"Let's Get to Know Them—Our Ancestors from Virginia"

The final lecture in the 1998 series will feature Mary McCampbell Bell from Arlington, Virginia. Mary Bell, as she is known, is a Certified American Lineage Specialist and a Certified Genealogical Lecturer who specializes in colonial Virginia and land platting. Formerly a trustee of the Association of Professional Genealogists and secretary of the National Genealogical Society, she is a founding member of the Genealogical Speaker's Guild and has lectured widely at national, state, and local seminars and workshops.

Mary Bell developed a course in land platting for GIT, now the Institute of Genealogical Studies, here in Dallas. She has also lectured at the National Institute on Genealogical Research in Washington, D.C., and the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University. She is currently a trustee of the board for Certification of Genealogists and the president of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Virginia Records: Forever Intertwined

This series of lectures focuses on some of the most important record groups in Virginia research. A genealogist cannot conduct research in Virginia without being intimately familiar with the land records, tax records, and probate records because there is so much overlap in using them. When one discusses land, one has to understand that information on land records can be found in the probate and court orders, in addition to the tax records. These lectures also focus heavily on the laws of Virginia as they apply to the records in the time period up to the Revolutionary War. Each lecture is accompanied by an annotated bibliography listing works dealing with the subject and explanations of why they are useful to Virginia research.

Virginia: How They Died
Probate Records

In the session, the focus is on the interpretation of the laws pertaining to probate in Virginia. Probate involves topics such as entailing of land, primogeniture, and dower. Examples from actual records are used to illustrate these laws. The period covered in this lecture is primarily from 1748 to the Revolutionary War, when all the laws of Virginia were recodified.

Virginia Court Orders and Tax Records: Indispensable

"I personally think a lot of genealogies could be re-written if the authors checked the court orders, for they would find some surprises!"

In Virginia, the court orders are some of the most enlightening records we will find on our ancestors. They are found in the records of the Circuit Court Clerk's office in each county. They are poorly indexed in many instances, and one must be quite creative in guessing how the clerk might have indexed a record. The court orders are where you will find military service, road orders, bastardy bonds, guardian appointments, criminal cases, probated estates, deeds being recorded, and court suits.

(Continued on page 85)
Inside This Issue

Let's Get to Know Our Ancestors from Virginia .............................................. . 81
DGS News and Upcoming Events ................................................................. 83
Bulletin Board ......................................................................................... 84
Did You Know? ......................................................................................... 86
March Trip to Salt Lake City ................................................................. 87
New Record Group Available on Microfilm ............................................. 87
Space Planning at NARA ........................................................................ 88
DGS Tape Library .................................................................................. 90
A Special Thanks ..................................................................................... 93
Recent Acquisitions ................................................................................ 94
Using Genealogical Periodicals ............................................................. 96
Queries ................................................................................................... 98
Membership Application ........................................................................ 99
Calendar of Events ................................................................................ 100

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.

Latin-American Interest Group: Unless otherwise indicated, this group meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Call 972-686-7419 for the location.

Our Home Page Address (URL): http://www.chrysalis.org/dgs
Our E-Mail Address: dgs@chrysalis.org
Our Phone Number: (214) 670-7932 (voice mail)
Presidents Message
Karen Avery Miller

It’s that time again—time to bring twelve months of one DGS society year to a close and to begin anew. The 1997-1998 board leaves the guidance of this organization in the capable hands of the new incoming officers and directors. What will we do with our free time? Genealogy!!

Looking back we can all remember that this year began amidst the anticipation and preparation for FGS. While this board in no way takes the credit for the success of the Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference in September 1997, it was “the” event of this past year. We were proud to serve as the governing board during this event, and it’s still exciting to look back over the course of those four days and remember how well received this convention was and to know that DGS will always be known as a gracious host to the nation’s genealogists. The jewel we all wear in the crown of success for this effort is the fact that a profit of $30,277.48 was reported. The Lecture Series, with two down and one to go, has once again been a great success. A new twist this year was to offer, for the first time in a decade, a lecture on New England. Yes, there are Yankees in our midst—lots of us judging from the event’s attendance, and we were all delighted to finally have the opportunity to expand our knowledge of this area and the colonial time period. Membership in DGS reached an all time high this year—1154. We have had 215 new members join our ranks during this society year, so we must be doing something right!

It’s been a busy year, there’s so much more to recap:

• publications are finally back on track and speeding right along
• the much loved Fall Workshop is coming back in September
• sign up now for the Institute of Genealogical Studies in July
• thank you to all the DGS volunteers
• the DGS Homepage has a fresh, professional new look
• Salt Lake City was great—see ya in April 1999
• and, as I write this article, the final 1997-98 gift to the DPL has not yet been tallied, but it should be approximately $75,000!

It’s time to say goodbye—and I am closing this year’s President’s Message on a personal note. The notes of thanks and support throughout the year were a pleasant surprise and very much appreciated. I also hope everyone will take a minute and remember Mike. With much love, I thank my husband Clay, for sharing me with DGS and keeping his sense of humor at the same time. And with great happiness for having become friends and with deep respect and sincerity, I thank my board for absolutely everything they have done this year to make DGS shine! It’s been my privilege to serve with them! ♥

Using Genealogical Periodicals
Carole Chew Ruska

May Meeting: A New Resource
Lesson Eight of the Three R’s

Carole Ruska, a retired librarian, began a simple project last summer of listing all the current periodicals in the genealogy section of the Dallas Public Library and arranging them in an index by location so people could find societies and periodicals from and about the area of the country in which they are researching. That project was completed, and there is now an index by location to the current periodicals, almost 600 in number. However, that was just the tip of the iceberg, so to speak.

This project has grown and expanded to include the bound volumes of periodicals, both past and present, which are shelved with the other books on a particular state. Also, in the meantime, Ancestry and the Allen County Public Library put PERSI, Periodical Source Index, on the shelf.

(Continued on page 89)
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.

The NGS Quarterly will soon be on CD-ROM. The U.S. National Genealogical Society has released an announcement that 85 printed volumes of their scholarly NGS Quarterly will soon be available on CD-ROM. This new disk will include scanned images of each page of the original volumes. The Society selected Broderbund Software, producers of Family Tree Maker, as the company to produce the new disk. (Dick Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter, 14 Mar 1998)

Friedrich der Grosse Passenger List Online. The Friedrich der Grosse was a passenger ship that crossed the Atlantic many times. A descendant of one passenger has taken an interest in the voyage of his ancestor and has computerized the passenger lists of this ship. That list is now online. To look at a Web page containing scanned images of the cover, list of passengers, and the crew of the 19 March 1898, sailing from Bremen to New York, go to: <http://pw2.netcom.com/~steventw/passlist.html>.

