelves or in library vertical files, available to other genealogists. At least, in the world before the web, errors were slow to propagate.

Things began to change significantly with the development of the GEDCOM file format and the possibility of sharing a digital tree online. Bulletin board systems, and later online services (such as CompuServe and America Online), allowed for the uploading of GEDCOM-format files, and the eventual public access to the Internet meant that a tree uploaded by one person could be instantly available to countless other genealogists. Even so, it was not until the content of these trees became easily searchable that researchers would quickly discover an ancestral name in someone else's tree.

Today, we are living in a digital world where multiple web-based services allow us to search through many thousands of family trees with millions of names, to create our



Drew Smith, MLS

own trees from scratch, to upload GEDCOM-format files from our desktop/laptop computers, to synchronize online trees with desktop-based trees, and to collaborate with other researchers on a single, shared tree. And with new abilities there are new questions and new problems for each of us, and no one right answer for all of us.

Should I put my tree online? If I put it online, should it be public, where anyone else can see what is in it (and therefore copy from it), or should it be private, where I can choose exactly who to share it with and what to share? Should I use a service where I can synchronize my online tree with software on my desktop computer? Should I participate in a shared, collaborative tree, where anyone else can edit the information I have contributed? In

this article, I will explore these and related questions in detail.

Time, money, but no creativity

Of the debates that pop up repeatedly on genealogy mailing lists, message boards, and Facebook groups, perhaps none generates more of an emotional response than the question of whether to have a public tree or a private tree. (These debates usually focused on trees made available on Ancestry.com, although today there are additional options for both types of trees.) Those who advocate for private trees often complain bitterly about past experiences with public trees, where their years of hard work (and expensive acquisition of records) has been copied to other trees without permission and usually without any credit. Those who advocate instead for public trees

often state their complete puzzlement as to why anyone would engage in genealogical research without being willing to freely share what they have discovered.

Before I get into the heart of this debate, let me first set aside as a different question the idea of whether or not one should privatize information about living individuals. In a time where many of us are concerned about identity fraud (more popularly referred to as “identity theft”), it is reasonable for us to be careful as to what information about living people should be shared online. Most online services readily accommodate this concern by automatically privatizing information for any person who is lacking a death date and where the person is not explicitly marked as “deceased.” A case could be made here that the actual percentage of identity fraud cases that took advantage of publicly available genealogical information is exceedingly tiny, but for the sake of cordial relationships among relatives, it is probably a good idea to adhere to the idea of minimizing the unfiltered sharing of information about the living.

Another issue related to the complaints regarding the public sharing of information is that some genealogists believe the information they have shared online is copyrighted and its unauthorized copying by others is a violation of copyright. This belief is neither entirely true nor entirely false, but depends entirely upon the kind of information being published. Copyright does not apply to individual facts, such as an ancestor’s birth date and location, nor does it apply to a compilation of facts where the choice and

presentation of the facts is done in an uncreative manner, such as a family tree presented as a normal pedigree chart, family group sheet, or narrative report. Under modern US copyright law, copyright protection applies only in those cases where a minimal amount of creativity has been used to produce the product in question. For instance, if you were to write a creative story about your ancestor, then that story would normally qualify for copyright protection. Some genealogists claim they should have a copyright on their research because it took them decades of work and some significant expense to discover the genealogical facts, but the “sweat of the brow” argument for copyright no longer persuades the US courts. Photographs fall into a different category, but unless it was the genealogist themselves who took the photo, or the genealogist is the direct and only heir of the person who did, it is unlikely the genealogist can claim copyright of the photo either.

Public vs. private

What, then, might constitute a valid objection to sharing genealogical information via a public tree? Some researchers are bothered that their work is copied without credit. As I have just pointed out, this is not a legal violation of copyright, but it does qualify as a commission of plagiarism, an ethical violation. However, the flipside to the idea that one should limit the distribution of quality, sourced genealogical work is that poor genealogical information may flourish in its stead. Personally,

I would prefer to share genealogical facts about which I have a great deal of confidence (because they are well-sourced and well-argued), and not worry about whether someone else will give me credit for having done the work. It is very nice to be recognized for one’s work, but in my own case, it is not the reason I do genealogy.

Does this mean it is inappropriate to have a private tree? Not at all. What I am recommending is the



I am advocating that a genealogist have two trees: one public and one private.

public sharing of confident research products. Yet many of us started out

working drafts of their next novel.

In other words, I am advocating that a genealogist have two trees: one public and one private. The public tree should be well-sourced, with notes to explain how conclusions about facts were reached if it is not obvious, and the private tree can be whatever you have at hand.

One tree to rule them all

With rare exception we all recognize that everyone alive today is related, although we don't know exactly how. Unfortunately, written records do not go back far enough for us to ever have a definitive universal family tree, and despite the fact that DNA testing can address some of the issues regarding deep ancestry, it too is unlikely to resolve all questions of genetic relatedness. Nevertheless, we recognize that North Americans (and others) with European ancestry may all be linkable into a combined family tree documented hundreds of years into the past. Some of my documented direct ancestors will be some of your documented direct ancestors.

Therefore, we should be able to construct, collaboratively, a massive shared family tree—in theory.

The reality is more complex. Genealogists differ in their personalities, their skill levels, and their attention to detail. Multiple individuals will have multiple perspec-

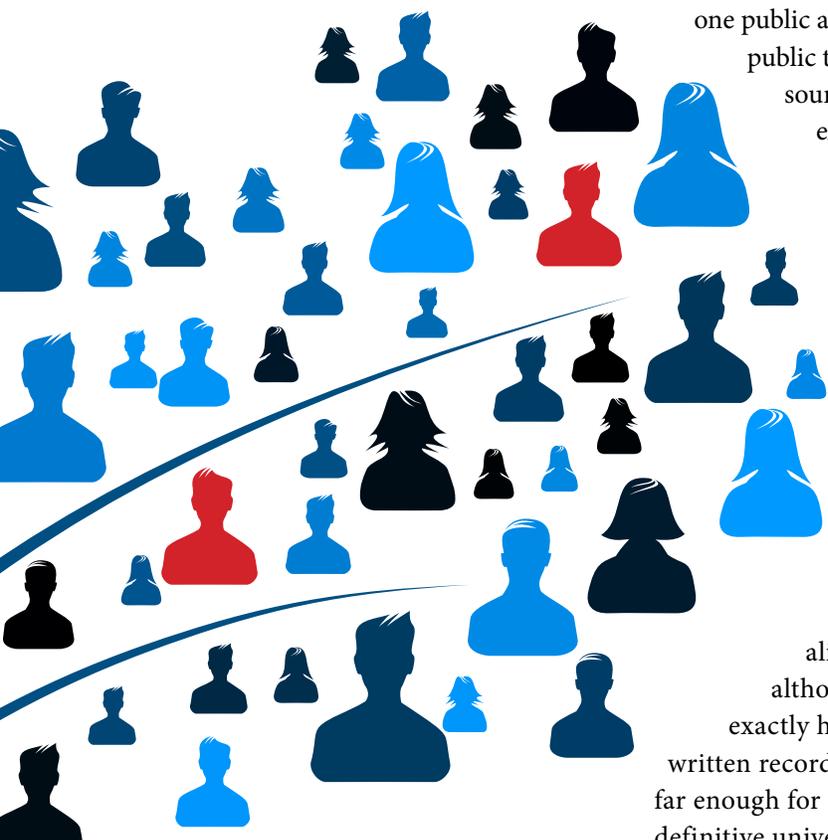
tives regarding the interpretation of documents, and more than one of these interpretations may be reasonable. Even if we set aside the risk of intentional sabotage to a shared family tree, we must still figure out how we are going to minimize well-intentioned mistakes, and how we are going to resolve potential conflicts of opinion.

