



# Arlington Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 373, Arlington, TX 76004-0373

[website-LINK](#) [facebook-LINK](#)

## April 2019 Newsletter

*HyperLink list, and more MastHead data continued on page six*

### **AGS Meeting TUESDAY, April, 9th, 2019 6:30 P.M.**

Our meetings are held in the [re]Brary Community Rooms at the **George W. Hawkes** Downtown Library, 100 South Center St. Arlington, TX. The Arlington Genealogical Society meets on the second Tuesday monthly from September through June. All visitors are welcome. The meeting room is equipped with Hearing Loop technology, which allows those with telecoil equipped hearing aids to connect to the meeting room sound system.

#### **Meeting Refreshments**

Refreshment service begins at 6PM. The following Society members have volunteered to furnish refreshments for our April meeting; Kathy Polozola Dan Hamilton, Nancy Bergvall, & Linda Snoddy.

#### **A Few Words from Your Society President**

Spring storm season is in full swing and Steven is on the road working as an independent insurance adjuster. He is looking forward to seeing everyone Tuesday evening, April 09, 2019, at our next meeting. A few weeks ago Steven submitted this interesting story from his family history for our Newsletter.

#### **An Heirloom Find**

by Steven Brown

My grandfather, Lattie Thomas Brown, passed away, 18 February, 1971, in Brownwood, Texas at the age of 67. His wife, Alma Ruth Sikes Brown, passed away, 10 January, 2005, in Brownwood, Texas. Both are buried at the Indian Creek

Cemetery, in Brown County, Texas. This is a photo of Lattie at age 27, taken in 1930.



My grandfather had a fiddle I had seen a number of times over the years, that was stashed beneath the bed in the front bedroom at grandmother's house. It wasn't until years later, that I found out there was a guitar under that bed as well.

Late in 2018, I began talking to my dad about the guitar and what kind of shape it was in. It was in rough condition. The old paperboard case was still covering most of the guitar. The case end flap was missing, the leather handle was long rotted away, and the remainder of the paperboard case displayed several water stains.



The guitar had no marking to identify what company had made it, nor did it have a model identifier. It was small in size, and it had a fancy carved headstock (known as the Venetian style), with more carved design on the back side of the headstock. There was no pick guard. It also had a fancy applique design

around the body of the guitar. Four of the six strings were missing. There had been some “modifications” to the guitar; the pins to secure the strings had been

removed, and a tail piece had been added to the guitar to secure the strings. There were two large screws added to the bridge, which caused two good sized cracks in the guitar top. Water had made its way through the paperboard case to the guitar and that caused significant



water damage to the back of the guitar. That in turn caused it to ripple and separate from the side of the guitar for about 4 inches. There was also a large, wide crack in this same area. The finish on about one third of the back of the guitar was tarnished white in two large areas. The construction woods were also quite dry throughout the guitar.

When Dad looked it over, he was afraid it was beyond repair. He had no hope it would ever be played again. I asked him if he would bring it to me and let me show it to my guitar instructor, to see what his thoughts on it were. This professional was skeptical when I described the damage, but he was willing to look at it. When he saw it in person, he felt a little better about the condition it was in but he was still unsure it could be repaired. He agreed to take the guitar to his luthier (a musical craftsman who makes and often repairs stringed instruments) to see if he could do anything to salvage it.

Dad and I did a little bit of research and found a photo that looked just like our little guitar. My Dad’s brother, Ellis, always thought it was a Silvertone guitar but that proved to not be accurate. Our first hints told us it was made by Stromberg of Philadelphia, but that also was incorrect.

Originally the guitar was purchased used, from a nearby farmer, and it began its history in my family sometime prior to 1935. We knew that Lattie purchased a fiddle when he was 19 years old (1926). The guitar was purchased after the fiddle, so that narrowed our “purchase” date to between 1927 and 1935. After doing more research we discovered the manufacturer was actually a company called Stromberg-Voisinet of Chicago, Illinois.