Gowen Research Foundation 1998 Research Conference & Family Reunion will be held 21-23 June in Salt Lake City. For more information go to: <http://www.llano.net/gowen>.

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Livesay Historical Society will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, 24-26 July 1998. Details are available at: <http://members.aol.com/lhsociety/livesay.html>.

Were you an English War Bride of WWII who came to Texas? Do you know someone who fits into that category? If so, a researcher from the Institute of Texan Cultures would like to talk with you. Diane B. Gray is conducting a research project on the immigration of people from England to our state, particularly those who came directly to Texas from England, and is particularly interested in WWII "War Brides." She is interested in conducting oral history interviews and viewing documents and photographs. If you or someone you know fits into this category and would like to help in this research project, please contact Diane B. Gray at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, a branch of the University of Texas at San Antonio. We all know how much this research will help future descendants.

Those genealogists with Scottish ancestors will be especially interested in this news from the General Register Office - Scotland Web site: <http://www.open.gov.uk/gros/faq.htm>. In Spring 1998, a fully searchable index of Scottish birth and marriage records from 1553 to 1897 and death records from 1855 to 1897 will be available on the Web. The service will provide World Wide Web access to a fully searchable index to births/baptisms and banns/marriages from the Old Parish Registers dating from 1553 to 1854, and births, marriages, and deaths from the Statutory Index for 1855 to 1897. An index to census records for 1891 will also be provided; 1881 census data will be made available later this year. (Dick Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter, 7 Mar 1998)

The 4 Corners Ancestor Fair 1998, sponsored by the Washington County, AR, Historical Society, will be held this year on Memorial Day Weekend, 23-25 May at the Northwest Arkansas Holiday Inn in Springdale, AR. There will 15 workshops, vendors, and social events. Contact Washington County Historical Society, 118 E. Dickson Street, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (Brochure from Washington Co. Historical Society.)

Have you wondered how to convert monetary values from history to today's monetary value? Two tools are now available. One is COLA, an MS-DOS program that calculates what a dollar amount in one year is worth in another—from 1749 to 1990. It is based on the same cost-of-living statistics published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics through December 1990 and spliced to historical data going back to 1749. COLA is a
shareware program that can be downloaded from CompuServe's Genealogy Techniques Forum. The other tool is the Interactive Cost-of-Living Calculator on the American Institute for Economic Research's Web. It can calculate dollar equivalencies for any two years between 1913 and 1997. The obvious advantage of the calculator on the Web is that it is free and conveniently accessible, but it only goes back to 1913. Many genealogists will want to go back to earlier years. COLA will go back to 1749. If you would like to try out the free Interactive Cost-of-Living Calculator, look at: http://www.aier.org/ (Dick Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter, 21 Mar 1998)

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has published a new guideline for citing records in the National Archives. Called Citing Records in the National Archives of the United States, GIL #17, it offers guidance on citing all NARA records and also the growing number of digitized documents available on the NARA World Wide Web site <http://www.nara.gov>. You may receive a copy of GIL 17 by calling 1-800-234-8861. (The Record, (4) #4, Mar 1998, p. 41.)

"Exploring the Life and History of the 'Buffalo Soldiers'" is an interesting article by Walter Hill in the March 1998 issue of The Record, p. 12-14. The discussion details activities of this outstanding group of soldiers and their records in the National Archives in various record groups.

GENDIS is the death files from the state of Michigan from 1867 to 1874 or thereabouts. They can now be found on the Internet at <http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/PHA/OSR/gendis/index.htm>. Parents and cause of death are available as this is not an index. (MI-WI Mailing List)

The DOSS FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION will be held in San Antonio, TX, on 11-14 June 1998. All descendants of any Doss family are welcome to join the group which has 200 members in 38 states and collects and shares information on all Doss families. For information about the reunion or your Doss family, please contact Pansy Doss Houston, 2951 Washington Drive, Houston, TX 77038-3320 or Libbie Griffin by E-mail at Libbie@prodigy.com.

Genealogists with Denton County, TX connections will be happy to learn that Denton Co. is the first county in Texas, joining about 200 other counties nationwide, in putting their judicial records free on their county website at <www.co.denton.tx.us>. Dallas Co. offers some records on-line through their mainframe computer by dialing 1-900-263-INFO, but there is a charge of $1 a minute. Any record available on the public access terminals in their offices is available in the Public Access Project. (Tommy Thomason, Freedom of Information Focus in Texas, Winter 1998, p. 5.)

Our Ancestors from Virginia

The other indispensable group of Virginia records is the land and personal property tax records. They are probably the most valuable run of records in the state, for they are available for both "burned" and "unburned" counties, since a copy of these records had to be submitted to the state government in Richmond. They began in 1782 and continue today. This lecture discusses the colonial tithable lists followed by the personal property and land taxes. The personal property taxes are one of the few records where one finds the "landless" population.

Manuscript Collections: There is a Methodology!

This lecture focuses on the methodology of using manuscript collections. While the emphasis is on Virginia manuscript collections, the methodology learned can be applied to anyone's research problem in any area of the country. The examples come from Virginia repositories such as Washington and Lee University, The Alderman Library at the University of Virginia, The Virginia Historical Society, and the Virginia State Library, Archives Division. Some of the topics covered are how to find original marriage records, military muster rolls, papers of working genealogists, and some ideas for getting around the "burned courthouse" problem by looking for lawyers' papers!

Mary McCampbell Bell loves to talk, loves to talk about Virginia, and loves to teach us how to get to know our ancestors by using all these records in Virginia. Don't miss this important and excellent seminar on Virginia. Join us on Saturday, 6 June, in welcoming Mary Bell. This lecture will be held at the same location as the first two, Lovers Lane Methodist Church, Northwest Highway and Inwood Road.
The map of the United States was a blank west of the Mississippi River in 1800, and the mysteries of that blank were claimed by European powers.

However, even before the onset of the Revolutionary War, farmers from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the Carolinas were slowly advancing toward the Cumberlands and Alleghenies, hoping to solve some of these mysteries. Only trappers and mountain men knew what lay beyond, but the West was a fever and the march was on.

In 1787, it is estimated that over 30,000 men, women, and children struggled down the Wilderness Road to the Mississippi River. The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 more than doubled the territorial area of the United States, and President Jefferson proceeded with his plans for western exploration.

How many of you know what historic event took place on November 16, 1821...do groaning wagons and cracking whips give you a clue? Well on that date, the Santa Fe Trail opened to commerce. A pack train of much needed merchandise was traded to the residents of Santa Fe by an adventurer named William Becknell.

This event and the Mexican revolutionaries taking control of Mexico City to the south ended the power of Spain and made the opening of trade with New Mexico possible for Americans.

