This annual report covers an extended period from January 2010 to September 2011 due to the Bylaw change of the DGS calendar period from January to December to one which starts in September and ends the following year in September. As a consequence of this calendar change and corresponding Bylaw adjustments, the incumbent Board had a longer than usual term of office. The new Board assumes responsibility at the Board turnover meeting on September 10, 2011.

When Curt Witcher of the Allen County Public Library addressed the topic of successful leadership of a genealogical society at the FGS conference at Knoxville, Tennessee, in 2010,¹ he said that the first step in the formula for success was having a clear intention. He further developed this idea by stating that the society must have a clear and relevant mission, the leadership must know that mission and their purpose and role in the fulfillment of it, and the leadership must persist in the pursuit of that mission. In this annual report I have used Witcher’s framework of successful leadership of a genealogical society and applied it to the Dallas Genealogical Society 2010/11 Board stewardship during its time in office.

Activities

The Dallas Genealogical Society has a clear and relevant mission and it can be found in its bylaws. Our overall mission consists of three goals which guide all our activities:

1. To educate: by creating, fostering, and maintaining interest in genealogy. In this regard we promoted the following activities in 2010/2011:

   - Our free and public General Meetings, held monthly except for the summer months, include a brief business meeting plus a presentation by a local speaker on topics of interest to local genealogists. Topics for 2010/2011 were diverse:

     1. January 2010 "Heinz 57 Explained: Examples from the English to the Arabs with the Mexicans in Between" Speaker: Janet Khashab, AG* (52 attendees)
     3. March 2010 "Future of Genealogical Societies" Panel Discussion (42 attendees)
     4. April 2010 "I Wish I Had Known 40 Years Ago What I Know Now About Genealogy" Speaker: Fred Moss (56 attendees)
     5. May 2010 "Texas Courthouses" Speaker: John Sellers (64 attendees)
     6. September 2010 "Rediscovering America’s First Frontier" FGS Highlights by DGS members (33 attendees)
     7. October 2010 "Revolutionary War Pension Files" Speaker: Lloyd Bockstruck
     8. November 2010 "New on the FamilySearch Website" Speaker: Lynell Moss (46 attendees)
     9. January 2011 "To a Better Place" Orphan Trains Speaker: Judy Knight (47 attendees) [February 2011 meeting was cancelled because of weather]
    11. April 2011 "Documentation in Genealogical Research" Speaker: Janet Khashab, AG*
    12. May 2011 "New Digs for Digging - The National Archives at Fort Worth" Speaker: Meg Hacker, Director of the SW Regional Branch (56 attendees)

    - In June 2010 DGS offered a two-hour Beginners Workshop with a minimal fee to cover materials. This was open to the public and included a tour of the Genealogy Department after the Workshop. (21 attendees)
    - DGS continues to publish in print and online on our website. The quarterly Newsletter features articles and news of interest to our members. News of current interest is distributed to our members by email with our weekly E-blasts. The Dallas Journal, our annual publication of a more scholarly nature, contains articles of specific interest to those researching Dallas County genealogy and history. Tony Hanson, DGS Webmaster, regularly adds recent E-blasts to the website. He has also completed scanning more recent newsletters (2009 to 2011) and Journals (2001 to 2010) and has made them available on the website for members only. Older newsletters (2003 through 2008) have been made available to the general public. Older issues of the Journal should soon be available on the Portal of Texas website.
    - The DGS website has greatly expanded its content in 2010/2011 under the direction of the DGS Webmaster, Tony Hanson. The material in the Blog, SIGs, Membership and Get Involved sections was all created during this time. Documents and presentations were added to SIG pages and elsewhere. Also, new material in the Resources section was included: Information about Genealogy, the Dallas Public Library (with searchable listings of materials recently added to the collection and a searchable listing of microfiche donated by the DGS), DNA, recent E-Blasts, listings of other Local Societies, National/International Resources, past DGS Newsletters and Journals, articles written by Pat Hatcher and an interactive Surname Registry. Barbara Ware contributed an interactive cemeteries map of Dallas County and searchable cemeteries listing which replaced the simple text listing.
    - DGS also maintains a Facebook page and has adopted pages on Dallas, Dallas County, Texas and on the Dallas Genealogical Society in the FamilySearch Wiki.
    - The annual DGS-sponsored trip to Salt Lake City took place in October 2010. There were seventeen participants.
• Other DGS activities usually classified as “fund-raising” are also basically educational. In 2010/2011 these included the following:
  1. Two Library Lock-ins for January and June 2010 (37 and 39 attendees respectively)
  2. “English Genealogy Research” lectures by Paul Milner, February 27, 2010 (121 attendees)
  3. “Advanced Workshop” and “Strategies for Identifying Ancestors Accurately” lectures by Tom W. Jones, March 19-20, 2010 (134 attendees)
  4. “German Genealogy Research Institute” with John Humphries and Lloyd Bockstruck, July 22-24, 2010 (68 attendees)
  5. “Researching Texas” seminar with various presenters, May 14, 2011 (40 attendees)
  6. “Genealogy and Technology Institute” with George Morgan and Drew Smith plus other presenters, July 22-23, 2011 (97 attendees)

