



DGS NEWSLETTER

Volume 18, Number 4 (Issue 155)

July-August 1994

Dallas, Texas

NGS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTED TO DGS!



DGS Members Surround President J. Bruce Moseley Holding NGS Award

The 1993 National Genealogical Society Award for Achievement by an Organization was presented to the Dallas Genealogical Society in recognition of its exceptional contributions to the field of genealogy at the recent NGS Conference in the States. The plaque and cash award was accepted by J. Bruce Moseley, outgoing President on June 3, 1994 in Houston, Texas.

The citation was given in recognition of the following Society accomplishments: in the 39 years since it was established, the Society has assumed a leadership role in the

genealogical community. Membership has doubled over the last ten years. The Society publishes the exceptional bi-monthly "*DGS Newsletter*" and *The Dallas Quarterly*. It has also published twelve volumes on Dallas County and Texas in the past five years.

The organization stages a Spring Seminar, Fall Symposium, Summer Lecture Series, Beginners' Workshop and monthly meetings which set national standards and provide outstanding learning opportunities. Other activities include a Computer Interest Group, study trips, Annual Writing Awards and the sale of research materials to assist and encourage members in their genealogical and family history pursuits.

In support of the Dallas Public Library, DGS has donated approximately \$100,000 to the Genealogy Section over the last five years, and a DGS Volunteer program assists the Library staff. The DGS is currently engaged in a Capital Expansion Project to improve the physical facilities in the Genealogy Section. When completed in 1995, shelving, microform readers and patron work space will be doubled. The cost of this project is \$175,000, of which about 30 percent has already been collected.

All of the above activities require a tremendous amount of effort, and the DGS is very blessed which an unending supply of talented, enthusiastic volunteers. The award was earned by all the dedicated DGS contributors, both past and present. The proclamation which accompanied the NGS award may be found on page 93 of this issue of the *DGS Newsletter*.

DALLAS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 12648

DALLAS, TEXAS 75225-0648

Founded in 1955, the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS) is the oldest organization of its kind in Texas. It is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation.

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The object and goals of this Society are to:

- Create, foster, and maintain interest in genealogy and family history;
- Raise standards of genealogical research through educational programs, workshops, and the publication of data;
- Promote the collection and preservation of material relating to the early history of Dallas County and those pioneers who settled the area;
- Copy, index, and publish records, documents, inscriptions and other genealogical source materials;
- Support the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library; and
- Stimulate the exchange of information between Society members and genealogical researchers across the nation.

Membership:

Individuals, libraries, or societies may apply for membership. **Dues are \$15 for twelve consecutive months with membership beginning the month of payment.** New member dues and renewals should be mailed to the Society at Post Office Box 25556, Dallas, Texas 75225-1556, and marked to the attention of the Vice-President of Membership. All current members receive *The Dallas Quarterly* and the *DGS Newsletter*.

Newsletter:

The *DGS Newsletter* is published bi-monthly. Copy deadline for the September-October 1994 *DGS Newsletter* is 1 August 1994. All articles and correspondence for the *DGS Newsletter* should be mailed to the Society at Post Office Box 12648, Dallas, Texas 75225-0648 and marked to the attention of the Newsletter Editor.

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1994 DGS Calendar of Events

EVENT	DAY/DATE/ LOCATION	TIME	SPEAKER(S)	PROGRAM OR INFORMATION
Summer Lecture Series	Saturday, 16 Jul 1994 DPL Auditorium	9:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.	Gale Williams Bamman, C.G., of Nashville, TN	<i>Research in Tennessee</i>
Summer Lecture Series	Saturday, 20 Aug 1994 DPL Auditorium	9:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.	Larry O. Jensen, A.G.	<i>German Genealogical Research</i>
Beginners Workshop	Saturday, 1 October 1994 Location TBA		Speakers and topics to be announced.	Basics of Genealogical Research for Beginners
DGS Fall Symposium	Saturday, 19 Nov 1994 Convention Center		Speakers and topics to be announced in September.	7th Annual Fall Genealogy Symposium
GENTECH	Friday-Saturday, 27-28 Jan 1995 Location TBA		Speakers and topics to be announced.	Computer Technology for Genealogy
1995 Spring Seminar	Saturday, 8 April 1995 Convention Center		Speaker and topic to be announced.	39th Annual DGS Spring Seminar

The Dallas Genealogical Society does not hold regular meetings during the summer months of June, July and August. We hope to see you at the Summer Lecture Series!

As this newsletter went to press, a limited number of tickets were still available for the two remaining seminars of the Summer Lecture Series.

The second seminar of the series, to be held on Saturday, 16 July 1994, features highly-acclaimed lecturer, Gale Williams Bamman, C.G., speaking on "*Tennessee: Up Close and Personal*." Ms. Bamman is peerless in her knowledge of the state of Tennessee and brings us a unique lecture covering not only early settlement patterns and the influence of the state's geography on settlement, but also explores the joys and perils of applying family traditions to research.

The third seminar will be held on Saturday, 20 August 1994 and will feature Larry O. Jensen, an Accredited Genealogist who serves as the European Extraction Specialist for several western European countries at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Mr. Jensen will guide us through the complexities of "*German Genealogical Research*" including determining places of origin, available reference tools and utilizing naming patterns and occupations to trace German ancestors.

The 1994 Summer Lecture Series is sponsored by DGS in cooperation with the Dallas Public Library. Ticket price for each lecture is \$17, and seminars are held in the comfortable Auditorium of the Dallas Public Library. Registration begins at 9:00 A.M.; the first lecture begins at 9:30 A.M., and each seminar ends at 4:00 P.M. Lunch is brown-bag or a list of nearby restaurants will be available.



The President's Message

by J. Bruce Moseley

What a year we have just completed! I won't elaborate here, since the details are exceptionally well covered in the officers' and directors' reports for 1993 - 1994 which are found elsewhere in this issue of the *DGS Newsletter*. They will also be reviewed in the president's report appearing in the September issue of *The Dallas Quarterly*. However, I do have two objectives for this final message as your president.

First, I call your attention to the cover article in this issue of the *DGS Newsletter* describing the NGS Achievement Award for an Organization which DGS received in Houston on June 3. This is a significant honor in which we can all take pride—not just the current membership, but everyone who has been a part of DGS over the past forty years! We have always believed we were doing a good job, but it certainly is rewarding to receive confirmation that we're on the right track from such an illustrious source as the National Genealogical Society. Look for the plaque commemorating the award in the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library.

Finally, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support this past year. You are a marvelous organization! It has been a most rewarding experience for me to be associated with DGS so closely, not only these last twelve months, but for the preceding several years as well. I am deeply grateful for what you and the Society have meant to me. You have my best and warmest wishes for continued success.



Treasurer's Report

By Laurie Goggan Wharton

Account Balances

As of 10 June 1994

Assets:

Cash and Bank Accounts:	
Checking-NationsBank	10,852.54
Money Market-Bank One	<u>5,039.91</u>
Total Cash/Accounts:	15,892.45
Bulk Mail Deposit	661.71
Life Member Investments:	
MMF-Cash Equivalent Fund	4,228.75
Note-US Treasury Fund	<u>5,300.00</u>
Total Investments:	<u>9,528.75</u>
Total Assets:	\$26,082.91

Funds:

Operating Fund	9,497.20
Life Member Fund	9,250.00
Bulk Mail Fund	661.71
Publications Fund	4,674.00
Endowment Fund	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Funds:	\$26,082.91

Meeting information:

Regular Meetings: Unless otherwise indicated, DGS Regular Meetings are held on the fourth Monday, January-May and September-November, in the Auditorium of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library (Dallas Public Library), 1515 Young Street in downtown Dallas. Regular meetings are free; visitors and guests are welcome.

Computer Interest Group Meetings: Unless otherwise indicated, the DGS Computer Interest Group (DGS/CIG) meetings are held on the second Thursday, January-November, in the Auditorium of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library.

Additionally, the DGS/CIG holds a question and answer meeting in the library's East/West Rooms (across the hall from the Auditorium) on the fourth Monday, one hour prior to the Regular Meeting. DGS/CIG Meetings are free; visitors and guests are welcome.

The DGS Spring Seminar and DGS Annual Genealogy Symposium are held in the Dallas Convention Center. The Summer Lecture Series seminars are held in the Auditorium of the Dallas Public Library.

Highlights of the 1994 Annual Meeting: Fun, Food and Fellowship

The Society's Annual Meeting began with a reception in the East/West rooms honoring the DGS membership. Many members and guests attended, enjoying the food and socializing for the hour prior to the meeting. The program was presented by Rose-Mary Rumbley, Ph.D., who gave a very humorous talk on "Early Dallas." Interspersed with hilarious anecdotes, Mrs. Rumbley acquainted us with prominent figures from Dallas' early history and discussed the naming of surrounding towns and Dallas streets and buildings.

