DGS NEWSLETTER



February 1997

Volume 21, Number 2 (Issue 176)

DGS 1997 Lecture Series is Announced

The DGS 1997 Lecture Series will begin Saturday, 22 February, with pointers on organizing your genealogy records. If you have resolved that this will be the year you finally get organized, join us for CONTAIN YOURSELF . . . CONTROLLING YOUR **GENEALOGY!** seminar is for everyone who is doing family research. What do we genealogists generate more than anyone else? Records! Paper! Spend the day with us and learn tips and techniques on controlling genealogy-filing systems, photos, forms, computers and more:

Winning the Paper War Pat Hatcher

Are your ancestors buried under that mound of paperwork? Learn how to organize those stacks and stacks of paper into a successful genealogy collection.

Focus on Photographs in Your Collection

Barbara Baylis

Smile and say cheese! Barbara offers suggestions on using photographs to enhance your genealogical research. The emphasis will be on how to take photographs

and how to preserve and use photographs.

Organized Thoughts for Organized Research

Sammie Townsend Lee

Keeping our research organized requires a well-planned strategy! This 4-step plan effectively uses research logs, notes, reports and chronologies, plus other record-keeping charts and forms.

Customize Your Filing System Barbara Dossett

Learn by example. This easy and complete filing system is a hands-on example of a simple and efficient way to organize.

Computers—A Tool For Genealogy Mike Basham

Utilize the computer and improve your organization skills. Move those stacks off the floor and into the computer via available software programs and practical skills.

The lecture series will continue Saturday, 26 April, when Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck tells us about MISSISSIPPI & ALABAMA: THE OLD SOUTH. Mississippi and Alabama share the rich cultural history of the Southeastern region. Formed from the Mississippi Territory, they developed their own identities, retaining similar qualities. Mr. Bockstruck will delve into the facts and fiction of how these two areas, later known as the Old South, struggled and grew from their early beginnings. From the Spanish explorers, through French and other European settlers, in the midst of the Native American Indians, they carved their niche in this country. This lecture will move forward through exploration, statehood, secession, war, and a union reunited, as Lloyd departs

(Continued on page 29)

Meeting Places to Change

Due to the Dallas Public Library's First Floor and Plaza remodeling plans, most meetings and lectures for the remainder of the 1996-97 year will not be held in their usual locations. Watch the newsletter for announcements of locations for these events.

FGS/DGS

3-6 September 1997

"A Conference for the Nation's Genealogists"

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Regular Meetings: Unless otherwise indicated, DGS regular meetings are held on the fourth Monday, January-May and September-November, in the Auditorium of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library (Dallas Public Library), 1515 Young Street, in downtown Dallas. Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. with a reception at 6:30 P.M. in the East/West Room. Regular meetings are free; visitors and guests are welcome.

Computer Interest Group (DGS/CIG): Unless otherwise noted, the DGS Computer Interest Group meetings are held at 6:30 P.M. on the second Thursday, January-May and September-November, in the Auditorium of the Library. Additionally, the DGS/CIG holds a "question & answer" period in the Library's Auditorium one hour prior to the regular DGS monthly meetings. Meetings are free, and visitors and guests are welcome.

DGS African-American Interest Group (DGS/AAIG): Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held in the East/West Rooms of the Library on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. Meetings are free, and visitors and guests are welcome.

DGS Professional Interest Group (DGS/PIG): Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the fourth Thursday, January-May and September-November in the East/West Rooms of the Library at 7:00 P.M. Meetings are free and open

Latin-American Interest Group: This group on the first Saturday of each month at 9:15 A.M. at the Audelia Branch Library of the Dallas Public Library.

Our Home Page Address (URL):

http://www.chrysalis.org/dgs Our E-Mail Address: dgs@chrysalis.org Our Phone Number: (214) 670-7932

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. DGS is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS).

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Membership

Individuals, libraries, or societies may apply for membership. Dues are \$20 for twelve consecutive months, with membership beginning the month of payment. New member dues and renewals should be mailed to DGS at P.O. Box 25556, Dallas, Texas 75225-1556 and marked to the attention of the Vice-President for Membership. Current members receive *The Dallas Journal* and the *DGS Newsletter*. The object and goals of this Society are:

Create, foster and maintain interest in genealogy and family history; Raise standards of genealogical research through educational programs, workshops, and the publication of data;

Promote the collection and preservation of material relating to the early history of Dallas County and those pioneers who settled the area;

Copy, index, and publish records, documents, inscriptions, and other genealogical source materials;

Support the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library, and Stimulate the exchange of information between Society members and genealogical researchers across the nation.

Newsletter

The DGS Newsletter is published monthly from January-April and September-December, with bi-monthly issues published in May-June and July-August. Copy deadline for the March 1997 DGS Newsletter is 1 February 1997. All articles and correspondence for the DGS Newsletter should be mailed to the Society at P. O. Box 12648, Dallas, Taxos 75225 048 to the effective of the Newsletter Bits of the Newsletter Bits of the Newsletter Bits of the State of the Newsletter Bits of the State of the Newsletter Bits of Texas 75225-0648 to the attention of the Newsletter Editor.

Articles appearing in the DGS Newsletter may be reprinted only

upon receipt of written permission from the author. Credit should be given to the author and acknowledgment given the DGS Newsletter as the source. Letters requesting reprint permission should be sent to the Newsletter Editor.

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DGS News and Upcoming Events

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President's Message Leslie Smith Collier

This year has barely begun, but DGS activity is running apace. Our 1997 Lecture series kicks off on the twenty-second of this month, we've already completed a very successful research trip to Salt Lake City, the next Beginners Seminar is calendared for May, and we are steaming toward the FGS Conference that has been our goal for the last three years. It's time to give credit where credit is due. Let me make this perfectly clear—it is Art Rubeck and Art alone who saw the opportunity to bring this event to the North Texas region. It was he who single-handedly sought, won, and signed the contract that brings FGS to Dallas.

