



DGS NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Number 7 (Issue 134)
September 1991

Dallas, Texas

Genealogical Research and the Religious Press

by Helen Mason Lu and Jan Bishop McFarland

Newspapers published by religious denominations are an invaluable, and too-often overlooked, resource for genealogical, biographical, and historical information. To take full advantage of sources such as DGS's new multi-volumed *Abstracts from Texas Religious Newspapers*, we must understand both the context in which these newspapers were published and the types of information they contain. (For illustrative purposes, this article will cite examples in the Texas religious press, but the general principles may also be applied to other states.

Background

In 1846 Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians made up the majority of the Anglo population in Texas. By 1860, one of every ten newspapers distributed in Texas was published by the religious press, with a *greater circulation than all the secular press combined*. In most cases, distribution was statewide and usually extended to out-of-state subscribers.

Denominational newspapers exerted a great deal of influence on the daily lives of their readers, providing a communications link between local churches and their counterparts hundreds of miles away. They reached into many areas where no local newspaper was published, helping settlers feel less isolated, making it possible for them to keep up with happenings in other churches, news about friends and acquaintances in other parts of the state, and decisions made by state synods, conventions and assemblies. Even in communities with at least one secular newspaper, a respected church member whose death merited only a couple of lines next to the feed store ad may have had an extensively detailed obituary in his denominational newspaper.

In their broader context, articles in the religious press helped define and distinguish the denominations, providing subscribers a frame of reference for their beliefs. For early settlers, these publications were a source of reassurance in uncertain, sometimes dangerous, times. In many families the arrival of the "church paper" signaled a gathering in the parlor after supper to listen to father or mother read every word aloud. The importance which our ancestors attached to these newspapers is a singular clue to their value as a genealogical resource.

Genealogical Significance

Denominational newspapers usually included articles of general interest to subscribers, as well as inspirational pieces, meeting reports, advertising, etc. But they also published the marriages, obituaries, and other personal bits of information that we, as genealogists, prize so highly. Following are three examples:

Texas Christian Advocate (Methodist), 13 October 1883, Vol. XXX, No. 4: "Married by Rev. W. L. NELMS, at the residence of the brides mother, in Cleburne, Mr. J. A. SMITH of Kansas City, MO., and Miss ANNIE M. KENDRICK, of Cleburne."

[Newspapers continued on page 77]

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Unless otherwise indicated, Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) Regular Meetings are held in the Auditorium of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library (Dallas Public Library), 1515 Young Street at Ervay, Dallas, Texas. The Computer Interest Group meets one hour prior to the Regular Meeting in the East/West Rooms across the hall from the Auditorium. Visitors and guests are welcome. Meetings are open to the public.

DGS September Regular Meeting

Date: Monday, 23 September 1991
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. Ralph Crandall
Topic: *Westward Migration*

The Dallas Genealogical Society proudly presents Dr. Ralph Crandall of Boston, Massachusetts, as speaker for our September meeting. Dr. Crandall is director of the prestigious New England Historic Genealogical Society, the oldest such society in the United States. He is author of the book, *Shaking Your Family Tree: A Basic Guide to Tracing Your Family's Genealogy*.

In his book Dr. Crandall states: "The large westward migration of the 1800's often makes it

difficult to find family records from this period...If your family was here by 1800 -- and probably one hundred million living Americans are descended from the twenty-five thousand New Englanders of 1620 to 1650 alone -- it may have made and lost several fortunes, moved far from its ancestral home, and become widely scattered in the past two centuries." Dr. Crandall will give us some pointers about *Westward Migration* that may guide us to the paths our own ancestors took that eventually brought them to Texas.

Dr. Crandall will also talk about the collection housed in the New England Historic Genealogical Society library in Boston and future goals of the Society as it approaches its sesquicentennial in 1995.

For details on the Computer Interest Group Meeting, see page 78.

Dallas Genealogical Society
 Post Office Box 12648 Dallas, Texas 75225-0648

Founded in 1955, the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) is the oldest organization of its kind in Texas. It is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation.

Executive Board

Officers:

Margret Hancock Pearce	President
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Appointed by the President:

Madilyn Coen Crane	Parliamentarian
J. Bruce Moseley	Co-Chairman for Workshops
June Anderson Shipley	Arrangements
Markaleeta Stevenson	Arrangements

Objectives:

- * To create, foster, and maintain interest in genealogy and family history.
- * To raise standards of genealogical research through educational programs, workshops, and the publication of data.
- * To promote the collection and preservation of material relating to the early history of Dallas County and those pioneers who settled the area.
- * To copy, index, and publish records, documents, inscriptions and other genealogical source materials.
- * To support the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library.
- * To stimulate the exchange of information between Society members and genealogical researchers across the nation.

Meetings: The Society meets at the Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young Street, Dallas, on the 4th Monday, September through May, except for December. Visitors and guests are welcome.

Membership: Individuals, libraries, or societies may apply for membership. Annual dues are \$12 for the calendar year if paid by January 31; after January 31, they are \$14. New member dues and renewals should be mailed to the Society at Post Office Box 25556, Dallas, TX 75225-1556, and marked to the attention of the Vice-President of Membership. All current members receive *The Dallas Quarterly* and the *DGS Newsletter*.