This was the start. The word was out, there was money to be made and land to be settled, so pack your wagons and take to the Santa Fe Trail.

The trail was soon filled with the spectacle of a new civilization moving steadily to merge with the old. The stories of incredible profits for Becknell started the parade both ways that continued for almost 60 years.

The average round trip took about 4 months. Soon the trail also saw stagecoaches and carriages carrying soldiers, preachers, and settlers.

One major concern for caravans, especially in the 1850's and '60s, was attack by Indians. By the early 1860s, a string of military forts gave protection and refuge to the travelers.

The story of this westward movement is the story of the earliest travel on the overland trails. The Santa Fe, the Oregon-California, and the Mormon Trail grew from the earliest tracks of the buffalo and the Indians who hunted them, and then from the American settler's desire for free and fertile land.

The Santa Fe is the oldest of the three, and whereas it was mostly a trade route, while the others were trails of emigration and settlement, we can't overlook its importance in looking for records of our ancestors.

The Trail started at Independence, Missouri, and covered nearly 800 miles before it ended at Santa Fe. Although it officially started at Independence, there was another road called Boone's Lick that began at St. Louis and fed into it. Some of the cities on this part were St. Charles, Warrenton, Columbia, Franklin, Grand Pass, Lexington, and Ft. Osage. After leaving Independence, the trail passed through Westport, Olathe, Council Grove, and Fort Larned.

West of Fort Dodge, Kansas, the trail divided. The southern route was called the Cimarron Cut-off. Although this cut-off was over 50 miles shorter, it was dry and perilous, and many chose the longer northern route to Old Bents Fort.

The trail then turned south to Raton Pass and Las Vegas, New Mexico, where the two met again and continued on to Santa Fe.

Now what were some of our ancestors doing during this time? Why, they were heading west and northwest and southwest, of course.

As the 1860's opened, the dust clouds of the Santa Fe Trail were never thicker. More than 9,000 men and 3,000 wagons went west on this trail. By 1866 these numbers had almost doubled. However, within the next 10 years, the dust on the road to Santa Fe had begun to settle.

The railroad arrived. It reached Santa Fe in 1880. When the goods that had once taken a year to haul could be carried in one freight train, the dust clouds on the old trail settled forever.

Today, more than 125 years after their passing, the wagon wheel ruts can still be seen on many parts of the Trail. When you consider that the loaded wagons weighed between 3,000 and 7,000 pounds, it's not surprising that we can still see their tracks.

What is surprising is that so many were able to travel 800 miles over mountain trails, cross rivers, deserts, and Indian Territory, endure the cold and the heat, go over rocks so large, that they were lucky to go one mile in a day, survive storms that blew with a force that overturned wagons and dumped hailstones larger than hens' eggs on them, and still arrive at the end of the trail with their wagons and sanity intact.

Today, modern highways parallel much of the Santa Fe Trail. Along the way museums, forts, historic districts, and missions tell the story of this famous route.

What kind of records did our ancestors leave as they moved west, often moving again and again?

Many stopped in places where we can find them. But many disappeared in the dust of the trails...So what are we to do?

We can study the geography of the trails and the events that took place along them. We can study Military Records pertaining to forts and military interventions in the area. We can look for old newspaper and church records in the towns our ancestors left and places where they may have stopped for a time, waiting for good

(Continued on page 89)
Another trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Family History Library has come to an end, and a good time was had by all. Some had a better time than others did, though, as the weather did not cooperate this year. Salt Lake had the most snow in the months of February and March ever! Many who wanted to go early were forced to wait because the Salt Lake airport was closed. Then it was a scramble to find another day and time to leave. Dorothy Bruce, our trip coordinator, was busy for days shuffling people and rooms as our members arrived. The guides, Patti Darnell, Leslie Collier, and Sammie Lee, were trying to fly standby. Patti made it, but Sammie and Leslie had to drive to Salt Lake. Everyone made it by Sunday, the official first day of the trip, and Dorothy and the guides had a lovely Sunday evening reception for the group.

This year, there were forty-nine participants, three guides, and one coordinator for a total group of fifty-three. Thirteen were making their first trip ever to Salt Lake, but the guides had prepared them well. After a day or two, they seemed like old-timers.

While the major goal is research, the library is not open 24 hours a day, so we did have time to experience the activities Dorothy and the guides had planned. After the Sunday evening reception, George Ott spoke about the many sources of military records available at the Family History Library. When the library closed early Monday night, the group went to the Roof Restaurant, on the top floor of the Joseph Smith building. The view and the food were extraordinary. David Rencher and his wife were our guests, and David spoke to the group back at the hotel after dinner. David’s tale of his genealogical family should make us all thankful that we have our own ancestors and not David’s to track.

We took another break on Wednesday to eat a box lunch and hear Leslie speak on "Analyzing the Pre-1850 Censuses." All too soon, it was time for the Friday night wrap-up, where we tell of our finds or not as the case may be. The tales seemed to get funnier as we sipped on wine or margaritas and ate dips, fruit, and cheeses.

The hard part is not in finding material, but in organizing, filing, and entering the information into your genealogy program once you get home. How I wish we had another week-long event where we had to get our material organized and incorporated into our genealogy and guides to help us do that. Wishful thinking!

Even with all the snow and delays, it was a marvelous trip. However, the guides have said "enough is enough" and will not be assisting on future trips to Salt Lake. The DGS Board voted to continue the Salt Lake City Research Trip, and the 1998-99 Board will work out the details. We have decided to try another time of year and have booked the hotel for 25 April - 2 May

(Continued on page 88)


Many DGS members are aware of the Stern Fund that is administered by the Federation of Genealogical Societies; the DGS has made special donations three different times to this fund which was established to finance additional microfilm publications of interest to the genealogical community. Through the financial assistance of the Stern Fund and the donated time of ten volunteers who prepared cards for microfilming, a valuable new Record Group is now available. (A stalwart group of DGS Volunteers know well the work of preparation of records for microfilming from their work on the Seventh Floor Project). This new set of microfilms details the tombstones of 166,000 Union soldiers of the Civil War who died between 1861-1903. There are also a few War of 1812 veterans and at least one Revolutionary War soldier.

The records consist of 3x4 inch cards arranged alphabetically by surname, then by first name. They include some or all of the following information about each soldier: rank, company, regiment, place of burial, date of death, and the contractor who supplied the headstone. The Record Group, M1845, contains 22 rolls in alphabetical order. It is available for public viewing in Washington and the 13 NARA regional records services and can also be purchased. If you have a Civil War ancestor for whom you are unsure of the burial location, you may want to check this new record.

