



Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

December 2015

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December General Meeting

**FWGS is Taking a Holiday Break!
See you in January 2016.**



Don't forget: FWGS holds NO meetings in the month of December.

So...Finish your shopping, enjoy your family and holiday traditions, then catch up on your family genealogy-- in person with actual relatives! And come back in January! Invite a friend to come.

Our next general meeting is **Tuesday night, January 26th** at **6:30** in **Tandy Auditorium** of the FW Central Branch Library (500 W. Third St.)

Refreshments at 6 pm.

We will gather in Tandy Auditorium for announcements and refreshments, then process downstairs for a tour by Staff. **You might want to bring your flash drive** if you want to scan any book pages or documents to keep.

Library staff will tell us about some of the latest technology and give you a tour of the new layout of the genealogy unit. Maybe by the end of January, there will some new things on the shelves.



November Meeting

Terri Meeks, FWGS Vice President, was the speaker in November. Her talk was called **"Skeletons In Your Closet?"** and centered around case studies of real mysteries in her family or other families she has investigated. She showed how further digging can bring to light new reasons or explanations for some of those mysteries. Sometimes you are left with a new mystery too. It was a very enjoyable talk with some very interesting examples using newspaper accounts, legal and criminal documents, parish registries, hospital or asylum records, obituaries and more. You never know what skeletons are lurking until you start looking! And as **George Bernard Shaw** said:
"If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, You may as well make it dance."

Also at the November meeting was **John Wylie**, President of **TSGS**. He led the installation of our FWGS officers and then caught us up on news from TSGS. One tidbit: **Cyndi Howells** of **Cyndi's List** web site will be one of the keynote speakers at the TSGS conference next year in Dallas! Save that date:

October 28-30, 2016.

December FWGS Meetings:

None

Board of Directors: January 16, 2016

10-12:30 Southwest Regional

Beginners: January 30th

10:30-12:30 Auditorium—Central

Computer Users: January 30th

2:00-4:00 Intel Lab—Central

General Meeting: January 26th

6:30-7:45 Auditorium-Central

Refreshments at 6:00



From the President.....

Holiday Blessings to you and yours:

Whatever Holiday you celebrate I hope it brings you blessings and family drawn near. Family is a theme that all genealogists treasure, for it is pursuit of family lore that drives us. And I hope you spend another year with us at FWGS pursuing your genealogy.

And that brings me to an appeal to get those dues in before the end of the year. Our **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL** is in effect until the last day of December 2015. It is a perfect way to join or renew for 2016 at a discounted price. And it helps us budget and plan better for 2016!

With this old year fading (and me too as your president) I wish you all a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** and many great genealogical successes in 2016!

Debbie Pearson

From the FWGS Mail Bag



Center For Texas Studies - TCU & FW Lib

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

And Coming Up.....

Saturday, January 5th 10:30-12:00 noon

"TCU Library Special Collections:

How We Can Help With Your Research"

by **Dr. June Koelker**, TCU Library Dean

in Tandy Auditorium, Central Branch, FWL

Billy W. Sills Center for Archives/FWISD presents

December 12th 10 am- 12 noon

Presenter: **Max Courtney**, forensic scientist and historian

Topic: **"Captain Barron, Texas Ranger"**

2720 Cullen, 2nd Floor

Fort Worth, TX 76107

Up Next: February 13

Presenter: Max Hill, librarian and historian

Topic: "Fort Worth at the Movies"

FWGS Membership Report:

In November, Membership Director **Rob Yoder** reported **142 members** and 2016 renewals are pouring in right now. Don't forget to renew by December 31st for the discount Early Bird rates!

In **2015** we gained 15 new members and had 6 former members returning.



NOVEMBER FOOTPRINTS IS HERE

Do you have something to contribute for our **February 2016** issue? Contact Rob at:

FWGS@mail.com

Did you receive your 2015 FWGS Membership Roster?

It is for Members Only and available by email in a digital edition from: FWGS@mail.com Download and keep it on your computer or print.



Did You Hear? Friday Freebies are now...

Lunch Time Lectures

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.

As of 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

Fri, Dec 25 Christmas Day



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

From now until **December 31, 2015** you can Join or Renew **2016 dues** at the **Early Bird Price**: Individuals are **\$20.00** and Family are **\$25.00**.

These prices are reduced ONLY 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.

What Are You Asking Santa For This Year?



Here are some Holiday Opportunities you might be interested in for those genealogists on your list.

1. Legacy Tree Genealogists will be having a Holiday Sale from Thanksgiving thru end of year. Clients can save up to \$300 on genealogy research and can order research for as low as \$250.

<https://legacytree.com/services> for more information.
For \$100 off, enter **HOLIDAY100** (up to 20 hours of research)

For \$300 off, enter **HOLIDAY300** (60 hours of research)
2. Ancestry DNA is offering their DNA test: **\$89** (10% off) & Free Shpg until **Dec 21st**.

<http://dna.ancestry.com/>

3. Family Tree DNA is offering many sale prices thru Dec 31st on all their tests starting at \$89:

<https://www.familytreedna.com/>



Fort Worth Library News

Changes to Fines & Fees

Effective **January 2, 2016**, accounts that have had an outstanding balance between \$10 and \$24.99 for more than 90 days will be sent to collections. A \$3 service charge will be added to the account. [Pay up NOW!]

Upcoming Scheduled Maintenance

The Library's online catalog and associated services, including databases, ebooks, Freegal, holds, and My Library Account will be unavailable **Thursday, December 17 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.** while we perform scheduled system maintenance. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Fort Worth Library Closures

December Holidays

Dec 24th Christmas Eve **Close at 2 p.m.**

Dec 25th Christmas **CLOSED ALL DAY**

Dec 26th Resume regular hours

Dec 31st New Year's Eve **Close at 2 p.m.**

Jan 1st New Year's Day **CLOSED ALL DAY**

Jan 2nd Resume regular hours

Check the library web site for more information on book drop closures or changes to book due dates because of holiday closures.



Family Tree Maker Software To Be Discontinued

Ancestry.com announced on Tuesday Dec 8th that it will discontinue its Family Tree Maker software. Senior Vice President of Product Management Kendall Hulet said Family Tree Maker will no longer be sold as of **Dec. 31, 2015**. Ancestry.com will continue to provide support and fix bugs "at least through Jan. 1, 2017." During that time, Tree Sync, the feature that syncs your Ancestry Member Tree with Family Tree Maker software, will continue to work. View the original post here:

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/12/08/ancestry-to-retire-family-tree-maker-software/>



Early Bird Membership Renewal Prices

Prices only apply until the end of 2015

Must Postmark by December 31st

Please Print

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

2015 Memberships: check one

() Individual Early Bird until 31st \$20 _____ January 1st \$23 _____

() Household Early Bird until 31st \$25 _____ January 1st \$27 _____

() Sustaining \$50 or more _____

() Contributing \$250 or more _____

Please Make Checks Payable to: FWGS

Mail to: Fort Worth Genealogical Society
PO BOX 471789
FORT WORTH TX 76147-1408

Membership entitles:

4 issues of FWGS Quarterly *Footprints* (free queries)

Periodic discounts on FWGS publications

11 monthly FWGS Newsletters



Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Box 471789, Fort Worth, Texas 76147-1408

Founded A.D. 1957

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

See you in 2016!

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