Newsletter: The *DGS Newsletter* is published nine times a year in January, February, March, April, May-June, July-August, September, October, and November-December. Copy deadline is the 5th day prior to the month of publication. All correspondence for the *DGS Newsletter* should be mailed to the Society at Post Office Box 12648, Dallas, TX 75225-0648 and marked to the attention of:

Sammie Townsend Lee

Newsletter Editor



The Presidents Message by Margaret Hancock Pearce

I hate that. Don't you? That 3:00 a.m. peek at the clock when you know immediately that no matter which way you twist, you are not going back to sleep.

A good time to read old minutes of DGS board meetings, right? 25 March 1971...the treasurer, Mrs. Joyce Campbell, reported a balance of \$1,435.28. Total receipts from dues, sale of quarterlies, advertising, plus a \$1 "donation" totalled \$220.50. Disbursements were \$253.77 showing a closing balance of \$1,402 and a savings account balance of \$200.42. Mrs. Duane Cleere, membership, reported the Society had 215 renewals, 33 new members, four "honorary" life members, and two paid life members for a total of 254 members.

Pat Hatcher, Art Rubeck, Linda Rogers, and I were scheduled to meet that very evening to hammer out the coming years' budget. I must confess after reading these old records, I was a bit awed by the growth of our Society in the past twenty years.

As we continue to grow and search for new ways to serve the expanding genealogical population of our area, we are struck by the budget cutbacks in our city. Each day brings a new front-page newspaper article explaining the tax woes of Dallas. Residents face service cuts plus fee increases for garbage collection and water and sewer services, in addition to additional taxes on gas and electric bills.

Right in the midst of this, the proposed city budget calls for the elimination of 289 city jobs and reorganization of the library system. This reorganization will significantly reduce library services and change 13 full-service branch libraries to little more than "popular" library reading rooms with few research materials or reference facilities.

If you have visited the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library genealogy section lately, you have only to note the book trucks stacked high with unshelved books to appreciate what happens when one or two jobs in a library section are eliminated. The book carts are the VISIBLE evidence of library cut-backs. The INVISIBLE evidence lies in the amount of help the reduced staff is able to provide as the interest in family history continues to bring in more and more patrons daily to the section. As Ed Boehringer, a staff member, said, "Those of us who enjoy becoming involved in a patron's genealogical problem no longer have that option. We just don't have the time."

More patrons, fewer staff personnel, book trucks piled high, and patrons unable to find resource materials is a recipe for stress for all concerned.

Mr. Philip Seib is a journalism professor at Southern Methodist University, a lawyer, and a regular contributor to "Viewpoints" in *The Dallas Morning News*. In his excellent "Viewpoints" article of 17 April 1991, he brought into sharp focus the declining condition of the

Dallas Public Library system. I quote Mr. Seib, "Once an essential part of Dallas' intellectual infrastructure, the library now seems to be regarded by many city officials as a bothersome frill...Given the crucial role the library must play in building the future Dallas, its cavalier treatment by city officials is inexplicable. The latest slap is an order to set thermostats at levels certain to accelerate deterioration of books (already inadequately protected due to earlier budget cuts). Library managers weren't consulted before the new edict was issued...The public shouldn't tolerate this abuse of one of the city's most valuable assets."

Remember "freeze in the dark?" Now it's "search for resource material in the heat." If you missed Mr. Seib's article, you can read it in a back issue at the central library or send me a SASE and a note requesting a copy; I will be glad to send one to you.

We use many aspects of the library system. Of course, our focus is the genealogy section. We sit crowded, unable to locate unshelved resource materials, and there is no more space available for even one more book. When new ones are purchased, older ones often are removed, banished to limited access, and that resource is no longer available without help from a staff member. Is there hope of expanding the genealogy area? Is there space in front of the section which could be incorporated to allow for more study tables and file cabinets to house all the rolls of microfilm now kept on top of shelves? How can DGS members help?

Read Mr. Seib's article. Attend town hall and city council meetings. Write your city council person or the mayor and voice your opinion. We have to start somewhere!

Membership Report

by Dorothy Bruce, VP for Membership

	1991 Totals
Regular/Family Memberships	789
Libraries/Societies	19
Life Members	43
Total	851

Membership Roster

The 1991 Membership Roster was mailed in June. If you purchased a copy at the \$3 prepublication price when you paid your dues for this year, you should have received your copy by now. If you purchased a copy and have not received it, please call me (239-4901). If you would like to purchase a copy, they are \$5 and may be ordered from DGS, P. O. Box 12648, Dallas, TX 75225-0648.

Please check your entry in the roster and advise me if any of the information is incorrect.

ANNOUNCING

*4th Annual***1991 Fall Genealogy Symposium**

and

Annual Beginners Workshop**Saturday, 9 November 1991****Presented by the Dallas Genealogical Society***** 24 General Sessions - Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced***** All Day Beginners Workshop***** 8 Computer Sessions***** Vendors****[Details on sessions, speakers, location, and registration in the October *DGS Newsletter*.]**

DGS Special Project: 1920 U. S. Census Project Fund

DGS has established a special fund to purchase the 1920 United States Census when it becomes available in 1992 to place in the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. The total cost of the census and Soundex for the United States at the current National Archives price of \$23 per roll of microfilm is over \$245,000.

