The Bell County Genealogical Society (BCGS) publishes this quarterly newsletter for the benefit of members and anyone interested in genealogy. The publication is intended to support the society’s goal to promote genealogical research and preservation of records to perpetuate the memory of our ancestors and their contributions to the cultural heritage of our country.

BCGS, formed in 1991 under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, is a partner society of Texas State Genealogical Society. Locally, the society supports Temple Public Library.

The society meets on the third Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the McLane Room (third floor) at Temple Public Library, 100 West Adams Avenue, in Temple. Each meeting opens with an introduction of new members and visitors followed by a general session and a speaker or activity of genealogical or historical interest.

BCGS is for everyone, from the beginner to the advanced genealogist. Information about membership is available in this newsletter and at our website www.txbcgs.org.

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

This is our first newsletter since January 2018 and the first following our new quarterly schedule. We will appreciate your feedback concerning the content and ask that you contribute ideas for future issues.

During 2018, all of our programs (except for December) include a presentation by Lisa Louise Cooke, the owner of Genealogy Gems, a genealogy and family history multi-media company. Cooke is well respected for her genealogical expertise as a speaker and author, and her presentations are available to us through the society's subscription to her premium service Genealogy Gems for Societies. Each of her presentations provides valuable tips and techniques for genealogists. I encourage you to attend our meetings and take advantage of the opportunity to benefit from Cooke’s expertise.

I invite you to stay in touch with BCGS through our Facebook page and our website that includes a full meeting schedule, research links, photos, and information about upcoming genealogy-related events.

David Yeilding

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Resolving three common conflicting evidence problems in genealogy

Resolving conflicting evidence in genealogy research is sometimes difficult. Some types of conflicting evidence we come across are common. Here are some tips to resolving three of the most common conflicting records and why they exist.

I joke about our recent “cookie incident” here at home. No one wanted to fess up to who ate all the cookies, but it didn’t take long to evaluate the evidence and come up with the culprit. The trail of crumbs, the height at which the cookies were stored, and who was home at the time, were just a few of the ways in which I came to a sound conclusion.

As genealogists, we have to weigh disagreeing or conflicting evidence all the time. Maybe you have two records giving two different birth dates for a great-great grandmother. Whatever the conflict, here are some tips to resolving three of the most common conflicts and why they exist.

**ITEM 1: RESOLVING A BIRTH DATE CONFLICT**

I have found numerous birth date conflicts in my personal family history. Some reasons may include:

- Transcription errors
- Delayed recording
- Lying to protect the couple from embarrassment of a pre-marriage pregnancy
- Engraving mistake on the tombstone
- To avoid a military draft

These are just a few of the many reasons why you may find a conflicting birth date. Resolving a birth date conflict, or any genealogical data conflict, may be possible by remembering the following:

*The record recorded nearest the time of the event, by those who have first-hand knowledge, is typically considered the most reliable source.*

Here’s an example. Nancy Blevins Witt has two possible birth dates. Using her death record, we can only calculate a birth date based on her age-at-death given in years, months, and days. That calculated birth date would be 19 Nov 1890. However, the date of birth recorded on the 1900 U.S. Federal Census is October 1890, and we were never able to find a birth record. Which birth month is likely correct, October or November?

To make this determination, we will need to consider the following:

1. A death record has an informant. Who was the informant of Nancy’s death record? Did this person have first-hand knowledge of her birth, such as a parent? In this case, the informant was her uncle. There is no way to know if the uncle was present at the time of her birth, but he was alive at the time.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)
RESOLVING THREE COMMON CONFLICTING EVIDENCE PROBLEMS IN GENEALOGY
(CONTINUED)

2. Who was the likely informant of the 1900 census? Was that a person with first-hand knowledge of Nancy’s date of birth? We can’t be absolutely sure, but we could suppose that Nancy’s mother was the one who gave the census taker that information. Since the mother was obviously present at the time of Nancy’s birth, we would consider her a reliable witness to the event of Nancy’s birth.

3. Do any of these informants have a reason to lie? Is there something, like money, to be gained by providing a certain birth date? The answer is no.

