



Irving Genealogical Society

Feb 2011

Irving, Texas

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

DUES!

Have you paid your dues yet? Our yearly dues, 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

- Feb 15th** Board of Directors meeting – 7pm. Genealogy Section at the Library, 3rd Floor. All members are welcome. **NOTE: Date Change to TUESDAY**
- Feb 21st** General Meeting – 7pm 1st Floor, Central Irving Library – Speaker: *Larry McCarty* His Family History and Connection to Huckleberry Finn (description on page 2)

Next Month

- Mar 14th** Board of Directors meeting – 7pm. Genealogy Section at the Library, 3rd Floor. All members are welcome.
- Mar 21st** General Meeting – 7pm 1st Floor, Central Irving Library – Speaker:

Future

- June 20th** IGS Summer Social
- Dec 13th** IGS Christmas Social – with some “special” guests

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.

WILLIAM ERWIN GARRISON, 12 AUGUST 1925 - 30 DECEMBER 2010

For many years, Bill Garrison and wife Dorothy used their talents generously in contributing to the success of the Irving Genealogical Society.

The book "Residents of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina 1762 - 1790" by Kathleen Marler, has been placed in the Genealogy Collection of Irving Central Library by IGS, in memory of our long-time member and good friend, Bill Garrison.

Bill had the distinction of being a direct descendant of Hezekiah Alexander who was a resident of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Hezekiah Alexander and family members played a major role in the early government of North Carolina, were signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence May 20, 1775, and other activities leading to the American Revolution. Early Masons also used his home for a meeting place. The Hezekiah Alexander home place still exists with historical designation and is open for public tours and instruction.

Larry McCarty - His Family History and Connection to Huckleberry Finn

If you get a chance, re-read Huckleberry Finn before our February 21st meeting. Our guest speaker will truly bring the story to life for us.

In the summer of 2010, Larry McCarty of Grand Prairie, Texas, achieved part of a lifetime goal when he participated in an archeological dig of the John A. Quarles farm on Highway 107, four miles north of Florida, MO. As he walked the ground where his great-grandfather, Harve Quarles, played as a young slave child, smiles won out over tears of emotion that threatened to break his composure.

Harve said he was born in Florida, Missouri, a slave of John Quarles. His daddy's name was Dan and his mammy Hannah. She was blind. He remembered that they had a small room at the back of the house and slept on a bed made from poles and cowhide or deer hide

The biography of Mark Twain said that he spent many happy hours at the home of his Uncle John Quarles listening to songs and folk tales by "Uncle Dan'l and Hannah, a bedridden white-headed slave woman," whom he visited daily. He believed she was upward of a thousand years old and was with Moses when he led the Israelites out of Egypt.

Larry McCarty will share his story, which also became Mark Twain's story of Huckleberry Finn.

ASK DAD: IS THERE BREAST CANCER IN OUR FAMILY?

(FROM RICHARD MONROE)

When it comes to physical traits, such as eye color or body type, women are well aware that these can be inherited from either parent -- but not so many realize that a genetic risk for breast or ovarian cancer is as likely to be passed down from *dad's* side of the family as from mom's.

Most inherited genetic predispositions to breast and ovarian cancers are caused by mutations in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, and men are just as likely as women to pass on these mutations to their children. Yet when researchers at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto examined records from their cancer clinic, they found that women were five times more likely to be referred for genetic counseling due to a *maternal* history than for their *paternal* line.

This has important implications -- not only for women worried about their own health but also for fathers who want to be sure that their daughters are doing all that they can to protect themselves. I contacted Len Lichtenfeld, MD, deputy chief medical officer at the national office of the American Cancer Society in Atlanta, who stressed the importance of learning as much as possible about *both* parents' family history. "Many fathers don't realize that they can be carrying the gene for breast and ovarian cancer," he said, adding the surprising news that many health-care providers don't know this either!

