



ARLINGTON Genealogical Society NEWS

TUESDAY, March 12, 2013
ARLINGTON CENTRAL LIBRARY
COMMUNITY ROOM
6:30 P.M.

Program:

Tour the Stacks

After the business meeting, the members will move to the second floor to see some parts of the Genealogy Collection. **Linda Seitz** will talk about the kinds of microfiche and microfilm resources and demonstrate the Scan Pro microfiche reader printer.

Jenny Manca and Mary Ann Conrad will show the locations and scope of books, periodicals, vertical files and maps. Organization of the stacks by states and by subject matter within the states will be explained.

Returning to the Community Room, Jenny will make a live demonstration of the use of APL resources online.



(Oh) Beautiful, beautiful Texas,
Where the beautiful bluebonnets grow,
We're proud of our forefathers
Who fought at the Alamo.
You can live on the plains or the mountain
Or down where the sea breezes blow,
And you're still in beautiful Texas,
The most beautiful State that we know.

Hospitality for the March meeting will be provided by Bettie West, Elena Cogdell and Sylvia Hoad.

For members who would like to volunteer to bring food before our year ends, please call Cecilia at 817 795 8655.

Arlington Genealogical Society meets on the second Tuesday every month from September through June. Annual dues, due in September, are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a couple.

AGS OFFICERS FOR 2012-2013

President: Sylvia Hoad

1st VP: Cecilia Messick

2nd VP, Program Committee: Pete Jacobs

Assisted by Dorothy Rencurrel

Secretary: Alice Noe

Treasurer: Virginia Orchard

Assistant for Membership: Don Lewis

Parliamentarian: Cherry Williams

Newsletter: Tom Cogdell

Library Liaison: Mary Ann Conrad

Publicity: Wally and Ruth Goodman

Web Address:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txags/index.html

Business

Visitors on February 12

Natalie Raulston

Teresa Dolberry

Sheri Tiner

Bill Walrath

Stan and Nancy Schneider

Rayne Hamby

Sharon Walrath

Reading of minutes was deferred. The treasurer's report was given.

Mary Ann Conrad asked members to give information to her about their areas of interest, specific states, counties and time periods for their family research. Funds are available to buy resources. She also thanked Kathy Bateman for her help cataloging new books.

Jenny Manca reminded members of the society about the Black History Month program in February.

Cecilia still needs volunteers to bring food for the March and June meetings, suggesting simplified selections such as fruit, chips and vegetable dips, cheese and crackers, and cookies. Sylvia Hoad announced the receipt of some funds that we earned from sponsoring the TSGS conference in Fort Worth. They are for sales of advertisements in the program. Also received are funds from the Alfred Howard estate. She reported that the AGS board has met with a financial adviser but no final decisions have been made concerning investments or disbursements. A summary page was distributed and it was suggested that members who have advice or suggestions give them in writing to President Sylvia Hoad or Treasurer Virginia Orchard. Those present were reminded of the Family History Fair at the Arlington Texas Stake on 2 Mar 2013. Arlington Genealogical Society and the Arlington Public Library will share a table to greet people there and give out information. Volunteers are asked to help man the table for an hour or so at a time during the day. Information about registration, the program and optional lunch are given at www.arlingtontxfhc.org.

On the Calendar

The Fort Worth Family History Center talks on the first Saturday of months during the spring will continue.

They will occur from 10 am to noon at 5001 Alta Mesa. Please register by a message to jarie@prodigy.net or bixerladi@sbcglobal.net

March 2 **Military Records**

May 4 Where did she come from?

June 1 Sharing your research results

The Walter Prescott Webb lectures at the University of Texas at Arlington will be given in the Hereford Student Center on Thursday, March

7, 2013 in the Rio Grande Ballroom. The theme this year is "Contested Empire, Re-Thinking the Texas Revolution." Attendance is free.

