



Irving Genealogical Society

April 2010

Irving, Texas

Volume 18, Number 04

Officers:

President:	Eve Kellogg
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Secretary:	Barb Tsirigotis
Treasurer:	Melba Johnson
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Matthews

IGS Homepage - <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txigs/>

DUES!

Have you paid your dues yet? Our yearly dues for 2010, which are \$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

April 12th Board of Directors meeting – 7pm. Genealogy Section at the Library, 3rd Floor. All members are welcome.

April 19th *General Meeting – 7pm 1st Floor, Central Irving Library – Speaker: Elizabeth “Liz” Covington is going to be telling the Living History Story of “Isabella Clark Gordon”, 1st Lady of Clarksville, Texas.*

Next Month

May 10th Board of Directors meeting – 7pm. Genealogy Section at the Library, 3rd Floor. All members are welcome.

May 17th *General Meeting – 7pm 1st Floor, Central Irving Library – Speaker: Sandra Crowley “Wow, Whoa, Yikes!”*

The Internet offers a plethora of information for genealogists. Is it reliable? Find out which sites you can count on, which must be used with caution and which should be avoided. Take a tour with this guide to using the Internet for your family research.

The IGS sends it best wishes to Joe Sissom for a speedy recovery!

Future

Aug 18-20 **FGS Conference** - If you find yourself in the area of Knoxville TN around August 18th through the 20th, stop by the Knoxville Convention Center for Rediscovering America's First Frontier also known as the Federation of Genealogical Societies annual conference. This year's conference is co-hosted by the East Tennessee Historical Society and the Kentucky Historical Society. Speakers include J. Mark Lowe, Kent Whitworth, Curt Witcher, Russell Baker, Thomas W. Jones, Elizabeth Shown Mills, and many many more. This year's conference offers unique opportunities for anyone interested in family history and genealogy, including a redesigned "Focus on Societies" day, workshops, lectures, luncheons, banquets, and other activities. Program brochures are available in the genealogy section of the Irving Public Library. You may also visit the website at fgs.org.

November 4-6 Texas State Genealogical Society's 50th Annual Conference. For more information visit the TSGS website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs/> .

Honor Your Ancestors

...with a donation for much needed genealogical research materials. The Irving Genealogical Society and the Irving Public Library will purchase research materials for the Genealogy and Local History Section of the library.

Each item purchased will be identified with a beautiful bookplate acknowledging your ancestor and your gift.

Send your donation to:

Irving Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 170881
Irving, TX 75017-0881

Be sure to include your name, your ancestor's name and dates of birth and death if known.

Another Honor Your Ancestors Donation

Through the generous donation of J. D. Bayne, the Society has purchased *Alabama 1850 Agricultural and Manufacturing Census* by Linda L. Green, for the genealogy section of the Irving Public Library.

Estate Sale Books

The following books were purchased from the estate of former IGS member Grace Lynch by Bill Matthews and Barbara Tsirigotis and were donated to the Irving Public Library.

- *Newspaper Obituaries for Cherokee County, Texas – Volume I and II*
- *1910 Federal Census Cherokee County, Texas*
- *Cherokee County, Texas Death Records (1903-1945)*
- *Marriages of Mobile County, Alabama*
- *The Kecks of Claiborne County, Tennessee*
- *1894 City Directory of Pine Bluff, Arkansas*
- *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor*
- *Rosalie and Radishes – A History of Long Beach, Ms*
- *Cherokee County, Texas – History*
- *The Heritage of Morgan County, Alabama*
- *The Heritage of Morgan County, Alabama*
- *Morgan County Alabama Cemeteries Vol. 1 and 2*
- *The History of Jackson County Mississippi*

