



Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

web site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/>

November 2015

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Debbie Pearson

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Footprints Editor
Rob Yoder

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Ed McCoy

Director at Large
Carol Reeves

November General Meeting

Don't forget our next meeting is the week of Thanksgiving, so plan ahead now. Finish your shopping early and be ready to meet on **Tuesday night, November 24th at 6:30** to hear our own V P, **Terri Meeks**, tell us about those "skeletons" in your family tree. She titles it: "**Skeletons in Your Closet?**" Terri tells us that some of those family stories may not be totally true or that mysterious ancestor may have had a good reason for disappearing. She will use case studies to illustrate. See you at the **Tandy Auditorium** of the **Central Branch Library**. Don't forget meters on the street are free at 6 p.m. and you can have 2.5 hrs free in the 3rd Street Garage with a validation of your ticket in the library.



TERRI MEEKS is a retired test engineer for F-16 support equipment. When she began her research she discovered most of her ancestors were immigrants and has traced her maternal line to Quebec. Terri is involved in FWGS as Vice President and teaches their Beginners' Genealogy Class. She is a community volunteer at the local Family History Center and translates Catholic Church records from French, Latin and Italian into English for the American Canadian Genealogical Society. Her husband, Dan, is also an avid genealogist and techno-geek.

Refreshments at 6 pm.



FW Library News

New Book Coming Soon

FWGS donated a new book to the Genealogical Unit which was accepted by Bryan McKinney. The book is **RED RIVER COUNTY IN 1890; The Year of the Missing Census** by Johnie Lee. The book is an attempt to provide researchers the names of citizens in the county around 1890. Look for it soon.

See page 3 for more.

October Meeting

Debbie Pearson, our FWGS

President, spoke at the last meeting and entitled her talk "**I Ain't 'Fraid of No Ghosts.**" With apologies to the Ghost Buster's crew, she spoke about some of the On-Line resources available on cemetery records, grave stone pictures, and other ways to find death and burial records, without having to enter those "scary cemeteries".

Debbie explained the histories of both **BillionGraves** and **Find A Grave**, the two best sites available and both still free. She also explored the various search techniques and capabilities or features of each site. In addition, her hand-out gave many lesser known sites to explore, including the Grave Locator web site for US Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA). They control all the National Military cemeteries. see: <https://billiongraves.com/> <http://www.findagrave.com/> <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>

November FWGS Meetings:

Board of Directors: Nov 21st
10-12:30 Southwest Regional

Beginners: *Finished for 2015*
10:30-12:30 Auditorium—Central

Computer Users: *Finished for 2015*
2:00-4:00 Intel Lab—Central

General Meeting: Nov 24th
6:30-7:45 Auditorium-Central
Refreshments at 6:00

Refreshments: **The Pearson's**

From the President.....



Much to Be Thankful For:

I have had a wonderful 2 years as your president. FWGS has had interesting , meaningful programs, successful Seminars both years, interesting publications (our Journal *Footprints* and a new, expanded newsletter) and over 2 years, several gifts to the Fort Worth Library genealogy unit (books, equipment and money for acquisitions.) Many thanks to **Suzanne Fritz** and **Rene Gomez** for all their help with our general meetings, our Beginner's & CUG classes, and generally so much support. Many thanks to **Donna Kruse** for help and support at Southwest Regional for our BOD meetings. And now to **Bryan McKinney** for his new zeal for the genealogical unit and our genealogical community and societies. We are truly blessed after the successes of **Betty Shankle** to have another good leader there.

2016 New Officers: I tip my hat to the new Board of Directors who were just elected at the October meeting. New officers are President: **Don Crews**; VP: **Terri Meeks**; Treasurer: **Roy Combrink**; Secretary: **Crystal Barth**; Programs: **Judy Ramos**; Newsletters: **Debbie Pearson**; Membership & *Footprints* Editor: **Rob Yoder**; Historian/Archivist: **Ed McCoy**; Directors: **Carol Reeves**, **Phil Morris**, and **Roy Noack**. Installation will be at the November general meeting. Please come and support our society.

Debbie Pearson

From the FWGS Mail Bag



Center For Texas Studies - TCU & FW Lib
Saturday, November 7th 10:30-12:00 noon
"CSI: Fort Worth"

by **Max Courtney**, Forensic Scientist & Investigator
in Tandy Auditorium, Central Branch, FWL

And Coming Up.....

Saturday, December 5th 10:30-12:00 noon
"The Evolution of Public Housing in Fort Worth"
by **Rene Gomez**, Fort Worth Library
in Tandy Auditorium, Central Branch, FWL

Billy W. Sills Center for Archives/FWISD presents
November 14th 10 am- 12 noon

Presenter: **Carmen Goldthwaite**, author and historian
Topic: **"Telling the Stories of Texas Ranch Women
& Other Sassy & Savvy Dames"**
2720 Cullen, 2nd Floor
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Next Month: December 12

Presenter: Max Courtney, forensic scientist and historian
Topic: "Captain Barron, Texas Ranger"

**DON'T Forget: Friday Freebies at NARA in
Montgomery Plaza are Now Suspended!**

The research room at the John Burgess Dr. is open M-F,
8 am to 4 pm. (Closed on Federal Holidays.) **Do not** plan
a research trip to Montgomery Plaza or expect any
Friday Freebies.

