



Arlington Genealogical Society News



P. O. Box 373, Arlington, TX 76004-0373

MARCH 2015

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015
Community Room of
Arlington West Police Service Station
2060 W. Green Oaks Blvd.



PROGRAM: Barbara Brixey Wylie
Curlicues or Chicken Scratch: Reading Yesteryear's Handwriting: Penmanship styles, shortcuts and dialect sometimes make old documents look like chicken-scratch—but these tips will help you read that handwriting.

The following people have volunteered to furnish refreshments for the meeting: Steve Brown, Jan Penland, Sue Mathios and Quenna Cox.

Arlington Genealogical Society meets on the second Tuesday monthly from September through June. Annual Dues, which are due in September, are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Thanks to all our members who have paid their dues as well as those who have become new members.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I invite you to attend or participate in the Family History Fair on 7 March and the Friends of the Arlington Public Library book

sale during the week of 16 March. The one day Family History Fair is an opportunity to get a genealogy convention experience without the expense of attendance fees, or travel and lodging costs. This year's FAPL spring book sale promises to be one of their largest. If you are not a book buyer, consider donating books for the FAPL sale. Your participation as a buyer or donor helps the Arlington Public Library system provide better services.

Whatever your focus, the genealogy journey is a voyage of discovery. Some of those discoveries are found in unlikely places. My spouse recently started researching the life of an Uncle who died during WWII at age 23 in an Army Air Corps training accident. Her research in that line of ancestors includes reading through family letters saved by her grandmother. In that collection of keepsakes passed down by her parents, Laureen found a children's prayer book which held 5 photos no one in the present generation ever recalled viewing.

For the February newsletter I wrote a paragraph about the volunteer effort to relocate the genealogy reference collection from the old Central library building to the Northeast Branch Library. As part of that volunteer effort, I want to share an impression based on observing the work in progress. It has to do with the titles in the collection, more than 6000 in number and many of those titles with multiple volumes. I overheard comments like, "I did not know we had this . . ." or, "I'm returning to read

this book . . . “My impression is this; you must see the collection to appreciate what is on those shelves. Make a mental note to visit the NE Branch library soon and spend a few hours browsing the genealogy reference collection. Seeing the “Gen Ref” collection in a new setting and browsing those titles may open a fresh perspective on family history research.

In the January newsletter I wrote a few lines about the APL genealogy online “toolbox” and recent addition of the World Vital Records database. Since January I have searched the WVR database a number of times and have found it extensive and sophisticated. Once logged onto the site, you have search access to more than 23,000 collections. One collection I searched was the 1940 USA census. Before beginning a search you can browse the collections and/or filter the collections; a nice feature if you want to search only newspapers or directories. Geographic filtering is also available and a good way to narrow how much of the collection you search. A name search will get you any number of “hits”. I like the feature that allows a patron to filter those search hits without having to edit the search. The WVR database is available at the Metroplex Online Resources web page. If work or other commitments keep you from visiting your local library, all you need is an Arlington, Grand Prairie, Kennedale or Mansfield library card to log-on and begin using the WVR database. Other available from anywhere APL online genealogy databases include America's Obituaries & Death Notices, Handbook of Texas, Heritage Quest and Texas Digital Sanborn Maps. Access to Ancestry Library Edition is only from within Arlington and Grand Prairie libraries. Here is a direct link <http://morelibrary.org/collection/genealogy> Have a good month, Peter G. Jacobs

TEXAS HONOR DAYS

March 1-3: Texas History Month

March 2: Texans celebrate [Texas Independence Day](#). On this day in 1836, the

Texas Declaration of Independence was signed at Washington-on-the-Brazos, giving birth to the Republic of Texas.

March 6: Alamo Heroes Day. On this day in 1836, the siege of the Alamo was ended with Santa Anna's forces stormed the Alamo and killed all of the defenders. "Remember the Alamo" was the day that prompted that cry.

March 27: Goliad Heroes Day. Following the fall of the Alamo, under the command of General Santa Anna, attacked Colonel James W. Fannin's men at Goliad. Fannin was forced to surrender. On March 27, 1836, 320 prisoners were executed, the largest loss of life in the cause of Texas independence. "Remember Goliad" became one of the great battle cries at San Jacinto.