Make no mistake, hosting a national convention is a tremendous honor and responsibility. Considering the amount of work already put into planning, not to mention the untold hours yet to come, it's time to remind us why Art is such a believer.

There is knowledge out there—information and techniques already discovered by others that may solve our genealogical problems. Art has attended a number of these conferences and learned skills he might never have mastered otherwise. He realizes the value of genealogical education to our community. He wants you to have the opportunity to learn something new.

A second, but hardly less important, reason for hosting a conference is the proverbial bottom line. If this event is a financial success (and the signs are very good), then a goodly chunk of the profits will land on the shelves of the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. Hmm, I like the sound of that.

So back to work I go. Art's right; it is worth it. I hope to see a lot of you in the trenches!

February Program Carole Chew Ruska

Key to the Heart: Marriage Banns, Bonds, Customs

What better month than February, when we celebrate Valentine's Day, to explore the topic of marriage and receive the next key to unlocking our heritage—the key to the heart. Barbara Roberts Baylis, a longtime DGS member and past president, will be the speaker in February. She is a founder of the Institute Genealogical Studies, an instructor of genealogy at SMU, and a frequent lecturer at local and national genealogical events. In 1993 she won first place in manuscript writing in the Texas State Genealogical Society.

Love and marriage have existed throughout recorded history, but marriage licenses, registered in a state bureau of vital statistics, are a research luxury that most genealogists do not find. However, other records from early times can be found to establish marriages.

Long ago, just as today, marriages could be a civil matter or a church matter, each leaving certain records. Learn when marriage banns were necessary and where to look for those records; when marriage bonds had to be posted and how to research the court records for them: returns, the ministers' lists of marriages performed; and consents parents had to give for underage marriages. Discover the several ways to prove a marriage other than the actual marriage license.

Barbara is quite an entertaining speaker, and this topic is sure to be of interest to all.

Please join us Monday, 24 February 7:00 p.m., DPL Auditorium for Key to the Heart and Barbara Baylis!

Check out the program article "To Have and To Hold" on marriage customs elsewhere in the *Newsletter*.

Call for Vignette

Each meeting we try to have a vignette that corresponds to the program topic in which someone tells about a genealogical find or about solving a problem using the records we are exploring. No one has signed up to give the vignette concerning marriage records at the February meeting. Please think about your research and problem solving to determine if you have used any kind of marriage record to solve genealogical problem or discovered a marriage record in an unusual way or place. Just a five minute synopsis of your find might help others to solve their problems. You have the month of February when you receive the Newsletter until the meeting on the 24th of February to work on a five minute presentation. Give me a call as soon as you can and let me sign you up for the vignette at the February meeting. Thanks, Carole Ruska, 214-324-2928.

DGS Special Interest Groups Mike Basham

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DGS operates four Special Interest Groups that normally meet monthly. Listed below is the schedule of meetings for these groups. Check the DGS Internet Home Page at http://www.chrysalis.org/dgs for the latest information on these groups.

Computer Interest Group: This group is led by Mike Basham and meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Dallas Public Library Auditorium. The Computer Interest Group also meets informally one hour before each DGS General Session to discuss computer genealogy topics and answer questions from DGS members.

African-American Interest Group: This group is led by Emille Betterson and meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Dallas Public Library East/West Room.

Professional Interest Group: This group is led by Sammie Lee and meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Dallas Public Library West Room.

Latin-American Interest Group: This newly formed group is led by Sandy Fritz and meets on the first Saturday of each month at 3:15 p.m. at the Audelia Branch Library of the Dallas Public Library.



DGS Welcomes New Members

DGS would like to welcome the following new members: Vicki F. Abbot, Sherlene Baab, Suzanne DeBruin, Judy M. Jiru, Lisa McKinney, Patsy Clark Mercer, Jennifer D. Miles, Leta Thurman, Stanley Hodgson, Paula Smith, Dr. Elke O. Hedstrom, John Hebley, Wanda J. Carter, Richard C. Dunagan, and Janice A. Virture.



New Computers in DPL Genealogy Section

DGS has recently installed two new computers in the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. These are "state-of-the-art" systems designed to facilitate computer research at the library. One of the systems will operate the LDS Family Search software and replace the much older and slower system currently performing this function. The second system will be used for a wide variety of research-oriented CD-ROMs to be purchased by DGS. And watch for even more exciting computer equipment to be added shortly.



(Continued on page 33)

Special Half-Price Book Sale! Dallas County, TX, Records

Currently available at prices that will make it so affordable to add to your library or personal collection! Limited time offer from DGS.

Genealogical Data from Early Cemeteries, Vol. 1 \$7.50 Genealogical Data from Early Cemeteries, Vol. 2 \$7.50 Marriages, Vol. 1, Books A-E (1846-1877) \$7.50 Marriages, Vol. 2, Books F-H (1877-1885)\$7.50 Index to Probate Cases 1846-1900 \$5.00 Index to Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas Co, TX \$4.00

Mailing Charges: \$5.00 to \$10.00 - Add \$1.75 \$10.01 to \$20.00 - Add \$2.25 \$20.01 to \$40.00 - Add \$2.75 \$40.01 to \$75.00 - Add \$3.25 \$75.01 & above - Add \$3.75 \$5.00 minimum mail order

Write DGS at P.O. Box 12648, Dallas, TX 75225-0648. All prices subject to 8.25% sales tax for Texas residents.

Give It a Try!

Each month, in conjunction with the program, we try to publish an article in the *Newsletter* that corresponds in subject matter and to present a brief vignette on the topic before the speaker. There are a few spaces to fill, and it is time for all you genealogy lay-persons (as opposed to professionals) to give it a try!

Look at the two programs below, think about all the good stories you have encountered researching your ancestors, and try to make a vignette or article out of one of the best.

This is a great way to make a start in writing your history--only two pages (six columns)--or begin your public speaking career (only five minutes). Think about it, and let me hear from you ASAP at 214-324-2928.

MARCH: Family Life: Genealogical Information in Newspapers and Periodicals.

