



Irving Genealogical Society

June 2009

Irving, Texas

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Officers:

President:	Eve Kellogg
Vice President:	Jeanne Mantooth
Secretary:	Barb Tsirigotis
Treasurer:	Erle Kellogg
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Matthews

DUES!

Have you paid your dues yet? Our yearly dues for 2009, which were increased to \$20.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for families, can be mailed to: IGS, P. O. Box 170881, Irving, TX 75017-0881. A copy of the Membership Application is included with paper copies of this newsletter and can be used to accompany your payment. Dues are our primary source of income and needed to pay for the operating expenses of the society, which the board has kept to the bare minimum.

This Month

June 22nd

Irving Genealogical Society June Annual Covered Dish Social Monday, June 22 6:00 p.m.
Jaycee Center for the Arts - (south side of IH-183 between Story and MacArthur)

~~~MENU~~~

Jay D. Bayne: Two pies  
Martha Hardin: Meat, Veggie or Salad  
Joe Sissom: The best ice cream you ever ate!  
Barb Tsirigotis: Ham  
Eve Kellogg: deviled eggs, iced tea, black-eyed pea salad  
Joyce Bentley: veggie and dessert.

What will you bring? Please email President Eve Kellogg as to what you will bring. [erlekel@verizon.net](mailto:erlekel@verizon.net)

## Next Month

July 13<sup>th</sup>

Board of Directors meeting – 7pm. Genealogy Section at the Library,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. All members are welcome.

July 20<sup>th</sup>

General meeting – 7pm 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Central Irving Library.

## Answers for the Trivia Questions

### Test Your Irving Knowledge

The questions were:

1. What is the relationship between the Tompkins and Haley Cemeteries?  
The families, with one exception, in the two cemeteries are related.
2. Are either or both of these Cemeteries “full”?  
This is a trick question. According to one of the family members, there is one place left in the Tompkins Cemetery – and it is already “spoken for”.
3. What public facilities are named after someone in one of those Cemeteries?  
Two Irving schools are named for Tom Haley and John Haley. If you want to read more about these two Irving pioneers, go to the web sites for these schools and get some more details.
4. What legal restrictions exist for the Tompkins Cemetery?  
Land for Highway 183 came from the Tompkins family with the agreement that the cemetery can never be disturbed or moved.
5. Are these Cemeteries public or private?  
Both are private.

For a bonus question – when was the last interment at one of these cemeteries?

The answer is Oleene Carter Gleghorn, November 2, 1916 – March 1, 2009.

Pictures of the markers at the Haley Memorial Cemetery are at: <http://teafor2.com/Haley.htm>

Information on the family relationships for the Haley Memorial Cemetery is at: <http://www.cemeteries-of-tx.com/Etx/Dallas/cemetery/haley.htm>

Information on the burials at the Tompkins Cemetery is at:  
<http://files.usgwarchives.net/tx/dallas/cemeteries/tompkins.txt>

For a “birds eye” view of the Tompkins Cemetery, look at:  
<http://wikimapia.org/4660098/Tompkins-Cemetery>

Many thanks to Barb Tsirigotis for the following:

## Newspaper Research

When researching old newspapers for genealogical tidbits, keep the time frame in mind. Could your eighteenth century ancestors read and write? It's doubtful. That is one reason there were so few newspapers in the 1700s. Cost of paper and printing equipment are other reasons. When researching in newspapers, keep in mind that mainly the well educated, the affluent and the politically active could read and write; and, most of what was printed in newspapers pertained to them and their lives. Unless your ancestors fall into one of those categories, you are not likely to find anything printed in the very early newspapers about them.

By 1820-30 more and more people could read and there was great interest in gossip, deaths, and marriages. By the end of the Civil War reading and writing were more common; and newspapers were about the only way to get news to the settlers in the western part of the country. Farming was a mainstay, making farm and weather reports vital information to the farmer.

Always consider location. For instance, if your ancestor lived and died in Grapevine but there was no Grapevine newspaper at the time of his death, locate the nearest city that published a newspaper...Ft. Worth or Dallas perhaps. Newspapers weren't printed daily like they are today. Some were printed only once a month or whenever there was something worth reporting. Therefore, if your ancestor died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May but the newspaper was printed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, his obit would not appear until the following month. Farmers came to town on the average of once a month. If they had a wedding, death or Indian raid to announce, it may appear in the newspaper as much as 2 or 3 months (or more) after the fact. So, just because Aunt Gertie died on May 3<sup>rd</sup> doesn't mean that you should only search the paper issued in early May.

Today's newspapers are divided into sections such as Obituaries, Community News, Classifieds, Entertainment, etc. Organization or lay out of the news was not so important in the early years. Tidbits of news were plugged in wherever space permitted. An obit may appear on the front page following an article about a presidential debate; or, on the last page between a wedding announcement and a notice of a missing horse.