All classes will be closed until further notice.
(expected to be the rest of 2015)

NARA Location is and will be:
1400 John Burgess Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76140
Phone number is 817-551-2051
Email is ftworth.archives@nara.gov
Call ahead if you have questions.

FWGS Membership Report:

Rob Yoder, Membership Director reported **141 members** in October and 2016 renewals are starting to come in now. Don't forget to renew!

NOVEMBER FOOTPRINTS IS HERE



The last issue for 2015 is in the mail and popping into your mailbox as this newsletter goes to print. Enjoy!



NOVEMBER 1st:

NARA in Fort Worth will no longer have Saturday hours in the Research Rooms. This is an effort to have all NARA branches follow the same schedules.

NARA Holiday Closures for 2015

Wed, Nov 11 Veterans Day,
Thurs, Nov 26 Thanksgiving Day
Fri, Dec 25 Christmas Day

NEW BOOK for Researchers in Red River County

(FWGS recently purchased and donated this work to the FWL)

RED RIVER COUNTY IN 1890: The Year of the Missing Census

by Johnie Lee

Research on this book began about 2003, and dozens of sources have been searched in the years since. Among the sources searched were the tax records of 1890, as well as marriage and divorce records, deeds, criminal and civil court case files, survey records, marks and brands records, cemetery and death records, newspapers, probate files, commissioners court minutes and church records, just to name a few. The location of each source is noted, if additional information is needed.

The book, which contains 253 pages, will be a perfect bound card stock cover, with a few photos from the era. Also included will be business ads and letterheads of various businesses which were operating in the county at the time. The index contains over 5900 entries, and approximately 12,000 entries in the census section, listing people living in Red River County in 1890. Some of these individuals were found in as many as five different sources, all listed for future reference.

The first section of the book contains several stories about life in the county in 1890. Histories were written based on research done from the 1890 era, and include such topics as Statistics from the 1890 census, lists of businesses in the county, histories of roads, railroads, post offices, schools, polling places, newspapers, churches, fraternal organizations, among others.

To Order, send a check (\$46.75) and mail to:

Johnie Lee

1498 Co. Rd. 2221

Detroit, TX 75436

\$39.95 + \$3.30 tax + \$3.50 shipping



End of the Year is Nearing... Time to send in those Early Bird Dues

From now until **December 31, 2015** you can renew **2016 dues** at the **Early Bird Price**: Individuals are **\$20.00** and Family are **\$25.00**. These prices are only reduced until December 31! 2016 Dues begin January 1st: Individuals are \$23.00 and a Family is \$27.00. Get that letter in the mail soon!

SAVE THE DATE

January 30, 2016

Beginner's Classes 2016
& Computer's Users Group (CUG)

Both classes will begin again on Saturday, January 30th. **NOTE:** this is **not** our usual 4th Saturday. January marks the new year of eight Beginner's Classes held the first 8 months of the year and taught by FWGS VP, **Terri Meeks**. Beginner's classes are held at the Central Branch of the FWL at 500 W. 3rd St from 10:30 to 12:30. Classes are usually held in the Chappel room.



Computer User's Group meets on the same days in the Intel Lab at the Central Branch from 2:00- 4:00 p.m. and will be lead by FWGS Historian & Archivist, **Ed McCoy**. Ed will change the curriculum and order a bit in the new year. He is always looking for other volunteers to teach a two hour session.

Fort Worth Library Closures November Holidays

Nov 11-Veteran's Day—Libraries are OPEN

Nov 26-27-Thanksgiving Holidays—CLOSED (see more below)

Thanksgiving:

- All libraries except BOLD and COOL will be **open** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on **Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2015**. BOLD and COOL will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- All libraries and book drops will be **closed Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, 2015**. Regular hours will resume on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2015.
- There will be no items due on Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27, and patrons will be unable to return items after 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 25. Book drops will reopen when the libraries reopen on Saturday, Nov. 28.



Have You Tried.....**The Library of Congress**
Their web site has an amazing digital collection of so many items of interest to genealogists: historic maps, Sanborn Fire maps, historic newspapers, film, sound, photographs, posters, veterans stories & MORE. Try it out..... <https://www.loc.gov/>



Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Box 471789, Fort Worth, Texas 76147-1408

Founded A.D. 1957

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Please Attend the November Meeting for Installation of Officers!

Door Prize!

Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fort-Worth-Genealogical-Society/319546544054?ref=bookmarks>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCksO7krvywdpstu8lGQc_JQ