2. To assist and support the genealogy section of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas, Texas

The DGS does not maintain its own library/archives collection; instead we have, since our founding in 1955, supported the collection of the Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library, which is known nationally for the breadth and depth of its resources. The greater share of the profits from the Society’s fund-raising events throughout the year are set aside and primarily used for collection building in the Genealogy Department. The amount set aside depends upon the DGS expenses/income ratio which is usually determined at the end of outgoing Board term and the amount is administered by the incoming Board. The 2009 Board set aside $10,000 for donations to DPL. During the 2010/11 Board term, mostly Texas marriages microfilms were bought and turned over to the Genealogy Department to fill holes in their collection. About $1,400 is left from the 2009 donation and the amount of the 2010/11 donation will be determined at the September Board turnover meeting.

In addition, a committee headed by DGS member and past president Shirley Sloat raised money to buy approximately six thousand microfiche from the Family History Library which were indexed and placed in the Genealogy microform collection. DGS also encourages our members individually to donate money through us to the Genealogy Department either in honor of an ancestor or friend or as an annual donation when they renew their membership. Monetary donations from members or friends amounted to about $1,500 in 2010/11.

However, the DGS offers more than just financial contributions to the Genealogy Department collection. In June 2011 the Executive Board approved donating $1,890 for one year service contracts on two microfilm reader-printers used in the Genealogy/Texas and Local History Division because facilitating access to a collection is as important as building up a collection. This same reasoning caused the DGS Board to take a very active role in opposing drastic City of Dallas budget cuts to the Central Library. We had a targeted campaign from June to September 2010 which centered on impressing City Council members with the importance of the research departments of the Central Library, which include the Genealogy Department.

Through our website and E-blasts, we urged all our members to write to the Dallas City Council and if the member was living within the Dallas city limits, to attend Town Hall meetings about the budget cuts and to write to their Council representative. DGS Board members living in Dallas were especially active in soliciting support from their friends and neighbors. At the FGS conference in Knoxville as DGS President, I stood up at discussions in the “Focus on Societies” meetings and told the participants about the effect the proposed budget cuts would have on DPL’s Genealogy Department and asked them to write to the Dallas City Council so it would understand the national significance of the genealogical collection in Dallas. I solicited help from the FGS Records Preservation and Access Committee, and Fred Moss as a RPAC and DGS member presented a supporting letter from the FGS Committee to the Dallas City Council. I also asked for support from the delegates to the Texas State Genealogical Societies during a meeting in Houston and from the readers of Dick Eastman’s Newsletter. As a result of all this effort and the pressure put on the Dallas City Council, the final Council vote was 8 to 7 in favor of a slight increase in property taxes for “essential services.” During the broadcast of the Council proceedings, one Council member specifically mentioned the research floors of the Central Library as a recognized Dallas asset. However, although the worst of the budget cuts were avoided, there were still reductions in library services, hours and staff in 2010.

Although DGS support and assistance is primarily centered on the Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library, other national and state institutions are also supported. DGS contributes annually to NARA, giving one dollar for every member. In 2011 the Board voted to give five hundred dollars each to the Texas State Library and the Texas General Land Office. DGS also supported the 2011 campaign against financial cuts to Texas state programs which supported libraries, such as the online TexShare databases.

3. To collect, preserve and index information related to Dallas County and its early history

The DGS Dallas Journal is the publishing venue for information related to Dallas County. Volume LVI (October 2010) of the Journal included articles and listings on DISD High School graduates of 1925, genealogical records of DISD
superintendents 1884-2010, Texas Rangers at Oakland Cemetery, Oakland Cemetery section 3, and East Dallas Christian Church membership roster 1916.

The Oakland Cemetery transcription project continues to make progress toward completion. Section 3 was published in The Dallas Journal 2010 and section 4 will be published in The Dallas Journal 2011. Sections 1 through 4 were submitted to the webmaster for inclusion on the new cemetery online database. Current volunteers working on this project are Carol Ruska, Suzan Younger, and Barbara Ware.

