ADVANCING GENEALOGY THROUGH WIDE-RANGING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTING THE PRESERVATION OF THE HERITAGE OF AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY AND TEXAS
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Message from the Editor

Lisa Smith-Curtean

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I bring you this issue. I hope each of you enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed putting it all together. Thank you all for your submissions and positive feedback. I loved reading your stories and was reminded of a personal experience I would like to share with you.

Earlier this year, my family and I had the honor to meet a cousin who immediately became a genuine and true friend, one that we will treasure for the rest of our lives, Sybil Patterson. We shared many laughs and stories, and made some great memories.

During our visit, Sybil shared with us something I will never forget, the real meaning of family and family history. Sybil’s great grandmother, Matilda “Tillie” Roberts (nee Baker), sister-in-law to my 2nd great-grand uncle, A.J. Thorp, lived to be 100 years old. “Tillie” witnessed a lot during her years as a Pioneer Texan woman, and kept letters written to her and from her as well as an Album of Friendship that held the writings of those near and dear to her. Reading and touching letters that were written by my ancestors during the Civil War era brought tears to my eyes. Looking at the old photographs and personal belongings and listening to Sybil share the stories behind the items was the best gift I could have received.

If you are a new member, or even a long-time member, think about sitting down right now and writing something for the Q. Remember: your stories, your pedigrees, your records, your reports – whatever research you have done, whatever treasures you have uncovered are what make this a successful publication. Send it to me, and maybe we’ll find you some new cousins!

Thank you for being such faithful readers of the AGS Quarterly.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With kindest regards,

Lisa Smith-Curtean
2012 Calendar of Events

28 August, 7pm
AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
“Trailing the Old West History” with Mike Cox

25 September, 7pm
AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
“Social History of the Confederate States” with Jackie Jones

20 October, Doors open 8:30am. Program runs from 9:00am – 2:30pm
Mini-Seminar Series presented by J. Mark Lowe, Triumphant Love Lutheran Church located at 9508 Great Hills Trail

Topics:

1. **My Ancestor, the Farmer: Shaping a profile for your Rural Ancestor**
   Farming is a proud and honorable occupation. Develop a rich profile of your farming ancestor and community using available resources.

2. **Ready-Set-Plan! Developing a One-Step Research Plan**
   Learn a simple technique for breaking down difficult research problems into manageable segments. Learn to get more research done while remaining focused.

3. **Planning Around That Brick Wall**
   By reviewing our research, and taking a fresh planning approach, take new opportunities to solve those family problems. Use the very evidence that stops you in your tracks to spring over the walls.

4. **Over the Mountain, Across the Plains… Using Electronic Records to Trace Our Ancestors**
   Your ancestors moved westward, now follow them as they move back east. Knowing where to look for valuable records will reward you with insights and research plans.

23 October, 7pm
AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
“Who Do You Think You Are: Austin”

27 November, 7pm
AGS Monthly Meeting, Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive
“Fall Festival; Austin's Sixth Street” with Allen Childs, M.D.
I Found It in the Archives

by Connie Perdue – AGS Member

As I was waiting for a file to be pulled in the Texas Archives, I decided to peruse one of the finding aids on the shelves. Imagine my delight and surprise to find a listing for my husband’s 3rd great grandfather’s surname! At that time, I knew a little about his 3rd great grandfather, William Oliphant. He was born in Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland and came to the United States in 1833. He and his family traveled from Indiana in 1852 to move to a warmer climate. The family settled in Austin, Texas instead of Houston because of the dread of yellow fever in the Houston area. Oliphant eventually acquired the land on which the Driskill Hotel now stands on 6th Street in Downtown Austin and built a two-story brick building which housed his jewelry store and (later) a photography store for his son William James.

What I found in the archives were boxes and boxes of family memorabilia! Included in the boxes were items as small as a grocery list to invaluable original letters written from family members, some as far away as Pennsylvania. There was even a funeral notice for the elder William’s wife, Jane Eliza Van Zile after her death in 1867. These items gave me many clues regarding family connections that I had previously not had any knowledge. You cannot find this personal type of information in a book, official government document or on the Internet.

William M. Oliphant
Courtesy Connie Perdue
Perhaps the most interesting article in one of the boxes was a handwritten account by William’s son, William James Oliphant, regarding his time as a young Confederate soldier during the war and as a prisoner of war. It was handwritten in pencil and was many pages. This manuscript contained a great deal of personal family information such as when one of his aunts who lived at Green Castle, Indiana, sent him some clothing and a blanket on his nineteenth birthday to use in his freezing prison at Camp Chase in Ohio. I am happy to report that William survived the war. He returned to Austin to become a photographer and despite his war injuries, lived a long life.

The Texas Archives contains many, many invaluable documents. However, having a peek at the personal side of my husband’s family is a treasure that will be cherished and remembered for many years by our family.
HELPFUL HINT:

Before you go to the Archives, I would take a look at their resources at [https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/genfirst.html] and make a list of what you want to research. They also have some online collections at [https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/landing/collections.html]. I have also found that when you go to the Archives section, which is on the first floor, they have some old card catalogs and binders (which is where I found the Oliphant reference) and I don’t think this information is shown online. When you do go to the Archives, they will let you bring a computer, but you have to use their pencil and paper and will have to lock up your other information. On the Genealogy side, which is on the second floor, you can have your personal items with you. There is a snack area on the first floor if you make a whole day of the Archives. Don’t forget a sweater as sometimes it’s cool.
When I tell people I'm heading to a family reunion, they often give me a sympathetic nod as if it is a chore I endure. Not in the Cunningham family. For 122 years, the annual gathering near Mercer Creek in southern Comanche County has been an occasion where family members are willing to travel thousands of miles in order to visit, reminisce, share meals, and most of all, reflect on our family legacy.

The "Cunningham family," by our definition, is the hundreds of descendants of James Cunningham and Susannah Tate, who married in Alabama in 1835. After he served in the Florida Indian Wars, the family—there were 2 children then—traveled overland with all their possessions to Texas in 1839-40. After a few moves around the state, they settled on the edge of civilization—what became Comanche County—in 1855, making a home on Mountain Creek. Now there were 9 children, from age 19 to newborn. Once settled in Comanche County, their permanent home, the family grew to an even dozen children, 9 boys and 3 girls.

By 1889, the family had over 100 grandchildren and Susannah asked for a gathering of her family. Reunions were sporadic until after the deaths of James and Susannah Cunningham. Then it became an annual event, one that is now acknowledged as the longest continuous family reunion in the state of Texas. They set aside August 15 and 16 to be the time to bring their wagons, set up their tents, and enjoy some family fellowship. In those days of farming, it was a time of year with no harvest to bring in and no crops to be planted and the families could take a short break.
Each year since, the family has reunited on land once owned by Dave Cunningham, on the banks of Mercer Creek beneath giant pecan trees. In 1989, the Texas Historical Commission placed a historical marker to honor the reunion.

As the nation became industrialized and many of the family members began to have non-agrarian jobs, the reunions on August 15 and 16 gave way to weekend reunions. Virginia Wood, who has been to all but one reunion in her life, remembers those early gatherings, traveling to the grounds by bus from Grapevine where her father was a preacher. She remembers when Highway 16 was a dirt and caliche road and the word "reunion" meant "hot and dusty" to her. The reunion continues to mean hot, with this year's reunion on August 11 and 12.

Invitations were issued by letter or word of mouth, then hand-addressed postcards. Now the invitations are printed, computers produce the labels, and the daunting task of keeping up with the ever-changing addresses of hundreds of descendants is a challenge met head-on each year by Sherry Perkins of Comanche. Now the family also uses the myfamily.com web site, a Facebook page, and lots of e-mail correspondence to keep up with the thousands of descendants.

Family members that live in the area have willingly taken on the roles that keep the reunion functioning smoothly from year to year. Ruth Adele Waggoner served as the family secretary for about 25 years. Two years ago she turned over the title to her daughter, Beth Fairbrother, of Comanche. But Ruth Adele is still the first to greet newcomers and regulars at the registration desk, keeping it old school with spiral bound notebooks for each family member to sign their name. The secretary carefully does the family accounting, keeping close tabs on donations and the payments made for electricity, beef for the barbecue, and supplies.

The 100th Cunningham reunion in 1989 inspired a strong effort to invite more family members to participate. Over 600 cousins were there for that reunion and the crowd was documented with a 3-foot-wide panoramic photo. A similar black and white photo of the 1922 reunion exists as well. There are
Large group shots going back to at least 1900 with family members in long dresses, bonnets, suits and ties. For the Centennial Reunion, F. Lee Lawrence, Bill Lawrence, and Effie Birdwell created a book of family trees that included all family members to that point in time. It was an extension of a treasured document by Alma Meadows Cox of Ozona that compiled the family history from its beginnings in Ireland and Tennessee to just after World War I. Her beautifully printed booklet was created in 1920 and included family stories and a list of family members who served in the military and two who gave their lives in World War I.