The 1994-1995 Executive Board was installed by outgoing president, J. Bruce Moseley. A complete list of the names and positions of the new officers and directors is printed on page 74, the

masthead, of this newsletter. Prior to installing the new board, Bruce recognized members of his 1993-1994 board and applauded each for their contributions during the previous year.

Annual Gift Presented to the Library

Another highlight of the annual meeting was the presentation of the Society's year-end gift to the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library. This year's gift totaled \$10,000 and was presented to Lloyd Bockstruck in honor of his hard-working library staff. Five hundred dollars of the total was given in memory of the Society's deceased members. The gift money will be used to purchase genealogical materials for the ever-expanding collection.

Beginners Workshop

Do you have a friend or friends interested in researching their families but they just don't know where to start? Are you a newcomer to this exciting science yourself? Are you lost in the maze of deeds, probate and land grants? Having trouble differentiating between the census and the Soundex? Then DGS has the answer for you! Join us on Saturday, 1 October, 1994 for the "new, improved" Beginners Workshop. Through a series of lectures conducted by DGS experts, this one-day all-day seminar will help new researchers to a greater understanding of how to get organized, how to begin their research, where to begin, how to document their findings and much, much more. The next issue of the *DGS Newsletter* will have full details, and registration pamphlets will be available to all members and to patrons visiting the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library.

1995 Annual Writing Awards

Have you begun work on your entry for DGS' Annual Writing Awards? Well, you better get started! Full details, including entry requirements and deadline information will appear in the next issue of the *DGS Newsletter*.

1993-1994 Officers and Directors Annual Reports

J. Bruce Moseley - President

As specified by the DGS bylaws, the president's report by Bruce Moseley will appear in the September issue of *The Dallas Quarterly*.

Art Rubeck - Executive Vice President

This year marks a departure from the past in the location of the annual DGS workshops, as both the Fall Symposium and the Spring Seminar were held in the spacious Dallas Convention Center. Responding to the many comments, complaints and criticisms in the critique sheets of last year's workshops concerning the crowded conditions and lack of exhibitor space, the move was decided last year and accomplished this year.

The 6th Annual Genealogy Symposium and 12th Beginners Workshop were held concurrently at the Dallas Convention Center on Saturday, 13 November 1993. Forty lectures were offered in the Symposium and the all-day beginners program covered a full range of elementary research topics. The total attendance of 724 exceeded all previous events, confirming that the move to the Dallas Convention Center provided the desired attraction of central location with nearly unlimited space.

The 38th Annual Spring Seminar was also held in the Dallas Convention Center, with Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck providing both instruction and entertainment to the 333 attendees. Although attendance was less than anticipated, those who heard Lloyd were amply rewarded with the new topics and materials he provided. Exhibitors were again attracted to the wide open spaces of the lobby areas and many new exhibitor faces were evident.

The combined profit from both events approached \$10,000, again providing the Society with another large annual gift to the Dallas Public Library.

Dorothy Odom Bruce - Programs

Meeting Information, Quality Programs & Speakers and Education were the by-words for this year!

Meeting Information was distributed via the Orange Meeting Schedule Bookmarks which were

printed during the summer of 1993. These popular bookmarks listed the dates of all regular DGS and CIG meetings along with other DGS events and were distributed in both a mass mailing with other DGS materials as well as being made available to patrons to the Genealogy Section of DPL.

Speakers: The abundant talents of **DGS members and DPL staff** were used utilized for programs this year. Included in the total number of speakers (13) were five who have also spoken at national genealogical/computer events. Three people spoke for two programs each; four were present board members; eight have served on past boards; three were past DGS Presidents; and one speaker is the incoming DGS President.

Programs - Education, Education, Education! We were **enlightened** about the Capital Expansion Project progress by Jan McFarland and her committee of John Wylie, Art Rubeck, Bill Benson and Leslie Collier. We were **informed** about the many societies that will assist researchers in their genealogical and computer knowledge. This included Barbara Baylis speaking about the National Genealogical Society (NGS) and Genealogical Institute of Texas (GIT); Gilda Cain for the Texas State Genealogical Society (TSGS); John Wylie for Super Saturdays and GENTECH; Brenda Kellow for the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG); and Art Rubeck for the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS).

We were **schooled** in some basics in genealogical methodology with Pat Hatcher addressing census research and Leslie Collier speaking on intestate papers. We **learned** through Heather Williams, Manager of the History and Social Science Department of DPL, that we should come out from the "glass wall" of the Genealogy Department and also search the History Departments of libraries as well in order to place our ancestors in a historical perspective.

We **covered** Texas and Dallas sources with Sammie Lee's talk on Texas repositories, and we were introduced to the Texas/Dallas History & Archives Division located on the 7th floor of the DPL by Archivist Carol Roark. Lastly, we **celebrated** the end of the board year by thanking our members for their support with the reception and

a special guest speaker, Rose-Mary Rumbley, who gave her personal touch to "Early Dallas."

My own personal thanks to this board for all their help! I have enjoyed every minute of it! This will end my 6th year serving the Society. I will still be serving the DGS as Registration Chairman for workshops and in other areas as needed.

Leslie Smith Collier - Vice President for Membership

Current membership by category:

Regular Members	922
including the following categories:	
Life Members	63
Library Members	14
Renewed Members	670
New Members During 1994	172

This is a net increase of 102 members since 16 May 1993. Note that all membership increases came in the category of regular membership. There were no new members in the Life Member category and a decrease of one in the Library Member category. The New Member category is at 172 for 1993-1994; at this point one year ago, it was at 173. The increase in membership therefore seems to be from a greater retention of current members rather than from new genealogists.

There were two factors which seemed to recoup the greatest number of memberships: the mailing out of reminder postcards to late-paying members and the addition of a surcharge for non-members for our Spring Seminar. I certainly recommend that both be continued. I would also like to note that a number of renewals were accompanied by notes thanking us for the quality of our publications.

Another area of interest for the Membership Chairman is attendance at DGS meetings. We have ranged from a high of 115 for the May reception and meeting to a low of 48 at the April meeting, with the average being 78 attendees. Attendance has declined steadily from meeting to meeting, no matter the program or time of day; the obvious exception being the May meeting, which was heavily attended by spouses.

The VP for Membership has been delighted to note several areas of change: restructuring DGS memberships so that the \$15 dues "purchase" a 12-month membership, no matter when the member pays; and the addition of a surcharge to non-

members for DGS events, thereby giving genealogists an impetus for membership in our organization.

Adrienne B. Jamieson - Vice President for *The Dallas Quarterly*

The Dallas Quarterly this year contained 256 pages and published 87 pages of Acquisitions of the Genealogy Section; 25 pages of Bible records; 96 pages of abstracted records of Dallas County, none of which had been previously published; book reviews; a full name index; the official president's report; and information on the Dallas Genealogical Society and its publications.

Patrick McKenna of the library staff furnished the original list from which the *Recent Acquisitions to the Genealogy Section* is fashioned. We've been privileged to have Margaret Ann Thetford review books for this year. Helen Lu has been a generous contributor this year as in the past. Gerri Brannan of the library staff brought the interesting (if possibly macabre) coroner's reports to our attention with her abstract of *Dallas County Inquest Docket #2*. This article was of particular importance since the time covered was before the advent of death certificates in Texas.

A Guide to *The Dallas Quarterly*, Volumes I-XXXIX 1955-1993, an 82-page guide to the articles published in *The Dallas Quarterly*, was published on microfiche this year.

The Dallas Quarterly has helped fulfill several goals of the Society by preserving, abstracting and indexing source material on Dallas County and supporting the Dallas Public Library.

Sammie Townsend Lee - Vice President for the *DGS Newsletter*

During the 1993-1994 DGS fiscal year, six issues of the *DGS Newsletter* (hereafter called the newsletter) containing a total of 152 pages were compiled, printed and distributed to the membership.

A dedicated staff of volunteers assisted me in writing, compiling and editing the newsletter: Linda Shaddock Rogers, who contributed numerous articles, assisted in editing the overall newsletter and also compiled the one-page *DGS NewsExtra* for distribution in the Genealogy Section; Terri Mulliken Allen, who edited and compiled the queries received for each newsletter; Dorothy Odom Bruce, who

compiled and edited the DGS News section consisting of officers' and directors' reports; Leslie Smith Collier, who contributed articles and compiled the Bulletin Board section; Patricia Law Hatcher, who contributed articles and proof-read many sections of the newsletter; Margret Hancock Pearce, who contributed interviews with various DGS members; and John V. Wylie, who compiled the Computer Interest Group articles.

