



Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

January 2016

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Don Crews

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Judy Ramos

Membership Director
Rob Yoder

Historian/Archivist
Ed McCoy

Footprints Editor
Rob Yoder

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Phil Morris

Director at Large
Roy Noack

Director at Large
Carol Reeves

January General Meeting

The Fort Worth Genealogical Society will begin the **NEW YEAR** with a trip downstairs to the FWL Genealogy Unit. 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.)

At 6:00 p.m. we'll gather upstairs in the Tandy Auditorium for announcements & refreshments, then process downstairs for a tour by the genealogy unit Staff. They will tell us about some of the latest technology and give you a tour of the new layout of the genealogy unit. There have been many new additions to collections since our last tour.



You might want to bring your flash drive to scan any book pages or documents to keep, since that is one of the great technologies available to genealogists in that department. You can get a lesson while you're there. Don't forget parking is easy downtown with many free spaces at 6:00. Or park in the 3rd Street Garage (only a block from the library door) for FREE for 2 ½ hours with your ticket validated in the library before you leave.



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE "KICK OFF" THE NEW YEAR!

Bring a Friend with you!



FW Library News

Fines & Fees Change

Effective **January 2, 2016**, library 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.

Computer Classes

Improve your computer technology skills by attending **free classes** in Adobe Photoshop and Web Development. Taught by University of Texas at Arlington instructors, these courses provide solid foundations in the subject matter and put you on the path toward certification. Classes take place at: [eSkills Library & Job Center](http://www.fortworthtexas.gov/Library/Center), 2800 Stark St., Fort Worth, TX 76112.

For more information, call 817-392-7733 or see <http://fortworthtexas.gov/Library/programs/photoshop-web-development.html>

Income Tax Preparation

Each year, AARP volunteers provide free income tax preparation assistance at some Fort Worth Library locations.

Priority is given to middle/low income senior citizens over the age of 60. See Library or AARP web sites for more...

January FWGS Meetings:

Board of Directors: Jan 16th
10:15 Southwest Regional

Beginners: Jan 30th
10:30-12:30 Chappell Rm.—Central

Computer Users: Jan 30th
2:00-4:00 Intel Lab—Central

General Meeting: Jan 26th
6:30-7:45 Auditorium-Central
Refreshments at 6:00

Refreshments: **Sheryl Rascher**



From the President.....

Happy New Year! Welcome to the 57th year of the Fort Worth Genealogical Society (FWGS). I'm **Don Crews**, the new Society President for our 2016 season, and I'm really looking forward to working with the "new" Board of Directors.

Two new Board Members were elected this last November who have never held office in the Society. These "new hands" are **Judy Ramos** (Program Director) and **Roy Noack** (Director At Large). They join the new, "old hands" from recent years, **Phil Morris**, **Carol Reeves**, and **Ed McCoy**, along with the senior, "old hands" **Rob Yoder**, **Roy Combrink**, **Crystal Barth**, & **Debbie Pearson**. Fully one half of the current Board represents an investment in "future leadership" for the Society, and I am absolutely delighted.

2015 was a pretty successful season, with members participating in activities of sister Genealogical Societies, as well as our own. We continue our memberships in several national societies, and we conducted a great End of Summer Seminar with **Lisa Louise Cooke**. We're already working on the 2016 program. Please stay tuned! Watch this space.

Don Crews

2015 Membership ended with 142 members.

Let's shoot for 200 in 2016!



From the FWGS Mail Bag



Center For Texas Studies - TCU & FW Lib

Saturday, February 6th 10:30-12:00 noon

"A Tale of Two Families – The Cheney-Sanders History in Fort Worth"

by **Drew Sanders**, author of The Garden of Eden: The Story of a Freedmen's Community in Texas
in Tandy Auditorium, Central Branch, FWL

And Coming Up.....

Saturday, **March 5th** 10:30-12:00 noon

"TBD"

by ?

in Tandy Auditorium, Central Branch, FWL

Billy W. Sills Center for Archives/FWISD presents

February 13th 10 am- 12 noon

Presenter: **Max Hill**, librarian and historian

Topic: **"Fort Worth at the Movies"**

2720 Cullen, 2nd Floor

Fort Worth, TX 76107

Up Next: March 12

Presenter: Susan Kline, historian and author

Topic: "The Familiar and Not-so Familiar Properties Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Fort Worth"

Lunch Time Lectures @ NARA Noon-1 p.m.

1400 John Burgess Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76140

Phone number is 817-551-2051

Email is ftworth.archives@nara.gov

Call ahead or email for a reservation or questions.

February 5th

Federal Census Records: Golden Nuggets You'll Find

March 4th

Fort Smith Court Records: Wildest Court Records Ever

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

Mon, Feb 15 President's Day

Dallas Gen Soc has announced their annual Writing Contest for never published works. See their web site for all rules: <http://dallsgenealogy.com/dgs/>

Membership Report:

Rob Yoder, Membership Director reports **110 members**.