9:30 am, Eric Schlereth, Border Crossing in Mexican Texas

11:00 am, Sam Haynes, The Anglo-Texas Revolution

1:30 pm, Will Fowler, The Mexican Intelligencia and the Texas Revolution

3:00 pm, Miguel Soto, Mexican officials and Land Speculation in Texas 1824-1835

7:30 pm in the Rosebud Theater, Amy Greenberg, Texas Secession and the Course of American Empire

March 15 Grand Prairie Genealogical Society invites AGS members and friends to their Lock-In at the Grand Prairie Public Library, 901 Conover Drive in that city. The theme is **Finding Loved Ones Past, Hearts Remembered.**

From 6-10 pm that Friday evening participants will have the library to themselves, access to online resources, free scanning of letters or pictures, advice from experts and snacks.

\$15 individual, \$20 family

Registration and details are at www.gpgstx.org.

Fort Worth Genealogical Society **Beginners Workshop Series**, Saturday mornings Fort Worth Central Library, 500 West 3rd St, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Chappell Meeting Room Instructor Terri Meeks

terri.meeks@sbcglobal.net

Saturday - 23 Mar 2013, **Courthouse records**

Apr 27 Libraries +

May 25 Vital records

Jun 22 Immigration

Jul 27 Military

Aug 24 Your legacy

The National Genealogical Society Annual Conference

Members.ngsgenealogy.org/Conferences/Program2013.cfm

8-11 May 2013 at Las Vegas

Building New Bridges



Happenings

We thank Rusty Brenner and Todd Cox, videographer, for bringing the program at the February AGS meeting. Rusty had the unusual experience that since his father owned a monument company he literally grew up around cemeteries in Texas. He has taken it some steps farther, considering gravestones worthy of preservation because they are artistic, convey information to later generations, and represent a past which stimulates our curiosity.

Mapping

His company does mapping of cemeteries via GPS accurate enough to place every marked grave and plot the pattern of their arrangement in the cemetery. They also photograph every gravestone and record the material, style, names, dates and other inscribed information, which goes into the dataset in the computer. Condition of the stone is also noted, including position, level, attachment to the base and rust or biological invasion of the surface. This condition is reported to the cemetery management with recommendations for improvements, priority and cost.

Where inscriptions are now unreadable, they may consult old published readings of the stone's information, or incorporate new information from family members to add to the computer data.

He suggested that management might post their map in suitable durable form at the cemetery entrance to help visitors unfamiliar

with the cemetery to locate their family placement.

Restoration

Gravestone materials are so varied, from modern granite to old marble, limestone, sandstone, white bronze and iron plates that correction of their problems requires flexibility in solving the problems. He showed equipment with a lift to raise stones from their base, so that the base may be leveled for reattachment. Concrete is inappropriate to reset the stone because it is stronger than the stone itself, and with time may cause more damage. "Anything that you can buy at Home Depot is probably inappropriate to make gravestone repairs." Softer mortars, setting compound and spacers are employed. The guiding principles are 1) to do no harm and 2) to use a reversible process because restoration may be needed again in the distant future. He cited a case where a cemetery owner sprinkled the cemetery with available water to maintain the grass, but the water contained minerals which crystallized all over the gravestones.

Cleaning

Rusty recommended bristle brushes and D/2 cleaner to clean stones of surface contamination, either mineral, such as iron rust, or biological invasion that covers the surface and penetrates below the surface. D/2 cleaner, which he sells, will gradually kill organisms below the surface. It is being used at national cemeteries, parks and the repair now underway on the Washington Monument.

Ground Penetrating Radar

GPR produces an image representing the subsurface which is scanned. It is sensitive to the magnetic nature of the soil and can tell where it has been disturbed by digging. It will give an indication where there are graves, but also respond to roots, pipes, etc. The image can be superimposed on the GPS map and verify that there are burials corresponding to the markers, suggest where there is probably a burial that is unmarked, and indicate spaces where new graves may be placed. **Truthing** is scraping a potential gravesite down about four inches below the

soil level to visibly discriminate native soil from disturbed soil.