Vignette: Barbara Dossett

Article: (how research in newspapers/periodicals/ indexes led to genealogical information or solved a problem).

APRIL: Naming Patterns - Historical and Regional.

Vignette: (birth/christening record discovery or how studying the naming patterns of your ancestors solved a problem).

Article: (how you discovered a name change in the family or solved a family line by the names; can also work for a vignette)

Bulletin Board

Do you have information you would like to share with other genealogists? Do you know about upcoming seminars, classes, or publications which might interest your friends and fellow researchers? If so, please submit original information only and include the source. Send to: Bulletin Board, DGS Newsletter Editor; P.O. Box 12648; Dallas, TX 75225-0648, and we will publish items as space permits.

KERA to Sponsor Beginner Workshop

In conjunction with the "Ancestors" series, KERA will host a beginning genealogy workshop Saturday, 1 March. It will be held from 1:00-5:00 p.m. at the KERA Community Room, 3000 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas. For further information, call 214-740-9216 or 214-263-3151 (metro).

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Kingsland Genealogical Society Family History Seminar

The Kingsland Genealogical Society has finalized details for a 1997 Family History Seminar and has developed a Commemorative Certificate Program linked to Llano County, TX.

The seminar will be held Tuesday, 11 March 1997, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., at the Community Center in Kingsland, TX. Preregistration cost is \$20, or \$25 at the door; lunch is included. The guest speaker will be Mary Ann Hoppe. Her topics will be "Land Records," "Homestead Records," and "How to Organize Your Research so it is Usable and Quickly Located."

Two certificates of appreciation are available to individuals: Early

Family History Show Schedule

Mar 2 Jonathan Stayer
Reference Section,
Pennsylvania State
Archives
Bob Heinonen
Texana Living History
Association

Mar 9 Bette Butcher Topp
Carpenter, Ellwood,
Henry, Kuhn, & Mills
family newsletters
Craig Roberts Scott
Clan Scott
Lyle K. Williams
Stovall Family Association

Mar 16 Patrick McKenna
Dallas Public Library,
associate
Beth Mullinax
Irish Genealogical Society
International

Mar 23 Stephanie Wittenbach
Center for American
History, University of
Texas Austin
Bettye Richhart
Fort Worth Gen. Society

Mar 30 Easter Program

Apr 6 Mississippi Dept of Archives and History (Guest to be announced)

Apr 13 Ken Kamper
The Daniel Boone &
Frontier Families Research
Assn

Apr 20 Wally Chariton
Author, Exploring the
Alamo Legends
Stephen L. Hardin
Author, Texian Iliad

Host: Michael Matthews

1 (800) 765-1080 Toll-Free

10:00 P.M. to midnight KRLD 1080 in Dallas/Ft. Worth

Settlers—Llano Co. Residents prior to 1900, and Boom Years—Contributed to Growth of Llano Co. 1892-1918. Application packet is available for #10 SASE; send request to KGS Commemorative Committee, P. O. Box 952, Kingsland, TX 78639.

TUFTS KINSMEN Project

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TUFTS KINSMEN, the complete, 1,275-page hard-bound genealogy, covering 38,000 Tufts-related personages and 450 picture/portraits,

will soon be ready for sale at \$70.00 only to prepublication subscribers. Do not send payment now. No additional copies are planned.

All those interested in this exceptionally thorough and comprehensive 50-year study of Tufts genealogy and heritage, by Herbert F. Adams, should send four (4) first-class postage stamps (U.S. or Canadian) to be informed when it will be available to order. Mail requests only to:

TUFTS KINSMEN Project P.O. Box 571 Dedham, MA 02027-0571

(Continued on page 33)

1997 DGS Writing Awards Competition

Sheila White Huckaby

The Dallas Genealogical Society Writing Awards Competition encourages genealogical writing and development of genealogical writing skills. Each category may have a winner receiving a cash award. The awards are presented annually at the DGS Service Awards Banquet.

Entry forms may be picked up in the Genealogy Section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library (Dallas Public Library), at DGS meetings, or may be requested by writing to DGS, P.O. Box 12648, Dallas, TX 75225-0648.

COMPETITION RULES

- There is no entry fee for DGS members. Nonmembers may participate for a fee of \$10 per entry.
- Each entrant may submit one book or manuscript and/or one article.
- Submitted items must have been compiled or published within the last year (August 1995-August 1997).
- Entries must be received by 1
 September 1997 and mailed to:
 DGS; Writing Awards
 Competition; P.O. Box 12648,
 Dallas, TX 75225-0648. Or,
 entries may be hand-delivered to
 the 8th Floor Genealogy Section
 of the Dallas Public Library.
- Each entry must be accompanied by the entry form found in the brochure.
- Winners are selected by a panel of three judges appointed by the DGS Writing Awards Competition Committee.
- There may be one winner in each category. All entries scoring 90% or higher receive a first place

- certificate; all other entries receive a certificate of participation. In the event that no entry scores 90% or higher in a category, then no prize shall be given in that category.
- At the completion of the competition, certificates and critiques for each entry shall be presented to the entrants.
- All entries become the property of DGS. At the completion of the competition, all entries are donated to the Dallas Public Library Genealogy Section. The author shall retain all publication rights.
- The winner of each category will be announced at the 1997 DGS Service Awards Banquet.

JUDGING CRITERIA

All entries are judged in three major areas:

- 1 Genealogical Content (including writing style, numbering system, evaluation of evidence, documentation and source citation) comprising 50% of the total rating.
- Writing Composition (including sentence structure and vocabulary, spelling, grammar, usage and style and mechanics) comprising 25% of the total rating.
- 3 Presentation of Material (including printing quality, general appearance, title page, dedication, bibliography, glossary, etc.) comprising 25% of the total rating.

The standard of style for this competition is *The Chicago Manual of Style* (see Bibliography).

