

# AUSTIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

**2015 Vol. 56 No. 2**



Austin Genealogical Society  
PO Box 10010  
Austin Texas 78766 -1010  
<http://austintxgensoc.org>

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# 2015 AGS Calendar of Events

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AGS meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (except May and December). Meetings typically include time to get acquainted with other researchers, announcements and notification of upcoming activities. Meetings also feature a speaker on a genealogical topic.

## **January 27**

Unusual Source Records for Genealogical Research – or this is some Cool Stuff!

*Presented by Sue Kaufman from Clayton Library in Houston*

## **February 24**

Using Family Search to Solve Genealogical Research Problems - Case Study

*Presented by Ed Donakey from Family Search*

## **March 24**

Research Strategies for Everyone

*Presented by Teri Flack*

## **April 28**

Digging Up the Bones of Your Home

*Presented by Phoebe Allen*

(No Regular AGS Meeting in May due to the Seminar on May 30)

## **June 23**

Finally...A Good Life in Texas

*Presented by Joyce Aldridge (as Susanna Dickinson) and Warren Friedrich (as Joseph Hannig)*

## **July 28**

Using Perry Castaneda's Library for Genealogy

*Presented by Katherine Strickland*

## **August 25**

Earning a Living: Your Ancestors at Work

*Presented by Pat Gordon*

## **September 22**

World War I: One Hundred Years of Records

*Presented by Debbie Pearson from Fort Worth Genealogical Society*

## **October 27**

Talking to Elders to Record Family History

*Presented by Mary Scrudder*

## **November 24**

FALL FESTIVAL

The Orphan Train

*Presented by Jenna McEachern*

(No Regular AGS Meeting in December)

## From the Editor

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Hello Members,

We have another issue of the Quarterly packed full of great articles!

The 2015 AGS Writing Contest is in full gear now that we are halfway into the year. There is still plenty of time to get your submission in! Be sure and read the contest guidelines which are included in this issue.

We have so many wonderful articles being submitted, and I thank those of you that are taking pen to paper (or fingers to computer keyboards!) and writing down some of your family history. This is not only a gift to the AGS membership, but something your family and future family historians will be grateful for!

In this issue, there is a fascinating compilation of facts about the Haynie-Cook House site, which was put together by Phoebe Allen. You may remember her presentation in our meeting in April where she went over how to “dig up the bones” of our homes. This article is definitely a representation of that type of work!

We found a blog posting by our recent featured speaker, Judy G. Russell, The Legal Genealogist, about her trip to Oakwood Cemetery while she was in Austin for the Seminar. We reprinted it here, with her permission, you'll find it's a touching story about one of her troubled ancestors.

Are you of Wendish descent? If your family comes from Germany, you might be, according to Jan Pelosi, in her article about the Wendish Settlers in Central Texas. I know I had never heard of the Wendish, so I found it quite informative.

We have an article by Connie Perdue about her adventurous ancestor, John Arthur Stuart. What a life he led! I hope you will find it interesting, I know I did!

There is a colorful essay on the Petri Family by Alyssa Behr. In reading these articles you will get a sweeping picture of her ancestors and their duty in the Gardes du Corps with Kaiser Wilhelm I and II, followed by their journey to America and Central Texas, and a sad story of the murder of the beautiful Louisa Petri. A wonderful read!

There is a touching story by Jim Bridges of his memories and lessons he learned while bringing food to the poorhouse with his grandfather.

Finally, we have some information about how to find your family in newspaper archives, provided by Mary Kircher Roddy of MKR Genealogy. I hope you find her tips and techniques of use!

Thank you,

*Robín Raben*

[quarterly@austintxgensoc.org](mailto:quarterly@austintxgensoc.org)

# 2015 AGS Writing Contest Guidelines

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Articles published in the AGS Quarterly for the calendar year 2015 which meet the contest criteria will be considered in this year's writing contest. The contest is open to members of AGS only.

**Winners will be announced at the AGS meeting in January 2016.**

## Contest Criteria

- Article must be published in the AGS Quarterly during the calendar year 2015.
- Article must include 500 words or more written by the author (not including words in transcriptions or family trees.)
- Articles considered will include original research, case studies, educational columns, essays and narratives on a genealogical subject.
- Articles must be submitted by a member of AGS in 2015, and winners must be a member at time of the award announcement in 2016.

There will be two judging categories: (1) articles with a Travis County (or surrounding counties) subject and (2) articles for other geographical areas or pertaining to an educational topic related to genealogy. Entries will be judged on research quality, overall impact and interest, and clarity and writing. There must be at least three submissions in a category for a prize to be awarded for that category.

The first prize for each category is a gift subscription to one of the following (winner's choice):

- Ancestry.com U.S. 12 month membership
- Fold3 all-access membership – one-year
- Newspapers.com one year subscription
- Legacy 8.0 Deluxe Bundle (software CD & download, printed & PDF manual, training CDs vol. 1)
- Roots Magic Super Bundle (RootsMagic, Personal Historian, GenSmarts)

Each category will award two runners up certificates.

# Haynie-Cook House Site

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## 1122 Colorado Street, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78701

*Compiled by AGS Member Phoebe Allen. Phoebe was the featured speaker at the April 28, 2015, AGS Regular Meeting, presenting "Digging Up the Bones of Your Home."*

### SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The former location of the 1852 Samuel G. Haynie-Abner Cook House merits an Official Texas Historical Subject Marker. It is the site of a home built for an early Austin mayor and pioneer businessman by the esteemed builder-architect whose family lived in the house for three decades.

The history of Block 135, just west of the Capitol of Texas, dates to the origins of the City of Austin and several of its founding fathers. Dr. Samuel Garner Haynie, who served as an early mayor of Austin, was the first buyer of the property in December of 1850. Albert Sidney Johnston is said to



Abner Cook. PICB08190 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

have lived in a circa 1850 cottage built by Haynie on the property. The east side of the block had been set aside by the State of Texas for the office of the Attorney General, but the property was never used for this purpose.

Haynie chose master builder Abner Cook to design and build a home at this site, but transferred the house to Cook shortly after it was built due to financial losses. It is not known whether Haynie's family ever lived in the home, but Cook's family lived there until his death in 1884.

Cook's wife sold the property the following year to Leander Brown, another early mayor (1867-71), who subdivided the property. The Haynie-Cook House was "rolled" onto the southern half of the block around the turn of the century. Fanny M. Andrews operated Ye Qualitye Shoppe in the Haynie-Cook House at that location from 1910 until 1953, when it was demolished.

The north half of the block was obtained by Joseph Nalle circa 1903. His son Ernest Nalle lived in a home on the site from 1903 until WWI. Judge Nelson Phillips, Associate Justice of the

Supreme Court of Texas, lived there from 1914 to 1920. Ernest Nalle returned to the house from 1922 until 1933, when Judge John H. Sharp of the State Commission of Appeals and State Supreme Court bought the property; Sharp lived there through 1947.

The brick veneer Nalle-Sharp House was demolished around 1953, and the Lumberman's Investment Association of Austin acquired the property for construction of The Westgate, a residential-office high-rise designed in 1962 by internationally acclaimed architect Edward Durell Stone.

### NARRATIVE HISTORY

#### Haynie-Johnston Cottage (circa 1850)

It is written that one of the first occupants of a cottage or house on this block, built circa 1850, was the famous Confederate general, Albert Sidney Johnston (1803-1862). Born in Kentucky, he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1826. After his first wife's death in 1835, Johnston moved to the Republic of Texas in 1836 and enlisted as a private in the Texas Army. He became senior brigadier general in command of the army, replacing Felix Huston. Wounded in a duel with Huston, he was unable to take the command.



President Lamar appointed Johnston as Secretary of War in 1838, and following Edwin Waller's layout of the original city of Austin in August of 1839, Johnston met Lamar on the outskirts of town to lead the new administration into the city. "In October 1839, the Administration moved to Austin, where Secretary of War Johnston shared a log cabin with Secretary of the Treasury, Dr. James H. Starr. Johnston fell in love with Austin at first sight. ... [It was situated] in the finest climate, and most beautiful & lovely country that the 'blazing eye' of the sun looks upon in his journey from the east to the west."<sup>1</sup> It was Johnston's intention to eventually settle in Austin.

In late 1839, Johnston organized the expedition for the expulsion of Cherokees from East Texas. Johnston shared the cabin with Starr until he resigned in 1840<sup>2</sup> and returned to Kentucky, where he married Eliza Griffin in 1843. The couple returned to China Grove Plantation in Brazoria County. Eliza later presented her husband a book with 101 Texas wildflowers she painted.<sup>3</sup> The Johnstons had six children.

On December 2, 1849, Johnston became paymaster in the U.S. Army assigned to the Texas frontier. From 1850 to 1854, he was based in Austin, which he made his home while paymaster of military posts between the Trinity and Colorado Rivers. He rented an 1853 stone house at 206 East Ash/9th (later the A.B. Palm house) at some point circa 1853-54. According to Mary Starr Barkley, "General Albert Sidney Johnston was living [circa 1850-52] in a cottage west of the capitol, built in 1850 on block 135 by Dr. Haynie. It became the home of Ernest Nalle, was moved to the east end of the block by the Andrews family, and later sold to Abner Cook. The half-block where Johnston lived faced the capitol, and had originally been marked for offices of the land department and attorney general<sup>4</sup> on that first layout of Austin, but was never used for them."<sup>5</sup>

Despite Barkley's error in regard to the timing of Nalle and Cook, it is possible that Johnston either lived in a "cottage" which predated the house and became an outbuilding, or was incorporated into the larger house, or perhaps he was simply the first resident of the new house built for Haynie in 1852-53, before the Cook family moved in, possibly during the construction period.

In 1855, Johnston headed out to the Great Plains with William Harney and was appointed colonel of the Second Calvary, headquartered in San Antonio in April of 1856. Johnston assumed command of the Utah expedition<sup>6</sup> in September 1857, and from 1858 to 1860 acted as brevet brigadier general in escorting Mormons to Salt Lake City.

Resigning his commission to the Army at the beginning of the Civil War, he returned to Texas and was appointed by Jefferson Davis as a general in the Confederate Army for the Western Department. He was killed at the battle of Shiloh in 1862, temporarily buried in New Orleans, and reburied in the State Cemetery in Austin in 1867. Elisabet Ney carved the recumbent sculpture on his tomb in 1905.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Roland, Charles P. *Albert Sidney Johnston: Soldier of Three Republics*, University of Texas Press, Austin, 1964, p. 100, cited from a letter from Johnston to Hancock, October 24, 1939, Johnston Papers, Barret Collection.

<sup>2</sup> Johnston, Wm. P. *The Life of General Albert Sidney Johnston*, New York, 1878, p. 114.

<sup>3</sup> The original drawings were given to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in 1894. *Texas Wild Flowers*, by Eliza Griffin Johnston, was published by Shoal Creek Publishers.

<sup>4</sup> Plan of the City of Austin, 1839, indicates that the east half of Block 135 was set aside for "Attorney General."

<sup>5</sup> Barkley, Mary Starr. *History of Travis County & Austin 1839-1899*. Steck Co, Austin, Texas, 1967, pp. 71-72.

<sup>6</sup> Adams, George Rollie. *General William S. Harney: Prince of Dragoons*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln & London, 2001, pp. 173-79.