If the answer is not a shared tree, then what is wrong with multiple personal trees? Certainly, it avoids the issues of sabotage (short of hacking), of mistakes by others (although that means no easy check on the mistakes we ourselves make), and of conflict among researchers (although others would still be free to criticize you if you make your personal tree public). But in the negative column it means a great deal of redundant and inconsistent work, such that a new genealogist searching for names may be faced with a large number of instances of a particular direct ancestor, each slightly different in the facts from all of the others. It means that if one researcher discovers a new or corrected fact, it will be up to all of the other researchers to update their own trees, assuming first that they become aware of the new information and second that they are willing to make that change in their own tree.

Having played with both personal trees and shared trees, I have reached a conclusion similar to the one I reached with the public vs. private question: It should not be either/or. I see the value in the long-term construction of a shared tree, and I want to contribute to that. At the same time, I want to protect those things I have personally researched and

Over time you can develop a standard, polite way of responding to criticisms.

acquiring facts about our ancestors before we fully appreciated the value of quality sources and well-constructed arguments. We may have inadequate research on thousands of individuals, but we don't want to throw all of this work away or hide it completely from potential distant cousins. Having a “work-in-progress” private tree is perfectly valid, much as a novelist might keep private the



feel confident about so that I do not have to worry they will be changed by others maliciously, accidentally, or cluelessly.

Where can you plant your tree?

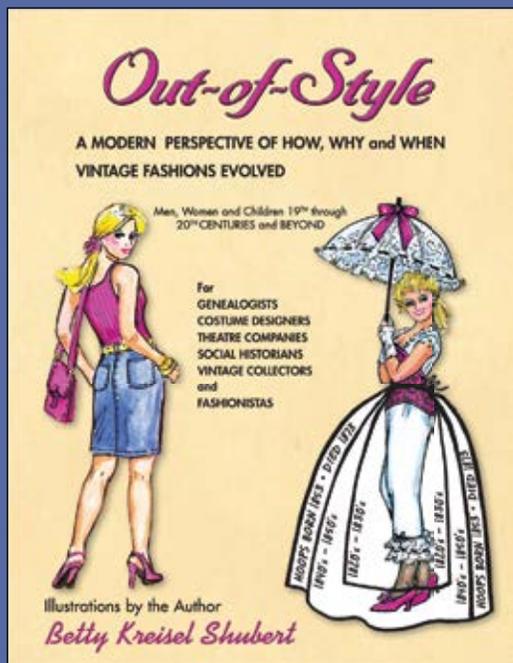
In this article I have tried to give a general overview of the debatable issues regarding online family trees. While these big questions are interesting to think about, it can be even more interesting when you get into the specifics of what you can do today, and what your choices are. It would not be feasible for me to attempt to provide you with an exhaustive list of all possible locations to put a family tree.

In Part Two, I will go into detail on the most popular options, but before I do, a few more comments

are in order. For instance, I feel it is worth pointing out that many genealogy software programs allow you to create a web-based family tree (a public, personal tree) you can upload to a hosting site of your choice. If you go this route, the information in your tree is likely to be discovered by a typical Google or Bing search. The drawback to this route is that your information might be hard to find among all the other information a general search engine provides. If your ancestral name of interest happens to be common or happens to match the name of some celebrity, a search engine user might never stumble upon your tree.

No matter where you decide to put your tree online, keep in mind not only that you will likely

hear from people who may share some of your ancestors (a primary objective for sharing), but also that some of those individuals will be critical of your research efforts and may even be quite rude about it. My primary advice on this is that you don't allow one or two such individuals to cause you to withdraw your tree. Over time you can develop a standard, polite way of responding to criticisms, and if the next response you get is not equally polite, you are fully entitled to cut off communication. Most of the people you will hear from are excited to make contact with a new cousin (no matter how distant), and they will be interested in collaborating with you to discover new facts about your mutual ancestors.



Out-of-Style

A Modern Perspective of HOW, WHY and WHEN Vintage Fashions Evolved

by Betty Kreisel Shubert

Hollywood Costume Designer turned Fashion Historian and Columnist-Illustrator for *Ancestry Magazine* offers you the following in her award winning book:

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Family Associations

By Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG



Frisbie-Frisbee Family Association of America

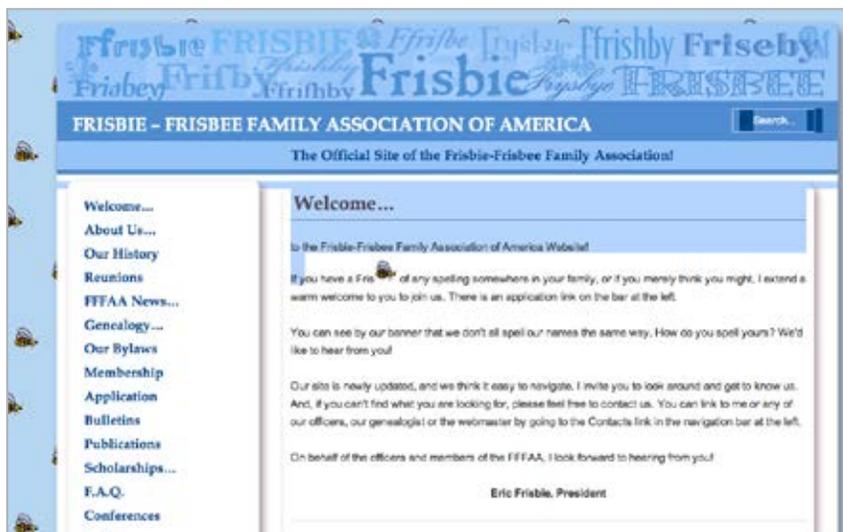
Under the direction of Olin Eli Frisbee of Comstock, New York, the Frisbie-Frisbee Family Association of America (FFFAA) was formed in 1950 with fifty-nine charter members. Frisbee was an avid genealogist with a keen desire to bring together his family contacts that spanned several decades. The group now includes various surname spellings, including Frisby.

The Association's *Bulletin* has changed throughout the years, but still provides its members with interesting family news. Copies of their periodical from January 1951 to Spring 2010 can be accessed on their [website](#).

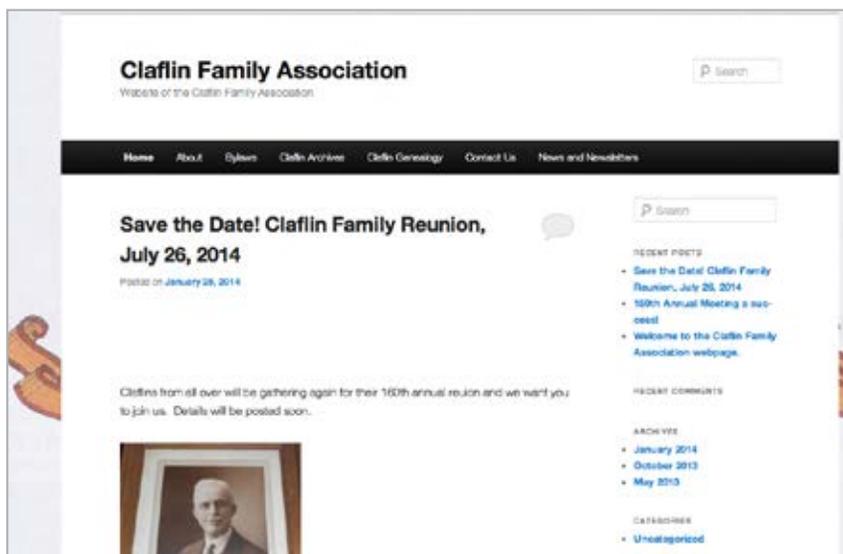
The Association holds reunions across the country, although mainly in the East. In the past, a favorite gathering place was Delaware County, New York, where two descendants of Edward S. Frisbee, Gideon, descendant of Edward's son, John, and Benjamin, descendant of Edward's son, Ebenezer, established their families.