Family members still bring the food for the reunion, setting out their pies, cakes, baked beans, and salads on a table that has held this bounty for years. The main dish is barbecue, with dozens of briskets slowly cooked in a specially made barbecue pit constructed on the grounds. Chef Raymond Lozano watches over the pits as he has done for more than 25 years, even after moving away from Comanche. Though unrelated to the Cunningham family, he has become part of the family.

The festivities begin at the reunion on Saturday, with plenty of time for becoming reacquainted with distant relatives and visiting with close family members, too. There are treasure hunts and arts and crafts for the children, but, just like their great-grandparents 100 years ago, the kids still enjoy the swings hanging from the pecans, fishing in the creek, and exploring the woods.

The Cunningham Reunion weekend also offers descendants the opportunity to walk through the same doorways that their distant ancestors walked through, see the same view from the porch, and ponder what it was like to huddle within the dog trot with the family's horses, preparing to fight marauding Comanches. The original home of the Cunninghams had been sold many years ago, but our cousin, F. Lee Lawrence of Tyler, Texas, bought and restored the home in the 1980s. Lohman Feist led that challenging reconstruction and currently lives on the ranch and, along with his wife, serves as caretaker for the home and ranch. After Lee Lawrence’s death, his family has continued to welcome their cousins each August to see the home and the historic original fireplaces with the Cunningham brands emblazoned above them. The first wedding in Comanche County was held at this home in 1856 uniting Elizabeth Cunningham and T.J. Holmsley. An historic marker identifies the house as a state landmark.

Sunday morning breakfast is a not-to-be-missed part of the family reunion. Chef Lozano and family members tend campfires with kettles of cowboy coffee and with large frying vats where the best chicken fried steaks in the world are prepared, along with eggs and gravy.

After breakfast, family members often go to the Newburg Cemetery for a visit. The cemetery contains the graves of James and Susannah Cunningham and many of their descendants. The Texas Historical Commission honored their graves with an historical marker in 1968.

The Cunningham history is much more than their pioneering spirit. Family stories have been told and retold about the Cunningham men who were involved in virtually every battle with the Indians in Comanche County. The Texas Rangers honored several members of the family in 2009 with a ceremony at the Newburg Cemetery to mark their graves with crosses acknowledging their membership in that elite organization. John Meadows of Austin, Chairman of the Board of the Former...
Texas Rangers Foundation and a descendant of Elizabeth Holmsley, led the dedication ceremonies honoring James Cunningham, five of his sons, and a grandson.

And the family stories don't stop with the tales of the men. Susannah Cunningham single-handedly ran the ranch and protected the household when the men were away from the Mountain Creek home. Stories of her tenacity, strength, bravery, and generosity are documented and retold.

In a time when many people don't even know where their parents were born, it is an honor to belong to a family with such historic roots in the community and in the Republic of Texas. We come to visit and eat, but we mostly come to honor our heritage and take a moment to be grateful for the sacrifices, and the difference their lives made.
120 Year Old Album Answers 16 Year Old Letter

by Richard Robertson – AGS Member

This beautiful old photo album, inherited from my Mother, recently answered a 16 year old letter that had accidentally fallen into my hands.

Last month my young cousin, Kati Sory Newton, came to town for an all-day genealogy exchange regarding the Sory family history. I have been so pleased that a young relative is so interested in our mutual research. Her great grandfather, William Horace Sory, and my mother were first cousins. Among the many documents she brought was a letter dated April 10, 1996 that had somehow come to her from a woman named Pat Everette. It said, among other things, that she found the enclosed photo copies from an antique trunk in Denton, Texas. Some of the photos were labeled Sory and she was writing to all possible Sorys who might live in areas where her great grandmother Maggie Bowen had lived.

Kati and I were looking through our ancient album when we discovered that some of Pat’s photo copies were duplicates of photos in the album, although mistakenly labeled. But the “kicker” was the picture in the album of “Aunt Mag Bowen.” We must be related to Mag Bowen for her picture to be in my mother’s family album. For some unknown reason, I figured I needed to check my maternal grandmother’s records. Her maiden name was Henry. I have not followed that family line as closely as I have the Sorys, but the name Aunt Maggie sounded familiar.

After reviewing the records, I discovered my grandmother, Mattie Lee Henry Sory, was the daughter of William Harvey Henry and Melvina Jane Lemmons. Melvina Lemmons was the daughter of David Lemmons and the sister of Sarah Margaret “Maggie” Lemmons, who married William Jefferson Bowen. So Maggie Bowen was my grandmother’s aunt. According to the 1996 letter, Maggie once lived in Jacksonville, Texas—my Mother’s home town.

The bottom line is Pat’s great grandmother was my great grandmother’s sister. After the detective work, I wanted to get in touch with Pat. Her 1996 letter had her address in Concord, California and a telephone number. I called the telephone number and a woman answered. I asked, “Are you Pat Everette?” She answered that she was. “Pat, this is Richard Sory Robertson and we are third cousins!”

I told her of Kati’s visit, her possession of the photo copies and the 1996 letter. When “Aunt Mag Bowen” was in this 120 year old album I really had to check it out. A few days later, I sent her all the details, a pedigree chart, correct names to her photo copies, and our picture of Aunt Maggie Bowen.

As my friend, Harold Lemburg, used to say, “You never know from where you sit, who’s gonna spit from the balcony.” Thanks, old photo album!
During the days leading up to the Civil War, Austin bordered a small town to the north. There are still remnants of this town, which Austin swallowed up, such as Middle Fiskville Road and the Fiskville Cemetery. What was Fiskville? What is the story behind it?

I’m glad you asked. Josiah Fisk, an attorney who studied law under Stephen A. Douglas and fought in the Illinois State Legislature with Abraham Lincoln, came to the Austin area to join the Texas Rangers to fight in the Mexican-American War. From his service in the Battle of Buena Vista, he received a large land grant in the Austin area and founded the town of Fiskville.

Through his journal, we learn that he was married to a woman named Narcissa White. When they met at a good old Texas barbeque on the Fourth of July, she was courting the third governor of Texas, Peter Hansborough Bell. Mr. Bell had business to attend, and told Fisk to walk Ms. White home. During that walk home, the two fell for each other, and they married shortly after.

While Josiah and Narcissa had several children, two stand out the most. The first is Irene. She was a sweet girl, grounded, without ever having outlandish behavior or conversations. One day, she told her father that she was “going away”. When Josiah asked her where she was going, she said, “I’m going to die soon”. She was in perfect health, but not long after that, she caught the coup and passed away. Nobody could explain how she knew.

The second that stood out is Narcissa Fisk. Josiah named Narcissa after her mother, who unfortunately died giving birth. Later, Josiah decided to rent out a large portion of his estate to a Mr. William Harkness, who brought his family with him. One of his sisters, Vashti Harkness, caught Josiah’s attention. Soon, the two married, having a few children of their own.
Fisk became a successful attorney, and as some records indicate, he at one time became the largest landowner in Texas. Later he became a judge in Austin, and served as a Methodist Preacher. As such a prominent man, he became influential in campaigning against secession. Travis County voted in favor of the Union, and it was partially due to the speeches he gave from his balcony, and the petitions he helped circulate.
During the Civil War, the Confederate troops sentenced Fisk to death more than once. Each time, he escaped, and never took the Oath of Allegiance to the Confederacy. He lost all of his property, and became a refugee in Louisiana after the Union soldiers took New Orleans.

After the war, his battles continued. The Ku Klux Klan sought after him and forced Fisk to go underground. The Good Reverend Josiah Fisk left the South, and his legacy in Austin and the town of Fiskville. He died in 1901 in Council Bluffs, Iowa, at 89 years old.

