

FAMILY FOOTSTEPS



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Greetings

Welcome to the Comal County Genealogy Society's *Family Footsteps* publication. As you will see, the Family Footsteps has updated its format.

This addition is a compilation for the activities of 2024. Its compilation was used to help figure out the details of the new format as well as prototype its development in a new online collaborative environment. This will allow for several people to contribute simultaneously to the *Family Footsteps* and will help reduce the burden on any one individual in its production.

Going forward in 2025, the plan is to resume publication of the *Family Footsteps* three times a year. Issues will be emailed near the 1st of February, June, and October. These publication dates will

allow the *Family Footsteps* to better cover the three natural "seasons" of CCGS activities.

- The February issue will cover the prior year's Fall meetings and Events from October to January as well as look forward to the upcoming Spring events.
- The June issue will recap the spring meetings and events from February to May as well as look forward to the Summer events.
- The October issue will recap the summer Field Trips and the Annual Picnic as well as look forward to the Fall events.

In addition to documenting CCGS activities, each issue will continue to provide other news of the organization as well as general interests in Genealogy.

We hope you like the new format. If you have comments, suggestions, or material for publication, please let us know at suggestions@ccgstexas.org.

Meetings

2024

13 February Meeting



Tara Voigt Kohlenberg and Keva Hoffman Boardman of the Sophienburg Museum and Archives gave a very informative slide presentation titled “The Amazing Emma Seele Faust and her legacy in New Braunfels.”



Keva Hoffman Boardman.

Image: J. Coers



Tara Voigt Kohlenberg.

Image: J. Coers

In addition to the presentation, Connie Krause and Lynn Thompson gave an update on the status of the Field of Graves cemetery project at New Braunfels Cemetery. They announced that the Cemetery Commission was still accepting donations toward the project.

12 March Meeting



The guest speakers were Comal County Clerk Bobbie Koepf, and staff member Jessica Tester. They talked about what was new at the Clerk's Office, documents and services available to the public, and the steps they are taking to preserve the county's historical documents.



Comal County Clerk Bobbie Koeppe and Jessica Tester.

Image: W. Voigt

Highlights include:

- The renovation efforts currently happening at the Clerk's Office and the steps they are taking to preserve books/documents during construction: alternate storage locations and a climate controlled vault/restoration company in Dallas.
- The rotation of historical books/ledgers to the company in Dallas where they are painstakingly Restored.
- The use of public funds to pay for the restoration efforts.
- A review of hours and services and specialty items (maps) provided in office as well as online. Of note is access to a free program that will alert residents to property fraud.

Links to all the services provided by the Comal County Clerk's office can be found at <https://www.co.comal.tx.us/CC.htm>. You can also see online records at <https://comal.landrecordsonline.com>. While it is a subscription service, you can select the Pay-as-you-go option for \$0/month and only pay when you want to print documents.

09 April Meeting



The guest speaker was Dr. Hans Boas, Director of the Texas German Dialect Project, University of Texas and the topic was "The Texas German Dialect Project 2001-2024". Highlights include:

- The TGDP has interviewed and recorded over 900 individuals (several were in the audience!) They have over 1,000 hours of recordings. About 350 hours have been transcribed into both German and English and put into a large database that is available online.
- An interesting history on how dialects come into being and progress over time.

- Texas German is a distinct dialect of German. But while it is a dialect, almost no two speakers speak alike, including members of the same family. In 1907, there were between 75,000 and 100,000 Texas German speakers. By the 1940s, the number of speakers peaked at about 160,000. With WWI, schools began to teach English only and with WWII, the number teaching new generations started to decline significantly. By 1960, there were 70,000 Texas German speakers. In 2024 there are less than 3,000 and there will be no speakers in 10 to 15 years.
- Future plans include interviewing and recording as many speakers as possible and transcribing all the recordings. The project is also working on a Texas German dictionary.
- This work has spread into other areas including research in German Texas literature, music, and history.



Dr. Hans Boas

Image: W.Voigt

More information on the Dr. Boas's work can be found at the University of Texas Germanic Studies website at <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/germanic/texas-german-dialect-project/> as well as the main Texas German Dialect Project website at <https://tgdp.org/>.

14 May Meeting



Sherry Grabil from the San Antonio East Family Search Center gave an interactive presentation on "What's New at FamilySearch 2024". Among some of the new features discussed included:

- Profile Quality Scores based on the number of sources attached to an individual.
- How to navigate multiple spouses in the family tree.

As an interactive presentation, a number of other topics were discussed as well:

- The concept of a single world family tree in FamilySearch.
- What individual's profiles look like as well as attached source information.
- Dealing with others who make incorrect additions and how conflicts are settled.
- Overview of the FamilySearch (FS) app, focusing on basic usage and features, including the ability to see other FamilySearch users who are nearby.
- Working on FamilySearch can be done at home. Viewing some records requires going to a FamilySearch center or a local affiliate.
- The two locations of the New Braunfels Public Library that have public-use computers are designated as FamilySearch affiliates.
- She also discussed alternatives/supplementary programs to FamilySearch, such as Ancestry, Billiongraves, and RootsTech.
- She reviewed the services available at her FamilySearch center in San Antonio and how they can assist a new researcher.
- A seminar will be held at the FamilySearch Center in San Antonio on September 28, 2024.

