



## West Houston Area Genealogy Society



"Helping to find your roots!"

October 2021

### Inside this issue:

September Speaker	1
What does it mean to be a family genealogist?	1
By Patti Huff Smith	
President's Corner	2
Spotlight Member: Jenny Sharrer	5
A Place in Time	7
By Mardeena Gordon	
Researching Fraternal Societies	9
By Linda Hudson	
Resources to Broaden Your Knowledge	13
By Linda Hudson	
Noteworthy & Upcoming Events	14



"We all carry inside us, people who came before us."

— Liam Callanan

### Presenting In Person & Virtually!

Speaking at our hybrid presentation for September 21 is Patti Smith. Her topic is **"The Beatitudes of a Genealogist."** Save the Date!

**October 16, 2021**  
Thursday!

The meeting opens at **10:00 am and the program will begin at 10:30 pm.** We will be meeting in person

at the **Steve Radack Center on Clay Road** or you can attend **virtually.**

Watch for a link at **www.whags.org** to attend virtually.

Patti is an AG and a Director on the Dallas Genealogical Society. She is frequently a guest speaker and is very involved in several societies.



### "What does it mean to be a family genealogist?"

by Patti Huff Smith ©

The October 16<sup>th</sup> WHAGS monthly presentation, *Beatitudes of a Family Genealogist*, is sure to heighten your understanding of the importance of finding and preserving your family history. The

word *beatitude* means supreme blessedness. So, if you are productive as a family genealogist, not only will you be blessed now, but the results of your work will be a blessing far into the future.

The responsibility for finding and preserving your family legacy must start somewhere, so why not with you? Just as the lineage of Christ recorded in the book of Matthew, we can challenge and educate ourselves as family genealogists to preserve our family history. *Cont. on pg 3*



## *The President's Note....*

WHAGS took its first foray into the new world of hybrid technology when the September program was presented to an in-person audience, and simultaneously broadcast to a virtual audience. There were thirty-six attendees, nineteen at the Steve Radack Community Center and seventeen attendees on Zoom. It was a great success! If you were unable to attend, you missed a great event! WHAGS has set a high bar for future programs.

The technology worked and both audiences enjoyed the program. Now you can enjoy WHAGS' programming where it best suits you, virtually or in person. This is a big step for our organization as we move further into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Hybrid meetings and programs are the future of WHAGS.

We struggled during the early days of Covid in the spring of 2020. In the fall, we began meeting using Zoom as our virtual platform. There was a steep learning curve for everyone. We got better at using Zoom every meeting. WHAGS expanded offerings to our members with the DNA Special Interest Group (SIG) and Members-Helping-Members (MHM) sessions on Zoom. With the help and input from our members, our organization adapted to virtual meetings. Across the state and country, some genealogy societies were unable to adapt, and they closed their doors. We did not. Thank you all!

In September, we began our 2021-2022 programming year with great success. The programming year is geared to help us increase our skills and knowledge of genealogy. Please check the online Events Calendar at [www.whags.org](http://www.whags.org) for upcoming events. I look forward to seeing everyone, either in person or virtually, as we progress through the year.

Best Regards,  
Gail



## Cont'd from page 1— "What does it mean to be a family genealogist?" by Patti Huff Smith

By taking your research and preservation work seriously, the records and stories you gather of past generations can be a source of pride for you as the family genealogist. They will be a treasured blessing for generations to come.

As you well know, if your family records and stories are not documented, they will get lost over time. Preserving your history ensures the stories will be shared from generation to generation. Let's face it; you were curious enough to begin searching and asking questions which in turn led you on this quest. And if you are like most of us, you have encountered brick walls, silence, unwillingness, or even blank looks from your elders because they simply did not know the answers to your questions.

So why not protect the precious fruits of your efforts so they become a blessing to you and many others? Guidelines for defining the work of a family genealogist are the focus of this article and the upcoming presentation. In the genealogy world, you need to broaden your knowledge of how to: 1) research more effectively, 2) organize what you have inherited or discovered, 3) preserve your finds, and 4) communicate to others.

The Beatitudes of a Family Genealogist program will leave you inspired and motivated to continue in your journey!