To learn more about him, read my book, *The Journals of Josiah Fisk*. As his great-great grandson, I found his journals and wove third-party sources into it. While there is naturally a creative license in doing this, everything in the book is more likely to have happened than not.
Hermann Heinrich Windmeyer

*By Leslie D Inman and Geraldine Comer*

**Husband:** Herrmann Heinrich Windmeyer

- **Birth:** 30 Nov 1810 in Herford, Westphalia, Germany
- **Death:** 04 Nov 1890 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas, USA
- **Father:** Herrmann Heinrich Windmeyer
- **Mother:** Anne Margarethe Ilsabein Engeling

**Wife:** Louise Sophie Caroline Wilhelmine Casten

- **Birth:** 23 Jun 1807 in Westphalia, Germany
- **Death:** Jul 1874 in Texas, USA
- **Father:** Ernst Casten
- **Mother:** Christine Wilhelmine Sauern

**Children:***

1. **Name:** Florenz Wilhelm Windmeyer
   - **M**
   - **Birth:** 1834 in Westphalia, Germany
   - **Death:** 1900 in Galveston, Galveston County, Texas, USA
   - **Marriage:** 08 Nov 1863 in Harris County, Texas, USA
   - **Spouse:** Anna Marie Steel

2. **Name:** Charles August Alexander Windmeyer
   - **M**
   - **Birth:** 14 Jun 1840 in Westphalia, Germany
   - **Death:** 20 Jul 1918 in Yoakum, DeWitt, Texas, USA
   - **Burial:** Flatonia, Fayette, Texas, USA; Oak Hill Cemetery
   - **Marriage:** 22 Feb 1868 in Galveston, Galveston County, Texas, USA
   - **Spouse:** Emilie Johanna Obser

3. **Name:** Hermann Friederich Windmeyer
   - **M**
   - **Birth:** 18 Sep 1843 in Westphalia, Germany
   - **Death:** Bef. 1857

4. **Name:** Anna Louise Ernestine Windmeyer
   - **F**
   - **Birth:** 10 Jun 1845 in Westphalia, Germany
   - **Death:** 06 May 1903 in La Grange, Fayette, Texas, USA
   - **Burial:** La Grange, Fayette, Texas, USA; Mount Calvary Lutheran Cemetery
   - **Marriage:** 15 Jul 1862 in Fayette County, Texas, USA
   - **Spouse:** Friedrich "Fritz" Huebottter

5. **Name:** Heinrich "Henry" Florenz Windmeyer
   - **M**
   - **Birth:** 24 May 1848 in Westphalia, Germany
   - **Death:** 31 Dec 1928 in Lavaca County, Texas, USA
   - **Burial:** Yoakum, DeWitt, Texas, USA; County Line Cemetery
   - **Marriage:** 30 Jun 1875 in Black Jack Springs, Fayette County, Texas, USA; Trinity Lutheran Church
   - **Spouse:** Johanna C. Schroeder
In 1857 Hermann Heinrich Windmeyer (1810-1890) immigrated to Texas from Germany with his wife Louise Sophie Casten (1807-1874) and their children: Florenz Wilhelm (1834-1900), Carl August Alexander (1840-1918), Anna Louise Ernestine (1845-1903) Heinrich Florenz (1848-1928) and Caroline Louise (1852-1890). Hermann would go on to establish his home on 128 acres of farmland in Fayette County.

His will paints a picture of a man who knew how to hold a grudge! Rather than outright disowning his children, he left each of them a little something which gave him the opportunity to point out exactly how they had wronged him.

Fayette County, Texas Probate Records Volume Q pgs. 522-526

Last will and testament of the former Hermann Heinrich Windmeyer, born Nov 30, 1810, in the circuit of Herford in Westphalia, Germany.

Know all men by these presents that I, Hermann Heinrich Windmeyer, repealing all former wills made by me, ordain by this my last will and testament, in what manner after my death all my estate and property, whatever it may be or what name it may bear, shall be disposed of.

1. I bequeath to my oldest son Florenz Wilhelm One Dollar.
2. I bequeath to my second son Carl August Alexander One Dollar.
3. To my oldest daughter Anna Louise Ernestine I bequeath One Dollar.
4. To my third son Heinrich Florenz I bequeath a rope 50 feet long and 1 inch thick to be used as he pleases as a reminder of the fact that he assaulted and maltreated his own 76 year old father and that he belied and cheated me.
5. To the wife of my son Heinrich Florenz, named Johanna nee Schroeder I bequeath likewise a **1 inch rope 50 feet long to be used as she pleases as a reminder of the fact that she slandered me behind my back innumerable times and told the most malicious lies about me.**

6. To the oldest boy of my son August, named Hermann, I bequeath as a survivor both of my orders or badges of honor.

7. To the oldest daughter of my son Heinrich Florenz named Hermine Louise, I bequeath my bedding, featherbeds, linen tablecloths, towels, also my silver-ware, knives, spoons, etc., besides the furniture and household implements.

8. To the oldest boy of my son Heinrich Florenz named Heinrich Carl, I give and bequeath my golden wedding ring, watch and clock, my personal apparel, saddle, wagon, farming implements and all the horses without exception.

9. To my youngest daughter Caroline Marie Louise having been appointed sole legate of her mother’s Estate by my deceased wife’s will bearing date of Aug. 22, 1873 with the condition however as section 5 of said will expresses it that my husband shall have authority to pawn or sell the whole farm or homestead to use the proceeds for his own benefit. The sale of this property has now been accomplished. Further as my said youngest daughter has already received all the personal property of her deceased mother, besides many other things she is entitled to nothing beside her mother’s Estate provided I shall not have used the same partly or altogether for my own benefit which I may be forced to do being in my 77th year with the prospect of becoming perfectly blind. The estate of my deceased wife bequeathed to my youngest daughter amounts according to the appraisement made immediately after her death to one half of the homestead valued at $1536 equal to $768. More she cannot claim as she has not contributed anything towards improving the place by putting up new buildings etc., or toward paying the annual taxes which aggregate to more than $500 whereby a higher price for the farm has been attained. To all of which my daughter has not contributed in the least, but all these expenses have been solely defrayed by me. Besides she has received from me furniture, a stove, household, and kitchen utensils. Nevertheless the executor of this my last will is hereby authorized to raise the bequest to my youngest daughter to the sum of One Thousand Dollars provided no suit is instituted by her to defeat the intentions of this instrument. **I further bequeath to her a 1 inch rope 50 feet long to be used as she pleases as a reminder of the fact that on Sunday the 5th day of August 1873 she shook her fist in my face and cursed me in a terrible manner because I lived too long for her and had not already conferred to her inheritance**

10. I ordain that immediately after my death and after the above named bequests have been executed the reminder of my estate shall be equally divided into twelve parts.
11. Of these twelve parts I bequeath five twelfth to the oldest daughter of my son Heinrich Florenza named Hermine Louise and this amount with the incidental interest shall be turned over to her whenever she marries or gets to be 21 years old. Four twelfth of the whole sum I bequeath to the oldest boy of my aforesaid son named Heinrich Karl and this amount together with the incidental interest shall be turned over to him when he gets to be 21 years of age. Two twelfth of the above named sum I give and bequeath to the second boy of my aforesaid son named Anton August Florenz and this amount together with the incidental interest shall be turned over to him when he is 21 years old. One twelfth of the whole sum I give and bequeath to the third boy of my aforesaid son named Friederich Wilhelm and this amount together with the accrued interest thereon shall be turned over to him when he gets to be 21 years old.

12. In case one or more of my above named grandchildren should die before receiving their inheritance and in case there be no offspring of theirs, then their share of the inheritance shall be equally divided amongst the surviving children of my son Heinrich Florenz. But under no condition shall my son Heinrich Florenz or his wife Johanna nee Schroeder receive or have the benefit of my part of said money either principal or interest. As well my son Heinrich Florenz, who in spite of the many favors and benefits by me bestowed upon him has personally assaulted, abused and in the meanest manner cheated and belied me, as also his wife Johanna who in an insidious way has slandered and belied me and would not deter from perjury in spite of all kindness and indulgence bestowed upon them by me, they have both treated me in my old age so basely and infamously that they do not deserve the least regard or consideration on my part they are too depraved. These accusations I hereby verify with the most solemn oath, so help me God.

13. Any other property that may be owned by me not named or enumerated herein, shall be divided equally amongst my aforesaid four grandchildren.

14. To my own bodily children I owe nothing and am under no obligations to them, which I hereby verify in place of an oath.

15. I positively forbid the interference of the Court or any judicial officer if not absolutely necessary.

16. I hereby appoint the former Anton Schroder, Warranter, Fayette County, Texas and Dr. Wm. Hermes of La Grange, TX as executors of this my last Will and testament, and ordain that they shall not be held to give any bond or security whatever.

17. In witness of the above I herewith declare in the presence of the undersigned witnesses that in writing this my last will I have been of sound mind, in full possession of all mental faculties and have not been prejudicial persuaded or influenced by any body or any thing and that this is my last Will and testament.