Rusty recommended the **Association of Gravestone Studies** as authority on cemetery practices. It originated in the New England states where there are many very old cemeteries, but is now national in scope.

See texascemetaryrestoration.com for further information or to get in touch.

Arlington Public Library Event

On Saturday, February 23 at the George W. Hawkes Central Library the afternoon was devoted to a program with diverse components of black history.

Anna Guy-Burroughs gave a basic genealogy program with applications to black history. The fundamentals that we know still apply. She suggested that everyone know enough history to realize significant dates when major changes occurred, such as 1863 when emancipation of slaves in the states which had seceded from the union was proclaimed, though only gradually became effective, and 1870 as the first US census when individual blacks were named.

Start with yourself and living family members. Work from known to unknown.

Ask the living for all the information that they know. Do oral interviews and keep probing.

Verify facts with family documents and vital records. A death certificate should reveal both a woman's given name and her parents' names, opening a new line and adding a generation. Look out for multiple marriages, more common than you think. Resolve conflicts with facts from more inquiries.

Go online. Focus on one ancestral line at a time. Expect variations in spelling names. Remember that there were free people of color; not every black person was a slave before 1863.

Organize, preserve and share. Keep your records, perhaps in a genealogy program, and let others know your findings.

Lt. Calvin Spann, one of the surviving Tuskegee Airmen, attended and UTA Professor of History Marvin Dulaney gave a talk on black history. Performances by school groups completed the day.

Articles

LegacyTec for Smartphones

Otter Creek Holdings, the new parent company of BillionGraves.com, has displayed new software they've built into a soon-to-be released smartphone application, LegacyTec.

In the past, some companies and a number of cemeteries have promoted the use of QR codes on small "medallions" that are cemented onto the face of the tombstone.

Anyone with an Apple or Android smartphone could scan the QR code and immediately see a web page devoted to the life of the person buried there. Tombstone experts have questioned the practice of using any sort of adhesive to attach anything to a tombstone. The new app from Otter Creek Holdings plans to make QR codes obsolete by replacing them with the one thing that never changes: latitude and longitude.

The new tombstone app gives cemetery visitors the power to link up to genealogical information on the dead by simply snapping a quick photo of a particular gravesite's monument from the app's interface. The photo includes longitude and latitude information embedded in the photo's metadata. The smartphone or any desktop or laptop computer then can access the photo and its included metadata to instantly recognize the exact tombstone in question and to display all known information about the stone and the person it commemorates.

But that's just half the capabilities of the new app. A customized image recognition technology will compare the uploaded photo to a database of gravestone photos from sites like billiongraves.com, which will then connect the user to information on the deceased from megadata partner sites such as Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org.

The result should be instant identification of any recorded tombstone from any location in the world, accompanied by all known information about the person buried there. All of this can be done without attaching any "foreign" devices or adhesives to the tombstone.

Thanks to Dick Eastman, 12 Feb 2013

Dick Eastman said that he had not seen a demonstration, but there is one on YouTube. Readers commented that the GPS readings may not be accurate enough to pick out a single gravestone, so the user would need to use judgment to make a one-to-one connection. Although the medallions seem likely to be rare, they would provide all the facts about the deceased that a caring individual could provide.

TJC

There is a bill in the New York State Legislature named the Adoptee Bill of Rights which would repeal a 1935 law sealing the birth certificates forever for anyone adopted in New York. It gives an adopted person age 18 or more the right to access their original birth certificate and allows the birth parent(s) to elect whether they wish to be contacted by their child or not.

Genealogists are urged to favor Bill A909 and contact their representatives.

Dick Eastman 13 Feb 2013

STIRPES

DECEMBER 2012

a publication of the Texas State Genealogical Society, Inc.

Stirpes is the quarterly magazine of the Texas State Genealogical Society. It is pronounced STIR-PEES, and **not** Stripes, which is a movie comedy starring Bill Murray.

Stirpes comes from the latin *per stirpes*, a legal term for the division of an estate into equal shares for the heirs. The word *stirpes* alone is roughly equivalent to "Roots."