We can say that the likely accurate date of birth for Nancy is October 1890. Of course, we want to make note of both the records and the discrepancies in our personal database and remember that it is always possible a new piece of evidence will pop up that makes us re-evaluate this assumption.

ITEM 2: RESOLVING A MARRIAGE DATE CONFLICT

Marriage date conflicts can be found for a variety of reasons as well. Some of these reasons may include:

- Transcription error
- Delayed recording
- Lying to avoid an embarrassing situation
- Altering the date for the benefit of widows pension

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Places to find a marriage date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marriage license or record</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marriage certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wedding or anniversary</td>
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<tr>
<td>announcement in newspaper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obituary</td>
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</table>

Again, these are just a few of the reasons for a marriage date conflict.

In this next example, John and Eliza are said to have married about 1857. Unfortunately, no actual marriage record was ever found.

There are however, two sources for a marriage date. Both of these sources are found in the War of 1812 Pension Application Files which was viewed online at Fold3.com. A War of 1812 Pension Application is a great place to find marriage information. The widow would have needed to prove that she was indeed the widow of the veteran before being able to receive her pension. Widows sometimes supplied actual marriage certificates, or like Eliza, they may have included affidavits instead.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)
RESOLVING THREE COMMON CONFLICTING EVIDENCE PROBLEMS IN GENEALOGY
(CONTINUED)

This pension file for Eliza contained two documents, the first of which was an affidavit given by Eliza herself stating that she and “Jackson Cole” were married in March 1857 in Harlan, Kentucky by Stephen Daniel. Sadly, throughout the application, Eliza changes dates, ages, and names making us wary of whether her information is accurate. She had also been denied pension once before, and this was her second attempt. Because this is a pension and dealt with money allocation, and because she had been denied before, there is a reason for her to lie or fudge dates and details of the facts to meet certain criteria. We will want to take this into consideration. The second document is an affidavit from Stephen Daniel who states he married the couple in 1854.

Now, we want to further evaluate the two sources.

• Stephen has nothing to gain (i.e. money, land, etc.)
• Both Eliza and Stephen had first-hand knowledge of the event.
• They were both remembering this marriage event and testifying to it almost 45 years later.
• Stephen was a minister who married perhaps hundreds of couples.
• Eliza only ever married once.

Who do you think would most likely remember the date of marriage? If you said Eliza, I think you are right. Further, the fact that Eliza had her first child about 1857 is also a strong indication that a marriage had taken place fairly recently. Based on all these reasons, we could assume the most likely date of marriage was March 1857.

ITEM 3: RESOLVING A DEATH DATE CONFLICT

Reasons for conflicting death dates may include:

• Transcription error
• Engraving mistake on the tombstone
• Delayed recording
• Misprint in a newspaper obituary or biographical sketch

An example of a conflicting death date might be that an obituary says the person died on 20 February 1899, but the death record and tombstone give the date as 19 Feb 1899. We all know that newspapers are notorious for misprints. Further, a death record indicating the death date of 20 February 1899 is a record typically made on or near the date of death. This is typically when information is most fresh in the minds of the informants. A newspaper article, however, could have been printed days or even weeks later.

Reprinted with permission from Lisa Louise Cooke’s Genealogy Gems at www.GenealogyGems.com, home of the free Genealogy Gems Podcast. This article is available to BCGS through subscription to Ms. Cooke’s premium service Genealogy Gems for Societies.
GET TO KNOW THE BELL COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Bell County Historical Commission (BCHC) is the arm of county government that supports preservation of the historical heritage of the county. Bell County Judge Jon H. Burrows and the Commissioners Court appoint members to the commission.

All BCHC members volunteer their time to the organization, including service with committees and special projects. Two of the commission’s Standing Committees involve the identification and improvement of neglected cemeteries and the preparation and coordination of applications to Texas Historical Commission for placement of markers at sites around the county.

The BCHC office is in the Historic Courthouse in Belton. Members staff the office Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon and are available to answer questions concerning Bell County history and families.

Regular meetings of the BCHC are at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month (except December) in the first floor courtroom of the Historic Courthouse at 101 E. Central Avenue in Belton. Meetings are open to the public and guests are welcomed.