The FamilySearch website is at <https://www.familysearch.org/>. Registration is required to obtain a user ID and password; however, the website is FREE. The RootsTech conference was mentioned several times. Many presentations from that genealogy technology conference can be found at: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>. The RootsTech conference is held both virtually and in person annually (generally in Salt Lake City, Utah).



Sherry Grabil

Image: W.Voigt

01 June Field Trip



The Comal County Genealogy Society took a Saturday guided tour to see the Headwaters at the Comal.

The Comal River is the heart and soul of New Braunfels. They are rejuvenating 16 acres at the headwaters of the Comal River where people can learn, have fun, and experience history and nature. They're strengthening the relationship between the community and nature by showcasing the significance of the Comal Springs.



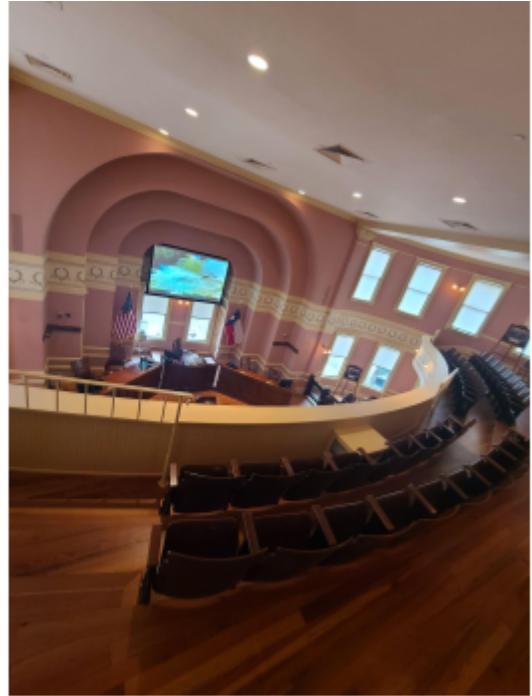
Images: S. Hierholzer

26 July Field Trip



The Comal County Genealogy Society took a Friday field trip to the Comal County Courthouse and the Comal County Clerk's office.

The Courthouse tour was led by John and Cindy Coers. They gave a presentation on the historic restoration of the courthouse. For more information on the courthouse history, go to <https://www.co.comal.tx.us/> and click on "Courthouse History and Videos". Information on the Comal County Historical Commission can be found at <https://www.co.comal.tx.us/CCHC.htm>



View from the restored 2nd floor balcony.

Image: W.Voigt



John and Cindy Coers presenting.

Image: W.Voigt



Left to Right: Lynne' Voigt, Wyatt Voigt, Wendel Voigt, Bernice & Karla Friesenhahn, Alton Rahe, Simone Hierholzer, Karen Williams

Image: J. Coers

The group then walked next door and visited the Comal County Clerk's office. The group saw an example of looking for online records. And then the group was given a glimpse of some of the restored records held at the office.



Group learning about the available online records.
Image: C. Coers.



Examining the large property ownership map.
Image: C. Coers



The group looking at original records.

Image: C. Coers

10 September Picnic



The annual Comal County Genealogy Society Picnic was held at pavilion #16 in Landa Park. We provided food from Granzin BBQ and added desserts and drinks.

Images: S. Hierholzer



Announcements by Wendel Voigt



Food and Desserts!



Back table facing: Cindy Coers, Diane Bauer, Lloyd Reeh
Front table facing: Jackie & Charlene Nolte, Guest, Vince Callier, Lynne Voigt, Chris Parma
Front table back: Ceretta & Tommy Daum, Clarence Scheel, Milissa Parma



Melissa Parma, Clarence Scheel, Tommy & Ceretta Daum



Alton Rahe and Dorothy Schneider



Walter Bauer, Connie Krause, Marlena & Wilfred Schlather

08 October Meeting



Tina LaFreniere, CCGS member and founder and CEO of Related Faces Technologies (<https://www.relatedfaces.com/>) gave a presentation on photo digitization and facial recognition entitled "Connecting Faces Through Time - How to Use Related Faces for Identifying Unknown People in Photos". Tina discussed the backstory on how her family developed and founded Related Faces. She went over how she digitizes her photos and shared some tips and tricks (and mistakes) she has learned. Examples include:

- Today's Cell Phones have great cameras. Just make sure there is good natural lighting. In many ways, taking photos of pictures is more effective than scanning them.
- Never use a document copier/scanner. The light can harm some photos and make them fade.

She gave tips on how to sort or organize old photos - examine the photo's paper, the subject's clothing, hairstyles, etc. Tina then discussed how facial recognition software works and gave step-by-step directions on the practical applications of her software to identify individuals in photographs. One case study included identifying three look-a-like sisters across various family photos at different points in their lives. Another example was correctly identifying twin sisters in various photographs.



