



BELL COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Issue 4, Winter 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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.

Happy New Year 2020! I wish everyone a year filled with prosperity, joy, and good finds researching ancestors.

Our beginning genealogy seminar on November 2, 2019, at Temple Public Library was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who helped with and attended this event.

As we do every year, we ended 2019 with a Christmas party. We enjoyed the food and hearing stories of members' past Christmases and family traditions. Thanks to those who attended and to David Yeilding who installed our new officers.

Organizing the contents of three vertical file cabinets in the Genealogy Room at Temple Public Library is yet to be accomplished. We will be gathering at a date and time to be determined (but in the near future) to work on this project. Please consider helping with this effort.

The file containing our recently approved revised by-laws is available for download from the "About Us" section of the main page of our website (www.txbcgs.org).

We are developing a schedule for this year's meeting programs and welcome suggestions. Please contact me or submit your ideas by email to bcgsprograms@gmail.com.

I look forward to serving this next term as president of our society and hope to see everyone at our meetings.

Judy Tyler

IN THIS ISSUE:

- DESTRUCTION OF THE 1890 CENSUS ([PAGE 2](#))
- EIGHT STEPS FOR TELLING YOUR ANCESTOR'S LIFE STORY WITH NEWSPAPERS ([PAGE 3](#))
- BE A PART OF HISTORY ([PAGE 5](#))
- DID YOU KNOW ([PAGE 6](#))
- UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS ([PAGE 6](#))
- SURNAME RESEARCH ([PAGE 7](#))
- BCGS MEMBERSHIP FORM ([PAGE 8](#))
- BCGS OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS ([PAGE 9](#))

Order a BCGS polo shirt! See [page 5](#) for details.

DESTRUCTION OF THE 1890 CENSUS

Genealogists and historians have lamented the loss of the 1890 census for more than a century. When researchers inquire about the 1890 census, their questions are quickly dismissed with the explanation that a fire destroyed the records. The truth, however, is more complicated. The 1890 census records did sustain extensive smoke and water damage in two different fires (1896 and 1921), but the damaged records sat languishing in a warehouse until the 1930s when Congress ordered their destruction.

The 1890 census was unique for several reasons. For the first time, officials decided to gather data on a separate schedule for each family. Families answered questions about race, immigration and naturalization, the number of children born and living, and questions relating to service in the Civil War. It was also the first census that used punch cards and an electrical tabulation system.

After enumerators finished the 1890 census, the Department of the Interior stored portions in Washington D.C. in the basement of Marini's Hall. On March 22, 1896, a night watchman discovered the rear of the building was on fire and notified the fire department. Firefighters arrived to find dense smoke pouring from the basement. Though they extinguished the flames before sunrise, the fire damaged or destroyed the special schedules for mortality, crime, pauperism, benevolence, special classes (e.g., deaf, blind, insane) and portions of the transportation and insurance schedules. The general population schedules, however, were safe and stored in the basement of the Commerce Building.

On the evening of January 10, 1921, an employee at the Commerce Building noticed smoke rising through the elevator shaft and sounded the fire alarm. For hours, firefighters soaked the building with water to quench the flames. When the smoke cleared, archivists found 25 percent of the 1890 census schedules destroyed, while half of the rest sustained serious water damage. Government officials debated whether the burnt and waterlogged records could be salvaged.

This tragic fire spurred discussion about the need for national archives to hold public records. While awaiting funding for an archive building, Census Director William Steuart warned the damaged records would continue to deteriorate. Not much is known about what happened to the census records between 1922-1932, but in December 1932, the Chief Clerk of the Bureau of Census sent the Librarian of Congress a list of documents deemed no longer necessary and scheduled for destruction. Included in the list were the 1890 damaged census records. The Librarian approved the list and forwarded it to Congress who authorized it and the damaged records were destroyed. Ironically, just one day before Congress authorized the destruction of these records, President Herbert Hoover laid the cornerstone for the new National Archives Building.

In 1934, the National Archives Building opened in Washington, D.C. In 1942, officials found a damaged bundle of 1890 census records from Illinois that escaped destruction. In 1953, they also found fragments of records from Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and the District of Columbia. These rediscovered records comprise just a tiny fraction of the 1890 census, leaving 99.99 percent of the original records lost forever. [Visit Ancestry.com to see the surviving 1890 census fragments](#), or [search Newspapers.com](#) to see more clippings about their destruction.

This [article](#) by Jenny Ashcraft appeared at Fishwrap, the official blog of Newspapers.com on October 14, 2019.



EIGHT STEPS FOR TELLING YOUR ANCESTOR'S LIFE STORY WITH NEWSPAPERS

Do you know your ancestors' names but not their stories? Historical newspapers are an important resource for discovering who your ancestors were beyond names and dates. But if you're not sure where to start, read on to learn how to use [Newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com) to piece together your ancestors' life stories.