New books in Irving Public Library Local History and Genealogy, April 2010

- Alderman, Pat. *One Heroic Hour at King's Mountain*. Overmountain Press. 1990
- Awbrey, Jon Anthony. *Legends of Dublin: Personalities of the Irish Capital of Texas*. The Dublin Citizen. 2009
- Bowen, Jeff. *Eastern Cherokee by Blood 1906-1910: volume IX Applications 30,200-34,185*. Clearfield. 2008
- Bacon, Dolores. *Old New England Churches*. Doubleday, Page. 1906
- Christoph, Florence. *Upstate New York in the 1760s*. Picton Press. 1991
- Clute, J.J. *Annals of Staten Island, from its Discovery to the Present Time*. Heart of Lakes. 1877, 1986.
- Davis, Virginia Lee Hutcheson. *Albemarle Parish Vestry Book, 1742-1786*. Clearfield, 2005
- Dubose, Henry Kershaw. *The History of Company B, Twenty-first Regiment (Infantry) South Carolina Volunteers: Confederate States Provisional Army*. University of South Carolina Press. 1909, 2009
- Ford, Gus L. *Texas Cattle Brands*. Clyde C. Cockrell. 1936
- Davis, Graham. *Land! Irish Pioneers in Mexican and Revolutionary Texas*. Texas A&M. 2002
- Hughes, Anne E. *The Beginning of Spanish Settlement in the El Paso District*. University of California Press. 1914
- *Indorsed Land Records in the Office of the Secretary of the State of New York 1643-1803*. Harbor Hill Books. 1987
- Klein, Margaret C. *Tombstone Inscriptions of Orange County, Virginia*. Clearfield, 1979
- Manning, Stephen Neal. *Texans Touched by World War II*. Republic of Texas Press. 2003
- National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. *Pierce's Register*. Genealogical Publishing. 1915, 1987
- Selcer, Richard F. *Fort Worth Characters*. University of North Texas Press. 2009
- Virga, Vincent. *Texas: Mapping the Lone Star State through History*. Morris. 2010
- *Virginia County Records: Westmoreland County*. Clearfield. 1914, 2001
- Wooster, Ralph A. *Lone Star Generals in Gray*. Eakin Press. 2000

Which Way Did They Go and Why?

Did you ever wonder why great grandpa suddenly moved the family to another state in the summer of 1862? The family had lived in the same place for 17 years, raised crops and livestock, formed bonds with their neighbors and birthed children. So why pick up and leave after making such an enormous investment in life?

When this question arises, put the family research aside and focus on the community, county and state. Check any available farm reports, area histories and most certainly newspapers from the time period. It's very possible there was some major disaster that precipitated a mass exodus from the area. Compare the census records prior to and just after your family's move. You may notice that many of their neighbors moved with them.

Quakers, for instance, did not engage in war so many of them moved to a state that did not have a draft system. Influenza and cholera epidemics prompted some to move in the hope of escaping sickness and death. A long drought, blizzards, a prairie fire, swarms of grasshoppers may have wiped out the crops and killed livestock causing people to move on in search of food and a new beginning.

We sometimes strap on the blinders when we are searching a particular family name. Don't forget to study the area where they lived. It can help to add depth to your ancestor's life.

Baptist History Resource

This Website was begun over five years ago. There is a lot of Baptist history available but much of it has been limited to special library collections before the Internet became so accessible. It has been expanded over the past year and has some very good information on the site; many of these documents have had limited distribution. Information has come from various places including the Southern Baptist Seminary Library in Louisville, which has a "gold mine" of Baptist history. The webmaster is Jim Duval, a member of the J. H. Spencer Historical Society

There are now nearly a thousand documents on the site. They are an eclectic assortment; their quality is uneven — some are well-written articles while others are less so. Some are very important, some not so important. For some, the documents are left "as they are" - the grammar and spelling of the original are retained. Also included are some older Baptist history books that aren't generally located on other Internet sites. All are in the "public domain"

<http://baptisthistoryhomepage.com/index>

The following is taken from a set of emails sent by the Editor's wife. What do you remember?

Do You Remember? By Linda Matthews

Did you ever get a Tonette Permanent? Or put playing cards on the spokes of your bike? Or play jacks with a golf ball? I spent a lot of time doing that and was never able to complete the game. Did you play endless games of Canasta? (My brothers always cheated on me so I never won and hate games today because of that.)

Did you play 52-card pickup? Did you ever pick cotton? Did you watch Ed Sullivan? And where did you first hear of Elvis? My friend wore out her record of "I want to be your Teddy Bear". My mother always threatened to spank me when we got home from Church (I assume I was talking as usual) --and she did.

Did your mother do crafts like making metal trays that they painted the design with black paint and acid etched the tray? My mother was in garden club and spent a lot of time making flower arrangements. We went to a fancy department store in Austin and bought chocolate rabbits the day before Easter (It was probably A Harris).

Did you ever get real Easter chicks? The colored ones that looked pitiful when the feathers grew out. Did you ever diaper a duck? My mother diapered our duck when we drove him to his new home on the farm because he kept eating our plants to the ground. She used a kitchen towel for the diaper--he was a good-sized one.