DGS will purchase rolls from American Genealogical Lending Library (AGLL) at their current price of \$12.50 per roll of microfilm. Through Society donations, contributions from members and friends, and monies earned at DGS sponsored workshops, DGS has committed funds and placed an order with AGLL for the census and Soundex rolls for the State of Texas and the census rolls only for the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

Gifts may be made to purchase the 1920 U. S. Census for any of the remaining states or the Soundex for any state other than Texas. The price for one roll of census or Soundex is \$12.50, but DGS will accept your tax-deductible gift in any amount. A label recognizing the donor is placed on each box. Please make checks payable to *Dallas Genealogical Society* and mail to:

1920 Census Fund
Dallas Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 12648
Dallas, TX 75225-0648

Generous donations have been received from:
Helen Lu; Lynn S. Blankenship (in honor of John and Emma Matheny); Mary L. Markley (in honor of Mr./Mrs. Charlie Stevens); James Little (in honor of Louise Little); Margaret Pounders (in memory of Joe B. and Margaret L. Jennings); A. Binion Anderson, Jr.; Patsy Baggett (in memory of Coleman "Toad" Thompson); John E. Cain; Robert V. Drennan (in memory of Florence Kinsey Drennan); Sam and Betty Kepler; Harold Krom (in memory of Louis Krom and Rose Bunin Krom); Linda Libician (in honor of Ruth Lillian Husk); Robert W. Sears (in memory of Delphine Miller); Sarah E. Sterling; Jeanne J. Tabb (in honor of the Texas Society Colonial Dames of the 17th Century); Evelyn Johnson Thoes (in memory of Charles Warner Johnson); Robin Turrella Yaklin (in honor of Lorraine Stewart Turrella); Joe Sissom (in memory of Betty Moseley); Emily M. Seay; Roger W. Apple (in honor of Marcella M. Apple); Geraldine C. Marr; Isabel C. Timmons (in memory of Dr. Aureo Calderon); Alline E. McCrary (in memory of Ruby Pate Mason); Dorothy Odom Bruce (in memory of Ruby Pate Mason); Dallas Patriotic Association (in honor of Mrs. George J. German); Dolores Carr; Sally Magee (in honor of the Dallas Public Library Genealogy Staff); Mr./Mrs. A. W. Sakis (in memory of Mr./Mrs. Dorse McFadden); Edna E. Kuklies; Ann and Terry Herman (in memory of Joseph and Sarah Grimes); Jim Davis (in memory of Jimmy Reeder and in honor of Leita Reeder Davis); Evelyn B. Sparks (in memory of Duane H. Platt); Jack Kimbell; William T. Nailon, Jr.; Patricia L. Hatcher; Alan S. Dodds; Martha Williams; Jemmy Kay Phipps.

News from DGS Publications: Abstracts from Texas Religious Newspapers by Jan Bishop McFarland

Helen Lu's donation to DGS of her Texas church newspaper abstracts constitutes the bulk of the society's new publications for 1991. These eight books, the result of hundreds of hours of abstracting, typing, proofing, and indexing, represent a significant contribution to the genealogical literature of Texas. Helen's abstracts cover Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian newspapers published in Texas in the latter half of the 19th century and include obituaries, death notices, marriages, and biographical information, much of which was published nowhere else. In an effort to produce a quality product at an affordable price, DGS is publishing these abstracts in **microfiche format**. Price is \$7.00 per volume unless otherwise indicated. Currently available volumes include:

- * *Texas Methodist Newspaper Abstracts*, Volume 1 (17 April 1848 - 3 March 1870), 224 pp + index
- * *Texas Methodist Newspaper Abstracts*, Volume II (22 May 1872 - 1 September 1877), 188 pp + index
- * *Texas Methodist Newspaper Abstracts*, Volume III (8 September 1877 - 27 December 1879), 193 pp + index
- * *Texas Methodist Newspaper Abstracts*, Volume IV (10 January 1880 - 17 September 1881), 197 pp + index

The following volumes will be available for sale in early fall:

- * *Cumulative Index to Volumes I through IV - Texas Methodist Newspaper Abstracts*
- * *Abstracts from The Texas Presbyterian*, Volume I
- * *Texas Baptist Newspaper Abstracts*, Volume I

Volumes V and VI of *Texas Methodist Newspaper Abstracts* will be available in the near future.

DGS is most fortunate to have been the recipient of this generous gift. These volumes are not only a valuable new resource for researchers, but will continue to generate revenue for the society for years to come.

[Newspapers continued from front page]

Texas Christian Advocate (Methodist), 27 October 1883, Vol. XXX, No. 6: "WILLIAM JOB VENN was born in England, July 17, 1849; immigrated to America in 1870; joined the M. E. Church in Pennsylvania; came to Texas in 1877; and joined the M. E. Church, South, at Gilmer, Upshur Co., where he lived until he came to death by the 'fatal damp' in a well in July. He leaves a wife, four children, and an aged mother. (Submitted by W. H. DAVID.)"

Texas Presbyterian, 3 November 1846, Vol. 1, No. 1: "Died on the 6th inst., at Port Lavaca, Texas, of dysentery and inflammation of the bowels, Major MOSES GRANT, of Covington, Ky. He was the son of Gen. SQUIRE GRANT, who served during the last war with England, and the nephew of MOSES and SAMUEL GRANT, who fell in the Indian wars in the early settlement of Kentucky. He was 56 years old, a widower, but leaving several children to lament his death. He died amidst the universal regret of the Regiment of Ky. Cavalry, for which he had acted as Commissary from Memphis."

