



March 1, 2012

Sharon Wilson

1940 Census Question and Answer Session

Sharon Wilson has enjoyed conducting genealogy research since 1975 when challenged by a great aunt to learn what became of the aunt's grandfather, who never returned home from the Civil War. With that mystery solved Sharon was hooked. Sharon has had articles published in several periodicals as well as genealogy quarterly publications and family newsletters. Recently her article on the April 2012 release of the 1940 Census was a series in the GPGS monthly newsletter "Roots 'N' Branches". For this month's program Sharon will hold a Question and Answer session concerning 1940 census research. Ms. Wilson is a member of several genealogical societies including Grand Prairie and the National Genealogical Society. In 2011 she completed her genealogy compilation on the Grand Prairie family of Sam Small which was donated to the library and can be found in the genealogy room. When not conducting genealogy research she volunteers for the Lutheran Braille Workers, a group that produce the Bible in Braille in English and other languages. She also volunteers as a transcriber on the LDS Indexing Project and the GPGS scrapbook project and is an avid knitter.

Karen Schrader, Vice President of Programs

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Refreshments provided by
John & Bonnie Cockrum
and Richard Waller

***Meetings held the first Thursday of each month
in the Great Room located on the
East end of the main library.
Visitors are always welcome!***

GRAND PRAIRIE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
901 Conover Drive Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

Visit our redesigned website:

www.gpgstx.org

From the Gavel~

If you have still not had time to go through our new website, now would be a great time. The home page has great pictures of our hard working Cemetery Committee. Our Webmistress Pam has done a great job with all of the many areas on our new website. Members, we need you to fill in your surnames and family information. It would be exciting to see if or how many members had ancestors in the same locations during the same time periods. We will never know unless we get started filling our surname pages. Make sure you let all of us know at the March meeting all the great things that happen at our Lock-in this past 24th.

Cynthia Jones
President

Member News

Best wishes and get well soon to our president Cynthia Jones who is recovering from a broken leg.

Fundraiser Schedule

Thursday
March 8, 2012
5-8 pm Dine In or Carry Out
Carino's Italian Resturant
I-20 in Grand Prairie

Thursday
April 12, 2012
Lunch or Dinner Dine In or Carry Out
Chili's I-20 & Carrier
412 Westchase Dr.

Feeding Our Roots

GPGS in Cyberspace

While many genealogical societies today are dwindling or dying, GPGS is doing the one thing that earmarks the success of a society. That is embracing technology. Our new website is up and running but it is still growing. You will want to check it out often because there is so much to learn and there is always something new being added.

At the last general meeting we discussed how to log-in to the members section of the website. If you missed that or have forgotten or have trouble getting into the website, please contact me. You can send me an email by going to the Contact page.

During this month's report I will take a few minutes to cover how our new website is helping us to touch the world. We understand the power of technology when we go online to do some research. But just what part does our little society play in that big world of cyberspace? More than you think. Beginning this month and in the months to come, we will be discussing the many different aspects of the website and how it can help you and others.

The most important thing to remember as we start this new journey is to remember that this is YOUR website. It is your society and our success depends on you. GPGS has become an active and growing society and your input and help are needed so we can grow; grow our website; grow in knowledge and grow in number. You have a voice and we want you to use it.

Pamela F. Knight
Webmistress

Collections Near Us

The University of Texas at Arlington Library - Special Collections

This Special Collection is housed at the Central Library of the University of Texas at Arlington which is located at 702 Planetarium Place, Arlington Texas

It is recommended that you review the university libraries website: <http://www.uta.edu/library/spco/index.php> and its rules before venturing to the library. Researchers are strongly encouraged to call in advance of their visit. Phone number is 817-272-3393. You may be required to post a request for documents in which case the school will notify you when the item is ready for your review.

The Handling and Use Guidelines for the special collections can be found at: <http://www.uta.edu/library/spco/handling.php>.

This is a valuable tool and it is recommended you read thru it if you find an item you wish to review in person.

The Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) simple search for the term "Grand Prairie" in the University of Texas, Arlington Special Collection found 363 documents. (No, I have not explored these documents). This search tool can be found at [<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/>] Other schools are also included in this database so you will need to select University of Texas Arlington when researching.