<sup>7</sup> Norman S. Spellmann, "HAYNIE, JOHN," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fhabn>), accessed March 26, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Jeannette H. Flachmeier, "JOHNSTON, ALBERT SIDNEY," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fjo32>), accessed March 26, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Modified on March 13, 2013. Both published by the Texas State Historical Association.



## HAYNIE-COOK HOUSE (1852-demolished 1953)



Abner-Cook House, 1104 Colorado St., Austin, TX. PICH08773 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

DR. SAMUEL GARNER HAYNIE (1806-1877) was the son of Elizabeth Brooks (1787-1863) and John Haynie (1786-1860), pioneer circuit rider in the Austin-Bastrop area and first pastor of the first Methodist church in Austin. One of the founders of Methodism in Texas, John Haynie established the first Methodist congregation in Austin in 1840 and moved to Austin temporarily in 1845. (In 1921, the First Methodist Church relocated to the block just north of The Westgate.) John's son Samuel, born in Tennessee, had come to Independence, Texas, from Alabama in 1837, and in 1839 moved to Austin to practice medicine.

Samuel Haynie married Hannah Maria Evans (1818-1898) in February 1841; they had six children. By 1840 Dr. Haynie owned several properties in Austin, including Outlots 10, 11 and 19 in the Judges' Hill neighborhood, west of the Capitol.

Samuel Haynie represented Travis County in the Fifth Congress of the Republic (1840-42) and moved back to Independence, Texas, in 1842. He returned to Austin in 1845 as a representative from Independence, and was a Travis County representative in the Texas Legislature in 1847. Haynie was appointed postmaster from August 15, 1846 to March 15, 1852,<sup>8</sup> moving the post office from the Bosche Building near 8<sup>th</sup> Street on Congress to the New Temperance Hall at the northwest corner of Congress and 8<sup>th</sup>, just west of his home at the time. Haynie was elected Austin's mayor four times – 1850, 1851, 1863 and 1864.

While Haynie was serving as mayor in 1850-51, Abner Cook was one of the city aldermen; the two thus had ample opportunity to work together, and became closely associated in public and private endeavors in the next few years.<sup>9</sup> J.M.W. Hall, also an alderman in 1851, was Haynie's partner in the original \$1000 purchase of Block 135 in December, 1850.<sup>10</sup> Haynie owned the Austin Drug Store in 1846, and in 1852 bought out the Baker & Townsend drugstore and established a large mercantile firm in his name at Fifth and Congress. Haynie bought a number of lots from the government and built several houses on them. Block 135 was to be the site for his future home, and he "built [a] fine new

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<sup>8</sup> Barkley, Mary Starr. *History of Travis County & Austin 1839-1899*. Steck Co, Austin, Texas, 1967, p. 253.

dwelling west of Capitol” in 1853, before financial difficulties at his mercantile company forced him to sell the house to its architect-builder shortly after its completion.

In 1867, Haynie owned and operated the Avenue Hotel. In 1871, he graduated in medicine from the Medical Department of Soule University at Galveston and practiced medicine until his death. He was a personal friend and physician to Sam Houston.<sup>11</sup>

ABNER HUGH COOK (1814-1884), Austin’s noted early architect of Federalist and Greek Revival buildings, built Haynie’s home in Austin in 1852-53 on Block 135, bought the entire block shortly after the house was finished, and lived there until his death.

Cook was born in North Carolina, apprenticed under a master builder there before moving to Georgia, Tennessee, and, by the summer of 1839, to Austin. He married a widow, Eliza T. Logan, in 1842, and they had four sons.

Eliza’s first husband, George W. Logan, came to Austin from Virginia in the winter of 1839, built the first dwelling in Austin west of Colorado Street, worked on the first Capitol on the northeast corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Colorado, and on the president’s home before his death in late 1840 or 1841. The Logan’s had three children between 1830 and 1838.

Abner first lived in a log house he built in 1841 on Seventh Street between Colorado and Lavaca, on the same block as the log 1841 Presbyterian Church, the first church he built, and the first to be constructed in the city. (His first brick church was likely the 1853 Methodist Church at Mulberry/10<sup>th</sup> and Brazos.) Abner moved into the Logan house after his marriage and added on to it. Eliza had three slaves; the Cooks owned ten slaves by 1850. Cook completed a residence for General Land Office Commissioner and second mayor of Austin, Thomas William Ward, in 1846-47. In late 1848, the Cook family moved to Huntsville to serve as superintendent – i.e. the master builder – of the new State Penitentiary, returning to Austin in the spring of 1850.

An 1850 vote confirming Austin as the capital of the state for the next 20 years elicited a burst of construction by both the state government and private citizens over the next decade. Cook’s major 1850s residences (most facing east to catch the afternoon shade on their front verandas) included the homes of Land Office clerk William S. Hotchkiss (1851-53, Hotchkiss-Graham House, 2605 Salado), State Comptroller James B. Shaw (1854, Pease Mansion/Woodlawn, Greek Ionic), Republic and State of Texas Treasurer James H. Raymond (1854, Greek Ionic), Secretary of State and medical doctor William Copeland Philips (1854, Federalist style), the Governor’s Mansion (1854-56, Greek Ionic), Treasury Secretary John Milton Swisher (1854, Swisher-Scott/Sweetbrush House), land agent and surveyor Washington L. Hill (1855-56, Neill-Cochran House, Greek Doric), Mary and Reuben Runner (1856-57, Runner-Chandler-Shelley House/Westhill, Greek Doric, 1703 West Avenue), and others.

Cook and John Brandon, who drew the plan for the 1852-54 Capitol, won their bid for “furnishing materials and executing the woodwork, including the dome, painting, glazing, etc.”<sup>12</sup> The foundation for the Capitol was laid in March 1852, and by late December of 1853, the administration moved in. Thus Cook was working on Haynie’s home during roughly the same period as he was working on the Capitol.

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<sup>9</sup> Brown, Frank. *Annals of Travis County*, chapter 15, pp. 3a, 32.

<sup>10</sup> “Hall & Haynie” made application for patent on December 18, 1850, and made the first of three payments, \$338, for Lots 7, 8 & 9 in Block 122 and Lots 1-6 in Block 135. File #541, Archives, Texas Land Office.

<sup>11</sup> Rossman, Loyce Haynie. *Rev. John Haynie: Ancestry, Life & Descendants 1650-1963*. Fredericksburg, Texas, 1963, p. 63. *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/HH/fhabn.html> (accessed April 28, 2009). Texas House of Representatives, Biographical Directory of the Texan Conventions and Congresses, 1832-1845.

<sup>12</sup> Hafertepe, Kenneth. *Abner Cook: Master Builder on the Texas Frontier*, Texas State Historical Association, Austin, Texas, 1992, p. 60.

The Haynie-Cook House was built at the site where The Westgate would later rise, directly west of the new Capitol. Kenneth Hafertepe outlines the story of this two-story Federalist style house in his biography of the architect:

“Cook’s next major project [following the Hotchkiss House] was a house for Dr. Samuel G. Haynie, built in the 1100 block of Colorado, just west of the Capitol grounds. Haynie was a well-to-do merchant, a former mayor of Austin, and the leading Capitol commissioner. He was also closely involved with Abner Cook in a number of business ventures. The two-story frame house Cook built for him in 1852 and 1853 cost between \$7,500 and \$9,000 exclusive of land. It was thus one of the most expensive houses in Austin at the time, and possibly the first two-story house since the President’s House burned in 1847. Indeed, it seems to have been so expensive that Haynie was forced to sell the house very soon after its completion. On September 13, 1853, he sold it for \$10,000 to Abner Cook. The Cook family may have moved from their rustic log house soon thereafter, but were definitely living there by 1860, when the Barr family moved into the old Cook place. Almost by accident, Abner and Eliza ended up with one of the most imposing houses in town. Haynie and Cook remained friends in spite of the former’s financial troubles; in 1877, Cook was a pallbearer at Haynie’s funeral, along with E.M. Pease and James H. Raymond.

“The Haynie-Cook House had a central hall plan, with one room to each side, and an ell on the south part of the west side for a dining room. The kitchen was freestanding but attached to the rest of the house by a covered walkway, and two houses for the family’s nine or so slaves were further back on the grounds. Only the front part of the house had a second floor, consisting of an upper hall and two other rooms, presumably bedrooms.

“The principal feature of the front façade is the two-story portico in the central bay. This portico had two sets of paired columns, Ionic on the inside and Doric piers on the outside, which were two stories high and amazingly elongated. The columns are not especially Greek; in fact, the paired columns resemble those depicted in plate 44 of Minard Lafever’s first book, *The Young Builder’s General Instructor* (1829), which was published before Lafever fully embraced the Greek Revival style. The portico also had a second-floor balcony which engaged with the columns, and the balustrade was in the x-and-stick pattern previously seen on the Hotchkiss House. The door, surrounded by sidelights and an overlight, was set back from the plane of the house and framed by Doric piers with a full entablature, but even this essentially Greek Revival composition was carried out in the more elongated proportions of the Federal style. The Haynie-Cook House was essentially a late Federal design with a few portents of Greek Revival.”<sup>13</sup>

### **Later History of the Property and the House**

Cook’s widow owned the property until July 2, 1885, when it was sold to land dealer and former Austin mayor Leander Brown. Brown occupied the home until he divided the block and sold Lots 1-3 to Mason C. Miller, a cashier at City National Bank, in 1889. Lots 1-3 then went through several hands before the north 110 feet were purchased by Joseph Nalle (1842-1910) circa 1903. The lot was vacant for several years before the 1903 City Directory indicates Ernest Nalle living at a new house on the site; the Sanborn map indicates it was of brick veneer.

Ernest Nalle (1875-1950) was the son of Joseph and Sallie Kaiser Nalle, who came to Austin in 1869. Joseph established a lumberyard in 1871. Ernest, a graduate of the University of Virginia, was owner and president of Nalle & Company for many years, until it closed in 1930. His brothers Edgar and Ewell were associates of the company. Ernest also served as vice president of American National

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<sup>13</sup> Hafertepe, Kenneth. *Abner Cook: Master Builder on the Texas Frontier*, Texas State Historical Association, Austin, Texas, 1992, pp. 74-76; Travis County Deed Records vol. G, p. 413.

Bank, owned the historic Avenue Hotel until it was razed in 1930, built the Paramount Theater (formerly the Majestic), and was president of Southern Ice & Cold Storage Company in San Antonio. He moved to Dallas during WWII.<sup>14</sup>

Thomas Andrews bought the north 55 feet of the south half of the block by 1898. His sister Fanny Margaret Andrews (1869-1960) explained what happened to the old Cook house:

“This house on Colorado Street which my brother had bought, was on the Abner Cook lot, and he moved it down. He said it was too good a house to waste so he bought it and they had to slide it down to its new location. ... It just happened Tom had bought this house and rolled it down the hill from the corner where Abner Cook had built it. The Secretary of State [William B. Townsend] had been in it and I knew he was leaving. Tom had died, so I wrote to Jennie, his wife, and asked for an option on the house. I said, ‘I think I am going to have a shop.’ She said of course that was all right. The people had just moved out. ... I rented the house from Sister (Jennie) first, and then Ed bought it from her and I rented it from him. Sister had wanted to sell it, so Brother Ed bought it and rented it to me. He fixed the house up. ... We opened the Qualitye Shoppe late in 1910. During the second year we spread the shop into the hall, and the next year we, Jessie, Mama and I, pushed ourselves upstairs and had that part to live in. ... When Ed died he gave it to me.”<sup>15</sup>

Thus the Cook house moved to 1104 Colorado, was occupied by Miss Fanny M. Andrews, proprietor of Ye Qualitye Shoppe, for 46 years, from 1916 to 1952. Her sister Jessie was the first female to register at the University of Texas, graduating in 1886 and becoming UT’s first female instructor in 1888.<sup>16</sup> A photo from the Austin History Center depicts details of the entry of the Haynie-Cook House with Fanny Andrews and the staff of Ye Qualitye Shoppe in 1953, when the shop was closed. Sanborn maps indicate that the old Haynie-Cook house was demolished in 1953.