The commission recently elected new officers following the resignation of Thomas Hughes from his position as Chair. New officers are Shirley Holleman of Temple, Chair; Nancy Kelsey of Belton, Vice-Chair; Sandy Mason of Belton, Secretary; and Kathy Taylor of near Holland, Treasurer.

Chair Nancy Holleman provides leadership, focuses and maintains the work of the commission, and collaborates with others to accomplish the mission of the organization. Holleman is active in the community and with several lineage-based organizations, including Betty Martin Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR).

Vice-Chair Nancy Kelsey works closely with the Chair to facilitate achieving BCHC goals. Kelsey chairs the BCHC Cemetery Committee. An avid genealogist, she is co-first vice president of Bell County Genealogical Society (BCGS), and a member of Texas State Genealogy Society and Betty Martin Chapter NSDAR. She volunteers with several local organizations, including the Belton Police Department.

As Secretary, Sandy Mason maintains accurate records of the discussions and actions of the organization. Mason is a long-time resident of the county and volunteers her time with organizations focused on historic preservation.

Treasurer Kathy Taylor is responsible for understanding and representing the financial status of the BCHC and working with other members to make sound financial decisions on behalf of the organization. She serves on the BCHC Cemetery Committee. She is interested in history and forensic genealogy and belongs to multiple genealogy-related organizations including BCGS, where she is co-first vice president and previously held the offices of president and treasurer.

Bell County Judge Jon H. Burrows was on hand at the Historic Courthouse in Belton to congratulate newly appointed officers of the Bell County Historical Commission (from left) Shirley Holleman, Burrows, and BCGS members Nancy Kelsey and Kathy Taylor.
In addition to their involvement and support as members of BCGS, Jalenn Ellis, Gloria Harris, Nancy Kelsey, Kathy Taylor, Judy Tyler, and Terry Tyler are members of the Bell County Historical Commission and comprise the Cemetery Committee. The committee supports the commission’s mission to identify and improve neglected cemeteries. The Bell County Work Release Program provides assistance with clearing and maintaining cemeteries. The group is very active, and Committee Chair Nancy Kelsey reported that Gloria Harris, Judy Tyler, and Terry Tyler recently cleaned the McBryde-Hoover Cemetery near Killeen.

**The Census of 1860**

The following is an extract of a humorous article printed in the only known issue of the *Kimball Herald*, a newspaper published on May 20, 1860, at the village of Kimball in Bosque County. Identified as an “excellent take-off on the questions proposed to be asked by the takers of the census of 1860, has been variously credited to the *Buffalo Express* and the *Cleveland Plaindealer,*” some of the questions in the piece included:

- What is your age?
- Where were you born?
- Are you married, if so, how do you like it?
- How many children have you, and do they sufficiently resemble you as to preclude the possibility of their belonging to any of your neighbors?
- Did you ever have the measles, and if so how many?
- Have you a twin brother several years older than yourself?
- Have you parents, and if so how many of them?
- Were you and your wife worth anything when married, and if not, what proportion of her things were your’n and your things her’n?
- Were you ever in the penitentiary?
- Are you troubled with biles?
- How many empty bottles have you in the house?
- How does your meerschaum color? [For those of you as curious about this one as we were, this is apparently a reference to a meerschaum pipe, a smoking pipe made from the mineral sepiolite. From the Wikipedia website, we learned that “when smoked, meerschaum pipes gradually change color, and old meerschaum pipes will turn incremental shades of yellow, orange, red, and amber from the base on up...”]

The article concluded with advice that “Persons liable to be “censussed” will do well to cut the above out and put it up in a conspicuous place.”