Books and Manuscript entries must include:

- Table of Contents
- Index (refer to *Indexing Family Histories*, see Bibliography)

DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

DIVISION I: UNPUBLISHED ARTICLES (10,000 words or less)

CATEGORY 1: Documented Family History or Genealogy (requires a numbering systemrefer to *Numbering Your Genealogy: Sound and Simple Systems*, see Bibliography)

CATEGORY 2: Undocumented Family History Narrative (memories, family stories, etc.)

CATEGORY 3: General Genealogical Interest (includes, but is not limited to, articles on methodology, preponderance of evidence, local or county history, material for a "Beginners Corner," etc.)

Division II: Published Articles (10,000 words or less)

CATEGORY 1: Documented Family History or Genealogy (requires a numbering system; refer to Numbering Your Genealogy: Sound and Simple Systems, see Bibliography)

CATEGORY 2: Undocumented Family History Narrative (memories, family stories, etc.)

CATEGORY 3: General Genealogical Interest (includes, but is not limited to, articles on methodology, preponderance of evidence, local or county history, material for a "Beginners Corner," etc.)

DIVISION III: BOUND BOOKS (Hard or perfect bound books)

CATEGORY 1: Documented Family History or Genealogy (requires a numbering system; refer to Numbering Your Genealogy: Sound and Simple Systems, see Bibliography)

CATEGORY 2: Documented Family History Narrative (no numbering system)

CATEGORY 3: Undocumented Family History Narrative (memories, family stories, etc.)

CATEGORY 4: General Genealogical Interest (includes, but is not limited to, articles on methodology, preponderance of evidence, local or county history, material for a "Beginners Corner," etc.)

DIVISION IV: MANUSCRIPTS AND INFORMALLY BOUND BOOKS

CATEGORY 1: Documented Family History or Genealogy (requires a numbering system; refer to *Numbering Your Genealogy: Sound and Simple Systems*, see Bibliography)

CATEGORY 2: Documented Family History Narrative (no numbering system)

CATEGORY 3: Undocumented Family History Narrative (memories, family stories, etc.)

CATEGORY 4: General Genealogical Interest (includes, but is not limited to, articles on methodology, preponderance of evidence, local or county history, material for a "Beginners Corner," etc.)

CATEGORY 5: A book of abstracted material (court records, census, cemetery, etc.)

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Hatcher, Patricia Law and John V. Wylie. *Indexing Family Histories:* Simple Steps for a Quality Product. Arlington, VA: National Genealogical

Society, 1994. Originally appeared as "Indexing Family Histories," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 81 (June 1993): 85-98.

Lackey, Richard S. Cite Your Sources: A Manual for Documenting Family Histories and Genealogical Records. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1980.

All of us at DGS would like to send our best wishes to the families of Sammie Townsend Lee and Art Rubeck and to Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck. Our thoughts are with you at this time.

Internet Site of the Month by Mike Basham

Every genealogist that I know is interested in maps. We are always looking for maps in the counties and areas where our ancestors originated. In addition, we have a need to be able to locate property and people using current maps.

Our Internet Site of the Month is the MapQuest site which provides some interesting capabilities for the genealogist. Here are some things that you can do while connected to MapQuest:

- Find and display a detailed map of anywhere in the world
- Find a location by city, state, zip code or even street address
- Zoom in and zoom out on any location
- Display points of interest such as dining, lodging, and health care facilities

So if you are visiting an out-oftown library, you can see a detailed street map of the area you are visiting before you leave town. You can even print out a copy of the generated map to take with you.

Or if you have the zip code and/or street address of one of your genealogy correspondents, you can generate a map of the area where they live and know exactly where they reside.

Another interesting feature of this Internet site is called Trip Quest. You can enter your starting point plus your destination point, and MapQuest will generate a detailed description of your driving route including an estimate of the driving time. Your starting point and your destination point may be either street addresses or a city only. If you specify your street address as your starting point, it will even tell you which way to turn at the intersection of each street.

Finding the MapQuest site is easy—from the DGS Home Page at http://www.chrysalis.org/dgs you will find a hyperlink to this outstanding genealogy resource.

1997 FGS/DGS Conference Watch

Ooh, Have You Seen the Program for the FGS/DSG Conference?

The Featured Lectures

Leslie Smith Collier

Did your copy of the FGS/DGS brochure appear in the mailbox yet? Talk about delicious--how do you choose where to be each hour of this conference next September? It may take a while for me to make my final choices, but there are three sessions already inked on my calendar. They appeal so strongly that they wound up as the featured lectures in the brochure. How about a preview:

To Speak of the Dead Is to Make Them Live Again Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck

The FGS Banquet on Friday, 5 September--the Conference's splashiest event: There is probably no one in America who has a better bird's-eye view of the relationships we genealogists create in our minds with our ancestors. With his poker face and trademark dry wit, Lloyd deals out stories to make us snicker, chuckle, and finally laugh out loud as he holds up a mirror to the foibles of our ancestors, and to us in pursuit of them. Who among us has refused to see what so clearly stares at us from the records? Do researchers sometimes become merchants of pure fiction? If you've heard Lloyd when he pulls out all the stops, then you'll be there. If you've not heard him at his wittiest, then you'd best rush to order a ticket before the seats are sold out!

Steps to a Solution

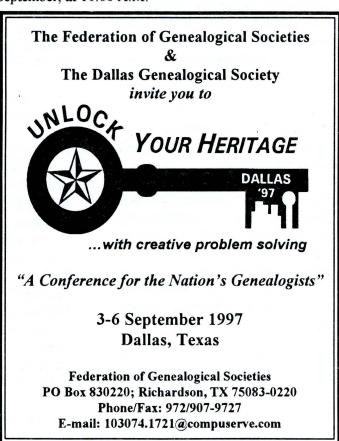
Elizabeth Shown Mills

The Keynote: A premiere of Elizabeth Mills' new lecture that finally explains exactly how we can cut our brick wall problems down to manageable size. Most of us have a tendency to set aside our most difficult ancestors simply because we are not sure exactly how to tackle them. But Elizabeth is past mistress of solving difficult cases--let her tell you the secrets to her success. It's really not that hard once we learn to see our puzzles in their component pieces, and she tells us how! This is one all of us should hear. Thursday, 4 September, at 8:00 A.M.