That company started as the Groeshel Mandolin Company, established in 1890. In 1921, the company was renamed, Stromberg-Voisinet. A luthier by the name of Henry Kay Kuhrmeyer joined the company in 1923. Later he became President of the company. In 1928, with the help of an investor, Kuhrmeyer bought the company. The new company, Kay Musical Instruments, was formally established in 1931 with the assets of Stromberg-Voisinet. From our research into those Companies, we believe the guitar model we own was built in 1928.

After about 7 weeks, my instructor called to let me know the guitar was ready. I went that afternoon to retrieve it and was blown away with the work that had been done. Dwayne, my guitar instructor, could not believe the tone that came out of that old guitar.

The luthier repaired the water damage to the back, filling the large crack, flattening, and securing the back to the body of the guitar. The top and bridge were both secured to the body and he removed the added tailpiece. The two cracks on the top were sealed and new pins installed to secure the strings. The white discoloration was removed from the back without damage to the original finish. He also took off the neck of the guitar, and placed a shim beneath it, making the guitar more playable by lowering the “action” of the strings to the fret board. The frets were re-dressed (replaced) as well.



My instructor confessed that he was not keen to give the little guitar back. He mentioned the luthier fell in love with the sound of it as well. When I called my dad to let him know the good news, I strummed a couple of chords for him and he instantly recognized



the tone of his dad's guitar.

The sound of the guitar is distinct and quite pleasant, a mixed tone between a mandolin and guitar. I had the opportunity to take it to the *Son's of Hermann Hall* for an acoustic jam session one night. Several of the old timers, including an up and coming country artist played the 'restored' guitar a little. None wanted to give it back. It has become a cherished connection to my grandfather that I play from time to time. I know he would be pleased to hear it making music again!

Submitted for publication by Steven Brown  
President, Arlington Genealogical Society

### AGS Officers

President	*	*	*	*	*	*	Steven Brown
First VP	*	*	*	*	*	*	Dorothy Rencurrel
Second VP	*	*	*	*	*	*	Sylvia Hoad
Secretary	*	*	*	*	*	*	Kim Dorsey
Treasurer	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jan Penland
Parliamentarian	*	*	*	*	*	*	Cherry Williams

### AGS Committees

#### Standing Committees:

Membership	*	*	*	*	*	*	Quenna Cox, Chair
Collection Development	*	*	*	*	*	*	Mary Ann Conrad, Chair:
Web Page	*	*	*	*	*	*	John D. Anderson, Admin
Finance	*	*	*	*	*	*	Jeanne Rives, Chair
Publicity	*	*	*	*	*	*	Pete Jacobs, Chair
AGS photographer	*	*	*	*	*	*	Wally Goodman

#### Special Committee:

Genealogy Resources \* \* \* Larry Howser, Chair

### Committee News

Collection Development, Mary Ann Conrad, Chair, asks members to keep in mind that your genealogy reference needs have the ear of Mary Ann's committee. Share your research focus with the committee so they can shop for genealogy research books with your areas of interest in mind.

Membership, Quenna Cox, Chair, reminds us our Society dues are calendar year driven, so if you haven't renewed, please complete and submit an updated membership form and family research names. The new member and membership renewal count at the end of March stood at 67 members. A membership form is appended as the last page to this newsletter, and on our website.

Finance, Jeanne Rives, Chair. The committee met on March 30th at the Downtown Library. AGS total gross receipts for 2108 puts the AGS in the form 990N filing category for non-profit entities required to file federal taxes. The filing deadline is 15 May, and the IRS form 990N filing acknowledgment will be placed on file with other AGS formation, incorporation, and financial documents.

Publicity, Pete Jacobs, Chair. The committee is always on the lookout for new material. When you encounter anything of genealogical interest don't hesitate to send the info my way.

### General Genealogy Information

Last month I wrote about, Henry Louis Gates Jr., host of the PBS series *Finding your Roots*, and his new book just published by Penguin Press. The title is *Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow*. Our library has 5 copies currently in cataloging. Keep in mind you can place a "reserve" even though the book may not yet be on the APL shelves.