**An unfocused approach to research can leave you feeling overwhelmed, frustrated, or even worse - working with incorrect information.**

**The right research question will keep you focused and on track.**

## Beatitudes of the Family Genealogist

Blessed are the great grandmothers, who hoarded newspaper clippings and old letters, for they tell the story of their time.

Blessed are all the grandfathers who filed every legal document, for this provides proof.

Blessed are grandmothers who preserved family Bibles and diaries, for this is our heritage.

Blessed are fathers who elect officials that answer letters of inquiry, for some, this is their only link to the past.

Blessed are mothers who relate family traditions and legends to the family, for one of her children will surely remember.

Blessed are the relatives who fill in family sheets with extra data, for them we owe the family history.

Blessed is any family whose members strive for the preservation of records, for theirs is a labour of love.

Blessed are the children who will never say.  
"Grandma, you have told that old story twice today".

By Wilma Mauk

From Jane McGarvey Genealogy ret: 2021, Sep 20.

<https://www.facebook.com/Jayne.McGarvey.Genealogy/posts/beatitudes-of-the-family-genealogistgenealogy->

## Spotlight Member: Jenny Sharrer—when things get rough — she puts the “tough” in let’s get going!!

As Editor, I have enjoyed giving recognition to a leader in our society for a job well done. I wondered who to ask to write this recognition. I decided it would take a group effort to recognize Jenny for the many things she has done since Spring of 2020.

Jenny began by leading several group processing activities with the Board to see where we should focus our efforts to grow our society. Gary Tober, who had led the society for many years, had decided it was time for him to step down. Jenny was voted into the office as our whole world changed. Leadership found itself trying to keep the society alive and thriving with Covid blowing in like a hurricane.

To meet the challenges of surviving and thriving during Covid restrictions, Jenny led the team and accomplished many things. She did so by bringing her business acumen into the room. We discussed what needed to be done, how to do it, and put it on a tracker which prioritized our efforts. Under her leadership, the Board amended the By-Laws and updated our Articles of Incorporation. We created committees to address particular needs. This led to a new website, a Facebook page, a newsletter, a new name, a change in meeting time and place, and an enhanced relationship with the TSGS.

Things didn’t stop there. We have added a Members Helping Members program, a DNA SIG, and we continue to build on what Jenny’s leadership began. Most importantly, to me, we have our monthly meetings in person and virtual providing our members the measure of safety they desire given that Covid continues to threaten us.

The leadership team recognizes her hard work and had she not stepped up when she

did, our organization may not have carried on, like so many others. Tom Woltz said, “I must say if ever I saw someone who picked up the loose ends and neatly tied them together so we could survive a LOT of changes, it was Jenny. I recognized her skills and tough, but effective, approach to getting things done during stressful times, early on. I wasn’t sure how it would work at first, but now I see.” Ron Ware noted that “Jenny is one of those people who occasionally come along at the right time with the right stuff. She took the helm of a struggling genealogy society. Through pure grit and hard work, turned it into a viable platform at a time when many societies were failing. Her contagious enthusiasm and resolve has made our genealogy society a fun place to be.”

Liz Philip recalls, “Jenny asked Chuck and I, back in 2019, if we would be willing to help at the membership table at one of the meetings. When we returned at the next meeting, I said yes. Over the next few months, Jenny sent over the documents necessary to carry on. We collaborated on the Word documents over the next few months. I am not comfortable in Word so she was very helpful. Always encouraging, always supportive and generous with her time and talents.” Neal recounts how he upped his game in the society by Jenny reeling him in. “Jenny was the reason that I got involved in WHAGS beyond just attending meetings. With the pandemic in full force, I was at home all the time and getting more and more active in my genealogy research. I’d let my membership lapse and decided to renew it. I looked for a way to sign up online. Finding no way to do that, I did like most of you and mailed in my membership application with a note that said I’d have liked to do it online rather than printing the application, filling it

## Cont'd—Spotlight Member: Jenny Sharrer—when things get rough — she puts the “tough” in let’s get going!!

rather than printing the application, filling it in by hand, writing a check (I almost never write checks anymore), stamping, and mailing it in. Anyway, my comments were passed along to Jenny who took the initiative to call me, thank me for renewing, but also to ask if I could help the club to modernize. Before I knew what was happening, I was on the website development team, and shortly after chair of the by-laws review committee, and then appointed Director. Personally, I give Jenny all the credit for providing the leadership and energy to buck all the trends and rally us into actually growing WHAGS during the pandemic. She has set a high bar for future officers. Thank you, Jenny!”