Preserving Our Heritage: African Americans & Texas Historical Markers

Bell Cheatham

The Jimmy Walker Lecture: Bell Cheatham is a remarkable woman--no doubt about it! She began her search with an open mind and an eye to the possibilities. And it has paid off handsomely for Bell and her ancestors. She took a fluke error in the census and pursued it with a vengeance, following her slave family and their owners until she had proven all of them beyond any genealogical doubt, now finding herself a member of First Families of Texas. But Bell was not content with this alone; she went further and tested bureaucratic waters, finally having her family's cemetery recorded on the Texas Register of Historic places. Bravo! We all should follow her example. Saturday, 6 September, at 11:00 A.M.



1997 Lecture Series

Illinois Research at the Dallas Library?

By Gretchen Hough King

Do Illinois Research at the Dallas Library? Come on! I don't have a single southern ancestor, so why would I want to do Coles County or Cook County, Illinois, research at the Dallas Library? That wasn't the first wrong conclusion I had in genealogy.

Some of my research had been done at the Newberry Library in Chicago, and as frequently happens, I had not copied down all of the information I needed. Now, I needed the book again. Oh well, there was always inter-library loan. Before going down to the first floor and ordering the book, I stopped to look in the card catalogue. There was the book, call number and all, just waiting for me—the history of the Calvin Davis family from Illinois in the Dallas Library. Wow!

I knew many of the Illinois Census records were available, but I had never checked the catalogue for other information. Now was the time. All three Coles County marriage books were available, 1830-1850, 1851-1870, 1871-1890. I also found a comprehensive book for 1831-1929 and a marriage record index for 1831-1887.

Several "Mug" books were available on microfilm. One was listed as a portrait and biographical album of Coles County containing full page portraits. The other was a historical encyclopedia. The History of Coles County was also available. This was all good background material. On microfiche, I found land grants and public domain tract lands. Now all I had to do was find the time to get a microfilm reader and read.

Military records for the Civil War period are also available. I found the

Illinois Military Census 1861-1863 listing all males 18-45. That was definitely a find! An index of veterans, an honor roll of veterans buried in Illinois prior to July 1, 1955, looked promising. I'd never get through all the resources in one day at the library. I even found something that was not listed in the card catalogue as I went to get a roll of microfilm from the Illinois drawer--the index to compiled service records of Volunteer Union Soldiers who served in organizations from the state of Illinois.

Of course, I had not counted the Family History Library Catalog, the International Genealogical Index, and the Ancestral File, the information from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. I always seem to leave that as a last resort, but it is a good research tool and should not be forgotten.

Well, I was wrong; I have at least four trips ahead of me to the Dallas Public Library. I haven't yet checked out the maps, newspapers, periodicals, PERSI, and other sources for research. The resources are not limited to the Genealogy section. You can do successful research on any county and state, in fact, any country at the Dallas Public Library. All it takes is time.

Full Day Internet Seminar
Conducted by
Mike Basham
March 15, 1997
Details on DGS Home Page
or at the Dallas Public
Library

the story of the Old South in Mississippi and Alabama.

The final lecture in the series, THE SCOTS-IRISH: AGGRAVATION, EMIGRATION, IMMIGRATION, MIGRATION, ASSIMILATION by George K. Schweitzer, PhD, ScD, will be held Saturday, 14 June. Setting the stage in the old country, Dr. Schweitzer brings the Ulster Scots across the Atlantic and follows them across America. He speaks of this group in Ireland, in America, and as they migrate. He addresses a gamut of genealogical resources that will greatly influence your Scots-Irish research:

The Scots-Irish, The Ulster Background

To whom are we referring: Scots, Irish, or Scots-Irish? Religion & pre-1775 genealogical records explored.

The Scots-Irish, Emigration and Immigration

Leaving Ulster and arriving in America. Ports of departure and arrival; original coastal settlements in MD, SC, NY, NJ, NC, PA and New England; an explanation of why Pennsylvania is so predominant.

The Scots-Irish, The Westward Migrations

Frontier settlement predilection. From PA on to KY, OH, IN, IL, then on to MO. From KY and TN to MO, AR, and on to TX. Examples from 1723 -1835.

The February seminar will be held in the auditorium at the DPL. Locations for the April and June seminars will be announced shortly. Please plan to join us for these lectures. A registration form can be found on page 34.

Remembering and Writing

Margret Hancock Pearce

Several years ago I attended a lecture on aging. The title of the lecture was listed as "What Are We Going to Do About Mama?" The young woman leading the class was 83 years old and she began with this story.

"Our mind is like an attic. When we move into a new home, the attic is empty and there is nothing stored there. After we have lived in our home ten years, we have a few items stored there, but we know exactly what each item is, precisely where it is and where to find everything. When we have been in our home 25 years, our attic is quite full, we know most of what is up there and can still find things; however, it might take us a few minutes. After we have lived there 75 years, our attic is a jumble and crammed full of items. We aren't sure what is up there and many of the items have been tucked into far corners. We know some of the things that are stored there and can probably get to them without too much difficulty. Yet there are many items stored which we have completely forgotten and haven't thought of in vears."

Our memories are the treasurers tucked away in the corners of the attic of our mind. Why are our memories important? Olga Buchanan Hancock who is now 88 years old said, "I have lived through the most dramatic period in history. When I was born, we traveled by walking, riding horseback or in a wagon. I have seen the automobile replace all of these. I have seen airplane travel become common. And I have seen a man travel to the moon and walk there. All in my lifetime."

History. History is more than names of dull generals fighting obscure wars or prominent heads of state who ruled, or dates to be memorized then promptly forgotten. Since the year 1900, the world has experienced more change than in all the collective history prior to that point.

