



# Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

July 2015

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## JULY

### General Meeting

#### ICE STORM IN JULY?

No, July is finally here. Back in February we had an ice storm which cancelled our general meeting. **Mary Louise Garcia** was scheduled to speak on “**County Clerk: Keeper of the Tarrant County Records.**” We are lucky that she rescheduled for our **July** meeting (with no ice in sight!) Please come on **Tuesday night, July 28 at 6:30** and meet Mary Louise. She is going to tell us of all the new advances in the county’s efforts to digitize records, especially land records. She is going to explain how you can sit at home and access many of the county clerk’s records. You can’t miss this meeting.

**MARY LOUISE GARCIA** was elected our Tarrant County Clerk in 2010, starting her first term on January 1, 2011 and is now starting her 2<sup>nd</sup> term in 2015.



Mary Louise comes from a law enforcement background and holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Magna cum laude, from University of Texas-Arlington. A Fort Worth native, her most proud accomplishment is being mother to two beautiful daughters in college.

**Bring a friend.  
Refreshments at 6 pm.**



## FW Library News

### Library Closing

All libraries and book drops will be closed on **Friday, July 3, 2015** & **Saturday, July 4, 2015.**

### No items will be due July 2 - 5.

If a branch is normally closed on Thursdays, the book drop will be locked at close of business on Wednesday, July 1. All other branches will lock the book drop at close of business on Thursday, July 2. Only Central's book drop will reopen on Sunday, July 5. All other branches will open their book drops on Monday, July 6.

### June Meeting

**Randy Farmer**, brought FWGS a most interesting program when he spoke about Curly Bill. William Albert Brosius was a “character” born in KY but raised in Texas. It turns out Bill had ties to many notorious cattle rustlers and other lawless characters, like John Ringo, Cole Younger, Wyatt Earp and many others. In fact, when Randy found out he was a distant cousin to John Ringo he stumbled across the association with Bill, and thus began many years of investigations. His research took him from AZ to Boston, MA. Randy made great use of tax records, census, microfilmed newspapers, deeds, and genealogical records to trace these men. He employed the **FAN** approach: **F**amily, **A**cquaintances, & **N**eighbors. With men using aliases, it was imperative to trace those associated with Bill. He even found many old photos in the Comanche Indian Nation archives in Lawton, OK. Randy did not start out to be a genealogist but soon saw that he would need to employ these methods in his research. It resulted in his book finished in 2012. If you would like a copy of his book email Randy at [rfarmer89@hotmail.com](mailto:rfarmer89@hotmail.com) It is \$30 plus shipping.

## July FWGS Meetings:

**Board of Directors:** July 18<sup>th</sup>  
3:30-6:00 Southwest Regional  
**Beginners:** July 25<sup>th</sup>  
10:30-12:30 Auditorium—Central  
**Computer Users:** July 25<sup>th</sup>  
2:00-4:00 Intel Lab—Central  
**General Meeting:** July 28<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-7:45 Auditorium-Central  
Refreshments at 6:00  
**Refreshments: Tom Cogdell**

**From the President.....** 

On June 1<sup>st</sup> Ancestry made public a NEW version of their on-line tree building portion of Ancestry. (Apparently since mid-February some users have been using a Beta test version and giving feedback.) For now, you have the option to toggle in, try it, and if you don't like it, toggle back to CLASSIC version of Ancestry. But, in one ominous Q/A near the end of the FAQ's page:

“Question: Do I have to use the new Ancestry website?  
Answer: Not currently. You can return to the old site by simply clicking “Classic Site” on the username drop-down menu. You can also go to the new Ancestry anytime by clicking “New Ancestry” on the same menu.

**Be aware that the classic version of Ancestry will not be supported soon. We will notify you in advance before this happens.** So you are now WARNED!

I went to the feedback section where users are sampling the new version and commenting. The comments were very helpful but, overwhelmingly negative. (I hope Ancestry is truly listening and sincerely wants to make improvements.) I have not tried the NEW myself. (I am afraid to, after reading all the comments.)

My OPINION: Here is my “take” from all my reading. Ancestry is appealing to the TV viewers and casual users; hobbyists who skew towards scrapbooking. Ancestry says there has been an outcry for more storytelling abilities (visual arts). (Really?) But from the comments I read, the hard-core genealogists don't care how pretty it looks, they want serious usage: dates, facts, resources. Sounds like the age-old dilemma: form vs. function. I am with the serious genealogists on this one. Aren't we taught first in genealogy, facts, facts, facts? We use Ancestry as a tool to find new material. Shouldn't our tool work for us—not against us?

I would be interested if you want to try the new version and comment. Please let me know, or more importantly, let Ancestry.com know. see more on p.3

*Debbie Pearson* [debeejay@aol.com](mailto:debeejay@aol.com)

**FWGS Beginners Class/CUG**

***Only 2 classes left in this year!***

FWGS conducts Beginners Classes and a Computer Users Group (CUG) at the FW Central Branch Library, 300 W.5<sup>th</sup> St. **Next class is July 25<sup>th</sup> on:**

**Using Military Records As A Research Tool**  
**Beginners Class** with Terri Meeks meets at **10:30 a.m.**  
**Computer Users Group** meets at **2:00 p.m.** Ed McCoy leads this group. Both classes last 2 hours. **Beginners** meet in Chappell Rm. **CUG** is in the Intel Lab & includes hands-on computer time. For more:  
[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/html/beginners\\_workshops.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/html/beginners_workshops.html)



**From the FWGS Mail Bag .....**

It looks like NARA is taking a break in classes through July. This August date is not on their web site, but was announced earlier in the year. Check before you go.

