

# Roots 'n' Branches

Your Award Winning Newsletter

Monthly Grand Prairie Genealogical Society Newsletter  
 P.O. Box 532026 Grand Prairie, Texas 75053-2026  
[www.gpgstx.org](http://www.gpgstx.org)

Thursday, April 3, 2009

## Bruce Pastusek

### Uniforms, Weaponry and Items Soldiers Carried During the War

Bruce will display and demonstrate items used during the Civil War. He began doing Living History about the War Between the States era which led to buying equipment for reenactments. Bruce is a native of Wichita Falls and attended Midwestern State University for four years before moving to Ft. Worth and then to Arlington. He discovered ancestors that fought for the Confederacy during the War Between the States and joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans camp in Arlington in February 1999.

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Refreshments will be provided by John and Bonnie Cockrum and Cynthia Jones

**The Grand Prairie Genealogical  
Society meets the first Thursday of  
each month.**

Refreshments and conversation 6:30 pm  
Meeting 7:00pm

**Grand Prairie Memorial Library  
901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie**

Visitors Are Always Welcome

*Regina Shumaker  
Vice President of Programs*

## Society Receives Dechman Award

The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society has been awarded the Dechman Award from the Grand Prairie Historical Commission. The award was in recognition of the citizen profiles compiled by the society. Profiles were of Grand Prairie citizens who made a difference through their contributions to Grand Prairie over the past 100 years. The society's profile project was managed by John Wylie and Pam Knight. Pam Knight and John Wylie received the award on behalf of the society. Society members Shirley Willingham, Becky Garland, Barb Wylie, Regina Shumaker, Ruthe Jackson, and Richard Waller were on hand.

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Society E-mail: [gpgstx@yahoo.com](mailto:gpgstx@yahoo.com)

## From the Gavel

### Studying all over again

I wish I had worked harder at learning history when I was in school. I saw it as just dates and events and not that it really applied to my life. Now, as I search for my ancestors, I wish I remembered it better. Because now, it would give me more insight into the living conditions and circumstances of those that I'm searching for. Wars and financial upheavals are big incentives for migration.

What about weather conditions? We know how many people were displaced because of hurricane Katrina. They were scattered throughout the United States from not only New Orleans but parts of Mississippi and Alabama as well. That area was hit hard and is still cleaning up, recovering and rebuilding even 4 years later.

How did my grandparents live during the great depression? Why did my ancestors migrate over the years from Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee and Mississippi? I know my great-grandparents came from Mississippi but they were married in Delta County Texas. Did the runaway together or did they fall in love along the way? Finding history is just as important to our research as finding the dates for when our ancestors lived and died.

Our great technology is a wonderful tool for revisiting history and learning all over again. The history channel did a series on our Presidents during February. I have recorded this series that covers from 1818 to present

day that I can review and relearn our history and give me insight into the world of my ancestors.

I urge you to revisit history and glean clues for your own research.

*Pamela Knight*  
President

## Member Profile

### John Tull

I was born in Waco, Texas, the first of 7 children. I started to school in Riesel, Texas (about 15 miles southeast of Waco). My family was one of the earliest settlers in Dalworthington Gardens community about 5 miles southwest of Arlington in the summer of 1935, and I started the fourth grade at the old Johnson Station Elementary school. This was located at the present corner of Mayfield and Cooper streets in Arlington. Shortly after my eleventh birthday in 1936, my mother died, and is buried in the Johnson Station cemetery. I attended high school at Arlington High, and graduated in 1943 with 92 other people.

After high school, I joined the Navy for the duration of the war. After returning home, I attended only one year of college at what was then North Texas Agricultural College (now UT Arlington). I then met and married Virginia Peters, and my college career stopped. In 1948, I started working at the Chance Vought aircraft plant. I remained there for 42 years, retiring as a manufacturing engineer liaison. Virginia and I have been together for 61 years, and we have 3 children, 4 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren, with a sixth one due in April. We moved to Grand Prairie in 1949, and I think we will call it our hometown now.

