



# Arlington Genealogical Society News

May 2013

**Tuesday, May 14, 2013**  
**Arlington Central Library**  
**Community Room**  
**6:30 pm**

**Program:** Marilyn Hay- Family Tree Maker  
Marilyn Hay is a member of Mid-Cities Genealogical Society and teaches at Tarrant County College. She will talk about using Family Tree Maker and some hints about combining it with Ancestry databases.

In the business meeting in May it is necessary to nominate a slate of officers of the Society so that election can occur at the May meeting. While most of the current officers have agreed to continue serving, we need a nominee for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. You may nominate candidates for any office provided that you have permission of the nominee. Or volunteer yourself as a candidate or helper. The first five officers on the list must be elected. Parliamentarian is a former President and the other positions are volunteers who would welcome help.

To make it easier for members to register their attendance at meetings, a roll will be printed to check beside your name at the welcome table.

## **Hospitality:**

Hospitality for the May meeting will be provided by **Alice Noe, Betty Swaim, Cherry Williams, and Sylvia Hoad.**

**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  
1<sup>st</sup> VP: Cecilia Messick  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Master: Sheri Tiner  
Web Address:  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txags](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txags)

## **Business**

Visitors on April 10-  
Sharon Ward  
Sharon Timmons  
Jerry and Joanne Matysek  
Tim Chlapek  
Rose Dubetz  
Cyril and Gloria Sulak  
Marc Streeter  
Jack and Margaret Garioth

**Jenny Manca** made an announcement about a forthcoming program Writing Your Memoirs Workshop, Thursday May 16, 10 am-noon at the Southwest Branch. North Texas Professional Writers Association will present it to adults and seniors, with registration beginning May 1. Also, remember the Library Friends Book and Author luncheon at Cacherel on May 31. Tickets are available at any branch library.

**Mary Ann Conrad** made an appeal that the printed indexes to census records not be deaccessioned by library staff, as they are very useful when you cannot find a family via an electronic index.

She also announced new books available for Columbia County Georgia, Wilkes County North Carolina, Abbeville District South Carolina, Anderson County South Carolina and that she has ordered a book by the Library of Congress that is a bibliography of American County Histories.

**Sylvia Hoad** thanked **Sheri Tiner** for redesigning the header of the website and newsletter and for becoming the webmaster for the AGS website on [rootswb.ancestry.com](http://rootswb.ancestry.com).

**David Jackson** of APL staff asks help by any AGS member who will volunteer to give a talk on his own military experience. Contact David at [David.Jackson2@arlingtontx.gov](mailto:David.Jackson2@arlingtontx.gov)

#### **Genie's Genealogical Gem**

The internet doesn't have everything. Spend some quality time in our or another library. APL has excellent resources for local history. It's great to have a book in hand. Our library can get access to internet databases for you. If you haven't gotten past the password barrier, any librarian can help.

#### **On the Calendar**

AGS June 11: Dawn Youngblood, Tarrant County Archivist

May 18 Armed Forces Day  
Honor, Respect, Remember: Arlington's World War II Experience  
Central Library: noon - 3 pm  
Noon- Opening ceremony on the west lawn by the Neel E. Kearby statue  
12:30 - Community Room  
Arlington's Gold Star Boys, Wanda Marshall, Arlington Historical Society  
1:30 - U S Military Records, Aaron Holt, National Archives and Records Administration-Fort Worth and, outside-  
Military Vehicle Display

To see a poster about the Armed Forces Day program, go to the **arlingtonlibrary** home page, select Calendar, find May 18, and click on the title of that program.

Let us not forget the **genealogy help sessions** provided by the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society at their public library, 900 Conover Drive.  
Monday May 13 1-3 pm  
Thursday May 16 6:30-8:30 pm  
Wednesday May 22 10 am-noon

Fort Worth Genealogical Society **Beginners Workshop Series**, Saturday mornings  
Fort Worth Central Library, 500 West 3<sup>rd</sup> St, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Chappell Meeting Room  
Instructor Terri Meeks  
[terri.meeks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:terri.meeks@sbcglobal.net)  
May 25 **Vital records**  
Jun 22 Immigration  
Jul 27 Military  
Aug 24 Your legacy

The Fort Worth Family History Center talks on the first Saturday of months during the spring will continue. They occur from 10 am to noon at 5001 Alta Mesa. Please register by a message to [jarie@prodigy.net](mailto:jarie@prodigy.net) or [bxerladi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bxerladi@sbcglobal.net)  
June 1 **Sharing your research results**