Pacquitta Laverents, a relative newcomer to the society and now our secretary, made the following comment. “It doesn’t take at all long after meeting Jenny Sharrer to recognize her leadership talents. She has a passion for improving everything she touches. The West Houston Genealogy Society is fortunate to have her active involvement. With her magnetic persuasion skills, she coaxed me into serving in ways I hadn’t even considered as a new member. Jenny’s vision, communication style, attention to detail, and tenacity are part of her DNA. She helps everyone on the team stretch their talents further to make the organization as a

whole even stronger.”

Gail Colby, our new President writes, “Jenny sacrificed her personal life for the society and worked incredibly hard to ensure its success. If not for her dedication and drive, we would not be the successful society we are today. Susan Ball, President of TSGS, said she wished her local society had more “Jennies.” WHAGS, with all its preceding names, was a languid society that Jenny pulled into an active organization. The September program was a tribute to Jenny’s work. I hope more people step up to share the load so no one has to do what Jenny did.”

After a year of great dedication of time and effort, Jenny has left her mark on the society with the hope that we will continue to meet the needs of our members, grow stronger, and larger. Jenny continues to serve on the Board as a Director. She continues to bring her experience and skill to the table for all of our benefit. Thank you, Jenny Sharrer for a job well done!!



## “A Place in Time” by Mardeena Gordon ©

based on the research of Claude Wiegiers

The Wiegiers family passed this story down through generations. Most of the story is based on the notes and recollections of Claude Wiegiers. In the twenty-five years that were spent researching and comparing notes, many questions remained unanswered, but it is a great family tale regarding fears faced on the journey to America.

The story begins, “Mr. and Mrs. Wiegiers, as you know, a whale has followed us for seven days,” stated the Captain. “We actually do not know why. But all the passengers and part of the crew are of the opinion that this whale knows from the ship’s sewage that someone aboard is sick. They believe the whale is following us in anticipation of a sea burial. In the event that fails to occur, they believe, the whale could become angry and attack us. The whale is large enough to do us great harm, possibly causing our little vessel to capsize. Since your baby is very sick and having almost no chance to survive, the passengers have insisted that I ask you to bury her now, at sea.” “No, No!,” said John Henry, the baby’s Father. “Throw over a couple of hams. If the whale wants food, they should satisfy him.”

“We have no more hams, Mr. Wiegiers. In fact, we have no more meat. The commissary on this little vessel cannot carry a very large food supply. These adverse winds have driven us far north and kept us near Greenland. We’ve already been at sea nearly three weeks longer than it should take us to reach New York City. You and your wife discuss what I have told you. I’ll come back later for your answer.” But the Captain did not come back for an answer. He already had it and he knew it was final.

John and Anna were so alarmed, worried, and just plain scared, they wished at times they had stayed in Germany. Ever since their marriage in Reepsholt, Ostfriesland, on 30 August 1852, they had planned for this journey. John Henry was born in Dohlen on 6 Sep 1818. His wife, Anna Sophia was 14 years younger, having been born in Hohenkirchen, Ostfriesland on 1 May 1832. Now she was just twenty-one years of age. They had left Bremerhaven in December of 1853 and arrived in New York in January 1854. For most of the next two days, John and Anna remained in their stateroom with Katherine, their baby. Anna’s brother, Henry Beckmann, who was immigrating to the United States to avoid serving in the German Army, brought them food from the dining room.

In the meantime, the passengers were busy discussing the options regarding the whale who continued to follow the ship. A hunter aboard assured everyone he had a gun powerful enough to dispatch the whale. The Captain, however, was hesitant about giving him permission to shoot, fearing that if the whale was only wounded he might become angry and attack the vessel.



A  
1905 photo of a whaling ship surrounded by several dead whales on the coast of Norway. Photo from Live Science, “Why was whaling so big in the 19th Century” by Emma Bryce, 22 February 2020.

## Cont'd

Discussions by the crew and the passengers included: Would whales attack the ship? Didn't they eat only small fish? Theoretically, a human corpse could be a worthy meal. People were scared. Whales were large. Survival was tantamount for the travelers.