Professional history is written by professional historians for professional historians (or for some hapless student struggling to pass the current required course). This history is written for a wide audience to interpret certain times and events. But there is another kind of history. It is social or "amateur" history. This history is lived by people who do not regularly play a role in fighting wars or in making political decisions. This is not the history of reshaping the boundary lines of empires or sovereign countries. This is the social history of our lives, the history of ordinary activities, a history that can be found in reading an old letter. However, no one writes letters anymore. We E-mail, fax, phone, hang up, delete.

Early human kind communicated through smoke signals or drums. But the messages were only received as far as the drum could be heard or the smoke could be seen. Once the message was sent, the drum beat died away, the smoke disappeared, and their message was gone forever. Some way was needed to frame a message in a durable form. That form would be writing. Writing was a skill to be highly prized. Until fairly recently the skill of being able to take up a pen and write was possessed by only a privileged few. Eliza Ellen Townsend Wallis was born in 1857 in South Carolina and died in Clay County, Texas. Eliza Ellen could not read or write. Admired in the community and known widely as a 'healer', Eliza lamented until her death that she did not possess the ability to read or write. She died in 1917. As we study census records, we are struck by how many of our ancestors could not read or write;

we are amazed that this condition existed not so very long ago.

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What can we learn from old letters? No one writes letters anymore. We Email, fax phone, hang up, delete. The drum beat dies away, the smoke disappears, brief, to the point, no detail, no color, and no history.

Each person reading this article has the skill to write, a skill so highly prized not many years ago which we now take for granted. This is the tool you can use to record YOUR history; to record the memories of your life and the memories of the lives of the people you knew; to record the routine and the humdrum as well as the exciting and the unusual.

Much of our understanding of the past depends on the memories of people who were there. Some of the most important sources of history are people's memories. Whatever your present age, you have made history.

You are unique. There is no one else like you. What you have seen, what you have heard, where you have been or lived. You are a link between the present and the past as you remember it. No one - not even your closest relative - a brother or sister - has had the same experience that YOU have had. You are novel. You are a piece of living history.

What do you remember and how do you remember it? That is the important thing. The next question is, how do you go about getting it down

on paper?

Begin by preparing a simple timeline. This time-line will be your road map. What is a 'time-line'? A timeline is a graph of important events in you life. To prepare one, begin with a sheet of unlined paper. It can be either standard or legal size. With a ruler, draw a line through the middle of the page, lengthwise. Along this line, place small dots (spaced out evenly), with each dot representing a ten-year span, and starting with the nearest census year before your birth. [If your birth year is 1934, the first dot on the line would represent 1930 and a dot would then be placed along the line for each ten-year span after 1930.]

The next step is to place additional dots along the time-line. These will tell the events of your life which took place between the census years. As you move along the line adding additional dots, years, and events, you will quickly determine that there is not enough space on one sheet of paper to add all the events which come to mind. The goal is to list the major or milestone events in your life on this graph and to fill in other life memories in an expanded time-line.

To prepare your expanded timeline, begin with any 3-ring binder and standard notebook paper. Three-ring binders are more flexible than spiral notebooks, as they allow you to add additional pages for the years when you find that you can fill out many memories and events in your life. Beginning on page one with the year of your birth, number the pages at the top, allowing one year for each page. [Example: if the year of your birth is the first page would be 1952, numbered 1952, page 2 would be 1953, page 3 would be 1954, etc.] Down the left-hand margin of the page, on approximately every other line, list the twelve months of the year, January through December.

You are now ready to expand your time-line. Some years will not have many entries, especially the years of your childhood. Perhaps you may only remember a few things, such as

the birth of a baby brother or sister or a move to another town. Occasionally you may have a memory, but you are not sure in which month it occurred. You only know that it was springtime or that it happened during cold weather. Write your memory near that time of the year and note: (sometime during the spring), (during the winter), etc. As you progress, you will remember many things, perhaps one page per year will not be enough space to save all of your entries. No problem, add a page to any year where you need more space.

You will need one more place to save your memories. You will need a box. Any box will do: a shoe box, a cigar box, a fancy box or a plain box; a small box or a medium sized box (a packing crate might be a little ambitious). In this box you will save the snippets of memories as they come to you. We all know that our memories do not come to us in chronological order. Our mind wanders from one topic to another, from one time period to another, and from one subject to another. One minute we are gathering wool about how our mother shelled peas under the shade of the tree, and the next we are remembering how an eccentric aunt would bring a can of peas to a family picnic and would conveniently forget to bring a can opener.

Now for the really fun part. For years, as genealogists, we have been cautioned, lectured, and admonished, under penalty of having every page of research we have ever written either buried and/or burned, "do NOT write ANYTHING on LITTLE SCRAPS OF PAPER! " Friends, now is our chance. When a memory comes to you, write it down immediately! Wherever you are . . . and on whatever is available at that very minute! Write it on a paper napkin at the pizza parlor. Write it on the back of an envelope or a bank deposit slip. Be bold, be brash, be rude if necessary, but whatever it takes, find something on which to write your memory the moment it comes to you; if you don't get it down, it may never pop into your head again. Jot down the essence of your memory and enough of the particulars so that the next time you read your ill gotten scrap of paper, that memory will come back to you again.

Now, place this bit of memory, this scrap paper treasure, in your MEMORIES BOX. Soon your memory box will be filled with memory joggers from all the years of your life. Later as you are able, sit down and flesh out the full detail and color of that special memory and place it in your 3-ring binder, adding more and more as you continue to remember and write.

You may encounter one more small problem. It is called writers' block. It comes when we stare at a blank page of white paper and tell our brain to think of something to write down. Right here and now, I want to set the record straight. These are your memories. This is your story. In this instance, THERE IS NO WRONG WAY TO WRITE. Remember, you are doing this for yourself. You are not writing for some big time New York publisher. No one is going to grade your paper. No one is going to reject your manuscript. This is a work of love. You will love doing it, and future generations will love you for doing it.