## Collection Donations

Donated by Karen Brown through the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society:

"Tracing Your Family History"

*John V. Wylie  
Library Liaison*

## Celebrating a Century

The City of Grand Prairie began its "Celebrating a Century" with a festival at QuikTrip Park GPGS members manned a booth, despite chilly weather. Members displayed Grand Prairie in the 1910 Census. Those who attended enjoyed great music and wonderful displays from the Grand Prairie Historical Organization, First Methodist Church, various City of Grand Prairie departments and Dalworth Historical Association. Also on display were works of art from Grand Prairie ISD students, including member Richard Waller's son David who is a fourth Grader at Garcia Elementary. Thank You to the following members who braved the weather to attend to the society's booth: Pam Knight, Beau and Becky Garland, Ruth Lloyd, John and Barb Wylie, Regina Shumaker, Richard Waller. Raffle tickets for a smoker donated by member Karen Brown and her husband were sold during the event and Library Director Kathy Ritterhouse was the lucky winner of our drawing.

**"He who has no fools, knaves, or beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightning."**

**... Old English Proverb**

## Name That Person

Can you name this Grand Prairie Genealogical Society member?



**Last Month's photo:  
The very dapper John Tull**

## April Speaker

is currently in his third year on the SCV National Relief Committee, first year as Chief of Staff to the SCV Army of Trans-Mississippi Commander, completing his two year term as Brigade Commander of the Third Texas Brigade of the Texas Division SCV that includes overseeing nine local SCV camps with a tenth one being formed in Grand Prairie very soon. The G.P. camp will be named after Major Alexander McRae Dechman with Bruce serving as the adjutant. Previously, he served as camp commander for four years, camp adjutant for eight years, Aide-de-Camp to the SCV Commander-in-Chief for two years. He is Vice President of the Arlington Preservation Foundation.

## Workshops/Conferences

### **Genealogy Friends of Plano Libraries, Inc Preserving Our Precious Heirlooms**

Saturday, April 18, 2009

Naomi Taplin and Alan Lefever  
Plano Bible Chapel  
1900 Shiloh Road  
Plano Texas

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### **National Genealogical Society Conference In The States 2009**

#### **The Building of a Nation: From Roanoke to the West**

May 13-16, 2009

North Carolina Genealogical Society  
Raleigh, North Carolina

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### **Federation of Genealogical Societies 2009 Annual Conference Passages Through Time**

September 2-5, 2009

Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center  
Little Rock, Arkansas

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### **Grand Prairie Genealogical Society Centennial Celebration Lock-In**

October 23, 2009

Grand Prairie Memorial Library

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### **Texas State Genealogical Society**

San Antonio Genealogical &  
Historical Society

Present

#### **2009 Genealogy with a Mission**

Speaker: Craig R. Scott, CG

Colonial & Military Records

November 6-7, 2009

Omni Hotel San Antonio

## In The Coming Months

Below is a listing of the programs planned for the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>:**

### **Three Musketeers Go On a Five State Genealogy Trip**

Presented by society members; Doris **Kettlehut**, Karen **Hamilton** and Jan **Barrett**. They will share their first hand knowledge of planning and executing a trip in search of ancestor information. Doris **Kettlehut** joined GPGS in the late 1980's. She has lived in Grand Prairie over forty years. Genealogy is her hobby and passion. Karen **Hamilton** enjoys traveling, scrapbooking and genealogy. Karen lived in Grand Prairie for forty plus years. Her motor home is based in Midlothian. Jan **Barrett** is a native Texan and has lived in Grand Prairie all her life. She began doing genealogy about 35 years ago after attending family reunions and wondering how all the people were related. She belongs to eight heritage societies.

**June 4<sup>th</sup>: TBA**

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

### **Antless Picnic**

*Regina **Shumaker**  
Vice President of Programs*

## Thank You

Thank you to The Goodman's and the Cogdell's for the great refreshments at our March Meeting. This editor always appreciates good food.

Thank You to member Ruth Lloyd for embroidering the societies new logo onto a table cloth for use at meetings and events.

