



# Arlington Genealogical Society News

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P. O. Box 373, Arlington, TX 76004-0373

**FEBRUARY 2016**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

**6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**  
**Community Room of**  
**Arlington West Police Service Station**  
**2060 W. Green Oaks Blvd.**



**PROGRAM:** **Barbara Wylie** will speak on "Was Your Grandmother a Relict? What do those old words mean?"

The following people have volunteered to furnish refreshments for the February meeting: Paul Wright, Alice Noe, Sylvia Hoard and Wayne James.

## **AGS OFFICERS 2015-2016**

President: Pete Jacobs  
1st VP Programs: Steven Brown  
2nd VP Refreshments: Jeanne Rives  
Secretary: Sylvia Hoard  
Treasurer: Jeannie Schemensky  
Parliamentarian: Dorothy Rencurrel  
Publicity Chair: Ruth Goodman  
Purchasing Chair: Mary Ann Conrad  
Photographer: Wally Goodman  
Membership Chair: Cherry Williams  
Website: Sheri Tiner

Web Address:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txags>

Arlington Genealogical Society meets on the second Tuesday monthly from September through June. Annual Dues, which are due in September, are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family.

## **FUTURE AGS PROGRAMS**

**March 8: Kelvin L. Meyers on Fold3**

## **A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR SOCIETY PRESIDENT**

Mid-morning, Monday, 1 Feb., I grabbed a letter out of AGS P.O. Box 373 and upon reading the return address wondered, what more does the IRS want from us? I was pleasantly surprised to find enclosed our determination letter saying "you are exempt." Hooray for the AGS, and all the members!! Copies of the IRS determination letter will be available to read at our next members meeting. Next, the firm which managed our application to the IRS, Sommerville and Assoc., will be filing a copy of the determination letter with the Texas Secretary of State. That is the last step in making our new "tax exempt status" official at the local, state and federal levels of government. Now it is up to the AGS Board to make sure your Society stays in compliance with the tax exemption rules. An enthusiastic thank you, one and all, for your support and contributions toward attaining the tax exempt status for our Society,

It is timely that an AGS web site revamp is in progress. One of our new members in 2015, John Anderson, expressed an interest in assisting the AGS website committee. John brings a career of

experience in the computer sciences to the committee. Over the past few weeks John and Sheri Tiner have been testing a new AGS web site.

Along with a wider array of content, they are compiling a new web site compatible with small screen hand held devices such as smart phones. Once John and Sheri are confident the new web site is complete and free of errors, the AGS officers and committee chairs will be given access to evaluate the new web site for a week or two before it is opened to the Internet for any and all to use.

Any of our standing committees can use new volunteers. If you can lend your talents to a committee, please contact an AGS board member. Recently Ruth Goodman, publicity committee chair, told us she would like to turn over the newsletter to a new editor after our June 2016 meeting. A great opportunity waits if you would like to be the next AGS Newsletter editor, please contact Ruth directly or any AGS board member.

A couple of interesting online research sources have been brought to my attention. The first I mention, Digital Public Library of America [DPLA], claims 12 million items from libraries, archives and museums. Here is a quote from the web site. "Many universities, public libraries, and other public-spirited organizations have digitized materials, but these digital collections often exist in silos. The DPLA brings these different viewpoints, experiences, and collections together in a single platform and portal, providing open and coherent access to our society's digitized cultural heritage." DPLA might be the site to visit to add depth to your family history story. Here is the link <http://dp.la/> Another interesting and growing research site here in Texas is the Texas Digital Archive. The prints and photographs collection alone includes over 750,000 original images. Here is a direct link <https://tsl.access.preservica.com/tda/prints-and-photo-collections/>

See you at the next members meeting.

Peter G. Jacobs, President of AGS

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA

### **February 4:** Grand Prairie GS

**Ari Wilkins** will speak on "Southern Ante-Bellum Plantation Records." These records are considered to be one of the most valuable collections to the study of African American slavery.

The meeting will be at The Ruthe Jackson Center, 3113 S. Carrier Parkway, Grand Prairie, TX.