1. Build a basic timeline with the facts you already know.

Before you start searching for your ancestor's story in newspapers, it helps to have at least a rough knowledge of when and where they lived. These basics will serve as the backbone for the story that you build and help guide you in your newspaper search.

One way to do this is by locating your ancestor in as many state and federal censuses as you can. Write down the year of the census and the city/county/state where the person was living. It may also be helpful to note their occupation (if provided) and who else was living in the household at the time. These facts can help you identify your ancestor when you begin your newspaper search. You can also use dates and locations pulled from other records, such as those for birth, marriage, and death.

2. Begin your newspaper search.

Enter your ancestor's name into the Newspapers.com search bar. Scroll through some of the results to see if there are any likely hits for your ancestor. If there are too many results for people who aren't your ancestor, try adding date, location, and other filters to narrow down the possibilities. *LEARN MORE: If your ancestor has a common name, learn how to improve your chances of finding them in our ["5 Tips for Finding an Ancestor with a Common Name in the Newspaper."](#)*

Remember, however, that people didn't always appear in newspapers by their legal name. Try searching for your ancestor using nicknames, alternative names, initials, and misspellings. In older newspapers, men were often referred to by initials or abbreviations, and women were often referred to by their husbands' names (e.g., Mrs. John Smith).

And here's a tip: When you find a search that returns results for your ancestor, use the Save/Notify feature to be automatically alerted when we add new newspaper pages that have matches for your search. *LEARN MORE: Read about Save/Notify in our [help center](#).*

3. Sort your search results chronologically.

It's often easiest to understand how the events of a person's life tie together when you learn about them in the order they happened—just like reading a biography. So once you've found search results for your ancestor, sort the results chronologically. This will help you see more easily how the newspaper articles you find fit with the timeline you made in Step 1.

The default for search results on Newspapers.com is "Best match," but you can easily order them chronologically by choosing to sort them by "Paper date (oldest first)," which is found under "Sort" in the upper left of the search results page.

4. Start reading!

You've got your search results, so now it's time to start reading! Using the image thumbnails on the search results page as a reference, open up articles that seem like they might be about your ancestor. The timeline you made before you started searching will help you determine which articles are about your ancestor and which are not. As you find articles about your ancestor, you'll become more familiar with their life, making it easier to spot which other articles are about them too.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

8 STEPS FOR TELLING YOUR ANCESTOR'S LIFE STORY WITH NEWSPAPERS

(CONTINUED)

5. Clip the articles you find.

When you find articles about your ancestor, use our clipping tool to save them to your Newspapers.com account. *LEARN MORE: Learn about clippings in our [help center](#).*

It's important not only to clip the article but also to title the clipping in a way that will make it easy to find again. For example, the clipping's title could include your ancestor's name and a brief summary of the article. Then when you need to find that article again, you can simply go to your clippings page and search for the person's name to quickly pull up all the articles you've clipped about them.

When making a clipping, you can also use the "Add more details" field to make notes about the clipping. For example, you could use this field to indicate details in the clipping you want to research further or to specify how the clipping ties into a larger story.

Another great feature of clippings is that you can easily share them on social media or via email. So if you find an article about your ancestor, you can post it to social media and ask your family members if they know anything else about the story. You can also save clippings to your Ancestry® tree. *LEARN MORE: Find out how to [save a clipping to Ancestry](#)®.*

6. Take notes along the way.

As you start reading newspaper articles about your ancestor, they'll likely spark ideas about other people or topics to research. Make sure to take plenty of notes about these so you can come back and search them later. It'll be tempting to research them right away, but that can lead you down a rabbit hole that takes you far away from the person you were originally researching. So instead make a note to return to it in the future.

It's also a good idea to take notes about ways you could adjust your search terms. For instance, if you find an article that uses an alternative spelling of your ancestor's name, make a note to come back later and search using that alternate spelling.

7. Branch out.

Once you learn everything you can about your ancestor's life by searching for their name, try searching for their family member's names. People don't exist in isolation, so learning about the stories of their family members can help you understand your ancestor. For example, your ancestor might not be mentioned by name in an article about a tragic death in the family, but it nevertheless likely had a direct impact on their life.

Searching by family members names (particularly parents' names) is especially key to learning about your ancestor's early life, since adults are more likely than children to be mentioned by name in a newspaper. By doing this, you might find out that their family moved when your ancestor was young or that their father was injured in an accident—events that would have shaped your ancestor's childhood.