On a serious note, while some might view responding to the federal census as tedious or intrusive, the information collected serves valuable purposes. The United States House of Representatives and Electoral College are numbered based on the number of constituents in their state, and Article 1 Section 2 of the Constitution mandates an official count of the population for this purpose. Census data also helps the government to determine where various types of services such as welfare and housing are needed. Not to mention the value of the information to genealogists!
STRATEGIES FOR USING TAX RECORDS IN GENEALOGY

Website (www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com) editor’s note: Genealogical.com recently reprinted Emily Anne Croom’s excellent manual, *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research*. The Sleuth Book is brimming with wonderful checklists, case studies, and novel approaches for using any number of genealogical source records. Ms. Croom’s book is so full of useful information, we’re quite fortunate to be able to excerpt it here on our blog. The following post discusses strategies for using tax records in genealogy, sources where you can find the information, as well as why the information is, in the cases of some states, priceless in your search:

“He was excited. **Excited and happy, like a dog which has followed a cold trail for a long time, and suddenly finds it a hot one.**”

– Nurse Detective Hilda Adams about Inspector Patton 68

Research in tax records has produced this reaction of excitement for many genealogists and has resulted in many “hot trails.” A number of states and towns have preserved tax records that date to their early years; others have not been so diligent. Nevertheless, the genealogist needs to use them whenever they exist. They are particularly valuable for research in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, and early West Virginia when it was part of Virginia. The surviving records are usually found in county courthouses or in state archives. Many have been microfilmed and are available from the Family History Library.

Tax records are kin to land records because residents paid taxes on land they owned, as well as on slaves, horses, cattle, oxen, personal property, and luxury items such as clocks and carriages. In some cases, specific items were taxed in a given year, such as certain items of furniture, mirrors, and window curtains in Virginia in 1815. Sometimes, as in Virginia, the land tax records and personal property tax records are separate. People who owned no land could still have paid poll taxes (head taxes) on themselves, slaves, or sons of taxable age. Widows were not normally taxed except on their land and slaves, although men of taxable age in their households were taxed.

Following the existing tax rolls for a given ancestor over a period of years can give the researcher quite a bit of information. Yet, each state had its own laws, forms, and lists of taxable property. Free men could begin being taxed when they became 16 or 18 or 21 years old, depending on the state and the time period. Slaves were often classified in the tax rolls in age groups, such as those under 12, 12 to 16, over 16, or 16 to 55. These categories also varied from place to place and year to year. Usually, the tax laws designated an age after which a person was exempt from certain taxes.

**INFORMATION SOMETIMES FOUND IN TAX RECORDS:**

What kind of information, in general, may be shown in these records? Below are some of the standard column headings, but these vary from state to state, even from year to year:

1. Name of the person charged with the tax, usually the head of household
2. Names of free men of color being taxed
3. Number, and sometimes names, of taxable free white males in the household

(continued on next page)
STRATEGIES FOR USING TAX RECORDS IN GENEALOGY
(CONTINUED)

4. Number of acres of land owned, sometimes with location information – adjoining neighbors, watercourse, distance from the courthouse, or district number
5. Name of original grantee of land
6. Number of slaves in the household each year, sometimes with their names
7. Rent received on rented property
8. Number of horses, oxen, or cattle owned
9. Value of land, slaves, or other taxable property
10. Amount of tax paid

WHAT OTHER INFORMATION MIGHT THE GENEALOGIST GLEAN FROM STUDYING SOME TAX ROLLS?

1. Relationships, either expressed, deduced, or suggested
2. Suggestions of birth order among sons in a family, depending on when they first were named or became a head of household
3. Suggestions of death year or moving, when someone no longer was listed, when an estate was listed, when someone was named as guardian of the children or administrator of an estate, or when someone is taxed for the property formerly belonging to another person
4. Occupations, expressed or implied by paying license fee
5. Suggestions of family groups of slaves, when, over the years, the same slaves were named in a household; sometimes, slaves’ ages
6. Changes in a person’s net worth or lifestyle, expressed in changes in the number of slaves, livestock, and luxury items
7. Preliminary identification of neighbors by studying adjoining landowners and watercourses, or when the tax collector dated each entry and it appears that he visited the households in person.

This article originally appeared on the blog www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com on April 9, 2015.