Other small cemeteries that were previously transcribed by society members were returned to the website in a searchable format. They will be included in the new consolidated online cemetery database. These cemeteries are Sand Branch, Riley, Durrett, Hutchins African-American Section, Gravel Slough, and Rains Hall. These cemeteries have never been published in printed form. The new cemetery database will soon be ready to go online on the DGS website and will offer searches not only by name but will also allow users to find the names of others buried in nearby plots.

In summary, judging by the range of our activities which are driven by our mission statement, the DGS Board of 2010/11 has been successful in achieving its goals.

Finances

David Temple’s Treasurer’s Annual Report dated 15 August 2011 shows that the financial status of the society remains strong: “As of July 31, 2011 the Society remains well funded with a balance of $39,158.86 in its checking account and one CD in the amount of $33,798.41. In addition, the money market account had a balance of $19,141.01. Total cash balances ended the period with $92,098.28.” This balance compares favorably with that of previous years although income from membership dues and fundraising events has been steadily declining since 2005. In contrast, profits from sales of DGS items at events were much higher than normal as there was no competition from other vendors due to a reduction in available space at the library.

Income for the 2010/11 period exceeded expenditure and in general DGS remained within its budget limits. This is primarily due to various reductions in operating expenditures compared to previous years. This included a reduction in printing and mailing costs by encouraging members to use the online Newsletter and by outsourcing the mailing. Also a monthly expense was eliminated when the storage shed rented by DGS was vacated and much of the out-of-date equipment and materials were donated to charities.

In summary, the financial situation of DGS is generally good especially considering the national recession and contracting economy.

Administration

One of the most important problems facing the DGS Board in 2010/11 has been the continuing reductions in library staff, library hours, and facilities caused from budget cuts by the Dallas City Council since 2009. DGS activities have become more difficult to arrange and some, like the Lock-ins, have had to be eliminated. This is an ongoing problem and DGS needs to remain vigilant in this regard and be ready to defend public access to resources in the Central Library.

Another problem which DGS shares with other genealogical societies is one of steadily diminishing membership and therefore income. Although genealogy has become one of the most popular hobbies, the emphasis of research has shifted from libraries and genealogical societies to the Internet and online resources. Traditional genealogical societies have had a difficult time competing with the professional media which offers not only searches of indexed and digitally available documents but also guidance and training through videos and webinars with nationally known genealogists. Also in common with many large cities surrounded by rings of smaller towns, many potential DGS members are deterred by the long drive to downtown Dallas from their homes in surrounding areas.

A related problem is the difficulty DGS faces in recruiting qualified and dedicated volunteers to take positions of responsibility on the Board or even to offer a helping hand at DGS sponsored activities. In the 2010/11 period six elected Board positions became vacant when members left because of health or personal reasons. Some of these positions were filled by willing appointees but some vacancies were so abrupt and critical that current Board members took upon themselves extra duties. Thus, Sandra Crowley, who was FGS delegate at the beginning of 2010, accepted the position of Education VP when it fell vacant. In February 2011 she also took on many of the duties of the vacant office of Fundraising VP without the title as the responsibilities of Education for 2011 had been fulfilled and those of Fundraising were urgent. She has been assisted at events by Jean Larson, DGS Parliamentarian, Gloria Goodwin, Membership VP, and Liz Thurmond, Mail Administrator. The Education VP duty of organizing and leading the Salt Lake City trip was accepted by Jim and Pat Stone, Sales Directors. When the position of Publicity Director could not be filled, the duties of this office were shared by the Board but Barbara Ware, IT Administrator, took over the biggest responsibility which was the writing of the weekly E-blasts. Carl Oehmann, elected Mailing Director, managed to outsource his job to a mailing business at less cost to DGS with the help of Harmon Adair,
In conclusion, I would like to thank the very successful Board of 2010/11 for their hard work and shared vision. It has been my privilege and pleasure to work with them for the benefit of the Dallas Genealogical Society.

Submitted by Janet Khashab, DGS President

Lloyd Bockstruck’s latest book that focuses on Revolutionary War Pensions is now available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. – Visit the website at: www.genealogical.com

Oak Cliff Cemetery - New or Old

The names “Old Oak Cliff Cemetery” and “New Oak Cliff Cemetery” have confused me for years. A recent query to the Dallas Genealogy Society regarding the burial of an ancestor of a genealogist in Ohio set me to wondering again. Her ancestor had died in 1930 and her obituary and death certificate listed the burial location as “New Oak Cliff Cemetery.” But she wasn’t in the burial records of Oak Cliff Cemetery that DGS Publications Committee published 20 years ago. Nor was she buried at Oakland Cemetery or Western Heights Cemetery, which certainly weren’t “new” in 1930.

