

The WHAGS Journal



Volume 6, Issue 4 — May 2026



Editor's Note

It has been a great year here at WHAGS! We began the year by learning about preserving family records and will end the year by learning more the G2 software that does just that. In between, we learned about source citations, ancestral migration, and other subjects presented by professional genealogists. Our special interest groups (SIGs) stayed busy meeting regularly with interested participants.

Building on Melissa Barker's Lecture around reserving records, it's a good time to talk about something all of us deal with at some point, how we organize and file all the genealogy records we have worked so hard to collect.

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At the WHAGS general meeting in April, Kate Penney Howard presented a program on creating strong genealogical narratives using artificial intelligence. As a follow-up, she has provided the following article highlighting what she learned about AI at the RootsTech conference.

RootsTech 2026: Ten Things That Made My Jaw Drop

By Kate Penney Howard

www.katepenneyhoward.com

RootsTech 2026 wrapped up on March 7. The theme was "Together," but the unofficial theme was clearly artificial intelligence. AI crashed the party at every forum, every expo booth, and most of the talks. Here are the ten announcements and moments that had people excited.

1. FamilyTreeDNA Rewrote the Rules on Autosomal Testing

FamilyTreeDNA launched new Family Finder tests that analyze over 400 times the ge-

netic data of their previous version -- roughly 9% of your genome compared to just 0.02% before. The best news? Upcoming Family Finder Discover reports will be available to all Family Finder test takers, whether they tested recently or a year ago.

2. GEDmatch is Getting a Complete Overhaul

GEDmatch has been the scrappy workhorse of the genetic genealogy world for



years. The company previewed a major redesign planned for later in 2026, incorporating AI-powered tools to help users interpret DNA matches and make

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Editors Note

On Saturday, May 16th, our own Rick Armes will release his G2 application, a tool for Building, Organizing, Storytelling, and Passing on Your Genealogy Assets. A lot of us have reached the point where finding information isn't the problem anymore, keeping it organized is. Rick's program will help show ways to make better sense of what we have and how to pass it along to others.

Another emerging tool that will prove extraordinarily useful to genealogist is artificial intelligence. At the April general meeting, Kate Penney Howard introduced us to that world, and suggested ways it can support our research and writing. At the same time, it reminded us that good genealogy still depends on checking facts carefully and using good judgment.

One thing we all need to be careful about is scams. As more of our research moves online, the risks seem to grow. Even if you haven't run into a scam yourself, it's something to be aware of.

There is an interesting Fox News site that discusses the scam threat. You can find it at <https://www.foxnews.com/tech/genealogy-boom-exposes-personal-data-scammers-can-exploit>

Looking ahead, our May meeting will include the announcement of newly elected officers,

along with other business as we get ready for the 2026–27 program year.

This brings us to the end of another year with the West Houston Area Genealogical Society. It's been a good year of learning and sharing.

As always, thank you for being part of WHAGS and for keeping family history alive through your participation.



Grandpa and World War I

Our paternal grandfather, Joseph Willis Wilder Godson, lived with us on Bingle Road while we were growing up. Among the papers and photographs that I have is his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army. It is old and worn, yellow with age. Until recently, I had never looked closely at this document. A chapter of his life is detailed here, while he was a young man, before he married Grandma Teen.

World War I, or the Great War, was one part of Grandpa's

life. We heard stories from Dad that he had served in World War I. He was born in 1893 and lived in New Orleans, Louisiana. He painted houses for a living. He suffered from shell shock and spent time in the veteran's hospital in Gulfport, Mississippi. He was in the Veteran's hospital here in Houston, Texas from time to time too. But Grandpa did not share any stories with us.

He was 64 years old when I was born. Thin and pale, almost bald. I remember that he would sit in a lawn chair in the backyard and drink Lone Star beer from the carport refrigerator. He smoked Camel cigarettes when he could get them. If he did not like what Grandma Teen served for dinner, he would ask us to eat it if we were in the trailer. He had heart trouble and pernicious anemia. He died from a heart attack on May 31, 1973, at the Veteran's Hospital here in Houston, 80 years old.

