

Local History & Genealogical Society

COOPERATING WITH THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volume 1

APRIL 20, 1955

Number 3

OUR CREED: "To forget ones ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root."—Chinese.

TWO MEMBERS TO VISIT VIRGINIA

Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Syron, 3502 Lindenwood, Dallas, Texas, are leaving for Highland County, Virginia, May 15, 1955, for a six-months residence, where they will study records in Augusta, Bath, Rockingham, and Albemarle Counties, Virginia, and Pendleton County, West Virginia, and Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Syron have promised to be of assistance to the Society in obtaining information from those counties which will be made available to members of our group. Their address in Virginia will be Monterey, Virginia.

COURT OF PLEAS & QUARTER SESSIONS

At the March meeting of the Society the President, John Plath Green, told the group about a source of information sometimes overlooked by persons seeking information in the early colonies and states. He suggested that the Minutes of the Courts of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions be consulted. Few of these books are indexed. Searchers must turn through the pages carefully searching for names of people in which they are interested.

Appointment of guardians, acknowledgment of deeds, settlement of estates, complaints filed by one party against another, and judgments rendered thereon are some of the information contained in these records.

It is possible that where the deed records of a county have been destroyed, that the minute books of these Courts are still in existence.

1880 CENSUS

Mrs. E. C. Schieffer, President of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, has indicated that she has raised sufficient money in co-operation with other groups to assure the purchase of the 1880 Census from the United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. She reports that she still needs approximately \$75.00, and urges persons who have not already made a donation to do so. Persons caring to make a contribution may send their check to Mrs. Schieffer at 815 E. Woodin Blvd., Dallas, Texas. The checks should be made payable to the Dallas Public Library and marked in the lower left hand corner "for 1880 Texas Census."

MILLS ATLAS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the March meeting of the Society great interest was shown in the report of Mrs. Margaret Pratt, Head of the Texas, Local History and Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library, regarding the Atlas of the State of South Carolina prepared by Robert Mills and published originally in 1825.

Miss Hazel Peterson, a member of the Society, gives the following review of the book.

The Kershaw District, surveyed in 1820, shows the wooded area along the streams. Col. T. E. English's home and business establishments on Big Swift Creek, Love's Ferry, Col. Ballard's home, and Mrs. Love's Tavern are pinpointed.

Following the introduction by Mr. Hutson is a colored map of the state showing the location of each of the districts. Like the atlas of today, a brief summary is made of the various state resources, chief towns, list of governors, and census data. It is evident that the state was anxious to attract new settlers and commerce within its boundaries. Charleston was growing slowly, they complained, due to the lack of permanent capital—blamed particularly on the prevalence of yellow fever, to which foreigners and northerners were more susceptible than the natives. The out-of-state merchants having "accumulated fortunes in business, generally remove with their capital to the North or to Europe." The mountainous area, however, was considered "less afflicted by consumptions, pleurisies, and typhus fevers." The Sea Islands were reported to contain "rich vegetable loam of great fertility, producing abundantly black seed, or Sea Island cotton, corn, etc. The sweet and sour orange grow here with but occasional injury from the frost of very cold winter."

A brief chronological history of South Carolina from the granting of land in 1662 by Charles II is carried through General Lafayette's visit ("after and interval of forty-seven years") in 1825. This will be helpful for those unfamiliar with local history of South Carolina.

—Hazel A. Peterson.

ATLAS OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, by Robert Mills. Facsimile edition of the original (published in 1825) published in 1938, by Lucy H. Bostick and Fant H. Thornely. (R912, Genealogy).

SOME EARLY EMIGRANTS TO AMERICA

The Society of Genealogists, London, England, has undertaken to publish, beginning with its March, 1955, Quarterly Magazine, the names of several hundred persons who came to America under contract, commonly called indentures. The earliest emigrant to be shown was 1683. They were to go to Maryland, Virginia, Barbados, and Jamaica. In the March, 1955, publication is contained three complete forms of indenture instruments which were used. The spelling and content of each of the instruments is exceedingly interesting.

The Dallas Public Library has in its Genealogical Section copies of the Genealogist Magazine where the names of these persons may be obtained and the forms of indentures studied.

Between 1818 and 1825, the General Assembly of South Carolina appropriated funds for maps of the 28 districts and a map of the state. This very rare book has been carefully reproduced in a limited edition of 350 copies. The original maps were made by 22 surveyors and compiled by Robert Mills, also well known for architectural achievements. Francis M. Hutson of the state Historical Commission has added an interesting introduction with details on the background of the atlas and its compiler.

Another welcome addition to the atlas, particularly to genealogical historians, is an index of the property owners shown on the maps—so that each family homestead or business can be traced according to the district they lived in. Names familiar today in Texas included: Taylor, Green, Wilson, Greer, Walker, Calhoun, Clark, Hawkins, Cole, and Pledger.

The clear-cut, delicate printing of the maps was done on heavy paper, with each map individually hand-colored. Streams, roads, and innumerable landmarks have been mapped and named. On the Chester District map, it is amusing to find Major Hill's Distillery located on Broad River a few miles upstream from Reverend Wm. Hughes' home. Other landmarks are Col. Thompson's Store and Tavern, Habin's Saw Mill, Col. Geo. Gill's P. O., Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church, Cobean's Tan Yard, and Col. John Taylor's Island.