The FFFAA 2014 gathering will be held in Pittsburgh. Check their website periodically for updated news about the event as details were not posted at the time this column was written.

In 1926 the genealogy of Edward S. Frisbee was revised and updated through the efforts of Olin Frisbee and Nora Frisbie. Nora died in 2002 and her enormous collection resides in Branford, Connecticut.



The Frisbie-Frisbee Family Association of America



The Clafin Family Association

The Clafin Family Association

The Clafin Family Association's members trace their family to Robert MacLachlan (Mackclothlan) of the Clan Maclachlan of Scotland. Robert married Joanna Warner on 14 October 1664 and

had eight children, Robert, Joanna, Elizabeth, Priscilla, Daniel, Abigail, Mary, and Antipas, born between 1667 and 1680.

Robert "Mackclothlan" was accepted as townsman of Wenham, Massachusetts, on 4 November 1661. He died before 19 September

1690, preceded by his wife Joanna. No record of her death has been found and she was not named in Robert's will.

The exact date of Robert's arrival in the colonies is unknown, but based on research, Robert most likely came as a Scottish prisoner of war, captured by Cromwell.

Claflins from all over will be gathering for their 160th annual reunion on 26 July 2014 and invite those interested to join them. Details will be posted on their [website](#) as they are available. Frank Russell Claflin, who died in 1936, bequeathed funds to support gatherings. The Association's 2013 gathering was held at the Claflin-Richards House, Wenham, Massachusetts.

The Association's newsletter, *Claflin Connection*, is sent to members twice a year. Sample issues can

be viewed online.

Interested individuals can download a copy of Charles Henry Wight's *Genealogy of the Claflin Family, 1661-1898*.

Revisited: Alden Kindred of America

The Alden Kindred of America was first mentioned in the Summer 2008 issue of FORUM. The Organization, founded in 1906, endeavors to preserve the legacy of the Pilgrims and to honor the memory of John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden, sometimes referred to as "America's First Couple."

A photo and map of the historic John Alden home in Duxbury, Massachusetts, is posted on the Kindred's [website](#), along with the [Alden Kindred Database](#), which includes entries for 54,191 descendants and spouses and 17,686

marriages. Visitors can easily click on a surname in the Surname List and access information posted in the Alden database.

The 114th Alden Kindred Annual Meeting is set for 2 August 2014. Though details were not yet available when this column was written, visit the Kindred's website for further details. Each year, the Kindred sponsors a scholarship to a graduating high school senior, who must be at the time of application, a member of the Kindred. This scholarship is named after Donnell B. Young, PhD, a long-time member and former president of the Kindred who died in 1989 at the age of 101.

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Taking Your Blog to a Genealogy Conference or Institute

By Amy Coffin

Genealogy blogging serves many purposes for authors and readers. Blogs are great ways to share ancestors and stories. They also act as journals to chronicle genealogy travels and adventures. Attending a genealogy conference or institute provides numerous writing opportunities both your readers and you will enjoy.

Conference coverage perks

With all the hectic activity that surrounds attending a genealogy event, why should one take the time to write about the experience? Blog readers at home will enjoy reading about your trip and they will tell you so in the comments. It opens a dialogue about genealogy and provides a little travelogue for those who can't attend. If you are writing for a genealogy society blog, your members will appreciate the group's perspective. Most importantly, you will have your good memories written down for future reference.

Before the event

Start writing about the conference or institute you are attending even before you arrive. Many large conferences offer news updates in the form of press releases. These usually feature information on events within the conference, hotel and venue information, or other details important for attendees to know. Feature these on your blog for easy and helpful content.

If you are a planner, go over the conference schedule and write about the classes you plan on attending, or activities you intend to pursue in the host city. The Federation of Genealogical Societies maintains a conference news [blog](#) that covers a wide variety of information and the latest updates related to their annual conference

Upon arrival

Break out the camera when you arrive in the host city of the conference or institute. Share photos of the area and local landmarks. When the conference center opens, take photos of the exhibit hall or other interesting settings. If you have a society blog, include photos of your booth or members of your group. Photo blog posts are easy and fun. They also help blog readers at home visualize the conference experience.

Blogging from the exhibit hall

If you are fortunate to attend a large genealogy event with a sizable exhibit area, you will have numerous topics to cover on your blog. Visit with the vendors. Spend time with them individually and ask questions about their products, new updates, and anything else in which you or your readers have an interest. Test genealogical databases and write about your impressions. Michelle Goodrum of *The Turning of Generations* [blog](#) attended RootsTech 2014, wandered the exhibit hall, and wrote about four of her favorite



Amy Coffin



smaller vendors. Exhibitors often save big announcements for conferences, so you may get a scoop on the latest genealogy news.

Coverage in the classroom

Blogging about the genealogy sessions you attend has some challenges, but it is also a favorite topic for readers at home. Lectures, slides, writings, and photos you encounter in genealogy sessions are almost always property of the speakers or they have negotiated permission to use them. Putting these items on your blog may infringe on the copyright of the original owner.

Use extreme caution when taking photos in and around sessions and lectures. Many speakers do not allow their sessions to be photographed. Ask permission before the class to

avoid misunderstandings and unhappy instructors.

When writing about a genealogy session, lightly cover the main ideas. Do not share all ten points of ten-point session. Instead share a couple highlights that resonated most with you. Also, include a brief personal takeaway of what you got out of the class.

Don't let the fear of copyright violation keep you from writing about conference sessions. Follow the example laid forth in the Australian [blog Family History Across the Seas](#). Paulen Cass (who goes by the moniker Cassmob) blogged about a busy day on a genealogy cruise with enough thorough coverage and detail to keep landlocked readers entertained.

Social scene

The social aspects of genealogy events are easy to blog about because they are so fun. Share about your experiences as ticketed lunches and banquet dinners. Who were the speakers? Who were your table-mates? Did you meet new friends? Write about the experience. Larger genealogy conferences often have offsite social events at museums, libraries, or local landmarks. Go enjoy these events and then describe them for those who did not attend.

Denise Levenick, better known as [The Family Curator](#) did a fantastic job of covering the social scene during the 2013 Federation of Genealogical Societies conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Her photos and descriptions really captured the great time that was had by attendees.

Blogger meet-ups

Genealogy bloggers are everywhere! If you attend any sort of sizable

family history conference or event, chances are fellow bloggers will also be there. You can find other blogging attendees by asking around through social media and conference blogs. Make plans to meet fellow bloggers at the event. Genealogists become fast friends when introduced.

Mavis Jones of *Conversations with My Ancestors* blogged about her first time attending the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society conference in 2013. When she learned an online friend and fellow genealogy blogger would be in attendance, she immediately made plans for a meet-up which she shared on her [blog](#).

Recap, reminisce, and read

Once the conference or institute is finished, there is still plenty of blogging to do. After you return home, take the time to reflect on what you learned and experienced. What was your favorite class? Which speaker resonated most with you? How was the exhibit hall? Each genealogy event is different, so you should find plenty to talk about.