Tina LaFreniere, CEO of Related Faces Technologies

Image: W.Voigt

12 November Meeting



Keva Hoffman Boardman along with Beverly Wigley of the Sophienburg Museum and Archives gave a tour of the Sophienburg Archives (<https://sophienburg.com/>). Keva gave an overview of the process of using the Archives. This included making reservations, giving the staff specific information on what information is being requested, and what is already known (so the staff does not duplicate research). Keva gave numerous examples of the types of documents and material housed at the archives. This included the many compiled genealogies, diaries and books from prominent early residents and the various holdings of the CCGS.



Beverly Wigley and Keva Hoffman Boardman

Image: W. Voigt



Keva Hoffman Boardman

Image: W. Voigt



Comal County Genealogy Society at the Sophienburg Archives tour

Image: L. Voigt

10 December meeting/party



The Comal County Genealogy Society wrapped up the year with the annual party and officer induction. Everyone food and/or drinks for the pot-luck event. Wilfred Schlather shared his recent findings on the interconnection of individuals in a Sängerverein membership photo. And Alton surprised everyone by exposing his internet password.



A variety of delicious food
Image: W. Voigt



Clockwise center top:
Alton Rahe, Ceretta & Tommy Daum, Jackie & Charlene Nolte, Marlena & Wilfred Schlather, Dorothy Schneider
Image: W. Voigt



Vince Callier and Tina LaFreniere
Image: S. Hierholzer



Image: L. Voigt

2025 Officers and Directors (left to right)
Vince Callier, Secretary; **Lynn Thompson**, Director of Publications & Past-President; **Wendel Voigt**, President & Director of Footsteps; **Mary Simone Hierholzer**, Treasurer & Director of Membership; **Tommy Daum**, Director of Publicity; **Tina LaFreniere**, Director of Genealogy.



Alton Rahe exposing a little too much during show and tell.
Image: T. Daum

Upcoming Meetings

2025

Meetings are held at 7:00P.M. on the second Tuesday of February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December. Unless indicated otherwise, all General Meetings are held at the **Emmie Seele Faust Building** at the **Sophienburg Archives**, 401 W. Coll St., New Braunfels, Texas 78130.

New Members and Visitors are always welcome.



January	BOD meeting only
February 11	General Meeting - Details in February 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
March 11	General Meeting - Details in February 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
April 8	General Meeting - Details in February 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
May 13	General Meeting - Details in February 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
June	Field Trip - Details in June 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
July	Field Trip - Details in June 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
August	BOD meeting only
September 9	CCGS Picnic - Details in June 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
October 14	General Meeting - Details in the October 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
November 11	General Meeting - Details in the October 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
December 9	New Officer Installation and Party

Organization

Purpose

The purpose of the Comal County Genealogy Society is to create, foster and maintain interest in history and genealogy and to work with other organizations to preserve historical & genealogical publications and records.

Board of Directors

Officers

Office	Officer
President	Vacant John Coers
Vice President	Wendel Voigt
Treasurer	Simone Hierholzer
Secretary	Vince Callier
Past President	Lynn Thompson

Directors

Director of...	Director
Footsteps	Connie Krause
Genealogy	Vacant John Coers
Membership	Simone Hierholzer
Public Relations	Tommy Daum
Publications	Alton Rahe

All Officers and Directors are members of the Board of Directors.

Committee Chairpersons

Welcome / Greeting	Marlena Schlather
Cemetery	Connie Krause
Archives/History	Vacant
Library	Lynn Thompson
IT / Website	Wendel Voigt



2024 Officers and Directors (left to right)
John Coers, President & Director of Genealogy;
Wendel Voigt, Vice President; **Mary Simone Hierholzer**, Treasurer & Director of Membership;
Vince Callier, Secretary; **Alton Rahe**, Director of Publications; **Tommy Daum**, Director of Publicity.
 Not pictured: **Connie Krause**, Director of Footsteps.

On April 1, 2024 John Coers notified the rest of the Board of Directors that he was resigning as President and Director of Genealogy due to other time commitments.

Remembering

Member Yvonne Reinhard Rahe



Yvonne Reinhard Rahe

27 Feb 1936 – 10 Aug 2024

Yvonne Reinhard Rahe passed away on 10 August 2024 at the age of 88 from a number of health problems after two weeks in the hospital.

Yvonne was born on 27 February 1936 to Vera Jubela Reinhard in the farm home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jubela, in McQueeney, Texas.

Yvonne was born six months after her father, Melvin Reinhard, died in a commercial truck accident while crossing the highway to his farm. She and her mother then lived with her Jubela grandparents. She enjoyed visiting with her cousins at family gatherings.

When Yvonne was ten, her mother married Alfred Jentsch and they moved to New Braunfels. She graduated from New Braunfels High School in 1954.

In 1955 (69 years ago), Yvonne married Alton Rahe in Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in New Braunfels. She continued to practice her strong Christian faith in the Catholic Church as she did in her youthful years in the Protestant Church in Seguin.