The following members also contributed articles and/or reports: Barbara Roberts Baylis, Ramona Honan, Helen Mason Lu, Jan Bishop McFarland, J. Bruce Moseley, Art Rubeck, Shirley Sloat, Edith Kyser Smith, Joan Thompson, Laurie Goggan Wharton and Barbara Brixey Wylie. Members contributing materials that were compiled into news items included Kelvin Meyers, Heather Williams, Art Rubeck and Madilyn Crane. I am extremely grateful to these DGS people who helped make and keep the newsletter a top-quality publication.

Each newsletter issue was mailed to the DGS membership, exchange societies and a select newsletter mailing list. Between 900 and 1300 newsletter issues were printed depending on the number needed for mailing to members at the time.

Terry Mulliken Allen - Recording Secretary

Copies of all officers and directors reports will be filed with the secretary and bound with the minutes for the 1993-1994 year.

Laurie Goggan Wharton - Treasurer

Please refer to page 76 of this issue for the year-end financial statement.

Joan T. Thompson - Director of Sales

My year as Director of Sales started with vendor table at the Genealogical Institute of Texas for three days in July 1993 with sales totaling \$224.92. At our Fall Symposium in November 1993, we had sales of \$524.77 (\$170.50 was donated to the Capital Expansion Project). The Spring Seminar sales reached \$289.71 with \$64.96 earmarked for Capital Expansion.

At the NGS Conference in Houston in June 1994, we had sales of \$123.53. Total sales for the

1993-1994 board year therefore totaled \$7,260.66 with \$2,313.04 being donated to Capital Expansion. At the present time we have 62 one-year subscriptions for the DPL microfiche card catalog. Another consistent sales item is the denominational abstracts, and I'd like to thank Helen Lu for making these sales possible.

In addition, I would like to thank all the many people who helped me with sales at our seminars, GIT and the NGS Conference. Our sales at NGS were not as successful as we had anticipated, but many attendees visited our booth, and we distributed a great deal of literature about the Dallas Public Library as well as our Society.

John V. Wylie - Computer Interest Group

Please refer to page 85 of this issue for John's report.

Clifford V. Slagle - Mailings

A total of nineteen bulk mailings were made during the present board year. Twenty-three thousand nine hundred five (23,905) pieces were mailed at an average cost of 12.07 cents each. Our bulk mail fund presently has a balance of \$311.77.

Shirley Sloat - Publicity

This year the following events were publicized: 1993 Summer Lecture Series, 1993 Fall Workshop and Symposium, 1994 Spring Seminar, the Salt Lake City research trips, the Capital Expansion Project and the 1994 Summer Lecture Series.

I would like to thank the following DGS members who assisted me in the printing and distribution of the Publications Brochure: Jan McFarland, Helen Lu and Adrienne Jamieson. The brochures were mailed to libraries and genealogical and historical societies in seven states including Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas. A database for the remainder of the states is being created by Phil Caldwell.

As Publicity Director, I was pleased to attend the following meetings: Library Board Meetings as a supporter for the Capital Expansion Project; the annual Community Board Institute Workshop; and the excellent Dallas Morning News

Media Access seminar on 26 April 1994. I was very excited to establish contact with the Friends of the Library and to coordinate volunteer recruitment to assist with their Annual Book Sale. Lastly, I reviewed all DGS-related documents stored in the Archives on the 7th floor of the Library.

Bob Maybrier - Special Projects

This year we had a total of 88 inquiries necessitating a reply. Several required a photo copy of an obituary from an old newspaper; some required a little light research in a particular book or an old city directory or telephone book; and many required the list of professional researchers.

All reply envelopes included a membership application, publications brochure and information on any upcoming event, such as our annual workshops. Incidentally, about two-thirds of all inquiries included a SASE, and the fully-packed reply envelope necessitated two stamps.

Most inquiries were passed on to the Editor of the *DGS Newsletter* for possible inclusion in the Letters column. All letters were answered as promptly and as completely as possible. A file is kept of all correspondence and it is open for examination upon request.

Helen Mason Lu - Publications

I am pleased to report the following progress on our various DGS publications in the past year:

Cemetery Books: Although I had hoped to complete Volumes 4 and 5 of the cemetery books by the end of this board year, a few snags arose and it seemed I would never see the 'light at the end of the tunnel.' However, I am close to the last stages of editing, cleaning up the data, writing the preface and indexing and hope to have the project completed before too long.

Volumes 1 and 2 of the cemetery books (previously published) were put on microfiche to make them more available to more researchers at a reasonable fee and also preserves the work on another media form.

DallaSearch: A revision of DallaSearch was completed last fall and is now available in the Genealogy Department of the Dallas Public Library or by order from DGS. Not only were the resources at local facilities completely updated, but two new research facilities were added.

"Family Tree" Column: Margaret Ann

Thetford, DGS member and former editor of the "Family Tree" column of the Dallas Morning News for ten years, donated her columns on both microfiche and microfilm to the Society for which we are very grateful. All proceeds from sales benefit the DGS.

Texas Methodist Newspaper Abstracts:

DGS also accepted two more volumes of these abstracts from Helen Mason Lu bringing the total Texas denominational newspaper abstracts and indexes to ten. These publications are the property of DGS and all proceeds from sales benefit DGS.

It has been my privilege to serve the past two years as Director of Publications and I am very pleased with the progress made in preserving the records of Dallas County.

Financial Records Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee which was duly appointed by the President met and reviewed the financial accounts of the DGS covering the 1993-1994 year. Committee members appointed were Margret Pearce, Bill Jacoby and Millard Noell. The financial records are the responsibility of Laurie Goggan Wharton, Treasurer. The Committee also reviewed the Capital Expansion Fund records which are the responsibility of Art Rubeck.

The Committee found the records in order and suitable for their intended purpose. DGS records for both deposits and expenditures agree with bank statements, and all checks were properly authorized. Individual expense items were properly slotted on the spreadsheets.

The Capital Expansion Fund records were found to be in excellent condition. All checks were properly authorized, and deposits and expenses were properly recorded.

The Committee did not review tax returns, but recommended that future reviews should include them. The Committee recommended that DGS continue to file an IRS return; however, this practice should be reviewed annually by the Board.

The Committee recommended that in the future, copies of authorizations for anyone to sign checks other than the president or treasurer be included with the account records when submitted for audit. In addition, a copy of any tax returns should be included, as well as an inventory of any

items sold for revenue which are in the possession of the DGS.

The Committee recommended that an assistant be appointed as a helper to the treasurer, with primary responsibility resting with the treasurer. An alternative is to hire a professional to keep our books. The reason for this recommendation is that our records have become increasingly complex with increased revenues, the addition of the Summer Lecture Series, the Salt Lake City trips and other fund raising activities. In many cases it was necessary to split deposit and expense payments into four different categories in the records.

The Committee wished to commend the work done by Laurie Wharton and Art Rubeck in keeping DGS financial records.

Report on DGS Salt Lake City Research Trip

by Shirley Sloat

Thirteen researchers and six "guides" participated in what is bound to become a frequently repeated DGS activity—traveling to the researcher's "Mecca," the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. As the library closed at 10 p.m. on our final Saturday night, we exited with bags, briefcases and computers crammed full of "good stuff" and with an immense satisfaction with the week's results. Several planned activities helped new acquaintances become good friends. Individual consultations with Lloyd Bockstruck helped to validate proposed approaches to specific problems. All the guides found it gratifying to help the less-experienced researchers carry out their search plans; to a one, they were ready, willing and certainly able to answer research and methodology questions concerning almost any locality in the United States. By the end of the week, we felt like "pros" at accessing the vast FHL resources.

The following observations will give an idea of the varying types and levels of research activities engaged in by our participants, and should prove that this sort of trip can be a thrilling and worthwhile experience, no matter what your current level of experience may be.

Twenty-nine pounds of copied material by one person was the all-time personal best, but many brought home enough paper that suitcase weight

became a real concern for the return flight! A total of 500 new direct-line ancestors were discovered for the entire group among them new American families, new and already-identified Swedish ancestors, a Colonial clergyman ancestor, a Huguenot ancestor and a relationship to Johnny Appleseed which has given my eight year-old grandson instant fame in school!

Documents located to support our search efforts included wills, tax lists, marriage records not previously located, detailed information on the Civil War activities of an ancestor including battles fought and wounds suffered, and the discovery of the "ideal" document—an "ex parte Petition To Sell," for an ancestor's heirs which listed all children including names of all daughters and their husbands, delineated which offspring were living or dead and gave all minor children's names!