The State of Texas, County of Fayette, December 11, 1886.
(Signed) Hermann Heinrich Windmeyer.
Charles (Carl) August Alexander Windmeyer

By Leslie D Inman – AGS Member

Flatonia Argus
Flatonia, Texas, Thursday July 25, 1918

Mr. August Widemeyer [Windmeyer] died at the hospital in Yoakum last Saturday, after an illness of only a few days. He had suffered with Asthma for a number of years and was taken to Yoakum on the 10th of this month for treatment. He became unconscious soon after reaching Yoakum and never fully regained consciousness.

The remains were brought here on the early morning Sap train last Sunday and taken to the family residence where funeral services were held by Rev A.S.J. Haygood at five o'clock, after which the local Lodge A.F. & A.M, of which deceased was a member, took charge of the body and laid it to rest with Masonic honors.

Mr. August Widemeyer [Windmeyer] was born in Germany on August [June] 15, 1840. He settled in Galveston upon coming to this country where, later, he enlisted in Col. Cook’s Company of the Confederate Army and served under the bonny blue flag for four long years. In 1866 [1868] he married Miss Johanna Obser of Galveston, and two years later moved to Fayette County, Texas where they have resided ever since, with the exception of five years spent in Moulton. They have lived in this city continuously for the past twelve years.

Mr. Widemeyer [Windmeyer] was a well educated man, a fine penman and able accountant. He was a member of the Flatonia Masonic Lodge No. 436, of R.A.M. Chapter No., 134 and of Germania Lodge No. 15, O.D.H.S. of this city.

He is survived by a wife and four children, Mrs. Caroline Herm of Orange Grove, Mrs. Augustine Frank of Swiss Alps, Mr. Herman Widemeyer [Windmeyer] of Thrall and Mr. August Widemeyer [Windmeyer] of Houston.

The Argus extends sympathy to the bereaved ones.
Reuben Neal Johle

by Leslie D. Inman – AGS Member

1 Reuben Neal Johle
B: 6 Feb 1921
P: Taylor, Williamson, Texas, USA
M: 11 Sep 1946
P: Williamson County, Texas, USA
D: 11 Apr 1970
P: Temple, Bell, Texas, USA

Patsy Ruth Cox
(1929-2011)

2 Franklin Louis Johle
B: 10 Aug 1894
P: Taylor, Williamson, Texas, USA
M: 3 Aug 1918
P: Taylor, Williamson, Texas, USA
D: 28 Oct 1986
P: Taylor, Williamson, Texas, USA

3 Hertha Erma Windmeyer
B: 22 Sep 1901
P: Beyersville, Williamson, Texas, USA
D: 20 Apr 1986
P: Taylor, Williamson, Texas, USA

4 August F Johle
B: 17 Jul 1868
P: Germany
M: 27 Nov 1889
P: Bastrop County, Texas, USA
D: 10 Jan 1927
P: Taylor, Williamson, Texas, USA

5 Mahala Lowden
B: 14 Apr 1869
P: Bastrop County, Texas, USA
D: 6 Jan 1936
P: Taylor, Williamson, Texas, USA

6 Charles Herman Windmeyer
B: 30 Oct 1872
P: La Grange, Fayette, Texas, USA
M: 10 Jan 1897
P: La Grange, Fayette, Texas, USA
D: 1 Jul 1946
P: Taylor, Williamson, Texas, USA

7 Emilie Rummel
B: 14 Nov 1878
P: Austin County, Texas, USA
D: 22 Feb 1969
P: Taylor, Williamson, Texas, USA

8 August Friedrich Johle
B: 1 Aug 1840
P: Germany
M: 1868
P: Germany
D: 5 Dec 1924
P: Paige, Bastrop, Texas, USA

9 Caroline Wilhelmine Auguste Sälmke
B: 19 May 1846
P: Schönwalde, Brandenburg, Germany
D: 13 Jun 1941
P: Paige, Bastrop, Texas, USA

10 Joseph Monroe Lowden Sr.
B: Aug 1832
P: Arkansas, USA
M: BET 1860 AND 1861
P: Texas, USA
D: BET JUL 1900 AND 1916
P: Bastrop County, Texas, USA

11 Martha A Turner
B: Dec 1844
P: Bastrop County, Texas, USA
D: BET JUL 1900 AND 1916
P: Bastrop County, Texas, USA

12 Charles August Alexander Windmeyer
B: 14 Jun 1840
P: Germany
M: 22 Feb 1868
P: Galveston, Galveston County, Texas, USA
D: 20 Jul 1918
P: Yoakum, De Witt, Texas, USA

13 Emilie Johanna Obser
B: 22 Jun 1839
P: Germany
D: 27 Jul 1926
P: Orange Grove, Jim Wells County, Texas, USA

14 August A Rummel
B: 18 May 1845
P: Germany
M: 19 Dec 1869
P: Austin County, Texas, USA
D: 26 Apr 1918
P: Taylor, Williamson, Texas, USA

15 Wilhelmina "Minnie" Wendt
B: 4 Jul 1850
P: Germany
D: 31 Jan 1926
P: 

Patsy and Reuben were joined in holy matrimony in September 11th, 1946 at the Evangelical and Reformed Church of Taylor, Texas. During those years marriage, Reuben played the bass fiddle in a small local band, performing at dance halls around Taylor. Reuben is said to have been a great rifle shot; his family never needing to purchase a turkey at Thanksgiving. Patsy and Reuben enjoyed dancing, riding their motorcycles and listening to Country music. Patsy and Reuben stayed together for 13 years until their divorce in 1959. Reuben passed away on the 4th of November 1970 of bronchopneumonia at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Temple, Texas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
<th>Marriage Date</th>
<th>Place of Marriage</th>
<th>Death Date</th>
<th>Place of Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thelma Ada “Molly” Curb</td>
<td>4 Jun 1908</td>
<td>Ardmore, Carter, Oklahoma, USA</td>
<td>30 Mar 1930</td>
<td>Perry County, Alabama, USA</td>
<td>29 Jan 1932</td>
<td>Oklahoma, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oscar Monroe Curb</td>
<td>3 Aug 1887</td>
<td>Leon, Love, Oklahoma, USA</td>
<td>12 Aug 1906</td>
<td>Perry County, Oklahoma, USA</td>
<td>28 Dec 1952</td>
<td>Galveston, Galveston, Texas, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Willie Frances Metcalf</td>
<td>22 Oct 1891</td>
<td>Sparta, White, Tennessee, USA</td>
<td>19 May 1962</td>
<td>Austin, Travis, Texas, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Aaron Monroe Curb</td>
<td>30 Mar 1843</td>
<td>Perry County, Alabama, USA</td>
<td>17 Oct 1865</td>
<td>Perry County, Alabama, USA</td>
<td>29 Jan 1932</td>
<td>Oklahoma, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fannie Jane Christenberry</td>
<td>4 Jan 1846</td>
<td>Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, USA</td>
<td>7 Oct 1919</td>
<td>Harmon County, Oklahoma, USA</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>George Washington Metcalf</td>
<td>21 Jan 1861</td>
<td>Tennessee, USA</td>
<td>27 Nov 1886</td>
<td>Sparta, White, Tennessee, USA</td>
<td>19 Dec 1929</td>
<td>Hollis, Harmon, Oklahoma, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ada Hickey</td>
<td>7 Dec 1872</td>
<td>Tennessee, USA</td>
<td>6 Aug 1905</td>
<td>Sparta, White, Tennessee, USA</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Abner Cemp Curb</td>
<td>14 Feb 1824</td>
<td>Alabama, USA</td>
<td>6 Dec 1841</td>
<td>Perry County, Alabama, USA</td>
<td>13 Feb 1894</td>
<td>Oklahoma, USA</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mary M Abbott</td>
<td>Apr 1822</td>
<td>Alabama, USA</td>
<td>2 Apr 1845</td>
<td>Perry County, Alabama, USA</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Daniel A Christenberry</td>
<td>1 Mar 1821</td>
<td>Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, USA</td>
<td>25 Jun 1876</td>
<td>Perry County, Alabama, USA</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Margaret Rebecca Moore</td>
<td>5 Sep 1819</td>
<td>Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, USA</td>
<td>22 Sep 1908</td>
<td>Perry County, Alabama, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>William Metcalf</td>
<td>30 Dec 1814</td>
<td>Tennessee, USA</td>
<td>15 Jan 1850</td>
<td>White County, Tennessee, USA</td>
<td>1 Sep 1890</td>
<td>White County, Tennessee, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Elizabeth Cameron</td>
<td>25 Jul 1829</td>
<td>White County, Tennessee, USA</td>
<td>7 Apr 1914</td>
<td>Cookeville, Putnam County, Tennessee</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>John B Hickey</td>
<td>21 Feb 1844</td>
<td>White County, Tennessee, USA</td>
<td>25 Mar 1866</td>
<td>White County, Tennessee, USA</td>
<td>3 May 1915</td>
<td>White County, Tennessee, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mary Sims</td>
<td>26 Sep 1847</td>
<td>White County, Tennessee, USA</td>
<td>23 Oct 1916</td>
<td>Sparta, White County, Tennessee, USA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thelma Ada “Molly” Curb**