Marriage notices and obituaries were not the only genealogically significant pieces of information published in the religious press, as witnessed by the following:

Texas Presbyterian, 29 November 1851, Vol. 5, No. 18: "District Court, Tyler Co., Texas, Spring Term,

1851, ELIZA VINING filed petition for divorce against FULBA VINING, on charges of adultery and abandonment for more than three years. Also for a commission to issue to take the depositions of ASA UPTON, ALVIN BRANNON, MOSES BRINSON, JASPER VINING, JOHN L. VINING, ELIZABETH USERY, and others, witnesses for the plaintiff and citizens of Jefferson Co., Georgia."

Texas Presbyterian, 11 October 1851, Vol. 5, No. 11: "On the night of the 29th Sept., escaped from the jail in the town of Marshall, a man by the name of JAMES T. CEARNELS, alias WILLIAM T. SPILLMAN. The prisoner was arrested and sent to jail by the committing officer, on charge of forgery. He was formerly of Anderson Co., Texas, is about 25 years of age, medium size, has a scar on each side of his face, and warts on both hands."

Tips and Techniques

Keep in mind that information found in denominational newspapers often extended far beyond the boundaries of the state in which they were published. For instance, the 22 November 1851 issue of *The Texas Presbyterian* includes the obituary of "PARDON PECKHAM, a revolutionary soldier, aged ninety, [who] was killed on the railroad in Erie Co., Penn."

[Tips continued on page 78]

DGS Computer Interest Group Program

September Computer Interest Group Meeting

Date: Monday, 23 September 1991
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: East/West Rooms
Topic: J. Erik Jonsson Central Library
Why Should A Genealogist Buy A Computer?
Speaker: Panel Discussion

What happens when the need to share information with another family member or researcher arises? Joe Sissom says he pushes a button! What do you do?

At the September Computer Interest Group Meeting, Joe Sissom will lead a panel discussion on *Why Should A Genealogist Buy A Computer*. This program is open to the public and visitors and guest are welcome.

DGS Computer Interest Group News by Joe Sissom, Director

For several years, DGS has sponsored a computer interest group, which met prior to the regular meeting. This spring, DGS decided that the importance of computers to genealogical research warranted a director assigned to that responsibility. I am proud to have been elected to that position.

I am relatively certain that I would not have started this hobby called genealogy if I had not already been computer literate. With my chicken scratchin' (roughly related to handwriting), limited typing capability, and little patience, I don't think I would have been able to go through the paper shuffling, rewriting, etc., necessary to

achieve the results desired by all researchers, particularly that of *sharing results with others!*

When nominated for this position, I started asking questions relating to expanding the value of computers in our avocation. I asked these questions of three identifiable groups: computer gurus, computer literates, and those having little or no knowledge of computers. Except in the last group, interest in genealogy was not necessary.

It was determined that there is significant need to start from the beginning on computer orientation, and that is what the DGS Computer Interest Group is going to do for the next few months. We will have sessions for genealogists who have little or no computer background and delineate in *plain* English what it costs and how to use and understand all that is necessary to use computers to aid genealogy research. Also, how genealogists can relieve tedium and make the hobby more enjoyable.

Our "instructors" will be primarily folks who are not programmers, not professionals, but those of us who have harnessed this tool for our own use. The length of the series will depend on the attendance, questions, and overall response. We will start with "why?" and attempt to relate "the system" to that question, without the buzz words and acronyms that abound until we find that some verbal shorthand is useful. After we are familiar with the idea, we will come back and look into buying a system. Software will come last. I cannot give a firm schedule as I hope the attendees will "drive" the programs. We have the people to cover the subject matter, and they will be scheduled month-to-month as we cover the material.

Come join us and see how a really neat tool can enhance this wonderful hobby; even for those of us who were in high school in the '40's and had radios bigger than today's computers.

[Tips continued from previous page]

These newspapers are an excellent source for documentation of children who died in infancy. In many cases, this is the only published source for such information.

Do not assume that an ancestor of a particular denomination would not appear in a newspaper of another denomination. The marriage of a Baptist couple attended by a Methodist minister may have published in the Baptist newspaper, but it is just as likely to be found in the Methodist. This sort of "cross-referencing" was commonplace.

Avoid tunnel vision. That Presbyterian great-grandfather may well have spent his Sunday mornings in the local Methodist church. During the 19th century, particularly in rural areas, families often attended the church that was closest to home, regardless of denomination.

Obituaries were published weeks, sometimes months, occasionally years, after the death of an individual. If you are looking for verification of a date of death, extend your search to a *minimum* of one year beyond the suspected date.

Always scan indexes for associated surnames (neighbors, collateral surnames, etc.). Even if your ancestor is not listed, you are likely to find clues by tracking those with whom he associated. A neighbor's obituary may give you an indication as to when and from where your own ancestor migrated.

Take the time to browse these sources (whether abstracted or original). They can tell you a great deal about the times and places in which your ancestor lived. If you want to learn not only "who, where, and when," but also "how and why," denominational newspapers can help provide you with a more complete picture of your ancestor's lives.

DGS Profile

Hance H. Hamilton, Ph.D.

Meet Hance H. Hamilton. Like many of our newer DGS members, he only recently began researching his family tree. This was an interest he had been saving until his retirement, an event that came about in July 1989. He is currently researching the families of Bradford, Francis, Griffin, Hamilton, Ivy, Loring, Preston, and Spence.

Dr. Hamilton was born in Jackson, Tennessee, but was reared in San Antonio, Texas, where he graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School. Following a three-year stint in the army during World War II, he entered Texas A&M University in 1946. He graduated in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering. The next fifteen years were spent in business in Beeville, Texas. In 1964, Dr. Hamilton was readmitted to Texas A & M and receive his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 1969. He began teaching chemistry at Eastfield College and remained there for nineteen years, before retiring in 1989.