HOW-TO VIDEOS AT FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

From the website FamilySearch.org: if a basic search at their site is the only approach you use to find your ancestors, you might be missing out on a lot of potential discoveries. The records you can find by performing basic searches represent only a small portion of what is available on FamilySearch. In fact, 77 percent of the free historical records on FamilySearch.org can’t be found by searching. That’s a lot of information about your family just waiting to be discovered! In order to tap into these hard-to-find records, you’ll need to know how to use resources like unindexed image collections and the FamilySearch catalog, as well as some more advanced search features.

A new video presentation is available from Robert Kehrer, senior product manager for FamilySearch’s search and hinting technologies. This tutorial will walk you step-by-step through the process of locating elusive records in your family history research. If you haven’t found what you’re looking for using FamilySearch’s basic search tool, don’t give up. There are many other ways for you to access information about your family that you may not have known before. Go to “Finding Elusive Records on FamilySearch” to learn these valuable research skills and break through the roadblocks on your family tree.
SURNAME RESEARCH

Georgia Downey (gjd12000@yahoo.com) - Riley, Beene, Moore, Hill, Vannoy, Spencer, Breedlove, Graves, McEwen, Davison, Kuykendall, Embree, Adair.

Lonnie Moore (lonnie@lonniemoore.com) - Moore, Horton, Knight, Lancaster.

James E. (Jim) Bridges (bridgework@aol.com) - Wright, Kelsey/Kelsey/Kelcy. My great grandfather E. A. or A. E. Wright was adopted by his stepfather Kelsey after the death of his own father and the remarriage of his mother. I am seeking info on that relationship and the burial place of Alexander Edwin Wright.

Kathleen Trautman (kathleenst@mac.com) - Smith, Robey, Mead, Price, Carothers, Watson, Henderson, Gillespie, Calloway, Webb, Cowan, Blewett.

Brenda McGuire (bmguire7679@gmail.com) - Goates, Bingham, Logsdon, Pilcher.

Marilyn Fleisher (news@saladovillagevoice.com) - Fritsch, Richards, Beadle.

Rich Trautman (trautmanrich@gmail.com) - Trautman, Stone, Lovelady.

Ronald Neubert (singtoswing@gmail.com) - Neubert and Zoellner (both of German extraction).


Ginny Parsons (ginnyguinn@yahoo.com) - Barnes, Brown, Davis, Dearman, Dobson, Durden, Fry, Galyon, Guinn, Killian, O'Connor/O'Conner, O'Neal/O'Neil/O'Neill, Otis, Parks, Rhode, Ryan, Simpson, Tuberty/Tubridy/Tubirdy, Vick, and Ward.

Jennifer Schwenker (junder4@aol.com) - Teaff, Shipp, Jones, and Bawcom.

Submit your list of surnames and contact email address to info@txbcgs.org for inclusion in future newsletters.

DID YOU KNOW

The Bell County Historical Commission maintains a copy of obituaries published in The Belton Journal from 1913 through 1967. The collection is indexed by surname. A copy of the index is available for search at www.txbcgs.org/research.html.

Direct a request for a copy of an obituary to the commission. Visit their office, in the courthouse at 101 E. Central Avenue (first floor, room 305) in Belton, staffed by volunteers Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., or call 254-933-5917. Contact them by email at HistoricalCommission@bellcounty.texas.gov, or through the mail at P.O. Box 712, Belton, TX 76513-0712.
UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS

APRIL 17 - COMMON SURNAME SEARCH SECRETS
(Lisa Louise Cooke presentation)
Discover tips and tricks to find your ancestors with common surnames and surnames that double as common words in the English language with Google. Learn how to weed out irrelevant search results to save time and get to what you want faster. Then save and automate your searches to run for you! You will not only improve your searches but also improve the chances that the information you post online will be found by other genealogists facilitating collaboration!

MAY 15 - FINDING LIVING RELATIVES: UNLEASH YOUR INNER PRIVATE EYE TO FIND LIVING RELATIVES
(Lisa Louise Cooke presentation)
Learn the techniques that Private Investigators use to track down missing people. These strategies will help you find those elusive living relatives who just may hold the key to your brick wall or possess that treasured photo you have been looking for.

