



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

Lloyd D. Bockstruck

April 1, 2010

Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck, the son of Harry Earl Bockstruck and Olive Elsie Blakenship, was born in Vandalia, Illinois. He graduated with an A.B. cum laude in biology and history from Greenville College in 1967. Mr. Bockstruck received an M.A. in Modern European History from Southern Illinois University in 1969 and an M.S. in Library Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1973. He received a certificate from the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Samford University, in June 1973. Mr. Bockstruck was a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of History, Southern Illinois University, 1967-69. He served as a secondary teacher and librarian at Mombasa Baptist High School in Mombasa, Kenya, 1969-71, and was a Graduate Assistant in the School of Library Science at the University of Illinois, 1971-73. He joined the Dallas Public Library in 1973. From 1974 to 1991 he served as an instructor in the School of Continuing Education, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. He is the senior ranking faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research, Samford University, having joined in 1974. Lloyd Bockstruck was Supervisor of the Genealogy Section of the Dallas (Texas) Public Library from 1973 until his recent retirement.

Cynthia Jones
Vice President of Programs

USING TIMELINES IN GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Refreshments and Conversation at 6:30 PM
Program at 7:00 PM

Grand Prairie Memorial Library
901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie

Visitors Are Always Welcome

April Refreshments provided by
Rena Yarich and
Glen and Jean Simpson

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From the Gavel

Try not to miss the April 1 meeting. It is especially important. First of all, our speaker, Lloyd Bockstruck, has a wealth of knowledge and humorous tidbits to share.

In the business meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for the 2010-2011 year. Nominations may be made from the floor but only if the potential nominee has agreed to serve in that position. We will then vote.

Another item of business to discuss is the Lock-in. Thus far, no one has agreed to chair this event. High school reunions, family reunions, weddings, expected grandbabies and business commitments have many of us unavailable during the crucial planning time for a September or October event. Holding the Lock-in after the first of the year, maybe in February, is an option. What do you think and what will you do to make it work?

Also, Pam will share how our "The Folks Who Made Grand Prairie" project assisted an arm of city government. Here's my story about how another researcher plans to help us: At the end of a program John and I presented for the Fort Worth Library last Sunday, a lady from the audience said that she had recently visited the Genealogy Room at the Grand Prairie Memorial Library to research her ancestor. She had glowing words for the person who helped her and promised to write a profile of that early Grand Prairie resident for our *Roots 'n Branches* series "The Folks Who Made Grand Prairie" and to add material about him to the Vertical Files in the Genealogy Room. Although we began this project as a part of Grand Prairie's centennial, let's keep developing this collection for all the

descendants of the Folks Who Made Grand Prairie.

See you Thursday evening,

Barb

Barbara Brixey Wylie
President, 2009 - 2010

In Remembrance

Patricia Blanche Ward Lafon Taylor

Patricia Blanche Ward (LaFon) Taylor, 83, passed away on February 19, 2010 at her home after a battle with bile duct cancer and liver cancer..

Pallbearers for Pat will be Johnny Brown, Dale Phillips, Ryan Taylor, Jordan Taylor, Burt Moulden and Jason LaFon. Patricia, also known as Pat, Patsy, Grandma and GG (by great- grandchildren), was a faithful Christian, loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend to all who knew her. She will be greatly missed. Pat was born on Feb. 7, 1927 in McKinney to Thomas Cleveland Ward and Cortie Blanche Towner. Patricia moved with her family soon after birth to Pampa, then to Longview, and then to Jackson, Miss., where she graduated from Central High School in 1943. After graduation, Pat moved to Dallas and worked for Morton Milling for a short while, then attended TCU in Fort Worth. On March 11, 1948 she was married first to Donald Maurice LaFon. They had two children: Sandra Lee LaFon and Thomas Earl LaFon. After her divorce, she became the owner of Merle Norman Cosmetics Studio in Grand Prairie in 1957. She stayed involved with her business throughout her life, receiving recognition for 50 years of Merle Norman service in 2007 at the company's annual convention in Orlando, Fla.

Pat married Delbert Taylor, of Denison, on March 16, 1974 in Grand Prairie at Pat's home. In addition to becoming Delbert's wife, she also became the stepmother to Delbert's sons, Richard (Rick) and Randy Taylor.

