



# Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

February 2015

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## February General Meeting

The February General Meeting will be on **Tuesday** evening, **February 24<sup>th</sup>** at **6:30 p.m.** Our topic will be **"Tarrant County Clerk: Keeper of the Records."** And who better to speak on this topic than our own Tarrant County Clerk, **Mary Louise Garcia.**

Our Tarrant County Clerk is very forward thinking and is committed to keeping the office up to today's standards. She is trying to make more records available online and preserving some of the valuable old records. She will tell us of her latest efforts and explain how you might save yourself a trip down-town. You better be there so you can get started with those land deeds. Invite a friend to come!



**Ms. Garcia** is beginning her second term this January. Mary Louise comes from a law enforcement background and holds a Bachelor of

Arts Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Magna cum laude, from University of Texas-Arlington. A Fort Worth native, her most proud accomplishment is being mother to two beautiful daughters in college.



## FW Library News

The Archives staff & volunteers have updated one collection and processed one new collection. These two collections are ready for access in the Central Library Archives:

- [YWCA Collection](#)
- [Jeannie Yarbrough Papers](#)

## New Book

Texas Women, Their Lives, Their Loves. Ruth Karbach, a past speaker, has a story inside on **Dr. Ellen Lawson Dabbs**, an early FW doctor. Go see!

## The "Shifting" Project

.....at the Genealogy Unit is still in progress. It seems work will continue into February. Go see if you can still find your favorite collections as they expand their shelving.

## 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.

## January Meeting

**Bernard Meisner** helped start the New Year with an inspiring new presentation on how to make better internet searches. There are so many databases full of information yet the indexers were not perfect when they indexed those collections. Compound that with the fact that humans often wrote down our ancestor's information incorrectly. Often a fix is to check more than one database. (Ancestry is not the only one who has indexed the census; FamilySearch and Heritage Quest are 2 others.) Sometimes you need to overcome the misspellings by using wild cards in your search. Go back and reanalyze what you know and then do your homework. Check to see what records are available in the area of your search. See if there are guides or Wikis to help you learn more. Bernard showed us many examples where he overcame the search engine and found his man!

## February FWGS Meetings:

**Board of Directors:** Feb 21<sup>st</sup>

10:15 Southwest Regional

**Beginners:** Feb 28<sup>th</sup>

10:30-12:30 Auditorium—Central

**Computer Users:** Feb 28<sup>th</sup>

2:00-4:00 Intel Lab—Central

**General Meeting:** Feb 24<sup>th</sup>

6:30-7:45 Auditorium-Central

Refreshments at 6:00

**Refreshments:** **Debbie Pearson**

From the President.....



**Happy Valentine's Day! FWGS Loves You!**

But are you still working on those New Year's Resolutions? Well here are some resolutions for genealogy from Michael J. Leclerc of Mocavo. He published his "5 Things Every Genealogist Should Do in 2015" back in January and I thought they were worth repeating:

1. **Take A Class** (Never stop learning.)
2. **Review Past Research** (You know more now & more records may have been published.)
3. **Attack Challenges** (Like Nike, Just DO IT! Priorities)
4. **Share Your Genealogy** (it will live on & you may get some help or answers to those problems.)
5. **Get a Genealogy Partner** (More hands/More eyes/More results)

Guess What? FWGS can help you with all 5 of those suggestions. We offer opportunities every month, all through the year for classes, meeting people, and tips for solving problems. We plan a Summer Seminar every year, we have speakers every month on great topics, and we sponsor beginner's classes and computer interest sessions. We also publish a journal and guess what, you can even share your genealogical journeys and queries about Tarrant county there. You can also post questions on line at our web site or our **Facebook** page. What's not to LOVE? We just need YOU. Renew or Join today!

*Debbie Pearson*

From the FWGS Mail Bag .....



From the National Archives:

**Friday Freebies at NARA in Montgomery Plaza**

Friday, **February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015** at 12 noon to 1 p.m.  
**"Nonpopulation Census Records 1850-1880"**

by Katherine Vollen, *Archives Specialist*

Reserve your spot today by emailing us at [ftworth.education@nara.gov](mailto:ftworth.education@nara.gov) or calling **817-831-5620!**

**Next Friday Freebie is March 6<sup>th</sup>.**

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**Center for Texas Studies at TCU and Fort Worth Library**  
Presents **Preserving Our Past**

**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30 am to 12 noon  
in the Tandy Auditorium of the Central Branch Library

**"The Black Gospel Music Restoration Project"**

**Dr. Robert Darden**, Baylor University

**Next 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday is March 7<sup>th</sup>.**

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**Billy Sills Lecture Series with FWISD**

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**, 10-12 noon.