The number one rule is to GET IT DOWN. Get your thoughts down at the time they come to you. Don't worry about grammar. Don't worry about punctuation. Later, if you want, you can rewrite your stories and smooth out the rough spots.

Keep in mind that you are telling a story about you and your family. Tell it in the language that you would use every day. Write as you talk. Don't use words that your family would not recognize as being you talking. A well-written story is a written vocal conversation of description. Describe the happenings as they were--good or bad--the happiness and the sorrows. The small stories are as important as the big ones. How YOU remember it

(Continued on page 33)

To Have and To Hold: Victorian Traditions and Home Weddings

(Reprinted with permission from Old City Park brochure.)

The Traditional wedding: groups of guests and relatives; the blushing bride in a white dress; a profusion of flowers, an ornate cake; the happy couple departing for their honeymoon.

Many of these cherished traditions are barely a century old, taking their form in the 1800's as the Victorians created a sentimental blend of old traditions and new forms.

The wedding dress was the most important decision, and most late Victorian brides chose white fabric in satin, silk, or broadcloth. Previously, many brides were married in a "best" dress which could be used again for many years. By 1890 white, cream and ivory were the only colors recommended by etiquette books and popular magazines, unless the bride was to be married in a traveling suit. Black and navy blue were always considered the proper colors for men's clothes, serving to highlight the ladies fashions. Etiquette demanded that frock coats be worn for daytime weddings, while white tail-coats were required for evening ceremonies.

The flowers used for weddings were especially significant, each having its own meaning which everyone attending the ceremony understood and appreciated. Orange blossoms (for purity) and roses (for true love) were among the most popular. Other flowers used included chrysanthemums for truth, lilacs for purity, jasmine for amiability, and ivy leaves to represent the lasting bonds of matrimony.

The reception had its traditions, too. Although it was usually a brief affair, just long enough for the guests to congratulate the bride and groom and partake the refreshments provided, it was vital to the "proper" wedding. The most central moment was the cutting of the bridal cake. This was symbolically the bride's first social task as a hostess on her own and the highlight of the reception. It was usually done with great ceremony, with the groom standing at her side.

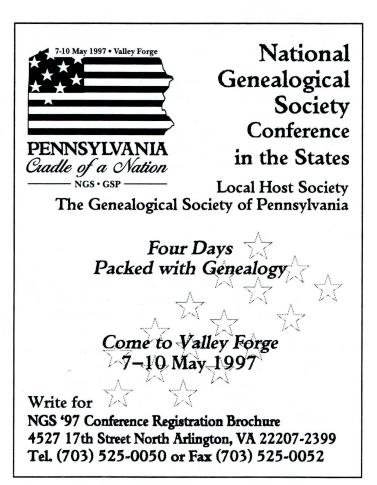
Lengthy honeymoon trips did not become fashionable until the late 1800's when it was customary for the happy couple to travel away from home for a short period of time. Etiquette books were unanimous in their censure of any public displays of affection by the newlyweds. It was even suggested that the bride wear older clothes rather than all new garments after the initial phase of the journey.

The clothing collected by the bride for her wedding trip

made up her trousseau (coming from the French word "trusse," meaning bundle). While many items may have been made by her own hands, to show her sewing skills, by the 1890's many brides took advantage of new mass produced and mail-order items to complete their wardrobes.

Wedding presents were not required or expected, but those close to the couple might choose to contribute household items or gifts to help commemorate the happy occasion. Table silver, linens, and decorative items were all common; however, guests were cautioned against giving anything that might be considered too personal.

Many of these customs, originating over a hundred years ago have combined to form the rich tapestry of traditions we all know and cherish in weddings today.



Remembering and Writing

. . . that is the important thing.

Tell all about you. Tell about your earliest memory. Include personal information with your memories. Describe where you lived. Tell about the house. What kind of mischief did you get into? What childhood games did you play? Did you have any childhood illnesses? How were they treated? What rules were you expected to follow as a child? What happened if you broke the rules?

Tell about your memories of home life. Tell about mealtime, recreation, and games you played. In one generation families have gone from having one radio in a home (or one television set) to having a radio or TV in almost every room. Do you remember your parents' first radio or television?

Tell about your memories of growing up. Tell about dating, the good times as well as the bad. What places did you go?

Some other things to include in your memories: starting out married life; church activities; civic/club and political activities; travel; sports and entertainment; favorite books; musical interests; pets; farm life or city life; and earning a living—the possibilities are endless.

With our writing we reconstruct the past. If we have researched for very long, we have all known the thrill of discovering a description of how our ancestors looked or lived. We rejoice when we learn that g-g-g-grandfather was 5'11", had blue eyes and black hair and was of slender build. Think how thrilled your descendants will be to find a physical description of you and your family members and of your family traditions. Consider those "family traditions" that you most carefully avoid in documenting your research—now is your chance to record them with abandon. Write the story as it was told to you. Be natural and truthful in your family history; Don't leave the don't embellish.

impression that you or your family are what you are not. Save the fiction for when you write your great novel.

Write your memories for your children, for your grandchildren, or for your own satisfaction. Write for your own pleasure or write for historians, but write. The most important thing is that your memories are saved for the future.

The psalmist said: "I will utter things hidden from of old. Things we have heard and known, things our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, we will tell the next generation . . . "

Your descendants will appreciate your life story as a precious treasure and bless you all their days for it.

SOME GOOD ADVICE

- 1. Remember: There is no wrong way to write.
- 2. The important thing is that your memories are saved for the future.
- 3. Remember that the best style of writing is *your* style.
- 4. Memory has a way of skipping around in time. If you write your memories in a loose leaf notebook as they come to you, the pages can later be arranged in any order you wish
- 5. Short of Time? Can't write the whole story now? Outline the event on a piece of notebook paper. Later you can reread and expand on it.
- 6. The more details, the better the story.
- 7. Write the way you would write a letter to a friend or the way you speak.
- 8. Don't embellish, be natural and truthful.
- 9. Describe the happenings as they were--Good or Bad--the happiness and the sorrows.
- 10. Tell where your memory takes place.
- 11. Can a reader visualize the setting of your story?
- 12. Do your words paint a picture? Have you provided colors, shapes,

sizes of what you are describing?