Other researchers were able to prove family connections necessary for admission into the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and other lineage societies; one searcher made five hits on little orphan Ali Smith which was the subject of a recent DGS program; another found a supposed royal lineage replete with unusual birth, death and marriage dates warranting further research; and all felt that the experience would enable them to conduct better and more fruitful research at other institutions including, of course, the Dallas Public Library.

Typical of the comments received was the following: "Compiling a four generation genealogy on all descendants of a common progenitor can become a monumental task, especially when it comes to tracing birth, marriage and death records on the ancestor and his descendants who have spread over multiple states and numerous counties. Using original and published records on this trip to the Salt Lake City Family History Library, I was able to document various vital statistic dates on about 50 descendants of the family group of several different surnames in three different states. For me, this translates into success for an ongoing project now in its third year!"

However, of all the comments received, the most gratifying were those relating to the new friendships established and the camaraderie which the group as a whole experienced. DGS is planning another research trip in the near future, so why don't YOU join us on the next trip to "Mecca?"

[DGS members in attendance: George Barnett, Mary Ellen Carlton, Mary Lou Coleman, Jan Cunningham, Jennie Faye Ellis, Nancy Humphrey, Terri Allen, Margaret Palmer, Linda Rogers, Art Rubeck, June Shipley, Shirley Sloat and Sheila Stough. Guides and organizers included Linda Accord, Barbara Baylis, Dorothy Bruce, Madilyn Crane, Sammie Lee and Leslie Collier.]

Return to Salt Lake with DGS!

Make your plans now to accompany DGS members on their next jaunt to Salt Lake City for research, fun and more research. DGS has just announced that the trip will take place the week of February 5-12, 1995. Watch the newsletter for further information!

We are proud to publish the winning essay in DGS' annual competition for "My Most Interesting Ancestor."

My Cherokee Heritage: Berenice Coleman Wade

by Ramona Lauderdale Honan

Berenice Meigs Coleman Wade, my great grandmother, was extremely proud of her Cherokee heritage. An example is the most vivid memory my mother has of her grandmother on the day my mother's father, James Meigs Wade, died. My mother was only five years old, and her father was Berenice's only son out of five children. He died at an early age of 45 on June 21, 1923¹, due to heart complications from rheumatic fever he suffered as a child. My mother, her mother, Minnie Marshall Wade, and Berenice were sitting on the back porch. Minnie Wade was crying at one side of the porch. Being ever stoic and not a tear in her eye, Berenice, though, sat in a rocking chair, strong, straight-back and indefatigable, talking about her Indian heritage saying that Indians were always portrayed as "ugly," but reiterating that this was not true. Later to assuage my mother's grief, Berenice began planning with her about raising chickens on Berenice's farm and planning other activities they could do together.

Berenice Meigs Coleman was born October

7, 1841, in Athens, Tennessee². Her father was James Madison Coleman who was born in 1816 in Cynthiana, Harrison, County, Kentucky³. Her mother was Elizabeth Grace Walker, born 1824 in Rhea County, Tennessee⁴ to John Walker, Jr. and Emily Stanfield Meigs. John Walker, Jr., was the son of John Walker, Chief of the Cherokees, born 1775, dying in 1830 in Calhoun, Tennessee, of which he was the founder⁵. This Cherokee Walker line eventually leads back to Nancy Ward, also known as Nanye'hi, the "Believed Woman of The Cherokees"⁶ and defender of Americans during the Revolutionary War, during which "she repeatedly prevented the massacre of settlers and several times saved captives from death at her people's hands."⁷

There is more than just Berenice's Cherokee heritage, though. Emily Stanfield Meigs' grandparents were Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs, born December 17, 1740 in Middletown, Connecticut, dying January 28, 1823 at Hiawasee Garrison, Tennessee, and Grace Starr, born January 18, 1739/40 in Middletown, Connecticut, dying October 10, 1807, at Hiawasee Garrison in Tennessee.⁸ Colonel Meigs, of the 6th Connecticut Infantry in the Revolutionary War, went with Arnold on the ill-fated expedition to Quebec and was captured in this assault, though was soon exchanged. Colonel Meigs was also at the capture of Stony Point, and on May 23-24, 1777, made a successful expedition to Sag Harbor, Long Island, where he captured ninety men and returned without the loss of any of his men. For this daring deed, Congress voted him a commemorative sword. Finally, he was active in the quelling of the insurrection among the Connecticut troops in 1780.⁹ George Washington later wrote him a personal letter praising his duty during the War.¹⁰

After Berenice's birth, her family moved back to Cynthiana, Harrison County, Kentucky. Her father, James Madison Coleman was the son of Covington Coleman and Lucy Gamble Day.¹¹ Covington Coleman (born 1796 in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, and also serving in the War of 1812) was the son of Captain Francis Coleman of the Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary War¹² and Elizabeth Davis of Orange County, Virginia, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Davis.¹³ Covington Coleman's grandparents were Richard Coleman, also a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, and Ann Covington.¹⁴

When Berenice was 18 years old, she eloped to Cincinnati, Ohio, with Stephen Florence Wade (born December 30, 1831) of Canada.¹⁵ They then moved to Canada for a short period to live with his family. By 1865, the couple was living in Nashville, Tennessee. This was at the same time that Berenice's father was a prisoner in a Northern prisoner of war camp. He joined the Confederacy at the start of the Civil War (with his son, Robert, and making it five generations of Colemans that had been in the military) fighting with Company A, 1st Battalion, Kentucky Cavalry. James Madison Coleman was wounded at the Battle of Murphreesboro and later captured at the Battle of Stone's River. He was eventually imprisoned at the Nashville federal prisoner of war camp¹⁶ where he died from his wounds on January 4, 1865.¹⁷ Berenice's oldest child, Florence, was born in Nashville one month later on February 10, 1865.¹⁸

After this and by 1870, the family had moved to Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, presumably because of her Cherokee Indian heritage and bloodline. Further children of Berenice and Stephen included Anna Elizabeth, who married Freeman R. Smith of Choctaw heritage;¹⁹ Minerva who married George Yarborough of Cherokee heritage and a Baptist preacher²⁰; Clara Wade who married Luther Jones of Iowa²¹; and James Meigs Wade, who married Rachael Arminta "Minnie" Marshall.²² Berenice taught second grade in 1877 at Fort Gibson, and on November 30, 1880, through a special bill passed in the Cherokee Senate, she divorced Stephen Florence Wade.²³ She then proceeded to raise her children on her own, receiving a land grant in Oklahoma due to her Indian bloodline, and on March 4, 1907, her name was added to the Dawes Roll, No. 7994.²⁴

Toward the end of her life, Berenice dictated a letter telling of her life and ancestors. The basic tenets of the letter have been proven true even though she was very old when the letter was dictated. The last paragraph Berenice dictated seemed to sum up her life:

"I was born in Athens, Tennessee. When I was two years old my father and mother moved to Kentucky, where my grandfather Coleman lived...I lived there until I was 18 years old and then I ran away and married S.F. Wade in Cincinnati, Ohio. We then moved to Canada and lived there for two

years and then to Nashville...and came to Indian Territory in 1870. There was no railroad through this Country then - no towns except Tahlequah and Fort Gibson, where they kept soldiers who kept the Indians from uprising, and now they have to keep the white man from uprising.²⁵ (Emphasis added).

This is my Cherokee heritage: **BERENICE MEIGS COLEMAN WADE.**

¹Death Certificate, Muskogee County, Oklahoma, June 21, 1923.

²1860 Harrison County, Kentucky, Census; Descendants of Nancy Ward, Beloved Woman of the Cherokees, compiled by Emmett Starr (Norman, Oklahoma, 1975), p. 28.

³Ibid., p. 8.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid., p. 1; Sevier Family History, by Cora Bales Sevier and Nancy S. Madden, Kaufmann Printing Co., Inc. (Washington, D.C. 1961), pp. 230-231.

⁶Descendants of Nancy Ward, p. 1.

⁷Woman Patriots of the American Revolution, by Charles E. Claghorn, The Claghorn Press, Inc. (Metuchen, NJ and London, 1991), pp. 198-199.

⁸Record of the Descendants of Vincent Meigs, compiled by Return Jonathan Meigs, 9th, (1935), p. 24; Families of Guilford, Connecticut, compiled by Alvan Talcott (Baltimore, 1984), p. 816.

⁹Records of the Descendants of Vincent Meigs p. 24-25.

¹⁰Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 12, edited by Dumas Malone, Charles Scribner's Sons (New York, 1933), pp. 508-592.

¹¹Descendants of Nancy Ward, p. 7.

