



# Arlington Genealogical Society News

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

May 2017

<http://arlingtongenealogytx.org/>

**TUESDAY, May 9, 2017**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Community Room of  
Arlington West Police Service Station  
2060 W. Green Oaks Blvd.**

**PROGRAM:** Roger Cobb will speak on DNA and genealogy.

A new slate of officers for 2017-2018 will be presented.

The following people have volunteered to furnish refreshments for the meeting: Kathy Polozola, Bob Fleitz and Meg Anderson.

Arlington Genealogical Society meets on the second Tuesday monthly from September through June.

The Arlington Genealogical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit (EIN: 90-0890150), incorporated in the State of Texas.

Annual Dues, which are due in September, are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family.

## **AGS OFFICERS**

President: Pete Jacobs  
1st VP Programs: Steven Brown  
2nd VP Refreshments: Jeanne Rives  
Secretary: Sylvia Hoad  
Treasurer: Jeannie Schemensky

## **AGS COMMITTEES**

Parliamentarian: Dorothy Rencurrel  
Publicity Chair: Ruth Goodman  
Membership Chair: Jan Penland  
Collection Development Chair:  
Mary Ann Conrad  
Web Admin. Volunteer:  
John D. Anderson

Finance Chair: Jeanne Rives  
Photographer: Wally Goodman

## **UPCOMING AGS MEETINGS:**

**June 13:** Breaking Through Brick Walls with Steve Brown.

AGS does not meet in July and August

## **A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR SOCIETY PRESIDENT**

For the sake of this discussion, let us say you are starting genealogy research with your parents as the first ancestors' generation. One of those "I wonder from where . . ." commercials caught your attention, and you subscribed to a major family tree dot com such as Ancestry or My Heritage. Or, you may have voiced your new interest in family history to friends and co-workers, and found the same research capability can be done free at Family Search dot com.

Regardless of the online research path chosen, a veritable cascade of ancestors is a possibility early on in your research efforts, especially if a few cousins unbeknownst to you are genealogy hobbyists and have been sharing their research findings online.

So after a bit of self-congratulation, upon finding 4 grandparents, 8 great-grandparents, 16 great-great-grandparents, and 32 great-great-great-grandparents, you decide to read though your findings and

notice two of your 3 three times great-grandparents turn up twice in the family tree. Do not fear the worst; that is to be expected and is perfectly all right.

Theoretically we double the number of our ancestors with each generation, so we'd go 2-4-8-16-32-64-128-256-512, etc., until, at 20 generations we would theoretically have more than a million ancestors. However, in the real world, the further back in time we go, the more we will find ancestors that appear two or more times in the same generation. Each time that happens it reduces the number of ancestors we are able to name. This phenomenon is called pedigree collapse. You may also find the term "implex" used. So researching back in time, let us say 20 generations or about 500 years, and if you found all the names in that generation, you would be unlikely to name more than several thousand. If we assume all of your ancestors are from the same country or region the number of ancestors you could list would be even less.

There are several matters of Society business to address before I close. Our Publicity Committee Chair, Ruth Goodman, gave us notice at the 18 March Board meeting that she will be editing her last AGS Newsletter in June. Ruth took on the editor job in 2013. So, our Society is in need of a volunteer to publish the AGS Newsletter. Ruth will work with the new editor over the summer season to ensure a smooth transition. Please contact Ruth directly, or any board member, if you are interested in volunteering.

The Special Bylaws Committee, chaired by Dorothy Rencurrel, was activated at the 7 January Board meeting. A bylaw change to our current membership renewal dates was approved by the board and announced at the April members meeting. In essence the membership renewal date will change to match our financial year, which is the calendar year. If approved by a two thirds membership vote at the May or June meeting your membership will be extended through December 2017, with renewal due in January 2018.

As per the Bylaws, officer elections are scheduled for the June Members meeting. The special Nominating Committee was activated at the 18 March Board meeting with Sylvia Hoad as Chair. Any member in good standing is eligible to be nominated for an office. If you decide to nominate a member for office, please get the consent of the nominee in advance. The Committee will announce a slate of nominees at the May member meeting.

Two projects, both currently under the purview of the board, an AGS Informational Video and AGS on Facebook.com, are still in need of a volunteer. Please contact any board member if you are interested in helping your society enhance its presence in social media.

The next AGS Board meeting has been rescheduled for Saturday morning, May 13th, in the Lake Arlington Branch Library community room. Society members are always invited to participate by attendance or by sharing proposals with a board member.

Following the April meeting, our membership count was in the mid-sixties.