Twenty-eight years ago, Pat and Delbert became avid genealogists and their research took them on many trips throughout the country. Through her research, Pat proved her lineage for membership in the National Society of Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, National Society of Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, the Daughters of the American Revolution (the Martha Jefferson Randolph Chapter of Sherman), the National Society of the United States Daughters of 1812, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She held the office of Registrar for her DAR chapter for many years and was an officer and member of the Denison Genealogical Society. She was a member of various other historical and genealogical societies - too many to list here. She and Delbert were charter members of the Gann Historical Society and Library, Inc.

One of Patricia's joys in life was continuing her education. This she did through her genealogy pursuits as well as returning to college. She was awarded an associate of business administration degree from Grayson County College in May 1983. Other clubs and organizations that Pat belong to included the National Association of Retired Railroad and Railway Employees (NARVRE), the American Volkssport Association, and the Texoma Amblers (a Denison walking club). As members of the Volkssport Association, Pat and Delbert completed 10K (6.2 miles) walks in all 50 states and in London, England. Eight of these walks were between her 70th and 75th birthday; truly she was an inspiration to all! Her involvement in both genealogy and the

walking clubs allowed her to fulfill her desire to see the country. These activities, combined with attending family reunions across the country, meant that Pat and Delbert were gone from home usually from Spring through Fall. Often friends and family couldn't keep all their travels straight, and would get great entertainment from guessing where they were at any given time. During her travels, Pat enjoyed collecting cookbooks and antique glassware, along with dropping in to discover long-lost cousins. Pat and Delbert were welcomed in many homes across America. She was a long-time member of the Morton Street Church of Christ in Denison, having transferred her membership in 1974 from the Turnpike Church of Christ in Grand Prairie. She taught Sunday School classes to preschoolers at both Turnpike and Morton Street churches. At Morton Street, she served as the church Historian/Librarian for many years. She is survived by her husband, Delbert Taylor; daughter, Sandra LaFon Lewis of Garland; son, Thomas LaFon of Bluffdale; stepsons, Rick Taylor of Moss Point, Miss., and Randy Taylor of Denison; grandchildren, Jason Lafon of Grand Prairie, Stephanie Lewis of Little Elm, Ryan Taylor, attending UCLA in California, Jordan Taylor of Denison; great-granddaughters, Kimberly LaFon and Jessica LaFon of Arlington. Also her loss will be mourned by Delbert's stepdaughters, Phyllis Rainwater of Frisco, and Sherry Rainwater of Plano.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the scholarship fund maintained by the Martha Jefferson Randolph Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Contributions may be made in Pat's memory to: MJR Scholarship Fund, c/o Ann May, 1601 Lambreth Circle, Sherman, TX 75092. Pat was one of the DAR members actively involved in starting this fund; the family believes that supporting this project would be an enduring legacy of Pat's wonderful life.

Member Profile

Ruth Fischbein Lloyd

I was born Ruth Fischbein May 28th, 1955 to Max and Gertrude Fischbein in Fort Worth Texas. I have an older half brother, Jack, and an older sister, Lynn.

I am a first generation American. My father came from Bialystok, Poland and my mother from Piotrkow, Poland. My parents were both Holocaust survivors. There is very little known information on my family history so finding out information on only my parents is remarkable.

My Father was an only child. He married and had a daughter. He and his family were transported to Auschwitz Birkenau in January of 1943. He was the only family member who survived Auschwitz. Toward the end of the war he was sent on the death march from Auschwitz to Mauthausen. He was liberated by the Americans from Mauthausen in May of 1945. After the war he went to a Displaced Persons Camp in Furth, Bavaria and remained there until he was sponsored by the United Service of New Americans to come to America. He boarded the General C. H. Muir from Bremerhaven, Germany on April 27, 1950 and arrived in New York on May 8, 1950. It is unknown how my dad ended up in Fort Worth, Texas

My Mother had five siblings, one brother and four sisters. She was married while in the Ghetto for about a month when her husband's parents were called up for a transport to Treblinka . He joined his parents and left my mother in the Ghetto. Most of my mother's family was transported to Treblinka and were murdered in the gas chambers. She was transported to Skarzysko Kamienna Slave Labor Camp in spring of 1943. In the summer of 1944 she was

transported to Czystochowa Slave Labor Camp. She was liberated by the Russians in January of 1945. She arrived at Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp in April of 1945 where she was reunited with her brother and small niece. They then settled in Brussels, Belgium in 1946 where she reunited with her oldest sister's husband who had also survived. She and her brother-in-law got married and had a son, Jack on March 18, 1948. Shortly after my half brother was born he suddenly passed away of complication from the camp. My mother then decided to come to America where she had an Aunt and Uncle who lived in Fort Worth, Texas. Her Aunt and Uncle sponsored my mother, brother, and her niece to come to America. They left Le Havre, France on the S. S. Washington and arrived in New York on December 6, 1950 and then flew to Fort Worth, Texas to start a new life.