Searching the Dallas Morning News Archives for the words “New Oak Cliff” yielded an article describing the installation of tower chimes at Laurel Land Cemetery that said “Laurel Land formerly was the New Oak Cliff Cemetery, and is located within a short distance of town off the Beckley avenue road.” Now I know two things: “Old Oak Cliff Cemetery” is the cemetery on 8th Avenue and “New Oak Cliff Cemetery” is now called Laurel Land Cemetery.

Barbara A. Ware

Large Number of Iowans in 1850 Indiana?

While searching the 1850 Lawrence County, Indiana, census I noticed that the children in the family I was reviewing were indexed as being born in Iowa. Strange! On later censuses, they were listed as born in Indiana. The 1850 census for Indiana as indexed on Ancestry.com shows that there are 7,939 living in Lawrence County, Indiana who were born in Iowa. There were 12,097 individuals in Lawrence County. Did the indexers make a mistake? Were the census takers partially at fault? Some of the entries on the actual census images under birthplace look like ”Ia,” “la”, or ”ln.” Of the 229,262 individuals in the 1850 federal census of Indiana 112,290 were identified as born in Iowa. Interesting! And, potentially confusing if you don’t follow a family on multiple censuses or take the time to look at the actual census image.

Barbara A. Ware

U. S. Census for Those Overseas

Recently while researching a family group that could have been overseas during the time that a census was taken, I wondered if or where I could find information on them. The Fall 2010 issue of Prologue Magazine provides some information about this question with the article “U. S. Census Schedules for Americans Living Overseas, 1900 to 1930” by Constance Potter. This article is available online on the NARA site. URL: http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2010/fall/oreas.html

Barbara A. Ware

Is Charles Bass Buried at Oakland Cemetery the Brother of the Notorious Sam Bass?

Did Sam Bass have a brother named Charles? Is the Charles Bass buried at Oakland Cemetery that brother? These questions entered my mind as I read a death notice in the Dallas Morning News.

“Charles Bass Died” was the heading of an obituary in the Dallas Morning News on December 10, 1898. The article describing his death said that he was born in Indiana and had lived in Dallas for years. The article went on to say that “he had quite a history. It was alleged that he was a brother of the family of Sam Bass, the outlaw, but that as far as known he had no relatives in this state.”

A number of present day Bass family researchers claim that Sam Bass had a brother Charles. But, no one seems to identify the Charles Bass who died in Dallas in 1898 as that brother.

Sam Bass was born in 1851 near Mitchell, Lawrence County, Indiana, to Daniel Bass and Elizabeth Jane Sheeks. His mother died in 1861 and his father in 1864, both in Lawrence County, Indiana. The date of Elizabeth’s death means that the Charles Bass buried in Oakland Cemetery, who was born in 1863, is not the son of both of these individuals. However, after his first wife’s death, Daniel Bass married Margaret Seibert, the widow of Lauson Newkirk. Margaret and Lauson Newkirk had two children (Robert Marshall Newkirk and Mary Newkirk). Lauson died prior to 1860 and Margaret and her Newkirk children are listed with her parents, Charles and Mary Seibert, on the 1860 Lawrence County, Indiana census.

In 1863, Daniel and Margaret (Seibert Newkirk) Bass had a son named Charles. Daniel Bass died in 1864. Margaret, along with her children, Marshall and Mary Newkirk and Charles Bass, appear on the 1870 census with her mother (Mary Seibert) and brother (James Seibert). Some of the Bass children (Mary, Sarah, John L. and Denton) appear with their uncle David Sheeks on the same census.

The answer to the first question is yes. Sam Bass had a brother, i.e. half-brother, named Charles Bass.

According to various biographies of Sam Bass, he left Indiana, moved to Mississippi and then to Texas. Outlaw Sam died in 1878 in Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas, but many of his siblings continued to live in Indiana. The Step-mother, Margaret Bass, and her children, Charles Bass and Mary Newkirk, are on the 1880 census in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri with Andrew W. Millsapugh, the widowed husband of Margaret’s sister, Susan. Her son, Robert M. Newkirk, who is not on this census, died on 11 Dec 1879 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Margaret Bass appears in the Kansas City, Missouri, city directories from 1881 through 1904, sometimes listed as widow of Daniel. Daughter Mary Newkirk appears on the city directory at the same address. Charles Bass appears in the city directories in Kansas City at addresses where his mother also lives in 1879, 1881, 1883, and 1884. Sometime after 1888 he left Kansas City.