By the ninth or tenth day after the whale began following the ship, Katherine seemed somewhat better. Previously, John and Anna had considered hiding her, but where? They had only their tiny stateroom. Since Katherine was showing improvement, they felt relieved. Surely the passengers would no longer press their demands. Then a wonderful thing happened. The whale disappeared and was never seen again on this voyage. Tensions eased and everyone felt better. Katherine showed slow but steady improvement. The winds became much more favorable. At last, the tiny sailing vessel put in at New York harbor after six weeks on the uncooperative Atlantic Ocean.

Sadly, records have eluded family historians. The arrival of this family came before the opening of Castle Garden or Ellis Island. Evidence of a ship's log of travelers has yet to be found. But, the family did come here.

Editor's Notes: The couple Johann Hinrich Wiggers, son of Hermann Christoph Wiggers and Anna Sophia Elisabeth Bechman his wife, married 14 Nov 1852 in Hannover, Germany. Johann was born in, or about, 1818. Anna was born about 1832. Catharina Maria Wiggers, their first daughter was born 16 Feb 1853, baptized 24 Mar 1853 in Reepsholt. Johann and Anna made their home in Illinois and Johann died in 1877 and Anna

lived out her life with their son Herman in Nebraska. And Katherine? It appears she lived a long life married to a Henry Meyers. They had nine children, lived in Iowa and they are in eternal rest.

One must wonder the fears, the dangers, the circumstances that immigrants took to come to the new world, America, a refuge for many.

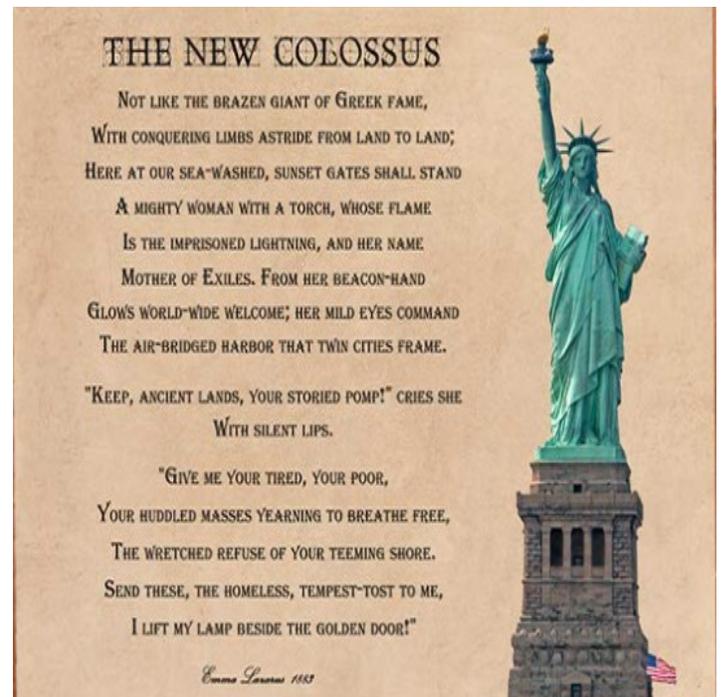


Image from Joy For All Art Store, retrieved 21 Sep 2021

## "Researching Fraternal Societies" by Linda Hudson ©

Secret Societies weren't always so secret as I learned while researching this article. The idea for this article came from a presentation by Michael Strauss, an AG in Utah. He presented on "Secret Societies: German-Americans in Fraternal Organizations" at the International German Genealogy Partnership Conference this summer. I hoped to glean information about finding records for one of my great great grandfathers. I also knew Strauss was going to speak about the Masons, and my dad, of English descent, was a Mason, a Worshipful Master.

My dad had joined the Sons of Hermann as well and I had Odd Fellows in the family too. So, I was looking forward to the lecture.

Throughout much of the world, you will find fraternal organizations. Brotherhoods, some that specifically unite its members by a common occupation, or lineage and others that were based more on social gatherings or benevolent activity. There are also societies that developed along religious affiliations or ethnicities. Many of the restrictions to membership in the past have been removed. Race, religion, occupation for most of the organizations are no longer a factor of membership. An interesting piece of history was that in 1899, African-Americans were denied access to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World and so two men created their own society and named it "The Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World." This gave the Black race their own fraternal organization where they could socialize, provide assistance to the needy, sponsor education programs and celebrate their heritage.

