



Irving Genealogical Society

February 2008

Irving, Texas

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Officers:

President: Joe Sissom

Vice President: Jeanne Mantooth

Secretary: Is Needed

Treasurer: Erle Kellog

Newsletter Editor: Mary K. Weber

Coming Events

Monday, Feb. 18, 7:00 p.m., Irving Central Library – Kelvin Meyers will present his program, “The Hand that Rocks the Cradle Could Rule the World – How to Find Your Female Ancestors.” A professional genealogist for the last eighteen years and an avid researcher-historian for the last twenty-eight years, Kelvin brings a great knowledge of social sciences, history, genealogy and some PI techniques to his work.

Monday, Mar. 17, 7:00 p.m., Irving Central Library – Will Hartnett, Texas State Representative, will speak on how to find your Revolutionary War ancestors

Monday, Apr. 21, 7:00 p.m., Irving Central Library – John Wylie will be our speaker.

Monday, May 19, 2008, 7:00 p.m., Irving Central Library – Marynell Bryant, President of the Texas State Genealogy Soc., will present her program, “Tips for Sweet Success.”

Vital Records Research on the Internet

Once again, Mary K. Weber will be conducting a class on Vital Records Research on the Internet in the Heritage Senior Center computer lab on Saturday, February 16 from 10 – 12 Noon. The class is open to members of the center (annual membership for seniors age 50+ are only \$10.00) and there is no charge for this class. A handout with vital record web sites, most of which are free, along with helpful hints for researching will be furnished. Part of the class time will be spent doing research on the computer by those attending. It is necessary to sign-up for this class at the center in advance. If

you have any questions about the class, please call Mary K. at 972-251-1264 after 9:00 a.m.

Dallas Genealogical Society

DGS's Lecture Schedule features Kory Meyerink – Research and Writing – February 23 and Tony Burroughs – Farmers and Soldiers in the Western South – March 29. More information is available at www.dallasgenealogy.org. (Click on “Coming Attractions”)

2008 Community History Workshop Series - March 1

Sponsored by the Center for Texas Studies at TCU and the Fort Worth Public Library - “Living at the Fort, 1895-1995: Four Generations of Fort Worth Photographers” with Byrd Williams, Collin College Tandy Lecture Hall. Fort Worth Central Library, 500 W. 3rd St., Ft. Worth, TX at 10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

Old Red Museum

Special Exhibits: A History of Irving – March 5 – April 12 – The Irving Archives and the City of Irving Public Library present an exhibit about one of Dallas County's most dynamic cities. The exhibit gives an overview of Irving history, from a collective of farming communities in the 1800s to the beginnings of the city in the early 1900s, to the growth following World War II and up through the development of Texas Stadium, DFW Airport and the apartment communities of North Irving, Las Colinas and Valley Ranch.

Lecture: Irving Historical, Helen Widener – Thursday, March 6, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. – On the anniversary of the fall of the Alamo hear about Irving historian Helen Widener's research on Elizabeth Patton Crockett, the wife of Davy Crockett. Widener will also discuss the history of Irving and her work authoring the Irving Centennial Cookbook as well as sign copies for visitors.

New Books – Irving Public Library

The following are new titles added to Local History & Genealogy, Irving Public Library, in January 2008:

Aggieland. Texas A&M. 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952

Brandt, Bruce. Where to Look for Hard-to-Find German-Speaking Ancestors in Eastern Europe. Clearfield. 1993.

De La Teja, Jesus F. San Antonio De Bexar. University of New Mexico Press. 1994

Family Tree Book (The F.W. Seabury Papers). Joel Rene Escobar. 1995.

Morales, Leslie Anderson, ed. Virginia Slave Births Index. 1853-1865. vol 5. Heritage Books. 2007

Resource Guide to Georgia Marriage Records. Georgia Genealogical Society. 2006

Rex, Joyce A., ed. McClain County, Oklahoma Obituaries and Other Death Records. McClain County Historical and Genealogical Society. 2006.

Royal Ancestors of Magna Carta Barons: The Collins Genealogy. Carr P. Collins. 1959

Tracey, Grace L. Pioneers of Old Monocacy: The Pioneers of Frederick County, Maryland. . Genealogical Publishing. 1987.

Wills of Chester County, Maryland, 1713-1778. Family Line Publications.1993-1995.

From the President

Fellow Researchers,

Genealogical Societies all over the country are reporting the same problem: loss of membership, primarily due to a wide-spread misconception that societies are longer of significant value since everything needed for research is on the Internet.

Countering the trend, we had a membership increase last year of over 10%, but we still are operating from a small base. Our programs have been excellent and useful. Every one of us has friends that are interested in genealogy, but are not members of a society. Therefore, we all need to concentrate some effort on asking these friends to join us on a regular basis.