The Special Collection includes Cartographic Collection; Digital Collections; Historical Manuscript Collections; Photographs and Graphics; Print Collection; Spanish Language Collections; Texas Labor Archives; and Texas Political History Collection; Special Collections' March 2012

Cartography holdings are housed in the Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library, which was established in 1978. Thousands of maps and atlases are included in this collection, dating from 1493 to the present.

The following is a sample of the maps found in this cartographic collection:

Young, J. H. New Map of Texas with the Contiguous American & Mexican States. Philadelphia: Augustus Mitchell, 1836.

Gray, Frank A. Gray's New Map of Texas and Indian Territory. Philadelphia: O. W. Gray and Son, 1876.

Arrowsmith, John. Map of Texas. London: J. Arrowsmith, 1841.

Williams, H.T. Williams' New Trans-Continental Map of the Pacific R.R. and Routes of Overland Travel to Colorado, Nebraska, The Black Hills, Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, California and the Pacific Coast. New York: Adam & Bishop, 1877.

The Digital Collections and Exhibits is divided as follows: Overview; A Continent Divided; Birds and Watchers; Cartographic Connections; Reeder Children's Theater; Tejano Voices; Time Frames and W. D. Smith.

The Historical Manuscripts Collections - is focused primarily on 19th and 20th century Texas and Mexican history. This includes the U.S. War with Mexico. This collection is primarily personal papers, family collections and organizational records.

The Photographs and Graphics include materials such as prints, negatives, slides and glass plates. This collection includes the commercial work of photographers such as Jack White, Basil Clemons, Squire Haskins, William S. Wood, W. D. Smith and J. S. Dunlop. This major collection includes work

Workshops/Conferences

from the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, the *Arlington Citizen-Journal* and the *Forth Worth News-Tribune*. Photographs from various family and labor union collections are housed in this collection. Postcards also fall in this category.

The Print Collection encompasses books, printed graphics and other formats and are non-circulating items. These must be used on site in the UTA Central Library. Categories for this collection include: Texas History, The U.S. War with Mexico (1846-1848); Mexican History; Cartographic History and More.

The Spanish Language Collections have original manuscripts and microfilm covering an extensive and divers Mexican and Spanish language collection dating from 1554 to the 1950s.

The Texas Labor Archives - houses archival material from union locals and labor councils; statewide labor organizations; union political groups; district and regional offices of international unions; and legal firms specializing in labor law. There are also personal papers of union officials. The dates range from 1870 to the present. In addition there are oral history interviews of more than 200 men and women union leaders or labor activists.

The Texas Political History Collection concentrates on 20th century political officials from the North and Central Texas area. This collection includes a series of interview by Dr. Allan Saze with prominent Arlington politicians.

Sharon A. Wilson
GPGS Member



Arlington Family History Center
Presents

2nd Annual Family History Fair
Searching the World
From Musty Books to Digital Records

Saturday March 3th, 2012
8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

<http://www.arlingtontxfhc.org/>

Mid-Cities Genealogical Society

Presents

A Day With Dick Eastman

March 17, 2011

Euless, Texas

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txmcgs/>

Dallas Genealogical Society

presents

Exploring Connections

D. Joshua Taylor

March 24, 2012

Dallas, Texas

Scottish Heritage Festival

May 4-6, 2012

Maverick Stadium

University of Texas at Arlington

Arlington, Texas

Genealogy Assistance

Genealogy Assistance at the Main Library

Volunteers from the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society will be available at the Main Library's Local History Room at 901 Conover Drive to assist with family history research. Just starting out? Learn basic researching skills to get started. More experienced? Brainstorm with other researchers for new ideas and approaches.

This service is available on:

2nd Monday of the month, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

3rd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

4th Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m. to noon

The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society meets monthly in the large meeting room at the East end of the Grand Prairie Memorial Library at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

Scrapbook Indexing

I look forward to serving the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society as Chairperson for the Scrapbook Indexing Project. This is an exciting project as the scrapbooks are from a variety of sources and the result of our work will provide a valuable source for not only the GPGS but for researchers that may have a connection to Grand Prairie. Watch for future announcements on ways you can help with this great GPGS project.