Yvonne worked at New Braunfels Utilities before her children were born. After the children were grown, she worked as teacher/director at the First Methodist Nursery and Kindergarten from 1975 until 1990. She was a Girl Scout leader and camp director for 10 years. She served as president of the Parent-Teachers Conference for two years at Sts. Peter and Paul School. She tended to her mother and "Daddy," who lived only a block away, in their later years.

Yvonne became an active member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in 2005 and served in several capacities.

Yvonne was always proud of the fact that all of her ancestors came from Germany.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Vera, father, Melvin, and step-father, Alfred. Yvonne is survived by her husband, three children: Mark, Lori Ventura (David) and Nina Faulkner (John) and three grandchildren: Lindsey Ventura (Anthony) and Nathan (Anna) and Allie Faulkner.

Her husband remembers her as a dedicated and loving wife, her children will always remember her as their compassionate supporter, and her grandchildren will remember the love and pride she felt towards them. She will be remembered by her friends and the community for her kindness and helpfulness. She will be greatly missed by all.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, August 18, from 5 to 7 pm at Doeppenschmidt Funeral Home, with Rosary at 6 pm led by classmate Deacon Ben Wehman.

The funeral Mass will be held at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church on Monday, August 19, at 10 am. Burial service will be held following the funeral Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery, 300 Peace Avenue.

In lieu of flowers, donations would be appreciated to DRT Scholarship Fund (Anna Hindman, 1017 Carriage Loop, NB, TX 78132), Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church (St. Ann's Christian Mothers Altar Society, 386 N. Castell, NB TX 78130), or Sophienburg Museum and Archives (Artifact Collection, 401 W. Coll St., NB, TX, 78130).

Member Kristine Ludwig



Dr. Kristine Nicole Ludwig

22 Dec 1969 – 10 Jul 2023

Kristine Nicole Ludwig, 53, passed away on July 10, 2023. She was born in Houston on December 22, 1969 to her parents Al James and Mary Lou Ludwig.

Kristine graduated from New Braunfels High School, received her Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Southwest Texas University, and her Doctorate Degree in Chemistry

(Polymer Science) from the University of Southern Mississippi. Her work history included Dow Chemical (Freeport, TX), Goodyear (Akron, Ohio), Baker Hughes, Green Tweed, and Bentley Systems in Houston.

Kristine spent much of her leisure researching family history and even went to Salt Lake City to research genealogy at the world famous Family Research Library. She was a member of The Daughters of the American Revolution, The Daughters of the Texas Revolution, MENSA, and several chemistry professional organizations. She also enjoyed spending time with her dogs, the current one named Juno.

Kristine was preceded in death by her father, his infant brother John, grandparents, Jimmy and Loreen Ludwig, Annie and Adolph Gerick, aunt Virginia Gerick, uncle Edwin Gerick, uncle and aunt Hugh and Annette Maloy.

She is survived by her mother, sisters Gretchen Ludwig, Anna Brown (Ken), uncle James Gerick, aunt Pat Gerick, uncle and aunt Milam and Mary Gerick, uncle and aunt Pat and Barbara Cobb, uncle and aunt Don and Cindy Pitts, niece Camila Cabrera, nephews Tyler and Blake Brown, and many cousins. She will be dearly missed.

Memorial donations in Kristine's name can be made to the Humane Society of the New Braunfels Area at HSNBA.org or a charity of your choice.

New PA System

CCGS purchased a new PA system to be used at meetings and events. Its first use was at the September Picnic in Landa Park.



Google's Workspace for Nonprofits

The CCGS applied and was accepted into Google's Workspace for nonprofits program. This program allows CCGS to use a number of Google tools for free. Some of the tools include:

- Use of Google Meet for video conference calls
- A separate Google Drive for documents and collaboration
- 1000 @ccgstexas.org email address
- 100TB of storage (data and emails)

The BOD has moved all digital files obtained from the past into the CCGS Google drive and is in the process of creating a filing system. This will help CCGS going forward since all the documents will be in one virtual storage space. It has also been used for online collaboration. Examples include the updated brochure and this edition of the *Family Footsteps*. In addition, Google Meet was used for the November and December BOD meeting.

Online Payments

Tired of writing checks, finding an envelope, and purchasing those ever more costly postage stamps? Well, the wait is over. CCGS now accepts online payments for Membership (via PayPal, Venmo, or Credit Cards) at:

<https://ccgstexas.org/membership>.

CCGS Scholarship

Early in the year, the Board of Directors had a discussion on increasing CCGS' overall outreach as well as how to get young people interested in genealogy. After some discussion, the Board of Directors

authorized a \$1000 scholarship to be awarded to a graduating 12th grader who attends a high school in Comal County (or any high school in Comal ISD or New Braunfels ISD, even if in an adjacent county).

A scholarship committee was formed consisting of Wendel Voigt, Simone Hierholzer, Vince Callier, Chris Parma, and Lynne' Voigt.