My parents met in Fort Worth and were married on June 17, 1951. My dad adopted my brother and my sister, Lynn was born on February 25, 1952 and myself in May 1955.

Having grown up a child of Holocaust survivor parents I knew very little of what happened to them during the war. It was like an unwritten rule not to ask. This is very common among children of Holocaust survivors.

I attended my school years in Fort Worth, Texas and graduated from R. L. Paschal High School in 1973. Attended University of Texas at Arlington and earned my Bachelors degree in Business Administration. I have worked in the Paper Industry for 30 years. I am currently employed by International Paper. I own and operate a small home based sewing and embroidery business, Lloyd Enterprises. I teach water aerobics for Wetworks at the Kirby Creek Natatorium in Grand Prairie.

I married Frank Blair Lloyd in October of 1983. Frank is a retired auditor from Dallas ISD and Grand Prairie ISD. We have one son, Jeffrey Paul Lloyd who was born March 14, 1985. We have lived in Grand Prairie since 1981.

In The Coming Months

May 6, 2010 Shirley Apley

Forth Worth Public Library Genealogical Collection

An Introduction to the Fort Worth Library’s Genealogy Department: learn how to use the collection in researching your family history. The third largest genealogy collection in the State of Texas holds many resources that will aid you in your family research. Take a tour of the department via a PowerPoint presentation. A beginner’s research packet will be distributed.



Shirley comes from South Dakota and has worked for the Fort Worth Library for over 16 years. She has a Bachelors of Science in History from the University of South Dakota and a Masters in

Library Science from Emporia State University , Emporia , Kansas . Shirley has been involved in genealogy research since she was eighteen years old. She has taught “Advanced Genealogy” classes at Tarrant County College . Shirley enjoys research and working with others to find their family heritage as well as playing in competitive Scrabble tournaments.

June 3, 2010 David Appleton

One approach to writing your family history

As genealogists, we know how important it is: preserving and sharing not just the names and dates, but the stories, the events in the lives of the people in our family trees. But it is such a

daunting task that too many times it never even gets started. How do you begin? What do you write? What about pictures or other personal touches? How do you print and publish? This presentation discusses one approach to writing and sharing these stories.

David Appleton (B.S., History) is an internationally known lecturer and author who has written and published a number of books. These include an on-going series of illustrated family history books for his children, grandchildren, and parents entitled *Appleton Family Stories*, which he began writing to share some of his genealogical finds with them.

Cynthia Jones
Vice President of Programs

Our Library

The Grand Prairie Genealogical Society exists to support family history research and the Genealogical Collection of the Grand Prairie Memorial Library. The genealogical collection is located at the Main Branch, 901 Conover Drive. The library may be contacted at 972-237-5700. The libraries hours of operation are listed below:

Monday	10am to 9pm
Tuesday	10am to 9pm
Wednesday	10am to 6pm
Thursday	10am to 9pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	9am to 6pm
Sunday	1pm to 5pm

Visit GP libraries online at:
www.gptx.org/library

The Folks Who Made Grand Prairie

Doris Helsingren Black

August 29, 1916 – August 30, 2000

A tireless worker on whatever job given, unselfish, a friend to all, intelligent, quick witted, someone you liked to be around. Of course . . . Positive!! All of these words describe this person who lived in and helped make Grand Prairie the great city it is today.

Everyone had nothing but great things to say about Doris Helsingren Black. Yes, she was a 21st century woman though most of her life was in the 20th century.

Born in Wildwood, New Jersey, on August 29, 1916, Doris graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in English and Biology. In 1944, she joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and ran a P.O.W. hospital in Italy during World War II. She achieved the rank of Captain. After the War, she supervised an ortho-pediatric ward at West Jersey Hospital in Camden, New Jersey.

How many people do we know who would volunteer to lug large containers of hot water to the hospital twenty minutes away where they had no hot water? That's what Doris did while she and their children accompanied husband and father, Bill, on an assignment to Turkey. She took a crippled child beggar to an orphanage where he could be educated and helped support him. When Peace Corps volunteers built a school in a nearby village, Doris and Bill made piles of sandwiches for the workers.