**February 4: Mid Cities GS:** Speaker: **Laura Weekley** on "What Can You Do with the Results of Your DNA Test?"

**February 5: National Archives,** Fort Worth Lunchtime Learning Program.

**Jenny Sweeney** will focus on the Federal Census records. Learn more ways to use and decipher the golden nuggets of information within these documents. Space is limited, reserve your spot today by emailing us at

[ftworth.education@nara.gov](mailto:ftworth.education@nara.gov)

or calling us at 817-551-2051.

Meg Hacker, Archives Director, National Archives at Fort Worth

### **February 11: Cedar Hill GS**

Speaker: **Lela Evans** on "African American Research" Using a case study for African American family research, Lela reviews basic genealogy techniques. She will share useful tips she has learned that often assist family historians with African American heritage to work beyond the Civil War in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**February 13:** Billy W. Sills Lecture Series Max Hill, librarian and historian will speak on "Fort Worth at the Movies."

**February 27:** FWGS Beginners Workshop Series: Using the Federal Census for Family Research. You can download the handout at [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/documents/2015\\_Beginners\\_Workshop\\_Feb](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/documents/2015_Beginners_Workshop_Febbruary.pdf)

**March 5:** Arlington Texas Stake Family History Fair. The Guest Speaker will be Warren Bittner with local speakers and selected pre-recorded classes from the 2016 Rootstech genealogical conference. For the flyer, schedule and registration form, go to <http://www.arlingtontxfhc.org/>

**March 12:** Texas Sons of the American Revolution Arlington Chapter #7 invites you to join them in their graveside recognition of two past Texas Society State Presidents from Arlington at 2:00p.m., at Arlington Cemetery, 801 S. Mary Street, intersecting East Mitchell Street.

For more information:

<http://texassar.org/Arlington/activityCal.php>  
or

John Anderson at [janders981@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janders981@sbcglobal.net)  
or 817-483-2214.

**March 19:** Williamson County GS 2016 Annual Seminar will feature **Curt B. Witcher**, from the Allen County Public Library.

Topics will include Historical Research Methodology; Using Military Records for Genealogical Research; Passenger and Immigration Research and The Road Not Taken: Mega Internet Sites for Genealogist off the Beaten Path.

It will be held at First United Methodist Church, Round Rock, Texas.

For more information, go to

<http://www.williamsontxgenealogy.org/cpage.php?pt=18>

**FGS Announces \$2 Million Dollar Mark Surpassed for Preserve the Pensions Project** The following is from FGS:

January 19, 2016 – Austin, TX. The Federation Of Genealogical Societies (FGS) announces the \$2 million dollar mark has been surpassed in 2015 with the support of donors in the fundraising efforts to digitize the 7.2 million pension images for the 180,000 pensioners of the War of 1812 in the [Preserve the Pensions](#) project.

This is a landmark project. It marks the

first time the genealogical community has come together to raise such a significant amount of money to preserve priceless documents. When completed, this project will save tax payers \$3.45 million dollars. FGS' previous successful efforts to index the [Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System](#) with the help of volunteers produced a \$6.3 million dollar tax savings. Hence, these two projects will result in nearly a \$10 million dollar savings to tax payers.

For every dollar raised, .98 cents goes directly to digitizing the documents. There are no salaries paid for this project; the project costs are primarily to print materials to publicize the project. Additionally, in 2015 the project raised \$208,401 in total cash donations. This amount, coupled with the generous match from Ancestry.com, doubled the funds raised to \$416,802 bringing the total amount raised for the project thus far to \$2,032,198!

With generous donations and continued help in sharing information about the project, significant progress can be made in 2016 possibly completing the fundraising for the project. The images for pensioners with surnames beginning with the letters "A" through "M" have already been posted on the Fold3 website and will remain free forever thanks to donors! You can access Fold3 through the Arlington Public Library database.

During the month of February, the Family History Library will be hosting a number of free online family history classes and webinars. These classes and webinars are designed to help individuals and families find their ancestors and teach important family history techniques. They are free to the public. Information about specific classes is listed below, as well as information on how to register for classes.

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/family-history-library-announces-free-classes-february-2016/>

## 8 HABITS OF HIGHLY ORGANIZED GENEALOGISTS

Why is organizing genealogy stuff perpetually challenging for so many of us? Maybe because finding new ancestry information is more fun than logging it. And organization isn't a one-way-fits-everyone kind of deal—the system and tools best for you depend on how your brain works.