8. Explore the social history of your ancestor's life.

Learning about the time and place in which your ancestors lived can also help you understand their life. Take time to look through their local newspaper to find out what life was like in the town or city they lived in. Try browsing through national and local news stories, ads, articles about the economy, the entertainment and leisure sections, war news, transportation schedules, and more to learn about the context of your ancestor's life.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

EIGHT STEPS FOR TELLING YOUR ANCESTOR'S LIFE STORY WITH NEWSPAPERS

(CONTINUED)

Social history research is also helpful if you weren't able to find much about your ancestor when you searched for them by name. Researching the world around them can give you a pretty decent idea of what their life may have been like. *LEARN MORE: For ideas on social history research, head over to our ["Hometown Tour Guide."](#)*

Happy searching!

This [article](#) by Karen Lee appeared at Fishwrap, the official blog of Newspapers.com on October 11, 2019.



BE A PART OF HISTORY

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting to fill hundreds of thousands of temporary positions across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. The 2020 Census is your chance to play a part in history! Temporary census positions offer the perfect opportunity to earn extra money while helping your community.

Visit <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs/job-details.html> for details about the various 2020 Census job opportunities.

Visit <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs/faqs.html> to view answers to frequently asked questions.

Visit <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html> to apply.



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*. 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.*



DID YOU KNOW

Genetic Genealogy helps you uncover your roots!

Here are the benefits of DNA testing for the genealogist:

- Confirms or eliminates relationships.
- Focuses research to related families.
- Directs research into a geographic area.
- Directs research into a specific timeframe.
- Establishes country or region of origin.
- Confirms variant surnames are family.
- Identifies pre-surname migration.
- Strengthens weak paper trails.
- Avoids pursuing false connections.



View these websites for more information about DNA Testing:

- WorldFamilies.net [DNA the SMART WAY](https://www.worldfamilies.net/dnatesting)
- FTDNA's [Understanding DNA](https://www.familytreedna.com/understanding-dna)

This information extracted from <https://www.worldfamilies.net/dnatesting>



UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS

January 21, 2020 - Using DNA for Genealogy

BCGS member Judy Tyler will share her experience using DNA test results to get around a road block in her genealogy research.

***AS THE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, WE WILL POST DETAILS
AT OUR [WEBSITE](#) ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS FOR 2020.***

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



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 Kelsy/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 (bmcguire7679@gmail.com) - Goates, Bingham, Logsdon, and Pilcher.

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

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

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

Nancy Kelsey (mnkelsey@sbcglobal.net) - Allen, Barnes, Chaszczewski/Kaczewski/Kaszewski/Kaschewsky/Kashefsky, Combs, Dietrich, Duff, Fackler, Foster, Goodman, Graff/Graeff/Gref, Graham, Harper, Jung, Miller, Paul, Reed, Rice, Roney, Ruppenthal, Russell, Shyrock/Shryock, Tatum, and Tharp/Tharpe.

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.

Terry Tyler (ttyler@hot.rr.com) Blakely, Blickensderfer, Cardwell, Clearly, Cook, Cooksey, Crawford, Dillon, Franks, Frazer, Furr, Gamble, Johnson, Jones, O'Bryant, Oehler, Ricksecker, Rodgers, Russell, Smith, Tyler, Walderich, Winchester, Windsor, and Wofford.

Judy Tyler (jkstyler@hot.rr.com) Arendale, Arnold, Bennett, Bishop, Boyd, Carrol, Clark, Cooper, Courington, Daniel, Dobson, Eddins, Elston, Foxcraft, Franklin, Gautier, Glass, Harder, Henderson, Howard, Lindsey, Long, Mackey, Marsh, McNutt, Neel, Pitts, Robbins, Sellers, Sevier, Stubblefield, Trimmier, and Wilson.

Kathy Taylor (kathy.taylor56@yahoo.com) Casheer, Davee, McDaniel, Moore, Owens, Polk, Underwood, and Vinson. Husband's line: Barron, Finney, Scott, and Taylor.

*Submit your list of surnames and contact email address to
txbcqs@gmail.com for inclusion in future newsletters.*



BELL COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP FORM

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):

(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: \$15.00 per individual; \$20.00 per family of two. Note that these amounts reflect an increase in dues effective January 1, 2020. Dues cover the period January 1 through December 31 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 – Judy Tyler

First Vice-President (Programs) – Amy Gibson and Gloria Harris

Second Vice-President (Reporter) – Linda Judd

Recording Secretary – Becky McEntire

Corresponding Secretary – TBD

Treasurer – Terry Tyler

Historian – Joy Solomon

Immediate Past President – David Yeilding

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Door Prizes – Richard Trautman

Membership – Linda Judd

Programs – Amy Gibson and Gloria Harris

Refreshments – Jalenn Ellis

Research – Mary Duke

Website & Newsletter – Ginny Parsons



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

NOTE: Bell County Genealogical Society is not responsible for the content of any external websites to which we provide links. Be sure to read the privacy policy for the website before disclosing any personal information. These websites or services have separate data and privacy practices independent of us, and therefore we hold no responsibility or liability for their policies or actions.

LOOK FOR OUR SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER IN APRIL!