## Executive Board Members

### EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS:

#### PRESIDENT:

**Pamela Knight**

[pffaye@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pffaye@sbcglobal.net)

[www.mgfpersonalsecretary.com](http://www.mgfpersonalsecretary.com)

#### PRESIDENT-ELECT:

**Barbara Wylie**

[barb@johnwylie.com](mailto:barb@johnwylie.com)

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Programs:

**Regina Shumaker**

[golfinshu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:golfinshu@sbcglobal.net)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Newsletter:

**Richard G. Waller**

[wallerandsons@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wallerandsons@sbcglobal.net)

#### Secretary:

**Shirley Willingham**

[willingham@rocketmail.com](mailto:willingham@rocketmail.com)

#### Treasurer:

**John Cockrum**

[jeclonghorn@yahoo.com](mailto:jeclonghorn@yahoo.com)

#### Executive Board Directors:

##### Historian/Reporter:

**Carol Franklin**

[cfranklin1223@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cfranklin1223@sbcglobal.net)

##### Library Liaison:

**John V. Wylie**

[john@johnwylie.com](mailto:john@johnwylie.com)

##### Webmaster:

**Karen Brown**

[lookitupatgpgs@gmail.com](mailto:lookitupatgpgs@gmail.com)

##### Hospitality:

**Becky Garland**

[owengarland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:owengarland@sbcglobal.net)

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## Have a Query?

E-mail your query to [gpgstx@yahoo.com](mailto:gpgstx@yahoo.com),

Queries will be printed as space allows.

## Finance Report

The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society Finance Report that will be presented at our April meeting is as follows:

Balance 2-28-09	\$ 1,464.76
Deposits	\$ 65.00
Expenses	\$ 234.03
Balance 3-31-09	\$ 1,295.73

**John Cockrum**  
Treasurer

## Research Assistance

Grand Prairie Genealogical Society is providing research assistance in the Genealogy Room at the main library. During our March session society members Regina Shumaker, John and Barb Wylie, Karen Brown and Pam Knight volunteered. Our next Beginners Time will be from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm the third Thursday night of the month, April 16, 2009.

## Member News

Best Wishes to Executive Board member and Historian/Reporter Carol Franklin for a very speedy recovery after recent shoulder surgery.

Visit GP libraries online at:  
[www.gptx.org/library](http://www.gptx.org/library)

## Chuckles

I'm searching for myself;  
Have you seen me?

That's strange:  
half my ancestors are WOMEN!

## Websites of Interest

[SurnameWeb.org](http://SurnameWeb.org) - A collection of surname website links; online since 1996.

[JewishGen.org](http://JewishGen.org) - Jewish, reference, instruction, coordination, and databases.

[ObitCentral.com](http://ObitCentral.com) - Obituary database for finding obituaries and performing cemetery searches.

[GenCircles.com](http://GenCircles.com) - Upload and share your family trees.

[DeathIndexes.com](http://DeathIndexes.com) - Lists of links to United States death records, by state.

[Genuki.org.uk](http://Genuki.org.uk) - Large collection of genealogical information pages for England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.

[Daddezio.com](http://Daddezio.com) - Website focused upon Italian research, with instruction, information and more.

## Dear Uncle Leon

Dear Uncle Leon,

I am new to genealogy want to start off on the correct foot. Can you tell me what genealogy software to use while I'm researching?  
~Newbee

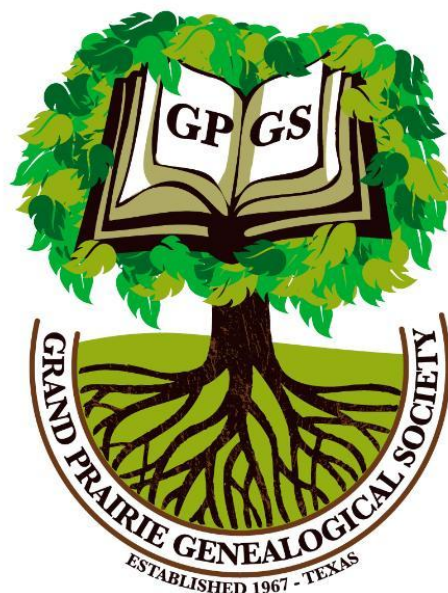
There are many good software programs on the market, the URL address is to a site that will show you a comparison chart to assist you in choosing the correct program for you. It is also helpful to check with family and friends to see what program they use since they will be your support group as you learn, someone using the same program can be a great help as you begin entering your family into your database.