As for the original location of the home, Judge John H. Sharp (1874-1957) and his wife Eula purchased the Nalle property in 1933 and lived in the Nalle home through 1947. Sharp was Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas from 1934 until 1952, when he retired. The Nalle-Sharp House was also demolished circa 1953.

From 1955 through 1966, Cook’s Funeral Home was on the southern end of the block, at 1100 Colorado. 1106 Colorado was the location of the home of Charles Avery, manager of Consumer’s Fuel & Ice Co. and Balaam Hay Press Mfg. Co., from 1910-1931, and remained in his hands through 1950; a building at the site was used as an office and then Trans Texas Theater in the 1960s.

### **Lumberman’s and The Westgate (1962-present)<sup>17</sup>**

Lumberman’s purchased the north half of Block 135 on June 10, 1963 from SouthTex Land Sales Incorporated, B.H. Holcomb, president. Holcomb worked for former Texas governor Allan Shivers, who was the major shareholder of SouthTex.<sup>18</sup>

Architect Edward Durrell Stone designed The Westgate in 1962 for the Lumberman’s Investment Association of Austin. A separate National Register nomination has been submitted and approved for The Westgate Tower.

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<sup>14</sup> Nalle vertical file, Austin History Center; undated obituary.

<sup>15</sup> Andrews, Fanny M., “Miss Fanny,” from an autobiography tape-recorded by Walter E. Long and Russell H. Fish, October 1959. Von Boeckmann-Jones, Austin, Texas, pp. 21-26.

<sup>16</sup> Barkley, Mary Starr. *History of Travis County & Austin 1839-1899*. Steck Co, Austin, Texas, 1967, p. 196

<sup>17</sup> Austin History Center vertical files: Lumberman’s Association, Zimmerman.

<sup>18</sup> A phone conversation in August 2009 between Phoebe Allen and B.H. Holcomb verified Shivers’ interest in SouthTex Land Sales and the property.



## HAYNIE-COOK HOUSE APPENDIX

### Deed, Occupancy & Lot Register Research

1122 Colorado, Block 135, Lots 1-3 (some related to Lots 4-6)

- May 1984 Articles of Incorporation of Westgate Condominium Association (following series of foreclosures in 1980s)
- 10 June 1963 Southtex Land Sales Inc., B.H. Holcomb, president, to Lumberman's Co., filed August 12, 1963. Vol. 2638/506 (N 105 feet of Lots 1, 2, 3)
- 6 August 1963 Earl Podolnick & wife Lena Novy and Selma Novy Parrill (estate of Harold C. Novy) and husband L. Benjamin Parrill of Dallas County to Lumberman's Co. (south 55 feet of Lots #1, 2, & 3, Block 135; former alley running E-W). Vol. 2638/508.
- 1 January 1961 National Bank of Commerce of Houston to SouthTex Land Sales<sup>19</sup> \$83,150 (N. 105 feet of Lots 1-3 in Block 135) 2256/406 (Jesse Jones' bank)
- 15 July 1933 Trinity Universal Insurance Co., Edw. T. Harrison, pres. to John H. Sharp Vol. 511, p. 636-7. \$24,250. (north 105 feet of Lots 1-3). Deed.

#### **Owners from City of Austin Lot Registers:**

1960	\$10,000	National Bank of Commerce (N105')
1949	\$14,640	Western Reserve Life Ins. Co. (N105')
1925	\$15,000	Ernest & Ruth Nalle (N105')
1920	\$8000	Earnest Nalle (N105')
1910/15	\$7000	Earnest Nalle (N105')
1905	\$5000	Joseph Nalle (N 105' of Lots 1-3)
1903	"Unknown owner"	
1896-1902	M. C. Miller	
1891	M. Sanson	
1889/90	M.C. Miller (Lots 1-3)	

Deeds, continued:

- 10 November 1902 Emily J. Bennett, south 55 feet of Lots 1-3 (511/636). Deed
- 2 July 1885 Eliza Cook et al to Leander Brown, Lots 1-6, Block 135, \$6,000+, V65/224.
- 13 September 1853 Samuel G. Haynie to Abner Cook, Lots 1-6, Block 135, \$10,000, witness John Bremond. G/413
- 22 April 1852 Samuel G. Haynie purchased all six lots on Block 135 for \$1000. Patent No. 507, Archives, General Land Office. Final installment made on this date and Patent issued with conveyance of title to S.G. Haynie.
- 17 December 1851 3rd installment paid and authorization for patent given
- 16 December 1851 Transfer: Original Grantee: Hall & Haynie to Assignee Samuel G. Haynie for \$100, releases interest in Block 135 to Haynie
- 14 June 1851 2nd installment paid

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<sup>19</sup> According to Blaise Holcomb of Mission, Texas, president of SouthTex Land Sales, the Shary-Shivers estate administrator, and closely connected with the Shary-Shivers family for 62 years, Allan Shivers was a major stockholder and vice president of SouthTex Land Sales. Shivers was also a director of the National Bank of Commerce in Houston and likely did not want to use his own name in obtaining financing for the property through the bank. Holcomb suggested that Shivers may have been helping Lumberman's with financing as a go-between. Phone conversation with Phoebe Allen, August 18, 2009.

- 18 December 1850 Original Grantee: Hall & Haynie. Application for patent made on this date. \$338 (1/3 paid) for Lots 7, 8 & 9 in Block 122 and Lots 1-6 in Block 135. File #541
- 3 September 1850 The original land grant given to Samuel Goocher included Block 135. (Sandusky 1840 out lot map), but this was condemned in April 1839, in order to clear property for the new City of Austin. The act approving sale for this area was approved 3 September 1850.

[An early drawing of the original Texas Capitol shows a log cabin to its west in close proximity to Block 135. Fowler & Maguire, *The Capitol Story: Statehouse in Texas*, p. 24, Eakin Press, Austin, Texas.]

#### **OCCUPANCY RESEARCH** – City of Austin Directories

- 1872 Cook, Abner Sr. res. se cor College/12th & Lavaca, w. Capitol, A.H. Cook & Son
- 1879-80 Cook Sr. – res. ws Colorado between College and Mesquite
- 1881-82 Cook Sr. – sw cor. College and Colorado
- 1883-84 Cook, A.H. Sr. at 1108 Colorado; Jr. trav. Salesman, home A.H. Cook  
Cook, Ed T. med student, home A.H. Cook Sr.
- 1885-86 Cook, Eliza T. (wid A.H.) r. 1108 Colorado corner College Ave.  
Cook, Abner H. trav. Salesman, home Mrs. E.T. Cook  
Cook, Edgar T. physician, h. Mrs. E.T. Cook
- 1887-88 Brown, Leander, Real Estate; r. 1108 Colorado corner W. 12th
- 1891-92 Sansom, Marion, r. 1108 Colorado corner W. 12th  
Sansom, Susie Miss, UT student, h. 1108 Colorado
- 1893-94 Sansom, Marion, banker, r. 1108 Colorado (+Frank & Leon Sansom, students)
- 1895-96 Sansom, Marion, banker, r. 1108 Colorado
- 1897-99 Not Sansom or Millican or Nalle. Addresses not listed by streets.
- 1900-01 No Sansom or M.C. Millican
- 1903-04 1110 - Nalle, Ernest (Nalle & Co.), secy and treasr W. Texas Ranch & Cattle Co.
- 1905 1104 Colorado - M.C. Montgomery; Montgomery, Mary E. (wid A.J.) osteopath physician  
1110 Colorado - Ernest Nalle (Nalle & Co., lumber)
- 1906-07 1104 - Mrs. M.E. Montgomery  
1110 - Ernest Nalle
- 1909-10 1104 - Samuel L. Hamilton, file room clerk, general land offic  
1110 - Nalle
- 1910 1104 - Wm. B. Townsend, Sec. of State, off. Capitol  
1110 - Ernest Nalle (Nalle & Co), r.
- 1912-13 1108 Colorado - Nalle, Ernest  
1104 - Andrews, Margaret L, Mrs.  
1104 - Miss Fanny M. Andrews, proprss Ye Quality Shoppe, handmade jewelry, leather goods, painting, pottery, r. same
- 1914 1104 - Andrews, Marg. L. (wid Jesse) Mrs. + Fanny, art goods  
1108 - Phillips, Nelson Hon. Associate Justice Supreme Court of Texas, res.
- 1916 1104 - Miss Fanny M. Andrews, Ye Quality Shoppe, proprietor  
1108 - Nelson Phillips + Nelson Phillips Jr, student
- 1920 1108 - Phillips, Nelson Hon. (Susie) Chief Justice Supreme Court of Texas
- 1922 1108 - Nalle, Ernest (Ruth G; Nalle & Co) res 1108 Colorado
- 1924 1104 - Ye Quality Shoppe, Andrews, Fannie M. (o)

1108 - Nalle, Ernest (o)  
 1930-31 1104 - Andrews, F.M. (o), Ye Quality Shoppe  
 1108 - Nalle, Ernest (o) pres. Nalle & Co., pres. Capital City Investment Corp.  
 1932-33 1108 - Sharp, John H. (Eula) judge State Comm of Appeals (Section A) h.  
 1940 1108 - Sharp, Associate Justice State Supreme Court, h.  
 1104 - Andrews, Fanny M.  
 1944-45 1108 - Sharp; 1104-Andrews; 1106 – Watt, Terrence N.  
 1947 1108 - Sharp  
 1949 1106 - vacant  
 1108 - State Board of Vocational Education Veterans Div.  
 1955 1108 - vacant  
 1100 - Cook Funeral Home  
 1957 1108 - vacant  
 1958 1106 - Trans Tex Theaters  
 1952 1108 - State Education Agency  
 1104 - Ye Quality Shoppe, Fanny M. Andrews (o)  
 1960 1100 - Cook Funeral Home & Ambulance Service  
 1106 - Trans. Texas Theaters  
 1964 1100 - Cook Funeral Home & Ambulance Service (only listing for block)  
 1965 1100 - Cook Funeral Home & Ambulance Service  
 1120 - Westgate Apts. & Office Bldg.; Lott, H.A. Inc. Genl. Contrs.

