



# Roots 'n Branches

## Grand Prairie

### Genealogical Society

January 2011

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January 6, 2011    John Wylie    Using Persona to Solve Your Brick Wall

John Wylie, a fulltime professional genealogist since 1990, serves the TSGS as VP for Membership, NGS on the GenTech Advisory Committee since 2002 and the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society as past-president. A founder of GenTech he served on the team that developed the GenTech Genealogical Data Model. In twenty years John has authored more than 25 articles in publications like Stirpes, Digital Genealogist, National Genealogical Society Quarterly and Genealogical Computing. He has lectured at over a dozen national conferences and at more than a 100 events at seminars in 29 states. He co-authored the NGS special publication Indexing Family Histories and was the 2004 recipient of the DGS Lloyd Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award. Using Persona for Solving Your Brick Wall: This presentation introduces an improved concept for analyzing evidence by all genealogists. "Persona" will help you solve that brick wall, better understand situations where you have more than one person at the same time in the same place, and better deal with conflicting sources. This talk is based on my helping develop the GenTech Genealogical Data Model, but does not use any of the confusing technical terms. While not a completely new lecture, this one expands on the persona part of what used to be a broader talk. I've learned that focusing on just that tool makes it more useful to people faced with brick walls, and erroneous merging of people in history.

*Rena Yarach, Vice President of Programs*

#### Program Calendar

February 3, 2011 Travis & Elizabeth Morris

March 3, 2011 Pamela Knight

April 7, 2011 Lynell Moss

Refreshments  
provided by

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## From the Gavel~

Other than eating black eyed peas for good luck, do you have a ritual on New Year's Day? My ritual is transferring birthdays, anniversaries and other important happenings to a new calendar. It's a time to reflect on the past year and to formulate ideas on what to do in the New Year. Making resolutions no longer fit my plans as I have found that most of them are never accomplished. This year, I'll try my luck at making a list and checking it twice (oops, that was Christmas).

February brings Valentine's Day and chocolate but what I'm most excited about is the GPGS Lock-In on Feb. 18th. It will certainly be added to my new calendar. One item on my list is to gather my notes on my great-grandfather Noah Cates and ask one of the Professional Genealogists at the Lock-In to guide my research in finding his parents. Make sure you mark the date in red and join us.

March is another good month for research. "I Love My Ancestors" Family History Fair will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2011, in Arlington, Texas. It will be presented by: Arlington Texas Stake. Let's car pool and attend this.

The cemetery recording is an important part of 2011. Because the weather dictates whether we will be out in the cemeteries, I'll just write CEMETERY in large capital letters each month.

Eating out is something that we all find time to do. GPGS is having a fundraiser evening at CiCi's on January 10th and Feb. 7th. It was so much fun in December at the CiCi's fundraiser that the next two can't be missed.

Of course, my calendar has the GPGS meeting listed on the first Thursday of each month. Don't forget to put it on your calendar.

No matter what resolutions or plans you make, my wish is for each of you to have a healthy and happy 2011.

*Regina Shumaker  
President*

## Member News

Becky and Beau Garland recently spent time in San Antonio, Texas celebrating her mother's 90th Birthday.

Karen Hamilton lost her mother on December 12, 2010. Our sympathies to Karen and her family.

Welcome to new members Terry Ceballos and Karen Schraeder. Welcome back returning members Ora Ruiz and Coleen Briley.

GPGS is affiliated with the Tom Thumb Good Neighbors Program, see the society website for details. [www.gpgstx.org](http://www.gpgstx.org)

GPGS is affiliated with the Kroger Companies Neighbor to Neighbor Program, see the society website for details. [www.gpgstx.org](http://www.gpgstx.org)

## CiCi's Fundraiser

Join us for a great time of food and fellowship  
as we raise funds for the society at  
CiCi's All You Can Eat Buffet  
726 Pioneer Parkway in Grand Prairie  
Tuesday January 11 2011

## Library Liaison Report

The ongoing program to have members contribute missing issues of quarterlies so the Library can have complete collections of important quarterlies for binding continues to succeed. We have a significant number of missing issues of the NGS Quarterly. Member Sharon Galligan donated 18 issues of the NGSQ which completed a number of volumes now ready for binding. Thanks Sharon. Watch for more listings of needed issues in future Roots & Branches.