Did you ever get stung by a jellyfish in Galveston (or elsewhere)? Do you remember learning to ride a bike--the day I learned, I was going too fast and fell in the gravel road and skinned my knees badly. We had company that night and I wouldn't come out of my room because I was so miserable. I never learned to skate--I tried on our garage floor that was very rough concrete (we did not have sidewalks where I lived until several years later.

Response 1 – A Friend

I remember going to the grocery store with mom and dad and sitting in the car eating a Popsicle or drinking a soda (always Pepsi) while they shopped and visited. No one worried about the heat because the windows were open because no one worried about us being abducted.

We had real ball and jacks games with bouncy balls and I was quite good at it getting all the way up to "tensies". I remember climbing a sixty foot magnolia tree with a book and reading then getting caught up there when the cows came in close for the shade. I remember playing at the roots of huge trees making tunnels and playing with cars and trucks.

I remember jumping out of haylofts into big piles of loose hay. I remember wading in the creek and catching crawdads. I remember finding miniballs (Civil War bullets) every time dad plowed up mom's 1\2 acre garden. I remember king snakes getting into our house under the outside door of the mudroom/bathroom.

I grew up in a house built in 1836 and the mudroom was a room just off the side porch meant for leaving dirty boots when they came in from the farm but converted into a bathroom in the early 1900's. I remember having the same first grade and seventh grade history and civics teachers that my own dad had.

I remember going to school 12 years in the same building. I remember trying to learn to ride a bicycle flying down the slope that was our front yard without knowing how to stop it. I never did learn. I remember learning to skate and having a good sidewalk to skate on. I remember growing up on a 400-acre farm but still living in the city limits.

Response 2 – Bill Matthews' Older Sister

I remember playing in my grandmother Matthews' front yard. It was full of sand and my brother and cousin and I made roads and tunnels. It was like a giant sandbox. I remember playing jacks during recess. I used the hard ball that was the center of a golf ball, with all the rubber bands cut off.

I remember cutting out paper dolls and playing for hours-we didn't have a TV back then. I remember using my 25-cent allowance on fudgecicles from the ice cream man. I remember walking to grade school with a whole lot of kids from our area. I remember (barely) living for four months with my grandparents Johnston and drinking fresh milk from the cow they had at the back of their lot. I got it "straight" from the cow. yum.

I remember watching my dad crank the ice cream freezer for homemade ice cream and mother adding chopped up fresh peaches. I remember the countless brownies mother made for us. I remember roller-skating on the sidewalk in front of where we lived. I remember watching "I Love Lucy" on a friend's TV (in black & white), then the wrestling show that followed.

Response 3 – Another Friend

I remember Dixie Cups when the lids had pictures of Roy Rogers and other movie stars; Gold Brick candy bar that I bought at Big State Drug after church on Sunday. The ice cream man wore white and he still pushed a cart in Dallas. Going to the State Fair every year and getting free samples in the Food Bldg.

I remember popping bubbles with my big toe on roads that were covered with tar in the summer. Wearing gathered or pleaded skirts and turned up collars, bobby sox and penny loafers, bopping to 45 records, singing 16 Tons by Tennessee Ernie Ford in front of the 7th grade class and I couldn't carry a tune.

I remember the teacher strike in Irving (the first in the US) that ousted the superintendent, seeing the top of Jacqueline Kennedy's pill box hat in the parade and later while eating lunch hearing that Pres. Kennedy was shot and killed. I guess I could go on and on. We sure did love the 50's and our grandparents and parents said that Rock n Roll was going to ruin all of us. I think we all turned out pretty good.

Selected (and perhaps no longer practical) Hints and Tips From a 1950 cookbook published by the Methodist Church in Pottsboro, Texas

- An old tennis racket makes a good carpet beater.
- Wash clean some poke roots and fry in pure lard until very brown. Remove the roots and pour in a bottle. This will heal burns and sores.
- Before putting pots on open fire, smear the outside with grease, soap or a thin film of mud. They will get black but the black will come off easy.
- Sprinkle new shoes inside with talcum powder, they will be more comfortable during the breaking-in process.
- To keep stoppers securely fastened in bottles when traveling, fasten the stopper in with adhesive tape.
- A few cents of powdered orris root put in the wash water will impart a delicate odor to the clothes.
- Add a potato to turnips in cooking to take away any strong taste.
- Juice of one-half a lemon and a teacupful of strong black coffee without sugar often cures a sick headache.

Making Soap

3 tablespoons borax	4 cups cold water
1/4 cup household ammonia	1 cup lye
Mix well	
2 quarts or 8 cups grease	
Beat the above mixture into the grease.	
Pour out into disk and let get firm.	