Looking at the discharge document, I noticed that there are differences from what I remember. His name is different, Joseph W. Farrell, not Godson. He used his stepfather's surname. His occupation is also different, as a farmer instead of a painter. He was living in Holyoke, Massachusetts, not Louisiana. His physical description, birth date and location did

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Grandpa and World War I

match. He was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on March 28, 1893. He had blue eyes, light hair, fair complexion, and was 5 feet 9 inches tall.

The Enlistment Record on the back of the form has his qualifications, battles, wounds, and vaccinations. His signature is at the bottom of the page. The detailed information written in the remarks was what I was most curious about. I turned to ChatGPT to help decipher the abbreviations and their meaning.

The information from ChatGPT, edited, is as follows: [On August 21, 1918, he was formally inducted into the United States Army at Holyoke, Massachusetts and his service number was 3818696. He was assigned to Casual Company 88 of the 162d Depot Brigade until Sept. 24, 1918. He was probably sent to Camp Devens, in Worcester County, Massachusetts. It was one of the major training camps for infantry training during World War I. During his training, he was associated with Company "L" 1st Regiment Infantry, Replacement and Training Troops until Oct. 20, 1918. Then he was assigned to the 331st Infantry and became part of what was officially designated the "Camp Pike October Automatic Replacement Draft, Company 3, Infantry." This designation meant

HEADQUARTERS PORT OF EMBARKATION BREST FRANCE (Name of Port.)
Sheet 7
Class 300
PASSENGER LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS
INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS FORM
Separate lists of TWELVE COPIES EACH will be filled out by each company or detachment commander as follows:
1st Class: Officers arranged according to rank, Army Field Clerks, Field Clerks Q. M. C., Nurses and Civilian Employees. Names to be numbered consecutively, beginning with No. 1.
2d Class: Non-commissioned Officers down to and including Color Sergeant (see A. R., Par. 9).
3d Class: All Enlisted men below Color Sergeant (Par. 9, A. R.), arranged according to usual formation of the Company, that is, BY SQUADS.
To be filled by Organization Give full name of organization, including company and regimental designation Item Number Phase
To be filled by Embarkation Personnel Adjust Name of Transport or Commercial Steamer Date of Sailing Port
NAME AND SERIAL NUMBER Rank & Arm or Staff Corps Example: HENDERSON, HARRIS F. 1, 234, 567 Capt OMC Organization NOTIFY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (Give name in full; for example: Mrs. Mary A. Smith) Relationship ADDRESS Number, Street, City and State. Do not abbreviate.
Leave double space between entries. All typewriting must be in CAPITAL LETTERS.

162 PARRELL, JOSEPH P. PVT 3818696
330th INF
330th REG INFANTRY
BOSS MAGAZINE
618 1/2 STREET, NEW ORLEANS
LOUISIANA.

Honorable Discharge from The United States Army
TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
This is to certify, that Joseph W. Parrell #3818696
Private Company "I" 330th Infantry
THE UNITED STATES ARMY, as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITHFUL
SERVICE is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the military service of the
UNITED STATES by reason of: B.C.O. Nov 30, 1918, Washington
and Joseph W. Parrell was born
in New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana.
When enlisted he was 25 years of age and by occupation a Farmer
He had blue eyes, light hair, fair complexion, and
was 5 feet 9 inches in height
Given under my hand at Camp Pike, Ark this
18th day of Feb one thousand nine hundred and nineteen
Major W. B. Smith
Commanding

ENLISTMENT RECORD.
Name: Joseph W. Parrell Grade: Private
Enlisted on: Aug 21st 1918 at Holyoke, Mass.
Serving in: 330th Infantry Attachment period at date of discharge:
Prior service: None
Noncommissioned officer: None
Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating: 1 Not qualified
Horsemanship: Not mounted
Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: A.S.P.
Knowledge of any section: None
Wounds received in service: None
Special courses or other training: None
Typhoid prophylaxis completed: Sept 16th 1918
Paratyphoid prophylaxis completed: Sept 9th 1918
Married or single: Single
Character: Excellent
Remarks: Sent his travel pay to New Orleans, La.
No. 11000 on check number 2031740/1912 or 304520/1912
Co. Co. 88 162d AB, sent on 11/18 Co. 4 1st Reg. Inf R.I.P. hooks
Sent 2/18 Co. 331st Inf. sent on 2/18 Co. 330th
Oct 20/18 - 331st Inf. sent on 2/18 Co. 330th
Signature of soldier: Joseph W. Parrell
Signature of commanding officer: W. B. Smith
Commanding
FEB 18 1919

