

DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

DGS Newsletter



Date May 2009
Volume 34, Number 4
Issue 290

A publication of the
Dallas Genealogical Society

A. C. McMillan African American Museum, the Rains Public Library, and the Rains County Genealogical Society Host Dallas Group

By Gwendolyn M. Lawe



On May 2nd approximately 25 individuals from The AAGIG Group toured the A. C. McMillan African American Museum's exhibit, "African American Families of Rains County," which is comprised of scrapbooks, photographs, and posters. Following the Museum tour, the group took a ride to the Sand Flat community to see the Sand Flat School building, the Prairie Grove Church, and the Prairie Grove Cemetery. Then members of the group went to the Fred Hunter ranch for a barbecue meal.

The afternoon activities continued at the Rains County Public Library where a panel of members from the Dallas Group and the Rains County Genealogical Society compared and contrasted methods, approaches, and primary resources for genealogical research. Ginger Nichols' topic was "Chasing Aunt Beulah." Anne Warwick talked about her Tennessee relatives and displayed her unique way of scrapbooking her family's information. Eva McMillan of Dallas, (whose late husband, Marion McMillan, was a relative of the Emory McMillans) talked about tracing her family's roots from Tennessee. Alvin Blakes of Dallas documented his research of his family from Wilkerson County, Mississippi. Perhaps one of the most unique of all of the presentations was that of Joyce Shelton of Dallas, who shared her extensive research on Black Indians of Oklahoma. For further information regarding upcoming Museum events, you may call Anthony Porter at 903-474-0083.

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Dallas Genealogical Society
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www.dallasgenealogy.org

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Liz Kutz

Spring is almost gone, as graduations happen and everyone is getting ready to go on vacations (or staycations!). This year, most of the Dallas Genealogical Society's Special Interest Groups are going on vacation, too. The only group, that I know of, that is meeting this summer is the Mac Reunion Group headed by Happi McQuirk. Check our web site at www.dallasgenealogy.org for more information on any SIG group. Also, the general meetings will not take place this summer. All groups will be back in September.

A very important event will take place this summer on July 23 – 25. Our Summer Institute is the place to be this year. This will be a very special institute on "Land and Court-Special Topics" with Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck and Patricia Law Hatcher. These are lectures on subjects that have not been given at a previous institute, are not usually talked about in seminars, and are much needed lectures in your genealogical education to be a successful genealogist. We are going to have a "mini-Samford" right here in our own backyard! (For those of you who might not know, Samford University in Birmingham Alabama, holds an "Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research." This is one of the best places to receive a genealogical education.) We are also working on vendors, etc.

The microfiche project is in full swing with new fiche coming in almost daily! This has been a wonderful way to make the Dallas Public Library a truly major genealogical library (it was already, but this will propel the library forward!). The library staff is working very fast to catalog and file the new microfiche. By the way, we are still accepting donations towards this project. After we have bought the fiche by state (we still have several states to do), there are several specialty sets, i.e. federal land, etc. that are very worthy to be in the library's collection, which will take additional funds. Remember, each sheet of microfiche is only 15

cents! If you would like to make a donation, you may send a check to Dallas Genealogical Society Fiche Project, P.O. Box 12446, Dallas, TX 75225-0446. Please put fiche down in the check memo box. If you have a special area that you are researching, and would like to see your money go towards that area first, please add that information on a note placed in the envelope.

With fewer meetings this summer, it will give everyone time to do research or write about their ancestors. The library is an excellent place for a genealogy staycation. I plan on being at the library more this summer and I hope to see you there.

Remember, your ancestors are calling!



MANDI CLAYTON

SHERI DEGAN

SHIRLEY HOWARD

DAVID R. SNODGRASS

DIANE ELAINE WILSON

FGS Delegate Position Filled

Sandra Crowley has accepted the open delegate position for the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). Sandra is currently an active member of FGS, and we know she will be a wonderful representative for DGS. Thank you Sandra, and welcome aboard!



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Granny Cox's Parents -- My Imaginary "Brick Wall"

By Neal McEwen

Even though I never knew my wife's great-grandmother, Granny Cox, she is dear in my heart. My wife's stories help me to know her and as a bonus, family gatherings most often include a dessert from one of Granny's recipes. You have not lived until you have a slice of "Granny's Chocolate Cake."