PROGRAMS AROUND THE AREA

March 5: Grand Prairie GS:

Tanya P. Slaughter, Reference Librarian for the Grand Prairie Memorial Library, will be the speaker and explore all the information systems available at the libraries for research.

March 5: Mid-Cities GS: Lynell Moss on Using FamilySearch.com for your Genealogical Research.

March 6: Natl. Archives at Fort Worth: HERstory: Women in the Records at the National Archives by Jenny Sweeney, Education Specialist

March 7: Arlington Family History Fair at LDS History Center Arlington
<http://www.arlingtontxfhc.org/>

March 12: Cedar Hill GS

Speaker: Carolyn Davis on

Mocavo Search Engine: Another resource for your Genealogy Toolbox



March 18-22:

The next **FAPL Book Sale** is
March 18 to 22 at Meadowbrook Park!

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALE



The Spring Book sale will
be at **Meadowbrook Park.**

- Wednesday 3-7 p.m. **MEMBERS ONLY** (Membership available at the door)
- Thursday 3-7 p.m.
- Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday (Half Price Day) 11 a.m.-4 p.m. , Teachers only 4:30-5 p.m.

March 21: Billy W. Sills Center for Texas Studies at TCU and Fort Worth Library: Tom Reynolds, developer and musician on "Jazz, Blues and Rock 'n Roll: Fort Worth Music Giants

March 21: Dallas Genealogical 2015 Spring Lecture, Saturday
Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, CGL, noted professional genealogist who is experienced in using DNA analysis for genealogical research.
<http://www.dallasgenealogy.org>

March 28: Fort Worth GS: Terri Meeks continues her Beginners Workshop Series: Session III Researching at the County Courthouse
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/>

MEMBER NEWS

Kathy Bateman retired from the Library on February 28 (yes, during the snow). Congratulations, Kathy, and we hope to see you at our monthly meetings.

William Gochenour recently fell and broke his femur. He is currently at Matlock Place, 7100 Matlock, Arlington. He is anxious to be able to put weight on his leg. He thinks he will be there for another month. He sends his best wishes to all.

FEBRUARY AGS MEETING



Steve Brown, Nancy Davis, Dorothy Rencurrel and Marilyn Funderburk
Marilyn and Nancy spoke on using the DAR website for genealogy.

AGS OFFICERS 2014-2015

President: Pete Jacobs
1st VP Programs: Steven Brown
2nd VP Refreshments:
Barbara Richardson
Assistant: Linda Tong
Secretary: Sylvia Hoad
Treasurer: Jennie Schemensky
Parliamentarian: Dorothy Rencurrel
Publicity Chair: Ruth Goodman
Purchasing Chair: Mary Ann Conrad
Assistant: Sylvia Hoad
Photographer: Wally Goodman
Membership Chair: Cherry Williams
Website: Sheri Tiner
Web Address:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txags>

NOTE: If you are using the Central Library street address, 101 East Abram Street, for any AGS business, including payment of AGS dues, please have the address changed to: Arlington Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 373
Arlington, TX 76004-0373

GENEALOGY ROADSHOW

A couple of newsletter readers have asked, "How can I have my genealogy brickwall researched by the folks at Genealogy Roadshow on PBS?" Now you may have an answer.

The producers of Genealogy Roadshow are looking for people to be on Season 3 of the show and applications are being accepted. Obviously, not everyone can be accepted. I am guessing the producers will select candidates who have the most interesting challenges. In any case, you won't know unless you apply!

The Casting Call application for next year's Genealogy Roadshow may be found at <http://genealogyroadshow.org/casting-page>
Dick Eastman, February 25, 2015

Need something to get your Genealogy Juices flowing during this cold winter. Take some time to view some of the videos from the RootsTech Conference.

RootsTech Video Archives 2015:

<https://rootstech.org/video/4046597103001>

Via: vafauqui@rootsweb.com

(Note: I was able to view them on 2/28/15.)

The List of Enrolled Voters of the City of New York is a 484-page book available for free to everyone in the U.S. at <http://goo.gl/OuWU8n>.