Of the 700,000 women worldwide diagnosed with breast cancer each year, 5% to 10% have a genetic predisposition, usually a mutation in one of the BRCA genes. Women with these mutations have a high risk for breast and/or ovarian cancer (a 55% to 87% risk for breast cancer and a 20% to 44% risk for ovarian cancer). In a commentary on the study published online in the October 25, 2010, issue of *The Lancet Oncology*, the researchers point out that if doctors don't ask about the medical history on the paternal side, women may not realize that they could be at high risk for breast or ovarian cancer, and that could prevent them from seeking genetic testing.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Dr. Lichtenfeld urges women to invest some time into learning their family medical history -- from both sides of the family. Ask questions of your relatives, and follow through to get as much information as you can. Be alert to other cancers connected to breast cancer on your father's side, such as colon and ovarian cancers. "As you get older and relatives pass away, you'll find that the memory of the diseases they had and the causes of death disappear with them," Dr. Lichtenfeld points out. "If you discover a history of breast or ovarian cancer, especially premenopausal, on either side of your family, it's very important to get a consultation with an experienced genetic counselor who will discuss whether a test for the BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation is appropriate and the implications of the results."

To learn more about how to explore your family health history, go to the Web site for the Surgeon General's Family Health History Initiative, www.hhs.gov/familyhistory. You will be able to create, store and share an electronic record -- and keep it confidential -- for free. It may be the best thing you've ever done for yourself -- and your family.

Source(s):

J. Leonard Lichtenfeld, MD, deputy chief medical officer, American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org.

Texline 265: Proposed Budget Demolishes Statewide Library Programs

Posted: January 19, 2011- Published on *Texas Library Association* (<http://www.txla.org>)

I. Proposed Budget Demolishes Statewide Library Programs

The first draft of the State's budget proposal for 2012-13 affects every statewide library program. The proposal:

- **Eliminates** Loan Star Libraries (direct aid grants to public libraries)
- **Eliminates** all state funding for TexShare databases (replaces state funding for databases with increased fees to member libraries)
- **Eliminates** the K-12 Database program
- **Eliminates** the Library System Negotiated Grants Program (the new competitive grant program started last session for systems)
- **Eliminates** state funding for consulting services to libraries (program/staff based at the agency)
- **Eliminates** state funding for state depository program and TRAIL program
- **Eliminates** state funding for records management (replaces state funding with increased fees)
- Assumes an overall loss of over \$8 million in IMLS funds (Note: federal funding is the source of funding for the regional library systems, the TANG program, and interlibrary loan.)
- **Eliminates** the Technology Allotment at TEA.
- **Eliminates** funding for the State Law Library (**updated item: 1/20/11**)

This budget shows a 99% decrease in state funding for statewide local library aid programs and a 93% state cut to library resource sharing programs at the State Library. Overall, the agency cuts amount to about a 70% cut in state funds and an all funds reduction about a third of the agency's budget.

From the perspective of investing in communities, helping kids learn, spurring job placement, and maintaining a dynamic infrastructure for research and digital literacy through our libraries, this budget completely fails the people of Texas. For libraries, these recommendations not only potentially destroy almost every facet of critical statewide library services; they speak to a philosophy dismissive of supporting individuals and communities.

While this budget is just the starting point for deliberations, it is a frightening portent of the potential implosion of our state's infrastructure for learning and economic development.

We must not let this stand. It is not just our funding over the next two years that is in danger -- it is the vital understanding of libraries and their role in offering education, providing meaningful and proven support to our economy and institutions of learning, and speaking to a state of vitality.

We need everyone to speak out for libraries. We need every library supporter to inundate their state representative and senator, the Governor, and the Lt. Governor with letters expressing the incredible damage these cuts would cause. We have a long and hard fight ahead of us, but it is one we must undertake.

II. What You Can Do

Here is what you can do...

Call your state representative and senator and tell them not to cut library funding. Be prepared to make the case for your library and the impact it has on your community and students.

Develop an awareness campaign within your community. Start marshaling your resources and get your army of supporters mobilized for action.

Inform people around you -- administrators, community powerbrokers, student groups, PTAs. Show them how they can save state funding for libraries. Ask them to speak and write to elected officials.

Write letters to the editor; contact your local media about library funding.