After attending the 2014 Unlock the Past genealogy cruise, Sharn White answered the question "What did I learn on the 4th Unlock the Past cruise?" on her blog [FamilyHistory4u](#). White included all the types of things readers at home want to know. She discussed the sessions she attended and her takeaways from each, and included photos for visual appeal. Sharn also described the new information she garnered and how she's applying it to her own personal genealogy research.

Once you are finished chronicling your own experience, be sure to read the genealogy blogs of other attendees. Learn from your peers

who attended different classes with different perspectives.

Finding blogs belonging to conference and institute attendees can be challenging, but careful online searching may help. If the genealogy event has a dedicated hashtag, search for blogs using that keyword. You can also search by the name of the conference and year.

It is easier to read blogging coverage of larger genealogy events. Popular *Genea-Musings* blogger Randy Seaver usually gathers all the blog posts written by all the blogging attendees of the big conferences. Here is his [RootsTech 2014 Genealogy Blog Compendium](#), which lists the conference recaps and discussions of fifty-six genealogy blogging attendees.

Commit to conferences

If you have never been to a genealogy conference or institute, consider making one your next genealogy adventure. The handy website [Conference Keeper](#) provides a calendar of family history events around the globe. You can also search for FGS member society events by category at the [Society Events](#) page on the FGS [website](#).

Those attending the combined Federation of Genealogical Societies and RootsTech conferences 12–14 February 2015 in Salt Lake City have plenty of time and plenty of content for your genealogy blog. These tips and ideas will make your blog a favorite for readers and a treasured record of your family history pursuits.

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New England Historic Genealogical Society

Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC)

By Linda McCleary



RPAC has been very busy over the past few months. The restriction of the Social Security Death Master File (DMF) continues to concern the committee, professional genealogists, heir researchers, and genealogists across the nation. Former Senator Max Baucus, Montana (D), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, released a draft Tax Administration Reform bill in late 2013. Restrictions were noted on the Death Master File as contained in Subtitle B, Section 11. RPAC member, Ken Ryesky, drafted a response showing that the DMF is an important resource that helps prevent fraud and should be preserved. FGS Legal Advisor Frederick Moss, JD, LLM, wrote a response recommending the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) examine the results of the last Internal Revenue Service (IRS) filing period to see if the IRS had resolved the problem of tax fraud due to access to the DMF. The ten-page document highlighted the concerns genealogists have resulting in four main points:

1. We are anxious to support the effort to implement the provisions of the Bipartisan Budget Act requiring the Department of Commerce to develop a Certification Program governing access to the Death Master File. Genealogists who fit the (a-f) categories listed on pages 2–3 should be accommodated for quick certification. The genealogical community is a

vitaly interested stakeholder in this process.

2. As existing policy regarding public access to the DMF is reviewed, we urge that input from professional genealogists be sought. The members of the RPAC stand ready to assist in arranging for that input to both the Executive and Legislative branches. We can best be reached at access@fgs.org.
3. Our strongest message is that steps already taken by the IRS and genealogical entities to protect Social Security Numbers (SSN) listed in the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) may have already intercepted this particular form of identity theft without waiting for any additional legislation.
4. The SSNs of living people will remain vulnerable as long as the IRS mandate is to rush payments of tax refunds before information returns can be compared with the submitted return to assure its validity.

A Bipartisan Budget bill was passed and signed by President Obama in late 2013, restricting access to the DMF/SSDI for three years unless one is certified by the Department of Commerce. In addition to genealogists, university social scientists, life insurers, academic and medical researchers, and other financial organizations are also affected by the restrictions.

This legislation provides for a certification process that will allow *qualified* entities to receive more timely access than the three years' restriction, provided they can demonstrate both a legitimate need and also ensure proper controls regarding the secure storage, distribution, and usage of the death date. RPAC is supporting the repealing of Section 203 (three-year restriction). If this does not happen, then RPAC is requesting that approximately three thousand forensic genealogists be certified by the Secretary of Commerce so they may continue to perform essential services utilizing the DMF. Forensic genealogists assist the Department of Defense in locating heirs for repatriation of war remains, assist county coroners in the identification of unclaimed persons, work with attorneys in

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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locating missing and unknown heirs, trace and track inheritable medical conditions by locating distant cousins, repatriate stolen art and artifacts, and identify Native American blood quantum to determine eligibility for tribal benefits.

On another front, in late 2013/early 2014 a stakeholder meeting was scheduled to discuss the drafted rules for Public Access to Vital Records in Maine. Maine RPAC state liaison Helen Shaw submitted written comments and spoke on behalf of the Maine Genealogical Society, as did Jan Meisels Allen, on behalf of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), and Jan Alpert, on behalf of RPAC. Both Allen and Alpert attended by phone. Discussion revolved around how one would acquire a Maine researcher's card in order to do genealogical research, and what would be accepted as proof in membership in a Maine genealogical society. The requirement for genealogical societies to pay an annual fee was dropped. A suggestion was made to have applicants sign an ethics statement that included proper use of the records. The new Maine regulations restrict access to indices.

A highly informative RPAC State Liaison conference call was held in late January to inform new and old members of the work RPAC does in championing open records and preservation. There was strong emphasis on knowing how each member's state government runs, with examples of bill-making processes from select states. Thirteen state liaisons participated, as well as presenters Jan Alpert (RPAC chair), Jan Meisels Allen (IAJGS), and Frederick Moss (FGS).

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, announced the permanent closure of three National Archives facilities as part of a budget reduction move. The three facilities affected included the closure of the Anchorage, Alaska, facility, and the consolidations of the Philadelphia and Fort Worth, Texas, facilities. The closures and consolidations will result in an estimated annual cost savings of approximately \$1.3 million. The Alaska facility will move its archival records to the Seattle, Washington, facility, where the records will be digitized, allowing Alaskans to have access to their records via the Internet. Alaskan archives staff will be offered positions in other facilities. In Philadelphia, the 5,000 cubic feet of archival records stored at the City Center facilities on Market Street will move to the Townsend Road facility, where most of the archival records are already stored. In Fort Worth, the storefront facility at Montgomery Plaza will close, but employees will transfer to the John Burgess Drive location in 2016.

States



Connecticut: As of this writing, Senate Bill 414 is threatening to limit access to vital records currently open to researchers during business hours. The bill proposes: "A registrar of vital statistics may grant a genealogist immediate access to such records or may require a genealogist to schedule an appointment to access such records, at the registrar's discretion. A registrar requiring an appointment for access to such records shall schedule such

appointment as soon as reasonably practicable." RPAC has written a letter to support the Connecticut genealogical community.



Illinois: Kane County has a new [website](#) available for searching, purchasing, and downloading vital records files. Records include birth records beginning in 1855 (with an 85-year privacy restriction), death records from 1866 (with a 20-year privacy restriction), and marriage records beginning in 1836 (with a 50-year privacy restriction).



Oklahoma: House Bill 3028 will consolidate three departments, the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS), the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, and the Oklahoma Arts Council and create a new agency, the Department of Tourism, History, and Cultural Affairs. The bill will dissolve the historical society, transferring all its assets and funds to the Tourism Department, and will create the Oklahoma Historical Division, operated by an advisory group with no authority.