Dick Eastman, February 24, 2015

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE WDYTYA returns on Sunday, March 8 on TLC with the 2015 season. Featured celebs for the 2015 season are:

- March 8 Julie Chen
- March 15 Josh Groban
- March 22 Angie Harmon
- March 29 Sean Hayes
- April 5 Tony Goldwyn
- April 12 America Ferrera
- April 19 Bill Paxton
- April 26 Melissa Etheridge

Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems
February 22, 2015

History on YouTube! by Sunny Morton

I served as editor of Lisa's (Lisa Louise Cooke of *Genealogy Gems*) all-new book *The Genealogist's Google Toolbox, Second Edition*. I use Google every day, and yet this book has so many helpful new search tips! I will admit though that I was just a bit skeptical about her chapter on finding your family history on YouTube. So skeptical that I immediately opened YouTube to prove her wrong. Can you guess how this ends?

Following one of her tips, I entered an ancestral hometown and state and the word "history." The fourth search result made my mouth drop open:



Fire Dog Named Chief at Olyphant, PA 1937 Chevrolet Newsreel

This is a 1937 newsreel showing my husband's great-grandfather, Andrew O'Hotnicky, driving his fire truck with his dog Chief!

[To read more about this discovery click here.](#)

INDEX TO TEXAS PROBATE RECORDS

The Index to Probate Cases of Texas for many of Texas' counties are cataloged under TX 6.1, not individually. There are 26 books under that heading in our Library.

Bowie County, February Feb. 10, 1883 - June 11, 1940 -- v. 21.

Brazos County, April 26, 1841 - March 1, 1939 -- v. 25.

Brown County, November 19, 1878 -
November 7, 1938 -- v. 32.

Camp County, November 4, 1871 -
January 9, 1939 -- v. 36.

Chambers County (Anahuac),
Oct. 25, 1876 - March 6, 1939 -- v. 60.

Delta County, September 23, 1870 -
November 2, 1939 -- v. 80.

Franklin County, August 20, 1875 -
August 2, 1939 -- v. 92.

Gregg County, January 23, 1872 -
January 31, 1939 -- v. 94.

Guadalupe County, March 22, 1846 -
August 11, 1939.

Hardin County, September 9, 1867 -
March 18, 1939 -- v. 105.

Hays County, November 22, 1848 -
December 15, 1939 -- v. 146.

Liberty County, December 9, 1850 -
July 28, 1939 -- v. 155.

Marion County, May 15, 1860 -
May 2, 1939 -- v. 172.

Morris County, January 7, 1876 -
March 27, 1939 -- v. 176.

Newton County, July 26, 1846 -
June 30, 1939 -- v. 177.

Nolan County, July 1, 1881 -
November 17, 1939 -- v. 181.

Orange County, March 20, 1852 -
December 31, 1938 -- v. 198.

Robertson County, April 30, 1838 -
September 1, 1939.

Rusk County, June 18, 1843 -
December 29, 1939 -- v. 206.

San Saba County, January 30, 1866 -
June 28, 1939 -- v. 210.

Shelby County, November, 1881 -
August 11, 1939 --v. 225.

Titus County, September 18, 1893 -
December 15, 1938 -- v. 228.

Trinity County, December 12, 1872 -
December 13, 1939 -- v. 237.

Waller County, October 1, 1873 -
May 6, 1940 -- v. 246.

Williamson County, October 16, 1848 -
December 27, 1938 -- v. 250.

Wood County, September 12, 1857 -
May 9, 1939.



THE ARLINGTON JOURNAL (cont.)
by Will Keller

Friday June 28, 1929

Mrs. J. A. Biggers, 70, beloved pioneer resident of Arlington and Tarrant County, died at her home three miles southeast of Arlington Wednesday morning at one forty five after a brief illness of three days.

Mrs. Biggers was born Feb. 12, 1895 (sic), at Pittsburg, Tenn., where she lived until 1881 when she moved to Texas with her husband, J. A. Biggers, to whom she was married December 22, 1879. To this union were born six children, all of whom survive her.

Mrs. Biggers lived a beautiful Christian life and was loved by all who knew her. She joined the Christian Church at the age of fifteen and was a devout member of the First Christian Church of this city at the time of her death.