## Have You Used the AGS Surname Index?

The surnames for our members' families are posted on the AGS website. Have you looked lately to see if another member might share your family tree?<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/surnames/>

AGS Surnames

If you are a member of AGS and would like your names listed, please contact [Surname](#)

SPAM alert: Please remove the "AGS" from the e-mail address before sending e-mail.  
 Example: JohnQPublic@AGSwebsite.com > > JohnQPublic@website.com

[A](#) | [B](#) | [C](#) | [D](#) | [E](#) | [F](#) | [G](#) | [H](#) | [I](#) | [J](#) | [K](#) | [L](#) | [M](#) | [N](#) | [O](#) | [P](#) | [Q](#) | [R](#) | [S](#) | [T](#) | [U](#) | [V](#) | [W](#) | [X](#) | [Y](#) | [Z](#)

<b>ABBOTT</b>	CT	<a href="#">contact</a>	Marcia Arn
<b>ADKIN</b>	Mt: Ontario, Canada; England	<a href="#">contact</a>	Jane & Jim Schwendinger
<b>AGEE</b>		<a href="#">contact</a>	Lin Hughes
<b>AGRICOLA</b>		<a href="#">contact</a>	Lin Hughes
<b>AIREY</b>	Yorkshire, England	<a href="#">contact</a>	William Hudson
<b>AKE</b>	TX: AR	<a href="#">contact</a>	James & Rochelle Bridges

Quarterly Surname Indexes (2000-2009)

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2000, Issues 3 & 4

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2001

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2002-2003

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2004-2006, Issue 1

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2006-2008

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2009

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2010



# RIP Uncle John

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## A Resting Place of Peace

By Judy G. Russell, JD, CG<sup>SM</sup>, CGL<sup>SM</sup>, *The Legal Genealogist*

*Judy was the featured speaker at the 2015 AGS Seminar. While in Austin for the seminar, she visited the Oakwood Annex Cemetery and wrote this piece for her blog on June 1, 2015. We reprint it here with her permission. Visit her blog at: [legalgenealogist.com/blog/2015/06/01/rip-uncle-john](http://legalgenealogist.com/blog/2015/06/01/rip-uncle-john)*

The Oakwood Cemetery Annex in Austin, Texas, is the last resting place of one of *The Legal Genealogist*'s great-granduncles.



And it wasn't a place I was entirely sure I ever wanted to see.

But yesterday I spent some time there, thanks to Inez Eppright, a member of the Austin Genealogical Society.

And I'm so glad I did.

This great-granduncle's full name was John Elijah Robertson, and he was born in Mississippi in February 1850, the second son and second child of my second great-grandparents, Gustavus and Isabella

(Gentry) Robertson.

You can track him through census and vital records throughout his lifetime:

- He's the infant Elijah on the 1850 census of Winston County, Mississippi, in the household of his very young parents. His older brother William and grandfather William Robertson rounded out that enumerated family.<sup>1</sup>
- In 1860, he was enumerated as 10-year-old Elijha in the household of his parents in Attala County, Mississippi.<sup>2</sup>
- In 1870, he was shown as 20-year-old John E., still living with his parents, but in Lamar County, Texas.<sup>3</sup>
- On 7 April 1876, John married Martha Jane Ellis in Delta County, Texas.<sup>4</sup>
- In 1880, John, Martha and two children - Marshal, born around 1877, and Gertrude, born in August 1879 - were all living there in Delta County, Texas.<sup>5</sup>
- By 1900, things had changed - terribly. John was enumerated alone in Austin, Travis County, Texas.<sup>6</sup>
- In 1910, he was still enumerated far from his family, alone, in Austin.<sup>7</sup>
- In 1920, the same was true: still alone, still far from his family, in Austin.<sup>8</sup>
- The last record of John Elijah Robertson is his death certificate, dated 30 December 1923, in Austin. It records his burial, on 1 January 1924, there at Oakwood.<sup>9</sup>

So... why was I not sure I wanted to see where John was buried?

Because John spent all of those last years of his life - the years he was not with his family - living in what came to be known as the Texas State Hospital but was then called the Texas State Lunatic Asylum.

He had suffered a total breakdown in 1884, and was committed to the asylum by the Delta County Court on an application filed by his own father and brother.<sup>10</sup>

Think about it. And do the math. John spent nearly four decades as a patient - an inmate - at that asylum.

And though I knew John wasn't buried in the asylum cemetery, I wasn't at all sure John's grave wouldn't have been part of a mass pauper's grave somewhere on the Oakwood cemetery grounds. Read the description of the cemetery at Find-A-Grave and it sure seems like a reasonable concern: "Paupers were historically buried in unmarked graves on the cemetery's south side. Graves without permanent markers were subject to reburial after a given period."<sup>11</sup>

When Inez picked me up yesterday morning, to change hotels from the one where I had stayed as a speaker for the Austin Genealogical Society seminar this past weekend to the one where I'll stay to do some family research, I asked her if she thought we might be able to find anything about John's burial at Oakwood.

She was able to guide me, first, to [information on the website of the Austin Genealogical Society](#), identifying John's exact gravesite - section C, row 21, plot 5, of the Oakwood Cemetery Annex. Unmarked, yes, but according to that information it didn't sound like it was a mass grave.

Then she drove me to the cemetery where we found that location on the cemetery map.

And then she drove me right to that part of the cemetery... which wasn't a mass pauper's grave area at all.

I don't know whether John's family made special arrangements. I don't know if perhaps things were just different in 1924. But - as you can see in the image - where John is buried is a quiet, lovely, peaceful corner of this very old, very stately cemetery in Austin.

Thank you, Inez, for the guided tour.

Thank you, Austin Genealogical Society, for the work to make data about the burials of so many members of so many families accessible.<sup>12</sup>

And thank you, Austin, for having this quiet, lovely, peaceful corner in which my so very troubled great-granduncle can rest.

Rest in peace, Uncle John.

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## SOURCES

1. See 1850 U.S. census, Winston County, Mississippi, population schedule, p. 372 (stamped), dwelling 809, family 816, Elijah "Robinson"; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 July 2002); citing National Archive microfilm publication M432, roll 382.
2. 1860 U.S. census, Attala County, Mississippi, population schedule, p. 76 (penned), dwelling 455, family 494, "Elijha" Robertson; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 June 2002); citing National Archive microfilm publication M653, roll 577.
3. 1870 U.S. census, Lamar County, Texas, Paris Post Office, population schedule, p. 253(B) (stamped), dwelling/family 307, John E. Robertson; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 9 October 2011); citing National Archive microfilm publication M593, roll 1594.
4. Delta County, Texas, Marriage Book 1: 148, J. E. Robertson and Martha Jane Ellis (4 April 1876), marriage license and return; County Clerk's Office, Cooper.
5. 1880 U.S. census, Delta County, Texas, Precinct 3, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 20, p. 402(C) (stamped), dwelling 111, family 112, John E. Robertson household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 October 2011); citing National Archive microfilm publication T9, roll 1300.

6. 1900 U.S. census, Travis County, Texas, Austin, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 141, p. 102(B) (stamped), dwelling/family 1, John E. Robertson; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 October 2011); citing National Archive microfilm publication T623, roll 1673.
7. 1910 U.S. census, Travis County, Texas, Austin, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 136, p. 111(A) (stamped), dwelling/family 1, J. E. Robertson; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 14 October 2011); citing National Archive microfilm publication T624, roll 1595.
8. 1920 U.S. census, Travis County, Texas, Austin, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 106, p. 267(A) (stamped), dwelling/family not given, J. E. Robertson; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 15 October 2011); citing National Archive microfilm publication T625, roll 1852.
9. Texas State Board of Health, death certificate no. 638255, J. E. Robertson (30 December 1923); Bureau of Vital Statistics, Austin.
10. Delta County, Texas, Probate Court Minute Book E: 263-265 (1 August 1884); Court Clerk's office, Cooper.
11. Find A Grave.com, "[Oakwood Cemetery Annex](http://www.findagrave.com/)" (<http://www.findagrave.com/> : accessed 31 May 2015).
12. The inventory of the Oakwood Cemetery was done by AGS Member Robert Sage.

## AGS Travis County Cemetery Index

The Austin Genealogical Society began a project in 1999 to identify all Travis County cemeteries and headstones within each cemetery. The result is a great online genealogical resource!

<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/cemeteries/>

Home / Cemeteries / Austin State Hospital Cemetery / Austin State Hospital Cemetery A to D							
Austin State Hospital Cemetery A to D							
A-D   E-K   L-R   S-U   V-Y							
no. 1-509   no. 510-969   no. 970-1437   no. 1438-1947   no. 1948-2388   no. 2389-K776A							
Plot	Last Name	First Name	Race	County	Date Admitted	Date Buried	Comments
K776A	884th	E.J.			01/06/1891	February 4, 1902	Mason
2558A	Abalos	Anceleto	W			November 3, 1961	
2468	Abernathy	Arthur	B	Harris		November 30, 1958	
148	Abernathy	L.W.		Fannin	November 30, 1914		
73	Ables	Nancy		Hays	05/18/1886		
2526	Ackman	Annie B.	B	Falls		February 25, 1962	
1652	Acres	J.C.	B	Dallas	March 9, 1926	January 14, 1936	
1996	Adaie	Bonnie Lee	W				
153	Adams	Jim		Lampasas	February 4, 1903		

# Wendish Settlers in Central Texas

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By AGS Member Jan Wukasch Pelosi

*Updated and republished from the Williamson County Genealogical Society's Chisholm Trail, Vol. 33, Number 3 (Spring 2013,) with permission from Jan Pelosi.*

Throughout Central Texas, and certainly in and around Williamson County, it's not uncommon to pass through one or more of the German, Czech, or Polish communities. Who hasn't been to Fredericksburg or New Braunfels for a day of shopping or plate of spätzle or schnitzel? West, Texas - just up the road on I-35 - ranks number one in the United States with the highest percentage of people claiming Czech ancestry, and you'll find that over 40% of the people who call West home claim to be Czech. Even today, in Granger (right here in Williamson County) one-quarter of the residents claim Czech ancestry. Travel 100 miles south of Austin to Panna Maria, Texas, and you'll find the oldest Polish settlement in the United States. But how many of you know or have heard about the Wends in Texas?

The Wends who settled in Central Texas in the mid-1800s descended from a Slavic Eastern European tribe with its own language. In the 10th century, they occupied much of central Europe, but by the 19th century, only a few Wends remained in a small area along the Spree River in Upper Lusatia (Lausitz,) an area in Germany comprising parts of Saxony (Sachsen) and Prussia.

The Wendish migration to Texas was prompted in part by the Prussian Agrarian Reform Laws of 1832. Not only did these laws strip the Wends of their real property making them, in effect, servants to their Prussian lords, but the Prussians also insisted that the Wends give up their Wendish language and begin using only German. The Prussians often refused to hire Wends for jobs and if they were allowed to work, they were paid much less than their German counterparts. The Prussians even Germanized their Wendish names. But most intolerable of all to the Wends was when King Frederick William III of Prussia ordered the

Lutheran and Reformed churches to unite. This meant that the Lutheran Wends would be forced to join the Evangelical Reform churches in a single state-regulated Protestant church. The Wends strongly believed that this would weaken their pure Lutheran faith, and they refused to accept this. As a group, they began making plans to leave their home country. Although the Germans, Swedes, Czechs, and Poles tended to come to Texas in the 1850s for economic reasons, the Wends emigrated for religious freedom and the right to speak their Wendish language.

In March of 1854, a group of Wends organized a new Lutheran congregation that became the cornerstone of the largest Wendish emigration from Europe. Reverend Jan (Johann in German) Kilian was chosen to lead the group. Rev. Kilian was a graduate of Leipzig University, a scholar, and prolific writer who translated many, many books from German into Wendish, including Luther's Large Catechism and the Augsburg Confession, and wrote Wendish prayer books, sermons, hymns, and poems. It is believed that Texas was chosen for this emigration because a year earlier, in 1853, a group of 30 Wends had emigrated to Texas and, in spite of having been shipwrecked and detained in Cuba for many months, had sent back favorable reports urging friends and relatives to join them.