Enlistment, discharge and troop ship documents for Liz's grandfather, Joseph Willis Wilder Godson. World War I. (Zoom in to read documents.)

that he was no longer tied to a specific regiment but instead was being sent overseas as a replacement soldier to be assigned where he was most needed. On October 31, 1918, Joseph boarded the troop transport SS Great Northern and sailed for France. The timing of his departure placed him among the final wave of American soldiers sent to Europe. He crossed the Atlantic as

the war was reaching its climax, arriving in Brest, France, the major American base port, on November 9, 1918. His last assignment was Company "I" 330th Infantry from Dec. 5, 1918, until he was discharged.

The Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, only a few days after his arrival. Alt-

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Grandpa and World War I

though the war had officially ended, the situation in France remained tense and uncertain. Many soldiers, including recent arrivals like Joseph, experienced the aftermath of the conflict. The presence of wounded men in crowded camps, and the lingering effects of months of intense warfare had lasting effects. Joseph remained in France for approximately two months during the early phase of demobilization. He departed from Brest, France on January 19, 1919, aboard the transport ship, SS Martha Washington. He returned to the United States with thousands of other soldiers as the Army began to stand down. After his return, he was honorably discharged at Camp Pike, Arkansas on February 18, 1919. His service record notes that he had “no AWOL or absence under General Orders No. 31, or General Orders No. 45”, indicating that his service was continuous and without disciplinary issues.] *End of ChatGPT information.*

Grandpa had served honorably in the Great War, was discharged and returned to New Orleans, Louisiana. I do not know why he was in Holyoke, Massachusetts working as a farmer when he registered for the draft and enlisted. We had heard growing up that he used his stepfather’s surname, but not why. I

wish that we had more stories about him.

Researching this part of his life is answering some questions and raising new ones too.



Rick Armes, developer of G2

The Case for the G2 Research Library: A Thesis for the Serious Genealogist

Genealogy is often described as a search for names, dates, and places. In reality, it is something far richer: gathering, organizing, interpreting, and preserving of evidence so that family stories can be accurately told. Yet many genealogists work with tools that were designed primarily for building family trees rather than managing the documentary evidence behind them. They may know *who* belongs in the tree, but struggle to locate the records, photographs, maps, letters, and notes that prove it. This is where the **G2 Research Library** offers a transformative advantage.

The central thesis of this paper is simple: the G2 Research Library provides genealogists

with a superior framework for research because it treats evidence—not just individuals—as the heart of family history. By organizing sources as a curated library rather than a loose collection of files, G2 enables faster retrieval, stronger analysis, better storytelling, and long-term preservation of research assets.

1. From Tree-Centered to Evidence-Centered Research

Most genealogy software begins with a person. The user enters an ancestor, adds a birth fact, a marriage fact, a death fact, and gradually builds outward into a family tree. Documents are attached along the way as supporting materials. While useful, this model can unintentionally relegate records to a secondary role.

The G2 Research Library reverses that logic. It begins with the evidence itself: census pages, deeds, probate files, church registers, newspaper articles, photographs, military records, maps, and correspondence. Each item is cataloged, described, cited, and made searchable. Instead of asking, “Which person does this belong to?” the genealogist can first ask, “What does this record reveal?” That shift is profound. It encourages careful analysis before conclusions are entered into a pedigree.

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G2

In other words, G2 supports the habits of sound scholarship. It reminds the researcher that names in a tree are only as reliable as the evidence beneath them.