When searching for an obit, check the newspaper in the area where Aunt Gertie came from (perhaps she moved here from Smith County Tennessee) as well as the one near where she died. Also, if Aunt Gertie happened to be visiting family in Austin when she died, check the Austin paper as well. By 1920 there was a greater focus on obituaries. Funeral directors discovered it was a good form of free advertising; so, they became more diligent about reporting deaths and funerals.

Local community columns occasionally reported deaths, marriages and births of families in their particular community rather than including them in the usual obituary column. They also reported who was visiting in or out of town. Thanksgiving and Christmas were the main times of the year that people traveled to visit family. Otherwise, they were busy planting or harvesting crops. Bridal showers, young people going off to college or military were also items of interest.

Society pages included obituaries as filler when there wasn't much else to write about. In later years the classified section contained probate information, which mentioned the name of the deceased. These ads usually had to run for 4-6 days before the estate of the departed could be settled. Sometimes, it was years after the death of the individual, especially if the individual died leaving minor children. Memorials were often printed around the one year and five year anniversary of the date of death of a loved one.

Around 1870, publishers discovered that the local courthouse was the place to find news. They could obtain a list of marriages (wherein the couples parents might be mentioned) who was suing whom, who was granted a divorce, who was appointed guardian of a minor, who sold land, who served on a jury, who was arrested, lists of epidemic victims, soldiers who died or were injured in the war, ships passenger list, etc.

Birth notices appeared in newspapers about 1920, particularly in small community newspapers or columns. Such notices were very irregular prior to 1900.

Unclaimed mail was a routine item in many newspapers. If the mail was not claimed within a set time, a dead letter list was printed to give the owner one more chance to claim his mail before it was discarded. Strangers staying at the local hotel were often listed along with their reason for visiting the town, and where they came from. Notices occasionally ran for lost family members. This was more common on the east coast where residents were searching for a new arrival from a foreign country or an indentured servant who had run away. Such ads were run in the South for runaway slaves.

Church announcements and various organizations sometimes listed their officers. Major religions such as Baptist, Methodist and Catholic often published their own newspaper. Advertisements sometimes listed the owner of the store and people who worked for them.

Ethnic newspapers should not be overlooked. They often ran lists of names of their people arriving in America in order to help them locate family already here. Departure lists of people traveling abroad were also published.

Until 1980, newspapers were ignored as a document worthy of preservation. The Library of Congress was one of the first to locate and record newspapers. There are 5400 titles found in Texas alone but only the newspapers of county seats were microfilmed. Some places to check for older newspapers are:

- Baylor University and Dallas Baptist Baptist newspapers
- SMU and McMurry Methodist newspapers
- New York Times 1851 – present Book form
- Univ. of Georgia 1828 forward, some are online
- Cornell University has put twenty-two 1800 magazines online
- National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections
- Univ. of Virginia website has newspapers of Civil War period online

Remember, the older they are, the smaller the print!

*Notes from the Mid-Cities Genealogical Society's Fall Workshop  
October 4, 2003 featuring Pat Gordon.*

## Overview of New Hampshire History

In 1623 the first settlers of New Hampshire arrived. Under the authority of an English land grant, David Thomson, a Scotsman, and Edward and Thomas Hilton, fish merchants of London, were sent with a number of other people in two divisions to establish a fishing colony at the mouth of the Piscataqua River. They settled in Dover Neck and Little Harbor. It is suspected that European fishermen visited the Isles of Shoals and adjacent parts of the mainland for many years prior to that. The towns of Exeter (1637) and Hampton (1638) sprang up from these two settlements. For many years, New Hampshire consisted only of these four communities. Settlers traded furs and timber. Thus the settlement of New Hampshire did not happen because those who came here were persecuted out of England. The occasion was planned with much care and earnestness by the English crown and the English parliament. Here James the first began a colonization project by not only providing ships and provisions, but free land bestowed with but one condition, that it remain always subject to English sovereignty. And so it remained until the Revolutionary War. Fur and timber trade quickly became the main source of income for many residents.

In 1641 Massachusetts extended sovereignty over the New Hampshire towns, and they became part of Norfolk County two years later. In 1679 New Hampshire was taken out of Massachusetts control and made a royal province.