See you next Tuesday evening at the May 9th member meeting.  
Peter G. Jacobs, President of the AGS

## **UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA**

**April 4: Grand Prairie GS: Sandra Crowley:** "I Remember: Beginning to Write Your Story."

**May 6: Center for Texas Studies, in Tandy Auditorium, Fort Worth Central 10:30 - 12:00 Noon:** "One Hundred Years of Weather in DFW with **Mark Fox**"  
**10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
Come hear meteorologist Mark Fox talk about historic weather events over the last one hundred years in the Metroplex and find

out why the National Weather Service established an office right here in Fort Worth.

**May 10: Hands-On Learning: Genealogy Resources: Ancestry Library Edition** The class is from 3-4:30 at the Lake Arlington Branch, 4000 W. Green Oaks Blvd.

**May 11: Cedar Hill GS** will feature **Barb Wylie** on "Way Down in Missouri."

**May 13: Fort Worth GS's Beginning Genealogy Workshop Series**, the instructor being Terri Meeks. "Church, Cemetery and Vital Records."

**terri.meeks@sbcglobal.net**

**NOTE:** On May 1, Terri will resign from the FWGS Board and give up teaching the Beginners' class as of 1 June 2017. She has made a flash drive with her powerpoint presentations and accompanying handouts for the Beginners' class and have given that to Debbie Pearson. I have also coordinated with Sheryl Rascher to finish out the 2017 series of Beginners' classes.

**May 17: Your Story:** Second class on writing your story. Organize Your Story: Are your research efforts and materials organized for success? Let's compare notes and explore best practices. The class is from 6:30 - 7:30 at Southwest Branch Library, 3311 S. W. Green Oaks Blvd.

**May 22-25: Texas Institute of Genealogical Research of Texas State Genealogical Society** in Austin, Texas. Featured speakers are Teri E. Flack, Kelvin L. Meyers, Anne Gillespie Mitchell, John A. Sellers and Cari A. Taplin.  
<http://www.txsgs.org/texas-research-institute>

**May 30: Fort Worth GS: Connie Gray** will speak on Adoptions.

**August 4 and 5, Dallas GS 2017 Summer Seminar** featuring **Lisa Louise Cooke Sunny Morton, and Diahan Southard**

*Sources, Storytelling, & DNA*  
Instructions and lunch details will be available soon.

**September 9: Fort Worth GS End of Summer Seminar with Lisa Louise Cooke**, at Trimble Tech HS, Fort Worth

**October 6:** The next NARA Workshop will be on Naturalization Online. Come to learn how to locate many of these records at your fingertips.

**October 20-22: TxSGS Family History Conference** in Houston, Texas.  
<http://www.txsgs.org>

### **6 RECORDS TO TRACE ANCESTORS WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR I**

The United States declared war on Germany 100 years ago on April 6, 1917, joining the side of the Allies in the Great War.

More than 650,000 from Canada and Newfoundland and about 4 million from the United States served in the military. These are two of the US Expeditionary Force soldiers in my family:

When you go to research your WWI ancestors' military service, you'll make a sad discovery: More than 80 percent of US Army service records for those discharged between Nov. 1, 1912 and Jan. 1, 1960 (which includes WWI soldiers) were destroyed in a 1973 fire at the National Archives' National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis.

There are other ways to trace your ancestor's WWI service, including:

1. Draft Registration Cards  
More than 24 million men (including immigrants who hadn't naturalized)

registered for the draft in 1917 and 1918, although not all of them served. These are widely available on genealogy websites like Ancestry.com and Family Search.

## 2. State Adjutant General Rosters

Most states issued a roster of soldiers in World War I.

## 3. WWI Transport Service Records

Fold3 just published this collection of passenger lists of military transport ships.

## 4. Discharge Papers

Most discharged service members registered with their local courthouses on return to their communities

## 5. Veterans Surveys

Many communities asked local veterans to complete surveys about their service in the World War. The US Army Military History Institute also has a collection of WWI veterans questionnaires completed in the late 1970s, along with photos, letters, memoirs and other materials.

## 6. Military Headstone Application

These are on National Archives microfilm, and digitized on Ancestry.com.

You'll find more ways to research your World War I ancestors in these articles:  
Top 10 websites for WWI research, in the [July/August 2014 Family Tree Magazine](#) digital issue (this includes those who fought for Great Britain and Canada)

World War I online military records in the [March/April 2017 Family Tree Magazine](#) digital issue (focuses on US involvement)  
[Tracing World War I Women](#) downloadable genealogy guide

*The Family Tree Magazine, Dianne Haddan*  
*Wednesday, April 05, 2017*

## **RAILROAD WORKER RECORDS**

3/29/2017

By Peter D.A. Warwick

From about the 1840s to the 1940s, the railroad was king. America's first large-scale

business, it employed millions—from the "gandy dancer" (track laborer) to the president of the line. And it was the fastest mode of transportation at that time to carry our ancestors and their goods across the country.

The Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) Railroad, opened in 1830, was the first US passenger railway. Baltimore merchants established the B&O to compete with New Yorkers' new Erie Canal for trade to the West. In 1869, the Central Pacific and Union Pacific linked American trade from coast to coast, when they joined at Promontory, Utah, May 10.

Locating your ancestors' railroad records can be tricky because they're scattered in repositories across the country—historical and railroad societies, museums, archives and private collections—and many have been destroyed or lost over the years. But these seven websites will get your railroad research on the right track.

## **California State Railroad Museum Library**

Located in Old Sacramento, this repository holds corporate records, periodicals, photographs, maps and other materials documenting railroading in California and adjacent states from the 1850s to the present. Of particular interest to genealogists are the Archives and Manuscripts Collections (containing corporate records, personal papers and other unique documents) and the Railroad Accident Reports. The search gives you basic information about each item and its location within the collection. If you locate materials with information about your ancestors, the library will make a limited number of copies and ship them to you for a fee (20 to 50 cents per page for document reproductions and \$11 to \$28 for black-and-white photographic prints, plus postage and handling fees).

### **The Erie Railroad Personnel Records**

A great resource for anyone with Erie Railroad workers in the family, this site indexes employee rosters, obituaries, photographs, letters, accident reports and other records compiled from old issues of *Erie*, the employee magazine published from 1905 to 1960, and *Erie-Lackawanna Magazine*, published after the railroad's 1960 merger with the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. The information's provided in an easy-to-navigate tabular format (although a search engine would make browsing even easier). Many of the indexes provide each person's first and last name, position and location (or division), as well as other bits of information. (The accident-report index, for example, includes the date and type of accident.) You can see the full records by clicking on the link to [Railfan.net](#). Here, you'll find scanned images of the original magazines.

### **The Frisco Papers**

If your ancestors worked for the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway (aka The Frisco), this is an extremely useful site. It's maintained by Fred Veregge, who, in the 1970s, saved Frisco employee records from being destroyed when the railroad's records building in Springfield, Mo., was vacated. The records span the late 1800s to World War II, and contain more than 500 names. Offering the records for just the cost of postage and handling, Veregge hopes railroad workers' relatives will make homes for them. Look for your ancestor's name in the site's alphabetical listing of Frisco papers. Each entry includes the worker's name, position and location; the date on the document; the nature and source of the letter; and other information. Be sure to search the photographs and Frisco news-clippings databases, as well.

### **Pullman Collection**

This site, maintained by the South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society (SSGHS) in Illinois, has information about 200,000 former employees of Pullman Car

Works, which built passenger cars in Chicago. The collection is not open to the public, but SSGHS will do a quick search of records from 1900 to 1949 for free.

### **RailRoad Genealogical Society**

The RailRoad Genealogical Society (RRGS), founded in November 2002, collects American and Canadian railroad records, and will search them for your ancestor's name for a fee. RRGS currently has a lot of records from the Missouri-Kansas-Texas and Louisville and Nashville railroads. The search service costs \$20 for nonmembers, but for no additional charge, RRGS will continue to search for your ancestor in any new records it obtains. Eventually, RRGS would like to create a free online database of its holdings.

### **Riding the Rails Up Paper Mountain: Researching Railroad Records in the National Archives**

This article, which appeared in the Spring 1997 issue of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) publication *Prologue*, provides an overview of NARA's vast holdings of railroad-related textual records, maps, photos and motion pictures. The textual records comprise accident reports; Interstate Commerce Commission valuation records, used to calculate passenger and freight rates; railroad companies' annual reports; patent application files; and more.

### **US Railroad Retirement Board**

Established in the mid-1930s, this agency administers federal retirement benefits to the nation's railroad workers and their families. For a fee, the agency will look up the records for anyone who worked for the railroads (excluding temporary workers) after 1937 and is now deceased. Though the agency doesn't have pre-1937 railroad records, it provides links to repositories that do.