Above all: show up for duty! This is a cause for each and every one of us, regardless of political affiliation. We all want the same thing -- a strong Texas with strong libraries. If there was ever a time we needed library supporters to be proactive and aggressive in their support for libraries, THE TIME IS NOW.

Fight for our libraries. Let's not undo a generation of progress!

Monday, January 17th - Library Planning Meeting

Several members of the IGS attended the first planning meeting for the new library to be built across 2nd Street from the fountain. The purpose of this meeting was to show attendees different scenarios and designs from around the world in the hope of stirring up questions and ideas from library patrons. Another meeting will be held later in the year when architects will present drawings and patrons can present more specific requests.

One of our specific requests is always varying degrees of privacy and quiet – segregate sound:

- Kids play area
- Young teens & computers – study rooms
- General patrons
- Researchers – genealogists

As we were about to launch into our specific needs for the genealogy section of the new library, the Library rep mentioned that, *at this time*, they are considering leaving the Local History and Genealogy section of the library in the current building. That building would also house the archives, meeting rooms and a museum. This presents a new set of concerns we will have to address at the next meeting (planned for the fall of 2011).

- Will we still be able to hold our meetings in the auditorium or a similar space within the facility after business hours?
- Will we be able to access the library during the evening hours and on weekends?
- What will the hours be?
- Will there be staffing?
- Will the collection still be located in the same area?

Think about this and bring any questions or thoughts you may have to the next meeting. We will keep a record of those ideas and present them at the fall meeting.

We are very happy that the IGS has been invited to include our suggestions and specific needs for the new facility and look forward to growing with the Irving Public Library.

Family History Fair - I Love My Ancestors

March 5, 2011 -Arlington Stake Center - 3809 Curt Drive -817-446-7088

Pre-registration is not required, but is requested for logistical purposes. Conference begins at 9:00 a.m. There will be two plenary sessions and four class periods with a choice of 24 classes. A lunch break is scheduled from 11:50 am to 12:30 pm.

There is no charge for the conference, but there is a nominal fee for the syllabus on CD and lunch. You are, however, welcome to bring your own lunch.

Registrations for syllabus on CD and lunch orders must be received by February 25, 2011. Call 817-446-7088 for further details.

Texas Facts

Just Texas

- Pep, Tx 79353
- Smiley, Tx 78159
- Paradise, Tx 76073
- Rainbow, Tx 76077
- Sweet Home, Tx 77987
- Comfort , Tx 78013
- Friendship, Tx 76530

Why travel to other cities?

Texas has them all!

- Detroit, Tx 75436
- Cleveland, Tx 75436
- Colorado City, Tx 79512
- Denver City, Tx 79323
- Klondike, Tx 75448
- Pittsburg, Tx 75686
- Newark, Tx 76071
- Nevada, Tx 75173
- Memphis, Tx 79245
- Miami, Tx 79059
- Boston, Tx 75570
- Santa Fe, Tx 77517
- Tennessee Colony, Tx 75861
- Reno, Tx 75462
- Pasadena, Tx 77506
- Columbus, Tx 78934

Like to read about History?

- Santa Anna, Tx 76878
- Goliad, Tx 77963
- Alamo, Tx 78516
- Gun Barrel City, Tx 75156
- Robert Lee , Tx 76945

Need Office Supplies?

- Staples, Tx 78670

Other city names in Texas , to make you smile.....

- Frognot, Tx 75424
- Bigfoot, Tx 78005
- Hogeye, Tx 75423
- Cactus, Tx 79013
- Notrees, Tx 79759
- Best, Tx 76932
- Veribest, Tx 76886

Love the sun?

- Sun City, Tx 78628
- Sunrise, Tx 76661
- Sunset, Tx 76270
- Sundown, Tx 79372
- Sunray, Tx 79086
- Sunny Side, Tx 77423

Feel like traveling outside the country?

- Athens, Tx 75751
- Canadian, Tx 79014
- China , Tx 77613
- Dublin, Tx 76446
- Egypt, Tx 77436
- Ireland, Tx 76538
- Italy, Tx 76538
- Turkey, Tx 79261
- London, Tx 76854
- New London, Tx 75682
- Paris, Tx 75460
- Palestine, Tx 75801

We have a city named after our state:

- Texas City, Tx 77590

Want to go into outer space?