What I like about the following eight getting-organized principles (which have come from [Family Tree Magazine](#) contributors and readers over the years) is that you can apply them with the tools and techniques that are right for you. 1. Keep the big picture in mind.

You can use genealogy charts such as five-generation ancestor charts and family group sheets to help you visualize how your relatives fit together. It's also handy to have a large working family tree chart, where you can see the whole thing at once. [Find free downloadable blank forms on FamilyTreeMagazine.com.](#)

### 2. Take charge of paper files.

Each surname binder or file folder, arranged alphabetically by surname, holds papers from a couple's marriage to their death, as well as any general notes. Children go in their parents' folder, then get their own folder when they marry. You also might keep folders for towns or counties, with maps, historical background and local research notes.

### 3. Go digital.

To save space in paper files and create electronic backups, scan photos and paper documents. Organize digital files with the same system as your paper files. Determine a file-naming scheme, write it down and stick to it.

### 4. Establish an organization routine.

If you regularly take short chunks of time to file stuff, it becomes second nature. Set up an inbox on your desk or computer hard drive for items you need to take action on (scan, label, etc.) and a "to file" folder for documents ready to be put away. Once a

week or month, schedule time to empty these boxes.

### 5. Take advantage of tech tools.

You can organize with tons of tech tools and apps, such as Evernote for tracking information and research findings, Calibre to manage e-books, Flickr for photos, Excel spreadsheets for checklists and logs. [Find some of our favorite genealogy apps listed here.](#)

### 6. Designate a workspace.

If you're like many of us, your genealogy workspace may double as a guest bedroom, dining room table or living room floor. Try to have a designated spot for your files, computer and books.

### 7. Color-code folders and files.

You could use a color for each surname, though you'd probably run out of colors before too long. I'd color code by branch with a different color for each of my grandparents' lines. Color-code computer files and folders to match: On a Mac, click on a folder or file in the finder window and then click the down arrow next to the gear icon. From the drop-down menu, select Label and the color. PCs don't have built-in folder color-coding, but you can download a program such as [Folderico](#).

### 8. Create a kit for on-site research.

Prepare a bag with tools you might need for research at a repository: notebook, pen, pencil, money for the copier, flash drive, a family group sheet, surname variant lists, blank census or passenger list recording forms, etc.

## ARLINGTON GS SCRAPBOOKS

Have you ever wondered about the Arlington GS in previous years? Well, the following link will take you to the UTA Special Collections.

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utarl/02125/arl-02125.html>



## ARLINGTON GENEALOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY

The Arlington Public Library webpage has a site about Arlington Genealogy and Local History.

<http://arlingtonlibrary.org/genealogy-local-history/>

### FOLD 3 ONLINE

Have you used the website Fold3 on the Library website? At one time I had a subscription to it but did not renew. I recently looked for one of my 2 times ggrandfather. All I knew was he could not be found after the 1860 census. I was able to find when and where he died in the Civil War, but that his wife filed for a pension, which she received, and verified the names of his children. My hats off to the Library.



**THE ARLINGTON JOURNAL** (cont.)  
by Will Keller

**Friday September 27, 1929**

**A Brief History of The Famous  
Arlington Mineral Wells** (*picture of well  
site under canopied structure*)

This has long been a popular spot in Arlington where life-prolonging water is secured by the public. The city keeps an attendant constantly on the job and many old-timers declare they would not want to get along without drinking this mineral water.

In 1891 R. W. Collins, of the firm of T. W. Collins & Co., saw the need for a public water supply for the fast growing little town of Arlington and started a public subscription for funds to drill a well in the center of town. After much labor, this task was accomplished and the contract for drilling was let.

Early in 1892 the well was completed and much to the disgust of the entire city (it) was found that the water was

not suitable for drinking purposes. It seemed that their efforts had been in vain for they had worked so long for a well and on its completion the water was unfit for use. A large wooden trough was built around the well and people were invited to water their stock here. The well flowed very freely and after the trough was full, from 150,000 to 175,000 gallons of water daily ran down Center street. The water was used to sprinkle the streets and it was soon discovered that just after the streets had been sprinkled with this water that mineral would appear very much like frost on top of the streets. This was how it was discovered that the water contained mineral and why it was not suitable for ordinary drinking water.