The Freemasons are the oldest fraternal society in the world. As a child, my memories include rumors of secrecy, the secret handshake, and rituals that no outsider could learn about. I recall my dad and friends of his sitting on our front lawn as he taught them the beliefs and ideals of the organization, and I wasn't to be listening in. As an adult, I've learned there isn't so much secrecy today. The Masons are open to all races, require Members to believe in God, but one can be of any Godly faith. This means Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus may join. They do many good works. That, perhaps, is what they are mostly known for today. Think Shriners Hospital in Houston. To become a Mason though is to study and learn and participate a great deal in the organization's work. It takes work and study to become a Mason — years of study to rise in the ranks. You can learn about it, but a Mason isn't going to talk to a non-member about it. And, unless this has changed, they won't solicit for members, you have to ask.

The Masons began as a collection of men who engaged in mason work. Whereas the "Molly Maguires" were Irish immigrants that organized to retaliate against oppression they faced in the coal mines in Pennsylvania and W. Virginia. The Sons of Hermann and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows grew around heritage and social groups. These organizations often provided insurance and other benefits to members. The Sons of Hermann Grand Lodge in Texas was founded in 1890 and provides insurance, extensive youth programs including scholarships and assistance to those in need. There are also Sons of Hermann cemeteries.

The Sons of Hermann is an organization

## Cont'd

that was called a Turnverein, or union, which promoted German values, culture, and liberalism. The first in the U.S. was founded in Cincinnati in 1848. Today, you do not need to be of German extraction to become a member. All of these types of fraternal organizations in their early days were the only place to receive benefits for health, welfare, and death. Until the acts passed during, and after, the Great Depression, the government did not provide any assistance of this kind. You were on your own.

☞ " [America's clubs and lodges] are a revelation, not a puzzle. Through their mysteries and ceremonies we progress literally by degrees to an understanding of the motives that lay hold upon men in group behavior. ... We may observe the alignments of men one by one, but we must not lose sight of the fact that, taken together, they make the mass, the flesh and blood of a nation." ☞

By Charles W. Ferguson, Fifty Million Brothers: A Panorama of American Lodges and Clubs, 1937 p 15.

Most of the fraternal organizations have websites with history and biographies of notable members. For example, the Masonry Collection locally is in Waco. You will need to research to see if lodges of different backgrounds are located where your ancestor settled. Then you will need to research where their records may be archived. This is not an easy task. Societies based on occupation, may be easier to make connections to. Ethnic societies, as well. If you know the religion of your ancestor that may be helpful. Religious organizations include Grand Order of Galilean Fishermen in D.C. until the 1980s, Knights of Columbus, and Independent Order of American Israelites. This will take you to a great list to start with: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_North\\_American\\_ethnic\\_and\\_religious\\_fraternal\\_orders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_North_American_ethnic_and_religious_fraternal_orders).

If you think your ancestor was in a fraternal organization this is how I suggest you begin your research. Contact a meeting location or lodge that exists near where they lived. You might also contact a local library. Records that survive vary based on location, what type of record was kept, and what the lodge considers "public," and the groups ability to keep and preserve the records.

Generally, organizations kept dates of initiation, increase in rank, connections to fellow lodges, and date of death. Depending on the lodge, you may learn more. Over the years, records have decayed. Some lodges lost records due to fire. Two Grand Masonic Lodges in the U.S. (California in 1906 and Arkansas in 1918) lost all of their records due to fire.

If you believe your ancestor was a member, persevere. Write the Grand Lodge (all orders had a hierarchy) of the state in question including your ancestors full name and birth and death date if known. Ask them to guide you to where you might find records and/or the lodge if it still exists. Often, there is a fee to receive information.

You likely will not receive any lineage information from these types of societies. Lineage societies can help with that, however.

Another clue to your research is the headstone of your ancestor. Woodmen, Masons, and Odd Fellows often have symbols on, or unique, headstones. Check the internet for symbolism of your ancestor's fraternity. Woodmen made a promise to make sure all their members graves were marked. Another thought to bear in mind, many of the members were civic leaders — google combinations with name, date, local, and organization and you may hit upon an article or other resource.