(Claire Prechtel-Kluskens, "Headstones of Union Civil War Veterans," The Record: News from the National Archives and Records Administration 4 (#4) (March 1998): 22-23.)
Buildings for the Future: Space Planning at the National Archives and Records Administration

by Lori Lisowski (lori.lisowski@arch2.nara.gov)

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is about to embark on an ambitious space planning effort through which we are striving to improve preservation and access of historically valuable Federal records.

NARA's mission is to ensure ready access to essential evidence that documents the rights of American citizens, the actions of federal officials, and the national experience. We want to enhance our ability to provide ready access to all of the essential evidence in our custody. To do this we plan to:

- develop our electronic access capabilities so we can bring the National Archives on-line to millions of Americans who do not live near a NARA facility and to people world-wide,
- improve the quality of space in which records are stored so they will be preserved for generations to come,
- increase the quantity of space that we have so we can continue to add historically valuable records to our holdings, and
- reduce the cost of the space we occupy so money we have been spending on rent can be spent on programs and services for our customers.

This plan is in keeping with the goals and objectives of our Strategic Plan, which pledges NARA to make essential evidence "easy to access regardless of where it is or where users are for as long as needed" and to be sure that "all records will be preserved in appropriate space for use as long as needed."

Most of our regional facilities do not now meet current minimum preservation standards, nor do they have enough space for more permanent records. We need to take action to safeguard historically valuable records.

NARA's space planning effort will analyze our current configuration of facilities and determine what kinds of facilities we should have and where they should be located to best serve all of our customers and protect the records. This project will happen in several phases over many months and will focus on options that:

- enhance access to records,
- improve space quality
- increase space quantity, and
- reduce space costs.

To make this work, we need your help. No option, no matter how cost-efficient, will be worth pursuing if it does not further our goal of making it easier for researchers to access the records they need. And no matter what option is decided upon, NARA is committed to maintaining, at a minimum, microfilm research rooms with Internet-accessible computer terminals in the metropolitan areas where regional archives now exist.

Over the course of this planning effort, we will be reaching out to our broad spectrum of customers to get their input through public meetings, surveys, conferences, publications, and the Internet on such issues as where records should be located, what services are needed, and what amenities should be offered. Shortly, we will have a Web page devoted to progress on our space plan at http://www.nara.gov/nara/spaceplan.html. In addition, we welcome your comments and suggestions via e-mail at space.plan@arch2.nara.gov or by mail to:

Space Planning Team
Room 4100 (NPOL)
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740

The bottom line is we must develop a plan that meets user needs and provides the quantity and quality of cost-effective space that allows NARA to preserve the permanently valuable records of our government. We encourage everyone to participate in this effort as we work to make NARA's holdings more available to all Americans no matter where they live.

(Editor's note: The March 1998 issue of The Record, News from the National Archives and Records Administration, notes that President Clinton has requested a 12.1% increase in NARA funding for Fiscal Year 1999.)

(Continued from page 87)

Salt Lake City Trip

1999. Mark these dates on your calendar, and plan to participate in the DGS Salt Lake City Research Trip next year.

This annual trip is organized under the office of Executive Vice-President Fundraising. In the past, we have donated the profits from the trip to the capital expansion fund and the library. This year, we tried to cut costs to make it even more affordable for our members. With Dorothy's good management, the trip still made a profit of $1100.00 to add to our annual gift to the library.

88 Volume 22, Number 5, May 1998
DGS News

CD-ROM. The library, of course, has always taken PERSI in printed form, but it is a little-used source in the 8th floor genealogy section.

While this project is not yet complete, we hope to introduce you to the multitude of genealogical periodicals available in the genealogy section that can help in your research. The May program will explain the project, discuss the past and present periodicals of some selected states, and show how to use PERSI, both the printed and CD-ROM versions, to access the information that awaits a researcher.

Join us 18 May and expand your knowledge and research opportunities in the field of genealogical periodicals.

Successful Lecture Number One

Lloyd Bockstruck, the speaker; New England, the topic; and Lovers Lane Methodist Church, the location, combined to make a very successful beginning to the 1998 Lecture Series. Pre-registration of 162 and 19 walk-ins made a total of 181 paid attendance. Seven vendors with various wares from books to software, with many different genealogical materials in between, added to the event.

New England proved to be the beginning genealogical location for many of our members and other genealogists. Lloyd, as usual, had a wealth of material to tell us about and listed for further research. Don't be surprised as you trace your ancestors further and further back to find your immigrant ancestor did come from New England, where there is an abundance of sources and information.

The location with ample free parking also proved to be a good choice. There was space for the audience and the vendors in one room. When the weather turned rainy at lunchtime, we also had room to set up tables and chairs at which to eat. What more could one want.

New Members

DGS would like to welcome the following new members, who joined from March 1, 1998 thru March 31, 1998: William G. Couch, Suzanna Davenport, Stephanie Falls, Jean D. Hare, Zaklya Emma Harrell, Judy Dazyaka, Kathy Lovas, Blaine E. Newcombe, Danny Oberst, Pamela Jo Richardson, J. A. Rowley-Minhosto, Jerry & Florence Scott, Tom Sweeney, Frederic “Ace” Wagner, Matthew Ray Wehrly, and Barbara Wynne.

Special Interest Groups

The Computer Interest Group, led by Art Rubeck, will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, 14 May 1998, in the auditorium of the J. Eric Jonsson Library. The program will be a live demonstration of two genealogy programs on the Boxlight Projector. John Wylie will demonstrate the new The Master Genealogist (TMG), Version 3.5, and Karen Miller will demonstrate the new Family Tree Maker (FTM), Version 4.4.

The Latin-American Interest Group, led by Sandy Fritz, will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, 8 May 1998, at her home, 506 Granada, in Garland. The program will be a working session to complete the beginners’ handout for new Latin American researchers. The handouts will be available at the library for distribution to Latin-American researchers. Work is also progressing on a beginners’ notebook for Latin American Research. This book will be sold to Latin-American Researchers as a fund-raising project. This group is very excited about these projects and plans to continue to meet during the summer months to complete both projects.

The African-American Interest Group, led by Emille Betterson and Emma Harrell, will meet at the Auditorium of the J. Eric Jonsson Library at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 19 May 1998. The program will be “A Tour of the Dallas Public Library” presented by Emma Harrell.

IGS Website Now Operational

The IGS website is up and running at http://www.cyberramp.net/~igs. Check it out!

Did You Know?

weather or wagon repairs before continuing their journey west.

There is also one more thing we can do—we can call for the spirits of the past to come forth and guide us to the right records . . .

Where are you . . .

