



Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

web site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/>

January 2015

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January General Meeting

The Fort Worth Genealogical Society will begin the **NEW YEAR** with helping you learn some **NEW** ways to conduct on-line or computer data base searches.

We will meet on **Tuesday** evening, **January 27th** at **6:30 p.m.** for a new topic entitled: "**Techniques & Strategies for More Effective Online Searching.**" Our speaker will be **Dr. Bernard N. Meisner.**

As more and more genealogical material becomes available through the Internet it has become essential to make efficient searches to find the relevant information about your ancestors. One must not only know where to look for the information, but how to find it.

This presentation will cover how to determine what information is available, where it is located, and how to use search tools such as **filters, wildcards, relationships, complementary data sources, and tailored search engines** to improve the likelihood of finding what you need.



Bernard Meisner began researching his family over 25 years ago. He now enjoys sharing what he has learned.... the lessons and the mistakes he made.

He is a member of Mid-Cities Genealogical Society where he was a past president and is currently parliamentarian and social media chair.

Bernard's professional career was as a consulting meteorologist and he retired from the National Weather Service Southern Region Headquarters. He is a native of Pittsburgh, PA.



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE "KICK OFF" THE NEW YEAR! And invite a friend to come with you to hear this wonderful speaker.



FW Library News

Betty Says Goodbye

Genealogy Unit Supervisor, **Betty Shankle** has left FWL to take a position as University Archivist at UTA. Her last day was Dec 17. Say Hi! to her there.

County Tax Rolls Online!

The Fort Worth Library is happy to inform you that the [Tarrant County Tax Rolls](#) have been digitized and made available for research. *For more on this see page 3 inside newsletter.*

Genealogy Unit Expanded

The Shifting of bookshelf space for the Genealogy collection is about half-finished. At this time, it is expected to be finished by the end of January.

January FWGS Meetings:

- Board of Directors:** Jan 17th
10:15 Southwest Regional
- Beginners:** Jan 24th
10:30-12:30 Chappell Rm.—Central
- Computer Users:** Jan 24th
2:00-4:00 Intel Lab—Central
- General Meeting:** Jan 27th
6:30-7:45 Auditorium-Central
- Refreshments at 6:00
- Refreshments:** **Debbie Pearson**



From the President.....

Above is the Greek god Janus. He is namesake for the first month of the year, **January**. He has two faces-- to look ahead and to look behind. The New Year is always a time of New Beginnings and a time to reflect on the old year too. So here is a look back at what **FWGS** has done this past year:

FWGS made a \$500.00 donation to the **North Fort Worth Historical Society** to help them in their preservation work. We conducted a very successful **Summer Seminar** with **Lloyd Bockstruck** as speaker. We also donated money to help the FWL to purchase a camera, tripod and other equipment for the purpose of digitizing records for patron use. With *Footprints* editor, **Rob Yoder**, we have produced and distributed 4 issues of *Footprints* for our members and libraries across the United States. FWGS conferred a Life Scholarship membership to **Michael Patterson** for his vast amount of scholarship of and preservation work on Civil War veterans and their monuments in Tarrant County. Then at the end of the year, we were able to take all the monies donated towards books and add to it, to make a donation of \$500.00 to the FWL Genealogy unit in **Bettye Richhart's** memory. This is while continuing our 8 month schedule of Beginner's Workshops and Computer's Users Group meetings. (Thanks to **Terri Meeks, Debbie Pearson, Don Crews, and Ed McCoy.**) And, thanks also to **Don Crews** for presenting us with 11 wonderful speakers at General Meetings.

As you can see, FWGS is always busy. **But, we could use some more help. We need YOU** to become a member or keep your membership current. Dues are the society's main source of income to help in our preservation work. January is the start the NEW YEAR of membership in FWGS! Send in those dues and we welcome you to stand along with us in our work.

Debbie Pearson

2014 Membership ended with 150 members.

Let's shoot for 200 in 2015!



**Free Download
Footprints Topical Index 1957-2014**

UPDATED for 2014 -- This index will assist you in finding most items that have been published in *Footprints*, the quarterly journal of Fort Worth Genealogical Society, and its monthly predecessor, *The Genealogical Society Bulletin*.

(277 page digital file in PDF format.)

Membership Report:

Rob Yoder, Membership Director reports **95 members**.

That means we're still missing some members! January starts the new Membership Year, so time to send in your 2015 Dues!

New Members 2015:

Cheryl Aldrich Morrison
Gilbert Ray Malone
Virginia C. Wilber

Retuning after an Absence:

Will Martin
Glen Newton
John A. Skotnik
Betty L. Swaim
John & Virginia Thorsen



From the FWGS Mail Bag.....

From the National Archives:

**Friday Freebies at NARA in
Montgomery Plaza**

Friday, **January 9th, 2015** at 12 noon to 1 p.m.