That means we're still missing some members! January starts the new Membership Year, so time to send in your 2016 Dues!

New Members 2016:

John L. Tandy
C. Constant
Gwen Boyd
The Kiles

Retuning after an Absence:

Alta Lee Futch
M. Hendon
G. Smaltz
J. Morales
P. Mims
P. Bunting
Sherry Arrant
L. Allie

FWGS conducts Beginners Classes and a Computer Users Group (CUG) for 8 months every year. New classes will begin again in **January 2016** on **Saturdays** at the FW Central Branch Library, 300 W.5th St.

First class is January 30th!

Beginners Class with Terri Meeks meets at **10:30 a.m.**
Computer Users Group meets at **2:00 p.m.**

Both classes last 2 hours and the first session will cover **Getting Started**. Beginners meet in Chappell room. CUG is in the Intel Lab and includes hands-on computer time. For more:

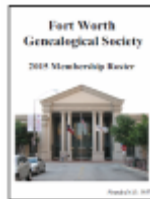
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txfwgs/html/beginners_workshops.html

NEXT: February class on February 27th on Federal Census....

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Free -- For Members Only
2015 FWGS Membership Roster

Rob Yoder, FWGS Membership Director completed the 2015 roster for the society. If you are a member and want a free roster **via email to download onto your computer**, email fwgs@mail.com with your request. Please provide your name and email address in your request. **REMEMBER:** No names or information may be sold or shared from this directory.



LEGAL TERMINOLOGY
SEEN IN WILLS



A **WILL** is defined as: a legal legal document containing the statement of a person's wishes regarding the disposal of his or her property after death. We genealogists scour courthouses looking for them hoping for a clue to a wife or a maiden name, maybe a death date, or naming all the children and spouses. But we often come away overwhelmed by the handwriting and the legal terms--both leading to difficulties in deciphering these documents. Here are a few common legal terms found in wills with the hope you will better understand that next will you encounter:

AD LITEM--legal term meaning in this case "only"
AD VERBATIM--[Latin, *to the word*] in full

ADMINISTRATION--management & settlement of the estate

ADMINISTRATOR--appointee of the court who settles the estate of the deceased when an executor is unwilling or unable to serve

ADMINISTRATOR AD COLLIGENDUM--[Latin] when a person dies and there is no apparent executor or administrator. The court may appoint a person to collect, preserve and inventory the assets until a full administrator can be determined

ADMINISTRATOR'S BOND--a bond posted by an administrator to guarantee the proper performance of his duties

ADMINISTRATRIX--a female administrator

BIRTHRIGHT--In some states, particularly New England, the eldest son received his birthright (a double portion of the estate). Should you find an individual receives 1/5 interest in the father's estate, you may find that there were 4 surviving children. The oldest son received 2/5 and the other 3 children received their 1/5 each. [2/5 plus 3/5 equals 5/5.]

If you should find a person has conveyed a 1/7 interest in the father's estate, you may conclude there were six surviving children, each of whom received a 1/7 of the estate, except for the eldest son, who received a 2/7 or double portion.

ESTATE--the whole of one's possessions; especially all the property left by a deceased person, although the term may be used for a living person as well

EXECUTOR--the person named in a will and appointed by the court to carry out the provisions of the will

EXECUTRIX--a female EXECUTOR

LIFE ESTATE--a property held by a person for the duration of their lifetime. This device is common for widow/widowers, for use of property ultimately intended for one's children, but for which the surviving spouse must use until their decease

WIDOW--a woman whose husband has died

WIDOWER--a man whose wife has died

WILL-- unsolemn will -- a will in which the executor is not named

WILL--non-culpatory will -- a verbal will

WILL-- holographic will -- a handwritten will

INTERESTING FACTS: Prior to **1786**, a will in VA did not have to name the wife or oldest son. A widow received her 1/3 dower & the oldest son received the other 2/3, unless otherwise specified in the father's will. The oldest son received his mother's share if she died. If the eldest son had already died, the oldest grandson of the whole blood became the heir-at-law, **not the second son**. If a man were unmarried, his heir-at-law was his oldest brother, not his father or uncle.



Fort Worth Genealogical Society

Box 471789, Fort Worth, Texas 76147-1408

Founded A.D. 1957

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Winter Weather

December was Wet and Warm, but the forecasters are already predicting a really cold January. Please remember that in the event of severe weather on the day of a FWGS scheduled event we follow: 1. FW Library closing schedules and 2. FWISD closing schedules. You can check our FWGS Facebook page or check the NBC channel 5 TV or web site for cancellations of meetings.