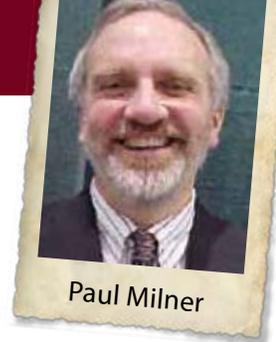


West Virginia: The West Virginia Records Management and Preservation Board awarded \$410,000 to thirty-six West Virginia counties to preserve and manage public records. Projects will improve management, storage conditions, access, and preservation of public records in county government offices. Some counties will digitize or microfilm records, while other counties will rebind and restore records.

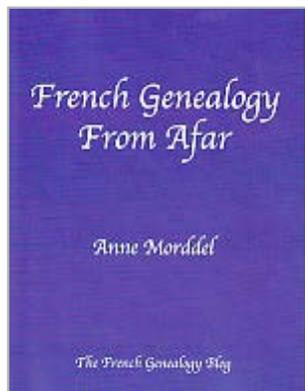
Book Reviews

By Paul Milner

Publications for review should be sent to Paul at 1548 Parkside, Park Ridge, IL 60068.



Paul Milner



French Genealogy From Afar.

By Anne Morddel.

Published by Anne Morddel,
21 rue des Lombards, 75004 Paris,
France. <http://www.french-genealogy.typepad.com>
or from <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/morddel>. 2013. vi,
173 pp. Illustrations. €22 or \$26

The stated audience of this book will likely fit the majority of readers of this review who have French connections—"It is assumed that you are an Anglophone, that you are descended from someone French, that you cannot easily travel to France to do your research, and that you have access to the Internet" (p. i).

Ms. Morddel has been writing *The French Genealogy Blog* since 2009, providing research guidance for Anglophones attempting to research their French ancestry from afar. The book therefore has to cover the basics and also give some guidance to those who have gotten beyond the basics. Highlighted is the fundamental requirement of a name, date, and place of an event before one can really start, for there are no national indexes or records. Speculative searching is therefore of limited use and will waste a lot of time.

The book opens with a good overview of some of the major issues a French researcher will need to understand: approximately 100 Departments (comparable to US States or Canadian Provinces, and

the number changed over time); maps; changing calendars (what a mess); name days and saints days; epidemics, wars, pestilence and their potential relationship to emigration. A strong emphasis is put on location so if a specific place is not known then a variety of clues are provided through potential family clues, such as food, drink, celebrations, lace caps, and names for the weather.

Ms. Morddel continues by explaining the value of the Departmental and Communal Archives. The book explains the relationship between and significance of the births, marriages, and deaths in civil and parish records. Explained are the contents of each of the records, how they changed over time and why more details will usually be found in the civil records. It highlights some major differences that US researchers will not have experienced before, such as the option for the parent/s to provide absolutely no information at the birth of the child that results not only in a brick wall, but rather a black hole with no way out.

An additionally large emphasis is put on mili-

tary records as so many men served, were registered, or emigrated because of avoiding military service. Other records discussed include: invitations and announcements, land records, census records, conscription lists, wills, town council minutes, and electoral lists.

The book closes with a discussion of the databases to be found at the National Archives, and the pros and cons of the major players within the online French genealogy community. The authors hold nothing back here describing what is good and bad about these sites.

This is a book designed to help family historians who read little or no French to get started on their French research. I decided to put the book to the test and try to find an ancestor. I knew William Dixon died 24 December 1824 in Tours, France, from English records. I was lucky in that I had a name, a specific date and a place, which I was not too sure how detailed the information was, given that it came from English sources. In one morning I had figured out which Department to look at;

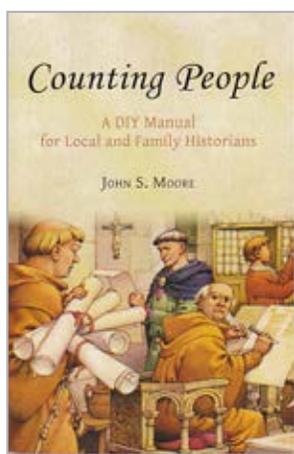
figured out where on the French website the *tables décennales* were located; searched the unindexed images to find William Dixon; figured out how and where to request a complete photocopy of the death registration; created an e-mail in English, converting it to French to get the information I hope

for and sent it off. After waiting a while I asked for help and found out that the image of the record I wanted was already online. Now I am getting help to translate the French handwriting.

The research process involved using different parts of the book, the links on the *French Genealogy*

Blog, and a language converter. But this beginner found this book absolutely necessary. If you want to start your French research, or need to add a guide for French research to your library this book is recommended.

Paul Milner
Park Ridge, Illinois



Counting the People: A DIY Manual for Local and Family Historians.
By John S. Moore. Published by Oxbow Books, Oxford, UK <http://www.oxbowbooks.com>. \$17.95. US Distributor: Casemate Academic, 908 Darby Road, Havertown PA 19083. <http://www.casemateacademic.com>. \$35. xii, 247 pp. Index. Softcover.

The book's introduction states that it is written for undergraduates and post-graduate students wishing to study local populations, and for those people interested in history who want to know more about the number of people in a particular area at some time in the past, how and why that number changed over time, what jobs these people had, the structure of their society, and its constituent households and families. As family historians this includes us and this book is certainly worth reading and using.

The introduction suggests reading the last chapter first, which I did. This chapter on researching, writing and publishing gets the reader thinking about the research process, with good questions to be asked along the way to get organized and get results. It is also designed to get the reader thinking about what end result is desired,

article, monograph, or book, for that will help determine where to look, how and why. The questions raised here help the reader focus their reading in the other chapters to meet their specific needs.

The book is targeting English demographers, those who want to work with population numbers, but that should not stop family historians using the same sources, though some will just contain just numerical data, still helpful, most are derived from and use personal or family data, and thus contain names. The first two chapters outline the problems and questions to be addressed in researching a specific geographic area (parish, village, town, or county) and the principal methods and sources to be used in addressing these questions. The remainder of the book is divided into three periods looking at the problems and sources to be used.

The first period covers the Middle Ages from 1066 to 1525. The second period is from 1538 to 1837 when parish registers are the main source for English population history. The final section covers 1801 through the present, when the census returns provide a reliable outline of demographic developments, obviously expanded from 1837 with reports from the Registrar General.

Professor Moore assumes no expertise exists apart from a genuine interest in the subject. This means that the specifics are well explained. This might be how names or numbers are recorded in the records and how they need to be modified to get to population figures appropriate for a demographer. For the family historian the author explains what it took to get on the list in the first place: specific age or income levels, land ownership, eligibility for military service,

etc. The book provides a detailed description of what records were created, why, and most importantly where to find the records and whether they may be in print or not. The latter is especially important as many of the original records will be in Latin, and on this side of the Atlantic it is easier to access print materials than to personally go look at the originals, though there are risks with that approach. Each chapter has extensive endnotes providing access to primary and secondary sources. Professor Moore practices what he describes with a case study for Frampton Cotterell in Gloucestershire, providing estimated population figures from 1086 through 1801. This highlights the many sources that do exist for many communities

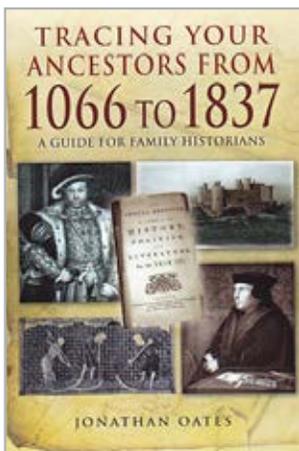
within England.