In Holland, she initiated a school health care program and was a leader in the

Interdenominational Protestant Church. After a while in Milwaukee, the Blacks moved to Grand Prairie. Doris worked as head nurse at Steven Park Osteopathic Hospital in Dallas and, characteristically, plunged into community service. She volunteered with the Rape Crisis Center and was a founding member of Brighter Tomorrows, the Shelter for Battered Women.

During their Grand Prairie years, Doris and Bill were active in First United Methodist Church.

Her daughter said, "My mother saw so much need in her midst. She spent her days 'doing unto the least of those among' her."

Is she real? Is there another side to her? Of course. When the head of the Mobil Oil Refinery in Turkey suggested to her husband that he stop his wife from doing her activities and that she should, instead, enjoy the bridge games and cocktail parties like the other women, you can well imagine her response!

To know her was to love Doris Helsingren Black.

---- by Owen and Becky Garland with information from Beverly Black and many who knew Doris.

Volunteer Opportunities

Your chance to volunteer to help with society projects is at hand. Contact Regina Shumaker, Cemetery Project Chairperson. Contact Jan Barrett, Scrapbook Project Chairperson. You may also contact John Wylie about organizing a project of your own.

Notes of Interest

The North Fort Worth Historical Society's newsletter and the Birdville Historian have been placed on the Fort Worth Genealogical Society's website to see these digital copies visit rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fwgs.

The Texas State Genealogical Society website is being redesigned by the societies new webmaster, Viviano Rodriguez. Visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsgs to see their new look more colorful look.

**You don't choose your family. They are
God's gift to you, as you are to them.**

--Desmond Tutu

More from Footnote.com

***Footnote.com Lets People Create
America's Family Tree Through
The Only Interactive U.S. Census.***

Finding Ancestors and distant relatives can be as easy as clicking a single button-

Lindon, UT - March 11, 2010 - In order to encourage more people to find their ancestors and connect with family, Footnote.com, the web's premier interactive history site, is opening all of their U.S. census documents for free to the public for a limited time.

Unlike any other historical collection on the web, the Interactive Census Collection has the unique ability to connect people related to ancestors found on the historical documents. Simply by clicking the "I'm Related" button for a name on the document will identify you as a descendent

and also list others that have done the same. Never before has it been as easy to connect with distant relatives through historical documents. To learn how to get started with the Interactive Census, visit: <http://go.footnote.com/discover>.

Finding a record featuring an ancestor's name provides not only an emotional experience but also a connection with the past. On Footnote.com it's more than just finding a name on a census record. Interactive tools allow people to enhance the documents by adding their own contributions including: Photos, Stories, Comments, and other related documents.

Each contribution is linked to a Footnote member and provides a means for people to find each other and exchange more information about their ancestors. "TV programs including 'Who Do You Think You Are?' on NBC and 'Faces of America' on PBS will surely increase the interest in family history in the United States," explains Russell Wilding, CEO of Footnote.com. "We believe that using our Interactive Census Collection is a great way for those who are new to genealogy to get started." In addition to providing the basic information about ancestors with the census documents, Footnote.com has been working with the National Archives and other institutions to digitize and index over 63 million historical records that include: Military documents, Historical newspapers, City directories, and Naturalization records.

"Using the records on Footnote to go beyond the names and dates is like adding color to your tree," says Roger Bell, Footnote's Senior Vice President of Content and Product. "The more details you add, the more colorful your family tree becomes."

To search for an ancestor and experience family history like never before, visit: <http://go.footnote.com/discover>.

Additional Resources: Follow us on Twitter - <http://twitter.com/footnote> or join us on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Footnotecom/52981708480>

Executive Board Members

EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS:

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Grand Prairie Genealogical Society
A Partner Society of the
Texas State Genealogical Society

Financial Report

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

Balance on 03-1-10	\$1,691.46
Deposits	20.00
Expenses	148.84
Balance on 03-31-10	\$1,562.52

John Cockrum
Treasurer

Name That Person

Can you name this Grand Prairie Genealogical Society member?



Last Month's photo:
Ruth Fischbein Lloyd

(See Her Profile on Page 30)

Workshops/Conferences

National Genealogical Society
April 28- May 5, 2010
Salt Palace Convention Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

www.ngsgenealogy.org/Conferences/2010/

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Federation of Genealogical Society
August 18-21, 2010
Rediscovering America's First Frontier
Knoxville, Tennessee

<http://www.fgs.org/2010conference/index.php>

• • •

Texas State Genealogical Society
November 4-6, 2010
50th Birthday Celebration
Bridging Generations
Waco, Texas

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

City Time Capsule

Put Your Thoughts into City Time Capsule, Grand Prairie citizens are invited to contribute a letter or small memento to the city of Grand Prairie's time capsule to be buried at the dedication of the new Public Safety Building in June. Maybe you want to write about what you think the future holds, address a letter to your children or include a photo pertinent to Grand Prairie. The time capsule will be opened in 50 years. E-mail Questions to cclary@gptx.org.