- 13. Have you described friends or family members carefully? Can your reader see what they look like?
- 14. Does your story have a beginning, middle, and end?
- 15. Sort out memories that belong together. Don't ramble around and bring in parts of stories and memories that have nothing to do with your main story.

(Continued from page 24)

DGS News

Indexing Project Leader Sought

DSG is considering a new project to index early Dallas County tax records. If you are interested in leading this project, contact Pamela Edman at 214-350-1015.



Order Your Roster Now!

The deadline for ordering the new Member Roster/Surname Exchange is 1 April. Don't miss this opportunity to find out who in DGS is researching your names. Fill out the order form that appeared in the December issue of the newsletter, or send your name, address, and phone number, enclose a check for \$4.00, and send to DGS Roster, P. O. Box 12648, Dallas, TX 755225-0648.

(Continued from page 25)

Bulletin Board

update Tufts' lineages before the book is published. Soon it may be too late to add to or correct generations already in the computer. Please always include a stamped, self-addressed, return envelope if a reply to your correspondence is expected.

DGS 1997 Lecture Series

REGISTRATION FORM

SATURDAY, 22 FEBRUARY
CONTAIN YOURSELF
CONTROLLING YOUR GENEALOGY
Auditorium, J.Erik Jonsson Central Library
\$20.00
SATURDAY, 26 APRIL
MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA:
THE OLD SOUTH
Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck
Location to be announced
\$20.00
SATURDAY, 14 JUNE
THE SCOTS-IRISH: AGGRAVATION,
EMIGRATION, IMMIGRATION, MIGRATION,
ASSIMILATION
George K. Schweitzer, PhD, ScD
Location to be announced
\$20.00
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Terri's Hints for Writing Queries

by Terri Mulliken Allen

Query. That's a funny name, isn't it? No, it's not a place to look for big rocks. It's where you turn to for help with your genealogical questions when you hit the proverbial "dead end." There are probably others out there looking for the same families you are. Queries are a way to get together and exchange information since you are both working toward the same goal: finding those ancestors! How do you get your query read by the right person—the one who might have the answers you need?

Hint #1: Place a query where it will be seen by the right researchers. For starters, place one with the genealogical society in the area where your ancestors lived. Also, state societies usually publish newsletter query columns. Don't forget the national publications, such as the National Genealogical Society's NGS Newsletter and Everton's Genealogical Helper. 1

Hint #2: Some societies require you to be a member to place a query. Others charge a fee for nonmembers. If you don't know their policy, enclose a check for \$3.00 to \$5.00; it helps to defray costs and is always greatly appreciated.

Hint #3: Write the query so that it can be read. Unless your penmanship is that of an elementary school teacher, please TYPE your query. PLEASE don't type in all capital letters; it is difficult to read. It's like "shouting." Do, however, type all surnames in capital letters.

Hint #4: The columnist shouldn't need to guess at your intent. Is the writer saying Jan or Jun? Unless requested to do so by the publication, do not use abbreviations in your query. Leave this to the query editor.

Hint #5: Keep your words to a minimum. You don't need to write your family's history, since space is usually limited in the query section. Get to the point! Keep to the newspaperman's credo: Who, What, When, Where, and Why.

Hint #6: It's very important to name a location and an approximate year when your family was in that location. List maiden names if you know them.

Happy hunting!

NOTE:

¹ To locate state and local genealogical societies, consult Mary K. Meyers, *Directory of Genealogical Societies in the United States and Canada* (Mt. Airy, MD: the editor, 1990) 8th Edition.

Check your mailing label for expiration date! Renew early so as not to miss any issues!

DGS Membership Application or Renewal

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DGS Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 1997

- 2-9 "OVER THE RAINBOW" Salt Lake City Trip.
- 13 DGS/CIG; 6:30 P.M. Thursday DPL East/West Room.
- 18 DGS/AAIG; 6:30 P.M. Tuesday DPL Auditorium.
- DGS LECTURE SERIES I; 9:00 A.M. Saturday DPL Auditorium. Topic: "Contain Yourself." Speakers: Pat Hatcher, Barbara Baylis, Sammie Townsend Lee, Barbara Dossett, Mike Basham.
- 24 DGS MONTHLY PROGRAM & MEETING; 7:00 P.M. Monday (Reception 6:30 P.M.) DPL Auditorium. Topic: "Marriages: Banns / Bonds / Customs." Speaker: Barbara Baylis. Vignette: To be announced.
- **27 DGS/PIG; 7:00 P.M. Thursday -** DPL East/West Room.

MARCH 1997

- 13 DGS/CIG; 6:30 P.M. Thursday Location to be announced.
- 18 DGS/AAIG; 6:30 P.M. Tuesday Location to be announced.

- 24 DGS MONTHLY PROGRAM & MEETING; 7:00 P.M. Monday (Reception 6:30 P.M.) Location to be announced. Topic: "Family News in Papers/Periodicals." Speaker: Leslie Collier. Vignette: To be announced.
- 27 DGS/PIG; 7:00 P.M. Thursday Location to be announced.

APRIL 1997

- 10 DGS/CIG; 6:30 P.M. Thursday Location to be announced.
- 15 DGS/AAIG; 6:30 P.M. Tuesday Location to be announced.
- 24 DGS/PIG; 7:00 P.M. Thursday Location to be announced.
- DGS LECTURE SERIES II; 9:00 A.M. SATURDAY
 Location to be announced. Topic: "Mississippi & Alabama: The Old South." Speaker: Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck.
- 28 DGS MONTHLY PROGRAM & MEETING; 7:00 P.M. Monday (Reception 6:30 P.M.) Location to be announced. Topic: "Naming Patterns Historical and Regional." Speaker: Jane Power. Vignette: To be announced.

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