Where are you . . .
# DGS Tape Library

## BEGINNING GENEALOGY
- **53** First Steps in Genealogy
- **70** Basic Genealogy Workshop, 28 March 1984
- **86** How to Get Started - Beginning Genealogy Pt. 1A
- **87** How to Get Started - Beginning Genealogy Pt. 1B

## CEMETERIES
- **51** Folk Cemeteries of the Rural South

## CENSUS
- **11** Exploiting Census Records
- **23** Why Does the Census Taker Always Miss my Ancestor?
- **61** Critical Connection: Finding Ancestors Between the 1850 Census and Colonial Period
- **86** How to Get Started - Beginning Genealogy Pt. 1A
- **87** How to Get Started - Beginning Genealogy Pt. 1B

## COURT RECORDS
- **47** Using Court Records Effectively: Case Studies in New England
- **56** Research in Mississippi Court Houses
- **58** Court Records - Kentucky
- **62** Busy Books and Musty Rooms: Courthouse Research is Fun
- **71** Parish Records in England
- **81** Use of North Carolina Probate Records
- **92** Probate Records: More than a Will
- **99** The Law: Introduction for Genealogists

## COMPUTER GENEALOGY
- **7** Citing Sources and Document Attribution: How Computers Enhance Flexibility and Power
- **94** Recording Your Evidence
- **102** Genealogy on the Internet
- **128** Hot Web Sites on the Internet
- **142** Think Before You Send - Consideration Before You Post
- **149** Lexicon Project of GENTECH
- **159** U.S. GENWEB Project
- **176** Effective & Responsible Use of Technology in Genealogy
- **185** Send Me a Disc, OK?

## WRITING / PUBLISHING
- **8** Collecting Content: Creating News
- **12** Let Family Papers Speak for Themselves: Document Editing
- **46** Organizing Your Material: Turn a Pile of Notes into a Quality Finished Product
- **66** Is Your Genealogy Already Compiled?
- **68** Genealogical Publishing, Pt. 1: Books, Family Histories, etc.
- **69** Genealogical Publishing, Pt. 2: Newsletters, Quarterlies, etc.
- **98** Six Friends to Help You Publish
- **116** Organizing and Writing your Genealogy
- **140** Abstracting for Publication: Why? What? How?
- **145** Using Artifacts in Genealogical Writing
- **177** Research Report
- **187** One Family Periodicals: Ties that Bind

## ETHNIC RESEARCH - AFRICAN AMERICAN
- **15** Researching the Buffalo Soldiers
- **19** Tracing African Americans in Cities and Towns
- **33** African-American Genealogy: Problems and Methods
- **97** Freedmen's Bureau Research
- **125** Six Phases of African-American Genealogy
- **175** Preserving Our Heritage: African American & Texas Historical Markers
- **179** Jumping the Broom: African American Marriage Records

## ETHNIC RESEARCH - CZECHOSLOVAKIAN
- **160** Czech Research in Bohemia and Moravia

## ETHNIC RESEARCH - GERMAN
- **154** Vital Records of the German Empire

## ETHNIC RESEARCH - IRISH
- **184** Irish Emigration to North America: Before, During and After Famine

## ETHNIC RESEARCH - JEWISH
- **27** What's New in Jewish Genealogy

## ETHNIC RESEARCH - NATIVE AMERICAN
- **30** Beyond the Basics: Important Sources for Cherokee Research
- **90** Tracing Cherokee Ancestry

## ETHNIC RESEARCH - QUAKERS
- **143** Thy Quaker Ancestors: Finding and Using Their Records

## ETHNIC RESEARCH - RUSSIAN / AUSTRIAN
- **172** Vital Records of the Russian and Austrian Empires

## ETHNIC RESEARCH - SCOTS-IRISH
- **44** Sources to Identify and Trace Scots-Irish
- **48** Who Are the Scots-Irish?
- **101** Scotch-Irish, Scots-Irish, or Ulster Irish
- **144** Tracing the Scots-Irish: Records in Ireland

## HISTORY - 1519-1899
- **18** Gone to Texas: Fast Ride through Lone Star History

## HISTORY - CIVIL WAR
- **14** Reconstructing War Between the States Units for Genealogical Research
- **158** Trans-Mississippi: Civil War West of the River

## HISTORY - COLONIAL
- **6** Border Problem between the Carolinas in the Colonial Period
- **61** Critical Connection: Finding Ancestors Between the 1850 Census and Colonial Period
- **107** Colonial South Carolina

## HISTORY - FRONTIER
- **15** Researching the Buffalo Soldiers
- **28** Getting the Total Picture: Reconstructing the Frontier Community
HISTORY - PERSONAL
16 Silent Woman: Bringing a Name to Life
35 Flesh on the Bones: Putting Your Ancestor into Historical Perspective
57 Your Ancestors Were Human, Too
119 Social History: Placing a Family in its Historical Context
169 Putting Real People on Pedigree Charts

HISTORY - PRE-EMANCIPATION
175 Preserving Our Heritage: African American & Texas Historical Markers

HISTORY - SOURCES
106 History for Genealogists

LAND RECORDS
13 Kentucky Land Grant System
25 Why Look There: Estate Records
31 Understanding Texas Land Records
38 Public Domain Land Records
59 Virginia Land Records: Deeds, Patents, and Probate Records
60 Using Homestead Records in Family History Research
74 Virginia Land Patents, Pt. 1: Everything You Wanted to Know
75 Virginia Land Patents, Pt. 2: Maybe More than You Wanted to Know
89 Federal Land: the Amazing Records it Generates
122 Beginning at a Black Oak
124 Research in Texas Land Records
131 What's at the General Land Office
155 General Land Office: Tracing the Way West (on CD-ROMs)
164 Virginians on the Land: Deeds and Patents
166 Oklahoma Land Rush
190 Land Records of South Carolina: More than Grants & Plats

MIGRATION
2 Gone to Texas: Migration Patterns Into the Lone Star State
21 Westward the Wagons: Some Outmigration Routes from Virginia and North Carolina
28 Getting the Total Picture: Reconstructing the Frontier Community
39 Tracing Ancestral Migrations: a Research Plan for Where to Look Next
40 To and From Georgia, 1784-1820
42 Migrations from Carolinas to the 'Suburbs'
55 British Immigration to America Before 1850
76 Migration Patterns via Rails, Trails, and Roads
83 New England Migrations to the Tidewater South
95 Early Roads and Waterways of Texas: Migration Trails Influencing Settlement of Texas
96 New England Immigrants Before Texas Statehood
120 People Finders in the Golden Age of Georgia Migration
171 Kentucky & Tennessee Pioneers: Tracking Them
188 Rush to Texas: Swing Across the Deep South

MILITARY RECORDS
26 But Grandma Never Carried a Gun: Locating Women Using Records Created by the Military
82 Colonial Militia of South Carolina from 1750-1776
150 Military Records for Problem Solving

MILITARY RECORDS - CIVIL WAR
24 Why I Can't Find my Civil War Ancestor's Military Service: Reasons for not Serving
115 If Grandpa Wore Blue
130 If Grandpa Wore Gray

