

# Local History & Genealogical Society

COOPERATING WITH THE DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volume II

March, 1956

Number 1

## Incorporated

Through the professional services of one of our members, Dee Brown Walker, our society was incorporated last fall under the laws of the State of Texas. The following members were elected to serve on our Board of Directors for the calendar year 1956:

President.....John Plath Green  
Vice President....Charles L. Syron  
Vice President....Mrs. W. O. Alvis  
Vice President.....C. L. Noland  
Treasurer.....Mrs. C. Leslie Birt  
Secretary.....Mrs. Dee Brown Walker  
Editor.....Hazel Peterson  
Director....Mrs. George P. Carlisle  
Director...Margaret Scruggs Carruth

\* \* \*

## Our Irish and Scotch-Irish Heritage

Americans of Irish descent will find their family names in O'Hart's Irish Pedigrees, the pure Irish lineage in Volume 1, and the Anglo-Irish in Volume 2, up to the year 1616.

So careful were the Gaels of Ireland of their history and genealogy they maintained a class of men to preserve them. These were the Bards who preserved orally the lineage of the clans, which was, according to the Code of Hammurabi (c.1950 B.C.) a man's right to inherit property by proof of nine male lineal antecedents as a minimum requisite.

Descendants of the Phoenicians, Scythians, etc., came by sea from the coasts of Asia Minor to Spain (Iberia) continuing on their journey about 1000 B.C., the colonists in search of tin and trade, landed in Ireland. Their descendants were driven into hiding when the Gaels (Goidals) came at about the

(Continued, page 3)

## Tarver Family

A copy of a diary, written in 1874, is now in the Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library. Permission was given for the copy to be given to the Library by Miss Fanny Tarver of Dallas, Texas, owner of the original document and great granddaughter of the author, Benjamin E. Tarver.

The diary has a wealth of Tarver family records, beginning with the immigrant ancestor who came to this country from Wales about the year 1700 and settled in Northampton county, North Carolina. A very complete family chart is recorded beginning with the writer's father, Benjamin Tarver, born in 1761 in Northampton county. Altho only fourteen years old, he served in the Revolutionary War under Colonel Peoples.

The name Tarver can be traced back to the time of William the Conqueror as the name appears in the Domesday Book, a book in which the names of all the landowners in England were recorded by order of the Conqueror. The Domesday Book is now in the Hall of Records, London, England.

Much of the diary is devoted to telling about the mode of living in North Carolina and Tennessee during the early nineteenth century. A detailed description is presented vividly of the long journey from North Carolina to Tennessee, made by the family when the author was seven years of age. The hardships as well as the joy and wonder of the unsettled lands are poignantly described.

The establishment of the Methodist faith as well as many of the

(Continued, page 4)

### MEETING DATES AND PROGRAMS

The dates for the Local History and Genealogical Society meetings for the spring months of 1956 are as follows:

FEBRUARY 28, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday  
Auditorium, Dallas Public Library  
E. B. Comstock: Research in New York

MARCH 29, 12:00 noon, Thursday  
Downtown Branch, YMCA  
John Plath Green: Governor Tryon and  
His Palace

APRIL 24, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday  
Auditorium, Dallas Public Library  
Mrs. Linnie Wright Barrett: Researches in  
Virginia

MAY 31, 12:00 noon, Thursday  
Downtown Branch, YMCA  
Mrs. W. B. Chambers: Research in North Carolina  
and Kentucky

JUNE 26, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday  
Auditorium, Dallas Public Library

Meetings of the Board of Directors will be had in the Library Board Room on the following dates at four o'clock in the afternoon: March 8; April 5; May 3; and June 7.

\* \* \*

### Virginia Sources

For those who are interested in Virginia genealogy, the recent addition to the Library of additional volumes of Calendar of Virginia State Papers is important. Only volumes 2 and 3 are now missing from the set.

Swem's Virginia Historical Index provides an index to the Calendar series, as well as to Tyler's Quarterly Historical & Genealogical Magazine, William & Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, Virginia Magazine of History & Biography, Lower Norfolk County Virginia Antiquary, Virginia Historical Register and Hening's Statutes at Large.

Colonial data may be found in Crozier's Virginia Colonial Militia, which contains rosters of militia units mentioned in Henings Statutes and in other books. Crozier's book includes units serving in Lord Dunmore's War of 1774--also discussed in Documentary History of Dunmore's War, edited by R. G. Thwaites.

Virginia's Eastern Shore, by Whitelaw, gives an account of many early Virginia families who settled in Accomack and Northumberland counties, some of whom went into Maryland and Delaware.

See also: Torrence's Virginia Wills and Administrations.