NEW BOOKS

Mrs. Margaret Pratt reports that the following books have recently been received and are available for use in the Genealogical Section of the Dallas Public Library:

BOOKS IN THE TEXAS, LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Bishop, Wm. H.—A History of Roane County (West Virginia). Gift of Mrs. George W. Du Brul.

Goodrich — Revolutionary Rolls of Vermont. 1775-1783.

Mather, Frederick G. — Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut.

Egle, Wm. H. — Pennsylvania Genealogies, Scotch-Irish and German. (An essential basic tool for all those beginning work in Penn. Genealogy) microcards.

Stryker, Wm. S., Comp. — Official register of the officers and men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War. Microcards.

Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French and Indian War. 1755-1762, 2 vols. (Collections of the Connecticut Historical Soc. Vols. 9 & 10).

Raum, John O. — History of the city of Trenton, N. J., embracing a period of nearly 200 years. Microcards, (gift of Mrs. Lennie Wright Barrett).

Carley, Eli F. — Genealogy of Early Settlers in Trenton and Ewing, (N. J.). Microcards—(gift of Mrs. Lennie Wright Barrett).

Roberts, Clarence V. — Early Friends Families of Upper Bucks. With some account of their descendants. Historical and Genealogical information about the early settlers in Upper Bucks County, (Pa.). Many, many families listed.

Larned — History of Windham County, Connecticut, 2 vol.

NAMES UNDER SEARCH

Information is desired on the following persons and their families:

Akin Brazeale (Brazeale),
South Carolina

Mrs. Douglas B. Stone, Box 67,
Portales, New Mex.

Jane Brasher, South Carolina
(mar. Elisha Nelson)

Mrs. John L. Eddy, 1311 El Patio Dr.,
Dallas 18, Texas

William Harrell, Arkansas (mar.

Eliaeth, Sarah Wallingsford)
Mable Harrell, 2154 Gaylord Dr.,
Dallas, Texas

Bythel Haynes, North Carolina
(mar. Peney Nichols)

Edna Haynes McCromick, 915 W.
Highland St., Denton, Texas

Hickman (Dr. Elliott Hickman family),
Va.-Tenn.-Ark.

Mrs. J. F. Huntley, 4505 Fairway,
Dallas, Texas.

Pauline Almira McLean, Mississippi
and North Carolina

Joseph C. Hammond, P. O. Box 708,
Carlsbad, N. M.

Sarah Ann Pierce (Welch), Tenn.-Ky.

J. R. Welch, Legal Dept., City Hall,
Fort Worth, Texas

Dr. Thomas Shearer, C. C.-Miss.

Lt. Col. Eugene E. Skinner, in care
Mrs. E. R. Laney, 4815 East Side,
Dallas, Texas

Eliza Todon Stretcher, Pennsylvania

Nolan Stretcher, 1235 S. Westmore-
land, Dallas, Texas

Thomas Ware, Va.-Ala.-Ga.-Miss.

Mrs. J. M. Neu, Box 673, Commerce,
Texas

Capt. James Wolf, Tenn.
Earnest L. Thaxton, 1917-8 St.
Lubbock, Texas

Jacob and Betty Coffee Wolford,
Ky.-Texas

Mrs. James W. Cullar, 3359 Shelley
Blvd., Dallas 11, Texas

Parentage of Larkin Crutcher (1768-1861)
Virginia & Robertson Co. Tenn.

Mrs. Emma Crutcher Taylor, 1025
Bishop Ave., Dallas, Texas

Peregrine (called "Perry") Noland of
Md. and Ky.

Ledstone Noland of Ky., Estill Co. 1810
(born 1750)

Mrs. Margaret Scruggs Carruth, 3715
Turtle Creek Blvd., Dallas, Texas.

Herrington — So. Car., Ala. and Texas
Rutherford — Ala. and Texas

Luttrell — Miss. and Tenn.

Stephens — Ark. and Texas

Jackson — Ark. and Texas

Mrs. Jas. D. Lutron, Box 8737,
Dallas 16, Texas.

MAPS OF VIRGINIA COUNTIES

The Society has placed in the Virginia County Workbook with the Genealogical Section of the Dallas Public Library maps of all of the Counties in the western half of Virginia and in West Virginia. The maps are photostatic copies of an original first published around 1800. It shows old roads and Indian trails, together with some names of property owners whose homes were landmarks during that era. The map bears on its title the name of James Madison. The map also shows the names of the streams and rivers which will be helpful, especially where the name of the same stream has been changed at a later date.

The next meeting will be held at 12:00 at the YMCA on 28th April. We cordially invite you to bring anyone who is interested in our work.

We had 26 members and at the March meeting we enrolled 12 more paid members and since that time 8 other interested people became paid members . . . which makes a total of 46 paid members. Let's keep up the good work.

If anyone is interested in having an information published or any names you have been searching for — please write Mrs. Pratt at the Dallas Public Library or Charles Noland, 10155 Eastwood Drive, Dallas Texas.