A Charles Bass appears on city directories in Dallas, Texas in 1894 and 1897. In 1894 he worked for C. L. Jones & Company and roomed at Mrs. Louisa Hunter’s house. Claude L. Jones is listed as a proprietor of the Oriental turf exchange, a pool seller, and a bookmaker at the Oriental Hotel. In 1897 Charles worked with and lived in the household of bartender Alexander L. Tyler.

In 1900 Margaret Bass and daughter Mary Newkirk are still with the Millsapugh family in Missouri. Margaret states that she had three children and only one was living. There are 16 Anglo Bass men named Charles or variants born between 1861 and 1865 indexed on the 1900 census as viewed on Ancestry.com. Of these men, none was born in Indiana.

On December 9, 1898 as reported in the Dallas Morning News, Charles Bass died of a morphine overdose. His body was “turned over to Ed. C. Smith Undertaker.” The Day Book of the Ed. C. Smith Funeral Home, Dallas, Texas records that C. L. Jones paid $40 to Margaret Bass for a coffin and box, hearse, lot and grave at Oakland Cemetery on December 10, 1898. The original Smith Funeral Home daybook is housed at the genealogical archives at the Dallas Public Library. So the connection between Charles Bass, son of Daniel and Margaret of Indiana, and the 35-year-old man who was buried at Oakland Cemetery in Dallas, Texas, is confirmed.

Charles Bass (1863-1898) buried at Oakland Cemetery, Dallas, Texas is the half-brother of outlaw Sam Bass.

References

City Directories for Dallas, Texas, Evans and Worley Publishers, 1897 accessed on Footnote.com on April 18, 2011.

City Directories for Dallas, Texas, Morrison and Fourmy Publishers, 1894 accessed on Footnote.com on April 18, 2011.

City Directories for Kansas City, Missouri, 1865, 1867, and 1870-1923 accessed on Footnote.com on April 19, 2011 (for years 1872 through 1904)


Family of Sam and Charles Bass

Daniel Bass (1821-1864)
  M1. 1840 Elizabeth Jane Sheeks (1821-1861)
  M2. 1862 Margaret Siebert Newkirk (1833-c1904), widow of Lauson Newkirk

Children of Daniel Bass and Margaret siebert
Charles Bass (1863-1898)

Children of Margaret Siebert and Lauson Newkirk
Robert Marshall Newkirk (1855-1879)
Mary Newkirk (1857- )

Barbara A. Ware

Necrology

For some time we have not noted the deaths of DGS members in the DGS newsletter. Beginning with this issue we are endeavoring to do so. A necrology can be a list of deaths or an obituary notice. In this case we will begin with a list starting in 2009. If you know of a DGS member who has passed away beginning in 2009 and who is not listed here, please send his or her name and death date to info@dallasgenealogy.org.

2009
W. Eugene (Gene) Kinsey - January 10, 2009
Mary Ann Fournier - February 21, 2009 (Life Member)
Nola Van Gibson Pierce - March 11, 2009
Marion Watkins Ball - November 4, 2009
Mary-emily Witt - November 13, 2009
Rosa Truhe - December 5, 2009

2010
Richard Mulberry - June 6, 2010 (Life Member)
Morris Brooks - July 13, 2010
 Dorislee Hoffpauer - November 27, 2010 (Life Member)
Mary Beadles - December 28, 2010 (Life Member)

2011
Mozella Wright Goni - January 5, 2011
Edna Elizabeth Nunn Seager - January 18, 2011
Sheila McLean Stough - March 5, 2011
Edward H. Voorhees - April 18, 2011
Sue Sullivan Stuart - May 16, 2011
Meryl May Dugger - May 27, 2011
Elizabeth Dolen Deihl - July 18, 2011
Adrienne Bird Jamieson - July 23, 2011 (Life Member)

Barbara A. Ware
DGS Calendar of Events 2011

Saturday, September 10, 2011 – General Meeting: Social hour begins 10:30 a.m.; General Meeting begins 11:00 a.m.
First Floor Auditorium

Saturday, September 17, 2011, 2:00 p.m. – AAGIG

Saturday, October 8, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – MacGen SIG

Sunday, October 9, 2011, Annual Trip to Salt Lake City

Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – Jewish 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 or you may leave a voice mail at 1-866-YOU2DGS (1-866-968-2347)