¹²Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary War, by J.T. McAllister Publishing Co. (Hot Springs, Virginia, 1913), p. 232.

¹³Virginia Historical Marriage Register, compiled by John Vogt and T. William Kethley, Jr. (Athens, GA, 1984), p. 176; Marriage Records of Orange County, Virginia, compiled by Catherine L. Knorr, p. 19.

¹⁴Military Papers, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹⁵Descendants of Nancy Ward, p. 28; Affidavit and Letter of Berenice Coleman, written 1930.

¹⁶Military Papers of James Madison Coleman, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Obituary for Florence Wade White, Muskogee Daily Phoenix, 1950.

¹⁹1910 Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, Census.

²⁰Marriage Announcement, Muskogee Daily Phoenix, Week of June 13, 1889; 1910 Newton County, Missouri, Census.

²¹1900 Indian Territory Census, Fort Gibson.

²²Marriage License, Crawford County, Arkansas.

²³Cherokee Advocate Newspaper Extracts, Oklahoma Yesterday Publishing Company, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 1991, p. 158 (Book 1845-1877); p. 51 (Book 1880-1883).

²⁴Certificate for Dawes Roll, No. 7994, March 4, 1907.

²⁵Letter written approximately 1930, one year before Berenice Meigs Coleman Wade's death.

Pat Hatcher and Bill Dow; and 10 May 1994, "Family Connections and the Tafel Matching System" by Gene Burris.

The forty-five minute sessions starting one hour before each regularly scheduled DGS meeting continued but as open question-and-answer sessions. With no scheduled presentations at these meetings, we were unsure how attendance might be affected. However, attendance was about the same as past years with a high of 44 present at one session.

Additional program growth included continuing the Resources Library. This Library, maintained by Shirley Sloat, includes catalogs and published material of interest to those using computers and other technology in genealogy. The CD exchange program was continued with the help of Cliff Slagle and Shirley Sloat.

The previously assumed responsibility for preparing labels for all DGS mailings was returned by the CIG to the Director of Mailings. The effort to tabulate data collected for the Capital Expansion Program continued.



Computer Interest Group

John V. Wylie

Programs and attendance for the DGS Computer Interest Group grew in the 1993-1994 Society year. We changed the two-hour sessions from the second Monday of each month to the second Thursday. This was primarily to avoid conflict with the Fort Worth Genealogical Society and to accommodate Mormon attendees. These sessions also included an open question-and-answer period. A total of 214 people attended DGSCIG events this year.

Lectures presented during the year were as follows: 8 Sept 1993, "Using the Internet" by Jeri Steele; 13 Oct 1993, "Millenium" by John Wylie; 10 Nov 1993, "Roots IV" by John Wylie; 12 Jan 1994, "Restoring Old Photos on a Computer" by Tom Fallan; 9 Feb 1994, no meeting due to GENTECH; 9 Mar 1994, "The Master Genealogist" by Jeri Steele and Bill Dow; 12 Apr 1994, panel on "Using the Computer to Be Organized" with John Wylie,

Bulletin Board

Do you have information you would like to share with other genealogical researchers in DGS? Have you found a "good deal" in genealogy, a rare library, a new source? If so, send the information to us. This column is your forum for exchange. Please send original information only and include the source.

Send to: Bulletin Board Editor; DGS; P.O. Box 12648; Dallas, TX 75225-0648.

New Society Formed

Delores Victor King reports the formation of the Northwest Texas Cornish Society which will strive to bring together researchers of common interest who have ancestors from the county of Cornwall, England. In other areas of the country where mining was a major factor in bringing the Cornish to the U.S., Cornish associations have been active for many years.

If you have Cornish ancestry, please contact either Delores at (817) 573-2728 or Nancy Roberts Lord at (817) 275-7034 for Society information.

German-Texan Meeting Set

The German-Texan Heritage Society will hold its 1994 annual meeting September 9-11 at the Sunday House Convention Center & Old Munich Restaurant in Fredericksburg. Presentations will include tracing your family tree in Europe, the German artists of the Hill Country, the German Free School of Austin and historical vignettes on a variety of subjects. The \$35 registration fee includes Friday night refreshments, a Saturday night dinner and admission to all convention exhibits and lectures. If interested, please contact Teresa Chavez for program, hotel and registration information at P.O. Box 68471, Austin, TX 78768 or call (512) 482-0927.

The German-Texan Society is in the process of furnishing a library in its new headquarters, the historic German Free School building (built 1857), and they are seeking historical documents from old German families throughout the state. For appropriate donations, please contact Teresa Chavez at the telephone number above.

New Hours At the National Archives!

The Southwest Branch of the National Archives in Fort Worth has announced cancellation of their late-closing on Wednesday nights effective June 29. However, the consolation prize is even better: beginning July 2, 1994, the Archives will be open all day the first Saturday of each month on a one-year trial basis. If the new arrangement proves popular and volunteer staff can continue to assist Archives employees, the Saturday openings will continue. The Archives is a boon for North Texas researchers as their holdings include the entire Federal census from 1790-1920, including all available Soundexes, and the extensive microfilmed records of local Federal District courts as well as the microfilmed records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Five Civilized Tribes and various military indexes. Microfilm readers are available on a first-come, first-served basis, but for more information, feel free to contact the Archives at (817) 334-5525. The street address for the Archives is 501 W. Felix. Researchers must show proof of automobile insurance along with photo identification at the security gates.

On to Fort Wayne!

Mid-Western researchers may want to take the opportunity to attend the annual Great Lakes Conference 1994 to be held this year from August 4-6 at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This excellent conference, jointly organized by the Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Ontario and Wisconsin Genealogical Societies, promises a full range of lecture topics as well as the opportunity to do research at the Allen County Public Library, one of the premier research libraries in the U.S. For more information and a registration flyer, please contact the Indiana Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 10507, Fort Wayne, IN 46852.

Brigham Young Conference Slated

Not to be outdone by their mid-Western counterparts, the annual Brigham Young Conference and Workshops are set for August 2-6, 1994 on the BYU campus in Provo, Utah. Classes are divided for beginning, intermediate and advanced researchers, and special courses being offered this year include accreditation preparation, English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish sources; Southern states; old English handwriting; and tracing immigrant origins. Accommodations are available either on the campus or a list of nearby hotels is available. For more information and the course schedule, please contact BYU at (801) 378-4853 or write BYU Conferences & Workshops, 136 Harman Building, Provo, UT 84602.

Discounts Available on FGS Forum

Did you know that, since our Society belongs to the Federation of Genealogical Societies, all of our members are entitled to a 40% discount on the quarterly publication, *FGS Forum*? Subscriptions normally cost \$15.00, but our members pay only \$9.00 annually. Our President and our FGS Delegate each receive a copy as a benefit of DGS' membership so, if you have not seen *Forum*, ask them about it.

Forum contains a wealth of information that will advance your personal genealogical research as well as keep you abreast of the latest developments in the genealogical community. For example, the forty-page Winter 1993 issue contained articles on how a courthouse fire need not have only negative

consequences; the status of the Civil War Soldiers System project that will computerize information about every participant in the Civil War; the release of the newest edition of the International Genealogical Index (IGI); the expanded British Collection at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City; grant acquisition for member societies; future conferences, seminars and meetings; and genealogical institutes in Texas, Illinois, Alabama and Washington, D.C. In addition, each issue features sections detailing member society publications and activities, society management tips, book reviews and notices, records access and preservation, family association meetings, profiles of speakers and calendar of events.

To subscribe for one year, send a check for \$9.00 (payable to *FGS Forum*) to *FGS Forum*, P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385. Or increase your savings by sending \$17.00 for a 2-year or \$25.00 for a 3-year subscription.

Update on the Civil War Soldiers System

For all volunteers who have expressed an interest in assisting with computer data entry for the Civil War Soldiers System (CWSS), please bear with us just a while longer. Curt Witcher, FGS Project Coordinator, reports that the project has been delayed due to insufficient budgetary funding by the National Park Service. It seems that the Park Service was totally overwhelmed by the sheer volume of volunteers who signed up nationwide to participate in this worthwhile and much-needed project! This massive effort, a joint project being co-sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Genealogical Society of Utah, the National Park Service and the National Archives, is now on-line in several areas of the country, and we hope that the DGS volunteer group will receive their project assignments in the near future. If you would like to volunteer to input the service records of the 7 million soldiers who served in the Civil War, please contact Mary Johnson, North Texas Volunteer Coordinator, at (214) 233-8006. Again, thanks for your patience!