To enter your items please send with your complete name, address, phone and e-mail by June 1 to:

Communications and Marketing
City of Grand Prairie
317 College St.
PO Box 534045
Grand Prairie, TX 75053

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 the February 25, 1910 issue.

Grand Prairie Texan February 25, 1910

At her home in Wise county, Mrs. Fannie SPROWLES succumbed on Jan. 30, 1910, of pulmonary consumption, after a lingering illness of three years' duration. She was the daughter of Mrs. P. H. WILLIAMS of the Wheatland community, and granddaughter of the late O. B. NANCE, a pioneer of sacred memory. She was born Oct. 24, 1872; was married Sept. 17, 1887 to Edwin M. SPROWLES, also of Wheatland. Subsequently she and her husband made their home at Poolville, where she died on her mother's birthday. She leaves a husband, seven children, a mother and one sister, Mrs. Alice VENCELL of the Fish Creek community, near Grand Prairie, to mourn her loss.

Mrs. SPROWLS was one of those sweet motherly women who make home brighter and the world better. She was converted and joined the Methodist Church at the age of 16 and had lived a consistent Christian life until the time of her death. She bore her affliction patiently and was conscious to the end. Tears alone can reveal the measure of unspoken grief in the hearts of those who loved her. And this affliction is especially sad to her aged mother who now lives alone.

Mr. A. H. BRANNON is erecting a five-room cottage in Southeast Grand Prairie.

Material is being delivered on Miss Mary HENRY's lots just south of the school building

preparatory to the erection by her of a 6-room cottage.

John T. OWENS commenced work Monday on a \$2300 residence in Southwest Grand Prairie, which when completed will be occupied by Mr. and Mrs. OWENS.

The five-months-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. Med WILLIAMS, after having been in ill-health for some days, suddenly became worse Monday afternoon and expired before a physician could be summoned. Dr. PAYNE, who attended the little one, stated that symptoms indicated that death was due to apoplexy. The remains were interred in the FUGOT Cemetery Tuesday afternoon.

FROM FISH CREEK

The farmers are pretty well up with their work on the farm and the garden is receiving considerable attention this week.

John HASKINS and wife of Wilmer returned home Monday after spending several days with home folks.

Mayme GOINS is in school again after several days illness.

The little six-year-old daughter of Mrs. LEWIS of Oklahoma, who is visiting her sister, Mrs. LATTIE, happened to the misfortune of having her clothing catch fire while playing in the yard near where washing was being done. Her injuries are very painful.

John LONG of Lancaster spent Thursday with Jim ADAIR. BLUE BIRD

ADVERTISEMENT: BOARDING! The best board and rooms to be had are always found at the new hotel just completed, near

the Methodist Church. Most reasonable rates. See me now and get the best room in the house. Mrs. R. H. HANCE, Prop'ss.

ADVERTISEMENT: PARKS, PATTON & PLOWMAN, Attorneys at Law, 239 Main Street, Dallas, Texas, Long Distance Telephone Main 2494.

ADVERTISEMENT: Oscar F. WOLFF, Attorney at Law, 205 Linz Building, Dallas, Texas.

ADVERTISEMENT: P. A. GEEO, Notary Public, Real Estate and Rentals. Write Deeds and Mortgages, take acknowledgements and furnish abstracts to any property in Dallas County at a reasonable price. Grand Prairie town property and Farm Lands for sale. I can furnish the best legal advice to be had anywhere. Office at OWENS LUMBER YARD.

ADVERTISEMENT: J. M. P. KIRKLAND, General Blacksmith and Woodworkman. All Work Guaranteed. Give me a trial. Old BROOKS Stand.

ADVERTISEMENT: W. J. ROBERTSON, Dealer in all kinds of FRESH MEATS. Pay Highest Cash Price for Cattle, Hogs, Etc. Bring us your Chickens, Eggs, Butter.

ADVERTISEMENT: JAY M. OVERSTREET, Lawyer. Practice in all the Courts, Civil or Criminal. Phone Main 5239, 220 Main Street, Dallas, Texas.

Extractions from the February 25, 1910 issue of the "Grand Prairie Texan" will continue in the January 2010 issue of Roots 'n Branches.