In the following article, family researchers will appreciate his comments on the situation we face with books on acid paper. Who has not been stymied in their search for an ancestor by the crumbling pages of old county registers, not to mention the many books printed forty and fifty years ago that are missing whole pages due to disintegration? It is reassuring to know that there is hope for the future with acid-free papers, and we appreciate Dr. Hamilton's informative article.

Acid Paper Soon to be A Thing of the Past *

by Hance H. Hamilton, Ph.D.

Paper was first made in ancient Egypt from papyrus reed by pounding the reed to pulp and drying. The Chinese later used the inner bark of the mulberry tree which they pounded into sheets and then went on to use the same hand process to produce paper from rags, hemp, and old fishnets. Papers was made by essentially the same hand process until 1750. Much of this handmade paper is still around.

About 1750 the French invented a machine that shortened the time required to reduce rags to fiber and in 1798 made the first continuous roll paper making machine. However, the paper produced until 1867 was about the same chemically as it had been for centuries.

An American discovery made in 1867 brought about all the headaches that archivists and librarians have been having ever since. The discovery was a way to separate wood fibers by use of a solution of sulfurous acid. Rosin (an organic acid) could then be introduced as internal sizing and more acid was used in bleaching and filling.

This process was much less costly than the previous processes so it caught on immediately. The hitch was that even though the paper was much cheaper, it was also less viable. Paper produced before 1867 had an expected lifetime of at least 300 years. That produced by the acid process has a lifetime of only 30 to 40 years.

In the last few years a quiet revolution in paper making has been taking place in which precipitated calcium carbonate (chalk) is being used increasingly as a filler in paper making. The paper produced by the new process is alkaline (pH 7.7 to 8.5) whereas the older process produces paper that is acid (pH 3.5 to 5.5).

The newer alkaline process produces "archival" quality paper, but this is not the incentive to convert mills to a new process. the incentive is to produce paper at a lower cost since the calcium carbonate (from limestone) is much less expensive than the titanium dioxide that was used in

the older process. The production of archival quality paper is only a welcome fall out.

There has been a growing concern over the viability of records and valuable books and, therefore, a call for archival quality paper in recent years. In 1989 the New York City Library called for the first printing of all quality hardcovers to be printed on acid-free paper. At that time an estimated 25 per cent were being printed on acid-free paper, and it was estimated that by 1990 48 per cent would be.

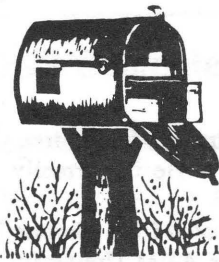
The Library of Congress states that 97 per cent of its collection of three million volumes is printed on acid papers and that by 1984 25 per cent were too brittle to be circulated.

It looks like this kind of trouble may not exist in the future since most printing paper will soon be of archival quality. Recent estimates are that by the end of 1991, 75 per cent of fine printing paper will be alkaline process paper and that 86 per cent of the 1990 production of coated printing paper was alkaline process paper.

The Department of Commerce has estimated that more than half of the uncoated printing paper mills have converted to the alkaline process by the end of 1990. It is predicted that by 1994 80 per cent of the 11.3 million tons yearly of this market will be alkaline process.

This bodes well for the genealogist and historian who wants works to last for more than a few years. Perhaps our descendants three hundred years from now will be able to find those books and documents of the 1990's, whereas we sometimes cannot find material only a hundred years old because it has disintegrated.

[Author's Note: Information obtained from the article "Precipitated Calcium Carbonate Finds Growing Niche in Paper Market" by Mark S. Reisch, Chemical and Engineering News, 29 April 1991, pp. 9-11.]*



From the DGS Mailbox

Dr. Schweitzer to Speak at Mesquite Workshop

The annual workshop of the Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society will be held on 21 September 1991 at the Performance Hall of Eastfield Community College, 3737 Motley Drive in Mesquite, Texas. The guest speaker will be Dr. George K. Schweitzer of Knoxville, Tennessee. He will lecture on *Research in Tennessee*, including geography, history, settlement, major genealogical records and repositories, auxiliary genealogical records, and specialized research techniques. Dr. Schweitzer is a widely-known lecturer and presents most of his programs in costume to suit the period. He is the author of 16 genealogical research books.

The workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. Pre-registration is \$22, including lunch; \$25 at the door. Send checks to MHGS; P. O. Box 850165; Mesquite, TX 75185-0165.

Ellis County Features Dr. June R. Welch

The Ellis County Genealogical Society will host their 10th Annual Workshop on 5 October 1991, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at the E. R. Foster Cafeteria on the campus of Southwestern Assemblies of God College in Waxahachie, Texas. The featured speaker will be the noted Texan historian and writer, Dr. June Rayfield Welch of Dallas, speaking on the topic of *Early Trails into Texas*, including trails into north Texas; old Miller County, Arkansas; trails into Nacogdoches and San Augustine, Texas; and comments on Peters Colony Settlement. Dr. Welch is a history professor at the University of Dallas, the author of sixteen books, thirteen about Texas, and delivers the award-winning "Vignettes of Texas History" on KRLD radio.

Pre-registration is \$20, including lunch, if received by 22 September; \$22 thereafter and at the door. Mail registrations to ECGS Workshop; P. O. Box 479; Waxahachie, TX 75165.