Funeral services were held at the First Christian Church at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, June 27th, with Reverend R. M. Redford, pastor, officiating, assisted by Rev. Roy A. Langston, pastor of the First Methodist church and Rev. S. M. Bennett, pastor of the Presbyterian church.

She is survived by her husband, J. A. Biggers, five sons, J. N., Edd, and Joe, of Arlington, and M. W. and Zack of Fort Worth, one daughter, Mrs. A. A. Hutsell, of Arlington; eighteen grandchildren, one sister, Mrs. Thaney Cummings, of Handley, Texas, and a host of distant relatives and friends.

Active pallbearers were: Edward Rankin, Frank Moore, Sam Parker, Phillip Bailey, Hugh Smith, and Albert Steeley. Honorary pallbearers were: Lou Turck, D.

A. Bickle, E. E. Rankin, D. R. Martin, Wm. Knapp, E. B. Foster, Mm. Moore, Cliff Barnes, Frank McKnight, R. H. Bardin, Jim Ditto, Mike Ditto, C. L. Heath, and D. C. Sibley.

Interment in the Arlington cemetery

Friday June 28, 1929

Funeral services for **Mrs. W. J. Lindsey**, 56, were conducted at the Arlington Baptist church Thursday morning, June 27th, at ten o'clock, with Rev. W. T. Rouse, pastor, officiating, assisted by Rev. S. M. Bennett pastor of the First Presbyterian church.

Mrs. Lindsey died in a Wichita Falls sanitarium, Sunday, after an illness of several years.

She leaves to mourn her death her husband and three children, Mrs. Evans, a daughter, and two sons, W. B. and Ronald. Burial in Parkdale cemetery.

Friday June 28, 1929

Word was received this week that J. W. Brown's sister, **Mrs. Ova Lewis**, dropped dead of heart trouble in Oklahoma recently. Mr. Brown's friends here sympathize with him in his bereavement.

Friday June 28, 1929

M. L. Dickerson, age 54, prominent cotton man, was found mortally wounded at his home about eleven o'clock last Monday night, as a result of pistol wounds, believed to have been self-inflicted. He was rushed to the Baptist Sanitarium at Fort Worth and died at 6:30 Tuesday morning. Mr. Dickerson had been a resident of this section for 29 years and was prominently engaged in the buying of cotton. Ill health and financial reverses were thought to have been the cause of his act, which had apparently been planned for some time. He left a farewell letter to his family which admonished his children to live a good, upright life, and take care of their mother.

Mr. Dickerson was born March 22, 1929(*sic*). He was married to Miss Blanche Baker, of Arlington, and to this union were born three boys, Morris, M. L. Jr., and Jack, all of this city. Funeral services were held at

the Dickerson home, 404 North Pecan street, Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock, attended by large crowd of sorrowing relatives and friends. The casket was hidden among a large mound of beautiful floral tributes, attesting to the love and high esteem of the beloved. Rev. S. M. Bennett, pastor of the Arlington Presbyterian church, conducted the services. A quartette, composed of C. L. Knapp, C. T. Brower, Noah Deal and W. A. Ransome, sang "Jesus, Thy Will Be Done". Bro. Bennett took for his text "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in me." At the request of Mr. Dickerson, his favorite song, composed by himself a short time before his death, entitled, "Don't Forget Me When I'm Gone, Dear," was sung. He had requested his wife to have this song sung at his funeral, which was done by Mrs. B. B. Sprounce.

Friday June 28, 1929

(picture of Boeing tri-motor biplane)

Here's a big tri-motored plane used in night passenger service between Salt Lake City and Oakland, Calif., and which convinced aviation officials that the airport has taken the place of the railroad depot in public interest.

Remember the good old days of other years when the arrival and departure of trains in the old home town was THE event of the day? And how every resident of the town who could find the time always ambled down to the depot to see the chugging locomotive pull in and come to a stop at the station?

Seeing trains come in and out these days isn't anything of unusual interest even in the least inhabited sections of the United States. But seeing airplanes come in and out of the darkness at night—well, there's something to make your heart jump.

A lawyer's epitaph in England:

Sir John Strange. Here lies an honest lawyer--and that is Strange.