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.

I am pleased to present our Summer newsletter. In addition to information and tips for genealogical research, this issue includes an article that may be helpful to those considering DNA testing. You will notice that this issue does not include the monthly meeting minutes and treasurer reports. From now on, we will distribute those items separately by email.

Please consider writing an article of genealogical interest for future newsletters. Perhaps you have had a particularly exciting find or have research techniques or resources to share. Coordinate your submission with our newsletter editor Ginny Parsons.

Our program coordinators are preparing for future meetings and will appreciate your feedback about this year’s programs and any recommendations you may have for next year. Your input will help us as we work to provide programs of interest for our members and guests.

We have received several requests for research assistance in recent months. Thanks to members who have donated their time to respond to those requests. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I hope to see everyone at our monthly meetings. As a reminder, each of our programs this year include an on-line presentation by genealogy expert Lisa Louise Cooke.

David Yeilding

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Order a BCGS polo shirt! See page 7 for details.
**WHAT IS GENETIC ANCESTRY TESTING?**

Genetic ancestry testing, or genetic genealogy, is a way for people interested in family history (genealogy) to go beyond what they can learn from relatives or from historical documentation. Examination of DNA variations can provide clues about where a person's ancestors might have come from and about relationships between families. Certain patterns of genetic variation are often shared among people of particular backgrounds. The more closely related two individuals, families, or populations are, the more patterns of variation they typically share.

Three types of genetic ancestry testing are commonly used for genealogy:

**Y chromosome testing:** Variations in the Y chromosome, passed exclusively from father to son, can be used to explore ancestry in the direct male line. Y chromosome testing can only be done on males, because females do not have a Y chromosome. However, women interested in this type of genetic testing sometimes recruit a male relative to have the test done. Because the Y chromosome is passed on in the same pattern as are family names in many cultures, Y chromosome testing is often used to investigate questions such as whether two families with the same surname are related.

**Mitochondrial DNA testing:** This type of testing identifies genetic variations in mitochondrial DNA. Although most DNA is packaged in chromosomes within the cell nucleus, cell structures called mitochondria also have a small amount of their own DNA (known as mitochondrial DNA). Both males and females have mitochondrial DNA, which is passed on from their mothers, so this type of testing can be used by either sex. It provides information about the direct female ancestral line. Mitochondrial DNA testing can be useful for genealogy because it preserves information about female ancestors that may be lost from the historical record because of the way surnames are often passed down.

**Single nucleotide polymorphism testing:** These tests evaluate large numbers of variations (single nucleotide polymorphisms or SNPs) across a person’s entire genome. The results are compared with those of others who have taken the tests to provide an estimate of a person's ethnic background. For example, the pattern of SNPs might indicate that a person's ancestry is approximately 50 percent African, 25 percent European, 20 percent Asian, and 5 percent unknown. Genealogists use this type of test because Y chromosome and mitochondrial DNA test results, which represent only single ancestral lines, do not capture the overall ethnic background of an individual.

Genetic ancestry testing has a number of limitations. Test providers compare individuals' test results to different databases of previous tests, so ethnicity estimates may not be consistent from one provider to another. Also, because most human populations have migrated many times throughout their history and mixed with nearby groups, ethnicity estimates based on genetic testing may differ from an individual's expectations. In ethnic groups with a smaller range of genetic variation due to the group's size and history, most members share many SNPs, and it may be difficult to distinguish people who have a relatively recent common ancestor, such as fourth cousins, from the group as a whole.

Genetic ancestry testing is offered by several companies and organizations. Most companies provide online forums and other services to allow people who have been tested to share and discuss their results with others, which may allow them to discover previously unknown relationships. On a larger scale, combined genetic ancestry test results from many people can be used by scientists to explore the history of populations as they arose, migrated, and mixed with other groups.

*Courtesy: National Human Genome Research Institute and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.*
In your quest to discover your family history it might be time to take another look at FamilySearch’s online offerings. The genealogy giant’s free online databases of digitized historical documents have now surpassed 2 billion images of genealogy records with millions more being added weekly from countries around the world. Nonprofit FamilySearch, a global leader in historical genealogy records preservation and access, announced the milestone today.

Last September FamilySearch transitioned from its microfilm circulation services to a new digital model that makes its massive genealogical records collections more broadly and readily accessible online. Today’s announcement reinforces its continuing commitment to grow online genealogy resources. FamilySearch currently adds over 300 million new images a year online from its microfilm to digital and field operations efforts.

The free genealogy records include censuses, birth, marriage, death, court, immigration and other document types that are invaluable for individuals to make personal family history discoveries and connections. A host of online volunteers, partners, and emerging technologies help to eventually create searchable name indexes to the images, but in the meantime, images (digital photos) can be browsed and saved.