**Books Donated to GPPL:** In memory of Virginia Mae Tull, Wife of John Tull, NGS Special Publication: Missouri, NGS Research in the States Series, 2007, by Pamela Boyer Porter and Ann Carter Fleming.

NGS Special Publication: Michigan, Research in the State Series, 2008 by Shirley M DeBoer.

NSG Special Publication: Colorado, Research in the States Series, 2010 by Kathleen W Hinckley, CG”.

**Genealogy Room Guides:** Our teams of volunteers continue to assist novice and experienced genealogists visiting the Genealogy Room. One had traced her line back to the Mayflower using only online sources. Our volunteer pointed her to two collections of well established works on the descendants of our earliest English colonists. Another visitor, after getting nominal help, decided to join GPGS and brought her check and application with her for her second visit with our volunteers. If you’ve not served as a guide in the Genealogy Room and would like to know more about it, contact me at any meeting, at 972-206-2723 or at john@johnwylie.com. We currently have teams there on the second Monday, third Thursday and fourth Wednesday of every month.

*John V. Wylie  
Library Liaison*

## Name That Person



Last Month’s photo:

A very cute John Tull as photographed by a Waco Texas Photography Studio.

GPGS members are encouraged to submit a picture of themselves as a baby or young child for this fun project. Contact Roots and Branches editor Richard G. Waller at [gpgstx@yahoo.com](mailto:gpgstx@yahoo.com)

## Definition

**Genealogy** (from Greek: γενεά, genea, "generation"; and λόγος, logos, "knowledge") is the study of families and the tracing of their lineages and history. Genealogists use oral traditions, historical records, genetic analysis, and other records to obtain information about a family and to demonstrate kinship and pedigrees of its members. The results are often displayed in charts or written as narratives.

The pursuit of family history tends to be shaped by several motivations, including the desire to carve out a place for one's family in the larger historical picture, a sense of responsibility to preserve the past for future generations, and a sense of self-satisfaction in accurate storytelling. Some scholars differentiate between genealogy and family history, limiting genealogy to an account of kinship, while using "family history" to denote the provision of additional details about lives and historical context.

*From Wikipedia,  
the free encyclopedia*

## New NARA Research Room

The new Montgomery Plaza location for the National Archives of Fort Worth is expected to open in mid-February with a 5,000-square-foot center in a high-traffic development loaded with restaurants, watering holes and shops. The new research room will house microfilmed and digitized records used primarily for family history research. It will have 10 public-access computers for searching online genealogical information. The big benefit for family researchers will be free access to paid genealogical sites like Ancestry.com and Footnote.com, which partner with the National Archives in digitizing records.

Montgomery Plaza is a shopping mall located on W. 7th Street just west of downtown Fort Worth. It was constructed in 1928 by Thos. S. Byrne, Ltd. as a major regional retail and mail order warehouse for the retail company Montgomery Ward. In 2001 Montgomery Ward went out of business and closed down the warehouse thus leaving the property vacant. The 8 story warehouse now contains retail on the bottom floor with residential condos on the top 6 floors. Parking for the residences is integrated into a built in parking garage located inside the original warehouse building. A six story opening was cut out from the center of the building to make way for a brick-paved main driveway for the development, which has strings of incandescent light bulbs above and vehicle parking to the sides. The Super Target opened in 2005 and the retail section of the bottom floor of the 1928 warehouse opened in 2006.

The Montgomery Plaza Center won't have any original records, it will have a small classroom for sessions by the archives' education specialists, who produced 28 programs last year for Connect2Texas, a distance-learning network. The archives' vast holdings of public records date from 1777 to 2003 and include materials from more than 100 federal agencies and courts in Arkansas, Louisiana,

Oklahoma and Texas. It's one of 10 regional centers nationwide. The archives moved more than 2 million historical documents last year from the Federal Depot to the new 205,000-square-foot Federal Records Center on John Burgess Drive in south Fort Worth. Among them are a huge collection of American Indian records associated with the Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma, and 10,000 square feet of NASA records. People wanting access to original records at the archives' main facility must make an appointment to view them, and they are encouraged to notify the staff in advance. The archives have a five-year lease at Montgomery Plaza. The new research room will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and the third Saturday of the month. Learn more about NARA's Fort Worth holdings please visit [www.archives.gov/southwest](http://www.archives.gov/southwest)

National Archives and Records Administration  
The Archives and Federal Records Center

