



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

- Nov 7th** “**Late Nighter**” See below for details.
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. Election of new officers.

Scalawags, Rogues, and Ruffians - Every Family Has Them

On Monday, November 16th, the Irving Genealogical Society welcomes Kelvin L. Meyers, Forensic Genealogist, researcher, lecturer, and publisher who will present Scalawags, Rogues, and Ruffians: All Those Ancestors We Don't Talk About. Every family has them, skeletons in the closet—those things that are not talked about in front of the children, and when they are talked about, then only in whispers and euphemisms. How do you access the records of prisons, asylums and courts to find the truth behind the story? In this lecture these questions and many others may be answered.

Next Month

December Members Only – Pot Luck Dinner – Date to be announced.

Late Nighter Details

The Irving Genealogy Society will have a genealogy research late-nighter from 6 to 10:30 p.m., Saturday, November 7 in Irving Public Library Local History and Genealogy. The event is open to paid members of the Society.

Persons interested in attending are asked to park before 6 p.m. in the Library parking garage underneath the building. At 6 p.m. the Library parking garage gate is closed and locked.

Members are invited to bring refreshments.

The event is co-sponsored by Irving Public Library.

From Richard Monroe – The Portal to Texas Website has been updated

The Portal to Texas History contains digitized collections from over 100 Texas libraries, archives, and genealogical and historical societies.

Family history researchers will be particularly interested in the features recently released, like citations and limiting search results to a county!

Explore the Portal and please let us know what you think by taking a very brief survey on the site!

Portal to Texas History: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/>

2009 Community History Workshop Series at the Fort Worth Central Library

Sponsored by the Center for Texas Studies at TCU and the Fort Worth Public Library

November 7 “Capturing the Past: An Oral History Workshop” by Stephen Fagin and John Versluis

December 5 “In The Beginning”: A look at the early mayor & council proceedings of Fort Worth,

1895–1920 by Shirley Apley, Fort Worth Public Library

In Memory

Shirley Loague Snider, a long time Irving resident and Charter Member of the IGS, passed away in October. Shirley was an avid researcher and active member until health issues changed her lifestyle. Burial was in her hometown of Morris OK with her husband of over 50 years. Shirley is survived by her children Cathy Snider Sargent of Elgin TX, Scott Snider of Little Rock AR, Bruce Snider of Irving, and five grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister and former IGS member, Betty Loague McConnell of Choctaw OK. The two spent many happy hours together, tracing their ancestry.

Call For Your favorite Recipe That Came From an Ancestor and Other Stories

Do you have a favorite recipe that came from one of your ancestors? We would like to have a monthly article featuring a favorite recipe along with a story about the individual in next year's newsletters. If you need help with writing, please see Barb Tsigotis.

We are also looking for short stories about your family that can be included in the newsletters next year. Such a story was included in the October newsletter. Barb Tsigotis is ready and willing to help.

Mildred Matthews Steele wrote the following sometime during the 1930s. It is part of *Beyond the Sunset, Sunrise* and used with permission.

TODAY'S CONVENTION

The jackdaws had a convention in our trees today;
They talked and laughed and whistled and jeered the hours away.
One talked of rising taxes, another of ripening grain.
One praised the Republican party, the rest called him quite insane.
Many spicy bits of gossip were rolled from cheek to tongue;
No exemption in this meeting--the old, the dead, the young!
To the useless chitter-chatter there seemed to be no end.
'Twas only a noisy rabble with invectives enough to lend.
Then my old tom cat came under their borrowed convention hall--
Their meeting was quickly over;
They'll convene again next Fall!

Isaac Tompkins (Thompkins)

The following is based on information that was provided by one of his descendants.

The majority of information about Isaac Tompkins' life concerns his military service in the Civil War. Family records show that he was born in Middle Tennessee on March 2, 1828. It is not known when he migrated to the North Texas area of Grapevine. What is known is that on August 20, 1861 joined up with a Grapevine neighbor, Judge William Quayle, who was forming a militia company known as Quayle's Mounted Rifles. Like many men, he must have expected the war to be over quickly since he only signed up for 12 months. However, he would not see his home for forty-six months. The Quayle's Mounted Rifles first went to Fort Worth and then toward the Red River where they joined up with other mounted companies from East Texas at a clearing that became known as Camp Reeves. At this time, the Quayle's Mounted Rifles officially became Company Q of the Ninth Texas Cavalry and Isaac, age 33, became Private Isaac Sylvester Tompkins, C.S.A. There was another man, actually a boy of seventeen, from Titus County, Thomas Burn, who would later become an important part of Isaac's life.