The digital image only collections can be viewed at FamilySearch in three points of access:

- The **catalog** includes a description of all microfilms and digital images in FamilySearch images. New images from field operations or digitized microfilms are added daily.

- Historical **records** include collections that have searchable name databases or some waypoints to help in browsing unindexed images.

- **Books** include digital copies of local histories and published genealogies from the FamilySearch Family History Library in Salt Lake City and other affiliate libraries. This includes many books that were previously preserved on microfilm.

FamilySearch traces its preservation work to 1938 when its forerunner, the Genealogical Society of Utah, began microfilming historical genealogy documents. Eighty years later, the preservation science has changed from microfilming to digital preservation which creates convenient access to anyone with an internet connection. Today, FamilySearch has over 300 mobile digitization teams with specialized cameras, filming genealogy documents on location from archives worldwide. It also partners with libraries and societies to digitize their historical books and other relevant publications.

FamilySearch has billions more indexed records that are searchable by name online, and robust, free collaborative Family Tree and Memories features and mobile apps. To explore its records and images and these services, simply create a free account and start searching.
SEVEN COMMON HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS

It feels great to find an ancestor in the newspaper—whether it’s in an obituary, marriage announcement, or other type of notice. But sometimes historical newspapers used abbreviations and terms that are no longer common, leaving some of us scratching our heads. To help you get the most out of historical newspapers, we’ve come up with a list of some of the most common abbreviations and terms:

Relict – This term is used to describe a surviving spouse, often a widow. It comes from the Latin term “relictus,” meaning “relinquished” or “left behind.”

Née – This term is French and means “born.” It is used to indicate a woman’s maiden name.

Instant (Inst.) – This is used to refer to the current month. For example, a newspaper article published in December that says “12th inst.” means December 12th.

Proximo (Prox.) – Essentially meaning “next,” this is used in newspapers to indicate the upcoming month. So “12th prox.” in a December newspaper would mean January 12th.

Ultimo (Ult.) – This refers to the previous month. A December newspaper that says “12th ult.” is referring to November 12th.

Old style/New style (O.S./N.S.) – These terms refer to dates that are either prior to approximately 1752 (“old style”) or after about 1752 (“new style”). This is because in 1752, Britain (including its American colonies) adopted the Gregorian calendar, which resulted in skipping 11 days that year. To make matters even more complicated, the first of the year was moved from March to January. So to remove confusion, newspapers around the time of the change included “O.S” or “N.S” to indicate which system was being used for the dates they provided.

Name abbreviations – Name abbreviations are common in old newspapers. Some abbreviations are merely the first few letters of the name followed by a period, while others are contractions (the first part of the name plus the final letter). Some abbreviations are derived from the name’s Latin equivalent, which makes them a bit trickier to decipher. Below are the most common name abbreviations:

Chas – Charles; Wm – William; Geo. – George; Jno – John; Jas – James; Thos – Thomas

We hope you found the explanation of these terms and abbreviations useful! Get started searching or browsing historical (and modern!) papers on Newspapers.com.

This article was posted at Fishwrap – The official blog of Newspapers.com – on April 12, 2018

Suggest that anyone interested in Texas newspaper research visit these websites:

The Portal to Texas History - A gateway to rare, historical, and primary source materials from or about Texas. Created and maintained by the University of North Texas Libraries, the Portal leverages the power of hundreds of content partners across the state to provide a vibrant, growing collection of resources.

The Ancestor Hunt - Texas Online Historical Newspapers Summary includes links to free online archives of newspapers published in many towns and cities across Texas.
I recently received a message from a newsletter reader that disturbed me a bit. He wrote, “I have been doing genealogy research for 10-15 years but only through the Internet.” He then went on to describe some of the frustrations he has encountered trying to find information. In short, he was disappointed at how little information he has found online.

I read the entire message, but my eyes kept jumping back to the words in his first sentence: “... but only through the Internet.” Doesn’t he realize that 95% of the information of interest to genealogists is not yet available on the Internet?

To be sure, many of the biggest and most valuable resources are now available online, including national census records, the Social Security Death Index, military pension applications, draft cards, many passenger lists, land patent databases, and more.

The national databases were the “low hanging fruit” a few years ago as the providers of online information rushed to place large genealogy databases online. These huge collections benefited a lot of genealogists; these databases were the first to become indexed, digitized, and placed online. We all should be thankful that these databases are easily available today and are in common use.

As the national databases became available to all, the online providers moved on to digitize regional and statewide information. State or provincial censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records (which originally were recorded in many local and state courts), county histories, and much, much more are still being placed online.

Of course, this is great news for genealogists who cannot easily travel to the locations where the original records are kept. For many of us, this is even better than having information on microfilm. Most of us don’t have microfilm readers at home, but we do have computers.

Yet, I am guessing that 95% of the information of interest to genealogists has not yet been digitized. Why would anyone want to look for genealogy information “... only through the Internet?”