17th Annual Angelina College Genealogical Conference - 2013, Lufkin, Texas  
**Constructing Images from the Past**  
July 18 Choice of two all day workshops  
Coming to America, Immigration/Naturalization or  
Putting Meat back on the Bones  
July 19-20 Eight speakers in 24 sessions  
[www.angelina.edu/genealogy/genealogy.html](http://www.angelina.edu/genealogy/genealogy.html)

Dallas Genealogical Society Summer Institute  
Bits of Yesterday: Using Maps and Records to Complete your Family Story  
Pamela Boyer Sayre and Richard Sayre  
Dallas Public Library, August 2-3  
[www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org)

Fort Worth Genealogical Society Summer Seminar  
"DNA"

Saturday, August 10

Speaker: Jane Buck from Family Tree DNA

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs)

Federation of Genealogical Societies

August 21-24 Annual Conference

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Hosted by the Allen County Public Library

A star-studded speakers list

Download brochure and registration form

[www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org)

### Happenings

We thank **Leo Baca** for his program in April on Czech immigration records. We think that there are two main conclusions.

1. The number of sources is almost infinite.
2. Leo Baca's nine volume Czech Immigration Passenger Lists, GEN REF YZ.7 B pretty much covers the field.

Some interesting points-

If your immigrant says that he arrived in Galveston, he may have come by New York, passed inspection there, and came by coastal steamer to Galveston.

The record is in New York.

Small town newspapers in immigrant communities in the US published lots of lists of arrivals.

Ships are described and may be pictured in Lloyd's Universal Register. People love to have a picture of the ship.

Leo is researching Czech DNA and finds evidence that people who came into the Czech area in Europe are of very diverse origin.

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You can't make stuff like this up. Julie Helen Otto has a column in the NEHGS News in which she regularly explains names of New England people, many of which are odd to us and most of them from picking a name from the bible for the child, most likely. She published the following on April 10, 2013 and on April 15 Tamerlan Tsarnaev and his younger brother Dzhokhar blew up two bombs during the Boston Marathon just a few blocks away from the NEHGS headquarters in Boston.

### Name Origins by Julie Helen Otto

The Turkic ruler Timur (1336-1405) - conqueror of central Asia, patron of the arts and responsible for vast numbers of deaths - was lame, and described in Persian as Timur-i Lang ("Timur the Lame"). This epithet entered the European languages as TAMERLANE or variants thereof. The English playwright Christopher Marlowe wrote a two-part tragedy, Tamburlaine the Great, in 1587 or 1588 (published 1590, still performed) which proved a milestone in the development of blank verse in Elizabethan drama. "Tamerlane" was also the name of a poem by Edgar Allan Poe, which was published in 1827 in Tamerlane and Other Poems.

In 1862, Tamerlane Burt (b. 1798) died at Berkley, Bristol County, Massachusetts; he was doubtless related to the Burt family of Taunton, Mass. Tamerlane Olmsted died in Saybrook, Connecticut, age forty years, in 1829. The 1850 census lists six men named Tamerlane in Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Ohio; the 1940 census lists three, in Florida and Wisconsin.

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**Ruth Goodman** sent me a copy of a letter from FamilySearch thanking volunteers who participate in their indexing program for the achievement of **one billion records indexed** since the start of the program in September, 2006. Ruth is one of those volunteers, as are many others we know. The method, in which two different volunteers anonymously index the document and any differences that result from the two readings are reconsidered by an arbitrator, is clearly more likely to produce an accurate index. That was done in the 1940 census indexing and since then for ongoing records from all over the world.

Two completed indexes reported in the announcement are:

- U. S. Texas County Marriages 1837-1977 Part B and
- U. S. New York, New York Passenger Lists 1942-1957  
bonus
- U. S. Oklahoma Land Allotment Records of the Five Civilized Tribes, 1899 Part F

Completed indexes are announced in FamilySearch and in Dick Eastman's blog. This is a very worthwhile program to participate in. Maybe Ruth would say a word about that at the meeting.

## Articles

### Ellis Island's Servers were Destroyed by Hurricane Sandy



Ellis Island in upper New York Bay near the Statue of Liberty was the point at which 12,000,000 immigrants from Europe legally entered the United States between 1892 and 1934. One third of the population of the US has an ancestor who arrived there by ship. In order to be admitted, they had to have enough money to live on for a short time, a destination or a relative to meet, and be free of disease, including mental illness.

Ellis Island is administered by the National Park Service along with Liberty Island. It has been a sentimental destination for the descendants of those who first reached American soil there.

Liberty and Ellis Islands were severely damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Both were flooded, lost power and had damage to the buildings and the data systems there. No records are stored there and so none were lost.

You can research the immigration database at [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) or get help at the NARA office at Montgomery Plaza, 2600 West 7th St, Suite 162, Fort Worth.