**Friday Freebies at NARA in**

**Montgomery Plaza**

Friday, **August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015** at 12 noon to 1 p.m.

**“Scrapbooking for Genealogists”**

by Jenny Sweeney, *Education Specialist*

Reserve your spot today by emailing us at

[ftworth.education@nara.gov](mailto:ftworth.education@nara.gov) or calling **817-831-5620!**

Next Friday Freebie is in the Fall: September 4<sup>th</sup>

**Tiptoeing Through Federal Court Records** by Ketina Taylor, Archivist

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**TSGS Announces 2015 Conference—Austin, Texas**

The TSGS 2015 Family History Conference will be Oct 30—Nov 1, 2015 in Austin, Texas, and anyone may attend (members or not.) This **three day** event will include wonderful research opportunities, insightful family history sessions for all skill levels, and a full exhibit hall. Visit the **TSGS website** for more.

**GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

206 W. Hudgins St. Grapevine, TX 76051  
(817) 410-3526



**HOURS**

**TUESDAY– SATURDAY 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
**SUNDAY 11:00 am—4:00 pm CLOSED MONDAY**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**FWGS Membership Report:**

**Rob Yoder**, Membership Director reports **138 members**.

**Did you forget to RENEW? Dues are due in January.** It is never too late to Join or Renew for 2015!

**Welcome to New Member:**

Dorothy Zanelli (joined in June)

VISIT US SOON!

**BIG NEWS.....from Ancestry.com**

The following was posted by the Ancestry Team on June 1, 2015 in Ancestry.com Site and Site Features.

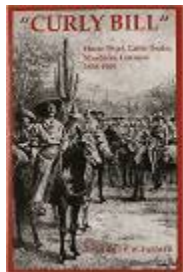
We are excited to announce that the new Ancestry website is now available to all U.S. based members\*. As some of you know, the new site has been in beta since mid-February, and thousands of Ancestry members have been actively using the new site and providing feedback (thank you!). As of today, the new Ancestry site is available to the broader Ancestry member community.

The new Ancestry site has been designed to transform how you can discover and tell your family story. One of the greatest unmet needs of our members has been the desire for story. We all like to listen to and share stories, but it can sometimes be hard to unravel and tell the stories behind all the facts and information you have gathered in your tree. With new storytelling features and a streamlined design, the new Ancestry helps you weave together richer stories that can bring you closer to knowing your ancestors as people. It's your family story, reinvented.

\* We rolled the new website out to U.S. based customers to start and expect the rest of the world to experience it in the next couple of months.

EDITOR: Go to the Ancestry page to see FAQ and watch the introductory video. There is also a link to switch to the new version, **but I would NOT click** that until you have read through the many, many public comments left on the blog:

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/06/01/announcing-the-new-ancestry-website/>



**"Curly Bill" Horse Thief, Cattle Dealer, Murderer, Lawman: 1858-1909.**

by Randolph W. Farmer

Available from the Author or on Amazon.com



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fort-Worth-Genealogical-Society/319546544054>



**Newspaper News**

On-Line Newspaper Genealogical Services  
Add New Titles

Genealogists know that present day and vintage newspapers can hold valuable clues about our ancestors or even help trace their descendants. Here are some of the latest Texas Titles added to two of these largest subscription services:

**GENEALOGY BANK:**

- Brownsboro: *Chandler & Brownsboro Statesman*  
10/12/2006 to Current Recent Obituaries
- Dallas: *Dallas Observer*  
5/4/1995 to Current Recent Obituaries
- Houston: *Houston Press*  
12/9/1993 to Current Recent Obituaries
- Kilgore: *Kilgore News Herald*  
3/22/2005 to Current Recent Obituaries
- Whitehouse: *Tri County Leader*  
2/3/2005 to Current Recent Obituaries

**NEWSPAPERS.COM**

- Houston: *The Houston Post* 1893-1952
- Dallas: *The Dallas Express* 1919-1922
- Fort Worth: *Fort Worth Daily Gazette* 1883-1896
- Laredo: *El Democrata Fronterizo* 1904-1919

*Thanks to Lacey Frazier for posting these titles to the Texas State Genealogical Society's web site.*



**Saturday, September 19, 2015**

FWGS

End of Summer Seminar

**Lisa Louise Cooke**

**Technology:**

**Genealogical Skills For The Future**

**Trinity River Campus (of Tarrant County College)**

300 Trinity Campus Cir.  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

**8:30-4:30**

Lunch

Handouts

Door Prizes

Limited Vendors

Watch here or the FWGS web site for more.



**Fort Worth Genealogical Society**

Box 471789, Fort Worth, Texas 76147-1408

Founded A.D. 1957

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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