State censuses, birth records, marriage records, death records, naturalization records, county histories, and more are all “work in progress” projects. That is, they are not yet complete. In fact, I doubt if all of them will be available online for at least another two decades! If you only look online, you are missing a lot.

In many cases, church parish records, local tax lists, school records, land records (other than Federal land grants), and many more records are not yet available online and probably won’t be available for many years. If you are limiting yourself to “... only through the Internet,” you are missing 95% of the available information.

If you have the luxury of living near the places where your ancestors lived, I’d suggest you jump in an automobile and drive to the repositories where those records are kept. There is nothing that matches the feeling of holding original records in your hand. Make photocopies or scan them or take pictures of them or do whatever is possible to collect images of the original records.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)
Are You Missing Most of the Available Genealogy Information? (continued)


This article appeared in Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter (http://www.eogn.com/) on June 12, 2018

Published in 1896, the author of this article speculated that the “mania for genealogical research” and “fad to trace the family tree” was perhaps caused by those hoping to become heirs to large fortunes or by young men looking to benefit from connection to a “good family tree”. He might be surprised at the lucrative business spawned by the fad and the mania surrounding family tree research continues more than a century later.

This article appeared in The Temple Times on June 12, 1896

Texas State Genealogical Society is planning a Family History Conference for November 2-4, 2018, in San Antonio at the Omni San Antonio at the Colonnade. Click here for details.
SURNAME RESEARCH

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

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

James E. (Jim) Bridges (bridgework@aol.com) – Wright and 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, and Blewett.

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

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

Rich Trautman (trutmanrich@gmail.com) - Trautman, Stone, and 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.

BCGS POLO SHIRTS

Shirts are 50/50 cotton/polyester and available in a variety of colors and sizes with the BCGS logo embroidered just below the collar on the front. To order, email Kathy Taylor at diamondt.kathy@yahoo.com and put “BCGS Polo Shirt” in the subject.

Colors: The official color of the society’s polo shirts is hunter green with the logo in white. However, shirts are available in other colors. Email Kathy for availability.

Sizes and pricing: Men/unisex SM-XL $17; Women SM-XL $18*; Men 2XL & 3XL $19; Women 2XL & 3XL $20*. Please email Kathy for availability and prices of larger sizes.

*Shirts for women run small, and Kathy suggests you order at least one size larger than you normally wear. Shirts for women are more fitted than the men/unisex sizes. If you like a roomier fit, Kathy suggests you order the unisex size.
UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS

**JULY 17 - NEWSPAPERS: GETTING THE SCOOP PART 2: TECH TOOLS FOR NEWSPAPERS**  
(Lisa Louise Cooke presentation)  
Includes three cool tech tools you have likely never used before!

**AUGUST 21 - HARD DRIVE ORGANIZATION PART 1 & PART 2**  
(Lisa Louise Cooke presentation)  
In this two-part video series, you will learn how to implement a proven hard drive organizational system ideal for genealogists. You will be spending less time searching for files on your computer, and more time searching for ancestors!

**SEPTEMBER 18 - GENEALOGY ON THE GO WITH THE iPAD**  
(Lisa Louise Cooke presentation)  
Technology has brought much more than the convenience of digitized genealogical records to our home computers. It has also delivered an incredible level of portability to family history research! The iPad is built for hitting the road and is ideally suited for genealogy due to the sleek lightweight size, gorgeous graphics, and myriad of apps and tools. In this class, you will discover the top apps and best practices that will make your iPad a genealogical powerhouse!

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

**DID YOU KNOW**

The Legislature of the State of Texas enacted the creation and organization of Bell County in January 1850. The Commissioners of Bell County established Nolandsville (now Belton) as the county seat.

*This article appeared in The South-Western American (Austin) on August 16, 1850*
PHOTOS

At the Bell County Historical Commission meeting in Belton on April 23, 2018, are (from left) Brett Whitesell, Bell County Sheriff’s Work Release Program; Shirley Holleman, BCHC Chair; and BCHC Cemetery Committee members Nancy Kelsey, Jalenn Ellis, Judy Tyler, Terry Tyler, and Kathy Taylor. The Sheriff's Office works with the committee to clear and maintain cemeteries throughout the county. Kelsey, Ellis, the Tylers, and Taylor are also members of BCGS.

BCGS members Mary Duke, Nancy Kelsey, and Kathy Taylor attended the Austin Genealogical Society's Seminar featuring speaker Blaine Bettinger, the Genetic Genealogist, in Austin on May 11 and 12, 2018. Pictured (from left) are Duke, Kelsey, Bettinger, and Taylor.
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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(on continue on reverse if more space is needed)

MEMBERSHIP: Membership is open to all persons who have attained their twelfth 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
Facebook – James Bozeman
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 FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER IN OCTOBER!