[More Bulletin Board; see page 94]

A Note From June Shipley

At the DGS meeting in May, June Shipley told our members about the losses to the Lancaster Genealogical Society's collection and the damage sustained by the Lancaster Library in the recent tornado. June sent the following note, and we'd thought we'd pass it on:

Super, Super Thanks to DGS!

A special THANK YOU to all DGS members and guests who contributed in response to my appeal for the Genealogical Section of the Lancaster Library at our May meeting. A total of \$351 along with promises of books was collected in a matter of 10-12 minutes. This could only come from fellow devoted researchers!!

I have been told that I did a "Tammie Faye Baker" act. I do admit that I was close to tears as I spoke of the tornado damage in my home town, but I want you to know the words came straight from my heart.

One of the questions asked pertained to where books could be donated. Hopefully soon, we will have a building in Lancaster to store all donated books along with books back from the freeze-dry restoration process. In the meantime, please feel free to call my home at (214) 324-4570 or Janet Cook at (214) 223-0524. We will store books until a building becomes available.

Bless each of you, June Anderson Shipley.

[n.b. The DGS made a contribution to the Lancaster GS in memory of Rabel Cook, a member of both societies, who was killed in the tornado.]

Beginner's Corner: Searching Land Records

Leslie Smith Collier

America and the rest of the world ran on an agricultural economy until this century, meaning that the most valuable asset of our farmer ancestors was their land. And cherish it they did. They bought as much as they could as soon as they could, and often tried to keep it in the family even when it was time to pass on the title. Land can be the key to solving your most difficult genealogical problems, for many of the names on your deeds are "kinfolk," whether or not you recognize it at the outset.

Patents, grants, deeds, surveys, warrants, plats—who are those guys? Yes, there *are* a bewildering array of terms that confound us when we first take up land records, but wading through the terminology and legal mumbo-jumbo proves not as daunting as it might seem. Let's straighten out this verbiage by following a piece of property in southwestern Virginia.

Walking through the purchase process

Under English common law the original owner of property is the government for whom the land was claimed by some intrepid explorer and who has negotiated with any other claimants to get a clear title. By the 1780s the Commonwealth of Virginia has extended her westward border beyond the Appalachian Mountains and signed a treaty with the Indian tribes legally allowing settlers into the area that is now Russell County. Virginia is then ready to increase her treasury by selling this land.

Ericus Smith has settled, or made entry, into this area and begins the process of acquiring ownership. He requests a survey, or legal measurement and description, of the property on which he is living. Virginia warrants, or orders, that a survey of his 200 acres of land be made. The surveyor records the description of the land on 4 October 1783 in the survey records of Washington County, noting that actual settlement had been made in 1774. Mr. Smith then pays for his acreage, and the Commonwealth of Virginia issues title to him in a document known as a grant or patent. From this point forward no federal or state record of this property exists, for it has passed into private ownership. All further references to subsequent sales of the same land are made in county deed books. Ericus Smith registers

his patent, recorded

2 October 1787 in Washington County's Grants and Patents Book 15, page 166.

Sample Deed

By 1797 Ericus Smith Senior has died, and his heirs are ready to divide the land amongst themselves. Recorded in Russell County Deed Book 2, page 339, is the following deed (abstracted):

This indenture made on the 22nd day of August in the year of our Lord 1797 between Ely Smith and Jane his wife, Andrew Smith and Rachel his wife, and Ephraim Hatfield and Mary his wife of the County of Russell, and Joseph Hatfield and Rachel his wife of the county of Lee on the one part [the sellers] and Ericus Smith [Junior] of the sd. County of Russell of the other part [the buyer]. Witnesseth that for and in Consideration of the Sum of Sixty pounds to them in hand paid by the Said Ericus Smith, the receipt of which is here hereby acknowledged...[the sellers] do Grant, Bargain and Sell...unto the sd. Ericus Smith a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Russell on the water of Thompsons Creek Containing one hundred six acres and bounded as followeth to Wit: [legal description using archaic surveyor's terms] Beginning at a walnut and two Sugartrees at the foot of a ridge of knobs and running thence North 7° West 30 poles to two Large white oaks North 34° East 22 poles to two white oaks and a red oak North 17° West 60 poles to a large white oak, a Dogwood, and Several berry Saplings on the south side of a Branch South 7° West 140 poles to a red oak., Maple, and Hickory in the fork of a branch South 45° West 41 poles to a white oak, beech, and Maple South 32° East 96 poles to four post oaks thence North 73° East 130 poles to the Beginning...This sd. tract of Land being part of a two hundred acre tract granted by the Commonwealth of Virginia to Ericus Smith Deceased...the sellers then agree to warrant and defend the claim of Ericus Smith Junior against the Claims of all persons whomsoever...In Testimony whereof the Sd. Ely Smith and Jane his wife, Andrew Smith and Rachel his wife, Ephraim Hatfield and Mary his wife, and Joseph Hatfield and Rachel his wife hath hereunto set their hands and seals the Day and year before written.

Executed in presence of
[no witnesses listed]

Aly Smith
Andrew Smith
Rachel Smith
Ephraim Hatfield
Rachel Hatfield
Jane Smith

The deed is then proven, or guaranteed, by the sellers and their wives and recorded in county records at August Court 1797:

This Indenture of Bargain and Sale of Land from Ely Smith and Jane his wife, Andrew Smith and Rachel his wife, Ephraim Hatfield and Mary his wife, and Joseph Hatfield and

Rachel his wife to Ericus Smith was Exhibited in Court and acknowledged by the sd. Aly, Andrew and Ephraim. Their wives Jane, Rachel, and Rachel being privily Examined as the Law Directs and ordered to be Recorded

Nathan Ellington, Clerk

From this one document a genealogist learns that Ericus Smith Senior is now deceased, as is his wife since she does not participate in the sale of the land. We see the names of his heirs, for only heirs have the legal right to sell this land, and have proof of their marriages to Ephraim and Joseph Hatfield. The first names of the wives of his sons are given to us as well. All of this from a single deed concerning the property of a man on whom no probate was filed and in a county which has no surviving marriage records.

A note on the survey systems

State Land States—The following states used a system of surveying land with roots in their European homelands; this system is called *metes and bounds*. Land was described according to physical points such as stakes driven into the ground, rocks, and trees (the metes) and boundaries such as streams and hilltop ridges (the bounds). Since these features often change over time, it can be a challenge to find this land today. Land sold under the metes and bounds system often zigs and zags, making your ancestor's farm look like puzzle pieces.

States using metes and bounds are the first thirteen colonies, plus a few strays: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia.

Federal Land States—These (also known as *Public Land States*), comprising of all the other states, survey land according to a rectangular (or quadrant) survey method. In this method land is described and sold in geometric blocks, as measured from imaginary map lines known as meridians. Deeds which use this survey system depend on your knowledge of the township, range and section. Maps which identify these areas of your county are often found in county history books, cemetery books and old plat maps.

Measurement terms

Early deeds are not expressed in kilometers or miles, but in terms we no longer use. Here they are:

Acre—160 square rods

Arpent—about one acre. Used in early French parts of the U.S.

Chain—100 links, or 66'

Degree—1/360th of a circle (determine on a compass)

Furlong—40 rods

Link—7.92 inches, or 1/100 of a chain

Minute—60 seconds, or 1/60 of a degree (used with a compass)

Perch—5.5 yards, or 16.5'

Pole—16 1/2'

Rod—5.5 yards, or 16.5'

Second—1/60 of a minute (used with a compass)

Square mile—640 acres

Vara—about 33 1/3", used in Spanish Texas and

Florida (does vary in size depending on time and place)

What genealogical data can be gleaned from all this deed research?

- Relationships** expressed
"1/13 share of the land of my father"
 implied
"94 ac., part of an old 200 ac. tract"
- Marriages** expressed
"John G. Hall & Margaret his wife, formerly Smith"
 implied
"Joseph & Rachel Hatfield sell to Aly Smith...94 ac., part of an old 200 ac. tract"
- Vital Records** death
"land on which my father lived at the time of his death...to descend to me at the death of my mother"
 age
"a share to each of my children when they reach full age"
 # of children
"1/10 of 230 ac. in the 6th Civil District"
- Migrations**
"Eli & Jane Smith, now of Campbell Co., TN"
"Ericus Hollingsworth of Macoupin Co., IL, sells"
- Names** of women
"along Ruth Parker's line"
 of young men
as purchasers, witnesses, chain carriers
- Occupations**
"William Tompkins, yeoman"
"above Woodson's tanyard"
"at a stake near sd. W.D. Sharp's blacksmith shop"
- Neighbors** Neighbors are a genealogist's best friends. They either move into your neighborhood already "kin" to your family, or they will marry into your family and become "kin."

