



Irving Genealogical Society

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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

- Oct 12th** Board of Directors meeting – 7pm. Genealogy Section at the Library, 3rd Floor. All members are welcome.
- Oct 19th** General meeting – 7pm 1st Floor, Central Irving Library
Speaker is Don Raney - "*Martin Varner, Texas Pioneer: 1785-1844*".

Next Month

- Nov 9th** Board of Directors meeting – 7pm. Genealogy Section at the Library, 3rd Floor. All members are welcome.
- Nov 16th** General meeting – 7pm 1st Floor, Central Irving Library

FGS Delegate's Report: by Barb Tsirigotis

During the first week of September, I attended the annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies as a delegate from the IGS. This year's conference was held in Little Rock Arkansas. After spending two days researching Gillaspies in Yell County, I began my first class on Wednesday morning. Delegate 101 was designed for delegates from genealogy societies coast to coast. It offered ideas on how to increase membership, promote the society, locate speakers, and ended in a question and answer session. The IGS faces special challenges in that Irving is so young compared to other cities. Irving simply doesn't have the decades of history that Dallas, Chicago, Philadelphia or San Francisco have. So, we have to be creative in planning projects.

The main thing they stress is keeping the Society webpage updated. This is one area where we fall way behind. Where we excel is in our programming, thanks to Jeanne Mantooth.

In a class on newsletters, I heard from societies who issue a monthly newsletter and from some who issue a quarterly newsletter. Perhaps this is something we should consider.

The class on projects didn't really address our position – living in a young city. One thing we might consider is updating the cemetery project we did in the early 90s. However, our first step would be to get our name known and build our membership. When we are ready to tackle a project, we would develop a plan including projected expenses and obtain a grant. The Texas State Genealogical Society has a very healthy bank account and is more than willing to grant funds to pay for society projects. They offered several fresh ideas on speakers for society meetings.

To introduce our society to the community, we could:

- Have a booth at local events such as the Main Street Event. Combine it with a bake sale or craft fair. Not only will we make money; but, more importantly, we are making our presence known in the community. Free advertising!
- Conduct a cemetery walk in costume
- Volunteer in the library to assist newcomers with their research
- Volunteer in a school history class or scout troop to discuss an ancestor
- Recognize members through awards and get press coverage

Suggested speakers:

- Have a funeral director speak on grave location
- Have a speaker on writing queries or obits
- Have a probate attorney speak on deeds, wills, probate
- Have the medical examiner detail how an unclaimed body is documented

Suggested projects:

- Publish an article on the city's architecture and or housing development – How was it affected by history & location?
- Publish articles on a local fort or historical site

- Update cemetery records
- Update obit collection
- Adopt a flower bed outside the library; maintain it in the name of the IGS

There were approximately 55 vendors from all over the country. Nirvana!!! I noted more research materials for African Americans than ever before. I also noted more African Americans in attendance than ever before. I have my conference guide and the syllabus for each of the classes offered. I will be happy to print out a syllabus for any of the classes you might like to review.

One of the duties of the FGS delegate is to vote for the FGS board members. I had an opportunity to meet with several of the candidates and have submitted my ballot. The delegate works as a liaison between the society and the FGS. I hope to write an article about the IGS' unique challenges for their publications (Voice, Forum) in the coming months. I'm certain there are other societies out there facing similar issues.

This Delegate thing is new to me and I welcome any ideas or suggestions you may have to promote our society.

Do you have a story to tell; but, maybe writing isn't your forte? Sit with me over coffee and tell me your story. I will write it for you, and you will have the opportunity to proof it before it is printed in the IGS newsletter. We all have a crazy Aunt Gert or a family villain.

My first story is about a recipe for a pneumonia remedy, hand-written on an envelope from Sam Rayburn in December 1929. The author of the recipe saved the envelope all her life for the recipe written on it, not because of Sam Rayburn's signature on the other side.

Share your story with others. This is a great opportunity to get your story down in writing for your family and generations to come. Give family members a copy at holiday gatherings to really get the conversation started. Call me at 972-816-6792 or email me at BLTLan@verizon.net. I'll make the coffee.

Barb Lancaster, IGS – Secretary

Pneumonia Remedy

Melba Neathery Johnson Family History

It was the late 1920s, a tough time in America. Money was scarce. Jobs were scarce. Those with jobs worked hard to hold onto their jobs just to make ends meet – to put food on the table for their family. During hard times like that, families and friends pulled together for support.

Otis Neathery grew up in Pilot Grove, Texas, farmed in the Cannon area, and worked occasionally as a gin laborer. In the late 1920s, Otis and his wife Patsy decided to pull up stakes in Tom Bean and move to Lubbock where their friends and Patsy's family had moved. The Rich and Lovelace families had moved to Lubbock first, then, written to Patsy's parents, Mr. & Mrs. J. R. "Dick" Portman, about how impressed they were with West Texas farming.

Otis and Patsy only had one child, Melba, but like everyone else, they had to pinch pennies and cut corners where they could. Housewives of that era were good about sharing recipes, thrifty household hints, and remedies. After all, you couldn't run to the store or the doctor every time you had the sniffles.

Winter had passed but things hadn't improved any. Patsy was visiting with her family one day when the conversation turned to health matters. They couldn't afford for Otis to get sick - or she and the baby for that matter. Her mother remembered hearing of a remedy for pneumonia and proceeded to share it with Patsy. Patsy grabbed a pencil and tore open an empty envelope to scribble down the recipe. A remedy for pneumonia might come in real handy next winter. She wrote:

1 pt lard

1 pt turpentine

1 pt coal oil

3 ounces sassafras oil

1 block camphor gum

Melt lard & camphor gum together and mix other ingredients.

Yes, that might keep her family out of the doctors office come winter. Patsy tucked away her recipe and kept it throughout her life. We don't know how many times she had to put it to use, but she saved it.

Recently, in 2009, Melba Neathery Johnson came across her mother's pneumonia remedy handwritten on the inside of an envelope she had torn open so many years ago. Home remedies like this one were of great value during the depression. Little did Patsy Neathery know that one day the old envelope would be more valuable than her pneumonia remedy. The envelope, postmarked December 13, 1929, was from Sam Rayburn of Bonham, Texas. In 1929, Mr. Rayburn was a close ally of John Nance Garner, a Texas

congressman and became his campaign manager in 1932 in Garner's race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Perhaps, this envelope once held a message of Mr. Rayburn's support for Mr. Garner. It bears the return address for the House of Representatives U. S., Part of Cong. Record-Free, Speech of Hon. Sam Rayburn of Texas. In lieu of a postage stamp is Mr. Rayburn's signature making this yellowed, brittle envelope far more valuable than the pneumonia remedy written on the back side ... to anyone but Melba, that is.

Birth Announcement – Extending the Family Tree

The Matthews family tree grew a new branch on October 13, 2009 at 12:21pm. Added to the tree was Miss Caris Grace Matthews, checking in at 7 lbs 6 oz, 19 ½ inches long. The happy parents are Loderick and Christine Matthews. (Loderick is named after his 4th great grandfather.) The proud and bragging grandparents are Bill and Linda Matthews and Bob and MaryLou Meyers.

