



Irving Genealogical Society

August 2007

Irving, Texas

Volume 15, Number 8

Officers:

President: Joe Sissom

Vice President: Jeanne Mantooth

Secretary: Is Needed

Treasurer: Erle Kellogg

Coming Events

Monday, August 20, 7 pm – Jeri J. Steele is a fifth generation native Texan and a computer professional with over 30 years experience. She also is a professional genealogist specializing in North and East Texas records. Jeri is the current President of the Dallas Genealogical Society and also leads the DGS SIG for The Master Genealogist software. She has been a staff member of the Carrollton Family History Center and is a former director of GENTECH. Jeri currently works for Texas Instruments in Supply Chain Planning as an Applications Analyst. Her love of speaking comes from heavy involvement in Toastmasters International. Jeri's interest in photography has been developed by her professional photographer husband, Bill. At the meeting she will be speaking on choosing a digital camera. Genealogists want 'perfect' photographs in a lightweight, easy to use camera. Jeri shows you what is available in features that genealogists use and some cameras that are available that meet those needs.

Sunday, August 26, 1 pm - Central Library, Tandy Lecture Hall, 500 W. 3rd St., Ft. Worth – The Ft. Worth Public Library Genealogy History and Archives presents Shirley Hodges, President, Genealogical Speakers Guild. Her subjects are "Tracing Your Ancestor Through Military Records" and "Whither Thou Goest: Tracing Your Female Ancestors." RSVP: 817-871-7740 or e-mail: ancestry@fortworthlibrary.org.

Saturday, September 8, 9am – 4 pm - Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society Fall Workshop featuring Russell P. Baker, CA, at Mimosa Lane Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1233 N. Beltline Rd., Mesquite. Workshops subjects: "Genealogy in the Natural State, Adventures in Arkansas Genealogical Research," "Oh I Wantabee a Cherokee – The Five Civilized Tribes and Their Genealogical Sources," "Rediscovering Some Neglected, Forgotten and Underutilized Genealogical Sources," and Paleography: Reading and Understanding Old Handwriting." Non-member registrations are \$30.00. Checks should be made payable to MHGS and mailed to MHGS, P. O. Box 850165, Mesquite, TX 75185-0165.

Monday, September 17, 7 pm – Lloyd Bockstruck, Dallas Public Library Genealogy Librarian, author and noted genealogical speaker will present his program "The Courthouse, the Library, the Historical Society, or the State Archives: Where Should the Researcher Go?"

Monday, October 15, 7 pm – Jane Power will be speaking on finding adopted persons.

Irving Library Board

Barbara Tsirigotis

A meeting of the Irving Library Board was held Monday evening at the main library. The purpose of this meeting was to present to the public, plans for renovation of the library building. On hand to answer questions and address concerns were architects from the design firm of PSA Dewberry. More than half of the audience was comprised of members of the Irving Genealogical Society [IGS].

The first item of discussion was the fact that a coffee/snack bar will be located on the first floor of the library and patrons will be able to purchase drinks and food items and take them into the library. Those of us who have visited libraries for a number of years, find this appalling. The library is no place for food and drinks. One of the architects remarked that carpeting for the library was very expensive; yet, they want to open the library to people of all ages with sodas, coffee, candy and sweet rolls.

The present facility opened in the late 1980s and has not undergone any renovation since that time. While we all agreed that the library does need a facelift, our first concern is for the genealogy department. It has been proposed that offices (as many as possible) be moved to the third floor (currently the Local History and Genealogy Department [LH&G Dept]). The LH&G Department will be relocated to the second floor on the north side of the building. Architects tell us that there will be a few more feet available for LH&G than is now available on the third floor. The outside wall of the long narrow space will have windows to let in natural light; however, the inside wall will be three-quarters open to the shelves, computers, food and drinks, and noise from the rest of the second floor. Their reasoning for this was that the room would get over crowded and hot. The only time the LH&G Department has ever been close to overcrowded was during an all-nighter. This makes me wonder if any of the board members or architects ever visited the LH&G Department at all. In a conversation with one of the architects after the meeting, I learned that they originally designed the area with a glass wall surround but this was changed by the library board, possibly due to the projected \$30,000 price tag. Personally, I think that estimate is much too high.