Image courtesy of Dick Eastman

Rediscovering the Old Connecticut Path, by Jason Newton, Guest Author

"Mr. Hooker and most of his congregation goes to Connecticut." So wrote Massachusetts Bay Colony governor John Winthrop, commenting on the May 1636 migration from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Hartford, Connecticut. The group's route, the Old Connecticut Path, is one of

America's earliest westward migration trails. My ancestor, Rev. Thomas Hooker, and his family walked two weeks through the wilderness to reach their destination. In 1640, another ancestor of mine, Roger Newton, followed the Path to Hartford, where he studied for the ministry and met his future wife, Mary Hooker, Thomas Hooker's daughter.

I have undertaken a family history project to rediscover the route of the Old Connecticut Path from Cambridge to Hartford. Along the way I have found many other ancestors who followed the Old Connecticut Path west to the Connecticut valley towns of Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford.

Although the Old Connecticut Path served as an important route for almost a century, it has now largely vanished from view. In some places, the Path is hidden in plain sight; in other areas, only dim traces remain. Rediscovering the Old Connecticut Path has required exploring woods and forgotten byways to find traces of the Path and confirm the markers described in histories. After 375 years of human settlement and development, places still exist along the Path where it is possible to experience the wilderness as it might have appeared to the earliest travelers. The most evocative places are found between Sutton, Mass., and Tolland, Conn.

Videos and photos on my Old Connecticut Path website introduce the Path and allow viewers to see the route at ground level. The Old Connecticut Path is an ongoing project, and I invite you to explore the website and then return from time to time for further updates.

From the NEHGS Weekly Genealogist 16 4, 23 Jan 2013

I didn't find the web site but the Wikipedia Old Connecticut Path entry is interesting.

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ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (AP) — Inside a Catholic convent deep in St. Augustine's historic district, stacks of centuries-old, sepia-toned papers offer clues to what life was like for early residents of the nation's oldest permanently occupied city. These parish documents date back to 1594, and they record the births, deaths, marriages and baptisms of the people who lived in St. Augustine from that time through the mid-1700s. They're the earliest written documents from any region of the United States, according to J. Michael Francis, a history

professor at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Francis and some of his graduate students in the Florida Studies department have spent the past several months digitizing the more than 6,000 fragile pages to ensure the contents last beyond the paper's deterioration. "The documents shed light on aspects of Florida history that are very difficult to reconstruct," Francis said.

Eventually, the digital images of the records will be put online for anyone to view.

Francis' project is timely because the state is celebrating its 500th anniversary this year. In April 1513, the Spanish monarchy contracted explorer Juan Ponce de Leon to find another island off of Cuba that was rumored to have great riches. Instead, he landed in Florida and named it "La Florida," after the "feast of the flowers" during Spain's Easter celebrations.

De Leon probably wasn't the first European to set foot in Florida, and there is debate on whether he landed in St. Augustine or the sites of present-day cities to the north or south. St. Augustine was founded in 1565 by another Spanish explorer, Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles.

Many Americans don't even realize that St. Augustine's stature is among the country's first European settlements. Jamestown, Va., was founded in 1607 and Plymouth, Mass., in 1620, and both are routinely emphasized in school history classes. Historians believe that because America is an English-speaking country, an emphasis was put on the British settlements of Jamestown and Plymouth and not the Spanish-speaking St. Augustine.

St. Augustine holds many of the secrets to 16th Century Florida, largely because of these documents. Written in flourishing script, they are a treasure trove for scholars and genealogists who want to know more about who lived in Florida centuries before it became a state.

"People's daily lives here weren't the difficult struggle that was often represented," said Francis, adding that most homes had gardens and fruit trees. The documents are yellowed with age and many have worn edges that resemble lace. Francis said that in previous decades, someone tried to preserve the documents by essentially shrink-wrapping them in plastic — but it's destroying the paper faster due to acids and the plastic used. While the parish there began in 1565, records from its first 29 years are missing for unknown reasons.

The documents are continuous from 1594 through 1763, which is the year the British took over the city. Spanish colonialists shipped the records to Cuba and they remained there for more than a century. A Catholic bishop had all of the records sent back to the St. Augustine by 1906.

Francis said the documents surprised him by revealing what a diverse place St. Augustine was in the late 16th and early 17th Centuries. By reading the records in Spanish, Francis has pieced together tales of Irish priests, Spanish missionaries, Native Americans. He's discovered family tragedies and stories of freed slaves.

"Slaves who escaped plantations in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, slaves in fact had come all the way from New York City, to come to St. Augustine," he said. "And when you read those, one immediately begins to imagine a situation in which they're in these plantations, and they decide, one day, to try to escape and make their way to St. Augustine."