Capital Expansion Project Update

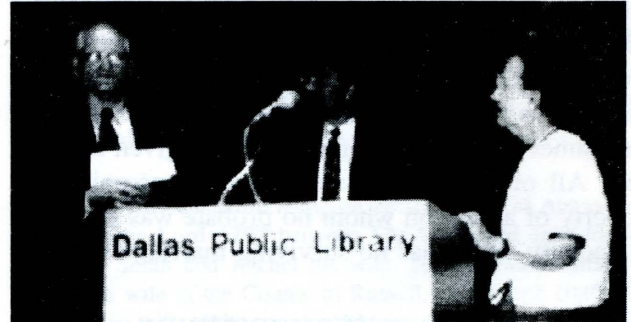
Jan Bishop McFarland

Summer's arrived, and everything's coming up roses and daisies (and even a few orchids) for the Dallas Genealogical Society's Capital Expansion Project.

General, We Salute You!!!

The General Levi Casey Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, generated a lot of excitement at DGS's May meeting. Earlier in the month, the ladies of Levi Casey voted to make a donation to the Society's Capital Expansion Project in memory of Edith Allen PALMER, and at the May meeting Regent Mary Shelton FLORENCE presented the chapter's letter pledging \$30,000 to the Project. The new microforms area will be named for Mrs. Palmer.

Our warmest thanks to all members of the General Levi Casey Chapter, DAR, for this most generous gift. In particular, we would like to thank Wanda LEDWELL, 2nd Vice-Regent of the chapter, whose dedication to quality genealogical research helped steer this gift to the Expansion Project.



*Library Director Romero Salazar
and DGS President J. Bruce Moseley
Accept DAR Gift from
Mary Shelton Florence*

Thanks to the Thankers

Those lovely handwritten thank-you notes which donors have been receiving are the work of some of DGS's most dependable writers. DGS mainstay Margret Hancock PEARCE is coordinating the effort with the help of Betty ANDERSON, Mary Ann FOURNIER, Monette GRANT, Dorislee HOFFPAUER, Mary Beth LASATER, Zoe MILLER and Jeanette BLAND. If these names look familiar, they should. These are some of the people who *always* seem to step forward when there's work to be done. Thanks, ladies. You're the best.



**Donor-Participants Celebrate a
"Picnic in the Library"**

Picnic at the Library

The attire was casual, the food was spectacular, and the research was rampant. DGS's second evening fundraiser in the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library went off without a hitch, thanks once again to Leslie Smith COLLIER and her stalwart crew of volunteers. Donor-participants included: Drs. Frederick & Kim CARNEY; Dr. Daniel T. CARRIER; Dean CORBITT; Bill DOW; Ed HILL; Cliff & Henrietta SLAGLE; Jeri STEELE; Raymond T. STORY; and Don & Joan THOMPSON. Thanks to everyone who helped make this marvelous evening possible.

More Capital Expansion; [page 95]

Guide to Resources in the Genealogy Section of the Dallas Public Library

The Oklahoma Indian Pioneer History Collection Sammie Townsend Lee

Overview The Indian Pioneer History Collection is another valuable contribution from the Works Progress Administration. The W.P.A., established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" Administration, provided gainful employment for out-of-work depression-era Americans.

The Oklahoma W.P.A. began the Indian Pioneer Histories in 1936 as Project S-149. Sponsored by the University of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Historical Society, the oral-history project collected from living witnesses vital facts, recollections, and impressions of pioneer life in the state. Oklahoma, a relatively young state, had many of her territorial pioneers still living. About one hundred field workers were involved in the project across the state, sending out over 25,000 questionnaires and conducting oral interviews with both pioneers and first and second generation native-born Oklahomans. The interviews were typed and compiled into 113 volumes. In 1978 the books were microfilmed by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Content The interviews afford a glimpse of Oklahoma history as only those who experienced it can provide. Many of the interviews contain vital information about the person being interviewed; names and vital information about that person's parents and other ancestors; former places of residence; occupations; names of siblings, friends, and neighbors; customs and traditions; religion; and social history in the Indian Territory and State of Oklahoma.

Example: In an interview on 15 April 1937, Rev. John B. Acorn states his date of birth is 15 January 1874 in the Flint District, Cherokee Nation. His parents are Ned and Katie (Boling) Acorn, also born in the Flint District. All are full-blood Cherokee belonging to the Wolf Clan. Ned, a farmer, died in 1897 and Katie in 1912; and both are buried in the family cemetery at the "old home about eight miles south of Stillwell, Oklahoma." John B. Acorn is a minister of the Missionary Baptist Church and names several of the early preachers of the area. He also talks about some of the early churches in the area and describes the old camp meetings that were popular when he was a child. He married Adeline Smith, a Cherokee, at the age of thirty-six. They have one son and two daughters.

Example: In an interview on 11 January 1937, Mrs. Mary Ackley tells about her grandmother, Eliza Kilpatrick, a half-breed Cherokee born in the old Cherokee Nation in Alabama. Eliza traveled the "trail of tears" with her parents in 1838 and located in the Flint District. She married a white man, Joshua Kilpatrick, and had thirteen children. She died where she had lived all her life and is buried in the Flint District cemetery.

Location The Genealogy Collection owns all 113 volumes of the Oklahoma Indian Pioneer History Collection on 37 rolls of microfilm. The film is located in the first and second drawers of the Oklahoma state microfilm cabinet.

Aids A two-reel alphabetical index to the collection—rolls number 38 and 39—lists names, places, and events by volume, description, and page number.

Queries

Terri Mulliken Allen

Queries do not require a Texas connection and are free to members of the Dallas Genealogical Society (DGS). Nonmembers should include \$3 for each query. DGS reserves the right to abbreviate and condense queries and assumes no responsibility for their accuracy. Send as many queries as you wish, and they will be printed as space permits. Mail all queries to: Editor; DGS Newsletter; P. O. Box 2648; Dallas, TX 75225-0648.

**DUPREE
GLEATON
TAYLOR**

Would like to correspond with anyone who has researched or has information on **Charles Anderson DUPREE**, born in Dooly County, GA in 1863 and died in Fort Huron, MI in 1938. He married **Martha Elizabeth GLEATON**, daughter of **Joseph and Malinda (TAYLOR) GLEATON**, in 1885. **Martha** was born in GA in 1862 and died in Lubbock, TX. Children of **Charles and Martha DUPREE** were (1) **Winnie Malinda**, born AL; (2) **Claud**, born GA; (3) **Ovie Orene**, born GA; (4) **Mattie Elizabeth**, born GA; (5) **Annie Forest**, born GA; (6) **Charles Peese**, born GA; (7) **Joseph (Ed)**, born GA; (8) **Ella Mae**, born GA; and (9) **William Ruffies**, born GA.

Nelta Evans, 501 South Hoover, Enid, OK 73703

**ODELL
DENTON**

Information gladly exchanged on **Abraham ODELL**, born 1820 in TN and died 1870 in TX. He married **Elizabeth DENTON** in 1840. **Elizabeth** was born in TN in 1820 and died in 1906 in TX. Their children were: (1) **Nancy**, born TN; (2) **Abraham**, born TN; (3) **Margaret**, born TN; (4) **Elizabeth**, born TX; (5) **Sarah**, born TX; (6) **William**, born TX; and (7) **Tipton**, born TX.

Nelta Evans, 501 South Hoover, Enid, OK 73703

**WITTEN
HUDSON
HOLT**

Would like to hear from descendants of **Isaac James WITTEN**, born in Camden County, MO in 1858 and died 1935 in OK. He married **Mary Ellen HUDSON**, daughter of **James Franklin and Mary Ann (HOLT) HUDSON**, in 1885. **Mary Ellen** was born 1869 in Smithville, AR and died in OK in 1946. Children were: (1) **Isaac Albert**, born TX; (2) **Nancy Annie Frances**, born TX; (3) **Lillie May**, born OK; (4) **Johnnie Oryil**, born OK; and (5) **Elija Barksdale**, born OK.

Nelta Evans, 501 South Hoover, Enid, OK 73703

**THARP
ORNDORFF**

Seeking information on **Marshall THARP**, born in WV in 1855 and died in KS in 1931 and was buried in Lexington, MO. He married **Belle ORNDORFF** in 1880 in Hardy County, WV. **Belle** was born in 1861 in OH and died in 1907 in Lexington, MO. Their children were: (1) **Harry Warden**, born Wardensville, WV; (2) **Eliza Catherine**, born MO; (3) **Rose Belle**, born MO; (4) **Charles Cuthbert**, born MO; (5) **Irene S.**, born MO.