When my wife's father, Mark Woodall Jr. was orphaned, Granny and her husband Jeremiah Cox, took their grandson in. During the Great Depression, they had a café in Westbrook, Texas, west of Abilene. We have a few items from the café such as the 'order up' bell and truly treasure them. My father-in-law would tell stories of his time with Granny with a tear in his eye.

We knew Granny was born in Alabama in 1871 and that her name was Annie Ursula. Other than that, nothing was known about Granny's early life; we did not even know her maiden name.

A distant Cox cousin knew that Granny was married in Mt. Vernon, Texas in 1889. A copy of the marriage license showed her name as Annie Robertson. Bingo! The 1910, 20 and 30 censuses told us that Annie's father and mother were born in Georgia and Alabama respectively. My wife remembered that Granny had sisters Van and Jessie.

Naturally, we supposed that the family would be in the 1880 census. I searched the index for Robertson families that had a daughter by the name of Annie, Jessie or Van. I tried alternate spellings and wildcard searches on the girl's names. Nothing - not even a 'close fit' family. I wondered if my wife was thinking of another family.

More clues were needed. Granny's death certificate showed her maiden name was Robson, not Robertson. The informant was my wife's father.



We guessed that he misunderstood his grandmother's name. Granny's Social Security application showed her maiden name as Robeson. My wife examined the application and exclaimed, "That is my Daddy's handwriting!" The death certificate and the SSA application had the same informant; we thought he was consistent, but were wrong.

Surely the marriage license was correct. How could an eighteen-year-old bride not know her own name? After all, it was a primary document, created at the time of the event by a reliable authority.

But doubt began to creep in. What if my father-in-law was right? What if he was close to the right name? Could the marriage license be wrong?

We began looking in the 1880 census for Granny and her sisters with the last name starting with 'Rob.' NO LUCK. We were beginning to think that perhaps Granny's father had died and we would find the mother and girls elsewhere. Had the mother remarried? Did both parents die? Where would we look for the children?

We had searched the easy places off and on for a year or so. Genealogical 'best practices' tells us to do a thorough search of all records available. My 'thorough' search began on the 7th floor of our library in the Franklin County tax records.

If Granny was married in 1889, we should find her family being taxed near the date of the wedding. I built a spreadsheet with five years before and after the marriage for all last names beginning with "Rob." I found about a dozen candidates from Robertsons, Robsons, Robinsons, Robesons, etc.; any of them could be the father.

I moved my search to the 8th floor. There were no clues in the transcribed obituaries, marriage records or probate indices for Franklin County. If Jessie and Van existed, they did not marry in the same county as their sister. But... in the cemetery listings, I found a Calista Robson, born in 1840 who died in 1892. She was the right age to be Granny's mother.

The 1880 census index, showed a "Calislia Robinson" with husband Augustus and three girls,

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"A. W., b. 1871, "Fair J.", b. 1875 and Vantora, b. 1878. A look at the census entry showed that "A. W." was "Anna U." The indexer had thrown us a curve! This family would account for Annie and Van. But who is Fair J.? Is the J. for Jessie?

My spreadsheet of "Robs" taxed in Franklin County had no Augustus Robson. But... there is a J. A. Robson. Perhaps A. is for Augustus. The 1860 census shows a John A. Robson, the right age born in Georgia. Maybe J. A. is John Augustus.

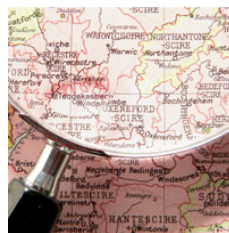
I exchanged Emails with the Franklin County clerk. Much to my surprise, she told me that the entire deed indices are online! There was a "Jessie Robson, et al", selling land in 1896. With bated breath I waited for a copy. Jessie, Van and Annie sold land in the estate of J. A. Robson. This deed surely points to J. A. Robson as Augustus, the father and points to Fair J. as Granny's sister Jesse.

Another deed showed that J. A. Robson bought his land from Mary Ann Pynes. On the same day, Mary Ann Pynes sold land to Jasper Pynes, and C. C. Pynes. The 1880 census for Franklin County showed Mary Pynes, "mother" in the Columbus Pynes family; living next door is Jasper Pynes. Mary Ann Pynes is surely Calista's mother.