Well into the eighteenth century, settlement of New Hampshire was confined largely to the coastal plain and there was considerable movement of settlers between the New Hampshire towns and the neighboring towns of York County, Maine, and Essex County, Massachusetts. Can't find your New Hampshire ancestor in the 1700s? Check in the county/states listed above.

Capital: Concord  
Nickname: Granite State  
Land Area: 8969 square miles

New Hampshire Society of Genealogists  
P.O. Box 2316  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302  
603-255-3301

New Hampshire Historical Society  
The Tuck Library  
30 Park Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
603-228-6688

## Untapped Resources

Throughout the country there are libraries and special collections virtually unknown to genealogists. These gems are found in college and university libraries. They may hold books, diaries, letters, journals, newspapers, manuscripts, photographs, oral histories, maps or Bibles that someone from the not too distant past simply couldn't throw away. Such collections are seldom used; therefore, many custodians may not even be aware of their existence. Call ahead before you head out on a research trip. Ask the hours of operation. Many such collections are unavailable on weekends; during the summer; or when students are away on break. Call on a weekday when you are more likely to get in touch with a full time librarian. Ask specifically for special collections pertaining to the history of the area and its people.

If you are very lucky, the collection will have been indexed; but, don't count on it. If there is an index, check not only for your ancestor's surname but also for locations such as the community where they lived. While account ledgers and plantation ledgers may not mention your ancestor by name, they do give a timeline to follow and may describe the crops grown in the area and the weather conditions along that timeline.

Don't overlook an item because it was written by someone other than your ancestor. Perhaps it was written by a neighbor or someone traveling through the area who met your ancestor. You are very likely to find these documents have loose pages due to their age and frequent handling. It is important to maintain the correct order in which you found the pages. Such a collection is usually quite old and may even hold original documents. These items must be handled with great care.

### Local Resources:

Texas State Library List <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/texshare/pl/texlibs.html#Academic>

Texas Tech University: Southwest Collection-Lubbock <http://swco.ttu.edu>

University of Texas: Special Collection-Arlington <http://libraries.uta.edu/SpecColl/>

Baylor University – Waco <http://www.baylor.edu/libresearch.asp>

### Other Locations:

Yale University

University of Arkansas

University of Georgia

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Samford University-Birmingham, AL

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## Records Preservation and Access Committee White Paper Issued

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 1996 - 2009 by Richard W Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

The Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC), a joint committee of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society, has published a White Paper dealing with access to vital records.

In a post-9/11 world, the requirements of open access to records and information often conflicts with the perceived need to ensure national security, combat terrorism and to respond to the privacy needs of everyday citizens.

Quoting from the committee's web site: The Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC), a joint committee of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society, is leading the genealogical community to openly share perspectives on these vital issues and add their support to fostering education between lawmakers and genealogists. The committee believes that open communication between the nation's genealogists and lawmakers can strike a reasonable balance between the public's right to know while maintaining the lawmaker's responsibility to its constituents.

This document is a project by the RPAC to provide information to lawmakers and those called to implement legislation about the genealogical community's perspective of open access to records.

The paper provides a genealogical view of sample legislative language that may be used by those crafting bills to fairly represent the needs of genealogists and still protect the public's rights of privacy. You may view a POF of the bill at FGS' website at <http://www.fgs.org/rpac>.

A LOT of other newsletter readers have already posted comments, questions, or corrections to this article at: [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2009/03/open-access-to-public-records-a-genealogical-perspective.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/03/open-access-to-public-records-a-genealogical-perspective.html).

Open Access to Public Records:

A Genealogical Perspective -A White Paper by the Records Preservation and Access Committee of The Federation of Genealogical Societies and The National Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940. Email: [fgs-access@fgs.org](mailto:fgs-access@fgs.org). Website: [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org) .

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