



Irving Genealogical Society

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Irving, Texas

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Officers:

President: Joe Sissom

Vice President: Jeanne Mantooth

Secretary: Eva Kellogg

Treasurer: Erle Kellogg

Newsletter Editor: Mary K. Weber

Coming Events

Monday, September 15, 7:00 p.m., Irving Central Library – Judy Knight’s topic is “From Respected Lawyer to Counterfeiter” (Digging for details using genealogical and federal records tells quite a story.) Judy has over 30 years experience researching family history. She teaches genealogy at Tarrant Community College, SE Campus and is President of Historic W.V.S. Allen Cemetery Assn.

Monday, October 20, 7:00 p.m., Irving Central Library – Tresa Tatyrek’s topic is “Genealogy on the Internet, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly,” which covers what questions to ask when looking at genealogy related websites. She will go over some of the better sites for research and those to stay away from.

Monday, November 17, 7:00 p.m., Irving Central Library – Betsy Mills’ topic is “Understanding Land Records”.

2009 IGS Officers

It is that time of the year already! At the October meeting, Jeanne will present a slate of officers to be voted on at the November meeting. If you are interested in being either an officer or on the Board of Directors there are plenty of slots that need to be filled each year. For some time now, most of these positions have not been filled by society members, who need to spend only a little time each month to help keep the organization fulfilling the purposes of the society. So, it has fallen upon only a few members who have volunteered their time and efforts to carry out the functions of the society.

The officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Directors are over the following activities: Programs, Projects, Membership, and Publicity and are appointed by the President.

The purpose of this Society is educational, to wit: to create, foster and maintain interest in Genealogy; to assist and support the Genealogy Department of the Irving Public Library; to collect and preserve information relating to those pioneers who settled the Irving area, and to the early history of this City, County, and State; to preserve Church, cemetery, and land records, testimonial documents, diaries and manuscripts and other source materials, copying and indexing these records.

Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Supper

Tuesday, Dec. 9

Irving Garden & Arts Center
Irving, TX 75060

This is always a fun event for the society with lots of good food and companionship, so reserve the date!

Georgia Records

Georgia Archives "Virtual Vault" contains a treasure trove of important Georgia records such as colonial will books (1754-79), colonial wills (1733-78), headright and bounty plats of survey (1783-1909), Chatham Co. deed books (1785-1798), Confederate enlistment oaths and discharges (1861-64) and Confederate pension applications (1879-1960). The web site is <http://content.sos.state.ga.us/>

Getting the Most Out of Pre-1850 U.S. Federal Census Records

By Joan Young

The United States began taking a census every ten years starting in 1790. Pre-1850 censuses included only the head of household by name; others were indicated by a tally mark. From 1790 through 1820 the censuses were kept locally and are not available for some states. In 1830 an official census schedule was used for the first time and the records were maintained on the federal level. For more detailed information about who/what was included on these various census records, click [here](#).

Here are some tips to follow when examining pre-1850 census listings:

1) View original images at Ancestry.com or elsewhere: Don't rely exclusively on indexes or transcriptions. Poor handwriting or transcription errors may result in inaccurate indexes. You can assess name spellings better on an original document. Look for spelling variations on a single listing as well as surname spelling evolution over the years. Enumerators sometimes included informative side notes.

2) Create a timeline: Try to locate the head of household on all pre-1850 censuses and compare your findings to later census records. Knowing where your family lived can help you find church records, land records, or wills you can use to compare to the family structure in the census.

3) Don't leap to conclusions: Don't assume the oldest male in a household is necessarily the head of household or that everyone is a family member. Farm laborers, boarders, or apprentices may be included. The family could have raised children other than their own. Extra children in a household could also indicate a prior marriage. Missing family members, or a family structure vastly different from what you expected, could be a clue you found the wrong household.

4) Official census dates: Enumerators were supposed to list the household as of the official census date and not on the day of the visit. Official dates are as follows: 1790-1820—the first Monday in August; 1830-1840—the first day of June.

5) Check out the neighbors: Scroll through the pages surrounding your family for possible relatives.

Additional considerations:

1820: Males 16-18 were recorded twice. The separate listing was to better pin down the number of young males. Some occupations were listed for the head of household. Non-citizens were identified. This information could lead you to immigration and naturalization records.

1830: The town/district and county were included. Deaf, dumb, and blind were also listed.

1840: The insane were listed—this could suggest the availability of institutional or guardianship records. Revolutionary War pensioners were identified, which could indicate that military and pension files may be available.

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What's in a Name!
By Will Smith

One of my ancestors married a man named Reasonable Darling. He might have been better named as B. Reasonable Darling.

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