Here is the kind of headline we all like to read, *3*  
**GENEALOGISTS WIN IN COURT! Index to millions of New York marriage records reclaimed.** Reclaim the Records dot org is a scrappy little activist group of genealogists, historians, journalists, and open government advocates, fighting for better public access to government-held genealogical and historical documents. They recently won a fourth lawsuit. They fought the New York State Department of Health for the index to marriages performed in the state of New York post-1965, and after seven months, a judge has now ruled in their favor. This means that the basic index to millions of marriages in New York State will become available to the public. They'll go online for free public use, without any paywalls or subscriptions or usage agreements. You can read the backstory of this case and other cases in progress on their website at, [records-Link](#) .

### Online Genealogy Information

The following appeared in Dick Eastman's most recent newsletter. Find new free historical records on FamilySearch made available beginning the week of March 25, 2019. FamilySearch added new, free, indexed historical records this week from France, Germany, Peru, Sweden, and the United

States: Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia. The new Texas records are Houston's, historic Hollywood Cemetery records, 1895-2008, and Gonzales County, divorce records, 1911-1958.

WikiTree gathers the 20 millionth profile in conjunction with its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 27 March, 2019. Since its start, WikiTree has grown steadily but carefully, with a strong emphasis on quality over quantity. Although its mission is to connect the entire human family on one tree, WikiTree prioritizes careful sourcing and accuracy. As a result, it has fewer duplicates and mythological lines than some websites. WikiTree's strongest asset is its community. Over 130,000 genealogists have signed the wiki genealogy honor code, a simple nine-point pledge that members make to each other. Signers agree to collaborate with courtesy, respect privacy and copyrights, strive for accuracy, and cite sources as they build a single-family tree, a tree that's 100% free and accessible to everyone forever, [freetree-LINK](#).

### **AGS Society Programs**

Do you have a future program suggestion or idea? Please share it with our AGS First Vice President, Dorothy Rencurrel.

### **AGS Program April 2019,**

The April program will be on a topic of interest to family history researchers and genealogists. The program title will be announced by a society membership email notice.

### **AGS Future Programs:**

May 2019, yet to be announced.

Month TBA 2019, *Become a Mapaholic*, Tresa Tatyrek

### **AGS March Program Recap**

Steve Myers presented a rip-roaring multimedia program about the historic Chisholm Trail. An insightful presentation focusing on trails and trail drivers. Steve's talk left the audience with a new appreciation for those Texans who built the Texas cattle industry and drove livestock up the trail to market in the 1800s after the Civil War.

## **Upcoming Genealogy Events in Arlington and the Arlington Public Libraries**

### **DNA How to Workshops for Ancestry, Gedmatch and Family Tree DNA systems**

AGS member, Hank Hufham, is offering no-cost hands-on, practical instruction in how to use DNA tools provided by Ancestry.com, Gedmatch, and FTDNA. Contact Hank at [hhufham@hotmail.com](mailto:hhufham@hotmail.com) to schedule a session for one person or several people at the George W. Hawkes Downtown Library. Large classes may be requested. Allow one to two hours per session depending on your questions. Weekday afternoons are preferred. Get the most out of the session by bringing your laptop and logins. You need not to be an AGS member to take advantage of Hank's generous offer, and you are welcome to invite a friend.

### **Your Story**

In January 2019 the Arlington Downtown Library began a new *Your Story* series. This series of four sessions will show you how to transforming the scattered bits of your family's story into a lasting legacy your future generations can appreciate and enjoy. The fourth session *Preserve Your Story* starts on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM in the George W. Hawkes Downtown Library [re]Brary Room B. These sessions are led by Mark Dellenbaugh.

### **Genealogy Workshop**

The next workshop will convene April 27th. This is a beginning and intermediate research workshop format over a 2-hour period that allows for discussion and a less formal presentation.

### **Family History Seminar**

The Arlington and Burleson Stakes are co-hosting a family history seminar open to one and all at no cost. The date is Saturday, April 13th, 2019, and features local presenters and selected pre-recorded sessions from the Roots Tech 2019 genealogical conference. The syllabus, featuring 18 classes to choose from, begins at 9:00 am, with the last session ending at 3:30 pm. The location is 3809 Curt Drive, Arlington. Early registration ended 30 March, however walk-in registrants are welcome on Seminar day. To preview the syllabus and learn more about the Seminar click, [fhs-LINK](#).