Sharon Wilson
Scrapbook Project Chair

Library Liaison

Great news folks!

The Library is now actively seeking any and all school yearbooks and alumni directories. We recently had three donated. I learned in a discussion with Kathy, that they'll take all that we're willing to donate. Genealogists across the country are learning the value of these books, As we work to add flesh to the bones of our pedigrees, the high school or college photos of our ancestors as young people are invaluable. An even greater find in one of these books is a photo showing Granny jumping rope or grandpa as a baseball player. Alumni directories tell us about occupation, families and even the recreational lives of our people. There's no limit here, If you have ANY you're willing to donate, just get them to me. They do not need to be from Grand Prairie, or even a Texas location.

Don't limit your donations to just yearbooks. If you have old Church or civic organizations directories, they have great value too. Those that contain current information are placed in the closed stacks and are available upon request.

One small favor, please place a brief note on a loose piece of paper in the book with your name and the name of anyone you would like to honor or memorialize with your gift. This will be added to the donation bookplate by the Library.

John Wylie
Library Liaison

Jocularity

Harry Edsel Smith of Albany, New York:
Born 1903--Died 1942

Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down. It was.

2012 Lock-In Report

Thirty-one people—including fellow researchers from the Arlington Genealogical Society, the Mid-Cities Genealogical Society, our own members, and a few people who don't yet belong to any genealogical society—registered for the GPGS 2012 Lock-In Friday evening at the Grand Prairie Memorial Library.

Special thanks to:

- Kathy Ritterhouse and Jennifer Walker for staffing the library on their day off without extra pay.
- Pam Knight, who demonstrated our updated GPGS website at the Lock-In and gathered door prizes from local businesses and vendors of genealogical resources. See gpgstx.org for a list of donors and door prizes.
- Becky and Beau Garland for managing refreshments.
- John Tull, Teni Savage, Glen and Jean Simpson for obtaining assorted items for the Goodie Bags.
- Howard McCalla for the added work that comes with being GPGS Treasurer during an event like this.
- Regina Shumaker for obtaining pens, paper and envelopes with our Staples reward points.
- GPGS newsletter editor Richard Waller, AGS newsletter editor Tom Cogdill and MCGS newsletter editor Jane Aronhalt for Lock-In publicity.
- Sean and Caleb Lewis, our young “worker bees,” who helped with loading and unloading, delivering messages and other tasks as needed.
- Each of our members who gave up some of their own research time to assist others.

Once again you have proved that GPGS members are terrific people!

Barbara Brixey Wylie
2012 GPGS Lock-In Chair

Genealogy on TV

March 2, 2012 7PM
NBC Channel 5

Who Do You Think You Are?
Reba McEntire

Who do you think you are? All-new episode, Friday, March 2nd 7:00 pm. Country superstar Reba McEntire embarks on an ancestral journey to discover how her family came to America.

Episodes from the 2010 and 2011 seasons as well as the three February 2012 episodes are available at NBC's hit series “Who do you think you are?” website: <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/episode-guide/>

NARA: 1940 Census Info

The 1940 census will be released online on April 2, 2012. Approximately 30 days from the publication of this issue of GPGS's Roots and Branches Newsletter.

Please bookmark this NARA page:
www.1940census.archives.gov

This is where you will be able to access the digitized census records starting on April 2. The digital images will be accessible free of charge at NARA facilities nationwide through our public access computers as well as on personal computers via the internet.

Richard G Waller
Roots 'n Branches Editor

Leadership



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A Partner Society of the
Texas State
Genealogical Society



Member of the
Federation of
Genealogical Societies

Visit our redesigned website:

www.gpgstx.org

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Saint Patrick's Day



Saint Patrick's Day (Irish: Lá Fhéile Pádraig; Ulster-Scots: Saunt Petherick's Day) is a cultural and religious holiday celebrated internationally on 17 March of each year. It commemorates Saint Patrick (c. AD 387–461), the most commonly recognized of the patron saints of Ireland, and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. It is observed by the Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion (especially the Church of Ireland), the Eastern Orthodox Church and Lutheran Church. Saint Patrick's Day was made an official feast day in the early 17th century, and has gradually become a secular celebration of Irish culture in general.