The section of the book I really appreciated was the extensive (57 pages), partially annotated bibliography. This in itself is divided into seven numbered sections: 1. introduction to local history; 2a. handwriting, 2b. language, 2c. dating, 2d. computing and history; 3. Anglo-Saxon England; 4. Domesday England; 5. Medieval England, 1135–1525; 6. Early Modern England 1525–1750; 7. Modern England, 1750–2011. Each time period sections are subdivided into sources, countryside, towns, population, and economic and social developments. The bibliography does not claim to be a comprehensive listing of all printed sources or studies based on these sources, but some

of the sections, e.g. local assizes, manorial records, feet of fines, lay subsidy rolls, are quite extensive. I have already been through this bibliography looking for sources I want to find.

This book will expose the family historian to many resources, some of which will be familiar. I will guarantee though that you will find sources here that you have not heard of, or used. This will be especially true for those researchers who have traced back into the Colonial period and are now jumping the Atlantic and wanting to know what records are available to go back into the Early Modern or Medieval period in English research. This is certainly a book worth exploring.

*Paul Milner
Park Ridge, Illinois*



Note: Book info appears on page 56.

This title is going to appeal to a lot of English researchers covering the period from the Norman Conquest in 1066 up to 1837 with ready availability of civil registration certificates and the modern census records. How does an English researcher go back in time when the “easy” work is done?

This book will guide them in their journey back in time. It is well-organized and the

chapters break down the records into manageable pieces. The book begins by looking at the relationship between the State and the Church in Medieval England (1066–1485), Tudor and Stuart England (1485–1714), and Hanoverian England (1714–1837). There are two chapters for the church: archiepiscopal and episcopal records, plus the parish. An additional two chapters cover the somewhat compli-

cated history of the court system, civil and criminal. Other chapters address: the professions, manorial records, property records, taxation, lists of people, and miscellaneous sources along with published sources and lists.

The book does a good job of providing an overview of what systems will have generated records and how they changed over the centuries. The book however is light in

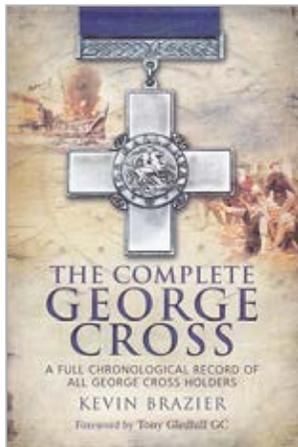
Tracing Your Ancestors from 1066 to 1837: A Guide for Family Historians. Published by Pen & Sword Family History, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2AS, UK. <http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk>. \$12.99. US Distributor: Casemate Publishers, 908 Darby Road, Havertown, PA 19083. <http://www.casemateathena.com>. 2012. xiii, 142 pp. Illustrations, index. Softcover. \$24.95.

terms of accessing the records, what specifically the records contain, and how to use them. I found myself wanting to know more. Most of the examples of indexes or records available are from the area of London, Middlesex or Essex, with an occasional reference to the north of England, generally in terms of how it differs from the south.

Mr. Oates does emphasize the fact that the search needs to go back one step at a time to make sure one is researching the correct family; that one should not suddenly jump back to a medieval source and expect to make a connection. Scattered throughout the text are some suggestions for reading, but they are not included in the bibliog-

raphy. The bibliography itself is short for a book that covers research across such a long period, and omits probably the best guide for English research in general, Mark Herber's *Ancestral Trails* along with a number of others that could have been added.

*Paul Milner
Park Ridge, Illinois*



The Complete George Cross: A Full Chronological Record of All George Cross Holders. By Kevin Brazier. Published by Pen & Sword Military, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2AS, UK. <http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk>. US Distributor: Casemate Publishers, 908 Darby Road, Havertown, PA 19083. <http://www.casematepublishing.com>. 2012. xiii, 242 pp. Illustrations. Hardcover. \$50.00.

The George Cross is the highest civilian decoration awarded for "acts of the greatest heroism in circumstances of extreme danger." The award was instituted in 1940 by King George VI to recognize men and women of the Commonwealth whose courage could not be marked by any other honor. It ranks alongside the Victoria Cross as the highest award possible. The first presentation took place at Buckingham Palace on 24 May 1941 to Mr. Thomas Alderson.

Prior to the creation of the George Cross other civilian gallantry awards existed: Empire Gallantry Award (EGM), instituted December 1922; Albert Medal (AM), instituted March 1866; and the Edward Medal (EM) (Mines, instituted July 1907 and Industry, instituted December 1909). All holders of

these medals had the option of exchanging their awards for the George Cross, many, but not all, did. Even if they did not exchange, all became holders of the George Cross and were entitled to all its privileges.

Through December 2011, 161 direct awards have been made, with a further 245 by exchange or indirect awards, for a total of 406 recipients. All are recognized in this volume. The book also reproduces the terms of the George Cross Warrant and its amendments so that if your family member is listed you know the rules under which the medal was or could be issued.

The book provides a chronological listing of all recipients identifying: recipient's rank or position at the time of the George Cross deed; their name in bold; if by exchange from which award; date of the

George Cross deed; burial location, though twenty are still alive, and if a grave location is not known it may identify where killed, though this may not have occurred while performing the George Cross deed; and present location of the medal if known, which may still be with the recipient, family or a specific museum. An alphabetic listing of recipients is also provided, indicating their medal of exchange, their number in the chronological listing, and a page number for specifics.

The bulk of the book provides details on the 406 award recipients. Each entry provides the name of the recipient in bold; the medal that was originally awarded; the place where the deed took place and when; a graphic description of the event, including all other people involved, some of whom

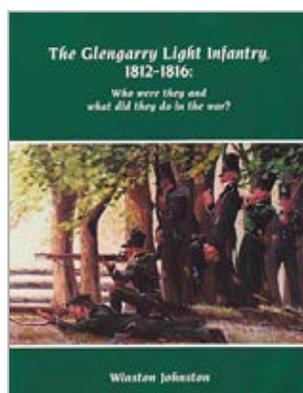
may also have received awards, and usually who was rescued; concluding with when and sometimes how or where they died. A reader then needs to turn to the earlier chronological listing to identify where the recipient is buried and where the medal is located.

It should be noted that a number of recipients are in the military, but received the award for heroism not under enemy fire, for example, rescuing other soldiers injured in a mine field, or trying to put out fires around explosives. Photographs of thirty-

eight of the recipients are included.

The stories of heroism recorded in this book are very moving, are worth reading, and will fascinate anyone with an interest in British medals.

*Paul Milner
Park Ridge, Illinois*



The Glengarry Light Infantry, 1812–1816: Who were they and what they do in the war? Revised edition. By Winston Johnston. Published by the author: 63 Newland Crescent, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island C1A 4H6, Canada. 2011. xii, 477 pp. Illustrations, index, maps. Softcover. CAN\$35.

The goal of the project that resulted in this book was to identify and study as many original documents as possible describing the Glengarry Light Infantry, more formerly known as the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencible Regiment, a regular British army regiment and not a militia unit. All the manuscripts, letters, and pieces of information were collated into this thorough and very readable account.

One of the myths behind the regiment is that it was recruited primarily from the loyal Highland Scots of Glengarry County. Reality is very different because the soldiers were recruited from areas of British North America that are now Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. There were Scots, but also others from England, Ireland, Germany, Italy, and even the United States. During the brief life of the regiment over fourteen hundred

men served in the ranks.

The book opens with a fascinating account of how the soldiers were recruited by the potential officers, with rank often being dependent upon how many men they recruited. The recruiting district of each officer is identified. All officers are identified with brief career summaries, giving their age, previous military experience, date of seniority, date of promotion, and whether they were a casualty. Later in the book biographies of all the officers are provided, with portraits of some of them.