# MASONIC RECORD SEARCH REQUEST FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

THE SOURCE OF THE RECORD SEARCH IS THE MASONIC GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS ARCHIVAL MEMBERSHIP INDEX FILE.

1. THERE IS A \$10.00 CHARGE FOR EACH SEARCH.
2. USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL'S NAME.
3. A MANUAL SEARCH IS CONDUCTED AS TIME PERMITS. PLEASE ALLOW AT LEAST EIGHT WEEKS FOR A RESPONSE.
4. WE DO NOT HAVE MEMBERS' PETITIONS (APPLICATIONS) IN OUR FILES. THESE REMAIN WITH THE PARENT LODGE.
5. OUR RECORDS DO NOT PROVIDE BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SUCH AS NAMES OF FAMILY MEMBERS OR BURIAL INFORMATION.
6. PRIVACY IS AN ISSUE. WE DO NOT PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING MEMBERS.

PLEASE PROVIDE AS MUCH OF THE INFORMATION BELOW AS POSSIBLE.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

DATE/LOCATION OF DEATH \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATIONS OF RESIDENCE IN TEXAS  
 (COUNTY, TOWN/CITY, YEAR)

---



---

NAME AND/OR NUMBER OF TEXAS LODGE/S  
 (WE DO NOT HAVE OUT-OF-STATE RECORDS)

---



---

**SEND REQUEST WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER AND SASE TO:**

THE MASONIC GRAND LODGE  
 LIBRARY & MUSEUM OF TEXAS  
 P. O. BOX 446  
 WACO, TX 76703

NAME AND PHONE NUMBER IS REQUESTED FOR CLARIFICATION PURPOSES REGARDING RESEARCH ONLY. YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU IN YOUR SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

## Cont'd

The form on the prior page is typical for requesting records from a fraternal organization. Be sure to read McClure's "Secret Signs" in the references for more ideas.

And my great great grandfather who I hope was a member of the Sons of Hermann? No luck yet, but the hunt continues. I'm hoping it will lead to a gravesite.



### References:

ArchiveGrid. (n.d.) FreeMason Records. Retrieved from [https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/?q=\(freemason+records+texas\)+AND+topic\\_sort%3A%22Fraternal+organizations+++++Texas%2C+East%22](https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/?q=(freemason+records+texas)+AND+topic_sort%3A%22Fraternal+organizations+++++Texas%2C+East%22) (Retrieval date: 2021, Sept 17)

Case, Julia M. and Myra Vanderpool Gormley. (n.d.) RootsWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees. Retrieved from: <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~rwguide/lesson18.htm> (Retrieval date: 2021, Sep 19)

Hermann Sons Life. (n.d.) Retrieved from: <https://www.hermannsonslife.org/who-we-are/history> (Retrieval date: 2021, Sep 17)

Mansky, Jackie. (2016, Mar 7). Eight Secret Societies You Might Not Know. Retrieved from: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/secret-societies-you-might-not-know-180958294/> (Retrieval date: 2021, Sep 18)

McClure, Rhonda R. (n.d.) Books and Websites for Researching Fraternal Societies. <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/uncategorized/fraternal-societies-genealogy-toolkit/> (Retrieval date: 2021, Sep 18)

McClure, Rhonda R. (2004, June ). Secret Signs: How to Find Ancestors in Fraternal Societies. Retrieved from <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/records/other/secret-signs/> (Retrieval date: 2021, Sep 19)

Strauss, Michael. (2021, July 22). Secret Societies: German-Americans in Fraternal Organizations. Retrieved from: International German Genealogy Partnership online conference. (Retrieval date: 2021, July 22)

## Editor's Corner:

This will be short and sweet. I want you to know I appreciate and thank the following who have volunteered their time and service to help plan our first "Beginner's Workshop" slated for late Spring 2022. They include: Sandra Anders, Sandra Boyd, Cecilee Murphy, Meg Philpot, Diane Rausch, Joanne Shaffer, Neal Scott, and Tom Woltz. Y'all rock!! I thank you so very much. I hope you enjoy the journey. Thank you also to Mardeena Gordon for her contribution to the this newsletter. I am hopeful that many more of you will find ways to contribute and make WHAGS stronger. When we work together, we bless each other and our ancestors smile.