Arkansas to Feature Sharon Standifer Ashton

The Arkansas Genealogical Society will hold its Fall Genealogical Conference on 25-26 October 1991. A Friday night reception at the Fort Smith Public Library will be for AGS members and their guests. The conference will be on Saturday from 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Civic Center, 700 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas. Conference speaker will

be Sharon Standifer Ashton of Norman, Oklahoma. Her topic will be *Indians and Pioneers: Or, How to Find Your Cherokee Princess*. Ashton is first vice-president of the National Genealogical Society. Her special interests include American Indian genealogy and research in Oklahoma and the Indian Territory.

The conference fee is \$15, including lunch, if received by 4 October; \$20, thereafter and at the door. A special room rate is available to conference participants at the Holiday Inn-Civic Center by calling 1/501/783-1000. Registration for the conference should be mailed to AGS Fall Genealogical Conference; c/o Jan Eddleman; Rt. 1, Box 178; Hackett, AR 72937.

Basic Genealogy Classes Begin at Area Community Colleges

Kelvin Meyers will teach a course in beginning genealogy for North Lake Community College on Tuesdays, beginning 3 September for six weeks. The class meets at McArthur High School in Irving, Texas, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Call 659-2900 for information and enrollment.

Lola Lindsey's class, "Tracing Your Ancestors," for Eastfield Community College will meet Saturdays, beginning 7 September for eight weeks. Her class meets at the Mesquite Public Library, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Register with Eastfield.

June Anderson Shipley will teach two basic genealogy courses at Cedar Valley Community College. The first class will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., 14, 21, and 28 September. The second class will meet from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., 12, 19, and 26 October. Registrations should be made through the college with Sharon Brantley at 372-8295.

Fee Increases

The Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics advises the following fee increases for birth and death records will become effective 1 September 1991:

* \$11: Issuing each certified copy of a certificate of birth or for a search thereof (\$9 plus \$2 surcharge).

* \$11: Issuing each wallet-size certification of birth or for a search thereof (\$9 plus \$2 surcharge).

* \$9: Issuing a certified copy of a certificate of death or for a search thereof. The fee for each additional copy of the same certificate requested at the same time is \$3.

The DPL Genealogy Section has the index to Texas birth records (1903-1976) and the index to Texas Death records (1903-1973). Copies of the necessary forms may be obtained in the section from the book, *International Vital Records Handbook*.

Guide to Resources in the Dallas Public Library Genealogy Collection

Making Sense of the Census Part I, The Soundex

To locate an ancestor on a Federal census record, you must first know the state (or territory) in which the ancestor resided and the full name of the ancestor. Although not absolutely necessary, it is also helpful to know the full name of the head of the household in which your ancestor lived because in all U.S. censuses, census takers recorded information under that name.

Most of the extant censuses from 1790 up to 1870 have been indexed or, as in the case of 1870, are currently being indexed. These are usually in book form, although more and more are appearing in microform, as a less expensive method of production.

The Soundex Coding System

An indexing system called "Soundex," on 16mm microfilm, is used for the 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 census. The Soundex is a coded surname (last name) index based on the way a surname sounds rather than the way it is spelled. Surnames that sound the same but are spelled differently, ie. Smith and Smyth, have the same code and will be found together. It was developed so that you can find a surname even though it may have been recorded under various spellings.

While the same coding system is used for 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920, there are some exceptions:

*The 1880 Soundex only includes households with children ten years of age or younger. If only adults are listed or if all children are eleven or older, the family will not be listed on the 1880 Soundex.

*The 1900 Soundex includes all households.

*The 1910 Soundex was only done for the following states:

Alabama	South Carolina
Georgia	Tennessee
Louisiana	Texas
Mississippi	

*Miracode (coded the same as Soundex) was used in 1910 for the states of:

Arkansas	Missouri
California	North Carolina
Florida	Ohio
Illinois	Oklahoma
Kansas	Pennsylvania
Kentucky	Virginia
Michigan	West Virginia

*The following states have no Soundex or Miracode:

Colorado	Idaho
Connecticut	Indiana
Delaware	Iowa
District of Columbia	Maine

Maryland	North Dakota
Massachusetts	Oregon
Minnesota	Rhode Island
Montana	South Dakota
Nebraska	Utah
Nevada	Vermont
New Hampshire	Wisconsin
New Jersey	Wyoming
New York	

*The following territories became states after 1910. They have a census for 1910, but no Soundex/Miracode.

Alaska	Hawaii +
Arizona	New Mexico

(+ Book index by Accelerated Indexing Systems for Hawaii.)

*The 1920 Soundex includes all households.

Soundex Coding Guide

To search for a particular surname, you must first work out its code. Every Soundex code consists of a letter and three numbers, like C625. The letter is always the first letter of the surname (no number is assigned to the first letter of the surname). The three numbers are assigned to the remaining letters of the surname according to the following coding guide.

The number	Represents the letters
1	B P F V
2	C S K G J Q X Z
3	D T
4	L
5	M N
6	R

The letters A E I O U W H Y are not coded. These are the vowels and the word "why." The first letter of the surname is not coded.

Every Soundex code must be a letter followed by a 3-digit number. For example:

*A name yielding no code numbers, as LEE, would be L000.

*One with only one code number, as COOK, would code as C200, with two zeroes added.

*One yielding two code numbers, as SMITH, would code as S520, by adding one zero.

*Not more than three digits are used; therefore SMITHFIELD would code S521 (additional consonants are disregarded).

