

# FAMILY FOOTSTEPS



Est. 1982



PUBLISHED BY

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

Volume XLII (42) #1

February 2025

## Table of Contents

<b>Greetings</b> .....	1
<b>Previous Meetings</b> .....	2
08 October 2024.....	2
12 November 2024.....	3
10 December 2024.....	4
<b>Upcoming Meetings</b> .....	5
11 February 2025 Meeting.....	5
11 March 2025 Meeting.....	5
08 April 2025 Meeting.....	5
13 May 2025 Meeting.....	6
June and July Field Trips.....	6
<b>Membership</b> .....	6
Benefits of Membership.....	6
New Members.....	6
Premium Members.....	6
<b>2025 Calendar</b> .....	7
<b>Organization</b> .....	8
Purpose.....	8
Board of Directors.....	8
Committee Chairpersons.....	8
New PA System.....	9
Online Payments.....	9
CCGS Scholarship.....	9
<b>Genealogy News</b> .....	11
RootsTech 2025.....	11
<b>Find Us on the Internet</b> .....	12
<b>Footsteps Contributors</b> .....	12
Online Membership.....	12
<b>Membership Application</b> .....	13

## Greetings

Welcome to the Comal County Genealogy Society's *Family Footsteps* publication.

Starting with this issue, 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.

Since this issue of *Family Footsteps* is being published within a month of the 2024 Combined *Family Footsteps*, some of the content from the end of 2024 will be repeated.

New information in this issue includes the 2025 officer & director updates, the 2025 calendar, and the summaries of the upcoming spring meeting presentations. We have an exceptional lineup of speakers from February through May. You may also want to take a look at the article on RootsTech 2025. You can join the largest genealogy conference for FREE right from the comfort of your home.

We hope you like the new *Family Footsteps*. If you have comments, suggestions, or material for publication, please let us know at [suggestions@ccgstexas.org](mailto:suggestions@ccgstexas.org).

## Previous Meetings

08 October 2024



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.

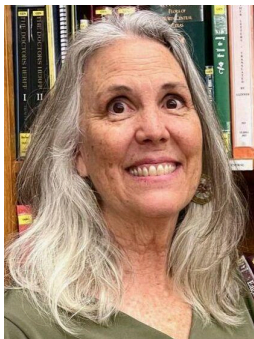
She gave tips on how to sort or organize old photos - examine the photo’s paper, the subject’s clothing, hairstyles, etc. Tina then discussed how facial recognition software works and gave step-by-step directions on the practical applications of her software to identify individuals in photographs. One 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 2024



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 as well as 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 2024



The Comal County Genealogy Society wrapped up the year with the annual party and officer induction. Everyone brought food and/or drinks for the potluck 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: Image: W. Voigt*  
 Alton Rahe, Ceretta & Tommy Daum, Jackie & Charlene Nolte, Marlena & Wilfred Schlather, Dorothy Schneider



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

### 11 February 2025 Meeting



Carlos Casteneda will present "Genealogy DNA: How to use it, and what to do with the results." Carlos Casteneda will use his personal family research and DNA results as an example.

Carlos is a native of New Braunfels and a member of CCGS. He is also a member of Los Bexarenos (Hispanic genealogy society in San Antonio) and has done extensive research on his family using documents from Mexico and Spain. He volunteers in their library which contains records going back to the 1700s and knows of other resources available to people in the San Antonio area. He also does research for individuals.

### 11 March 2025 Meeting



Andrea Burden will present "The Salge Family Cemetery." She will give an overview of the work there and the process for relocating cemeteries in Texas. The Salge Family Cemetery is a historic cemetery located near Clear Springs.

Andrea was born in Bellville, Texas, grew up in Waller County, Texas, and went to school at Texas A&M University. She works as a Senior Archaeologist guiding her clients and their projects through requirements to comply with federal, state, and local environmental laws and historic preservation ordinances and regulations, particularly Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Texas Antiquities Code, and Section 711 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Cemeteries).

### 08 April 2025 Meeting



Angela Breidenbach will present "Building Skills to Preserve Family History." In a first for CCGS, Angela will present remotely to the group. She will share how to build your genealogy expertise and share the stories of your ancestors. From proving your family connections to writing them for future generations, she'll dive in for a fascinating conversation on ancestral stories, both cautionary and heroic.

Angela Breidenbach is the executive director for the International Institute of Genealogical Studies, found at [GenealogicalStudies.com](http://GenealogicalStudies.com), where she helps people become professional genealogists and obtain their dream career. As a professional genealogist and bestselling author of historical fiction, she weaves people, places, and time together to bring the past to life. Whether in writing or teaching, Angela is a passionate educator preserving the past for future generations. Find her books at [AngelaBreidenbach.com](http://AngelaBreidenbach.com).