## Our Irish and Scotch-Irish Heritage

(Continued from Page 1)

time the Brythons, another division of the Celts, landed in Britain and Wales.

Queen Elizabeth the First commanded that the oral history and genealogy of the Gaels be committed to a permanent record, resulting in the "Annals of the Four Masters", covering their records to 1616 A.D. This is the chief source of O'Hart's Pedigrees.

The "Plantation of Ulster" was the outcome of conflict between northern Irish Chieftains and James the First of England. Their land was confiscated and given to Scottish and English landlords, absentee owners and followers of the King. Some of their rent rolls are extant.

Scotch Presbyterians and English Puritans were moved in as tenants, but they were not permitted to purchase the land. When their long leases expired, the rent was often more than doubled after they had spent years developing their holdings. Outraged at this injustice, the Scotch-Irish (Scots living in Ireland) so called to differentiate them from the Scots living in Scotland; and the Puritans, began leaving in Boatloads for America.

The first group numbering 800, from the Valley of the Bann, County Londonderry, Ireland, arrived in Boston August 4, 1718. In the land of the Pilgrims of New England, the Scotch-Irish were tithed to help the Puritan Church, not of their faith, which was Presbyterian. This was exacted of all males of sixteen or over. Their sojourning terminated in a very few years, when they continued their journey in search of freedom to worship and give as their conscience dictated into Pennsylvania, where they were polltaxed for the Quaker Church, also not of their faith.

Moving on to the Valley of Virginia, they were again taxed, for the upkeep of the Church of England.

In this last trek, the Scotch-Irish were accompanied by people from Connecticut and by many of the Quakers. Their next moves to North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, etc., were more satisfying, as they left behind them and their descendants, vast achievements in government, schools the best in the land, industries, and a hero's resistance to every form of tyranny.

In searching for their records as they passed from Pennsylvania, look Hopewell Meeting records in the Valley of Virginia. In Pennsylvania, search in Chester county, the Townships of New Britton, Londonderry, London Grove, East and West Nottingham, West Fallowfield, Upper and Lower Oxford. In Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, search at Little Britton, Coleraine, Sudbury, Salisbury, Bucks, and Donegal. In the Valley of Virginia, the Pennsylvania Presbyterian Records of the Presbytery of Donegal, of Derry, of Hanover, of Tatame carry much about itinerant ministers into the west.

For understanding the causes of the "Plantation of Ulster", read Greene's History of the English People.

For transplantations in America, read Early Records of the Simpson Family (1927) by Helen A. Simpson, and a pamphlet (1929 Edition) has the corrections and additions.

For North Carolina, Worth Ray's Lost Tribes of North Carolina, Tennessee Cousins, etc., and Chalkley's Old Augusta Records for the Valley of Virginia. See also Waddell's History of Augusta County, Virginia.

For Pennsylvania see all of Gilbert Cape's and also Charles Hanna's books: Northampton county, Pennsylvania, and Ohio Genealogy.

The North Carolinian, a new magazine, by William Perry, is carrying data hitherto unpublished, and supplements Hathaway's Register.

(Continued, page 5)

## Our Irish and Scotch-Irish Heritage

(Continued from Page 3)

The Reverend James Shaw, author of The Scotch-Irish in History, quotes Bancroft in his book as follows: "The first public voice in America for dissolving all connection with Great Britain came not from the Puritans of New England, the Dutch at New York, nor the Planter of Virginia, but from the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians." Mr. Shaw continues: "As these were 2-to-1 to other colonists and were most recent sufferers from persecution in England, Scotland, and Ireland, they were the first to oppose oppression. It was at Charlotte, Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, May 19, 1775, where representatives drew up a series of resolutions which were the first deed of Declaration of Independence. Mecklenburg was almost wholly settled with people from the north of Ireland. Charlotte became the burning bush of American Independence." Mr. Shaw belongs to the Shaw Gardens Family.

--Margaret Scruggs Carruth

\* \* \*

### Tarver Family

(Continued from Page 1)

early ministers are discussed. Several of the minister's families married in to the Tarver family and quite a bit of information is available about them.

The untiring efforts of parents to obtain schooling for their children in Tennessee is another phase of life told in much detail by the writer.

In about 1841 several members of the Tarver family moved from Tennessee to Texas. They settled in Washington county, in and near Brenham.

Other families mentioned, some with family records, include: Smith

of Brunswick county, Virginia King; Edward Morris; L. P. Rucker; John Powell; Eli Hancock; Harris; Burdine; Claiborn; McWhirter; John Brooks; Sterling Brown; Robertson; John L. Compton; Keener and colonel A. M. Lewis.