When key letters or equivalent appear together or one key letter immediately follows or precedes an equivalent, the two are coded as one letter, by a single number. For example:

[Soundex continued on page 82]

[Soundex continued from previous page]

*MILLER would code as M460. The double "L" is coded as a single letter.

*LLOYD would code as L300. Again, the double "L" is not coded, but in this case the code number "4" is not assigned because the first "L" is the code letter for the name.

*SCHOLL would code as S400. Both the "S" and "C" have the same equivalent value and are not coded; the double "L" is coded as a single letter with a value of 4 and two zeroes are added.

*Another example of this would be McGEE, which is coded M200. The "C" and "G" have the same equivalent value and are coded as a single letter.

Surnames ending in prefixes such as Van, Von, Di, De, de, D, dela, du, or le, are sometimes disregarded in alphabetizing and in coding. The surname VAN HORN should be checked for in code V565 and H650.

Several surnames may have the same code. The Soundex cards are arranged alphabetically by the given name (first name). There are divider cards showing most code numbers, but not always. Sometimes several codes are filed together, alphabetically by given name, in a mixed code.

Native Americans, Orientals, and Religious Nuns

Researchers using the Soundex system to locate religious nuns or persons with American Indian or oriental names should be aware of the way such names were coded. Variations in coding differed from the normal coding system.

Phonetically spelled oriental and Indian names were sometimes coded as if one continuous name, or, if a distinguishable surname was given, the names were coded in the normal manner. For example, the American Indian name SHINKA-WA-SA may have been coded as SHINKA (S520) or SA (S000). Researchers should investigate the various possibilities of coding such names.

Religious nun names were coded as if "Sister" was their surname, and they appear in each State's Soundex under the code S236. Within the State's soundex Code S236, the names are not necessarily in alphabetical order.

It is handy to keep a list of the code numbers for the surnames you use most often.

Information Found

What information do you need from the Soundex card to locate your ancestor on the census record? First, after you have ascertained that this is indeed the ancestor you are seeking, make a note of the county or parish in which the family is located. Next you will need the Enumeration District number (or E.D. number), which appears at the top of the page. Record the sheet or page number and make a note of the line number, if given. This information will take you directly to the census entry for the family listed on the Soundex card. (On the 1910 census, the number listed as "sheet" number sometimes refers instead to the family number listed in the left-hand column.)

Note: Soundex information obtained from publications of the National Archives and Records Administration.

State and National News and Notes**TSGS Speakers Bureau Open for Business**

The Texas State Genealogical Society has officially opened a state speakers' bureau and has published a list of topics in recent issues of *Stirpes*, the quarterly publication of TSGS. Any organization wishing to schedule one of the speakers should contact Richard Hooverson at 701 Lake Road in Belton, Texas (76513). Also, anyone who would like to be included in the bureau should also contact Hooverson. There is no charge for either service and membership in TSGS is not a requirement. Presentations can be scheduled for society meetings or seminars and workshops with topics for beginners through the advanced. Fees for speakers vary according to the type of presentation and are negotiable with the individual speaker. For specific procedures, refer to the March 1991 issue of *Stirpes* (copies may be seen in the DPL Genealogy Section).

[From the Texas State Genealogical Society Newsletter, 2:3, July 1991, p. 1]

NGS Genealogical Project Registry

The National Genealogical Society operates a project registry designed as a clearinghouse for all genealogical projects in progress. The registry will tell you what projects are in progress, when they will be finished, projects needing your help, projects that should be started, and what is being readied in your area. Perhaps you've been thinking about abstracting the marriages from your favorite county, but wonder if someone else may be working on the same project. Check the registry and register your own project.

Complete information on each project is available in a file on the NGS/CIG computer bulletin board. A projects directory is sent to anyone registering a project, or copies of the directory can be obtained from NGS for \$5 to cover the cost of photocopying and mailing. Send your request and check to NGS Genealogical Projects Registry; 4527 17th Street, North; Arlington, VA 22207-2399. A form to register your project is included in the *NGS Newsletter* (17:2, March-April 1991, p. 46).

[From an article in the above referenced issue, p. 45.]

Queries

Queries do not require a Texas connection and are free to members of the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS). Nonmembers should include \$3 for each query. DGS reserves the right to abbreviate and condense queries and assumes no responsibility for their accuracy. Send as many queries as you wish, and they will be printed as space permits. Mail all queries: Editor, *DGS Newsletter*, P. O. Box 12648, Dallas, TX 75225-0648.

**OR(R)AND
LINDER
FORRESTER
HOLLIS
TALLEY
WEBB
NEW
LUSK
DAVID
CARANTIN
JENNINGS
McCOWN
BRUTON**

Seeking information on the ORAND/ORRAND family lines of Rockingham Co, NC and Wilson and Cannon Counties, TN, and McLennan Co, TX. Need parents of John ORAND (1790-1854), who married on 7 Mar 1811 in Rockingham Co, NC, Charlotte LINDER (1796-1870), daughter of Nathaniel LINDER, a Revolutionary Soldier. They resided in Wilson Co, TN, by 1815. Known children: Nathaniel L.; John Wesley; Mary J., married FORRESTER; Elizabeth Marion, married John W. HOLLIS. John Wesley ORAND (1818-1883), married on 14 Jan 1845 in Wilson Co, TN, Eliza Jane TALLEY (1822-1878), daughter of Martin TALLEY and Sarah WEBB. Children: Mary Etta, born 1845, married John Coffee NEW; John Martin, 1847-1910, married Margaret Susan LUSK; Spencer Webb, 1849-1890; Delaney Houston, 1852-1926, married Mamie DAVID; William Nathaniel, 1855-1946, married Mary CARANTIN/McDONALD; Peter Coleman, 1858-1918, married Lida C. JENNINGS; James Wesley, 1861-1913, married (1) Bessie McCOWN, (2) Georgia Anna BRUTON. John Wesley and Eliza ORAND and all their sons moved to Waco, McLennan, TX, after 1870. Any information appreciated.