_by Leslie D. Inman – AGS Member_
Jane COBURN, daughter of Abel COBURN and Phebe DWINNELL, was born 6 December 1821 in Franklin, Franklin, Vermont, \(^1\) died 1 August 1885 in Brown County, Nebraska \(^2\) at age 63, and was buried in Grand Prairie Cemetery, Brown, Nebraska. \(^3\) Jane married Ezekial CRANDALL, son of Elias CRANDALL and Mary (Polly) COON, in 1840 in Milton, Chittenden, Vermont. \(^4\) Ezekial was born 11 January 1812 in Westford, Chittenden, Vermont \(^4\) and died between 1875 and 1880 in Newton, Vernon, Wisconsin. \(^5,6\)

Jane Coburn's older sister, Lucy, married Ezekial Crandall's younger brother, Eber. Both couples settled in Saint Lawrence County, New York and started families. Jane and Ezekial moved to Vernon County, Wisconsin in the late 1850s and Lucy and Eber followed about ten years later. Following Ezekial's death, Jane moved further west with her children and their families, finally settling in Brown County, Nebraska. The Homestead Act of 1862 did not prohibit females from acquiring land, but one of the requirements was that the applicant be a head of a family, a requirement most women could not meet. In 1883, at the age of 61, Jane Coburn submitted a homestead application in her own name for the property adjoining that of her son Myron. She died before she met the five year residency requirement. \(^4,7,8\)

Children from this marriage were:

i. Sarah Jane CRANDALL was born 18 October 1842 in Saint Lawrence County, New York, \(^9,10,11\) died 15 December 1915 in Ainsworth, Brown, Nebraska \(^10\) at age 73, and was buried 17 December 1915 in Grand Prairie Cemetery, Brown, Nebraska. \(^10\) Sarah married Calvin Eli HAGERMAN, son of John V. J. HAGERMAN and Sarah TERRY, 2 November 1861 in Harmony, Vernon, Wisconsin. \(^11\) Calvin was born 18 February 1833 in Williamson, Wayne, New York, \(^11,12\) died 4 March 1916 in Ainsworth, Brown, Nebraska \(^13\) at age 83, and was buried 6 March 1916 in Grand Prairie Cemetery, Brown, Nebraska. \(^13\)

Calvin Hagerman moved to Vernon County, Wisconsin in the mid-1850s. He worked for and lived with his older brother, John Clark Hagerman, who ran a mill in the village of Newton. In 1859 Calvin left Wisconsin to seek his fortune in the Colorado gold rush. Sarah Crandall moved with her family to Vernon County, Wisconsin in the late 1850s. In 1860 the Crandalls are living next to John Hagerman. If Calvin and Sarah met before he left Wisconsin, their nine-year age difference may have been too large for them to develop a romantic relationship – she was in her mid-teens and he was in his mid-twenties. When Calvin returned to Wisconsin, two events competed for his attention: Sarah had become a young woman and the Civil War had started. Calvin enlisted in the Union Army on 9 September 1861. His unit, First Independent Battery, Wisconsin Light Artillery, was mustered into service on 10 October 1861 and moved to Camp Utley in Racine, on the other side of the state from Newton. Calvin returned to Newton before his unit left the state and married Sarah Crandall on 2 November 1861. The muster roll for the month of November shows Calvin's status as "not stated," and he apparently returned to his unit before there was any official record of his absence. It may have been three years before he was able to return home again. Sarah and Calvin had been married 54 years when they died within a few months of one another. \(^9,10,11,13,14,15\)

ii. Edwin Ezekiel CRANDALL was born 2 July 1844 in Russell, Saint Lawrence, New York, \(^2,4,16\) died 30 October 1923 in Stafford, Holt, Nebraska \(^16\) at age 79, and was buried 1 November 1923 in Inman, Holt, Nebraska. \(^16\) Edwin married Ida Alice SHAVER, daughter of William SHAVER and Hannah Jane COBURN, 25 April 1877 in Pavilion, Kalamazoo, Michigan. \(^17\) Ida was born 13 January 1861 in Climax, Kalamazoo, Michigan, \(^18\) died 5 February 1917 in Kalamazoo,
Kalamazoo, Michigan \(^{18}\) at age 56, and was buried 9 February 1917 in Woodland Cemetery in Jackson, Jackson, Michigan. \(^{18,19}\)

Edwin Crandall was a Civil War veteran; he fought with Company C, 18th Wisconsin Infantry from 1861 to 1865. At 33 Edwin was more than twice the age of his 16-year-old cousin Ida when they married. The marriage ended in divorce, probably in the late 1880s or early 1890s. Edwin moved to Nebraska after the divorce, where records as early as 1900 give his marital status as “widower.” Ida remarried in April 1892 and did not die until 1917. \(^{17,18,20,21,22,29}\)

iii. Myron David CRANDALL was born 21 May 1847 in Pierepoint, Saint Lawrence, New York \(^{23}\), died 5 August 1901 in Ainsworth township, Brown, Nebraska \(^{24}\) at age 54, and was buried 6 August 1901 in Grand Prairie Cemetery, Brown, Nebraska. \(^{24}\)

Myron Crandall homesteaded property in the territory that would become Brown County, Nebraska in 1881 along with his two brothers-in-law, Calvin Hagerman and Martin Luther Hutchins. He also completed the homestead process that his mother started for the land adjoining his. Myron never married and shortly before his death he transferred all of his property to Warren Townsend, the husband of his oldest niece, Leona Hagerman. \(^{25,26,27,28,29}\)

iv. Marriett M. CRANDALL was born 11 March 1849 in Russell, Saint Lawrence, New York \(^{30,31}\) died 10 April 1912 in Hastings, Adams, Nebraska \(^{32}\) at age 63, and was buried 12 April 1912 in Greenwood Cemetery, Adams, Nebraska. \(^{32}\) Marriett married Edwin Lewis PEABODY, son of Lewis Royce PEABODY and Matilda TARR, 22 November 1868 in Jefferson, Vernet, Wisconsin. \(^{33}\) Edwin was born 19 November 1843 in Brandon, Franklin, New York, \(^{30,34}\) died in 1923 \(^{30}\) at age 80, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Adams, Nebraska. \(^{30}\)

There is a family story among her descendants that Marriett had a twin brother named Charles P. who died shortly after birth. The story is plausible because there are other twins in the family. Marriett's mother had siblings who were twins and Marriett's brother Edwin had children who were twins. \(^{1,35,36,37}\)

v. William A. CRANDALL was born 20 October 1851 in Russell, Saint Lawrence, New York \(^{4,14}\) and died 14 February 1875 in Newton, Vernet, Wisconsin \(^{4}\) at age 23.

vi. Lydia I. CRANDALL was born 9 May 1859 in Wisconsin \(^{2,14,38}\) died 9 March 1888 in Brown County, Nebraska at age 28, and was buried in Ainsworth Cemetery, Brown, Nebraska. \(^{38}\) Lydia married Martin Luther HUTCHINS, son of Elijah HUTCHINS and Margaret STEVENSON, 24 January 1878 in New Hampton, Chickasaw, Iowa. \(^{40}\) Martin was born 24 July 1847 in New York, \(^{41,42,43}\) died 18 July 1931 in Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska \(^{41}\) at age 83, and was buried 20 July 1931 in Evergreen Cemetery in Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska. \(^{41}\)

Lydia gave birth to her second daughter just two months before she and Martin, along with other members of her family, undertook the three week winter trip in February 1882 to the land they were homesteading in northern Nebraska. There is no way to know the state of her health at that time, but on the 1885 Nebraska census, Lydia is recorded as suffering from paralysis of the tongue. When she died three years later at the age of 28, the notice of her death in the newspaper did not even include her name: “Died. Near Ainsworth on March 8, wife of L. Hutchins.” \(^{9,39,44,45}\)

vii. Edgar E. CRANDALL was born 23 May 1862 in Wisconsin \(^{46}\) and died 29 May 1883 in Ainsworth, Brown, Nebraska \(^{47}\) at age 21.

