

Formation of the Hudnall Family Association

By Harold Hudnall

4 Jun 2017

In 1993, when we moved to Houston, Texas, my wife, Bobbie, obtained employment at Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research in Houston, Texas. Clayton is rated as one of the top 10 genealogical libraries in the United States. Her hours were 9 to 5 except for one day a week when she was required to work from 12 to 9 p.m. I worked in downtown Houston, approximately 20 blocks from where Bobbie worked.

Since I got off work at four, on the day Bobbie worked until nine, she would take her dinner hour at four and come and pick me up. We would go eat and then go back to Clayton and while she finished her day I would do research. Thus, began my interest in Genealogy.

One evening while meandering through the stacks I came across a book on Family Associations. I paged through it to see if there was a Hudnall Family Association, with no luck. I had a complete collection of Richard Hudnall's annual newsletters and, of course, in the last one he stated that it would be the last one he would produce. I got the bright idea that he might be interested in starting a family association. So, I zipped off a letter to him suggesting it. I never received a reply.

However, about a month afterward I received a letter from Roger Johnston. Roger wrote that while on a business trip he had visited Richard and that he had given my letter to him. Roger stated that he would be interested in forming a family association. After exchanging e-mails several times and discussing who else might be interested, we each came up with a cousin whom we knew was into genealogy.

In my case it was Lt. Col. William R. (Bill) Hudnall whom I considered a mentor since he had furnished me with a lot of genealogical data, including the afore mentioned set of Richard's annual newsletters. Roger's cousin, Barry Riley (now deceased), was a long-time genealogist and had compiled quite a collection of Hudnall family history.

After more conversations via e-mail we decided to query all of the people that we knew were into Hudnall genealogy and see who might be interested in forming a family association. I volunteered to compile a newsletter and we mailed it to all of the people mentioned before and for whom we had mailing addresses. Surprisingly we received slightly over one hundred replies.

Roger, being a computer specialist set up a chat site for us and for a period of time we held a weekly chat. Interest in the chat flagged after several months and we decided it was time to formally create an association by electing officers, preparing a set of by-laws, and begin charging dues. This was done and we considered ourselves an official family association.

The following were elected as officers:

President-----	Roger Johnston
Vice President-----	Shelley Hudnall
Secretary/Treasurer-----	Faye Dyess (now deceased)
Historian/Newsletter Editor-----	Harold Hudnall
Board of Directors, Member at Large-----	Earlene Frederick
Board of Directors, Member at Large-----	William R. Hudnall
Board of Directors, Member at Large-----	Richard C. Hudnall
Board of Directors, Member at Large-----	Carolyn M. Smith (now Fisher)

Over time, and for various reasons, our officers have changed to what we have today. We no longer have members-at-large and the position of secretary/treasurer has been split into two positions.