Sammie Townsend Lee; 10655 Longmeadow; Dallas, TX 75238; 214/349-1435

KEITH

Seeking information concerning Rev. William Marshall KEITH (1843-1915) and his children, Henry C., Jessie W., Lewis M., and Jim H. KEITH. Rev. KEITH died in Antlers, OK. Jim H. KEITH died at Paris, Lamar, TX, 1960.

Also, seeking information about the children of John Burt KEITH (1870-1952). Lee and William KEITH and Mattie KEITH (Mrs. Jordan DAVIDSON) were long-time residents of Dallas. The two related families involved were separated by time and geography from other segments of family, and most likely, were not knowledgeable of connections with their shared genealogical roots. I have much information to exchange.

Larry Keith; 3807 Drake; Houston, TX 77005

**BLANKINSHIP
SULLIVAN**

Seeking descendants, Bible records, photos, etc., of Joseph BLANKINSHIP, who married 3 Dec 1885, Montague Co, TX, to Mary L. SULLIVAN. She was the daughter of Joseph and Sinthia SULLIVAN, who died before 1910 in Jefferson Co, OK. Joseph, Sinthia, and daughter Mary L. Sullivan BLANKINSHIP are buried in Dixie Cemetery, north of Ringling, OK. Where did Joseph BLANKINSHIP die?

Robert V. Drennan; 9323 San Fernando Way; Dallas, TX 75218

**DILLON
THOMPSON**

Robert J. DILLON was born in the Bradley's Creek area of Rutherford Co, TN, about 1835. He was the son of William and Lavica (Dovie) Jarman DILLON. He entered the Civil War serving as a corporal of Co. I, 18th TN Regiment (CSA) until war's end. He was married on 14 Nov 1866 to A. THOMPSON, who was apparently from Cannon Co, TN, adjacent to Rutherford. In 1874 he was living in Warren County as a tenant farmer, but left there the same year, moving to Texas where he appears on the 1880 census in Collin County. We have no knowledge of any children, but think he had some. Seeking information on his descendants and further knowledge on his burial site, etc.

James A. Dillon; P. O. Box 563; McMinnville, TN 37110; 615/473-2233

**JEFFCOAT
NIX
MCCLUNG
KING/ERWIN
STRANGE
FRED/BROWN**

Seeking ancestry of Harriet Frances JEFFCOAT, born 19 Feb 1834, SC; died 13 Aug 1889 in Camp Co, TX. She married John Nehemiah NIX, born circa 1825, SC; died 30 Nov 1889, Camp Co, TX. Children: John, married Mary Ella MCCLUNG; Julia Frances, married Thomas KING; William, married Emma ERWIN; Ida, married Bryce STRANGE; Charles, married Annie FRED; Lula Minnie, married Mr. BROWN.

Peggy Berry Sutherlin; 4720 River Hill Circle; Dallas, TX 75287

1991 GENEALOGY CALENDAR

DGS Meetings and Seminars (For program information, see page 74)

Monday, 23 September 1991 - Meetings

6:00 p.m. Computer Interest Group
7:00 p.m. *Westward Migration*
Speaker: Dr. Ralph Crandall

Monday, 28 October 1991 - Meetings

10:00 a.m. Computer Interest Group
11:00 a.m. DGS Regular Meeting

Saturday, 9 November 1991 - Symposium

8:00 a.m. 1991 Fall Genealogy Symposium
(See page 76) and Annual Beginners Workshop
Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church

Monday, 25 November 1991 - Meeting

6:00 p.m. Computer Interest Group
7:00 p.m. DGS Regular Meeting

Other Genealogy Meetings, Workshops, and Conferences (See page 79)

Saturday, 21 September 1991

Mesquite Historical/Genealogical Society Workshop
8:30 a.m. *Research in Tennessee*
Speaker: Dr. George K. Schweitzer

Saturday, 5 October 1991

Ellis County Genealogical Society Workshop
P.O. Box 479; Waxahachie, TX 75165
9:00 a.m. *Early Trails into Texas*
Speaker: Dr. June R. Welch

Friday-Saturday, 25-26 October, 1991

Arkansas Genealogical Society Conference
Rt. 1, Box 178; Hackett, AR 72937
8:30 a.m. *Indians and Pioneers*
Speaker: Sharon Standifer Ashton

Infomart

"Super Saturdays" presented by the
Computer Council of Dallas
Genealogy Meetings begins at 9:00 a.m.

28 September 1991 16 November 1991
19 October 1991 14 December 1991

Correction: *DGS Newsletter*, 15:6, July-August 1991, p. 61, should read that the gift from DGS to the special 1920 Census Project fund was \$4,000, not \$3,000.

Dallas Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 12648 Dallas, Texas 75225-0648

Address Correction Requested

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**Dr. Ralph Crandall to speak to
DGS in September. See page 74.**

Volume 15, Number 7 (Issue 134)
September 1991