Edgar Crandall died from a gunshot wound. Both newspaper accounts and court records are incomplete so many details of the shooting are not known. Edgar Crandall had gone into Ainsworth on a Sunday afternoon from his home about six miles northwest of town. Zachariah
N. Alderman had been in town all weekend drinking. The two exchanged words in a drug store and apparently Zachariah Alderman threatened to shoot Edgar Crandall. Edgar left the store and when other customers prevented Zachariah Alderman from following, he fired a shot through the window that hit Edgar. Edgar ran for a block before collapsing; at this point he tried to return the shot but was too weak to aim his gun. Edgar died three days later. The trial that followed was the first murder trial in Brown County, Nebraska.47,48

2. Brown County, Nebraska, Probate records, Jane Crandall probate file, Petition for Letters of Administration; County Court, Ainsworth.
3. Grand Prairie Cemetery (Brown County, Nebraska; 7 miles W of Ainsworth off Highway 20), Jane Crandall marker, photograph supplied by Darlene Amos, 2010.
5. 1875 state census, Vernon County, Wisconsin, population schedule, Harmony, p. [184], line 18, Ezekiel Crandall; digital images, FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org : accessed 30 May 2010); citing Wisconsin Department of State 1875 state census.
6. 1880 U.S. census, Chickasaw County, Iowa, population schedule, Richland, enumeration district (ED) 122, p. 8, dwelling 75, family 76, Myron Crandall; digital images, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 20 September 2008); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm T9, roll 332.
11. Vernon County, Wisconsin, Registration of Marriages, 1857-1907, 61, Hagerman-Crandall, 1861; FHL microfilm 1,275,578.
12. Calvin E. Hagerman (Pvt., 1st Battery Wis. Lt. Art., Civil War) pension application no. 890387, certificate no. 624114; Case Files of Approved Pension Applications, 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Department of Veteran's Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
15. Compiled service record, Calvin E. Hagerman, Private, 1st Independent Battery, Wisconsin Light Artillery; Cased Records, Volunteer Organizations, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780s-1917, Civil War; Record Group 94; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
25. Myron D. Crandall (Brown County) homestead file, final certificate no. 209, Valentine, Nebraska, Land Office; Homestead files; Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
26. Jane Crandall (Brown County) homestead file, final certificate no. 1295, Valentine, Nebraska, Land Office;
Homestead files; Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
28. Calvin E. Hagerman (Brown County) homestead file, final certificate no. 297, Valentine, Nebraska, Land Office;
Homestead files; Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
29. Martin L. Hutchins (Brown County) homestead file, final certificate no. 207, Valentine, Nebraska, Land Office;
Homestead files; Records of the Bureau of Land Management, Record Group 49; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
30. Find A Grave, digital images (www.findagrave.com : accessed 24 January 2009), photograph, gravestone of
Edwin L. Peabody (1843-1923) and Mariett M. Crandall Peabody (1849-1912), Greenwood Cemetery, Adams, Nebraska.
digital images, Google Book Search (books.google.com : accessed 21 March 2009)
entry for Edwin L. Peobody and Mariett Crandall, 22 November 1868; citing Wisconsin, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Vernon
County registration of marriages.
34. Selim Hobart Peabody, Peabody (Paybody, Pabody, Pabodie) Genealogy (Boston: Charles H. Pope, 1909), 231,
392; digital images, Google Book Search (books.google.com : accessed 21 March 2009)
35. Brenda Morgan, [(E-ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,)] to Nancy R. Stevens, e-mail, 26 March 2012, "Ezekial
Crandall - Jane Coburn family"; privately held by Stevens.
36. Michigan Department of Vital Records, State Birth Register, Lapeer County, 1880: 25, no. 1, William Crandall;
37. Michigan Department of Vital Records, State Birth Register, Lapeer County, 1880: 25, no. 2, Ella J. Crandall;
38. Grand Prairie Cemetery (Brown County, Nebraska; 7 miles W of Ainsworth off Highway 20), Lydia I. Hutchins
marker, photograph supplied by Darlene Amos, 2010.
for W. L. Hutchins and Lydia Crandall, 24 January 1878; citing Chickasaw County, Iowa, Marriage Records.
41. Nebraska Department of Health, death certificate 7095 (1931), Martin L. Hutchins; Vital Records Office, Lincoln.
42. 1850 U.S. census, Saint Lawrence County, New York, population schedule, Macomb, p. 62 (stamped), dwelling
147, family 147, Elijah Hutchins; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com); citing National Archives and Records
Administration microfilm M432, roll 589.
for S. E. Hutchins and S. B. Bowlsby; citing Audubon County, Iowa, Marriage Records.
44. Doris Jones-Harris, "Ainsworth Cemetery, Brown County, Nebraska," database, Brown County NE GenWeb
45. 1885 state census, Brown County, Nebraska, population schedule, Johnstonstown precinct, p. 14B, dwelling
113, family 130, Martin Hutchins; digital images, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com: accessed 2 May 2010); citing National Archives
microfilm publication M352.
46. Grand Prairie Cemetery (Brown County, Nebraska; 7 miles W of Ainsworth off Highway 20), Edgar Crandall
marker, photograph supplied by Darlene Amos, 2010.
47. Brown, Nebraska, State of Nebraska v. Zachariah N. Alderman, case 19, indictment, 30 November 1883; Brown
County Courthouse, Ainsworth.
49. Michigan Secretary of State, Return of Marriages, St Joseph County 1889: 26, 387, Ackerman-Shaver; digital
Benjamin Gray and Catherine Tipton

by Marcia Arn – AGS Member

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Husband: Benjamin Gray</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: Abt. 1808 in Madison Co, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death: 03 Oct 1841 in OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marriage: 28 Oct 1829 in Madison Co., OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father: Benjamin Gray</td>
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<td>Mother:</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife: Catherine Tipton</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth: Abt. 1808 in OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 08 Jun 1883 in prob Washington Co, IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father: Sylvester Tipton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother: Mary Stark</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 F Name: Louisa Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth: 29 Aug 1831 in Pickaway Co, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death: 14 Apr 1902 in Washington Co, IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial: Wellman Cem, Wellman, Washington Co, IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage: 28 Aug 1855 in Washington Co, IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse: Henry Bernard</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| 2 M Name: John Gray                                        |
| Birth: Abt. 1834 in OH                                     |

| 3 M Name: Anderson Gray                                    |
| Birth: 29 Aug 1836 in OH                                   |
| Death: 25 Aug 1924 in prob Lincoln Co, OK                   |
| Marriage: 05 Jul 1879 in Muscatine, IA                     |
| Spouse: Mary Lucy (Ellen) Embree                           |

| 4 F Name: Mary Gray                                        |
| Birth: Abt. 1837 in Pickaway Co, OH                        |
| Death: 26 Dec 1870 in Washington Co, IA                    |
| Marriage: 17 Jan 1853 in Pickaway Co, OH                   |
| Spouse: James Windal Phillips                              |

| 5 M Name: Hiram W. Gray                                     |
| Birth: 18 Oct 1839 in Pickaway Co, OH                       |
| Death: 15 Feb 1918 in Wellman, Washington Co, IA           |
| Burial: Wassonville Cem, Washington Co, IA                  |
| Marriage: 27 Feb 1868 in Daytonville, Washington Co, IA    |
| Spouse: Sarah Jane Albin                                    |

| 6 F Name: Isabelle Gray                                     |
| Birth: 02 Feb 1841 in Pickaway Co, OH                       |
| Death: 15 Feb 1926 in Fairfield, Jefferson Co, IA           |
| Marriage: 16 Sep 1856 in Washington Co, IA                  |
| Spouse: John Turnipseed                                     |
Catherine Tipton who married Benjamin Gray in Ohio, came from a well-known Tipton family. Her parents were Sylvester and Mary Stark Tipton of Virginia and Ohio, Sylvester's parents were Mordecai and Sarah Tipton of Maryland and Virginia, Mordecai's parents were William and Hannah Price Tipton of Maryland and William's parents were Jonathan and Sarah Pearce Tipton of England and Maryland.

Other Tipton descendants have said Catherine's name was Cora Catherine Tipton, but I have never found any proof or record with the name Cora in it. She apparently went by Kate since her son Hiram's death certificate lists Kate Tipton as his mother, but the censuses and records all have Catherine.