2. Ending the Chaos of Digital Hoarding

Modern genealogists accumulate thousands of digital assets. Images are downloaded from websites, photos are scanned, PDFs are saved, screenshots are captured, and notes are scattered across folders. Over time, the collection grows faster than the ability to manage it. Valuable discoveries disappear into poorly named files and forgotten directories.

This is one of the greatest hidden frustrations in genealogy: not the lack of records, but the inability to find what one already has.

The G2 Research Library solves this by replacing chaos with curation. New discoveries can be placed into a **New Arrivals** area for intake and review. Once processed, they move into the **Permanent Collection**, where they are fully organized and ready for use. Physical originals—such as family Bibles, letters, and heirloom photographs—can also be tracked in a **Physical Collection**.

This library model mirrors the practices of real archives and museums. Nothing is lost in a

pile. Every item has a place, context, and purpose.

3. Retrieval at the Speed of Thought

A genealogist's greatest momentum often comes in moments of discovery: a clue in one record suggests another line of inquiry, and quick access to related material becomes critical. Traditional folder systems slow this process. The researcher knows the file exists but cannot remember where it was stored.

G2 is built for rapid retrieval. Because items are cataloged with descriptions, tags, source data, and searchable metadata, the user can locate materials instantly. A search for a surname, location, church, regiment, or keyword can surface relevant items across the entire collection.

This means less time hunting for files and more time analyzing evidence. Research sessions become productive rather than administrative.

4. From Evidence to Story

The final purpose of genealogy is not merely accumulation. It is interpretation and communication. Families want stories, not spreadsheets. They want to know how ancestors lived, migrated, endured hardship, built communities, and shaped future generations.

Yet storytelling is difficult when evidence is scattered. To write well, the genealogist must assemble records, confirm citations, arrange images, and build chronology. G2 makes this process natural because the evidence has already been curated. Records are ready to be pulled into timelines, narratives, and illustrated reports.

A well-managed research library becomes a story engine. It allows the genealogist to move efficiently from raw documents to polished family history.

5. Preservation for the Next Generation

Genealogy is inherently intergenerational work. We preserve the past so future descendants may understand where they came from. But preservation requires more than storing names in a database. It requires maintaining the records, citations, explanations, and context that make those names meaningful.

The G2 Research Library is designed with permanence in mind. It preserves not only the conclusions of research, but the sources that support them. Future family historians will not need to repeat the same searches or guess how earlier conclusions were reached. They will inherit a usable, searchable archive.

That is perhaps the strongest

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G2

argument of all: G2 does not merely help today's genealogist—it serves tomorrow's.

Conclusion

The genealogist of the twenty-first century faces a paradox: more records are available than ever before, yet the sheer volume of material can overwhelm traditional methods. Family trees alone are not enough. What is needed is a disciplined system for managing evidence, retrieving it quickly, and transforming it into enduring stories.

The G2 Research Library answers that need. By placing evidence at the center, eliminating digital disorder, enabling rapid search, supporting narrative creation, and preserving research for future generations, it offers a model better suited to serious genealogy than the tree-centered tools of the past.

In short: **G2 eliminates the chaos, so the genealogist can write the story.**

Field Trip Report: Clayton Library Visit

On Saturday, April 11, eight WHAGS members enjoyed the final field trip of the year with a visit to the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research. It was a fitting destination for a day



Manuel The Storyteller

devoted to family history research. The group size was small and comfortable, allowing each participant to focus on individual research interests while also enjoying the fellowship of a shared outing.

Upon arrival, each participant settled into their own research agenda. Over the course of four hours, the group worked quietly, digging into records, books, and archival materials. As is often the case with genealogy, some uncovered new leads, while others not so much. Regardless of the outcome, the time was well spent and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

One of the highlights of the trip, however, had little to do with documents or databases.

Our transportation was provided by Harris County Precinct 4, and our driver, Manuel Calderon, proved to be an unexpected delight. A natural storyteller, Manuel kept the group entertained with his humor and lively personality.

There were two distinct sides to Manuel. While behind the wheel, he was all business, focused, and clearly committed to getting us to our destination safely. But before departure and once we arrived, he transformed into the life of the group. His stories and good-natured humor added an extra layer of enjoyment to the day, reminding us that sometimes the journey itself becomes part of the memory.