In 1896, J. W. Hammack, a merchant of the town bought a number of hogs and brought them to Arlington. He was very much in need of water for them so he built a wooden tank above the well and by means of crooked pipe ran the water into the tank. He then piped the water from the tank to his home which was located in the west part of town. After one year he sold the hogs and had no more use for the water. Then it was that W. B. Fitzhugh, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, bought an interest in the piping which Mr. Hammack had run to his home and they piped the water to about a dozen homes, charging them \$1.00 per month for its use. They only used the water, however, for their stock, and to water their gardens as they believed that it was poisonous for drinking purposes. Later it was piped to perhaps forty or fifty homes in that part of the city. This was the first real use that had been made of the water.

In 1900 the first drinking fountain was erected at the well. It was a very crude affair but served the purpose for the few who chose to drink it. Also at this time a new wooden tank for watering horses was erected. In 1907, Dr. Collins conceived the idea of building a sanitarium here and using the water for treatments, Turkish baths, etc.

Collins erected a sanitarium on South Center Street and secured a permit from the City to run the water to this sanitarium and

also to sell it throughout the State. The fountain was then removed and the only place that free mineral water could be obtained was at the Middleton Drug Store which was located where Knapp's Barber Shop now is and a cement watering place for horses was built in front of the Middleton Drug Store.

In the winter of 1927, the fountain which now stands in the center of the square was erected and made to conform to the paved streets. A covering was built over the well which protects the keeper and

customers from sun and rain. Before this was done trouble was encountered by old casing way down deep in the well and it was necessary, in order to save it for further use, to drill a new hole several feet east of the old one, and it was in this new drilling and construction of the well that the present attractive fountain was built. It is beautifully and artistically designed and adds a great deal to the appearance of the business section of the city. Hundreds of people from Dallas and Ft. Worth and even from every part of the United States, in visiting Arlington, go to the well and drink of its waters from the sanitary fountain. Citizens of Arlington are allowed small amounts of the water free of charge and people from everywhere are allowed all they can drink without charge. For one gallon or more a charge is made and thousands of gallons are sold daily. This revenue runs in the neighborhood of \$500.00 per month and is a material aid in financing the city's affairs.

### **Friday September 27, 1929 Dots And Dashes First Clicked Here Sept. 1874**

A telegraph "system" between Ft. Worth and Dallas, 58 years ago last Monday clicked off the first message in dots and dashes ever sent from Ft. Worth.

It was on that day Sept. 12, 1874, Mr. W. P. Burts, then Mayor of Ft. Worth sent a message to the mayor of Dallas, over the town's first telegraph wire. Max Elser, now an oil operator at Cisco and for many years a prominent business man of Ft. Worth, and C. L. Frost, later general

superintendent of the Fort Worth & Denver, built the first system into Ft. Worth and Elser sent the first message.

The 10-word message to Dallas at that time drew 50 cents rate. All messages sent from Fort Worth at that time made connections with the outside lines at Dallas and carried in addition to the regular toll the 50-cent charge between the two cities. The telegraph wire as an independent venture antedated the railroad and the opening of Western Union offices into Ft. Worth by two years. The Texas and Pacific Line made its entry in 1876, the same year in which the Western Union opened a one-operator, one messenger office in Fort Worth.

This well, which was such a disappointment to the pioneers who worked so faithfully to promote the general welfare of the people and furnish a city water supply, has proven after all to be one of our greatest assets, both in finances and in health.

### **Friday September 27, 1929**

**J. T. Bird**, age 75, died at the home of his son, B. G. Bird, on Monday, September 23 and was buried at Miller Grove in Hopkins County, the old burying ground of the Bird family, on Tuesday, September 24. Mr. Bird was buried by the Masonic Lodge of Cumby, Texas. He had made his home with his son for the past year. The following children survive: T. L., V. C., B. G., and C. D. Bird, of Arlington and Mrs. Pearl Jones, of Ft. Worth, and Mrs. Lulu Branom of Lubbock.

### **Friday September 27, 1929**

We wish to take this opportunity to express our sincerest appreciation for the beautiful floral offerings and kind expressions of sympathy during the illness and death of our beloved father, **J. T. Bird**. (Signed) T. L. Bird, V. C. Bird, B. G. Bird, C. D. Bird, Mrs. Pearl Jones, Fort Worth, Tex., Mrs. Lula Branom, Lubbock, Tex.