A search of Alabama marriage records showed a Barbour County marriage for Augustus Robson, and Calista Pynes in 1869. We now had the right couple and the dominoes began to fall. Within a short time we determined that the John Augustus Robson was the son of Jesse Robson, a Baptist preacher, and mill owner, and the great-grandson of James Robson, a known DAR patriot. The Pynes were early settlers of Alabama where Granny's grandfather had been a hat maker.

As I had found before, there ARE errors in sources considered reliable; we need multiple sources to verify a fact. My trust in a single document masked valuable clues. My "brick wall" had not been a "brick wall" at all; I only imagined it. I simply had not given the problem due diligence.

At the next family gathering, we sliced "Granny's chocolate cake" and I told a brief story of her illustrious ancestors. My wife remarked, "I wonder if Granny knew that?"



Using Maps to Trace Your Ancestors

Teri E. Flack will speak at the Roy and Helen Hall Memorial Library in McKinney on August 15 at 1:30pm. Topic: Using Maps to Trace your Ancestors. Admission is free. For more information contact: Tracy E. Luscombe, Genealogy Librarian, McKinney Public Library System tluscombe@mckinneytexas.org



Jean Ann Ables-Flatt Receives "Best of East Texas" Award

*picture courtesy of Tricia Scruggs of the Terrell Tribune

Described by the Terrell Tribune as Kaufman County's most dedicated historian, DGS member Jean Ann Ables-Flatt was the first person this year to receive the prestigious "Best of East Texas" Award. The award, presented to her by East Texas Publishing owner, Bob Bowman, was a miniature antique water pump sculpted by New Mexico artist Paula Devereau Kurth.

Jean Ann served as chairwoman of the Kaufman County Historical Commission, in addition to being active in the Texas Historical Commission, and First United Methodist Church of Terrell. She also served as Director and President of the Terrell Heritage Society. She has also written a melodrama titled "*Murder on Pacific*," about an historical residence in Terrell, and produces performances for the community.

Our warmest congratulations go to Jean Ann for her well deserved honor!



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DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Summer Institute 2009

LAND AND COURT RECORDS AND OTHER SPECIAL TOPICS

July 23rd, 24th, and 25th

Guest Speakers:

Lloyd Bockstruck, FNGS and
Patricia Law Hatcher, FASG

The J. Erik Jonsson Dallas Public Library
1st Floor Auditorium
1515 Young Street Dallas, Texas
Voice Mail 1-866-YOU2DGS (866-968-2347)
www.dallasgenealogy.org

Thursday evening, July 23

6:45–7:45 (Bockstruck)	The Serial Set and Other Special Government Documents
7:50–8:50 (Hatcher)	First Transfer of Land

Friday, July 24

9:30–10:30 (Hatcher)	Court Records: Far More Varied than We Realize
11:00–12:00 (Hatcher)	Colonial Land Records—Proof and Possibility
12:00–1:30	Lunch
1:30–2:30 (Bockstruck)	Court Records Related to the Military and Conflicts
3:00–4:00 (Bockstruck)	State Statutes and Legislative Journals
4:30–5:30 (Bockstruck)	Memorials: South Carolina and Georgia's Special Land Records

Saturday, July 25

9:30–10:30 (Bockstruck)	Bounty Land
11:00–12:00 (Bockstruck)	Bastardy and Illegitimacy
12:00–1:30	Lunch
1:30–2:30 (Bockstruck)	The Language of Court
3:00–4:00 (Hatcher)	The Taxman Cometh—Year after Year after Year
4:30–5:30 (Hatcher)	Land Causes—Those "Other" Virginia Land Books

6:00–9:00	Mini Lock-in
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Summer Institute 2009 Registration Form

Registration Deadline:
Postmarked by July 9, 2009

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Special Needs: _____

Registration Fees Enclosed:

- Payment in Full (\$200 member)
 Payment in Full (\$230 non-member)
 \$100 deposit
 (Balance to be paid at the door on July 23, 2009)

Note: Meals will *NOT* be provided

Make checks payable to:

Dallas Genealogical Society

Mail to:

*DGS Summer Institute 2009
P. O. Box 12446
Dallas, TX 75225-0446*

Office Use

Check # _____ Amount Paid _____

Date Received _____

No audio or visual recordings.
Computers used in back row only.



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DGS SOCIETY PROGRAMS

DGS General and Special Interest Group meetings are held at the Dallas J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street, in the Plaza Level Auditorium, unless otherwise noted

DGS GENERAL MEETING USUALLY MEETS ON THE FOURTH MONDAY

Our monthly meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. with our speaker presentation to follow about 7:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28TH

Speaker Presentation Schedule:

28 Sep UTA Special Collections
Presented by Brenda McClurkin

26 Oct The Texas Portal
Presented by Kathleen Murray

23 Nov Call of the West, Part 3
Presented by Lloyd Bockstruck



DGS Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Under the support and guidance of DGS, a number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have been formed to concentrate on specific areas of genealogy. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Due to vacations most of the the SIGs have taken the summer off, and will resume in September. The following SIG will meet in June:

17 Wednesday MGRG
MacGen Reunion Group
Topic: *Back to Basics,*
including Latest Features for
Reunion.



DPL'S 8th FLOOR VOLUNTEER DESK

Becoming a volunteer is a great way to get involved and meet others. We encourage those of you who may be just starting out in your family research to volunteer a few hours a week or a few hours a month. This is a wonderful opportunity to become familiar with the genealogy section of the library and spend some time greeting visitors and meeting fellow researchers. And a fantastic perk is free parking!

Volunteers are needed to sit at the desk in either a regular weekly slot or to fill in on the substitute list. We are looking for individuals to fill in when a regular volunteer is out. If you're interested, email the Volunteer Coordinator at Volunteer@dallasgenealogy.com or call Patrick McKinney at 214-522-9356.

THE DALLAS JOURNAL

Entries for the DGS Journal can be submitted to Ora Penn at the following address journal@dallasgenealogy.com. Guidelines for submitting your articles are located on the DGS website.

DGS NEWSLETTER

The *DGS Newsletter* is published periodically throughout the year. We use articles that include things of a genealogical nature. They do not have to apply to Dallas County, Texas. All articles and correspondence for this publication should be e-mailed to the editor, Marie Navarro, at Newsletter@dallasgenealogy.org, or mailed to: DGS Newsletter, P. O. Box 12446, Dallas TX 75225-0446. Please put your phone number on ALL correspondence in case we have questions. You will receive confirmation of your submittal.

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DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Email: questions@dallasgenealogy.org

Website: dallasgenealogy.org

Founded in 1955, the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) is the oldest, continuously functioning organization of its kind in Texas. It is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation and a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). We have approximately 900 members.

The object of this society shall be: to educate, creating, fostering, and maintaining interest in genealogy; to assist and support the genealogy section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas, Texas, or its legal successor; and to collect, preserve, copy, and index information relating to Dallas County and its early history.

DGS Membership Application or Renewal

- New Member Renewal
 I would like to receive the Dallas Journal
 DGS Newsletter: Mail Email

Name (please print)

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Email Address

Make check payable to: Dallas Genealogical Society

Mail to: DGS Membership,
P. O. Box 12446, Dallas TX 75225-0446

Annual Membership/Contribution Options

<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior Membership under 25 years	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership, per individual or couple	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreign Membership	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining Membership	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Annual Patron Membership	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Membership, per individual, 65 years or under	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Membership, per individual, over 65 years	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contribution to DGS Library Gift	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	NARA	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contribution to Technology Fund	\$
Check # _____	Date _____	Total \$ _____

The Board

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Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Dallas, TX
Permit No. 7123



DGS Calendar of Events 2009

June	
See You in September!	<i>The AAGIG, Writing Interest Group, Digital Imaging, Master Genealogical, and Brown Bag Group are taking a sabbatical for the summer.</i>
17 Wednesday	MGRG MacGen Reunion Group <i>Topic: Back to Basics, including Latest Features for Reunion.</i>
There will NOT be a DGS General Meeting in June, July or August The DGS General Meeting will resume on September 28, 2009	

The DGS General and some special interest group (SIG) meetings are usually held on the Plaza level, in the Auditorium and East/West Rooms of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street, in downtown Dallas. The remaining SIGs Meet in the Studio on the 3rd Floor, the Hamon Room on the 5th Floor, or the McDermott Room on the 8th Floor. Underground parking is entered from Wood Street.

Bad Weather: To find out whether a DGS meeting has been cancelled in the event of a major weather situation on a meeting night, log on to: www.DallasGenealogy.org or call the genealogy section of the library at 214-670-1433.