

Irving Genealogical Society

June 2011

Irving, Texas

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Officers:

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Program Director:	Melba Johnson
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Treasurer:	Dorsey Denton
Newsletter Editor:	Bill Matthews
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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

Jun 20th IGS Member Annual June Social – See Article

Next Month

Jul 11th Board of Directors meeting – 7pm. Genealogy Section at the Library, 3rd Floor. All members are welcome.

Jul 18th 20th Anniversary Meeting – 7pm 1st Floor, Central Irving Library – Speaker: Aaron Holt – National Archives

Future

Sep 29-Oct 10 Los Bexareños 32nd Annual Texas Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Conference - at the Marriott Plaza San Antonio Hotel, at 555 S. Alamo St.

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.

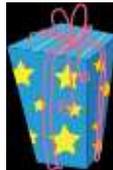
Send your donation to:

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.

Annual June Social

It's almost time for the IGS Annual June Social - this year, with a little something different. Friends, fellowship, food and a door prize!



Monday, June 20th

6:30 p.m.

Jaycee Center for the Arts

Bring a covered dish to share and an appetite! Don't forget to contact Eva, our event coordinator, to let her know what you will be bringing: erlekel@verizon.net
The evening won't be complete without you!



The Great Scrapbook Abduction of 2011

Barbara Tsirigotis

It was a dark and gloomy night inside the public library - not a pleasant place to be when the lights are out. But that was my fate. I am the scrapbook of the Irving Genealogical Society. I hold a collection of pictures, newspaper articles and such gathered through the years by long-time members like Martha Hardin, Mary K. Weber, Dot Garrison and, more recently, by Joe Sissom. Following Joe's death, Mrs. Sissom bundled me up with some of Joe's research books and dropped me off at the library. She intended for one of the IGS members to pick me up. Eva thought Barb picked me up. Barb thought Joyce picked me up. Joyce thought Bill picked me up. But no one came for me.

Days passed, weeks, and months and still no one came. Did they not miss me? Occasionally an IGS member would stop by to research; but, no one seemed to know I was there. So much time passed, in fact, that the library staff forgot why I was there. Then, one day in late April 2011, a staff member came into the genealogy library to collect a group of recently purchased books to be processed. As the books were scooped up and put on the cart, I was roughly grabbed and placed on the cart as well. I lay there helpless – squished between a book about Early North Carolina Settlers and some heathen book about Ridge Runners of West Virginia. I felt so violated. The cart began to roll, then faster and faster – over a bumpy gap into the elevator. Oh no! Could I be headed to Processing along with all the others? But I'm different! I'm not like these other books! I have a different purpose in life!

Down two floors, down a long hallway and into a room few people ever see. There, my front cover was opened and my inside cover was viciously stamped DO NOT CIRCULATE in red ink. Red!?! I would never wear red. Then, I saw a small black and white tab being applied to each book. When it came my turn I held tight to my front cover, but alas, my back cover was ripped open and without a please or thank you, a magnetic tag was shoved up my....affixed to my back cover. The deed was done and I was doomed...doomed to be an average book on an average bookshelf.

But wait, there's a rumor going round. I heard talk of members of the IGS looking for me. Finally! "Over Here! I'm in the library! Talk to Mary! Mary can find me!"

Tie seemed to crawl at a snail's pace; but finally, Mary came for me. She tucked me gently inside the deep desk drawer in the genealogy library. I heard her give instructions to the librarian. Someone is coming for me at last! The librarian was to see that I got into the hands of the IGS member. This would be the longest day of my life.

I know I heard thunder and saw lightening through the slit of an opening at the top of the drawer. It was getting dark again. Another day was passing. Then...voices. The drawer was being pulled open. I was blinded by the florescent light overhead. Judy was reaching for me. Could it be? Yes, there's Barb! Oh happy day – I'm back in the arms of the IGS again – ready for a new chapter. It felt good to back in familiar arms. Not even the elevator ride or the bouncing around bothered me. Wait, what was that? Why are we stopping? Oh, yes, there's the matter of that magnetic tag they shoved up my....

GENEALOGY AFTER DARK

Join assistant director, information services Diana Houston for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's Genealogy After Dark program, "Looking for Vital Records in the Texas Family Heritage Research Center." Research and reference materials will be available to registrants between 7:45 and 9:45 p.m.

Date: Friday, Jun. 24, 2011 - Time: 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Where: Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building, 1201 Brazos St., Austin

Fee: \$10

Space is limited and advance registration is required; the deadline is Jun. 17. To register, complete this form and submit it with a check payable to the Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas, P.O. Box 12983, Austin TX 78711.

For more information, e-mail geninfo@tsl.state.tx.us or call (512) 463-5455. - ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION - Formed in 1909, TSLAC is committed to giving Texans access to information and programs they can use to improve their lives and communities. We provide historical and genealogical search assistance, federal and state government documents, electronic research and library services to all Texans, including those who are unable to read standard print material because of physical or reading disabilities. For more information, visit www.tsl.state.tx.us

Ask For a Copy of the Ledger Page

Many of us while researching write to various government institutions, such as court houses, looking for information to prove our ancestry. Some of the most common requests are for copies of birth, marriage, or death certificates. There is nothing wrong with such requests but you must realize that many of these items are not recorded as certificates. Many are just recorded as entries in a large ledger book. When you request a "copy of a certificate" the person in the courthouse goes to the ledger, copies the requested information and enters the data into whatever standard form is currently being used at that particular courthouse, etc.

This method allows for transcription errors and usually supplies only the very basic information such as names, date, and place where the event took place. But, if you ask for a photocopy of the page in the ledger where the information was originally recorded you will receive the information as recorded and you may receive much more information than what is placed on the standard certificate.

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How To Properly Use A Search Engine For Genealogy

I. Which search engine is best? There are literally dozens and dozens of engines. It isn't necessary to know or use every search engine. A small handful of engines handle the vast majority of all web traffic. Below are the Big Five along with the approximate percentage of web queries each handles.

1. Google - 35%
2. Yahoo - 28%
3. MSN - 16%
4. AOL - 15%
5. Ask Jeeves - 3%

These five search engines account for approximately 97% of all web searches. All the dozens of remaining search engines are not worth your time playing with.

<http://www.google.com/>

<http://search.yahoo.com/>

<http://www.bing.com/default.aspx?FORM=salghm>

<http://search.aol.com/aol/webhome>

<http://www.ask.com/>

Why not just stick to Google alone?

Before a webpage shows up in a search engine, that engine must first go out and find it. And there are many webpages on the Internet that are not listed yet in any search engine. Some pages are listed in some search engines but not others.

Currently, Google states that it lists four billion pages. Only three billion of these have been sorted by topic, (a task known as "indexing"), so effectively we can say Google makes available about three billion webpages of information to us. That's roughly half of all the webpages that are out there. Yahoo also claims it has about three billion pages indexed. Using these two together should provide access to most of the seven or eight billion webpages that can be found on the Internet.

Enclosing two or more words in quotation marks causes the search engine to look for that exact phrase. Narrowing down the search terms too much can cause too few search returns. Use the Advanced Search can narrow your search by eliminating words that can cause hits that are not applicable to your search.

Excerpted from <http://www.leathersfamilygenealogy.com>

Last, But Not Least

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 8 Jun 2011, Vol. 14, No. 6: Honesty is the Best Policy - When registering for the 1863 US Civil War draft, Chester Sackett, 34, of Brown Township, Paulding Co., OH, was described as a "loafer". Either he was a very honest young man or maybe it was his wife who answered the door to the enumerator.