## Genealogy Events in our Local Area

### UTA Special Collections:

\* The Map exhibit remains open, and soon to open during April, a new exhibit celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UTA campus newspaper, *The Shorthorn*.

### Cedar Hill Genealogy Society:

\*Meets monthly in the Cedar Hill Library, 225 Cedar Street, Cedar Hill, TX, 6:30 PM, The April program, on Thursday, April 11th, 2019, will be, *A Genealogy Workshop*, utilizing FamilySearch.com guided by society member volunteers.

### Fort Worth Genealogy Society:

\* General meeting on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm to 7:45pm, Ft Worth Central Library in the Tandy Lecture Hall. The program has yet to be announced.

### Grand Prairie Genealogical Society:

\*Monthly meeting on Thursday, April 4th, 6:30pm in the Grand Prairie Memorial Library, featuring Roger Cobb-Mills speaking on, *I Have my DNA, Now What?* And, if you missed the 2019 GPGS March lock-in, mark your calendar for March 2020.

### Grapevine Name Droppers:

\*Informal meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am to 12 noon, in the Grapevine Public Library programs room featuring, Nancy Maxwell, speaking about *Using PERSI (PERiodical Source Index)*.

### Mid Cities Genealogical Society:

\*General meeting, Thursday, April 4th, 6:30 pm at a new location during the Library remodel. The April meeting is in the Euless Municipal Courtroom, 1102 W Euless Blvd. (Hwy. 10), in Euless. The April program will feature several MCGS members sharing the experiences about their recent genealogy cruise.

### Dallas Genealogical Society:

\*The next General meeting, Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, at the Dallas Public Library. April's presentation will be, *Military Pensions: Vital Records in Disguise!* featuring, Patti Todd Gillespie, at the podium.  
\*Eight DGS Special Interest Groups meet monthly or quarterly.

## Events in our great state of Texas

The Texas State Genealogical Society, Texas Institute of Genealogical Research, is offering a two-track program starting in early June 2019. Track one is *Texas Research Essentials*, research in early Texas has its own unique challenges. Track two is *Advanced Southern Research Techniques*, hone your skills in southern research with a focus on methodology, records, and migration patterns. For more details visit [tigr - LINK](#).

### **Arlington Historical Society, and the Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds**

Read about it in the local news as a special to the Wednesday, March 27, Star-Telegram, Arlington Citizen-Journal insert, vol. 23, No. 13, beginning page 1A. *Arlington is Striving to Preserve Scarred burial Grounds*. by Rich Mauch. To reach a better understanding of the historical significance of the AHMG project, visit this website, [ahmg - LINK](#).

The Perot Museum's famed paleontologist Dr. Ron Tykoski unveils a dazzling story of Arlington's neighborhood as it was 90 million years ago in the first public "reveal" of the most astonishing discoveries related to 2,000 fossils recovered from a north Arlington dig, including a crocodile big enough to munch on a hippo. On April 9, 6 to 8PM, hear it at Legal Draft, 500 E. Front St. [ahs-LINK](#).

### **In Memory**

Audrey C. Parker Young 1926-2019

Audrey Young passed away February 27th, 2019. She was an AGS member for 25 years, from 1985 through 2009.

### **From THE ARLINGTON JOURNAL**

Arlington's home town newspaper for 98 years [1897-1995]. The year is 1930, in this "local news" republished feature with selected articles copied from Will Keller's book, *THE ARLINGTON JOURNAL*, with permission, APL call # GEN REF TX.5 K 1925 - 1933 v.3.

**Friday, August 22**, Notice: On account of the many complaints coming into police headquarters about fast driving and nonobservance of stop signs in Arlington, city officials together with the police department respectfully ask all Arlington citizens to refrain from driving fast in the city limits or failing to stop where stop signs are placed in the streets.

This request is made for the protection of the general public and if it does not have the desired effect more drastic action may be taken. Signed: Ed Collins, Chief Police.