All in all, the trip was a wonderful way to close out the year's field excursions, combining productive research, good company, and yes, one of the roughest bus rides we had ever experienced. But that's okay. We had fun.



Potential Field Trip Locations

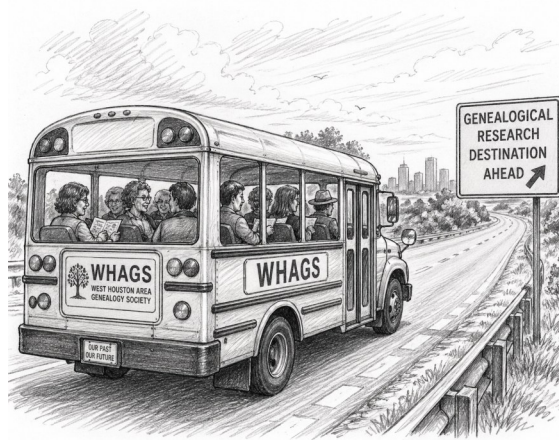
By Ron Ware

In an effort to identify potential libraries and archives suitable for WHAGS field trips, I have researched several facilities located within a short drive of Houston. The goal was to find locations that offer strong genealogical resources while also providing an engaging experience for our members. Even if some of these sites are not selected for organized trips, they remain excellent destinations for the individual genealogist. The following highlights five outstanding candidates, each offering unique collections and opportunities for genealogists at all levels.

Stay tuned for more information as these ideas for research trips develop.

Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research

Located in Houston's Museum District, Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research has long been a familiar and valued destination for West Houston Area Genealogy Society field trips. So it is very much worthy of a mention here. Widely regarded as one of the premier genealogy libraries in the United States, Clayton specializes almost entirely in family history research and holds an extensive collection of both published and unpublished genealogies, mak-



ing it particularly valuable for Southern and American lineage work.

Researchers will find census indexes, immigration records, military rosters, local histories, and international resources. The library is especially strong in compiled family histories—often the key to breaking through difficult research problems. For many genealogists, Clayton serves as the cornerstone of research in the Houston area.

Houston Metropolitan Research Center

Housed in the historic Julia Ideson Building in downtown Houston, the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC) is the archival branch of the Houston Public Library system. It focuses on the history of Houston and the surrounding region.

Its collections include manuscripts, photographs, maps, architectural records, and local government materials documenting the growth of Houston. Researchers interested in urban history,

property records, or family members who lived in the Houston area will find HMRC particularly useful. The center's photographic archives alone provide a rich visual record of the city's development.

Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center

Located just north of Liberty, Texas, this state-operated facility offers a unique combination of archives, research library, and museum. It serves a ten-county region of Southeast Texas and preserves local government records, manuscripts, maps, photographs, and newspapers.

In addition to its research collections, the center features historical exhibits and several restored historic buildings on its grounds. For genealogists with roots in Southeast Texas, this is one of the most valuable repositories available, offering both archival depth and historical context.

Newton Gresham Library

Situated on the campus of Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, the Newton Gresham Library provides both academic resources and significant archival holdings. Its Special Collections and University Archives include rare books, manuscripts,

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Libraries and Archives

and regional historical materials.

The library also offers access to digital collections such as yearbooks, newspapers, and institutional records. For researchers studying East Texas families, education history, or regional development, this library is a convenient and valuable stop.

Harris County Archives

The Harris County Archives serves as the official repository for county government records. Its holdings include court records, probate files, property records, maps, and other administrative documents created by Harris County offices.

For genealogists, these records are often essential. Probate files can reveal family relationships, land records can trace migration and ownership, and court documents can provide details not found anywhere else. A visit here is especially useful for those researching ancestors who lived in Harris County during the 19th and early 20th centuries..



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RootsTech



organizing, filtering, tagging, and analyzing notes far easier. This has been a long time coming.