"NARA at Your Fingertips"

by Nancy Wing, Archives Specialist

Reserve your spot today by emailing us at

ftworth.education@nara.gov or calling **817-831-5620!**

Next Friday Freebie is February 6th.

Center for Texas Studies at TCU and Fort Worth Library

Presents **Preserving Our Past**

Saturday, Jan 10th at 10:30 am to 12 noon

in the Tandy Auditorium of the Central Branch Library

"Texas Adoption Activist Edna Gladney:

A Life & Legacy of Love"

Sherrie McLeRoy, Independent Scholar

Next 1st Saturday is February 7th.

Billy Sills Lecture Series with FWISD

No lecture is scheduled in January.

Next is February 21st.

OLD OCCUPATIONS

- Victualer** -- A tavern keeper, or one who provides an army, navy, or ship with food
- Vulcan** -- Blacksmith
- Wagoner** -- Teamster not for hire
- Wainwright** -- Wagon maker
- Waiter** -- Customs officer or tide waiter; one who waited on the tide to collect duty on goods brought in
- Waterman** -- Boatman who plies for hire
- Webster** -- Operator of looms

FWGS conducts Beginners Classes and a Computer Users Group (CUG) for 8 months every year. New classes will begin again in **January 2015** on the **4th Saturday** at the FW Central Branch Library, 300 W.5th St.

First class is January 24th!

Beginners Class with Terri Meeks meets at **10:30 a.m.**
Computer Users Group meets at **2:00 p.m.**

Both classes last 2 hours and the first session will cover **Getting Started**. Beginners meet in Chappell room. CUG is in the Intel Lab and includes hands-on computer time. For more:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/html/beginners_workshops.html

Editor: In the December newsletter I expanded on a series about the greatest genealogical resources or libraries in the US. I had to interrupt that series this month with big news from the two largest public libraries with genealogical collections in Tarrant County. Read on for more news from **Fort Worth Library** and the **Arlington Public Library**.

Fort Worth Library:

The Fort Worth Library is happy to inform you that the [Tarrant County Tax Rolls](#) have been digitized and made available for research.

Tarrant County, named after General Edward H. Tarrant, was founded in 1849 when it was carved out of

neighboring Navarro County. In 1850, the first Tarrant County Tax Assessment was conducted by the Navarro County Tax Assessor, W.B. McCabe, since Tarrant County had not yet been officially organized. Later that same year, John A. Hust was elected as Tarrant County's first tax assessor. This collection consists of scanned microfilm images of the original tax ledgers from 1850-1880. A tax assessment for Tarrant County was conducted annually. In early years, some of the tax assessments were as few as six pages, but as the 1880s approached, the ledgers spanned over 200 pages.

You can view all of the Digital Archive collections in the Fort Worth Library Digital Archives at <http://fortworthtexasarchives.org/>.

Suzanne Fritz, Librarian, Fort Worth Library
500 W. 3rd St., Fort Worth, TX 76102-7305
817-392-8916

Arlington Public Library:

George W. Hawkes Central Library of Arlington closed its doors December 23, 2014.

The Library at 101 E. Abram, stood in the heart of downtown Arlington for 40 years. Private developers plan to raze the library in February 2015 to make way for a \$43 million mixed-use development featuring apartments, retail, restaurants, offices and shops in its place. Across the street, the city will build a larger library just north of City Hall that is expected to open by 2017.

A comprehensive study found that the existing 63,000 square-foot concrete and steel building needs millions of dollars in repairs, is no longer large enough and can't be expanded.

The **Genealogy Collection** is expected to be moved temporarily to the **Northeast Branch Library**, 1905 Brown Blvd., until the new library opens. Other library services will be distributed among the other branches.

Contact the library before you visit to be sure the transfer is complete and for More see:

<http://www.arlington-tx.gov/centrallibrary/> and <http://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/community/arlington-citizen-journal/article4919142.html>



Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Box 471789, Fort Worth, Texas 76147-1408

Founded A.D. 1957

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Membership Renewal & Application -★- Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Individual Membership - \$23
⇒ \$20 if paid before the new year begins

Family Membership - \$27
⇒ \$25 if paid before the new year begins

Sustaining Membership - \$50 or more

Contributing Membership - \$250 or more

Name:

Phone:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

E-mail Address:

This membership application is for:

2015

2016

New

Renewal

Winter Weather

Just a Reminder! Winter has already started to become severe with a couple of ice events and plunging arctic temperatures and wind chills. Please remember that in the event of severe weather on the day of a FWGS scheduled event we follow: 1. FW Library closing schedules and 2. FWISD closing schedules. You can check our FWGS Facebook page or check the NBC channel 5 TV or web site for cancellations of meetings.