## 13 May 2025 Meeting



Mark Olsen will present "Introduction to Family Tree Maker." This will be presented remotely to the CCGS. He will discuss Family Tree Maker, highlighting the latest version, updates, features and more. This is an interactive session. He will discuss the recent updates to FTM 2019, and the upcoming FTM 2024.



**Family Tree  
Maker**

Mark will also discuss Family Tree Maker partner products - Charting Companion and Family Book Creator - both are amazing plug-ins that can help you create incredible charts, graphs, and books. This presentation is for all levels of genealogists whether you are just getting started or very experienced. **Family Tree Maker has graciously provided a door prize which will be given out at the meeting.**

Mark Olsen is the Family Tree Maker Ambassador to historical and genealogical societies worldwide, working to support their members as they use Family Tree Maker. Mark is a graduate of Brigham Young University and holds a bachelor's degree in Family History with an emphasis on Spanish records. He has been working in the genealogy industry since 2007 and has been the Family Tree Maker Ambassador since 2016.

## June and July Field Trips

We are looking for suggestions for our summer field trips. Do you know of a special place in Comal County that you think others would find interesting? If so, please contact us at [suggestions@ccgstexas.org](mailto:suggestions@ccgstexas.org).

## Membership

### Benefits of Membership

Your membership in the Comal County Genealogy Society provides:

- Meetings featuring guest presenters on a variety of genealogy-related topics.
- The September Picnic in Landa Park, which includes catered food.
- Access to the *Family Footsteps* published in February, June, and October.
- FREE access to the Sophienburg Archives with the CCGS' collection of local family histories and important research materials.
- Access to the CCGS computer at the Sophienburg Archives with Ancestry.com & Fold3.com subscriptions.

Members at the Prinz and Baron level will be recognized in the *Family Footsteps*.

Members at the Prinz level will have a research item donated to CCGS in their honor (with their name inscribed) and placed in the Research Room at the Sophienburg Archives.

### New Members

James Webb  
Wanda Thomas  
Angelita Velasquez & Olga Nasis

### Premium Members

Paul D. Startz - Prinz  
Peggy Wunneburger - Prinz  
Stephen Beisser - Baron

## 2025 Calendar

Meetings are held at 7:00 P.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.



<b>January</b>	Board of Directors meeting only
<b>February 11</b>	General Meeting - Carlos Casteneda - "Genealogy DNA"
<b>March 11</b>	General Meeting - Andrea Burden - "The Salge Cemetery"
<b>April 8</b>	General Meeting - Angela Breidenbach - "Building Skills to Preserve Family History"
<b>May 13</b>	General Meeting - Mark Olsen - "Introduction to Family Tree Maker"
<b>June (TBD)</b>	Field Trip - Details in June 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
<b>July (TBD)</b>	Field Trip - Details in June 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
<b>August</b>	Board of Directors meeting only
<b>September 9</b>	CCGS Picnic - Details in June 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
<b>October 14</b>	General Meeting - Details in the October 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
<b>November 11</b>	General Meeting - Details in the October 2025 <i>Family Footsteps</i>
<b>December 9</b>	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	Wendel Voigt
Vice President	<i>vacant</i>
Treasurer	Simone Hierholzer
Secretary	Vince Callier
Past President	Lynn Thompson



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.

### Directors

Director of...	Director
Footsteps	Wendel Voigt
Genealogy	Tina LaFreniere
Membership	Simone Hierholzer
Public Relations	Tommy Daum
Publications	Lynn Thompson

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

### Committee Chairpersons

Welcome / Greeting	Marlena Schlather
Cemetery	Connie Krause
Archives/History	<i>vacant</i>
Library	Lynn Thompson
IT / Website	Wendel Voigt

## New PA System

CCGS purchased a new PA system for use at meetings and events. Its first use was at the September 2024 Picnic in Landa Park.



## 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>.

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2025, please do so today.

## CCGS Scholarship

Early in 2024, the Board of Directors discussed increasing CCGS' overall outreach and how to get young people interested in genealogy. Ultimately, 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.