And, on a personal note, my Daddy was burned in the 7th grade and could not go back to school until the 8th grade and the two room school house teacher said he could catch up on his own or quit. He quit. Thanks to the love and support of my mom and her parents, the men he met serving in the Pacific (many Aggies), and the Sons of Hermann and the Masons — he was self-taught, well read and one of the kindest, smartest men I ever knew. And, I miss him everyday — and I wish we had had more time.

Love you Daddy,  
Linda



## “Resources to Broaden Your Knowledge: Facebook Groups and Pages” by Linda Hudson ©

The following is not a research based article. It is examples of **various FB groups and pages** I am a member of, or follow, as resources for my research, places to ask questions, find relatives, make friends and find other genealogy based information. I share it to demonstrate how you might use FB to connect with family.

- ◆ **The Qualls Family from Perry County, TN** — helped me to verify my paternal grandmother’s line who was a Lee with a Qualls mother. DNA and research combined helped. Now, I know a lot of my TN family. Qualls there today are my fourth-cousins. Have had many conversations with them and they directed me to my Qualls and Baucom family graves on a trip.
- ◆ **Cumberland Travelling Families, UK**—group does DNA matching and many members are in Cumberland and helps to make connections
- ◆ **Cumbria Family History Society**—a genealogy only website that has members in Cumbria and afar. They will answer questions and provide knowledge related to your Cumbria-based family. They also have an annual gathering.
- ◆ **Perry County, TN**—has 3.6K members. I’m a Perry via my dad and so I have asked questions via the site and stay updated on local happenings.
- ◆ **Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society**: keeps me in touch with historical information and new discoveries families and the local history center make as they come across new information. When there, the curators literally opened a box from storage with pictures of my great great grandmother, the sister to my great great grandfather and other relations and information. Also, then connected me with others who were helpful in touring historic sites and explaining local history. I had a person who gives personalized tours take me to gravesites, the Free Congregation Meeting House and other points of interest to my heritage.
- ◆ **German Texas History**: a lot of German history comes across the page and there are experienced genealogists to ask questions

Pages I sponsor:

- ◇ **Rother Family History—Texas** — I created this site to get to know more Rother’s. My great great grandparents “Rother” came in 1854. I have made many connections with local extended family and participated in reunions and sadly lost a few all too soon. My great grandmother was a Rother and the first born in the U.S. in 1858. I hope in the future to share more of the family history. There is a member of our society who is related to me via this tree.
- ◇ **Lavaca County Zickuhr—Reimer**— this site is about my great grandparents, also on Mom’s side. A Zickuhr whose children felt pressure to have a more anglo name, made it Sicko or Siecko (brothers used differently spellings, pronounced Seeko). Their mother was a Reimer which also had many spellings. I know more than I have posted. But, the day is not far away when I update many of these pages and reconnect with family. The spouse of one our fellow members’ is a relative of this branch of my family.

We don’t have far to look for help, if we only ask. The more you post, the more responses you will receive in time and the more you learn. Wishing you JOY in your researching!!

## Houston West Family Genealogy Society

Helping to Find Your Roots

www.whags.org

Attachment #3

### 2021-2022 Sept-May Calendar of Events

Everyone researching for ancestors...*Novice to Expert*...is invited to participate either in person or virtually!