## Search Stations

Stop at these sites before putting on your research brakes:

- **Archives of Appalachia, Railroads:** If your forebears traveled aboard the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway and the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad, consult this East Tennessee State University guide to railroad research.
- **B&O Railroad Museum:** This Baltimore museum preserves the history of America's first steam-operated railway with a research library and archives and a collection of artifacts dating from 1827.
- **Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society Archives:** Housed at the University of Massachusetts, the archives preserves histories of the Boston & Maine and other New England railroads.
- **Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society:** Search this group's database of more than 43,000 railroad photographs, and browse the online gallery of 600 images. Then, order 8x10-inch prints.
- **Cyndi's List—Railroads:** This portal will link you to mailing lists, articles, maps and more resources related to railroad history.
- **The Northern Pacific and Genealogy:** This site provides tips and resources for finding Northern Pacific Railway records.
- **Pennsylvania Railroad Company Manuscript Collection:** Temple University has an extensive collection of Pennsylvania Railroad records.
- **Railroad History Archive:** The University of Connecticut holds the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad's corporate records and more.
- **Railroad History Collection—Virginia Tech University Libraries:** Virginia Tech has pre-1930 records from the Norfolk and

Western Railway and Southern Railway, as well as their predecessors and early subsidiaries.

## FORT WORTH MILITARY MUSEUM

The Military Museum of Fort Worth will close its Dorothy Street location and open in a temporary home in the historic Stockyards. Its new home is 2501 Rodeo Plaza, for 18 months. A grand opening May 29 is planned at the Stockyard location, just west of the Cowtown Coliseum, just in time for the Memorial Day weekend.

**THE ARLINGTON JOURNAL** (cont.)  
by Will Keller

### Friday February 21, 1930

RESOLVED: That the Board of Stewards of the Arlington Methodist Church express to Mrs. Jack Eavenson and family our most heartfelt sympathies in their bereavement.

Each of the Board wish to express our personal knowledge and appreciation of the many good things the Arlington people and church have enjoyed through the benediction of our dear beloved friend and member, Brother Eavenson.

The Board deeply feels the loss of such noble character and christian spirit as was ever manifested by the one taken from our ranks

May the memory of his christian life and never failing loyalty to his church be exemplified in not only this, but other boards of the Arlington Methodist Church.

Board of Steward Arlington  
Methodist Church, Arlington, Texas.

H. D. Wallace, Chairman

W. B. Taylor

Mrs. C. D. Mitchell

### Friday February 28, 1930

#### PANTEGO NEWS

Sadness swept over our community this week when our previous little **Billie**

**Lucille Darden** was suddenly taken away on Thursday morning at 6 o'clock. She was the 7 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Darden of this community. She was born October 4, 1922 and died February 20, 1930. Billie Lucille went to school Wednesday morning but returned home immediately after 9: o'clock where she lived only 21 hours. Burial was in Johnson Station Cemetery. Bro. S. M. Bennett of Arlington was in charge of funeral services. Doctors had not determined the cause of her death at that time.

Dr. McKissick pronounced it poisoning from the very first, but it was Saturday before he and five other doctors including Dr. Harold V. Johnston, Dr. Rumph, Dr. Hyde and others, determined it arsenic poisoning. Ruth Estelle, their 9 year old daughter, was also very sick from 5:30 o'clock Wednesday morning and was carried to the Baptist Sanitarium Friday evening. ??? Saturday evening where she was attended. Ruth Estelle is up and will probably be in school soon.

The entire community which is made up mostly of kinfolks, will join with this mother and father in grief for the little one only to awake some time and see her with Jesus.

Besides the parents are left two sisters, Ruth Estelle age nine and Geraldine age 2 years. Her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Austin of this community, Grandmother Caroline of Sulphur Springs and a host of relatives and friends.

### **Friday February 28, 1930**

A telegram to Rev. S. M. Bennett Monday brought the sad news that **Rev. J. R. Henry**, D. D. pastor of First Presbyterian Church at Ft. Myers, Fla., and brother of Mrs. S. M. Bennett had suddenly passed away. Dr. Henry was a graduate of Cumberland University of Lebanon, Tenn., and Union Theological Seminary of New York City. He also did post graduate work at Columbia University, New York, and had spent one year at Oxford University, England. He had held as pastorate at Nashville, Tenn., Pittsburg, Pa., and Streator, Ill. He spent six years at Fort

Myers, Fla., also dean of Theological Seminary, Lebanon, Tenn., for some five years.

### **Friday February 28, 1930**

Last Friday night during the electrical storm, the wind blew the wires and poles down on Abram street and had it not been for the quick services rendered by the two night watchmen, Joe Coke and Lawrence Evans, not only J. S. Adkins Jewelry Store would have burned as they had to break the door to get in and stop the fire but perhaps many would have been killed by the live wires across the street. This alone should prove to any town the importance of having night watchmen, for their services at this time perhaps saved the (*citizens*) hundreds of dollars.