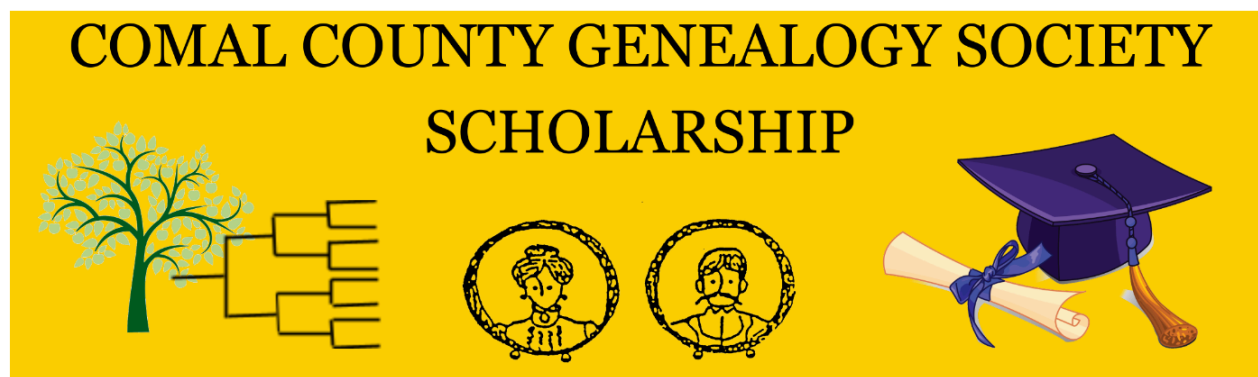
The application material was completed and submitted to the leading scholarship listing service *Going Merry* (<https://goingmerry.com/>). Both Comal ISD and New Braunfels ISD refer their students to the *Going Merry* service. Where possible, counselors at Comal County's private high schools have also been contacted.

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

**If you know of a high school senior who would be eligible, please make sure they are aware of the scholarship.**

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/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](mailto:scholarship@ccgstexas.org)

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION IS MARCH 10, 2025**

### 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](mailto:scholarship@ccgstexas.org).

# Genealogy News

## RootsTech 2025



On March 6-8, 2025, you can attend the world's largest family history conference for FREE right from your home. While RootsTech also has a paid in-person conference in Salt Lake City, UT, you can attend much of the conference from the comfort of your own home.

By registering, you get FREE access to:

- 200+ new online sessions in over 26 languages
- Join keynote sessions live from the comfort of your home
- Chat online with other attendees worldwide
- Get digital syllabi and class handouts
- You can keep watching recorded videos all year long

### What to Expect from RootsTech?

It is a family history conference, an on-demand learning library, and a way to grow closer to the people, places, and stories that matter most: RootsTech is all that and so much more.

### Learning

RootsTech offers Family History classes tailored to all interests and skill levels, available in over 40 languages and covering nearly every country. In short, there's something for everyone.

### Innovation

Each year, RootsTech partners with companies to showcase innovations and cutting-edge technology that can help you make new family history connections. Even if remote, you can visit the Virtual booths for the Exhibitors. They are a great place to get product ideas and access special deals on those products.

### Inspiration

Family History is about stories. During the three-day event, and all year long, we highlight personal stories that uplift, inspire, and entertain.

### Connection

Whether it's forging friendships with other RootsTech attendees or discovering a long-lost relative, human connection has always been at the heart of RootsTech.

### RootsTech App

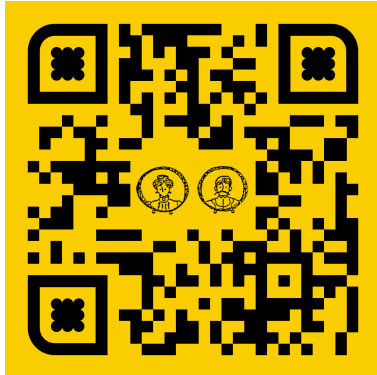
Download the [RootsTech App](#) to stay up to date on everything happening in person at RootsTech 2025. See all the classes and set up your schedule, connect with other attendees, and discover the exhibitors and sponsors. Don't miss out on the fun, and stay connected at all times! You can also download the [Family Search App](#) (as discussed in the May 2024 CCGS Meeting) to use the Family Search "Relatives Around Me." It will show all the people who are attending the conference that you are related to if you have a tree on [Family Search](#).

FREE RootsTech registration is at <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/registration/online>

## 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

Wendel Voigt

### EDITOR

Wendel Voigt

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Vince Callier, Simone Hierholzer, Tina LaFreniere, Lynn Thompson, Lynne' Voigt

### ATTENTION!

If you have an interesting poem, story, translation from a newspaper, or 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 published materials 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](mailto: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      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

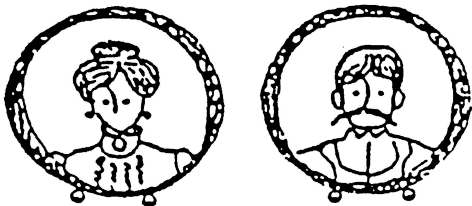
Membership includes a subscription to "Family Footsteps" newsletter, free queries, use of the Research Room at the Sophienburg Archives, and interesting programs at our meetings. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday in the months of FEB, MAR, APR, MAY, SEP, OCT, NOV, and DEC. JUN and JUL are reserved 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**

Postage needed  
for mailing