This is a major concern to IGS members. The manner of study of genealogy is different from researching for a term paper or researching books on origami or bass fishing techniques. Genealogy research requires quiet and focus; especially for those of us over 50. One main point we hope we got across to the board and architects is the cost and value of some of the books in the LH&G section. IGS members have donated thousands of dollars in books and materials both individually and through the society. Many of these volumes are irreplaceable. With an open wall, they will most certainly find their way out of LH&G. With food and drinks in the area, there will be accidents resulting in destruction of books, films and computer equipment. As for the carpet, latte doesn't come out easily.

We will no longer have a librarian designated specifically for LH&G. There will be a desk in the center of the second floor to serve all library patrons on that floor. I attempted to explain that the needs of a genealogist are different from other patrons. Therefore, the questions posed to a genealogy librarian will be different than those to a regular librarian. LH&G requires a specially trained librarian. IGS members were asked if they would consider working in the LH&G section on a volunteer basis. This is something for all of us to seriously consider.

It was suggested that a copy machine be located either in LH&G or just outside. This opens a flood gate of patrons moving in and out of LH&G to use the copy machine. While I agree LH&G needs a better copy machine than the one currently in use; I don't believe this is the answer. It was suggested that a copy machine inside LH&G charge more for copies to discourage other patrons from coming in to use the machine.

Another concern is patrons coming in to use the computers in LH&G when the other computers just outside are all taken. This would tie up computers that genealogists would normally use; not to mention the sodas and lattes that will get spilled on the keyboards. It was suggested that computers in LH&G be moved to a back wall so they are not quite so visible to patrons outside LH&G; but, this will only work for a short while. Librarians at the main desk will no doubt steer patrons "into" LH&G to use the computers.

What can we do? We all need to visit the library more often. Post society announcements and queries on the third floor bulletin board. Make our presence known. And most certainly, make our wishes and needs known to the library board. Board members were very impressed with the turnout of IGS members. So to all of you who attended the meeting on Monday night...THANK YOU! The board wants to hear our suggestions. PLEASE- - write letters. Nothing formal or flowery...just state, respectfully, the way you feel about the proposed changes to the LH&G Department. Address them to the Irving Public Library Board, Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd., Irving, TX 75060.

Additional comments by President Joe Sissom:

Monday night at a combined meeting of the Irving Library Board and the Irving GenSoc Board, we got our first look at the plans for the library remodeling. I was very proud that the majority of the people at the meeting were our members!

The presentation of the architects involved showed the genealogy section moved to the 2nd floor as expected (and a good idea in my opinion), but essentially OPEN, which is not. Despite the unanimous opinion of the GenSoc members who spoke that PRIVACY was essential, the architect was unmoved and said so TWICE.

I am again of the OPINION that we are going to have a major problem in getting this changed. The architects kept repeating how much "research" they had done, yet not a single member of our organization was contacted despite our repeated efforts to find out what was going on. I have already emailed Tom Spink, city council liaison to the library, (who was not at the meeting) regarding our concern. Please contact any/all members of the library board and city council regarding your concern.

Billy the Kid

By Gretchen Hough Eastman

Being interested in the "old west," history and genealogy; I started reading *Billy the Kid, The Endless Ride* by well-known author and biographer, Michael Wallis. His interesting biography becomes a prime genealogical lesson. He searches through census, immigration, and land records, city directories, and newspapers, in addition to the many books and collections that tell the story of a young man. He takes this information and gives what becomes an interesting story of the old west, and a commentary on the 1870's, the "gun culture" that results from the Civil War and the western movement, the search for riches and the corrupt political atmosphere of the period.

As Wallis searches for the genealogical beginnings of the McCarty family, he uses documents to prove or disprove the legend of Billy the Kid. He searches the records of New York City for family origins and the immigration records of Catherine McCarty. He searches for her husband and possible military records. He follows the western movement of Catherine McCarty, her companion, William Antrim and her two sons, Henry (Billy) and Joseph from Indiana to Kansas and on to New Mexico. Records don't become readily available until the family moves to Wichita, Kansas, in 1870 when city directories, newspapers and land records document their lives. Wallis shows how the Civil War, the frontier life in Kansas, the chaos of the times affects a young man. He takes the myth out of the story and presents an interesting picture of frontier life, political corruption and what caused the legend to be written.