3. FamilySearch Released Its AI Tools from the Lab

For months, genealogists have been testing FamilySearch AI features in beta. At Rootstech, the AI Research Assistant and AI Hints officially came out of Labs and are now available to all users. Full-Text Search also graduated from Labs, and users can now attach search results directly to the family tree.

4. FamilySearch Is Testing Natural Language Search

If you have ever wished you could just talk to a database like a person, this one is for you. Simple Search, currently in Labs, is being tested to allow users to search records using natural language. Ask it a question the way you would ask a librarian. See what it tells you!

5. All Revolutionary War Pension Files Are Now Fully

Searchable

Ancestry announced that its Fold3 collection of Revolutionary War pension files are now fully searchable thanks to optical character recognition. Researchers can now search for veterans and their next of kin by name, rather than relying on a limited index. For those of us working on pre-1800 American genealogy, this is a genuine breakthrough. They also announced new AI features, including a record and document transcription tool where AI transcribes, summarizes, and provides source citations for documents and photos uploaded to your Gallery.

6. Ancestry Introduced "AI Stories" -- And It's Exactly What It Sounds Like

A new tool called AI Stories narrates a brief story about a document in a shareable, podcast-style audio file. The possibilities here for people who struggle to write about their ancestors are significant. It could be a meaningful bridge for beginners. It raises questions about voice and accuracy that researchers will need to monitor carefully, but the concept is compelling.

7. LifeWeaver Crashed the Party as a Platinum Sponsor

No one saw this one coming. Newcomer LifeWeaver

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RootsTech

made a significant splash as platinum sponsor of RootsTech 2026. The tool archives and searches through text messages, emails and other digital communication files to create a story from those pieces. LifeWeaver also allows users to add older phones, computers, hard drives, and scanned handwritten journals, digitizing their contents while preserving images of the originals so they can be shared with family. And critically, users' data is private. The company does not sell data or use it to train AI models.

8. MyHeritage Unveiled Scribe AI

MyHeritage announced Scribe AI at the RootsTech Innovation Forum, demonstrating how the feature analyzes historical documents and photos to uncover genealogical insights. The tool provides record suggestions, photo descriptions, and transcriptions. The MyHeritage team also announced Country Coding, a feature that helps sort and organize international records and visualize your ancestors by country.

9. Ancestry Preserve Wants to Digitize Your Shoeboxes

The new Ancestry Preserve service, heavily featured in the Expo Hall, aims to help customers preserve and digitize their old media, including photographs, slides, film

tapes, and more. For genealogists who have inherited closets full of analog memories, this fills a real need. The long-term implications for family history are significant. Your grandmother's slides deserve better than a dark box in a garage.

10. Marlee Matlin and Tara Roberts Reminded Us What This Is All For

The technology announcements were remarkable. But these two keynotes stopped the room. Marlee Matlin, Academy Award-winning actress, shared her inspiring journey of overcoming obstacles and connecting personal triumphs to family history. As a deaf actor, she did not utter a word, but her facial expressions, animated signing, and story had audiences listening with their eyes and hearts. Tara Roberts, National Geographic explorer, shared her extraordinary work documenting slave ship wrecks and reconnecting descendants with their ancestral past.

RootsTech 2026 made one thing clear. The technology is accelerating faster than most of us can keep up. The challenge for our community is to stay human in the middle of all of it. The records are the beginning. The stories are the point.

RootsTech 2026

Richard Gantt Stone: A Life of Service, Law, and Determination

By Windy Corbett
Her Paternal Grandfather

Born on July 18, 1877, in the growing Southern town of Greenville, South Carolina, Richard Gantt Stone or “Dick” entered a world still reshaping itself after the War Between the States. The son of Eugene Earle Stone I and Floride Lydia Croft, Dick’s early years unfolded in a community that valued resilience, tradition, and honor. These qualities would come to define his life.

By the age of three, Dick was already recorded as living in Greenville, a place that would remain central to his identity. As he grew into adulthood, however, his path would briefly take him beyond the familiar streets of his hometown and into the service of his country.