We need members and non-members need us. Members are needed to expand our projects with manpower and revenue. Non-affiliated researchers do not realize how much they are missing by not using the resources of the library, the knowledge and help of our society members and the content of our programs.

Thanks for your time,

Joe

Did You Know?

Google Maps now has a "Street View" feature which shows a picture of the street and address you want to see. I input my address and up popped my street and by following the arrow with my mouse arrived at my house. It is really a picture of my street and house. At this time, the cities of Austin, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, St. Paul, Minneapolis, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburg, Portland (Oregon), Providence, San Diego, San Francisco and Tucson are available for this search. An article about this

feature indicated that outlying areas of these cities or suburbs may be included with the city searches. Since we live in Irving, a suburb of Dallas, the maps with the pictures of our street and house were included in the Dallas maps.

All the neighborhoods of these cities may not have street level views. Security and privacy concerns for such places as shelters for abused women and children and some government buildings have resulted in their removal or are obscured.

How do you access these “Street Views”? Go to www.google.com. Once there, click on “Maps” at the top of the screen. A screen with a large map of the U.S., Canada, Mexico, etc., will appear. This map can be dragged around with the mouse and double clicking on it will activate the zoom feature which will display many more cities on the map. It is suggested that you click on “Take a Tour” and then “Street View” for a demonstration that should be helpful.

If you plan on going to a courthouse where you have never been before to do some research, wouldn't it be helpful to have not only directions to the courthouse but also see what the area, as well as the courthouse, looks like before starting out? It sure would be for direction-impaired me. Do you have ancestors who lived in any of the cities where the “Street View” is available? Maybe you can find the house where Grandpa was born and raised, or the school your parents attended and have told you stories about. Or better yet, the house where they lived as youngsters and the school they attended that was a two-mile walk in the snow from home.

Try using Google's Street View with your own address and check it out.

The Search for My Grandmother and Her Siblings

By David R. Ryan

My grandmother always told us that her father died from spotted fever in Montana and that her mother placed her and her siblings in an orphanage. She never saw her mother again.

We knew she was born Bertha Dishman in Louisville, Kentucky, on 8 September 1895. We knew she had two sisters, Dona Hill and Erma Dickinson, and possibly a brother. We also found a letter to her stating that her sister, Lettia Gassmann, had died in Louisville in 1941.

Thirty years after her death--on Christmas Eve, 1966--I saw a childhood photograph of her with four siblings in checkered, uniform-like dresses. Curiosity aroused, I began searching. Eventually I found relatives with the same photograph, along with some surprises and heartaches. Although I will not go into the full details of the search, I will let you know what we have found so far. First of all, my grandmother had six siblings, not four.

The 1900 Kentucky census lists Haywood Dishman and Josephine Phillips, born in Tennessee, with daughters Birdie, Ethel, and Willie, and with a son named Goble.

The 29 April 1903 issue of the Daily Missoulian has J. Hayward Dishman's obituary. It says he died of spotted fever, leaving a wife and six small children. He's buried in Florence, Montana.

On 25 October 1905, Mrs. Josephine Dishman released to the Montana Children's Home Society orphanage the following individuals:

Bertha, born 8 September 1895
Ethel, born 1 January 1897
Willie Ann, born 11 March 1898
Goebel, born 20 July 20 1899
Ernie, born 10 February 1901
Mabel, born 11 June 11 1902

Josie married Truman Persons at Missoula, Montana, on 14 November 1905. She poignantly penciled to the orphanage 3 December 1905, "I never will see nothing only trouble in this life." A 15 February 1906 note stated, "you wanted the babey when you was after the others now I must say that you can have her to any time that you want her. Better for me an her to." Dona--the sixth sibling and seventh child--was born 10 October 1903, after Haywood died, and went to the orphanage in 1906. Also, Goebel actually never went to the orphanage, so the children in the photograph are Bertha, Ethel, Willie (Lettia), Erma, and Mabel. Josie handmade their dresses.

Bertha, Erma, and Dona married and had children. Ethel, adopted at ten, had a child by her adopting family's son when she was fourteen and he was twenty-three. They married when she was fifteen. They had five children (one died at birth) and divorced about 1919. The husband took three children to Iowa. Ethel kept a deaf mute daughter. The 1920 Missoula census lists Ethel and Goebel in a boarding house. Obituaries for Ethel Dishman in 1957 and Goebel Dishman in 1980 list Ethel as Goebel's wife. We found no marriage records. They are buried together in Missoula, Montana. Willie married but had no children. Mabel was adopted and died at age five.

Spokane, Washington, court records show Josie divorced Truman on 13 January 1910 because he continually beat and whipped her. We suspect he made her give up her children, too. The 1909 Spokane postal directory shows Josie moved to Athol, Idaho, on 25 May 1909. There the trail ends. Did she remarry or have children? What happened to Josephine Phillips Dishman Persons? Where is she buried? Will we ever find out? Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 9 January 2008, Vol. 11, No. 2.