MILITARY RECORDS - PENSIONS
181 Confederate Pensions Held by the States
100 Pension Research in the National Archives

MILITARY RECORDS - REVOLUTION
157 Louisiana's Revolutionary Patriots

HUMOR / ENTERTAINMENT
37 Searching for Ancestors: Humorous Adventures of Yankee Boy in Deep South
134 Look Lady, You're the One who Wanted a Movie Star
153 To Speak of the Dead Is to Make Them Live Again

PHOTOGRAPHY
109 Photography: a Tool for Genealogists
173 Windows on the Past: Historic Photographs

ORGANIZATION SKILLS
1 Learn to Practice Genealogy Like a Pro
9 Steps to a Solution: Analyze and Develop a Strategy
17 Creating Order out of Chaos
46 Organizing Your Material: Turn a Pile of Notes into a Quality Finished Product
65 How to Recognize Good Research
84 How to Build a Case When There's No Evidence
85 Analysis of Genealogical Evidence
116 Organizing and Writing your Genealogy
161 Hypothesis to Proof: Case Study
169 Putting Real People on Pedigree Charts
182 Preponderance of Evidence: When Can It Be Used?
189 My Charts Runneth Over: Managing Large Research Projects

RECORDS / REPOSITORIES
5 Your Next Step: a Local Family History Center
20 Treasures from Afar: Photocopies from England and Scotland in North Carolina State Archives
41 Research in the Nation's Capital: Beyond the Beltway
52 NSDAR Publications as Finding Aids for Research
67 Overview of the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library
103 Records and Repositories
108 Our National Archives: Overview for Genealogists
113 American State Papers
121 Finding Aids at the National Archives
127 The DAR: Their Publications as Finding Aids and How to Research by Mail
133 Effective Use of the Family History Library
135 Using the New NEHGS Library
152 Finding Birth, Marriage, and Death Records at the National Archives
162 It's Not Indexed! Effective Research in the Draper Manuscripts
178 Railroad Records and History: Methods for Tracking
183 Who Gets the Money? U.S. & Mexican Claims Commission
191 Library of Congress: Overview for Genealogists
192 Using Maps in Genealogical Research

RESEARCH TECHNIQUES
1 Learn to Practice Genealogy Like a Pro
3 Sourcery: Gaining Information from Reluctant Sources
4 Whole Famly Research
10 Don't Overlook the Blacksheep in Your Family: They May Have Left Clues
16 Silent Woman: Bringing a Name to Life
ALABAMA / MISSISSIPPI
141 Research in Alabama and the Old Mississippi Territory

ARKANSAS
139 Arkansas, Arkansas, Arkansas

GEORGIA
40 To and From Georgia. 1784-1820
120 People Finders in the Golden Age of Georgia Migration

KENTUCKY
13 Kentucky Land Grant System
58 Court Records - Kentucky

LOUISIANA
157 Louisiana's Revolutionary Patriots

MARYLAND
50 Maryland: Seedbed for Southern Ancestors

MISSISSIPPI
56 Research in Mississippi Court Houses

MISSOURI
180 Missouri: Gateway to the West

NEW ENGLAND
47 Using Court Records Effectively: Case Studies in New England
83 New England Migrations to the Tidewater South
186 Six States in Search of a Genealogist: Intro to New England

NORTH / SOUTH CAROLINA
6 Border problem between the Carolinas in the Colonial Period
42 Migrations from Carolinas to the "Suburbs"
80 Born in the Carolinas. 1790-1810

NORTH CAROLINA
20 Treasures from Afar: Photocopies from England and Scotland in North Carolina State Archives
81 Use of North Carolina Probate Records
111 North Carolina Research: An Overview

NORTH CAROLINA / VIRGINIA
21 Westward the Wagons: Some Out-migration Routes from Virginia and North Carolina

OHIO
151 Research in Ohio

OKLAHOMA
166 Oklahoma Land Rush

SOUTH
37 Searching for Ancestors: Humorous Adventures of Yankee Boy in Deep South
43 Why Southern Research Is Different: Naming Patterns
51 Folk Cemeteries of the Rural South
55 British Immigration to America Before 1850
158 Trans-Mississippi: Civil War West of the River

SOUTH CAROLINA
82 Colonial Militia of South Carolina from 1750-1776
107 Colonial South Carolina
190 Land Records of South Carolina: More than Grants & Plats

TENNESSEE
88 Bridging the Gaps in Tennessee Census & Court Records

TENNESSEE / KENTUCKY
171 Kentucky & Tennessee Pioneers: Tracking Them

TEXAS
2 Gone to Texas: Migration Patterns Into the Lone Star State
18 Gone to Texas: Fast Ride through Lone Star History
31 Understanding Texas Land Records
95 Early Roads and Waterways of Texas: Migration Trails Influencing Settlement of Texas
96 New England Immigrants Before Texas Statehood
124 Research in Texas Land Records
175 Preserving Our Heritage: African American & Texas Historical Markers

TEXAS / SOUTH
188 Rush to Texas: Swing Across the Deep South

U.S. - TERRITORIES
136 Research in Territorial Records

VIRGINIA
59 Virginia Land Records: Deeds, Patents, and Probate Records
74 Virginia Land Patents, Pt. 1: Everything You Wanted to Know
75 Virginia Land Patents, Pt. 2: Maybe More than You Wanted to Know
A Special Thanks

The Dallas Genealogical Society has been fortunate through the years to draw from a large pool of very talented people. Our boards have been multi-talented, hard working, and innovative. Once in a great while a special person comes along at just the right time to fit just the right spot on the board. That special person this past year has been our president, Karen Avery Miller.

Karen started first as Secretary, moved to Executive Vice President, and this year has served as President. The years she served have been difficult in terms of workload and the changing nature of our society. While secretary, she began to streamline and update our society's working methods, while at the same time working with other Board positions to focus DGS toward the 21st century. Her additional job at this time was as Capital Expansion Chairperson. She chaired bringing that project to completion during that year. You'll remember the two "moving the books" nights at the library and the final ceremony at the library upon completion of this large project.

The next year she moved into the Executive Vice President for Fundraising slot with new duties. When the library closed down for physical renovations, she had to scramble to relocate our lecture series and selected three wonderful locations that allowed for increased attendees and thus increased profits to be used for more books for the Dallas Public Library.

In addition to the responsibility of coordinating the lecture series, banquets and other fund-raising activities, she worked as local publicity chair for the FGS Convention in Dallas, held in September 1997. As local publicity chair, she "put out the word" for this event, which included personally visiting various societies, as well as coordination of several mass mailings.