Issues of Stirpes are at the George W. Hawkes Arlington Central library cataloged Gen Ref TX.98 S. Contents include county and regional genealogy societies and their publications, articles and illustrations of some Texas family histories, technology such as DNA testing and book reviews.

We see that Kelvin Meyers, who has spoken to AGS about Finding Missing Heirs in his West Texas territory and recently at the TSGS Conference in Fort Worth about Finding Your Texas Ranger Ancestor is one of the presenters at Forensic Genealogy Institute II on April 13, 2013 at the Wyndham Love Field in Dallas.

Links

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Over 2 million names of Scots included in the property records for 1905 are being released online for the first time via ScotlandsPeople, the official government family history website. The new records, known as the Valuation Rolls and comprising over 2.4 million indexed names and over 74,000 digital images, cover every kind of building, structure or property in Scotland which was assessed as having a rateable value. Fully-searchable by name and address, the records list the names of owners, tenants and occupiers of each property - so genealogists, historians and other researchers can now discover fresh insights into their ancestors' lives through viewing these new records. As the 1905 Rolls appear between census years, they will be invaluable for genealogists who are trying to fill in gaps about their ancestors.

Thanks to Dick Eastman 30 Jan 2013

Etched in Stone

He was young
He was fair
But the Injuns
Raised his hair

Here lays Butch
We planted him raw
He was quick on the trigger
But slow on the draw

Both of the above are in Boot Hill Cemetery, Tombstone, AZ

The following was sent to Linda Seitz by a colleague researcher in the DeGolyer Library, SMU.

AND IF NOT--WHY NOT?

Or words to that effect; Verbum sat!

I went down to Arlington not very long ago—
And had a tip-top dandy time, I tell you that is so;
For everything was looking up in that bright cosy town,
And every man seemed vying to do the thing up brown,
And one man in particular was making lots of noise.
And knocking persimmons in a practical way right and left among the boys,
Which in English parlance simply means that he in business just can beat.
No matter what turns up, or opposition he's got "*he gets there with both feet.*"
R. S. Cravens is the man I mean, and just by himself he's a whole double team.
He gets up early and sits up late to attend to you head, tooth or stomach ache;
Its solid facts, don't doubt a word of anything we say,
For he's simply in his role unmistakably *AU PAY*.
Which we spell wrong to make the rhyme and gingle don't you see;
But if you don't then leave this world and go and climb a tree,
The words are *FRENCH*, which we employ for all that they unfold,
Which simmered down to *BRASS TACKS* means he's *PERFECT IN HIS ROLE*,
In mixing up the bitter stuff in liquids or in pills,—
Which though they make you sick enough are not as bad as chills,
But jests aside—he takes a pride—indulging whims or ills,
And all his doses are as nice as sugar-coated pills;
IN MATERIA MEDICA there is naught with which he can't comply,
From liver pills to stuff that kills and makes it *SMOOTH TO DIE*.
The last is not his mission though, and yet within his power,
But if you are sick, get to him quick, or you may rue the hour;
You keep on monkeying with fate and deemed yourself a "tough,"
And scorned the saving dose to take, thought *NATURE* was enough;
And though she is sometimes you know, but fails when not assisted,
And that's the reason why you know physicians are enlisted,
And druggists too, to wait on you, and find what 'tis that ails you,
When Natures functions will not work and vital forces fail you.
He has toilet sets and perfumes and brushes, combs complete,
And other articles for ladies fair to keep them beautiful or leave them neat,
Of patent medicines he has stacks and oodles of confections,
And powder rouge and other stuff to beautify complexions.—
And last though not least, I must press on your mind
That 'tis here the best five cent cigar you can find,
El Habanas they are long filled Havanas straight,
They are selling like hot cakes, *AND JUST TAKE THE CAKE*.

ARLINGTON DRUG COMPANY,

ARLINGTON, TEX.

Written by W. N. Bryant, Commercial Rhymist.

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