So during the first week of September 1854, 566 Wends from sixty-five cities and villages throughout Prussia and Saxony left their homes and began their long and arduous journey to Texas. There were 287 adults - the oldest being 78 - and 279 children. The emigrants included farmers, laborers, gardeners, millers, carpenters, butchers, masons, a blacksmith, a tailor, a watchmaker, and a cobbler, among others. They traveled by rail to Hamburg and



by ship to Hull, England, and again on to Liverpool by train. Before leaving England, the first tragedy struck – cholera - and many of the colonists died in Liverpool. On September 26, 1854, they were finally able to board the Ben Nevis, a three-masted English sailing ship. During the crossing of the English Channel, another 23 people on board ship died from cholera causing the ship to be anchored and quarantined at Queenstown, Ireland, for three weeks where the ship was scrubbed and fumigated.

Finally, on October 22, 1854, the Wends were again allowed to board the Ben Nevis bound for Galveston. Although the cholera outbreak was thought to be over, another 18 people died while crossing the Atlantic Ocean. In all, 73 Wendish emigrants died during their journey to Texas. The voyage to Texas took eight and a half weeks. The tired and weary travelers finally arrived in Galveston in early December only to be met with yet another challenge - yellow fever. Although many of the Wendish emigrants became infected with yellow fever, only one died before the group could travel inland to Houston. When the Wends arrived on December 16, 1854, the population of Texas was only 212,592.

Upon reaching Houston, two men - Carl Lehmann and Johann Dube - were sent ahead to find a place to settle. The Low Pinoak Settlement on the banks of Rabbs Creek in what is known today as Lee County was purchased for \$1 an acre. The few emigrants who had money bought oxcarts and the others walked to their home. The Wendish settlers reserved 95 acres of their new land for their Lutheran church and school. The colonists then began work on their town, which they named Serbin, and where they believed they would continue forever their Wendish language and cultural traditions. One of the first things that Rev. Kilian did was apply for membership in the fledgling Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. The new church in Serbin, St. Paul's Lutheran

Church, became the first of many Missouri Synod churches in Texas, and it had the only Wendish school in America.

In the latter 1800s, some groups of Wendish colonists moved on to other parts of Texas, and in each new area, a Lutheran Church affiliated with the Missouri Synod would be built. Here in Williamson County a Wendish sub-colony was established in Walburg in the late 1870s, and Zion Lutheran Church and School were built for people of Wendish descent. The communities of Warda and Swiss Alp in



*Artist's depiction of the Ben Nevis - From St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, Texas, USA*  
 Picture provided with the permission of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society Museum

Fayette County are considered Wendish sub-colonies, as are Giddings, Fedor, and Mannheim in Lee County. Significant numbers of Wends also moved on to Austin, Houston, Port Arthur, Copperas Cove, Vernon, The Grove, Bishop, and even the Rio Grande Valley. Although the Civil War slowed Wendish migration to this country, more than 950 emigrated after 1854.

Unfortunately, the Wendish language and culture eventually died out. It has been written that the great irony of the Wendish emigration was that in the effort to establish a pure Wendish colony where the language and culture could be preserved; these were the very things that were lost due to the economic and social realities of their new frontier. Only in Serbin did the Wendish language survive in the

church until 1921. Today, only a few elderly Wends still know the language.

If you want to learn more about the Wends, I urge you to take a day trip and visit the Texas Wendish Heritage Society Museum in Serbin, Texas. Serbin is about an hour from Austin, located just outside Giddings off Highway 290. The museum visit will set you back \$2 per person - what a deal. The museum exhibits interpret the history of the Wends and include relics from "the old country," folk dresses of Lusatia, traditional Wendish wedding dresses (you may be surprised to learn that they were black,) and the beautiful painted Wendish Easter eggs. The museum also houses the Lillie Moerbe Caldwell Memorial Library that specializes in the history and genealogy of the Wendish people. The library welcomes donations of family histories and genealogies. Its archives include rare books in Wendish and German, manuscripts, personal papers, and photographs. It's also a great place to do some genealogical research if you have ancestors in Lee or Fayette counties or surrounding areas.

During your trip to the museum, step next door and visit St. Paul Lutheran Church (one of the iconic painted churches of South Central Texas.) St. Paul Lutheran Church was built in 1871 and is one of the oldest churches in America in continual use since its construction. The original Wendish emigrants traveled to Texas from Lusatia with their church bell and placed it in their new church in Serbin as a testament to their desire to continue their faith far from home. The bell was eventually moved and can now be seen at Concordia University in Austin. Concordia University was founded by Texas Wends in 1926 as a Lutheran high school, expanded to a junior college in 1951, and a four-year college in 1980. Concordia University is affiliated with the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

Take an opportunity to also walk the grounds of the cemetery. The cemetery is still in use but graves date back to 1855 when Maria Theresia Kilian, infant daughter of Pastor Johann Kilian and his wife Maria Groeschel Kilian died. Her

parents and siblings are also buried in the cemetery.

If you know someone with one of the following surnames: Arldt, **Bamsch**, Bartsch, Becker, Bjar (Biar,) Buettner, **Caspar**, Casparik, **Domaschk**, **Dube**, Fiedler, **Fritsch**, **Groeschel**, Greulich, **Handrick**, **Hocker**, **Hattas**, **Iselt**, Jannasch, Kambor, Kaspar, Kerk, Kieschnick, Kiesling, **Kilian**, Knippa, **Kokel**, Kolba, **Kruper-Hohle**, **Kubitz**, **Kurjo** (Kurijo,) **Lehmann**, **Lorentsk**, **Lowke**, **Malke**, Matthijetz, **Mertink**, Michalk, Miertschien, Mikan, Mitschke, **Moerbe**, **Mroske** (Mrosko,) **Noack** (Noak, Nowak,) Neumann, Pampel, Patschke, **Paulik**, **Peter**, **Pilak** (Pillack,) Pohje, Prellop, Richter, **Schatte**, Schiwart, **Schmidt**, **Schneider**, **Schoelnik** (Schoellnick,) Schubert, Schulze, **Schuster**, Simmank, Sonsel, Symank (Symmank or now Simmank,) Teinert, Teschke, Tjchornak, **Urban**, Vogel, **Wagner**, **Wenke** (Wenk,) Winkler, Wuensche, **Wukasch**, **Zieschang**, Zoch, **Zwahr**, then it's likely you've met a Wend. These were most of the surnames of the Wendish emigrants listed on the register of the Ben Nevis as they boarded the ship bound for Texas in 1854. (The names highlighted in bold are the surnames of the original 50 families of the Low Pinoak Settlement.) Younger generations of families with these surnames sometimes just refer to themselves as German not realizing that they actually trace back to Wendish heritage.

If you are or think you might be Wendish, you can join the Texas Wendish Heritage Society ([texaswendish.org](http://texaswendish.org).) Members have access to a special Wendish genealogy database exchange where information, documents, photographs, and GEDCOM files can be uploaded and shared with other members who are researching their Wendish ancestors.

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society also hosts four Family History Workshops each year in the Peter Building at the museum complex. These workshops are led by local Wendish historian Weldon Mersiovsky who is always on hand to help you get started on your

own family history search or help you solve a puzzle you may have encountered in your ongoing research. The cost to attend the workshop is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. It's advised that you sign up in advance because Weldon can only assist a limited number of people at a time. The dates for the remaining workshops in 2015 are August 22 and November 21. Researchers are asked to bring a printed copy of your family pedigree chart (if you have one) and a sack lunch. You are also welcomed to bring your laptop computer. For more information, contact Weldon directly at (512) 863-6418 or [Weldon@ecpi.com](mailto:Weldon@ecpi.com), or call the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum at (979) 366-2441.

The Czechs have kolaches, the Poles have sausage, but the Wends have noodles - great noodles. You can purchase a bag at the Texas

Wendish Heritage Museum or try them at the Texas Folklife Festival held the first weekend of June each year on the grounds of the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. The Texas Wendish Heritage Society also hosts the annual Wendish Fest the 4th Sunday in September every year in Serbin, Texas. The 27th Annual Wendish Fest will be held September 27, 2015, on the picnic grounds of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Serbin, Texas. Come out and meet the Texas Wendish Heritage Society to learn more about the Wends.

Texas Country Reporter was onsite at last year's Wendish Fest and recently aired a feature story you won't want to miss. You can check out this episode at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iTWRIF9Q9FM>

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#### Reference Material used for this article:

Texas Wendish Heritage Society, Serbin, TX.

The Wendish Research Exchange ([wendishresearch.org](http://wendishresearch.org))

Blasig, A. (1954). The Wends of Texas. San Antonio, TX: The Naylor Company

Engerrand, G. (1912). The So-called Wends of Germany and Their Colonies in Texas and in Australia. Austin, TX, The University of Texas.

Neilsen, G. (1977). In Search of a Home. University of Birmingham.

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## Looking for a handout?

If you have lost a handout from any of our AGS meetings, don't worry! They are available on the "Members Only" section of the AGS Website. <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/members-only/>

Handouts
AGS Meeting March 24, 2015 <a href="#">Research Strategies for Everyone-AGS-3-2015.pdf</a> (PDF) by Teri E. Flack
AGS Meeting January 27, 2015 <a href="#">Unusual Source Records for Genealogical Research—Or, This is Some Cool Stuff!</a> (PDF) by Sue Kaufman
AGS Meeting October 28, 2014 <a href="#">Lineage Societies: Helping You Find Your Tree in the Forest</a> (PDF) by Charleen Mullenweg
FGS 2014 <a href="#">Mindmapping</a> (PDF) by Thomas MacEntee
AGS Special Event, July 19, 2014 <a href="#">PERSI &amp; Planning a Genealogy Research Trip</a> (PDF) by Sue Kaufman
AGS Meeting, May 27, 2014 <a href="#">Effectively Using Family Search for Research</a> (PDF) by Dave Anderton
AGS Meeting, March 25, 2014 <a href="#">Evernote for Genealogy</a> (PDF) by Caroline Pointer
Special Topics Tables handouts
AGS Meeting, August 27, 2013 <a href="#">The four primary genealogical record types for England and Wales</a> by Jane Schwendinger & William Hudson
<a href="#">General and English Genealogical web sites</a> by Jane Schwendinger & William Hudson
<a href="#">Scanning Magic and More</a> by John Marostica
<a href="#">Researching British Isles</a> by Jane Schwendinger & William Hudson
<a href="#">Gravestones &amp; Genealogy</a> by Jacquie Wilson



# John Arthur Stuart

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*By AGS Member Connie Wallace Perdue*

John Arthur Stuart was my husband's 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather. Before we moved to Austin in 1985, we didn't know his name or even know that he lived in Austin. A local genealogy class led us to other descendants, specifically Mildred Webb Bugg (daughter of Walter Prescott Webb and Jane Oliphant) who lived in Austin. Mildred provided the name of a fifth generation Austinite who was the great-granddaughter of John and had some family information and photos. However, not much is known about his early life and although we have searched for his parents for years, their identity still remains a mystery. We did learn from a biography in a book about the personnel of the Texas State government for 1885 that he was born January 28, 1837, in White County, Tennessee.<sup>1</sup>

John, also known as J. Arthur or J.A., moved to Mississippi at an early age. He is believed to be the A. J. Stewart, occupation: clerk, shown on the 1860 census taken in the town of Brookhaven, Lawrence, Mississippi.<sup>2</sup>

Shortly after the 1860 census was taken, John enlisted in February 1861, to fight in the Civil War, and served for most of the Civil War, although not without some drama. The muster roll dated March 30, 1861, for Captain Robert J. Bowen's Company (also known as the Lawrence Rifles,) Mississippi Volunteers, shows him as A. J. Stewart, a private who enlisted at Brookhaven. It's amazing to read that they first marched over 294 miles from Brookhaven to Corinth, Mississippi! John was also present at the first battle of Manassas, also known as the First Battle of Bull Run, and served during the siege of Port Hudson where he distinguished himself as an artilleryist.<sup>3</sup>

John was promoted to Junior Lieutenant on May 11, 1862. One of his duties in July, shortly after his promotion, was to purchase horses for his company. He traveled from Jackson, Mississippi,

to his hometown of Brookhaven, about 60 miles, to purchase horses. Since the bill for the 30 horses and his lodging "largely" exceeded the actual cost, he was charged with embezzlement. Part of the excess arose because he exchanged or swapped one horse for another and pocketed the difference. He also failed to mention this fact to his commanding officer. Not knowing John's side of the story, perhaps this was just creative accounting on his part. However, his commanding officer apparently did not side with John, as he was arrested August 24, 1862, and then John subsequently resigned on March 30, 1863.<sup>3</sup>

John's next service record shows a leave of absence. Apparently the Army did not accept his resignation because he was captured in Port Hudson on July 9, 1863, and sent to New Orleans on the steamer called Suffolk. He escaped August 8 and presumably was recaptured, as he appears on a list of commissioned officers paroled and exchanged for a Union captive in December 1863, in Enterprise, Mississippi.<sup>3</sup>

John continued fighting and made a great sacrifice, as he lost his leg in a battle on May 22, 1864, at Cassville, Georgia. He was taken to a hospital in Macon, Georgia, which is south of Atlanta and 134 miles away.<sup>3</sup> After his recovery, he entered in to the life insurance business in Mississippi.<sup>1</sup>

John came to Texas about 1868 and continued to act as an insurance agent for several companies. In 1872, he opened an elegant saloon in Austin on Congress Avenue, between Pecan (now Sixth Street) and Bois d'Arc (now Seventh Street) which offered some free lunches and was the site of rally speeches.<sup>4</sup>

John married Eliza Jane "Jennie" Oliphant, sister of William James Oliphant, another Civil War veteran and Austin photographer, on June 5, 1872.<sup>5</sup> Shortly after their marriage, they moved to Weimar, Colorado County, Texas where all of their five children were born. They returned to



**John Arthur Stuart and William James Oliphant.** *From the collection of Connie Wallace Perdue and SMU Degoyler Library.*

Austin in 1882 after their last child was born. John once again became an agent of the Mutual Self-Endowment and Benevolent Association (M.S.E.)<sup>6</sup> This name is a fancy term for a life insurance agent.

In 1885, John entered the world of politics as he served as the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate during the session of the Nineteenth Legislature of Texas.<sup>7</sup> He served again in the 1887 Twentieth Legislature and was elected without opposition.<sup>8</sup> John continued his public service by becoming a Justice of the Peace for Precinct Number 3 in 1889-1890 and was mentioned as a Justice in newspaper articles as late as 1899.<sup>9</sup>

John was involved in many other activities in the Weimar and Austin areas. He was a member of St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin,<sup>10</sup> the John B. Hood Camp United Confederate

Veterans,<sup>11</sup> the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Of Texas (I.O.O.F.),<sup>12</sup> Knights of Honor (K. of H.),<sup>13</sup> and the aforementioned M.S.E. John also was a co-holder of the "improved" cuff button and holder patent. This invention consists of two connected buttons and a holder having "certain novel features of construction."<sup>14</sup>

After a full and interesting life, John passed away on January 19, 1910, in Austin, Travis County, Texas, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.<sup>15</sup> He was survived by his wife, three children, a number of grandchildren and now many more descendants. We connected with some of these descendants on a summer visit with them in Washington a few years ago. It's amazing that a genealogy class led us to them!

## SOURCES

1. Loughery, E. H., *Personnel of the Texas State government for 1885*, p. 95.
2. 1860 Brookhaven, Lawrence, Mississippi Census.
3. Confederate Service Records, [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com).
4. Tri-Weekly Statesman, Austin, Texas, Thursday, February 8, 1872 and 1872-1873 Austin City Directory.
5. Confederate Pension Application Number 14013 and associated file of John A. Stuart, Austin, Travis, Texas, dated August 10, 1908.
6. Austin Daily Statesman, Austin Texas, Tuesday, February 7, 1882.
7. Loughery, E. H., *Personnel of the Texas State government for 1885*, p. 95.
8. Dallas Morning News, Dallas, Texas, January 12, 1887, and Photograph of the Texas Senate members during the 20<sup>th</sup> legislature in 1887. Photograph by S. B. Hill, Austin, Texas.
9. Austin Statesman, Austin, Texas, June 16, 1899.
10. St. David's Episcopal Church Parish Records, Austin, Texas.
11. Obituary of John A. Stuart, Austin Statesman, Thursday, January 20, 1910, p. 3.
12. December 1884, annual report of Weimar Lodge No. 201, Independent Order Of Odd Fellows Of Texas.
13. Austin City Directories, 1893-1894, 1895-1896.
14. United States Patent No. 324,184 Patented August 11, 1885.
15. Oakwood Cemetery Burial Ledgers.

# The Petri Family – Gardes du Corps Uniform

By AGS Member Alyssa Helen Behr

I remember my mother, Nancy Eileen Petri, and grandfather, Charles Hilmer Petri, telling stories about how his grandparents came to Texas from Dusseldorf, Germany.

My great-great-grandfather was Charles “Carl” Hubert Petri, Sr., born 1849 in Dusseldorf, Germany. He was formally educated, then served in the German military as a “The Gardes du Corps” from 1870 to 1881 at the Berlin Palace for Kaiser Wilhelm I and Kaiser Wilhelm II. The portrait to the right is of my Great-Great-Grandfather Charles “Carl” Hubert Petri, Sr., in his “The Gardes du Corps” uniform. This portrait hung over my grandfather’s bed. It was a large portrait (taken around 1875) measuring 18 in. x 12 in. with an ornate floral oval gold frame.

Not knowing the color or the full length design of the uniform, I was completely floored when I came across two websites, [germanaiinternational.com/gducorps.html](http://germanaiinternational.com/gducorps.html) and [pickelhaubes.com/bb/viewtopic.php?t=5667](http://pickelhaubes.com/bb/viewtopic.php?t=5667), showing a full color drawing and a photo of a museum display of the same uniform. The uniform is white with a red vest featuring a white star crest with black falcon, and black leather boots to the thigh. As you can tell from my great-great-grandfather’s portrait, the collar and the star crest vest are the same as the drawing and museum display photo.



Charles “Carl” Hubert Petri, Sr. around 1875 in his “Gardes du Corps” uniform. From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr.



This is the uniform my great-great-grandfather Charles Hubert “Carl” Petri Sr. wore between 1870-1880. Photo from The Kavalleriemuseum Cavalry-museum in the castle Haus Vornholz, near Münster in Westfalen, Germany. (The greatest private collection for imperial cavalry-uniforms: <http://www.pickelhaubes.com/bb/viewtopic.php?t=5667> )



A drawing of The Gardes du Corps on guard at the Berlin Palace. My great-great-grandfather Charles Hubert Petri Sr. was a guard at the Berlin Palace. <http://www.germanaiinternational.com/gducorps.html>

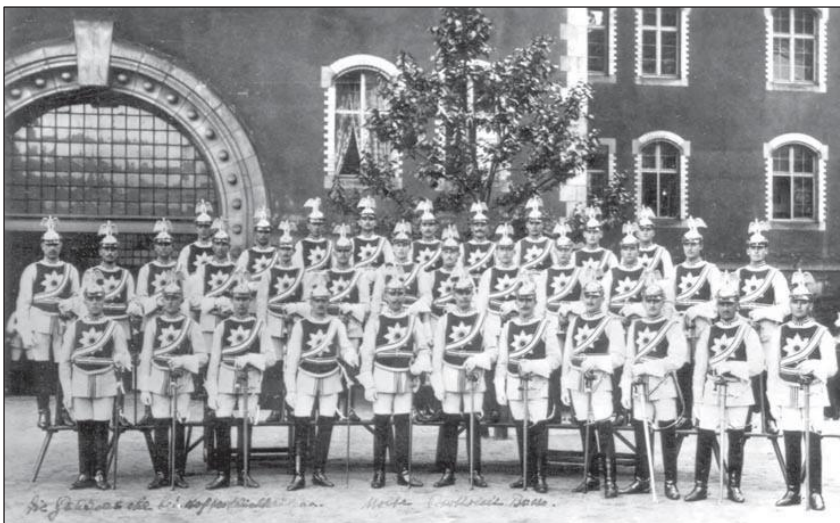


Sources: Below photos of Gardes du Corps on guard from the two websites [germanaiinternational.com/gducorps.html](http://germanaiinternational.com/gducorps.html) and [pickelhaubes.com/bb/viewtopic.php?t=5667](http://pickelhaubes.com/bb/viewtopic.php?t=5667).

The photo to the right shows Kaiser Wilhelm riding a horse in front of his Gardes du Corps on guard. This photo must have been taken between 1870 to 1888. If so, my great-great-grandfather, Charles Hubert Petri, Sr., could be one of the standing Gardes du Corps.

Upon Charles' death, he wanted to give each of his four sons something from when he served as a Gardes du Corps - the uniform, sword, helmet, and a portrait.

Charles Hubert Petri, Jr., was given the portrait and a crystal water pitcher with the maiden name of the mother of Charles Hubert Petri, "A. Albrecht," etched on the side of the pitcher. As for the other three brothers, Arthur Otto Petri, Emil H. Petri, and Edward "Eddie" Rudolph Petri, Sr., I'm not sure who received which item.



## The Petri Family – Voyage to America

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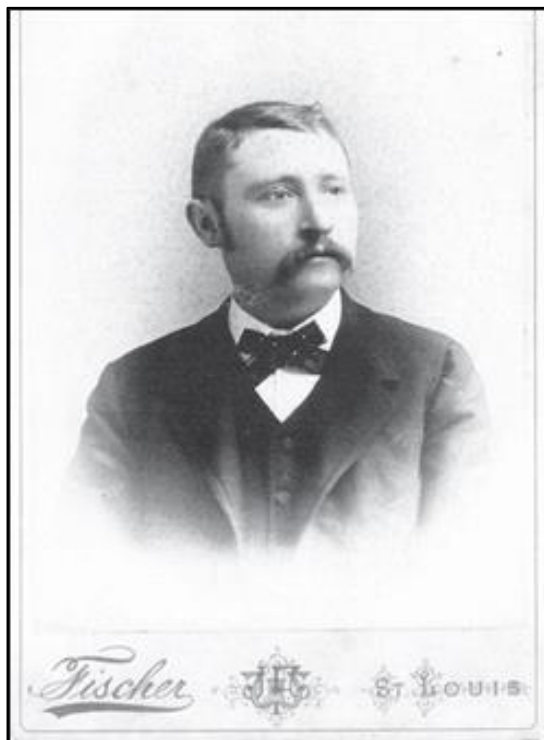
*By AGS Member Alyssa Helen Behr*

In 1881, Charles Hubert “Carl” Petri and his wife’s elder brother (whose name is unknown to me) fled from Germany to America in haste because of political upheaval. They boarded a cargo ship headed to America. I have not been able to find the ship’s passenger list. Once in America they settled in St. Louis, Missouri, to find work.