The book continues with chapters on conditions in the service which uses official records to describe life in the service addressing: how the men were paid; what their weapons were; how they were dressed; their kit; how they moved over long distances; what barrack life was like; what they ate; the effect on their families; how they were taken care of when ill; how

they were disciplined; and the role of substitutes. This is a fascinating look at life in a British regiment during the War of 1812.

The regiment was involved in a variety of campaigns: attack on French Mills, New York; capture of Ogdensburg; Battle of York; Battle of Fort George; attack on Sackett's Harbor, New York; Battle at Stoney Creek; capture of Oswego, New York; Battle of Lundy's Lane; siege of Fort Erie; engagement at Cook's Mills; and miscellaneous engagements where small groups of men from the regiment were involved. The maps that accompanied these battlefield descriptions were especially helpful focusing on the position and movement of the regiment, and where they fit into the bigger picture. The battle details make for good reading, especially if you have a soldier from the regiment involved.

There is a chapter addressing the issue of

casualties, with separate listings for deserters, death from non-combat causes, prisoners of war, missing, wounded, and fatalities. The individual lists provide the name of the soldier, a date of the event, and which engagement it occurred in along with any additional remarks. These tables are a gold mine for the family historian wanting details on their soldier.

A major chapter provides biographies of all the officers along with a tabular listing off all fourteen hundred other ranks who have been identified from any record as serving in

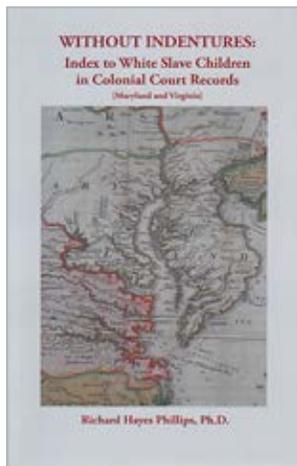
the regiment. This table includes: their name; place of birth (usually country or province in Canada, though there are many gaps); age, depot and date of enlistment; date of discharge (or cause of removal from roster, desertion, death, etc.); other regiments in which they may have served; occupation; and whether a land grant was received in either Upper or Lower Canada.

The bibliography for this book with its 2,700 manuscripts, letters, and rosters in English and Canadian repositories, along with secondary publica-

tions is very impressive. A lot of work has been undertaken to locate these sources on both sides of the Atlantic, and can provide an excellent example of what can be accomplished.

This book is highly recommended if you want to understand the recruitment, formation, and life within a British army regiment during the War of 1812. For those with soldiers in the regiment you have found a treasure trove of documented information.

*Paul Milner
Park Ridge, Illinois*



Without Indentures: Index to White Slave Children in Colonial Court Records (Maryland and Virginia).
By Richard Hayes Phillips.
Published by
Genealogical Publishing,
3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260,
Baltimore MD 21211.
<http://www.genealogical.com>.
2013. xxxvii, 283 pp. Illustrations,
index. Softcover. \$29.95

In the over five thousand children identified in these court records, John Lyme is unique, for when he appeared in court in 1690, he managed to get a petition on the record in the county court stating he had actually been “spirited out of his native land.” In other words, he had been kidnapped. The other children, although most likely kidnapped, are not recorded as such. However, what happens in court suggest they have been kidnapped, because they arrive without any signed letter of indenture, which would normally give their ages. They come to court to have their ages adjudged, in effect recorded. These

ages are commonly less than they actually are so that they end up serving a longer period of servitude.

The book’s introduction explains what the laws were in England, Scotland, and Ireland as well as Maryland and Virginia with all laws regarding kidnapping merging in 1659 so that kidnapping was legal and local justices being given the power to kidnap and transport to the colonies. Reading these laws carefully will assist researchers in understanding why and how children could be kidnapped and how carefully adjudging their ages defined how long they were to serve.

A typical entry from

Middlesex County, Virginia, reads Milner, Edward, 6 May 1678, age 16, Christopher Robinson, “coming into this Country in ye Shipp, Release.” This means that Edward Milner appeared in Middlesex County on 6 May 1678. He was adjudged to be age 16, which was probably lower than his actual age, meaning he would serve a longer period of servitude. His master was Christopher Robinson, who is identified as of the “Gentleman Justices” for the county. This record does not show if he was sitting on the court bench that day, but it is unlikely that any judge would have gone against one of his peers in believ-

ing the word of a young white slave. This entry tells that he came to Virginia about the ship *Releise*, which made voyages to Middlesex County in 1677, 1678, and 1685.

Not all county court records have survived for Virginia and Maryland in this period but there are records for the Maryland counties of Somerset, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Kent, Cecil, and Dorchester, Baltimore, Ann Arun-

del, Prince George's, and Charles; plus the Virginia counties of Northampton, Accomack, Stafford, Westmoreland, Northumberland, Lancaster, Old Rappahannock, Richmond, Essex, Middlesex, York, Charles City, Henrico, Surry, Isle of Wight, Norfolk, and Princess Anne.

Given the large numbers of children who appeared in court, and this is not them all, these surviving court records may help

explain how your ancestor arrived, and why you can't find any parents or place of origin. A good deal of work has been undertaken to compile these lists, primarily from published transcriptions, with all sources clearly identified. It is the introductory legal explanation at the beginning that makes the transcripts understandable.

*Paul Milner
Park Ridge, Illinois*



Genealogy at a Glance: Court Records. By Wendy Bebout Elliott. Published by Genealogical Publishing, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore MD 21211. <http://www.genealogical.com>. 2013. 4 pp. Laminated. \$8.95

Like many in the *Genealogy at a Glance* series, this folder addressing court records is full of good, practical advice provided by a seasoned experienced researcher. The opening overview highlights the four types of legal cases typically found within the courts: probate, distribution of a decedent's assets and the administration of estates; civil, noncriminal cases, including those involving libel, disagreements over contracts, property damage, child custody, divorce, etc.; criminal, involving the violation of laws to protect the safety and welfare of individuals, such as assault, murder, theft, etc.; and equity, involving disputes between individuals but not involving violation of laws. The folder reminds us just how many different

court actions could impact the lives of our ancestors: indenture an apprentice; adoption; bastardy; guardianship; marriage; divorce; citizenship and naturalization; land and property disputes; road, bridge, and mill construction and care; recording of deeds and wills; witchcraft; business licenses and bonds; care of the poor and widows; and more. The point being that it is highly probable our ancestors will be in court records somewhere.

The folder points the researcher towards resources to help one understand the complicated American court system, how it changed through time and location, and identifying records likely to have been created. Suggestions are given on how to perform searches in these voluminous records,

and alternatives when you cannot make an on-site visit. Appropriate warnings are given about the potential weaknesses from published materials, along with alternatives when the records are lost, damaged or misplaced.

The major types of court records are described in detail focusing on probate, adoption, county activities, land, and naturalization records. The major websites that will provide guidance, inventories, or indexes of personal names are listed, as is information on major repositories.

It is so easy to overlook specific records in a courthouse and this easy-to-take-along folder will act as a good reminder of what to search for.

*Paul Milner
Park Ridge, Illinois*



The People of Ireland 1600–1699, Part Three. By David Dobson. Published by Clearfield Publishing, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore MD 21211. <http://www.genealogical.com>. 2011. vii, 100 pp. Softcover. \$20.50

Most Irish historians attempting to do seventeenth century research will know many of the records typically used have been destroyed, were never created in the first place, or were created late in the period. Irish researchers therefore spend a lot of time looking for alternative published or manuscript sources. This volume, like its predecessors, extracts data from Irish, Scottish, and Dutch archives. A number of the sources, print and manuscript are the same as in the earlier volumes, raising the question of how far along in the extraction process Mr. Dobson is, and thus how many more volumes in the series. No indication is provided in the brief introduction. In theory no Scots-Irish are included as these are included in other volumes, but the criteria for inclusion or exclusion are

not defined.

