



Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

November 2016

2016 Board of Directors

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NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Don't get tripped up! This year the November FWGS General Meeting will come AFTER Thanksgiving. We will meet **Tuesday, November 29^h at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Tandy Auditorium** of the FW Central Branch Library (500 W. Third St.). The topic will be **"Mining Obituaries for Ancestors"** given by speaker **Sandra J. Crowley**.

Sandra plans to discuss the hidden genealogical gems in published and online obituaries. She will also provide detailed instructions & helpful resources to improve your searches.

Refreshments begin at 6:00 p.m., with the meeting starting at 6:30.



SANDRA J. CROWLEY is a local speaker and genealogist, holding memberships in Mid-Cities GS, Dallas GS, FGS and TSGS. She is the immediate past president of Dallas Genealogical Society. Last month, she was a speaker at the TSGS Conference in Dallas.

A native of Tennessee she came to the DFW area in 2002 by way of Minnesota. Her business degree led to a career in business & technology. Now she combines her family history with her knowledge of technology.

PARKING IS EASY!

Meters are FREE at 6 PM and you can always park FREE in the 3rd Street Garage (only a block E. from the library door) for 2 ½ hours with your ticket validated in the library.



FW LIBRARY NEWS

As we head into the Holiday Season, be aware the Library will be closed for upcoming Holidays.

November closings:

~ All Libraries are open Wednesday NOV 23. (except BOLD & COOL)

~ Book Drops close Wed night at 6 pm.

~ All Libraries will close for Thurs and Friday of Thanksgiving. Book Drops will be closed as well. NO items will be due during these 2 days.

~ All Libraries & Book Drops will open Saturday, NOV 26th for regular hours.

Starting Nov 14th the library will make changes to OverDrive. OverDrive is the system used to download media for check out to your personal device. For changes: <http://help.overdrive.com/customer/portal/articles/2145737>

October General Meeting

Jerry Beck came to speak on a subject dear to his heart—The Masonic Home & School of Texas. He spoke as a former student and orphan, then in adulthood as the Assistant Superintendent. Jerry gave information on how to inquire about records from the home. School records were sent to FWISD when the home shut down. He also mentioned the web sites for more information. **Main web site:** <http://www.masonichometx.org/>

Ex Students Association: <http://www.masonichome-exstudents.org/>

Recommended Reads: 12 Mighty Orphans by Jim Dent (FW Lib) AND Masonic Home & School of TX by W.R. McCauley (UTA Lib & TX Wesleyan Lib)

November FWGS Meetings:

Board of Directors: Nov 19th
10:15 Southwest Regional

Beginners: **Concluded for Yr.**
10:30-12:30 Chappell Rm.—Central

Computer Users: **Concluded for Yr.**
2:00-4:00 Intel Lab—Central

General Meeting: Nov 29th
6:30-7:45 Auditorium-Central

Refreshments at 6:00

Refreshments: **Sheryl Rascher**

Can you Volunteer? debeejay@aol.com



From the FWGS Mail Bag



Center For Texas Studies - TCU & FW Lib
Saturday, Dec 3rd 10:30-12:00 noon
"History of Annexation on the North Side"
by Rene Gomez, Librarian
in Tandy Auditorium, Central Branch, FWL

Next: 2017 Schedule is not available yet.

Billy W. Sills Center for Archives/FWISD presents
Saturday, November 19th 10 am-12 noon

Presenter:
Max Courtney, Forensic scientist & historian
Topic:

"Searchers and Skirmishers:
Parker County, Texas and Environs"

2720 Cullen, 2nd Floor
Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 814-2040

Next: Saturday, January 21, 2017 (None in December)

Lunch Time Lectures @ NARA Noon-1 p.m.

1400 John Burgess Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76140
Training Room

Register at ftworth.education@nara.gov for a FREE space.

Date: Friday, December 2, 2016

Topic: Preserving Your Family Records

How do I preserve my family papers? Should I digitize them? Come learn some basic preservation tips for your genealogical needs.

Next: 2017 Schedule is not available yet.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness, that FWGS announces the loss of member and former Board of Director, **TOM COGDELL**. Tom passed away on Thursday, October 27, 2016 in hospice in Arlington at the age of 82.

A native Texan born in Quanah, Tom held a Phd. in Organic Chemistry from Harvard and was a Professor in Chemistry, retiring from UTA. His love of family, history, and research spurred his love of genealogy, where he was a vital member in Arlington GS and Fort Worth GS.

FWGS deeply feels this loss of our friend and extends condolences to Elena, his family, and friends.



From the Editor

Well, the election results are IN! (NO, not that election.)

FWGS held elections at the last meeting. The slate of current officers (with one exception) was returned. Unfortunately, there were no nominations from the floor to fill the soon to be vacant Historian/Archivist position. That leaves one opening that the president will have to fill. Let Don Crews know if you have an interest in that position. dhcrews@juno.com

2017 FWGS Board of Directors

President	Don Crews
VP	Terri Meeks
Treasurer	Roy Combrink
Secretary	Crystal Barth
Director Programs	Judy Ramos
Director Newsletter	Debbie Pearson
Director Membership	Rob Yoder
Director At Large	Phil Morris
Director At Large	Roy Noack
Director At Large	Carol Reeves
Historian/Archivist	(Vacant)
Footprints Editor	Rob Yoder

Here is a link to the FWGS ByLaws:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/documents/fwgs_bylaws.pdf

Debbie Pearson, Newsletter Editor

Membership Report:

Rob Yoder, Membership Director reports **145 members**.

A BIG Thank You!