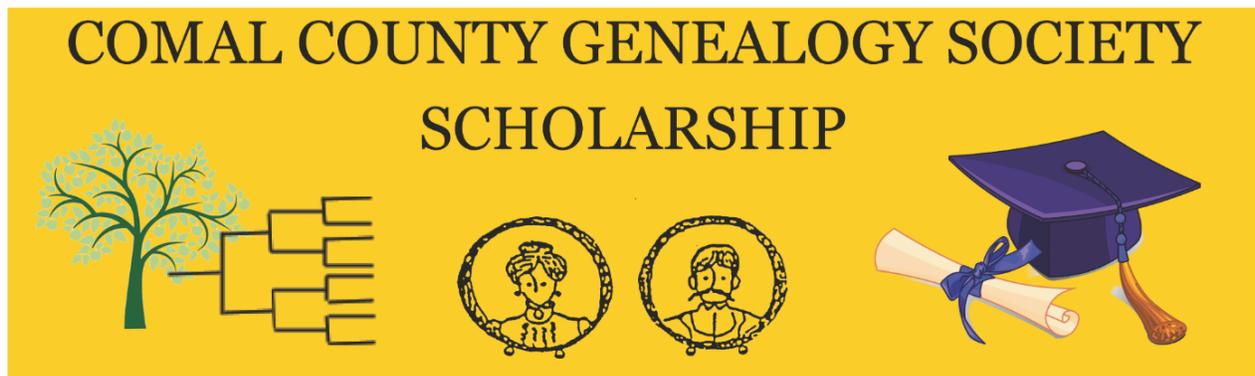
It was also decided that instead of asking applicants to submit an essay, they would instead submit a genealogy project. The project would include producing a four generation Ancestor chart and providing a photo of a treasured object (photo, heirloom, or document) with a short description as well as a few sentences on why it is important to them.

The application material was completed and was submitted to the leading scholarship listing service, *Going Merry* (<https://goingmerry.com/>). Both Comal ISD and New Braunfels ISD refer their students to the *Going Merry* service.

Applications for the scholarship are due by 10, 2025 with the winner decided by April 15, 2025.

Scholarship information, the application, and the application instructions can be found at <https://ccgstexas.org/scholarship/>. A view of the Scholarship brochure is on the next page.

In addition, the CCGS is now accepting donations to be applied to the scholarship. Go to <http://ccgstexas.org/donate> to help with this cause.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

One applicant will be awarded **\$1,000.00**

ELIGIBILITY

Open to 12th graders who attend school in Comal County (or a school in Comal ISD or New Braunfels ISD, even if it is in an adjacent county) and who will be attending a Higher Education institution after high school graduation.

OBJECTIVE

The intent of this scholarship is to give ALL applicants a sense of what it is like to participate in genealogy and to learn about their family history. The CCGS hopes that the applicant's submission will be viewed by family members as a special living document that can grow and be expanded upon in the future.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Go to <http://ccgstexas.com/scholarship> to obtain the CCGS Scholarship Application Instructions and the CCGS Scholarship Application file.
2. Complete the following sections in the Application (See CCGS Scholarship Application Instructions for details)
 - Applicant Information
 - Ancestor Chart
 - Treasured Object
3. Email the completed Application to: scholarship@ccgstexas.org

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION IS MARCH 10, 2024

ANCESTOR CHART

Start your family tree. Applicant must submit a family lineage to four generations using an Ancestor Chart (also known as a Pedigree Chart). An Ancestor chart is used to keep track of family members' names, their birth dates, their marriage dates, and death dates. The Ancestor chart also keeps track of the locations where these events took place and from where the information was obtained.

TREASURED OBJECT

Please provide a picture of a treasured family photo, heirloom, or document that you would like to share with the Comal County Genealogy Society. You should provide a description of the object and an explanation of why it is a treasure to you.

See the CCGS Scholarship Application Instructions for details to help you get started.

For additional information or any questions regarding the scholarship requirements, please email:
scholarship@ccgstexas.org.

CCGS at Fiesta Patra

The Sophienburg Museum and Archives's fourth annual Fiesta Patra event celebrating Hispanic Heritage was on September 7th, 2024 from 10:00am to 2:00 pm. This year's theme is El Hilo de Vida / The Thread of Life. The CCGS along with other genealogy and heritage societies, had tables in the Emmie Seele Faust Building (which we use for our monthly meetings). Several members represented the CCGS throughout the event. A number of people came by and discussed genealogy and the CCGS. Pedigree, Family Group sheets, and a Cousin Relationship chart was provided to those who stopped by. The new brochure was passed out and a couple of new members were added.



CCGS at the Sophienburg's Fiesta Patria event.
Left to Right: Wilfred Schlather, Marlena Schlather, Vince Callier, Wendel Voigt, Simone Hierholzer. Not shown are Tommy Daum, Lynn Thompson and Lynne' Voigt.

Image: L. Voigt

New Members

We want to welcome the following new members for 2024!

- Walter & Dianne Bauer
- Stephen Beisser
- Tina LaFreniere
- Christopher & Melissa Parma
- Lloyd & Linda Reeh
- Angelita Velasquez and Olga Nasis
- Karen Williams

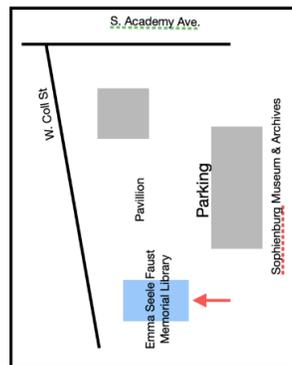
Updated CCGS Brochure

- CCGS membership benefits include:**
- Meeting experienced genealogists.
 - Monthly meetings featuring guest presenters on a variety of related topics.
 - Summer field trips to nearby locations of historical interest.
 - Free access to the Sophienburg Archives (collections of local family histories and important research materials). Access to the CCGS computer at the Sophienburg Archives with Ancestry.com & Fold3.com subscriptions.
 - Membership starts at just \$20 a year!

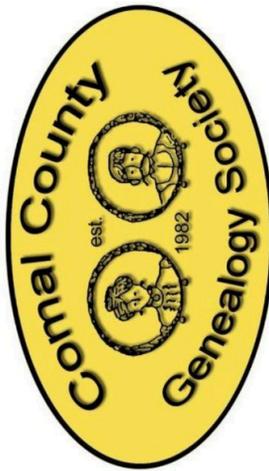
So, whether you're an experienced genealogist or are just beginning the journey into your family's past, the CCGS is here to help!

The CCGS meets the second Tuesday of February, March, April, May, September, October, November, & December. All meetings (except the September Society picnic) begin at 7:00 pm and are held at the **Emmie Seele Faust Building** at the **Sophienburg Museum and Archives, 401 West Coll Street, New Braunfels, Texas.**

Visitors are welcome to attend all meetings and events!



Be sure to visit our website and Facebook pages via the QR codes on the front page for additional information on the CCGS, genealogical resources, and local history.



"The purpose of the Comal County Genealogy Society (CCGS) is to create, foster, and maintain interest in history and genealogy and to work with other organizations to preserve historical & genealogical publications and records."
- CCGS By-Laws

With that in mind, what exactly is Genealogy? Simply, it's the study of lines of descent or lineage, in other words, family history.

The CCGS is a friendly, welcoming organization that encourages everyone to get interested in their family history.

The members of the CCGS all have a keen interest in their family genealogy and have years of experience finding clues regarding their ancestry.

The CCGS collects and publishes information about local history, assists the Sophienburg Archives with their mission of preservation and research, and even sponsors a family history-related scholarship for high school seniors.



CCGSTexas.org
Facebook.com/CCGSTexas

Comal County Genealogy Society Membership Application
P.O. Box 310160, New Braunfels, TX 78131-0160

Name: _____ Family Member(s): _____

Street: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____

Maiden Name: _____ Email: _____

MEMBERSHIPS (January - December)

Individual \$20.00 () New () Renewal

Family \$25.00 () New () Renewal

Baron \$50.00 () New () Renewal

Prinz * \$100.00 () New () Renewal

* A Research item will be donated to the CCGS and placed in the Research Room at the Sophienburg Archives. It will be inscribed with the member / donor's name.

Membership includes subscription to the CCGS newsletter publication "Family Footsteps" and use of the Research Room and the CCGS computer at the Sophienburg Archives, 401 West Coll St., New Braunfels, Texas.

Researching the following names:

Updated CCGS By-Laws

At the November meeting, the CCGS voted to revise the Constitution and By-Laws of the organization. The new By-Laws are below. All additions and new changes are denoted with **yellow highlighting**. Deletions are denoted with ~~red highlighting and strikethrough~~. There are three areas of changes:

1. Changing the publication dates of the *Family Footsteps* to more closely align with the group's "seasons" of activity:
 - a. The June issue will cover events from February through May and will then look forward to the summer events.
 - b. The October issue will cover events from June through September and will then look forward to the fall events.
 - c. The February issue will cover events from October to January and will then look forward to the spring events.
2. Formally increasing the speaker stipend from \$20 to \$50. This was agreed to in the past by the Board of Directors, but was not formally updated in the By Laws.
3. A new Article that is required for the CCGS to maintain its 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption status. The Article has three primary subsections that can be summarized as follows:
 - a. Individuals in the organization cannot profit from the organization.
 - b. The organization cannot carry on activities that are prohibited by holders of the tax exemption.
 - c. If the organization is ever dissolved, the assets must be distributed to another non-profit organization.

Constitution and By-Laws Comal County Genealogy Society

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be: COMAL COUNTY GENEALOGY SOCIETY (CCGS).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Comal County Genealogy Society is to create, foster and maintain interest in history and genealogy and to work with other organizations to preserve historical/genealogical publications and records.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERS

Membership shall be open to any person interested in genealogy and family/local history.