The day is generally characterized by the attendance of church services, wearing of green attire (especially shamrocks), and the lifting of Lenten restrictions on eating and drinking alcohol, which is often proscribed during the rest of the season.

Saint Patrick's Day is a public holiday in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Newfoundland and Labrador and in Montserrat. It is also widely celebrated by the Irish diaspora, especially in places such as Great Britain, Canada, the United States, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand, among others. Today, St. Patrick's Day is probably the most widely celebrated saint's day in the world.

From our friends at Wikipedia

Heredity:

*Everyone believes in it until
 their children act like fools!*

In The Coming Months

April 5, 2012

Cemetery Conservation

James R. "Rusty" Brenner, owner and craftsman of the Texas Cemetery Restoration LLC.

Mr. Brenner started in the monument preservation business while working with his father at his monument company in Crockett, Texas as a teenager. He fell in love with visiting old cemeteries, photographing old tombstones, and learning about the history of the people buried there.

The mission of Texas Cemetery Restoration LLC is to provide exceptional conservation, preservation and restoration services to individuals and cemetery associations for their cemetery and monument restoration projects and to help them plan and preserve cultural resources through our GPS mapping, database, and ground penetrating radar services.

Discussion topics will include, (i) condition assessments, (ii) monument and tombstone conservation, preservation, and restoration, (iii) GPS Cemetery Map generation, (iv) burial data collection and GIS Database generation, and (v) Ground Penetrating Radar surveys.

May 3, 2012

Lynell Bennett Moss



Lynell Moss is a sixth generation Dallasite who has been involved with family history research for more than 40 years. She has been teaching family history for more than twenty years, was director of the Plano Family History

Center for 12 years, and has been training the consultants who serve there for 15 years and has been serving there for 21 years. She has beta tested many products for FamilySearch over the past 15 years. She is also Director of the Great Family Search Genealogy Conference now planning the 9th annual conference for October. Lynell is a member of the Dallas Genealogical Society and National Genealogical Society.

June 7, 2012

Max Hill

Speaker Max Hill retired as the assistant manager for the Genealogy & Local History Unit of the Fort Worth Library in 2005 after almost 29 years of service.

Getting To The Library

Hwy 161 Construction Road Closures

DETOURS

South bound traffic from Jefferson will have to access SH 161 from SW 14th Street and cross under 161, turn North on the 161 service road and continue north to Conover to access the Library. North bound 161 service road is closed at Conover. Delays are possible due to construction traffic. Road work at Carrier and Conover has been completed.

Go to www.gptx-traffic.org for up-to-date lane closure information in Grand Prairie.

Extractions

The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society expresses its sincere thanks to society member Bonnie Cockrum, for her extractions from the "Grand Prairie Texan". The following are extractions from the Friday, April 22, 1910 issues of the Texan.

Grand Prairie Texan April 22, 1910

The market reports assure us that "4,774,320 eggs were taken by Chicago in a single day without a sign of uneasiness." Let us hope they were not fried.

A Cincinnati man has retired from business with \$1,000,000 which he says is as much money as any man has the right to possess. How he must dislike trouble.

Germany has cut its naval estimate for this year. English alarmists will regard this as another cunning trick to get the British government to quit building warships.;

A wife murderer in Georgia, pardoned by the president, refused to avail himself of the clemency and will remain in charge of the penitentiary pharmacy as a trusty. This would appear to be a case where the zeal of friends rather overran itself.

Recalling that the gold production of the United States last year was \$39,000,000, the Boston Globe finds evidence of the renewed vitality of New England in the fact that it collected two-thirds as much from summer boarders. But is it fair to give no credit to the visitors who furnish the money!

A New Yorker plunged into the icy river last winter to rescue a young lady's merry widow hat, and now she has married him. It is possible that, having thrown the hat away in order to secure a later model, she concluded the chap who thwarted the plan by rescuing the old hat should be compelled to buy the new one?

