



Volume 4, Issue 1, January 2018

Check out our website: <http://www.txbcgs.org/>



Program for January 16, 2018

The program for January 16 is to be determined.

Check the Bell County Genealogical Society's Facebook page for updates on the program.

Treasurer's Report for 31 Dec 2017

Bank balance as of 30 Nov 2017	\$ 115.36
Income in Dec	\$ 32.00
Expenses in Dec	\$ 17.33
Balance as of 31 Dec 2017	\$ 130.03

OFFICERS 2018-19

President: David Yeilding

1st VP-Programs: Nancy Kelsey & Kathy Taylor

2nd VP-Reporter: Linda Judd

Secretary: Becky McEntire

Treasurer: Terry Tyler

Historian: Juanita Jones

The Bell County Genealogical Society meets monthly, January through December, on the 3rd Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m., McLane Room, Third Floor, Temple Public Library, Temple, Texas. Take elevator to the Third Floor, walk down hallway to the McLane Room (take hallway to the right after exiting elevator and continue down hallway to large glass doors).

Bell County Genealogical Society (BCGS)
Minutes for December 19, 2017

The minutes for December 19, 2017, will be available at the January meeting.

The following article is a copy of an article that appeared in the New York Times, July 27, 2017, in an article written by J. D. Biersdorfer.

Finding Your Roots, Free

Q. Why do genealogy sites charge money for access to public records that are supposedly free? Is there any easy way to get to this information anyway?

A. Viewing public records is typically free if you go to the municipal or religious archives and look them up yourself, or the organization has digitized and posted them. However, if a genealogy company took the time to scan paper-based records from various sources around the world, index them and make it easy to search through mountains of material from the comfort of your own home, you will mostly likely be charged at some point.

A company's custom software for creating a visual family tree and access to community forums are also perks of being a paid customer. Many of the bigger services, like [Ancestry](#) and [MyHeritage](#), have a free trial membership you can use to see if a subscription is worth it to you. But you may be asked to provide a credit card up front.

Continued on p. 3



Continued from p. 2

You can find many types of public records free online with some searching. For example, the [National Archives](#) site has a “[Resources for Genealogists](#)” page with links to [research guides](#) and [free online databases](#) like passenger lists from the [Ellis Island immigration center](#) and the scanned images from the [1940 census](#). If you are using a computer within [one of the National Archives buildings](#) around the country, you can [browse the records in several of the subscription services free](#); some libraries may also have free access.

[FamilySearch.org](#), a free site run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has a big collection of digitized records available online for general use, too. (Knowledge of ancestral history is [part of Mormon ideology](#)).

The online [Genealogy In Time](#) magazine has [a list of the top 100 family research sites](#). You can also find news and resources there, like a [genealogy search engine](#) page that can plow through four billion free records.

Website address for this article:

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/25/technology/personaltech/finding-your-roots-free.html?
rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FGenealogy&action=click&contentCollection=timestopics®ion=
stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=7&pgtype=collection](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/25/technology/personaltech/finding-your-roots-free.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FGenealogy&action=click&contentCollection=timestopics®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=7&pgtype=collection)



Texas Czech Genealogical Society (TCGS) is hosting Keeping Alive and Cheating Death

January 27, 2018 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Caldwell Civic and Visitor Center, 103 Texas Hwy, 21 West, Caldwell, Tx 77836

The program on sharing and preserving family health information and records and understanding the genealogical aspects of DNA and DNA results is open to anyone interested.

Register by credit card at <https://squareup.com/store/TXCZGS/item/registration> or mail registration form (see www.txczgs.org) and check to Carroll Brincefield, PO Box 45, Hallettsville, TX 77964.

Earlybird Deadline: Postmarked on/before January 13. Member (TXCZGS) \$35; non-member \$40. Regular Deadline: Postmarked between Jan 14-19 (\$40 and \$45); Registration at Door: For all attendees not registered by January 19th is \$50 (member and non-member)

Texas Czech Genealogical Society (TCGS) website: <http://txczgs.org/>. Check website for forms and additional information!

P. S. Registration fee for January 19 TCGS event includes a catered lunch.

Bell County Genealogical Society Dues

Please pay your dues as quickly as possible in 2018. Our dues are nominal but highly important to us.

ANNUAL DUES: \$12.00 per individual; \$15.00 per family. Dues cover the period 1 January through 31 December and are payable January 1 of each year.

Members may pay one's dues at the January 2018 meeting or mail them to the Bell County Genealogical Society Treasurer; P. O. Box 1493; Temple, Tx 76503-1493.

TO JOIN: Please complete and mail a [Membership Form](#) with your check or money order payable to Bell County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1493, Temple, TX 76503-1493.

To OBTAIN A MEMBERSHIP FORM: Visit our website at <http://www.txbcgs.org/home.html>, click on the JOIN link, and click on the Membership Form link. Print the form, complete it, and mail it to the address shown above and on the form.