Nelta Evans, 501 South Hoover, Enid, OK 73703

**MURPHY
GUINN**

Seeking information about **James Henry MURPHY**, born in 1822 in TN and died in Nixon, TX in 1880. He married **Lucinda GUINN** in Grundy County, TN in 1845. **Lucinda** was born in 1822 and died in 1876. Who were **James Henry MURPHY'S** parents? Could it have been **Tom MURPHY** from Ireland? Any help would be appreciated.

Michelle Murphy Voirin, 5250 Harborside Drive, Tampa, FL 33615

**VICKERY
PLACE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD
WORKS
RICHARD
VICKERY
BLESSINGS**

The **Vickery Place Neighborhood Association** is seeking information for its third annual historical calendar. We are looking for people who lived/live in our unique area of old East Dallas. Did you grow up on Vickery, Miller, Goodwin, Willis, Richard, Belmont Avenue or lower Greenville Avenue? Did you attend the old Vickery School? We are also looking for people who are researching the **G.W. WORKS** family and the **RICHARD, VICKERY** and **BLESSINGS** families who owned a mill on **Miller Avenue** around 1910. **Nancy Cunningham, 5634 Richard, Dallas, TX 75206**

VOIRIN

Seeking information about **Charles VOIRIN** who emigrated from France in 1855 or 1856. He lived in the LaReunion Settlement. **Charles** and his family later became one of the founding families of Irving, TX. We would like to know **Charles'** French origins and the names of his parents and any siblings.

Michelle Murphy Voirin, 5250 Harborside Drive, Tampa, FL 33615

**JONES
KING
STINEBAUGH
MCDANIEL
NEWTON
JAMES
HUSTEAD
MURRELL**

Seeking all descendants of **Robert Degge and Martha Eliza (KING) JONES**, who came to Dallas County, TX from McMinn County, TN in 1855. The **Jones Reunion Club**, which met annually from 1934-1959 has been revived and is holding its reunion on 4 September 1994 in Denton, TX. I am especially seeking the descendants of their youngest son, **Robert Henry (1857-1882)** who died in Hedley, Donley County, TX and his wife, **Sude (STINEBAUGH) JONES**. Other siblings were: (1) **James William**, (2) **Ellen Mildred (JONES) MCDANIEL**, (3) **John Thomas**, (4) **Joseph Alexander**, (5) **Mary Elizabeth (JONES) NEWTON**, (6) **Horace King**, (7) **Martha Catherine (JONES) JAMES**, (8) **Lucinda (JONES) HUSTEAD** and (9) **Amanda (JONES) MURRELL**.

Natalie Newton Massengale, Route 5, 107 Trinity Road, Denton, TX 76208

Award Proclamation *[Continued from front page]*

1993 AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT - ORGANIZATION

The Award for Achievement - Organization is an award for a non-profit genealogical or historical organization in recognition of exceptional contributions to the field of genealogy over a period of five or more years, which have resulted in significantly aiding or furthering an interest in genealogy.

The recipients of the Award for Achievement - Organization have been active in the genealogy field since 1955. This year marks their fortieth year of collecting, preserving and making available genealogical and historical materials to its members and researchers.

In the last five years, the organization has published twelve volumes on newspapers, cemeteries and genealogical resources in their county. They sponsor spring, summer and fall seminars, beginner's workshops and monthly meetings which set national standards. They have donated approximately \$100,000 to the Genealogy Section of the local public library over the past five years. Volunteers assist the staff at this library.

It is with much pleasure that we present the 1993 Award for Achievement - Organization to the Dallas Genealogical Society who publish the quarterly, *The Dallas Quarterly*, and who support the Genealogy Section of the J. Erik Jonsson Dallas Public Library.

Coming in the September-October Issue:

- ✓ More details about the upcoming trip to Salt Lake City from 5-12 February 1995 including registration, an agenda of special events and cost information.
- ✓ The 1994-1995 line-up of DGS & CIG monthly meeting programs will be announced!

DGS Regional Conference 1994

The largest and most exciting event in our Society's history is scheduled for the weekend of 19 November 1994. Study Texas and her neighbors, genealogy as a profession, beginner topics, your ethnic roots, in-depth methodology and much, much more. Make your plans **NOW** to attend the DGS Regional Conference 1994. More details in the next issue of *DGS Newsletter*.

Bulletin Board *[cont. from page 87]*

Austin Genealogical Society Meeting

Dr. John Philip Colletta, Ph.D. will conduct four one-hour lectures on Saturday, 6 August 1994 for the Austin Genealogical Society. Dr. Colletta will speak on naturalization records before 1906, military pension and bounty land records prior to 1912, understanding resource repositories and genealogical materials in the Library of Congress. The pre-registration fee is \$25 (including lunch) if paid before 29 July and \$28 after that date. Registration forms may be obtained from the Austin Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1507, Austin, TX 78767 or call Josephine Ross at (512) 459-6121. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M. and the seminar will conclude at 4:00 P.M.

Capital Expansion Fund Contributors

[continued from page 90]

The Dallas Genealogical Society and its Capital Expansion Committee gratefully acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions to the Expansion Fund as of 15 May 1994:

Individuals: Drs. Frederick & Kim **CARNEY**; Charles R. **SNAKARD**; Jeri **STEELE** & Bill **DOW**; Daniel T. **CARRIER**; F. M. **PENN**; Mrs. Genevieve T. **HARRIS** (in honor of the DPL Genealogy Section Staff); Mrs. R. A. **CARLTON, Jr.**; Frances Barnes **FORD** (in memory of Glenn H. Barnes); Beverly J. **HOLMES** (in memory of Everett Choate Johnston); **IMO Industries, Inc.** (Matching gift of Gerald W. Irion); Hallie P. **GARNER**; Jan **SAMUELS**; Edward A. **LUCE** (in memory of Charlotte A. Luce); Joe **LONG**; Carol B. **REEDER**; Mrs. & Mrs. H. Taylor **PENDLEY**; Diana Pearson **WHITE** (in honor of Hazel Roberts Pearson); Nova A. **LEMONS**; Marjorie L. **JERDEN** & Natalie **SIMPSON**; Jeanne **HOOVER**; Frances Miller **HOMAN**.

Organizations: The Texas Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America (in honor of Society Governor Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck).

Letters to DGS

DGS receives several letters a week from researchers seeking their "lost in Texas" ancestors. Unfortunately, DGS does not have personnel or resources to do the requested research. However, in this issue we are publishing excerpts from some of these letters in the hope that perhaps our members may have information that will solve some of their questions. Good luck—we hope you discover a researching cousin!

I am trying to trace my Hall family and was wondering if you could please help me? I will gladly pay for any photocopies. I am searching for the parents of **William Hector HALL**, born either 1871 (according to Bible record) or c. 1875 (according to the 1910 census). He married 22 April 1897 **Mollie WILKERSON** in Bonham, TX. Was this the same **Willie H. HALL** who was in Bonham in 1880-1890?
Natalene Hall, HC 82 Box 570, Farris, OK 74525

I am seeking a copy of the research done by **Joseph LOBLEY** who lived on Lilac Lane in Dallas in the 1960s. Mr. Lobley used a Bible record of the **FREELAND** family in our possession and had extensive research notes about this family and the **GULLETT, WRIGHT, MAYER, THOMPSON, STRAYHORN** and **LEFTWICH** families.
Patsy Bass, 215 West Second Street, Tyler, TX 75701

DGS Membership/1994

New Roster to be printed this year!

Check One: Renewal _____ New Member _____ Date _____

Name _____ Telephone _____ Address _____
 _____ City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ - _____

- | | |
|---|------------|
| Dues: Annual, per household, if paid <i>before</i> January 31, 1994 | \$15 _____ |
| Annual, per household, if paid <i>after</i> January 31, 1994 | \$18 _____ |
| Sustaining Member (\$10 is tax-deductible) | \$25 _____ |
| Patron Member (\$35 is tax-deductible) | \$50 _____ |
| Life Membership (Age 64 and under – \$500; Age 65 and over – \$300) | \$ _____ |
| ▶▶▶ 1994 Roster ◀◀◀ (To be included, pay by March 15, 1994) | \$4 _____ |
| Contribution to Capital Expansion Project | \$ _____ |

Check number: _____ \$ **Your total:** _____

Surname Exchange: Each member may submit up to 8 surnames, plus one state/country research locality for each surname, i.e. Johnson, NC. These surnames will be printed in the roster.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Make your check payable to **DGS**
 Mail to: Membership; Dallas Genealogical Society; P.O. Box 25556; Dallas, TX 75225-1556

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DGS Wins NGS Award!
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Volume 18, Number 4 (Issue 155)
July-August 1994