Address for Textual Research:

1400 John Burgess Drive

Fort Worth, Texas 76140

Phone: 817-551-2051

Fax: 817-551-2034

E-mail: [ftworth.archives@nara.gov](mailto:ftworth.archives@nara.gov)

Current address for Microfilm Research:

501 West Felix Street, Building 1

Fort Worth, Texas 76115-3405

Phone: 817-831-5620

Fax: 817-551-2034

After February move for Microfilm Research:

Montgomery Plaza

West 7th Street

Fort Worth, Texas

*Thanks for this information goes to  
Members Rovaine Brown and Pam Knight*

## Cemetery News

Ute Cemetery  
City of Aspen & Pitkin County, Colorado  
[www.aspenpitkin.com](http://www.aspenpitkin.com)

The town of Aspen is located in central Colorado in Pitkin County. In 1880-1881 prospectors settled the area. In June 1880, "Colonel" Kirby, a prospector from Texas, died in Aspen and became the first to be buried in what became Ute Cemetery. According to the website it is estimated that there are at least 200 graves in the cemetery, over half of which are unmarked. Only three burials have taken place there since 1930. The cemetery was abandoned and fell into disrepair. In the late 1990's a restoration process began. The restoration was completed in 2003. In the process biographical information was collected about many of the persons buried there and the property was documented in detail. Click on the link at the bottom of the page to open the PDF document containing the master list of recorded in Ute Cemetery, Aspen, Colorado. This alphabetical list contains the names of individuals buried in the cemetery, as well as the biographical information gathered about them.

<http://www.aspenpitkin.com/Portals/0/docs/City/Comdev/HPC/list%20of%20recorded%20burials.pdf>

*Weekly Genealogist Vol. 13, page 47, 24 Nov 2010,  
New England Historic and Genealogical Society  
Thanks to member Tom Cogdell*

## Executive Board Members

### EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** Regina Shumaker  
**PRESIDENT-ELECT:** Cynthia Jones  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Programs:** Rena Yarach  
**2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Newsletter:** Richard G. Waller  
**Secretary:** John Cockrum  
**Treasurer:** Shirley Willingham

### Executive Board Directors

**Historian/Reporter:** Carol Franklin  
**Library Liaison:** John V. Wylie  
**Webmaster:** Pamela Knight  
**Hospitality:** Becky and Beau Garland

*Grand Prairie Genealogical Society  
A Partner Society of the  
Texas State Genealogical Society*

## Workshops/Conferences

Grand Prairie Genealogical Society  
Lock-In  
February 18, 2011  
Grand Prairie Memorial Library  
[www.gpgstx.org](http://www.gpgstx.org)

• • •

"I Love My Ancestors"  
Family History Fair  
Saturday, March 5, 2011  
Arlington, Texas

Presented by:  
Arlington Texas Stake of the LDS Church  
Website for registration and class information:  
[www.arlingtontxfhc.org](http://www.arlingtontxfhc.org)



## In The Coming Month's

February 3, 2011

Travis & Elizabeth Morris

Family Search Index & Find A Grave

Travis and Elizabeth Morris have been long term researchers. Travis began researching his personal family forty years ago, has taught Family History in his Church and was an instructor of Personal Ancestral File at the Computer Counsel of Dallas. Mr. Morris is one of the founders of Gentech and a past area supervisor for name extraction. He is a past president of The Johnson County Genealogical Society and currently maintains their web site. Travis is presently a ward Family History Consultant. Elizabeth is presently the Director of the Family History Center in Cleburne, Texas. They will be giving a demonstration of the Churches Indexing Program and how the results of this process are displayed as well as discussing cemetery surveying with a camera.

March 3, 2011

Pamela Knight

Cemetery Dowsing

Dowsing is the use of two objects; many dowsers today use a pair of simple L-shaped metal rods. One rod is held in each hand, with the short arm of the L held upright, and the long arm pointing forward. When something is found, the rods cross over one another making an "X" over the found object.



