

**July 2009**

# Irving Genealogical Society

**Irving, Texas**

**Volume 17, Number 7**

## **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**

- 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.

## **Next Month**

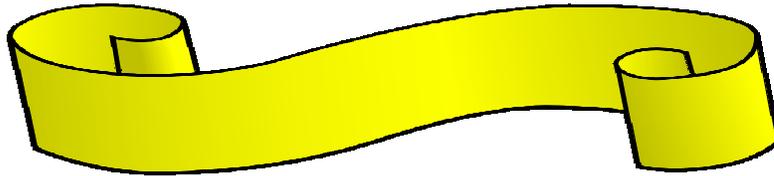
- Aug 10<sup>th</sup>** Board of Directors meeting – 7pm. Genealogy Section at the Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. All members are welcome.
- Aug 17<sup>th</sup>** General meeting – 7pm 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Central Irving Library.

## July Speaker - Kelvin L. Meyers

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. He is a frequent speaker to many genealogical societies and family associations in Texas.

The Dallas Public Library employed him for ten years in the Genealogy Department. Now, he contracts with various companies as a forensic genealogist, searching for missing or unknown heirs to estates and to oil and gas leases. In January of 2007 he was appointed Chairman of the Archives and History Committee of First United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas.

A native of Crosby County, he has published three books on his home county; deed abstracts and a compilation of early records and abstracts of the probate minutes.



We hope everyone enjoyed the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. This picture was made at the Arizona Memorial in March, 2007.



The above is how Dallas handled “mass transit” in 1956.

## All Day Seminar in Athens, Tx.

East Texas Genealogical Society in collaboration with Van Zandt County Genealogical Society present an All Day Genealogical Seminar at the Hart-Morris Conservation Center, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, 5301 County Road 4812, Athens, Texas, Saturday, August 8, 2009 from 8:30 to 3:34. Guest speaker Desmond Walls Allen will present "Preserving Your Family Papers, Photographs, & Heirlooms". The object of this seminar is to teach you:

- \* Ideas about organization
- \* Identification of threats
- \* Suggestions for storage
- \* Techniques for preservation
- \* Plans for back up of paper and photos

Registration: \$40 before July 31 - \$45 after July 31  
Includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch catered by Danny's Barbeque

Accommodations available at Athens Holiday Inn Express at a reduced price for attendees, call 1-903-675-2500.

For more information contact:

e-mail: [1stvp@etgs.org](mailto:1stvp@etgs.org) or [vanzandtgensoc@etcable.com](mailto:vanzandtgensoc@etcable.com)  
or call: (903) 877-4501 or (903) 567-5012

Send check or money order payable to E.T.G.S. Mail, along with the form below, to:

East Texas Genealogical Society  
c/o June Everheart  
16986 County Road 3215  
Winona, TX 75792-5748

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Surnames Researching: (up to six) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## The Domino Desk

Barbara Tsirigotis

I wasn't tired at all. Really! Mother said it was almost 10:00 but I wasn't at all tired. Having Papa, Ma, Ma's baby sisters Aunt Blanch and Aunt Ella, Uncle Jimmy and Uncle Johnny visit for dinner and a game of dominos was always exciting. On Saturday nights they would sit around the domino desk until the wee hours of the morning playing dominos and telling stories of their childhood. Their stories brought to life people I had never met – people who had died long before I was born – my ancestors.

When the ladies went to the outhouse, I would grab my pillow and blanket and crawled underneath the desk. It was an old teacher's desk Papa had brought home when they tore down the Bagley school. It had a privacy panel on one side and a shelf below that made a perfect bed for me. Neither Daddy, Papa, Uncle Jimmy nor Uncle Johnny ever gave me away; otherwise, Mother would have hauled me off to bed for fear I would hear something during the conversation that I wasn't suppose to hear. After all, every family has their secrets.

It was from this perch that I learned about Ma's one and only bicycle ride. She was 12 years old and desperately longed to ride her brothers' bicycle; however, in 1912 young ladies did not ride bicycles, according to her mother. Only her brothers, Elmer and Delmer, rode the bicycle. But early one December morning, Ma crept out of the house while her mother was busy preparing breakfast for her family of seven. She mounted the bicycle and rode in circles around the house, ducking beneath the clothesline and again as she rode past the kitchen window. She described the wind in her uncombed hair, the crispness of the morning air, and the cold, hard pedals beneath her bare feet. I, having ridden a bicycle since the age of ten, can only imagine what a liberating feeling that must have been. Had she lived in a different era, Ma would certainly have been a tomboy.

She was amazed at how well her plan had worked. Flying freely and almost silently around the house time and time again, unnoticed. Her main concern was that her mother did not see her, for that would certainly bring some sort of harsh punishment. Ma was the oldest of the children and was expected to set an example for her younger sisters. On what resulted in her last lap around the house, with her eye on the kitchen window, she forgot about the clothesline. It caught beneath her chin and flipped her off the bike. She landed on her back with a thud and the bike sailed off into the garden. She immediately looked toward the door expecting to see her Mother and Father running out to pick her up and paddle her good; but no one had noticed. The pain in her little toe was excruciating; but she dared not cry out. As she flipped off the bike, she had struck her foot on some wooden planks, which served as a walkway from the kitchen door to the outhouse. Crying would give her away; so, she brushed herself off and stumbled back inside the house.

No one ever knew of Ma's early morning ride until she confessed over the domino desk. She had evidently broken her little toe during that fall but never told anyone; which explained why her toe was always crooked.

I must have taken mental notes from my perch beneath the domino desk, for years later when I discovered genealogy; all those stories came back to me and provided a foundation for my research. Somehow, I found the ancestors they had discussed, rather familiar.

## Books donated to the Irving Library by the IGS This Month

- Land Survey Cooke County Texas
- Land Survey Grayson County Texas
- Nineteenth-Century Emigration from Kreis Simmern (Hunsrueck), Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany, to Brazil, England, Russian Poland, and the United States of America
- Colonial Families of Maryland: Bound and Determined to Succeed
- Maryland Genealogies and Marriages
- Marriages of Davidson County
- The Diuguid records 1861-1865 and biographical sketches (a list of Confederate Soldiers in cemeteries)
- The Wilkes County Papers 1773-1889
- Land Claims in the Mississippi
- Tyrell County NC Estate Records 1734-1800
- Spartanburg County District SC Deed Abstracts, Book A-BB 1785-1852 - Vol. 1
- Spartanburg County District SC Deed Abstracts, Book A-BB 1785-1852 - Vol 2
- Union County SC Deed Abstracts - Vol 4 and Vol 5
- Cannon County TN 1840-1880 Chancery Court
- Monroe County TN Records 1820-1870 Vol. 1
- Monroe County TN Records 1820-1870 Vol. 2
- Chancery Court Records of Smith County TN 1824-1871
- Biographical Sketches of Family Histories - The Cumberland Region of Tennessee
- Biographical Sketches of Family Histories: Leaves from the Family Tree (Eastern TN)
- Marriage Bonds and Ministers Returns of Brunswick County VA 1750-1810
- James City County VA 1634-1659 Vol. 4
- King George County VA Will Book A-I 1721-1752
- The Parish Register of New Kent County VA 1680-1787
- Records of New Kent County VA - Bonds and Ministers Returns of Prince Edward County VA 1754-1810
- York County VA Wills, Deeds, and Orders 1657-1659

**Note:** Some of the books are on "back order"