The following year, 1882, Charles sent for his wife, Clara Mossler Petri, and their three children. I found the passenger list (below) at Ancestry.com. It shows Clara Mossler Petri and her three children: Louisa, Arthur and Clara, aboard the ship, “Jan Breydel.” There are also five other people traveling with Clara: her mother, Louise Masseler, and four of Clara’s younger siblings: Louisa, Augusta, Otilie, and Carl. The ship “Jan Breydel” departed Antwerp, Belgium, in May of 1882, arriving in New York, New York, 1 June 1882. Once Clara arrived, Charles decided to move his family to Austin, Texas. Clara’s mother and siblings stayed in St. Louis with Clara’s older brother.



Charles Hubert “Carl” Petri. *From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr.*



Claras Mossler Petri’s older brother. *From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr.*



Clara Mossler Petri. *From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr.*



Once in Austin, in 1882, Charles bought land along the Colorado River to farm, but it was flooded twice within that first year and a half. So, they sold the land in 1884 and Charles began working as a stone mason on the building of the Texas Capitol. Soon after he started working, he heard that the contractor didn't like the food that the local cafés were serving, and that they were too far away to get a hot meal and get back to work on time. Charles decided to erect a tent on the Capitol east lawn where he and his wife would prepare hot meals for the construction workers. On September 14th of 1885, Clara gave birth to Charles Hubert Petri, Jr., my great-grandfather, in that very tent on the east lawn of the Texas State Capitol.



The ship "Jan Breydel" that Clara Mossler Petri and family voyaged to America, in 1882. Source [wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?153047](http://wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?153047)

	Wachenbath Maria	25	4	
1	Masseler Louise	50	"	
2	Petri Clara	25	"	
3	Masseler Louise	15	"	
	4	Auguste	11	"
	5	Ottilie	9 1/2	"
	6	Carl	7	"
	7	Anton	4	"
	8	Arthur	3	"
9	Petri Clara	1 1/2	"	"
	Barnett T. J.	24	"	"

Above: the 1882 passenger list for the ship "Jan Breydel" that Clara and family boarded. Red numbers are for each family member.

The first is Clara's mother **1**. Louise Masseler, 50 yrs., (next 5 are her children), **2**. Clara Mossler Petri, 25 yrs, **3**. Louise Masseler, 15, yrs., **4**. Auguste Masseler, 11 yrs, **5**. Ottilie Masseler, 9 yrs, **6**. Carl Masseler, 7 yrs. Next 3 are Clara's children: **7**. Anton Petri, 4 yrs., (Louisa Antoinette Petri), **8**. Arthur Petri, 3 yrs., (Arthur Otto Petri), **9**. Clara Petri, 1 yr. NOTE: I've always seen Clara's last name spelled Mossler, but as you can see her mother's last name is Masseler or Massler. Passenger list source Ancestry.com.

## Petri Family – Rutledge, Texas

In the early 1890s Charles Hubert Petri, Sr., purchased the St. Louis Hotel, next door to Karotkin's on Fifth Street, but later sold it, and the family moved to the site of the first Austin, Texas, dam. By the late 1890s, Charles purchased farmland in Rutledge, near Round Rock, in Williamson County, Texas.

Charles built a store at the newly laid railroad track and station of Rutledge. He operated the store where his German sword was mounted on the wall. Clara Petri was postmistress of the Rutledge Post Office from September 21, 1900, until her death on May 14, 1908.

As they had been married 30 years, Charles and Clara Mossler Petri were apparently married in Germany. In the 1900 census, Clara was the mother of nine children, five living. Charles and Clara Petri are buried in Pond Springs Cemetery.



Charles Hubert Petri Sr. on their farm in Rutledge, Williamson County, Texas. *From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr.*



The Rutledge home of Charles Hubert "Carl" Petri Sr. and Clara Mossler Petri with their 5 children. *From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr.*

*From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr*

*From Austin History Center*



Charles Hubert Petri, Sr. and Clara Mossler Petri Children: Standing left, Arthur Otto Petri and Louisa Antoinette Petri; sitting: left, Charles Hubert Petri, Jr., and Emil H. Petri. *From the*



Left photo: This old Petri photo of my grandfather's was in a shoebox. In the photo, Clara Mossler Petri with three of her children, left to right: Louisa Antoinette Petri, Clara Mossler Petri and Arthur Otto Petri. Sitting in Clara's lap is Charles Hubert Petri, Jr. This photo was fading and it's hard to see any detail. *From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr.*



Right photo: About two years ago, I was on the Austin History Center website (<http://www.austinlibrary.com/jones/index.cfm>) looking at old Hubert Jones Glass Plate Collection photos and I came across this unidentified family - "mother with three children" number j125. I couldn't believe it! It's the same Petri family. Left to right: Louisa Antoinette Petri, Clara Mossler Petri, Arthur Otto Petri, and sitting in Clara's lap is Charles Hubert Petri, Jr. The photo is so much more crisp compared to the copy that I have in my collection.



## The Four Petri Sons

### Arthur Otto Petri 1880 - 1927

- Immigrated to U.S. in 1892, from Germany.
- WWI Draft Registration Card filed 12 September 1918.
- Married to Ethel Magdaline Schmid on 14 February 1922.
- They had three sons Arthur John Petri, Jr., Francis “Frank” Garland Petri and Charles August “Charlie” Petri.
- He died a sudden death at the age of 46 on 13 February 1927. Soon after, Ethel moved back to her home town of Robstown, Texas, and married Marion Luster.



### Charles Hubert Petri Jr. 1885 - 1970

- Born in Austin, Texas, on the east lawn of the Texas State Capitol.
- Served in WWI.
- Married to Martha Frances Thompson in 1908.
- They had three sons: Charles Hilmer “Ham” Petri, William Clyde “Bill” Petri and Emil Hubert Petri.
- Both Charles Hubert Petri, Jr., and his little brother, Edward “Eddie” Rudolph Petri, Sr., were Austin trolley conductors and bus drivers starting about 1908. Their main route was Oakwood Cemetery to the Blind Institute (Blind School).
- He also helped work the family farm in Rutledge, Texas.



Charles Hubert Petri Jr. with Family. Back row: Myra Marie Taylor Petri, Charles Hilmer Petri, Bill Petri, Virginia R. Front row: Charles Hubert Petri III, Charles Hubert Petri Jr., Nancy Eileen Petri Holland, Judith Gail Petri Johnson, Martha Frances Thompson Petri, Billy Petri, Virginia Frances Petri. *From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr.*

### Emil Herbert Petri 1887 - 1963

- Born in Austin, Texas.
- Served in both WWI and WWII in the United States Navy as a Lieutenant.
- Married to Elsie Winnifred Critchett about 1915.
- They had one daughter, Dessa Clara Petri.
- Emil is buried at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Francisco, California.



## Edward “Eddie” Rudolph Petri, Sr. 1892 - 1976

- Born in Austin, Texas.
- Served in WWI.
- Married to Geneva Knox Thompson.
- They had one son, Edward “Ted” Rudolph Petri, Jr., and one daughter, Geneva Louise Petri.
- Employed by Austin Trolley Conductors and Bus Drivers starting about 1908. His main route was Oakwood to the Blind Institute (Blind School).
- He also helped work the family farm in Rutledge, Texas.
- He is buried at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Austin, Travis County, Texas.

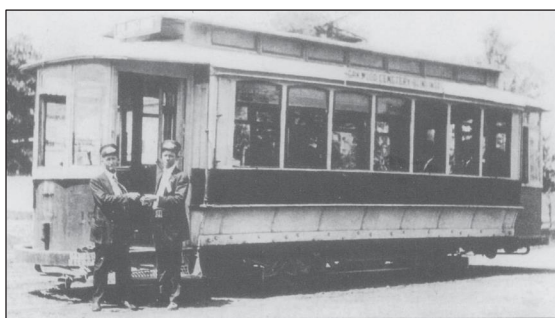
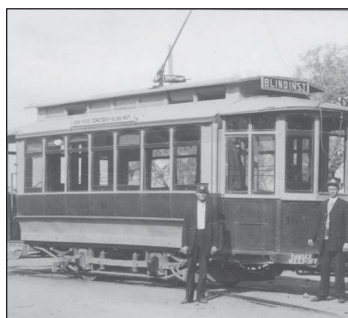


Edward “Eddie” Rudolph Petri Sr. with Family: L-R: Randy Petri, Edward “Ted” Rudolph Petri Jr., Evelyn Doris Gustafson Petri (Ted’s wife), Geneva Petri, Edward “Eddie” Rudolph Petri Sr., Geneva Knox Thompson Petri, Charles Bruce Degress. *From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr.*



*Left photo from the Austin History Center [library.austintexas.gov/ahc/favorite-14-53210](http://library.austintexas.gov/ahc/favorite-14-53210). Charles Hubert Petri, Jr. was a trolley conductor. One of his early routes was up and down Congress Ave. in front of the Texas State Capitol. Family members identify the man sitting on the front edge of the Trolley as being Charles Hubert Petri, Jr.*

*Bottom Photos: Edward “Eddie” Rudolph Petri Sr.(left )and brother-in-law John Finis Thompson (right) work on the Austin Street Rail together. His route was Oakwood Cemetery to the Blind Institute (Blind School). *From the collection of Alyssa Behr and special thanks to Brit Thompson.**



# The Murder of Louisa Antoinette Petri

By AGS Member Alyssa Behr

One hundred and twelve years ago, the communities of Pond Springs and Rutledge were shocked to learn that the talented young Louisa Antoinette Petri had been murdered in Houston. Her body was being sent home by train, in order to bury her in the Pond Springs Cemetery.

On July 1, 1902, the front page headline of the Houston Daily Post read:

*murDer and SuiCiDe on  
main Street laSt niGht*

The story opened with “Miss Louisa Petri was shot dead. W. A. King, her suitor and slayer, then sent two bullets crashing through his own head.”

By age 24, Louisa Petri, a handsome blonde, had set her heart on a career in music. Born in Düsseldorf, Germany, she was the first child of Charles and Clara Petri. Her father Charles was formally educated and served in the German military as a Palace Gardes du Corps on guard. In 1881, the Petris, including 4-year-old Louisa, immigrated to America.

Louisa attended the best girl’s school in Austin where she studied music and piano. Passersby across the railroad tracks could hear her practicing the piano at home. When she was about 15 years old, her father purchased the St. Louis Hotel in Austin; she helped by working the front desk. Later, Louisa moved to Houston in the late 1890s, even though the town was known to be “wild.” She became the proprietress of a lodging house at 608 Main Street.

According to the newspaper, “she was highly recommended by prominent citizens of Houston who knew the family to which she belonged. She was very particular of persons who obtained lodging in her house.” W.A. King, a 32-year-old salesman, roomed at Louisa’s boarding house, and had fallen desperately in love with her. He was noted as a quarrelsome person given to threats of killing himself or others.

The Daily Post story continues, “A tragedy occurred last night about 11:15 o’ clock in a hallway of the lodging house at 608 Main Street. Miss Louisa Antoinette Petri.....was shot and instantly killed by W. A. King....the man was insanely jealous and being enraged by some action or remark...he drew a 38 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver and fired point blank at Miss Petri, the bullet entering the neck just below the left jaw and causing instant death. As the woman fell dead, the



A photo of Louisa Antoinette Petri about 1897.  
From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr.