Let me select two entries to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of this compilation, with bold as used in the book:

BARON, EDMOND, of Clonmel, pardoned for the killing of **David Griffith**, 29 July 1625 [CPRireland.1.44]

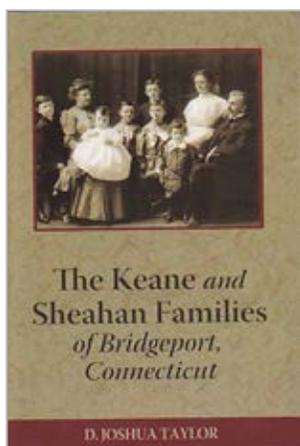
BUTLER, KATHERINE, late wife of **Brian McDonogh Cavanagh**, in County Carlow, now wife of **George Comerford**, 26 July 1627 [CPRireland.1.222]

The strength is that it identifies a specific person, in alphabetical order, in a specific place, often with a relationship mentioned, especially family members or associates, and includes a specific reference for you to find the source and see if there is more information. Both these examples

come from the Calendar of State Papers Ireland Series, a common reference in this volume. The disadvantage is there is no index to the secondary names within the entries, nor do these people have entries of their own, even though they were obviously identified, and often present in Ireland. In the latter example this can be a serious problem for it is often the men who are being traced with the hope of identifying the spouse, yet in this example we need to know the wife's full name before the husbands can be identified and this book cannot be used to identify the wife without reading all entries.

If you have seventeenth century Irish ancestors this book may provide the name and link you are seeking but it will be a lucky dip.

*Paul Milner,
Park Ridge, Illinois*



Note: Book info appears on page 61.

Daniel Keane (ca 1832–1886) born Kilclocher Townland, parish of Kilballyowen, County Clare, Ireland married Margaret Keane about 1854, probably from County Clare are the progenitors of the John Francis Keane family of Bridgeport. Even this one sentence shows that the specifics on the Irish immigrants have not been fully documented. The

first section of the book gives a general history of the area in County Clare and presents some suppositions about the Keane families in the area, of which there are many. The latter part of that section does provide a good case study on how to use the Valuation and Revision books to put a family specifically on the ground in Ireland at a given time period, in this case just

prior to emigrating. This section does highlight what can and cannot be assumed from the family's presence in the records.

The second part of the book describes the family's settlement in Sandy Hook, Newtown, Fairfield County, Connecticut, highlighting involvement in the family clothing and furnishings store. A chapter presents the families work ethic and tradition of education.

The Keane and Sheahan Families of Bridgeport, Connecticut.
 By D. Joshua Taylor. Published by Newbury Street Press.
 Available from New England Historic Genealogical Society Sales Dept., 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston MA 02116. <http://www.AmericanAncestors.org>. 2013. xii, 200 pp. Illustrations, index. Hardcover. \$44.95.

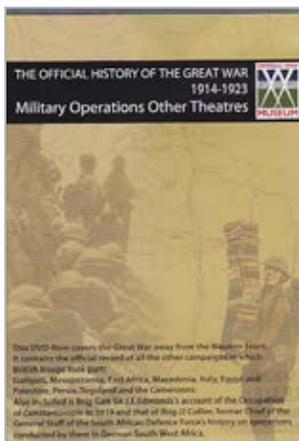
The third section presents the genealogy of the descendants of Daniel and Margaret (Keane) Keane. This section is easy to locate as it is positioned between two sets of inserts of numerous family photographs on glossy paper. The first set of inserted photos focuses on the older generations and includes some period contextual images from Ireland and Newport. The second set focuses on the

more recent and current generations. An appendix presents the genealogy of the Geary/Sheahan families. Another impressive appendix provides extracted transcripts of the conversation with the children of John and Victoire (Le Caron) Keane carried out by family historian Maureen Taylor. The transcript includes both the questions and the responses from the children and

serves as a model of what might be done for your own family history. The book uses endnotes and is fully indexed.

This is a nicely produced family history, includes the Irish immigrant, highlights the problems of researching further back in time, but focuses on the descendants and their journey in America.

Paul Milner
 Park Ridge, Illinois



DVD-ROM

The Official History of the Great War 1914–1918. Military Operations – Other Theatres.
 Published by The Naval & Military Press, Ltd. Unit 10, Ridgewood Industrial Park, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 5QE, UK. <http://www.naval-military-press.com>. 2011. DVD-ROM. \$225.

When opening the program, a menu is provided for: the official histories; about the official histories; about the maps; about NMP (the producing company); help and exit. The published volumes are every-word searchable PDFs. The maps require the installation of *ER Viewer* software, but this provides the flexibility to zoom in and examine closely these high-quality images.

Choosing *The Official Histories* gives an images that looks like a book shelf containing the individual volumes for the different theatres: Constantinople (1); East Africa (1); Egypt and Palestine (3 plus map case); German South West Africa (1 plus map case); Gallipoli (4 plus map case); Macedonia (2 plus map case); Persia (1); Italy

1915–1919 (1 plus map case); Mesopotamia (4 plus map case); Togoland and the Cameroons (1 plus map case). Hovering over the title page of any of the volumes produces an enlarged image of the title page which includes a description of the period or campaigns covered in that specific volume. Opening up a volume, opens up *Adobe Reader* with a search panel that allows you to search for any word within the volume, e.g., a specific place or regiment, or you can search across all volumes simultaneously. After searching, selecting that option takes you to the specific document page and the search word will be highlighted. You can also use the indexes within the volumes themselves, which is helpful when a regiment is involved in a specific

campaign but it may not be specifically mentioned on the page. A human being has created that index.

The books are large and contain the military and political details of what was happening in a given locality, often on a day by day basis, showing how things changed and why. Much of this material would be difficult, if not impossible, to obtain from other sources.

The section entitled *About the Official Histories* is a copy of what is printed in the booklet that accompanies the DVD and is a fascinating read, for it highlights why so few of these publications are available, even in major British libraries. For example, the single volume *Operations in Persia* was written in 1929, and 150 copies were

sent to the Government of India who had originally commissioned the volume but were marked “secret,” and another fifty “confidential” copies were distributed to certain libraries in England. Additionally, the volume for the Occupation of Constantinople was written in 1944 but not published until 2010.

The Help section provides two short videos on working with the histories and working with the maps.

The recommended system requirements are Windows 7, XP, or Vista with 512 MB RAM installed with a 4x speed

DVD drive. Note that the product is not Mac OS or Linux compatible. There is one potentially confusing issue with this DVD and that is the program has to be closed and exited before other PDFs on the computer can be viewed. I have been informed that has something to do with the security measures on the DVD.

There is a lot of rare material on this DVD, with complete sets being rare in British institutions, and even individual volumes rare in North American institutions. The price may seem high but for the serious student

of World War One, or for a society with such a focus then this would be a good addition to the collection. This is the companion DVD to the *Official History of the Great War 1914-1918 – Military Operations in France and Belgium, Transportation on the Western Front & Occupation of the Rhineland* that was published in 2010 and reviewed in the *FGS FORUM* Volume 24, Number. 1, Spring 2012 issue. Both DVD’s cover all British military operations during the Great War.

*Paul Milner
Park Ridge, Illinois*

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