ARTICLE IV. DUES

THREE membership levels are offered:

(1) Regular Membership – dues for the calendar year shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00) per individual. Dues for two persons living in the same household and sharing one mailing of publications and communications shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), Where the secondary member can be a spouse or either parent and the mailing of publications/communication is to the primary member only.

(2) "Baron" membership – \$50.00 per calendar year.

(3) "Prinz" membership – \$100.00 per calendar year with special recognition in our Annual Membership Roster. A "Prinz" membership will allow a research item to be donated to CCGS in their honor with name inscribed.

Publications of CCGS will be exchanged with other Societies for their publications, thus eliminating their dues.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Officers of this organization shall be President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. The Directors shall be Director of Membership, Director/Editor of the Footsteps, Director of Public Relations, Director of Genealogy and Director of Publications. Officers and Directors may not vote on issues of conflicting interest when they are officers or staff of the other organization. The President shall appoint a Parliamentarian at the beginning of each year. The Parliamentarian will not be considered a Board Member and will perform his/her duties only in the General Membership meeting. No member is to be paid a salary, the officers and directors are volunteers of time and service.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

These four (4) Officers and five (5) Directors shall be elected annually and along with the Immediate Past-President will constitute the Board of Directors to govern this organization. The Immediate Past President shall serve as an *ex-officio* member with no voting privilege on the Board. The President may not vote except in case of a tie. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision of the membership and none of its acts shall conflict with the actions taken by the membership. Meetings of the Board are normally held as outlined in Article XIII, however may be called by the President or by written request to the president by three (3) members of the Board. A voting quorum of the Board shall consist of five (5) members.

ARTICLE VII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization, perform such duties as set out in these By-laws and, as directed by the membership, appoint all committees, serve as *ex-officio* member of all committees except the nominating committee, be authorized to sign checks disbursing monies of the organizations and will pick up the mail to the organization and distribute it appropriately. The mail detail may be delegated to a local member if necessary.

The Vice-President shall serve as Program Chairperson, arrange for the meeting place for all meetings, preside at all meetings in the absence of the President, be authorized to sign checks on monies approved by the board and perform such other duties as may be requested by the President.

The Treasurer shall keep a record of the finances of the organization and present a report at each board and general meeting and be authorized to sign checks disbursing monies of the

organization. Treasurer shall submit required reports to the Internal Revenue Service and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Treasurer shall head the committee for the September picnic.

The Secretary shall record the proceedings of all board and general meetings, answer all mail except queries and perform such other duties as requested by the President of the organization.

The Director of Publications shall 1. Be responsible in finding and maintaining a location for the storage of CCGS publications, donated historical and genealogical personal collections and other long-term CCGS material. 2 Periodically take inventory of publications on hand. 3. Fill orders for society publications, mail them and submit proceeds to the treasurer. 4. Arrange for the proofreading and publication of all society documents including the "Footsteps." 5. Submit bills for publications to the treasurer for payment of the documents adequate to reimburse the society. 6. See that copies are available at sale locations at all times and perform such other publication duties as assigned by the board.

The Director of Membership shall act as greeter at organization meetings, provide name-tags and introduce new members and guests at our regular meetings; if the need arises, these duties may be delegated to a member of the welcoming Committee. He/She shall maintain a complete membership roster consisting of mailing addresses including zip + four codes, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and the surnames they are researching. He/She shall chair a committee charged with planning the December Social.

The Director/Editor of the "Footsteps" shall solicit and collect material for the "Footsteps" making it copy-ready and email-ready for publication, and give the material to the Director of Publications at least six one (6 1) weeks before the scheduled electronic delivery date on the first day of the months of ~~March, June, and November~~ June, October, and February.

The Director of Public Relations shall prepare meeting notices of our society events and share them with all media available, such as newspapers, radio stations and the internet (Facebook, etc.) He/she will store a copy of each meeting notice in the CCGS file.

The Director of Genealogy shall answer all queries, coordinate all activities with the Sophienburg Archives and Genealogical Societies, promote interest in genealogy through workshops that he/she shall organize and shall advise membership of other workshops that may be of interest.

The Parliamentarian, although not a member of the Board of Directors, will serve in this capacity at the General Meeting. The main purpose of this position shall be to ensure the constitution and by-laws are followed, and to keep the meeting flowing at a comfortable pace and interject comments and assistance only as necessary to smooth the discussions on the floor. The parliamentarian will swear in new officers at the December meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee consisting of three members from the general membership (President excluded) shall be appointed by the President at the October meeting each year. This committee will be responsible for soliciting nominees from the membership and presenting at the November meeting a slate of officer and director candidates recommended for election for

the coming year. Nominations may be accepted from the floor. No name shall be placed in nomination without the consent of the nominee. Election of officers and directors shall be by a show of hands.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

From time to time as the organization grows and it becomes necessary, the President shall have the power to appoint committees to help carry on the business of the organization. The committees can be temporary or permanent as designated by the President.