President Don Crews has sent THANK YOU's to Board of Directors members **Roy Combrink, Rob Yoder, Debbie Pearson**, and **Ed McCoy**. These Board Members (along with **President Don Crews** himself) all made trips to Dallas to help "man" a Vendors Table at the Texas State Genealogical Society's annual 3 Day Conference at the end of October. Their hard work and dedication brought in funds and reduced supplies of inventory. FWGS is a proud Partner Society to TSGS. As FWGS members, you are entitled to discounts at next year's conference.

REMINDER:



FWGS **Beginners Class & Computer Users Group (CUG)** are both ended for the Year 2016. These classes will return in January 2017. Expected date is 4th Saturday, January 28th, 2017, but watch our website or this newsletter for more.



November 11 brought **Veterans Day** in America. FWGS proudly thanks our Veteran-members who have served this country in peace time and in war!

Does Military Service run in your family? There are many stories out there of families that can trace continuous military service through the generations from the American Revolution or Civil War all the way to the present. Can you?

If you are looking for military records, try these:

1) **ANCESTRY.com** has many, many resources for military service from the national stage, down to regional, state or territorial. Some of these are for militias who protected the frontiers in Indian war days. Ancestry is a subscription service, while some parts are free. It is widely available at libraries and Family History Centers for free.

2) **FOLD3** is the digitization project in conjunction with NARA to make military records available to all. Many, many muster rolls, pension records, service records are already digitized. While Fold3 is a subscription service, many parts of it are free. It can be accessed free at the local NARA branch. Currently, they are in progress of digitizing all the 1812 Pension records. These hold many valuable records, such as affidavits, Bible records, lists of descendants, and more. Many have found dates of birth, marriage, death, maiden names, places of burial or marriage that may not be found anywhere else today. When I began watching their progress, they were on Letter C (by last name). Now, they are on Letter M. (M is a large data base, as will be P, R, S, T, & W. I am waiting on S!)

3) **Lineage Societies.** Examples are **DAR & SAR** (Revolutionary War), **NSUSD 1812 & Military Order of the War of 1812** (War of 1812), **SRT & DRT** (Texas Revolution), **SCV & UDC** (Confederacy), **Daughters of Union Veterans & Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War** (Union), **Military Order of Veterans of Foreign Wars**, and many, many more. The ladies groups are for female descendants and the mens' groups are for male descendants, but the same ancestor could be found in both groups. These will show your ancestor's service, and then trace his descendants down to the family member joining the society. Some organizations will make copies of lineage papers for a fee, some may not. Some are making in-roads towards digitization. Ancestry has some of the SAR lineage papers already. Some of the DRT papers are there, but not indexed. The DAR has a magnificent web site and many of their 'open' lineage papers may be

purchased by credit card online and downloaded directly from web site to your hard drive.

<http://lineagesocietyofamerica.com/list-of-lineage-societies.html> (look for ANCESTOR SEARCH)

Try this link to see an extensive list of Lineage Societies and links to their web sites.

<http://lineagesocietyofamerica.com/list-of-lineage-societies.html>

The DAR, the SAR, and the NSUSD 1812 all maintain libraries connected to the military history of their respective time periods. The SAR is located in Lexington, KY and the other two maintain headquarters in Washington, DC. The DAR is open most of the year for research. Most will have fees for non-members and may be limited in hours and accessibility. It is always advised to check out the rules before planning a trip.

4) **Local Courthouses** often hold the Discharge papers from WWII vets. I happened onto my father's discharge while looking at marriage records in nearby records and found the book of discharges. [County of residence when enlisting]

5) **Try US GENWEB web sites.** There is a web site for all 50 states. Under each state, there is a county web site. Some county volunteers have compiled local muster rolls, some have member submitted material, some have stories from local battles. Like a box of chocolates, you never know what you will get when you explore these web sites. It always pays to check out a county you are studying. And check back often, you never know what will get added! I once found a WW I book of men who served from that county. It had been beautifully digitized by units/companies and even had photos of the men. <http://www.usgenweb.org/>

6) **Cyndi's List.** You may find some resources you have not found yet here. <http://www.cyndislist.com/us/military/>

7) **Local Libraries and Archives** We in FWGS sit in a very good genealogy seat. The FW Library and the Dallas Library are two of the best in Texas, even in the US. We also have the SW branch of NARA right here in FW. Not to mention that Arlington, Grand Prairie, Euless, and Grapevine all have very interesting collections. Parker County is growing theirs and a little know gem is to our south down in Somervell County in Glen Rose. And the State Library in Austin is adjoined to the State Archives.

8) **Land Records** When looking for Military Service don't forget that Land Records can hold clues. Some land was given as a Bounty for service rendered. **The General Land Office** of Texas is in Austin. www.glo.texas.gov/ And don't forget the **Bureau of Land Management** and land patents.

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR FWGS MEMBERSHIP

Get those Early Bird Prices by renewing NOW.

Individual **\$20** Household **\$25** Until **December 31st**

Mail to: **P.O. Box 471789. Fort Worth, TX 76147-1408**



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Box 471789, Fort Worth, Texas 76147-1408

Founded A.D. 1957

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FWGS Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/index.html>

FWGS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Worth-Genealogical-Society-319546544054/>

Membership Application -★- Fort Worth Genealogical Society			
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership - \$23 <u>⇒ \$20 if paid before 1 Jan of year checked</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership - \$27 <u>⇒ \$25 if paid before 1 Jan of year checked</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership - \$50 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Membership - \$250 or more		
Name: _____		Phone: _____	
Address: _____		City: _____	
State: _____	Zip: _____	E-mail Address: _____	
This membership application is for:		<input type="checkbox"/> 2016	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2017
		<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal