

# DGS Newsletter



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## New Tools for Scots Irish Research Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck

Brian Mitchell has authored two new books aimed at American genealogists with Scots Irish ancestry. One is *Defenders of the Plantation of Ulster 1641-1691*. It contains two of the most important early lists of Ulster Scots in Northern Ireland. One is the muster roll of the garrison of Londonderry during the Rebellion of 1642-1643 and the other is the roster of defenders of Ireland during the Williamite War of 1689-1691. The first is a list of 905 men in nine infantry companies who defended the Protestant refugees in the city of Londonderry. Most of them were British who defended the walls against the native Irish. The defenders and inhabitants faced starvation until the siege was lifted in May 1642 when the Irish army was defeated near Dungiven. The list of the 905 men in 1641/42 gives the surname, forename, rank, and company of the defenders.

The Williamite War was the struggle between King William of Orange who had been invited to assume the throne of England when King James II was deposed. In the Williamite War were the defense of Derry in 1689, the harrying of the Jacobite forces in Connaught and Ulster in 1689, the battle of Aughrim in 1691, and the final surrender of the Irish in 1691. Many of these defenders were descendants of Welsh, English, and Scottish planters. Mitchell relied heavily on William R. Young's *Fighters of Derry: Their Deeds and Descendants: Being a Chronicle of Events in Ireland during the Revolutionary Period 1688-1691*. The roster consists of 1,660 defenders. They are linked to the defenders of the original planters so many can be linked to their ancestors on the early list.

These two lists are two of the most important sources for constructing pedigrees of Ulster Scots who came to the colonies in the eighteenth century. In an era and locality where genealogical records are indeed sparse, these census substitutes are highly valuable.

Copies may be ordered for \$25 plus \$5.50 handling from the Clearfield Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211.

Mitchell's other new work is *The Surnames of West Ireland* which is the area encompassed by Derry, Donegal, and Tyrone where the English and Scottish settled in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. He has prepared specific histories of 324 surnames. Spelling variations account for another 57 surnames. He observes that these names account for 80% of the people. He provides the geographic prevalence, the ancient origins of the founder of the name and variations. Since most of the clerks who created the records were Englishmen, they tended to omit the prefixes of O', Mac, Mc, and M'. When the stem was anglicized, the true origin of the surname was lost. They may have been mistranslated so that McGowan became Smith. It is imperative that genealogists be aware of the various spellings and variations in English in order to reconstruct the family's pedigree. The volume may be ordered from the same publisher for \$39.95. If both books are ordered, the handling for two books is \$8.

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland [known as PRONI] began in the 1920s and undertook an ambitious project to index the personal names in all the documents taken into its custody. The result was a card index of tens of thousands of names including a wide variety of sources such as church records, estate rentals, and leases. The card index was last filmed in 1990 and is contained on 53 rolls. It is available in the Genealogy Section of Dallas Public Library. Another major tool for Irish genealogy is Richard Hayes' *Manuscript for the History of Irish Civilisation* which appeared in 1965. There are four volumes devoted to individuals, two volumes to subjects and places, and one volume to manuscripts. In 1970 appeared the portion which covers articles with five volumes on persons, three on subjects, and one on places and dates. There was a three volume supplement in 1979. All of these sources are available on microfilm in the Genealogy Section as well.

I have ordered a microfilm copy of Young's *Defenders of Derry* so that all of the details which Mitchell abstracted are accessible in their entirety.

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*Janet Khashab, AG*

Early this morning I indulged in one of my life's daily pleasures: I walked out my front door wearing my robe and nightgown through a carpet of fallen white pear blossoms and picked up my home delivered newspapers. Last week it was a carpet of deep powdery snow but the pleasure was not only in observing our unpredictable weather but in following a routine rooted in my childhood and reestablished ten years ago when I moved back to Texas. Reading and sharing the newspaper around the breakfast table will be a hard habit to break; however, the luxury of home delivery has become an expense our budget can no longer afford. Also my green sense is offended by the unread three-quarters which go straight into the recycle bin. Soon I'll be reading my newspapers on my laptop and forwarding articles to anyone I think might be interested.

I shall also be reading this DGS newsletter and all future ones on my laptop because last month our society embraced the future and went digital. The burden on our budget and on our volunteers will be dramatically lessened with less paper newsletters to print, receive, fold and mail to our members. If you are still receiving the newsletter by post and would like it by email, please let our mailing director know. If you have not even considered joining the digital age, let me urge you to do so as the drawbacks are few and the rewards are many.

A dear friend of mine, who had lived abroad for about fifty years, returned to the States ten years ago after her husband died. Although she had never touched a personal computer before, she asked a nephew to buy and set one up for her. It wasn't easy but she learned how to use it and now corresponds enthusiastically with her friends and relatives all over the world. She turned 89 three months ago.

At the February General Meeting there was a very timely presentation by Sandra Crowley, our FGS delegate, on "The Future of Genealogical Societies: Are Virtual Societies a Fad or a Sign of the Future?" followed by a panel discussion. The main point under discussion was the phrase "Go Virtual or Perish!" as it applied to modern genealogical societies. Although the Dallas Genealogical Society is a fifty-five year old organization, the foresight and hard work of its past leaders and the dedication and technical knowledge of our current "Go Virtual" team has made the future of our society look bright. The only drawback is that perhaps it will not be

as pleasurable to those of us who enjoy a short walk out in the front yard in the early morning.



You will soon find the "NEW ACQUISITIONS" feature that has been included in past newsletters on the DGS website. All new books and materials cataloged into the Genealogy Section since the listing in the February newsletter will be included on the website listing. Go to [www.dallasgenealogy.org](http://www.dallasgenealogy.org) to view new publication titles. The path to find the new acquisitions on the website will be published in April after the information is posted.



### *"Who Do You Think You Are?"*

Stock up on the popcorn and get ready for the NBC hit show "Who Do You Think You Are?" The family history-focused series will lead seven celebrities, including Lisa Kudrow, Sarah Jessica Parker, Spike Lee, Matthew Broderick, Susan Sarandon, Emmitt Smith, and Brooke Shields on a heart-warming journey back in time as they discover more about their ancestors. Tune in to NBC Fridays 8/7c. Actress Brooke Shields will be featured Friday, April 2, and Susan Sarandon will be on the April 9 episode. For more information about the show, go to:

<http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/>.

This could be the biggest family history phenomenon since Roots!

If you would like to see previous episodes of the show, including the week Emmitt Smith was featured (March 12, 2010), you can go to the URL above or to [www.fancast.com](http://www.fancast.com).



*May 1, 2010 General Meeting  
10:30 a.m.: Social Hour  
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Business  
and Program  
"Texas Courthouses"  
Presented by John Sellers*

### Sometimes Genealogy is Really Easy

I've always been a genealogist at heart. I remember looking at a reproduction of *George Washington Crossing the Delaware* in my grade-school history book and wondering if my great-grandfather was one of the men rowing the boat. Later, when I was a little older and had a few more history (and math) classes to my credit, I realized my great-grandfather was several generations removed from the Revolutionary War and it was just as likely that his great-grandfather was surprised on the other side of the river.

The wide-spread interest in genealogy and abundance of research facilities we enjoy today simply did not exist when I was in grade school, high school, and college. There was no internet to search, no genealogy societies where I lived, and no genealogy section in the library. I didn't even know there was a name for the thing in which I was so interested until a friend supplied it ---*Genealogy*. Unfortunately, that was the extent of my friend's knowledge on the subject and I was plunged back into ignorance. Some people stigmatized the pursuit, categorizing it as a waste of time, so I had to be careful to whom I addressed my questions or suffer the criticism. All I could do was listen to my aunts and uncles (actually just my aunts – the uncles were hard-pressed to get a word in edgewise) tell stories around the dinner table on holidays. The questions I asked initiated discussion but provided no satisfactory answers. Despite my initial lack of success, my interest did not abate even though my next few attempts at finding information were feeble and too embarrassing to discuss here. Then my husband and I moved to the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C.

One of the first things I did when we moved was take my two children to the local library to get cards and check out books to keep them occupied while I unpacked boxes. While perusing the shelves, waiting for the children to make their selections, I saw it--- a small volume titled *Searching for Your Ancestors* by Gilbert A. Doane. The unpacked boxes remained unpacked. I read the book as soon as we got home and realized immediately that I was at the epicenter of American genealogy and wanted to start just as soon as possible. For the next several years, I learned, did research at the National Archives, Land Management Bureau, Suitland Records Center, Library of Congress, DAR Library, etc., This was before many of the records at the National Archives were microfilmed, so I was able to examine the actual records. If I had trouble reading the microfilmed census records, I could look at the book. I developed muscles using original census volumes and land books as large as a coffee table. I was fortunate enough to take the three-week seminar given at the National Archives by the National Genealogical Society in 1971.

Every day, just as soon as the school bus was out of sight, I jumped into the car, drove to the National Archives or one of my other destinations, and worked all day, barely beating the school bus back to my driveway.

Sometimes genealogy is very difficult. I traced my non-boat-rowing great-grandfather to Arkansas and then to Missouri, got stuck there and have never been able to go back farther. His grandfather remains a mystery with a very common name, Jesse Brown.

Sometimes genealogy is easy. After living on the East Coast for a year and spending every minute I could spare at research, it was time to spend a month with our parents in Oklahoma. We headed west, stopping in Tennessee so that I could do a bit of research on my husband's Caldwell and Gillespie families. While reading about early days in Tennessee, I came across an exciting story about an Ensign Joel Wallace, son of Revolutionary War soldier Captain Thomas Wallace, who was fired upon by Indians at the head of Pistol Creek. The ball shattered a bone-handled knife strapped across his chest, but he was uninjured and outran the pursuing Indians back to the fort (Black's Station). Interesting story, but nothing to do with my research, right?

Later that week in Oklahoma, I visited my grandmother. When I asked her the name of the grandfather who raised her after her mother died, she said, "Thomas Joel Wallace." Thomas Joel Wallace was the son of William Stephenson Wallace who was the son of Ensign Joel Wallace. Yes, sometimes genealogy is really easy.

Patricia Kenney Anderson



### DGS Newsletter Going Electronic

Beginning with the January/February issue, the Dallas Genealogical Society Newsletter is being delivered in both electronic and printed editions. The electronic newsletter is delivered to your email in pdf format. It will be posted on the DGS website. An email will alert members to the User Name and Password to view and/or download the newsletter.

To receive your DGS newsletter electronically, you must have an email address in your DGS account and you should check "Newsletter" as a Membership Subscription Option.

To continue to receive a printed version of the newsletter, you should check "Newsletter" as a Membership Subscription Option and "Print & mail me a Newsletter" as a Communication Option and in your DGS account.

If you do not want the electronic version, you need to check "Exclude me from Electronic Newsletter delivery."

To make changes in your DGS account, click on Members Only on the DGS website. Enter your Login Name and Password. Select Update My Profile under the "What Do You Want to Do?" drop down menu. Select the Communications Options and Subscription Options that you want by clicking on the box in front of the option. After you have made changes, click Submit. Then select Logout under the "What Do You Want to Do?" drop down menu.

If you cannot remember your password or user name, click on [Get help](#) on the Membership Page. Enter your email address and submit. Your user name and password will be sent to your email address.

If you do not have an email address in your DGS account, send your name and the email address you want DGS to use to [administrator@dallaskgenealogy.org](mailto:administrator@dallaskgenealogy.org) requesting that the information be added to your account.



**Summer Institute on German research coming July 22-24, 2010  
Details in the April Newsletter!**

**Dallas Genealogical Society**  
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### **DGS Calendar of Events 2010**

**Saturday, April 3, 2010 – General Meeting: Social hour begins 10:30 a.m.; General Meeting begins 11:00 a.m.**  
**Fred Moss – Special Guest Speaker**  
**First Floor Auditorium**

**Saturday, April 10, 2010, 1:00 p.m. – Mac Reunion Group**

**Saturday, April 17, 2010, 3:00 p.m. - AAGIG**

**Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – Jewish Genealogy SIG**

**All group meetings will be at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library**  
**1515 Young Street, Dallas, TX 75202**

**If you need to contact DGS, you can email the particular board member with whom you wish to communicate or you may send an email to [info@dallasgenealogy.org](mailto:info@dallasgenealogy.org) or you may leave a voice mail at 1-866-YOU2DGS (1-866-968-2347)**

**Thursday-Saturday, July 22-24, 2010: DGS Summer Institute on German Research**  
**Make your plans now to attend!**