Tamara Lush, Associated Press, 27 Mar 2013

## Links

[www.origins.net](http://www.origins.net)

New release of burials in South London, apparently also the source for much more related information.

## Tips

Need help with research?

The public library is a resource many people overlook. Libraries subscribe to databases you undoubtedly don't, and librarians can find information not easily available with a Google search or to a person without library science training.

**Consumer Reports**, May 2013, page 1

This was one of a list of things to do to save money.

It was in the Saint Louis Post-Dispatch about April 1 that "Missouri marriage records from the beginning to 1969 are being scanned by FamilySearch to be put online." I don't know how to use this information. FamilySearch will announce it in their usual way when it's completed and accessible. Maybe you just decide to wait instead of taking a trip to Missouri.

In the NEHGS bulletin recently there was a book review about bounties granted for military service. At the end of the favorable review, the writer said in so many words that the book was almost as good as Bounty and Donation Land Grants in British Colonial America, by Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, which we have in our library. See GEN REF WZ.4 B

We also have Bounty and Donation Land Grants in Texas 1835-1888, by Thomas Lloyd Miller. Take a look at GEN REF TX.6 M

### Grandpa Said

If the ducks fly early in the fall, there will be a long, cold winter.

A snake killed during the day will not die until sundown.

A girl should never drink out of the spout of a coffeepot: if she does, she will get a cross-eyed husband.

If you carry a potato in your pocket, your rheumatism will leave as soon as the potato shrivels up.

Superstitions of Bexar County, Rainbow in the Morning, J. Frank Dobie, Ed., 1926

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We continue abstracts from the Arista Joyner Collection at UTA Special Collections  
**The Arlington Journal** Volume 5, Arlington Tex. Thursday May 23, 1901 The format of the paper is now 5 columns wide and longer than previously, 13 x 20 inch, **Bold** = page number, lower case = column

**1** 1-5 Ad: Ditto and Yates ladies clothing

1 Dr. Ed Rugg has returned from Illinois Dental College ready for practice Monday May 10 over Ditto and McKnight's grocery

Ad: W M Robinson fine wines, whiskey and cigars

2 Cemetery Society to meet with Mrs. Jno Watson Mrs. Viola McFarland furniture at Dr. B F Brittain's

Mrs. Olivia Roddy visited the Masonic Home at Fort Worth

Ads: W L Simmon, Jr. druggist; W M Robinson cold beer, crown and bub on ice

Mr. E H Crabtree, a member of Knights of Pythias is sick

Mr. Jno Ditto returned from Hot Springs, Arkansas

3 Mr. M L Noretton, K of P, is sick

Mr. Philip Harmon of Newark, Texas and Mrs. Dr. Ewin and Ewin Harrison of Dallas are visiting their relatives D C Harrison and family

4-5 Ad: Travel T & P for the Buffalo Exposition  
4 The Methodist Church will have an ice cream social

Ad: W M Tobinon Paul Jones whiskey

5: W L Simmons, Jr. Druggist

**2** 1 Arlington Journal, Karl H Word Editor, C W Kent Business Manager, Kent and Word proprietors, \$1.00/ yr, Arlington Texas

Rest of the column is miscellaneous Texas news  
2 1W      2 2W      3 4W      4 4W

5 5W

**3** 1 Same as page **2** plus the date May 23, 1901

An election will be held soon on establishment of a free school. Arlington should be able

Rain is abundant and business good

Dallas trade excursionists are touring Indian Territory

More Texas news

2 James Stephen Hogg oil rich, quoting Texas Farmer

W T Hutcheson liveryman has made improvements

Dick Beaman went to have an eye operation by Dr. Frank D Boyd and was accompanied by his wife and little son Warren

Mr. James Grogan, jeweler, has an excellent display window

3 Directors of Arlington Cotton Oil Mill have decided to build a gin- Frank McKnight Pres, W M Dugan, Sec

Dr. W H Davis moved his office to join Dr. Brittain in \_\_\_\_ and Middleton's Drug Store

Prof. J I Grever of Arlington was in the vicinity looking out for the public school- Grapevine Sun

Jim Hart died at Handley

4-5 Ads: Albert Kastner, tin, iron and copper work

The Citizen's Bank, Arlington, Texas, Thos Spruance Pres, F F Foscue Vice Pres, W M Dugan Cashier

W B Crockett furniture and wall paper

Jas Grogan watches

W A Wades or Sim Rogers Martin's best whiskey

**4** 1 ads      2 ads      3 4W      4 4W

5 National news bits

**5** 1 5W      2 4W      3 5W      4-5 ads