Presenter: **Gayle Hanson**, genealogist and historian  
Topic: **"Early African-American Schools in Fort Worth"**

Billy W. Sills Center for Archives/FWISD

2720 Cullen Street

Fort Worth, Texas 76107

817-814-2040

**Next meeting is March 21<sup>st</sup>.**

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**5<sup>th</sup> Annual FREE Arlington Family History Fair**

**Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>**, 8 am to 4 pm

Arlington TX Stake Center, 3809 Curt Drive 76016

(817)446-7088 or <http://www.arlingtontxfhc.org/>

Registration Forms on-line: Lunch RSVP by **Feb 25<sup>th</sup>** (\$7)



**February FUN FACT: Valentines**

In the 1900 Tarrant County Texas Census there were 5 households of Valentine families or individuals for a total of 18 **Valentines** in Fort Worth or Tarrant County!

**Membership Report:**

**Rob Yoder**, Membership Director had back surgery recently.

FWGS wishes him the best for a speedy recovery.

We will have a more complete report later.

**January** starts the new Membership Year, so it is time to send in your 2015 Dues!

**Welcome New Member:**

Sandra L. Plane

## OLD OCCUPATIONS

**Wharfinger** -- Owner of a wharf

**Wheelwright** -- One who made or repaired wheels; wheeled carriages, etc.

**Whitesmith** -- Tinsmith; worker of iron who finishes or polishes the work

**Whitewing** -- Street sweeper

**Whitster** -- Bleach of cloth

**Wright** -- Workman, especially a construction worker

**Yeoman** -- Farmer who owns his own land

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

**Second class is February 28<sup>th</sup>!**

**Beginners Class** with **Terri Meeks** meets at **10:30 a.m.**

**CUG** meets at **2:00 p.m.** with **Ed McCoy**.

Both classes last 2 hours and the second session will cover **Federal Census**. 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](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/html/beginners_workshops.html)



### Discover Your Swedish Roots!

Attend the **Swedish Genealogy Workshops** on March 28-29 and Sept 26-27, 2015 in **Lindsborg, Kansas** (the "Little Sweden USA"). Workshops are sponsored by ArkivDigital, the leader in Swedish Genealogy online and hosted by the Old Mill Museum in Lindsborg.

More information and registration forms can be found at [oldmillmuseum.org](http://oldmillmuseum.org) or by calling [785-227-3595](tel:785-227-3595).

### NEWS FROM ANCESTRY:

*The following is from Ancestry CEO **Tim Sullivan**. It appeared on their web site in January, but has been edited for space:*

Last year, we launched more than 2 billion new global records, helping fuel discoveries in over 67 countries. Nearly half a million people took an AncestryDNA test to learn about their unique ethnic mix and to connect to hundreds ... or even thousands of newfound genetic

cousins. And more people than ever enjoyed the convenience of discovering and sharing their stories on the go with the Ancestry mobile app.

**Good News: 2015 promises to be one of the most exciting in our own family history.**

In the coming months, we'll be introducing features that let you tell richer, more personal life stories about your ancestors, adding historical context around the times and events that shaped their lives. You'll also see a new way to engage with other Ancestry members around a shared ancestor, helping you make new discoveries and collaborate like never before. If you've taken a DNA test, you'll experience some new types of discoveries made possible by the groundbreaking DNA science and research teams. And everyone who visits Ancestry will find a simplified, easier-to-use site that puts important information front and center to make family stories the focus.

Most importantly, we will continue to add to the world's largest online collection of family history records and content. **Look for exciting additions like 170 million searchable images of probate records and wills that might reveal your ancestor's dying wishes, all vital records from Virginia since 1900, substantial releases from Germany, and a milestone collection of almost 80 million Mexico Civil Birth, Marriage and Death records spanning from 1860 to modern day.**

At Ancestry, we're proud of all that we do to help you bring your family story to life. We think that this year's new content and features are going to make the world's leading online family history service even better....**TIM**

### News from Dallas Genealogical Society

DGS is excited to announce its **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Writing Contest** for **2015** is open for entries. This contest comes with cash prizes, is open to non-members, and has categories for professional and amateur writers.

Only original material not previously published elsewhere in any format is eligible. Entries will be accepted January 1 through April 30, 2015. Winners will be announced in July, 2015.

Winning articles are eligible to be published in ***Pegasus: Journal of the Dallas Genealogical Society***.

February is **Footprints** month.  
Watch your mailbox.





**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.