### **Friday February 28, 1930**

D. C. Sibley last Tuesday received the sad news of the passing away of his only sister, **Mrs. Mary Hammack**, age 82, who lives with her son, W. T. Hammack, a former Senator of Arkansas, but now a State Commissioner of that state, living at Little Rock. We extend to Mr. Sibley our sincere sympathy in this sad hour.

### **Friday February 28, 1930**

#### **LOCAL NEWS**

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Young were called to Tulsa, Okla., the past week to attend the funeral of Mrs. Young's nephew, **Horace Goode**. Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Prince accompanied them, having reared Mrs. Goode.

### **Friday February 28, 1930**

Once more our circle is broken. God in his wisdom has claimed for Himself another choice flower to adorn His throne.

He has taken our dear sister and friend, **Mrs. Margaret O'Conner** from her life of suffering, to His home of love, peace and joy, where there is no pain, no death, nor parting.

Her life of patient suffering is an inspiration to those she has left, and helps us to realize more the beauty of holy living.

We know where to find her at the end of the way.

May the memory of her beautiful life dwell with her beloved son, and entwine his heart and keep him close to his God, and always be a beacon light all along his path, 'till he joins her in their home above, prepared for them.

May God bless and comfort the bereaved son in his great sorrow, and help him to feel that He is near.

Be it resolved that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the paper and one sent to the sorrowing son, Robert Stewart O'Conner.

Committee of her Sunday School class: Mrs. J. D. Cooper, Mrs. T. B. Norwood, Mrs. L. R. Carlise.

### **Friday February 28, 1930**

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to those who were so kind and thoughtful of my dear mother, **Margaret O'Connor** during her illness and death. May God's richest blessings rest upon each and every one. I also thank them for their kindness to me.

Robert S. O'Connor.

### **Friday February 28, 1930**

#### **A NOBLE MAN DIES**

The death of **E. H. Murphy**, 905 East Abram removes from our county one of the best and truest men, and numerous friends and relatives are now in mourning.

E. H. Murphy was 67 years of age February 10, 1930. Was born in Osceolo, Mo., married to Miss Dona Davis December 12, 1882 at Palmer, Texas. Of this union three children were born, one boy who died quite young and two girls, Mrs. C. T. Nall of Waxahachie and Miss Mamie Murphy of this city. Mr. Murphy was baptized in infancy, and has been a member of Methodist church practically all his life. He was a man of the highest type of christianity, ever-ready at all times to do his part in the promotion of Christ's cause. He passed away at his home Sunday evening at 8:20,

had been in failing health for the past year, but was only confined to his bed two days, and his going was a shock to the entire community.

The funeral at First Methodist Church Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock was well attended by a host of friends and relatives. The services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. J. H. Stewart, and assisted by Rev. H. M. Redford of the First Christian Church, Rev. S. M. Bennett, of Presbyterian Church, Rev. Hunt, pastor of Baptist Church at Pleasant Grove.

Mr. Murphy leaves his widow, two daughters, five brothers, J. B., J. P. and W. T. Murphy of Dallas, P. M. Murphy, Houston and R. J. Murphy of Lubbock, and three sisters, Mrs. R. L. Williams and Mrs. Frank Scott, Dallas. Mrs. Payne of Los Angelos, Calif. Four brothers were at his bedside when he passed away, the sisters not being able to be here, on account of illness.

The Journal joins the community in extending sincere sympathy to the family and relatives in this sad hour.

Active pall bearers: Home Slaughter, D. R. Martin, J. D. Faulkner, Arch Fulkerson, T. L. Cravens and Mr. Yeager of Grand Prairie. Honorary: H. D. Wallace, D. H. Connor, D. Y. McKinney, Lester Coulter, Charlie Coulter, Frank McKnight, Wm. Knapp, J. E. Arnold, W. F. Altman, Jim Biggers, John R. Griffin, Allen Barnes, Horace Thornton, Dr. W. H. Davis, H. W. Wright and J. F. Wagner, L. O. Turner and D. Copeland of Grand Prairie.

### **Friday February 28, 1930**

Friends of the Church of Christ received a message Tuesday announcing the death of one of their members, **F. P. Sharp**, who has recently moved to Fort Worth and was on the Highway between Fort Worth and Abilene when hit by another car while doing some repair work on his car. Funeral services were held at the Harveson-Cole Co., at Fort Worth Wednesday at 3 o'clock and the following from here attended: Mesdames Jack Lightfoot, W. L. Watson, W. B. Staley and A. M. Scott.