When she was elected President for her third year on the DGS Board, preparations for FGS were at their height. She juggled her presidential duties with FGS responsibilities and the DGS-sponsored Old City Park Party at the culmination of the FGS Convention. All activities were successful. When we lost Mike Basham last September, she showed us with grace how to handle this sad occasion and yet kept us together and focused.

Karen has given both of her time and her funds to make this a very successful year. She cannot be thanked enough for her tenure these three years and all the pressures she endured so that DGS could remain successful. This is reflected in the accumulated gift that we present to the Dallas Public Library this spring. And we enviously wonder—how was she able to do enough genealogy to join the Mayflower Society and the DAR during this time?

The 1997-98 DGS Board of Directors

SALT LAKE CITY

♣ We’ve booked the dates, April 25 - May 2, 1999!
♦ Mark your calendars!
♥ Watch for complete details this summer!
♠ What a deal!
[Keep in mind that you can put these newly acquired materials on the shelves by making a tax-deductible contribution to the DPL's “Adopt-A-Book” program. For as little as $5.00, you may select a book and cover the cost of binding it. See the Library staff in the Genealogy Section for more information.]

ALABAMA


History of Pickens County, Alabama.

CONNECTICUT


GEORGIA


Index to "Gone to Georgia," (A Work By William C. Stewart). Davidson, Alvie L. R975.8 S852G INDEX. Gift of Alvie L. Davidson.

ILLINOIS
Chicago City Council Proceedings Files: 1833-1871, An Index. (93 Fiche). MICROFICHE.


KANSAS

KENTUCKY


KENTUCKY/TENN.

LOUISIANA


MAINE 


MARYLAND 


MASSACHUSETTS 


Using Genealogical Periodicals—A Valuable Resource

Carole Chew Ruska

Genealogical periodicals, such as our own DGS Newsletter and Dallas Journal, provide information that many times cannot be found in any other place or form. Multiply that information by the number of genealogical and historical societies and the publications generated by those groups, and you have a wealth of genealogical material that too often is undiscovered and not researched.

Last year DGS began the project of listing all the genealogical periodicals currently available in the genealogy section of the Dallas Public Library and indexing them by location. Many titles give no clue as to where the publication originates or about what area the information concerns. Once that project was completed, it became clear that the library also had numerous bound volumes of genealogical periodicals on the shelves with the other books arranged by states.

These periodicals are published by genealogical and historical societies statewide or in specific towns, counties, and regions of each state, and the information they hold pertains mostly to those specific areas. Members of those societies have abstracted information from their courthouses, cemeteries, family bibles, and news of the times to document the people living in that area in certain time periods. Much of this information is not available anywhere else except in these society publications. Many of these societies and publications lasted only a few years, never to be seen or heard from again. However, that information lives on in the bound volumes of those publications right on the shelves of your library, and most of you do not know they exist.

The records of many courthouses and archives have been filmed by the Church of Latter Day Saints and are available by rental of the microfilm. The information that is published in the genealogical periodicals, however, can tell much more about the life and times of that specific locality. Cemetery records, particularly, are very hard to come by unless a genealogical society has searched the local cemeteries and written that information in their publications.

As researchers we are aware of the lack of records in burned county courthouses and the lack of access to very old and fragile records. We wish that someone had documented that information before it was destroyed or made unavailable. Many times, those records have been documented and published by the local society. That society may no longer exist, but the vital information it published lives on in those bound volumes in libraries.

Calvert County, Maryland, where I am currently trying to research, has suffered many losses, and even the Family History Library has few books and microfilms of the time between the Revolution and the Civil War. I found only one mention of my ancestor in only one book, a tombstone inscription verifying his death date. I was thrilled to find that little bit of information, but then wanted to know if that church or cemetery still existed.

I probably would not have taken the time to look at the bound volumes of the genealogical society except that they made up the majority of the books available about Calvert County. Since there was only that one piece of information in the other books, I took the time and was well rewarded. The periodicals from that society are filled with references about my ancestors and related families. These people were not so prominent that books were written about them, and their lives were not recorded in the courthouse by extant birth, marriage, or death records. Nevertheless, they contributed to the history of that area and have been documented in the genealogical publication.

As an example of the treasures in these genealogical publications, I found a map showing the location of the church and graveyard where my ancestor’s tombstone is, as well as several colonial home sites of my ancestors. This map was done by one of the society members, and I doubt that it was ever published anywhere else.

Back to the project—after determining that there were many bound volumes of current and previous genealogical publications, the decision was made to survey each state. Some of the periodical titles are in the genealogy card catalog either under the state or under individual counties. Some are in the computer catalog under the subject heading NAME OF STATE - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS. These are mostly periodicals that the library is currently receiving, although some began over twenty years ago. Older, now defunct, titles do not appear in either catalog but are shelved with the other books of a particular state.

The goal is to list under each state all the titles of genealogical periodicals, the association that published them, what volumes and years the library has, and the call number by which to find these publications. The total amount of titles and volumes is amazing, and while some publications are not as professional looking as others, the information is priceless. It is very impressive to see what was done thirty and forty years ago on standard typewriters without using a database.
or indexing program. While it is wonderful that the library has all these resources, it is also a time-consuming task to document them. Therefore, this project will be on-going and probably never really completed, as we are going to attempt to exchange with more societies and build an even larger collection of genealogical periodicals.

Having all these newly discovered resources is one thing, but actually finding specific information in them is quite another. Few are name indexed except in individual issues, and the content differs greatly in subject matter, time periods, and genealogical information. No researcher has the time to scan each issue of each volume of a genealogical society’s publications, but no one has to do that except in a few situations. The Allen County (Indiana) Public Library has done it for us by indexing vast amounts of periodical articles in PERSI, the Periodical Source Index. This publication (US 016.9291, P445) covers periodicals dated 1847-1985 in multi-volume surname, locality, and subject indexes, with annual indexes to the present time. Last year it was also published on CD-ROM by Ancestry.

The surname index refers to specific people or families in all localities. The locality index refers to localities. The locality index refers to countries, states, counties, and sometimes specific landforms. The subject index or research methodology index refers to “how to” articles under twenty-one subject headings, such as cemeteries, land, wills, etc. On the PERSI CD, you can mix subjects with surnames or localities to target very specific articles. The PERSI bibliography lists the publications and organizations so you are able to contact them if you wish.

At the present time, the DGS periodical project has selected the southern states for the first ones to be fully indexed for the bound genealogical periodical titles, their sponsoring organizations, the library holdings, and the call number. After those are completed, each state in alphabetical order will be indexed as well as all other U.S. and foreign periodicals. As each state is fully indexed, that page in the Periodical Index notebook will be updated and replaced. Check frequently for the localities in which you research to find all the periodicals available in the library. These holdings will also be published as they are completed in the DGS Newsletter.