These five permanent committee chairpersons shall be appointed annually:

- (1) Cemetery Committee – coordinates all cemetery matters.
- (2) Information Technology Committee – coordinates society electronic needs and provides assistance with audio visual equipment at meetings, and maintains website on internet
- (3) Library Committee – coordinates collections, inventory and acquisitions.
- (4) Archives Committee – collects and preserves items of interest pertaining to the history of the Society and displays the Society Scrapbook. Takes photos and submits them to the media.
- (5) Welcome Committee – assists the Director of Membership as described in Article VII.

ARTICLE X. OBLIGATING MONIES

Any purchase over \$50.00 by an Officer or Director shall have, at least, a tacit approval of the Board. No member or members will be authorized to borrow or obligate monies of this organization, except that the Vice-President may offer a maximum of ~~twenty~~ **twenty five** dollars (~~\$20.00~~ **\$50.00**) or an individual membership to guest speakers to help defray their expenses. All funds shall be deposited in a designated bank and used only for expenses authorized by the Board of Directors. Two signatures will be required on all checks over \$200.00.

ARTICLE XI. LOANING OF EQUIPMENT

Use of society equipment or resources is provided through completion of a CCGS equipment lending form, and adherence to the forms requirement.

ARTICLE XII. GIFT AGREEMENT

All donated money and fees will be given to the treasurer, and a CCGS Donation Form will be filled out for every donated item.

ARTICLE XIII. MEETINGS

Regular meetings shall be held on the Second Tuesday during the months of February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December. Special meetings may be called by the president or by the written request to the president by five (5) members of the general

membership. Field Trips may be scheduled for the Membership during the summer months. The December meeting will consist of a social and any essential business. Board meetings are held before each Membership Meeting and are also held in January and August.

Newly elected officers and directors shall be installed as the last item of business and they shall assume office at the close of the December meeting. Meetings will begin at 7:00pm, with Board meetings preceding at 6:00 pm unless called otherwise.

ARTICLE XIV. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

These By-Laws can be amended at any regular meeting of the Society by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of members present, provided that the Amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting.

ARTICLE XVI. IRC 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption Provisions

Prohibition Against Private Inurement: No part of the net earnings of this organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of this organization as set forth in these articles.

Limitations on Activities: No substantial part of the activities of this organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation (except as otherwise provided by Section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code), and this organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (b) by a organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Distribution of Assets: Upon the dissolution of this organization, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this organization, shall be distributed by the Board for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Such distribution shall be made in accordance with all applicable provisions of the laws of this state.

Find Us on the Internet

Website

<https://ccgsTexas.org>



Facebook

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



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/ccgstexas/>



Footsteps Contributors

DIRECTOR OF FOOTSTEPS

Connie Krause

EDITOR

Wendel Voigt

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Simone Hierholzer, Cindy Coers, John Coers, Vince Callier, Lynne' Voigt, Wendel Voigt

ATTENTION!

If you have an interesting poem, story, translation from a newspaper, article about your ancestors or your research has turned up something that you think is interesting, please consider sending it to us to publish in the "Footsteps". Persons submitting materials, which are published, will be listed as a contributing editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions as necessary. Please make sure all submissions are either ready in rich text format or camera-ready. Please send your submission to footsteps@ccgstexas.org

Online Membership



You can renew your membership for 2025 by either filling out the Membership Application found at the end of this publication, or you can go to <https://ccgstexas.org/membership> to renew online.

Membership Application

Comal County Genealogy Society

P. O. Box 310160, New Braunfels, TX 78131-0160

Name: _____
 Family Members: _____
 Street: _____ Phone: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4 _____
 Maiden Name: _____ Email: _____

MEMBERSHIPS (January - December)

Individual: \$20.00 () New () Renewal

Family: \$25.00 () New () Renewal

Baron: \$50.00 () New () Renewal

Prinz:* \$100.00 () New () Renewal

*A Research item will be donated to CCGS in your honor (with your name inscribed) and placed in the Research Room at the Sophienburg Archives.

DONATIONS

CCGS Scholarship \$ _____

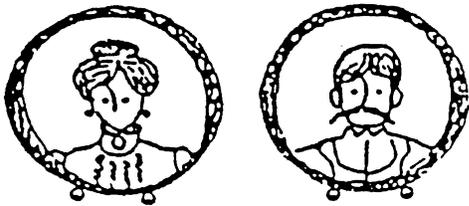
TOTAL Included \$ _____

Membership includes a subscription to "Family Footsteps" newsletter, free queries, use of the Research Room at the Sophienburg Archives and interesting programs at our meetings. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday in the months of FEB, MAR, APR, MAY, SEP, OCT, NOV, and DEC. JUN and JUL are reserved for field trips to a local site and to sites in nearby counties. The SEP meeting is often a group picnic. (Board meetings are held in JAN and AUG.)

Meetings are held at the Sophienburg Archives, 401 West Coll St, New Braunfels, TX.

Please mail this application to the address given above and your check made payable to *Comal County Genealogy Society*.

I/We are researching the following surnames:



Comal County Genealogy Society
P. O. Box 310160
New Braunfels, TX 78131-0160