**Friday, August 29, Farmers May Park Cotton Wagons On Arlington Streets.** The City commission decided to permit farmers to bring their cotton to Arlington and sell it to whom they may choose. This action was taken after business men of this city asked that farmers be given this privilege which was denied them last season when cotton wagons were barred from stopping on the main streets. This action was taken last year to improve the looks of the city and give it a citified air, but the action did not take well with farmers who (felt) they were being discriminated against and it was said that some of them took their cotton elsewhere to be ginned and sold. The city commission wanted farmers of this section to feel that they are welcome here so decided to allow them a free hand with their cotton wagons. It is also said the cotton wagons will probably use the street west of the city (water) well and on the side next to The First National Bank as was the custom (in) former years.

**Friday, August 29, An (alliterative) Love Story**  
Sam Short saw Sally Spriggins. Sally Spriggins saw Sam Short. Sam seemed sorter smitten. Sally sorter smiled. Some strange sweet sensations seemed silently set soulward. Sam signified such sensations, so Sally soon saw something serious seemed sure. Sam said Sally's smiles shed sweetness. Sally said Sam's speech sounded sorter silly. Several Sundays saw Sam sporting Sally. Saying some sentimental sentence, Sam sorter sighed. Sally sat silent. Suddenly Sam seeming strangely stirred, spoke saying: Say Sally, suppose somebody sought spouse, should somebody succeed? Sally simply said; Seek Sire, Sam, seek Sire. So, Sam sought Sire Spriggins. Sire Spriggins said Sartainly.

### Closing Note

The AGS Newsletter welcomes individual contributions. Your comments, suggestions and contributions are sincerely appreciated. The editor, Pete Jacobs.

### Hyperlink List

Web site hyperlinks listed in this newsletter may not appear as active links in some software apps that have this feature disabled due to increased cybersecurity protocols. If a link is not active you will need to copy it from the list below, and paste it into the web address field of your browser.

Internet hyperlinks that appear in this newsletter are abbreviated, such as . . . [website-LINK](#). The following is a full text listing of each abbreviated hyperlink.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Page:

[website-LINK](#), <http://arlingtongenealogytx.org/>

[facebook-LINK](#),

<https://www.facebook.com/arlingtongenealogytx/>

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Page: None

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Page:

[records-Link](#), <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/about/>

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Page:

[freetree-LINK](#), <https://www.wikitree.com/>

[fhs-LINK](#), <http://www.arlingtontxfhc.org/>

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Page:

[tigr - LINK](#), <http://www.txsgs.org/tigr-2019-registration/>

[ahmg - LINK](#), <http://www.http://ahmgc.org/index.html>

[ahs-LINK](#), <http://www.historicalarlington.org/index.html>

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Page:

<mailto:AGS-Link>,

<mailto:contactus@arlingtongenealogytx.org>

And as listed above.

MASTHEAD DATA continued from page 1

The Arlington Genealogical Society (AGS) was established on October 27, 1970 and incorporated on May 18, 1971. AGS is a federal and state approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation relying wholly on member volunteers at all levels within the corporation.

Your charitable donations to the AGS are tax deductible as allowed by law. The AGS Tax ID # or EIN is 90-0890150.

The AGS Newsletter is published monthly [except July and August] by the AGS, and distribution is by digital means to each AGS dues paying member's email address.

Postal inquiries to: P. O. Box 373, Arlington, TX 76004-0373

Email inquiries: <mailto:AGS-Link>

The current and prior AGS Newsletters are also available on the Society website. [website-LINK](#)  
AGS on Social Media. [facebook-LINK](#)  
An appended page follows: AGS Membership Application form.



# Arlington Genealogical Society

## Membership Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal  New Member  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual: \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Family: \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Arlington Genealogical Society

Mail form with payment to:  
 AGS PO Box 373, Arlington, Texas 76004-0373

Surnames you are researching:

Surname	State	County	Surname	State	County

The Arlington Genealogical Society meets the second Tuesday of months September through June at 6:30 PM in the new George W. Hawkes downtown Library in one of the community meeting rooms.