Late in 1871, the group moves to New Mexico territory because of Catherine's health, where records of Santa Fe County show the marriage of Catherine and Antrim. The author uses the newspaper, *the Silver*

City Herald, to document the criminal life of Henry Antrim. He follows the career of the young man to 1876 where as a 17-year-old he becomes known as "Kid Antrim" which quickly is shortened to "Kid." He did not become known as "Billy the Kid" until a few months before his death. He documents Billy's life of crime and love until Pat Garrett shoots "the Kid" in Lincoln County, New Mexico in 1881. It is after Billy's death that the stories and "tall" tales begin to glorify Billy's life and start his "endless ride."

The bibliography includes interesting sources from archives, museums, libraries, historical societies, and government documents, along with endless newspapers, Ancestry.com and RootsWeb.com. With 45 pages of footnotes, the story is well-documented, but the documentation does not distract from the story and makes me want to read some of the other books that are listed. In addition to being a well-written genealogical lesson, this book is an interesting commentary on the world of a young boy growing up in turbulent times.

New Book in the Local History and Genealogy Department

Boddie, John Bennett. **Southside Virginia Families. Vol. 2.** Clearfield, 1956

Chalkley, Lyman. **Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia, Vol. 1** Commonwealth Printing, 1912

Hatcher, Patricia Law. **Researching Your Colonial New England Ancestors.** Ancestry. 2006

History of Tennessee. Southern Historical Press Inc. 1997.

Hoffman, William F. **Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings.** Polish Genealogical Society of America. 1998.

Lafayette County, Mississippi Will Abstracts 1836-1898. Skipwith Historical and Genealogical Society Inc. 1980

McCartney, Martha W. **Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary.** Genealogical Publishing. 2007.

Marriages Dallas County Texas. Vol..2 - Books F,G,H. Dallas Genealogical Society.1989.

Morgan, Jonnie. **History of Wichita Falls.** Nortex. 1971.

Miller, Alan N. Miller. **New Index to West Tennessee's Forgotten Children: Apprentices from 1821 to 1889.** Clearfield. 2007

Oconee County, South Carolina Cemetery Survey. v. 2. Pendleton Chapter of South Carolina Genealogical Society. 1984

Pine Grove Cemetery: Highway 7 West of Nacogdoches. Ericson Books. 2007

Roster of Union Soldiers 1861-1865. Vol. 11, Part 1-2: Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. Broadfoot. 1998

Settlers of Lovely County and Miller County Arkansas Territory 1820-1830. Picton Press. 2002.

Smith County Texas Marriages. East Texas Genealogical Society. 1982.

Texas State Library and Archives Commission

The Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building, home of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, is getting a facelift! This is good news for both our customers and our staff, as the 46-year old building has been in great need of renovation. We expect construction work on the two-year renovation to begin in September 2007, but some important changes are afoot now that may impact your research with us. Please read on!

We are pleased that we'll be able to stay open throughout most of the renovation; however, services will be limited, and much of our collection will be moved offsite. As with any construction project, unexpected events may cause us to close for certain brief periods.

We urge researchers to call ahead when planning a trip to our facility. The number is 512-463-5455. With advance notice, the official state records of Texas stored offsite can be retrieved for you. Unfortunately a portion of our collection will be inaccessible during the renovation.

Bookmark www.tsl.state.tx.us and follow the Renovation News link, which includes a timeline and will be kept current with news about our services throughout the two year project.

Thanks for your patience and understanding as we bring our facilities into the 21st Century.

Diana Houston, Assistant Director, Information Services Archives and Information Services Division
Texas State Library and Archives Commission, dhouston@tsl.state.tx.us

Note from Newspaper Editor

Melba Johnson, Martha Hardin and I attended the Ft. Worth Genealogical Society's Summer Seminar with Lloyd Bockstruck last Saturday. His presentation was interesting, entertaining and informative, as usual. The society members were excellent hosts and did a great job. To make a good experience even better, I won a door prize, "Maps of Texas and the Southwest, 1513 – 1900." – Mary K. Weber