April 7, 2011

Lynell Bennett Moss

Research Strategies

Lynell Bennett Moss is a sixth generation Dallasite. She became interested in researching her family in 1968 and began teaching family history in 1970. Lynell has researched in archives, court houses, libraries and even the Chamber of Commerce in several states, National Archives, Library of Congress, as well as the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

She worked in the first Family History Center (then known as Branch Genealogical Library) in Dallas in 1969. She began working in the Plano Family History Center in 1990, serving as the Technical Services Librarian, 1992-1996, Consultant Training Director, 1996- Present, and Director, 1997-2009. She has been the Director of the Great Family Search Genealogy Conference since it began in 2004. She has indexed and arbitrated more than 160,000 names for FamilySearch Indexing.

She has beta tested programs for FamilySearch since 1996, and demonstrated programs for press conferences and appeared on TV. Lynell loves research and has done extensive research on hers and her husband's line and researched for many friends. Her database contains more than 43,000 individuals.

*Roots 'n Branches Monthly Newsletter*

Grand Prairie Genealogical Society

PO Box 532026

Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-2026

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

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## Websites of Interest

### Treasure Maps Genealogy

Free genealogy and family tree search tips, how to articles and on-line genealogy tutorials

Since 1995, the Treasure Maps Genealogy site has helped millions of people with their genealogy and family tree search. Sign up for the Treasure Maps free monthly genealogy email newsletter.

<http://amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/>

## Name That Place



Above is a photo from a 1937 postcard showing a major building in Grand Prairie. What building is this and where was it located?



## Note of Interest

**Important to maimed Soldiers:** It is not generally known that soldiers who have lost limbs in the service of the U.S. are entitled to artificial substitutes that can be procured upon the presentation of evidence of honorable discharge and that the wound causing the loss of limb was received in service. They are furnished free of charge and do not affect any pension or bounty claim the soldier may have against the government.

*From the Spirit of Democracy Newspaper  
Woodsfield, Ohio, dated Feb. 28, 1866*

*Thanks to Ruth and Wally Goodman*

## Message On Membership



*If you have not renewed your membership, now is a great time to write that check and send it to:*

*GPGS-Membership  
PO Box 532026  
Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-2026*

*Membership is \$15.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a family membership.*

### *National Conferences*

February 11-12, 2011

Roots Tech-Salt Lake City, UT

May 11-14, 2011

NGS Family History Conf. -Charleston, SC

September 7-10, 2011

FGS Annual Conference-Springfield, IL

## Extractions

*The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society expresses its sincere thanks to society member Ruth Goodman, for her continued extractions from the "Grand Prairie Texan". The following are extractions from the Friday, March 18, 1910 issue of the Texan.*

*Texan Friday, March 18, 1910*

### BEAR CREEK MUSINGS

J. W. PRICE is on the sick list.

Mrs. Lula WALKER visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. JORDAN, Saturday.

Frank PATE of near Sowers was in your town on business Saturday.

James FOSTER and family of our vicinity visited relatives at Sowers Saturday and Sunday.

Z. E. WOMACH of your city is a frequent visitor here as he has considerable interest in our vicinity.

Mrs. M. V. FULBRIGHT made a business trip to the hub Saturday.

John STEARNS of Mt. Zion was in our midst recently.

John WYATT of Grapevine visited relatives here this week.

Uncle Ham BRANNON of Grand Prairie was here on business.

Charlie and Mote BARTIN of Shady Grove were in your town this week on business.

Francis FRAYER, who has been a resident of Grand Prairie for some time, has moved back on the home place in the Shady Grove vicinity.

John WOMACH is having some experience with chills.

X-RAY

### FROM FISH CREEK

Walter AUSTIN of Brittan was the guest of M. H. COLE Sunday. He reported a fine rain in his community last week.

The families of Beva and J. H. VINCELL took in the fat stock show at Fort Worth Tuesday.

Dud ADAIR and family spent the weekend with home folks.

Mrs. J. H. VINCELL and Miss Kate HERGHESHIMER spent Sunday with Mrs. Henry MASTIN.

Mrs. Frank LANE spent Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Jim ADAIR.

Mrs. Frank WOMACH spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. STOVALL.

M. H. COLE and wife have returned from Kleberg and report farm progress at a standstill until it comes a good rain. BLUE BIRD

### MOUNTAIN CREEK LOCALS

Mr. VINCELL's folks were in Fort Worth attending the fat stock show on Tuesday.

The literary meets at Florence Hill school house Friday night.

Grandma PETERSON is real sick this week. RAMBLES

*Extractions from the next issue of the Grand Prairie Texan newspaper will continue in the February 2011 Issue of Roots 'n Branches.*