In 1898, at 20 years of age, Dick answered the call during the Spanish-American War. He



Richard Gantt Stone served as a sergeant in Company L of the 1st South Carolina

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Richard Gantt Stone

Infantry in Columbia, SC. Though his military service lasted only a matter of months, it marked him as a man willing to step forward in moments of national need, just like his father before him.

Following his return, Dick turned his focus to the law. By December 1902, he had been admitted to the bar in Columbia, South Carolina. He quickly established a practice in Greenville, building a reputation as a capable and dedicated attorney. He also opened an office on the Court House lawn in Brevard, North Carolina. By 1905, he maintained two residences. One on Rutherford Street in Greenville, SC and a house in Cedar Mountain, NC. Therefore, he could be near his professional office on South Main Street or on the Court House lawn. This is evidence of a man firmly rooted in both his community and his profession.

His personal life also flourished during this period. By 1910, he had married Elena Winstead and was the head of household on Earle Street, balancing the responsibilities of family life with the demands of his legal career. He and his wife had six children; all of which lived to adulthood. Over the years, census records consistently reflect his steady presence in Greenville, where he continued to practice law independently. In the heat of the summers, he would take his family to Cedar Mountain,

close to Brevard, where the weather was cooler. By 1930, he had achieved notable financial success. He owned two homes and maintained his own law practice during a time when economic uncertainty gripped much of the nation.

Yet Dick's ambitions extended beyond local matters. In 1935, he traveled to Virginia and Washington, D.C., engaged in a case for the Croft family, that reached the highest level of the American legal system—the Supreme Court. It was a remarkable culmination of his career, reflecting both his professional skill and his determination to pursue justice on a national stage.

Tragically, this final chapter of his life was overshadowed by illness. Diagnosed with stomach cancer, he looked for treatment at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. They used X-rays which were experimental at the time. The extreme settings cooked his stomach causing radiation poisoning in November 1935. On December 7, 1935, he passed away in Falls Church, Virginia, far from the city that had shaped him.

His body was returned to Greenville, where he was laid to

rest in Christ Church Cemetery. A fitting homecoming for a man whose life had been so deeply intertwined with the community.

Standing at 5 feet 4 inches tall, Richard Gantt Stone may not have been imposing in stature, but his life tells a story of quiet determination, service, and professional accomplishment. From a young soldier in 1898 to a seasoned attorney arguing be-



Wendy's Stone Ancestors

fore the nation's highest court, his journey reflects the enduring spirit of dedication that characterized many Americans of his era.

Today, his legacy lives on not only in records and archives but in the story of a man who devoted his life to service—first to his country, and then to the law.



Windy Corbett



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Helping to Find Your Roots

Monthly meetings are hybrid: in person at Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road, and via Zoom

WHAGS May 2026 Program

G2: Software for Building, Organizing, Storyboarding and Passing On Your Genealogy Assets

Presenter: Ricky Armes



This presentation will show you how to quickly use G2 software to organize your photographs, video and documents. Once “registered” they are immediately available for sorting, searching and filtering. Other attributes can subsequently be “attached” to your media including description, caption, people and user-defined tags which further organizes your holdings. Beyond organization, G2 facilitates the creation of family stories by allowing you to assemble related media to quickly

form a “storyboard.” These stories can then be shared with family members, and the next generation of your family genealogists!

Ricky Armes. My interest in family history began when I first heard my mom speaking Thai to her family back in Bangkok. To say I was shocked is an understatement. Yes, the house was full of wonderful Asian carvings, pictures and brass trays but I hadn't connected the dots apparently! From then on my siblings and I bragged about being Thai and barely mentioned the Pennsylvania contribution of my father. My nephews proudly carried on the “we are Siamese if you please” tradition.

I worked as a systems engineer involved with database design until retiring in 2002. When I'm not working on G2, I enjoy cooking, travelling and swimming. I've been a WHAGS member since 2022.

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Meet & greet at 10:00 am

Program begins at 10:30 am

Join us in person at the Steve Radack Community Center, 18650 Clay Road, Houston, TX 77084. Visitors are always welcome! If you'd like to attend the meeting virtually, visit our website at www.whags.org for more information.