- Venus , Tx 76084
- Mars , Tx 79062

You guessed it. It's on the state line.

- Texline , Tx 79087

And last but not least, the Anti-Al Gore City

- Kilgore, Tx 75662

And our favorites...

- Cut and Shoot, Tx 77303
- Gun Barrel City , Tx 75147
- Ding Dong, Texas
- West, Texas (it's in Central Texas)

and, of course:

- Muleshoe, Tx 79347

Here are some little known, very interesting facts about Texas .

- Beaumont to El Paso : 742miles.
- Beaumont to Chicago : 770 miles.
- El Paso is closer to California than to Dallas .
- World's first rodeo was in Pecos, July 4, 1883.
- The Flagship Hotel in Galveston is the only hotel in North America built over water. Destroyed by Hurricane Ike - 2008!
- The Heisman Trophy was named after John William Heisman who was the first full-time coach at Rice University in Houston .
- Brazoria County has more species of birds than any other area in North America.
- Aransas Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of North America 's only remaining flock of whooping cranes.
- Jalapeno jelly originated in Lake Jackson in 1978.
- The worst natural disaster in U.S. history was in 1900, caused by a hurricane in which over 8,000 lives were lost on Galveston Island .
- The first word spoken from the moon, July 20, 1969, was " Houston ," but the Space Center was actually in Clear Lake City at the time.
- King Ranch in South Texas is larger than Rhode Island .
- Tropical Storm Claudette brought a U.S. rainfall record of 43" in 24 hours in and around Alvin in July of 1979.
- Texas is the only state to enter the U.S. by TREATY, (known as the Constitution of 1845 by the Republic of Texas to enter the Union) instead of by annexation. This allows the Texas Flag to fly at the same height as the U.S. Flag, and may divide into 5 states.
- A Live Oak tree near Fulton is estimated to be 1500 years old.

- Kickapoo, Tx 75763
- Dime Box, Tx 77853
- Old Dime Box, Tx 77853
- Telephone, Tx 75488
- Telegraph, Tx 76883
- Whiteface, Tx 79379
- Twitty, Tx 79079

No need to travel to Washington D.C.

- Whitehouse, Tx 75791

We even have a city named after our planet!

- Earth, Tx 79031

Exhausted?

- Energy, Tx 76452

Cold?

- Blanket, Tx 76432
- Winters, Tx 79567

For the kids...

- Kermit, Tx 79745
- Elmo, Tx 75118
- Nemo, Tx 76070
- Tarzan, Tx 79783
- Winnie, Tx 77665
- Sylvester, Tx 79560

Want something to eat?

- Bacon, Tx 76301
- Noodle, Tx 79536
- Oatmeal, Tx 78605
- Turkey, Tx 79261
- Trout, Tx 75789
- Sugar Land, Tx 77479
- Salty, Tx 76567
- Rice, Tx 75155
- Pearland, Tx 77581
- Orange, Tx 77630

And top it off with:

- Sweetwater , Tx 79556

- Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.
- Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. There is no period in Dr Pepper.
- The Capitol Dome in Austin is the only dome in the U.S., which is taller than the Capitol building in Washington , DC (by 7 feet).
- The San Jacinto (pronounced y'ceento) Monument is the tallest free standing monument in the world and it is taller than the Washington Monument .
- The name ' Texas ' comes from the Hasini Indian word 'tejas' meaning friends. Tejas is not Spanish for Texas .
- The State Mascot is the Armadillo. An interesting bit of trivia about the armadillo is they always have four babies. They have one egg, which splits into four, and they either have four males or four females. (Armadillo is what Aggies have on the half-shell.)
- The first domed stadium in the U.S. was the Astrodome in Houston
- Texas has had six capital cities:
 1. Washington-on-the Brazos
 2. Harrisburg
 3. Galveston
 4. Velasco
 5. West Columbia
 6. and now: Austin .