[www.consumersearch.com/genealogy-software/compare](http://www.consumersearch.com/genealogy-software/compare)

~Happy Searching

## Society News

**New society logo adopted:** The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society general membership adopted the new society logo shown below that was presented by the Executive Board.



**Nominating Committee selected:** President Pam Knight has appointed the following people to serve on the 2009-2010 nominating committee Barb Wylie, Cynthia Jones, Peggy Norcross.

**Updated brochure finished:** An updated version of the societies promotional brochure has arrived from the printers. Copies will be available at our monthly meetings and at the "Celebrating a Century Festival" on March 28, 2009.

## Extractions

*The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society expresses its sincere thanks to society member Ruth Goodman, for her continued extractions from the "Grand Prairie Texan". The following pages are from February 4, 1910 issues.*

**FRIDAY, February 4, 1910**  
**GRAND PRAIRIE TEXAN**

LOTS REASONABLE—Now is the time to buy one of these lots. No taxes.

**Grand Prairie Realty Company, Agents.**

**Mr. and Mrs. J. T. SMITH** and **Mr. and Mrs. JESS SMALL** visited relatives in Fort Worth Sunday.

**W. J. BRITTIAN** has returned from Jacksonville after several days visit to friends and relatives.

The party at the home of **Mr. and Mrs. JOHN DAUGHETRY** last Saturday night was enjoyed by a large crowd of young people.

**Mr. and Mrs. WILL ADDISON** of Oak Cliff are visiting **Mrs. ADDISON's** parents, **Prof. and Mrs. E. W. DALLAS**, this week.

**Misses SALLIE McKINZIE** and **MINNIE PARKSDALE** of Dallas were guests at the home of **Dr. G. A. SPIVEY** Saturday and Sunday.

**Rose Hill Cemetery** bids fair to be one of the most beautiful cemeteries in this section and it is hoped our people will provide themselves with lots.

**LEON**, the little son of **Mr. and Mrs. GEO. FERRENS** died Saturday and was buried Sunday afternoon at the **Fuggat** grave yard, **Rev. CLARK** holding the funeral services.

FOR SALE—My home in Grand Prairie, consisting of five rooms, reception hall, bath room, artesian well, outhouses, etc. Terms. **J. J. FAGAN**

**Mr. A. W. LANDER** of New Home, candidate for Tax Collector, was in our town last Friday meeting old friends and making

new ones. He expresses much confidence in his success.

**Mr. J. H. OVERSTREET** of Fort Worth, who recently purchased considerable property in and near here, was in town this week figuring on erecting several rent houses.

**Mr. A. J. BRITTIAN**, our jeweler, is now at home and is an expert when it comes to putting "cranky" watches and clocks in good shape. See him for anything you want in his line.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL HONOR ROLL**--We give below a list of the pupils of the Grand Prairie Public School who made an average grade of 85 or more and appear on the honor roll:

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT: **MAUDE GRAHAM 94, ESSIE McWILLIAMS 93, MAGGIE GOETSELL 96, BIRDIE LACY 94, JESSIE BARNES 90, CLARENCE BUSBY 85, BURLESON DEANE 90, NEVILLE HALL 85, CECIL HUBBARD 86, MELVIN TAFT 89, JAY SWADLEY 86, THELMA MANNING 89, S. A. FISHBURN JR. 85, NORMA WITHERSPOON 93, VIRGINIA HOYT 94, MATTIE CAPPS 92, PETE STUBBS 85, CARRIE FAGAN 86, WILLIE BIRD 89, IRMA BRIDGES 87, ROLAND COOMER 92, MARY TULLOS 88, EMMA GRAHAM 85, DON MONTGOMERY 85, BERTIE TAYLOR 88, MATTIE McWILLIAMS 89, MARY FUGAT 93, FREDNA WITHERSPOON 85, MATTIE FORD 92, JOE SMITH 87, JESSIE FORD 95, NEOMA WOMACH 85, CARL COOMER 91, ROSA LUSK 94, VERA HARSTON 96, FELIECE LIO 88, FLORA DUNCAN 90, MARIE HERR 89, SAM WITHERSPOON 85, BERNICE STRAWN 92, WINFRED BINGHAM 94, LEO GRAHAM 86, ALMA LUSK 90, CLIFFORD WITHERSPOON 92, ALLIE SWADLEY 93, NITA PAYNE 92, MARY HARSTON 88, FRED WILSON 92, LUTHER KARR 88, MABEL TAFT 85, FRANK STUBBS 85, JAY HARSTON 85,**