--Mrs. Lillian Schwertz  
438 Mayrant Drive  
Dallas, Texas

\* \* \*

### Strictly for Amateurs

The following article is intended to help the amateur genealogist who must start in Texas. The Federal Census and North Carolina records are used as an example.

The first thing you, as a beginning genealogist, should do is to write (enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope) or go to see all the older relatives in your family and ask them to tell you what they know about your ancestors. Try to get full names and exact dates and places as far as possible. Also ask for names of people with whom they claim kinship, and how they are related. Try to locate the family Bible and all old letters or documents; and, if possible, have photostatic copies made, together with date of material and address of present owner.

Now, if you must start in Texas, go to the Dallas Public Library and search the 1880 Texas census, which is on microfilm, for the county where your parents or grand parents lived. This is tedious work, but very rewarding, as, in most cases each person enumerated tells his age, in what state or foreign country he was born, and in what states his father and mother were born.

For example, here is a typical 1880 Census (Texas):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Father</u>	<u>Mother</u>
Smith, John	47	NC	NC	NC
, Mary	45	Ky	Va	Va

Smith, Nell	21	Mo	NC	Ky
" , John	16	Ark	"	"
" ,Jeremiah	10	Tex	"	"
" ,James	94	NC	"	"

As you see, you can now search the 1790 Census of North Carolina for Smith's, and can eliminate the ones who do not have a son under sixteen. Note the counties in which your prospect might have lived and see if he had any neighbors whose names you might recognize. If not, study the books in the North Carolina section of the Library. Read: Formation of North Carolina Counties and Historical Records of North Carolina, County Records, History of North Carolina, etc. Perhaps by this time you have an idea as to which Smith family is yours. Now you can write to the clerk of the Superior Court of the county in which he lived and see if someone (for a fee) will look over the index of wills and deeds and send you a list of the Smith's recorded there.

The Genealogical Guide, which is the index to the DAR magazines in our Library may help you. There are genealogy questions and answers and genealogical data in all the volumes. If you think you have a Revolutionary ancestor, search the ancestors' indexes to the Lineage Books of all the patriotic societies. Perhaps you can find a lead there.

Virkus' Compendium of American Genealogy will sometimes help, but the genealogies quoted are not always accurate and no sources for statements are given.

The most rewarding search of all is to go to the county court house and study the records personally.

Let us impress upon you the importance of writing down the source of each bit of data you collect. Do this for each generation in your chart.

From there on, your success depends on your perseverance in following your leads. Of course, sometimes there are no records and your search is fruitless, but this is seldom the case. Be sure to read histories of North Carolina and Tennessee, and remember that Tennessee was part of North Carolina until 1787.

The Search Room in the Educational Building in Raleigh has duplicates of most of the county records in book form, or on microfilm, with indexes. There are many county histories, and cemetery records there also, and a professional genealogist will search them for a fee. Most of the records of service in the Revolutionary War for North Carolinians are available. The North Carolina Land Office has the original land grant records, and a complete file of the military warrants for land in western North Carolina and in Tennessee, given as pay for service in the Revolution. These records are indexed and the staff of each department is courteous and willing to help.

The Latter Day Saints' records of North Carolina in their Salt Lake City library are duplicates of those in the Search Room in Raleigh. The 1953 Handy Book for Genealogists is valuable in that it gives a brief history of each state, the date of formation of each county, the various county seats, and to which county official to write for information. The Annual Exchange Edition of The Genealogical Helper is useful in that subscribers list not only their own names and addresses with names of the families on whom they are doing research, but also a surname index. Perhaps you can correspond with some one listed who is interested in the same family on which you are working.

Strictly for Amateurs

(Continued from Page 4)

The staff of the National Archives and Records Services, General Services Administration, Washington 25, D. C., will send you upon request and for a small fee (See March 1955 issue of this magazine) copies of military records, pension records, etc. Some times the pension applications contain a great deal of valuable information, including pages from family Bibles.

Read the October 1955 issue of the DAR Magazine (pages 1003 - 1007) for a most complete set of instructions for research.

If none of these suggestions has helped you find your ancestor, you may be assured that you will know more about the history of

your country and its people than before, so your search will not have been in vain. But if you keep "digging", we feel sure your search will bear a rewarding fruit.

Editors - for - the Month

The Board of Directors have published the following policy for future issues of our magazine.

Eight issues will be distributed annually. Also each issue will have its own group of Editors - for - the - Month, with Hazel Peterson the Co-ordinating Editor.

Publications for the Spring months of 1956 will be made as follows:

March	Mrs. W. G. Dixon	Chairman
April	Miss Frances Thomas	Chairman
May	E. B. Comstock	Chairman