2021	2022
<p><b>July</b></p> <p>22 1:00 pm <b>DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)</b></p> <p><b>August</b></p> <p>17 10-12 am WHAGS Board Meeting</p> <p><b>September</b></p> <p>14 10-12 am WHAGS Board Meeting</p> <p>16 1-3 pm <b>DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)</b></p> <p>18 10-12:30 am <b>Betsy Mills — " Solving Photo Mysteries"</b></p> <p>25 10-12 am <b>Members Helping Members</b></p> <p><b>October</b></p> <p>12 10-12 am WHAGS Board Meeting</p> <p>16 10-12:30 <b>Patti Smith — "The Beatitudes of a Genealogist"</b></p> <p>21 1-3 pm <b>DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)</b></p> <p>23 10-12 am <b>Members Helping Members</b></p> <p><b>November</b></p> <p>7 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends - Fall Back!</i></p> <p>16 10-12 am WHAGS Board Meeting</p> <p>18 1-3 pm <b>DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)</b></p> <p>20 10-12:30 <b>Irene Walters — "Keys to Research Success: Breaking Down Brick Walls"</b></p> <p>27 10-12 am <b>Members Helping Members</b></p> <p><b>December</b></p> <p>18 10:00-12:30 <b>Holiday Party &amp; Members' "Show &amp; Tell"— MC = Tom Woltz</b></p>	<p><b>January</b></p> <p>11 10-12 am WHAGS Board Meeting</p> <p>15 10-12:30 <b>"Finding Genealogy Resources &amp; Tools in National Archives"</b> (Video followed by Irene Walters facilitating Q&amp;A)</p> <p>20 1-3 pm <b>DNA Special Interest Group (SIG)</b></p> <p>22 10-12 am <b>Members Helping Members</b></p> <p><b>February</b></p> <p>15 10-12 am WHAGS Board Meeting</p> <p>17 1-3 pm <b>DNA SIG</b></p> <p>19 10-12:30 <b>Linda Worsham — "Best Practices for Writing Family Stories"</b></p> <p>26 10-12 am <b>Members Helping Members</b></p> <p><b>March</b></p> <p>9-12 RootsTech 2022</p> <p>13 <i>Daylight Savings - Spring Forward!</i></p> <p>15 10-12 am WHAGS Board Meeting</p> <p>17 1-3 pm <b>DNA SIG</b></p> <p>19 10-12:30 <b>Mitch Clendening – "Tools for Using Google ® to Research Ancestors"</b></p> <p>26 10-12 am <b>Members Helping Members</b></p> <p><b>April</b></p> <p>12 10-12 am WHAGS Board Meeting</p> <p>16 10-12:30 <b>Jenny Sharrer — "Generating Books Using Family Books Creator"</b></p> <p>21 1-3 pm <b>DNA SIG</b></p> <p>23 10-12 pm <b>Members Helping Members</b></p> <p><b>May</b></p> <p>17 10-12 am WHAGS Board Meeting</p> <p>19 1-3 pm <b>DNA SIG</b></p> <p>21 10-12:30 <b>(Presenter to be determined)</b> <b>2022-2023</b> Board Elections</p> <p>25-28 National Genealogical Society 2022 Family History Conference ngsgenealogy.org</p> <p>28 10-12 am <b>Members Helping Members</b></p> <p><b>June, July &amp; August - We are off for the summer</b></p>

## Good to Know! Beginner Tips!

Don't be like me. When I began researching, I wrote gleanings on scraps of paper, took photos of records, wrote research notes in a variety of notebooks, comments from my Mom in other places — there was no order and now I spend my days trying to order it all. As I clean out her home and move all my records into it — I have to go through every scrap, every notebook large or small. There are thousands of notes. Organization is key. Use a log like this [https://media.americanancestors.org/uploadedfiles/content/education/learning\\_resources/downloads/research-log.pdf](https://media.americanancestors.org/uploadedfiles/content/education/learning_resources/downloads/research-log.pdf) to track your research and discoveries. You might make your own and add a column for the file where the hard copy is or the digital file. Keep a log for each family member you research. Add a column of the date of each search. Adapt your log as you like, but keep a log. You won't regret it.

### BOARD:

Gail Colby, President

Tom Woltz SR, Vice President

Tom Matchett, Treasurer

Pacquitta Laurensy, Secretary

Linda Hudson, Director

Neal Scott, Director

Jenny Sharrer, Director

Email:

Info@whags.email

Website & Virtually:

[www.whags.org](http://www.whags.org)

**West  
Houston  
Area  
Genealogy  
Society**

**Currently  
Meeting  
Virtually**

## MORE TO KNOW

The Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. is sponsoring a virtual conference from October 13-16, 2021. Early registration has passed, but rates are very reasonable and there is a **SUPER** discount for students with ID's. Conference recordings will be available through Nov. 30, 2021. There are over 80 sessions to choose from. Topics include: "Knowing our Names: African Surnamed Families through the Americas," "Free Persons of Color—Some were required to register," and "Black Patriots of the Revolutionary War."



This looks like a great society if you are researching African lineage. Check it out at:

<https://www.aahgs.org/>