Now a university scientist asserts that any desired characteristic can be produced in human beings at will, and that character is only a matter, after all, of chemical combinations. Some may object to the elimination by this

theory of the soul and spiritual influence from it but the theory has its compensations if cranks can be removed from their present sphere of pernicious activity.

New York's state highway commission is proceeding with a vigor which will excite attention and cause progressive legislators in other states to study her highway construction system. The commission has lost advertised for proposals for the improvement of 67 miles of state roads and 145 miles of country highways. The total cost of the roads covered by the contracts of February and April is \$46,242,000.

GOOD NEWS EPITOMIZED

HAPPENINGS OF UNUSUAL INTEREST
TO OUR READERS,
IN READABLE SHAPE

BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

If It Was of Sufficient Importance
You Will Find It Recorded Here

Washington News

Gov. Hughes of New York has accepted the offer of President Taft of the Federal Judgeship, to succeed the late Justice Brewer.

President Taft has nominated Barney W. Fields as postmaster of Greenville, Tex.

The rivers and harbors bill which passed the Senate Tuesday appropriates \$25,000 with which to begin work on each of two new locks on the Trinity, and several items for clearing the river of obstructions, such as snags and shoats. This, it is said, will keep the work going during the year.

Congress will adjourn before the middle of June and possibly by June 1, is believed by President Taft and the administration leaders, and before that time it is expected most of the

so-called administration measurers now before Congress will have been passed, or, if not, they will be in such shape they may be enacted into law soon after Congress meets in December.

President Taft approves of making next Sunday, April 24, a "tuberculosis Sunday." President Taft writes: "I sincerely hope that the movement which you have inaugurated to make Sunday, April 24, a tuberculosis Sunday on which ministers are requested to call attention of their congregations to the importance of the tuberculosis problem and to give such simple information regarding it as may be feasible, may prove to be successful."

William Jennings Bryan and President Taft spent more than an hour together at the White House Tuesday. The two travelers exchanged reminiscences and commented upon how well the other was looking. The President intimated that being beaten at the polls did not seem to be such a bad thing for one's health and happiness after all.

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN NEWS

The Dallas presbytery has closed its sessions in Mabank, after selecting Athens as the place for the next meeting, which will be in September.

Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) the famous American humorist, died at his country home near Redding, Conn., Thursday, after a long illness.

A severe shock has been experienced in the Liverpool cotton market according to Shipping Gazette, in the discovery of forged bills of lading for cotton purporting to have been shipped from the United States. The quantity involved is said to be between 15,000 and 20,000 bales.

The first photograph of a comet ever made in Mexico with a paralactical camera was taken of Halley's comet by Prof. Felipe Valle, director of the astronomical observatory of Tacubaya, at an early hour Thursday morning. The sky was clear and conditions excellent to secure a good impression of the sidereal traveler.

Three more bodies were taken from the mines at Mulga Sunday, making a total of thirty-nine recovered. The mines were wrecked last Wednesday by an explosion which killed every man who was on duty at the time. It is now believed by the mine inspectors that there are no more bodies in the mine. Those bodies recovered, two whites and one negro, were mangled and burned beyond recognition.

Warfare against white slave traffic has been declared by the B'nai B'rith order in the Seventh District, embracing Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Alabama, and the sum of \$5,000 was appropriated by the grand lodge in session to begin the fight against the illegal business. The vote was unanimous.

An incident bearing on the greater success of the National Feeders and Breeders' Show in 1911 is in the increase of the prize money given by the American Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association from \$2,600 to \$3,500.

That Enrique C. Creel, Governor of the State of Chihuahua and at one time Ambassador of Mexico to the United States, has been appointed Secretary of Foreign Relations in the Cabinet of President Diaz to succeed the late Ignacio Mariscal and has accepted, is the statement made by prominent men connected with the Mexican Government.

The Dalhart creamery opened for the season of 1910 Saturday. This enterprise is the direct result of the efforts of the Commercial Club and cost approximately \$5,000.

Extractions from the April 22, 1910 issue of the Grand Prairie Texan newspaper will continue in the April 2012 Issue of Roots 'n Branches.