The Ninth Texas Cavalry was part of several battles in the Indian Territories including the decisive Battle of Chustenahlah, near what is now Tulsa, Oklahoma, that brought this area under Confederate control. They then went to Arkansas and were in the Battle of Pea Ridge in North Arkansas. Due to losses on the field by the confederate infantry, the confederate forces began a retreat into Mississippi. Over the nine months since his enlistment Isaac and the others had to forage for food, living mainly on corn meal, sometimes peaches or what ever could be found. There were no uniforms, blankets or tents – only what they had brought with them. It was a very rare occasion when they could have a fire at night or sleep under any type of cover. Diseases such as measles, mumps and pneumonia were common among the troops.

By May 1862 the confederates were in Mississippi and were involved in the effort to slow Grant's advance on Vicksburg. They were constantly on the move skirmishing with the Yankees. Occasionally they were able to "obtain" supplies from union trains and supply depots. The toll on the unit was hard with few replacements. Isaac was among the wounded and spent several weeks in the army hospital at Quitman, Mississippi.

In January 1863 the Ninth Texas was in Tennessee. It was a brief stay. By May, they were on the march to Alabama. Over the next twelve months, they would skirmish their way through Alabama and back to Mississippi raiding Sherman's supply lines. Then on May 14, 1864 they encamped at Rome, Georgia – sixty miles west of Atlanta.

It would take General Sherman 3 months to advance those sixty miles and capture Atlanta. Of these 108 days, the Ninth Texas would be actively engaged with the enemy for 99 days. Beginning at 4:00 am on August 18, 1864 Isaac's company engaged the union forces for 60 hours. The battle finally ended August 20, exactly three years to the day since he had gone off to fight.

After Atlanta, the Ninth Texas retreated to Tennessee and for the next four months were involved in battles at the cities of Franklin and Nashville. They, along with the Third and Sixth Texas cavalry, roamed the countryside at will until the confederacy surrendered. The men of the Ninth wanted to fight on but like it or not the war was over. At the start there were one hundred and eleven men in Company A. There were

about forty more replacements during the conflict. At the end, Private Isaac Thompkins was one of only thirty-two left. The others were either killed, severely wounded, died of disease or were captured by the union forces. At last, the men of the Ninth Texas headed west in small groups. Most likely Isaac and young Thomas Burns, of Company I, were in the same group since Isaac made a stop at the Burns home on Blackjack Creek, in Titus County. Thomas was one of eight children of Frius Burns, a wheel maker who had moved to Titus County from Missouri around 1850. Thomas had a younger sister, Mary Angeline Burns, born in 1853. Four years after this meeting, Isaac and Mary were married on September 19, 1869. She was 16 years old and he was 41.

They would make their home on the black prairie land north of the Trinity River between Dallas and Fort Worth. Isaac purchased enough land from **William Haley** to make a decent living raising cattle. It was during this period that Isaac dropped the "h" from his name. Between 1872 and 1894 there would be ten children.

Isaac made a good life for his family on the prairie of North Texas working the land and raising cattle. He died on January 12, 1897 at the age of 68. He was buried on his land, which the family continued to work for many years. Mary was to outlive five of her ten children, passing away on October 19, 1938 at the age of 85. She along with three of their children are buried in the family cemetery.

As a reminder, this family cemetery sits adjacent to the East bound side of Highway 183, between the highway and the access road, just past the Valley View exit.

<http://wikimapia.org/4660098/Tompkins-Cemetery>

As discussed in an earlier newsletter, children from the Tompkins and Haley family were to marry and make important contributions to the City of Irving. So, as you drive along Highway 183, mentally pause and remember that over a hundred years ago, Isaac's cattle roamed this same land.

The Shorpy site is a collection of photographs, some of which go back to the Civil War time period. There are many pictures made during the 1920s-30s showing the effects of the depression.

<http://www.shorpy.com/node?page=1>