JUNE 19 - NEWSPAPERS: GETTING THE SCOOP ON YOUR ANCESTORS IN NEWSPAPERS
(Lisa Louise Cooke presentation)
Yearning to “read all about it?” Newspapers are a fantastic source of research leads, information, and historical context for your family history. Learn the specialized approach that is required to achieve success in locating the news on your ancestors.

Suggestions for future programs are welcomed and should be sent by email to bcgsprograms@gmail.com.

IN MEMORY OF CRYSTAL CALBREATH
Our friend and fellow member of BCGS passed away on March 13, 2018. Crystal was an active member of our society and regularly attended meetings. An avid genealogy researcher, she enjoyed attending workshops and seminars, including the annual Texas State Genealogical Society’s Family History Conference. She was always eager to lend a hand to other researchers, and she assisted with local genealogy workshops. We miss her.
Bartlett native Early A. Limmer, Jr. (1920-2008), a local historian and genealogist, began his genealogy research when he was very young. In 1991, the Texas House of Representatives recognized his preservation efforts, designating him "a living cultural and historical resource because of his time and talents to advance the cultural and historical enrichment of Bell County and his contribution to the heritage of Texas." The vast amount of information he accumulated about his family is now in the archive at the library.
PHOTOS
(CONTINUED)

During our meeting in December 2017, Bell County Genealogical Society Officers and Committee Chairs for 2018-2019 gathered for a photo following the installation ceremony. Member Brenda McGuire conducted the ceremony and related the duties of each position to a popular board game. Pictured (from left) are David Yeilding, Nancy Kelsey, Kathy Taylor, Linda Judd, Becky McEntire, Terry Tyler, Juanita Jones, Jalenn Ellis, and Ginny Parsons.

Several BCGS members attended the Williamson County Genealogical Society's Annual Seminar in Round Rock in March 2018. Pictured (from left) are Carole Owen, Kathy Taylor, event speaker Drew Smith, Brenda McGuire, and Mary Duke.
MINUTES OF MEETINGS

JANUARY 2018 - Meeting canceled due to inclement weather.

FEBRUARY 2018

David Yeilding, president, called the regular meeting of the Bell County Genealogical Society to order at 6:30 p.m. on February 20, 2018. There were twenty-five officers, members, and guests in attendance.

Officers: Nancy Kelsey, first vice-president, programs; Kathy Taylor, first vice-president, programs; Linda Judd, second vice-president, reporter; Becky McEntire, secretary, Terry Tyler, treasurer; and Juanita Jones, historian.

Members: Ginny Parsons, Donnie Yeilding, Troy Brooks, Sally Tietje, Brenda McGuire, Bonnie Smith, Mary Hodge, Betty and John Burt, Kathleen and Rich Trautman, Carole Owen, Jalenn Ellis, Gloria Harris, and Judy Tyler.

Guests: Crystal Delao, Linda Rawls, and Dee Ann and Nolan Compton.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer Terry Tyler’s report required no action and will be filed.

Juanita Jones explained that the society retains a copy of the Texas State Genealogical Society publication “Stirpes” in the BCGS archives at the Temple Public Library.

Ginny Parsons announced publication of the next quarterly newsletter to occur in April – approximately one week prior to the April meeting. She requested copies of the secretary’s minutes and the treasurer’s reports for January through March be sent to her in early April for inclusion in the newsletter.

Ginny Parsons reported approximately 300 visits to the BCGS website during January 2018. She asked for notification by email from anyone concerned with having his or her picture posted on the website.

David Yeilding discussed renewal of the society’s account with godaddy.com for the society’s website. A total of $150 is required for one year (beginning February 28, 2018) of hosting and software used to maintain content. Kathy Taylor motioned to renew the GoDaddy account, and Brenda McGuire seconded. The motion carried.

Technical difficulties precluded the showing of our program. Attendees shared information about upcoming genealogy-related events and discussed research experiences.

Kathy Taylor showed the new BCGS logo and provided information about availability and pricing for the logo on shirts.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Becky McEntire, Secretary

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)
David Yeilding, president, called the regular meeting of the Bell County Genealogical Society to order at 6:30 p.m. on March 20, 2018. There were twenty-six officers, members, and guests in attendance.