**ORAN BARTON 94, FULTON KIRBY 92, THELMA TRIGG 85, ROBBIE McMILLIAN 85, EFFIE GREEN 90, ALLEN CROUCH 90, MAYME GOINS 91, GERTRUDE SOPP 94, JOE LIO 91.**

**INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT: LUDWIG SOPP 96, JOSIE THOMAS 93, LEON PHELPS 93, HOPE GILLESPIE 93, VARINA LIGGETT 93, HORACE DUNCAN 93, EULA WEBB 90, ROBERT BADGETT 88, HAROLD HEAFER 88, JEFF COX 88, MANDY HORN 88, EFFIE LATHAM 87, GLADYS FUGAT 87, PHILIP GOETSEL 86, HAMILTON JONES 85, MAMIE EVERET 85, BERTIE HARSTON 85, VENA CROUCH 90, BESSIE COWAN 90, WILLIE RANSON 93, GERTIE ROBERTSON 88, DAISY WILLIAMS 85, ROWENA HORSLEY 95, HAZEL KING 91.**

When you have a visitor or when you are going away or any other news that will be of interest to the public, just use the telephone. We put ours in for our patrons to use and so we urge you to help us. We always appreciate a news item handed in by anyone.

**J. B. VINSELL**, who lives on Route 2, called to see us and order The Texan sent to his father-in-law, **SAM ALLEY**, Richlands, Va., and to his brother, **JOE VINSELL**, Belfast Mills, Va. We always appreciate such favors and are glad to see our friends taking the interest they are in the success of our paper.

Quick fires are always secured when you use old papers for kindling—The Texan has several hundred for sale at 20 cents per hundred—enough to make fires all winter.

**Mesdames A. P. WALKER** of Hutchins and **A. J. MANNER** of Dallas spent Friday with **Mrs. J. H. HEAFER** and family, **H. W. HEAFER** and son, **HAROLD**, spent

Saturday and Sunday in Georgetown, visiting **H. C. PURL** and family.

The recital given by the Elocution Pupils of **Mrs. BARON D. ELY** at the Methodist Church last Friday was a splendid success and was enjoyed to the fullest extent by the largest audience ever greeting an entertainment of this nature in Grand Prairie.

One of the most necessary needs of Grand Prairie has been supplied—a cemetery. **J. W. JONES**, one of our townsmen, has surveyed the land containing about 14 acres just north of town and has layed out a model cemetery patterned after the ones of the city. These lots are 20x20 feet and is plenty large for ten graves. The streets are all dedicated to the public forever and will always remain a cemetery and is protected from some of the dangers that befall some private cemeteries. We should take hold of this proposition and show **Mr. JONES** we meant what we told him when he had the matter under consideration, when it was promised many would take lots. See **Mr. JONES** or some of his agents now and arrange for a lot. Have enough town pride to make this a success. The lots are very reasonable.

**C. H. MILLER** of Decatur and **C. H. MILLER, JR.** of Fort Worth were here this week prospecting. They were figuring on buying some business and residence property. And were thinking of locating a factory here to manufacture a patent cut-off to prevent water from freezing in the pipes. We hope these people will make a decision in our favor. They will return again real soon to look further into the matter.

*Extractions from the February 4, 1910 issue of the "Grand Prairie Texan" will continue in the May 2009 issue of Roots 'n Branches.*