After Benjamin Gray died, Catherine married a widower, Mathias Schurr in Madison Co, Ohio and they had one child who lived, William. In the 1850 census all her children are listed with the last name Schurr, although all but William were Grays. Mathias died and Catherine went to Illinois with her family for a while, and was in Washington Co, Iowa by March 1855 where she was married to Daniel Stinson, by her brother Judge Jonathan Tipton. They had no children together, but he had several from his previous marriage. Shortly after arriving in Washington, her daughters Isabelle and Louisa married. Isabelle to widower John Turnipseed and Louisa to Henry Bernard. Catherine's sons John and Anderson stayed in Illinois. Anderson married Elizabeth Beatty in Illinois and moved to Washington Co, Iowa with his family about 1868. Her son Hiram, my ancestor, went back to Illinois to fight in the Civil War with his brothers, then returned to Iowa after the war and married soon after. Daughter Mary was married in Ohio to James Phillips and they moved to Washington Co, Iowa also.

Anderson's first wife died after moving to Iowa and he married Mary Lucy Ellen Embree Stafford, a widow with seven children, and they had 5 more. His children from his first marriage either were grown or lived with other people when he married Mary. Anderson apparently left his second family and went to Oklahoma where he married again and had three more sons.

This was background for how the families had interwoven relationships.

James and Mary Gray Phillips had four daughters who lived and one of them married a brother of Mary Lucy Ellen Embree Stafford Gray, James Embree.

Hiram's son, Ovid (my ancestor), married Martha Ann Wahl, a daughter of Christopher and Harriet Van Buskirk Wahl. Martha's brother, Lewis Wahl, married a daughter of Henry and Louisa Gray Bernard (Hiram's sister). Chris Wahl was from Germany and Charles Wahl of Germany, who I have yet to prove was Chris's younger relative, married another daughter of Henry and Louisa Gray Bernard.

Catherine died 8 June 1883, presumably in Daytonville, Washington Co, Iowa. Other researchers have her death date in the 1860s in Ohio, and there was a Catherine Stinson who died there at that time, but it was not my Catherine Stinson. My Catherine Stinson appears in the Washington Co, Iowa 1870 and 1880 censuses. A distant relative went to the National Archives in Washington, DC for me and looked up Daniel Stinson's War of 1812 service records. Because Catherine was getting an $8 a month pension based on his service, someone from the Pension Office of the Department of Interior in 1886 wrote to the Postmaster in Daytonville, Iowa to see if she was still living and the Postmaster wrote back saying she had died the 8th of June 1883.
Hiram W. Gray and Sarah Jane Albin

by Marcia Arn - AGS Member

Hiram and Sarah Jane Albin Gray family:
Back row: Harry, Opal, Roy, Stella. Front Row: Maude, Sarah Jane, Orpha, Hiram, Ovid, Lovell

Courtesy Marcia Arn

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<th>Hiram W. Gray</th>
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<td>18 Oct 1839 in Pickaway Co, OH</td>
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<td>Stella Berl Gray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roy DeForest Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opal May Gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orpha Doan Gray</td>
</tr>
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Marriage dates and spouses:
- Maude Lottie Gray: 13 Sep 1900 in Keota, Keokuk Co, IA; Spouse: Virgil E. Pardun
- Opal May Gray: 04 Aug 1900 in Washington, Washington Co, IA; Spouse: Wayne E. Hamilton
- Harry Morgan Gray: 1915; Spouse: Margaret Slidell
- Lovell Victoria Gray: 10 Mar 1909 in Iowa City, Johnson Co, IA; Spouse: Amos Earl Bitting
- Orpha Doan Gray: Spouse: Leonard Grandison Brumback
Pioneer Families of Travis County

Austin Genealogical Society will issue a pioneer certificate to those who can prove their ancestors lived in Travis County, Texas, prior to the close of 1880. To qualify for the certificate, you must be a direct descendant of people who lived here on or before Dec. 31, 1880, proved with birth, death and marriage certificates; probate, census and military records; and obituaries and Bible records.

Applications for Pioneer Families of Travis County can be found at www.austintxgensoc.org or from Kay Dunlap Boyd, P.O. Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010.

Each application is $20 and the certificates make nice gifts. You don't have to be a Travis County resident or a member of Austin Genealogical Society. – Although membership in the society is another fine bargain at $20 a year.
Joseph Michael Traugott

Travis County Pioneer #08-844
Proven to be in Travis County in 1880 from Germany

Generation No. 1

1. Joseph Michael¹ TRAUGOTT was born 25 Jun 1840 in Germany, and died 17 Oct 1906 in Austin, Travis, Texas. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery. He married Caroline Louise ENGEL 09 Jun 1869 in Comal, Texas. She was born 26 Jan 1843 in Prussia, and died 02 Jun 1913 in Austin, Travis, Texas. She is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Child of Joseph TRAUGOTT and Caroline ENGEL is:
2. i. Josephine Mary² TRAUGOTT, b. 25 Oct 1881, Austin, Travis, Texas; d. 28 Sep 1966, Austin, Travis, Texas.

Generation No. 2

2. Josephine Mary² TRAUGOTT (JOSEPH MICHAEL¹) was born 25 Oct 1881 in Austin, Travis, Texas, and died 28 Sep 1966 in Austin, Travis, Texas. She married Henry Arthur MILLER 28 Dec 1897 in Travis, Texas. He was born 15 Jun 1870 in Marathon, Bourbon, Kansas, and died 23 Jun 1910 in Austin, Travis, Texas. They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Child of Josephine TRAUGOTT and Henry MILLER is:
3. i. Alla Mar³ MILLER, b. 02 Dec 1900, Austin, Travis, Texas; d. 12 Mar 1996, Austin, Travis, Texas.

Generation No. 3

3. Alla MAE³ MILLER (JOSEPHINE MARY² TRAUGOTT, JOSEPH MICHAEL¹) was born 02 Dec 1900 in Austin, Travis, Texas, and died 12 Mar 1996 in Austin, Travis, Texas. She married Gus Martin BUKOWSKY 21 Jul 1925 in Williamson, Texas. He was born 11 Jul 1894 in Austin, Travis, Texas, and died 23 Jan 1953 in Temple, Bell, Texas.

Child of Alla MILLER and Gus BUKOWSKY is:
i. VINSON MARTIN⁴ LOCKWOOD.
August Wilhelm Schuelke

Travis County Pioneer #08-045
Proven to be in Travis County in 1863 from Prussia

*Generation No. 1*

1. August Wilhelm\(^1\) SCHUELKE was born abt. 1818 in Prussia, and died in Bastrop, Texas. He married Elizabeth "Lissette" (UNKNOWN) 02 Jul 1863 in Travis, Texas. She was born abt. 1835 in Germany, and died in Bastrop, Texas.

Child of August SCHUELKE and Elizabeth "Lissette" (UNKNOWN) is:
2. i. Otto Arthur\(^2\) SCHUELKE, b. 08 Sep 1870, Bastrop, Bastrop, Texas; d. 23 Jul 1950, Stanton, Martin, Texas.

*Generation No. 2*

2. Otto Arthur\(^2\) SCHUELKE (*AUGUST WILHELM*\(^1\)) was born 08 Sep 1870 in Bastrop, Bastrop, Texas, and died 23 Jul 1950 in Stanton, Martin, Texas. He married Allie Belle Shirley DUDLEY 22 Aug 1911 in Grayson, Texas. She was born 18 Mar 1891 in Joplin, Jasper, Missouri, and died 26 Sep 1976 in Stanton, Martin, Texas.

Child of Otto SCHUELKE and Allie DUDLEY is:
3. i. Virgie Belle\(^3\) SCHUELKE, b. 09 Mar 1913, Fairchilds, Fort Bend, Texas; d. 26 Jan 2006, Midland, Midland, Texas.

*Generation No. 3*

3. Virgie Belle\(^3\) SCHUELKE (*OTTO ARTHUR*\(^2\), *AUGUST WILHELM*\(^1\)) was born 09 Mar 1913 in Fairchilds, Fort Bend, Texas, and died 26 Jan 2006 in Midland, Midland, Texas. She married Daniel Webster JOHNSON 23 Oct 1933 in Caldwell, Texas, son of Albert JOHNSON and Mary WEAVER. He was born 22 Aug 1910 in Goforth, Hays, Texas, and died 13 Sep 1971 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas.

Child of Virgie SCHUELKE and Daniel JOHNSON is:
   i. Albert Arthur\(^4\) JOHNSON.
Henry and Jane Goldfinch Johnson

Travis County Pioneer #08-046
Proven to be in Travis County in 1850 from Louisiana

Generation No. 1

1. Henry\textsuperscript{1} JOHNSON was born 24 Dec 1827 in Louisiana, and died 09 Oct 1899 in Hays, Texas. He was buried in the Kyle Cemetery. He married Jane Goldfinch DENYER 16 May 1850 in Hays, Texas. She was born 24 Apr 1831 in Bucks, Pennsylvania, and died 05 Jan 1904 in Hays, Texas. She was buried in the Kyle Cemetery.