A photo of Louisa Antoinette Petri about 1900.  
From the collection of Alyssa Helen Behr.

murderer took a step backward and placing the revolver to his own head fired two shots in quick succession. Both bullets entered the head just above the right ear, ranged upward and passed out near the top of the head.” Clara had taken out a \$2,000 life insurance policy on Louisa when she moved to the “wild” city of Houston. As it turned out, unhappily, she spent the insurance money to buy a tombstone for her only daughter. It was said that a very nice tombstone was placed on her grave, unfortunately, some years later, someone stole the tombstone.

Clara died six years later on May 14, 1908, never getting over the death of Louisa. She left her room just as it was when Louisa was home playing the piano. The wooden Petri home was abandoned after Charles’ death.

*Parts of this article were taken from the article “Louisa finds her suitor, slayer in the city” written by Karen R. Thompson, 7 July 2007.*

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## Online Index of Austin and Travis County Records

If you have ancestors from the Austin or Travis County areas, there is a great index of links to records on the AGS website. You might find a resource that you haven’t explored. Happy hunting!  
<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/records/>

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Records

Austin and Travis County Records

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- [Travis County Marriages, 1846-1882](#)
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- [AGS Travis County Cemeteries](#)
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- [1870 Travis County Mortality Schedule](#)
- [1873 Voter Registration List](#)
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Church

- [Baptisms and Burials for St. David's Episcopal Church, Austin, Texas: Parish Register 1859-1866](#)

School

- [The Texas German and English Academy, 1876-1902](#)
- [Graduates of Austin City Schools](#)



# Remembering Old Times and Old Folks

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*By AGS Member James E Bridges, Lt Col USAF (ret)*

We have all wished we talked more to our grandpa or grandma, but we should also think about some of the things we did with them “way back when.”

I was about 5 years old when my mother drove my grandfather and me to the poorhouse. Grandfather was a farmer and had some surplus to donate to the hungry folks in the Bell County Poorhouse. I have very distinct memories of that place. It was located in what is now North Belton, Texas, just across from the North Belton Cemetery. And yes, there is also a South Belton Cemetery. The old poorhouse is long gone, and in that area today is a nice upscale subdivision.

However, on the day grandfather and I arrived (I helped carry the goodies) it was a cool day; cool enough for us to wear coats. We took in the bags and baskets of vegetables. I do not remember if there were meat products, but there probably were. Grandfather made some very delicious smokehouse cured bacon, ham and chitlins. We put the goods in the kitchen and spoke to the lady who did the cooking.

The kitchen was very sparsely equipped with a large potbellied stove in the room for warmth. It was the only stove in the old converted farmhouse. The walls were single walls with exposed studs on the inside, and lots of cracks in the walls for “ventilation.” A few windows could be opened, but this was a very cool day so all were closed.

There were bunk beds, each three beds high, WWI Army style, against the walls in two rooms. One room was for males and the other was for females. All of the residents were quite old, former farm workers with no retirement and no income but too old and feeble to work. The area around the old house was bare dirt, probably swept clean to keep down snakes.

This was 1942; WWII was raging and the new Social Security System was not yet fully implemented to include these folks. They made

so little and had no paperwork to show for it so Social Security was only a dream for them anyway.

I made a vow never to be in the poorhouse. My grandfather never was either. He made it through the Great Depression because he owned a farm free and clear and fed his family and several others through his labor. My mother and I lived with my grandfather during the depression after my father lost his business and his home and went to work with the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) in California for a few years. That farm was near Temple, Texas. The land is now in the city limits of Temple.

While we lived there I often visited the old Eulogy Cemetery (a.k.a. Carpenter Cemetery) that had been established by my Great-Great-Grandfather Carpenter. It was literally in the front yard a little to the northwest of the old farm house. There were white irises, called flags, that bloomed every spring on Great-Great-Grandfather’s grave. They had been planted by his daughter, my Great-Grandmother Lou Holcomb, nee Carpenter. I remember her very well even though she passed away in 1944 when I was very young. I have some of those same irises in my yard and they are blooming as I write this story. They are from the same roots. I returned to the old cemetery in 1981 with family and we cleaned up the underbrush that was choking the cemetery; I found the patch of irises and took a few roots.

Today that cemetery is in a very bad state and desperately needs to be cleaned and restored by professionals. There are over 30 graves of pioneers, Civil War veterans, and settlers from the early days of central Texas. We have several cousins who are working on getting something started. So if you know someone wanting to buy 40+ acres with railroad access, paved road access and near a golf course and upscale neighborhood, we could use your help.

## Read 'em or Weep – Finding Your Family in Historic Newspapers

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*Published with permission of Mary Kircher Roddy  
MKR Genealogy <http://www.mkrgenealogy.com>*

Old newspapers may unlock the door to discovering your ancestor. Birth and death certificates and census records, the staples of genealogical research, can provide a skeletal time line of an ancestor, but they don't do much for getting inside an ancestor's head and learning about what made her tick. Old newspapers can be the key into an ancestor's daily life and if you're lucky, the quirks of their personality.

### Finding Old Papers

Numerous projects large and small are going on around the country and around the world to scan and digitize old newspapers, make them searchable via Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology, and to put them up on the web on a free or pay site for curious news and history junkies to read. The Library of Congress Chronicling America website ([chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov)) has about 5 million pages of digitized newspapers from 41+ states, covering the period 1836-1922, but focusing primarily on newspapers from 1900-1910.

FultonHistory ([fultonhistory.com](http://fultonhistory.com)), the website of self-described "one-man band" Tom Tryniski, contains over 29 million historical newspapers from the U.S. and Canada which Tryniski scanned and digitized in his garage. He started out focusing on New York state newspapers, but has expanded into other states' papers.

The California Digital Newspaper Collection ([cndc.ucr.edu](http://cndc.ucr.edu)) is a repository of almost 77,000 issues of California newspapers with over 650,000 digitized pages. It spans a 160+ year time frame from 1846 to 2012. Several states have similar projects including Arizona (<http://adnp.azlibrary.gov>), Colorado ([coloradohistoricnewspapers.org](http://coloradohistoricnewspapers.org)), Illinois

([idnc.library.illinois.edu](http://idnc.library.illinois.edu)) and Missouri ([shs.umsystem.edu/newspaper/mdnp](http://shs.umsystem.edu/newspaper/mdnp)).

In addition to such state-wide collections many counties, universities and ethnic organizations maintain collections of digital newspapers. Check out the Wikipedia list of online newspaper archives ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List\\_of\\_online\\_newspaper\\_archives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives))

A few companies have paid subscription-based newspaper archive collections. These include Newspapers.com, NewspaperArchive.com and GenealogyBank.com. Which of these is the best? That depends entirely on you. Each of these sites gives potential subscribers the chance to browse through their holdings to see which titles are available for which locations for which dates. When you find the collection that has papers where your ancestors lived, that's the right one for you. Often you can even get a free 3- or 7-day trial period, which, fueled by a few gallons of coffee, might be enough to read the years in question of a particular newspaper title.

If you're like me, you might have a magic card in your wallet that will open the door to these subscription sites, or at least a portion of their titles, for FREE!!! (As I tell my kids, free is good.) What is it? Your library card. Many libraries around the country offer their patron access to "lite" versions of NewspaperArchive.com and GenealogyBank.com as well as 19th Century U.S. Newspapers. On your library website, look for a link to something like "Articles & Research" or "Learning & Research" where the drop-down menu will open up to display Genealogy or other "Premium" databases. Many of these databases are accessible from home after the user inputs his library card number and a password. Sometimes these databases might be buried a level or two down

in the menus, so if you run into trouble, ask your librarian.

### **Gold in them thar words**

What treasures might you find in an old newspaper? Plenty. Of course there might be obituaries and funeral notices. One tip I've found is that if I'm looking for an obituary for my ancestor by name and I just can't find it within a week or so of the death date, I specify that week-long range and just search for the word "funeral." Usually the obituaries are together on the same page or two, and at least one of them contains the word funeral. This gets me quickly to the right page of the paper and then I can use my own eyes to search for my ancestor's name instead of relying on the OCR technology to find it.

Newspapers, particularly from the smaller towns, often had "visiting" notices about our ancestors traveling to a nearby or far-off city. I try to look at as many of these as possible because sometimes the paper will include "... to visit her sister Mrs. Marriedname." That phrase can often feel like silver dollars from the slot machine!

Parties might also have been newsworthy events, so if you know your ancestor's

anniversary or birthday, read the paper 21 or 25 or 50 years after the event to see if there might be mention of a celebration to mark the occasion. And even if there wasn't a party, some small-town newspapers would run a "this day in history" column, detailing local events from days of yore.

When you're reading a paper, don't just stop at the "hit" for your ancestor's name. Read around on the page and elsewhere in the issue. An obituary might carry details of the funeral arrangements, but elsewhere in the paper there might be an article about the accident or epidemic that caused the death.

Don't forget the classified advertisements. Your ancestors might have operated a business or run a boarding house. Even if they didn't, you'll become familiar with the local merchants, including perhaps the funeral homes in town, which just might have the exact funeral record you've been looking for to break down your brick wall.

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## Pioneer Families of Travis County, Texas

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

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

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

Austin Genealogical Society	
Travis County Texas	
Pioneer Families Certificate	
This is to Certify that	
_____	
is a descendant of	
_____	
who was living in Travis County, Texas	
before the close of	
_____	_____
Certificate No.	President
_____	_____
Date	Pioneer Families Chairman
_____	_____
	Registrar

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# Austin Genealogical Society General Information

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**PURPOSE:** The purposes for which this Society is organized are:

1. To promote an interest in genealogy.
2. To investigate, collect, record, publish and deposit in libraries, archives, and digital or electronic repositories the genealogical and historical materials of Texas, with particular focus on items pertaining to the City of Austin and/or Travis County.
3. To educate its members and the general public in the use of historical and genealogical reference materials.
4. To support genealogical libraries, archival collections, and access to and preservation of records that will benefit the research efforts of the Society.

**MEMBERSHIP** is open to all upon payment of annual dues. Classes: Individual: \$20; Family (Two in the same household): \$30; Lifetime: \$500 (\$300 if over age 65). All classes are entitled to one electronic copy of each issue of the Quarterly and the monthly Newsletter. **After July 1, dues are \$10 for the balance of the year**, but you will receive only the publications produced after the date you join. Membership includes a copy of the annual Membership Directory, which is published each spring.

**DUES FOR EXISTING MEMBERS** are payable on or before January 1 of each year for the ensuing year. If dues are not received by February 1, the name must be dropped from the mailing list. Send dues payments to **AGS Treasurer, P.O. Box 10010, Austin, Texas 78766-1010**.

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

**AGS MEETINGS** of the general membership begin at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month except May and December. Members are encouraged to come at 6:30 p.m. Meeting Place: **Highland Park Baptist**

**Church, 5206 Balcones Dr.** Take Northland (RR2222) exit Loop 1 (Mopac). Go west one block to Balcones Dr., then left a half block. The church and parking lot are on right. Visitors always welcome. The Board of Directors meets at 5:45 p.m.

**AGS QUARTERLY** is issued March, June, September and December. Contributions are always welcome, subject to editing for style and length. Contributor is completely responsible for accuracy and any copyright infringement. AGS assumes no responsibility for content of submitted material.

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

## **AGS QUARTERLY DEADLINES:**

Quarterly submission guidelines and due dates are available on the Austin Genealogical Society website:

<http://www.austintxgensoc.org/quarterly-guidelines>.

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78766 -1010