Officers: David Yeilding, president; Nancy Kelsey, first vice-president, programs; Kathy Taylor, first vice-president, programs; Linda Judd, second vice-president, reporter; Becky McEntire, secretary, Terry Tyler, treasurer; and Juanita Jones, historian.

Members: Donnie Yeilding, Sally Tietje, Brenda McGuire, Bonnie Smith, Mary Hodge, Kathleen and Rich Trautman, Carole Owen, Jalenn Ellis, Gloria Harris, Judy Tyler, Marsha Noonan, Ruth Perry, and Pat Allen.

Guests: Linda Rawls, Susan and Bruce Gordon, and Lana and Ricky Copp.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer Terry Tyler’s report required no action and will be filed.

Juanita Jones explained that the society retains a copy of the Texas State Genealogical Society publication “Stirpes” in the BCGS archives at the Temple Public Library, and she asked those interested in donating an issue for the file to coordinate with her.

Nancy Kelsey provided status of the project with Temple Public Library to prepare a finding aide for the E. A. Limmer Collection.

David Yeilding reported for Ginny Parsons that the website received approximately 182 visits in February, and the payment to GoDaddy for one year of hosting processed on February 28. He also reported payment of annual dues to Texas State Genealogical Society by BCGS as a partner society.

Linda Judd reported that the Research Committee recently received two requests for help finding obituaries and burials, and she stated that help to respond to these requests is voluntary and appreciated.

The agenda did not include any unfinished business to address.

The video titled “Brick Walls: Cold Case Investigative Techniques” was viewed and discussed. A handout on the topic was also distributed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p. m.

Following the meeting, those who remained viewed the presentation titled “Sanborn Fire Maps.”

Becky McEntire, Secretary
## TREASURER REPORTS

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| **February 2018** |                |                |
| Beginning Balance | $169.03        |                |
| Credits          | $209.00        |                |
| Debits           | $0             |                |
| Ending Balance   | $378.03        |                |

| **March 2018**   |                |                |
| Beginning Balance | $378.03        |                |
| Credits          | $99.00         |                |
| Debits           | $0             |                |
| Ending Balance   | $477.03        |                |

Texas State Genealogical Society is planning their Family History Conference for November 2-4, 2018, in San Antonio at the Omni San Antonio at the Colonnade. Click [here](#) for details as they are available.
DATE: _____________________________________________________________

NAME(S): __________________________________________________________

MAILING ADDRESS: __________________________________________________

TELEPHONE: _________________________________________________________

EMAIL: _____________________________________________________________

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH): $_____________________

FAMILY SURNAMES AND LOCALITIES OF INTEREST TO YOU (NEED NOT LIMIT TO BELL COUNTY OR TEXAS):
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(CONTINUE ON REVERSE IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

MEMBERSHIP: Membership is open to all persons who have attained their twelvth birthday, are willing to abide by the by-laws, and are willing to support the society by service on committees. Members are encouraged to submit the surnames and localities they are researching.

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.

TO JOIN: Please complete and mail this Membership Form with your check or money order payable to Bell County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1493, Temple, TX 76503-1493. Alternatively, consider bringing your form with you to one of our meetings.

NOTE: Current members may use this Membership Form to update their personal information. Please note that it is important that the society has current contact information, particularly in the event a meeting is canceled.
BCGS OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

An elected Executive Board is the governing body of BCGS, and standing and special committees are appointed by the society’s president.

OFFICERS

President – David Yeilding

First Vice-President (Programs) – Nancy Kelsey and Kathy Taylor

Second Vice-President (Reporter) – Linda Judd

Secretary – Becky McEntire

Treasurer – Terry Tyler

Historian – Juanita Jones

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Door Prizes – Richard Trautman

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Refreshments – Jalenn Ellis

Website & Newsletter – Ginny Parsons

Visit us at our website www.txbcgs.org and on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/120501541316366/)

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

The BCGS newsletter is published quarterly by editor Ginny Parsons. Send comments, questions, and suggestions for content to info@txbcgs.org.

LOOK FOR OUR SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER IN JULY!