Child of Henry JOHNSON and Jane DENYER is:
2. \hspace{1em} i. Albert Henry HENRY\textsuperscript{2} JOHNSON, b. 08 Aug 1865, Travis, Texas; d. 03 Jun 1937, Goforth, Hays, Texas.

Generation No. 2

2. Albert Henry HENRY\textsuperscript{2} JOHNSON (HENRY\textsuperscript{1}) was born 08 Aug 1865 in Travis, Texas, and died 03 Jun 1937 in Goforth, Hays, Texas. He married Mary Lee WEAVER 30 Apr 1899 in Hays, Texas. She was born 25 Aug 1875 in Itawamba, Mississippi, and died 28 Jun 1957 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas.

Child of Albert JOHNSON and Mary WEAVER is:
3. \hspace{1em} i. Daniel Webster WEBSTER\textsuperscript{3} JOHNSON, b. 22 Aug 1910, Goforth, Hays, Texas; d. 13 Sep 1971, San Antonio, Bexar, Texas.

Generation No. 3

3. Daniel Webster\textsuperscript{3} JOHNSON (ALBERT HENRY\textsuperscript{2}, HENRY\textsuperscript{1}) was born 22 Aug 1910 in Goforth, Hays, Texas, and died 13 Sep 1971 in San Antonio, Bexar, Texas. He married Virgie Belle SCHUELKE 23 Oct 1933 in Caldwell, Texas, daughter of Otto SCHUELKE and Allie DUDLEY. She was born 09 Mar 1913 in Fairchilds, Fort Bend, Texas, and died 26 Jan 2006 in Midland, Midland, Texas.

Child of Daniel JOHNSON and Virgie SCHUELKE is:
\hspace{1em} i. Albert Arthur\textsuperscript{4} JOHNSON.
Wilhelm Henry Seekatz

Travis County Pioneer #-09-047, 09-048, 09-049, 09-050
Proven to be in Travis County in 1873 from Germany

Generation No. 1

1. WILHELM HENRY¹ SEEKATZ was born 01 Oct 1823 in Westerburg, Nassau, Germany, and died 20 Jul 1910 in New Braunfels, Comal, Texas and was buried in the Comal Cemetery. He married SUSANNA JUNG 1846 in Galveston, Texas. She was born 24 Jun 1824 in Rennerod, Germany, and died 10 Jul 1874 in Texas and was buried in the Comal Cemetery.

Child of WILHELM SEEKATZ and SUSANNA JUNG is:
2. i. HENRY EMIL² SEEKATZ, b. 25 Feb 1850, New Braunfels, Comal, Texas; d. 27 Feb 1940, Austin, Travis, Texas.

Generation No. 2

2. HENRY EMIL² SEEKATZ (WILHELM HENRY¹) was born 25 Feb 1850 in New Braunfels, Comal, Texas, and died 27 Feb 1940 in Austin, Travis, Texas. He married JANE M HALDEN 16 Jul 1873 in Travis, Texas. She was born 11 Oct 1847 in Birmingham, County Warwick, England, and died 16 Aug 1912 in Austin, Travis, Texas. They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Child of HENRY SEEKATZ and JANE HALDEN is:
3. i. JOHN HALDEN³ SEEKATZ, b. 27 Oct 1887, Austin, Travis, Texas; d. 29 Jan 1992, Temple, Bell, Texas.

Generation No. 3

3. JOHN HALDEN³ SEEKATZ (HENRY EMIL², WILHELM HENRY¹) was born 27 Oct 1887 in Austin, Travis, Texas, and died 29 Jan 1992 in Temple, Bell, Texas. He married ELSIE HERMOINE DANNHEIM 14 May 1915 in Gillespie, Texas. She was born 23 Apr 1896 in Fredericksburg, Gillespie, Texas, and died 27 May 1984 in Austin, Travis, Texas. They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Child of JOHN SEEKATZ and ELSIE DANNHEIM is:
4. i. JULIA ANTONIETTE⁴ SEEKATZ, b. 27 Mar 1926, Austin, Travis, Texas; d. 29 Nov 2011, Austin, Travis, Texas.

Generation No. 4

4. JULIA ANTONIETTE⁴ SEEKATZ (JOHN HALDEN³, HENRY EMIL², WILHELM HENRY¹) was born 27 Mar 1926 in Austin, Travis, Texas, and died 29 Nov 2011 in Austin, Travis, Texas. She married ALVIN EARL DEVANE 16 Sep 1944 in Travis, Texas. He was born 11 Feb 1923 in Elba, Coffee, Alabama, and died 01 Jan 2012 in Austin, Travis, Texas. They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Child of JULIA SEEKATZ and ALVIN DEVANE is:
5. i. TERESA RUTH⁵ DEVANE.
Generation No. 5

5. TERESA RUTH⁶ DEVANE (JULIA ANTONIETTE⁴ SEEKATZ, JOHN HALDEN³, HENRY EMIL², WILHELM HENRY¹) She married CURTIS BRIAN CRAIL.

Children of TERESA DEVANE and CURTIS CRAIL are:
   i. CLAYTON BRADLEY⁶ CRAIL.
   ii. THOMAS DANIEL CRAIL.

Four Generations of Seekatz Men taken approx. 1904 -1905 Courtesy of Teresa Crail
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Purpose

The purposes for which this Society is organized are: To investigate, collect, record, publish and deposit in libraries and archives, the genealogical and historical materials of Texas, with particular focus on items pertaining to the City of Austin, and/or Travis County. To educate its members and the general public in the use of these and other reference materials in preparing, and publishing genealogical material and family lineage. To support the Texas State Library and other genealogical library or archival collections in Travis County by securing and donating books, microfilmed records, and other items or equipment not normally provided in the budgets of these collections.

Membership

Membership is open to all upon payment of annual dues. Classes: Individual: $20; Family (two in the same household): $30; Add $5 to receive print Quarterlies; Patron of AGS: $100; Lifetime: $500 ($300 if over age 65). All classes entitle one copy of each issue of the Quarterly and the monthly Newsletter, as well as two pages apiece (a total of four pages for Family or higher whether one or two people submit listings) in the Ancestor Listing issue, the June Quarterly. After July 1, dues are $10 for the balance of the year, but you will receive only the publications produced after the date you join. Membership includes a copy of the annual Membership Directory, which is published each spring.

Dues for Existing Members

Dues for existing members are payable on or before January 1 of each year for the ensuing year. If dues are not received by February 1, the name must be dropped from the mailing list. If membership is reinstated later and Quarterlies and Newsletters have to be mailed individually, postage must be charged. (Back Quarterly issues are supplied only if available). Send dues payments to AGS Treasurer, P.O. Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010.

Meetings

Meetings of the general membership begin at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month except December. Members are encouraged to come at 6:30 p.m. Meeting Place: Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Dr. Take Northland (RR 2222) exit Loop 1 (Mopac). Go west one block to Balcones Dr., then left ½ block. The church and parking lot are on right. Visitors are always welcome. The Board of Directors meet at 6 p.m.

Check Return Policy

Members and other payees must pay AGS the cost of any returned check (currently $5) over and above the charge their bank may impose.

AGS Quarterly

AGS Quarterly is issued about the middle of March, June, September and November. Contributions are always welcome, subject to editing for style and length. Contributor is completely responsible for accuracy and any copyright infringement. AGS assume no responsibility for content of submitted material. Some Quarterly articles are posted to our Website at www.austintxgensoc.org.

Submissions

Submissions for the Quarterly must reach the Editor at P.O. Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010, or quarterly@austintxgensoc.org by the deadlines below, preferably by electronic means, either in an e-mail or as an attachment to an e-mail. When an electronic version is not possible, typing, handwriting or printing must be black and legible. Months must be spelled or abbreviated, not in figures. Show dates in accepted genealogical style: day, month, and year. Leave 1-inch margins at both sides and at top and bottom, and hand-number pages on the back of each page. Carefully check horizontal pages (reading in the 11-inch direction) so that one-inch margins are on top, bottom and both sides so no information is lost in stapling. No 8 ½ x 14 sheets, please. You may submit lineage or family group charts, ahnentafels, narratives, memoirs, letters, cemetery inscriptions, Bible records, census data, queries or a combination of material, just so it is not under copyright. Proofread your material for accuracy and clarity so we will not publish faulty or incorrect data. Consult a recent AGS Quarterly for suggestions.

AGS Quarterly Deadlines

AGS Quarterly Deadlines: 20th of February, May, August and October. Send material to AGS Quarterly, by email and include in the subject line AGS Quarterly Submission to quarterly@austintxgensoc.org of L_Smith1974@yahoo.com.