Let’s review the steps to finding genealogical information in the vast periodical collections in the genealogy section. (1) Use PERSI to find articles about your surname, locality and/or subject noting the volume, issue, and date of the article. (2) Check the Periodical Index notebook on the shelf at the end of the current periodicals under the state where published to see if the library is currently receiving that title or has bound holdings of that publication and what issues are available. (3) If that state has not yet been fully indexed, go browse the state shelves for the bound volumes of that periodical—chances are good that the publication is there. If you have a publication title for your area, but do not see mention of it in PERSI, then take the time to scan those bound volumes. I think you will find enough information to make it worthwhile.

It is hoped that by the time the periodical project is completed for the bound volumes, you have developed the habit of checking the current issues of the publications. Most are published quarterly, and the indexing in PERSI will not appear until the full volume is completed, so the researcher needs to check current issues as they become available.

Explore these new resources; you just might discover a world of new genealogical information.

(Continued from page 95)

**Recent Acquisitions**


Massachusetts Vital Record Transcripts: Holliston, Births, 1720-1758. (14 Fiche). Massachusetts Vital Records. MICROFICHE.

(Continued on page 98)
ROBINSON  ROBERTSON  MATTERSON  MADISON  TURNER  CRUTCHFIELD

William M. ROBINSON married Ann MATTERSON/MADISON 14 May 1848 in Dallas. Ann may not be sure of her parentage. Marriage certificate shows MATTERSON, while newspaper accounts and daughter Medora (ROBINSON) TURNER's death certificate has MADISON. Family tradition and hints in certain books indicate that Ann MADISON was adopted, or at least lived with, Thomas F. CRUTCHFIELD, an innkeeper in Dallas in 1850. William and Ann ROBINSON are in 1850 census for Tarrant County, TX, but under last name of ROBERTSON; I believe the census name is in error. Other children of William and Ann are: Ermin, Flora (Florida), Volney, and Frankie. The thought is that William and Ann may be moving between and around Johnson and Tarrant counties 1850 and after. Any help would be most appreciated.

Jo Ann ROWLEY-MINHOTO, 2 Hyannis Cove, San Rafael, CA 94901. E-Mail: jo_ann_rowley@prodigy.com.

ROGERS  BOOTH  OWEN  CARTWRIGHT

Will exchange info on John ROGERS b. ca 1617 ENG, d. 1685 Surry Co., VA, m. Mary BOOTH, sister of Richard BOOTH. Known issue: William b. ca 1657 Surry Co., VA, m. #1 Mrs. Jane OWEN & #2 Elizabeth CARTWRIGHT; John b. ca 1660 Surry Co., VA, d. 7 Jul 1726 Bertie Co., NC; Daniel b. ca 1661 Surry Co., VA, d. ca 1678; poss. Katherine b. 1663 VA. MariLee HAGENESS, 3916 Bramble Rd., Anniston, AL 36207-7004.

HALL  MONK  MILAM

Will exchange info on Allen HALL s/o Jonathan & Delilah (ALLEN) HALL, b. 1824 m. 6 Aug 1846 Tallapoosa Co., AL, Ann C. "Carolina" MONK, d/o Silas & Talitha MONK, b. 1825 GA. Children all b. GA: David Allen b. 1848 m. 25 Nov 1867 Elizabeth MILAM; Joseph b. 1849, m. 30 Apr 1867 Ellen MILAM; Henry b. 1851; William b. 1853; Anna b. 1857; Jonathan b. 1857; Mary b. 1859.

MariLee HAGENESS, 3916 Bramble Rd., Anniston, AL 36207-7004.

DRINNON  KING

Ida Mae DRINNON b. ca. 1877 in Hamblen Co., TN, married Charles KING and came to TX where she died 14 May 1915. Would like to contact descendants of this couple.

Hallie GARNER, 8923 Woodshore Drive, Dallas, TX 75243 E-mail hallie.garner@juno.com.

Recent Acquisitions


Massachusetts Vital Record Transcripts to 1850: Hanson, 1779-1849. (4 Fiche). Massachusetts Vital Records. MICROFICHE.

MICHIGAN

DGS Membership Application or Renewal

Name ___________________________________________ Check One:

DGS Membership Application or Renewal

Address ___________________________________________

City ___________________________________ State ______ Zip Code ______

Home Telephone __________________________ Fax ___________________

Internet/Email address ___________________________ Employer ___________________

Do you have Dallas County ancestry? _____________

Annual Membership, per household $20 ($35 non-US) ___________________
Annual Sustaining Membership ($30 is tax deductible) $50 ______________
Annual Patron Membership ($80 is tax deductible) $100 ______________
Life Membership, per individual, under 65 years old $500 ______________
Life Membership, per individual, over 65 years old $300 ______________

Contribution to Genealogy Section of Dallas Public Library

Date ______________ Check # ______________ Total ______________

Make check payable to DGS. Mail to: Dallas Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 25556, Dallas, TX 75225-1556

Surname Exchange: Each member may submit up to 8 surnames & localities to be used in a DGS database for exchange with other researchers. Do you agree to having your name, address, phone number and surnames being available for use by others? __ yes (Names will not be submitted if you do not check space.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>County (One entry per line)</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Earliest Date in Locality</th>
<th>Latest Date in Locality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Rogers</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Tarrant</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1860</td>
<td>1950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Volunteer Opportunities: Would you be willing to share your skills & talents in volunteer efforts with DGS? If so, please check areas where you would spend volunteer time:

__ Computer Skills  __ Publicity  __ Newsletter  __ Seminars/Conferences
__ Membership  __ Board/Committees  __ Education/Present Seminars  Other ____________________

DGS Newsletter Volume 22, Number 5, May 1998
# DGS Calendar of Events

## MAY 1998

8 DGS/LATIN AMERICAN INTEREST GROUP; 7:00 p.m. Friday - 506 Granada, Garland.

14 DGS/COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP; 6:30 p.m. Thursday - DPL Auditorium.

18 DGS MONTHLY PROGRAM & MEETING; 7:00 p.m. Monday (Reception 6:30 p.m.) - DPL Auditorium. Speaker: Carole Chew Ruska, “Using Genealogical Periodicals.”

19 DGS/AFRICAN AMERICAN GROUP; 6:30 p.m. Tuesday - DPL East/West Room.

## JUNE 1998

6 Lecture Series 3: Mary McCampbell Bell, Virginia; 9:00 a.m. Saturday - Lovers Lane Methodist Church.

## SEPTEMBER 1998

19 Fall Festival of Genealogy; Saturday.

**DGS does not meet during the summer, June through August. Have a great summer, and we'll see you in September!**

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

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Volume 22, Number 5 (Issue 189)  
May 1998